

American Canal Society Canal Index

CANAL <b>BRUNSWICK AND ALTAMAHA CANAL</b>		STATUS <b>Abandoned</b>			ACS 7																									
STATE/PROVINCE: <b>Georgia</b>		<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 15%;"></td> <td style="width: 15%;">CANAL</td> <td style="width: 15%;">SLACKWATER</td> <td style="width: 15%;">TOTAL</td> <td style="width: 15%; text-align: center;">tide <del>lock</del> LOCKS No. / SIZE</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">1854-5 ?</td> <td style="text-align: center;">12</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">12</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2 / 100x23</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>				CANAL	SLACKWATER	TOTAL	tide <del>lock</del> LOCKS No. / SIZE	1854-5 ?	12		12	2 / 100x23	2					3					4					HAER
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COUNTIES: <b>Glynn</b>																														
LOCATION (Endpoints of Canal): <b>from about Newcastle &amp; M Sts. on the Brunswick waterfront to the Altamaha (556646), 1 mile north of Darien</b>																														
TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS: <b>BRUNSWICK WEST; BRUNSWICK EAST; DARIEN</b>																														
<p>HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE: This canal was conceived as a way of capturing the rich river trade of the Altamaha basin for the port of Brunswick. Most of the traffic was transhipped to coastal vessels in the sounds off the Altamaha and went on to Savannah or Charleston. The canal was first chartered in December 1826 by a local group of planters and merchants. Nothing was done. In 1834, a new charter was granted and Loammi Baldwin, 2nd was engaged to survey the route. Some Boston capital was obtained and work begun. In 1837 the Boston money stopped and so did the work. It is ironic, that when the job was at last completed in 1854, the contractor immediately moved his force to a railroad project upstate. Unfortunately for the new waterway, the harbor at Brunswick silted so badly in the 1850's as to be useless for many years. Just how much use the canal had is a matter of question; a Savannah paper announced June 5, 1854 that it was open. Little else is known.</p>																														
<p>PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: The route was over level ground, just a little above high tide, so only tide locks at either end were needed. These were possibly of cypress timber; no record has been found. The prism was 53' at top, 35' at bottom, and 6' deep with a 12' towpath on the east side. At first the labor force was comprised of leased slave labor; this proving unsatisfactory, Irish immigrants were imported from Boston to complete the work. A shortage of funds, labor trouble, and an unhealthy climate -- all together fail to explain why it took 20 years to build a canal through level terrain, no rock, and muck soil. Unfortunately, none of the company records have survived. The old ditch may be seen along Canal Street in northern Brunswick, and at Boy's Estate, off GA Rt 99, near the Altamaha. In between these points the ditch may be traced on foot but is not recommended unless one is not bothered by snakes, alligators and insects!</p>																														
<p>NAMES &amp; ADDRESSES OF GROUPS CONCERNED WITH CANALS PRESERVATION/RESTORATION:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">None known.</p>																														
<p>BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY:</p> <p>REPORT ON THE BRUNSWICK CANAL, Loammi Baldwin, 2nd, Boston, 1837 (Pamphlet w/ map)          BRUNSWICK ADVOCATE, 1839 (Weekly, a few issues in file)          NEW BRUNSWICK &amp; ALTAMAHA CANAL, Van Story, ATLANTA JOURNAL, Aug. 31, 1969, 10-A          FLUSH TIMES IN BRUNSWICK, - - - , GEORGIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY QUARTERLY, Sept. 1955</p>																														
<p>UNPUBLISHED RECORDS, PHOTOS, DRAWINGS (CEHR, HAER, HABS, Local or Regional Historical Societies, Libraries, etc.):</p>																														
<p>EXISTING OR RECOMMENDED LANDMARK STATUS (CEHR, National Register, etc.):</p>																														
<p>REPORTER'S NAME &amp; ADDRESS: <b>L.W. Richardson, Rt 2, Box 346, Gainesville, GA 30501</b></p>					DATE: <b>5/12/73</b>																									
<p>R E T U R N T O : <b>CANAL INDEX COMMITTEE, c/o P.H.STOTT, HAINES ROAD, MOUNT KISCO, NY 10549</b></p>																														