The Vernon Canal

STATE/PROVINCE: Ohio

COUNTIES: Knox County and Coshocton County

LOCATION (Endpoints of Canal): From a point on the Walhonding Canal near Warsaw to Mount Vernon.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:
The Vernon Canal was to have been an extension of the Walhonding Canal extending from the junction of the Vernon and Mohican Rivers west of Warsaw, at a small community named Walhonding, to Mount Vernon 21 miles to the west. (The Vernon River is now known as the Kokosing River.)

The purpose of the canal was to tap the rich agricultural regions of Knox County; it was also proposed that the Vernon Canal provide additional traffic to make the Walhonding Canal a financial success.

Financial difficulties of the State of Ohio after 1839 did not allow for construction of the Vernon Canal. Another extension of the Walhonding Canal up the Mohican River to Loudonville was also abandoned before any construction had taken place. The latter proposed canal was to have been called the Mohican Canal which would have been 23 miles long.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:
The Vernon Canal was to have been 21 miles long with 17 locks having a combined lift of 141 feet. Total cost of the canal was estimated at $360,509.

Engineering surveys for the route was first undertaken in 1838. Several attempts were made to begin construction in ensuing years, but without success. After 1844 all attempts to build the canal were abandoned.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY:
Towpaths: Sesquicentennial Issue No. 4 by Canal Society of Ohio, Canton, 1975.

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