



Twelvepole Line History

The Old Twelvepole Line was built in the 1890s between Ceredo and Lenore to access coal and timber along the West Fork of Twelvepole Creek. The line was part of the Norfolk & Western's Ohio Extension. A new line was built in the early 1900s for west bound trains carrying coal that were heavier than the east bound empty trains and for a short time both lines were used. Many of the original bridges were replaced with bridges capable of carrying the heavier cars. The line was not financially profitable and a new line along the Big Sandy River soon replaced the Twelvepole Line. The tracks were removed in 1933 and the State Road Commission began using it as a roadway.

The alignment remains in use as a roadway to this day, although most of the original railroad structures in Mingo County have been demolished. Currently four bridges remain but are scheduled to be replaced by 2023. The Dingess Tunnel and Breeden Tunnel remain in operation, both of which are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

The Twelvepole Line is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for significance with opening the area for economic development and development of the West Virginia coalfields.

Location: Route from Ceredo and Lenore along the West Fork of Twelvepole Creek

Type: Roads/ Tunnels/ Bridges

Length: 54 miles from Lenore to Wayne and 21 miles from Lenore to Wayne County line

Year constructed: 1890s

Contractor: Norfolk and Western Railroad

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

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road
mingo county