

CANAL The North West Canal, Virginia		(FOR ACS USE)	
STATUS Abandoned		DATES OF CONSTRUCTION & CLOSURE c. 1323-30, ab. by 1367.	
LOCATION (ENDPOINTS OF CANAL) 36°37'N76°23'W to 36°36'N76°17'W Dismal Swamp Canal near "allaceton, to the North West River.		LENGTH CANAL 7mi SLACKWATER _____ TOTAL 7mi.	
LIFT LOCKS	NBR. 3	DIMENSIONS LOCK CHAMBER 12 x 90' ? OVERALL _____	AQUEDUCTS NBR. 0 SECTION SIZE _____
		TUNNELS 0	
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>The North West Canal was built on the line of a waste ditch from the 1320's, which connected the Dismal Swamp Canal with the headwaters of the North West River, which empties into Currituck Sound on the Atlantic coast, near the Va.-N.C. line. In 1323-30 the Dismal Swamp Canal Company enlarged and lengthened it to make a navigable connection which could be used not only to give access to a new part of the swamp for timbering operations, but to provide an alternate route for coastal traffic in case the southern part of the Dismal Swamp Canal became impassable. The canal was neglected during the Civil War and was not used thereafter.</p> <p>The canal was 7 miles long, with three wooden locks and a culvert. No signs of one lock or of the culvert have yet been located, but the site of the two "Outfall Locks", separated by a basin, is undisturbed and would make a good subject for study. Part of the lower Outfall Lock has been preserved through immersion in the North West River. This is the only remnant *</p>			
NAMES & ADDRESSES OF GROUPS CONCERNED WITH CANAL'S PRESERVATION/RESTORATION: Norfolk County Historical Society of Chesapeake, Box 15205, Chesapeake, Va. 23320			
REPORTER'S NAME & ADDRESS: W. S. Trout, III, 1932 Cinco Robles Drive, Duarte, Calif. 91010			DATE 29 July 1973
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.)			
* of an original wooden lock in the Dismal Swamp region, because all of the others have either disappeared or were long ago replaced by stone (and then concrete) structures. It is probably the best remaining wooden lock in Virginia and deserves some study. The site is privately owned and appears to be safe.			
BIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY: (Published works relating to Canal)			
Brown, Alexander C., <u>The Dismal Swamp Canal</u> , Norfolk County Historical Society of Chesapeake, Box 15205, Chesapeake, Va. 23320, hardcover \$5.00, paper \$3.00. 1970, 234pp., ill. Trout, W.E., <u>The Northwest Canal</u> , unpubl. ms., App., maps, in JRC&K Canal Library, Reynolds Metals Company, Richmond, Va. 23213.			
UNPUBLISHED RECORDS, LOCATION OF PHOTOS, DRAWINGS & IMPORTANT PERIODICAL REFERENCES			
Reports of the Dismal Swamp Canal Company to the Virginia Board of Public Works, Virginia State Library, Richmond, Virginia 23219.			
NATIONAL REGISTER & HAER (HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD) STATUS:			
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.