

American Canal Society Canal Index

<p>CANAL: Empire Lock</p> <p>STATE/PROVINCE: Louisiana</p> <p>COUNTIES: Plaquemines</p> <p>LOCATION (Endpoints of Canal): At Empire, LA</p> <p>TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS: Empire LA 15'</p>	<p>STATUS: Operating</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 10%;"></td> <td style="width: 55%;"></td> <td style="width: 15%; text-align: center;">ACS</td> <td style="width: 20%;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">HAER</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">DATES IN USE</td> <td style="text-align: center;">LENGTH CANAL SLACKWATER TOTAL</td> <td style="text-align: center;">LIFT LOCKS No. / SIZE</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">ENLARGEMENTS</td> <td>1. before 1936</td> <td></td> <td>1/?</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>2. 1951+</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td>1/40x200'</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>3.</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>4.</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>			ACS				HAER			DATES IN USE	LENGTH CANAL SLACKWATER TOTAL	LIFT LOCKS No. / SIZE	ENLARGEMENTS	1. before 1936		1/?		2. 1951+	1	1/40x200'		3.				4.		
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<p>HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:</p> <p>Fifty miles downstream from New Orleans, almost at the end of the "Great River Road" (here LA 23) are the two state-operated locks which give fishing and oyster boats direct access to the Gulf on each side. The EMPIRE LOCK (40x200', up to 12' lift, 1951) is in the town of Empire. Take the turn-off to the left just before crossing the bridge over the canal. This lock has sector gates and is a descendant of the DOULLET LOCK, bought by the state in 1936. UTM: 16.2480.32535, Empire LA 15'. The canal to the Gulf is 0 miles long.</p> <p>Directly opposite the present Ostrica Lock (#3) in Buras, and indicated on the Mississippi Book of Charts, is the FASTERLING CANAL, said to be the first canal linking the Mississippi with the Gulf, but recent hurricanes have evidently erased the remains of it.</p> <p>Five miles downriver on LA 23 is Fort Jackson (restored, open daily, free) and on the east bank, Fort St. Philip, accessible only by boat. The very end of the Great River Road is 10 miles further south at Venice, some 20 miles from the several mouths of the Mississippi. One of the mouths is CUBIT'S GAP (mile 3.0) a permanent result of another of the breaches through levees made during the Civil War by the Yankees. GRAND PASS, at "the Jump" (mile 10.5) is another mouth created by a canal, dug by fishermen about 1840.</p> <p>From THE AMERICAN CANAL GUIDE Part 3, pp.8-9 (1979). Both the Empire Lock and Fasterling Canals linked the Mississippi with bayous (and the Gulf) to the west; another link was the Tagliaferro (or Plaquemines or Scaolls) Canal, 1.75 miles long, mentioned by Whitford, p.1471, but it has not been located.</p>																													
<p>NAMES & ADDRESSES OF GROUPS CONCERNED WITH CANALS PRESERVATION/RESTORATION:</p> <p>Empire Lock operation: State of Louisiana Department of Public Works, P.O. Box 44155, Capitol Station, Baton Rouge LA 70804.</p>																													
<p>BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY:</p> <p>From material supplied by Daniel V. Cresap, Chief Engineer, Dept. of Public Works, and the J. Hayward Maddens, Canal Researching, 5847 Decker Road, Livonia NY 14487. See the Mississippi Book of Charts and NOS Chart 1271, Mississippi River, Venice to New Orleans.</p>																													
<p>UNPUBLISHED RECORDS, PHOTOS, DRAWINGS (CEHR, HAER, HABS, Local or Regional Historical Societies, Libraries, etc.):</p> <p>Need to find more information on Doulet Lock, and locate the Tagliaferro Canal.</p>																													
<p>EXISTING OR RECOMMENDED LANDMARK STATUS (CEHR, National Register, etc.):</p>																													
<p>REPORTER'S NAME & ADDRESS: W.E. Trout, III, 1932 Cinco Robles Drive, Duarte GA 91010</p>																													
<p>DATE: 4 Oct 81</p>																													
<p>RETURN TO: CANAL INDEX COMMITTEE, c/o P.H. STOTT, HAINES ROAD, MOUNT KISCO, NY 10549</p>																													