

Impacted cultural resources in Augusta County

Lewis & Clark Legacy Trail

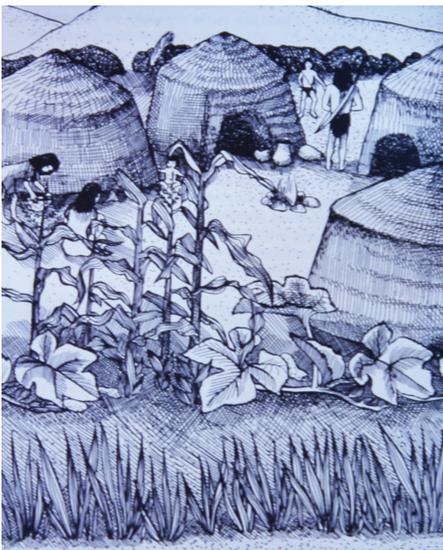


Augusta County is part of the eastern extension of the Lewis & Clark Legacy Trail. The trail was recognized by the Virginia General Assembly in its most recent session. The trail is part of a National Park Service designated trail and legislation for the trail is currently pending in Congress.

The proposed pipeline path crosses the farm that was John Colter's birthplace in Stuarts Draft. That farm is part of that trail and heritage area. Colter was an important scout on the Expedition and later went on to become a famous Mountain Man and discoverer of Yellowstone. There is an historic marker to Colter in Stuarts Draft.

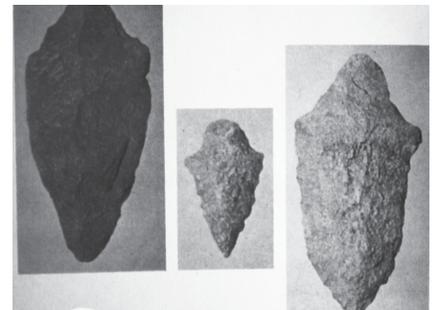
Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation

All of Augusta County is part of the National Park Service's federally-designated Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District. The area from Staunton westward -- roughly the path of the proposed pipeline -- is part of the historic McDowell Battlefield Corridor. In western Augusta County, particularly along the crest of Shenandoah Mountain, the pipeline route will severely impact several Civil War archaeological sites associated with Confederate Gen. Stonewall Jackson's 1862 Valley Campaign including Signal Knob, sites associated with the Confederate Breastworks, and several other encampments. Many of these sites are located in the George Washington National Forest. Others are located on private land in the western part of the county and little is known about them.



Native American Culture

Thousands of years ago Native Peoples thrived in Augusta County. They left countless pieces of evidence from their culture, including earthen mounds, grinding tools, pottery, stone points, and the remains of hearths. These archaeological sites are located along nearly every flood plain, spring, and in every crop field. It would be impossible for the proposed pipeline to avoid them all.





Silent Sentinels of History

Settlers on the western slopes of the Blue Ridge Mountains lived proud and independent lives on their subsistence farms. As their ancestors had done in Ireland, they picked rock from the fields and built massive stone walls to protect their crops and gardens and to enclose their livestock -- mostly hogs and cattle. Built with a skill long lost, these stone walls are mortar-less -- held together by the skill of the builder. Horse-high and hog tight, these walls are often as wide as six feet and as high as a man's chest. They snake horizontally across the rising hills of the Blue Ridge and extend for miles. ALL of the alternate routes in Augusta County would cross and destroy these silent and powerful symbols of our pioneering ancestors who settled the Valley of Virginia. There is no mitigation that can restore what those artisans created centuries ago.



National Register of Historic Places: Buildings & Archaeological Sites

In Augusta County, there are, literally, hundreds of buildings and archaeological sites that would qualify for listing on the U.S. Department of Interior's National Register of Historic Places. The proposed pipeline route and its alternatives would impact several that are already on the Register, including Bethel Green, Folly Mills Farm, Chapel Hill Farm, and the Harper House. There are certainly others. There are, without a doubt several dozen structures as well as some archaeological sites that would meet the Section 106 standards of qualification for the National Register. Augusta County is, arguably, one of the most historic counties in western Virginia and the impact to its historic and cultural resources by this proposed pipeline would be permanent and irrevocable. No proposed mitigation can restore the loss of historic resources. Of note is the fact that many of these historic buildings and associated structures, such as stone and brick walls, are built without foundations and blasting of any sort will threaten the integrity of the structures.