

American Canal Society Canal Index

<b>CANAL</b> Gulf Intracoastal WW, Port Allen Branch	<b>STATUS</b> Operating	ACS HAER																								
<b>STATE/PROVINCE:</b> Louisiana																										
<b>COUNTIES:</b> Iberville, St.Martin, Iberia																										
<b>LOCATION (Endpoints of Canal):</b> Morgan City to Port Allen (Baton Rouge)																										
<b>TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS:</b> Baton Rouge W 7½' (Port Allen Lock) Bayou Sorrel 7½' (Bayou Sorrel Lock)	<b>ENLARGEMENTS</b>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">DATES IN USE</th> <th colspan="3">L E N G T H</th> <th rowspan="2">LIFT: LOCKS NO. / SIZE</th> </tr> <tr> <th>CANAL</th> <th>SLACKWATER</th> <th>TOTAL</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1 1909-1961</td> <td>55</td> <td>to Plaquemine Lock</td> <td>1/55x260'</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2 1961+</td> <td>65</td> <td>to Port Allen</td> <td>1/84x1198'</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1/56x800'</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	DATES IN USE	L E N G T H			LIFT: LOCKS NO. / SIZE	CANAL	SLACKWATER	TOTAL	1 1909-1961	55	to Plaquemine Lock	1/55x260'	2 1961+	65	to Port Allen	1/84x1198'	3			1/56x800'	4			
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<b>HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:</b>																										
<p>The BAYOU SORREL LOCK is on the Morgan City - Port Allen branch of the GIWW not far from Plaquemine Lock, and faces in the opposite direction, taking the branch through a levee into the Atchafalaya River floodway. From Plaquemine take LA 3066 (Bayou Road) along the S bank of Bayou Plaquemine to "Indian Village," then S along LA 75 to Bayou Sorrel. Turn R at the bridge then L for a mile to the lock (56x 800', 0-21' lift, 1951). Curiously enough, this modern lock is like an ancient turf-sided or earth-chambered lock, with a pair of concrete gate bays at each end of a large square grassed basin; barges are held in the chamber proper by wooden guide-walls. The gates are pie-slice shaped sector gates, facing south to protect the Plaquemine area from floods of the Atchafalaya River. Unlike miter gates, the sector gates can be opened against a head of water, so the lock is filled and emptied in this manner, without any sluices or wickets.</p>	<p>The PORT ALLEN LOCK (mile 228.5, 84x1198', up to 45' lift, 1961) opposite Baton Rouge, is the upper entrance to the Morgan City - Port Allen branch of the Gulf Intra-coastal Waterway (GIWW). Follow the signs "To Port" at the I-10/ LA 1 interchange. This is a huge concrete structure with miter gates, and enormous steel stop planks stored at the upper end.</p>																									
<p style="text-align: center;">From THE AMERICAN CANAL GUIDE Part 3, pp.5-6 (1979)</p>																										
<b>NAMES &amp; ADDRESSES OF GROUPS CONCERNED WITH CANALS PRESERVATION/RESTORATION:</b> New Orleans District, Corps of Engineers, Box 60267, New Orleans LA 70160.																										
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY:</b> <u>The Delta Engineers</u> by Albert E. Cowdrey (New Orleans District). NOS Chart 11354, Intracoastal Waterway, Morgan City to Port Allen. See also Plaquemine Lock Index Sheet for the lock replaced by Port Allen Lock.																										
<b>UNPUBLISHED RECORDS, PHOTOS, DRAWINGS (CEHR, HAER, HABS, Local or Regional Historical Societies, Libraries, etc.):</b>																										
<b>EXISTING OR RECOMMENDED LANDMARK STATUS (CEHR, National Register, etc.):</b>																										
<b>REPORTER'S NAME &amp; ADDRESS:</b> W.E. Trout, III, 1932 Cinco Robles Drive, Duarte CA 91010		<b>DATE:</b> 4 Oct 81																								
<b>R E T U R N T O :</b> CANAL INDEX COMMITTEE, c/o P.H.STOTT, HAINES ROAD, MOUNT KISCO, NY 10549																										