



Final Historic Resources Survey of Gilmer County Gilmer County, West Virginia

Part of the Historic Resources Survey of Tyler, Ritchie, Gilmer, Braxton,
and Doddridge Counties

The Markosky Engineering Group, Inc.

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ABSTRACT

The Markosky Engineering Group, Inc. (Markosky) conducted a reconnaissance level field survey of previously undocumented historic resources in Gilmer County as a part of the multi-county Historic Resources Survey of Tyler, Ritchie, Gilmer, Braxton, and Doddridge Counties. The survey was conducted on behalf of the West Virginia State Historic Preservation Office (WV SHPO), which is part of the West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture and History (WVDACH). The survey resulted in the identification of 150 previously unrecorded resources in the county. The resources are documented as GL-0279 through GL-0425, as well as cemeteries 46GL91, 46GL92, and 46GL93.

The majority of the historic resources surveyed were residential (houses and farmhouses) buildings that dated to the twentieth century, which were generally only one-story or one-and-a-half-stories tall. Several resources were identified as needing further research to determine whether they may be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and/or C, including a historic district, a church, and several individual houses and farms.

This activity has been financed with Federal funds from the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior and administered by the WV Department of Arts, Culture & History. Regulations of the U.S. Department of the Interior strictly prohibit unlawful discrimination in departmental Federally Assisted Programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, age or handicap. Any person who believes he or she has been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility operated by a recipient of Federal assistance should write to: Director, Equal Opportunity Program, U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, DC 20240.

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Braxton, and Doddridge Counties**

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Submitted to:

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1.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND SURVEY METHODOLOGY

The West Virginia State Historic Preservation Office (WV SHPO) has asked The Markosky Engineering Group, Inc. (Markosky) to complete a reconnaissance level survey of 750 historic resources in the five north-central West Virginia counties of Tyler, Ritchie, Gilmer, Braxton, and Doddridge. Each county survey will result in approximately 150 newly recorded resources. The survey is designed to provide a greater sense of the historic built environment within each county and to supplement the documentation of historic resources that is already on file at the WV SHPO. The survey also seeks to avoid duplication of already documented historic properties, so it primarily targets rural areas and unincorporated communities within each county. Historic resources are considered for recording if they are at least 45 years old and demonstrate sufficient integrity.

On August 13, 2019, architectural historians Laura Ricketts and Elizabeth Williams met with representatives from the WV SHPO for a kick-off meeting to discuss survey methodology and to obtain files consisting of digital copies of West Virginia Historic Property Inventory (HPI) forms and spatial data for all of the previously recorded historic resources and surveys within the five counties. Preliminary background research was also undertaken at the West Virginia Archives and History library.

Prior to the start of fieldwork for Gilmer County, a draft historic context was developed in order to anticipate and understand the major influences in the development of the county's built environment, such as topography, settlement patterns, transportation networks, agriculture and industry, and other historic forces. Historic maps and atlases were also consulted in order to determine potential areas and communities that may contain historic resources. Upon completion of fieldwork in Gilmer County, the historic context was refined to incorporate pertinent observations made in the field.

Survey and reporting were completed following the guidance in WV SHPO's *National Register and Architecture/History Survey Manual* (WV SHPO 2016). Markosky used the spatial data provided by WV SHPO to develop United States Geological Survey (USGS) topographic base and aerial base field maps in order to determine targeted survey areas for each county. The field survey of Gilmer County was undertaken from November 30th through December 5th of 2019 by architectural historian Laura Ricketts. Photographs of the historic resources were taken using a high resolution camera from the public right-of-way (ROW). Using the Microsoft Access database provided by WV SHPO, HPI forms were partially populated while in the field. Accompanying field notes were also taken, and the locations of identified historic resources were marked on field maps.

After returning from the field, the individual HPI forms were completed and, with the component parts of the report, were edited to ensure consistency and correct errors. This draft report has been designed to meet the requirements as stipulated in the scope of work for the Historic Resources Survey of Tyler, Ritchie, Gilmer, Braxton, and Doddridge Counties.



This activity has been financed with Federal funds from the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior and administered by the WV Department of Arts, Culture & History. Regulations of the U.S. Department of the Interior strictly prohibit unlawful discrimination in departmental Federally Assisted Programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, age or handicap. Any person who believes he or she has been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility operated by a recipient of Federal assistance should write to: Director, Equal Opportunity Program, U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, DC 20240.

2.0 GILMER COUNTY HISTORIC CONTEXT

Gilmer County is located in north-central West Virginia and its history speaks to the rural nature of the county. Throughout its history, the county has remained isolated and lacking industrial development largely due to the lack of major historical and modern transportation routes. The Little Kanawha River is the major drainage within the county and for a time was the most reliable transportation route even as railroad right-of-ways were blazed into rural West Virginia in the mid-to-late 19th century to capitalize on the coal, oil, and natural gas deposits abundant throughout the state.

The area that now comprises Gilmer County was used by Native American tribes as hunting grounds in the spring and summer months until the arrival of Euro-American explorers and pioneers in the latter half of the 18th century (County Commissioners of West Virginia 2020). Evidence of habitation by the Adena people, also known as the Mound Builders, is found throughout the county in the mounds located along the creeks and streams, namely Steer and Sinking Creeks. An early habitation site is also located near the unincorporated community of DeKalb. The Iroquois Confederacy claimed all of modern day West Virginia as hunting ground until the 1744 Treaty of Lancaster when Virginia acquired their title to the land (County Commissioners of West Virginia 2020). The Iroquois Confederacy conceded more land in the 1786 Treaty of Hard Labour and the Treaty of Fort Stanwix when they forfeited the territory between the Ohio River and Allegheny Mountains including present day Gilmer County. While this opened up the area to some early Euro-American exploration—especially pioneers who explored the Little Kanawha River valley—meaningful settlement began at the turn of the 19th century (County Commissioners of West Virginia 2020) (**Figure 1**) (Reid 1796).

One of the earliest settlers in Gilmer County was Peter McCune who had explored the county after the Revolutionary War and eventually built a cabin on Leading Creek (a tributary of the Little Kanawha River) around 1810. Many veterans were granted land in the county for their service in the War of 1812. This included an early prominent settler named William Stalnaker who in 1816 received 30,000 acres of land in the west-central portion of the county near the mouth of Mill Seat Run (County Commissioners of West Virginia 2020). Stalnaker quickly started a tobacco plantation and built a two-story brick mansion (not extant) in the community he named DeKalb. The settlement was named for Johann, Baron de Kalb who was a major general in the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War and personal friend of the Marquis de Lafayette (County Commissioners of West Virginia 2020).

By 1830, a post office was established at DeKalb and roughly 35 families had settled in the vicinity of Stalnaker's plantation. Elsewhere throughout Gilmer County, early settlements were concentrated around the Little Kanawha River and its tributaries. During the early settlement period farmers were attracted to this area of West Virginia due to the fertile soil, long growing season, and the range of crops that were able to grow in the soil (Green and Griffiths 1998:D-9 and 10). Tobacco growing was prevalent in Gilmer County during the first half of the 19th century. The tobacco was packed into large wooden barrels called hogsheads and floated down the Little Kanawha River to market in Parkersburg on the Ohio River. Livestock raising—



○ Approximate location of Gilmer County

Figure 1. 1796 map of the State of Virginia showing the Ohio River Valley (Reid 1796)

specifically cows, sheep, and horses—was also an important early agricultural practice. The numerous water powered mills constructed along the Little Kanawha River and its tributaries were primarily in support of the agricultural economy (Green and Griffiths 1998:D-9; Schmetzer 2013).

Settlement in Gilmer County continued modestly into the mid-19th century but the county remained isolated. The Gilmer-Ripley Turnpike, an early alignment of modern day U.S. Route 33/U.S. Route 119, was constructed through Gilmer County in 1835 over the path of an old wagon road and provided a link between Weston and Charleston. However, Gilmer County lacked a sufficient road network and local residents found the long journey to Weston and Charleston unsustainable. The Little Kanawha River continued to be the most reliable transportation corridor within the county. A campaign began for more localized government representation by the formation of a new county in Virginia (Green and Griffiths 1998:D-9; Chapman 1994:4). In 1845, Gilmer County was formed from Lewis and Kanawha Counties and named for former Virginia governor and statesman Thomas Walker Gilmer (County Commissioners of West Virginia 2020). The first meetings of the county government officials took place in DeKalb at the home of Salathiel Stalnaker, son of William Stalnaker; however, the location of the county seat quickly became a contested issue (Schmetzer 2013).

As the earliest settlers and founders of DeKalb, the Stalnaker family had a vested interest in having the Gilmer County seat in their community. Others within the county pushed for the seat to be located in a small community known historically as “The Ford”. The settlement was located along the intersection of the Gilmer-Ripley Turnpike and the Little Kanawha River and these two major transportation routes gave the community a logistical advantage over others. The community was eventually named Glenville (for its location within a glen) and a town was laid out in 1845 by William Bell who was an early settler in the area. The Stalnaker family, upset with the alternate choice, refused to attend meetings in the town. When an issue arose regarding the deed for the proposed courthouse in Glenville, county government reconvened at Salathiel Stalnaker’s house. Still the move was short-lived and government meetings were moved to the home of William Bell until the construction of the courthouse was completed in 1850. The permanent move proved to be fatal for DeKalb and by the time Glenville was formally incorporated in 1856 the community was more or less abandoned (County Commissioners of West Virginia 2020).

The middle of the 19th century brought on a tumultuous time for the United States and more specifically West Virginia as states grappled with the issue of slavery. In Gilmer County, this materialized when a faction of parishioners from the Pisgah Methodist Episcopal Church split to form a new church under the denomination of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Construction for the church named Job’s Temple began in 1860 and was located to the southwest of the old settlement of DeKalb near the confluence of Jobs Run and the Little Kanawha River. The construction of the church was interrupted by the outbreak of the Civil War and completed in 1866. Job’s Temple is the oldest extant church building in Gilmer County and was listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) in 1979 (Pauley 1979).

West Virginia acquired statehood in 1863 during the turmoil of the Civil War. However, the tensions between eastern and western Virginia began with the earliest settlements in the state. When Virginia's first constitution was adopted in 1776, voting rights were granted to white males who owned at least 25 acres of improved land or 50 acres of unimproved land (WVDACH 2019). This specification largely excluded the emerging population of subsistence farmers who were settling in western Virginia, as well as women and people of color. Representation in Virginia also favored the eastern tidewater counties that primarily consisted of slave owning plantation owners. In the early 19th century, amendments were added to the constitution to try to balance the representation but the interests of eastern Virginia were still prioritized (WVDACH 2019; Wills 2017).

Calls for secession from eastern Virginia came from the western counties as early as 1829 when a new state constitution was adopted and delegates from western Virginia still felt underrepresented. To quell tensions, more counties were formed in western Virginia to boost representation in the state, and various improvements were undertaken, including the construction of the Staunton to Parkersburg Turnpike and the Northwestern Turnpike which aided in the continued development of the western region of Virginia. Another constitutional convention in 1850 attempted to again address the tensions in the state by amending the state's voting laws to allow all white males over the age of 25 to vote regardless of whether they owned land. The state also continued its internal improvements in western Virginia which seemed to abate regional strains but also led to less of a reliance on the eastern markets in Richmond and tidewater Virginia (WVDACH 2019).

A national depression at the end of the 1850s flattened the economy of western Virginia; many of the mills and factories were forced to close, and farmers felt the financial strain. The turmoil in Virginia boiled over in 1861 when the state submitted a bill to secede from the Union after the seizure of Fort Sumter, South Carolina, which effectively started the Civil War. Delegates from western Virginia marched out of the Secession Convention and another convention was organized in Wheeling, where the Restored Government of Virginia was established in order for western Virginia to remain in the Union. Like the majority of the other counties in western Virginia, Gilmer County was largely supportive of remaining in the Union. At the First Wheeling Convention; however, delegates from Gilmer County abstained from voting partially due to pressure from pro-secessionist representatives at the convention. Still 24 of the 27 western Virginia counties represented at the convention supported remaining in the Union (Green and Griffiths 1998:D-10).

At the Second Wheeling Convention the same year, delegates from Gilmer County cast their vote to remain in the Union. Because Virginia had seceded from the Union, it had no authority to prevent the formation of a new state in western Virginia. The Union government would not accept another slave state so a plan for gradual emancipation was built into the constitution of West Virginia which gained statehood in 1863 (**Figure 2**) (Baublitz 2019; WVDACH 2019; Nicholson 1864). Although Gilmer County had remained in the Union, there were divisions following the establishment of West Virginia's statehood. The county sent roughly an equal number of men to fight in the Union and Confederate armies. Although no recorded battles took



place in Gilmer County, roving bands of guerilla fighters from both armies disrupted government business and day to day life for the duration of the war. A Union stockade named Fort Moore was built overlooking the Little Kanawha River in 1864 on College Hill outside of Glenville but was burned by the Confederate Army the same year (County Commissioners of West Virginia 2020; Green and Griffiths 1998:D-11; Schmetzer 2013).

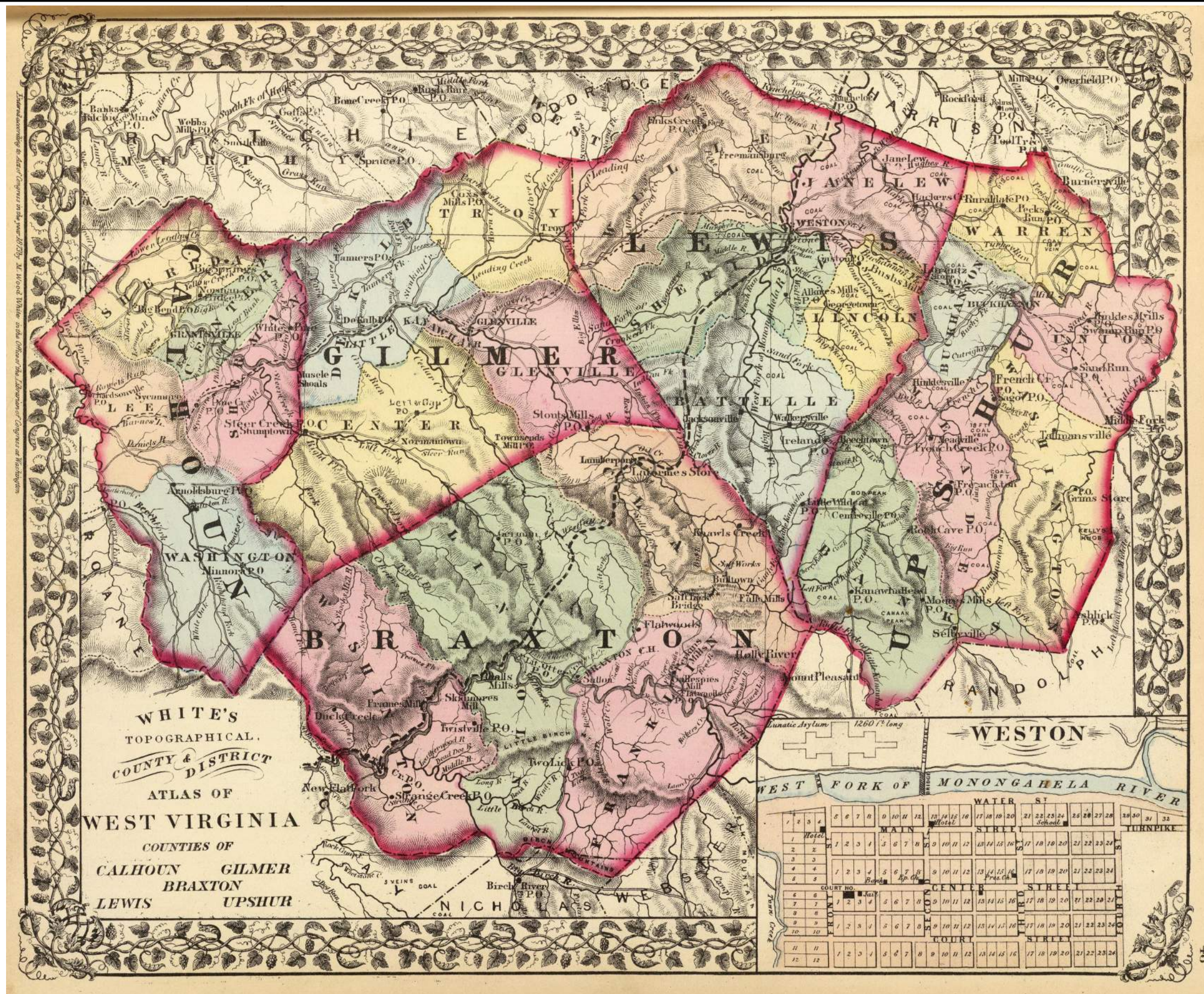
Following the end of the Civil War, the 1870s brought on an era of development in Gilmer County. A branch of the State Normal School was established in Glenville in 1872 for the purpose of training primary and secondary school teachers (McDonald 2018). Many of the normal schools established in West Virginia also offered college preparatory courses before there was an established high school system. The first classes at the Glenville Branch of the State Normal School were held in the Gilmer County Courthouse until a two-story frame building was constructed in the vicinity of College Hill in 1873. The 1870s also brought on a small boom in natural resource exploration as speculators began tapping into the abundant coal, natural gas and oil throughout Gilmer County and the Little Kanawha River Valley. The first gas well was drilled in Gilmer County in 1875 near the unincorporated community of Letter Gap (Green and Griffiths 1998:D-11). Oil was discovered and extracted concurrently with the abundant natural gas throughout the county (Green and Griffiths 1998:D-11).

Even as Gilmer County began to tap into its natural resources and its population was on the rise, the county was still plagued by poor road conditions and overall slow development of infrastructure. While Gilmer County saw some small industrial booms during the late 19th century, the lack of accessibility in the county caused limited and intermittent industrial development (Chapman 1984:4). An 1873 map of Gilmer County and adjacent counties shows a limited road network including the early alignment of U.S. Route 33/119 and W.V. Route 5 which followed the Little Kanawha River (**Figure 3**) (White 1873).

Hardesty's 1883 map gives a more detailed look at the development within Gilmer County and illustrates the churches, schoolhouses, and post offices dotted throughout the county (**Figure 4**) (Hardesty 1883). The Little Kanawha River and its numerous tributaries dotted with mills are illustrated as well as the early road network. Although the map calls out roads such as the Gilmer and Ripley Turnpike (U.S. 33/119) and the Gilmer and Braxton Turnpike (W.V. Route 5)—both of which passed through Glenville—these early turnpike roads were notoriously unimproved and impassable due to flooding. As a result the Little Kanawha River provided the most reliable transportation within the county well into early 20th century (Chapman 1984:4). A small lock system was constructed on the river from Parkersburg to Burning Spring in Wirt County in the mid-to-late 19th century. Originally 10 locks were proposed but only five were constructed. Still, the locks made the river navigable for shallow-drift riverboats from Parkersburg to Burnsville in Braxton County (Gilchrist-Stalnaker 2010).

The earliest riverboats that traveled the Little Kanawha River were steam powered and later gas powered. Gilmer County saw the height of its river traffic between 1890 and 1930. Flatboats, rafts, and paddleboats transported freight including timber and coal mined in Gilmer County. The boats also carried mail and provided passenger service. An undated photograph shows a





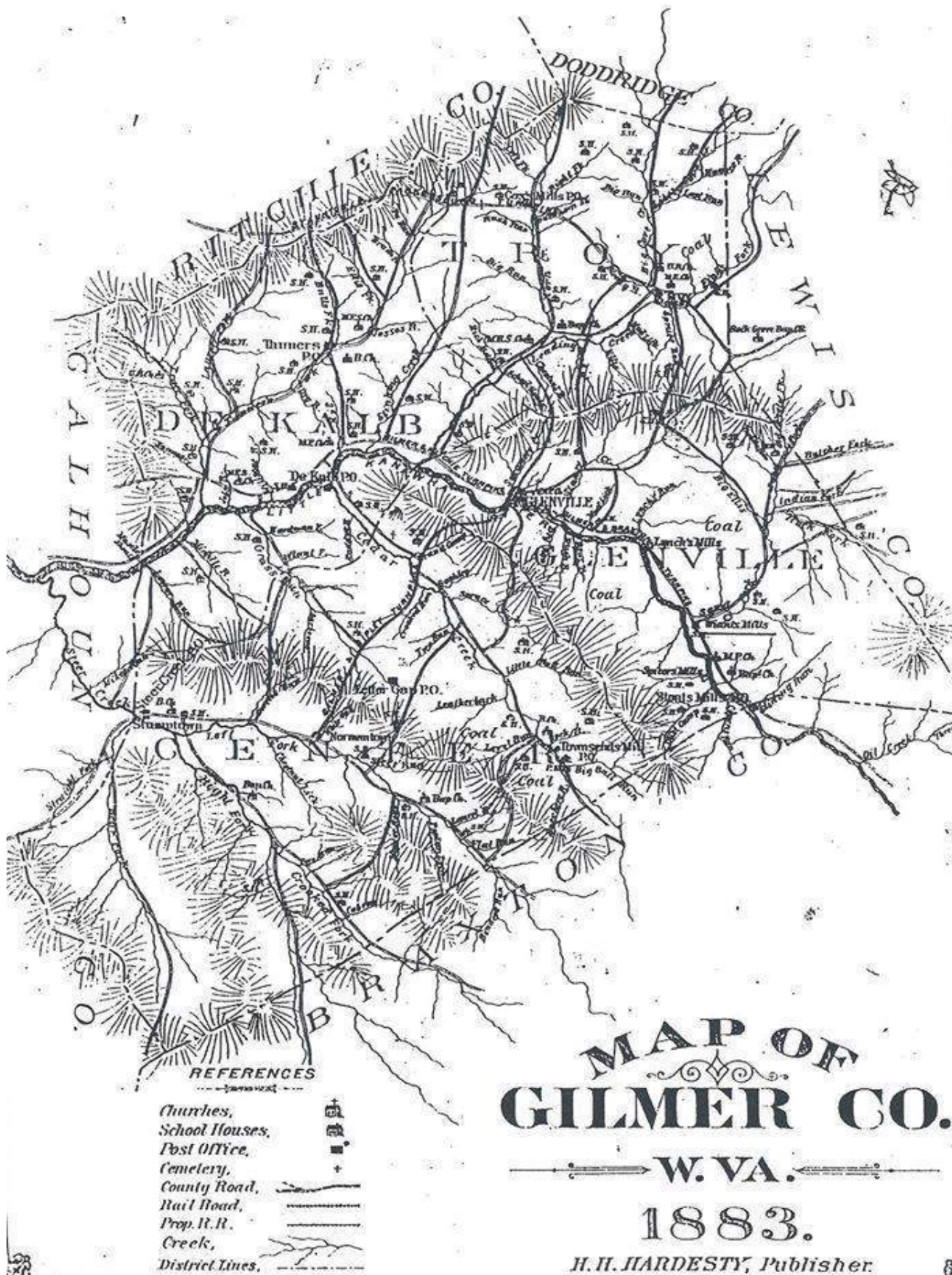


Figure 4. Map of Gilmer County from 1883 showing the districts and small communities throughout (Hardesty 1883)

scene of a paddleboat docked along the Little Kanawha River (**Figure 5**) (WVU n.d.). The paddleboats that traveled the Little Kanawha were smaller than the well-known steam powered paddleboats that traveled the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers. Flooding was a recurring problem along the river and as a more reliable road system was constructed in the Little Kanawha River valley, boat traffic declined by the end of the 1930s (Schmetzer 2013).

Gilmer County remained largely rural and undeveloped at the turn of the 20th century. With the exception of Glenville, the communities within the county were small, and agriculture remained as the principle economy even during the boom and bust of the oil and gas industry. A 1915 newspaper article from the *Daily Telegraph* in Clarksburg lamented the abundance of natural resources in the county which had yet to be explored due to the lack of accessibility (Daily Telegraph 1915). The article insisted a railroad system was needed in order to tap the vast coal reserves and to spark development in the county. Gilmer County did in fact have a railroad although not on the scale needed to prompt development on a large scale. The Coal and Coke Railroad was constructed from Charleston to Elkins in 1905 and included approximately 1.18 miles of track within Gilmer County that traveled through Gilmer Station in the extreme northeastern extent of the county (**Figure 6 and 7**) (USGS 1925; WVU 1943). Coal was mined from within this area of eastern Gilmer County primarily by the West Virginia Coal and Coke Company. Earlier plans for a more substantial rail line traveling to Ravenswood on the Ohio River and stretching to Glenville never materialized. Despite its abundant natural resources, industrial development in Gilmer County was stunted due to a lack of accessibility (Green and Griffiths 1998:D-11).

Although rural Gilmer County saw little development as it entered the 20th century, Glenville represented the center of education and culture for the county. In 1930, the college became the Glenville State Teachers College and began offering a four year bachelor of arts in education (McDonald 2018). The school suffered from a decline in enrollment during the Great Depression and during World War II; however, in the early 1940s the college was renamed Glenville State College and expanded its degree offerings to include English, history, science, and music. The campus itself was also expanded during this period with growth continuing into the mid-20th century (**Figure 8**) (WVU 1930). The buildings on the campus, built in the Georgian Revival style, represent the highest style architecture found in Gilmer County (Chambers 2004:456).

A project assigned to Glenville State College students in 1950 was the origin for one of West Virginia's most beloved festivals, the State Folk Festival. Students in an Appalachian culture class taught by professor and folklorist Patrick Gainer were tasked with interviewing a person who played a traditional mountain instrument, sang old mountain songs, or practiced an old craft. When some students brought heirlooms and antiques to class as a part of the assignment, Gainer invited antique dealers to the class in order to contextualize the items. The following year Gainer assigned the same task to students and the class activities were moved to Glenville, which marked the first year of the festival. The festival focused on Appalachian folk traditions, specifically music and dance, and in order to avoid commercialization of the event Gainer insisted only string instruments were used to play the traditional mountain music. The event was officially chartered in 1961 with the goal of "preserving the pioneer traditions of West Virginia"





West Virginia & Regional History Center

Figure 5. Paddle boat on the Little Kanawha River (WVU n.d.)

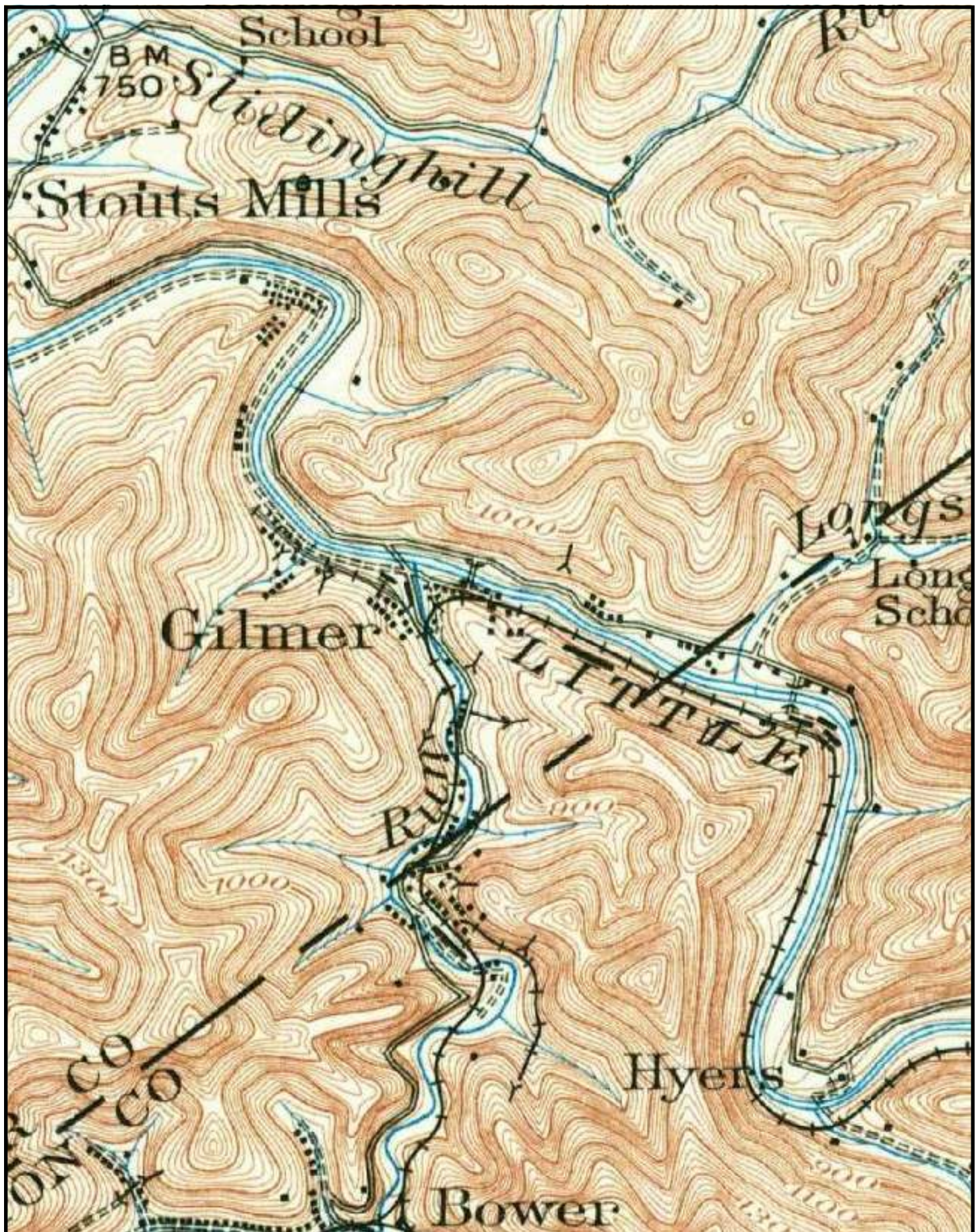


Figure 6. Detail of 1925 topographic map showing right-of-way of the Coal and Coke Railroad in Gilmer County (USGS 1925)



Figure 7. View of rail cars and buildings at Gilmer Station in northeastern Gilmer County (WVU 1943)

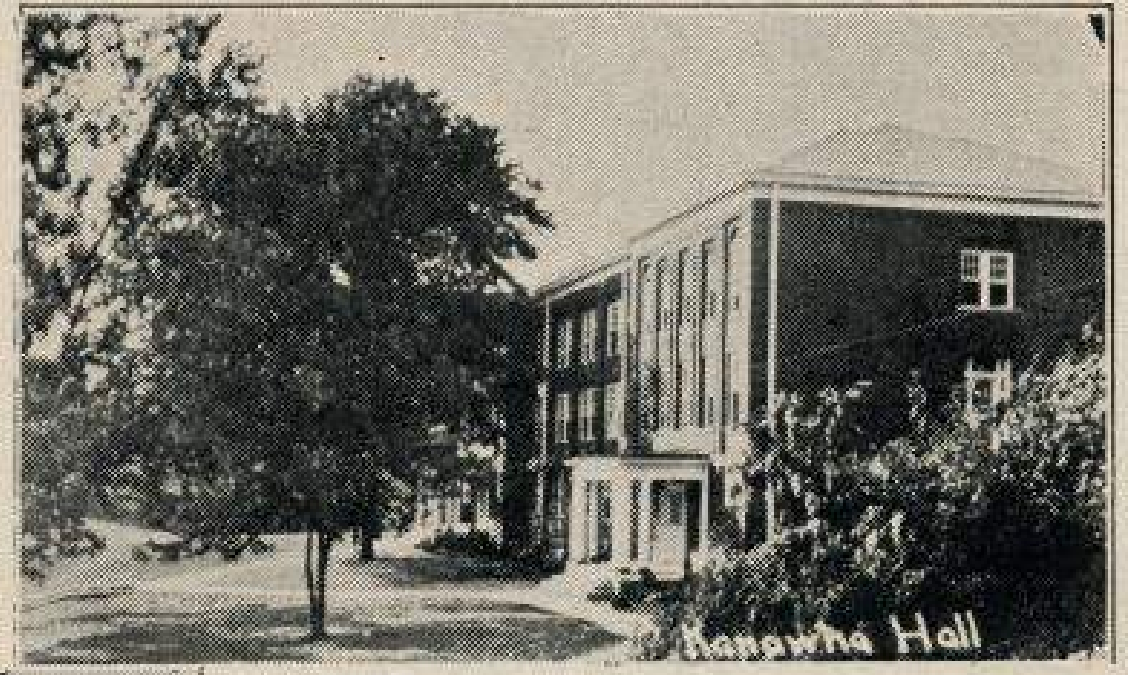


Figure 8. Group of buildings on the campus of the Glenville State Normal School (WVU 1930)

(Samples 2010). The festival saw the height of its popularity in the 1960s and 1970s and became one of the most popular music and dance events in the state. After Gainer stepped down as the festival organizer, subsequent organizers preserved the roots of the festival and held to the guidelines established by Gainer (Samples 2010).

Gilmer County saw another small wave of industrial development, when a seam of high quality coal was discovered in the vicinity of Sand Fork in the late 1950s. The Baltimore and Ohio (B&O) Railroad constructed the Heathcliff Branch in 1957 and it extended roughly 6.3 miles from Gilmer Station to the vicinity of Truebada following the course of the Little Kanawha River. The O'Donnell Mine No. 2 operated by the Rochester and Pittsburgh Coal Company was opened in 1960 and saw its height of production by 1964. By 1967 the mine was closed due to low profitability and shortly after in 1971 the branch line was abandoned (Cooper 1981:103-104; The Raleigh Register 1960).

More recently, the natural gas industry has reemerged in Gilmer County due to advancements in drilling and extraction technology. However, keeping with the historical precedent, extraction is happening on a small scale when compared other areas throughout the state (Allen and Matchen 2017; Matchen and Calwell 2012; Shale XP 2019). A medium security Federal prison was constructed approximately 3.14 miles to the southeast of Glenville in 2003 and replaced Glenville State College as the largest employer in the county (Schmetzer 2013). At the turn of the 21st century, the Gilmer County population of 7,160 recorded by the 2000 census was only 59% as large as the population of 12,046 noted at Gilmer County's peak in 1940 (Schmetzer 2013; Chambers 2004:456). Gilmer County currently ranks as the 50th smallest county by population of West Virginia's 55 counties, with an estimated population in 2018 of just 8,026 (United States Census Bureau 2020).

3.0 FIELD SURVEY RESULTS AND GENERAL FINDINGS

Field survey of Gilmer County was undertaken from November 30th to December 5th, 2019 and resulted in the identification of 150 newly recorded historic resources (**Table 1**). The county was surveyed using topographic and aerial mapping, which included all of the previously recorded historic resources in Gilmer County to prevent duplicate documentation. A brief summary of the identified resources is provided below. The locations of all newly surveyed resources are mapped on topographic maps and located in Appendix A. The WV HPI forms are located in Appendix B.

Table 1. Newly Identified Historic Resources in Gilmer County

HPI Site Number	Type	Style/Form	Date	Recommended NRHP Eligibility
GL-0279	House	Cape Cod	c. 1930	Not Eligible
GL-0280	House	Cape Cod	c. 1920	Not Eligible
GL-0281	House	Queen Anne Cottage	c. 1900	Not Eligible
GL-0282	House	Cape Cod	c. 1949	Not Eligible
GL-0283	House	Ranch	c. 1955	Not Eligible
GL-0284	House	Side gable cottage	c. 1920	Not Eligible
GL-0285	House	Side gable cottage	c. 1920	Not Eligible
GL-0286	House	Craftsman Bungalow	c. 1910	Not Eligible
GL-0287	House	Ranch	c. 1955	Not Eligible
GL-0288	House	Cape Cod	c. 1937	Not Eligible
GL-0289	House	Side gable cottage	c. 1900	Not Eligible
GL-0290	House	Tudor Revival	c. 1932	Not Eligible
GL-0291	Commercial buildings	Four-Square	c. 1920	Not Eligible
GL-0292	House	Cape Cod	c. 1954	Not Eligible
GL-0293	Farm	Craftsman Bungalow	c. 1930	Additional research needed to assess eligibility under Criterion A
GL-0294	School	Victorian - Folk	c. 1890	Not Eligible
GL-0295	Farm	Side gable cottage	c. 1900	Not Eligible
GL-0296	House	Side gable cottage	c. 1910	Not Eligible
GL-0297	House	Modern	c. 1955	Not individually eligible; may contribute to Troy Historic District GL-0316
GL-0298	House	Colonial Revival	c. 1942	Not individually eligible; may contribute to Troy Historic District GL-0316
GL-0299	House	Greek Revival	c. 1880	Not individually eligible; may contribute to Troy Historic District GL-0316
GL-0300	Church	Gothic Revival	c. 1940	Not individually eligible; may contribute to Troy Historic District GL-0316

HPI Site Number	Type	Style/Form	Date	Recommended NRHP Eligibility
GL-0301	House	Craftsman Bungalow	c. 1910	Not individually eligible; may contribute to Troy Historic District GL-0316
GL-0302	Fire station	Other - Utilitarian	c. 1965	Not individually eligible; may contribute to Troy Historic District GL-0316
GL-0303	House	Craftsman Bungalow	c. 1910	Not individually eligible; may contribute to Troy Historic District GL-0316
GL-0304	Store and post office	Commercial	c. 1940	Not individually eligible; may contribute to Troy Historic District GL-0316
GL-0305	School	Richardsonian Romanesque	c. 1927	Not individually eligible; may contribute to Troy Historic District GL-0316
GL-0306	School	International Style	c. 1955	Not individually eligible; may contribute to Troy Historic District GL-0316
GL-0307	House	Queen Anne	c. 1900	Not individually eligible; may contribute to Troy Historic District GL-0316
GL-0308	House	Bungalow	c. 1920	Not individually eligible; may contribute to Troy Historic District GL-0316
GL-0309	House	Ranch	c. 1950	Not individually eligible; may contribute to Troy Historic District GL-0316
GL-0310	House	Bungalow	c. 1920	May be individually eligible; may contribute to Troy Historic District GL-0316
GL-0311	House	Queen Anne Cottage	c. 1910	Not individually eligible; may contribute to Troy Historic District GL-0316
GL-0312	House	Queen Anne Cottage	c. 1910	Not individually eligible; may contribute to Troy Historic District GL-0316
GL-0313	House	Side gable cottage	c. 1910	Not individually eligible; may contribute to Troy Historic District GL-0316
GL-0314	House	Side gable cottage	c. 1900	Not individually eligible; may contribute to Troy Historic District GL-0316
GL-0315	House	Craftsman Bungalow	c. 1920	Not individually eligible; may contribute to Troy Historic District GL-0316
GL-0316	District	Troy Historic District	1880 to 1960	Additional research needed to assess eligibility under Criterion A
GL-0317	Church	Colonial Revival	c. 1949	Not Eligible

HPI Site Number	Type	Style/Form	Date	Recommended NRHP Eligibility
GL-0318	Farm	Side gable cottage	c. 1910	Additional research needed to assess eligibility under Criterion A
GL-0319	Farm	Ranch	c. 1950	Not Eligible
GL-0320	House	Craftsman Bungalow	c. 1920	Not Eligible
GL-0321	Farm	I-House	c. 1900	Not Eligible
GL-0322	Farm	Craftsman Bungalow	c. 1948	Not Eligible
GL-0323	Farm	Gable-Front	c. 1910	Not Eligible
GL-0324	Farm	Queen Anne	c. 1900	Additional research needed to assess eligibility under Criterion A
GL-0325	Church	Colonial Revival	c. 1899	Not Eligible
GL-0326	Farm	Side gable cottage	c. 1900	Not Eligible
GL-0327	Farm	Four-Square	c. 1920	Not Eligible
GL-0328	House	Gable-Front	c. 1930	Not Eligible
GL-0329	Church	Colonial Revival	c. 1950	Not Eligible
GL-0330	House	Gable-Front	c. 1933	Not Eligible
GL-0331	House	Ranch	c. 1942	Not Eligible
GL-0332	House	Cape Cod	c. 1936	Not Eligible
GL-0333	House	Craftsman Bungalow	c. 1920	Not Eligible
GL-0334	Church	Gothic Revival	c. 1892	Additional research needed to assess eligibility under Criterion A
GL-0335	House	Queen Anne Cottage	c. 1910	Not Eligible
GL-0336	House	Queen Anne	c. 1890	Additional research needed to assess eligibility under Criteria A and/or C
GL-0337	Farm	Unknown (Queen Anne)	c. 1890	Not Eligible
GL-0338	House	Craftsman Bungalow	c. 1910	Not Eligible
GL-0339	House	Craftsman Bungalow	c. 1920	Not Eligible
GL-0340	District	River View Subdivision	1960 to 1961	Not Eligible
GL-0341	Church	Colonial Revival	c. 1926	Not Eligible
GL-0342	House	Split-Level	c. 1960	Not Eligible
GL-0343	House	Craftsman Bungalow	c. 1920	Not Eligible
GL-0344	House	Ranch	c. 1963	Not Eligible
GL-0345	House	Ranch	c. 1950	Not Eligible
GL-0346	House	Ranch	c. 1950	Not Eligible
GL-0347	House	Ranch	c. 1955	Not Eligible
GL-0348	House	I-House	c. 1890	Additional research needed to assess eligibility under Criterion A
GL-0349	Church	Colonial Revival	c. 1920	Not Eligible

HPI Site Number	Type	Style/Form	Date	Recommended NRHP Eligibility
GL-0350	House	Colonial Revival	c. 1909	Not Eligible
GL-0351	House	Four-Square	c. 1935	Additional research needed to assess eligibility under Criteria A and/or C
GL-0352	Commercial building	Commercial	c. 1910	Additional research needed to assess eligibility under Criterion A
GL-0353	House	Gable-Front	c. 1940	Not Eligible
GL-0354	House	Side gable cottage	c. 1900	Not Eligible
GL-0355	House	Side gable cottage	c. 1900	Not Eligible
GL-0356	House	Queen Anne	c. 1900	Not Eligible
GL-0357	Church	Gothic Revival	c. 1920	Not Eligible
GL-0358	Farm	Gable-Front	c. 1920	Not Eligible
GL-0359	House	Pyramidal	c. 1910	Not Eligible
GL-0360	House	Queen Anne	c. 1890	Not Eligible
GL-0361	Church	Colonial Revival	c. 1876	Not Eligible
GL-0362	House	Ranch	c. 1955	Not Eligible
GL-0363	House	Side gable cottage	c. 1900	Additional research needed to assess eligibility under Criteria A and/or C
GL-0364	House	Craftsman Bungalow	c. 1905	Additional research needed to assess eligibility under Criteria A and/or C
GL-0365	District	Linn Historic District	1900 to 1955	Not Eligible
GL-0366	House	Queen Anne Cottage	c. 1900	Not Eligible
GL-0367	House	Colonial Revival	c. 1915	Not Eligible
GL-0368	House	Side gable cottage	c. 1915	Not Eligible
GL-0369	House	Queen Anne Cottage	c. 1900	Not Eligible
GL-0370	Farm	Craftsman Bungalow	c. 1930	Additional research needed to assess eligibility under Criterion A
GL-0371	House	Ranch	c. 1961	Not Eligible
GL-0372	Farm	Queen Anne	c. 1890	Not Eligible
GL-0373	House	Craftsman Bungalow	c. 1930	Not Eligible
GL-0374	House	Craftsman Bungalow	c. 1930	Not Eligible
GL-0375	House	Gable-Front	c. 1905	Possibly eligible under Criterion C
GL-0376	House	I-House	c. 1900	Not Eligible
GL-0377	House	Craftsman Bungalow	c. 1930	Possibly eligible under Criterion C
GL-0378	House	Side gable cottage	c. 1900	Not Eligible
GL-0379	Commercial building	Commercial	c. 1930	Not Eligible
GL-0380	Church	Gable-Front	c. 1920	Not Eligible
GL-0381	Farm	Queen Anne Cottage	c. 1910	Not Eligible

HPI Site Number	Type	Style/Form	Date	Recommended NRHP Eligibility
GL-0382	House	Side gable cottage	c. 1910	Not Eligible
GL-0383	House	Ranch	c. 1953	Not Eligible
GL-0384	House	Ranch	c. 1974	Not Eligible
GL-0385	House	Ranch	c. 1945	Not Eligible
GL-0386	House	Side gable cottage	c. 1910	Not Eligible
GL-0387	House	Side gable cottage	c. 1910	Not Eligible
GL-0388	House	Gabled-Ell	c. 1935	Not Eligible
GL-0389	House	Craftsman Bungalow	c. 1905	Not Eligible
GL-0390	Farm	Craftsman Bungalow	c. 1925	Not Eligible
GL-0391	House	Queen Anne	c. 1905	Not Eligible
GL-0392	Farm	Craftsman Bungalow	c. 1930	Additional research needed to assess eligibility under Criterion A
GL-0393	House	Gabled-Ell	c. 1890	Not Eligible
GL-0394	Church	Gable-Front	c. 1900	Not Eligible
GL-0395	House	Side gable cottage	c. 1910	Not Eligible
GL-0396	Farm	Bungalow	c. 1951	Not Eligible
GL-0397	House	Ranch	c. 1950	Not Eligible
GL-0398	House	Gabled-Ell	c. 1890	Not Eligible
GL-0399	House	Bungalow	c. 1950	Not Eligible
GL-0400	Farm	Victorian - Folk	c. 1890	Not Eligible
GL-0401	Church	Gable-Front	c. 1950	Not Eligible
GL-0402	House	Modern	c. 1970	Not Eligible
GL-0403	Transportation resource	Railroad related	c. 1957	Not Eligible
GL-0404	House	Side gable cottage	c. 1940	Not Eligible
GL-0405	House	Side gable cottage	c. 1920	Not Eligible
GL-0406	District	Stouts Mills Historic District	1890 to 1930	Not Eligible
GL-0407	House	Pyramidal	c. 1920	Not Eligible
GL-0408	House	Gable-Front	c. 1954	Not Eligible
GL-0409	House	Craftsman Bungalow	c. 1905	Not Eligible
GL-0410	House	I-House	c. 1910	Not Eligible
GL-0411	House	Ranch	c. 1955	Not Eligible
GL-0412	Farm	Modern	c. 1960	Not Eligible
GL-0413	Farm	Gabled-Ell	c. 1905	Not Eligible
GL-0414	District	Letter Gap Historic District	1900 to 1940	Not Eligible
GL-0415	Farm	Gable Front	c. 1930	Not Eligible
GL-0416	Farm	I-House	c. 1890	Not Eligible
GL-0417	District	Stumptown Historic District	1870 to 1960	Not Eligible
GL-0418	House	Ranch	c. 1960	Not Eligible
GL-0419	House	Ranch	c. 1961	Not Eligible
GL-0420	House	Ranch	c. 1961	Not Eligible
GL-0421	House	Ranch	c. 1961	Not Eligible
GL-0422	House	Ranch	c. 1960	Not Eligible

HPI Site Number	Type	Style/Form	Date	Recommended NRHP Eligibility
GL-0423	House	Ranch	c. 1960	Not Eligible
GL-0424	House	Ranch	c. 1961	Not Eligible
GL-0425	House	Ranch	c. 1961	Not Eligible
46GL91	Cemetery	Church Cemetery	c. 1889	Not Eligible
46GL92	Cemetery	Church Cemetery	c. 1849	Not Eligible
46GL93	Cemetery	Church Cemetery	c. 1899	Not Eligible

The topography of Gilmer County, which is marked by narrow river valleys and steep wooded hillsides, has driven much of the development of the county (**Photographs 1 and 2**). Because there is little available flat land to build on, development occurs in linear patterns that follow the waterways and roads. Buildings—generally houses, churches, and farm buildings—and small communities are sandwiched in the small amount of relatively flat land lining two-lane roadways (often with no shoulders) that have been laid out along rivers, creeks, and runs. Steep wooded hillsides flank the narrow valleys.



Photograph 1. Typical view of Gilmer County topography, showing a steep wooded hillside to the right and a precipitous drop off to the left down to Crooked Run along the winding course of US 33, facing southwest.



Photograph 2. View of the Dawson Baptist Church (GL-0341) from ca. 1926, showing Cedar Creek at far left, the narrow building site, US 33, and a steep wooded hillside opposite, facing northeast.

The scarcity of extant historic resources dating before the turn of the 20th century was notable during the field survey. Only 16, or 11%, of the resources surveyed pre-dated the 20th century. The earliest date of ca. 1849 belongs to the Pisgah Methodist Church Cemetery 46GL92, and the earliest building date belongs to the Mount Pisgah Baptist Church GL-0361 from ca. 1876.

The majority of resources surveyed were residential. Including houses and farmhouses, 120 surveyed resources, or 80%, are residential. Included among the remaining 20% that are not residential, twelve resources are churches; six are districts; three are schools; and three are cemeteries. Of the residential resources (houses and farmhouses), 24 are bungalows, 23 are ranches, and 20 can best be described as side gable cottages.

Resource GL-0377 is a brick bungalow with a prominent front gable dormer in the Craftsman Style, which is located in the small community of Normantown (**Photograph 3**). It retains integrity and may be eligible for NRHP listing under Criterion C. Resource GL-0293 is a frame gable front bungalow in the Craftsman Style, which occupies a rural setting at the center of a large farm (**Photograph 4**). Despite some alterations, the bungalow and the surrounding farm may be able to demonstrate NRHP significance and eligibility.



Photograph 3. Resource GL-0377 is a dormer front Craftsman Style bungalow located in the small community of Normantown, facing northeast.



Photograph 4. Resource GL-0293 is a gable front Craftsman Style bungalow at the center of a large farm property, facing northwest.

Gilmer County is also home to many ranches that typically date to the postwar period from ca. 1950 to ca. 1970. The River View Subdivision GL-0340 (individually recorded as GL-0418 to GL-0425) is a collection of nine ranch houses from ca. 1960 and ca. 1961 that have adopted a suburban style layout in the rural setting. The hipped roof ranch GL-0419, is an example that has been altered with replacement materials, new fenestration patterns, and a garage converted to living space (**Photograph 5**).



Photograph 5. Resource GL-0419 is an altered hipped roof ranch from ca. 1961 in the River View Subdivision, facing northwest.

A majority of the residential resources surveyed in Gilmer County are only one-story or one-and-a-half-stories tall. This is true of the bungalows and ranches, as well as a prevalent one-story building type that generally dates to the first few decades of the 20th century, which has been identified in the survey as Other – side gable cottage. Because these buildings are located temporally between typical one-story hall and parlor houses (early/mid-19th century) and ranches (mid-20th century) and because they do not ascribe to the typical layouts of either established building type, they have been noted separately here. Resource GL-0326 from ca. 1900 is a heavily altered example of a side gable cottage (**Photograph 6**), while Resource GL-0363 is a relatively intact one also from ca. 1900 (**Photograph 7**). Side gable cottages share the one-story frame structure and the side gable roof type, and they generally measure from three bays to five bays wide.



Photograph 6. Resource GL-0326 is an altered example of a side gable cottage with replacement roofing, siding, windows, and an altered porch, facing northeast.



Photograph 7. Resource GL-063 is a side gable cottage with integrity of design, materials, and workmanship located in Stumptown, facing northeast.

The Gilmer County historic resources survey has identified a number of resources which retain integrity and have potential significance under NRHP Criteria A and/or C. They have been noted for additional research to evaluate whether NRHP eligibility is appropriate (see Table 1). Among these resources are several houses, several farms, and one church. The small unincorporated community of Troy GL-0316 was also identified as needing further research to evaluate its potential for NRHP eligibility as a historic district (**Photographs 8 and 9**). The town

retains two schools, a store/post office, and a church, as well as a rich selection of residential buildings dating roughly from 1880 to 1960.



Photograph 8. View of the Troy Baptist Church (at center) and the Troy store and post office building (at right) in the Troy Historic District GL-0316, facing southeast.



Photograph 9. View of the Troy High School (at left) and the Troy Elementary School (at right) in the Troy Historic District GL-0316, facing northwest.

4.0 SUMMARY

Markosky undertook a reconnaissance level survey of previously undocumented historic resources that are 45 years old or older within Gilmer County from November 30th to December 5th. The survey is the third installment of the multi-county project, the Historic Resources Survey of Tyler, Ritchie, Gilmer, Braxton, and Doddridge Counties, and it was conducted on behalf of the WV SHPO. The survey resulted in the identification of 150 newly recorded historic resources: GL-0279 through GL-0425, as well as cemeteries 46GL91, 46GL92, and 46GL93.

The county seat of Glenville and incorporated communities were excluded from the survey in favor of compiling a collection of newly surveyed resources that characterizes the rural, hilly, and heavily wooded areas in Gilmer County that lie outside of these centers. Of the 150 historic resources surveyed, 120 or 80% were houses or farmhouses. The vast majority of resources—134 or 89%—date from the 20th century. Among the most commonly seen building types were bungalows, ranches, and side gable cottages.

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