

MEYERSDALE DEPOT
Western Maryland Railway
529 Main Street
Meyersdale
Somerset County
Pennsylvania

HAER No. PA-372

HAER
PA
56-MEYER,
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
P.O. Box 37127
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

MEYERSDALE DEPOT
Western Maryland Railway

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Location: 529 Main Street, Meyersdale, Somerset
County, Pennsylvania

Date of Construction: 1912

Present Owner: CSX

Present Use: Abandoned

Significance: Constructed for the Western Maryland
Railway by the Meyersdale Planing Company
in 1912, the Meyersdale depot is one of
the few surviving depots of the defunct
railway. It is also among the more
ornate brick and wood-frame depots on the
largely abandoned Western Maryland
Railway line.

Historian: Scott C. Brown, 1992.

Project Information: The results of the study of Somerset
County were published in 1994: Gray
Fitzsimons, Ken Rose, and Patricia
Summers (eds), Somerset County,
Pennsylvania: An Inventory of Historic
Engineering and Industrial Sites
(Washington, D.C.: National Park
Service). The contents of the publication
were transmitted to the Library of
Congress as individual reports. Research
notes, field photos and copies of
historic photos collected during the
project were transmitted to the AIHP
Collection, Special Collections,
Stapleton Library, Indiana University of
Pennsylvania, Indiana, PA 15705.

Presently vacant and deteriorating, this brick passenger and freight depot has wide, overhanging eaves with large wood brackets. The hipped roof with slate tiles has several small gabled dormers. The depot is comprised of a passenger section on the east end and a freight section on the west, with a baggage room in between. On the rear is a small platform and freight door in addition to several standard doors. Abutting the west end is a platform with a freight door. On the north side of the depot facing the tracks is a bay-window projection for the passenger portion that is boarded up, as are all the windows. A brick chimney extant on the apex of the roof indicates a possible fireplace in the passenger section and on the east gable end is a wood sign identifying the station stop. To the rear of the depot is a metal crane structure. Sets of rails leading to it are partially exposed.

In 1910, during planning for the Western Maryland Railway route through Meyersdale, problems arose with the Meyersdale Borough Council. The city was reluctant to allow railroad tracks to bisect the town. The railroad, on the other hand, wanted to avoid costly right-of-way acquisitions. The following year the city agreed to let the railroad cut through town, if in turn the railroad agreed to construct one of the finest depots along the route. The Western Maryland Railway Meyersdale Depot was constructed in 1912 by the Meyersdale Planing Mill for \$10,000. The Meyersdale Planing Mill also had contracts to construct depots for the Western Maryland Railway at Rockwood, Confluence (both since razed), Ohioyle in Fayette County, and Garrett (dismantled and moved to Listie in Somerset Township). The short spur ending at the crane structure behind the depot once had a coal shed beside it. Another short spur came alongside the platform, ending at the depot. This depot was abandoned well before the Western Maryland Railway Connellsville Subdivision stopped running in the mid-1970s.

Sources:

- Bureau for Historic Preservation, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Somerset County Historic Resource Survey. Prepared by Glessner, Lehman, and Kendall, 1986.
- Cockley, Eber, ed. Meyersdale Centennial Souvenir Book. Meyersdale, PA: Meyersdale Printing and Publishing Company, 1974.
- Rosenberger, Homer T. "How Pittsburgh Gained an Additional Rail Outlet to Seaboard in the Twentieth Century," Pennsylvania History 35, no. 2 (April 1968).
- Sanborn Map Company. Meyersdale, Pennsylvania. New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1919 and 1930 editions.