State Level Historic Documentation Report

State Project No. S330-3/5-9.33 Federal Project No. STP-0035(122)D

> Dingess Tunnel Mingo County



Prepared by:

Randy Epperly, Historian

Department of Transportation Division of Highways Engineering Division Environmental Section

July 11, 2017

STATE LEVEL HISTORIC DOCUMENTATION DINGESS TUNNEL

Location: County Route 3/5 Mingo County West Virginia

USGS Myrtle Quadrangle

Date of Construction: 1892

- Builder: Norfolk & Western Railway
- <u>Present Owner</u>: West Virginia Department of Transportation Division of Highways 1900 Kanawha Boulevard, Building 5, Room A-110 Charleston, WV 25305
- Present Use: Vehicular Tunnel
- Significance: The Dingess Tunnel is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its association with improving access and transportation of goods into the region. It is also eligible under Criterion C for its engineering significance.
- <u>Project Information:</u> The project has been undertaken due to the deteriorating condition of the structure. The project will provide a safer and more efficient traffic situation while preventing permanent closure of the tunnel. The existing tunnel warrants rehabilitation. The documentation was undertaken in October 2016 in accordance with a Memorandum of Agreement among the Federal Highway Administration, West Virginia Department of Transportation, and West Virginia State Historic Preservation Office. The project is expected to begin in 2017.

No original plans are available.

Randy Epperly, Historian West Virginia Division of Highways Charleston, WV 25305 July 11, 2017 The Dingess Tunnel is located on County Route 3/5 in Mingo County. Construction began in 1890 on the Norfolk & Western Railway's Twelvepole line from Lenore to Ceredo, which included the Dingess Tunnel. On September 25, 1892 the first train traveled the Dingess Tunnel portion of the line, and the entire line was completed on November 12, 1892. The line was not profitable and in the 1930s it was abandoned and converted into a roadway (Abandoned). Although the railroad line was not financially successful, the tunnel was instrumental in opening up an inaccessible area. The tunnel has provided a way to transport coal and timber and therefore provided employment for the region's inhabitants since the late 19th Century.

Dingess Tunnel is approximately 3,331 feet long and straight with natural airflow ventilation. The tunnel was built using stone and a portion was originally timber lined. The northern end of the tunnel was constructed at a later date. Brick lining was added approximately 15 years after the tunnel opened to railroad traffic. A liner was installed in 1979 in a portion of the northern end of the tunnel. There is a drainage ditch along the east side of the tunnel and small recesses are spaced periodically inside the tunnel. Stone outside of the southern portal has Peebles Block etched into it. Peebles Block was made by Peebles Paving Brick Company of Portsmouth, Ohio. The word Dunn is also etched into it representing the Dunn method for making the bricks. Peebles Block dates to the late 1800s/early 1900s, consistent with the construction date of the tunnel (American Trade Index, 1913.) Lighting inside the tunnel is currently inoperable. A drainage creek crosses over the northern end of the tunnel, where surface water infiltrates the tunnel causing deterioration. The tunnel was commemorated with historic signs in the summer of 2015 (Williamson Daily News, 2015). No original plans for the tunnel are available.

Dingess Tunnel has been called "America's Bloodiest Tunnel" due to stories from the late 1800s/early 1900s of immigrant and African-American coal miners and railroad employees being murdered while traveling through the tunnel (Appalachian Magazine, 2014.) These stories have been printed in national publications.

Dingess Tunnel is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its association with improving access and transportation of goods into the region and also under Criterion C for its engineering significance. The tunnel was and continues to be integral to the movement of coal, timber, and people in the region.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Abandoned. "Norfolk & Western Railroad (Twelvepole Division)." Retrieved 22 October 2012. http://abandonedonline.net/locations/railroads/norfolk-and-western-twelve-pole/

American Trade Index. "Peebles Paving Brick Company." 1913. National Association of Manufacturers. New York City.

Appalachian Magazine. "America's Bloodiest Tunnel." 23 February 2014. Retrieved 22 Oct 2015. http://appalachianmagazine.com/2014/02/23/americas-bloodiest-tunnel-wv/

West Virginia Legislature. House Concurrent Resolution No. 50. <u>http://www.legis.state.wv.us/Bill_Status/bills_text.cfm?billdoc=hcr50%20intr.htm&yr=2015</u> <u>&sesstype=RS&i=50&houseorig=H&billtype=CR</u> Retrieved 20 October 2016.

Williamson Daily News. "Historic Dingess Tunnel Commemorated." 26 June 2015.

STATE LEVEL HISTORIC DOCUMENTATION INDEX TO PHOTOGRAPHS

Dingess Tunnel County Route 3/5 Mingo County, West Virginia

Photographer: Randy Epperly

August 2014 and November 2015

DINGESS TUNNEL-1 View of Dingess Tunnel south portal. View of Dingess Tunnel south portal with historic marker. **DINGESS TUNNEL-2 DINGESS TUNNEL-3** View of Dingess Tunnel south portal. DINGESS TUNNEL-4 View of Dingess Tunnel north portal. View of closeup of Dingess Tunnel north portal. **DINGESS TUNNEL-5** View of Dingess Tunnel looking south. **DINGESS TUNNEL-6** View of historic marker at south portal. **DINGESS TUNNEL-7** View of stone with company etching. **DINGESS TUNNEL-8**

















MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BY AND AMONG THE FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION THE WEST VIRGINIA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE AND THE WEST VIRGINIA DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS REGARDING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DINGESS TUNNEL REHABILITATION PROJECT S330-3/5-9.33 STP-0035(121)D MINGO COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA MARCH 2016

WHEREAS, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), in cooperation with the West Virginia Division of Highways (WVDOH), proposes to rehabilitate the Dingess Tunnel, located on County Route 3/5 in Mingo County, hereinafter referred to as the Project. The improvements involve installing approximately 270 feet of steel liner inside the tunnel, repointing or replacing loose or missing brick and stone, installing LED lighting with vandal shields inside the tunnel, and installing warning and guidance signs outside of the tunnel. Drainage above the northern end of the tunnel will be corrected using a concrete gutter and the road over the tunnel will be upgraded; and

WHEREAS, the FHWA has determined that the Project will have an adverse effect upon the Dingess Tunnel, a property eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP);and

WHEREAS, the FHWA has consulted with the West Virginia State Historic Preservation Officer (WVSHPO) pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800 Implementing Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act; (16 U.S.C., 470f); and

WHEREAS, the FHWA has determined that the Project will not affect archaeological properties; and

WHEREAS, the WVDOH contacted the Coal Heritage Authority and the Preservation Alliance of West Virginia regarding the Project. Neither group chose to respond;

WHEREAS, in accordance with 36 CFR 800.6 (a) (1), the FHWA has notified the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) of its adverse effect determination providing the specified documentation, and the ACHP has chosen not to participate in the consultation pursuant to 36 CFR 800.6 (a) (1) (iii);

NOW, THEREFORE, the FHWA, the WVSHPO, and the WVDOH, agree that the undertaking will be implemented in accordance with the following stipulations in order to take into account the effects of the undertaking on historic properties.

STIPULATIONS

The FHWA shall ensure that the following stipulations are carried out:

Dingess Tunnel

- I. The Dingess Tunnel will be documented in its present historic setting. The documentation package will include 5"x7" black and white digital prints in accordance with the National Register of Historic Places and National Historic Landmarks Survey Photo Policy Expansion of January 2009.
- **II.** A brief history of the structure will be included along with fully completed West Virginia Historic Property Inventory forms and copies of any available plan sheets and scans of the tunnel using LIDAR Technology.
- **III.** West Virginia Division of Highways staff will provide the Mingo County Public Library a copy of the Dingess Tunnel State Level Historic Documentation for references and educational purposes.
- IV. 50 color brochures of the Dingess Tunnel will be developed by the WVDOH and distributed to the Mingo County Public Library. The WVSHPO will be given the opportunity to review all educational materials developed for this stipulation. A CD containing the brochure will also be given to the library to print brochures when the original total has been exhausted.
- V. The Dingess Tunnel will be documented on the West Virginia historic bridge website.

VI. Duration

This MOA will expire if its stipulations are not carried out within five (5) years from the date of its execution. At such time, and prior to work continuing on the undertaking, the FHWA shall either (a) execute an MOA pursuant to 36 CFR 800.6, or (b) request, take into account, and respond to the comments of the ACHP under 36 CFR 800.7. Prior to such time, FHWA may consult with other signatories to reconsider the terms of the MOA and amend it in accordance with Stipulation X below. FHWA shall notify the signatories as to the course of action it will pursue.

VII. Post-Review Discoveries

If any unanticipated discoveries of historic properties or archaeological sites, including human burial sites and/or skeletal remains, are encountered during the implementation of this undertaking, work shall be suspended in the area of the discovery until the WVDOH has developed and implemented an appropriate treatment plan in consultation with the WVSHPO pursuant to 800.13 (b).

VIII. Monitoring and Reporting

Each year following the execution of this MOA until it expires or is terminated, FHWA shall provide all parties to this MOA a summary report detailing work carried out pursuant to its terms. Such report shall include any scheduling changes proposed, any problems encountered, and any disputes and objections received in FHWA's efforts to carry out the terms of this MOA.

IX. <u>Dispute Resolution</u>

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Should any signatory or concurring party to this MOA object at any time to any actions proposed or the manner in which the terms of this MOA are implemented, FHWA shall consult with such party to resolve the objection. If FHWA determines that such objection cannot be resolved, FHWA will:

- A. Forward all documentation relevant to the dispute, including the FHWA's proposed resolution, to the ACHP. The ACHP shall provide FHWA with its advice on the resolution of the objection within thirty (30) days of receiving adequate documentation. Prior to reaching a final decision on the dispute, FHWA shall prepare a written response that takes into account any timely advice or comments regarding the dispute from the ACHP, signatories and concurring parties, and provide them with a copy of this written response. FHWA will then proceed according to its final decision.
 - B. If the ACHP does not provide its advice regarding the dispute within the thirty (30) day time period, FHWA may make a final decision on the dispute and proceed accordingly. Prior to reaching such a final decision, FHWA shall prepare a written response that takes into account any timely comments regarding the dispute from the signatories and concurring parties to the MOA, and provide them and the ACHP with a copy of such written response.
 - C. FHWA's responsibility to carry out all other actions subject to the terms of this MOA that are not the subject of the dispute remain unchanged.

X. <u>Amendments</u>

This MOA may be amended when such an amendment is agreed to in writing by all signatories. The amendment will be effective on the date a copy signed by all of the signatories is filed with the ACHP.

XI. <u>Termination</u>

If any signatory to this MOA determines that its terms will not or cannot be carried out, that party shall immediately consult with the other parties to attempt to develop an amendment per Stipulation X, above. If within thirty (30) days (or another time period agreed to by all signatories) an amendment cannot be reached, any signatory may terminate the MOA upon written notification to the other signatories.

Once the MOA is terminated, and prior to work continuing on the undertaking, FHWA must either (a) execute a MOA pursuant to 36 CFR 800.6, or (b) request, take into account, and respond to the comments of the ACHP under 36 CFR 800.7. FHWA shall notify the signatories as to the course of action it will pursue.

EXECUTION of the Memorandum of Agreement by the FHWA, WVSHPO, the WVDOH and the Council, and implementation of its terms evidence that the FHWA has afforded the Council an opportunity to comment on the Dingess Tunnel Rehabilitation project and its effects on historic properties, and that the FHWA has taken into account the effects of the undertaking on the historic property.

Signatories Page

n e

Federal Highway Administration

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West Virginia Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

1/23/16

Date

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Date

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation

Date

CONCUR:

West Virginia Division of Highways

17/16

Date



WEST VIRGINIA HISTORIC PROPERTY INVENTORY FORM

Street Address	Common/Historic Name/Both	Field Survey #	Site # (SHPO Only)
Located along County Route 3/5.	Dingess Tunnel	HPI #2	MO-58
Town or Community	County	Negative No.	NR Listed Date
Dingess	Mingo		
Architect/Builder	Date of Construction	Style (SHPO Only)	
Norfolk & Western Railroad	1892		
Exterior Siding / Materials	Roofing Material	Foundation	
Stone	Brick		
Property Use or Function	UTM Zone18 NAD 1983		
Transportation	Easting 396332E Northing 4191885N		
	Quadrangle Name		
Survey Organization & Date WVDOH August 13, 2014	Myrtle		
	Part of What Survey / FR# State County Route S330-3/5-9.33 Federal Project STP-0035(122)D		





HPI Name: Dingess Tunnel Survey #: HPI #2 Survey / FR#: State County Route: S330-3/5-9.33 **Present Owners Owners Mailing Address WVDOH** Building 5, Capitol Complex Charleston, WV 25305 **Describe Setting** Unknown--<1 Acres Archaeological Artifacts Present Located in a rural area in Dingess, Mingo County. It is located near the Laurel Lake Wildlife Management Area. **Description of Buildings or Site (Original and Present)** Stories Front Bays The tunnel is 3,331 feet long and straight with natural airflow ventilation. It was built using stone and a portion was originally timber lined. The northern end of the tunnel was constructed at a later date. Brick lining was added approximately 15 years after the tunnel opened to railroad traffic. A liner was installed in 1979 in a portion of the northern end of the tunnel. There is a drainage ditch along the east side of the tunnel and small recesses are spaced periodically inside the tunnel. Stone outside of the southern portal has Peebles Block etched into it. Peebles Block was made by Peebles Paving Brick Company of Portsmouth, Ohio. The word Dunn is also etched into it representing the Dunn method for making the bricks. Peebles Block dates to the late 1800s/early 1900s, consistent with the construction date of the tunnel (American Trade Index, 1913.) Lighting inside the tunnel is currently inoperable. A drainage creek crosses over the northern end of the tunnel, where surface water infiltrates the tunnel causing deterioration. □No Alterations ☑ Yes If yes, describe Brick lining was installed approximately 15 years after construction. The northern end of the tunnel was built at a later date. A liner was installed in 1979 in the northern end of the tunnel. Additions ⊠ Yes □ No If yes, describe The northern end of the tunnel was built at a later date. A liner was installed in 1979 in the northern end of the tunnel. **Describe All Outbuildings** N/A Statement of Significance:

See Continuation Sheet

Bibliographical References

- Abandoned. "Norfolk & Western Railroad (Twelvepole Division)." Retrieved 22 October 2012. www.abandonedonline.net/locations/railroads/norfolk-and-western-twelve-pole/
- American Trade Index. "Peebles Paving Brick Company." 1913. National Association of Manufacturers. New York City.
 Appalachian Magazine. "America's Bloodiest Tunnel." 23 February 2014. Retrieved 22 Oct. 2015
- http://appalachianmagazine.com/2014/02/23/americas-bloodiest-tunnel-wv/
- Williamson Daily News. "Historic Dingess Tunnel Commemorated." 26 June 2015.
- West Virginia Legislature. House Concurrent Resolution No. 50. http://www.legis.state.wv.us/Bill_Status/bills_text.cfm?billdoc=hcr50%20intr.htm&yr=2015&sesstype=RS&i=50&houseorig=H&billtype=CR Retrieved 20 October 2016

Form Prepared By:

Date: July 11, 2017

Name/Organization: Randy Epperly Address: WV Division of Highways Capitol Complex Building 5, Rm. 463 Charleston, WV 25305

Phone #: 304-558-9385

WEST VIRGINIA HISTORIC PROPERTY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Name: Dingess Tunnel Survey Number: HPI #2 Project / FR#: State County Route: S330-3/5-9.33

The Dingess Tunnel is located on County Route 3/5 in Mingo County. Construction began in 1890 on the Norfolk & Western Railway's Twelvepole line from Lenore to Ceredo, which included the Dingess Tunnel. On September 25, 1892, the first train traveled the Dingess Tunnel portion of the line, and the entire line was completed on November 12, 1892. The line was not profitable and in the 1930s it was abandoned and converted into a roadway (Abandoned). Although the railroad line was not financially successful, the tunnel was instrumental in opening up an inaccessible area. The tunnel has provided a way to transport coal and timber and therefore provided employment for the region's inhabitants since the late 19th Century. Dingess Tunnel has been called "America's Bloodiest Tunnel" due to stories from the late 1800s/early 1900s of immigrant and African-American coal miners and railroad employees being murdered while traveling through the tunnel (Appalachian Magazine, 2014.) These stories have been printed in national publications. The tunnel was commemorated with historic signs in the summer of 2015 (Williamson Daily News, 2015). Dingess Tunnel is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its association with improving access and transportation of goods into the region. The tunnel was and continues to be integral to the movement of coal, timber, and people in the region.

The structure is not known to have been associated with the productive period of some notable person's life or to have been associated for any length of time with such a person. The tunnel is not best representation of such a person's historic contribution. The tunnel is not eligible under Criterion B.

Dingess Tunnel is approximately 3,331 feet long and straight with natural airflow ventilation. The tunnel was built using stone and a portion was originally timber lined. The northern end of the tunnel was constructed at a later date. Brick lining was added approximately 15 years after the tunnel opened to railroad traffic. A liner was installed in 1979 in a portion of the northern end of the tunnel. There is a drainage ditch along the east side of the tunnel and small recesses are spaced periodically inside the tunnel. Stone outside of the southern portal has Peebles Block etched into it. Peebles Block was made by Peebles Paving Brick Company of Portsmouth, Ohio. The word Dunn is also etched into it representing the Dunn method for making the bricks. Peebles Block dates to the late 1800s/early 1900s, consistent with the construction date of the tunnel (American Trade Index, 1913.) Lighting inside the tunnel is currently inoperable. A drainage creek crosses over the northern end of the tunnel, where surface water infiltrates the tunnel causing deterioration. Dingess Tunnel is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for its engineering significance.

This structure is not likely to have important information that will contribute to our understanding of human history or prehistory. The potential for information is minimal; therefore, it does not meet the requirements for Criterion D.



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RATING ASEBRUCE CONTEXT____

WEST VIRGINIA HISTORIC PROPERTY INVENTORY FORM

STREET ADDRESS	COMMON/HISTORIC NAME	NO. IN SURVEY	NO. OF BAYS
County Route 3	Dingess Tunnel	Mo-t Kar	FRONT SIDE
TOWN OR COMMUNITY	COUNTY	NEGATIVE NO.	
Dingess	Mingo		NOT VISIBLE FROM ROAD
ARCHITECT/BUILDER	DATE OF CONSTRUCTION	EXTERIOR BUILDING F	FABRIC
	1914	Stone	
DATE	ROOFING MATERIAL	STYLE (STAFF USE ON	LY)
NAT. REGISTER LISTED STATE REGISTER LISTED	Brick	•	•
PROPERTY USE OR FUNCTION	TYPE OF FOUNDATION		•
Highway Tunnel	• • •	•	
	QUADRANGLE NAME		
SURVEY ORGANIZATION AND DATE	Myrtle, WV	PHOTOGRAPH (2" X 3" CONTACT)	
	PART OF WHAT SURVEY		
WVSHPO - 1988	Mingo County		



		NITAR	ł
PRESENT OWNERS	TX=	OWNER ADDRESS	
GENERAL CONDITION OF PROPER		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	,
	Excellent		×*
ADDITIONS	IF YES, DESCRIBE		L .
YES NO		·	
ALTERATIONS YES NO	IF YES, DESCRIBE Railroad tracks highway put th	have been removed rough.	and a one-lane
NO. AND NATURE OF OUTBUILDIN	IGS		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY (OR	GINAL AND PRESENT)	•	
Long, 5,000 feet	tunnel between	Dingess and Parsle	y, built in 1914 for
the NEW Pailroad.	Tuterior is brick	arched with small	recesses spaced
periodically and a rou	of lights runn	ing down the cente	r of the arch.
periodically and a rou An extremely signifi	cant engineering	structure.	
Structural system Original owners : Norf	: masonry. Use olk and Western	d to be used as Railroad.	a Railroad Tunnel.
HISTORICAL/CULTURAL SIGNIFIC			
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BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES			·
BIBLIOGRAFIȚICAL REFERENCES			
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FORM PREPARED BY Michael	Pauley	DATE 10-24-2	198/1989
	C C		/
ADDRESS WV SHPO			۰ ۲

HISTORIC PROPERTIES INVENTORY FORM	(Staff Use Only)	
HISTORIC PRESERVATION UNIT DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE & HISTORY THE CULTURAL CENTER CHARLESTON, WEST VIRGINIA 25305	DISTRICT. SITE. BUILDING. STRUCTURE. OBJECT File No: Theme(s): Neg No(s): USGS Quad: UTM Ref: (public / private, restricted)	
1. NAME(S) historic/common: Dingess Tunnel	UILDH	
2. LOCATION street/road: County Route 3 city/town: Dingess (incorporated/unincorporated)		
3. <u>USE/FUNCTION</u> present: Highway Tunnel original: Railroad Tunnel	(public/private, -restricted)	
4. <u>OWNER/ADDRESS</u> present: uncertain	(public/private) T	
_{original:} Norfolk & Western Railroad	(phone no.)	
5. <u>PHOTO/SKETCH OF:</u> 7.	PLAN (include approx. dimensions):	
· ·		
· .		
· ·		

Planning District:

1

COUNTY: _____ Survey Region: . f.

6. LOCALE/ENVIRONMENT (map)

-

8. (A.) ACREAGE (approx):

N/A

(B.) <u>VERBAL BOUNDARY</u> <u>DESCRIPTION</u>: 9. DESCRIPTION (clarify as appropriate): Structural System **Roofing Material** С. a. Exterior Fabric b. Х χ. masonry wood _ stone _ frame ____ metal _ brick _____ slate ____ concrete log _ stucco ____ metal. tile _ asphalt ____ weatherboard _ other _ composition ____ clapboard _ board & batten ____ other ____ foundation _ shingle ____ brick other ____ Integrity (include dates): Associated Structures (use/type): d. e. outbuildings _ original site/relocated __ - N/Aalterations Railroad tracks have been removed dependencies _ and a one-lane highway put through other _ additions _ f. Condition: Threats: None Known g. Х excellent __

10. SIGNIFICANCE (use attachment sheet if necessary):

a. Architect/Builder/Engineer:

b. Style/Period: _____

c. Date(s): _____

good _____ fair _____ deteriorated abandoned _

> Long, 5000 feet, tunnel between Dingess and Parsley built in 1914 for the N&W Railread. Interior is brick arched, with small recesses spaced periodically and a row of lights running down the center of the arch. An extremely significant engineering structure.

11. BIBLIOGRAPHY:

12. FORM P	REPARED BY	Michael J. Pauley
a.	Address	<u>Historic Preservation U</u>
b.	Organization	Dept. of Culture and
С.	Phone no	304 348-0240



LIDAR SCAN SCREENSHOTS

South End Tunnel Entrance



Cut Stone Segment of Tunnel



Cut stone detail



Cut Stone to Liner Transition







Liner to Orginal Brick Segment







Brick Segment Detail



North Entrance of Tunnel

