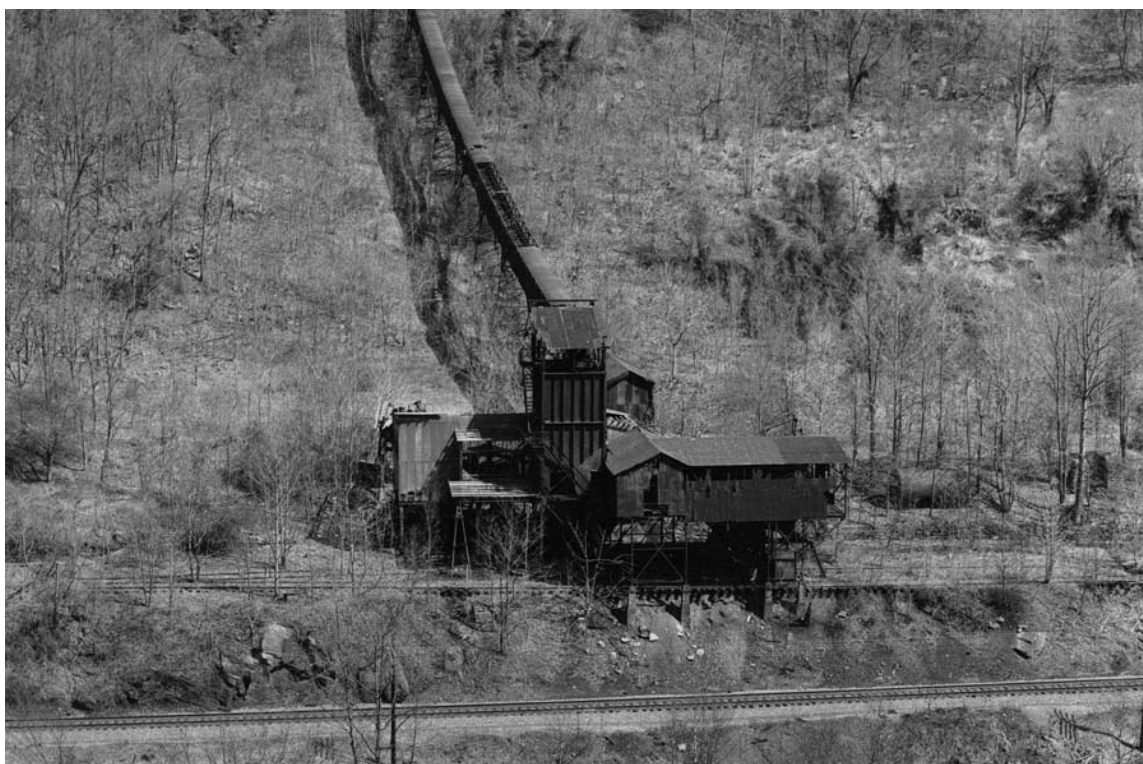

National Park Service
Cultural Landscapes Inventory

2006

Revised: 7/2025



Nuttallburg Coal Mining Complex and Town
New River Gorge National Park and Preserve

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Introduction

The Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI)

The Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI) is a comprehensive inventory of all cultural landscapes in the National Park System. Landscapes that are listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places, or are otherwise managed as cultural resources and in which the National Park Service has, or plans to acquire, legal interest are included in the inventory. The CLI identifies and documents each landscape's location, size, physical development, landscape characteristics, character-defining features, and condition. Cultural landscapes have approved CLIs when concurrence with the findings is obtained from the park superintendent and all required data fields are entered into the Cultural Resources Information System (CRIS-CL) database. In addition, for landscapes not currently listed on the National Register and/or without adequate documentation, concurrence is required from the State Historic Preservation Officer, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, or the Keeper of the National Register.

Scope of the CLI

The information contained within the CLI is compiled from primary and secondary sources and through on-site surveys of the landscape. The level of investigation is dependent upon scoping the need for information. The baseline information collected provides a comprehensive look at the historical development and significance of the landscape. Documentation and analysis of the existing landscape identifies character-defining characteristics and features and allows for an evaluation of the landscape's integrity and an assessment of the landscape's condition. The CLI also includes historic maps, drawings, and images; photographs of existing conditions; and a site plan that indicates major features. The CLI documents the existing condition of park landscape resources and identifies impacts, threats, and measures to stabilize condition. This information can be used to develop strategies for improved stewardship. Unlike a Cultural Landscape Report (CLR), the CLI does not provide management recommendations or treatment guidelines for the cultural landscape, but it may identify stabilization measures.

The Cultural Resources Information System (CRIS)

CRIS is the National Park Service's database of cultural resources on its lands, consisting of archeological sites, historic structures, ethnographic resources, and cultural landscapes. Cultural Resources Inventory System (CRIS) replaces three legacy inventory systems: ASMIS (archeology), CLI (cultural landscapes), and LCS (historic structures); and it reinstates the former ERI (ethnographic resources). This Cultural Landscape Inventory document reflects the information in a corresponding CRIS Cultural Landscape record.

Statutory and Regulatory Foundation

The legislative, regulatory, and policy directives for conducting and maintaining the CLI within CRIS are:

- National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966 (16 USC 470h-2(a)(1)) Sec. 110
- Executive Order 13287: Preserve America, 2003. Sec. 3 (a and c)
- Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Federal Agency Historic Preservation Programs
- Pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act, 1998. Std. 2
- Cultural Resource Management Guideline, 1997, Release No. 5, page 22; issued pursuant to Director's Order #28 (DO-28)

The NHPA requires the identification, evaluation, and nomination of historic properties to the National Register of Historic Places and the maintenance and expansion of an inventory of cultural resources. DO-28 requires a cyclic assessment of the current condition of cultural landscapes based on an assessment interval, with a default of six years.

Use

Beyond fulfilling legal and policy requirements, park staff can use the Cultural Landscape Inventory in the following ways:

- To learn about park cultural landscapes (all staff)
- To inform management decisions (park managers)
- To inform project planning and development (park managers, facility managers, project managers, compliance specialists)
- To monitor the condition of the cultural landscape and take measures to protect its significance and integrity (cultural resource managers, facility managers)
- To recognize the stabilization and treatment needs of landscape features and plan work within cultural landscapes to address the needs (facility managers, cultural resource managers)
- To understand the cultural value of natural systems in a cultural landscape (natural resource managers)
- To create programming and educational materials based on site history (interpretation and education specialists)
- To recognize impacts within cultural landscapes and enforce protection measures (visitor and resources protection staff)

General Information

Property Level and CLI Numbers

Inventory Unit Name:	Nuttallburg Coal Mining Complex and Town
Resource Classification:	Cultural Landscape
CLI Identification Number:	300205
Parent Landscape:	300205
Inventory Status:	Complete

Park Information

Park Name:	New River Gorge National Park and Preserve
Alpha Code:	NERI
Park Organization Code:	4780
Park District:	NERI
Region:	Northeast
Restricted:	Yes

Landscape Description:

Nuttallburg is situated in a remote region of the New River Gorge in West Virginia. The area is predominantly wooded with remnants of the mining operation that transformed the site into an industrial boomtown during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Originally, the site consisted of around 80 single and multiple family dwellings, a Store, railroad station, and post office. Mining facilities included coke ovens, a tippie, conveyor, headhouse, blacksmith shop, and sand house, among others. These structures were built on the slopes of the gorge along the New River. Second growth forest stands and the introduction of invasive species such as kudzu and Japanese jointgrass has changed the character of the site from when it was founded.

The Nuttallburg Coal Mining Complex and Town National Register of Historic Places documentation is currently in draft form. Coal was actively mined from Nuttallburg between 1874 to 1958, under the direction of five different coal companies. Remarkably, the town of Nuttallburg saw few major changes during that time. The mining operation experienced major changes during the 1920s, when the Fordson Coal Company controlled mining interests at Nuttallburg. It was during that time that the old mining structures were taken down in favor of newer steel structures. Draft documentation proposes that the property derives significance under Criterion A: Business at the national level for its association with the Fordson Coal Company, Criterion B: Industry at the local level for its association with John Nuttall, Criterion C: Engineering at the national level for the coal mining complex and Criterion D: Archeology at the local level for the town site.

Although few buildings remain at the site today, the town retains the same spatial organization represented during its period of significance. The roads still pass through the tippie level, branching to connect the numerous foundation ruins. Many of the retaining walls are in remarkable condition, despite overgrown vegetation. The timber used in the construction of the residential structures has deteriorated in the humid conditions along the river, yet the cut stone building foundations remain intact. Despite severe rust, the major mine buildings are extant.

Landscape Hierarchy Description:

Nuttallburg is classified as a landscape in the Cultural Landscapes Inventory database. It is one of fourteen cultural landscapes that have been identified within the New River Gorge National River. The others include: Camp Brookside, Christina Vallandingham House, Cochrane Farm, Cunard Mine Site, Grandview, Harrah Homestead, Kaymoor, New River Gorge Landscape, Quinnimont, Richmond-Hamilton Farm, Thayer Church, Thurmond Historic District, and Trump-Lilly Farm. New River Gorge National River is part of the Northeast Region of the National Park Service.

Landscape Type:

Historic Vernacular Landscape

Other Names:

Other Name:	Nuttall	Other Name Type:	Historic
Other Name:	Nuttall Station	Other Name Type:	Historic
Other Name:	Nuttallburg	Other Name Type:	Both Current And Historic

Site Plan



Concurrence Information

Concurrence Status:

Park Superintendent Concurrence: Yes

Park Superintendent Date of Concurrence: 09/05/2006

Completion Status Explanatory Narrative:

The fieldwork for the CLI in Nuttallburg, WV, was conducted in March 2003, by Cheryl Sams and Joshua Shields. Further historic research was performed and the report written by Shields, and edited by Sams and Brown. Shields prepared the existing conditions maps, which were edited by Laurie Matthews and Gretchen Hilyard in 2006. Various sections, including existing conditions and National Register information, were updated in 2006 in consultation with the park.

The park contact for cultural landscape issues is Richard Segars, Historical Architect. He can be contacted at (304)465 6525.

Concurrence Graphic Information:

Attachment File Path

Cultural Landscape Inventory
Nuttallburg
New River Gorge National River

New River Gorge National River concurs with the findings of the Cultural Landscape Inventory for Nuttallburg including the following specific components:

MANAGEMENT CATEGORY: Must be Preserved and Maintained

CONDITION ASSESSMENT: Poor

Good: indicates the inventory unit shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The inventory unit's cultural and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under the given environmental conditions. No immediate corrective action is required to maintain its current condition.

Fair: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of minor disturbances and deterioration by natural and/or human forces, and some degree of corrective action is needed within 3-5 years to prevent further harm to its cultural and/or natural values. If left to continue without the appropriate corrective action, the cumulative effect of the deterioration of many of the character defining elements, will cause the inventory unit to degrade to a poor condition.

Poor: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of major disturbance and rapid deterioration by natural and/or human forces. Immediate corrective action is required to protect and preserve the remaining historical and natural values.

The Cultural Landscape Inventory for Nuttallburg is hereby approved and accepted. Minor changes may be made during the SHPO review period; however, the WV SHPO will be consulted if changes are proposed.

Celine F. Hite
Superintendent, New River Gorge National River

9-5-06
Date

Park concurrence form, September 5, 2006.

Non-Contributing Landscape Characteristics & Associated Features

Vegetation

Japanese Jointgrass
Kudzu

Small-Scale Features

Chainlink fence
Signs

Undetermined Landscape Characteristics & Associated Features

Vegetation

Apple Trees
Daffodils

Buildings and Structures

Powder House

Small-Scale Features

Well covers

example, the NPS List of Classified Structures inventory includes structural features of cultural landscapes, but the CLI takes a more encompassing approach to the properties, inventorying all above-ground features in each park in which the NPS has a legal or mandated interest.

Nuttallburg Coal Mining Complex and Town is not currently listed on the National Register of Historic Places. However, documentation for the property is in process and has been developed through a collaboration between the National Park Service and your office. Members of your staff have reviewed and commented on draft documentation. As a result of that review, an August 12, 2005 letter from Alan Rowe of your office stated that in the State's opinion, the Nuttallburg Coal Mining Complex and Town derives significance under the following National Register criteria: Criterion A in the area of business for its association with the coal mining industry and the Chesapeake and Ohio (C&O) Railroad from 1873 until 1958, and for the property's association with the Fordson Coal Company; Criterion B for its association with John Nuttall; Criterion C in the area of engineering as one of the best extant coal mining complexes in West Virginia dating to the first half of the twentieth century; and Criterion D for potential to yield archeological information about life in the mining community.

The CLI lists the period of significance as 1873-1958, with the following areas of significance: business, industry, engineering, and archeology. Mining operation began in 1873 and ceased in 1958. The CLI finds that the overall landscape retains integrity to the period of significance. Therefore, those landscape characteristics and features that date to the period of significance should be preserved since they contribute to the property's historic character.

We call your particular attention to the Landscape Description, National Register Information, Statement of Significance, and the Analysis and Evaluation Summary in the enclosed CLI report.

Based on the CLI, we seek your concurrence of the following findings:

- The landscape derives significance in the areas of industry and archeology and national significance in the areas of business and engineering.
- The period of significance includes the entire period the property was actively mined (1873-1958). The end date 1958 is the year mining operations ceased at Nuttallburg. Those landscape characteristics and features that date to the period of significance contribute to the property's historic character.
- The landscape retains integrity as a site to the period of significance.
- The property retains landscape characteristics and associated features that contribute to the site's historic character (see enclosed list).

The draft National Register documentation for the Nuttallburg Coal Mining Complex and Town finds that:

- Based on the significance of the landscape, the nomination should include one site as a contributing resource.

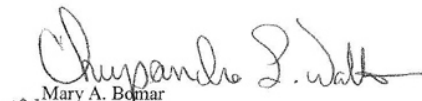
Nuttallburg Coal Mining Complex and Town
New River Gorge National Park and Preserve

3

- The period of significance should include the entire period the property was being actively mined (1873-1958). The end date 1958 is the year mining operations ceased at Nuttallburg. Those landscape characteristics and features that date to the period of significance contribute to the property's historic character.
- The landscape is significant under Criterion A in the area of business, Criterion B in the area of industry, Criterion C in the area of engineering, and Criterion D for potential to yield archeological information about the coal industry and the associated community.
- The distinctive characteristics of the landscape should be fully supported in the narrative as well as all areas of significance, specifically business, industry, engineering, and archeology.
- All contributing resources and associated features will be fully enumerated and described.

If you concur with our above stated findings regarding this eligible property, including contributing and non-contributing landscape resources and features at Nuttallburg Coal Mining Complex and Town, please sign on the space provided and return this letter to Laurie Matthews, CLI Coordinator (Address: Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation, Charlestown Navy Yard, Quarters C, Charlestown, MA 02129) within thirty days. Thank you for your attention to these reports. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Ms. Matthews at 617-241-6954 ext. 266.

Sincerely,

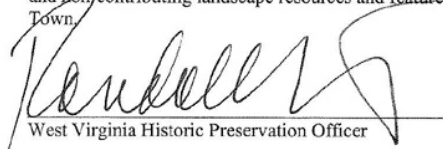

Mary A. Bomar
Regional Director
Northeast Region

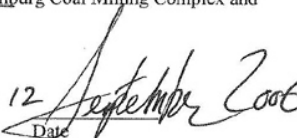
Enclosure

cc:

Superintendent, New River Gorge National River

I concur with the above stated findings regarding this eligible property, including contributing and non-contributing landscape resources and features at Nuttallburg Coal Mining Complex and Town.


West Virginia Historic Preservation Officer


Date

Nuttallburg Coal Mining Complex and Town

New River Gorge National Park and Preserve

NPS Cultural Landscapes Inventory

List of Contributing and Non-Contributing Landscape Characteristics and Associated Features
Nuttallburg Coal Mining Complex and Town
August 2006

Contributing Landscape Characteristics & Associated Features

The following landscape characteristics and associated features contribute to the site's historic character, though not all are considered countable resources according to the National Register of Historic Places.

Circulation

- Headhouse Trail
- Keeney's Creek Branchline Railroad Grade
- State Route 85/2
- Trestle #1
- Trestle #2
- Short Creek Bridge Abutments

Buildings and Structures

- Railroad Sidings at Tipple
- Timber Drainage Culvert- Keeney's Creek Branch Railroad
- Mine Opening
- Superintendent's Office retaining walls
- Foundation Ruins and Retaining Walls of Buildings 1 through 59
- Black Church
- Boundary retaining wall
- Cap House
- Coke Ovens
- Conveyor
- Nuttall Station retaining wall system
- Fan House
- Headhouse
- Headhouse mortared retaining walls
- Hoist House
- Masonry stone wall, Keeney's Creek branch Railroad retaining wall system
- State Route 85/2 retaining wall system
- Powder House
- Railroad support shed
- Substation
- Tipple
- White Church
- White School
- White School retaining wall system
- White Clubhouse

Nuttallburg Coal Mining Complex and Town
New River Gorge National Park and Preserve



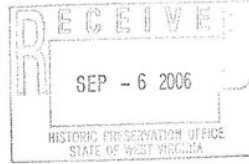
IN REPLY REFER TO:

H30 (NER-RS&S OCLP)

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Northeast Region
200 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106-2878

AUG 28 2006



Susan Pierce, Deputy SHPO
West Virginia Division of Culture & History
1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East
Charleston, WV 25305-0300

Dear Ms. Pierce:

Enclosed you will find a copy of the Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI) for the Nuttallburg Coal Mining Complex and Town, a component landscape of New River Gorge National River, for which we seek your concurrence. This report was prepared by a team of historical landscape architects with the National Park Service Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation. The CLI program and the enclosed report continue the National Park Service (NPS) efforts to update our cultural resource inventories.

Through the CLI program, the NPS is currently in the midst of a nationwide effort to inventory its cultural landscapes. The CLI is conducted in accordance with Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (as amended). It is an inventory of baseline information for all historically significant cultural landscapes within the national park system, and it examines multiple landscape features that contribute to the significance of historic properties. The CLI process includes gathering information from existing secondary sources and conducting on-site reconnaissance of the existing landscape. The information collected provides a comprehensive look at the historical development and significance of the landscape, placing it in context of the property's overall significance. For landscapes found potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, the evaluation describes their character-defining features and assesses the landscape's overall historical integrity. It also raises questions about the landscape that need further study.

It is important to note that the CLI reports are not intended as comprehensive inventory reports for any one property, although for some properties they provide fuller documentation than for others. For example, the reports do not include a full architectural description of structures, but document structures as elements of the overall landscape, and similarly documents other characteristics such as vegetation, spatial organization, and views and vistas. The CLI is one component of the NPS inventory effort that also includes cultural resource inventories for historic structures, archeological sites, ethnographic resources, and museum objects. For

SHPO concurrence letter, September 12, 2006 (6 pages).

Pedestrian Suspension Bridge Towers
Store
Sand House
Power House
Refuse Bin
Company Store
Conveyor Ruins-Stone piers
Ice House
Lower Sand House
Nuttall Station
Post Office
Barn ruins
Black School

Views and Vistas

Historic views from Headhouse level

Small-Scale Features

Cast iron water hydrants
Railroad switch
Tramway stone piers
Wood railroad tie box culvert
Concrete railroad markers

Archeological Sites

Cobblestone trace
Water Tank foundation
Well House

**Cultural Landscapes Inventory
Condition Reassessment
2012**

New River Gorge National River
Nuttallburg Coal Mining Complex and Town

New River Gorge National River concurs with the condition reassessment for the Nuttallburg Coal Mining Complex and Town, including:

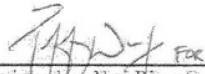
CONDITION ASSESSMENT: Good

Good: indicates the inventory unit shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The inventory unit's cultural and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under the given environmental conditions. No immediate corrective action is required to maintain its current condition.

Fair: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of minor disturbances and deterioration by natural and/or human forces, and some degree of corrective action is needed within 3-5 years to prevent further harm to its cultural and/or natural values. If left to continue without the appropriate corrective action, the cumulative effect of the deterioration of many of the landscape characteristics will cause the inventory unit to degrade to a poor condition.

Poor: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of major disturbance and rapid deterioration by natural and/or human forces. Immediate corrective action is required to protect and preserve the remaining historical and natural values.

The condition reassessment for Nuttallburg Coal Mining Complex and Town at New River Gorge National River is hereby approved and accepted.



Superintendent, New River Gorge National River

8/30/12

Date

Condition reassessment form, August 30, 2012.

**Cultural Landscapes Inventory
CLI Updates Certification Form
2025**

New River Gorge National River
Nuttallburg Coal Mining Complex and Town
Thurmond Historic District

New River Gorge National River certifies the CLI updates for the Nuttallburg Coal Mining Complex and Town and the Thurmond Historic District, including:

CONDITION ASSESSMENT: Fair – Nuttallburg Coal Mining Complex and Town
Fair – Thurmond Historic District

Good: indicates the inventory unit shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The inventory unit's cultural and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under the given environmental conditions. No immediate corrective action is required to maintain its current condition.

Fair: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of minor disturbances and deterioration by natural and/or human forces, and some degree of corrective action is needed within 3-5 years to prevent further harm to its cultural and/or natural values. If left to continue without the appropriate corrective action, the cumulative effect of the deterioration of many of the character defining elements, will cause the inventory unit to degrade to a poor condition.

Poor: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of major disturbance and rapid deterioration by natural and/or human forces. Immediate corrective action is required to protect and preserve the remaining historical and natural values.

The CLI updates for the Nuttallburg Coal Mining Complex and Town and the Thurmond Historic District at New River Gorge National River are hereby approved and accepted.

Eric G. LaPrice

Eric G. LaPrice
2025.07.16 10:25:10 -04'00'

Superintendent, New River Gorge National River

Date

Park concurrence form, July 16, 2025.

Revision:

Revised By	Type of Revision	Revision Date	Revision Narrative
Jeff Killion	Change in Condition	08/30/2012	Condition reassessment completed as scheduled.
Jeff Killion	CLI Update	07/16/2025	Three levels of effort have been developed for CLI Updates: A, B, and C. Level C is limited to a condition reassessment of the landscape; Level B includes C and is a targeted update of select data fields; Level A includes C and is a comprehensive update of all data fields. This 2025 update to the Nuttallburg Coal Mining Complex and Town CLI has been conducted at a Level C effort. See Landscape Documents in CRIS-CL for correspondences with park

Geographic Information

State and County:

State	County
West Virginia	Fayette County

Size (Acres): 90

Land Tract Number(s)

Boundary Description:

The Nuttallburg Historic District totals approximately 90 acres and includes property at the bottom of the gorge and along the canyon rim which are separated by steep topography. These properties will be discussed as two separate pieces that represent a larger landscape.

The boundary for the town of Nuttallburg begins at the twin stone pylons that were once the east end of the Nuttallburg pedestrian bridge that crossed the New River to South Nuttall. From there the boundary heads SW approximately 60 feet to the edge of the New River, where it then follows the river approximately 4600 feet to encompass the ruins of the town of Nuttallburg. The boundary then turns due north approximately 600 feet to a point due west of the westernmost residential ruins of Nuttallburg known as “Seldom Seen”. It then proceeds 350 feet east northeast to a point 30 feet above the upper track of the Keeney’s Creek branch line. It then runs east, parallel to the upper track of the branch line (approximately 3900 feet) to a point just to the east of the timber and steel trestle bridge over Short Creek. It then runs south southwest for 250 feet to the upper side of the lower track of the Keeney’s Creek branch line encompassing the timber and steel trestle bridge where the lower branch line crosses Short Creek. It then turns southeast and parallels the lower Keeney’s Creek Branch line for approximately 625 feet to a point where it turns southwest for approximately 500 feet and borders on the northwest property line of the private property adjacent to the park. The boundary then turns southwest and follows the private property line for approximately 270 feet to close at the Nuttallburg pedestrian bridge stone pylons.

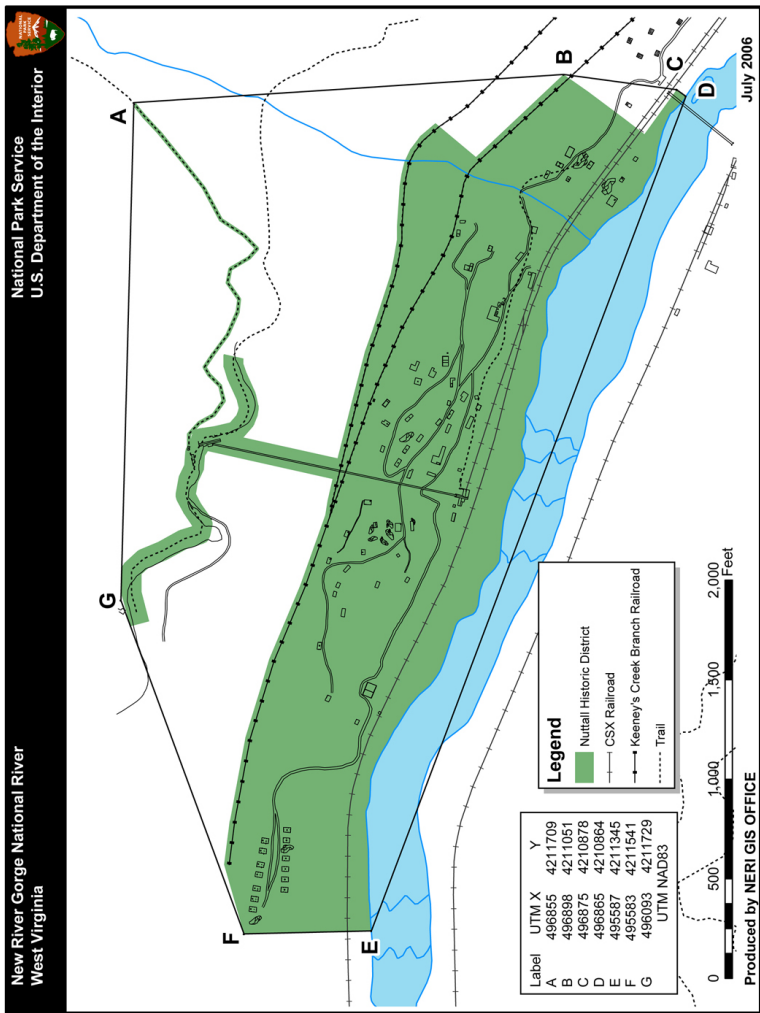
The boundary for the area surrounding the mine entrance begins at the NPS property sign on the trail north and east of the Headhouse, the headhouse road. The headhouse road is a corridor approximately 12 to 25 feet wide depending on the terrain that heads from the park boundary for approximately 2300 feet to an intersection with a road at the mine bench level. The boundary continues westward along the mine level bench road for approximately 1000 feet to encompass the cap, powder and fan house structures. It then returns along the lower portion of the bench level road past the headhouse and continues for approximately 750 feet more to encompass two stone retaining walls and ruins mine tramway foundations. It then returns west along the upper side of the bench level road to the intersection of the headhouse road and thence back along the headhouse road to close at the NPS property sign.

The upper and lower areas of the Nuttallburg Mine and Town are connected by a 100 foot wide corridor 50 feet on both sides of the Conveyor centerline. The Conveyor is a 1385 foot long structure that begins at the base of the Headhouse and descends 600 feet in elevation to the Conveyor House portion of the Tipple.

Boundary Coordinates

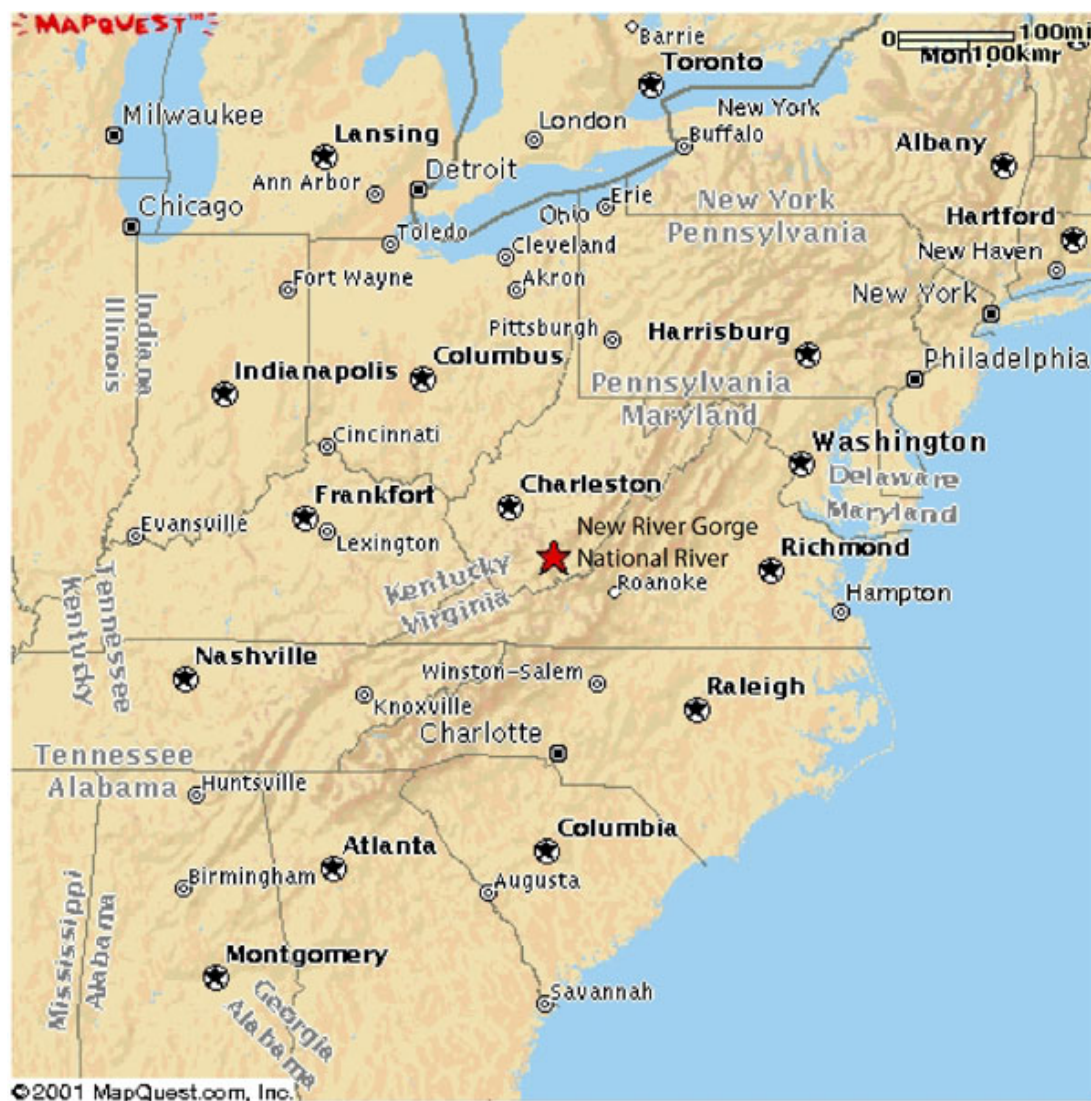
Source	Type of Point	Latitude	Longitude	Narrative
USGS Map 1:24,000	Point	-81.0358470135349	38.0549710521461	
USGS Map 1:24,000	Point	-81.0353540430038	38.0490406387391	
USGS Map 1:24,000	Point	-81.0356154226425	38.0474813075425	
USGS Map 1:24,000	Point	-81.035729330652	38.0473550906915	
USGS Map 1:24,000	Point	-81.0502975505163	38.0516850211617	
USGS Map 1:24,000	Point	-81.0503443507447	38.0534515514665	
USGS Map 1:24,000	Point	-81.0445324701133	38.0551483427138	

Location Map:



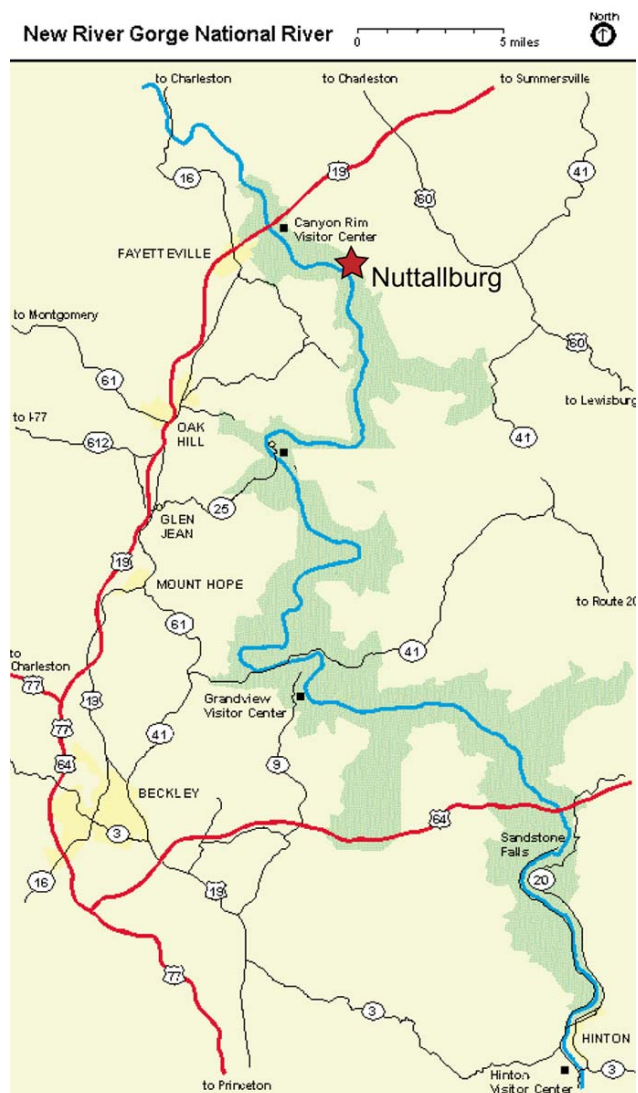
Detail of boundary map for Nuttallburg Coal Mining Complex and Town historic district, draft National Register documentation. Image provided by New River Gorge National River, August 2006.

Nuttallburg Coal Mining Complex and Town
New River Gorge National Park and Preserve



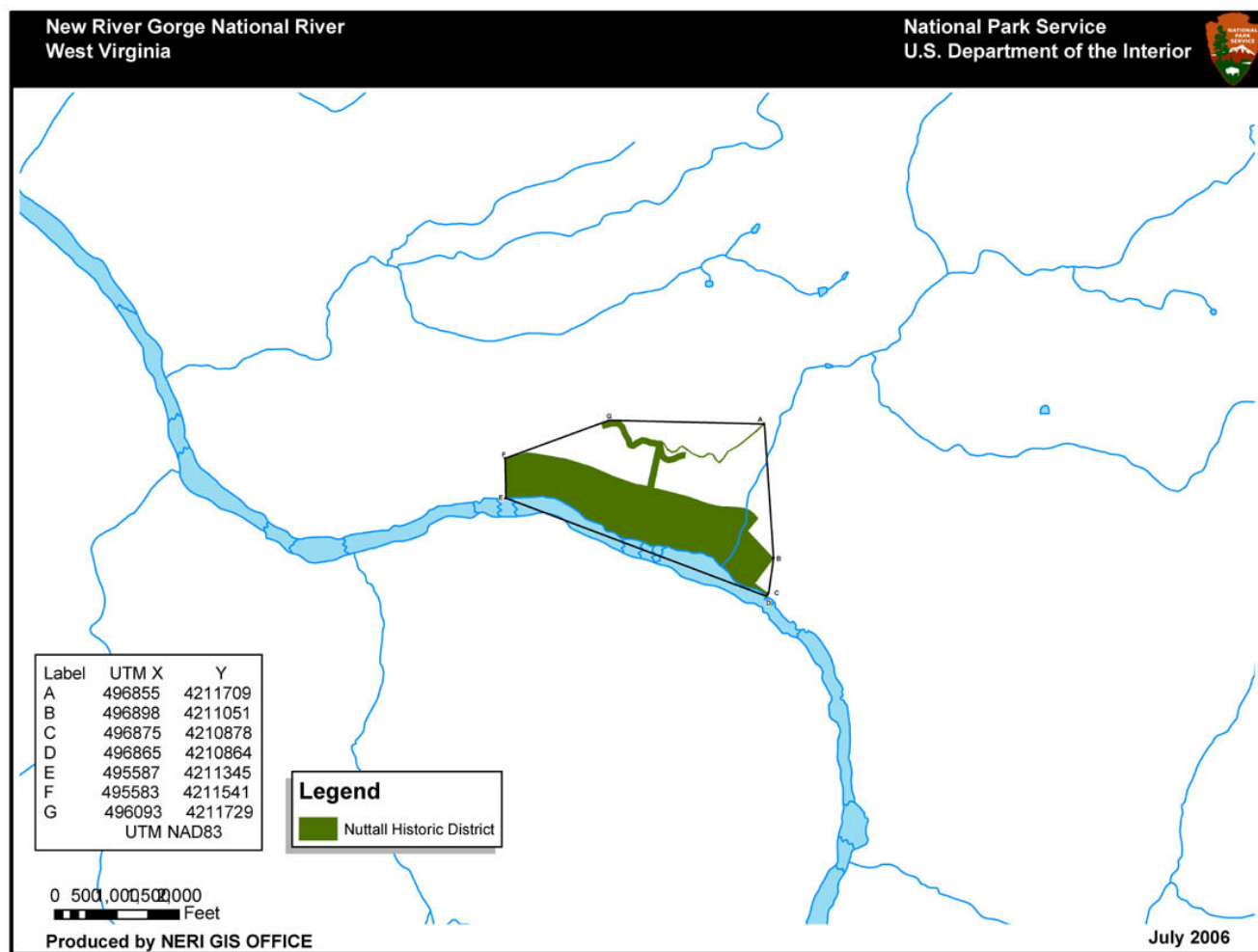
Location of New River Gorge NR in the southern portion of the Northeast Region (source: www.mapquest.com).

Nuttallburg Coal Mining Complex and Town
New River Gorge National Park and Preserve



Location of Nuttallburg within the New River Gorge National River (Source: <http://www.nps.gov/neri/graphics/parkmap.gif>)

).



Boundary Map for Nuttallburg Coal Mining Complex and Town historic district, draft National Register documentation. Information provided by New River Gorge National River, August 2006.

Image

Regional Landscape Contexts:

Type of Context: Cultural

Description:

Nuttallburg is located within a rural area of West Virginia, approximately 4 miles south of Fayetteville, WV. It is only accessed by the New River or by Keeney's Creek Road, which runs to the east edge of the site. The area was developed during the industrial age of the New River Gorge to provide housing for coal miners in the nearby Nuttallburg and Keeney's Creek Mines.

Type of Context: Physiographic

Description:

Nuttallburg is located in the Allegheny section of the Appalachian Plateau Province. This section is indicated by a regular succession of high, sharp ridges separated by sharp, V shaped valleys. The New River, a dominant natural feature near Nuttallburg, is a sharply dropping river. Its elevation drops as steeply as 17.3 feet per mile, which formed the sharp gorge for which this area is known. The gorge was plentiful with bituminous coal, which is why the area was developed in the late 1800s.

Type of Context: Political

Description:

Nuttallburg is located in Fayette County, West Virginia. It is accessed by taking Keeney's Creek Road from Winona, WV, which runs along Keeney's Creek.

Management Information

General Management Information

Management Category: Must be Preserved and Maintained

Management Category Date: 09/05/2006

Management Category Explanatory Narrative:

New River Gorge National River is in the process of completing their General Management Plan. The Management Category was determined in consultation with park staff in the interim and received concurrence from the park superintendent on 9/5/2006.

Management Agreements:

Legal Interests:

Type of Interest: Fee Simple

Narrative:

Located in managed wilderness?: Unknown

Adjacent Lands Information

Do Adjacent Lands Contribute? Yes

Adjacent Lands Narrative:

Located deep in the heart of the New River Gorge, Nuttallburg is isolated by steep topography and water. Therefore it does not face any adjacent development pressures, and its current setting compliments its historic significance. However, it should be noted that the National Park Service does not own all the property within the district, thus alterations to these private properties could negatively impact the resource.

National Register Information

National Register of Historic Places

Documentation Status: Undocumented

Documentation Narrative Description:

National Register documentation for Nuttallburg is currently in draft form. The draft documentation is consistent with an August 12, 2005 letter from the West Virginia SHPO which stated that Nuttallburg is nationally significant for its association with the Fordson Coal Company and as the most intact example of an early 20th century coal mining complex in the New River Gorge and West Virginia, and one of the most complete coal related industrial sites in the United States; and locally significant for its association with John Nuttall and the district's archeological features and deposits.

Eligibility: Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination

Concurrence Eligibility Date: 09/12/2006

Concurrence Narrative:

National Register documentation for this property is currently in draft form. Based on the opinion of the West Virginia State Historic Preservation Officer received on August 12, 2005 the property is eligible for the National Register.

This CLI and its findings received concurrence from the West Virginia SHPO on September 13, 2006.

Significance Level: National

Contributing: Individual

Classification: District

Statement of Significance for National Register of Historic Places:

Nuttallburg, WV, is located in a remote area of the New River Gorge and is under jurisdiction of the National Park Service as part of the New River Gorge National River. The Nuttallburg Coal Mining Complex, and its associated town site, is nationally significant under Criterion A in the area of business for its association with the coal mining industry and the Chesapeake and Ohio (C&O) Railroad from 1873 until 1958, and for the property's association with the Fordson Coal Company. The property is locally significant under Criterion B in the area of industry for its association with John Nuttall. Nuttallburg is also nationally significant under Criterion C in the area of engineering as one of the best extant coal mining complexes in West Virginia dating to the first half of the twentieth century. The site is locally significant under Criterion D for potential archeological information. The period of significance is 1873 to 1958 dating from the year of construction to the end of the use of the site for mining. The resource is significant on both the national and local levels. The following information about significance is from the nearly completed National Register Nomination for the Nuttallburg Coal Mining Complex and Town.

The Nuttallburg Coal Mining Complex and Town are nationally significant under Criterion A: Business for its association with Henry Ford's (1863-1947) revolutionary experiment to control the supply and flow of raw materials and transportation necessary to manufacture automobiles at his Rouge River Plant in

Dearborn, Michigan from 1920-1928. The Nuttallburg Coal Mining Complex was one of a small number of coal mine properties in West Virginia and Kentucky that were acquired in the 1920s by the Fordson Coal Company, a Ford Motor Company subsidiary. The Nuttallburg Coal Mining Complex was the only coal operation in the productive New River coalfields to be purchased by the Fordson Coal Company for this purpose. During the 1920s and 1930s, the Fordson mines in West Virginia and Kentucky supplied all of the coal and coke needed to produce power and high quality steel for Ford's Rouge River Plant.

The Nuttallburg Coal Mining Complex and Town historic district is locally significant under Criterion B: Industry. Through his pioneering exploration and development of the New River coalfields, John Nuttall (1845-1897), the founder of the town and mining complex, contributed to the country's national industrial development. The "smokeless" bituminous coal from the Sewell seam produced excellent coke for the budding national steel industry in major industrial cities (New York Times 1928). Sewell coal from Nuttallburg was in fact a preferred fuel of the United States navy before and during World War I. Its smokeless characteristics also attracted its use in major cities like Boston, Massachusetts.

The town was established by John Nuttall in 1873 to meet housing demands for the miners at the Nuttallburg and adjacent Keeney's Creek Mining Complexes. John Nuttall, an English gentleman who came to West Virginia from Pennsylvania, was the first person to extract and transport "smokeless" coal of the Sewell seam. John Nuttall purchased his first parcel of land in Nuttallburg in 1870 astride the C&O railroad right-of-way (Nuttall 1961). John Nuttall recognized the economic potential of Sewell coal. Because of the flat-lying character of the Sewell seam, Nuttall realized that it could be mined efficiently using "drift" or horizontal mines. An attached map of the mine operations at his Short Creek and Keeney mines show the "room and pillar" pattern that he used to extract the Sewell coal (Clark & Krebs 1906).

John Nuttall is significant in being one of a handful of early entrepreneurs who understood the economic potential of the New River coalfields. Like his contemporary, Colonel J. L. Beury who also established the town and coal mine at neighboring Beury, West Virginia, Nuttall based his investment in coal mining and coke production on the anticipated completion of the C&O Railroad through the New River Gorge in 1873. Nuttall began his coal production at the Keeney Mine just north of Keeney's Creek. Shortly thereafter, he opened his Short Creek or Nuttall Mine just east of Short Creek. This mine soon became the main coal producer for decades to come, and was connected to the Keeney Mine sometime before 1906.

The Nuttallburg Coal Mining Complex and Town is significant nationally under Criterion C: Engineering as the most intact example of an early 20th century coal mining complex in the New River Gorge and West Virginia, and one of the most complete coal related industrial sites in the United States (IHTIA 2004:35). It is especially noteworthy that the Short Creek mine, essentially unaltered since the 1920s when most of the existing structures and buildings were erected, is associated with the period when West Virginia became the leading coal producer in the country. Other early coal mining complexes have been documented in the state, but the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection has demolished many of these ruins. Only one other similar coal mining complex from the early 20th century, the Edwight Mine in Raleigh County, is still intact in West Virginia, although is now slated for demolition in 2005 (IHTIA 2004:34-35; Davis 2004). Few similar structures in the country are known to exist or have been documented through inventory efforts or the National Register nomination process.

The Nuttallburg Coal Mining Complex and Town historic district is also nationally significant under Criterion C: Engineering for its steel mine conveyor system erected by Henry Ford's company. The Fordson Coal Company built the Short Creek mine conveyor system and associated buildings between 1923 and 1926. As such they represent rare surviving examples of the types of coal mining structures built during this period. This is especially true of the Short Creek mine conveyor. When it was built the Short Creek mine conveyor was the longest of its kind, and represented a notable engineering feature in its retarding or "rope and button" technology that was specifically engineered to decrease the fragmentation and thus increase the efficient conveyance of the friable Sewell coal. It was thus a technology that addressed the unique characteristics of mining and transporting the coal down the steep slopes of the New River Gorge. The tipple, erected by Roberts and Schaefer Company, Chicago, and the headhouse and conveyor, erected by the Fairmont Mining Machinery Company, Fairmont, West Virginia, were the state-of-the-art technology in their time and were significant improvements over the standard mining systems of the day.

During the 1920s, the Short Creek mine tipple and headhouse, hoist house, substation, powder and cap

houses were also built to replace earlier structures. Both the Short Creek mine tipple and headhouse were of steel construction at a time when the common practice was to construct wood frame structures. Built by the Roberts and Schaefer Co. of Illinois and the Fairmont Mining Machinery Company of West Virginia respectively, the tipple and headhouse are rare extant examples of these types of structures. Although the mine was operated for 30 years after Ford's sale of the property, few major changes were subsequently made to any of the structures.

Finally, the Nuttallburg Coal Mining Complex and Town historic district is locally significant under Criterion D: Archaeology. This statement is based on the excellent integrity of the district's archeological features and deposits, and the tremendous potential the district's historic resources have to address significant themes pertaining to NERI's Coal Industry and Railroad Industry historic contexts (IHTIA 2005; Unrau 1996). The integrity of these resources is based on the results of an archeological reconnaissance and shovel testing in the district that stemmed from recommendations of the West Virginia State Historic Preservation Office. As the investigation report, Archeological Reconnaissance and Shovel Testing (Fuerst, April-May 2005) documents, the most salient finding of the investigation was the presence of intact primary refuse deposits in direct association with residences and other historic resources in the historic district.

National Register Significance Criteria:

- A - Associated with events significant to broad patterns of our history
- B - Associated with lives of persons significant in our past
- C - Embodies distinctive construction, work of master, or high artistic values
- D - Has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important to prehistory or history

National Register Criteria Consideration:

National Register Periods of Significance (with Historic Context Themes):

Time Period: CE 1873 - CE 1958

Historic Context Theme	Subtheme	Facet	Other Facet
Developing the American Economy	Extraction or Mining Industries	Other Metals And Minerals	
Developing the American Economy	Transportation by Land and Air	Railroads and Railyards	
Expanding Science and Technology	Technology (Engineering and Invention)	Construction	

Area of Significance:

Area of Significance Category: Other

Area of Significance Subcategory: None

Explanatory Narrative:

Area of Significance Category: Industry

Area of Significance Subcategory: None

Explanatory Narrative:

Area of Significance Category: Engineering

Area of Significance Subcategory: None

Explanatory Narrative:

Area of Significance Category: Archeology

Area of Significance Subcategory: Historic-Non-Aboriginal

Explanatory Narrative:

NRIS Information:

State Register Documentation:

National Historic Landmarks:

National Historic Landmark? No

Theme:

Contributing:

NHL ID:

NHL URL:

Date:

Statement of Significance for National Historic Landmark:

World Heritage Site:

World Heritage Site? No

Category:

WHS ID:

WHS URL:

Date:

Is Resource within a designated National Natural Landscape: No

Chronology and Physical History

Chronology:

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
BCE * - 8000	Inhabited	Paleo Indian Period: Native American habitation in New River Gorge (Fuerst 1981, 83).
BCE 8000 - 1000	Inhabited	Archaic Period: Seasonal hunting and gathering by Native Americans (Fuerst 1981, 83).
BCE 1000 - 900	Settled	Woodland Period: Native American sedentary villages and economy based on maize agriculture (Fuerst 1981, 84).
CE 900 - 1650	Settled	Late Prehistoric Period: The Delaware, Shawnee, and Mingo tribes control the New River Gorge area (HAER 1992, 13).
CE 1650 - 1770	Settled	Protohistoric Period: Lands in the New River Gorge come under control of the Iroquois (HAER 1992, 13).
CE 1671	Explored	Earliest known exploration by Europeans. Explorers Thomas Batts and Robert Fallam
CE 1790	Built	State Road provided access to the New River Gorge and enabled more settlement.
CE 1870	Purchased/Sold	John Nuttall begins purchasing land in Fayette County, West Virginia.
CE 1873	Built	Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad completed from Richmond, Virginia, to Hawk's Nest Bridge, West Virginia.
CE 1873	Purchased/Sold	In June of 1873 John Nuttall purchases three tracts of land "situated on the waters of the New River containing 600 acres..." (HAER 1992, 22).
CE 1873	Established	Nuttall establishes the village of Nuttallburg; building 17 two-family dwellings and 80 one-family dwellings between the two sites of Nuttallburg and Keeney's Creek.
CE 1873	Built	At the start of operations, the mine contains a scalehouse, headhouse, blacksmith shop, carpenter shop, slate dump, tipple, and 80 coke ovens.
CE 1875 - 1880	Built	A new tipple is constructed adjacent to the C&O mainline in late 1870s.
CE 1889	Built	Suspension bridge constructed over the New River connecting Nuttallburg to South Nuttall.
CE 1893	Established	Nuttallburg Post Office established.
CE 1920	Purchased/Sold	Nuttallburg Mine is acquired by the Fordson Coal Company.
CE 1921 - 1922	Abandoned	Henry Ford visits the Nuttallburg Mine to inspect the operations firsthand, consequently closing the mine for lack of profitability from 1921-1922.
CE 1923	Rehabilitated	Ford reopens the mine, installing new equipment and mining cars throughout.
CE 1923 - 1924	Built	New tipple is constructed.
CE 1925 - 1926	Built	New Conveyor, Substation, and Headhouse construction completed.
CE 1928	Purchased/Sold	Ford sells the Nuttallburg Mine to the Maryland New River Coal Company, who renames it "Dubree No. 4".

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
CE 1945 - 1953	Built	Fan House constructed in late 1940s, early 1950s by Maryland New River Coal Company.
CE 1952	Altered	Maryland New River Coal Company modifies the tipple by adding a Belknap Chloride Washer.
CE 1953	Abandoned	The mine closes.
CE 1954	Purchased/Sold	Margie Coal Company acquires mining interests at Nuttallburg, selling to the Garnet Coal Company later that year.
CE 1953 - 1957	Abandoned	The Nuttallburg Post Office is abandoned in the mid 1950s.
CE 1958	Abandoned	Nuttallburg Mine closes permanently.
CE 1960 - 1965	Demolished	Suspension bridge cable cut in early 1960s.
CE 1962	Abandoned	The C&O Railway abandons the Nuttall Depot.
CE 1978	Established	New River Gorge National River designated a unit of the National Park Service.

Physical History:

Native American Habitation and European Exploration: ca. 11,000 BC – 1790 AD

Archeological research in the New River Gorge indicates that prehistoric occupation was continuous in the New River region from the Paleo Indian Period to the Protohistoric Period (NPS GMP 1982, 69). Dating back to the Paleo Indian period of ca. 11,000 BC – 10,000 BC, the Native Americans in the New River Gorge region were mostly small, free wandering groups that subsisted by hunting large game animals and foraging wild plants. As they moved into the early Archaic Period, the more temperate climate allowed the Native Americans to “shift to a more ‘diffuse’ subsistence mode based on seasonal hunting and gathering” (Fuerst 1981, 83 84). The late Archaic Period is indicated by a more settled people who supplemented the hunting and gathering by harvesting sunflowers, pumpkins and gourds (Fuerst 1981, 87). As they progressed to the Woodland Period, the Native Americans had sedentary villages with economies based on intensive maize based agriculture. The Native Americans were present in this area up through contact with European explorers in the late 1600s.

The first explorer to discover the New River was Abram Wood in 1654, but the first explorers to systematically investigate the New River in southwest Virginia were Thomas Batts and Robert Fallam in 1671. They were sent out from Virginia by Major General Abraham Wood to find water on the other side of the mountains (Unrau 1996, 108). They discovered a stream that began to flow west instead of east and claimed all land drained by the river’s water for England.

Early Settlement 1740-1840

The early European settlement in the New River Gorge began after the English made the Treaty of Lancaster with the Six Nations in 1744. The treaty purchased all the land between the Alleghenies and the Ohio River from the Six Nations for 400 pounds. However, the Shawnee Indians disputed that all the land purchased by England did not belong to the Six Nations. During the late 1780s pioneer settlements in the area were abandoned, and not reoccupied until depredations ceased in the 1790s.

There were several ways men could lay claim to areas in the New River Gorge. Since at this time this land was part of Virginia, a common way to claim land was known as “corn rights” (Unrau 1996, 118). A settler would choose an area and clear the land of trees and plant corn. After the corn was grown, the settler would send a claim for the land to Richmond, the capital of Virginia, for the land. As long as no other claims on the piece of property were made within six months of the original claim, a patent for the land would be issued to the settler. Parcels of land would also be given to men for payment for their service in the French and Indian and Revolutionary Wars.

Early European settlers in the 1700s and early 1800s were primarily English, German and Scotch Irish. The completion of the Old State Road from the James River to Kanawha Falls in 1790 made the New River area more open to settlement. The settlers tended to follow a dendritic pattern when choosing their lands. They would first choose the lower land adjacent to the New River and its tributaries. Then as the fertile lower lands were filled, they would move up onto the ridges and plateaus of the Allegheny Mountains. The farms during this time were subsistence farms that would only provide for their immediate family. During this period the farms were very remote and had little contact with others. The settlers needed to be self reliant for all of their necessities: food, shelter, clothing and tools.

Agricultural Development: 1860 –1900

By the late 1800s agriculture began to develop beyond simple subsistence farms. “West Virginia was a fairly homogenous rural state, with about 80 percent of its people engaged in general agriculture, including both horticulture and animal husbandry” (Unrau 1996, 113). However, the farms in the New River Gorge “remained essentially diversified and independent, producing primarily for their own use. During the mid to late 19th century, Appalachia contained a greater concentration of noncommercial family farms than any other area of the nation” (Unrau 1996, 123).

Nuttallburg, WV, the C&O Railroad and the Coal Industry: 1870s - 1950s

The New River Gorge had plentiful natural resources; the hillsides were covered with good timber for lumbering, and the mountains had seams of bituminous coal, referred to as “smokeless coal,” that had little sulfur, low ash and high carbon content that produced relatively clean, hot burning fuel. However, the physical obstacles of the gorge prevented a viable method of removing the resources and delivering them to markets. As early as 1784, George Washington proposed using the New River as a route for a canal connecting the tidewater of Virginia with the Ohio River, with the ultimate goal of reaching New Orleans and the Gulf of Mexico. In 1812 Chief Justice John Marshall headed up a survey of the New River Gorge. His surveyor, Andrew Alexander of Rockingham County, Virginia, created a detailed map, which was published in 1814. The Virginia Legislature commissioned the study to evaluate the feasibility of constructing a canal connecting the James River to the budding salt industry in the Kanawha Valley. The survey was done along the Jackson, Greenbrier, and New Rivers, ending at its confluence with the Gauley River and Kanawha Falls. This canal through the gorge would have provided a means of transportation for the New River Gorge resources, but the canal was abandoned at the headwaters of the James River when railroads became increasingly more prevalent in the mid to late 19th century.

The Chesapeake and Ohio (C&O) Railroad planned to use a similar path to that proposed by George Washington to establish a railroad from the Chesapeake Bay to the Ohio Valley. They even purchased much of the right of way acquired by the canal company to build the railroad along the rivers. The C&O Railroad, which would provide access to the New River Gorge’s natural resources, was completed in 1873.

After the railroad came, numerous mining towns grew up throughout the region. Millions of tons of coal and coke were produced in the region and thousands of people took up residence in the gorge. The timing of the completion of the C&O Railroad was ideal to supply the industrializing nation with “smokeless coal”. The demand for coal was growing exponentially in the late 19th century; coal powered industry, fueled the railroads, and heated homes. The railroads also opened the New River Gorge to the logging industry. The virgin hardwood forests of the Appalachians in West Virginia were very tempting to the lumber magnates of the East who were looking for new sources of lumber. The railroads offered a means to inexpensively move the lumber to eastern markets, and many temporary lumbering camps were established throughout the gorge.

Nuttallburg, WV was one of the mining towns established in expectation of the C&O railroad and the capitalist ventures it would provide. Pennsylvania coal mining capitalist John Nuttall began acquiring land in the New River as early as 1870 along Keeney’s and Short Creeks. For the next three years, Nuttall continued to buy land and oversee construction of two mines: one along Keeney’s Creek and one near Short Creek. When the C&O railroad was completed through the area in 1873, Nuttall had already constructed 17 two family dwellings, 80 single family dwellings, 80 coke ovens, a scalehouse, headhouse, blacksmith shop, carpenter shop, slate dump, and tipple between the two mine sites (HAER, 1992, 32). (Coal was weighed and stored at the headhouse before being moved to the tipple to be sorted into the various marketable sizes and loaded into railroad hopper cars.) Most of these buildings had been constructed at the Nuttallburg Mine (located along Short Creek), though it didn’t begin operation until early the following year. The remaining buildings were constructed at the adjacent Keeney’s Creek Mine.

Because of the concentration of mining interests on both sides of the New River, a pedestrian suspension bridge was constructed across New River in 1889, connecting Nuttallburg to South Nuttall (also known as Brown). By 1880, John Nuttall had completed construction of a new tipple located adjacent to the C&O mainline, that replaced the original tipple. He was also funding construction of a railroad branch line up Keeney’s Creek toward Winona, zigzagging west above Nuttallburg and back east in order to negotiate the grade. Due to the cost of funding construction of this branch line, Nuttall sold mining rights along Keeney’s Creek to some of his long time friends. These families (Holands and Taylors) paid Nuttall a royalty on the coal that was shipped down his branch line. The C&O Railroad had also constructed a branch line on the south side of the New River to accommodate the newer mining operation at Kaymoor.

At the turn of the century, Nuttallburg was a bustling mining town, complete with a doctor, blacksmith, school, and Store. By 1895, Nuttallburg was segregated along the main road through town, with the white workers settling on the west side of Short Creek and the black workers settling on the east side. Each section contained a church, school, and clubhouse, though little information is available about any of these community buildings. The more prominent families of the area also had homes in Nuttallburg. Historic photographs reveal these structures as two story wood frame buildings that included architectural ornamentation and slat board yard fencing.

The Nuttall family oversaw mining operations at Nuttallburg until 1920, when they sold mining interests to the Fordson Coal Company. The following year, Henry Ford visited the site to tour the mining operations firsthand. Shortly thereafter, the mine was closed and workers began dismantling equipment at the site. During 1921, Ford considered selling the Nuttallburg mining rights to the Maryland New River Coal Company, who already owned the mines along Keeney's Creek. In anticipation of this sale, the Maryland New River Coal Company even completed a map of buildings at Nuttallburg (Dwg No. C 384, 1922). However, Ford ultimately decided to rejuvenate the mine.

Between 1923 and 1926, Ford constructed new mining facilities at Nuttallburg at the cost of nearly \$300,000 (HAER 1992, 30). The tippie, conveyor, and headhouse were only a few of the buildings modernized by Ford's efforts. He also installed new equipment and mining cars throughout the mine. When the mine was reopened in 1926, coal production doubled from previous years. Two years later, Fordson Coal sold its mining interests at Nuttallburg to the Maryland New River Mining Company who renamed it Dubree No. 4. The Maryland New River Mining Company continued to extract coal from Nuttallburg for the next 25 years, closing the mine in 1953.



Original tipple, wooden structure with tower in midframe, in 1875. Banks of coke ovens lie perpendicular to river (NERI 315).



Nuttallburg, taken after completion of the new conveyor and tipple by Fordson Coal Company, 1927 (NERI 312).



View of the White Church, taken ca. 1895 (West Virginia State Archive #CL08-0012).



Nuttallburg's Jackson Taylor House, taken ca. 1900 (West Virginia State Archive #CL08-0002).

Post-coal recession in Thurmond: 1950s – 1970s

The rugged terrain and wild river, with many series of rapids that prohibited the use of the New River as a means of transportation in the 18th and 19th centuries, provided an ideal opportunity for recreational activities during the late 19th century throughout the 20th century. As some of the most challenging whitewater courses in the Eastern United States, the New River Gorge and Gauley River have become a destination spot for recreational use. The first commercial whitewater outfitter opened in the New River Gorge in 1969 and operations have increased steadily in the past 30 years. Rafting has become one of the primary contributors to the economy in the New River Gorge.

In 1978, Congress established 53 miles of the New River from Hinton, WV, to U.S. 19 near Fayetteville, WV, as the New River Gorge National River. The park today comprises approximately 71,000 acres surrounding the New River in south central West Virginia. "The national river was established for the purpose of conserving and interpreting outstanding natural, scenic, and historic values and objects in and around the New River Gorge and preserving as a free flowing stream an important segment of the New River in West Virginia for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations" (Unrau 1996, 1).

As one of the missions of the National Park Service was to preserve and interpret the New River Gorge's cultural history, the town of Nuttallburg, WV, was recognized as an important site that demonstrated the industrial history of the region. The mining complex was documented for the Historic American Engineering Record in 1991. No other documentation or work has occurred on site.



Nuttallburg tippie, taken toward the end of mining operations, 1947 (NERI archive photo).

New River Gorge National River and the Recreation Industry: 1970s – Present

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As one of the missions of the National Park Service was to preserve and interpret the New River Gorge’s cultural history, the town of Nuttallburg, WV, was recognized as an important site that demonstrated the industrial history of the region. The mining complex was documented for the Historic American Engineering Record in 1991. No other documentation or work has occurred on site.



Nuttallburg tipple taken 1980 (NERI archive photo).

Uses

Functions and Uses:

Major Category	Category	Use/Function	Historic	Current	Primary
Domestic (Residential)	Domestic (Residential)-Other	Domestic (Residential)-Other	Yes	No	No
Education	School	School	Yes	No	Yes
Government	Post Office	Post Office	Yes	No	No
Industrial/Processing/Extraction	Extractive Facility (Mining)	Mine	Yes	No	No
Religion	Religious Structure (church)	Religious Structure (Church)	Yes	No	No
Social	Clubhouse (Social/Garden)	Clubhouse (Social/Garden)	Yes	No	No
Transportation	Rail-Related	Station (Depot)	Yes	No	No
Vacant (Not In Use)	Abandoned/Unmaintained	Abandoned/Unmaintained	Yes	Yes	No
Vacant (Not In Use)	Ruin	Ruin	No	Yes	Yes

Public Access:

Public Access: Other Restrictions

Public Access Narrative:

The trails at Nuttallburg are currently closed as work is being done in accordance with the park's Implementation Plan. Several trails are being rehabilitated, including the road to the Headhouse and tipple. Work is currently underway on the Keeney's Creek Branchline Railroad Grade to create a pedestrian trail and bike route. Two trestle bridges will be re-surfaced and handrails installed to convert the railroad grade into a safe and accessible public circulation pathway through Nuttallburg. Other areas of Nuttallburg will be closed while buildings are under construction as part of stabilization efforts. Nuttallburg is open to hunting and fishing in season.

Associated Ethnographic Group

Ethnographic Study Status: No Survey Conducted

Ethnographic Narrative:

Preliminary evaluation of the ethnographic significance of the Nuttallburg Coal Mining Complex and Town indicates that some members of ethnic groups that formerly resided in the mining town continue to live in neighboring communities and persist in visiting the Nuttallburg site. Based on this continued association of ethnic groups with the site since the closure of the mine in 1958, it can be assumed that Nuttallburg is ethnographically significant to these people and their families. Further research is recommended to identify the various ethnic groups that occupied the mining town and the extent to which segregation played a role in the Nuttallburg community.

Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

Analysis and Evaluation of Integrity Narrative Summary:

Located in a remote region of the New River Gorge, the Town of Nuttallburg consisted of some 80 dwellings, a Store, railroad station, and post office. Though many of the structures were abandoned when the mine closed in 1958 and have since deteriorated, Nuttallburg retains the spatial layout, circulation system, and features necessary to depict the life of an early 20th century mining town. These features include foundations for many of the dwellings and structures, roadways and a number of small scale features. There are traces of paths that once ran throughout the town, but these have all become obscured by vegetation. The design of the residential area is still evident and reflects the utilitarian aspects of the Town as compared to the more advanced technology utilized in the construction of the coal mining complex in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The loss of structures and growth of vegetation are the most dramatic changes to the site from the period of significance. Much of the town has been overgrown by forest, with undergrowth consisting of Japanese jointgrass [*Polygonum cuspidatum*], multiflora rose [*Rosa multiflora*], raspberry [*Rubus* species], and viburnum [*Viburnum*].

According to the "National Register Bulletin 42: Guidelines for Identifying, Evaluating, and Registering Historic Mining Properties", the Nuttallburg Coal Mining Complex retains historical integrity for its period of significance and includes the mining operations buildings, including the Nuttall Coke Ovens, the site of the North Keeney Mine conveyor system, a section of the Keeney's Creek Branch Railroad, and the Tipple, Conveyor, and Headhouse, constructed by Henry Ford. Accessed by narrow roads and built on the benches along a steep and isolated section of the New River Gorge, the site retains its location and reflects the setting of the once bustling mining complex. The design of the mining structures is still evident and reflects the innovations and growth of the mine in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The structures form a mining assemblage--with all of the major components evident--representing one of the most intact mining complexes for this period in the region, thus retaining the association and feeling of a historic mining complex. Much of the materials and workmanship are still evident, though in various stages of deterioration. Historic clearings located on both sides of the Tipple have become overgrown with kudzu [*Pueraria lobata*], which is inhibiting species diversity in the area. The Nuttallburg Coal Mining Complex retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

Location

The Nuttallburg Coal mining Complex was almost totally rebuilt on its original site during the era of the Fordson Coal Company's ownership in the 1920s. Historic buildings, mining equipment and other features remain in their original locations and the complex has been largely unaltered since the mine's abandonment in 1958. The site retains integrity of location.

Design

The Nuttallburg Coal Mining Complex is believed to be the most intact coal mining complex of the mine properties owned by the Fordson Coal Company. The evolution of the coal mining operations and facilities is evident in the remaining buildings and features on the site. The placement of the mining structures on benches along the steep slopes of the New River Gorge is based on the utilitarian and industrial requirements associated with the mining of coal. It was necessary that the mining complex be located near the source of coal so that it could be extracted and transported from the site. Residential structures were located on the steep slopes of the New River Gorge and were supported by systems of retaining walls that were crucial to the success of the town design. In some cases these retaining walls doubled in function as building foundations. The relationship of mining buildings and structures to the nearby railroad was also significant in the design of the industrial complex, as the coal and supplies had to be transported in and out of the town via the railroad. The railroad was also the main transportation route in and out of Nuttallburg. The evolution of advancement in mining technology is evident during the site's period of significance from 1873-1958. The site retains integrity of design.

Setting

Today, the overall topography and spatial layout of Nuttallburg is generally unchanged; the active railroad tracks as well as the branch lines are located in the relatively level flood plain adjacent to the river, and the foundations of the houses are located up the slope of the gorge. However, the three-dimensional character of the site has changed dramatically as the buildings, structures, and other man-made elements have deteriorated since the

mine was abandoned in 1958. Despite these changes, the overall setting of the site and relationships between buildings and features remain and no modern additions have been made to the site to detract from its historic integrity. The site retains integrity of setting.

Materials

Residential buildings at Nuttallburg were hastily constructed of timber frame with stone cut foundations. Industrial structures on the site were engineered in steel using state-of-the-art technology. The railroad provided the main circulation in and out of the town and dirt paths and several bridges provided secondary site-wide circulation. Nuttallburg's integrity suffers due to erosion and mudslides which now cover some of the individual features remaining in the town. The buildings and structures that survive have been severely impacted by decay, especially the residential buildings which remain only as foundation ruins. However, the elements associated with the mining operations of the site are still in place and exhibited by the rare surviving structures and supporting buildings, materials, and workmanship at Nuttallburg. The railroad remains in use and is maintained. The site retains overall integrity of materials.

Workmanship

The residential buildings and many of the railroad utility buildings were wood-frame constructions and none remain on the site today. Industrial buildings were more elaborately engineered according to state-of-the-art technology developed by John Nuttall and Henry Ford during the site's period of significance. The structures at the Nuttallburg Coal Mining Complex retain the engineering features that were devised to meet the challenges of New River Gorge mining in the early 20th century (draft National Register Nomination 2005: 22). Despite the rapid decay of many of the site's residential and railroad utility buildings, the site retains overall integrity of workmanship.

Feeling

Though several individual features of the Nuttallburg Coal Mining Complex have deteriorated over time, the property as a whole still conveys its historic character and function, and is considered to be the most intact property type of its kind in the New River Gorge. Today, the site's isolated and ruinous character shows evidence of the mine's historic boom and bust cycle, conveying the feeling of loss and abandonment which is still evident as the site has not succumbed to modern development and remains as an abandoned industrial complex. The site retains integrity of feeling.

Association

The Nuttallburg Coal Mining Complex and Town retain all of the major elements associated with the historic activities conducted here, including the mine opening, tippie, headhouse, conveyor, railroad sidings and coke ovens and thus represent the highest level of integrity. The complex possesses integrity as an intact mining system as all of the major components of the coal mining process remain (National Register Nomination 2005: 23). The site retains integrity of association.

Landscape Characteristic: Archeological Sites

Nuttallburg has many areas that will be ideal for archeological research. Due to the fact that the town was built in a boomtown era in the New River Gorge, many houses and buildings that were abandoned were not rebuilt. Therefore, the remains of these buildings and surrounding areas will probably reveal many archeological resources from the early 20th century.

Store

The Store not only provided food and supplies to the residents, but also acted as a community center. This two story wood frame structure was situated on the west edge of town, at the end of the tipple line. A cellar was constructed on grade with the coke ovens (approximately 6 feet above the tracks). Today, the cellar and adjoining foundation are all that remain of the Store. Within the cellar, fragments of some of the bins are still visible, though they are deteriorating.

Worker Housing

Miner housing was located along the length of the New River at Nuttallburg. These dwellings were simple one story constructions, though there were also two story houses. Typical one story houses consisted of four rooms: a kitchen, a dining room, and two bedrooms. Two story structures were similar, consisting of a three room downstairs (kitchen, dining room, and bedroom) with two bedrooms upstairs. Porches facing the New River were added to many of these structures later as seen in the historic panorama.

Today, cut stone foundations are the only remaining evidence of worker housing in Nuttallburg. Daffodils emerging from the leaf litter as well as low retaining walls serve to delineate small yards that once surrounded the structures. Bottles, crockery, and similar everyday items located near the foundations of some of these buildings denote past human useage within the area.

Worker housing was also located west of Nuttallburg in the form of barracks (Buildings 1-13). Little documentation discusses these buildings, yet pier and chimney ruins locate each of the structures. The Nuttallburg main road trace terminates at the west edge of these ruins after splitting into an upper and lower roadbed. Daffodils and quince were also noted in this area during fieldwork.

Nuttall, Holand, and Taylor Houses

The families responsible for founding and operating the area mines constructed more elaborate houses in Nuttallburg. Their houses were considerably larger than worker housing and often including architectural ornamentation and slat yard fencing. Little description is given that would indicate the location of these structures. The larger cut stone foundation of Building 49 indicate that it was probably one of the more prominent houses at Nuttallburg.

Clubhouses

According to historic maps and photographs of Nuttallburg, the White Clubhouse was situated just uphill and west of the station. This structure was a two story wood frame structure complete with a porch wrapping around at least the west and south sides. Some of the walls for this structure remain standing today. However, the invasion of kudzu has hidden many of the former building traces. The extensive retaining wall system around the Clubhouse also makes it difficult to determine the exact location of the foundation.

HAER documentation mentions a Black Clubhouse in Nuttallburg. However, no further evidence of this structure has been found on historic maps or photographs. It was probably located east of Short Creek, near the Black Church and Black School buildings.

Nuttall Station

The Nuttall Station provided the only means of transportation into and out of Nuttallburg. It was a wood frame structure with an octagonal tower located at its west end. Abandoned by the C&O Railroad in 1962, nothing remains of the station except for a level area beside the mainline. Part of a historic cobblestone path is also evident leading down from the main State Route 85/2.

Churches

HAER documentation mentions two separate and segregated churches in Nuttallburg. These

structures were located on opposite sides of Short Creek. A photograph of the White Church depicts the small wood frame structure with arched gothic windows and a small square porch and steeple on the east side. The church foundation located during fieldwork does not correspond to historic photographs and may represent a later addition/construction. This will need to be verified through archeology. The only mention of the Black Church was from a 1922 Nuttallburg map completed by the Maryland New River Coal Company.

The stone foundation and churchyard are all that remain of these structures today.

Schools

Historically, Nuttallburg contained two separate and segregated schools. Located on opposite sides of Short Creek these structures were wood frame one room structures. Today, cut stone foundations remain.

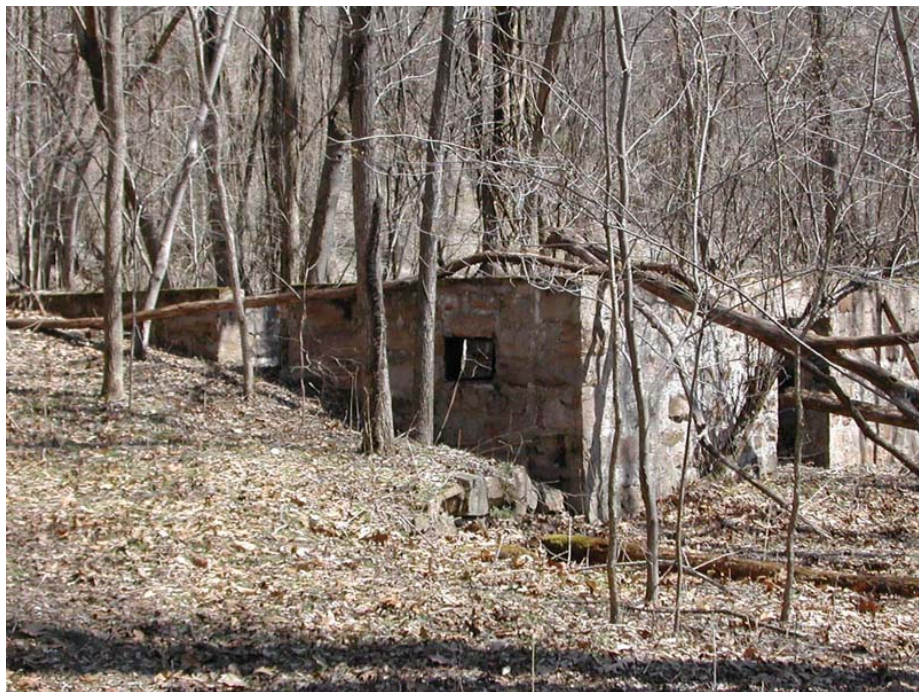
Old Mid way Tipple Piers

Concrete piers located along the upper track of the Keeney's Creek Branchline Railroad Grade provide evidence of the extensive mining operations in the area surrounding Nuttallburg. Descending down the slope above the tracks, these piers are probably the remains to a tipple constructed mid way down the slope.

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Cobblestone trace	97601	Contributing					No
Water Tank foundation	97614	Contributing					No
Well House	97615	Contributing					No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Store on the west edge of Nuttallburg (OCLP 2003).



Old conveyor or tippie piers located along the upper level of the Keeney Creek branch line (OCLP 2003).



Cobblestone trace leading downhill toward the depot (OCLP 2003).



Barracks stone piers west of Nuttallburg (OCLP 2003).

Landscape Characteristic: Buildings and Structures

Coal mining at Nuttallburg required an extensive complex of structure and support buildings, many

of which were replaced in the 1920s and survive today. Being a drift mine, Nuttallburg contained two main shafts: one used as the main portal for miners and one used as an air shaft for the mine. In order to remove coal from the mine, holes were strategically drilled into the mine walls before being filled with black powder. After a fuse was inserted and lit, the coal was blasted into the chamber where it could be later extracted. This coal was loaded into mining cars to be unloaded at the headhouse where it was weighed and stored prior to being loaded onto the conveyor. Once loaded onto the conveyor, the coal was transported downhill to the tippie where it was sorted into the various marketable sizes and grades before being loaded into railroad hopper cars. The slack was removed during this phase to be converted to coke in the nearby coke ovens before being shipped to market (HAER 1992, 36 45).

Few buildings remain in Nuttallburg from its period of significance. Those that do remain are made of stone or metal, materials not easily burned, carried off, or decayed. The residential and many of the railroad utility buildings were wood frame constructions. However, none of these building types survive from the town's period of significance.

The field team located one stone building overlooking the C&O mainline near the Store. This small square building appears to have served as a support building for the railroad at one time. The structure did not appear on the July 1922 map of Nuttallburg, but was probably built before the 1920s revitalization of Nuttallburg.

Retaining walls are the landscape structural features most pervasive in Nuttallburg. The necessity to stabilize the steep topography of the gorge walls to support houses and roadways, while also providing level areas for gardens and yards, made the design and implementation of retaining walls critical for the success of the town design. Therefore almost every site has some type of retaining wall system. In many cases this retaining system was also the structure's foundation. Construction materials for the walls vary from dry laid stone and mortared stone, to concrete.

Coke Ovens

The manufacture of coke was an important sibling industry to coal mining at Nuttallburg. In coking, impurities such as sulfur are driven off, resulting in virtually pure carbon. Coke was used in the manufacture of pig iron and had many uses in blacksmithing.

One of the earliest improvements at Nuttallburg was the construction of 80 beehive coke ovens, each with a five ton capacity. These ovens were constructed in double batteries radiating out from the Tippie with another bank constructed on the downstream side of the tippie (still extant). Each oven was charged with five tons of slack, carried by lorry cars and allowed to burn for 24 to 48 hours. When finished burning, the coke was drawn from the ovens, extinguished with water and loaded into railroad cars for shipment to market.

Production of coke at Nuttallburg ceased when Henry Ford purchased the mining rights in 1920. Since that time, the coke ovens have been idle. Some of the ovens are extant (especially the bank on the downstream side of the tippie) though many more may be hidden under the mine refuse that covers the tippie level site (HAER 1992, 54). Portions of the stone retaining wall between the individual ovens is collapsing as the individual units deteriorate.

Tippie

The earliest tippie at Nuttallburg was erected around 1873, shortly after the C&O completed their mainline through the area. This wood, two level structure was located at the north end of the flat plain that comprises the tippie level and was built against the hillside. The uppermost level was a silo at the north end, where the monitor track entered the tippie. The lower level had an attached shed on the south end, where the coal was loaded out: lump coal into hopper cars bound toward the mainline and slack into lorry cars bound for the coke ovens.

However, Nuttall was not satisfied with this tippie arrangement and soon after (late 1870s) constructed a new tippie adjacent to the Nuttallburg railroad siding, above the C&O mainline. The second tippie was similar to the original with a high sloping roof and gravity screens. It was enlarged no later than 1919 to accommodate shaker screens (HAER 1992, 48).

The third and current tipple was constructed in 1923-24 by the Fordson Coal Company. This tipple is constructed from steel and has four main parts: the Conveyor House, the Screening Room, the Coal Storage Silo, and the Loading Room (HAER 1992, 48). In general, rolled structural steel sections with riveted joints are used throughout the tipple. The entire structure is clad with corrugated steel. Three railroad tracks are located below the tipple: two for lump coal and one for slack.

Today, the Fordson Coal Tipple remains at Nuttallburg, though exposure to the elements has caused severe structural damage to the building. The steel used throughout the structure has almost entirely rusted through. The steel support beams are severely rusted where they adjoin the concrete structural piers, causing instability. In many areas, trees growing near the structure are holding it up. The Belknap Chloride Washer added by the Maryland New River Coal Company in 1952 that was used to clean the coal, has fallen in (HAER 1922, 52).

Conveyor

The Fordson Coal Company replaced the original conveyor with a Button and Rope Conveyor in 1925-26. It was constructed from steel, at a time when similar conveyors used timber construction. When finished it was the longest conveyor of its kind in the world, measuring 1,385 feet (HAER 1992, 30). A catwalk with wood flooring was originally mounted on the east side. The conveyor gallery was sheathed and roofed with corrugated steel and supported by towers spaced along the side of the gorge.

The steel of the conveyor is now rusted, and in some places has rusted through, making the structure hazardous. In many areas the surrounding trees appear to contribute more to the structure's stability than the steel supports which have nearly rusted through at the base. The steel sheeting enclosing the conveyor belt also shows signs of deterioration and is missing in many areas.

Headhouse

Mining in the New River Gorge presented special problems in designing and engineering mine structures because of the distance of the mine from the railroad. Generally, mines in the gorge employed two principal structures: headhouses and tipples.

The original headhouse at Nuttallburg was constructed when the mine opened in 1873. Constructed using heavy timbers typical of New River construction, this structure was perched on the edge of the bench level in a straight line from the main mine entry. The headhouse was a one story building with gable roof and clad with vertical wood siding. Windows on the east and west elevations lit the interior of the structure.

The Fordson Coal Company replaced the original headhouse and conveyor in 1925-26. The replacement structure was a three level steel building built approximately in the same location as the original headhouse and clad with corrugated steel.

As with the other steel structures at Nuttallburg, the headhouse is deteriorating at an alarming rate, and has already begun to collapse as steel structural supports give out. The oak plank flooring that added structural support to the building at one time is deteriorating leaving the structure open on the underside. The tin roof may be the only element keeping the structure from complete collapse.

Hoist House

The Hoist House and Mountain Haulage were used in tandem to move men and supplies from the tipple level to the bench level. An electric winding engine in the Hoist House raised and lowered a car on an inclined plane, much like a monitor system. Located above the mine's main entrance, this building has a poured concrete base and walls with a corrugated steel shed roof. The poured concrete constructions most likely dates the building to the 1925-26 renovation (HAER 1992, 62). The hoisting engine and walls of the structure are intact, though the roof is beginning to fail.

Substation

The Substation located west of the main mine entrance was constructed during 1925-26, during the period of Ford renovations. The station was constructed using cut stone to face the exterior and

brick to face the interior. The roof consisted of a concrete slab supported by I beams. The structure was built on a poured concrete foundation and floor. The Substation housed the equipment that converted the standard alternating current (AC) to a weaker direct current (DC) which was used to operate mining equipment (HAER 1992, 57). An addition on the east side of this structure (probably the Foreman's Office) was added later, replacing a previous wooden structure. Built of concrete blocks, this addition has since fallen into rubble.

Cap and Powder Houses

Cap and Powder Houses were essential mine structures, housing the black powder and detonating caps used to blow down coal (HAER 1992, 58). As they housed volatile products, these structures were historically located on the edge of the bench level at mines so that in an event of an explosion, the force of the blast would be directed outward. At Nuttallburg, the Cap and Powder Houses are built into the hillside slightly below the bench level west of mine's main entrance. The walls of each structure are constructed of poured in place concrete faced with stucco, with a curved concrete slab roof and steel blast doors. It is possible that a second roof was maintained overtop the existing roof structure but that it has deteriorated. The Cap House is slightly smaller than the Powder House. Both buildings are being buried by loose soil.

Fan House

The first mine ventilating fan was installed in Nuttallburg around 1900. This 18 foot force fan blew air into the mine, providing adequate ventilation. Over the next 20 years, the mine continued to use fans for ventilation.

The first Fan House was installed by the Fordson Coal Company in 1927. Built of steel, this structure was located on the plateau above the mine, using an old mine shaft for ventilation. This system, complete with automatic starting motor and variable speed motor, allowed airflow to be regulated throughout the year. In addition, the fan could be operated from within the mine, eliminating the need for a Fan House operator (HAER 1992, 56).

The current Fan House was constructed by the Maryland New River Coal Company sometime in the late 1940s or early 1950s. This L shaped building was constructed of concrete block, complete with a concrete slab roof. The interior of the structure was divided into three parts: a passageway to the mine, a blower room, and a motor room. This structure remains today, though the equipment has rusted.

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Post Office	108998	Contributing					No
Nuttall Station (C&O Depot)	108996	Contributing					No
Lower Sand House	108994	Contributing					No
Ice House	108992	Contributing					No
Conveyor Ruins-Stone piers	108990	Contributing					No
Company Store	108988	Contributing					No
Refuse Bin	108986	Contributing					No
Power House	108984	Contributing					No
Sand House	108982	Contributing					No

Nuttallburg Coal Mining Complex and Town
New River Gorge National Park and Preserve

Store	108980	Contributing					No
Pedestrian Suspension Bridge Towers	108978	Contributing					No
White Clubhouse	108976	Contributing					No
White School retaining wall system	108974	Contributing					No
White School	108972	Contributing					No
White Church	108970	Contributing					No
Tipple	108968	Contributing					No
Substation	108966	Contributing					No
Railroad support shed	108964	Contributing					No
Powder House	108962	Contributing					No
Barn ruins	109002	Contributing					No
Black School	109004	Contributing					No
Black Church	108938	Contributing					No
Boundary retaining wall	108940	Contributing					No
Cap House	108942	Contributing					No
Coke Ovens	108944	Contributing					No
Conveyor	108946	Contributing					No
Nuttal Station retaining wall system	108948	Contributing					No
Fan House	108950	Contributing					No
Headhouse	108952	Contributing					No
Headhouse mortared retaining walls	108954	Contributing					No
Hoist House	108956	Contributing					No
Masonry stone wall, Keeney's Creek branc	108958	Contributing					No
State Route 85/2 retaining wall system	108960	Contributing					No
Powder House	109000	Undetermined					No
Railroad Sidings at Tipple	108928	Contributing					No
Timber Drainage Culvert-Keeney's Creek	108932	Contributing					No
Mine Opening	108930	Contributing					No
Superintendent's Office retaining walls	108934	Contributing					No
Foundation Ruins and Retaining Walls of	108936	Contributing					No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Coke oven doorway (OCLP 2003).



Tipple constructed by Fordson Coal Company in 1923-24 (OCLP 2003).



Headhouse constructed by Fordson Coal Company in 1925-26 (Richard Segars 2003).



Cap House located west of the Headhouse (OCLP 2003).

Landscape Characteristic: Circulation

Historically, the only mode of transportation in and out of Nuttallburg was the railroad. Therefore, it was the primary circulation feature of the town. The “main street” of Nuttallburg was a road (8' wide dirt path) that ran parallel to the railroad, acting as a buffer between the residential part of town and the industrial portion of town. This road runs the length of Nuttallburg, connecting the houses on the easternmost edge of town to the houses beyond the town’s western edge. Secondary roads split off of this main road to provide access to the residential and community structures situated in the slopes above. Miners could reach the headhouse and mine entrance by a mountain road from the canyon rim or by a mountain haulage running along the west side of the conveyor belt, connecting the tippie to the headhouse area. The mountain haulage was a small car and railroad track operated by a hoist above the mine entrance. It was used to carry supplies and workers up and down the steep slopes.

Further circulation enhancements were installed in 1889, when a 340 foot pedestrian suspension bridge was constructed at the east end of Nuttallburg, connecting it to South Nuttall on the opposite side of the New River. The bridge featured twin masonry towers constructed of cut stone and approximately 18 feet high. The cables supporting this bridge were cut for safety reasons in the early 1960s, but the stone towers remain (C&O Historical Magazine 1998, 7). Most of the houses probably had small pedestrian circulation systems such as steps and dirt paths, but no traces of these systems are visible.

Today, the railroad is still the most prominent circulation route through Nuttallburg. The railroad tracks are extant, though not as extensive as when an active rail yard operated on site. The spur railroad bed that zigzagged across the slopes above Nuttallburg to provide access to the mines at Keeney's Creek are now managed as part of the New River Gorge trail system. This system retains integrity and is the only maintained circulation route in the town. The secondary circulation routes of Nuttallburg, including the town roads, are still noticeable but have become overgrown by invasive species-- this vegetation could be cleared to reveal these features. The railroad trestle bridges at Short Creek are slowly deteriorating and the road bridge at Short Creek is in a serious state of decline.

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Headhouse Trail	108886	Contributing					No
Keeney's Creek Branchline Railroad Grade	98798	Contributing					No
State Route 85/2	98802	Contributing					No
Trestle #1	98797	Contributing					No
Trestle #2	98803	Contributing					No
Short Creek Bridge Abutments	98801	Contributing					No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Main road through Nuttallburg by access branch leading to depot (OCLP 2003).



Short Creek Bridge along Nuttallburg's Town Road (OCLP 2003).



Railroad trestle bridge over Short Creek along Keeney's Creek branch line above Nuttallburg (OCLP 2003).



One of the existing stone towers for the Nuttallburg suspension bridge (OCLP 2003).

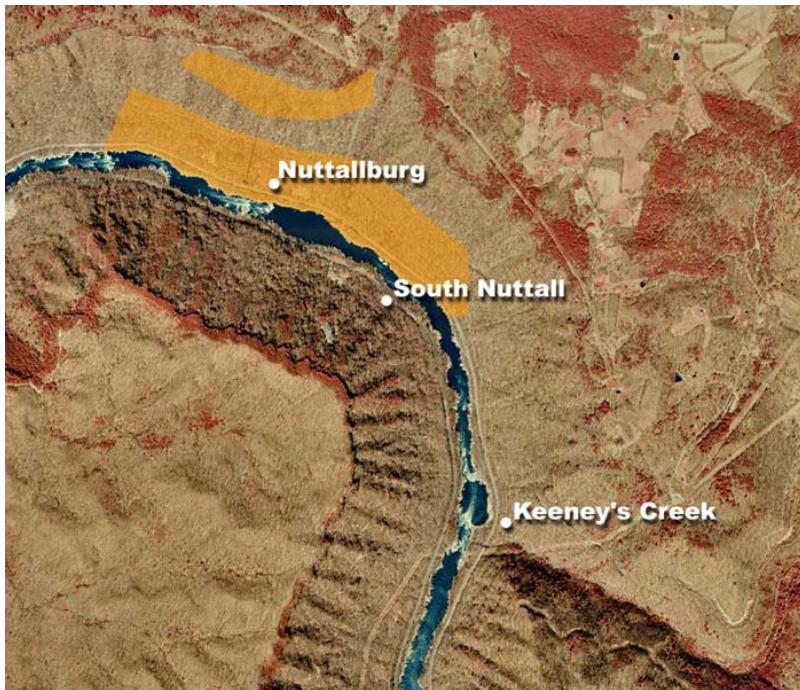
Landscape Characteristic: Land Use

Historically, Nuttallburg, WV, was one of the mining communities that arose in the New River Gorge during the late 19th century as a result of the coal industry. Due to isolation these towns contained single and multiple family dwellings as well as general stores to fulfill the community's basic needs until new shipments could be brought in on the railroad. The railroad provided the only transportation method in and out of Nuttallburg.

Land use at Nuttallburg has changed dramatically since the early 20th century. None of the single or multiple family dwellings remain. The Tipple, Conveyor, and Headhouse are among the few structures that remain as testimonies to the mining operations around which the town grew. Until recently, the only method of reaching Nuttallburg was by hiking down the Keeney's Creek Branchline Railroad Grade. In 2001, a paved road providing vehicular access to the east side of Nuttallburg was constructed from Winona.

The surrounding mining communities along the New River have also been abandoned. Once linked to form an industrial center along the bottom of the gorge, these towns now remain as ruins of a bygone age. With its station, Nuttallburg served as an area hub in this region of the New River. Keeney's Creek was connected by the railroad and branch line while South Nuttall was connected by the suspension bridge. Kaymoor was located around the river bend on the opposite side of the New River.

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Location of Nuttallburg in relation to surrounding historic mining towns (OCLP 2003).

Landscape Characteristic: Natural Systems and Features

Nuttallburg is located in the Allegheny section of the Appalachian Plateau Province. This section is indicated by a regular succession of high, sharp ridges separated by sharp, V shaped valleys. The New River, a dominant natural feature near Nuttallburg, is a sharply dropping river. It flows northwest across the Appalachian Mountains and is extremely old, apparently a remnant of the prehistoric Teays River. The New River is said to be the oldest river in the Western Hemisphere. Its elevation drops as quickly as 17.3 feet per mile, which formed the sharp gorge for which this area is known.

John Nuttall purchased the land where Nuttallburg is located because of the vein of high quality bituminous coal located in the rocks below the canyon rim. The natural features located in and around Nuttallburg are the primary reason for its significance and unique history. Due to the steep topography of the New River Gorge, Nuttallburg was inaccessible until the C&O Railroad completed tracks through the region in 1873. Until that time, the necessary building materials had to be hauled in by skid or ox team or manufactured on site.

Areas of Nuttallburg are currently being eroded as a result of the steep terrain. Historic features such as retaining walls and roadways are becoming buried by mud slides, formed as small stream patterns shift. In some areas these streams are gouging ruts into historic roadbeds. They are also impacting building foundations by undermining wall stability.

Landscape Characteristic: Small Scale Features

Historically, a number of small scale features were located in Nuttallburg and directly related to railroad and mining, including stone railroad and a tramway once connected the mine openings. Other small scale features indirectly related to the coal mining of Nuttallburg included well covers and hydrants located along the town roads.

Due to the potential of fire around the mining and railroad operations, Nuttallburg had an extensive water system. John Nuttall had a water flume constructed to carry water into the town from Short Creek. This flume also supplied drinking water to Nuttallburg, where it was held in private dwelling reservoirs. Part of this water system included the placement of water hydrants and fire traps around Nuttallburg.

A number of small scale features remain today as fragments of past systems that supported the town of Nuttallburg and its mining operations. Among the features directly related to the railroad and mining include a railroad switch and several concrete railroad markers located at various locations throughout the site, both in the town as well as the branch line traces. Abandoned mining cars, railroad track rails and stone piers from the tramway persist near the Headhouse. The only visible evidence of the once extensive water system are two cast iron water hydrants that remain on the site today.

Features that have been added by the National Park Service since 1978 include signs delineating property boundaries along trails and warning signs situated near mining structures. The Headhouse has been surrounded by chainlink fence for safety reasons.

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Cast iron water hydrants	98805	Contributing					No
Concrete railroad markers	98807	Contributing					No
Railroad switch	98809	Contributing					No
Wood railroad tie box culvert	98813	Contributing					No
Tramway stone piers	98811	Contributing					No
Chainlink fence	98806	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Signs	98810	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Well covers	98812	Undetermined					No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Water hydrant near the Nuttallburg church foundation ruins (OCLP 2003).



Concrete railroad marker beside the Black School foundation ruin (OCLP 2003).



Railroad engine located on the headhouse bench level (OCLP 2003).



Railroad track switch (OCLP 2003).

Landscape Characteristic: Spatial Organization

The topography of the site directly affected the spatial organization, type of vegetation, and location of building clusters of Nuttallburg. Due to the steep walls of the gorge, there were relatively small amounts of level land on which to build. As the town was developed in the late 1800s, the level area near the river was mostly dedicated to the railroad tracks and the Nuttall Station, utility, and storage buildings. Houses were built along a narrow road that ran the length of the town, with many perched further up the slope of the gorge.

Structures at the mine entrance were similar to the buildings situated in the town. A trail following the topography wrapped along the canyon rim, providing access to the Headhouse. Portions of this trail were graded for a tramway that connected the mine entrances to the Headhouse. Support structures for the mining operation were situated around the mine entrance.

Today, the overall spatial layout of Nuttallburg is generally unchanged; the active railroad tracks as well as the branch lines are located in the relatively level flood plain adjacent to the river, and the foundations of the houses are located up the slope of the gorge. However, the three-dimensional character of the site has changed dramatically as the buildings, structures, and other man-made elements have deteriorated since the mine was abandoned in 1958. Since this time, the once open industrial landscape has become densely wooded and overgrown and the physical evidence of many building clusters is limited to foundation ruins. The resulting vertical image of the landscape is dramatically different than it appeared during its period of significance.

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Nuttallburg, taken from across the New River after the Fordson Coal Company sold mining interests to Maryland New River Coal Company (See addendum for enlargement).

Landscape Characteristic: Vegetation

Historic photos indicate that the hillside was covered with native trees, such as maples [Acer], walnuts [Juglans], oaks [Quercus], and hickory [Carya]. Some of the Nuttallburg residents grew vegetables and flowers in small gardens, but the majority of the landscape was open and cleared to serve a more utilitarian purpose.

There is some evidence of designed plantings in Nuttallburg. Patches of daffodils [Narcissus] and yucca [Yucca] were recorded during March fieldwork near the foundations of worker homes. These patches were generally found in areas being overrun by kudzu. The field team also recorded a few apple trees [Malus] and quince [Pyrus cydonia].

Invasive vegetation plays a major role in the landscape at Nuttallburg today. The hillside of Nuttallburg is overgrown with invasive species. Vines, particularly kudzu [Pueraria lobata], are tangling their way over the open areas and obscuring the historic character of the landscape. Kudzu is prevalent in the open areas to the east and west of the main area of town (beside the conveyor and tipple). Reforestation occurring around the tipple appears to be acting as a barrier to further kudzu growth. However, within the reforested areas, multiflora rose [Rosa multiflora] and Japanese jointgrass [Polygonum cuspidatum] are prevalent. This reforestation has dramatically impacted the character of Nuttallburg; transforming the area from an open and utilitarian site to a more densely wooded landscape. Invasives now have a major presence and are engulfing historic and archeological resources, thereby obscuring the industrial character of this historic landscape and its associated features. Spraying was recently completed in attempts to control the overgrowth of kudzu in the area of the tipple. Routine spraying and management of this area and others may prove effective for preventing further damage from invasive species.

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Japanese jointgrass	98816	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Kudzu	98817	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Apple Trees	98814	Undetermined					No
Daffodils	98815	Undetermined					No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Kudzu blanketing retaining walls in the vicinity of the Clubhouse (OCLP 2003).



White Clubhouse retaining walls after kudzu removal in Summer 2006 (NRGMR, 2006).

Landscape Characteristic: Views and Vistas

It is hard to say exactly what views would have been apparent at Nuttallburg during its period of significance. However, given the open areas prevalent in historic photos both in Nuttallburg and at adjacent mines across the New River it is conceivable that a number of views would have been present throughout the site.

Views to the New River and canyon rim across the river would have been present from many of the structures within Nuttallburg. The black community and the dwellings beyond the west edge of the town would have had spectacular views of the rapids and river corridor. These views still persist though they are now punctuated with uncontrolled vegetation growth. Nearly anywhere along the Keeney's Creek Branchline Railroad Grade would have provided a view of the town, valley, and surrounding gorge. These lines would have been kept clear of vegetation while the C & O continued to transport coal from the mines, unlike today, where they have become trails running through second growth timber.

The Headhouse area would have had spectacular views to the surrounding gorge. The trail leading to the Headhouse still provides a number of views of the river and canyon rim. However, many of the historic views have been lost due to revegetation in the area. Among these would have included views into the town of Nuttallburg from above, now only visible in historic photos.

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Historic views from Headhouse level (Sheet 2)	98818	Contributing					No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



View of Nuttallburg from the Keeney's Creek branch line, date unknown (West Virginia State Archives #CL08-0031).



Nuttallburg Suspension Bridge shortly after completion, looking towards South Nuttall, 1899 (C&O Historical Magazine).



View to New River from Headhouse trail (OCLP 2003).

Condition

Assessment Interval (Years): 7

Next Assessment Due Date: 07/16/2032

Condition Assessment and Impacts

Condition Assessment: Fair

Assessment Date: 07/16/2025

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

The landscape shows clear evidence of disturbance and deterioration requiring corrective action.

Condition Assessment: Good

Assessment Date: 09/05/2022

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

Provisional. Consultations with park staff regarding the condition assessment occurred in May 2022. Delays due to Covid-19 travel restrictions and staffing shortages have prevented a comprehensive update of the entire CLI. Planning and scheduling this update, in coordination with the Historic Structures Inventory, is underway.

Condition Assessment: Good

Assessment Date: 08/30/2012

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

In consultation with David Fuerst, Cultural Resource Specialist, Richard Segars, Architect, and with concurrence from the Superintendent, the Nuttallburg Coal Mining Complex and Town landscape is in good condition. The definition of "good" is as follows: "The inventory unit shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The inventory unit's cultural and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under the given environmental conditions. No immediate corrective action is required to maintain its current condition."

There are still concerns about the condition of the coke ovens. However, since 2006, there has been a major improvement in the overall condition of this nationally significant property, primarily through the ARRA-funded "Stabilize Historic Nuttall Mine Structures and Provide For Visitor Access and Appreciation" (PMIS 152607).

Condition Assessment: Poor

Assessment Date: 09/05/2006

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

The CLI has determined that the landscape is in poor condition and that features are in imminent danger due to the overall condition of the remaining buildings in Nuttallburg and the threat that overgrown vegetation poses on the site. The items listed under the following impacts section describe the issues that are impacting both the condition and integrity of this park unit. Stabilization work is currently underway at Nuttallburg and some of the impacts listed below may change as a result of these efforts. For example, spraying was recently completed in attempts to control the overgrowth of kudzu in the area of the tipple. Routine spraying and management of this area and others may prove effective for preventing further damage from invasive species (see images in the landscape description section).

Impacts

Type of Impact: Erosion

Other Impact:

External or Internal: Internal

Impact Narrative: Several small streams in the area are eroding Nuttallburg features. A stream running beside the school foundation down the road to the Powerhouse is undermining structural integrity for building foundations and erasing portions of the road trace. Streams running adjacent to the Keeney's Creek Branchline Railroad grade above Nuttallburg have washed out portions of the branch line and continue to undermine remnants railroad resources in the area

Date Identified: 07/29/2005

Type of Impact: Exposure to Elements

Other Impact:

External or Internal: Internal

Impact Narrative: Site features are highly susceptible to weather and climate conditions.

Date Identified: 07/16/2025

Type of Impact: Structural Deterioration

Other Impact:

External or Internal: Internal

Impact Narrative: Several of the buildings in Nuttallburg have and continue to be seriously damaged due to corroding corrugated steel, which has protected them from weather in the past. These buildings are integral features to the Nuttallburg mine operations and need to be stabilized or taken down for safety reasons.

Date Identified: 07/29/2005

Type of Impact: Vegetation/Invasive Plants

Other Impact:

External or Internal: Internal

Impact Narrative: Despite invasive plant control treatments from 2022-2024, kudzu, Japanese knotweed, and multiflora rose continue to obscure historic structures and cover trails during summer months.

Date Identified: 07/16/2025

Type of Impact: Improper Drainage

Other Impact:

External or Internal: Internal

Impact Narrative: Persistent drainage from Nuttallburg mines is impacting historic structures, perpetuating the growth of Japanese knotweed, and reducing visitor experience due to muddy and washed-out trails.

Date Identified: 07/16/2025

Treatment

Stabilization Measures

Treatment Documents

Treatment Type: Undetermined

Treatment Completed: No

Title:

IRMA Link:

Narrative:

A Development Concept Plan is currently being developed for Nuttallburg. This document will be completed in the fall of 2006 along with a new General Master Plan for the park. These documents will guide future treatment and stabilization work at Nuttallburg.

Approved Treatment Costs

Cost Narrative:

Approved treatment costs include work completed in 2005 on the Town Road Bridge based on the 2004 Historic Structure Report by ICON Architecture with McMullan and Associates, Structural Engineers.

Bibliography and Supplemental Information

Bibliography:

Citation Author	Citation Title	Year of Publication	Citation Publisher	Citation Type	Citation Location	Citation Number
Fuerst, David N.	A Cultural Research Project, New River Gorge National River, West Virginia, Volume I - Prehistory	1981		Narrative	PHSO Library	010869
Fuerst, David N.	A Cultural Research Project, New River Gorge National River, West Virginia, Volume III - Prehistory Appendices	1981		Narrative	PHSO Library	010868
Beal, Lawrence E., Dan E. Hugg, James Carrico, Michael Alderstein, Lewis Baxter, Gene Cox, Susan F. Edelstein, Fred Eubanks, Dave Given, Ronald W. Johnson, George Nez, David G. Orr, Andrew Ringgold, Ralph R. Root, Jane Scott, see citation location...	General Management Plan, New River Gorge National River, West Virginia	1982	National Park Service	Narrative	PHSO Library Gerald Sielaff, Suzanne Stutzman, A. Whit Wakins, Charles Wood.	402200
Unrau, Harlan D.	Special History Study / Historical Context Study, New River Gorge National River, West Virginia	1996		Narrative	PHSO Library	402227
	The Ghosts of Keeney's Creek	1998	C&O Historical Magazine	Both Graphic And Narrative	NERI Library	

Nuttallburg Coal Mining Complex and Town
New River Gorge National Park and Preserve

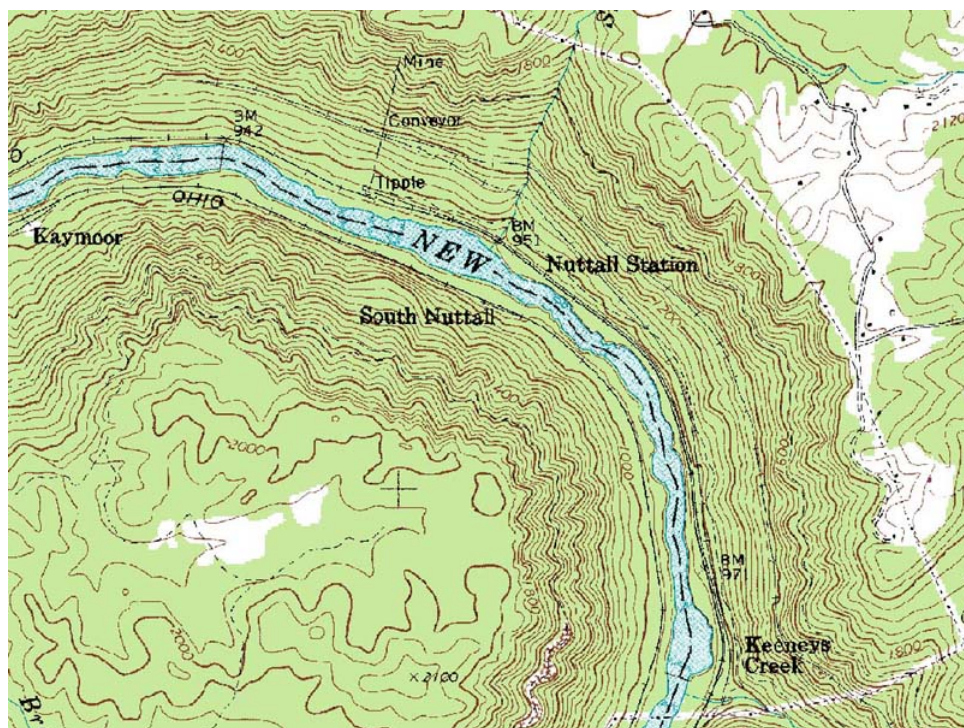
Nuttall, John	Trees Above with Coal Below	1961	Neyenesch Printers	Narrative	NERI Library	
West Virginia University Institute for the History of Technology and Industrial Archaeology	Nuttallburg Mine Complex 1873	1992	HAER	Both Graphic And Narrative	PHSO Library	HAER No. WV-51
Tuck Taylor Collection	West Virginia State Arvchive Photography Collections			Graphic		

Supplemental Information:

Supplemental Information Title: USGS Quad: Fayetteville, W.VA. - 1969, Revised 1976, 1:24,000

Supplemental Information Narrative:

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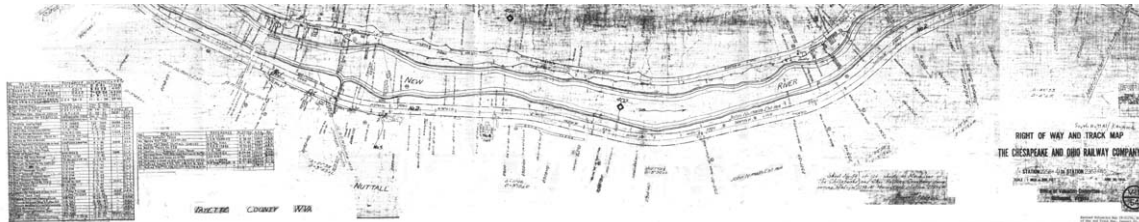


Supplemental Information:

Supplemental Information Title: South Nuttall/Kaymoor, Valuation Map Drawing No. V-11 54, Right of way and Track Map, June 30, 1916, revised 1929.

Supplemental Information Narrative:

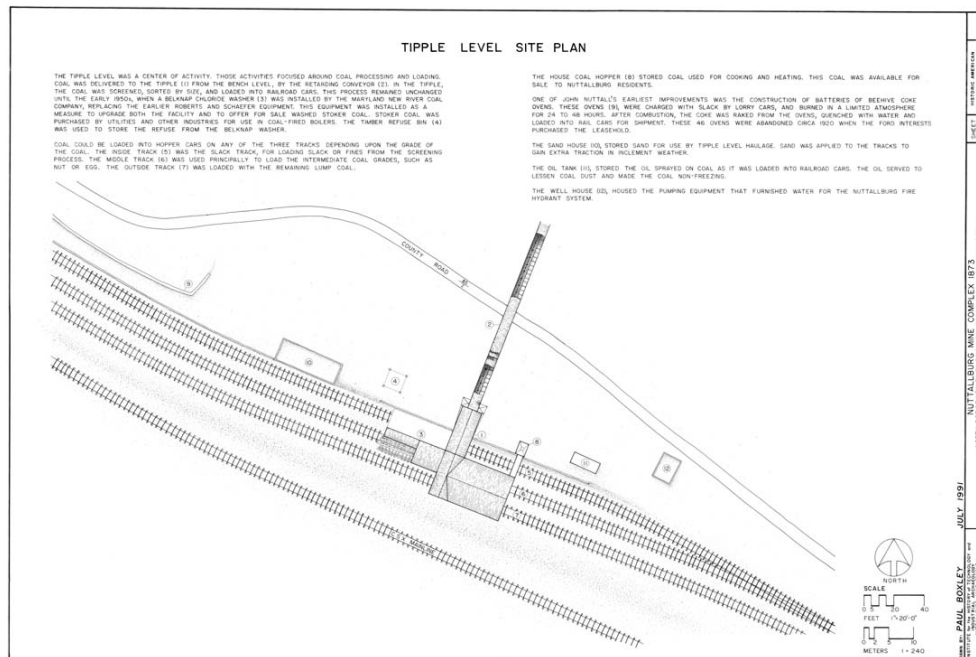
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Supplemental Information Narrative:

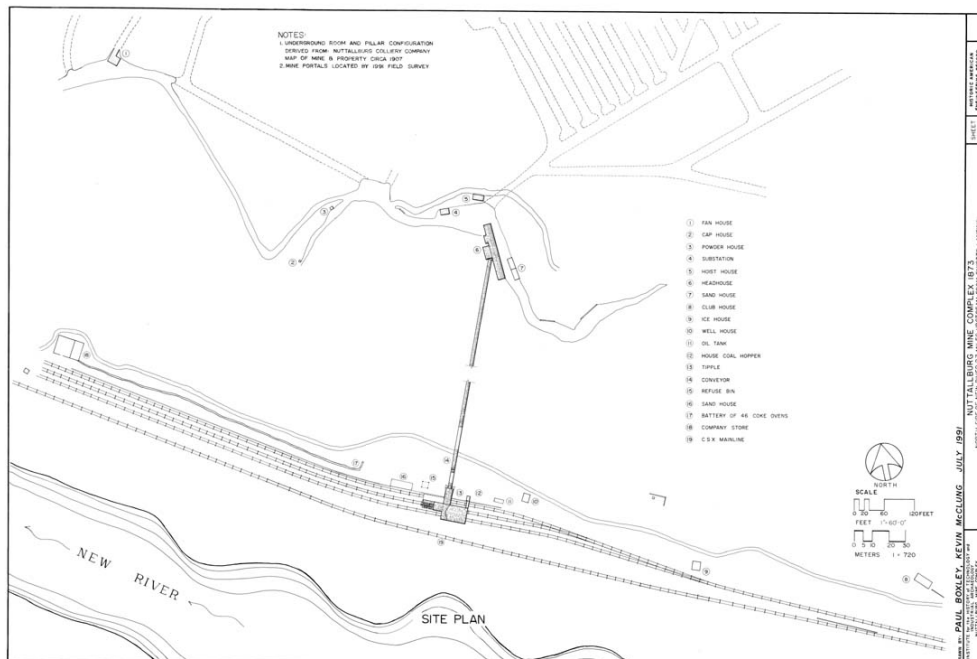
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Supplemental Information Narrative:

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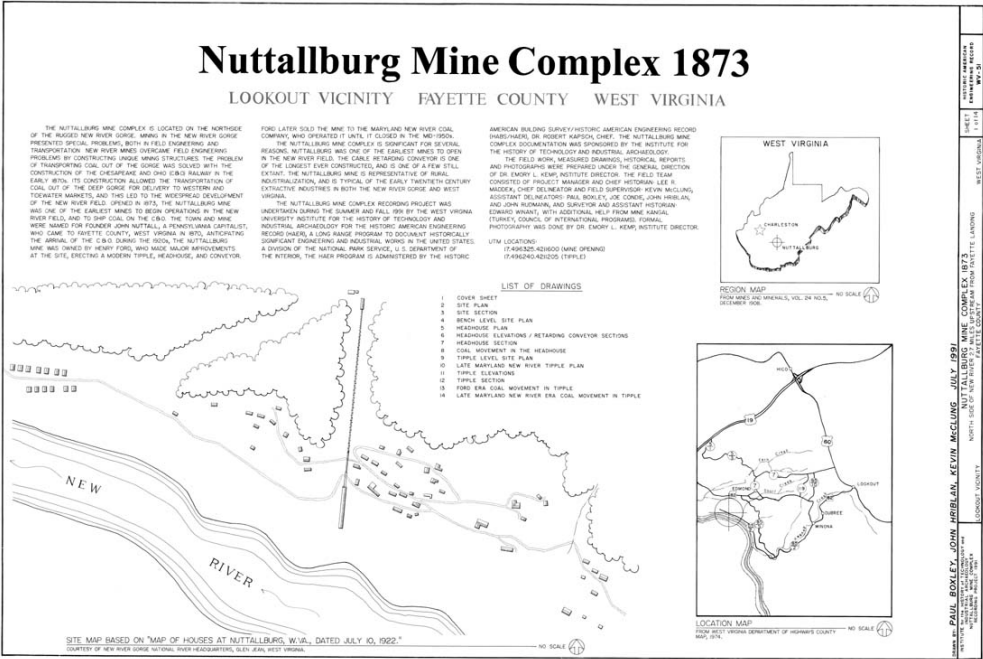


Supplemental Information:

Supplemental Information Title: Nuttallburg Mine Complex 1873 (Cover Sheet) - July 1991, Boxley, Paul, John Hrblan, and Kevin McClung, HAER WV-51

Supplemental Information Narrative:

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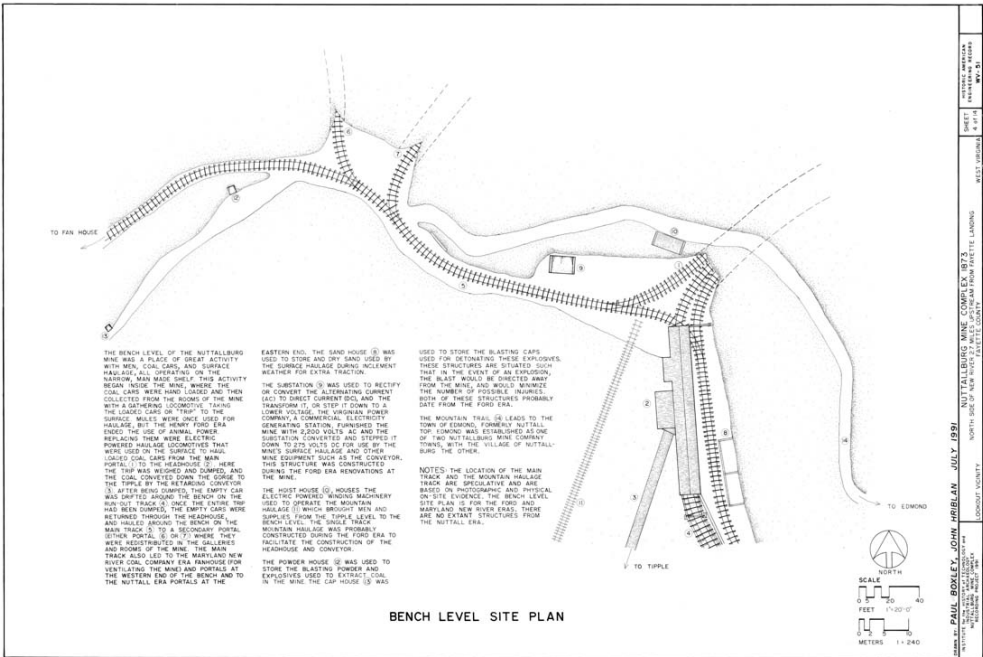


Supplemental Information:

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Supplemental Information Narrative:

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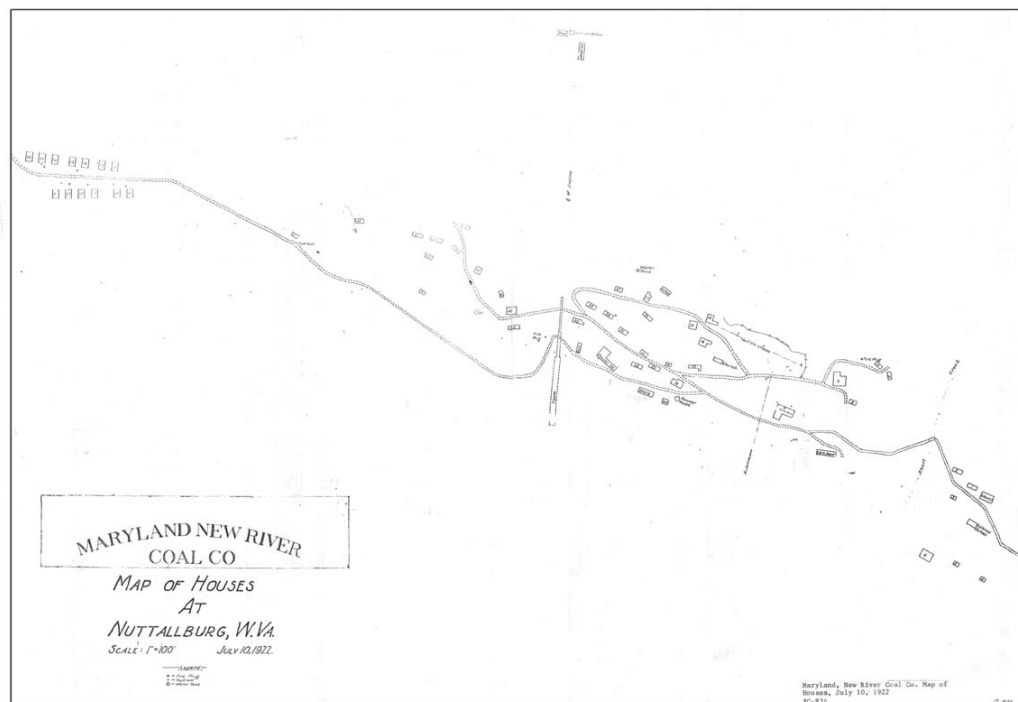


Supplemental Information:

Supplemental Information Title: Maryland New River Coal Company Map of Houses at Nuttallburg,
Drawing No. C-834, July 10, 1922.

Supplemental Information Narrative:

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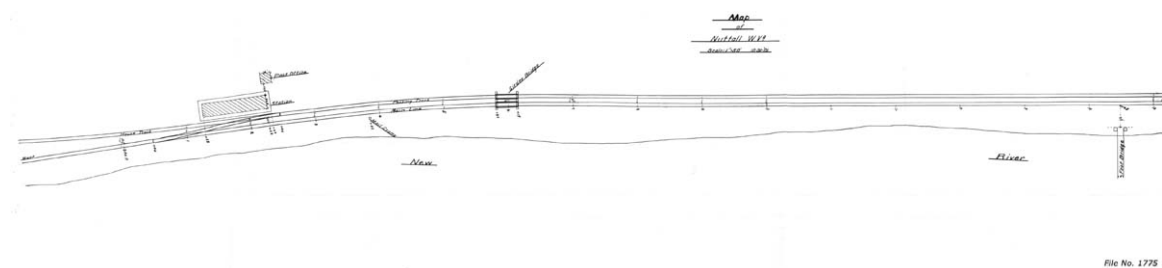


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Supplemental Information Title: Map of Nuttall, WV, Drawing No. 1775, October 31, 1901.

Supplemental Information Narrative:

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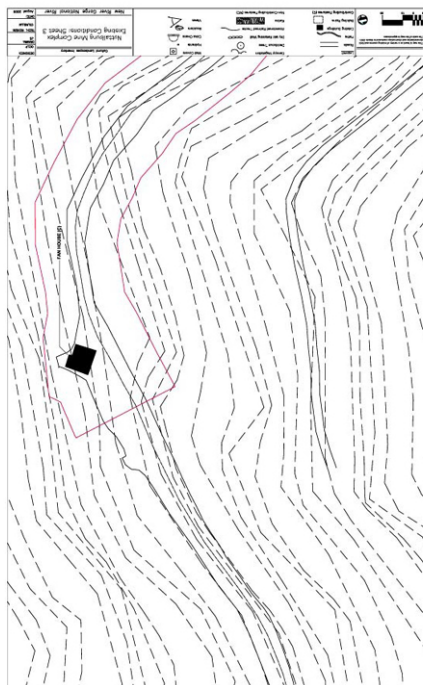


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Supplemental Information Narrative:

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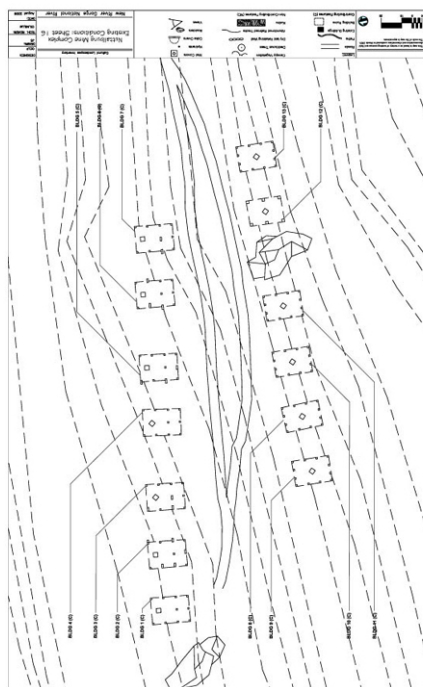
This map is based on a variety of existing sources and field documentation and observations conducted in March 2003. The scale of the map is approximate.

Supplemental Information:

Supplemental Information Title: Nuttallburg Mine Complex Existing Conditions Sheet 16

Supplemental Information Narrative:

Supplemental Information File:



This map is based on a variety of existing sources and field documentation and observations conducted in March 2003. The scale of the map is approximate.

Supplemental Information:

Supplemental Information Title: Nuttallburg Mine Complex Existing Conditions Sheet 15

Supplemental Information Narrative:

Supplemental Information File:



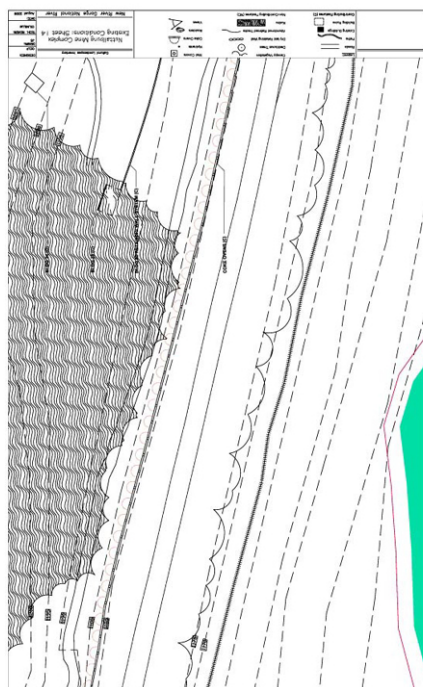
This map is based on a variety of existing sources and field documentation and observations conducted in March 2003. The scale of the map is approximate.

Supplemental Information:

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Supplemental Information File:



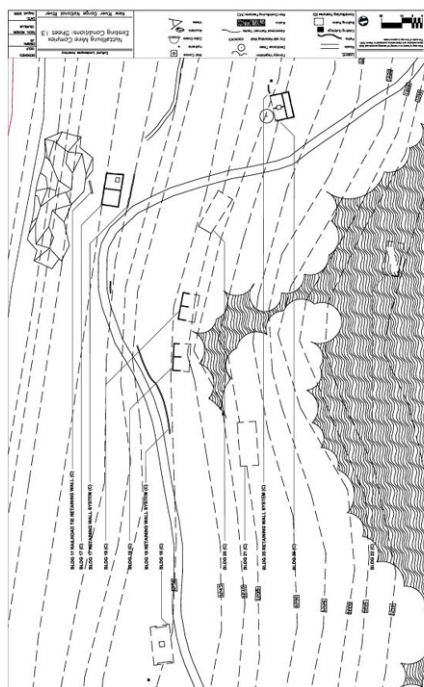
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Supplemental Information:

Supplemental Information Title: Nuttallburg Mine Complex Existing Conditions Sheet 13

Supplemental Information Narrative:

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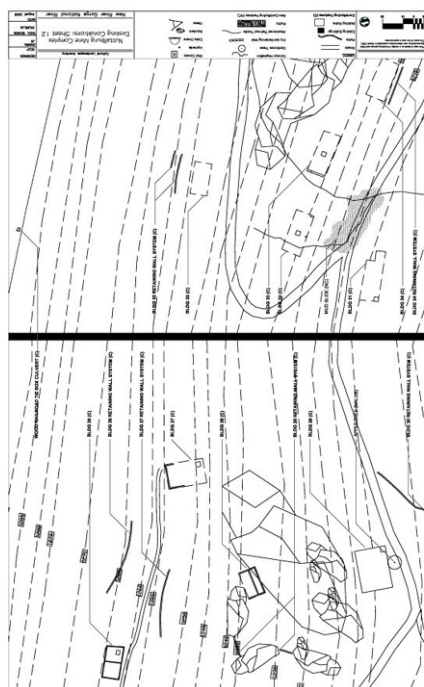
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Supplemental Information:

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Supplemental Information Narrative:

Supplemental Information File:



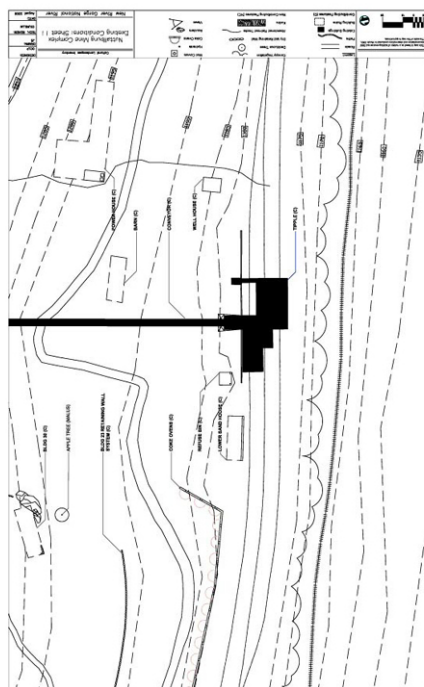
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Supplemental Information:

Supplemental Information Title: Nuttallburg Mine Complex Existing Conditions Sheet 11

Supplemental Information Narrative:

Supplemental Information File:



This map is based on a variety of existing sources and field documentation and observations conducted in March 2003. The scale of the map is approximate.

Supplemental Information:

Supplemental Information Title: Nuttallburg Mine Complex Existing Conditions Sheet 10

Supplemental Information Narrative:

Supplemental Information File:



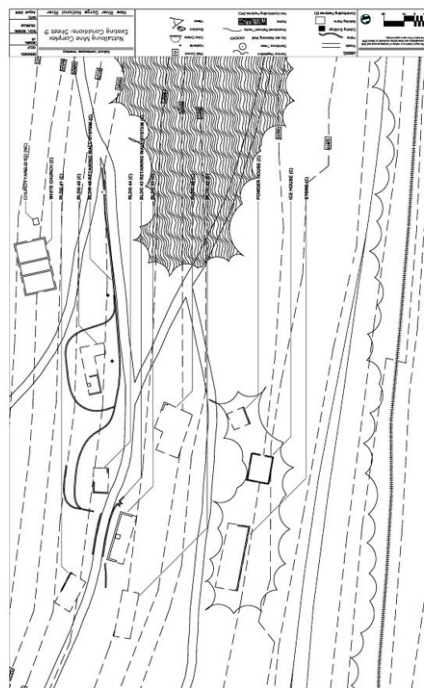
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Supplemental Information:

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Supplemental Information Narrative:

Supplemental Information File:



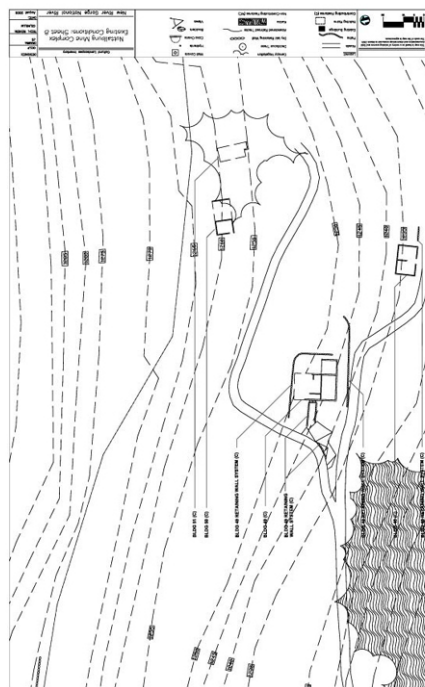
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Supplemental Information:

Supplemental Information Title: Nuttallburg Mine Complex Existing Conditions Sheet 08

Supplemental Information Narrative:

Supplemental Information File:



This map is based on a variety of existing sources and field documentation and observations conducted in March 2003. The scale of the map is approximate.

Supplemental Information:

Supplemental Information Title: Nuttallburg Mine Complex Existing Conditions Sheet 07

Supplemental Information Narrative:

Supplemental Information File:



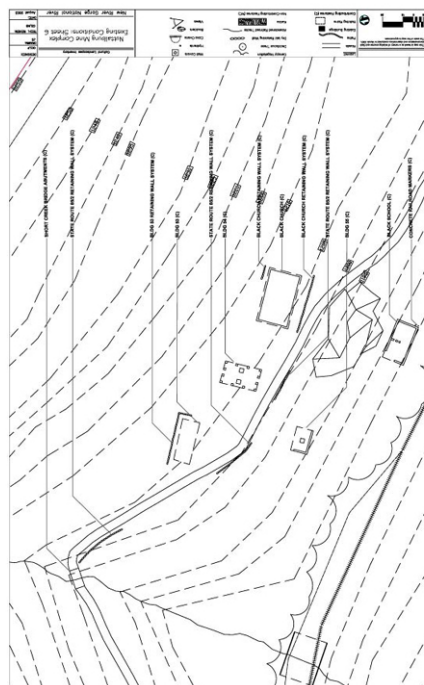
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Supplemental Information:

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Supplemental Information Narrative:

Supplemental Information File:



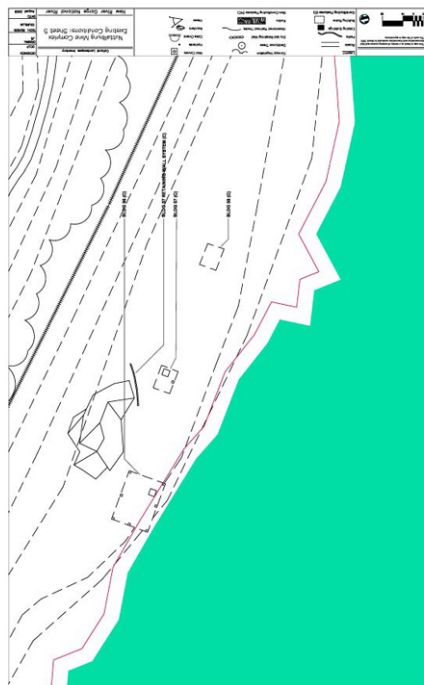
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Supplemental Information:

Supplemental Information Title: Nuttallburg Mine Complex Existing Conditions Sheet 05

Supplemental Information Narrative:

Supplemental Information File:



This map is based on a variety of existing sources and field documentation and observations conducted in March 2003. The scale of the map is approximate.

Supplemental Information:

Supplemental Information Title: Nuttallburg Mine Complex Existing Conditions Sheet 04

Supplemental Information Narrative:

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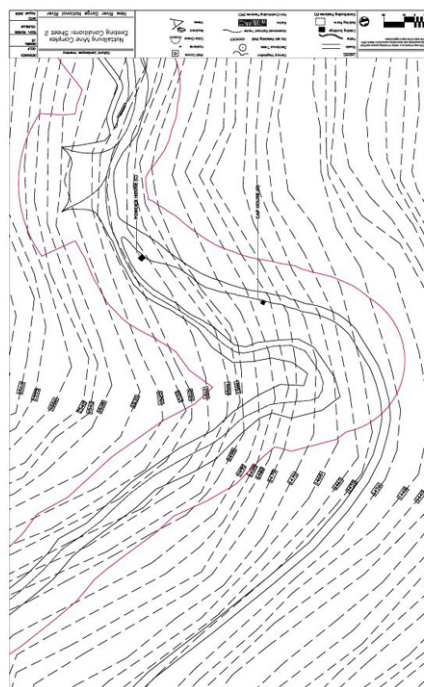
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Supplemental Information:

Supplemental Information Title: Nuttallburg Mine Complex Existing Conditions Sheet 02

Supplemental Information Narrative:

Supplemental Information File:



This map is based on a variety of existing sources and field documentation and observations conducted in March 2003. The scale of the map is approximate.

Supplemental Information:

Supplemental Information Title: Nuttallburg Mine Complex Existing Conditions Sheet 01

Supplemental Information Narrative:

Supplemental Information File:



This map is based on a variety of existing sources and field documentation and observations conducted in March 2003. The scale of the map is approximate.

Landscape Documents:

File Name	Date	Attachment Type
NERI_Nuttallburg_CLI Updates Notes_2025.pdf		

Source