

CANAL Trinity River Navigation		STATUS Abandoned		ACS
STATE/PROVINCE: Texas				HAER
COUNTIES:				
LOCATION (Endpoints of Canal): Dallas to Galveston Bay		L E N G T H CANAL SLACKWATER TOTAL		LIFT LOCKS No./ SIZE
TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS: See text.		DATES IN USE		
		1 1893-95		501
		2 1906-22		501
		3		
		4		

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:

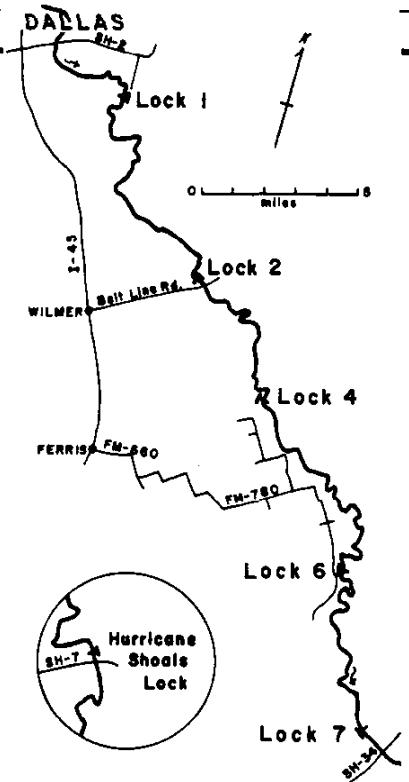
The TRINITY RIVER NAVIGATION was to go up to Dallas, 501 tortuous miles above its mouth on Galveston Bay, involving 37 locks and dams. There had been a temporary lock and dam at McComas Bluff (later the site of Lock 1) in 1893, which allowed the steamboat HARVEY to operate up to Dallas for two years, but it was not until 1906 that construction by the Corps began on a navigation system. By the time the project was abandoned in 1922 only seven locks had been started; but all were placed in operation: Locks and dams 1,2,4, 6,7,20 (Hurricane Shoals) and 25 (White Rock Shoals). All of these were concrete, with 50x140' chambers. Lock 20 had steel gates (since removed) but locks 1,2,4 and 6 had wooden gates which had to be held down by steel I-beams during floods. There are still remains of gates at locks 4 and 7.

A new Trinity River Navigation has been under consideration, and one lock and dam (Wallisville, 84x

600' in the chamber) was begun near the mouth of the river, but work was suspended in 1973 when about 75% complete because of the uncertain effect upon the environment and fisheries of Galveston Bay. It is hoped that if more locks and dams, or a lateral canal, is constructed on the Trinity, some thought will be given to the possibility of keeping the old lock sites intact for use in historic river-oriented parks. At least one lock should be placed on the National Register.

For some details see TRINITY RIVER PARADOX by Floyd Durham (1976), \$10 ppd. from Nortex Press, Box 1369, Wichita Falls TX 76307.

UTM: Lock 1, 14.716490,3619400, Hutchins TX quad; Lock 2, 14.722700, 3611450, Ferris TX; Lock 4, 14.727640,3606300, India TX; Lock 6, 14.733990,3598850, India TX; Lock 7, 14.736520,3592160, Rosser TX; Lock 20, 15.247180,3469960, Hall's Bluff TX; Lock 25, 15.279320,3420610, Trinity East TX; and Wallisville Lock, 15.332640,3298910, Anahuac TX.



From THE AMERICAN CANAL GUIDE Part 3, p.14 (1979)

Old Locks and Dams on the Trinity

NAMES & ADDRESSES OF GROUPS CONCERNED WITH CANALS PRESERVATION/RESTORATION:
 Trinity River Authority of Texas, Box 5768, Arlington TX 76011
 Fort Worth District, Corps of Engineers, Box 17300, Fort Worth, TX 76102

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY:
Trinity River Paradox (see above)
 Galveston and Fort Worth District histories; Annual Reports of the Chief of Engineers.
 See the American Canal Guide for more details.

UNPUBLISHED RECORDS, PHOTOS, DRAWINGS (CEHR,HAER,IABS, Local or Regional Historical Societies, Libraries, etc.):
 Material supplied by Corps of Engineers, particularly by Raymond Michero of the Corps Southwestern Division (1114 Commerce Street, Dallas TX 75202).

EXISTING OR RECOMMENDED LANDMARK STATUS (CEHR, National Register, etc.):
 Interest needs to be generated in using some of these sites as riverside access parks.

REPORTER'S NAME & ADDRESS: W.E. Trout, III, 1932 Cinco Robles Drive, Duarte, CA 91010
DATE: 8 Oct 81

R E T U R N T O : CANAL INDEX COMMITTEE, c/o P.H.STOTT, HAINES ROAD, MOUNT KISCO, NY 10549