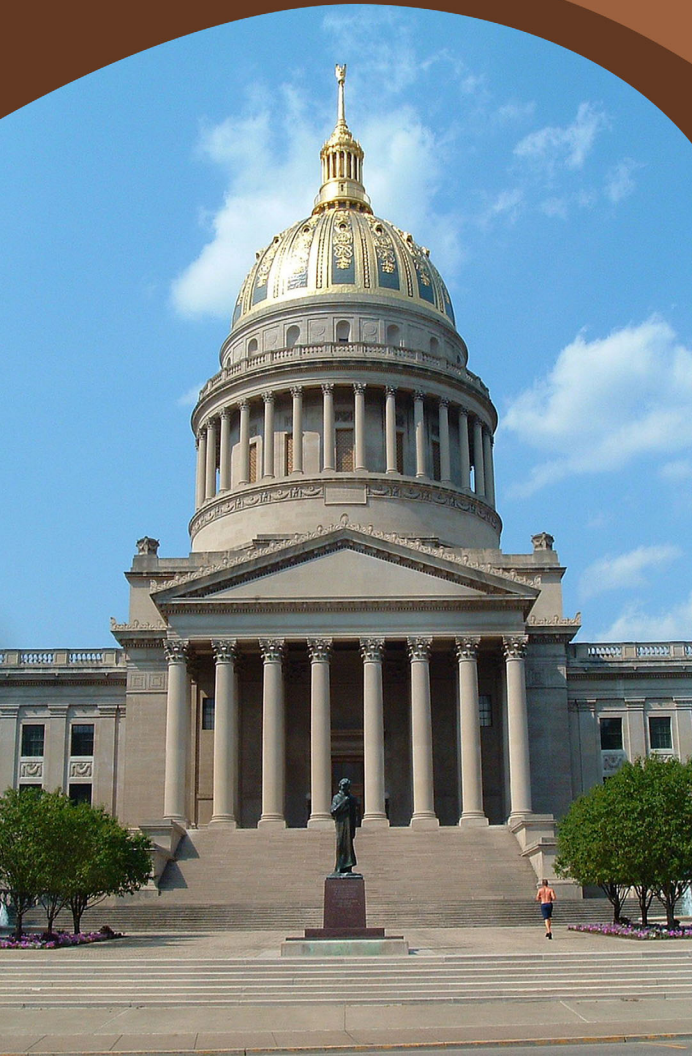


## What Historical Services Unit Does

- 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

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Hallsburg Road  
Stone

Culvert

*Clay County*

JULY 11/2



**Description:** The Hallsburg Road Stone Culvert is constructed of massive, dry-stacked, rectangular sandstone blocks. It is approximately 5', 2" tall, with slabs which measure 5' 3". Interior dimensions are approximately 4' high by 3' wide. The overall length of the structure is 20'. The north outlet has collapsed, and two pipes, one polyethylene and one corrugated metal, have been installed. The culvert provides drainage of Big Otter Creek beneath CR 42 (Hallsburg Road).

**Significance:** The Hallsburg Road Stone Culvert is a rare example of an extant dry-stacked stone block culvert built in the mid-19th century. The builder is unknown; however, the surrounding land was settled in the 1850s by the Mollohan and Hall families. In early road construction, bridges and culverts could be built of wood or stone, depending on the availability of funds and materials. There is limited information about the construction of early stone culverts in western Virginia, but this type of dry stacked stone culvert was also used in places along the James River and Kanawha Turnpike in the 1830s. The technique of dry-stacking stones was brought to the United States by Scots-Irish settlers, many of whom were employed as road builders in western Virginia in the 19th century. It is likely that this culvert was built c. 1850-1860 due to settlement patterns of the area where it is located.

The culvert has historic significance as an early engineering structure, possibly related to the Elk River Turnpike, one of many turnpike companies chartered in Virginia between 1819-1860. It is associated with the broad trend of road construction in antebellum western Virginia to link county seats and provide transportation of goods to outside markets. For these reasons, the culvert is eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion A. The culvert is also eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion C because it embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, and method of construction of utilitarian cut stone box culverts that are now rare among documented historic engineering resources in West Virginia.

# Hallsburg Road Stone Culvert

Clay County