

PLACE	COUNTY, PARISH, or REGION	STATE or PROVINCE	ELEVATION	CANAL
Attakapas Canal	Assumption	Louisiana	3'	Attakapas
Canal	Charlotte	New Brunswick	unknown	none
Canal	Muskoka	Ontario	unknown	unknown
Canal Township	Venango	Pennsylvania	varies	French Creek Feeder Canal (Franklin line)
Canale	Lafayette	Arkansas	203'	Unknown
Canal Center	Venango	Pennsylvania	1,273'	French Creek Feeder Canal (Franklin line)
Canal Flats	Kootenay	British Columbia	unknown	Baillie & Grohman
Canal Fulton	Stark	Ohio	948'	Ohio & Erie
Canal Lake	Union	Georgia	1,841'	unknown
Canal Lewisville	Coshocton	Ohio	768'	Ohio & Erie
Canalou	New Madrid	Missouri	289'	unknown
Canal Point	Palm Beach	Florida	16'	unknown
Canalport	Paulding	Ohio	710'	Miami & Erie
Canal View Estates	Cecil	Maryland	46'	Chesapeake & Delaware
Canal Winchester	Franklin/Fairfield	Ohio	764'	Ohio & Erie
Fosters Canal	Plaquemines	Louisiana	3'	unknown
South Canal CDP*	Trumbull	Ohio	938'	PA & Ohio

\*CDP: Census Designated Place

## "CANAL" PLACE NAMES

By Richard F. Brown, Jr., AICP

Have you ever been curious how many populated places (cities, towns, villages, townships, or counties, etc.) in the United States and Canada include "Canal" in their name? Research using data from the Census Bureau, the United States Geological Survey (USGS), and several other resources listed at the end of this article indicate there are a total of 17. These are listed on the chart above.

Based on the data, Ohio holds the title to having the most places named "canal" with five. Georgia has the "canal" community located at the highest elevation (1,841 feet above sea level), while Louisiana contains two "canal" places at the lowest elevation of three feet above sea level (USGS). Most of these communities are very small and unincorporated, but Canal Fulton, Canal Winchester, and South Canal are growing suburbs of larger cities in Ohio. Canal Fulton with a population of 5,061 in year 2000 is the largest community with the word "canal" in its name (Census Bureau).

During our family's west coast trip last summer we passed through Canal Flats, British Columbia. Cur-

ous due to the fascinating name, I found out a 1.2 mile long canal had been constructed in 1889 to link two great rivers of the northwest, the Kootenay and the Columbia, via Columbia Lake (BritishColumbia.com). A provincial park preserves the remains of the canal, which saw only two ships use it (BritishColumbia.com). The town gets its unique name from the narrow strip of land between these two rivers (BritishColumbia.com). Unfortunately since it was approaching midnight, we did not get to see much of the town, nor its namesake canal.

### SOURCES:

Geographical Survey of Canada  
<http://www.americancanals.org/Canada.org/Canada/British%20Columbia/Baillie%20Groham.pdf>  
<http://www.americancanals.org/Pennsylvania/French%20Creek%20Feeder.pdf>  
<http://americancanals.org/Pennsylvania/French%20Creek%20Feeder%20202.pdf>  
<http://www.britishcolumbia.com/regions/towns/?townID=4017>  
<http://co.crawford.pa.us/history.htm>  
<http://www.pa-canal-society.org/sites.htm>  
<http://my.ohio.voyager.net/~lstevens/canal/canalmap.html>  
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~pavenang/townships2b.htm>  
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/la/assumption/history1.htm>  
[http://www.upei.ca/~meill/canehist/topic\\_10.html](http://www.upei.ca/~meill/canehist/topic_10.html)  
 MapQuest  
 TopoZone  
 United States Census Bureau  
 United States Geographical Survey (USGS)