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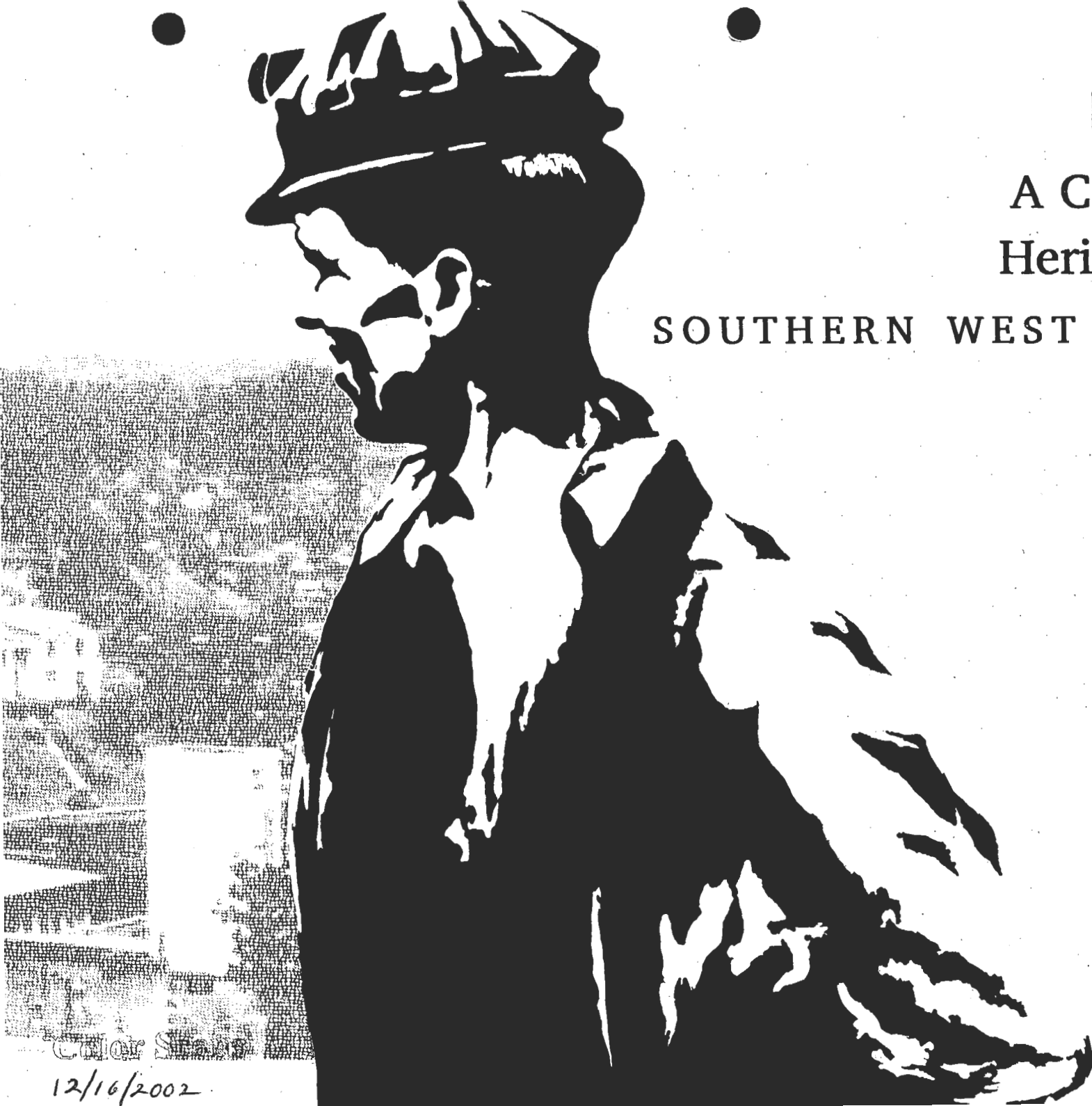
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A Coal Mining Heritage Study:

SOUTHERN WEST VIRGINIA



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A COAL HERITAGE STUDY

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

MID-ATLANTIC REGIONAL OFFICE

DRAFT

**A Study of Coal Mining and Related
Resources in Southern West Virginia**

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 1 9 9 2

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SUMMARY

For over 10,000 years, the area now called southern West Virginia has been home to a variety of human communities during different times. But no period has witnessed more impact than the last one hundred years. In a regional context, the relationship among the different elements of the past and the present unite to form a distinctive landscape of national interest.

Topography has always been a factor in shaping ways of life. Native Americans and the first European-Americans maintained subsistence economies. But when railroads made the export of timber and coal possible, very different lifestyles developed. Rapid industrialization created an increase in population, an extensive array of company towns, and a society unusual for its cultural diversity in a remote area.

In no other state has coal mining so dominated the economy and social structure; the history of the state between 1870 to 1945 is primarily the history of coal. In the southern fields specifically, the industry has been pervasive, creating an economy lacking in diversity; pivotal events in the evolution of labor unions took place in the area. Huge amounts of coal, unsurpassed for quality, have been exported while very little profit has remained in the area.

Today, life in southern West Virginia can be described as a paradox. Coal exports from the state are at an all-time high, but the population has declined dramatically and many former communities are now ghost towns. As one historian notes, mine mechanization and other economic changes of the post-war era have pushed the region's population, in size and broad demographics, toward what may be viewed as a new

direction or an old one: There are fewer residents than there were during the peak hand-loading era and communities are more homogeneous, a resemblance of pre-industrial times. The original core population--descendants of the settlers two centuries ago--is re-emerging as a continuous thread in southern West Virginia history.¹ The many reunions and homecomings attest to the importance of continuity, community and a sense of place.

Life is changing in other ways, too: Roads and airports are breaching the isolation of some areas; coal is now mined on the surface as well as underground; the plethora of coal trucks and trains indicate the vitality of this extractive industry; and new community development initiatives are born weekly, hoping to diversify and strengthen local economies. Change from reliance on a single industry is viewed in a positive light, but many residents are seeking ways to direct such changes in a manner that does not compromise important community values.

Wide-spread concern for the disappearance of a way of life in southern West Virginia has led Congress to authorize a study on coal mining heritage. Legislation directed the National Park Service to

conduct a study to determine the feasibility of protecting and preserving certain significant cultural, natural and historic resources associated with the coal mining heritage of southern West Virginia.

While the term "heritage" evokes images from earlier times, the concept also suggests a changing present, challenging

citizens to create a vision for the future. The study process offered many opportunities to explore fundamental factors which contribute to social well-being. Meetings among many citizens in the study area, organizational representatives, state officials, and a National Park Service study team identified relationships among land, history, culture, and community development needs, activities and opportunities. Local actions in the context of a regional network are deemed central to the conservation of heritage, since it is within community groups that local knowledge is passed from generation to generation and that concrete steps are taken to forge new directions.

As in other regions of the United States, residents of southern West Virginia have an opportunity to build on their cultural, natural and industrial heritage. Tourism, however, while often discussed as a means to strengthen local economies, is only a partial solution to the problems in the area. Indicative of this situation, a community development organization in the core coal mining region recently funded, with partial support from the state, a study on the role of heritage tourism in the region and a color brochure which complements a leadership development initiative. Similar actions by many organizations, local and state agencies, and individuals provide the foundation for a multi-objective approach to conserve the heritage of the study area and to provide opportunities for economic renewal. The strength of the heritage concept is founded in strong organizational commitments from a broad range of organizations, governments at all levels, and individual citizens.

With coal mining as a unifying theme, this study reveals the need for a community-based approach to heritage conservation focusing on three topic areas where needs are greatest:

- leadership development and economic renewal;
- infrastructure, restoration and recreation; and
- cultural conservation.

Community-based "regional assistance centers" form the nodes of a network to develop and maintain partnerships, interpretive and orientation programs for residents and visitors, and a framework for resource stewardship that supports local traditional knowledge, historic preservation, environmental restoration, physical improvements, leadership development and economic renewal.

CHANGING LANDSCAPES

Centuries of erosion have carved deep valleys and hollows from the Appalachian Plateau, creating a topography which has inhibited travel and nurtured indigenous ways of life. However, in the latter part of the nineteenth century--during a period of industrialization in America--entrepreneurs were attracted to exposed seams of bituminous coal. Railroads overcame topographical barriers making possible the export of timber and coal, providing fuel for the growth of Eastern cities and markets. As a result, between 1873 and the 1920s, population and the variety of ethnic groups increased dramatically, creating a society unusual for its cultural diversity in a rural area.

Miners were craftsmen, paid for a finished product rather than their time. After World War II, rapid mechanization in the coal industry replaced human labor, marking the end of an era in community life. Between 1950 and 1990, for example, the population of McDowell County dropped from 100,000 to 35,000, decreasing by 29 percent in the last ten years. Commenting on this fact, one resident remarked that, "Our timber, our coal, our people have always been exported." Appropriately, official reports on Appalachia describe such areas as "rich yet poor, exploited yet underdeveloped, scarred yet beautiful."

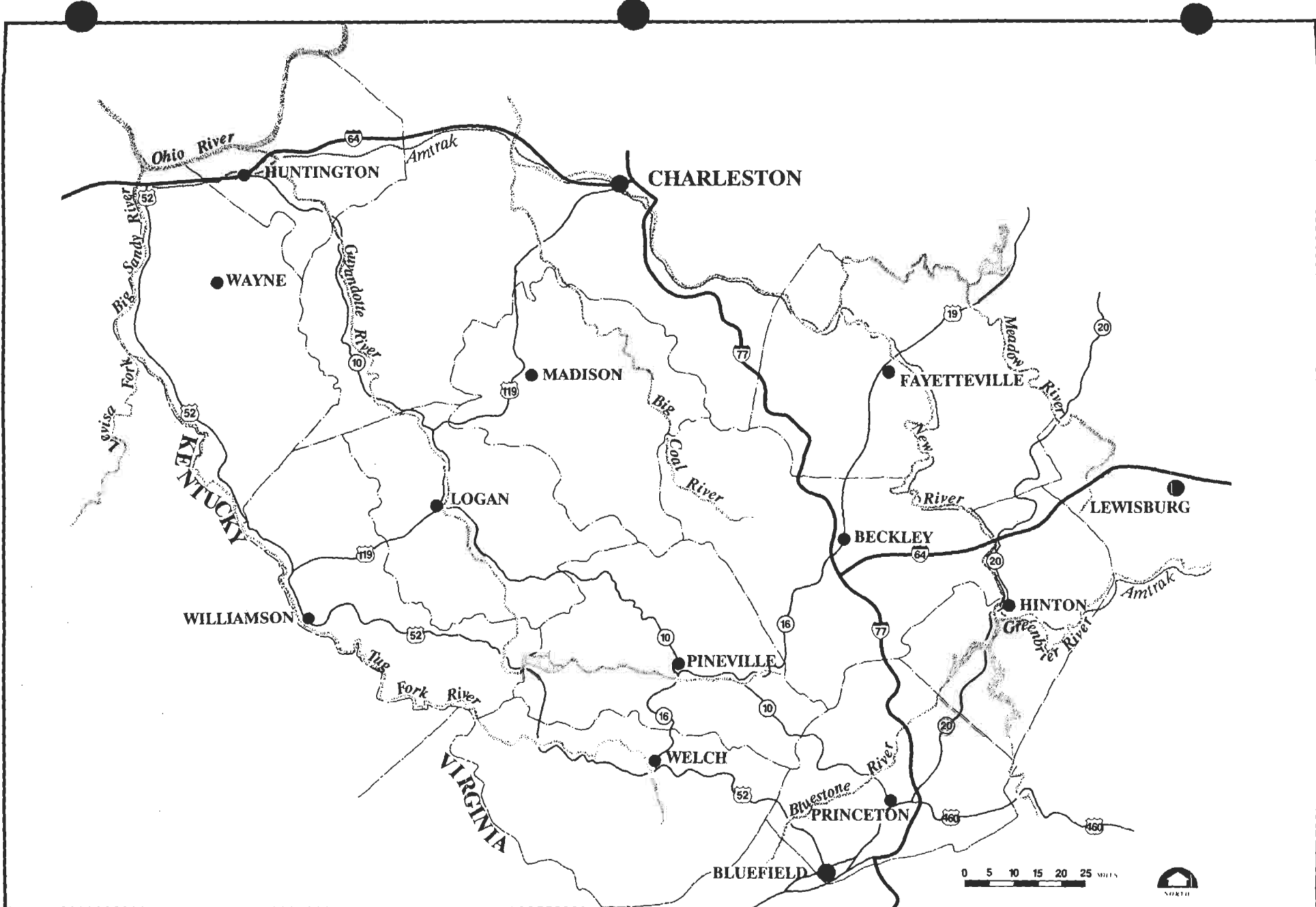
In conversations with current residents of southern West Virginia, a traveler is likely to hear stories about a sluggish local economy, the importance of family and community, and changes in the landscape. But the memories of those who worked in the coal fields are becoming fewer, and older mining structures, which serve as symbols of a lifestyle, are being disassembled to make way for new technology, to eliminate physical hazards, or to encourage the restoration of

the land. Thus, without adequate physical evidence and knowledgeable guides, it is difficult to understand the landscape and the extensive changes that have taken place over the past century. Furthermore, high levels of out-migration and unemployment are often interpreted by casual observers as signs of a declining coal industry when, in fact, coal exports from the state are presently higher than ever.

A Coal Mining Heritage Study

In response to residents' concerns, Congressman Nick Joe Rahall, II, of West Virginia introduced authorizing legislation [Title VI--"Coal Mining Heritage" of the "Omnibus Public Lands and National Forests Adjustments Act of 1988" (Public Law 100-699)] directing the National Park Service to conduct a study of resources in southern West Virginia. This study, funded through the efforts of Senators Robert C. Byrd and John D. Rockefeller, IV, and Congressman Rahall, directs the National Park Service to

...determine the feasibility of protecting and preserving certain significant cultural, historic, and natural resources associated with the coal mining heritage of southern West Virginia.



COAL HERITAGE STUDY

Southern West Virginia



The legislation also directs the National Park Service to identify:

- *specific sites associated with coal mining heritage;*
- *the historic and cultural values of such sites;*
- *the relationship of such sites to the natural, scenic, recreational, cultural and historic resources in the region; and*
- *a vehicular tour route along existing public roads linking such sites and other resources managed by state or federal agencies.*²

The study area, as defined in the legislation, includes eleven counties located in southern West Virginia: Boone, Cabell, Fayette, Logan, McDowell, Mercer, Mingo, Raleigh, Summers, Wayne, and Wyoming. (see Appendix A)

While the term evokes images from earlier times, the concept of "heritage" also suggests a changing present, challenging citizens to create a vision for the future. Thus, the study process offered opportunities to explore fundamental factors which contribute to social well-being. A broad spectrum of citizens in the study area, state officials, and National Park Service planners have identified many potential relationships among land, history, culture, and existing community development needs, activities and opportunities. In a regional context, local actions are central to the conservation of heritage, since it is within various community groups that local knowledge is passed from generation to generation and that concrete steps are taken to forge new directions.

Except for isolated instances, very little information had been collected on historic sites in the area prior to this study--especially in the core coal mining region--and site preservation has not been integrated with knowledge about the culture.

Thus, to fulfill requirements in the legislation, the National Park Service study process was designed to blend "insider" and "outsider" perspectives, tangible and intangible resources. This range included historic sites, natural and recreation areas, local traditions and knowledge, and existing community development activities.

Assisted by knowledgeable and enthusiastic residents, the National Park Service study team conducted meetings to note related resources--special places, events and traditions--and to identify issues affecting heritage conservation and interpretation. The team spoke with over two hundred people; distributed newsletters; visited numerous communities, historic sites, and recreation areas; and made many presentations about the study to staff of agencies and organizations in the eleven-county study area.

To identify specific sites and their potential significance, the National Park Service contracted with the West Virginia Division of Culture and History to: survey five counties where coal was mined and about which information was most lacking (Boone, Mingo, McDowell, Logan, and Wyoming); assess levels of significance for historic sites; and develop a treatment of the area's coal mining history.

A large and varied number of agencies and organizations played a part in this study (see Appendix B); they include historians, teachers, tourism promoters, historic preservation groups, elected and agency officials, community and economic development professionals, business leaders, and representatives of many civic organizations. The community-based heritage conservation concept detailed later in this document represents the needs and ideas of this broad cross-section of citizens with whom the study team worked.

Conversations and Concerns

Discussions with many residents convey a desire to increase appreciation for, and conservation of, the culture and places associated with early coal mining. The following is a sampling of voices that indicate the concerns for and connections among culture, history, landscape, economy and community.³

Regional Identity

While most West Virginians speak fondly of the land and culture, identity is often grounded in particular regions, valleys or plateaus. In the present, the study area might best be described as:

- a **core coal mining region**, consisting of Boone, Logan, McDowell, Mingo, and Wyoming counties, plus slices of Mercer and Summers Counties and areas including Paint Creek and Cabin Creek in Kanawha County. There are also strong social and historic connections to coal mining areas in eastern Kentucky and western Virginia;
- the **New River-Greenbrier region**, including the New River Gorge and the valleys, hollows and more agricultural areas on the plateaus (Fayette, Summers, and parts of Raleigh County in the study area) and the Greenbrier River Valley and Highlands to the east;
- the **Big Sandy and Ohio River Valley** on the northwest, with Huntington as the hub; and
- the **Kanawha River Valley**, with historical and contemporary importance.

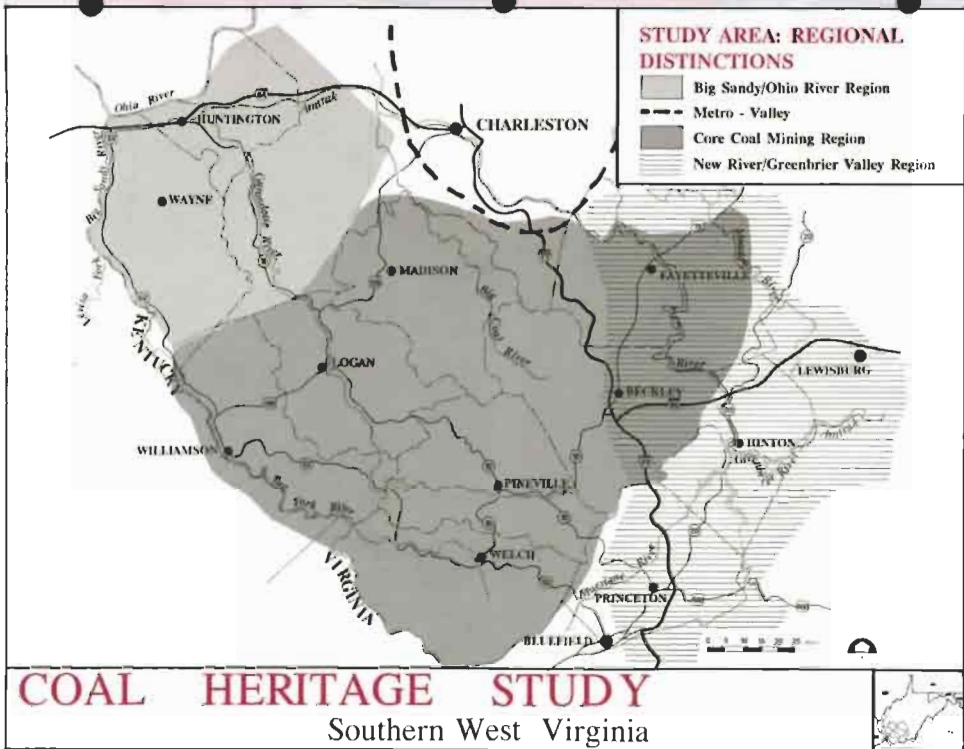
Notably, the first two regions overlap, containing combinations of historical, cultural and recreational resources. The regions outside the core coal mining area do not have the extensive resources related to coal mining heritage that the core region has, but Huntington and Charleston, like Beckley and Bluefield in the core area, do have some historically significant relationships. Huntington and Charleston, part of the Kanawha and New River fields--the first in the region to be mined--were financial and transportation hubs in the early days of coal mining, and act today as service, education and transportation centers.

Furthermore, particular coal fields (e.g., New River, Pocahontas, Williamson, etc.) are important references for many; one participant, for example, commenting on the area's history, explained that "each coal field had a character, each was different. The political boundaries don't mean anything." Another remarked that "the county lines are artificial." On a more local level, individuals and/or communities might also identify with a specific aspect of the coal industry (e.g., extraction, processing, etc.); with railroading, timbering, farming, or recreation; or even with a type or grade of coal. To be sure, the identity and landscape of the core coal mining region are distinct from other regions of the state.

Issues

Despite the many community activities, residents voiced a number of issues that affect the feasibility of preserving sites and of developing a tour route:

- lack of understanding by residents in other parts of the state and neglect from state government;



- changes in community life over time, from an independent, agrarian, locally-based economy to one dominated first by the export of timber and second by coal. Results include fluctuations in population, attended by in/out migration, and reliance on outside markets; and
- lack of access to land and capital for local development.

The coal industry is thriving in southern West Virginia but, according to one resident, "Money and resources continue to leave the area." Another stated succinctly that "we need a foundation to make things happen. . . money is going out of the state."

Recognition of the past, restoration of land, and a sense of community are related needs. Taken further, many participants agreed with each other that "education is the key to our future." Similarly, one stated, "We need to recognize our history and promote that." Another noted that "paying attention to our history also helps to clean up the environment and restore areas."

Local involvement was deemed essential to tourism development. Most residents express a strong desire to tell the stories about southern West Virginia to outsiders and to offer tourism services, as long as such changes contribute to improvements in residents' quality of life. One local leader suggested that "tourism might act as the tool to build consensus and provide a means of pulling community development efforts together." However, there are also problems.

There is no adequate vehicle for sharing information and expertise about heritage planning and community development activities in the area. In some places, as many

participants indicated, "One area doesn't know what the other one is doing."

There is a need for increased public participation and leadership development to solve local and regional problems. Describing this situation, one individual stated that

we don't have the leadership or the ability to use [our history] to our advantage--we need to recognize what our assets are. [For example,] it's a very satisfying place to raise children.

Many locations in the study area are lacking in basic infrastructure; primary needs are for improved water quality facilities, sewage treatment, roads and recreational opportunities. While this situation is relatively apparent, research also supports the impression. A Marshall University report on McDowell County, for example, funded by the Economic Development Administration, noted that

the Tug Fork River, the area's major water source, is being discharged with untreated waste water due to sewer and waste abnormalities. Due to illegal dumping and poor management, many of the landfills in the county pose a real health hazard to residents located nearby. New, costly construction and better management is needed in water, sewage, and waste systems in many localities.

Many residents pointed out that previous economic revitalization efforts have not worked with a cross-section of communities, nor was the existence of cultural regions recognized. Summarizing the sentiments of many, one citizen stated, "We are not looking for a handout, we are asking people to join with us in restoration, to make an investment."

**SOUTHERN WEST
VIRGINIA:
EXPRESSIONS OF COAL
MINING HERITAGE**



Photo courtesy of Eastern Regional Coal Archives

EARLY DAYS OF COAL MINING

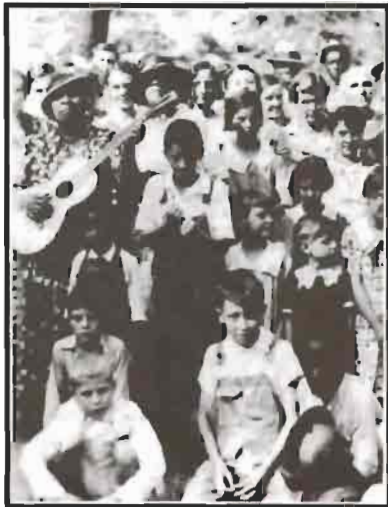


Photo courtesy of Eastern Regional Coal Archives

Immigrants to the coal fields came from diverse ethnic backgrounds, creating a multi-cultural society that was unusual for such a remote region of America.

The railroads opened up southern West Virginia to timbering and mining, connecting logging and mining operations with milling centers and processing plants and markets.



West Virginia State Archives



West Virginia State Archives

Coal mined in Kentucky was mechanically conveyed to Delbarton, West Virginia for processing.

Young coal miners at work in the late nineteenth century, as captured by Lewis Hine.

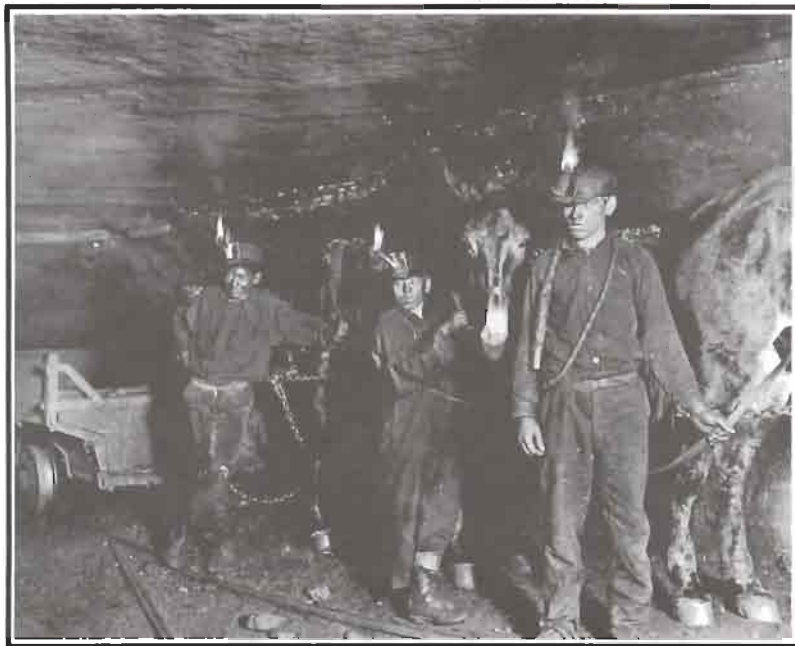


Photo courtesy of West Virginia State Archives

LANDSCAPES



Guyandotte River, Wyoming County

National Park Service



Peabody Coal Company, Mentoal Complex, in Raleigh County

National Park Service



Pastoral landscape in Summers County

National Park Service

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES



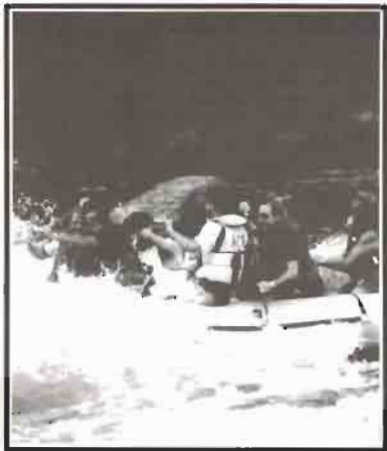
A second grade class in Nellis, West Virginia.

National Park Service



Along U.S. Route 60.

National Park Service



Whitewater rafting on the New River.

National Park Service

An aerial view of Welch, West Virginia, illustrates the relationship among topography, settlement and industrialization.

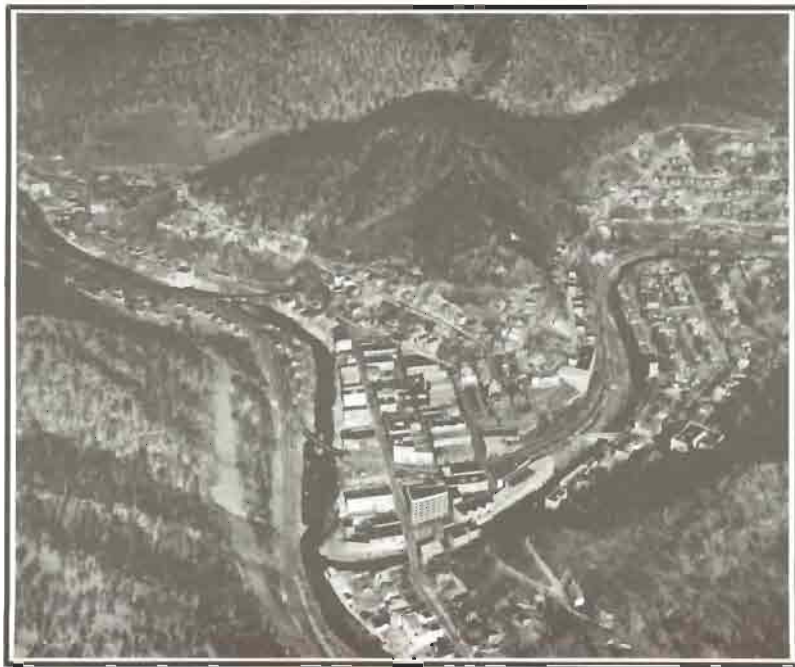


Photo courtesy of Eastern Regional Coal Activities



COAL HERITAGE STUDY

Southern West Virginia

THE COAL INDUSTRY IN SOUTHERN WEST VIRGINIA

Introduction

West Virginia lies in the center of the rich Appalachian bituminous coal field. Two-thirds of the land in the state is underlaid with coal seams; fifty are sufficiently thick to be considered minable. Found in all but two of West Virginia's fifty-five counties, coal has been mined in the Mountain State for well over a century. Forty-three counties have minable reserves; thirty-five have been, or are presently being, mined.

In no other state in the nation has coal been so central to economic development and social life. The history of the state, particularly in the 1870 to 1945 period, is primarily the history of coal. A prodigious quantity--nearly ten billion tons--was extracted from the state's mines. From 1890 to the present, coal has been the most important industrial employer. In the peak employment years, the three decades from 1920 to 1950, over 100,000 men, many from other countries, labored in the state's mines. Coal so dominated West Virginia's economy that during the period of its rapid industrialization, from 1890 to 1930, the number of people employed, and the capital invested, in coal mining equaled that of all other industries in the state combined.

For the purposes of historical research, the study area was divided into three groups. The first group is the **core coal mining area**, consisting of Boone, Logan, Mingo, Wyoming and McDowell counties. Economic historian Richard Simon notes the importance of the coal industry in this region, describing development in the area as a "mono-economy."

Field surveys of historic buildings and other structures have been conducted for this group of counties. The second group can be described as a **coal mining/industrial area**, consisting of Fayette, Raleigh and Mercer Counties. In these counties, coal was the most important industry, but other industries and, to a limited extent, agriculture, provided a more diversified economic life. The third group consists of **associated areas**: Summers County on the east, and Wayne and Cabell counties on the west. Coal was not extensively mined in Wayne County and not at all in Cabell County, thus they played a limited role in the development of the industry. Although little information is included in the report about this area, it did, nonetheless, contribute to the coal mining heritage of southern West Virginia, largely by providing transportation, financial services, labor and sometimes food to the coal mining counties.

While the groupings of counties noted above are useful for surveys and some research, it is important to recognize that scholarship on coal mining history, and many contemporary cultural events, is organized by coal field. Such groupings place each county within a recognizable production field to delineate the developmental history of each county (and each field). The state itself contains ten major coal fields: the Kanawha, New River, Winding Gulf, Flat Top-Pocahontas, Logan (or Guyandotte), Williamson, Fairmont, Elkins, Greenbrier and Northern Panhandle.

The quality of coal in West Virginia improves from north to south. Those reserves found within the study area are considered to contain the best bituminous coal in the world.

There is a further division of coal reserves within the southern coal fields as well. Unlike the other boundaries that relate to geography and patterns of development, this division has to do with the **quality** of the coal itself. The coal of the Kanawha, Logan and Williamson fields is termed "high volatile"--it contains between 32 percent and 38 percent volatile matter. (The more volatile matter, or gas, a coal contains, the more smoke it makes when burned.) Conversely, the New River, Winding Gulf and Flat Top-Pocahontas fields contain "low volatile" coal. Low volatile coal contains between 16 percent to 24 percent volatile matter; hence the term "smokeless" is often used. In addition to having a low percentage of volatile material, coal from southern West Virginia is lower in sulphur content than coal in northern West Virginia. While the New River, Winding Gulf and Flat Top-Pocahontas fields were similar in development patterns, traditions, labor history, capital and markets, the Logan, Williamson and Kanawha fields developed independently. More specific information about each coal field can be found in Appendix C.

The West Virginia Coal Industry in a National Context

Paramount in the state's economic history, the coal industry also has been important in the development of the national, industrial economy. Historically, West Virginia coal has been widely considered as unsurpassed for quality. Some of its seams are the best in the world. The Pittsburgh seam, found in the Fairmont field in north central West Virginia, is a thick seam which was extensively utilized as steam coal by railroads, utilities, and industry. The "smokeless" coals found in the New River, Winding Gulf and the Flat Top-Pocahontas fields of the southeastern section of the state, particularly the

Pocahontas No. 3 seam, were highly prized for metallurgical purposes.

West Virginia led the nation in coal production from 1927, when it surpassed Pennsylvania, until 1973, when Kentucky took the lead. Despite the fact that West Virginia's push to national prominence sometimes contributed to an oversupply of coal, consumers in the industrial Northeast and Midwest have benefitted tremendously from the resulting lower prices.

West Virginia coal has fed the boilers of the nation's trains, factories, fleets, and power plants. As a processed fuel--coke--it has satisfied the enormous appetites of the nation's iron furnaces. It has been the basis for the tremendous growth of the American economy in the twentieth century and played a critical role in supporting America during wartime.

The West Virginia Coal Industry and the National Market

To understand how the coal market influenced other aspects of the industry, it is necessary to explain how the southern West Virginia coal industry performed historically in the highly competitive national coal industry. Simon elaborates on this topic in *The Development of Underdevelopment*. The southern West Virginia coal fields were brought into production at a time when the established northern fields already were adequately supplying the national demand. Moreover, the northern fields, with the important exception of the anthracite field in Pennsylvania, had reserves enough to expand production in line with future increases in demand. Thus, from the outset, southern West Virginia producers were faced with stiff competition from the established coal fields.

Their only real advantage was the superiority of West Virginia coal. Their competitive situation was made difficult by the fact that the northern producers, as a result of their proximity to the market centers in the Northeast and Midwest, had lower transportation costs. Consequently, in order to compete in distant markets, West Virginia producers had to keep their production costs well below those prevailing in the northern fields.

This task of keeping production costs down was made less difficult by the fact that southern West Virginia coal was easily accessible. The costs of starting a mine were low, as little as \$2,000 in 1875 in the Kanawha field and approximately fifty cents per ton of production by the 1920s. In addition, since most state mines were self-draining, maintenance costs were often low as well. This cost advantage was nullified, in part, by the fact that the West Virginia operator was required to build a coal camp to house the miners. Savings were often made in this area by choice or amount of construction materials, by building all the dwellings to the same, simple design, or by limiting amenities. However, since labor accounted for 65 to 70 percent of the cost of mining, savings were most readily made here. Coal operators could cut labor costs in two ways, the first direct and the second indirect. The direct method consisted of holding wages below those prevailing in the northern fields. After the northern fields were organized by the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) in 1902, the northern operators were forced to pay the union scale or face a strike. Thus, West Virginia coal operators strove diligently to keep the UMWA out of its mines in order to insure a lower wage structure. This, above all else, is what the coal operators strove to do in the 1900 to 1933 period. This policy not only enabled them to keep wage rates down, but it had the additional benefit of allowing them to steal the markets of the northern, union producers during strikes.

The indirect method of cutting labor costs consisted of reducing the real pay of mine workers. This was done by several means; all were designed to result in a smaller paycheck for the miner. Many coal companies docked or fined a miner for loading unclean coal, shortweighed his cars, or denied him pay for the production of slack coal. All of these practices were rarely employed in the union fields because of the presence of the checkweighman. In addition, the coal companies often made deductions in a miner's check for various purposes, such as burial, coffin, doctor and hospital funds. The most prevalent means of reducing the miner's real pay was by forcing him to trade in the company store and paying him in scrip, redeemable only at the company store.

By these methods, West Virginia producers were able to cut their costs below those of northern producers and compete favorably in the national market. The success of West Virginia operators in meeting the marketing challenge can be seen in production figures, which show an increase in tonnage from 1.8 million tons in 1880 to 145.1 million in 1927, the year the state became the leading coal producer. Of the 1927 tonnage, 86,863,895 was mined from the southern West Virginia coal fields. A more dramatic indicator for measuring marketing success is the percentage of market share won by West Virginia producers. They increased their market share from 4.2 percent of national production in 1880 to 28 percent in 1927, with 16.8 percent of the 1927 figure the result of southern West Virginia production.

By the 1910s, the national coal industry had overexpanded. The capacity to supply coal greatly exceeded the demand. In the 1910s, there was an excess capacity of 10.6 percent in the industry. In the 1920s, as competition from hydroelectric power, natural gas and oil reduced demand, the situation worsened: excess capacity rose to 33.8 percent. As a

result, coal prices plunged from \$3.75 a ton in 1920 to \$1.78 a ton in 1929. The U. S. Coal Commission, empaneled in 1922 to consider the problem, stated the simple truth: there were "too many mines and too many miners."

The productivity of the West Virginia coal industry was, to a large degree, responsible for this situation. It is easy to see why coal analysts in other states called the West Virginia coal industry an "economic blunder." If West Virginia tonnage was subtracted from the national picture, the excess capacity would have been a relatively healthy 5.5 percent.

Only consumers of coal gained from the low prices brought on by overexpansion. Certainly the mining industry did not benefit. Profits were low or nonexistent: from 1923 to 1939, the coal industry on a national level operated at a net loss. Some West Virginia companies fared better than national firms in the 1920s. However, despite the banner year in the state in 1927, they were still losing money. Because of the lower price per ton, sales revenue was below that afforded in less productive years. In effect, West Virginia coal companies were producing more and enjoying it less.

After 1927, production in West Virginia declined. The Depression forced hundreds of coal companies, especially the smaller ones, many owned by native capitalists, into bankruptcy. Some large companies, such as Island Creek, Consolidation Coal Corporation, and U. S. Steel, continued to operate, in part because of their financial strength. They had the capital to mechanize their mines and realize economies of scale in their operation. Island Creek, for example, decided to abandon the hand loading of coal in favor of mechanical loaders.

Eller notes that after the Depression in 1929 "unemployment, destitution and despair stalked the coal fields." While it is true that the coal industry was depressed in the early 1930s and production declined, the number of men employed in the mines in southern West Virginia through the 1930s dropped below the 1930 level--60,000--only in the 1931 to 1934 period. Underemployment, rather than unemployment, was the rule. While the average miner worked 247 days per year in 1930, he worked less than 200 the remainder of the decade. Miners responded to the distressed economic conditions by adopting the "share the work" philosophy, thus allowing more men to work fewer days.

World War II led to yet another boom in production in the West Virginia coal fields. In 1942, for the first time since 1927, production reached the 140,000 ton level. The all-time state production record of 173,653,816 tons was reached in 1947. After 1950, employment, which peaked in that year at 119,568, declined dramatically due to the mechanization and the rise of surface mining.

The Coal Industry in Southern West Virginia

While it has eclipsed other industries in the state as a whole, the coal industry in the southern fields has been absolutely pervasive. This region has the most rugged topography of any in West Virginia. With no naturally navigable streams and no north-south transportation outlets until quite recently, the area has been isolated from most commercial trends and market forces. The economy before the development of coal was based predominantly on subsistence agriculture, and there were few manufacturing jobs: Within the five-county

core area, there was a total of forty-four industrial wage earners in 1880. The three-county coal/industrial area had a slightly higher number of manufacturing jobs. In Fayette County, for example, there was a total of 224 manufacturing employees.

As the coal industry began its "boom" in the southern coal fields, the number of mining jobs increased dramatically. With the exception of the coke industry, however, it generated very few manufacturing jobs in the core area. In 1900, coal mining employment in the core area was 4,622, and there was a total of 1,771 manufacturing jobs. Of the manufacturing jobs, 1,581 were in the coke industry. Mercer and Fayette County, with coal employment at 8,287, had a total of 1,845 manufacturing jobs. A total of 337 of these were in coke-making in Mercer County.

In 1929, with the maturation of the coal industry and the decline of coke-making, coal mining employment in the core area was 40,151, while total manufacturing employment was 3,031. Here, clearly, coal mining had developed into a mono-economy. In Mercer and Fayette Counties, part of the coal/industrial area, coal mining employed 16,099. A degree of diversification was achieved, however, as manufacturing employment in these two counties reached 3,370, surpassing the five-county core area total. Of the manufacturing jobs, 349 were jobs in coke-making.

To a large degree, the economy of the southern West Virginia coal fields was built on a very narrow base of resource extraction, rather than manufacturing. Because the coal lands and major coal companies were absentee-owned, there was little profit from mining that could be reinvested in other industries. This dependence upon coal placed the region at the mercy of the national coal market, a situation that had

ramifications not only for the coal industry as a whole, but also on a smaller scale for the development of housing and other infrastructure.

The Southern West Virginia Labor Force

Southern West Virginia was sparsely populated before the coming of coal. In 1880 the five-county core area had a population of only 20,559; the population of the three-county mining/industrial area was 26,394. This small population was inadequate to serve the needs of the labor-hungry coal industry. Coal operators were forced to recruit labor from three sources: 1) white Americans from older coal regions, 2) black Americans from the South, especially Virginia and North Carolina, and 3) immigrants from southern and Southeastern Europe. Many coal companies became and remained active in recruiting labor, sending agents to New York City and to the South. With the onset of large scale production in 1900, the population of the five-county core area had increased to 53,635, while that in the three-county area had increased to 57,446.

The coal companies employed a combination of white native miners, blacks, and immigrants. Most took advantage of racial divisions, playing one group against another to forestall the establishment of unions. However, the exact nature of the mix among the three groups varied from field to field. The five-county core group, constituting the Logan and Williamson coal fields, and parts of the Flat Top-Pocahontas, New River and Winding Gulf fields, had a fairly equal proportion of the three groups: In 1908 the miners of this area were 34.4 percent native white, 34.7 percent black, and 30.9 percent foreign-born. In the three-county mining/industrial area of Fayette, Mercer and Raleigh Counties, native whites predominated: in 1908 the miners of this area were 57.4

percent native white, 21.0 percent black, and 21.6 percent foreign-born. The largest group to immigrate were the Italians, followed by the Hungarians, Poles, Russians, Slavs and Rumanians.

In the typical coal company town, these three groups were segregated, with the native whites occupying the choicest dwellings near the tippie, the foreigners living on the fringes of the settlement, and the blacks in houses that were often separated from the main cluster. Although segregation did not apply inside the mine, a hierarchy became apparent after mechanization. The majority of native whites held the higher paying and more authoritarian positions, such as superintendent, foreman, fire boss; they most often operated the machinery. Some whites were also coal loaders, the lowest occupational category. The foreign born were on the second echelon of the occupational ladder, holding some machine jobs and machine helper jobs. Sometimes they were loaders. Blacks were the lowest on the occupational ladder, rarely having machine or machine helper jobs, and almost always working as coal loaders. As a consequence of their being relegated almost exclusively to the coal loading jobs, blacks were displaced from the industry in the 1935 to 1955 period when machine loaders were introduced.

The Role of the United Mine Workers of America in Southern West Virginia Labor History

The historic role of the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) has been to unite these three groups into one body with a common set of goals and beliefs. This, however, took many years, since the introduction of the union was adamantly opposed by the coal operators. The low wage structure was a competitive advantage in the 1910s and 1920s, and the operators resisted the UMWA with all the tools they had. The UMWA, with its base of strength in other

fields (e.g., northern West Virginia, Colorado and Pennsylvania), realized that it was threatened with extinction if the nonunion mines of southern West Virginia continued to outproduce and dominate the markets. Therefore, the UMWA concentrated on organizing West Virginia. It is no surprise, then, that West Virginia became a battlefield in the 1910s and 1920s. Throughout the "Mine Wars," the bastion of nonunion strength was in Logan, McDowell, Mingo, and Mercer counties, which remained unorganized until 1933 when the passage of the National Recovery Act enabled unionization.

The UMWA's role in southern West Virginia is one of the most memorable chapters in the development of industrial unionism in the Nation. It included colorful figures such as Mary Harris "Mother" Jones, John L. Lewis, William Blizard, Fred Mooney, Frank Keeney and Van Bittner. There were dramatic confrontations, such as the Paint Creek-Cabin Creek strike in 1912-13, the aborted Armed March of 1919, the Battle of Tug Fork and the Matewan Massacre in 1920, and the Battle of Blair Mountain in 1921.

Perhaps the most significant outcome of the southern West Virginia Mine Wars was the development of a distinctively American, working class reformist philosophy known by many as the "Union Gospel." In southern West Virginia the Union accepted blacks on equal terms with whites. Some blacks were union leaders, and one, "Red" Thompson, led the charge through Crooked Creek Gap in the "Battle of Blair Mountain." In an era noted for Jim Crow laws in the South and the resurgence of the Ku Klux Klan in the North, this was an example of integration.

The Evolution of Mining Technology

When the first coal mines in southern West Virginia were started in the 1880s, it took only modest capital investment of a few thousand dollars. Nearly all of the early mines were drift mines, opening directly back into an exposed seam of coal, so expensive excavation equipment or hoists were not required. The operator had to provide little more than housing and a store for miners, a simple wooden tibble, mules and some light track. No power machinery was used, and the miners supplied their own picks, shovels, and tamping bars. The small capital outlay required made it easy for the small operator to enter the industry; this situation created a highly competitive setting, encouraging production from a large number of operators, which ultimately led to overexpansion of the industry.

Inside the mines, workers removed coal in a "room and pillar" grid system, mining the rooms first and often "robbing the pillars" as they retreated. The early miner worked independently, essentially as a sub-contractor to the company, paid by the amount of coal produced rather than time on the job; this occupation was not considered a lowly job but a skilled craft. He had his own work place and used his own hand tools. The miner first undercut the coal with a pick, then drilled blasting holes above the cut with a breast augur which he filled with black powder and tamped. Next he shot the coal and loaded it into wooden cars with a coal shovel. The miner pushed the car, often with the aid of a helper, to the mainline, where mules or ponies were used to haul it to the surface. At the surface, the coal was prepared for market, typically in a wooden tibble. Here it was screened, the slate or other impurities removed, usually by hand, and the coal crushed into several sizes. It was then loaded onto railroad cars for shipment.

By the late-1890s, the era of the "low-tech" operation was approaching its end in some places. The more progressive companies, typically also the larger ones, began to electrify their mines. They introduced electric, or, in some cases, compressed air cutting machines in their mines. This relieved the miner of the burdensome task of undercutting the coal and resulted in increased productivity. Along with cutting machines, electric locomotives or "motors" were installed, replacing, at least on the mainline, animal haulage. Also, electric fans came into wide use, replacing furnaces as a means of ventilation. Electrification required the installation of a power house, which generated DC electric power from coal-fired generators.

The pioneers in this first round of mechanization were the large companies, usually those backed by out-of-state capital. The Thurmond Coal Company was the first to electrify a mine in the southern coal fields. It equipped its Concho mine in the Flat Top-Pocahontas field with a power plant, an electric locomotive, and a coal cutting machine in the early 1880s. The United States Coal & Coke Company at Gary, which became a part of U. S. Steel, was the testing ground for a number of cutting and loading machines in the 1890s. In 1900 about 15 percent of the state's output was undercut mechanically.

By 1920, 70 percent of the state's mines had adopted mechanical cutting machines and had been electrified. In the 1920s, many mining plants were further modernized with the erection of tipples with metal frames and sides. Although many of these still relied solely on the simple bar screen and chute to screen and size the coal, a few also washed the smaller sizes of coal. In addition, more shaft and slope mines were opened in the 1910s and 1920s, although drift mine openings remained the norm. By the late 1920s the typical

mining plant in southern West Virginia consisted of the following inside equipment: electric cutting machine, electric drill and electric motor haulage. Outside facilities consisted of an electric and fanhouse, powerhouse, tippie, powder magazine, cap house, minecar repair shop, supply house, shower house, offices, railroad sidings, and chutes and coal bins.

At the same time, many of the small-time, indigenous operators disappeared. Large corporations, such as Island Creek Coal Company in Logan County, U. S. Steel in McDowell County, the Boone County Coal Corporation in Boone and Logan Counties, and the New River Company in Fayette County, dominated the industry. These companies could afford the technological innovations necessary to increase their average output per man.

The first loading machines used in the state were installed by the large companies. In 1910, for example, the United States Coal and Oil Company (now Island Creek) installed a Myer-Whaley loader in their mine in Logan County. The first "Joy" loader on caterpillar treads used in the country was installed at the Gay Coal and Coke Company in Logan County in 1920.

A good measure of the degree of mechanization is production per man-day. In the five-county core mining area, production per man-day in 1920 was 4.64 tons. In the three-county mining/industrial area it was 3.91 tons. The state average was 4.39 tons in 1920.

The introduction of the loading machine established the second round of mechanization. Unlike the cutting machine and other earlier innovations, the loading machine displaced the stalwart hand loader, changing the labor force. Although

a few pioneer companies installed loaders in the 1910s and 1920s, it was not until the 1935 to 1955 period that this revolution was made. In 1935, only 2 percent of coal mined in the state was loaded mechanically. By 1956 a full 89 percent was loaded by machine. In the five core counties, production per man-day in 1940 was 5.62 tons. In the three-county mining/industrial area, it was 4.71 tons. The state average was 5.60. While West Virginia led other states in the introduction of cutting machines, it lagged behind in installing loaders.

By 1955 most mines in the southern part of the state were fully mechanized. However, a few small concerns in isolated areas continued hand loading operations until the late 1960s. Along with the loading machine, self-propelled electric drills were introduced in this period. Also, roof bolting machines, which drilled holes in the roof and set expansion bolts that anchored in the roof strata, were introduced, supplementing timbering as a means of roof support. Innovations in haulage included electric pan-lines and electric rubber conveyor belts, replacing in some cases, the electric motor track haulage. This assemblage of inside equipment--the cutting machine, electric drill, loading machine, and roof bolter--is now widely known as the conventional system of mining.

There were also major changes in the surface mining plant in the 1935 to 1955 period. A major innovation was the introduction of mechanical cleaning. In 1935 only 12 percent of all West Virginia coal was cleaned mechanically, but by 1956 this proportion had risen to 58 percent. Many operations also abandoned the powerhouse and tapped into the utility grid. However, since only AC power at high voltage was available, it was necessary to install transformers for lowering voltage and rectifiers for changing power from AC to DC.

The Company Town

Company towns were the most important institutions in the coal fields of southern West Virginia. Housing was a necessity, and the coal operators were the only entities in the region with the means to build it on the massive scale required by the expanding industry. Since most mines were opened in virtually unsettled areas, little housing was available to cope with the vast influx of laborers. Thus, the company town was more prevalent in West Virginia than in any other state, with fully 80.2 percent of all state miners living in such places in 1922.

The location of the company town was determined by proximity to the mine outcrop, not by considerations for health or community life. The basic facilities for mining--the mine opening and tipples--were built first. Next, consideration was given to the location of railroad siding. Finally, in the remaining space, whether it was valley floor or hillside, the town was constructed.

The layout of the town typically assumed the shape of the widest bench, just above creek level. Of the few research documents available, Mack Gillenwater's study of mining settlements in the Pocahontas field is somewhat representative. He notes that most companies preferred not to defy gravity: In 1930, 89 settlements occupied valley floor sites, and eleven settlements were situated on hillsides. The shape of the Pocahontas settlements was predominantly linear, with some of a cruciform or block form, and some fragmented so that settlement seemed helter-skelter. The company store, along with any other public buildings, such as churches, schools and community centers, was situated in a town center in an area where the bench widened. Houses were situated in two distinct sections. The first, for whites, were located a short distance from the work site; the second,

for blacks, were positioned on the periphery, frequently, in another hollow.⁴

Often, construction was undertaken by the operating company, but sometimes all or some of it was contracted out, especially in the later years. In the former case, mining administrators choose the plans for the housing. The first step was to build temporary shelters for the construction workers. In many cases, a sawmill was moved to the site and lumber cut as the land was cleared.

Dwelling houses were built of the most rudimentary sort. They were nearly always of frame construction, sheathed in weatherboard or board-and-batten siding, and usually roofed with composition paper. The typical house was uninsulated and perched on posts or piers without underpinning. Gillenwater found eight basic types of houses in the Pocahontas field: the one-story "L," pyramidal, bungalow, basic "I," two-story four-pen, two-story shotgun, salt-box, and the two-story "L." Despite the diversity through the field, the typical mining town contained only one or two basic types, with the cheaper dwellings reserved for blacks. The interior layout varied widely, but three- and four-room houses were common, with probably 225 to 250 square feet per room on the average. Amenities were lacking and very few had indoor plumbing; tenants obtained drinking water from wells or springs. Many, however, had electric lighting, while heat was provided by an open coal grate.⁵

The company house in the Pocahontas field was typically surrounded by a small yard, sometimes with room for a garden enclosed by a board fence. Within the yard lay a wood or brick coal house, a privy, and sometimes a wash house. No provisions were made for handling waste water, which flowed into the creek.

More substantial houses were built for superintendents, usually at a distance from the rest of the residences, and often located on a hillside overlooking the town. The superintendent's house was typically the largest dwelling in the coal town, ranging from 10 to 20 rooms.

The company store, a necessity because of the lack of commerce in the mining areas, was built in nearly every mining town. It was usually located in the town center. Unlike the residences, many stores were constructed of brick. Gillenwater noted that they were typically of cubic shape, though each was custom built for a particular town. The roof was commonly flat or a low-angle gable. There were usually three stories, with the first level used for storage of goods, the second for retailing and offices, and the third exclusively for offices.

Many company towns, especially the newer ones, included a community building. According to Gillenwater, they often contained one or more facilities: an auditorium, a billiard room, a dining room, a lodge hall, and upstairs sleeping rooms. The building was a large, bulky structure with end-facing gables. The community buildings were part of the later towns and probably represent the impact of the Progressive movement on coal company architecture. The movement's "sociological work" had an impact, largely during the 1910s to early 1920s period when there was concern for producing a more sober American citizen, as well as a contented, family-oriented, and steady worker.

The Pocahontas field coal towns had two company churches, one for whites and one for blacks. The church for blacks was of simpler design. It was a functional building, made of the same materials and of the same workmanship as the dwelling houses. It was usually a wood, box-shaped structure. Rather

than building to serve a single denomination, the company churches had plain interiors, well-suited to the fundamental Protestantism of most native whites and black miners.

In addition, the company towns in Pocahontas had two schools, one for white children, and one for black children. Both were nearly of the same design and construction as the churches. The white school was two-storied and the black school had one story. Although built by the coal companies, many of the schools were soon deeded to the county boards of education. Summarized in Kenneth Sullivan's dissertation on southern West Virginia, the 1925 Coal Commission report is a good overview of coal town diversity.⁶

Gillenwater noted that there was a uniformity of basic morphology, house types, and construction materials in the one hundred settlements surveyed, despite the fact that there was a considerable degree of variation among the towns themselves. As Gillenwater states, "Almost every sampled town had an exclusive building style and one dominant house type." The variation was explained by the "individual operators controlling the house construction and building to their own desires and specifications."

If slight variation can be discerned in the architecture of coal towns, tremendous variation is found among the commentators on that architecture. As Sullivan, in his study of the "smokeless" coal fields explains, "Contemporary testimony of the conditions of life in the state's coal fields varied with the observer."⁷ Mother Jones, as well as historians Eller and Simon, condemned the coal towns for their monotony and drabness, and the injustice they represent. And Simon writes that the coal town was the foundation on which the coal operator built his system of control over labor; it was nearly as essential to the operator in

maximizing his profits as the coal mine itself. He quotes a 1920 U.S. Department of Labor publication:

Although the primary result of company housing is supplying of accommodations for an existing labor force, several incidental results have flowed from it. Speaking broadly, it has been a factor in the control of the labor situation by employers.⁸

Thus, according to many observers, the coal town was an instrument to reduce expenses and extract as much value from the miners as possible.

In contrast, Phil Conley, an historian who served briefly as a company town school teacher, explains that the towns were "built for the sole purpose of providing homes and pleasant living conditions for employees of the coal companies," and that he "found little to indicate that the builders fell far short of that goal."⁹ Coal operators-turned-writers W. P. Tams, Jr., and Walter R. Thurmond echo the sentiments of Conley.

The West Virginia Coal Industry Today

West Virginia maintains its prominence as a world leader in the production and quality of coal. Approximately 1,700 West Virginia mines produced over 144,717,000 tons of coal in 1989, ranking third in the United States in total production. West Virginia coal exports remain the highest in the nation, commanding 36 percent of the U.S. export total. Only Pennsylvania has produced more coal in a single year than West Virginia, at 277,377,000 and 176,157,000 respectfully.

The most dramatic statistics historically relate to employment. The boom era of the West Virginia coal industry between

1918 and 1952 employed an average of one hundred thousand people per year. The introduction of mine mechanization and advances in technology caused employment figures to plummet from 125,669 in 1948 to 24,617 in 1989. Similar figures relate to the number of fatal injuries per year; for instance, at the peak of the coal boom in 1925, 686 or 16 percent of the total workforce was killed in the mines. Although mining is still considered an environmentally hazardous industry, fatal injuries were reduced to only nine in 1989. The transportation of coal by rail, on which the industry was once solely dependent, is now equal to that moved by truck.¹⁰

The future of the coal industry in West Virginia, and in particular the southern region, appears stable at current demand. West Virginia holds the fourth largest reserve of coal in the nation and some of the best quality. Recent federal laws requiring power generating plants to lower sulphur emissions will create a higher demand for coal from the southern fields, which are lower in gas and sulphur content and higher in carbons.

Summary

In no other state has coal mining so dominated the economy and social structure. In southern West Virginia, specifically, the industry has been pervasive, from the days of the first railroad in 1873 to the present, exporting huge amounts of coal recognized internationally for its quality. The remoteness of the area, combined with rapid industrialization and population growth, resulted in the creation of a society unusual for its ethnic and racial diversity. Today, the relationship among different elements of the past and present in the coal mining region form a distinctive landscape of national interest.

HERITAGE THEMES AND RESOURCES

Conversations with residents of the study area are prolific with tales of a more vibrant time in coal country: of "model" communities, an active civic life, and a close proximity among family and friends. And others remember conflicts between operators and union organizers, mine disasters, and control of resources by out-of-state interests. The demand for coal in the United States created a story that is evident in the artifacts, the written documents, much of the landscape, and current social events, as well as the memories and experiences of those still living. As one resident proclaimed, "It's an area for the **thoughtful** visitor...someone who is interested in **life** experiences."

Historian John Alexander Williams stated at a recent celebration of coal mining heritage in Bramwell, West Virginia, that

coal field communities which wish to capitalize on their history and use it to attract visitors face problems of accessibility, authenticity, and interpretation. Many of the most interesting historic sites are hard to find. Some of which represent environmental and labor relations issues which are still current--and thus still controversial, even painful.

The historic artifacts and sites with which the region abounds require a specialized understanding of the coal industry and its technology which most people do not have. They are not easily appreciated by casual visitors the way that beautiful scenery or a famous historic building can be appreciated. Thus, in a market with many options, only highly motivated visitors are likely to seek this area out. To motivate

visitors we must train them how to look for and "see" coal field history, and to a significant extent this means retraining ourselves.¹¹

The celebration brought forth many excellent discussions on ways to conserve and develop heritage resources and to interpret coal mining and associated landscapes. Although many participants noted the difficult task of interpretation--the scale of the study area, complexity of themes, and the need for basic infrastructure--many argued that the coal mining region is unusual because it has maintained a distinctive culture of miners and mountaineers.

As in other areas of the United States, residents of southern West Virginia have an opportunity to build on their cultural, natural and industrial heritage, which ranges from the physical layout of "company towns" and mine portals, to family reunions and restored natural areas. The landscape itself is a record of history in coal country, and comes to life when complemented by stories told by residents. Researchers contracted by Coal Country, Inc., to look at heritage tourism in the region also recognized "the complex, and often hidden, nature of coal heritage." Recommendations include the suggestion that a packaged tour for visitors, "guided by local residents willing to share their experiences, lends texture and a sense of reality to the visitor experience."¹² Agreeing with the researchers, another historian and conference participant cautioned that heritage conservation and interpretation needs to be encouraged incrementally, with emphasis on placing coal field history in proper contexts, not as a series of random unconnected events.¹³

Interpretation of Coal Mining Heritage

In the context of coal mining heritage, the relationships among the physical setting, history, and culture merge to create a deeper sense of place. Interpretation is a tool for developing an understanding of the stories, people, landscapes and events in the coal heritage region. The following themes could provide a framework for communities to blend the resources of their past with contemporary community and regional development efforts.

Transformation of a Region

Traditional Mountain Culture. Southern West Virginia, with its topography of sharply rising mountains rearing up from twisting creeks and narrow valleys, existed for generations as a region apart from the industrialized East Coast, isolated physically and culturally by the impenetrable terrain. The region remained largely static until the forces of the Industrial Revolution sought coal to fuel the nation's industries. The traditional ways of mountain life were transformed: Farming decreased, family clans were broken, and new ways of thinking and value systems were introduced by industrialists and working newcomers, ultimately changing the socioeconomic and physical makeup of the region.

A Quest For Resources: Coal Field Development in Southern West Virginia

Initial Encounters: Land Speculation. Millions of acres of land, timber and mineral rights passed out of the hands of local people and into the grasp of speculators who, in turn, sold them to absentee corporations.

The Coming of the Railroads. Railroad companies laid down an intricate web of tracks, marking the way to exploitation of the state's natural resources and development of commercial centers in the coal fields.

Early Coal Field Development. At the turn of the century, mines could be opened with limited capital investment; it was only necessary to build houses for the miners, a company store and a processing tippie to load the coal into rail cars. This minimal investment led to a very large number of small mining companies. As such, the demand for a large labor force was high. Thousands of blacks fleeing the Deep South and eastern Europeans fleeing religious persecution escaped to new homes in the coal fields.

Work in the Mines. Coal mining was dark, dirty and dangerous. Before mechanization the industry was extremely labor-intensive. Each miner had to timber the worksite, undercut the seam, drill, load and fire the holes to bring down the undercut, and then hand load the coal. Each man was his own boss, paid by the ton, not by the hour. Much could be told about mining methods, miners' skills, wages, disasters, and relations between miners and managers.

Coal Towns and Community Life. The "company town" was more prevalent in West Virginia than any other state; at one time over 80 percent of all state miners lived in such settings. Life in the coal fields varied from town to town; some were developed as "model" towns, while others were shoddy. The isolation built close-knit ties of family, neighborhood, church and home. Coal field women built elaborate support networks based around the work rhythms of the weekly chores. Ethnic diversity is seen in many of the architectural elements of towns. Many towns also supported baseball teams, community centers, saloons, schools, churches and recreational facilities.

Struggle Between Capital and Labor. If the West Virginia coal producers were the major cause of destructive competition, West Virginia mine workers and the state's infrastructure were the victims. Wages--and profits--were exceedingly low, and coal companies invested little in housing, sanitation, transportation and education. Thus, overdevelopment of the industry led to underdevelopment in other sectors.

The low wage structure was the competitive advantage in the regional competition within the state and with northern producers. Numerous attempts at unionizing the southern coal fields were resisted by coal operators who felt the union would take away their competitive edge over the northern producers. Violence erupted in the coal fields in 1912-13 during the Paint Creek-Cabin Creek Strike, and in 1920 in Matewan, followed by the "Battle of Blair Mountain," one of the largest armed insurrections since the Civil War. This subtheme might include discussions on the economics of coal, personalities in coal fields, and the UMWA.

Mechanization and Modern Mining. Coal mining today bears only a faint resemblance to the pioneer mines opened just before the turn of the century. Economics, mechanization and alternative fuel sources have all affected the market for coal. By 1956 almost 90 percent of coal was loaded by machine. The implications for miners and their families, communities and the state were dramatic. Present mining activities offer an opportunity to discuss the evolution of mining and the resulting social and economic changes.

Environmental History of Southern West Virginia

A Changing Landscape. The landscape itself is an historic record and an exceptional resource. A comparison of coal mining development in the 1880s-1920s period to other

pre-historic and historic periods--Archaic, Woodland, early eighteenth century--with current uses taking place in coal country--new industries, road planning, recreational development, flood protection (dams and channelization), mountain top removal, landscape restoration, and historic preservation--would better enable visitors to understand changes in the land and to "read the landscape." Explanations concerning archeologic and historic research techniques would provide windows through which values toward land and communities might become more apparent.

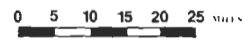
A Survey of Historic Sites Associated with Coal Mining Heritage

As part of the coal mining heritage study, the West Virginia Division of Culture and History is conducting a phased reconnaissance study focusing on coal mining-related historic resources in the eleven-county study area. The first phase of the inventory, conducted in part through a cooperative agreement with the National Park Service Mid-Atlantic Regional Office, included the core coal mining region of Boone, Logan, McDowell, Mingo and Wyoming counties, since little research on, and information about, this region existed prior to this study. The second phase of the reconnaissance study will be undertaken in the remaining six counties if funding becomes available. The field work was followed by historic research to document specific resources. In addition to individual structures, the survey team considered whole landscapes--the overall relationship of land, structures and objects--to identify, for example, mining operations and settlement patterns. Due to the pre-eminence of mining in southern West Virginia, all historic resources within the five county-area are considered to be potentially related to coal mining. Bridges, roadways and river routes, for instance, provided transportation links that were key to

STUDY AREA: HISTORIC RESOURCES

CONSERVATION PRIORITIES were developed by key land management agencies, with technical assistance from the National Park Service.

IMPORTANT HISTORIC RESOURCES - based on existing documentation and preliminary assessments.



COAL HERITAGE STUDY

Southern West Virginia



the development of the mining industry. The Williamson railyard, with its multiple through and switching tracks, maintenance shops, a pedestrian swing bridge, and an operational roundhouse, provides an excellent illustration of the connection between coal mining and railroad transportation. Small agricultural sites indicate another kind of relationship to coal mining, since farmers occasionally supplied fresh produce to coal communities. A matrix of sites, thematic representations and levels of significance--local, state or national--is located in Appendix D; this chart also includes information from recent surveys of the five-county core region, plus existing National Register data on the other six counties in the study area.

The majority of resources located to date represent the social and domestic life of the miners and their families, whereas few historic industrial resources have been found. Several company towns, varying in degrees of integrity, still exhibit streetscapes of identically massed workers' housing, superintendents' residences, company stores, churches and schools. However, many historic industrial sites are located in areas where mining occurs today. In these areas, historic tipples, panlines, portals and other mining resources are often cleared away by mining companies. Generally, the longer a company operates a mine, the fewer the number of historic resources remaining at a site, since older equipment is replaced by modern machinery and the site modified to suit contemporary needs. The map of historic sites on the following page shows many of the important places noted in the survey.

It is important to note that archeological survey and evaluation were beyond the scope of work in this phase of the project due to time and funding constraints. However, significant archeological resources associated with coal

mining heritage may be present; they would be useful in addressing social, technological and economic topics.

The following places in the study area possess historical resources which would provide a foundation for the interpretation of coal mining heritage in southern West Virginia: the Racine-Nellis area, Madison, Logan, Blair Mountain, Williamson, Matewan, the Itmann-Mullens area, the Kaymoor-Thurmond area, Hinton, the Beckley Exhibition Coal Mine, Welch, Bluefield, and the Bramwell-Pocahontas area.



Themes and subthemes associated with historic sites, as defined in the 1987 edition of *History and Prehistory in the National Park System and the National Historic Landmarks Program*, can be found in Appendix E.

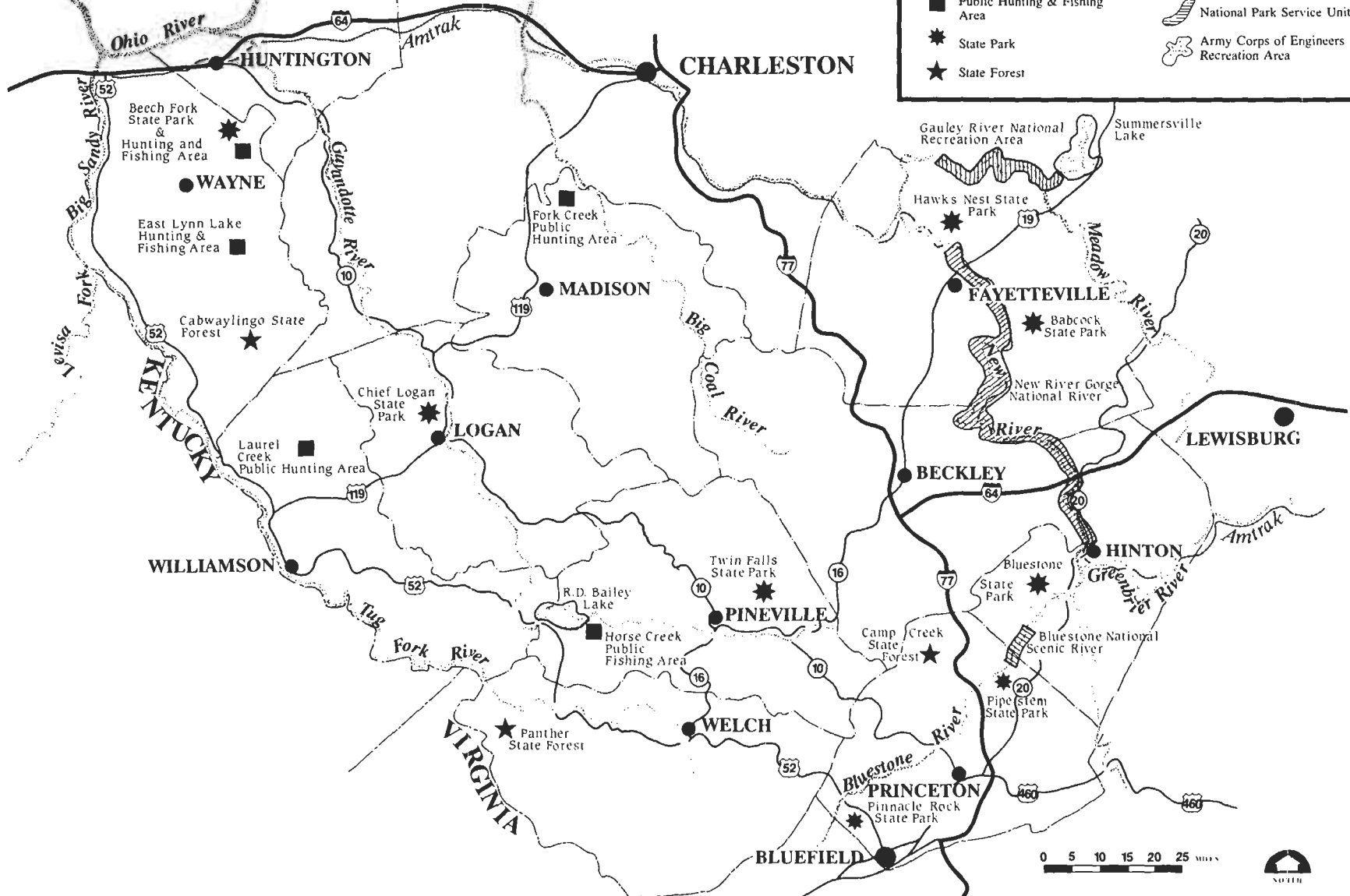
Relationship of Historic Sites Associated with Coal Mining to Natural, Scenic, and Recreational Resources

An understanding of coal mining history in southern West Virginia is incomprehensible without an appreciation of the natural history. The geology, topography, and vegetation have shaped human communities and most aspects of the industry.

On a grand scale, the study area is part of the Appalachian Plateaus physiographic province--a long, narrow region extending from New York to Alabama between the Appalachian Ranges province to the east-southeast and the Interior Low Plateaus to the west. Rivers and streams in the province are numerous with deeply incised major stream valleys.¹⁴ The highest point in the study area reaches above

STUDY AREA: NATURAL/ RECREATIONAL RESOURCES

- Public Hunting & Fishing Area
- ★ State Park
- ★ State Forest
-  National Park Service Unit
-  Army Corps of Engineers Recreation Area



COAL HERITAGE STUDY

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3,900 feet in eastern Summers County, dropping to 570 feet at Huntington, with average high elevations between 1,000 and 3,500 feet; slopes of 35 to 50 degrees are common.

Natural, scenic and recreational resources in the study area, providing some measure of introduction to the natural history, are concentrated on the periphery of the study area. Due to the lack of public land in the core coal mining area, the parks, forests and public hunting and fishing areas receive high levels of use. Discussions with residents and field research confirm the importance of such sites, including:

Nationally-Recognized Places: Bluestone National Scenic River, Gauley River National Recreation Area, New River Gorge National River.

State-Recognized Places: Babcock State Park, Bluestone Public Hunting and Fishing Area, Bluestone State Park, Camp Creek State Park, Camp Washington Carver, Chief Logan State Park, Fall Creek Public Hunting Area, Hawk's Nest Resort State Park, Laurel Lake Hunting and Fishing Area, Little Beaver State Park, Panther Creek State Forest, Pinnacle Rock State Park, Pipestem Resort State Park, Twin Falls Resort State Park.

Regionally-Recognized Places: Berwind Lake, Blair Mountain, Bluestone River, R.D. Bailey Lake, Tug Fork River, and the overlook at the junction of state Routes 85 and 99.

Many participants mentioned modern-day reclamation techniques and the opportunities to enhance game and non-game habitat, improve water quality and manage native forests.

In addition to the above, the draft "West Virginia Statewide Assessment," a survey conducted over the period of one year by state resource management officials with technical assistance from the National Park Service, produced an overview of significant natural, historic and recreational resources. Some sites were classified as "conservation priorities." The following priorities are important resources within the study area: the Ohio River Road; the Lower New River Gorge; Cotton Hill; Hawk's Nest; Nuttallburg and Kaymoor historic sites (within New River Gorge National River); Hinton; the Snidow archeological site (currently being considered for NHL status); Matewan; Bramwell; and the "Battle of Blair Mountain" site. As the document states, there are undoubtedly other places in the area that merit high-priority study, planning, conservation, and/or management actions. For example, the assessment also points out that the study area contains unique natural areas harboring rare plant and animal species, although extensive field surveys have not been conducted.¹⁵ Similarly, additional archeology--historic and pre-historic--landscape studies, and ethnography would contribute to an understanding of coal fields stories.

Research, conversations with residents, and information from the draft assessment lead to the conclusion that a relationship between the historic sites related to coal mining and the natural, scenic and recreation areas **for the study area as whole--and in the core coal mining region specifically--does not exist at this time.** Such a connection is important to create opportunities for understanding the history and the landscape. There are, however, exceptions.

Reunions

Just as the heritage of southern West Virginia is expressed and perpetuated in many forms, so are connections between natural and cultural heritage. Among these are events that simultaneously maintain a sense of place and of community.

In the midst of economic changes and relocations, reunions are particularly important and often associated with a specific setting. State and county parks are important sites for such gatherings. Records indicate that thousands of former residents from as far away as California and Florida make the trip home for family, coal camp, company and church reunions. The Eastern Regional Coal Archives was one result of a reunion centered on the Pocahontas field. And a 1990 reunion of the New River Coal Company in Mount Hope drew over two thousand people.

New River Gorge National River

Programs and facilities at the National River connect through interpretation a nationally significant landscape and the region's historical values. The National River was designated by Congress to "conserve and interpret outstanding natural, scenic, and historic values and objects in and around New River Gorge." From this mandate, the National Park Service developed interpretive themes and complementary management goals. The representative interpretive theme for historic values states that

New River Gorge exemplifies the rapid industrialization of America at the turn of the twentieth century. This industrialization prompted major man-made changes in the Gorge's ecosystem and in the appearance of the landscape.¹⁶

Thus, within the National River, visitors are encouraged to understand: the role of the area in the industrialization of America; how natural conditions in the Gorge forced technological innovation in the coal and railroad industry; how industry changed the Gorge landscape; and that the industrial story in the Gorge is representative of what happened elsewhere in America. Specific stories and resources related to the coal mining industry are or will be presented at the Canyon Rim Visitor Center, Kaymoor, Thurmond, and other areas. Research for a "cultural heritage center" at the Grandview site suggests opportunities to encourage and interpret the traditions of the region for both residents and visitors. Tangible and intangible aspects of the culture will be noted through exhibits and programs. Although most visitors coming to New River Gorge are in pursuit of whitewater boating and outdoor recreation, many, according to officials, are also interested in the cultural heritage.

CONCEPTS FOR HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Fundamental Needs

As the comments of many residents have indicated, the feasibility of heritage conservation initiatives depends on attention to many fundamental needs. Some needs are tangible while others are intangible. Many communities, for example, are lacking in basic infrastructure for sewage facilities, transportation, and recreation. At the same time, maintaining a regional identity, a sense of community, or connections to family is important in the face of extensive population and economic changes. But when alternatives to a single-industry economy are discussed, the necessary leadership or technical expertise is often not available.

In many circles, commerce based on tourism is often mentioned as a means to strengthen local economies, stimulate environmental restoration and cultural conservation, and create a greater sense of pride. But even among the most ardent proponents, the extent to which heritage tourism might contribute to a more vibrant community life and economy is at best a partial, long-term solution. Regardless of this role, research and discussions with a wide range of individuals in the study area indicate that conservation and economic renewal efforts to satisfy the following fundamental needs.

Leadership Development and Economic Renewal

Much research has been conducted on the relationships between leadership development and economic well-being in Appalachia. To assure continuing support for initiatives and the most efficient use of resources, it is important to include residents in decisions that affect their future. Actions should not further concentrate decision-making and resources in areas outside the regions. Experience indicates that an economic renewal process should be community-based and recognize the current identity of and networks in and between each region.

Outstanding processes have been developed to address problems in rural communities caused by reliance on single industries and fluctuating market economies; leadership development is a key component.¹⁷ The Concord Leadership Institute, the Mercer-Tazewell Leadership Conference, church-community coalitions in McDowell County, and a recent initiative by leaders in Matewan and the Area 5 Partnership for Progress Council are examples of efforts based in the study area which specifically address leadership skills.

Learning to increase the efficiency of a local economy helps to prevent the drain of new dollars. As a booklet distributed by the Small Business Administration details, economic renewal can be viewed in four basic steps: "plugging the leaks" in the local economy; assisting existing businesses;

creating new businesses; and, finally, recruiting businesses and capital (including tourist dollars) from outside the community or region.¹⁸ In this framework, heritage tourism represents one aspect of one approach to economic development. For example, in Blair County, Pennsylvania, once part of a thriving transportation, coal, iron- and steel-making region, 70 percent of economic growth has been through the expansion of existing businesses. In the coal mining, railroading, timbering and farming communities of southern West Virginia, analyses by region of the human, natural and historical resources offer similar opportunities to improve the economy and quality of life.

Infrastructure, Restoration and Recreation

As the legislation for this study suggests, a strong relationship between the interpretation of history and outdoor pursuits is necessary for a successful heritage conservation effort. Recreational use at state parks and forests, New River Gorge, and reunion sites demonstrates the importance of such resources, since the concept of "heritage" encompasses a full range of resources.

Although infrastructure needs are largely physical improvements, they are closely connected to community development, recreation, economic renewal, and cultural conservation. Healthy fish populations and river recreation, for example, are linked to sewage systems, stream restoration, water quality and tourism potential. Increasing interest in the "Save Our Streams" program, an adopt-a-stream approach to citizen monitoring, suggests the possibility of stronger connections between the natural history of the area and educational and recreational potential.

Many participants in this study suggested opportunities to enhance game and non-game fish and wildlife habitat, to improve surface and underground water quality, and to restore and manage native forest communities. One researcher at Marshall University, for example, has begun research to measure changes (increases) in wildlife populations. The West Virginia Field Office of The Nature Conservancy and the West Virginia Natural Heritage Program Office both believe that the region may contain unique communities and species, although extensive surveys have not been conducted.

In the draft "Statewide Assessment," the Heritage Task Force identified four high-priority needs for the state, all are evident in the study area:

- to conduct systematic historic resource studies (themes could include: coal mining, railroads, lumbering, water transportation, the glass industry, and the Civil War);
- to update and expand the survey and inventory of the Natural Heritage Program;
- to compile comprehensive information on the state's rivers and related resources; and
- to capitalize on the recreational opportunities presented by abandoned rail corridors.

Existing and potential physical linkages of rivers, railroads, and trails through abandoned rail corridors, for example, should not be underestimated. As one example, the newly-constructed Williamson flood wall project, situated in an area with limited public land, has provided residents with access to the Tug Fork River.

Planning and design of improvements and facilities should also recognize historic patterns of development: Needs for new facilities should favor rehabilitation of existing buildings and

maintenance of historic landscapes and districts to reduce infrastructure costs, create labor-intensive projects, and retain community character. The Corps of Engineers, for instance, in making plans for a flood wall, signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Town of Matewan and other interests, intending to minimize social impacts and maintain a sense of community. Hosted by the Matewan Development Center, students with the Community Design Assistance Center at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University developed, through extensive public involvement, plans for the town, based on community values.

Cultural Conservation and Education

The built environment and the changes made on the land are visible evidence of the past in coal country. In addition, the intangible elements of West Virginia's heritage--the local knowledge, arts, traditions, oral history and customs--are complex and central to an understanding of mining heritage. Tipples, houses, and company stores are important reminders of the past, while reunions, storytelling and music are an important means to pass information from one generation to another. The memories of those who have lived and worked in the coal fields, railroad towns, timbering communities, and on farms, add detail and nuance to the official histories and provide the basis for understanding the landscape. While this study was directed to survey sites, much also needs to be done--and soon--to document the knowledge and practices of people in the area.

The maintenance of a cultural and place-centered identity is important to residents' own quality of life, ranging from relatively informal reunions to institutional records. At the Huntington Museum of Art, for example, an exhibit entitled "Agent of Change" examines the role of railroads in shaping

the region's industrial heritage. Similarly, area state humanities councils (including West Virginia) recently sponsored a popular travelling exhibit on the physical and cultural dimensions of the Ohio River.

Due to the age of many current and former residents of the coal fields and the temporal nature of the physical evidence of the coal industry, cultural conservation research and education require immediate attention. An oral history program would encourage a range of activities to collect, document, and present the personal experiences of individuals in the coal fields and associated areas. Information which does exist, and would lead to a greater appreciation for the heritage of the study area--among local area residents, residents from other regions of the state, and other parts of the country--is often not accessible; use of the Eastern Regional Coal Archives by a variety of individuals demonstrates such needs. Public and private collections need to be considered by theme, geographic area and location; organization by coal field is one obvious alternative, just as the history of Hinton, Mullens, and Williamson, in addition to Bluefield and Huntington, suggest facilities based on railroading themes. In addition, research facilities outside the study area could be made aware of artifacts and places in southern West Virginia which support research opportunities and lead to a greater understanding of events, people and sites.

Concepts

The three concepts presented in this section suggest different types of actions and different results, although some actions may be complementary. The first concept recognizes existing activities and describes the most likely results of current trends. Two previous studies conducted by Marshall University illustrate a second idea; these were funded by the

Federal Highway Administration of the Department of Transportation and the Economic Development Administration of the Department of Commerce. The National Park Service drafted Concept C and future actions, based on discussions with residents and local officials in the study area, state officials, and technical experts. Potential roles for various agencies and organizations are not included. A chart at the end of this section compares the three concepts, and describes the extent to which they address the authorizing legislation for this study, the issues identified during the study process, and interpretive opportunities.

Concept A:

Continuing Heritage Conservation and Development Activities

There are many activities occurring in the study area at present. However, as Congress has indicated, a continuation of current trends does not create opportunities for increased recognition or a basis to develop long-term conservation and development goals.

As noted earlier, the study process revealed a large number of conservation and development activities taking place in southern West Virginia, a very large majority of which build on the distinctive heritage of the area. These include: the many events at state parks; leadership development programs; establishment of the Eastern Regional Coal Archives; formation of the "Coalways" network; community development and heritage tourism activities of Coal Country, Inc.; increasing participation in the Izaak Walton League's "Save Our Streams" program; exhibits at the Museum of Art in Huntington; community-church coalitions in McDowell

County; building restoration by the Matewan Development Center; a hardwood forestry expo; the performing artists program in Williamson; Ecotheater, Chautauqua and Mountaineer Players performances based on oral histories; publications about and tours of places like Nellis, Thurmond, Kaymoor, Sewell, Gary, and Itmann; and the recent agreement to preserve and commemorate much of the "Battle of Blair Mountain" site.

Interpretation and visitor services include: activities in and around New River Gorge National River; the Gauley Bridge artisans' shop and visitor center; the Midland Trail development plan; a walking tour of Bramwell's historic district; exhibition mines in Beckley (WV) and Pocahontas (VA); the Hinton museum and visitors' center and railroad days; excursions sponsored by the J.P. Huntington Railroad Society; the Caboose Museum in Mullens; and a community theater production at Chief Logan State Park. (See Appendix G for a more detailed narrative of community activities.)

The lists, of course, could go on. More importantly, these community-based activities have occurred despite many organizational, financial and technical obstacles; however, Congress directed the National Park Service to assess the "feasibility of preserving" heritage resources, indicating that activities in their present configuration fail to meet many needs.

Concept B:

Historic Sites Tour Route

This approach features official designation of a tour route, suggesting that economic benefits would be achieved by attracting tourists to the region via a route connecting coal mining historic sites.

An official tour route would require some form of coordination for corridor planning, facility development, and interpretation. Designation of a "coal mining heritage route" could become part of a state system of "heritage byways," complementing the "Midland Trail" (through Greenbrier, Fayette and Kanawha counties), the National Road to Wheeling, and the "Highland Scenic Highway" in Monongahela National Forest. Two previous road studies focusing on southern West Virginia illustrate this concept.

First, a study titled *The Coal Road: A Survey of Southern West Virginia Mining Tourism Potential* was developed in 1989 by the Marshall University Center for Regional Progress through a grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration. The report looks at the potential of tourism as a means to diversify the regional coal economy. Researchers presented an historical and cultural overview of eight counties in southern West Virginia: Mingo, McDowell, Logan, Fayette, Raleigh, Boone, Wyoming, and Mercer.

In this region, nine towns were identified with the potential for tourism development, those which, according to the study, portray "the most typical coal towns and collectively represent all features of coal development in southern West Virginia." Factors included the physical condition of the town (the existence of a coal company store, dwellings, a tippie and a mine), history and development, location and representative features, thus recognizing Bramwell, Itmann, Kaymoor, Red Jacket, Coalwood, Kopperston, Holden, Gary, and Slab Fork. These sites are linked by a route called the "Coal Road" that recognizes three "gateway" cities-- Charleston, Bluefield and Beckley--and secondary service centers at Madison, Welch, Logan, Mullens, Williamson and Oak Hill.¹⁹ A map of this route and a series of

recommendations describing ideas for specific themes and continuing tourist activities can be found in Appendix H.

Secondly, a 1991 study prepared for the Federal Highway Administration (FHA) by Marshall University, *A Proposed Coal Heritage Road and Scenic Byway in Southern West Virginia*, is one of several case studies that were prepared for the FHA to analyze the economic impact of scenic byways on travel and tourism. This study analyzes and compares two industrial regions, the "Iron Trail" of Minnesota and the "Black Hills Gold Fever Trail" of South Dakota, both have developed tourism initiatives based on industrial heritage.

Researchers contend that certain parallels can be made between these post-industrial regions and the stories and resources of southern West Virginia. They report that "the primary difference, however, is the fact that the southern West Virginia coal counties have not yet developed an infrastructure capable of supporting and attracting the tourism potential that is available."²⁰ The case study focuses on a coal heritage road stretching from Hawks Nest State Park in Fayette County to Pocohontas, Virginia, along State Highways 16 and 103, and U.S. Highways 19 and 52. Six existing tourism development sites and ten potential sites were identified in the "Heritage Road and Scenic Byway" map (see Appendix H). This route links sites of local, state and national significance in a manner directed to visitors from outside West Virginia, making connections with the Interstates.

**Concept C:
Community-Based Heritage Conservation**

This concept features a partnership approach, engaging private and public agencies and organizations at all levels in community-based economic renewal and cultural conservation activities.

The concept of community-based heritage conservation and development provides a thematic framework for many communities to work toward common regional goals. Encompassing more than history and significant historic buildings, the concept encourages a range of opportunities for cultural conservation, recreation, leadership development, stronger local and regional economies, and environmental restoration.

The cultural regions identified during the study process provide the basis for regional networks and for new and/or existing organizations to coordinate leadership development, technical assistance, and educational and interpretive programs--this is especially important in the core coal mining region. Communities and corridors (rivers, roads, rail lines, physiographic areas, etc.) that exhibit some combination of natural, historic, and cultural resources with high levels of integrity, would be linked thematically and organizationally. Use of criteria to identify "key actions" in each place would permit a community-based, objective, and phased approach to heritage conservation and development for the study area as a whole. Such places would:

- possess stories contributing to a coal heritage interpretive framework;
- demonstrate community and/or organizational support;

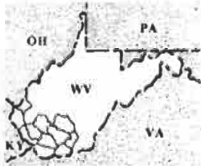
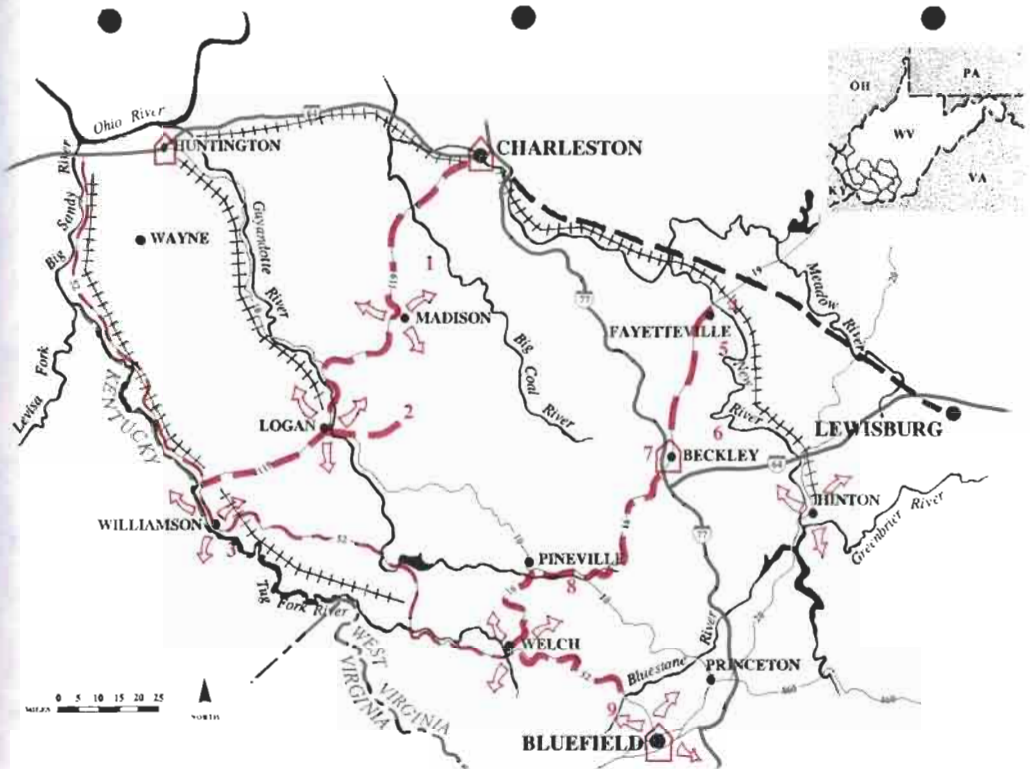
- have now, or are planning for, adequate infrastructure and restoration of important resources;
- contribute to regional formal and informal networks; and
- offer public recreational and educational opportunities.

The strength of this concept depends upon strong commitments from, and partnerships among, organizations, business and industry leaders, and educational institutions, as well as local, state and federal government agencies.







As part of a multi-county network, **community-based regional assistance centers** could address needs identified during the study process: coordination, greater access to information, technical expertise, and opportunities for fund-raising. The accompanying map illustrates connections among resources. It is imperative that an organization or consortium of organizations assume responsibility for carrying out key actions through a variety of partnerships. State and federal involvement could supplement private efforts and help to coordinate a broad conservation and development effort. Through various existing authorities and programs, they can, and often do: assist private organizations, local governments, and regional entities in assessing the significance of resources; provide technical assistance and funding (as available, of course) to protect resource values; and coordinate such programs in a manner that avoids duplication.

This concept would include the following elements, a result of many discussions during the study process:

Economic renewal through leadership development. On a regional basis, leadership development programs should provide residents with opportunities for learning processes to inventory resources, address long-term needs, and develop economic alternatives. This investment would favor existing businesses and new, locally-owned businesses.



Alternative Concept C

-  Gateway Information Centers
-  Regional Networking Centers
-  Heritage Tour Routes
-  Tour Route Connectors
-  Midland Trail
-  Excursion Rail Line

- Interpretive Sites and Areas:**
- 1 - Racine-Nellis Area
 - 2 - Blair Mountain
 - 3 - Mateswan Area
 - 4 - Canyon Rim Visitor Center
 - 5 - Kaymoor-Thurmond Area
 - 6 - Cultural Heritage Center (planned)
 - 7 - Beckley Exhibition Coal Mine
 - 8 - Irons Millstone Area
 - 9 - Bramwell-Pochoontas Area

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Environmental restoration. This concept also includes opportunities for environmental restoration, since the land and water resources are one of the area's primary assets. Existing land reclamation programs are one tool. In addition, river conservation would be linked to community design, revitalization, and historic preservation efforts, and include stream monitoring and restoration. The Natural Heritage Program could also be funded to conduct comprehensive inventories in parts of the study area; this would provide basic information to maintain the integrity of the natural resource base.

Integrate historic preservation planning into community development. Historic sites, structures and landscapes are important visual evidence of the past for residents and visitors and largely define the character of a place; thus, each incorporated community and county should integrate historic preservation planning into community development activities. Places like Itmann, Blair Mountain, the Bramwell-Pocahontas area, and the Williamson railroad yards should be preserved for the story they contribute to coal mining history. Where appropriate, civic groups should establish preservation commissions and/or consider application for listing as a Certified Local Government to conserve historic structures and landscapes. With assistance from the West Virginia State Historic Preservation Office, municipalities, counties and private organizations should review their historic resources for eligibility in the National Register of Historic Places.

Increase outdoor recreation opportunities. Feasibility studies could be conducted to determine historic trails and potential corridors over unused rail beds. River and stream valleys and abandoned rail corridors provide excellent opportunities for walking, travel by all-terrain bicycle, boating and fishing, and to learn about historic periods from the times of native American groups to the present. Development would benefit

residents and visitors alike, as facilities at New River Gorge demonstrate. Special events, such as mountain bike races and tours, fishing tournaments, canoe trips or environmental history courses, would bring greater recognition to resources throughout the study area.

Develop a comprehensive cultural conservation program. The process of documentation--creating contact between generations and pride in local heritage--is often more important to cultural survival than consequent products. Therefore, educational programs for youth and adults would encourage awareness of heritage resources and conservation needs. These programs could include seminars, field studies, travelling exhibits, and curriculum units with planned lessons, classroom materials and demonstrations or talks by traditional artists. As suggested earlier, related needs in the area include: a regional oral history program, connected with reunions, school curricula, and other institutions; a system of archives, organized by coal field (for example, the New River field at Mount Hope, Williamson field at Williamson, etc.) based on the leadership role of the Eastern Regional Coal Archives and in cooperation with the West Virginia Archives; a comprehensive ethnographic survey; and the collection and use of such material in formal and informal education programs. The planned heritage center at New River Gorge National River is expected to feature cultural conservation programs and to provide interpretive opportunities for learning about the culture of southern West Virginia. Under this concept, the center could act as a "cultural university" for the study area, documenting and encouraging support for traditions and local knowledge.

Recognition of the role of heritage tourism. This element distinguishes among types of visitors to the area and would link financial gains with leadership, community-based economies, and cultural conservation. Categories of visitors

might include: residents of southern West Virginia and other parts of the State who would like to know more about their history; family and friends who return to the area for reunions and other visits; individuals and groups with a specific interest (e.g., mining technology, environmental restoration, labor history, outdoor recreation, etc.); and casual visitors who need an orientation. This concept would favor heritage tourism initiatives that suit the character and needs in each community.

Visitor orientation and interpretation. An effective orientation program would recognize varying levels of information corresponding to different types of visitors. Orientation for visitors to the southern West Virginia coal fields is essential, since the history is complex and many of the most interesting sites are difficult to find. For casual visitors and those with topical interests, a regional entity would work with existing information centers in Huntington, Charleston, Beckley, New River Gorge National River, and Bluefield to make information about coal mining heritage more available.

The interpretive themes listed earlier provide a framework for communities to gain a renewed perspective on their heritage to share technical expertise. Interpretive resources include: books, brochures, recordings, and audio-visual presentations; walking, riding or driving tours; and special events such as festivals, museums, and music and theater performances. The visitor information radio station is a new addition that announces current events, describes regional attractions, and promotes accommodations and dining facilities in southern West Virginia.

Vehicular tour routes could be key actions for some communities, linking places which choose to make interpretation and visitor services a part of the community and

local economy; the relationships between regional assistance centers, interpretive sites and peripheral centers would provide a structure. Such an approach would feature connections with:

- the Amtrak Cardinal Line and private rail excursions;
- a range of historic and contemporary mining and associated sites;
- hiking, biking, and river trails; and
- walking tours of historic districts.

The next steps in this approach are listed under the section titled "Future Actions."

COMPARISON OF CONCEPTS

CONCEPT

Concept A

There are many activities occurring in the study area at present. However, as Congress has indicated, a continuation of current trends does not create opportunities for increased recognition or a basis to develop long-term conservation and development goals.

Concept B

This approach features official designation of a tour route, suggesting that economic benefits would be achieved by attracting tourists to the region via a route connecting coal mining historic sites.

Concept C

This concept features a partnership approach, engaging private and public agencies and organizations at all levels in community-based economic renewal and cultural conservation activities.

CONSERVATION OF: Historic Resources

Local governments and private organizations initiate site specific historic preservation projects. Coordination, technical assistance and funding are limited.

A series of connected communities would be encouraged to develop heritage sites for tourism development.

Historic preservation planning would be encouraged on a regional scale. Sites would be evaluated by criteria and key sites identified for preservation, restoration or reuse. Private sources and state and federal programs would be targeted for technical and financial assistance.

	Concept A	Concept B	Concept C
Cultural Resources	Reunions, oral history programs, Ecotheater, Chautauqua performances, local history projects, etc., occur in the region. The number of these locally-based events, projects and programs is evidence of a desire to maintain a sense of place and community.	Concept is based on the existence of historic sites with little integration of intangible resources.	Fuses intangible and tangible elements together as a central means for understanding southern West Virginia's heritage. A process is suggested to act as a catalyst in recording and keeping alive the context and expression of culture and identity.
Outdoor Recreation Opportunities	Recreational opportunities are limited. The state, through the West Virginia Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, identifies priority needs, issues and funding requirements.	Suggests a hike-bike trail along existing low volume secondary roads as an alternate method for touring the coal fields. Bed & breakfasts and campgrounds might develop along these routes.	Connects restoration of land and streams with potential outdoor recreation opportunities for improved fishing, trail connections and public access to land. Suggests conducting feasibility studies to identify potential trails over unused rail beds.
<u>RECLAMATION OF LAND and WATER</u>	Non-profit organizations and universities have limited data base of area's natural heritage. Save Our Streams program is an effective grass roots stream monitoring system. The coal industry is mandated by law to reclaim mining lands. State government has the primary responsibility for stream and land reclamation and enhancement.	No reference.	Connects reclamation with the region's need for basic infrastructure, economic renewal and tourism potential.

INTERPRETATION

Connections among sites
(physical and thematic)

Concept A

Coal Country, Inc, a non-profit community development and heritage tourism organization, has produced a color brochure highlighting "Coal Country"; however, there is no interpretive framework.

Concept B

Connects sites along a tour route representing basic mining settlements. Interpretation would be based on the physical layout of coal towns, history of development and growth and representative features of coal mining.

Concept C

Emphasizes relationships among the physical setting, history and culture to establish a framework of interpretive themes to explain the complex story of coal mining and to increase the level of pride in the history.

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Support Local Initiatives

Dependent on private organizations and state and local government.

Supports existing tourism-related projects.

Demonstrated community and organizational support is stated as a criteria for action. The concept rests on the ability of communities to create partnerships, supporting local initiatives and public involvement in decision making.

	Concept A	Concept B	Concept C
Regional Organization	No one coordinating body exists for the eleven-county study area, although Partnership for Progress Councils, Regional Planning and Development Councils and Coal Country, Inc. are active in community development in the region.	Recommends that a reasonable combination of local, regional, state and federal interests make a collective effort to provide for the development of existing mining tourism resources. A non-profit organization, Coalways, Inc., was formed to stimulate tourism actions.	Supports multi-county networks and community-based regional assistance centers as catalysts for decisions and actions. Strong commitments from private organizations, businesses, and educational institutions as well as local governments and state and federal agencies are essential.
Leadership Development	Limited primarily to local initiatives and supported by private foundations and regional entities.	Suggests that Coalways, Inc., encourage residents to look at alternatives to economic development.	Communities would develop the human resources and internal capabilities to address economic alternatives over the long term.
Economic Benefits	Limited economic benefits for the region would be derived from site specific development.	Assumes tourism will become a major economic boom if developers implement the "Coal Road" tourism proposal.	Builds local capacity for economic renewal through support for existing businesses, "plugging the leaks" in the economy, and new locally-owned businesses. Heritage tourism is viewed as a means to stimulate restoration and cultural conservation.

Future Actions

The feasibility of "protecting and preserving" resources associated with coal mining heritage depends on the extent to which a variety of organizations and agencies can coordinate efforts to address fundamental needs.

Local leadership coordination and development to:

- implement conservation and development actions
- increase the local capacity for economic renewal through replacement of goods and services imported to the area and through creation of, or assistance to, community-based organizations and businesses
- obtain public and private funding.

Environmental restoration, infrastructure improvement and increased recreation opportunities to:

- restore and monitor streams and rivers
- identify priority areas for landscape preservation, habitat protection, and public open space (e.g., rails-to-trails opportunities), and sources of funds for conservation or acquisition
- establish land trusts and other private, non-profit groups.

Cultural conservation and education initiatives to:

- collect oral histories
- conduct comprehensive surveys of and draft nominations for historic sites and landscapes in the six counties of the study area not yet surveyed
- link local knowledge and heritage with K-12 programs
- continue the Coal Heritage Celebration annually.

Coordination can be accomplished by developing project activities within each of the regions described previously: the core coal mining region, the New River/Greenbrier region, and the Big Sandy/Ohio River Valley region. Building on the extensive public participation in this study process, the following actions could be taken.

1. Establish a "coal heritage" coordinating body of private and local, state, and federal government interests representing each of the regions, to assist the National Park Service with distribution of a study report summary and to determine a preferred concept and courses of action. Participation and comments could lead to a plan of actions for each participating region, community and organization (see 3 below).
2. Develop an interpretive framework, employing the criteria in Concept C, to:
 - a) match communities, events, historic and cultural sites, performances and organizations through one or more coal mining heritage themes;
 - b) prepare interpretive brochures and other educational material; and
 - c) use the proposed heritage center at New River Gorge National River to provide technical assistance, interpretive exhibits and programs throughout the region. (Such a framework should provide direction to community and regional organizations and establish the integrity for tourism development activities.)
3. Develop a long-term management plan for coordination of key actions. Identify state and federal programs and private sector means for ways in which communities and regional organizations could address the needs within each region on a community-by-community basis.
4. Explore the designation of National Historic or National Heritage Trails, state heritage byways, and National Register and Landmark sites and landscapes.
5. Organize a second "Coal Heritage Celebration" to review accomplishments and emerging connections among themes, specific resources, communities and organizations.

ENDNOTES

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3. Quotations used here were noted by the NPS study team during discussions and tours with residents between June 1990 and October 1990.
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5. *ibid.*
6. Charles Kenneth Sullivan, "Coal Men and Coal Towns: Development of the Smokeless Coal Fields of Southern West Virginia," Ph.D. diss. (Pittsburgh, PA: Univ. of Pittsburgh, 1979).
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12. Means and Associates, "Coal Country Incorporated Draft Feasibility Study." August 1991.
13. Billy Joe Peyton, "Community Archeology in a Post-Industrial Era" (unpublished paper) at "A Celebration of Coal Mining Heritage," Bramwell, West Virginia, June 1, 1991.
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15. West Virginia Heritage Task Force, West Virginia Statewide Assessment: An assessment of opportunities to conserve the outstanding cultural, natural and recreational resources of West Virginia, PHASE I: Initial Findings. (Phila, PA: National Park Service, 1990).

16. National Park Service, "Management and Development Guidelines, New River Gorge National River." (1988).
17. See, for example, the Economics and Education Project of the Highlander Education and Research Center (New Market, TN), Brushy Fork Institute (Berea, KY), and the Economic Renewal Program of the Rocky Mountain Institute (Old Snowmass, CO).
18. Barbara A. Cole, Business Opportunities Casebook, Business Opportunities Workbook, and Introduction to Economic Renewal. (Snowmass, CO: Rocky Mountain Institute, 1989); and Michael J. Kinsley, Economic Renewal Program: An Introduction. (Snowmass, CO: Rocky Mountain Institute, 1989).
19. Marshall University Center for Regional Progress, *The Coal Road: A Survey of Southern West Virginia Mining Tourism Potential--A Preliminary Study*. (Huntington, WV: Marshall Univ., 1989).
20. Federal Highway Administration, A Proposed Coal Heritage Road and Scenic Byway in Southern West Virginia (prepared by Marshall University). (Washington, DC: FHA, 1991).

Appendix A

PUBLIC LAW 100-699 -- NOV. 19, 1988

OMNIBUS PUBLIC LANDS AND NATIONAL FORESTS ADJUSTMENTS ACT OF 1988
TITLE VI -- COAL MINING HERITAGE

SEC. 601. COAL MINING HERITAGE STUDY.

(a) **STUDY** -- The Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the National Park Service, is authorized and directed to conduct a study to determine the feasibility of protecting and preserving certain significant cultural, historic, and natural resources associated with the coal mining heritage of southern West Virginia. The study shall include, but not be limited to, the identification of--

- (1) Specific sites and points of interest associated with the coal mining heritage of West Virginia, the Appalachian Region and the Nation.
- (2) The historic and cultural values of such sites and points of interest.
- (3) The relationship between such sites and points of interest with the natural, scenic, recreational, cultural and historic resources in the region managed by State or Federal agencies, including State and national park system units, recreational lakes, State forest system units, and historic landmarks.
- (4) A vehicular tour route along existing public roads linking such sites, points of interest and such other resources managed by State or Federal agencies.

(b) **CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION** -- As part of such study, the Secretary shall consult with other interested Federal agencies, State and local government authorities, and nonprofit organizations.

(c) **AREA TO BE STUDIED** -- The study shall focus on the eleven county areas consisting of Cabell, Wayne, Mingo, Logan, McDowell, Wyoming, Raleigh, Mercer, Boone, Fayette and Summers Counties, West Virginia.

(d) **REPORT** -- Within one year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall make a report of his findings to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate.

(e) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS** -- There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this title.

November 19, 1988

Appendix B

List of Participating Agencies and Organizations

Appalachian Power Company
 Area 6 Partnership for Progress Council
 Beckley Exhibition Coal Mine
 Bluefield College
 The Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation
 Coal Country, Inc.
 Coalways, Inc.
 Collis P. Huntington Railroad Historical Society, Inc.
 Eastern Regional Coal Archives
 Fayette County Chamber of Commerce
 Huntington Main Street
 Huntington Museum of Art
 Institute for the History of Technology and Industrial
 Archeology
 Marshall University Department of Geography
 Matewan Development Center, Inc.
 McDowell County Economic Development Authority
 Mountain Resource Conservation and Development Area, Inc.

National Mine and Safety Academy, U.S. Dept. of Labor
 New River Gorge National River
 Office of Surface Mining, Department of the Interior
 Pocahontas Exhibition Coal Mine
 Region I Planning and Development Council
 Region IV Planning and Development Council
 Southern West Virginia Convention and Visitors Bureau
 Summers County Convention and Visitors Bureau
 The Nature Conservancy, West Virginia Field Office
 Tug Valley Chamber of Commerce
 United Mine Workers of America
 West Virginia Coal Association
 West Virginia Department of Energy
 West Virginia Department of Natural Resources
 West Virginia Department of Highways
 West Virginia Division of Culture and History
 West Virginia Division of Tourism and Parks
 West Virginia Humanities Council
 Youth Museum of Southern West Virginia

and community leaders in Beckley, Bluefield, Bramwell, Fayetteville, Itmann, Keystone, Gary, Gauley Bridge, Hinton, Huntington, Kenova, Logan, Matewan, Monaville, Mullens, Nellis, Pineville, Pocahontas (VA), Racine, War, Welch, Williamson, and Wyco.

Appendix C

Descriptions of Southern West Virginia Coal Fields

The Kanawha Coal Field (Kanawha, Boone, and Fayette Counties)

History records the first discovery of (West) Virginia coal by European explorer John Peter Salley of Augusta County, Virginia, in 1742 near present-day Peytona in Boone County on the Coal River. However, coal was first mined commercially in the Kanawha Valley in the early 1800s for use in the salt industry. In the 1830s coal was shipped to outside markets on the Kanawha and Coal Rivers. This production, however, represented a minuscule portion of the development which occurred after rail transportation routes were improved. Because large-scale production began in the 1850s, this period is considered the beginning of development in this field.

Although the first commercial coal company in the area was chartered in 1834, the limited demand for Kanawha Valley coal meant that the region's operators lagged behind others due to transportation limitations and lack of sufficient capital for investment in operations, equipment and housing. This changed with the discovery in 1848 of cannel coal reserves. Because of its unique properties as a house fuel--clean-burning with little ash and a bright flame--and as a source of oil, through distillation, the demand for cannel coal increased until the discovery of large oil reserves in Pennsylvania in 1859. The first regular shipments of cannel coal originated from Cannelton on the upper Kanawha River in the 1850s. As a result of exploitation of cannel reserves, 15 coal companies began operation in the Kanawha watershed between 1847 and 1861.

Transporting coal to market remained an obstacle. The lack of internal improvements, mainly in the form of slackwater improvements and railroads, stifled the industry's growth up to 1860, and the Civil War delayed attempts to address these issues.

On January 29, 1873, tracks were completed for the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad (C&O) line to serve the New River and Kanawha coal fields. Although railroads were much more important to the development of the coal industry, plans were formulated about the same time to begin construction on a series of locks and dams on the 95 mile Kanawha River to the Ohio River. The first locks and dams were opened in 1880 and the series completed in 1898. With these dams in place, production in the

rich Kanawha field soared. The growth of such towns as Montgomery, Smithers, Boomer and Marmet on the upper Kanawha River followed.

Similarly, the Coal River in Boone County became a major shipping lane for coal after a series of nine locks and dams were constructed in the early nineteenth century. However, a flood in 1851 destroyed these improvements. In 1867, improvements on the stream began once more, but were never completed as the growing oil industry reduced the market for cannel coal. Consequently, further plans for improved shipment had to wait until a rail line was completed up Coal River in 1904 (which was eventually sold to the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad). This opened for development the coal reserves on Paint Creek, Cabin Creek and other tributaries of the Kanawha River.

Because the largest pool of non-organized labor in the Kanawha Valley in the 1880s were coal miners, attempts at organizing this labor were made, first by the Knights of Labor, then by the National Federation of Miners and Mine Laborers. Finally, in 1890 West Virginia became District 17 of the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA). In 1897, a nationwide coal strike idled about 1/3 of the state's miners. A second strike in 1902 gave the UMWA a great victory after the Kanawha Field was organized (around 7,000 miners). One of the leaders of the campaign to unionize was Mother (Mary Harris) Jones, who was headquartered at Montgomery.

After the initial successes in the Kanawha Field, labor struggles intensified. One of the most serious episodes occurred in 1912, when the miner's contract expired and the operators failed to renew it on favorable terms. When the miners went on strike, most operators agreed to contract terms. But Paint and Cabin Creeks became the scene of violence when armed Baldwin-Felts detectives and state militia attempted to force striking miners to acquiesce. Night shootings, property destruction and acts of vandalism were rampant as martial law was declared. On February 12, 1913, a battle broke out in Mucklow (now Gallagher), killing 12 miners and four company guards.

Armed clashes continued throughout the next ten years, culminating in an aborted miner's march to "Bloody Mingo." Perhaps the most famous of coal struggles were the events known collectively as "The Battle of Blair Mountain," which took place in Boone and Logan counties in the late summer of 1921. Miners from the Kanawha Field at Paint Creek and Cabin Creek, as well as from other mining areas of Kanawha and Fayette counties, intended to march to Mingo County to avenge the death of Sid Hatfield and "liberate" the non-union miners of Logan and Mingo counties. The miners penetrated Logan County to the Spruce Fork Ridge of Blair Mountain, where a week-long pitched battle took place. Ironically, the events at Blair Mountain, intended to be the moment of victory for the miners'

cause, spelled the demise of the UMWA until New Deal legislation of 1933 enabled the rapid organization of the coal industry.

Economic downturns and mechanization during the 1930s threw many miners out of work. Then World War II led to an upswing of production in the Kanawha Valley. Between 1917 and 1972 production continued to increase, followed by a downward trend. Throughout the 1950s to the 1970s surface mining rose throughout Kanawha County. Employment in the mines continued to decrease, and now many former mining towns have been abandoned in such areas as Paint, Cabin and Kelly creeks.

New River Coal Field (Fayette and Raleigh Counties)

Development of the New River Field can be traced to one event: the arrival of the railroad in 1873. Although speculators had purchased land in the New River area at the end of the Civil War in anticipation of development, the railroad finally made it possible to export the coal. Men like Joseph Beury, whose Quinnimont mines were the first to ship coal from the area; David Ansted; and John Nuttall were first to take advantage of the exposed seams. These operations were on the mainline of the C&O, with mine openings perched high up on the walls of New River Gorge. Mining towns sprang up on the plateau surrounding the Gorge, or at the bottom of the Gorge along the tracks.

A financial depression in 1873 slowed early investment in the New River Field, and by 1876 there were six mining operations shipping coal from the region. In 1878, a modest coke-making industry was begun, resulting from the high quality smokeless coal. Within a very short time, coke-making had become a major industry in itself; output for 1880 was 60,000-70,000 tons.

During this time, dozens of mines were opened and towns settled. By 1885 there were mines operating at Quinnimont, Stonecliff, Echo, Fire Creek, Sewell, Caperton, Keeney's Creek, Nuttall, Fayette Station, Elmo, Sunnyside and Gaymont. All of these locations were either in the New River Gorge or along tributaries of the New River. In 1888, Fayette County became the first West Virginia county to produce over one million tons of coal.

Initially, development of the New River Field was limited to exploration along the C&O mainline track. A branch line was built up Loup Creek from Thurmond to Glen Jean in 1893 and the Arbuckle Branch completed from Minden to Thurmond in 1904. These lines accessed the rich seams south of New

River, creating the basis for Thurmond to become the leading revenue producer in the entire C&O system.

Raleigh County did not join the list of major coal producers until branch lines penetrated the county; in 1893 there was only one operating mine within its borders. Around this time the Drexel family and other Philadelphia investors purchased a large quantity of acreage in Raleigh County, which they intended to develop. The Chesapeake and Ohio opened a branch line to Raleigh County in 1901, opening markets for the coal around Beckley and the territory quickly developed. Beckley and Mount Hope became centers of trade for the area. A number of operations in the county were started by older businesses from Fayette County. In 1906, only five years after the C&O branch line entered Raleigh County, production reached over one million tons [per year].

Fayette County mines increased production from 1900 until 1917, when a coal slump settled over the area. Between 1922 and 1933, production levels fluctuated with an overall decrease in quantity of coal mined. This decrease in production followed the overall industry trend throughout West Virginia in the 1920s and early 1930s. That is, after a period of rapid expansion before World War I, the industry became overextended and mines closed when demand slacked.

Mergers swept Raleigh and Fayette counties between the 1920s to 1940s. Dozens of small mines which were opened during the coal boom of the 1910s were consolidated under the larger companies. One of the largest producers in the field to emerge as a result of consolidation was the New River Company, with its headquarters in Mount Hope. (It ceased operation in the 1980s.)

While certain regions of the New River Field continue to produce large quantities of coal, mining within New River Gorge itself has all but stopped. Most of the area mines are on the plateau of Fayette and Raleigh counties, away from the Gorge.

Flat Top-Pocahontas Coal Field (Mercer and McDowell Counties)

This field, first referred to as the Flat Top Field, was developed largely as a result of efforts of Jedediah Hotchkiss, who held a belief that the Pocahontas seam of coal was among the best anywhere, and said the same in his trade journal The Virginias. "As a coal resource it is excellent; one of the best coking fuels found anywhere. Seams of this coal can be as thick as 12 feet," he wrote. Development of the resource, however, did not occur until the Norfolk and Western Railroad entered

the field. The railroad reached Pocahontas, Virginia, in 1883, and the first shipments of smokeless Pocahontas coal began soon thereafter.

Names for the field varied, depending on where the coal was mined. In Virginia the coal field was known as the Pocahontas, whereas in West Virginia it was called the Flat Top. Today, the names are merged to reflect the fact that it is a single field.

The Flat Top Coal Association, headquartered in Bramwell, started operating in Mercer County in advance of the railroad. By the summer of 1884, four companies had leased land in anticipation of the railroads, and on November 10, 1884, the mines of William Beury and Joseph Beury and John Cooper began shipments. The Town of Bramwell grew in size and significance to the point where numerous operators and top managers from the coal industry built their residences there.

Mines in McDowell and Mercer counties numbered 33 in 1891. In 1903, McDowell became the premier coal producing county in West Virginia, with a total of 5,249,913 tons mined. It surpassed Fayette County as the largest West Virginia coal producer. Production was on the rise in McDowell County, and in 1912 there were 103 mines operating. In the era when beehive coke-making was profitable, coke ovens were built in great numbers in McDowell and parts of Mercer County. Much of the coke made in beehive ovens in West Virginia came from Pocahontas coal. Generally, the coke business dwindled after 1910, as technology allowed for construction of more efficient ovens utilizing by-products of the coking process.

Blacks and southern European immigrants entered the coal mines after the turn of the century to fill an ever-increasing need for labor. Census figures for McDowell and Mercer counties demonstrate the incredible growth of the West Virginia coal fields. McDowell in 1890 had a population of 7,300; in 1940, it had 94,354. Mercer in 1890 had 16,002 residents; in 1940, there were 68,289.

The county seats of Mercer and McDowell counties, Bluefield and Welch respectively, became the trade and residential centers for the field. They were home to coal operators, financial institutions, and other businesses related to the industry. In addition, Bluefield was a major rail center for the Norfolk & Western Railroad. Welch was famous as the scene of the killing of Sid Hatfield and Ed Chambers on the courthouse steps in 1921, an event which helped trigger the Battle of Blair Mountain. Both cities continue to be important service centers for the surrounding coal regions.

Consolidation affected the Flat Top-Pocahontas Field just as it did others. As small companies were absorbed by large regional and national conglomerates, many "captive" mines opened to supply manufacturing concerns with their own fuel. One such operation was the mine and town of Gary, built by the U.S. Steel Corporation.

Trends occurring in other coal fields were also the rule in the Flat Top-Pocahontas Coal Field. Mechanization of the mines led to unemployment. Coal production decreased between 1917 and 1922, and then entered an up-and-down cycle until the crash and Depression in the late 1920s. McDowell County, whose economy was built almost solely on the mining and export of coal, suffered badly; there were few other industries to replace a depressed coal market. Thus, the quality of life has been influenced to a great degree by boom-and-bust cycles.

The Winding Gulf Coal Field (parts of Raleigh and Wyoming Counties)

This field is named for Winding Gulf Creek, and it includes the Slab Fork area of Raleigh and Wyoming counties. The coal mined in this field is "smokeless," a high-quality fuel unsurpassed in the world.

As in other southern fields, the Winding Gulf Field was recognized long before actual mining began. But, in 1908, the Virginian Railroad provided access, extending from the mainline Virginian at Mullens up the Winding Gulf Creek to connect with the C&O at Raleigh. With the first coal shipped in 1909, the 1900s are recognized as the beginning of the field.

The Winding Gulf Field was initially mined by a small number of men, one of the most important being Major W.P. Tams. He built the town of Tams, where he lived in the same cottage until his death in the late 1970s. Tams began construction of his town in 1909 and continued until the final houses were finished in 1920. It was the picture of modernity in the coal fields, with a store and office building, a central water supply, electricity in each house, bathhouses for the miners, and reportedly the first movie theater in a West Virginia coal town.

In addition to Tams, key individuals included: Justus Collins, John Laing, G. H. Caperton, J. Fred Effinger, C. P. Phillips, E. E. White and W. Gaston Caperton. These men formed the Winding Gulf Operators Association. Business in the Winding Gulf Field was slow through the 1910s until the spring of 1917, when America's entry into World War I created a runaway market.

Coal continued to be exported in large amounts during the 1920s; by 1925 there were 76 operations in the field, with new mines opening while others consolidated. During the Depression, many operators cut wages and prices to boost the market. Tams writes that the Winding Gulf Coal Field maintained wage levels longer than most by virtue of their close-knit Operators Association.

In 1939, the war in Europe spurred production in the Winding Gulf and other fields. Beckley's architecture reflects the formative growth years of the 1920s through 1940s. But fortunes dwindled in the 1950s, prompting Major Tams to sell his stock ownership in the Gulf Smokeless Coal Company in 1955, ending his 47 years in the industry. As in other coal field regions, the 1950s and 1960s were times of exodus and change.

The Logan Coal Field (Logan and Wyoming Counties)

The Logan Field contains high volatile coal (volatile matter in excess of 28 per cent), with many different minable seams from 12 inches to 12 feet in thickness. One of the most mined seams is the Chilton seam, containing a versatile coal because it can be adapted for metallurgical, by-product, domestic, steam and coking uses.

Although coal mines were being operated in the area in anticipation of the arrival of the railroad, it was not until the Guyandotte Valley rail line was completed to Logan Court House in 1904 that the Logan Field was accessible. Thus, this study uses the early 1900s as the beginning of the Logan Field.

Early coal operations could be opened on a very limited budget. Legend has it that in the New River Field, for example, Joseph Beury and John Cooper started in the business with little more than a mule and a borrowed harness. However, by the time the Logan Field was being actively developed, operators required more capital investment as dictated by prevailing technology. Hence, in the early years the number of operators in the Logan Field remained small. In 1905, there were seven working companies; by 1910, only 17, with Island Creek operations at Holden being the largest.

In 1913, the Logan County Operator's Association (originally the Guyan Valley Coal Operators Association) was founded. Major companies of the field included: Amherst Coal, Boone County Coal, Gay Coal and Coke, and Island Creek Coal. Dozens of company towns were built in the formative years. Holden in Logan County was long considered a model example of a company town, built by the Island Creek Coal Company.

Rapid expansion during World War I had its effects on the field, and in 1920 over 70 companies were in business. Then, consolidation of smaller works swept the Logan Field as it had others, resulting in a handful of companies controlling the majority of production.

Portions of the Logan Coal Field were organized by the UMWA in the 1910s (those mines owned by Boone County Coal Corporation on the north side of Blair Mountain were union), but a larger portion of the field was non-union. This situation led in part to unrest (e.g., miners' marches) in the field in 1919 and 1921. The planned march in 1919 was aborted, but the march of 1921 was carried out, triggered by labor struggles in Fayette, Kanawha, Mingo and McDowell counties from 1912-1921. Miners advanced to face the defenders led by Sheriff Don Chafin in the Battle of Blair Mountain, the most colorful and violent episode in the history of the Logan Field. After the "battle," support for the UMWA faltered in the Logan Field and membership dropped statewide, not rebounding until New Deal legislation in 1933.

Blacks and European immigrants entered area mines after 1910. Many blacks came from McDowell County, where large numbers had been working. In 1921, of a total of 13,079 miners in Logan County, 6,842 were native white, 2,068 were black, 1,435 were Hungarian and 547 were Italian.

The Williamson Coal Field (Mingo County and parts of McDowell and Wayne Counties)

Mingo County was part of Logan County until 1895, when Mingo County was formed. Mining in this field began around 1894, after the Norfolk & Western Railroad was completed. For this study, the 1890s are considered the beginning date of development.

The first large company to operate in the Williamson Field was the Thacker Coal and Coke Company, incorporated in 1893. Production figures for Mingo County were first available in 1894, with a total of 52,673 tons mined; this figure more than doubled the next year, to 106,712 tons. Production rapidly advanced for the next five years; in 1899, ten companies were operating, scattered along the southern part of the county on the mainline N&W.

Output in Mingo County continued to increase at a rapid rate through the first decades of the twentieth century: in 1904, the one million ton mark was passed, then two million tons in 1910, and three million in 1916. Production dropped off after the end of World War I, then picked up in the

1920s before peaking at a high of 8,210,228 tons in 1925, making Mingo County the seventh leading producer in the state. As was the trend statewide, production levels decreased after that.

Production rebounded in the 1950s and continued to increase, but at the high cost of miners' jobs. Like other fields, the economies of communities associated with the Williamson field fluctuate in boom-and-bust cycles. Williamson, the county seat of Mingo, has large railroad shops and yards; is the center for coal offices, sales and related services; and is a trade center for the surrounding coal fields.

In addition to Mingo, portions of Wayne and McDowell counties are included within the Williamson Coal Field. Some mining has taken place in Wayne County since the 1850s, but not to the degree of major producers like Mingo or McDowell Counties. In its peak year of 1927, Wayne County mined but 323,134 tons. A spot check of production at five-year intervals for the years 1945-1970 shows Wayne County with an average of less than one percent of total state production. For comparison, McDowell County during the same period led the state with about 14 percent, with Logan County second at approximately 13 percent.

The history of the Williamson Field is both rich and violent. It is the land of the Hatfields and McCoys and the scene of the Matewan Massacre of 1920, when Baldwin-Felts mine guards faced Sheriff Sid Hatfield, Mayor Cable Testerman and other residents in a gun battle in downtown Matewan. In retaliation, Sid Hatfield and Ed Chambers were later shot on the steps of the McDowell County Courthouse in a 1921. The killing of Sid Hatfield, the miners' hero, fanned a smoldering fire of discontent among union miners, which helped lead to the Battle of Blair Mountain one month later. All of these episodes are intertwined, and it is imperative to have knowledge of them all to understand any one. Thus, the histories of McDowell and Mingo Counties in particular are significant because of their coal production, and critical to any interpretation of West Virginia's coal mining heritage.

Appendix D

KEY TO LEVELS OF SIGNIFICANCE:

N = National

S = State

L = Local

Matrix of Historic Sites Associated with Coal Mining Heritage
West Virginia Division of Culture and History

COUNTY/RESOURCE, TOWN	RESOURCE TYPE	DESCRIPTION	LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE	CONSERVATION CONSIDERATIONS	THEMES		
					Coal	Trans.	Labor Other
BOONE COUNTY							
White Oak Branch, near Ashford	Residence	One-story, side gable hewn log house with center chimney. Full porches on front and rear. Outhouse and collapsing log pole shed.	L	Vacant. Condition: fair to poor.			X
Greenview Methodist Church, Greenview	Church	One-story, front gable church with a center square tower is a well-preserved example of early simple wood frame church.	L	Condition: fair.			X
Jackson Avenue, Madison	Residential district	Nearly intact middle class homes.	L				X
Main Street, Madison	Commercial district	Brick commercial structures representing the economic mainstay of the county seat. Includes the Neo-Classical style Madison National Bank, the 1864 county jail, and the courthouse.	L	Condition: good. Courthouse and jail listed on NR (1981). Windows on facade of jail have been significantly altered.			X
Royal Block Company Store, Jack Smith Branch, Morrisvale	Commercial structure	This two-story wood frame building, built circa 1917, is one of only two intact company stores in the county.	S	Store vacant; apartment in rear.			X
Nellis	Mining complex and residential district	Constructed as a "model coal camp" in the 1920 the town still includes original Armco housing, the company store, and the community church. The mine entrance is one of the best detailed in the county, with smooth cut stone facing.	S		X		X
North side of Hopkins Ford Road, Prenter	Residential district	This intact enclave of homes and a church retains the town's character from its early days as a mining and logging community.	L	Condition: good.			X

COUNTY/RESOURCE, TOWN	RESOURCE TYPE	DESCRIPTION	LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE	CONSERVATION CONSIDERATIONS	THEMES			
					Coal	Trans.	Labor	Other
Lower Drawdy School, Racine	School	Built in 1906, it is the only remaining one-room schoolhouse in the county. Restored.	L	Lacks integrity of location: building moved to this site from town of Andrew.				X
Short Creek Road, Racine	Residence	Hewn log house partially clad in clapboard siding.	L	Vacant. Condition: deteriorating.				X
Walker Chapel, Ridgeview	Church	This small clapboard chapel has an octagonal center tower, a unique feature for a rural vernacular church.	L					X
Turtle Creek	Residence	Log house built circa 1890.	L					X
Sherman District Junior High School, Whitesville	School	Art Deco style two-story, 17 bay brick building is distinguished architecturally.	S					X

CABELL COUNTY								
Thornburg House, Barboursville	Residence	Good and uncommon local example of Queen Anne style of architecture associated with a locally prominent businessman, George Thornburg.	L	Listed on NR (1991). Now offices for a bank.				X
General Albert Gallatin Jenkins House, Green Bottom	Residence	An example of a residence constructed (c. 1835) by a prosperous businessman, a Captain William Jenkins, who was part of the general westward movement in the early 19th century. It was the home of General Albert Gallatin Jenkins a member of the U.S. House of Representatives from 1857 to 1861, a Brigadier General in the Confederate Army and a Representative in the Confederate Congress.	S	Listed on NR (1978).				X

COUNTY/RESOURCE, TOWN	RESOURCE TYPE	DESCRIPTION	LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE	CONSERVATION CONSIDERATIONS	THEMES		
					Coal	Trans.	Labor Other
Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Depot, Huntington	Railroad structure	Passenger station and freight depot for the B&O rails through town. Its central location was superior to that of the C&O depot and, therefore, it became the focal point of activity in turn-of-the-century Huntington.	L	Listed on NR(1973).		X	
Cabell County Courthouse, Huntington	Civic structure	Two-story Beaux Arts Classical style courthouse constructed in 1899-1901 and designed by Gunn and Curtis. Significant as an outstanding example of this style in southern West Virginia and as representative of the growth and evolution of Huntington as a major transportation and industrial center.	L	Listed on NR (1982).			X
Campbell-Hicks House, Huntington	Residence	One of the finest examples of Queen Anne Free Classical architecture in Huntington. It was the home of Charles W. Campbell, a member of the WV House of Delegates 1911-1913 and Mayor of Huntington form 1919-1922. His term as mayor is noted for the development of Huntington's park system. It was also the home of Dr. Ira Clay Hicks, a prominent Huntington physician and surgeon.	L	Listed on NR (1985).			X
Carnegie Public Library, Huntington	Civic structure	Locally significant example of Beaux Art Classicism architecture whose construction was funded by Andrew Carnegie and provided an early center of educational activity in the region.	L	Listed on NR (1980). Investment Tax Credit project.			X
Thomas Carroll House, Huntington	Commercial structure	Two-story frame building with end chimneys constructed circa 1810 and which may have been moved to this site from Gallapolis, Ohio. In 1855, Thomas Carroll purchased the property and used the building as an in and for Catholic religious services.	S	Listed on NR (1973).			X

COUNTY/RESOURCE, TOWN	RESOURCE TYPE	DESCRIPTION	LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE	CONSERVATION CONSIDERATIONS	THEMES			
					Coal	Trans.	Labor	Other
Douglass Junior and Senior High School, Huntington	School	The educational, cultural and athletic center for black citizens of Huntington. It was constructed in 1924 and used as a school until 1961. Among the students who attended this school was Hal Green, the first black athlete at Marshall University and member of the Philadelphia 76ers.	S	Listed on NR (1985).				X
Harvey House, Huntington	Residence		L	Listed on NR.				X
Huntington Downtown Historic District, Huntington	Commercial district	Situated on the banks of the Ohio River, the town was founded in 1871 by Collis P. Huntington, then president of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad, as a terminus for the C&O. The district is a physical reminder of the period of rapid expansion of the town.	S	Listed on NR (1986).		X		X
Ninth Street West Historic District, Huntington	Residential district	Encompasses the well-preserved core of late-19th century Victorian residential subdivision called "St. Cloud." Residents were prominent in Huntington's civic and business affairs.	L	Listed on NR (1980).				X
Memorial Arch, Huntington	Monument	Memorial to First World War dead of Cabell County. Significant architectural landmark of the Neo-Classical Revival style in WV and possesses some of the finest large-scale classical style bas-relief carvings in the state.	L	Listed on NR (1981).				X
Old Main, Marshall University, Huntington	School	Marshall University was founded as Marshall Academy in 1837. From 1869 to 1907, this Tudor Revival style building was constructed to house multiple educational facilities.	S	Listed on NR (1973).				X
Ritter Park Historic District, Huntington	Residential district	Developed from 1913 through 1940, this neighborhood is an excellent example of the early-20th century suburban movement.	S	Listed on the NR (1990).				X

COUNTY/RESOURCE, TOWN	RESOURCE TYPE	DESCRIPTION	LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE	CONSERVATION CONSIDERATIONS	THEMES			
					Coal	Trans.	Labor	Other
U.S. Post Office and Courthouse, Huntington	Civic structures	Built from 1905 to 1910, this Beaux Arts style Post Office is a representative example of the high quality of civic architecture resulting from the enactment of the Tarsney Act of 1893, which allowed for open competition for the design of Federal buildings.	S	Listed on NR (1982).				X
Mud River Covered Bridge, State Route 25, Milton	Bridge	Single span modified Howe truss bridge built in the late-19th century.	S	Listed on NR (individually 1975; thematic nomination 1981).		X		

FAYETTE COUNTY								
"Contentment," US Route 60, Ansted	Residence	This frame house was built circa 1830 and is associated with Colonel George Imboden, the first mayor of Ansted. Imboden was instrumental in opening coal mining enterprises in the area after 1870. He purchased land in the area for David T. Ansted, an English geologist who helped establish the Gauley-Kanawha Coal Company.	L	Listed on NR (1974). Houses Fayette County Historical Society.	X			X
Halfway House (Tyree Tavern), off old US Route 60, Ansted	Commercial structure	Two-story log and frame building whose original section was built circa 1810. It became a stagecoach stop when stagecoach service was established on the James River and Kanawha Turnpike in 1827.	S	Listed on NR (1978).		X		X
Page-Vawter House, Ansted	Residence	Built in 1890 by the Gauley Mountain Coal Company for its president and general manager, William Nelson Page. It is also a significant local example of late-19th century Victorian architecture.	L	Listed on NR (1985).	X			X

COUNTY/RESOURCE, TOWN	RESOURCE TYPE	DESCRIPTION	LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE	CONSERVATION CONSIDERATIONS	THEMES			
					Coal	Trans.	Labor	Other
Camp Washington-Carver Complex, Clifftop	Educational camp	The construction of this camp complex resulted from a move to provide the state's black youth with outdoor educational and recreational facilities equal to the 4-H camps. It is also an unusually well-preserved example of a large-scale Works Progress Administration project. It was dedicated in 1942.	S	Listed on NR (1980).				X
Tyree Stone Tavern, State Route 10, Clifftop	Commercial structure	Constructed in 1824 it was a stop on the James River and Kanawha Turnpike.	S	Listed on NR (1975).		X		X
Altamont Hotel, Fayetteville	Commercial structure	Built in 1897 from plans of local builder Robert H. Dickinson for Judge Henry W. Brazie, a prominent attorney and public official of the county, it was the principle hotel for turn-of-the-century Fayetteville. Also served as the hotel for sequestered juries.	L	Listed on NR (1979).				X
Fayette County Courthouse, Fayetteville	Civic structure	Good example of Romanesque Revival architecture designed by Wheeling architects Edward B. Franzheim and Millard F. Giesey constructed in 1894-1895.	S	Listed on NR (1978).				X
E.B. Hawkins House, Fayetteville	Residence	Exceptionally well-preserved local example of the Colonial Revival style built in 1906-1906 with cross gambrel roofs. It is associated with E.B. Hawkins who was significant in political affairs in the county.	L	Listed on NR (1990).				X

COUNTY/RESOURCE, TOWN	RESOURCE TYPE	DESCRIPTION	LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE	CONSERVATION CONSIDERATIONS	THEMES			
					Coal	Trans.	Labor	Other
Kay Moor Mine Site, near Fayetteville	Mining complex	Developed by the Low Moor Iron Company in 1900, the coal and coke from the Kay Moor mines originally served the Virginia iron industry. Purchased by New River and Pocahontas Consolidated Coal and Coke Co. in 1925; closed in 1962. Structures remaining include portals, fan houses, headhouse, car repair shop, lamp house, superintendent's office, mountain haulage system, powder house, electrical repair shop, monitors, conveyor, processing plant, power house, coke ovens, and one collapsed house.	S	Listed on NR (1990). Within New River NRA.	X			
Fayetteville Historic District, Fayetteville	Residential and commercial district	Fayetteville is the county seat of the state's largest and richest county since 1937. The district contains structures related to the town's major period of growth, from 1843 to 1940.	S	Listed on NR (1990).				X
Gauley Bridge Railroad Station, Gauley Bridge	Railroad structure	Example of small town passenger station and one of few remaining C&O stations left in the state. Frame building constructed in 1893.	L	Listed on NR (1980). Condition in 1980: fair.		X		
Hawks Nest Tunnel, Glen Ferris	Tunnel	A 2.5-mile long tunnel constructed to allow hydroelectric power to be supplied to a Union Carbide station. Considered one of the greatest engineering feats of this century, this 1930s project caused the death of over 400 workers from silicosis, one of the nation's major industrial tragedies.	S	Active railroad tunnel.		X		X

COUNTY/RESOURCE, TOWN	RESOURCE TYPE	DESCRIPTION	LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE	CONSERVATION CONSIDERATIONS	THEMES			
					Coal	Trans.	Labor	Other
Glen Ferris Inn, US Route 60, Glen Ferris	Commercial structure	Originally owned by General Aaron Stockton who first came to the area to mine salt. When cannel coal was found on his property in 1848, he became WV's first major coal extractor and exporter. The building was used as a Union quartermaster's depot in 1861. In 1920 the building was purchased by EMCO (Electro Metallurgical Company) to house employees who would develop what would become the world's largest ferro alloy plant and to supervise the construction of the Hawk's Nest Tunnel.	L	Listed on NR (1991).	X			X
Bank of Glen Jean, Glen Jean	Commercial structure	Constructed in 1909, it is the most prominent work of architecture in town and may be the single remaining structure associated with McKell Coal and Coke.	S	Listed on NR (1983).				X
Main Building, West Virginia Institute of Technology, Montgomery	School	Focal point of educational facility that eventually became WV Institute of Technology. Built from 1895 to 1897; 2 wings added in 1898.	S	Listed on NR (1980).				X
Prince Brothers General Store-Berry Store, Route 41, Prince	Commercial structure	Two-story frame store which was the center for community activity and last surviving building associated with the Prince family.	L	Listed on NR (1986). Within New River NRA.				X
Thurmond Historic District, Thurmond	Residential and commercial district	Chief railroad center on C&O serving the southern WV coal fields. Significant for railroad architecture and vernacular workers housing and commercial buildings. By 1910, Thurmond produced 20% of the C&O's revenue.	S	Listed on NR (1984) and within New River Gorge NRA. Railroad depot is NPS restoration project.		X		X

COUNTY/RESOURCE, TOWN	RESOURCE TYPE	DESCRIPTION	LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE	CONSERVATION CONSIDERATIONS	THEMES			
					Coal	Trans.	Labor	Other
Whipple Company Store, Whipple	Commercial	Constructed circa 1900 by the Whipple Colliery Company. In 1905, the Whipple Company was purchased by the New River Company. The mines closed in 1957; the building remained a general store until the late 1980s. The design of the building is unusual: it has a raised basement with a six-sided first floor and an octagonal second floor. The entrance to the porch is a Romanesque Revival style arch.	S	Listed on NR (1991).	X			

LOGAN COUNTY								
COUNTY/RESOURCE, TOWN	RESOURCE TYPE	DESCRIPTION	LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE	CONSERVATION CONSIDERATIONS	THEMES			
					Coal	Trans.	Labor	Other
Battle of Blair Mountain Site, Blair	Site	This is the site of the 1921 battle between union miners and local and state police forces supported by local coal operators' auxiliaries. The battle is considered a pivotal event in the coal field unionization upheavals of the period.	N	Permit pending for surface mining.			X	
Chapmanville	School	Architecturally significant building designed in high style Collegiate Gothic.	S					X
Dehue	Mining complex and residential district	Remains of a company town including mine portal, operating mining complex, and housing. Captive mine for Youngstown Sheet and Tube.	S	High degree of integrity of fabric and town plan.	X			X
Ethel	Church	Located outside of Ethel Hollow, a town which was the site of the Mine Wars of 1920-21.	S	May be connected with Mine War activities.			X	X

COUNTY/RESOURCE, TOWN	RESOURCE TYPE	DESCRIPTION	LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE	CONSERVATION CONSIDERATIONS	THEMES			
					Coal	Trans.	Labor	Other
Holden	Residential and commercial district	Built in 1903 as a model town by the Island Creek Coal Company, surviving structures include a functioning mine processing operation, a company store, church, workers housing and supervisors houses.	S		X			
Logan	Commercial district	Both the county seat and a service town to surrounding coal communities, the downtown was built-up by 1915. Logan played an important part in the Mine Wars of 1920-21 as the site of planning efforts by Sheriff Don Chaffin and his army regarding their strategy against the nonunion mine workers' march through the county.	S				X	X
Logan	Residential district	Residential area which also includes a church and a school. The middle- and upper-class residences were built in the 1920s and 1930s and have a high degree of architectural style.	L					X
Mallory	Residential and commercial district	Example of a coal town with store, office and workers' housing. Separated from the core of the town is housing for minorities and further up the hollow is housing for the "colored" as identified by company plans. Located outside of the town is a 1937 tipple (closed in February 1990).	S		X			X
General store, Mt. Gay	Commercial structure	Three-story cut stone building was constructed in 1921 by Joe Scaramaglia as a general store. It sustained fire damage in 1980.	L					X
Peach Creek	Residential district	A typical coal company town with similarly constructed homes, a church, a school and railroad tracks.	L	Roundhouse burned in 1980s.				X

COUNTY/RESOURCE, TOWN	RESOURCE TYPE	DESCRIPTION	LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE	CONSERVATION CONSIDERATIONS	THEMES			
					Coal	Trans.	Labor	Other
Hatfield Cemetery, Route 119, south of Sarah Ann	Cemetery	Significant as the burial place of members of the Hatfield family, who were participants in the Hatfield-McCoy feud of the late-19th century. The Hatfields were also significant as being among the early settlers in the region and for having had a role in the political events of the period. Contains the grave of Captain Anderson "Devil Anse" Hatfield, marked by a life-size statue.	S	Listed on NR.				X
Stollings	Residential district	Local vernacular construction techniques.	L					X
Yolyn	Residential district	Although there are a variety of house forms in Yolyn, the one-story side gable form is predominant.	L					X

COUNTY/RESOURCE, TOWN	RESOURCE TYPE	DESCRIPTION	LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE	CONSERVATION CONSIDERATIONS	THEMES			
					Coal	Trans.	Labor	Other

McDOWELL COUNTY								
Bishop	Residential district	Rows of two-story houses and two boarding houses built by the Pocahontas Fuel Company in the 1920s. Most retain original materials and appearance.	L					X
Bradshaw	Residence	Architecturally significant house constructed in an exaggerated Bungalow style with grouped porch posts, added apex peaks, and simplified paired brackets.	L	Owner: Harrison family.				X
Olga Coal Company, #2 Mine, Caretta	Mining complex	Historic mining complex with steel-frame mining structures and brick support buildings which include a supply building, a maintenance shop, a hoist house, and offices.	S	Vacant.	X			
Carswell	Residential district	Housing built by the Houston Coal Company in the 1920s including two-story miners' houses and houses for mine officials in the Bungalow and Four-Square styles.	L					X
Coalwood	Residential and commercial district	The remains of a mining community for the Olga Coal Company consisting of a row of one-story commercial buildings, clubhouse, church, three apartment buildings, a superintendent's house, mine-related shop buildings and workers' housing.	S	High vacancy rate.				X
Coal Camp #7, Elbert	Residential district	Constructed by the U.S. Steel Corporation (mine opened in 1909). Original layout and plan of the camp is intact.	L	Most houses modified.				X

COUNTY/RESOURCE, TOWN	RESOURCE TYPE	DESCRIPTION	LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE	CONSERVATION CONSIDERATIONS	THEMES			
					Coal	Trans.	Labor	Other
Elkhorn Creek Road, Elkhorn	Residential district	Probably the most intact coal community in McDowell County. It contains the hierarchy of house types found in coal communities, from the mine owner's house to workers' housing. The two churches reflect the influences of high style architecture.	S					X
Fall River	Residential district	Small enclave of identical homes along the Tug River.	L					X
Sand Lick Creek, Coal Camp #9, Filbert	Residential district	Constructed by the U.S. Steel Corporation (mine opened in 1909). Workers' housing and intact town plan.	L	Most houses modified.				X
Gary	Church	Style of church reflects Byzantine influence.	S					X
Gary Public School, Gary	School	Originally constructed in 1915 in the Collegiate Gothic style, with later additions.	L					X
laeger	Commercial district and railroad yard	Service town to the surrounding coal towns, the buildings in laeger line the N&W railroad tracks. The rail yard is still in use but the sand silo is one of the few remaining historic structures.	L			X		X
Jenkinjones Rd., Jenkinjones	Church	This coal company-built church is the only one of its kind in the region. Built in the Shingle style, the steeply pitched gable roofed building has a rectangular bell tower, large rounded arch windows, and a high stone foundation.	L					X
Keystone	Residential and commercial district	Keystone was an important service town for area mining communities. The district includes commercial buildings, a grocery warehouse, post office, town government buildings, churches, a school, and a residential area.	L					X

COUNTY/RESOURCE, TOWN	RESOURCE TYPE	DESCRIPTION	LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE	CONSERVATION CONSIDERATIONS	THEMES			
					Coal	Trans.	Labor	Other
Kimball	Residential district	Kimball was a service town for area mining communities. Although the commercial buildings lack integrity due to extensive remodeling, the residential buildings retain their original materials. The large houses are an indication of the community's wealth. Of particular note is the residence of Mr. Houston, operator of the Houston Coal Company, whose design shows influences of the Shingle and Tudor Revival styles.	L					X
North Fork	Residential and commercial district	North Fork was a service town for area mining communities. It has two commercial rows, one oriented to the street and the other oriented to the railroad tracks. Other buildings include the North Fork Grade School, a church, town hall and a residential area.	L					X
Premier	Mining complex and residential district	Early 1920s coal workers' housing and remains of the mining operation for Royalty Smokeless Coal Company including a tippie, conveyor, N&W railroad tracks, coal crusher and water treatment holding tank.	L		X			X
Coal Camp #6, Ream	Residential district	Built by the U.S. Steel Corporation (mine opened by 1909). Intact houses and town plan.	L					X
Roderfield	Residential district	Coal camp, typical in town plan and uniform construction of workers' houses.	L					X
Six	Residential district	Uniformly constructed workers' housing, part of the Caretta Coal Company camp, located halfway between Caretta and Coalwood.	L	Some houses extensively altered.				X
Superior	School	Intact two-story brick school.	L					X

COUNTY/RESOURCE, TOWN	RESOURCE TYPE	DESCRIPTION	LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE	CONSERVATION CONSIDERATIONS	THEMES			
					Coal	Trans.	Labor	Other
War	Residential and commercial district	War was a service town to the nearby mining communities. Note particularly the architecturally significant school designed in high style Collegiate Gothic.	L					X
Warrormine	Residential and commercial district	Vacant store may have once served as company store. Only commercial building remaining in Warrormine. It has undergone only minimal alterations, as is also true with the residences.	L	Store: vacant.				X
Welch	Residential districts	Two districts in Welch reflecting the economic diversity of the community.	S					X
McDowell County Courthouse, Welch	Civic structure	Most significant example of Romanesque Revival architecture in southern WV. Designed by Frank Pierce Milburn. Site of the assassination of Sidney Hatfield, August 1, 1921, an event linked to mining labor disputes.	S	Listed on NR (1979)			X	X
Wilcoe	Residential district	Small enclave of similarly constructed homes for U.S. Coal and Coke Company built circa 1913.	L					X
Yukon/Lomax	Residential district	Originally constructed to serve as a railroad camp, the area eventually became a coal camp and enveloped the original town.	L			X		X

MERCER COUNTY								
Col. William Henderson French House, Athens	Residence	Associated with Colonel William Henderson French, a local businessman, landowner, and officer in the Confederate army. Built in the 1850s, it is a good example of Greek Revival architecture in the state.	S	Listed on NR (1976).				X

COUNTY/RESOURCE, TOWN	RESOURCE TYPE	DESCRIPTION	LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE	CONSERVATION CONSIDERATIONS	THEMES			
					Coal	Trans.	Labor	Other
MINGO COUNTY								
Off Route 52, Borderland	Mining complex	This mine has the mine opening and the headhouse located on the Kentucky side of the Tug River and the conveyor carries the coal to the tippie and loading facility on the West Virginia side of the river. It is an example of a 1920s mining facility.	S	Accessibility: good	X			
Borderland	Residence	Large two-story brick home retains nearly all of its original materials. It is associated with the Hatfield clan through oral histories.	S					X
Borderland	Residential district	Small, nearly intact enclave of workers' housing associated with the Borderland Coal Co. Most are one-story, 3 bay houses with clipped gables to the street and full gable entry porches. Unusual in that they are constructed of brick.	S					X
Chattaroy	Residential and commercial district	Coal mining town with a church, a school, residential and commercial structures dating from the early 20th century built by Buffalo Eagle Coal Company.	L	Condition: good.				X
Off Highway 52, Cinderella	Residential district	Surviving examples of the coal town built for the Sycamore Coal Company circa 1920, which includes four houses, a school (1934), a church, and a store.	L					X
Dingess	Tunnel	Built in 1914 for the N&W Railroad, this 5,000 foot long tunnel is constructed entirely of masonry with the interior executed as a brick arch.	L	Now services automobile traffic.		X		
Elk Creek	Bridge	Built of reinforced concrete by the Luten Bridge Company of York, Pennsylvania, it is one of a few bow string arched bridges in the state and is the second largest of its kind in West Virginia.	S			X		

COUNTY/RESOURCE, TOWN	RESOURCE TYPE	DESCRIPTION	LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE	CONSERVATION CONSIDERATIONS	THEMES			
					Coal	Trans.	Labor	Other
Off Highway 80, Gilbert	Residence	Individual residence with distinctive architectural features prominent in the local area.	L	Owners: the Atkins. Condition: good.				X
Bank of Mingo, Stafford Street, Gilbert	Commercial structure	Two-story bank built of native, hand-cut stone. It is the largest building in town and a focal point of architectural craftsmanship.	L					X
Glen Alum	Mining complex and town	Structures remaining from Glen Alum Coal Company's mining operations including mine portals, a tipple, the conveyor, the company store, and the church.	S	Company store is threatened with demolition. Church is vacant. Accessibility: poor.	X			X
Off State Road 52, Hatfield	Residential district	Enclave of four, two-story, wood frame residences representing an early period of comfortable success for area residents.	L	Minor alterations.				X
Route 13, Isaban	Residential district	Enclave of identically constructed homes for coal workers and a church built in the late 1920s.	L					X
Matewan	Residential and commercial district	District reflects the development of Matewan as a commercial and business center for the area during the first half of the 20th century. Site of a 1920 confrontation between striking miners and coal company-hired agents known as the "Matewan Massacre."	S			X		X
Ray's General Store, Meador Fork off Route 6, Meador	Commercial structure	Intact example of a general store, built circa 1902, existing outside of the company-owned camps. High degree of historic integrity.	L	Owner: Goldie Ray. Condition: excellent.				X

COUNTY/RESOURCE, TOWN	RESOURCE TYPE	DESCRIPTION	LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE	CONSERVATION CONSIDERATIONS	THEMES			
					Coal	Trans.	Labor	Other
Hatfield Cemetery, south of New Town	Cemetery	Contains graves of Ephriam and Nancy Hatfield, parents of Anderson "Devil Anse" Hatfield; Elias Hatfield, father of US Senator Henry D. Hatfield; and Ellison Hatfield, whose murder in 1882 was the first act of violence in the McCoy-Hatfield feud.	S	Listed on NR.				X
Route 6, north of New Town	Mining complex	Example of a 1930s mining facility. Includes 2 water towers, substation/processing facility (burned), and warehouse/shop.	L	Condition: poor; extensive loss of historic fabric.	X			
Highway 9, North Matewan	Residential district	Remaining examples of workers' housing and the church for Mine #6, Red Jacket Coal Company. (Mine closed in 1950.)	L					X
Red Jacket	Residential district	Remaining examples of coal camp housing built by the Red Jacket Consolidated Coal and Coke Company. Also church and school.	L	Store demolished in 1990.				X
Off Highway 49, Sprigg	Residences	Three superintendents' houses which may have been architect-designed and are locally significant for their architecture.	L					X
Off Route 49, Thacker	Residential district	In 1916 the population of Thacker was 1600 but by 1918 it was only 300. Two homes and one commercial building are all that survive of the town which was built up in 1916 by the Thacker Coal and Coke Company.	L					X
Thacker Mines	Residential district	In 1910 the population of Thacker Mines was 800. This district includes the remaining workers's housing.	L					X

COUNTY/RESOURCE, TOWN	RESOURCE TYPE	DESCRIPTION	LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE	CONSERVATION CONSIDERATIONS	THEMES			
					Coal	Trans.	Labor	Other
Vulcan	Residential district	Examples of coal camp houses for the Vulcan Coal Company which opened their mines circa 1910.	L	Only one owner identified for one property: Janice Smith.				X
Off Turkey Creek (Route 13), War Eagle	Residential district	In 1913, when the War Eagle Coal Company was in operation, the population of the town was over 2,000. These half dozen board and batten residences are all that survive from the early 20th century mining town located along the Tug Fork River.	L	Condition: fair. Poor accessibility.				X
Williamson	Residential and commercial districts	Downtown area provides a cohesive example of early commercial architecture and includes representations of Victorian, Italianate and Art Deco architecture. Located in the downtown and listed on the National Register is the Coal House, built in 1933 of 65 tons of locally mined coal. The main residential sections of the town of building constructed 1930s and earlier. Architectural styles include Italianate, Classical Revival and high style Victorian. The residential area also includes several well constructed, multi-story brick apartment buildings.	S	Accessibility: good. Condition: good. Coal House is offices of Chamber of Commerce.				X
Williamson	Railroad Yard	Largest marshalling yard in the state with over 100 miles of track in the yard. Complex includes roundhouse, rail yard, swing bridge, and machine shop.	S	Roundhouse scheduled for alterations/demolition.		X		
R.T. Price House, Williamson	Residence	Significant for its associations with a prominent architect in WV history, Levi J. Dean, who had commissions in WV, Kentucky and Ohio.	S	Listed on NR (1991). Owned by Corps of Engineers.				X

COUNTY/RESOURCE, TOWN	RESOURCE TYPE	DESCRIPTION	LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE	CONSERVATION CONSIDERATIONS	THEMES		
					Coal Trans.	Labor	Other
RALEIGH COUNTY							
"Wildwood," Beckley	Residence	Built in 1835 by John Lilly and later owned by General Alfred Beckley for whom town of Beckley is named and who gave land for development of the town.	S	Listed on NR (1970).			X
St. Colman's Roman Catholic Church and Cemetery, Sandstone	Church	Sole surviving remains of once thriving Irish immigrant population in southern WV coal fields. Vernacular style frame church.	L	Listed on NR (1984). Also Raleigh Co. Historic Landmark, 1983.			X
SUMMERS COUNTY							
Hinton Historic District, Hinton	Residential and commercial district	Hinton developed after the arrival of the C&O line in 1872. The lumber and coal industries fed the railroad industry. Most of the buildings in the district are from the period of explosive growth between 1873 and 1910.	L	Listed on NR (1983).		X	X
Trump-Lilly Farmstead, Hinton	Agricultural complex	202-acre former farm associated with American frontier agriculture and vernacular architecture. Little altered since its development in the 1870s. Intact cultural landscape.	S	Listed on NR (1990). Within New River NRA.			X
Joseph S. Miller House, Kenova	Residence	Queen Anne style two-story frame house built by Miller who was instrumental in securing the Norfolk & Western railroad line for Kenova. He was also Internal Revenue Commissioner from 1885-1889.	S	Listed on NR (1989)			X

COUNTY/RESOURCE, TOWN	RESOURCE TYPE	DESCRIPTION	LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE	CONSERVATION CONSIDERATIONS	THEMES			
					Coal	Trans.	Labor	Other
Col. James Graham House, Lowell	Residence	Outstanding example of log construction in a sparsely populated settlement (circa 1772). Site of Indian attack in 1777, during which 3 children were killed and one kidnapped.	S	Listed on NR (1976).				X
Samuel Gwinn Plantation, County Route 15, Lowell	Agricultural complex	Large brick house built circa 1868 and outbuildings representative of local pattern of agricultural use particularly tobacco farming. Gwinn family contributed to first permanent settlement and general prosperity of Summers County.	L	Listed on NR (1989).				X
Pence Springs Hotel Historic District, Pence Springs	Commercial structure	One of the four remaining grand hotel complexes of the turn-of-the-century spa and springs period. Hotel closed in 1929. In 1942 complex adapted as penitentiary for women.	S	Listed on NR (1985).				X
Jordan's Chapel, Pipestem	Church	Built in 1852, it is the oldest frame church in the county and one of the few remaining structures from the region's settlement period.	L	Listed on NR (1980).				X

WAYNE COUNTY								
Z.D. Ramsdell House, Ceredo	Residence	Built in 1857, this was the first brick house in Ceredo. Ramsdell was active in the politics, education, and industrial development in the area.	L	Listed on NR (1983).				X

WYOMING COUNTY								
Route 16, Allen Junction	Residential and commercial district	Residence and store are all that remain of an early-20th century coal mining town.	L					X

COUNTY/RESOURCE, TOWN	RESOURCE TYPE	DESCRIPTION	LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE	CONSERVATION CONSIDERATIONS	THEMES			
					Coal	Trans.	Labor	Other
Bailey's Chapel/Beartown Methodist Church, Barker's Ridge	Church	This early 1920s wooden frame church is an example of local vernacular building traditions.	L					X
Beartown School, Barker's Ridge	School	One of the few remaining one-room school houses in southern West Virginia.	L					X
Black Eagle	Residential district	Remains of an early-20th century coal mining town which represents company housing construction techniques.	L					X
Route 16, Corinne	Commercial structure	Intact company store.	S					X
Glen Rogers	Residential and commercial district	Intact company town which includes brick and wood frame residences, a company office/dormitory building of brick, and a brick clubhouse/recreation hall. The company store is a fire-damaged shell.	L					X
Highway 10, Herndon vicinity	Mining complex	Abandoned tippie.	L		X			
Herndon Heights	Residences	A pair of identical stucco residences with hipped roofs.	L					X
UMWA Hall, Itmann	UMWA Hall	This simple Classical Revival style building, with its front gabled entry portico, is important both architecturally and for its historical associations with the United Mine Workers of America.	S				X	

COUNTY/RESOURCE, TOWN	RESOURCE TYPE	DESCRIPTION	LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE	CONSERVATION CONSIDERATIONS	THEMES			
					Coal	Trans.	Labor	Other
Itmann Company Store, Itmann	Commercial structure	Built in 1923 of cut stone by the Pocahontas Fuel Company. It was designed by Alex B. Mahood, one of the most important WV architects of the early 20th century. One of the finest extant company stores in southern WV.	S	Listed on NR (1990).				X
Kopperston	Residential district	The residences in this company town are in one of two repeated forms: either side gable construction or hipped roof with eyebrow attic vents.	L					X
Mullens	Commercial district	Incorporated in 1912, the commercial core remains cohesive architecturally and includes buildings of various architectural styles.	S					X
Sullivan Residence, Mullens	Residence	This large home with a full circular porch was built circa 1908 for J.C. Sullivan, owner and operator of the county's first smokeless coal field, Mead/Poca Company.	L					X
Pineville	Commercial district	Incorporated in 1907, downtown Pineville is a small street lined with two-story brick buildings. It includes the Wyoming County Courthouse and Jail, both listed on the National Register.	L	Courthouse and jail listed on NR (1979).				X
Coca-Cola Plant, Pineville	Commercial structure	This Art Deco style building is unique for its use of fine architectural elements for a rural industrial building.	L					X
Wyoming County Jail, Pineville	Civic structure	This large cut-stone building was built in the same style (name it) as the county courthouse.	S					X
Department of Highways Building, Rock View	Transportation-related structure	This barrel roofed building is built of locally-cut stone.	L			X		

COUNTY/RESOURCE, TOWN	RESOURCE TYPE	DESCRIPTION	LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE	CONSERVATION CONSIDERATIONS	THEMES			
					Coal	Trans.	Labor	Other
Sabine	Residential district	This early-1920s coal mining community reflects southern West Virginia camp construction patterns: 2-story, 1 bay with gable end to street.	L	Minor alterations.				X
Stephenson	Residential district	The buildings remaining in this early-20th century coal mining town reflect a typical southern West Virginia style.	L					X
Route 10, Tralee	Mining complex	Remains of coal operation of the Tralee Coal Company which includes the tippie, mine portal of concrete, headhouse, and conveyors with hauling cars.	S	Owner: Amigo Smokeless Coal Co.	X			
Windom School, Windom	School	One of the few remaining intact one-room school houses in southern West Virginia.	L	Now a barn. Condition: fair to poor.				X
Wyco	Residential and commercial district	Small enclave of duplex houses around the community church with the company store below on the hillside. Traditional settlement patterns and building patterns are still evident.	L					X

NOTE: Only Boone, Logan, McDowell, Mingo and Wyoming counties have had county-wide historic resource surveys.

Appendix E

Themes and Subthemes for Historic Resources

Theme XII: Business

- A. Extractive or Mining Industries
 - 3. Other Metals and Minerals
- L. Shipping and Transportation
- M. Supporting Institutions

Theme XIV: Transportation

- E. Railroads

Theme XVIII: Technology (Engineering and Invention)

- F. Extraction and Conversion of Industrial Raw Materials

Theme XXX: American Ways of Life

- C. Industrial Towns
- E. Ethnic Communities
- F. Industrial Wealth

Theme XXXI: Social and Humanitarian Movements

- H. Labor Organizations

Attention to sites other than those relating to coal mining will reveal other themes as well. See, for example, Appendix F on Native Americans.

Selected Property Types of Recognized Significance

Underground coal mining has had a profound impact on the natural and built environment in the state from 1880 to 1945, especially in southern West Virginia. But, despite the effect of coal mining on the environment, the material legacy of coal is comparatively small, and much of what remains presents special problems. A listing of sites surveyed, brief description, level of significance, and thematic representations can be found in Appendix D. The following selected property types are represented within the identified thematic framework.

Theme XII: Business*Extractive or Mining Industries*

The West Virginia coal industry has long been noted for its productivity and for the superiority of its product. The State became the Nation's number one coal producer in the 1930s and held that position until the 1970s. Historically, only Pennsylvania with its anthracite fields and the Pittsburgh seam of bituminous rivaled the state in high quality coal for steam, coking, gas and domestic purposes. The "smokeless" coals found in the New River and Pocahontas fields had a world-wide reputation as the best for steam-producing and domestic uses, and they were also good for mixing with other coals in the making of coke.

Theme XIV: Transportation

Railroads and Transportation Facilities: a) railroad tracks sidings, and yards, b) rolling stock, c) roundhouses, stations, repair shops, and offices.

Coal was a bulk commodity in which transportation was essential for marketing. Historically, many of the railroad companies played large roles in the development of the coal fields. The Chesapeake & Ohio, Norfolk & Western, and the Virginian were the primary lines, but there were several smaller branch lines that were built by independent companies and later taken over by three large transportation interests. Railroad tracks, sidings, and yards are easily located. Also, the railroad in southern West Virginia is always the most direct path to a mine. Rolling stock, including coal cars and locomotives, are basic to transportation, but not considered sites. Roundhouses, stations, repair shops, and offices, especially in the service cities, have a high probability of survival.

Examples of this theme be found at: Huntington, Gauley Bridge, Thurmond, Bluefield, Williamson, Hinton and Mullens.

Theme XVIII: Technology (Engineering and Invention)*Extraction and Conversion of Industrial Raw Materials*

Primary Production Facilities: a) mine portals, b) mining machinery.

A coal mine is literally a factory that devours its own walls. Much of the primary production site, the mine itself, has been removed, burned, and now is available as a historic artifact only in gaseous form in the atmosphere. The hollowed caverns which remain where the coal seams once lay are inaccessible except under very special circumstances. All that remains are mine portals. The primary production machinery--the cutting, loading, and other types of machines--remain buried in the mine, have been scrapped, or have been forgotten. These, of course, are commonly not considered properties or sites.

Secondary Production Facilities: a) Coal hoists/head houses, b) tipples, c) conveyors, d) buildings associated with coal production, e) mining plant internal transportation facilities, f) facilities for coke-making.

The most apparent remains of underground coal mining are found on the surface near the mine portal in the location of the mine plant. Even at this location, historic structures have been demolished, mainly because of the threat they impose on public safety. Coal hoists/head houses, used for transporting men and coal in slope and shaft mines, are rare in the area, mainly because of the prevalence of drift mines. Tipples, facilities for screening, crushing, sizing, and cleaning coal, are more prevalent. However, it is problematic whether one dating to earlier than 1930 can be found, except in isolated areas, such as the New River Gorge. Conveyors, belts, monitors, tramways, or hoists used to move coal and waste products such as slate or gob, can be observed at most mine sites, mainly in ruins. Of all surface facilities, buildings directly associated with coal production such as power houses, powder houses, cap houses, supply buildings, shops, offices, etc., of all surface facilities are the most likely to remain through time. Mining plant transportation facilities consist of rail lines and rolling stock, such as lorry cars, for moving coal between different points within the surface mining plant. Coke-making was a major adjunct industry in much of the "smokeless" fields, particularly McDowell and Fayette counties. Mercer and Raleigh counties also had a small coke industry. Because of the sheer mass of brick and stone, coke ovens often survive through time.

Examples of this theme can be found at: Caretta, Kaymor, Elkhorn, Borderland, Glen Alum, Corrine, and Glen Rogers.

Theme XXX: American Ways of Life

Industrial Towns, Ethnic Communities, and Industrial Wealth

A characteristic of the West Virginia coal fields which is of national importance is the extremely high number of miners who resided in company towns in the State. In 1923, over 80 percent of all West Virginia miners lived in company towns. Alabama had the second highest percentage with 67 percent. Neighboring Pennsylvania had 57 percent. West Virginia company towns, the most important institution in the coal fields, were also distinguished by their ethnic diversity, containing in addition to native whites, a large portion of blacks and foreign-born workers, mainly from Southeastern Europe. Southern West Virginia had several "model" company towns, including Tams, Gary, Holden and Nellis, but most company towns were not exemplary, being simply a manifestation of the operators' need to maximize profits and maintain control over the labor force.

Company towns were facilities for housing miners and serving their social needs. More than any other property type, company towns have come to represent the legacy of coal. Since a company town was a complete social unit and an institution, an intact example of a complete town is much more valuable than fragments of several towns. Houses and ancillary buildings are perhaps the most common remnant of coal mining. Although many have been dramatically altered since construction, many remain. Included under this heading are outbuildings, yards, fences and any other structures situated on the house lot. Company stores and community buildings such as schools, churches, and community centers are not as prevalent as houses. Those surviving are usually easy to locate, but some have been modified so as to lose much of their integrity.

Part of the legacy of coal in Southern West Virginia are the lives and architecture of the coal operators, many of whom lived in the major towns in the region. Many residences of these operators and managers remain, but locating them and clearly identifying them with a specific personality may prove difficult. One noticeable exception is the community of Bramwell, which was once considered one of the richest small towns in the nation in the 1920s when it was home to 14 millionaires.

Examples of this theme can be found at: Nellis, Dehue, Mallory, Coalwood, Elkhorn, Itmann, Wyco, Red Jacket, Holden, Slab Fork, Logan, Bramwell, Bluefield, Welch, Huntington, Gary and Kopperston.

Theme XXXI: Social and Humanitarian Movements*Labor Organizations***United Mine Workers of America:**

The role of the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) in the conflict between capital and labor in the State is one of the most memorable chapters in the development of industrial unionism in the Nation. It included colorful figures, such as Mother Jones, John L. Lewis, William Blizzard, Fred Mooney, Frank Keeney and Van Bittner and the development of a distinctively American working class reformist philosophy known by many as the "Union gospel." Here, for the first time, the Union accepted blacks on equal terms. In fact, many of the Union leaders were black. In an era noted for Jim Crow laws in the South and resurgence of the Ku Klux Klan in the North, this was an example of integration.

Buildings or sites associated with significant events and/or personalities in the Mine Wars and the union movement in the 1900 to 1930 period:

The events and personalities associated with the strikes and battles of the Mine Wars riveted national attention on southern West Virginia during this period. Early rebellion in the coal fields began with the Paint and Cabin Creek strikes (Kanawha County) in 1912 and 1913; an event in 1920 known as the "Matewan Massacre" was a bloody confrontation between miners, townspeople and Baldwin-Felts detectives. Miners were evicted from their homes by detectives for taking memberships in the Union. The assassination of Sid Hatfield on the steps of the McDowell County Courthouse in Welch spurred the miners' march. "On to Mingo" was the rallying cry of the miners, who marched from Marmet along Lens Creek to Blair Mountain in Logan County, where they collided with Don Chafin's non-union army. As one of the most significant events in the West Virginia Mine Wars, thousands of miners took up arms in what has been called America's largest armed insurrection since the Civil War. Although other states experienced this type of conflict or in some instances, warfare, in no other state was it more intense or prolonged than in West Virginia.

Examples of this theme can be found at: Blair Mountain in Logan County, McDowell County Courthouse in Welch, Matewan, Don Chafin's home in Logan, and rally sites of John L. Lewis and Mother Jones.

APPENDIX F

Native Americans

The Paleo-Indian Period, 11,500 to 9,000 Years Ago

People pursuing a hunting and gathering way of life first came to southern West Virginia 11,500 years ago. Little more than stone tools testify to their occupation of the region. Known to archaeologists as Paleo-Indians, these people crafted distinctive "fluted" projectile points, gracefully narrow lance-shaped chipped stone implements used as knives, darts, or spear-heads. Stone scrapers, drills, awls, and other tools used by these people also have been found at various locales throughout the region. Findings from sites in other eastern states indicate that Paleo-Indians were a nomadic people who travelled over long distances in search of game animals, fish, and wild plants.

The Archaic Period, 9,000 to 3,000 Years Ago

Indian people throughout eastern North America began making and using new types of stone projectile points some 9,000 years ago. This period, which lasted for 6,000 years in southern West Virginia, is known as the Archaic period. Archeological deposits found near the Ohio and Guyandotte Rivers, R.D. Bailey Lake, and Bluestone Reservoir, indicate that Archaic period people generally lived much like their Paleo-Indian predecessors. The most recent of these sites, thought to be from 3,500 to 3,000 years old, contain distinctive broad chipped stone projectile points, fragments of soapstone bowls, and evidence of domestication of amaranth and other local wild plants.

The Woodland Period, 3,000 to 1,000 Years Ago

Several changes began to occur in the southern West Virginian archeological record some 3,000 years ago. Native West Virginians began making new types of implements and structures at this time. Earthen burial mounds were constructed by people associated with the central Ohio Valley Adena culture at sites like Camden Park Mound, Gore Mound, and the Dennison site. Adena artisans worked stone into distinctive forms of projectile points and created new types of pecked-stone implements such as cylindrical tube-shaped smoking pipes and symmetrically-shaped slate objects known as gorgets. Copper objects and clay pots similar to others crafted by Indian people living to the south and east of southern West Virginia also began to appear in Adena sites.

Southern Western Virginian Indian people living along the Ohio River began to build larger and more elaborate mounds and other earthworks similar to those constructed along the Scioto Valley in nearby

Ohio by people identified as members of the Hopewell culture some 2,200 years ago. None of these sites presently are known to contain the opulent grave offerings of mica, obsidian, or pottery found in Ohio or Kentucky Hopewell sites. Most instead contain distinctive forms of pottery and side- or corner-notched chipped stone projectile points.

Pottery and stone tool styles changed again in most areas of southern West Virginia some 1,500 years ago. Deposits excavated along the Bluestone Reservoir and at the Man site on the Guyandotte River containing these implements indicate that increasing numbers of people began moving into small semi-permanent villages and campsites at this time.

The Late Prehistoric Period, 1,000 to 300 Years Ago

Evidence excavated from more recent archeological deposits found at Man, Logan, and other sites show that cultural influences spreading north and east from the Tennessee River Valley began to influence Indian life in southern West Virginia about 1,000 years ago. These changes resulted in the development of what archeologists call Fort Ancient culture. Fort Ancient people hunted, fished, and collected wild foods much as they had for millennia. New crops of corn, beans, and squash first domesticated by more southerly peoples, however, appeared for the first time. Fort Ancient folk planting these crops began moving into larger planned villages like the Clover site along the Ohio River and the Snidow site in Mercer County. Fortifications surrounding many of these villages indicate increasing inter-village competition and warfare in the region. Discoveries of shell beads, masks, gorgets, and other materials from as far away as North Carolina and the Gulf of Mexico testify to the existence of extensive trade networks during the same period.

The Historic Contact Period, 300 to 200 Years Ago

Glass and copper beads found with Late Prehistoric Period Indian ceramics and stone tools at the Clover and Snidow sites provide evidence of indirect contact with European colonists during the seventeenth century and early eighteenth centuries. Both these and other Late Prehistoric Period sites, however, were abandoned by the time English settlers began moving into the region during the 1770s. Settlers encountered Shawnees along the Ohio and Tuteloes farther south. Whether descendants of the region's original inhabitants or new immigrants, both peoples called southern West Virginia home until American settlers drove them farther west by the end of the Revolutionary War.

Robert S. Grumet, Archeologist
Cultural Resources Planning Branch
NPS Mid-Atlantic Regional Office

APPENDIX G

Conservation and Development Activities in Southern West Virginia

On a community level, church-community coalition meetings in McDowell County, once the top coal-producing county in the State, are demonstrating the effectiveness of cooperative citizen action. The Economic Development Authority, funded partially by a grant from the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation, has created a forum among groups in Welch, War, Panther, Gary, and Bradshaw to identify community needs, ways to tap local assets, and steps toward strategic planning and development. In addition, a group of citizens in Bradshaw are raising funds to construct a statue commemorating coal miners.

Matewan, West Virginia, situated snugly on the Tug Fork of the Big Sandy River in Mingo County, is the home of the Hatfield-McCoy feud and scenes of conflict during the West Virginia "mine wars." The community of 840 residents completed a planning process in 1990 to capitalize on its history and character by identifying local resources and specific community development actions. A resulting document, Matewan: A Time of Change, describes the history of the town and establishes a blueprint for public-private partnerships. Among other activities, the Matewan Development Center has taken the lead, enlisting the aid of the Community Design Assistance Center at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. The Design and Assistance Center conducted public workshops and drafted a design the town to accommodate changes dictated by a flood wall being designed by the Army Corps of Engineers. It also conducted a two-year oral history project through the public history program at West Virginia University and restored the historic district.

Bramwell, West Virginia, situated downstream from Pocahontas at a 180-degree bend in the Bluestone River, has an active Historic Landmark Commission, complemented by the Bramwell Millionaire Garden Club. Bramwell reflects a period of industrial growth, capital accumulation and urban vitality in a remote setting. It has been described as the richest town of its size during a period in the early part of the twentieth century, and it was a home for Pocahontas coal operators. In 1983 much of the town was listed as a district in the National Register. A walking tour brochure guides visitors past many historic buildings and sites.

Upstream, near the Bluestone River and the West Virginia-Virginia border, experienced guides of the Pocahontas Exhibition Mine lead visitors into a driftmouth of the "world famous" Pocahontas #3 seam.

First opened by the Southwest Improvement Company in 1882, a small settlement soon became a thriving center. The City of Pocahontas has kept and attracted citizens interested in the preservation of historic character; older buildings have been restored and new development blended into a pattern respectful of the past and the town's listing in 1972--the first in Virginia--on the National Register of Historic Places.

While the remoteness of some communities is often an issue, interstates can be a mixed blessing. When I-64 opened in 1988, leaders in Summers County--noted for one of the lowest per capita income rates in the State--knew that less traffic, coupled with a previous exodus of CSX railroad facilities, required a different use of resources. The foresight of the Mayor of Hinton and other community leaders led to a re-designed streetscape in the downtown historic district, listed in the National Register of Historic Places. In 1989, a revitalization task force completed an "action agenda" through the NPS Rivers and Trails Conservation Assistance Program, based on legislation sponsored by Senator Rockefeller. Recently, the town hired a Main Street project director and opened a visitor center, and county businesspeople formed a visitors bureau. Special events and exhibits draw attention to the area's railroad and mountaineering heritage, capitalizing on the location near the New River.

Farther downstream near the Ohio River, the J.P. Huntington Historical Railroad Society hosts an annual convention and conducts seasonal tours at various times of the year between Huntington and Hinton; Huntington and Portsmouth, Ohio; and between Kenova and Point Pleasant and laeger. Members also provide interpretive services on the AMTRAK's Cardinal between Huntington and White Sulphur Springs.¹ Long an important rail, service and banking hub for coal field operators, contemporary Huntington's civic life now includes a riverfront park along the flood wall, a Main Street program and downtown mall, activities at Marshall University, and numerous festivals and special events. "The Mining Life," West Virginia's exhibit in the 1982 World's Fair, has been displayed downtown through a satellite location of the Huntington Museum of Art with assistance from the Mayor's office. The Museum is also planning a major railroad exhibit, to open in early 1992.

Other communities similarly illustrate heritage conservation and development activities. Citizens in Mullens, for example, have restored a Norfolk and Western caboose in a park adjacent to a colorful mural representative of the town's past and present railroad influence; the county has recently created

¹ AMTRAK reports a 350 percent increase in ridership during this time.

a convention and visitors bureau. In Logan, owners of the Aracoma Hotel are involved in restoration work; nearby, Logan State Park is host to "The Aracoma Story," presented by a local community theater group. In another railroad community, the Williamson Arts Council presents a series of well-known national performers throughout the year. And the Tug Valley Chamber of Commerce sponsors the annual King Coal Festival in Williamson. The Boone County Historic Landmarks Commission moved a one-room historic schoolhouse from the community of Nellis to a prominent location in the Racine city park. One local historian has written a book about Nellis--evidence of residents' pride in the town's history--as a model community built by ARMCO in the 1920s.

As with many of the preceding examples, the numerous local governments, landmark commissions, historical societies, soil conservation districts, county extension offices, Main Street programs, civic clubs, chambers of commerce, state agencies and visitors bureaus often support the conservation and appreciation of coal mining history, culture and natural heritage. Ruritan Clubs and Resource Conservation and Development Area committees, for example, employ a combination of such elements.

Local leadership development activities promise to play an increasing role in the area by providing an opportunity to address issues holistically. The Concord Leadership Institute, begun by the Mountain Resource and Development Area and others, provides an opportunity for local groups to develop community problem-solving skills. Mercer (WV) and Tazewell (VA) Counties have also sponsored leadership workshops. Community leaders in Matewan are developing a similar program with sponsorship by the Area 5 Partnership for Progress Council. The Governor's summer youth program offers similar opportunities.

The Perpetuation of Heritage

In the town of Gary, West Virginia, a former U.S. Steel town, retired mining electrician Michael Hornick provides a link to the past of this once-thriving community through research and articles and by interpreting the history. He also maintains a collection of coal mining and World War II artifacts in his home and, reflective of his ethnic heritage, continues a style of Czechoslovakian egg painting. Travelling west over a couple of ridges, Monaville resident Carlos Lopez--fluent in Portuguese, English, and Spanish--is eager to share his knowledge, too, gained from 35 years in the mines, where he rose to the position of Superintendent. Other former miners and mining families are also more than willing to relate their experiences.

The heritage of southern West Virginia is expressed and perpetuated in many forms. Among these are the events which maintain a sense of community. In the midst of economic changes and relocations, reunions are particularly important and often associated with a particular place. One resident explained that "People want to know about their roots...they want to see where their grandparents grew up."

Events at Twin Falls State Park--situated on land donated by the Western Pocahontas Corporation and the Pocahontas Land Corporation--illustrate the popularity of reunions. "The Park has always been extremely important for reunions," according to Events Coordinator Norma Kirk. "There are a lot of people who make the trip home and count on getting together here. We try to accommodate them in a way that makes the event very personal." The importance of reunions--family, coal camp, company and church--is echoed throughout the area, including other state parks, and draws former residents from as far away as California and Florida.

The Eastern Regional Coal Archives at the Craft Memorial Library in Bluefield, West Virginia, was established at another kind of reunion--the 1983 Pocahontas Coalfield Centennial Celebration--to house the many artifacts collected during the event. With two part-time staff, the Archives now receives over 50 visitors and at least 100 telephone information requests per month. More recently, in the City of Mount Hope, the former headquarters of the New River Coal Company, local sponsors hosted a combination reunion and festival which drew an estimated 3000 people.

The role of the United Mine Workers of America in southern West Virginia is similarly intertwined with heritage. In addition to their historical role and extant purpose of collective bargaining, district offices and halls are settings for information to be passed between generations and for creating a larger social network.

Stories about the past and the present in coal mining communities are conveyed in more entertaining ways, too. "Coal Camp Memories," for example, a play by actress Karen Vuranch, is a blend of storytelling, oral history and theater. The material developed over a period of time, reshaped by individual recollections triggered by the performance itself. Community-based theater groups in Mullens, Hinton, Bramwell, and Welch have written and produced plays about life in the region, many of which present the personal histories of community members. Ecotheater performances, in particular, reflect a process of listening, writing, and presenting individual stories through a technique of "non-acting." And during the summer at Chief Logan State Park, Pipestem State Park, and the

Grandview amphitheater, local companies stage productions based on historical events. The annual Bluegrassin'-Lumberjackin' Jamboree at Twin Falls draws up to 5000 people on a weekend.

In a similar manner, oral history projects; music; books on local history, cooking, and poetry; and visual art--a show by miners in the vicinity of Kincaid travelled to Washington, DC, for example--actively document, interpret and reinforce heritage in other ways. Authors, playwrights and musicians can be found in each region of the study area.

Goldenseal, a quarterly publication by the Division of Culture and History, is perhaps one of the most effective and well-recognized vehicles documenting the past and present lives of West Virginians. Now in its sixteenth year, the magazine has received numerous awards for design and content, most recently from the West Virginia Library Association for literary merit. Goldenseal is also a means to celebrate and encourage the cultural diversity and the common ground of individuals and communities. Retrospectively, the West Virginia Department of Mines in 1910-1930 reported over 34 ethnic associations.²

Colleges, universities, the K-12 public school system, and non-profit institutes play a very important role through research, teaching, and community service projects. Classes and seminars in the study area include labor history and education, coal mining history, cultural geography, Appalachian folklife, and topics in public history. Landscape architecture programs at both Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University and West Virginia University provide planning and design assistance to a number of communities and organizations. Appalachian Studies Centers, established with assistance from the Appalachian Regional Commission, are a means to blend past and current perspectives. The Highlander Education and Research Center, the Brushy Fork Institute, and other non-profit organizations play an effective role, too.

Staffed archival facilities in the study area include: the West Virginia State Archives in Charleston; the Eastern Regional Coal Archives (for the Pocahontas coal field) in Bluefield; the National Mine Academy; the libraries at Concord College, Marshall University, Bluefield State, West Virginia Technological Institute, and community colleges; the Chesapeake and Ohio Archives in Clifton Forge, Virginia; Norfolk and Western artifacts at Virginia State; the Beckley Exhibition Mine and the Youth Museum; and county public libraries. Outside the study area, facilities include West Virginia

² Howard Adkins and Mack Gillenwater, The Coal Road, 64.

University, Highlander Research and Education Center, the Appalachian Studies Centers and elsewhere.

To the casual visitor, the campground at Chief Logan State Park is similar to other such facilities. However, the area received a national design award for its conversion from a former mining site. Many other reclamation projects are carried out in the area. Working with the Office of Surface Mining of the U.S. Department of the Interior, the West Virginia Division of Energy (DOE) monitors mining activities and identifies reclamation priorities: there are currently 1,371 sites inventoried for such purposes in the study area. For example, near Teays Landing in New River Gorge, five portals and many unstable mining structures have been returned to their pre-mining condition, providing an environmentally, hazard-free site for visitors. The Office of Surface Mining administers the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund for these purposes.

In addition, up to 20 percent of the yearly appropriation to the Fund is transferred to the Soil Conservation Service in the Department of Agriculture to administer the Rural Abandoned Mine Program. The West Virginia Soil Conservation Service obtains contracts obligating financial assistance to alleviate safety problems and improve water quality.

Appreciation and restoration of the natural heritage is further evident in the growing "Save Our Streams" program, sponsored in West Virginia by the state chapter of the Izaak Walton League. Introduced in 1989, the program is responsible for 25 monitoring stations in a State-designated priority watershed and another 27 stations statewide. Attendance at information meetings in West Virginia is much higher than in other states, an indication of residents' interest in restoration.

In response to a need identified by the Matewan Revitalization Task Force, a community economic development organization called Coal Country, Inc., has been established through the West Virginia Area 6 Partnership for Progress Council. With a \$25,000 matching grant, to study heritage tourism opportunities and publish a brochure describing the five-county coal-producing region. Additionally, members are working with the Appalachian Power Company to produce a video about the area's natural history and culture for education and promotion purposes.

The West Virginia Humanities Council, among other activities, has been a steady supporter of coal mining heritage-related programs and ideas. The Council has funded the Coal Life Project, which represented West Virginia at the 1982 World's Fair; has helped to support a network of interests under the name Coalways, Inc., to promote coal heritage education and tourism; and has funded

EcoTheater and Chautauqua performances. Recently, the Council has directed its attention to producing bibliographic essays on the history of the State, a film with assistance from Ken Burns, and a study of the eighth grade history curriculum.

The Institute for the History of Technology and Industrial Archeology, located at West Virginia University, contributes to the historic preservation work in the State and the Nation through research on a range of historical subjects. Among other sources, the organization was funded by Congress in Fiscal Year 1991 for \$800,000.

The Mercer County Tourist Train and Transportation Board, created by the West Virginia State Legislature, is responsible for a pilot project. The Board and the Norfolk and Southern Railroad are working on proposals to run a steam-powered, short-line railroad from Pocahontas to Bramwell and Bramwell to Matoaka. Project promoters estimate ridership on the "Bluestone Junction Tourist Train" is estimated to be 80,000 people the first year.

East of Beckley near the Raleigh County Memorial Airport, the National Mine and Safety Academy conducts training sessions for approximately 27,000 domestic and foreign individuals each year. The facility, managed by the U.S. Department of Labor, also arranges group tours, maintains an archives, and exhibits coal mining artifacts.

Regional Planning and Development Councils exist throughout the Appalachian region, with boards comprised of municipal and county officials. Professional staffs work with officials to identify infrastructure needs, establish priorities, seek funding and provide technical assistance. The State Department of Natural Resources, for example, has identified the need for a sanitary sewer system in Bramwell, a major polluter of the Bluestone and New River, as the top priority. The Region I Council has secured \$3 million of the required \$4 million toward the project.

Appendix H

The following are excerpts from The Coal Road: A Survey of Southern West Virginia Mining Tourism Potential:

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SPECIFIC THEMES AND CONTINUING TOURIST ACTIVITY

In addition to elevating the seven mining towns into tourist sites, it is recommended that the following existing tourism-related activities related to mining be upgraded and continue to function.

BRAMWELL:

1. Continue with the walking tour of the coal barons' mansions,
2. Promote additional bed-and-breakfast facilities,
3. Explore the feasibility of a railroad tour between Bramwell and Matoaka,
4. Explore the feasibility of utilizing the Coopers Company Store (i.e. gift shop, restaurant, local archives or depot).

BLUEFIELD:

1. Advertise and promote travel tours into McDowell County and the Pocahontas Coal Field,
2. Expand and upgrade the Craft Museum and Archives to include mining genealogy, with information on foreign miners in the southern coal fields.

BECKLEY:

1. Continue operating Beckley Exhibition Mine at New River Park. Expand the park to include a typical furnished miner's dwelling and a small company store.

Several mining related tourism activities should be considered by the following towns:

MATEWAN-WILLIAMSON:

1. Explore the feasibility of a railroad tour from Matewan to Red Jacket,
2. Develop a Norfolk and Western Railroad Museum at Williamson,
3. Establish a Matewan Massacre Museum,
4. Upgrade the Urias Hotel to visitor standards with 1920s decor,
5. Establish a Hatfield-McCoy Museum,
6. Develop a 4-wheel-drive vehicle, all terrain vehicle and rail-bike overland trails following abandoned mining and logging roads.

GARY-WELCH-COALWOOD:

1. Promote visitations to the large preparation plant near Gary,
2. Establish an European Immigrant and Black Miners Hall of Fame and Museum at Welch,
3. Develop Coke Oven Exhibit,
4. Establish a Coal Mining Equipment Exhibit in Coalwood.

MADISON:

1. Establish a Modern Coal Mining Equipment Exhibit,
2. Promote tours to contemporary mining sites along State Route 85 to Bolt Mountain.

OAK HILL:

1. Establish a Southern West Virginia Coal Operators Hall of Fame.

BLUEFIELD:

1. Establish a Baldwin-Felts Detective Museum,
2. Establish a Pocahontas Coal Field Museum.

In addition to the above-mentioned recommendations, the following suggestions should be considered for adoption:

HIKE-BIKE TRAIL

A trail of this type could connect several towns along low-volume secondary roads. For example, a tour from Bluefield to Logan, approximately 100 miles, or a 3-to-4 day trip may be feasible. Another trail could proceed from Charleston up Cabin Creek and through the abandoned Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad tunnel to Whitesville, then via Dorothy and similar mining towns to Beckley. A first-hand view of southern West Virginia's past and present coal culture would be the result. Overnight lodging in Bed-and-Breakfast accommodations and in private campgrounds could develop along these trails.

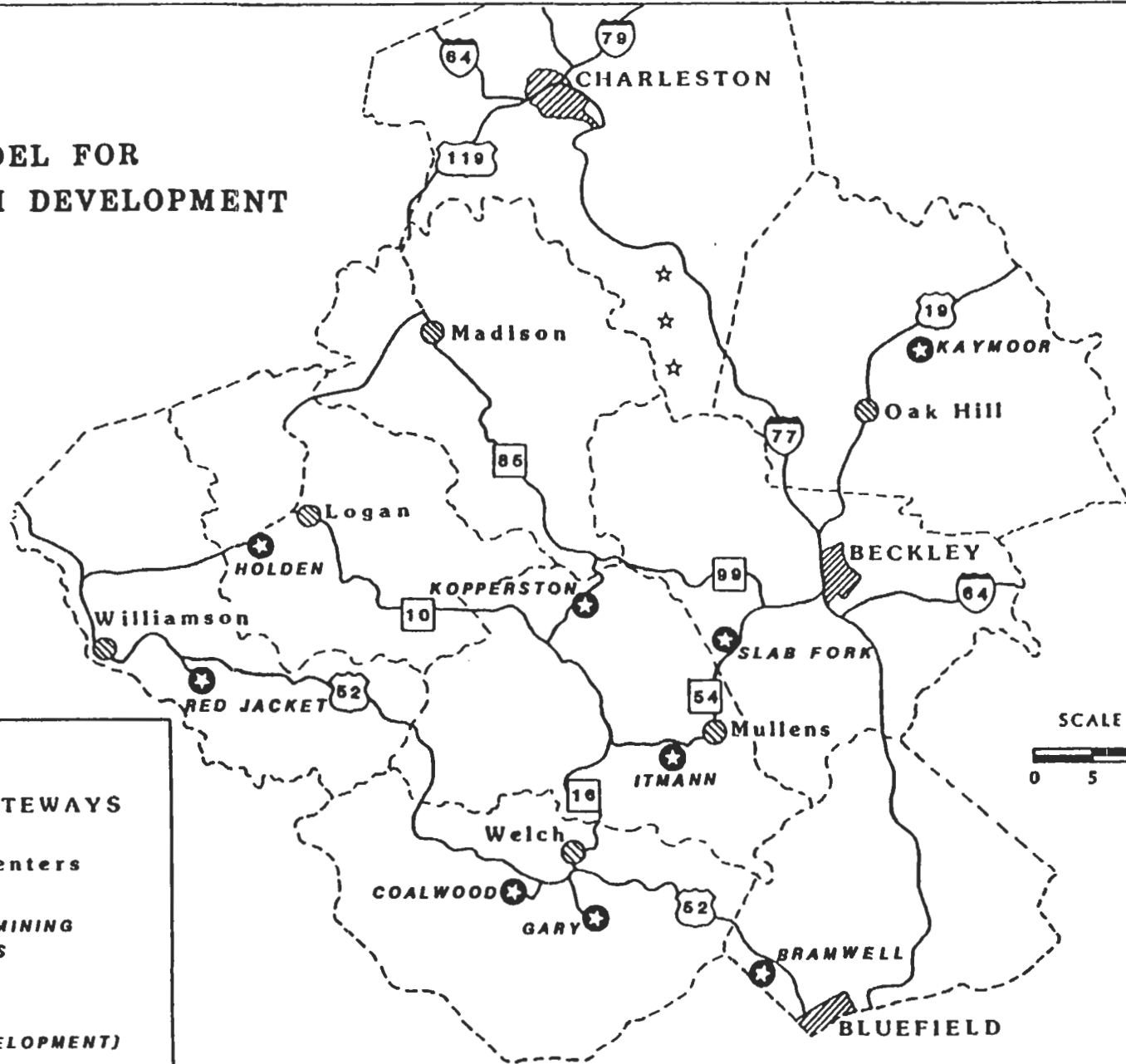
LIVING MUSEUM MINING TOWN:

A mining town such as Coalwood could be used for this purpose, if the residents agreed to allow visitors to tour the town, dwellings and facilities. The dwellings might be opened on pre-arranged schedules.





MINING TOWN LODGING FACILITIES:

A few mining towns may decide to purchase old dwellings and restore them to visitation standards for overnight occupancy.

A MODEL FOR COAL TOURISM DEVELOPMENT



LEGEND

-  PRIMARY GATEWAYS
-  Secondary Centers
-  RECOMMENDED MINING TOURISM TOWNS
-  CABIN CREEK (POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENT)

SCALE

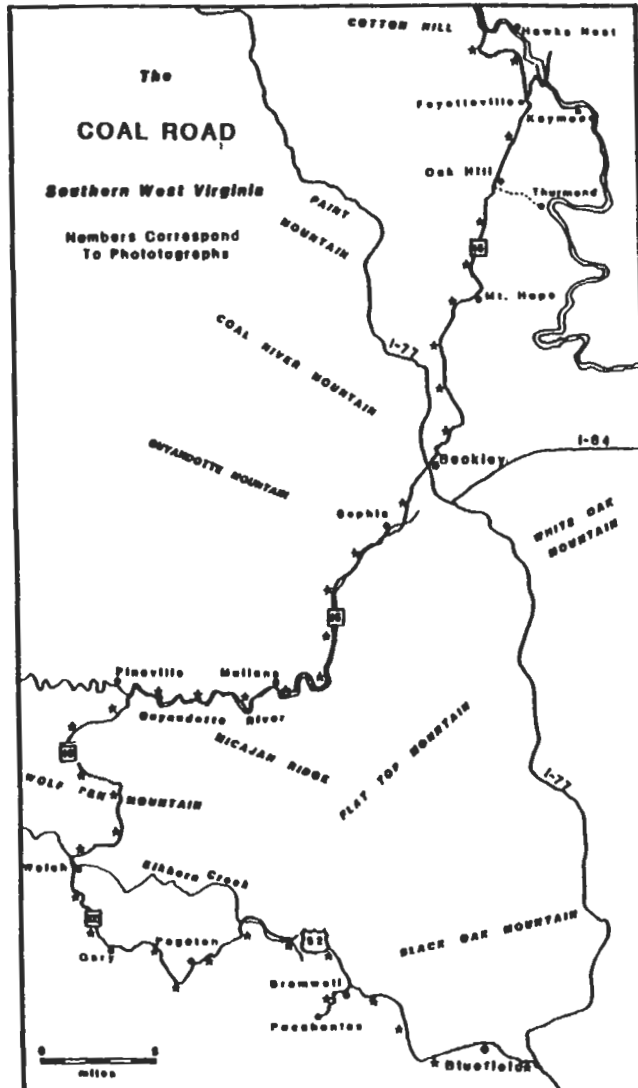
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U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Highway
Administration**

Final Case Study for the National Scenic Byways Study

A Proposed Coal Heritage Road and
Scenic Byway in Southern West Virginia



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