

Mount Mitchell Railroad and Toll Road ^[1]

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by Jeffrey Lovelace

From *Mount Mitchell: its railroad and toll road*, 1994.

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Mount Mitchell Railroad; marker #: P-72. Image courtesy of NC Markers, North Carolina Office of Archives & History.

^[2]Short line mountain [railroads](#) ^[3] are often miracles of construction. Built primarily for shipping logs, the Mount Mitchell Railroad was no exception. Within a span of 21 miles, the road climbed 3,500 feet, but utilized only three trestles and nine switchbacks, while maintaining a grade of five and a half percent. Access to the mountain, located in Western North Carolina, was slow and difficult; but after completion of the railroad, a [timbering industry](#) ^[4] was born. The railroad also provided tourists with scenic trips along its rugged contours. When passenger service was discontinued, a motor toll road was built over much of the same route. Its completion marked the first time visitors could travel to [Mount Mitchell](#) ^[5] using their automobiles.

References:

Lovelace, Jeff. 1994. *Mount Mitchell: its railroad and toll road* Johnson City, Tenn: Overmountain Press.

Image Credit:

Mount Mitchell Railroad; marker #: P-72. Image courtesy of NC Markers, North Carolina Office of Archives & History. Available from <http://www.ncmarkers.com/Markers.aspx?MarkerId=P-72> ^[2] (accessed May 25, 2012).

Additional Resources:

"Mount Mitchell Railroad." N.C. Highway Historical Marker P-72, N.C. Office of Archives & History. <http://www.ncmarkers.com/Markers.aspx?MarkerId=P-72> ^[2] (accessed March 7, 2013).

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[Lovelace, Jeffrey](#) ^[8]

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