

## County Landmarks Commission Acquires Historic Duffields Depot

For immediate release – February 8, 2018

Contact: Martin Burke, Chair, Jefferson County Historic Landmarks Commission  
p: (304) 876-3883 / e: [HLInfo@jeffersoncountywv.org](mailto:HLInfo@jeffersoncountywv.org)

The Jefferson County Historic Landmarks Commission (JCHLC) was gifted Duffields Depot in Shenandoah Junction this week by Duffields Station, Inc. The friends group, which has owned the station since 2006, no longer has the capacity to maintain the structure and has entrusted its care to the JCHLC. The JCHLC now holds title to approximately 50 acres of battlefield land in Shepherdstown in addition to Snow Hill (the county poor farm), Peter Burr Farm, and the depot.

Duffields Depot lies on the original B&O line (now owned by CSX) and is the second oldest extant train station on the line (Ellicott City, MD has the oldest). The B&O reached Jefferson County in 1836. At that time, the railroad generally used existing structures such as hotels as stops. In this case, the B&O gave Richard Duffield \$2,500 for the right-of-way across his farm, and Duffield used the money to construct the depot in 1839. It has a stone portion, which served as quarters for the station master, and a wood portion, which housed incoming and outgoing goods. The station was used until 1884, when the B&O constructed another depot nearby.

During the Civil War, the B&O was an important supply line for the Union army and under constant attack, particularly by Colonel John Mosby and his partisan rangers. The famous “Greenback Raid” in October 1864, during which Mosby’s Raiders derailed a Union train and collected over \$160,000 from army paymasters, took place not far from the depot in Jefferson County. In June 1864, Mosby’s men had raided Duffields Depot itself and taken fifty prisoners.

Duffields Depot was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2007. During its ownership, Duffields Station, Inc. received a state development grant to replace the roof on the stone part of the depot, but the wood portion has recently collapsed. The JCHLC will work with Duffields Station, Inc. to continue preservation efforts at the depot so that it can continue to be a resource for the county.