

American Canal Society Canal Index

CANAL <b>Black Warrior-Tombigbee Waterway</b>		STATUS <b>Operating</b>		ACS
STATE/PROVINCE: <b>Alabama</b>				IHAER
COUNTIES:				
LOCATION (Endpoints of Canal): <b>Birmingham to Mobile</b>				
TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS:				
HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:				
PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:				
NAMES & ADDRESSES OF GROUPS CONCERNED WITH CANALS PRESERVATION/RESTORATION:				
BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY:				
UNPUBLISHED RECORDS, PHOTOS, DRAWINGS (CEHR, IHAER, IABS, Local or Regional Historical Societies, Libraries, etc.):				
EXISTING OR RECOMMENDED LANDMARK STATUS (CEHR, National Register, etc.):				
REPORTER'S NAME & ADDRESS: <b>W.E. Trout, III, 1932 Cinco Robles Drive, Duarte CA 91010</b>				DATE: <b>1 Oct 81</b>
RETURN TO: <b>CANAL INDEX COMMITTEE, c/o P.H. STOTT, HAINES ROAD, MOUNT KISCO, NY 10549</b>				

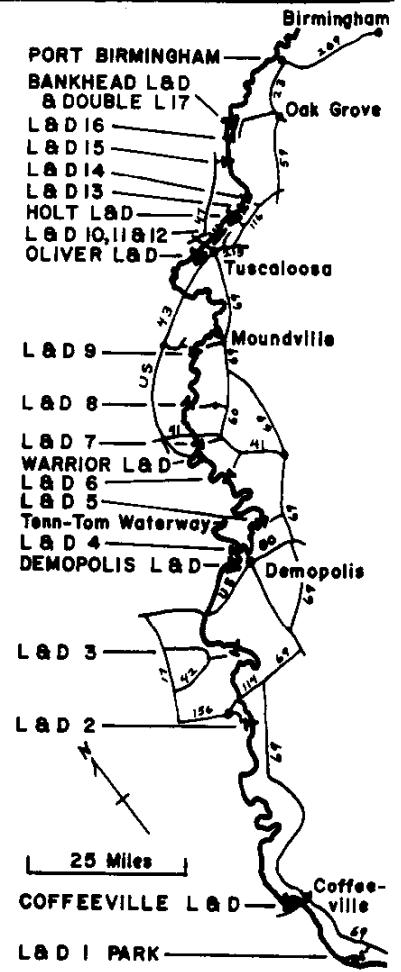
ENLARGEMENTS	DATES IN USE	LENGTH		LIFT LOCKS No./ SIZE
		CANAL	SLACKWATER TOTAL	
1	1888-1915+		453	18/c. 52x285'
2	1939-1975+			1/95x460'
3				5/110x600'
4				

**HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:**

The BLACK WARRIOR-TOMBIGBEE WATERWAY is a 9' channel 453 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 1888 and 1915, had 17 numbered locks and dams (#17 had a 2-lock staircase) with lock chambers approximately 52 x 285'. 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 Oliver L&D, the oldest) 100 x 600' 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 15). 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.

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:**



Old and New Locks and Dams on the Black Warrior-Tombigbee Waterway

**NAMES & ADDRESSES OF GROUPS CONCERNED WITH CANALS PRESERVATION/RESTORATION:**  
 Mobile District, Corps of Engineers, Box 2288, Mobile, AL 36628.

**BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY:**  
 Above material from THE AMERICAN CANAL GUIDE Part 3, pp.22-23.  
A History of the Mobile District, 1815-1971 by Virgil S. Davis. (o.o.p.)

**UNPUBLISHED RECORDS, PHOTOS, DRAWINGS (CEHR, IHAER, IABS, 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.

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