

American Canal Society Canal Index

CANAL Trimcane Canal,	STATUS Abandoned			ACS		
				HAER		
STATE/PROVINCE Mississippi	ENLARGEMENTS	DATES IN USE		LENGTH	LIFT LOCKS	
COUNTIES: Oktibbeha County		1830-1850	CANAL	SLACKWATER	TOTAL	No./SIZE
LOCATION (Endpoints of Canal): Start: Longitude: -89.0839 -89.05'02"		2			22.64 mi	
TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS:		3				
	4					
HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:						
<p>In 1924 the Mississippi Territories were open to settlement. The drainage systems along the Tombigbee River offered an excellent avenue for commerce, principally cotton, produced on the Mississippi Prairie. Many of the earlier settlers to Oktibbeha, Chickasaw, Lowndes, and other counties in the Prairie Region were from areas in South Carolina and Georgia where canal development was fully underway and a vital part of the Old South Economy. Significantly, the Trimcane Creek, Line Creek, Chuquantonchee Creek, and the Tibbee Creek provided access to the port in Mobile via the Tombigbee River for plantations throughout the entire region. This enhanced commercial thoroughfare was a key factor in the economic and political wealth enjoyed by the Prairie Region up to the outbreak of the Civil War. Following the war the waterways remained a significant factor in the economic well being of Northern Oktibbeha, Lowndes County, and Southern Clay County. As late as the 1910-1920 era local residents gathered periodically to dredge the channel and clear brush from the banks of the canal. This entire segment of American Canal Development has been largely forgotten, especially in the Southern U. S. where much of the developed waterways were used for commerce regarding the production of cotton and the distasteful practice of slavery which worked hand in hand with that commerce.</p>						
PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:						
<p>The Trimcane Canal was constructed along the original waterway of the Trimcane Creek in Oktibbeha County Mississippi. from its origin, it travels east and north to a point just north of Starkville Mississippi at the border with Clay County where it joins Line Creek. As line creek the waterway continues to the Tibbee Creek thence on to the Tombigbee Waterway in Lowndes County Mississippi. The Trimcane Canal was constructed by widening and straightening the Trimcane Creek Bottom. The canal itself has no traditional structures as the purpose was limited to the annual shipment of cotton down to the Mobile Ports. There were three "landings" along the canal between the origin and the terminus with Line Creek. These landings were privately owned. Part of the reason for the demise of the canal was it's construction and maintenance by the private parties that lived along the creek. Once rail transportation was available in Oktibbeha County and large scale cotton production scaled back the economic significance of the canal began to wane. In the post war years the local economy shifted to dairy farming and by the early 20th century trucks and highways largely replaced the canal as a commerce thoroughfare. Today very little of the Canal is left intact. Few current residents of Oktibbeha County realize the Canal existed, its purpose or its route. Most tend to view it still as a creek overrun with beaver dams and left to the elements. There are a few segments though that are very clear examples of the once glory days of the canal. The straight cuts of the waterway and the mounded banks along with the towpaths along the side are very reminiscent of some of the best European Canals.</p>						
NAMES & ADDRESSES OF GROUPS CONCERNED WITH CANAL'S PRESERVATION/RESTORATION:						
William R. Price, 7737 LaGuardia Dr. Plano TX. 75025						
BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY:						
<p>Carroll, Thomas Battle Historical Sketches of Oktibbeha County (Mississippi). Gulfport, Miss.: The Dixie Press, 1931</p> <p>Jacobson, Judy Some Indexed Genealogical Information Derived from Judge Carroll's Historical Sketches of Oktibbeha County, Mississippi. Starkville, Miss.: The compiler, 1993.</p> <p>Jacobson, Judy Expanded Index for Judge Carroll's Historical Sketches of Oktibbeha County, Mississippi. Starkville, Miss.</p> <p>THE PLYMOUTH FORT AND THE CREEK WAR A MYSTERY SOLVED. An article published in the Journal of Mississippi History Vol. 62, pp. 328-370, 2000 By Jack D. Elliott, Jr</p> <p>Oktibbeha County Mississinni by John H. Wellhorn Surveyor and Real Estate Dealer, Starkville Mississinni. Drawn</p>						
UNPUBLISHED RECORDS, PHOTOS, DRAWINGS (CEHR, HAER, HABS, Local or Regional Historical Societies, Libraries, etc.):						
EXISTING OR RECOMMENDED LANDMARK STATUS (CEHR, National Register, ETC.):						
Investigation made by: Address: William R. Price, 7737 LaGuardia Dr. Plano TX. 75025					Date:	