American Canal Society Canal Index

CANAL Indiana Canal, at Falls of the Ohio	Abandoned Unfinished		ACS HAER
STATE/PROVINCE: Indiana			
Clark	DATES IN USE	LENGTH CANAL SLACKWATER TOTAL	LIFT LOCKS No./ SIZE
LOCATION (Endpoints of Canal): Jeffersonville to foot of Falls	SE 1b 1819	2½	
TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS: Jeffersonville & Albany IN-KY 7½°	ENLARG		1

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:

The Indiana Canal, not the Louisville & Portland Canal (completed in 1825-30) was the first canal to be started at the Falls of the Ohio. The Indiana Canal was to have been 2½ miles long, from somewhere near the foot of Meigs Avenue in Jeffersonville, to the eddy at the foot of the rapids, following part of Cone Creek. In 1819 the Jefferson Ohio Canal Company actually dammed Cone Creek and cut a new channel for it along the line of the canal, but excavating the stubborn clay of Clark County proved so expensive that the project was abandoned. Some of the excavation is said to be still visible. The Indiana Canal concept was revived from time to time throughout the century by shippers dissatisfied with the high tolls and narrow locks on the Louisville side.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

The route of the Indiana Canal can be seen on the 1824 Flint Map of the Falls of the Ohio which has been reprinted by Historic Urban Plans, Box 276, Ithaca, NY 14850. Ask for the Louisville: 1824 map, \$7.50 plus handling. The route needs to be searched for remains; there may still be undisturbed sections at the lower end. Note that this canal is not the same as the "Indiana Chute," which was one of the preferred channels through the falls before the Louisville & Portland Canal was available.

NAMES & ADDRESSES OF GROUPS CONCERNED WITH CANALS PRESERVATION/RESTORATION:

There is a Falls Area Preservation Committee in Louisville, concerned with the future of the Ohio Falls.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY:

This information is from the draft copy of The American Canal Guide, Part 4. Additional material would be greatly appreciated.

UNPUBLISHED RECORDS, PHOTOS, DRAWINGS (CEHR, HAER, HABS, Local or Regional Historical Societies, Libraries, etc.):

Topographical information was obtained from the Flint map mentioned above. There may be more information in Jefferson Ohio Canal Company reports if these exist.

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

REPORTER'S NAME & ADDRESS: W.E. Trout, III, 1932 Cinco Robles Drive, Duarte CA 91010

RETURN TO: CANAL INDEX COMMITTEE, c/o P.H.STOTT, HAINES ROAD, MOUNT KISCO, NY 10549

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