

American Canal Society Canal Index

CANAL Villere's Canal		STATUS Abandoned		ACS																											
STATE/PROVINCE: Louisiana				HAER																											
COUNTIES: St. Bernard																															
LOCATION (Endpoints of Canal): Mereaux		<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">ENLARGEMENTS</th> <th rowspan="2">DATES IN USE</th> <th colspan="2">LENGTH</th> <th rowspan="2">LIFT LOCKS No. / SIZE</th> </tr> <tr> <th>CANAL</th> <th>SLACKWATER TOTAL</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>1815 only(?)</td> <td>2 mi.</td> <td></td> <td>None</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		ENLARGEMENTS	DATES IN USE	LENGTH		LIFT LOCKS No. / SIZE	CANAL	SLACKWATER TOTAL	1	1815 only(?)	2 mi.		None	2					3					4					
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TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS: Chalmette LA 7 1/2'																															
<p>HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE: On the New Orleans side of the river, about 5 miles E of downtown on LA 46, is the RODRIGUEZ CANAL in Chalmette National Historical Park (Visitors Center open daily 8-6, 8-5 in winter, closed Shrove Tuesday and Dec. 25). The canal is now only a depression but on January 8, 1815 it was the moat in front of the American fortifications at the Battle of New Orleans, the last battle of the War of 1812, which made General Andrew Jackson a hero. UTM: 16.211300.3316500, Chalmette LA. For the same engagement the British built their own canal, VILLERE'S CANAL, 2 1/2 mi. downriver in Mereaux, probably the one still crossed by LA 46 between La Salle Terrace and Rosetta Drive. This canal was constructed to transport small boats from the British fleet on Lake Borgne (an arm of the Gulf) to the Mississippi, and was about two miles long. Completed on Jan. 6, 24 of the boats made it through in time for the battle, before the canal banks started caving in. UTM: 16.214870.3314560, Chalmette LA. For an excellent account of the battle and canals see "Chalmette National Historical Park" by J. Fred Rousch, @ 85¢, #024-005-00178-6 from the Government Printing Office.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">From THE AMERICAN CANAL GUIDE Part 3,p.8 (1979)</p>																															
<p>PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:</p>																															
<p>NAMES & ADDRESSES OF GROUPS CONCERNED WITH CANALS PRESERVATION/RESTORATION:</p>																															
<p>BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY:</p> <p>From Chalmette National Historical Park booklet. For more military canals see the sheet on Grant's Canals and Bayou Navigations, LA,AK,MS,MI</p>																															
<p>UNPUBLISHED RECORDS, PHOTOS, DRAWINGS (CEHR,HAER,HABS, Local or Regional Historical Societies, Libraries, etc.):</p> <p>Would be interesting to explore this canal by small boat.</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 CA 91010</p>				<p>DATE: 3 Oct 81</p>																											
<p>R E T U R N T O : CANAL INDEX COMMITTEE, c/o P.H. STOTT, HAINES ROAD, MOUNT KISCO, NY 10549</p>																															