

National Road History

national road sidewalk *ohio county*

The National Road was completed from Cumberland, Maryland to Wheeling, (West) Virginia in 1818 and originally passed through rural farmland with occasional taverns and inns for travelers. Near the turn of the 20th century, the area immediately east of Wheeling began to develop as farms were divided up and residential communities were created along the National Road. This increase in traffic led to the need for roadway improvement and was likely a factor in the construction of the stone retaining wall and culvert drainage system c.1900. Eventually, congress passed a federal aid road act and numerous additional roadway improvements were made from 1915-1935, including the construction of the cantilevered sidewalk in 1926. The remaining stone retaining wall can be seen on the western side of the roadway. It is constructed of rough-cut sandstone blocks laid in an irregular course and is approximately 225' long with a height ranging from .5" to 13'. Areas of concrete reinforcement, stairs, sidewalk support beams, and fill material have been added to the wall over the years. The stone arch culvert currently exists as an approximately 8'x7' inlet on the eastern side of the roadway, connecting to a 6' diameter concrete pipe and a 6' diameter corrugated metal pipe. The Cantilevered Sidewalk Segment is located on the western side of the roadway and cantilevers over the stone wall below. It is approximately 133' long and constructed of a concrete surface with a metal railing and is supported by horizontal metal I-beams. An additional set of horizontal beams and vertical posts were added at a later date to offer extra support. The Cantilevered Sidewalk Segment and the Stone Retaining Wall & Drainage System are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places as contributing structures to the National Road Corridor Historic District, which was listed on the National Register in 1993. These structures were built during the district's period of significance from 1866-1935 and help demonstrate the growth and development of this portion of the City of Wheeling during that time.



sidewalk

Location: US Route 40/ National Road, milepost 5.41
Type: Sidewalk
Length: 133 feet
Year constructed: 1926
Contractor: WV State Road Commission

wall and culvert

Location: US Route 40/ National Road, milepost 5.41
Type: Wall and Culvert
Length: 225 feet
Year constructed: 1900
Contractor: Unknown

what **Historical Services Unit** does

- Research and Write Historic Reports
- Determine National Register Eligibility
- Determine Historic Boundaries
- Determine Effects to Historic Properties
- Mitigate Adverse Effects to Historic Properties
- Complete Historic Documentations for Specific Historic Properties
- Historic Turnpike Research and Analysis
- Coordinate with Federal, State, and Local Resource Agencies
- Conduct Public Workshops for Specific Bridge and Highway Projects

contact us

Division of Highways
Engineering Division
Environmental Section
1334 Smith Street
Charleston, WV 25301
Sondra Mullins
Historical Services Unit Leader
304.558.9487
sondra.l.mullins@wv.gov



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