Stokesville, Virginia: An enduring depot for an ephemeral town

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Abstract
This thesis project attempts to establish the significance of both the town of Stokesville, Virginia as well as the town's historic Passenger Depot. The written component of the project contains a Historic Structures Report, which documents the history of the passenger depot within the larger historic context of local and national history. The Historic Structures Report utilizes National Register Criteria to argue for the depot's significance due to its association with transportation of the historic Chesapeake Western Railway and as a regionally unique example of railway architecture. The second component of the thesis is a digital exhibit that asserts the significance of the town's history. As a town with little physically remaining, this digital exhibit seeks to bring the town of Stokesville back to life by providing public access to a history that is currently hidden away in archives and private collections.

Recommended Citation

Long Description: Today, Stokesville is a quiet rural crossroads nestled along the mountains. A country store and scattered homes dominate the area. A hundred years ago it was a bustling place with an active railroad, mining, logging, a saw mill, a tannery, farming, and its own post office. The railroad spur came from Bridgewater, past Mount Solon, and on to Stokesville. From there a line when into North River Gorge to serve mining interests. The old rail beds may still be seen in the gorge and other places in the Mount Solon area. North River has flooded the Stokesville area a number of times www.trainweb.org/hotrail/cw1.html; MaryAnn A. Mason, "Stokesville, Virginia: An enduring depot for an ephemeral town," Masters Thesis at James Madison University, Spring 2015, p.1, https://commons.lib.jmu.edu/master201019/39. "Chesapeake Western History Page," Central Virginia Railfan Page, http://www.trainweb.org/varail/aux/cwhist.html; "Stokesville, Virginia," Friends of Shenandoah Mountain, http for an Old Harrisonburg Landmark: The Renovation of the Chesapeake Western Railroad Depot," HarrisonBlog, February 19 Stokesville Strade – Stokesville, Virginia. February 1, 2015December 6, 2017 JOM. Calendar. Tickets. Add to Calendar. Add to Google. An amazing scenic loop starting at the Stokesville Lodge and Campground. Route is comprised of 6 magical natural surface segments with about 60% of the course following paved roads. The distance covered is 50K / 33 Miles. Elevation gain is 1,800 ft. Please respect all road signs and traffic laws. This route is open to all forms of traffic. Complete two challenging and scenic loops from the Stokesville Lodge and Campground that is comprised of 6 magical natural surface segments with about 60% of the course consisting of paved roads per lap. The distance covered combined will be 100K / 66 Miles.