

AL-I-C-029  
Kesler Tunnel

Kesler Tunnel is located on the Western Maryland Railway's Cumberland Extension which was begun in 1903 and completed in 1905. This tunnel is approximately 2,000 feet in length. It is located less than one mile east of the C and O Canal Tunnel. Like other tunnels of the line it is constructed with wooden beam arches and has plain cement portals with corbeled edges and semicircular arched openings. On both ends of the tunnel bridges carry the railroad across the Potomac River into West Virginia.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Kesler Tunnel

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

Western Maryland Railway (in Maryland) Sixth  
(southeast of Tunnel Hill Road)

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Paw Paw VICINITY OF  
West Virginia

Allegany COUNTY

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

The Chessie System

Telephone #: 724-3000

STREET & NUMBER

722 Virginia Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Cumberland VICINITY OF

STATE zip code  
Maryland 21502

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Allegany County Courthouse

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

30 Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Cumberland

STATE

Maryland 21502

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

AL-I-C-029

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Kesler Tunnel is located less than one mile east of the C & O Canals Paw Paw Tunnel, near Paw Paw, West Virginia.

The tunnel is approximately 2000 feet in length and is supported by wooden beam arches. Cement portals on both ends have corbeled edges and large semicircular arched openings. It was designed for single track usage. The track has been removed from the tunnel and from the deck truss bridges on both ends.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

AL-I-C-029

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES      1903-05

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Construction of the Western Maryland Railway's Cumberland Extension began in 1903 and was completed in 1905. (1)

A modern railroad, extending from Big Pool to Cumberland a distance of 60 miles, was built under the direction of J. Q. Barlow as Chief Engineer. The line lies in the Potomac River Valley for the entire distance, and for the greater part of the distance parallels the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal. (2)

The single line track was built in two years overcoming natural obstacles of mountains and the Potomac River and the man-made obstacles of the National Turnpike and the C and O Canal. The extension was opened for all traffic in June of 1906. (3)

Kesler Tunnel is approximately 2000 feet in length. It is located less than one mile east of the C & O Canal Tunnel. Like other tunnels of the line it is constructed with wooden beam arches and has plain cement portals with corbeled edges and semicircular arches openings. On both ends of the tunnel bridges carry the railroad across the Potomac River into West Virginia

(1) Edward M. Killough , History of Western Maryland Railway Company p. 21

(2) Ibid, p.22

(3) Ibid,

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Killough Edward M. History of Western Maryland Railway Company ( Baltimore Voluntary Relief Department Press, 1938

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE COUNTY

STATE COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE David A. Dorsey, Historic Sites Coordinator  
Julie Baker, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION Allegany County History Sites

DATE March 4, 1980

STREET & NUMBER 3 Pershing Street

TELEPHONE 777-5944

CITY OR TOWN Cumberland

STATE Maryland 21502

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

INVENTORY NO: AC-1-C-029

DATE: DEC 11 1979

REMODELING: Drastic, moderate, minor

NAME OF PROPERTY: Kessler Tunnel

LOCATION OF PROPERTY: w Md. Ry near Paw Paw & Magnolia, W. Va

DIRECTION DWELLING FACES: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF OWNER: Chessie System

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

STORIES: 1( ) 2( ) 3( ) 4( ) 5( ) 6( ) DAYS: 1( ) 2( ) 3( ) 4( ) 5( ) 6( ) 7( ) ( )

WINGS, ADDITIONS: deck bridges on both ends plain cement portals w/ corbeled edge, semicircular opening. wooden beams support ceiling

DWELLING SHAPE: (square, cross, rectangular)

WALL CONSTRUCTION: \_\_\_\_\_

- ( ) FRAME: Bevel, clapboard, weatherboard, wood shingles, board & batten (type?)
- ( ) BRICK: Bond type - common, English, Flemish. Sketch variants.
- ( ) STONE: Bond type - rubble, ashlar (random or regular), quoins-plain, rusticated
- ( ) LOG
- () OTHER: Coverings cement

WALL FEATURES: Belt Course, Pilasters, Others Single track usage-track removed

FOUNDATIONS: High, Low, Brick, Stone

WATER TABLE: None, Plain, Beveled, Moulded Brick

WINDOWS, TRIM, SHUTTERS: 1/1( ) 2/2( ) 6/6( ) 9/6( ) 9/9( ) other( )  
pegged( ) nailed( ) wide( ) narrow( ) mitred( ) pediment( )

ENTRANCE, DOORS: LOCATION: \_\_\_\_\_  
HARDWARE: original( ) replaced( )  
FAN LIGHT, TRANSOM, SIDE LIGHTS, PLAIN  
Paneled, Vertical, Horizontal Boards

CORNICE, BARGE, EAVES: (crown, fascia, soffit, bed)  
original( ) replaced( ) rafter ends, modillions, dentils, frieze, architrave

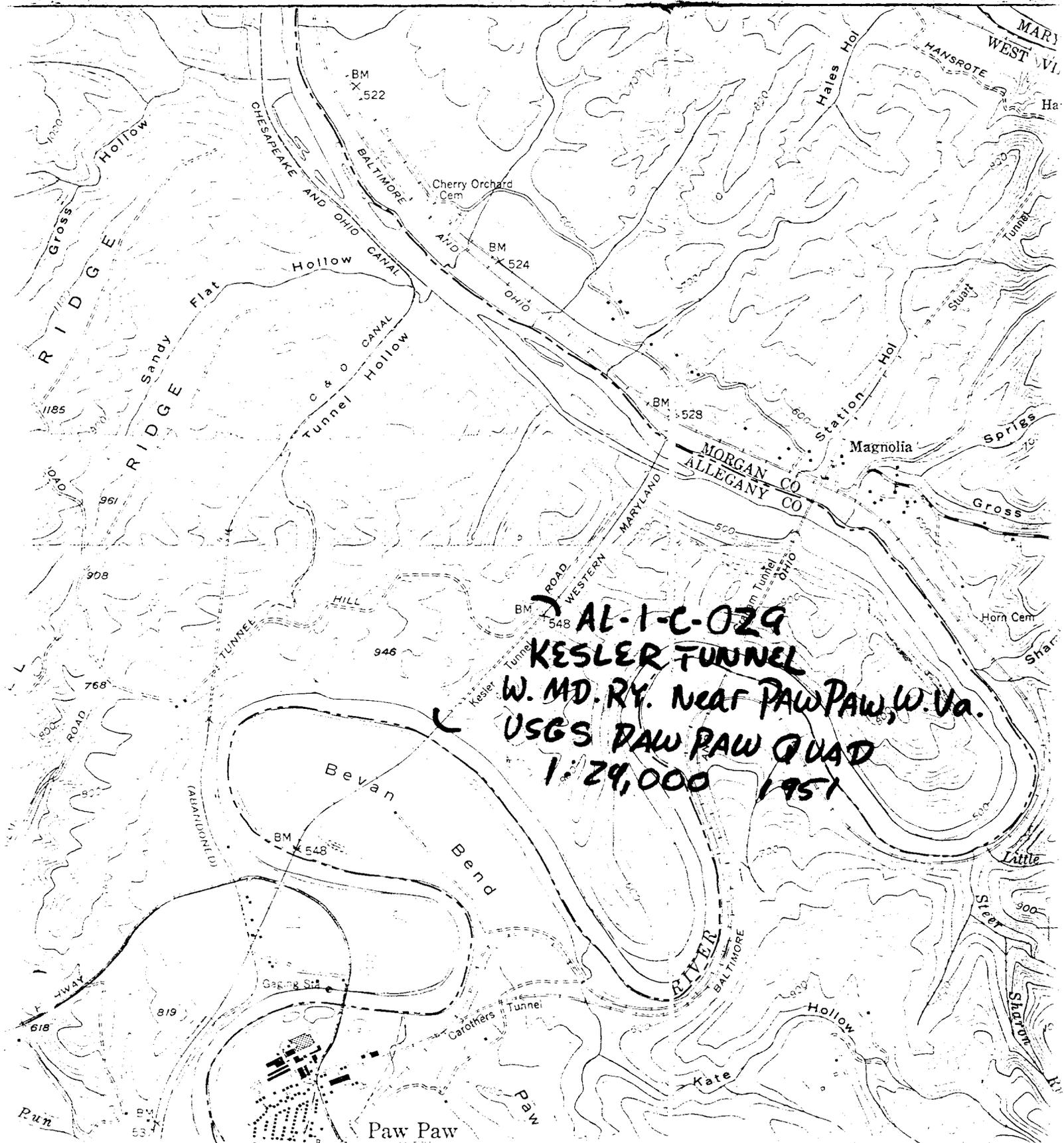
ROOF: Gable front, Gable flank, Hip, Shed, Mansard, Gambrel, Flat, Dormers # \_\_\_\_\_  
MATERIAL: wood shingles, slate, tin, asphalt; original( ) replaced( )

PORCHES: SHAPE OF ROOF - shed( ) hip( ) gable( )

CHIMNEYS: Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Brick( ) Stone( ) Corbeled( ) original( ) replaced( )  
Location: Flush end( ) Inside end( ) Outside end( ) Central( ) Interior( )

ARCHES: Door & Windows: Keystone, Flat, Segmental, Semicircular

COMMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_  
USE: \_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNIFICANCE: \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE CONSTRUCTED: \_\_\_\_\_



AL-1-C-029  
KESLER TUNNEL  
W. MD. RY. NEAR PAW PAW, W. VA.  
USGS PAW PAW QUAD  
1:24,000 1951

RIDGE  
Gross  
Hollow

Sandy  
RIDGE  
Flat

CHESAPEAKE AND OHIO CANAL  
BALTIMORE AND OHIO CANAL  
Hollow  
Tunnel  
Hollow

Cherry Orchard  
Cem

BM  
522

BM  
524

BM  
528

MORGAN CO  
ALLEGANY CO

Magnolia

Springs

Gross

Horn Cem

Sham

HILL

946

BM  
548

W. MD. RY. NEAR PAW PAW, W. VA.

USGS PAW PAW QUAD

1:24,000 1951

Bevan

Bend

BM  
548

Gaging Sta

Carothers Tunnel

RIVER  
BALTIMORE

Hollow

Kate

Paw Paw

BM  
531

Run

Little

Steep

900

Station

Run

Ha

MARY  
WEST VI

HANSROTE

Hales Hol

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Tunnel

Stuart

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AL-1-C-029

Kesler Tunnel

W. Md. Railway  
near Paw Paw, W. Va.

David A. Dorsey

12 / 11 / 79

Northeast