

American Canal Society Canal Index

<p>CANAL Casiquiare Canal</p> <p>STATE/PROVINCE: Venezuela</p> <p>COUNTIES:</p> <p>LOCATION (Endpoints of Canal): NE: Junction with Orinoco SW: Junction with Rio Negro</p> <p>TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS: National Ocean Survey (US) Operational Navigation Chart ONG L-27</p> <p>HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE: A natural 220-mile connection between the Rio Orinoco in Venezuela, and the Rio Negro a branch of the Amazon, in Brazil. The only such connection in the world between two major river systems. Inferred by Alexander von Humbolt when he found identical species of fish in both rivers, and then travelled through it in 1799; Alfred Russel Wallace completed the exploration in 1851 by going up the Orinoco to where Humbolt had turned back. A major study of the canal was completed in 1943 by the US Corps of Engineers for the Bureau of Inter-American Affairs, to determine the feasibility of "improving" it for barge traffic. Such interest surfaces periodically but fortunately so far the canal is still in its virgin state, in undeveloped country where the principal mode of travel is by canoe. One wonders if the precarious existence of this waterway, poised between capture by either the Orinoco or Rio Negro, has ever been assisted in ages past by the construction of embankments and channels (not necessarily by Gods from Outer Space as proposed with tongue firmly in cheek in the November 1974 AMERICAN CANALS!). It is more likely that channels</p> <p>PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: have been cleared to some extent through rapids along the route; the only possible site mentioned in the 1943 Corps report is a notch near the left bank of the Cachoeira Sao Gabriel rapids at Rio Negro mile 614, used for hauling boats between the upper and lower river. A Sierra Club trip through the canal in 1978 was to have noted any possible man-made navigation works for ACS, but the trip has been postponed. Thus region of Venezuela must be conducive to connections between watersheds, because 75 miles south of the Canal Casiquiare, a tributary of it, and of the Rio Negro, are connected by the 30-mile long Canal Mariciueni, also shown on chart ONG L-27.</p> <p>NAMES & ADDRESSES OF GROUPS CONCERNED WITH CANALS PRESERVATION/RESTORATION:</p> <p>BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY: Sierra Club Foreign Outings, #770, Supplemental Announcement, Canal Casiquiare, Venezuela-Brazin, Summer 1978; and additional material supplied by the trip leader, Theodore A. Snyder, Jr., Route 1, Box 261, Walhalla, SC 29691 National Archives Record Group 77-OCN, Photos of Survey of Orinoco-Casiquiare-Negro Waterway, 1943, 7 boxes; see also the written report in the National Archives. See also <u>Personal Narrative of travels to the Equinoctial regions of America by Alexander von Humbolt, 3 vols., London, 1852-53.</u></p> <p>UNPUBLISHED RECORDS, PHOTOS, DRAWINGS (CEHR, HAER, HABS, Local or Regional Historical Societies, Libraries, etc.): Operational Navigation Chart ONG L-27, available from Distribution Division (C-44), National Ocean Survey, Riverdale, MD 20840. These charts cover the world at 1:1,000,000, cost \$2.25 ppd., and are for aerial navigation, not canal navigation. For some parts of t world TPG charts at twice the detail are available. Ask for Aeronautical Charts catalog.</p> <p>EXISTING OR RECOMMENDED LANDMARK STATUS (CEHR, National Register, etc.):</p>	<p>STATUS Still navigated</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 10%;"></td> <td style="width: 5%;"></td> <td style="width: 15%;"></td> <td style="width: 15%;"></td> <td style="width: 15%;"></td> <td style="width: 15%;"></td> <td style="width: 10%;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">L E N G T H</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">LIFT LOCKS</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">D A T E S</td> <td style="text-align: center;">C A N A L</td> <td style="text-align: center;">S L A C K W A T E R</td> <td style="text-align: center;">T O T A L</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">N o . / S I Z E</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">ENLARGEMENTS</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">P r e h i s t o r i c</td> <td style="text-align: center;">- P r e s e n t</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2 2 0</td> <td style="text-align: center;">m i l e s</td> <td style="text-align: center;">N o n e</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>ACS</p> <p>HAER</p>										L E N G T H				LIFT LOCKS		D A T E S	C A N A L	S L A C K W A T E R	T O T A L		N o . / S I Z E	ENLARGEMENTS	1	P r e h i s t o r i c	- P r e s e n t	2 2 0	m i l e s	N o n e		2							3							4					
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<p>REPORTER'S NAME & ADDRESS: W.E. Trout, III, 1932 Ginco Robles Drive, Duarte, CA 91010</p> <p>R E T U R N T O : CANAL INDEX COMMITTEE, c/o P.H. STOTT, HAINES ROAD, MOUNT KISCO, NY 10549</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DATE: 19 Sept '81</p>																																																		