

CANAL Dragon Swamp Navigation, Virginia		(FOR ACS USE)	
STATUS Abandoned. Canoeable stream.		DATES OF CONSTRUCTION & CLOSURE con. 1339-40; ab. ca. 1345	
LOCATION (ENDPOINTS OF CANAL) 37°40'N, 76°44'W - 37°33'N, 76°33'W New Dragon Bridge to head of Piankatank River		LENGTH stream bed, 20 mi. CANAL 0 SLACKWATER TOTAL	
LIFT LOCKS	NBR. 0	DIMENSIONS LOCK CHAMBER OVERALL	AQUEDUCTS NBR. 0 SECTION SIZE TUNNELS 0
DESCRIPTION: (Type of navigation, features of note (include USGS coordinates where useful); e.g., feeders (navigable & otherwise), locks other than above, type of locks, use of unusual material or methods of construction, present owner, present use & condition, etc.)			
<p>The Dragon Swamp Navigation Company was organized by 1339 to make a navigable channel into the swamp at the head of the Piankatank River, to provide access to the valuable swamp timber and to help drain the swamp for cultivation. Operations consisted entirely of straightening the natural stream channel and removing obstructions. By 1340, 20 miles had been cleared up to New Dragon Bridge, for lighters 45' by 10' with 22 inches draft. By 1845, maintenance work ceased and the navigation was abandoned.</p> <p>This navigation is of particular interest because Dragon Swamp has been proposed as a scenic river. The Navigation provides cultural history to support this proposal and might provide physical remains. The stream below route 17, to the Piankatank, was investigated but no definite signs of the navigation were observed. The site of a steam sawmill at New Dragon Bridge was not investigated, but even if no signs remain it should provide a point of interest *</p>			
NAMES & ADDRESSES OF GROUPS CONCERNED WITH CANAL'S PRESERVATION/RESTORATION: Scenic River Proposal: Virginia Commission of Outdoor Recreation, 3th St. Office Building, Richmond, Virginia 23219			
REPORTER'S NAME & ADDRESS: W. E. Trout, III 1932 Cinco Robles Drive, Duarte, California 91010			DATE 10 June 1973
HISTORICAL SUMMARY: (Original aims of company, date of incorporation, prominent engineers, cause of closure, significant alterations to structure or route, height of traffic date, transfers of ownership, etc.) * on the proposed Scenic River.			
BIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY: (Published works relating to Canal) W. Trout, "The Dragon Swamp Navigation", unpl. ms., 3pp., map. 1967. JR&K Canal Library, Reynolds Metals Co., Richmond, Va. 23213. "Dragon Run: A Report by the Commission of Outdoor Recreation", 20pp., illus., 1971. C.O.R., 3th St. Office Bldg., Richmond, Va. 23219.			
UNPUBLISHED RECORDS, LOCATION OF PHOTOS, DRAWINGS & IMPORTANT PERIODICAL REFERENCES Reports of the Dragon Swamp Navigation Company to the Virginia Board of Public Works. Virginia State Library, Richmond, Va. 23219.			
NATIONAL REGISTER & HAER (HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD) STATUS: None.			
RETURN TO: CANAL INDEX COMMITTEE, C/O P.H. STOTT, HAINES ROAD, MOUNT KISCO, NEW YORK 10549			

USE ADDITIONAL SHEETS AS NECESSARY.

TO MAKE AN INDEX CARD SUITABLE FOR FILING, CUT ALONG THE HEAVY LINES AND FOLD BACK ALONG THE DOTTED LINE.