



West Virginia Department of
**ARTS, CULTURE
AND HISTORY**

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EEO/AA Employer

November 8, 2024

Scott Plum
Director, Strategic Planning
Norfolk Southern Railway Company
650 West Peachtree Street, NW
Atlanta, GA 30308
Via email: scott.plum@nscorp.com

RE: Abandonment of Rail Line near Matewan, Mingo County
STB Docket AB 290-417X
FR#: 25-0103-MO

Dear Mr. Plum:

We have reviewed the above-referenced project to determine potential effects on cultural resources. As required by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, and its implementing regulations, 36 CFR 800: "Protection of Historic Properties," we submit our comments.

According to the submitted information Norfolk Southern Railway Company (NSR) proposes to abandon approximately 3.5 miles of track in Mingo County near Matewan. It is our understanding that NSR will not be removing or salvaging any of the materials of this rail line. We understand that no ground-disturbing activities will result from this project.

We have reviewed the submitted information. In the submitted information it is noted that there are no structures, including bridges, within the section of abandoned line; however, based on satellite imagery provided by Google dated 2024, there is an overpass over Cumberland Drive just before it connects with State Route 49 that is within the abandoned line. We are unable to provide comment on the eligibility of this structure or the effects of the project without further documentation. Please provide information on this overpass/bridge via a Historic Properties Inventory (HPI) form. The HPI form is available, along with instructions to fill it out, at <https://wvculture.org/agencies/state-historic-preservation-office-shpo/certified-local-governments-historic-landmark-commissions/historic-preservation-forms-applications/>. Please be sure to indicate the original date of construction as well as details about any changes, additions, or alterations the structure has experienced. If the overpass has been removed, please provide documentation supporting this. We will provide further comment at the receipt of the requested information.

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Mr. Plum

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We appreciate the opportunity to be of service. *If you have questions regarding our comments or the Section 106 process, please contact Abigail M. Ayers, Structural Historian, at (304) 558-0240.*

Sincerely,



Susan M. Pierce

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

SMP/AMA