

American Canal Society Canal Structure Inventory

Structure Big Tunnel		Canal Sandy and Beaver	HAER/CEHR Condition
State/Province <u>Ohio</u> County <u>Columbiana</u>		Designer(s) Major D.B. Douglass	
City/Town <u>One and three quarter miles west of Dungannon.</u>		Contractor/Builder	
Street		Source of Material	
Associated Waterway		DATES OF CONSTRUCTION	
TOPOGRAPHIC MAP <u>HANOVERTON</u>		Start <u>1836</u>	Rebuilding
UTM Coordinates <u>17.507550.4511000</u>		Completion <u>1847</u>	Abandoned <u>1854</u>
<p>History & Use in Service; Use Since Abandonment: Built as part of the privately-owned Sandy and Beaver Canal, the Big Tunnel was designed to carry the waters of the canal through a ridge at the headwaters of Willard Run on the East with the headwaters of Sandy Creek on the west. Begun in 1836, completion was scheduled for three years in the future. Financial and engineering handicaps delayed completion until 1847. Never a financial success, the canal at the summit level was abandoned in 1854. The last boat through the tunnel was the "Hibernian" which made passage in the spring of 1852. Local legend states that only one boat ever completed passage through the tunnel. Another version of the same tale adds that the boat became stuck in the tunnel and to this day is still there. Records exist to show traffic maintained from 1848 to 1852.</p>			
<p>Description (Visible Remains at the site): Located at Mile 37 west, the Big Tunnel was 900 yards long and was dug 120 feet below the surface of a ridge separating Sandy Creek and Willard Run. Cut through solid sandstone, four vertical shafts of 89 feet in depth were sunk to facilitate the excavation of waste rock. Dimensions of the tunnel were a height of 17 to 18 feet with a prism of 40'X28'X7'. No provision was made for a towpath, an endless chain using stationary power for propulsion was suggested.</p> <p>The west end of the tunnel was floored to keep quicksand from silting the canal. The remainder of the canal was through solid rock and unsupported.</p> <p>The east portal can be seen from a local road, however it is covered by eroded material. The prism here is still watered. On U.S. highway "30 east of Hanoverton is a large historical marker indicating the west portal of the tunnel.</p> <p>Other works or events associated with site:</p>			
Present Property Owners:		Location of Deed Description:	
<p>Bibliography (Published, unpublished mss, maps, photographs): <u>The Sandy and Beaver Canal</u> by Max Gard and William H. Vodrey, Jr., East Liverpool Historical Society, Ohio, 1952. (reprinted 1972) <u>The Ohio Canals</u> by Frank Wilcox, Kent University Press, Ohio, 1969. <u>The Ohio Guide</u> by Writers' Program of Works Progress Administration, Oxford University Press, New York, 1940. <u>"Ohio Helped the Sandy and Beaver Canal Munificently"</u> by E.J. Heydinger, <u>Towpaths Canal Society of Ohio, Vol XI, No. 2, 1973.</u></p>			
Agencies, Individuals Interested in Preservation/Restoration:		National Register/CEHR, Other Recognition:	
Investigation made by: Herbert O'Hanlon			Date: July 1974
Address: 1003 Fairplay Street, Aurora, Colorado, 80011			
RETURN TO:			

A sketch map or illustration of the site should be included on the reverse.