

CANAL Old River Lock	STATUS Operating																			
STATE/PROVINCE: Louisiana	ACS HAER																			
COUNTIES: Pointe Coupee	ENLARGEMENTS																			
LOCATION (Endpoints of Canal): Torras, LA																				
TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS: Turnbull Island LA-MS 7½"																				
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 10%;"></th> <th style="width: 20%;">DATES IN USE</th> <th style="width: 40%;">L E N G T H CANAL SLACKWATER TOTAL</th> <th style="width: 30%;">LIFT LOCKS No./ SIZE</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1963+</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">1/75x1200'</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			DATES IN USE	L E N G T H CANAL SLACKWATER TOTAL	LIFT LOCKS No./ SIZE	1	1963+		1/75x1200'	2				3				4		
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HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE: OLD RIVER LOCK is on LA 15, opposite the LA-MS state line, 304 miles above the mouth of the Mississippi (river mile 304). Constructed in 1963 with a chamber 75x1200' and up to 37' lift (depending on the river stage), this lock has the mind-boggling function of preventing the Mississippi from changing its course back into the Atchafalaya River. Calculations by the Corps of Engineers had indicated that if the "Old River" (part of a meander loop cut off by Capt. Henry Shreve in 1831) were left uncontrolled, the Mississippi would shift through it to the Atchafalaya sometime between 1965 and 1975, leaving the old Mississippi a brackish estuary at Baton Rouge and New Orleans. Now the lock forms part of the levee system controlling the Mississippi, and a spillway in a separate cut at mile 315 acts as a relief valve, shunting extraordinary floodwaters into the Atchafalaya basin to protect New Orleans. Two other spillways are the Morganza Floodway at mile 285, 4 miles long, and the Bonnet Carre Floodway at mile 128, just above New Orleans, which shunts floodwaters when necessary into Lake Pontchartrain.																				
PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: <p style="margin-left: 20px;">From THE AMERICAN CANAL GUIDE Part 3,p.5 (1979)</p>																				
NAMES & ADDRESSES OF GROUPS CONCERNED WITH CANALS PRESERVATION/RESTORATION: New Orleans District, Corps of Engineers, Box 60267, New Orleans LA 70160																				
BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY: "Old River" brochure available from New Orleans District; Annual Reports of the Chief of Engineers.																				
UNPUBLISHED RECORDS, PHOTOS, DRAWINGS (CEHR,HAER,HABS, Local or Regional Historical Societies, Libraries, etc.):																				
EXISTING OR RECOMMENDED LANDMARK STATUS (CEHR, National Register, etc.):																				
REPORTER'S NAME & ADDRESS: W.E. Trout, III, 1932 Cinco Robles Drive, Duarte CA 91010																				
DATE: 6 Oct 81																				
R E T U R N T O : CANAL INDEX COMMITTEE, c/o P.H.STOTT, HAINES ROAD, MOUNT KISCO, NY 10549																				