

CANAL Canals #1, #2, & #3 from La Belle to Lake Okeechobee. (Early canals of the late 1800's)		(FOR ACS USE)	
STATUS All a part of the present "Okeechobee waterway" today.		DATES OF CONSTRUCTION & CLOSURE "About 1884 and later."	
LOCATION (ENDPOINTS OF CANAL) At lock-2 miles east of La Belle to Moore Haven		Approx. LENGTH Total CANAL 33 SLACKWATER _____ TOTAL 33	
LIFT LOCKS	NBR. 3	DIMENSIONS Original LOCK CHAMBER 30 X 60 OVERALL _____	AQUEDUCTS NBR. 0 SECTION SIZE 0
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>Prior to adoption of existing Caloosahatchee Drainage Areas (Florida Project) Local interests had dredged a series of (3) canals east of Fort Myers to Lake Okeechobee. A natural dam was blown up, dredge removed the rubble but left rapids. One lock above La Belle, second lock at Citrus Point, third lock at Moore Haven. Between locks #2 & #3 was the "Old Indian Canal," 3 miles long. These canals passed through sloughs and marshland with barely enough water to float the Steam Boats which were mostly sternwheelers in that period. Later improvements on three locks to 30 X 150ft. were made, depth of water to 6ft. I believe; Locks old and new were of concrete so far as we know. Making a navigable waterway and drainage canal through to the west coast and Gulf of Mexico. The "Okeechobee Waterway" now covers this canal route with its new and modern facilities from Punta Rassa to Stuart, Florida.</p>			
NAMES & ADDRESSES OF GROUPS CONCERNED WITH CANAL'S PRESERVATION/RESTORATION:			
<p>Federal Government-U. S. Corps of Engineers. Everglades Drainage Districts. Shipping interests using the Waterway.</p>			
REPORTER'S NAME & ADDRESS:		Lot #114	DATE
A.W. Gould-5558 Palm Beach Blvd. Fort Myers, Florida		33905	Jan. 1, 1974
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.)			
<p>To provide drainage to the west coast from Lake Okeechobee. To open up a waterway for commercial use from Fort Myers to the lake, which at that time did not have drainage canals completed on the lakes south side. Several improvements were made before the turn of the century on above canals. Presume F. C. Elliot and J. O. Wright had some connection with this project at various times. This waterway was always busy, height of traffic no doubt continued right up to the period of reconstruction by U. S. Engineers for the "Okeechobee Waterway".</p> <p>Location of former Caloosahatchee canals listed as #1, #2, & #3 above can be located on canal map drawing as C-1, C-2 and C-3.</p>			
BIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY: (Published works relating to Canal)			
<p>U. S. Corps of Engineers; Booklet-"Okeechobee Waterway" Details. Everglades Drainage District Reports 1927-1928. Details, Canals. 44-111-5 Books; Okeechobee & Okeechobee-Boats & Skippers. Details and Maps. Fort Myers Public Library-The public use of other books depends greatly with popularity of subject and when they are returned. Only (2) at a time allowed.</p>			
UNPUBLISHED RECORDS, LOCATION OF PHOTOS, DRAWINGS & IMPORTANT PERIODICAL REFERENCES			
<p>Other than above mentioned we have no knowledge of at present. Possible from Dept. of State-Tallahassee, no report from them as yet. Reports from Fort Lauderdale; Not in as yet.</p>			
NATIONAL REGISTER & HAER (HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD) STATUS:			
Doubt if any known.			
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.