

MP 8.6 Jefferytown Tunnel 575' Concrete Straight Bore

Mile 8.2 Trail MP 7.2 Also known as Enlow Tunnel

Bored 1926

Montour engines enter the west portal of Jefferytown Tunnel, circa 1978. The tunnel is also known as Enlow Tunnel and is designated as such on Montour Trail maps.



Roy E. Parkinson photo / courtesy Gene P. Schaeffer

The west portal is seen in 2012 and an engineer's view from 1979. The tunnel and several nearby bridges were constructed in 1926 during a realignment of the Montour main line to eliminate several sharp curves in the railroad.

Interior Trail lighting is provided by Findlay Township and Duquesne Light.

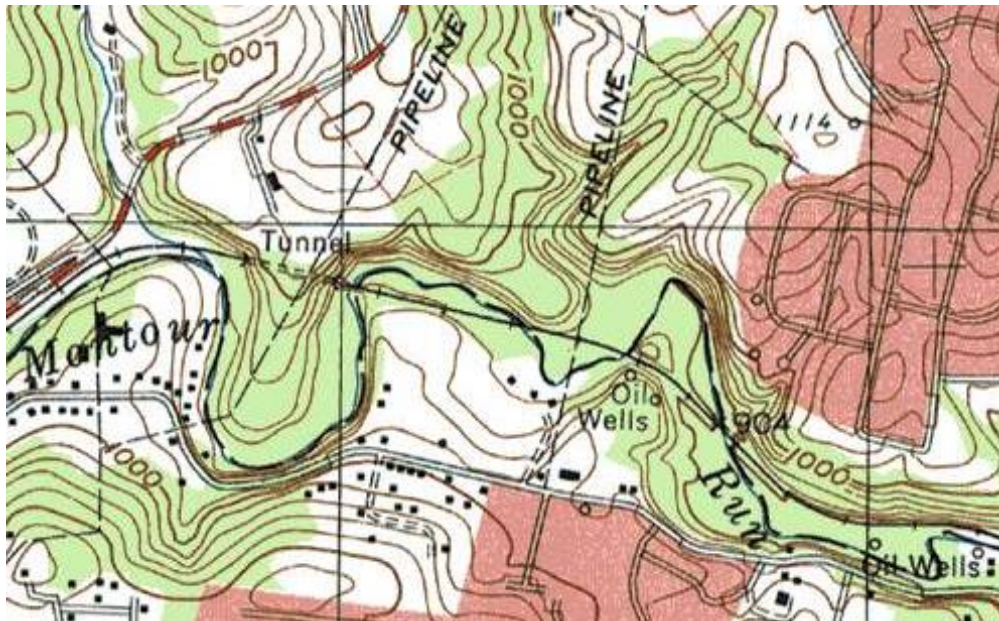


Bryan Seip photo



Tim Sposato photo

Topo map shows the tunnel at left of center. The tunnel and other realignment eliminated several sharp curves on the original main line.



Courtesy Bob Ciminell / USGS

Topo map from 1905 shows the original railroad line following Montour Run around the hillside with several sharp curves in the main line. The area labeled McMinn was known as Jefferytown.

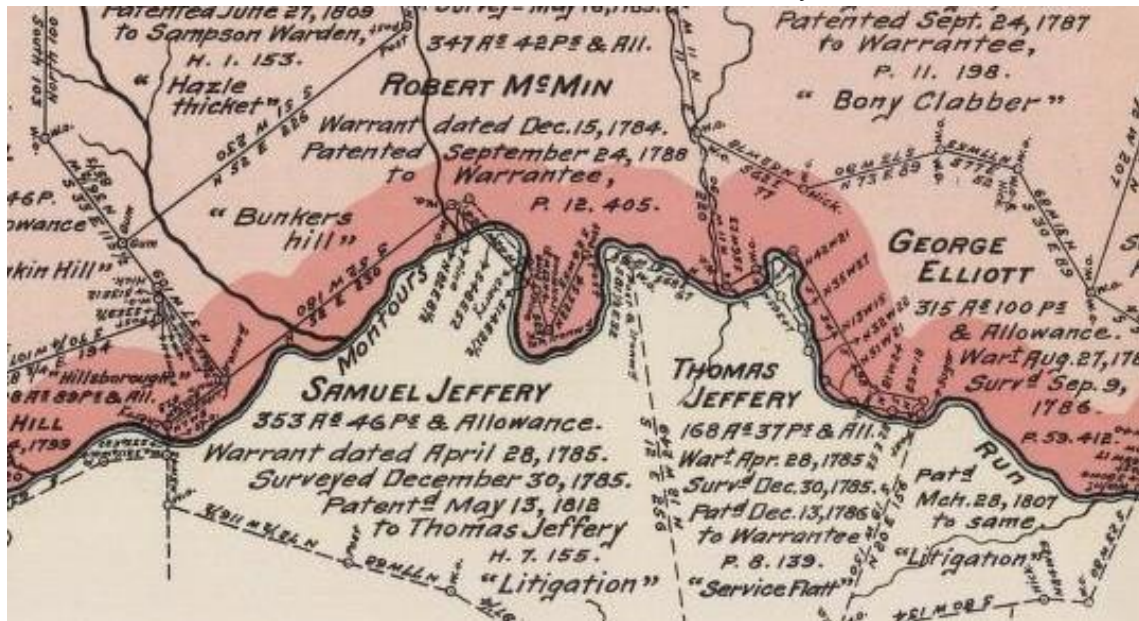


Courtesy Bob Ciminell / USGS

A look at an old Warranty Map shows the land on the south side of Montour Run warranted to Samuel Jeffery and Thomas Jeffery in 1785. A small community where the east end of the tunnel is located became known as JefferyTown, the named used by railroaders for the tunnel.

A half mile to the west of the tunnel location was the community of Enlow (where 5-Points intersection is now located) and this name was used by other entities, including the Montour Trail.

The land on the north side of Montour Run, including the hillside where the tunnel was bored, was warranted to Robert McMin in 1784. Thus, the tunnel is actually on McMin's land, which was warranted before the Jeffery's, suggesting that perhaps it should have been named for McMin. It was named for the community rather than the land owner.



An aerial view from 1938 shows the tunnel at upper left. Faint traces of the original right-of-way can be seen, with sharp curves around hillside at left and also along Montour Run at upper right. The realigned railroad (current Montour Trail) runs from bottom right to top left.



Courtesy Penn Pilot

Satellite view shows the current Trail from bottom left to lower right, with the tunnel at center. Cliff Mine Road runs across the bottom of frame, with Main Street/McClaren Road from lower left to top center. The Enlow 5-points intersection is at bottom left corner. Enlow at left and Jefferytown to the right give the tunnel its two different names.



Google Images

A westbound Montour coal train exits the tunnel in a cloud of exhaust in 1981.

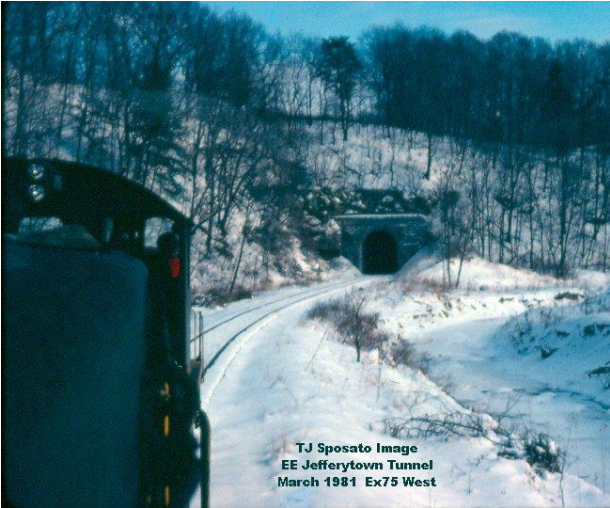


Gene P. Schaeffer photo

Two views of the east portal from the 1980's. An Eastbound train emerges from the tunnel, and a similar view was taken from the cab of a westbound train.

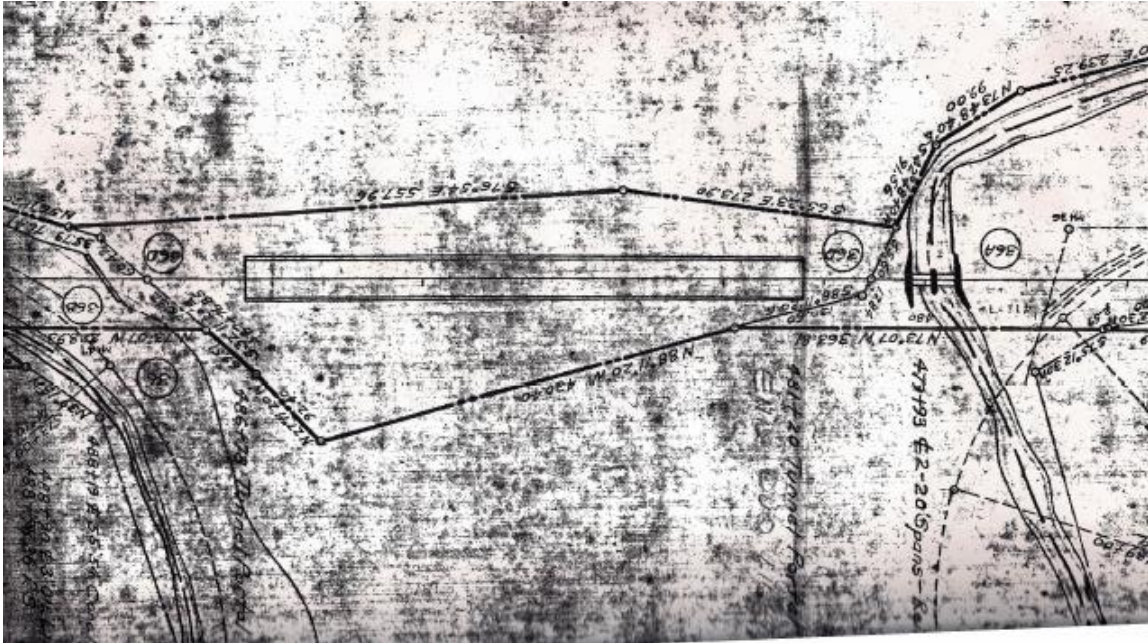


Gene P. Schaeffer photo



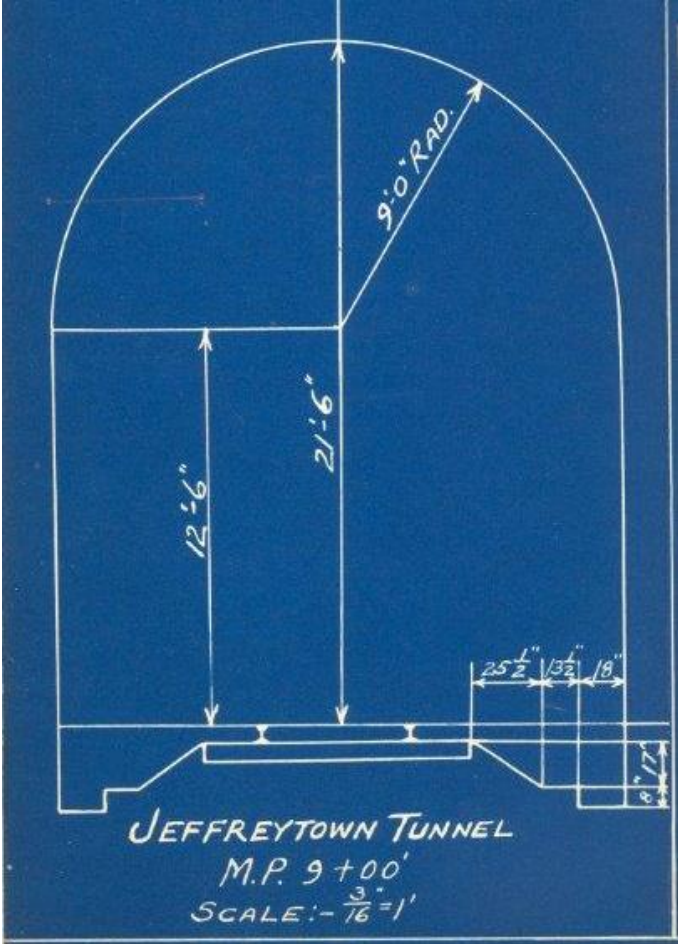
Tim Sposato photo

Valuation Plan shows the straight bore of the tunnel. Dashed lines curving at lower left and at right edge indicate the original right-of-way as it followed Montour Run around the hillside. North is at top of diagram.



Courtesy Greg Corcoran

Clearance diagram indicates dimensions of the tunnel bore.



Courtesy Tim Sposato

Compiled by Montour Railroad Historical Society members