

DATE

Joy Beasley, Keeper
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
1849 C Street NW (Mail Stop 7228)
Washington, DC 202040

Dear Ms. Beasley:

The West Virginia State Historic Preservation Office understands that a National Register-listed resource, the **Chesapeake and Ohio 1308 Steam Locomotive in Huntington, Cabell County, West Virginia (NR ID: 02001571)** will be relocated in 2026. In accordance with 36 CFR § 60.14(b), our office requests that this resource remain on the National Register of Historic Places during the move to its new location.

Background

The Chesapeake and Ohio 1308 Steam Locomotive (referred to hereafter as Locomotive 1308) was added to the National Register of Historic Places on January 31, 2003. The nomination consists of one contributing structure, the locomotive itself (with the attached coal tender). It is significant under Criterion A: Transportation as “a physical representation of the C&O’s continued use of steam power into the post-WWII period” and Criterion C: Engineering as “a significant example of the final generation of American steam engines.” The Period of Significance is 1949-1952, spanning from the locomotive’s construction to the then-50-year cutoff date at the time the nomination was written.¹

Locomotive 1308 was actively used by the Chesapeake & Ohio Railway to transport coal in West Virginia and eastern Kentucky from 1949 until it was decommissioned in 1956. In 1962, the C&O donated Locomotive 1308 to the Collis P. Huntington Railroad Historical Society in Huntington, West Virginia. Founded in 1871 to provide facilities and a terminal for the C&O Railway, the City of Huntington has strong historic ties to the railroad industry.

The Collis P. Huntington Railroad Historical Society placed Locomotive 1308 on static display in a small outdoor railroad museum on the northwest corner of 14th Street West and Memorial Boulevard. The site abuts the south side of an active CSX (formerly C&O) rail line. The locomotive has remained there over six decades, receiving mainly just cosmetic maintenance. In September 2025, it was announced that the Collis P. Huntington Railroad Historical Society had

¹ Thomas F. Lambert and WV SHPO staff, “Chesapeake and Ohio 1308 Steam Locomotive,” National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, National Park Service, May 22, 2002, accessed January 8, 2026, <https://mapwv.gov/shpo/docs/PDFs/NationalRegister/02001571.pdf>.



donated the locomotive to the Age of Steam Roundhouse Museum in Sugarcreek, Ohio.²

The Age of Steam Roundhouse Museum was established in 2019. It was an initiative of former Ohio Central Railroad System CEO Jerry Joe Jacobson and the Jerry and Laura Jacobson Foundation, Inc. The museum is dedicated to acquiring, preserving, displaying, and interpreting historic railroad equipment including locomotives, passenger cars, and other rolling stock. Not counting Locomotive 1308, Age of Steam currently possesses 127 pieces of rolling stock, including 25 locomotives. The museum is located in a rural, primarily agricultural area of Sugarcreek, Tuscarawas County, Ohio. Its facilities include an 18-stall roundhouse, a functional turntable, railyard, and depot. All are modern constructions from the early 2010s, except for the turntable, which was originally built for the Western Maryland Railroad in 1939 and moved to Age of Steam in 2009.³

The museum intends to relocate Locomotive 1308 to its facility in April or May 2026, depending on logistical circumstances. Tentative plans are for the locomotive to be moved via truck from its current location to somewhere along the rail lines in Huntington. From there, it will be loaded onto a rail car and transported to Sugarcreek. The locomotive will mostly stay inside the roundhouse but occasionally be brought outdoors for special events.

Reasons for the Move

Locomotive 1308 is being relocated to ensure its long-term preservation. The Collis P. Huntington Railroad Historical Society lacks the financial resources and manpower to perform necessary maintenance on the locomotive. No feasible alternative for preservation in its current location has been presented. As Age of Steam Executive Director Nathan Vance noted, “rusting of the locomotive’s boiler and all the other steel parts has continued unabated from the inside out for 63 years. The Age of Steam Roundhouse Museum can end all that.”⁴ Under its new ownership, Locomotive 1308 will be stabilized to prevent further deterioration, and eventually undergo rehabilitation.

Effect on Historical Integrity

Locomotive 1308 will experience no impact on its integrity of Design, Materials, and Workmanship as a result of its relocation. Age of Steam plans to preserve or restore its original physical features, and the C&O Railway paint scheme with #1308 markings will be retained.

Due to the movable nature of rolling stock, integrity of Setting, Feeling, Association, and Location are more complicated. The National Register Policy Clarification *Integrity Requirements for Locations and Settings of Locomotives and Other Rolling Stock* states that

² “Roundhouse News: The Age of Steam Roundhouse Museum Acquires its 25th Locomotive,” Age of Steam Roundhouse Museum, September 29, 2025, accessed January 8, 2026, <https://ageofsteamroundhouse.org/news/the-age-of-steam-roundhouse-museum-acquires-its-25th-locomotive/>.

³ “About Us,” Age of Steam Roundhouse Museum, accessed January 8, 2026, <https://ageofsteamroundhouse.org/about-us/>.

⁴ “Roundhouse News.”



locomotives must be within an appropriate (i.e. railroad-related) setting and placed on tracks.

At the Age of Steam Roundhouse Museum, Locomotive 1308 will be placed on tracks, alongside other locomotives, within a roundhouse building. Occasionally it will be moved outside for special events but will spend most of its time in the roundhouse for its own protection. The roundhouse is located adjacent to an active short line, the Ohio Central Railroad (owned by Genesee & Wyoming). Situated in a railroad environment, Locomotive 1308 will retain integrity of Setting, Feeling, and Association to the extent possible for rolling stock.

According to the *Integrity Requirements*, “If Criterion C applies, locomotives generally do not have to be in original locations.”⁵ Locomotive 1308’s relocation, therefore, does not impact its National Register eligibility under Criterion C: Engineering.

The *Integrity Requirements* also states, “If Criterion A applies, the placement of the locomotive in an original location may be important. Such locations refer to the place a locomotive was built or housed for a significant part of its productive life.”⁶ Locomotive 1308 is currently located adjacent to an active rail line that was used by its original owner, the C&O Railway. Its location in Huntington also places the locomotive firmly within the West Virginia – eastern Kentucky region where it historically operated between 1949 and 1956. As the locomotive’s National Register nomination notes, “The 1308 was important to the transportation of coal which fueled the growth of both the coal mining and railroad industry in West Virginia.”⁷

Locomotive 1308’s relocation, therefore, will eliminate its National Register eligibility under Criterion A: Transportation. However, because the integrity requirements for Criterion C: Engineering will still be met, the locomotive should remain on the National Register during the move.

New Setting and General Environment of Proposed Site

Sugarcreek is a rural, largely agricultural community in Tuscarawas County, Ohio. It is located within Ohio’s Amish Country. The Age of Steam Roundhouse Museum is at 213 Smokey Lane SW, Sugarcreek, Ohio, 44681. The museum complex encompasses 34 acres surrounded by large tracts of farmland, rolling hills, and scatterings of homes and businesses spread far apart. The south side of the museum complex abuts an active rail line owned by the Ohio Central Railroad (OHCR), a subsidiary of Genesee & Wyoming, a short line railroad holding company. This OHCR line was originally part of the Wheeling & Lake Erie Railroad, which was constructed in

⁵ Barbara Wyatt, *National Register Policy Clarification – Integrity Requirements for Setting and Locations of Locomotives and Other Rolling Stock*, National Park Service, April 9, 2009, accessed January 8, 2026, https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/upload/Policy_clarification_for_integrity_of_locomotive_settings_4-09.pdf.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Lambert, “Chesapeake and Ohio 1308 Steam Locomotive,” Section 8, page 5; Section 8, page 2.



phases during the 1870s-1880s. A spur line of the OHCR directly connects to the museum's tracks, allowing rolling stock to be moved by rail to and from the site.

Most of the Age of Steam Roundhouse complex was developed between 2008 and the early 2010s on a tract of farmland with no preexisting built resources. Aerial photos from Historic Aerials by NETR Online show that the tract was undeveloped at least as far back as 1958. Any archaeological resources that may have existed on this property were likely disturbed by construction of the museum complex or prior agricultural activity. The museum itself is not old enough to possess any historical significance. Given these circumstances, the property does not appear to possess historical or archeological significance that would be adversely affected by the placement of Locomotive 1308.

Photographs showing the proposed new location of Locomotive 1308 are attached.

This letter was reviewed and approved by the West Virginia Archives & History Commission at their February 20, 2026 meeting.

Should you have any questions concerning this request please contact Cody Straley, National Register and Architectural Survey Coordinator, at Cody.Straley@wv.gov.

Sincerely,

Meredith C. Dreistadt
Acting Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
West Virginia State Historic Preservation Office

MCD/scs





Figure 1 Locomotive 1308 at its present location in the Collis P. Huntington Railroad Historical Society Museum, 14th St. W. and Memorial Blvd., Huntington, Cabell Co., WV



Figure 2 Locomotive 1308 at its present location in the Collis P. Huntington Railroad Historical Society Museum. The attached coal tender was moved to the Age of Steam Museum in October 2025.

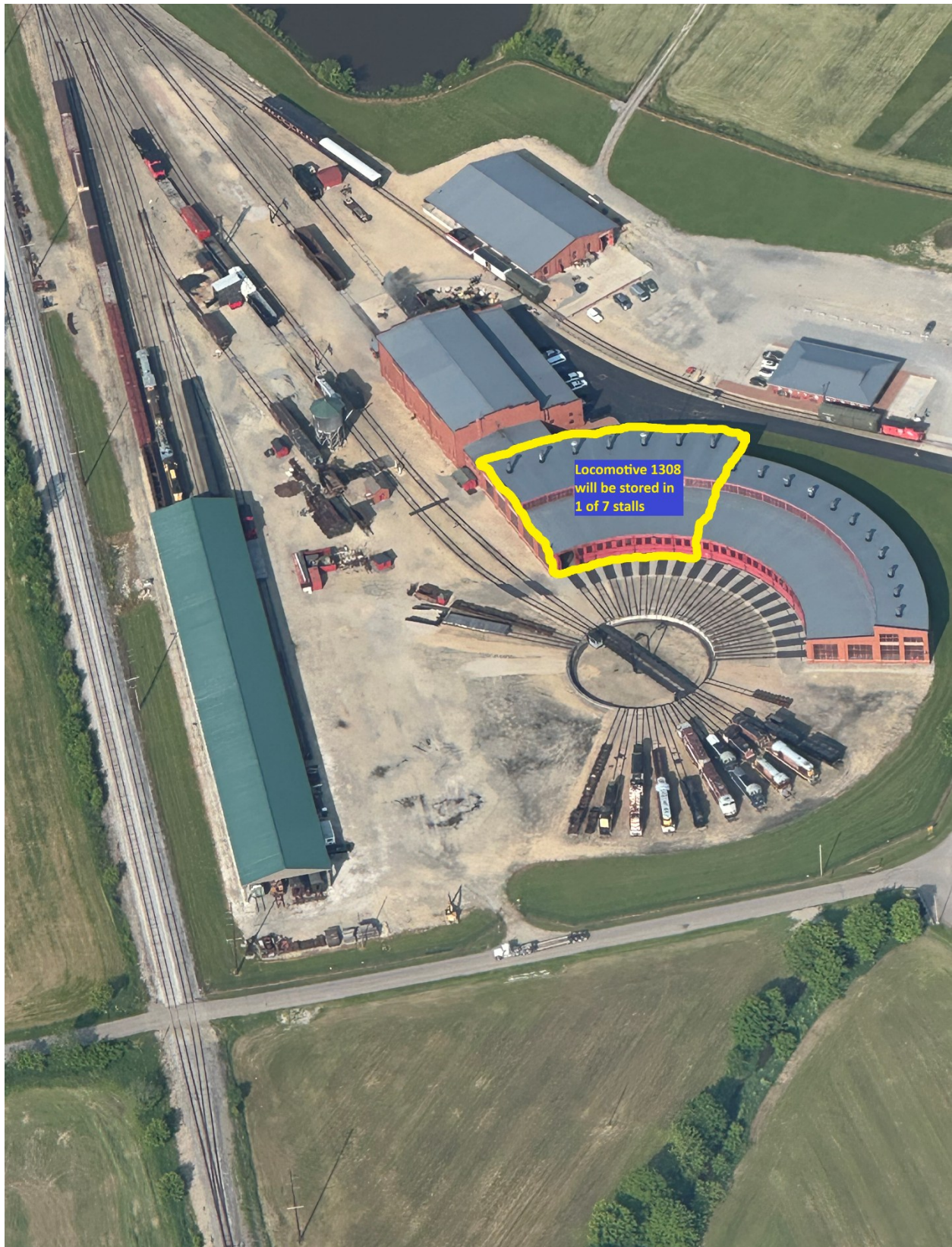


Figure 3 Aerial view of the Age of Steam Roundhouse Museum in Sugar Creek, Tuscarawas County, Ohio. The proposed location of Locomotive 1308 within the roundhouse is highlighted.



Figure 4 Section of the roundhouse where Locomotive 1308 will be located



Figure 5 Locomotives on display inside the roundhouse. This is how Locomotive 1308 will be stored and what its immediate surroundings will look like.