The BLACK WARRIOR-TOMBIGBEE WATERWAY is a 974 mi. long from Mobile on the Gulf, up the Mobile, Tombigbee, and Black Warrior rivers to Port Birmingham, 20 mi. W of Birmingham, Alabama. The original navigation system, constructed between 1809 and 1946, had 17 numbered locks and dams (#17 had a 2-lock staircase) with lock chambers approximately 52 x 285 ft. Locks 10-13, completed between 1895 and 1905, were of cut stone; the later ones were concrete. The present system consists of 6 high dams with locks, all (except Uller L&D) the oldest) 100 x 600 ft in the chamber.

Old locks 1 and 17 are intact and visible; the rest have been partially or entirely removed, or are far underwater and presumed intact for future archaeologists (Locks 4 and 13). The land walls of locks 3, 9, 12 and 16 are still visible above water. All of the old lock sites except 10, 11, 16 and 17 are C of E parks - a good use of historic canal resources. Free brochures on the modern locks are available from the Mobile District, as well as a bound book of Black Warrior-Tombigbee navigation charts, consisting of aerial photographs, at $2.


UNPUBLISHED RECORDS, PHOTOS, DRAWINGS (CEHR, HAER, HAHS, local or Regional Historical Societies, Libraries, etc.):

EXISTING OR RECOMMENDED LANDMARK STATUS (CEHR, National Register, etc.): See the American Canal Guide for directions to parks, and the bound book of charts for aerial photos of the sites.

REPORTER'S NAME & ADDRESS: W.E. Trout, III, 1932 Guncio Robles Drive, Duarte CA 91010 DATE: 1 Oct 81

RETURN TO: CANAL INDEX COMMITTEE, c/o P.H. STOTT, HAINES ROAD, MOUNT KISCO, NY 10549