CANAL: Erie-Michigan Canal

STATUS: Abandoned, Unfinished

LOCATION (ENDPOINTS OF CANAL):
from: 1 mi. west of Ft. Wayne to: Michigan City, Ind.

LENGTH:

DAM:

LIFT LOCKS

DIMENSIONS

AQUEDUCTS

TUNNELS

DESCRIPTION:
Intended for horse-drawn canal boats similar to other Indiana canals of the 1830's.

The Reservoir at Rome City, Noble County, Ind. was completed; a feeder was to run
to the main canal line. The Reservoir is still in existence, called Sylvan Lake.
Traces of the feeder lead west and south from Rome City for less than a mile.
Some work was done at the Summit in Green Twp. Noble County, Section 23. The
ditch was later enlarged and now serves as a drainage ditch, bearing little
resemblance to a canal at this time. Portions of the old channel can be seen
where the ditch has been 'straightened' by later excavations.

NAMES & ADDRESSES OF GROUPS CONCERNED WITH CANAL'S PRESERVATION/RESTORATION:

Canal Society of Indiana  302 East Berry Street  Fort Wayne, Indiana 46802

REPORTER'S NAME & ADDRESS:

Thomas Meek  7029 Adams Center Road  Fort Wayne, Indiana 46816

DATE:
December 9, 1982

HISTORICAL SUMMARY:
Begun in 1837 as part of the Internal Improvements Program adopted by the Indiana
Legislature in 1836, the Erie-Michigan Canal was probably the least practical of the
several which were proposed. The territory to be crossed was not settled, there
was doubt of being able to get enough water to operate the canal, and, fortunately,
the State ran out of money before much was done. Total expenditures are usually
given as about $16000. Ownership of the properties has long since passed to the
adjacent property owners.

BIBLIOGRAPHY SUMMARY:

Documents of the House and Senate of Indiana 1835-1847 pub. by State of Indiana
sometimes known as DOCUMENTARY JOURNAL

INDIANA WATERWAYS Volume II, issue 1, October, 1982
"Searching for the Erie-Michigan Canal" by Ben Meek (map)

UNPUBLISHED RECORDS: LOCATION OF PHOTOS, DRAWINGS & IMPORTANT PERIODICAL REFERENCES

NATIONAL REGISTER & MAER (HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD) STATUS:

Oblivion

RETURN TO: CANAL INDEX COMMITTEE, C/O P.H. STOTT, MAINES ROAD, MOUNT RISE, NEW YORK 10549