

CANAL		The Okeechobee Waterway (U.S. Engineers)		(FOR ACS USE)	
STATUS		In operation		DATES OF CONSTRUCTION & CLOSURE 1930 & see below	
LOCATION (ENDPOINTS OF CANAL)		Punta Rassa-Stuart, Fla.		Tidewater Length & CANAL 111 SLACKWATER 40.7 TOTAL 151.7	
LIFT LOCKS	NBR.	DIMENSIONS 1 @ 400 ft. x 50 ft. LOCK CHAMBER 3 @ OVERALL 250 X 50 ft.		AQUEDUCTS NBR. None SECTION SIZE ---	TUNNELS None
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>This report is confined to the above canal <u>only</u>. The former canals that were built in the past along this same route will be under another report. The present canal was built to provide drainage of Lake Okeechobee and to provide a cross-state navigation system from the east coast to the Gulf of Mexico. In canal sections water is 8 ft. Tide water 10-12 ft. Barges and smaller vessels including yachts etc. Locks are of concrete and <u>modern</u>. Last lock (Olga Lock) was completed in 1966, divides salt &amp; fresh water. Routes #1 &amp; #2 through Lake Okeechobee are <u>optional</u> for certain craft. The Waterway was opened in 1937. In 1969 (freight tons) were over 430,000. Recent 1905 canal map to ACS members should be <u>corrected</u> as above. Olga lock cost 7.6 million dollars.</p>					
NAMES & ADDRESSES OF GROUPS CONCERNED WITH CANAL'S PRESERVATION/RESTORATION:					
Federal Government U.S. Army Engineers Corps Drainage Districts in southeast Florida. U.S. Dept of Agriculture. Inhabitants of (all sections) in the Lake Okeechobee Region.					
REPORTER'S NAME & ADDRESS:				DOC	DATE
A. W. Gould 5558 Palm Beach Blvd. Fort Myers, Fla. 33905 #114					Jan. 1. 1974
HISTORICAL SUMMARY: (Original name of company, date of incorporation, prominent engineers, names of closure, significant alterations to structure or route, height of traffic date, transfers of ownership, etc.)					
<p>It should be stated here- that nearly all canals of <u>any type</u> in the State of Florida are primarily drainage canals. However, there are several that were large enough to provide commercial use as well. These canals opened up much of the wilderness territory <u>before roads</u> were even built. These waterways will date back to the period close to the turn of the century. The greatest activity on these canals ended after World War I, altho used today in some sections by smaller boats. Most of these canals had locks. <u>New</u> Waterway enlarged 180 ft. to 225 ft. in width. (Old canal width 90 ft.) Reports on (these canals) awaiting information from other sources. None as yet from Department of State at Tallahassee, Florida</p>					
BIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY: (Published works relating to canal)					
U.S. Engineers Corps; "Okeechobee;" Okeechobee-Boats & Skippers;" "Unknown Florida;" and others. Please Note- At <u>some locks</u> on the Waterway will be "Park Areas". Camping, picnic grounds etc. <u>All</u> lock areas are clear.					
UNPUBLISHED RECORDS, LOCATION OF PHOTOS, DRAWINGS & IMPORTANT PERIODICAL REFERENCES					
U.S. Engineers- Photos & Maps; Classified Boating Directory 1974; Cruise-guide by Gulf Oil Co; Texas Oil Co; (Route Maps) (1 long. 1 shorter Map of Military Importance-1856. Proposed canals (2) St. Johns River-Tampa					
NATIONAL REGISTER & HAER (HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD) STATUS:					
Federal Government.					
RETURN TO: CANAL INDEX COMMITTEE, c/o P.H. STOTT, MAINES 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.

American Canal Society Canal Index

CANAL <b>OKEECHOBEE WATERWAY</b>		STATUS <b>Operational</b>			ACS 6
STATE/PROVINCE: <b>Florida</b>					HAER
COUNTIES: <b>Martin, Glades, Lee, Hendry</b>		ENLARGEMENTS	DATES IN USE: <b>1937* --</b>		LIFT LOCKS No./ SIZE: <b>4 *</b>
LOCATION (Endpoints of Canal): <b>Punta Rassa, FL -- Stuart, FL</b>			CANAL	SLACKWATER	
TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS: <b>1:250,000 :</b> <b>FT PIERCE, WEST PALM BEACH, TAMPA</b>			<b>111</b>	<b>40.7</b>	<b>151.7</b>
HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE: <b>An improvement on previous canals following the same route, the present waterway was established in 1937 to provide drainage for Lake Okeechobee as well as shoal draft passage across the Florida Peninsula. The Federally maintained 8-foot channel, authorized in 1945, is operated year round 6am to 10pm without tolls. In the canal cuts its width varies between 80 and 90 feet.</b>			<b>1</b>		
			<b>2</b>		
		<b>3</b>	<b>* see below</b>		
		<b>4</b>			
<p>St. Lucie Inlet &amp; River, tidal for 15 miles to</p> <p>St. Lucie Lock: 13-foot lift to summit level; size: 250'x50', built in 1941. It replaces an earlier lock (130x30) built in 1925, now auxiliary.</p> <p>St. Lucie Canal: 23 Miles to Port Mayaca, where remains of an earlier lock are visible.</p> <p>Lake Navigation: Port Mayaca to Clewiston, 27 miles.</p> <p>Lake fringe canal: Clewiston to Moore Haven, 13 miles.</p> <p>Moore Haven Lock: 2.5-foot lift; size: 250'x50', built in 1935; combines lock with a hurricane gate through the levee at east end.</p> <p>Caloosahatchee Canal: Moore Haven Lock to Ortona Lock, 12 miles.</p> <p>Ortona Lock: 11-foot lift; size: 250'x50', built in 1937.</p> <p>Caloosahatchee River: elevated dredged channel, 25 miles.</p> <p>W.P. Franklin Lock at Dam at Olga: 3.5-foot lift; size: 400'x56' completed 1966 at a cost of \$ 3.6 million. (One of the largest locks in Florida, it passes vessels of 12-foot draft.)</p> <p>Caloosahatchee River, dredged channel to Fort Meyers.</p> <p>Tonnage 1969: 430,562; 1970: 728,954.</p>					
<p>NAMES &amp; ADDRESSES OF GROUPS CONCERNED WITH CANALS PRESERVATION/RESTORATION:</p> <p><b>US Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District, PO Box 4970, Jacksonville, FL 32201</b></p>					
<p>BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY:</p> <p>Corps of Engineers: maps &amp; data</p> <p>"Okeechobee Waterway," <u>Cruise Tips</u>, 1971, pp 31-47</p> <p>Newport News <u>Times-Herald</u> 2/19/73, p. 31</p> <p>Classified Boating Directory, 1974</p>					
<p>UNPUBLISHED RECORDS, PHOTOS, DRAWINGS (CEHR, HAER, HABS, Local or Regional Historical Societies, Libraries, etc.):</p>					
<p>EXISTING OR RECOMMENDED LANDMARK STATUS (CEHR, National Register, etc.):</p> <p>none.</p>					
<p>REPORTER'S NAME &amp; ADDRESS: <b>A.C. Brown, 228 James River Drive, Newport News, VA 23601</b> <b>A.W. Gould, 5558 Palm Beach Blvd., Ft Meyers, FL 33905</b></p>					<p>DATE: <b>2/10/73</b> <b>1/1/74</b></p>
<p>RETURN TO: <b>CANAL INDEX COMMITTEE, c/o P.H. STOTT, HAINES ROAD, MOUNT KISCO, NY 10549</b></p>					

# Okeechobee Waterway

Lock images following this page are from east to west on the waterway.

The are:

East of the lake

St. Lucie Lock

Port Mayaca Lock (at the east shore)

West of the lake

Moore Haven Lock

Ortona Lock

W. P. Franklin Lock



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Google

27°06'42.55" N 80°17'05.35" W

Apr 2006

Eye alt 788 ft







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Google

26°59'03.55" N 80°37'14.08" W

Apr 2006

Eye alt 1733 ft







Herbert Hoover Dyke

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Google

26°50'23.61" N 81°05'13.58" W

Eye alt 976 ft





N

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Google

26°47'22.24" N 81°18'16.66" W

2005

Eye alt 1156 ft





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Google

Eye alt 1097 ft

26°43'20.78" N 81°41'37.78" W