

American Canal Society Canal Index

CANAL Villere's Canal		STATUS Abandoned			ACS
STATE/PROVINCE: Louisiana					HAER
COUNTIES: St. Bernard					
LOCATION (Endpoints of Canal): Mereaux					
TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS: Chalmette LA 7 1/2'					
		DATES IN USE	L E N G T H CANAL SLACKWATER TOTAL		LIFT LOCKS No. / SIZE
		1	1815 only (?) 2 mi.		None
		2			
		3			
		4			

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE: On the New Orleans side of the river, about 5 miles E of downtown on LA 46, is the RODRIGUEZ CANAL in Chalmette National Historical Park (Visitors Center open daily 8-6, 8-5 in winter, closed Shrove Tuesday and Dec. 25). The canal is now only a depression but on January 8, 1815 it was the moat in front of the American fortifications at the Battle of New Orleans, the last battle of the War of 1812, which made General Andrew Jackson a hero. UTM: 16.211300.3316500, Chalmette LA. For the same engagement the British built their own canal, VILLERE'S CANAL, 2 1/2 mi. downriver in Mereaux, probably the one still crossed by LA 46 between La Salle Terrace and Rosetta Drive. This canal was constructed to transport small boats from the British fleet on Lake Borgne (an arm of the Gulf) to the Mississippi, and was about two miles long. Completed on Jan. 6, 24 of the boats made it through in time for the battle, before the canal banks started caving in. UTM: 16.214870.3314560, Chalmette LA. For an excellent account of the battle and canals see "Chalmette National Historical Park" by J. Fred Rousch, @ 85¢, #024-005-00178-6 from the Government Printing Office.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

From THE AMERICAN CANAL GUIDE Part 3,p.8 (1979)

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

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY:
 From Chalmette National Historical Park booklet.
 For more military canals see the sheet on Grant's Canals and Bayou Navigations, LA,AK,MS,MI

UNPUBLISHED RECORDS, PHOTOS, DRAWINGS (CEHR,HAER,HABS, Local or Regional Historical Societies, Libraries, etc.):
 Would be interesting to explore this canal by small boat.

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:** 3 Oct 81

R E T U R N T O : CANAL INDEX COMMITTEE, c/o P.H.STOTT, HAINES ROAD, MOUNT KISCO, NY 10549