

American Canal Society Canal Index

CANAL Hanson Canal & Lock		STATUS Lock abandoned; canal navigable by small boat.		ACS
STATE/PROVINCE: Louisiana				HAER
COUNTIES: St. Mary				
LOCATION (Endpoints of Canal): Bayou Teche at Garden City to Williams Storage Canal.				
TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS: Centerville LA 7½'				
HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:				
<p>The HANSON CANAL is ten miles W of Calumet on US 90 between Garden City and Franklin (Centerville LA quad.) crossed by a small bridge. The concrete upper gate bays of the Hanson Canal Lock are clearly visible to the north (R) at the head of the canal; the wooden miter gates are gone. Surprisingly, the other end of the lock is not even visible from here, 937' to the south beyond the railway bridge. Go S on the road to the SE of the bridge, past the St. Mary's Parish highway garage and across the tracks to a fascinating graveyard of abandoned DKUWs and other amphibious vehicles, discards from the parish rescue fleet, and reminders of the nature of this low-lying delta country. Go through the shrubbery beyond the cargo carrier to find the lower gate bay, which is in excellent condition complete with wooden gates and operating wheels. This is a fascinating, unusual lock which ought to be purposefully preserved, perhaps as a parish park, and placed on the National Register.</p>		<p>Almost as long as a Panama Canal lock, but only ¼ as wide at the gates (26.5') and 60' wide elsewhere, the chamber looks like a normal stretch of canal, although below water level it was once wood lined. Built in 1907 by the Hanson Lumber Company to float log booms from the delta into Bayou Teche, the lock was sold to the U.S. in 1922 and maintained by the Corps until it was abandoned and transferred to St. Mary's Parish in 1959. The 1924 Lockmaster's residence was moved to Berwick Lock in 1951. Although the gates were rebuilt in 1927 and 1949, the original cast-iron sluice or "slush" valves were retained. Mr. Willis Vincent of Verdunville, former lockmaster of this and other Corps locks in the region, explained that when the water level difference was very large - about nine feet - passage through the lock could take as long as 8 or 9 hours, because of the unusual length and the small sluice valves. This lock is worth special attention as a future historic park.</p> <p>UTM: Head of lock, 15.64659.329431; tail (est.) 15.64646.329405, Centerville LA.</p>		
<p>From THE AMERICAN CANAL GUIDE, Part 3, p.10 (1979)</p>				
NAMES & ADDRESSES OF GROUPS CONCERNED WITH CANALS PRESERVATION/RESTORATION:				
St.Mary Parish Police Jury, Courthouse, Franklin LA 70538				
BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY:				
Annual Reports of the Chief of Engineers; information from Mr. Willis Vincent, Franklin LA.				
UNPUBLISHED RECORDS, PHOTOS, DRAWINGS (CEHR, HAER, HABS, Local or Regional Historical Societies, Libraries, etc.):				
Need a measured drawing of this lock. The St.Mary's & Franklin BANNER-TRIBUNE has back issues for research (111 Wilson St., Franklin LA)				
EXISTING OR RECOMMENDED LANDMARK STATUS (CEHR, National Register, etc.):				
Should be on National Register and preserved for use as a canal park.				
REPORTER'S NAME & ADDRESS: W.E. Trout, III, 1932 Cinco Robles Drive, Duarte, CA 91010				DATE: 6 Oct 81
RETURN TO: CANAL INDEX COMMITTEE, c/o P.H.STOTT, HAINES ROAD, MOUNT KISCO, NY 10549				