

CANAL Marked Tree Lock & Siphon		STATUS: Abandoned		ACS
STATE/PROVINCE: Arkansas				H.A.E.R.
COUNTIES: Poinsett		DATES IN USE:		LENGTH CASAL SLACKWATER TOTAL
LOCATION (Endpoints of Canal): N of Marked Tree, AR		1 1924-1971		LIFT LOCKS No./ SIZE 1/24x125'
TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS: Marked Tree AR 7½'		2		
		3		
		4		

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:

When a levee was constructed across the St. Francis River to divert flood waters around the town of Marked Tree, the MARKED TREE LOCK (24 x 125', 22' lift, 1924) was built in the levee to maintain navigation on the river. Abandoned in 1971, the lock was filled in with the reinforced concrete gates, still open. The ends of the lock and the operating machinery are still visible. To reach the lock go W from Marked Tree for 1½ mi. on US 63, then N along the levee for four miles. A short distance further along the levee is the Marked Tree Siphon (1938), a remarkable device developed by the Corps to carry water across the levee to

maintain the flow of the river when necessary. Consisting of three 9 x 288' tubes, the siphon is primed by pumping out the air, and is actually more than 100% efficient because according to the engineers the discharge rate is higher than the intake! For more details see the Memphis District history, UTM 15,73230.394060, Marked Tree AR quad. Such siphons have also been used on canals to control flooding, because they are more efficient than spillways; several self-priming stone siphons were built on a French canal 300 years ago. Their usefulness might be kept in mind for modern canals and canal parks.

From THE AMERICAN CANAL GUIDE Part 3, p.17 (1979)

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

Drainage District No.7, Poinsett County, Box 368, Marked Tree AR 72365.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY:

A Century on the Mississippi by Dr. Floyd Clay (Memphis District); and material furnished by Kent F. Carmain, Memphis District, Corps of Engineers, 668 Clifford Davis Federal Building, Memphis TN 38103.
For more on canal siphons see From Sea to Sea by L.T.C. Rolt (Canal du Midi).

UNPUBLISHED RECORDS, PHOTOS, DRAWINGS (CEHR, H.A.E.R., I.A.B.S., Local or Regional Historical Societies, Libraries, etc.):

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

This lock and siphon should be considered as material for an historic canal park.

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**