Little Tunnel

State/Province: Ohio
County: Columbiana
City/Town: 1 mile N.E. Dungannon
Associated Waterway: Sandy and Beaver Canal
TOPOGRAPHIC MAP: GAVERS
UTM Coordinates: 17510630.4510720

Little Tunnel located one mile east of Dungannon, Ohio, and 34 miles west of eastern terminus of the Sandy and Beaver Canal. Located at a surface level of 1,200 feet, the 1,000 foot-long tunnel connected the waters of The West Fork of Little Beaver Creek with the waters of Willard Run on the west. Although completed in 1846, the tunnel was not open to through traffic until 1850. The delay of four years was caused by the inability of the canal operators to open the Big Tunnel three miles to the west.

Since abandonment the tunnel has not been used for any purpose.

The watershed ridge through which the tunnel was dug is for the most part composed of earth. Since both portals of the tunnel have collapsed it is only possible to make assumptions about the tunnel itself. One printed source maintains that the bore was cut through solid earth and was timber-lined for support. Another source states that during the excavations a 26-inch seam of coal was uncovered. This would indicate that sedimentary rock of some kind was encountered. The latter account states that the tunnel was lined with "stone arch masonry."

The cut leading to the east portal of the tunnel is readily visible from a local dirt road. The canal prism at this location is watered probably from seepage of waters within the tunnel.

Bibliography (Published, unpublished mss., maps, photographs):

The Ohio Canals by Frank Wilcox, Kent State University Press, Ohio, 1969.
The Ohio Guide by Writers' Program of Works Progress Administration, Oxford University Press, New York, 1940.

Investigation made by: Herbert O'Hanlon
Address: 1003 Fairplay Street, Aurora, Colorado, 80011.

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