

CANAL White River Navigation		STATUS Abandoned		ACS
STATE/PROVINCE: Arkansas				HAER
COUNTIES: Independence				
LOCATION (Endpoints of Canal): 1 mile below Batesville to 29 miles above.		ENLARGEMENTS		
TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS: Batesville 7½'		1	1879+	405
		2	1908-1952	30
		3		
		4		
				LIFT LOCKS No./ SIZE
				None
				3/36x147'

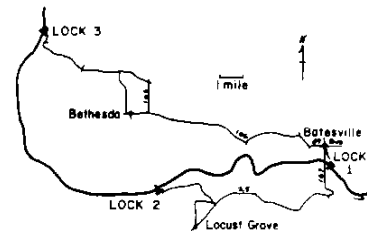
HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:

For a time the WHITE RIVER in Arkansas was considered even more important than the Arkansas; ten locks and dams were authorized between Batesville and Buffalo Shoals but by 1908 only three were ever constructed, because meanwhile a railway line had been built up the river valley. Although people complained that the fixed crib dams did nothing to control floods, and that the three locks were on the only part of the upper river which had been navigable without any, they were in use until 1952 when they were abandoned and sealed. LOCK AND DAM 1 (mile 299.8 on the 1942 C of E map, 16' lift, 1904) is on the left bank at Batesville. Take the US 167 bridge into town, R at the first road for a block, then R across the RY tracks and follow them downstream (L) ½ mi. to the lock, which is in a city park. The dam is still intact; the pond is used by the annual White River Water Carnival each first weekend in August. Except for a steel gate which has been washed 100 yards downriver, the operating

equipment is intact. The lock park has rest rooms, water, and a picnic area (no camping).

L&D 2 (Mile 308.5, 13' lift, 1905) is 8 river miles above Batesville on the R (S) bank, 1.5 mi. E of Locust Grove on AR 25 then 3 mi. NW on secondary roads. L&D 3 (mile 320.1, 14' lift, 1908) is on the L bank about 9 mi. W of Batesville on AR 106 to Bethesda then N 2 mi. and W 4 mi. on secondary roads. All three were crib dams with concrete locks 36x147' in the chamber and steel miter gates. For details see the 1904 Corps Annual Report, pp. 3750-3763 (Appendix AAA 18), and the Little Rock District history. A White River Trout Fishing map, down to Lock 3, is available from the Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism, 149 State Capitol, Little Rock AK.

Also of interest is the museum boat MARY WOODS II, down the White River at Jacksonport State Park, 3 mi. above Newport, which towed log booms on the White for many years before it was donated to the state by Potlatch Forests Inc. in 1967.



Old Locks and Dams on the White River

From THE AMERICAN CANAL GUIDE Part 3, pp.16-17 (1979)

NAMES & ADDRESSES OF GROUPS CONCERNED WITH CANALS PRESERVATION/RESTORATION:

Batesville Area Chamber of Commerce, 409 Vine St., Batesville AR 72501.
Independence County Historical Society, Box 2036, Batesville AR 72501.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY:

A History of the Little Rock District by Dr. Floyd M. Clay
Annual Reports of the Chief of Engineers, and information supplied by D.R. Rippey of the Little Rock District. See especially the 1904 report, Appendix AAA 18(pp.3750-3763) describing the works in detail, as well as early efforts in 1879+ to make a riverbed navigation using wing dams. It may be that some of these wing dams are still visible; this possibility needs to be explored.

UNPUBLISHED RECORDS, PHOTOS, DRAWINGS (CEHR,HAER,IIABS, Local or Regional Historical Societies, Libraries, etc.):

Material supplied by Fay Lindsey, of the Chamber of Commerce, and Wilson Powell of the Independence County Historical Society.

EXISTING OR RECOMMENDED LANDMARK STATUS (CEHR, National Register, etc.):

Lock 1 should be considered for the National Register.

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

DATE: **8 Oct 81**

RETURN TO: **CANAL INDEX COMMITTEE, c/o P.H.STOTT, HAINES ROAD, MOUNT KISCO, NY 10549**