

Charles Milar bridge

Mineral County



The Charles Milar was built around 1915 by the Farris Bridge Company of Charleston, West Virginia and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The structure is a two-span, filled concrete parabolic deck arch bridge supported at each end by full-height, partially reinforced concrete abutments and wingwalls. The center support is a full-height, partially reinforced concrete pier with a corbelled cap. The springing line heights of each arch are uneven. Each span is 55 feet, while the overall length of the structure is 114 feet, six inches. The width of the bridge from curb to curb is 12 feet, eight inches, with a total width of the deck is 15 feet, 10 inches. The bridge has solid incised concrete parapet railings which continue to the flared wingwall section at each end.

The Charles Milar Bridge carries County Route 10 (Georges Run Road) over Patterson Creek approximately 2.5 miles south of Fort Ashby. The road is considered a rural minor collector and serves local traffic. The name of the bridge comes from the Milar (Sometimes spelled Millar) family who owned the adjacent farm in the early 20th century. The farm was conveyed out of the Milar family in 1978.

The contracting engineer, William Farris, was born in Wisconsin in 1864. Farris was educated at state schools in Wisconsin and attended Northwestern University. He was a civil engineer and in 1908 incorporated the Farris Bridge Company, which operated primarily in West Virginia and Kentucky. Farris and his family lived in Mineral County on Knobly Mountain west of Short Gap, where he owned an apple and peach orchard. In addition to his work as a contracting engineer, Farris was the president of the Appalachian Fruit Growers Incorporation, a marketing cooperative.

Continued on reverse side 

Charles Milar bridge

This bridge is documented on WVDOT's
historic bridge website,

www.highwaysthroughhistory.com

Continued.....

He was also elected to the House of Representatives from Mineral County and served in that position from 1922 to his death in 1924. Although previous documentation estimated that this bridge was built ca. 1926, the names of the County Commissioners, clerk, and attorney on the bridge plaque indicate the bridge was built ca. 1911 to 1915.

The Charles Milar Bridge has been evaluated as eligible under Criterion C of the National Register of Historic Places. It represents an early example of a double concrete arch in Mineral County and is also the only extant such type in the county. It retains fair integrity of material and good integrity of design, location, workmanship, setting, feeling and association. The bridge is scheduled for replacement in 2024.



Contact Us

Division of Highways
Engineering Division
Environmental Section
Capitol Complex, Building 5
Charleston, WV

Randy Epperly
Historical Services Unit Leader
304.414.6439
randy.t.epperly@wv.gov