

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: South Carolina	
COUNTY: Oconee	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 71,445.0014	DATE 4/7/71

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Stumphouse Tunnel Complex

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Road S-226, five miles north of Walhalla, about one mile off S.C. Hwy. 28;

CITY OR TOWN:  
29 miles NW of Pendleton on S.C. 28

STATE South Carolina	CODE 45	COUNTY: Oconee	CODE 37
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**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)

Yes:  
 Restricted  
 Unrestricted  
 No

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

0/6/81

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME: Tunnel (Clemson U.), rd. of way (Walhalla), sect. (Neville Estate)  
Pendleton District Historical & Recreational Commission (25-year lease)

STREET AND NUMBER:  
125 E. Queen Street

CITY OR TOWN: Pendleton      STATE: South Carolina      CODE: 45

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Oconee County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:  
West Main Street

CITY OR TOWN: Walhalla      STATE: South Carolina      CODE: 45

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
South Carolina Preliminary Survey of Historic Places

DATE OF SURVEY:       Federal       State       County       Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
South Carolina Dept. of Archives and History

STREET AND NUMBER:  
1430 Senate Street PO Box 11,188 Capitol Station 29211

CITY OR TOWN: Columbia      STATE: South Carolina      CODE: 45

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
COUNTY: \_\_\_\_\_  
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**7. DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Stumphouse Tunnel Complex is comprised of 40 acres of land and two acres of water. It includes Stumphouse Mountain Tunnel and Middle Tunnel, and the 385-foot original railroad bed connecting them; picnic and camping areas; and a museum of railroad history in an old caboose.

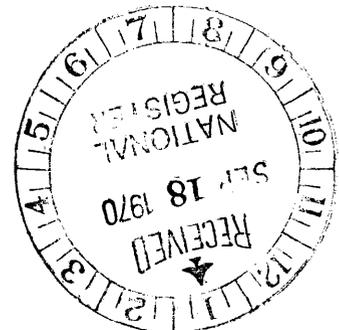
Stumphouse Mountain Tunnel runs through solid blue granite and is about 4,365 feet long, but not in a continuous section. Four shafts were sunk vertically from the top of the mountain so that workmen, also working on opposite sides of the mountain, could cut into ten faces simultaneously. Largest section is 1600 feet long, 25 feet high, 17 feet wide, and rises 220 feet from its mouth on the southeastern face of Stumphouse Mountain. Inside tunnel cuts made by hand drills in the granite, and brick enclosure used in 1950s by Clemson University to age blue cheese, may be seen *today*.

While tunnel was under construction, town of workers and families, Tunnel Hill, grew up at the top of the second shaft. In 1858 town had 1232 inhabitants (mainly Irish immigrants), a Catholic church and school, post office, stores, saloons, and daily stage service. Marking its site today are occasional burial places, some remains of foundations, and foot-path leading to tunnel's mouth.

Stumphouse Mountain Tunnel is located near scenic Issaqueena Falls, named, according to legend, for the beautiful Indian princess who hid behind them as she escaped her tribe and ran to warn and join her white lover.

The 365-foot Middle Tunnel was once completed. Cut through earth, it was closed as a safety precaution, and is now flooded.

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**3. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |                                        |                                       |                                                  |                                       |
|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century            | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1852-1859

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |                                              |                                                 |                                                    |                                          |
|----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| <b>Aboriginal</b>                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric         | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy       | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Science        | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture         | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                 | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture        | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian       | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                   | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications      | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |                                                    | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation        |                                                 |                                                    | _____                                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

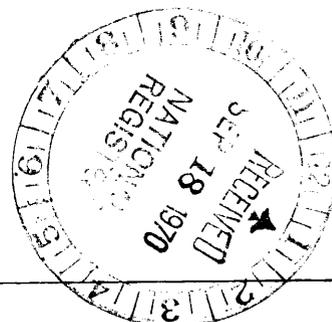
Stumphouse Mountain and Middle Tunnels were part of the Blue Ridge Railroad project, which was planned as the final link in a shipping route from the Mississippi to the Atlantic seaboard. The 1850s project involved the construction of tunnels, cuts, and embankments in four states, and was first proposed in the 1830s by South Carolina Governor Robert Haynes, who hoped it would help to harmonize conflicting sectional interests in the nation. It would have provided railroad lines to the midwest for Charleston, S.C., Wilmington, N.C., and Savannah, Ga.

Had it been completed, the Stumphouse Mountain Tunnel would have been the longest tunnel in the United States. Cut through solid blue granite, it was the largest of three tunnels which would have pierced Rabun Gap and comprised a final section of the line from Charleston to northeastern Georgia. Only one of these tunnels, the 365-foot Middle Tunnel, cut through earth, was finished.

Although the first contractor, Anson Bangs and Co., was engaged to build Stumphouse Mountain Tunnel in 1852, work was not actually begun until 1856, when Bangs declared bankruptcy and the George Collyer Co. from London, England, took over the job. By 1859 the state had spent over \$1,000,000 on the tunnel, then two-thirds complete, and the legislature refused to appropriate further funds for it. The Civil War and subsequent collapse of the state's economy sealed the tunnel's doom. Despite attempts in 1875, 1900, and 1940 to revive its construction, the tunnel was never completed.

Stumphouse Tunnel was the 1950s site of the first successful attempt to age blue cheese in the South. The project was carried out under the aegis of Clemson University .

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

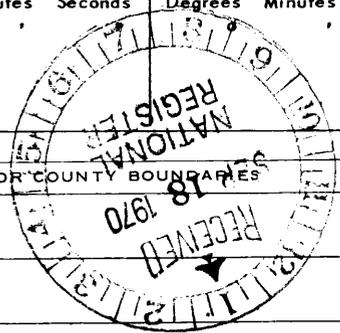


**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Davis, Ted, "Place Names in and Around Walhalla." Names in South Carolina 12 (1965): 17.  
 League, Paul, "Mountain Beauty of Greenville, Oconee, and Pickens Counties." Sandlapper, April, 1968, pp. 9-16.  
 Pendleton District Historical and Recreational Commission, Arrows to Atoms.  
 Sloan, Eugene, Scenic South Carolina. Columbia, 1966.  
 Wallace, David D., A Short History of South Carolina. Columbia, 1961.  
 WPA, South Carolina: a Guide to the Palmetto State. New York, 1941.  
 The State (newspaper). April 5, 1970.  
 Carter, R. C. II, Persons, Places, and Happenings in Old Walhalla. Cola., 1960.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE				
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	34 °	48'	54.3	83 °	07'	40.5			
NE	34 °	48'	54.3	83 °	06'	43.5			
SE	34 °	48'	20.8	83 °	06'	43.5			
SW	34 °	48'	20.8	83 °	07'	40.5			



APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 42 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
Mary Schuette, Historic Resources Division

ORGANIZATION: South Carolina Department of Archives and History      DATE: August 29, 1970

STREET AND NUMBER:  
1430 Senate Street PO Box 11,188 Capitol Station 29211

CITY OR TOWN: Columbia      STATE: South Carolina      CODE: 45

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION      NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National     State     Local

Name Charles E. Lee

Title Director, S.C. Dept. of Archives and History

Date August 29, 1970

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Ernest A. Connally  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

APR 7 1971

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

William J. Mumford  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date MAR 12 1971

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