

CANAL		The James River and Kanawha Canal, Virginia		(FOR ACS USE)	
STATUS		abandoned; Tidewater locks endangered.		DATES OF CONSTRUCTION & CLOSURE c.1735-1351; ab.1331	
LOCATION (ENDPOINTS OF CANAL)		Buchanan to Richmond		LENGTH CANAL 160 SLACKWATER 37 TOTAL 197	
LIFT LOCKS	NBR.	DIMENSIONS		AQUEDUCTS	
	104	LOCK CHAMBER 100x15'	OVERALL _____	NBR. 12	SECTION SIZE _____
				TUNNELS 2	
<p>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> <p>The James River Company was organized in 1735, with George Washington as honorary President. By 1739 two canals were in operation at Richmond and by 1801 the James had been improved for bateaux by wing dams and sluices for 200 miles to Buchanan. By 1829 the Blue Ridge Canal, 7 mi. long, around falls in the mountains, was complete as well as the James River and Kanawha Turnpike (now U.S. 60 and I 64) from Covington to Huntington, W. Va., 203 mi. long; and 60 miles of river improvements for flats, horseboats and steamboats on the Kanawha River from Charleston to the Ohio. Thus the Company's works connected the Atlantic seaboard with the Mississippi valley. By 1851 the canal had been enlarged and extended its full length up the James to Buchanan, 197 mi. for horse-drawn canal boats, involving 104 locks and 22 dams; and a flight of 6 stone locks in Richmond connected the canal with tidewater. A short westward extension with two tunnels was begun in 1353 but was abandoned for financial reasons. The continuation of the canal over the Allegheny Mountains to the Kanawha River was actively debated up to its demise in 1331, when *</p>					
<p>NAMES & ADDRESSES OF GROUPS CONCERNED WITH CANAL'S PRESERVATION/RESTORATION:</p> <p>James River and Kanawha Canal Parks, Inc., Box 777, Richmond, Va. 23206. Newsletter. \$1 donation to be a "Friend of the Canal".</p>					
REPORTER'S NAME & ADDRESS:					DATE
W. E. Trout, III, 1932 Cinco Robles Drive, Duarte, California 91010					30 September 1973
<p>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.)</p> <p>* it was sold to the Richmond and Allegheny Railroad Company, which built its line (now the C&O James River Line) on the towpath. The route is toured each fall by the Old Dominion Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society (Box 3533, Richmond 23226). Of the 104 locks, about 33 are still in good condition, as well as 8 aqueducts and a number of dams. The railway still uses over 200 of the culverts. Battery Creek Lock, under the Blue Ridge Parkway, has been fully restored by the National Park Service. Richmond intends to restore the still-watered 9-mile section of canal through the city, which has been placed on the National Register, but an expressway threatens to destroy 3 of the flight of locks.</p>					
<p>BIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY: (Published works relating to Canal)</p> <p>Dunaway, Myland F., <u>History of the James River and Kanawha Company</u>, Columbia U., 1922, 251pp, reprinted @ \$12.70 ppd. by AMS Press, 56 E. 13th St., N.Y., N.Y. 10003.</p> <p><u>Waterway to the West</u>, by J. J. Kirkwood, 34pp. ill., \$1 ppd. from AC&TC, 309 4th St., York, Pa. 17403.</p>					
<p>UNPUBLISHED RECORDS, LOCATION OF PHOTOS, DRAWINGS & IMPORTANT PERIODICAL REFERENCES</p> <p>Unpl. maps and essays by W. Trout, in JR&K Canal Library, Reynolds Metals Co., Richmond, Va. 23213.</p> <p>Reports of the James River and Kanawha Company to the Virginia Board of Public Works, Virginia State Library, Richmond, Virginia 23219.</p>					
<p>NATIONAL REGISTER & HAER (HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD) STATUS:</p> <p>Nine miles at Richmond, including Tidewater flight, is a National Historic Landmark.</p>					
<p>RETURN TO: CANAL INDEX COMMITTEE, c/o P.H. STOTT, HAINES ROAD, MOUNT KISCO, NEW YORK 10549</p>					

USGS 1:250,000: RICHMOND and ROANOKE

USE ADDITIONAL SHEETS AS NECESSARY.

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