St. Lucie Canal (Original)

Route utilized for present "waterway"

LOCATION (ENDPOINTS OF CANAL)
Fort Myers (Lake Okeechobee) - Stuart, Florida

LENGTH

DATES OF CONSTRUCTION & COMPLETION
About 1800-1823 (full length)

CANAL:

CAMAR:

SLACKWATER:

TOTAL:

DIMENSIONS

LIFT LOCKS

NBR.

LOCATIONS

NBR.

AQUEDUCTS

NBR.

TUNNELS

DESCRIPTION:
Primary use for drainage to east coast. Commercial use for vessels that drew less than 12 ft. Locks would have been concrete. Boats using this canal at that time would have been of shallow draft, with a beam 18-20 ft. And a length up to 100 ft. more or less. Steam dredges were used for excavation. Speed on canal then was 5 miles per hour, raised to 7 miles per hour. One lock at Lake on control of water from Lake Okeechobee, which at that time was not under control with dike. By U.S. Engineers. Cross state boating was possible, with boats of shallow draft from Lake Okeechobee to Caloosahatchee Canals and River.

Some barges were used commercially every year to Miami. This canal was enlarged when the U.S. Engineers took over (after 1930).

NAMES & ADDRESSES OF GROUPS CONCERNED WITH CANAL'S PRESERVATION/RESTORATION:

Everglades Drainage Commission

U.S. Engineers Corps;

REPORTER'S NAME & ADDRESS:
A.W. Gould, 555 5th Street, Fort Myers, Fla. 33905

DATE: Jan. 1, 1974

HISTORICAL SUMMARY:
Original site of company, date of incorporation, prominent engineers, names of owners, significant alterations to structure or route, height of traffic data, transfers of ownership, etc.

Drainage protection, commercial transportation. Height of traffic data increased steadily. (Even today, traffic still on the climb after recon-struction by U.S. Engineers)

Prominent engineers could still have been F.C. Elliot & J.O. Wright.

(The U.S. Corps of Engineers after 1930.)

New locks were constructed, canal enlarged to meet demands of a modern system of transportation and water control project both east and west. The southern section controlled by hurricane gates to the "old canals". Thus preventing lakes & canals from overfilling and out of control.

BIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY:
[Published works relating to Canal]


Everglades Drainage District, report of 1927-1928.

U.S. Engineers Corps area maps.

Fort Myers Public Library

UNPUBLISHED RECORDS, LOCATION OF PHOTOS, DRAWINGS & IMPORTANT PERIODICAL REFERENCES

None located to date.

NATIONAL REGISTER & NARA (HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD) STATUS:
None that we know of to date.

RETURN TO: CANAL INDEX COMMITTEE, C/O P.H. STOTT, MAINES ROAD, MOUNT KISCO, NEW YORK 10549