Carondelet Canal

STATE/PROVINCE: Louisiana
COUNTIES: In New Orleans

LOCATION (Endpoints of Canal):
Lower end of Bayou St. John, to a basin at St. Claude & Lafitte Avenues

TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS: New Orleans East 7½'

BAYOU ST. JOHN, which bisects the north half of New Orleans, was a determining factor in the location of the city, and even had a fort - now called "Spanish Fort" near its mouth on Lake Pontchartrain. Extending southward five miles to within two miles of the Mississippi, it had been part of the Indian trading route between the lake and the river and must have been appreciated by the city's founder, Sieur de Bienville, the same Frenchman who first envisioned the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway. In 1794 Governor Carondelet built at great expense a navigable extension of the bayou, called the CARONDELET (or OLD BASIN) CANAL. This brought boats to the old city, within half a mile of the river, but did not connect with it. In 1927 the canal was filled in and the levee Road beyond the canal.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY:
Above material and map from THE AMERICAN CANAL GUIDE Part 3, pp. 6-7 (1979). Whitford, p. 1399; and information from S.H. Brehm, Jr., Sewerage & Water Board of New Orleans.

UNPUBLISHED RECORDS, PHOTOS, DRAWINGS (CEHR, HAER, HABS, Local or Regional Historical Societies, Libraries, etc.):
Need more material on this canal, and details of Spanish Fort Lock. The Bayou still exists but the canal and lock are gone, the latter "improved" by removal.

EXISTING OR RECOMMENDED LANDMARK STATUS (CEHR, National Register, etc.):