



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Historic Resources

Doug Domenech
Secretary of Natural Resources

2801 Kensington Avenue, Richmond, Virginia 23221

Kathleen S. Kilpatrick
Director

Tel: (804) 367-2321
Fax: (804) 367-2391
TDD: (804) 367-2386
www.dhr.virginia.gov

November 9, 2010

Debby Spencer
WMTH Corporation
P.O. Box 51153
Bowling Green KY 42102

Re: Dante Depot; Dante, Virginia

Dear Ms. Spencer,

I am writing to express our agency's strong support for your efforts to save the Dante Depot from destruction. I am personally familiar with the Dante community and the Depot and am deeply concerned that yet another important vestige of the community's history is threatened. As you know, they have already lost a great deal of their architectural heritage. Our agency has worked hard to assist Russell County with documentation and preservation of historic resources. We completed a county-wide architecture survey in 2008, and a full report was prepared by the College of William and Mary. The Dante Depot is prominently featured in the report because it stands foremost among the significant transportation and coal-related historic resources that survive in the county.

In a study on the Dungannon Depot in Scott County last year, I assessed its rarity by comparing it with other rail stations in surrounding counties, including those to the north along the C.C. & O. line. Very few of the stations survive, but historic photographs exist of a number of railroad depots in small communities along the C.C. & O. line, including Castlewood, Cedar Bluff, Dante, and Fremont, Virginia. Perhaps because it was built by Clinchfield Coal rather than the railroad, the Dante Depot was found to have an atypical design and is the only station constructed of brick that I found. It is, indeed, highly significant as a well-preserved piece of the early history of railroads and coal towns, and an increasingly rare survival of the passenger train era in the far southwestern region of Virginia.

We at DHR appreciate your efforts very much. Please continue to keep us informed, and do not hesitate to contact us for assistance.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Pulice
Architectural Historian, Western Regional Office

Administrative Services
10 Courthouse Ave.
Petersburg, VA 23803
Tel: (804) 862-6416
Fax: (804) 862-6196

Capital Region Office
2801 Kensington Office
Richmond, VA 23221
Tel: (804) 367-2323
Fax: (804) 367-2391

Tidewater Region Office
14415 Old Courthouse Way
2nd Floor
Newport News, VA 23608
Tel: (757) 886-7807

Western Region Office
Hundley Hall
962 Kime Lane
Salem, VA 24153
Tel: (540) 387-5443

Northern Region
Preservation Office
P.O. Box 519
Stephens City, VA 22655
Tel: (540) 868-7079