

CANAL The Roanoke Navigation, Virginia & North Carolina		(FOR ACS USE)	
STATUS Abandoned.		DATES OF CONSTRUCTION & CLOSURE c.1919-23; ab. after 1959	
LOCATION (ENDPOINTS OF CANAL) Roanoke River upto Salem, Va.; Dan up to Leaksville, N.C.; Banister River up to Meadville, Va.		LENGTH Sluice, ca. 35 1/4 mi. CANAL 9 SLACKWATER TOTAL 363	
LIFT LOCKS	NBR. 5 stone 9 wood	DIMENSIONS 100x 16' for 2 batteaux LOCK CHAMBER OVERALL	AQUEDUCTS NBR. 1 SECTION SIZE 18' TUNNELS 0
<p>DESCRIPTION: (Type of navigation, features of note (include USGS coordinates where useful); e.g., feeders (navigable &amp; otherwise), locks other than above, type of locks, use of unusual material or methods of construction, present owner, present use &amp; condition, etc.)</p> <p>Bills permitting the organization of the Roanoke Navigation Company were passed by both Virginia and North Carolina in 1733, with the help of Patrick Henry, but it was not until 1812 that North Carolina chartered such a company, and Virginia in 1815, forming a single interstate organization. Construction began in 1819 on the Roanoke Canal, around the falls at Weldon, N.C. 9 miles long with a dam, deep cuts and high embankments, 4 stone locks, a stone-arch aqueduct, 4 large culverts, and a basin in Weldon. This was completed in 1823. By 1823, the sluice navigation for poled batteaux had been completed from Salem (above Roanoke, Va.) to Weldon, 244 miles; from Leaksville, N.C. on the Dan River to its junction with the Roanoke River, 92 miles; and on the Banister River from Meadville to the Dan, 25 miles. Short branches were cleared on Seneca Creek to Marysville, Va., 2 miles; and up County-Line Creek to Milton, N.C. on the state line, about 1 mile. This required a stone lock above Weldon and a wood and stone lock just above the state line; both of these are now inundated. There was also a canal around the falls at Dan-*</p> <p>NAMES &amp; ADDRESSES OF GROUPS CONCERNED WITH CANAL'S PRESERVATION/RESTORATION:</p>			
REPORTER'S NAME & ADDRESS: W. E. Trout, III 1932 Cinco Robles Drive, Duarte, California 91010		DATE 15 June 1973	
<p>HISTORICAL SUMMARY: (Original size 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>*ville, 3/4 mile long with a guard lock and four wooden locks. Until recently the canal was still in use for water power; all signs of the locks have been obliterated. A number of sluices, wing-dams and "towing paths" on the sluice navigation were concentrated along the difficult rapids near Brookneal, Va.; some are said to remain today. They should be studied as an example of pioneer river navigation technology. Although modern dams have inundated much of the Roanoke Navigation, enough is left to provide a good hunting ground for sluices and wing dams. The locations of some built by the C of E in the 1870's and '30's are indicated on maps but have not been searched for.</p> <p>Of the 9-mile Roanoke (or Weldon) Canal, about 7 miles remain intact but dry, suitable for a trail between Roanoke Rapids and Weldon. Two stone locks are in fairly good condition. The aqueduct, over Chockaott Creek at Weldon, is in perfect condition and is a real gem worth recognition and preservation.</p>			
<p>BIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY: (Published works relating to Canal)</p> <p>"The Roanoke Navigation", W. E. Trout, unpl. ms., 20pp., maps, 1963. JR&amp;K Canal Library, Reynolds Metals Company, Richmond, Va. 23218.</p> <p>"The Early Development of the Roanoke Waterway", P.M. Rice, North Carolina Historical Review, 31 #1 (Jan. 1954) pp. 50-74.</p>			
<p>UNPUBLISHED RECORDS, LOCATION OF PHOTOS, DRAWINGS &amp; IMPORTANT PERIODICAL REFERENCES</p> <p>Reports of the Roanoke Navigation Company to the Virginia Board of Public Works, Virginia State Library, Richmond, Va. 23219.</p>			
<p>NATIONAL REGISTER &amp; HAER (HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD) STATUS:</p>			
<p>RETURN TO: CANAL INDEX COMMITTEE, C/O P.H. STOTT, HAINES ROAD, MOUNT KISCO, NEW YORK 10549</p>			

Salem, 37°16'N, 80°02'W; Mayodan, above Leaksville, 36°22'N, 79°53'W; Meadville, 36°50'N, 79°02'W; Weldon, 36°25'N, 77°36'W.

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.