

December 22, 2004

Mr. John G. Stringer  
(b) (6)  
Poolesville, MD 20837

Dear Jack,

Since you showed me the paddle gate in your possession from a lock presumably on the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, I have been looking through my records to see what I might have on this artifact in your backyard.

Enclosed please find a drawing of what I believe may have been the original design drawing of your paddle lock and others like them. This drawing comes from the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal records in the National Archives and is not dated but I believe it is circa 1830. This drawing would have been used by the foundry to cast these paddle gates. Note the cast iron pin that would have been used to pivot the gate.

Also enclosed is a drawing of the wood frame that would have supported the gate.

By comparing the dimensions of your paddle gate to these drawings, we can probably reach a pretty good level of assurance that these were the drawings that were used to manufacture the paddle gate in your possession.

It is my understanding that you are interested in donating this artifact to Historic Medley for display in their garden both as an historical artifact of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal and as a historical memory of your Great Grandfather (and as part of the history of Poolesville) who used this paddle gate as a fireback in your home. These drawings might be used as an interpretative display to explain how the paddle gate operated. Other drawings, showing the paddle gate in its position in the lock gate, are also available and also may be used as part of such an interpretative display.

I hope that you find these drawings of interest. I am also forwarding a copy of these drawings to Historic Medley.

Thank you for your interest in preserving this interesting piece of canal history and the history of Poolesville.

Robert J. Kapsch

Cc to: Perry Kapsch, Historic MEdley