**Canal:** Miami Canal

**Status:** Drainage & Commercial

**Location (Endpoints of Canal):** Lake Harbor (Lake Okeechobee) - to Miami, Florida

**Dates of Construction & Closure:** About 1903-1915

**Approx. Length:** 80-90 ft

**Dimensions:**
- Lift Locks
  - Nbr.
  - Lock Chamber
  - Overall
- Aqueducts
  - Nbr.
  - Section Size
  - Tunnels

**Description:**
Drainage and commercial use, but not to any great extent commercially. Reason: Canal bed gave considerable trouble, too much variation in the limestone strata rock, caused shoals to appear and create boating hazards. At times water would flow back towards the lake (north) instead of southeast thereby defeating its drainage purpose.

In 1915 the state built a lock at the canal head to control water from Lake Okeechobee to the canal and the reverse procedure if necessary. Whether this lock is included in the (2) locks mentioned in reports of years 1927-1928 is not known - yet.

Everglades Drainage District still controls this canal. Condition presumed to be at least fair to good. Canal navigable.

**Names & Addresses of Groups Concerned with Canal's Preservation/Restoration:**
Everglades Drainage Commission, Drainage District Reports 1927-1928 44-111-5
Internal Improvement Fund, State of Florida 1913
Property owners within the controlled district.

**Historical Summary:** Primarily a drainage canal, but having commercial use as well. Canal did not function as planned as far as drainage was concerned. Uneven canal bed of limestone strata rock resisted normal water flow from canal head. This condition would require very extensive dredging of rock and then might not prove satisfactory due to irregular strata layers. Used to some extent by small boats, and still a drainage canal such as it is.

I would presume that F. C. Elliot & J. O. Wright were prominent engineers on this canal, perhaps others before completion.

Everglades Drainage District would control this waterway.

**Biographical Summary:**
Everglades Drainage Commission; Everglades Drainage District Reports 1927-28
Internal Improvement Fund, State of Florida 1913
Engineers' Drainage District Reports May 1, 1944
U. S. Corps of Engineers, maps and drawings.

**Unpublished Records, Location of Photos, Drawings & Important Periodical References:**
Books; Okeechobee, and Okeechobee Boats & Skippers.
Biennial Reports and maps showing elevations of canal structures.
Fort Myers Public Library.

**National Register & HAER (Historic American Engineering Record) Status:**
Not that we know of. No recommendations.

**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.