

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: N/A

other name/site number: Bramwell Additions Historic District

2. Location

street & number:

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Bramwell

vicinity: N/A

State: WV code: WV county: Mercer code: 055 zip code: 24715

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally X statewide locally.

(See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

William S. Kanar
Signature of Certifying Official

6/15/95
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

Date

In my opinion, the property _____ meets _____ does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of Certifying Official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

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4. National Park Service Certification
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I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain):

Signature of the Keeper Date

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5. Classification
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Ownership of Property: Category of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply) (Check only one box)

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | | <input type="checkbox"/> building(s) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-State | | <input type="checkbox"/> site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal | | <input type="checkbox"/> structure |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> object |

NUMBER OF RESOURCES WITH PROPERTY:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
151	55	buildings
8		sites
5	1	structures
2		objects
166	56	TOTAL

NAME OF RELATED MULTIPLE PROPERTY LISTING: N/A

NUMBER OF CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES PREVIOUSLY LISTED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER: N/A

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6. Function or Use

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HISTORIC FUNCTIONS:

Domestic; single dwelling
Domestic; multiple dwelling
Domestic; secondary structure
Commerce/Trade; company store
Social; meeting hall
Education; school
Religion; religious facility
Funerary; cemetery
Recreation and culture; ball field
Transportation; rail-related.

CURRENT FUNCTIONS:

Domestic; single dwelling
Domestic; multiple dwelling
Domestic; secondary structure
Social; meeting hall
Education; school
Religion; religious facility
Funerary; cemetery
Recreation and culture; ball field
Transportation; rail-related.

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7. Description

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ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION:

Mid-19th Century; Gothic Revival.
Late Victorian; Queen Anne.
Late Victorian; Italianate.
Late Victorian; Shingle.
Late Victorian; Stick.
Late Victorian; Romanesque Revival.
Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals; Tudor Revival.
Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals; Colonial Revival.
Late 19th and Early 20th Century American Movements; Bungalow.
Late 19th and Early 20th Century American Movements; Commercial.
Modern Movement; Art Deco.
Other; Vernacular.

MATERIALS:

Foundation:

- Stone
- Brick
- Terra cotta
- Stucco
- Concrete

Walls:

- Wood
- Brick
- Stone
- Stucco
- Asphalt
- Asbestos shingles
- Metal shingles

Roof:

- Slate
- Asphalt
- Asbestos
- Metal
- Wood shingles

Other:

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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8. Statement of Significance

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APPLICABLE NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA

X A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

X B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

X C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

CRITERIA CONSIDERATIONS:

Property is:

N/A A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

N/A B removed from its original location.

N/A C a birthplace or grave.

N/A D a cemetery.

N/A E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

N/A F a commemorative property.

N/A G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE:

Architecture
Community Planning and Development
Industry
Recreation
Social History

PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE:

1888-1940.

SIGNIFICANT DATES:

1888.

SIGNIFICANT PERSON:

Beury, J.L.
Booth, William H.
Bowen, Jonathan P.
Cooper, John
Freeman, John
Hewitt, John Davis
Jones, Jenkins
Welch, I.A.

CULTURAL AFFILIATION: N/A

ARCHITECT/BUILDER:

Unknown

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- N/A preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- N/A previously listed in the National Register
- N/A previously determined eligible by the National Register
- N/A designated a National Historic Landmark
- N/A recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- N/A recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- X Other

Name of Repository:

Bramwell Historic Landmarks Commission
City Hall
Bramwell, WV 24715

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property: 133 acres.

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing
 A. 17. 473300. 4131840. B. 17. 473480. 4130900.
 C. 17. 470860. 4130300. D. 17. 470780. 4130560.
 E. 17. 471400. 4131200.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheets.)

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheets.)

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11. Form Prepared By
=====

Name/Title: Michael Gioulis, Historic Preservation Consultant

Organization: Same as above

Date: April 30, 1995

Street & Number: 612 Main Street

Telephone: (304) 765-5716

City or Town: Sutton

State: WV

ZIP:26601

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ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION
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Submit the following items with the completed form:

CONTINUATION SHEETS

MAPS

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

PHOTOGRAPHS

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

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PROPERTY OWNER
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(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

Name: Multiple property owners

Street & Number:

Telephone: ()

City or Town:

State:

ZIP:
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1

Bramwell Additions Historic District
Mercer County, West Virginia

The Bramwell Additions Historic District is composed of non contiguous sections that correspond to the historic original small mining communities in the Bramwell vicinity. These are now annexed or incorporated into the corporate boundaries of Bramwell, therefore, the historic district fits into the town's boundaries. Bramwell is located on the western edge of Mercer County, West Virginia, in the southern quadrant. It is to the north west of Bluefield, Mercer County's largest city, and to the west of the county seat, Princeton. Bramwell is approximately one and one-half mile from the Virginia border. The town has a long border, due to the fact that it follows the Bluestone River. Each of the original communities was also located along the river, and the railroad line, resulting in a disjointed snake-like historic district.

The Freeman section corresponds to the original town of Freeman. It is located in the north east section of current Bramwell. The district begins just to the north of the historic cemetery on Simmons Avenue. This is also the beginning of the corporate limits of the town of Bramwell. It is located at the bottom of the hill beyond the historic cemetery and in a sharp curve in Simmons Avenue. The district then encompasses both sides of Simmons Avenue traveling west, including a small section of Jones Hill Road. It continues west to the Bluestone Baptist Church, (#154). Freeman contained the Caswell Creek Coal & Coke Company and the Buckeye Creek Coal Company.

The section known as the Ramey Addition is a residential section of Bramwell located to the north east of the existing historic district. This includes resources on both sides of Bluestone Avenue and resources along both sides of Ramey Street and Prospect Avenue. This residential section is to the west of Route 52, which contains later development resources and modern non-historic resources. The district crosses Route 52, to the east, to include a residential portion of Simmons Addition, also known as Spicer Town.

In the core section of Bramwell, adjacent to the downtown Bramwell Historic District, the Bramwell Additions Historic District

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Bramwell Additions Historic District
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includes a section opposite the city hall, along the railroad tracks. Opposite these resources, to the south of the river, is another section of residential resources, along Route 52.

The town of Cooper is included, in the southwestern edge of the district. This is also the western end of the corporate limits. Cooper includes the holdings of the Mill Creek C&C Company. It is composed of the Shinn Brier, New Town, camps, and Cooper town sections. This includes a section of town that contains the black miner's residences and church. The Shinn Brier section also contains the John Cooper Ball Field.

All of the above are incorporated into the town of Bramwell and associated with the men and coal companies that developed the Pocahontas coal fields.

The Bramwell Additions Historic District encompasses 133 acres and contains the coal camps of Cooper, Freeman, and Simmons. The district contains a total of 222 resources; 151 buildings are considered contributing; 55 buildings are considered non-contributing; 8 sites are considered contributing; 5 structures are considered contributing; 1 structure is considered non-contributing and 2 objects are considered contributing.

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Bramwell Additions Historic District
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A significant aspect of the resources within the Bramwell Additions Historic District is their representation of the company house type of construction. They were built by the companies as residences for miners. Many of these buildings are still extant in the historic district. They are mainly grouped together in small clusters, probably relating to the various periods of construction. They are also grouped by company and in the case of the black workers' houses, by segregation. Many of the individual houses have undergone changes and modernizations, though the grouping and massing of the buildings remains. A number of different types were identified. The following is a discussion of the types.

Type A:

One-story, side gable residence with rear wing. Hip roof, front porch. Asphalt roof. Three bays by two bays.

Type B:

One-story, double gable residence with "L" gable. Asphalt roof. Clapboard siding. 6/6 windows. Two bays by two bays.

Type C:

Two-story, front facing "L" residence with corner of ell enclosed for both stories. Central chimney. Asphalt roof. Clapboard siding. Block foundation. One-story, wraparound porch. Vertical, 2/2 windows. Two bays by three bays.

Type D:

One-story, hip roof residence. Brick pier foundation, often infilled with concrete block. Hip roof, front porch. 1/1 windows. Metal roofs. Two bays by two bays.

Type E:

Two-story, side gable, frame house. Usually there is a one-story,

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Bramwell Additions Historic District
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front porch with a hip roof. The house is generally three bays wide by one bay deep. Often there is a one-story, rear porch or one-story, rear enclosure for the kitchen. Central chimney. Windows are two over two sash. Standing seam metal roof.

Type F:

One-story, side gable, frame house with front, one-story entrance porch. Three bays wide and one bay deep. The porch is in the center bay of the front elevation. It has a projecting gable roof. A variation on this style is a shed roof. Siding is clapboard or vertical batten and board siding. In the black section of Cooper, there is a Bungalow Style feeling to the houses with half-timbered details in the gable ends and square paneled porch posts.

In the town of Cooper, the original mining community is still evident. There are clusters of small company houses spaced linearly along the road. They are one-story, hip roof buildings with a central chimney and a front and rear porch. They are set back slightly from the road and at a lower elevation. There are short front yards and small side yards. There is a relatively long rear yard and the sites front on the Bluestone River. There are also a few larger, two-story, side gable houses. All of the houses are in fair condition. Most have been modified to some extent. Most have had the porches enclosed and have been covered with modern siding materials. The basic massing and configuration and the interrelationship is still extant. It is still possible to recognize the groupings as a cluster of company houses.

In the Shinn Brier section of Cooper the houses are spaced regularly along the road and are one and two-story. They are generally simple in nature and usually have side gables with a front porch. There are a few Bungalow Style residences, the most common architectural style besides Queen Anne or "workers". All of the houses are on large lots with yards on all sides. Most have been modified to some extent. This is also known as the New Town section of Cooper.

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On the east side of the downtown, following Bluestone Avenue, there is a short stretch of undeveloped land associated with the hillside and the school. The terrain is steep and precludes residential development. There is then a single house, the honeymoon cottage of Mrs. Katie Hewitt, (#343). This is a nice one and one-half-story, Gothic Revival Style cottage with a steep cross gable roof and an entrance porch tucked beneath one corner of the roof. Opposite this is a row of residences. They are modest houses dating from the 1910 to 1925 period. They represent some of the more prevalent architectural residential styles of the period, though they are simple. The Four Square Style is represented, as is the Bungalow Style. The Shelton House, (#336), is a nice one and one-half-story Bungalow with a broad roof, gable dormers with exposed purlins and rafters, irregular massing, a front porch with broad gable roof and battered square porch posts, a three-sided bay and novelty multi-paned windows in Craftsman Style.

In the bend in the road on the south side, is located the school complex. This includes the High School, (#333), constructed in 1935, the grade school, (#332), constructed in 1929 and the high school addition, a recent non-significant building. The high school is an interesting example of Art Deco educational architecture. It is three stories tall with a central projecting entrance pavilion. There are large groups of windows on all floors. The first floor is heavy rusticated stone and the upper floors are brick. The entrance is an Art Deco interpretation of the Craftsman Style with a stylized post and beam support system constructed of stone. The stone columns have stepped capitals and the lintel over the three entrance doors has an incised stylized inscription. The grade school is a much simpler Neo Classical educational facility with three stories; the first stone and the upper two brick. There are large groupings of windows and a center entrance pavilion. The entrance is topped with an arched timpanum on the second floor. The first floor has a stone entablature supported with stone engaged pilasters.

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To the east of the school there is a residential neighborhood composed of single family large houses on moderate sized lots on either side of the street. These are larger and more ornate than the modest managerial houses, and are associated with the upper level managers and buyers etc of the companies. A number of the styles of the early twentieth century residential architecture are represented in this area. These include Four Square Style represented by the Sexton House , (#320), 1925, the Ross House, (#326), 1920; Bungalow Style represented by the Peraldo House, (#323), 1925, the Maxey House, (#327), 1915; and the Tudor Revival Style represented by the Sexton House, (#319), 1915. The houses are associated with the development of the coal field, though not directly associated with the mine workers or owner/operators.

Further to the east, in the Ramey addition portion , is a concentration of residences that are more simple and smaller. They are all relatively small, one family, one-story residential structures associated with mine related residents, though again, not necessarily the mine workers or company housing. Included in this development are a few houses that are larger or are more detailed architecturally. These are the Musick/Sexton House, (#311), 1900, and the Phipps House, (#313), 1900. Both of these are good representations of architectural styles. The Musick House is a two-story, hip roof, Four Square Style house with metal shingle roofing and a one-story, front porch with a hip roof. There is a large gable dormer in each side of the roof. The windows are one over one sash. The front porch has plain square Doric posts. There is a nice stone fence in front of the house with a stone cap. The Phipps House is a two-story, Queen Anne Style house with a wraparound one-story porch.

The very edge of the Ramey Addition borders on Route 52. Site #316 is one of the more recent significant sites in the survey. This is the Pure Oil Service Station constructed in 1938. It is in fairly original condition with steep sloped roof and projecting gable entrance. The main mass, the office, contains a bay window and a hood over the door. This section is taller than the remainder of the building. The remainder is a four bay, side

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gable building that contains the garage bays. The second one has a projecting gable pavilion with a curved roof. The entire building is a good example of the Tudor Revival Style of service station architecture employed by the Pure Oil Company in this time period. All of their stations are identical. This is a rare intact example in Mercer County.

To the north of the river is the town of Freeman. There is a large concentration of company and workers' housing, company store facilities and management and operator housing. This development is the same as in Cooper, where all of the resources associated with the companies is located. The extant resources represent the time, as in Cooper, before administration and operators moved to Bramwell and Bluefield and out of state. Here again is the complete picture of all stratifications of coal industry in the Flat Top fields. Along Simmons Avenue, in the eastern section of Freeman, is an excellent intact row of workers' houses. They are all almost original with minor modifications in roofing and siding and the occasional enclosed porch. There are a few that are exactly original though. In all, they are an excellent example of a grouping of identical workers' houses. These are related to the Buckeye Coal and Coke company. Following Simmons Avenue to the west, on the river side of the road, are additional groupings of company houses. These are all similar as well with two-story, side gable frame residences with one-story front porches. These are again associated with the Buckeye C&C Company. Further west is a grouping of black miners' housing and the Bluestone Baptist Church, (#154).

Opposite these Booth-Bowen houses on the western edge of Freeman, is Jones Hill. This is the area, on a hillside, where Caswell Creek Company built its houses for workers. These are also identical. They are one-story, front facing "L" residences. They have front gable one bay entrance porches. Many have been altered with modern siding and roofing and have had additions or alterations to the original massing.

The interesting difference in the Jones Hill houses is that they are separated from each other by the terrain and the steep hill.

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The regular grouping and concentration is not possible in this location.

In the center of Freeman were located the company stores, adjacent to the railroad bed. The Booth-Bowen Company store is the only one left, though the Caswell Creek store was located here as well. The Booth-Bowen Company store, (#216), ca. 1915, is a two-story, end gable, large building with a front first floor storefront. The storefront is divided into three bays with a center entrance and flanking display windows. The entire facade is divided into three bays with pilasters that support a large false entablature at the top of the building. The eastern bay is a one-story addition.

The residences of the owners/operators and the managers were also located in these towns. Jenkins Jones' and Freeman's houses no longer stand, but the Harry, William H., Bowen house is extant, (#221), ca. 1885. This is an interesting Queen Anne Style residence with a side rectangular projecting bay, a wraparound, one-story porch, and a center porthole window in the gable end. There is also a Queen Anne Style carriage house on the grounds. This is a one and a half story, Queen Anne Style building with a steep hip roof, pronounced gable dormers with partial cornice returns, and a central cupola.

Adjacent to the Bowen House is another large Queen Anne Style residence, the Farley House, (#222) ca. 1890. It has an "L" shaped plan, is two stories tall with broad roofs, and has a wraparound curved porch. The porch has paired turned posts and an open balustrade. On the west side is a chamfered bay with brackets supporting the corner projecting jetty.

One major site in this section of Bramwell is the Oak Hill cemetery, (#224). This is originally associated with the Bramwell Baptist Church. The cemetery is one of the most significant individual sites in Freeman. It is a well designed landscaped cemetery, with curved carriage trails and stone retaining walls. There is a stone wall enclosing the perimeter of the cemetery on the southern edge. This is pierced with two stair entrances.

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Both have ornamental wrought iron gates. The stairs lead to a series of steps and terraces and eventually to the center of the cemetery with a circular carriage turnaround.

Immediately adjacent to the turnaround is the Jenkins Jones family plot, surrounded with an ashlar rough faced stone wall. There is a wrought iron gate in the lower corner, south-east. Inside are two box tombs, one for Jones and one for his wife, Martha. They are topped with flat stones inscribed with names and dates. The concept of a stone enclosed cemetery or plot is a common British Isle funerary tradition. Buried in the cemetery are many of Bramwell's historical figures. These include Captain I.A. Welch, John Freeman, and John D. Hewitt. There is a section of the cemetery separated from the main portion by an iron gate. This is reserved for black families and another section separated for indigent or unknown immigrant persons. The design of the cemetery is interesting. The cemetery is situated on the east side and south side of the hill. On the east, there is a gentle slope to the church site. The graves are arranged in rows, or terraces on this slope, where a central path bisects the hill perpendicular to the slope. On the south side of the hill are the terraces, stone retaining walls, stone stairs, carriage path and turnaround, and cemetery plots. The cemetery was designed by an unknown railroad engineer.

In the Freeman section are also located a number of railroad related structures, trestles and bridges. These cross and re-cross the Bluestone River. They are mostly plate girder bridges from the 1910 to 1920 period.

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The following is a complete list of resources in the district. The numbers refer to the accompanying map. Including outbuildings, there are 220 resources in the district. 151 buildings are considered contributing, 55 buildings are considered non-contributing, 8 sites are considered contributing, 5 structures are considered contributing and 1 structure is considered non-contributing.

LIST OF SITES

6. Pocahontas Street. Byrd House. Ca. 1895. One and one-half-story, side gable residence with central, shed dormer. German siding. Contributing.
7. Pocahontas Street. Byrd House. Ca. 1890. One-story, hip roof residence. Aluminum siding. Type "D". Contributing.
10. Pocahontas Street. Folks House. Ca. 1890. One-story, hip roof residence. Clapboard siding. Type "D". Contributing.
11. 44C Pocahontas Street. Phillips House. Ca. 1895. Two-story, side gable residence. Aluminum siding. Contributing. One, one bay, sided garage - non-contributing.
12. Pocahontas Street. Phillips House. Ca. 1895. Two-story, rear facing "L" residence. German siding. Contributing. One wood frame garage - non-contributing. One wood shed - non-contributing.
13. Pocahontas Street. Old railroad piers. Ca. 1884. Contributing.
14. Pocahontas Street. Old railroad piers. Ca. 1884. Contributing.
15. Pocahontas Street. Automobile bridge. Modern. Non-contributing.
16. Pocahontas Street. Old railroad piers. Ca. 1884. Contributing.
17. Pocahontas Street. American Bridge Company railroad trestle and stone buttresses. Ca. 1901/1915. Contributing.
18. River Road. Mill Creek Missionary Baptist Church. Ca. 1926. Gothic Revival Style. African-American Baptist Church. End gable with front steeple. Contributing.
19. River Road Extension. Hunley House. Ca. 1900. One-story, side gable residence. Aluminum siding. Non-contributing.
20. River Road Extension. Kune House. Ca. 1900. One-story, side

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- gable residence. Board and batten siding. Contributing.
21. River Road Extension. Miller House. Ca. 1900. One-story, side gable residence. Clapboard siding. Contributing.
22. River Road Extension. Neal House. Ca. 1900. One-story, side gable residence. Board and batten siding. Contributing.
23. River Road Extension. Williams House. Ca. 1900. One-story, side gable residence. Board and batten siding. Contributing.
24. River Road Extension. Keller House. Ca. 1900. One-story, side gable residence. Clapboard siding. Contributing. One wood frame garage, 1956 - non-contributing.
25. Pocahontas Street. Culvert. 1916. Contributing.
26. Pocahontas Street. Old railroad piers. Ca. 1884. Contributing.
27. Hill Top Road. Sparks House. Ca. 1900. One-story, side gable residence with off-set, front addition. Clapboard siding. Contributing. One garage - non-contributing. One shed - contributing. One wood shed - non-contributing.
28. Hill Top Road. Modern, one-story residence. Non-contributing.
29. Cooper's Road. Fuller House. Ca. 1884. Narrow, two-story residence with modified hip roof. German siding. Contributing. One, concrete block garage - non-contributing.
30. Cooper's Road. Old Post Office building. Ca. 1884. One-story, end gable building. Clapboard siding. Contributing.
31. Cooper's Road. Thomas House. Ca. 1890. Two-story, rear facing "L" residence. German siding. Contributing.
32. Cooper's Road. Clark House. Ca. 1890. Two-story, side gable residence with central, end gable. Clapboard siding. Contributing. One shed - contributing. One, three bay garage - contributing. One water tower - contributing.
33. Cooper's Road. Mill Creek Coal & Coke Company Store. Ca. 1924. Three-story, red brick company store. Contributing.
34. Cooper's Road. Mill Creek Holiness Church. Ca. 1910. One-story, end gable church with corner steeple. Clapboard siding. Contributing.
35. Cooper's Road. Old private school. Ca. 1890. Small, one-story, end gable building. Clapboard siding. Contributing.
40. Cooper's Road. Old water pump site. Ca. 1885. Contributing.
42. Bluestone Lane. One-story, shed roof shed. Deteriorated. Non-contributing.

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43. Bluestone Lane. Garage/old store. Ca. 1910. One-story, side gable building. Board and batten siding. Contributing.
44. Bluestone Lane. Garage. Ca. 1910. Four bay garage building. Board and batten siding. Contributing.
45. Pocahontas Street. Vaughn House. Ca. 1910. Two-story, front facing "L" residence. Aluminum siding. Contributing.
46. Pocahontas Street. DeMarcey House. Ca. 1910. Two-story, front facing "L" residence. Asbestos shingle siding. Contributing.
47. Pocahontas Street. Epperson House. Ca. 1910. Large, two-story, end gable residence. Aluminum siding. Contributing.
48. Pocahontas Street. Perry House. Ca. 1915. One and one-half-story residence. Permastone veneer. Non-contributing.
49. Pocahontas Street. Corner House. Ca. 1890. Two-story, end gable residence. Clapboard siding. Contributing.
50. Pocahontas Street. Corner House. Ca. 1910. Two-story, front facing "L" residence. Aluminum siding. Non-contributing.
51. Pocahontas Street. Trailer. Non-contributing.
52. Pocahontas Street. Modern, one-story residence. Non-contributing.
53. Pocahontas Street. Martin House. Ca. 1890. Two-story, side gable residence. Aluminum siding. Contributing. One, concrete block outbuilding - non-contributing.
54. Howery Road. Johnson House. Ca. 1915. Two-story, end gable residence with side, shed roof dormers. Aluminum siding. Contributing.
55. Howery Road. Carver House. Ca. 1915. One and one-half-story, Bungalow Style residence. Asbestos shingle siding. Contributing. Two sheds - contributing.
56. Howery Road. Morrissette House. Ca. 1915. Two-story, side gable residence. Clapboard siding. Contributing. One garage - contributing.
57. Howery Road. Hawks House. Ca. 1910. One-story, double side gable residence. Aluminum siding. Contributing.
58. Howery Road. Simpkins House. Ca. 1930. One-story, side gable residence with end gable, rear addition. Aluminum siding. Contributing. One shed - contributing.
59. Pocahontas Street. Williamson House. Ca. 1910. Two-story, side gable residence. Asbestos shingle siding. Contributing.
60. Pocahontas Street. Butt House. Ca. 1915. Two-story, Shingle

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- Style residence. Clapboard siding and shingles. Contributing. One outbuilding - contributing.
61. Pocahontas Street. Keller House. Ca. 1915. Two-story, side gable residence. Clapboard siding. Contributing.
62. Pocahontas Street. Keller House. Ca. 1910. One and one-half-story, Saltbox Style residence. Clapboard siding. Contributing.
63. Pocahontas Street. Lavake House. Ca. 1920. One-story, front facing "L" residence. Aluminum siding. Contributing. One, one bay garage - contributing.
64. Pocahontas Street. Nicewander House. Ca. 1885. Two-story, side gable residence with modified hip roof. Aluminum siding. Contributing.
65. Pocahontas Street. Cemetery. Ca. 1920. Cemetery has less than a dozen stones, none dating earlier than 1920. Contributing.
66. Pocahontas Street. Fudge House. Ca. 1925. One and one-half-story, side gable, Bungalow Style residence. Red brick. Contributing. One, one bay garage - contributing.
67. Pocahontas Street. Evans House. Ca. 1910. Two-story, front facing "L" residence. Aluminum siding. Non-contributing.
68. Pocahontas Street. Jenkins House. Ca. 1910. One-story, end gable, Bungalow Style residence. Aluminum siding. Non-contributing. One, concrete block garage - non-contributing.
69. Pocahontas Street. Kidwell House. Ca. 1900. Two-story, side gable residence with central, end gable. German siding. Contributing.
71. Pocahontas Street. Dickerson House. Ca. 1900. Two-story, "T" residence. Clapboard siding. Contributing.
72. Pocahontas Street. Bell House. Ca. 1900. One-story, side gable residence with rear gable ell. Clapboard siding. Contributing.
73. Pocahontas Street. Shaw House. Ca. 1910. Two-story, front facing "L". Asbestos shingle siding. Non-contributing. One outbuilding - non-contributing.
74. Pocahontas Street. Hollyfield House. Ca. 1910. One-story, side gable residence. Aluminum siding. Non-contributing.
75. Pocahontas Street. Bell House. Ca. 1915. One and one-half-story, side gable, Bungalow Style residence. Clapboard siding. Contributing.
76. Pocahontas Street. Gibson House. Ca. 1915. One-story, side

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- gable residence with rear addition. Aluminum siding. Contributing.
77. Pocahontas Street. John Cooper Ball Field. Ca. 1890. Contributing.
78. Pocahontas Street. French House. Ca. 1920. One-story, side gable residence. Aluminum siding. Non-contributing.
79. State Route 20. Trailer. Non-contributing.
83. State Route 20. Garage. Ca. 1920. One-story, two bay, end gable garage. Clapboard siding. Contributing.
110. State Route 20. Peck House. Ca. 1915. One-story, end gable residence. Vinyl siding. Non-contributing.
111. State Route 20. Lambert House. Ca. 1900. Two-story, "L" shaped residence. Brick and asbestos shingle siding. Contributing.
112. State Route 20. Lambert House. Ca. 1915. One-story, side gable residence. Clapboard siding. Contributing.
113. State Route 20. Bell House. Ca. 1910. Two-story, side gable, red brick residence. Contributing.
114. State Route 20. Meskinish House. Ca. 1910. Small, one-story residence. Aluminum siding. Non-contributing.
115. State Route 20. Meskinish House. Ca. 1928. Wide, two-story, side gable residence. German siding. Contributing.
116. State Route 20. Meskinish House. Ca. 1945. Concrete block garage building covered with aluminum siding. Non-contributing.
117. Bloch Road. Husband House. Ca. 1910. Large, two-story, Queen Anne Style residence. German siding. Contributing. One, small Gothic Revival Style guest house - contributing.
118. Bloch Road. Pierce House. Ca. 1925. Two-story, Colonial Revival Style residence. Brick and metal shingles. Contributing. One garage - contributing.
120. Bloch Road. Modern telephone offices building. Non-contributing.
121. Bramwell Hill Road. Otey House. Ca. 1900. Two-story, intersecting gable residence. Clapboard and german siding and shingles. Contributing. One, two-story outbuilding - contributing.
122. Bramwell Hill Road. Carter Building. Ca. 1890. Two-story, stone, Commercial Style apartment building. Contributing.
123. Bramwell Hill Road. Carter House. Ca. 1900. One-story, hip roof, brick residence. Contributing.

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124. Bramwell Hill Road. Cook House. Ca. 1900. Two-story, side gable residence. Asbestos shingle siding. Contributing. One, brick outbuilding - non-contributing.
125. Bramwell Hill Road. Folks House. Ca. 1900. Two-story, brick building with metal gambrel roof. Contributing.
126. Bramwell Hill Road. Howard House. Ca. 1910. Two-story, front facing "L" residence. German siding. Contributing. Two, cinder block outbuildings - non-contributing.
154. Simmons Avenue. Bluestone Baptist Church. 1890. Gothic Revival Style, African-American church. Contributing.
156. Simmons Avenue. Dunford House. Ca. 1915. One-story, side gable residence. Stucco. Non-contributing. One, small trailer - non-contributing.
157. Simmons Avenue. King House. Ca. 1890. One and one-half-story, side gable residence. Aluminum siding. Contributing.
158. Simmons Avenue. King House. Ca. 1890. One and one-half-story, side gable residence. Aluminum siding. Contributing.
159. Simmons Avenue. Watkins House. Ca. 1890. One and one-half-story, side gable residence. Clapboard siding. Contributing? One plywood garage - non-contributing.
160. Simmons Avenue. Davis House. Ca. 1890. One and one-half-story, side gable residence. Aluminum siding. Contributing.
161. Simmons Avenue. Trailer. Non-contributing.
162. Simmons Avenue. Bateman House. Ca. 1890. Two-story, side gable residence. Aluminum siding. Contributing. One, concrete block outbuilding - non-contributing.
165. Jones Hill Road. Vest House. Ca. 1900. One-story, front facing "L" residence. Clapboard siding. Contributing.
166. Jones Hill Road. Sayers House. Ca. 1900. One-story, front facing "L" residence. Clapboard siding. Contributing.
167. Jones Hill Road. Snelling House. Ca. 1900. One-story, front facing "L" residence. Clapboard siding. Contributing.
171. Simmons Avenue. Sabo House. Ca. 1900. Two-story, side gable residence. Clapboard siding. Contributing.
172. Simmons Avenue. Bolen/Markin House. Ca. 1900. One-story, front facing "L" residence. Clapboard siding. Contributing.
216. Simmons Avenue. Booth-Bowen Store. Ca. 1915. Two-story, end gable with parapet wall. Company store. German siding. Contributing.

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221. Simmons Avenue. Epperson House. Ca. 1885. Two-story, front facing "L" residence with rear addition. Clapboard siding. Contributing. One, carriage house with cupola - contributing. One gazebo - contributing. One outbuilding - contributing.
222. Simmons Avenue. Farley House. Ca. 1890. Two-story, front facing "L" residence. German siding. Contributing.
223. Simmons Avenue. Kelley House. Ca. 1890. Two-story, side gable residence. Aluminum siding. Contributing. One, concrete block outbuilding - non-contributing. One outbuilding - contributing.
224. Simmons Avenue. Oak Hill Cemetery. Ca. 1885. Cemetery to some of the founding fathers of the town. Contributing.
225. Simmons Avenue. Bramwell Baptist Church. Modern, red brick church. Non-contributing.
226. Simmons Avenue. Swayne House. Ca. 1925. Two-story, red brick, Four Square Style residence. Contributing. One outbuilding - contributing. One, red brick garage - contributing. One, concrete block barn - non-contributing.
227. Bluestone River. RR Trestle. Ca. 1916. Contributing.
228. Bluestone River. RR Trestle. Ca. 1916. Contributing.
229. Simmons Avenue. Bunch House. Ca. 1895. Two-story, front facing "L" residence. Aluminum siding. Type "C". Contributing.
230. Simmons Avenue. Dillon House. Ca. 1895. Two-story, front facing "L" residence. Clapboard siding. Type "C". Contributing.
231. Simmons Avenue. Herndon House. Ca. 1895. Two-story, front facing "L" residence. Vinyl siding. Type "C". Contributing.
232. Simmons Avenue. Herndon House. Ca. 1895. Two-story, front facing "L" residence. Vinyl siding. Type "C". Contributing.
233. Simmons Avenue. Sowers House. Ca. 1895. Two-story, front facing "L" residence. German siding. Type "C". Contributing.
234. Simmons Avenue. Eanes House. Ca. 1895. Two-story, front facing "L" residence. Clapboard siding. Type "C". Contributing.
235. Simmons Avenue. Mitchem House. Ca. 1895. Two-story, front facing "L" residence which has been converted to apartments. Aluminum siding. Contributing. One garage - contributing. Two metal garages - non-contributing.
243. Bowen Lane. Boyd House. Ca. 1900. Two-story, side gable residence with front intersecting gable and rear "L". Clapboard siding. Contributing.

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244. Rogers Street. Lewis House. Ca. 1900. Two-story, side gable residence with central gable. Clapboard siding. Contributing.
245. Rogers Street. Dawson House. Ca. 1910. One-story, hip roof residence. German siding. Contributing.
271. Bowen Lane. Haynes House. Ca. 1890. Two-story, Queen Anne Style residence. German siding. Contributing.
280. Booth Lane. Clark House. Ca. 1900. Two-story, side gable residence with rear "L". Clapboard siding. Contributing.
297. Bowen Lane. Boyd House. Ca. 1935. One-story, red brick, Bungalow Style residence. Contributing.
298. Bowen Lane. Miller House. Ca. 1925. One-story, side gable residence with rear intersecting "T". Clapboard siding. Contributing.
299. Bowen Lane. Evans House. Ca. 1925. One-story, side gable residence with rear intersecting "T". Clapboard siding. Contributing.
300. RR Right of Way. Price House. Ca. 1885. Two-story, hip roof residence. German siding. Contributing.
302. Bluestone Avenue. Brown House. Ca. 1920. One-story, side gable residence. German siding. Contributing.
303. Ramey Street. Johnson House. Ca. 1925. One-story, end gable, Bungalow Style residence. Prime siding. Non-contributing.
304. Ramey Street. Smith House. Ca. 1920. One-story, side gable residence with rear, intersecting "T". Clapboard siding. Contributing.
305. Ramey Street. Debose House. Ca. 1920. One-story, side gable residence. Aluminum siding. Contributing.
306. Ramey Street. Smith House. Ca. 1915. Two-story, Four Square Style residence. Aluminum siding. Contributing.
307. Ramey Street. York House. Ca. 1910. Two-story, side gable residence with rear "T". Aluminum siding. Contributing.
308. Ramey Street. Trailer. Non-contributing. One outbuilding - non-contributing.
309. Ramey Street. Whitlow House. Ca. 1930. One-story, cross gable residence. Aluminum siding. Non-contributing. One, concrete block garage - non-contributing.
310. Ramey Street. Shaffer House. Ca. 1900. One-story, rear facing "L" residence. Clapboard siding. Contributing. Two outbuildings - contributing. One outbuilding - non-contributing.

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311. Ramey Street. Musick House. Ca. 1900. Large, two-story residence with steep hip roof with gable dormers. Clapboard siding. Contributing.
312. Ramey Street. Trailer. Non-contributing.
313. Prospect Avenue. Phipps House. Ca. 1900. Big, two-story residence. Central hip roof with gable wings. Aluminum siding. Contributing. One garage - non-contributing.
314. Prospect Avenue. Duvall House. Ca. 1890. Two-story, "T" shaped residence. Clapboard siding. Contributing.
315. Prospect Avenue. Robinson House. ca. 1935. One-story, cross gable residence. Asbestos shingle siding. Colonial Revival Style. Contributing.
316. U.S. 52. Pure Oil Gas Station. 1938. Typical Tudor Revival Style gas station building. Stucco. Contributing.
317. Bluestone Avenue. Kerr House. Ca. 1910. One and one-half-story, side gable, Bungalow Style residence. Aluminum siding. Contributing. One "L" shaped residence with clapboard siding - contributing.
318. Bluestone Avenue. Sexton House. Ca. 1915. One-story, side gable residence with raised basement and rear extension. Clapboard siding. Contributing. One outbuilding - contributing.
319. Bluestone Avenue. Sexton House. Ca. 1915. One and one-half-story, Colonial Revival Style residence. Stone and clapboard siding. Contributing. One garage - contributing.
320. Bluestone Avenue. Sexton House. Ca. 1925. Two-story, Four Square Style residence. German siding. Contributing.
321. Bluestone Avenue. Sexton House. Ca. 1930. Small, one-story, side gable residence with projecting front gable. Weatherboard siding. Contributing. One garage - contributing.
322. Bluestone Avenue. Workman House. Ca. 1920. Large, two-story, end gable, Bungalow Style residence. Aluminum siding. Contributing.
323. Bluestone Avenue. Peraldo House. Ca. 1925. One and one-half-story, side gable, Bungalow Style residence. Brick facade. Contributing. One, concrete block garage - non-contributing.
324. Bluestone Avenue. Methodist Church Parsonage. Modern. Non-contributing.
325. Bluestone Avenue. Comner House. Ca. 1920. Two-story, "L" residence. Aluminum siding. Contributing. One outbuilding -

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contributing.

326. Bluestone Avenue. Ross House. Ca. 1920. Two-story, red brick, Four Square Style residence. Contributing. One garage - non-contributing.
327. Bluestone Avenue. Maxey House. Ca. 1915. Two-story, end gable residence. Clapboard siding. Contributing.
328. Bluestone Avenue. Elizabeth Bowen Jones United Methodist Church. Ca. 1905. Romanesque Revival Style Church. Contributing.
329. Bluestone Avenue. Shrader House. Modern. Non-contributing. One outbuilding - non-contributing. One garage - non-contributing.
330. Bluestone Avenue. Hall House. Ca. 1900. One-story, stone residence with intersecting gables. Contributing.
331. Bluestone Avenue. Terry House. Ca. 1930. Two-story, end gable residence. Permastone and aluminum siding. Non-contributing.
332. Bluestone Avenue. Bramwell Grade School. Ca. 1929. Three-story, red brick school. Contributing.
333. Bluestone Avenue. Bramwell High School. Ca. 1934. Three-story, stone and brick, Art Deco Style school. Contributing.
335. Bluestone Avenue. High School Addition. Modern. Non-contributing.
336. Bluestone Avenue. Shelton House. Ca. 1925. One-story, end gable, Bungalow Style residence. Weatherboard siding. Contributing.
337. Bluestone Avenue. Stroupe House. Ca. 1925. Two-story, side gable, Bungalow Style residence. Clapboard siding. Contributing.
338. Bluestone Avenue. Davis House. Ca. 1925. Two-story, Four Square Style residence. Permastone exterior. Contributing.
339. Bluestone Avenue. Johnson House. Ca. 1925. Two-story, side gable, Bungalow Style residence. Aluminum siding. Contributing.
340. Bluestone Avenue. Steele House. Ca. 1920. Two-story, Four Square Style residence. Clapboard siding. Contributing.
341. Bluestone Avenue. Beggs House. Ca. 1910. Two-story, side gable residence with large, one-story wing. Weatherboard siding. Contributing.
342. Bluestone Avenue. Bartley House. Ca. 1920. Two-story, Four Square Style residence. German siding. Contributing.
343. Bluestone Avenue. Stoker House. Ca. 1910. One and one-half-

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story, Gothic Cottage Style residence. Brick/weatherboard and clapboard siding. Contributing. One garage - contributing.
345. Rocky Bottom Road/RR tracks. King Hiram Lodge. Ca. 1895. Two-story, side gable, lodge building with raised basement. German siding and stone. Contributing.
346. Main Street. N&W Dining Car. Ca. 1930. Contributing.
347. Main Street. N&W Caboose. Ca. 1930. Contributing.

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The Bramwell Additions Historic District is significant under Criterion A for its association with community planning and development of coal company towns, and the development of the coal extraction industry in southern West Virginia and the Flat Top coal fields; under Criterion B for its association with founders of coal companies significant in the Flat Top field and West Virginia development; under Criterion A for its association with black history in the southern coal fields; under Criterion A for its association with the recreation and social history of the coal fields, the baseball clubs; and under Criterion C as a good example of the development of standardized company housing and company towns.

The Bramwell Additions Historic District is significant under Criterion A for its association with community planning and development of coal company towns. The towns included in the Bramwell Additions Historic District are Cooper, Freeman, and Simmons. It is also significant for its association with the development of the coal mining industry in southern West Virginia and the Flat Top Field. Prior to the middle of the nineteenth century, settlement in southern western (West) Virginia was highly limited. This was mainly due to the mountainous terrain and limited opportunities. During the Civil War, Virginians who entered the area noticed the evidence of coal in the region and brought this information back with them after the war. This resulted in surveys and investigation into land and mineral speculation. Major Jedediah Hotchkiss and Captain I.A. Welch surveyed 480 square miles of a land grant dating from the Revolutionary War. Welch was employed to survey the area to determine timber and mineral resource value. Their reports in 1871-1873 interested potential investors from Philadelphia. Recognizing the need to transport the resources, their early activities centered on transportation construction as well as mineral land acquisition.

The lands were sold by the new state, West Virginia, following the war and Philadelphian Thomas Graham purchased coal lands and developed the Atlantic Mississippi and Ohio Railroad. The railroad passed into the control of another group of Philadelphians,

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Clarence H. Clark and Frederick J. Kimball, through the EW Clark and Company bank. They converted the railroad into the Norfolk and Western Railroad. Following this they began to amass land in the coal fields.

In 1881 EW Clark and Company established the Southwest Virginia Improvement Company, shortly followed by the Flat Top Coal Company. Thomas Graham was vice-president of Flat Top. They constructed the first mine tipples and ovens in the fields, located in the town of Pocahontas, in Virginia. The rail line was completed to Pocahontas in 1883.

The company determined to lease coal lands rather than operate the mines themselves. This resulted in the development of smaller mines and operators and the settlement of the town of Bramwell. Operators from Pennsylvania's coal fields who came to southern West Virginia included John Cooper and JL Beury, Mill Creek Coal and Coke Co.; Jonathan Bowen and William Booth, Booth-Bowen Coal and Coke; and John Freeman and Jenkin Jones, Caswell Creek Coal and Coke Co.

The Pocahontas coal fields first began shipping coal by rail in 1883 from nearby Pocahontas, Virginia. Due to the fact that most of the holdings were actually located in West Virginia, in 1884 they purchased land along the Bluestone River in Mercer County, West Virginia. The Bluestone Coal Company planned the town of Bramwell and established its headquarters there in 1885. Bramwell was incorporated in 1889. The local manager was O.H. Duhring. The town was the location of the offices for the company, residences of operators and company families, and retail and commercial services to support the new town. The Bluestone Coal Company became the Flat Top Coal Land Association, the largest coal land owner in the Pocahontas coal fields. Flat Top eventually became the Pocahontas Coal and Coke Company.

Early records show purchases for the fledgling company from suppliers for hay, seed paint, lime etc. in 1885. They purchased a furnace in 1886. These early purchases and invoices are signed by CH Duhring. Other persons significant in Mercer County at the

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time were also employed, contracted or otherwise paid for services or goods by the early company. These included Jonathan J. Tierney, for engineering work; Schrader; Peters; and NL Reynolds for surveying. They also paid Southern Bell Telephone \$35 for one years' telephone and service in 1887. By 1886 they were paying for plastering and carpentry for the offices. In 1887, JJ Tierney and his brother, Lawrence, were both working for the company as is Belcher, an early settler.

The earliest evidence of the Buckeye Colliery, in Simmons, are the invoices in 1887 for 20 tons of coal. Buckeye is again a supplier in 1888 as well as GW and IA Welch. They purchased coal from John Cooper and Company in 1888. In 1888 the company was also purchasing land, using Tierney and others as agents.

By 1898 the Flat Top fields had 38 coal and coke plants and 5,232 coke ovens. Total tonnage 1888 - 1,564,118; 1889 - 1,898,026; 1890 - 2,204,616; 1891 - 2,635,599; 1892 - 2,920,815; 1893 - 3,190,758; 1894 - 3,888,058; 1895 - 3,172,137; The fall in 1895 is the result of a strike.

Bramwell itself was named for its first post master, J.H. Bramwell, a Flat Top Company local superintendent. In 1886 the Pocahontas Coal Company was formed to act as the railroad's marketing arm for the coal fields. The offices were located in Bramwell. By 1896 the town had a population of 4,000, and by 1897 the N&W had completed lines into McDowell County. Mining activity expanded rapidly. By 1895 there were thirty eight mines in the Flat Top field.

In the beginning, many of the operators lived near their mines and stores. They established communities which included company stores, churches, mines, ovens, railroad facilities and residences. These residences were for the workers, managers and operators. There was not the geographic stratification of residential neighborhoods that developed later. Later, as the mines became more established, operators were able to relocate to places such as downtown Bramwell and nearby Bluefield. But in the beginning, the mining communities were the center of all

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activity related to each of the companies. Cooper, Freeman, and Simmons were three of these towns associated with Bramwell.

Bramwell quickly became the center of commerce and finance for the coal mines in the Flat Top field. The Bank of Bramwell was formed in 1889 by James Mann and his cousin, I.T. Mann established as its cashier. The bank grew to be the major financial institution for the coal fields and Mann one of the largest coal owners in the fields. When the state capitol burned in 1921 in Charleston, the Bank of Bramwell bought the entire block on Capitol Street. The land was developed into building lots and sold. They also invested in the Burning Tree Golf Course in Washington DC. Mann, at one time, controlled all of the lands of the Flat Top Coal Land Association, which he in turn sold to the N&W Railroad at a handsome profit. At one time there were seventeen millionaires in the little town of Bramwell.

The nationwide depression resulted in the closing of the Bank of Bramwell in the early 1930's and signaled the end of an era. Several coal operators lost control of their large fortunes and were forced to sell their mines. Subsequently, many families and businessmen moved away from downtown Bramwell.

Though the boom and bust cycle of the Flat Top Coal Company is appropriate for explaining the significance of downtown Bramwell proper and the existing historic district, the conditions in the outlying coal camps were slightly different. They developed as residential and working commercial centers and continued in that capacity as long as the mines were active. Once the operators or their children moved out of the camps, the managers, workers, and employees of the companies remained and the towns were relatively stable. As examples of this stability, while Bramwell proper declined, the Mill Creek Coal Company constructed a major company store facility in Cooper in 1924. This is a large, three-story, masonry building, (#33), befitting a major company.

Other coal companies continued to construct housing and facilities into the twentieth century as well. The Spicer Town section of Simmons, to the east of Route 52, was developed mainly in the

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late 1940's and 1950's to provide housing for the miners and railroad workers working on the large double track tunnel at Cooper. The ca. 1930 Pure Oil service station, (#316), along Route 52 in Simmons is another example of the continued growth and significance of the area. The large high school, (#333), constructed in 1934, and grade school, (#332), constructed in 1929, in Freeman and the black school, constructed in 1948, all indicate a continued growing or stable population.

Population of greater Bramwell and Mercer County steadily increased and peaked around 1950. This indicates the continued dependence on coal economy of the area into the 1950's. Though downtown Bramwell may have begun a dormant period with the Depression, Freeman, Simmons and Cooper did not, and the historic district reflects this continued significance of the former company towns in the modern mining industry. They, the former independent communities, also represent the concept of individual entire company towns. The town was devised by the owner/operator, constructed by them and was a creation of the company.

The Bramwell Additions Historic District is significant under Criterion B for its association with John Cooper and J. L. Beury. The coal camp town of Cooper was named for John Cooper, who, in partnership with J.L. Beury, opened a mine in the Pocahontas Coal fields. The company formed in 1884 as the Mill Creek Coal and Coke Company, the first in the Bramwell vicinity. Cooper was born in 1842 in England and relocated to Pennsylvania by 1862. He came to Fayette County, West Virginia in 1873. His first stop was at Quinnemont, Fayette County, where he worked in the New River mines. From there he went to Hawks Nest, where he lost his investment due to market conditions in 1877. He was bankrupt and it wasn't until 1882 that he joined with Beury et al to lease lands. He came to Mercer County in 1884. His first company in Bramwell was the John Cooper and Company. It later became the Mill Creek Coal and Coke Company and subsequently the McDowell Colliery. They operated over 500 coke ovens at one time. The Mill Creek Company was the first mine in Mercer County and the second in the Pocahontas field. William Beury was president, JL

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Bramwell Additions Historic District
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Beury VP, John Cooper general manager, and Thomas Cooper, secretary. They operated 4 mines including Elkhorn Collieries at Maybeury and Mill Creek Colliery at Cooper. Mill Creek was comprised of Mill Creek Colliery and the Coaldale Colliery. Coaldale was on the west side of the mountain, Mill Creek on the east. In 1929 they shipped 55 thousand tons per month, operated 130 ovens, and employed 500 men. It proved to be a successful venture and the town of Cooper was built for the miners, merchants, suppliers, and railroads. He was active in Republican politics and helped organize the party in Fayette County. In 1888 Cooper was elected chairman of the Republican party in Mercer County. After John's death his sons, Thomas and Edward, took over the business. Edward built a large house in downtown Bramwell, and Thomas constructed a Tudor Revival mansion in Bluefield. Edward represented West Virginia in Congress in 1914 and 1918. He also served as a delegate to the Chicago 1912 National Republican Convention. Thomas, born in 1867, was more active in the family business and became president of the companies.

Captain JL Beury was born in Pennsylvania in 1842 and came to Fayette County in 1872. He was involved in the New River Coal Company in Quinnemont/Laurel Creek. He was the first to ship New River steam coal in 1873. He stayed in Fayette County until 1876 and partnered with John Freeman, Jenkins Jones, and Thomas Davis in Fire Creek Mines, then moved to Hawks Nest.

In 1884 his father, brother, John Cooper and he formed the Mill Creek Coal and Coke. He designed mining machinery which was produced by the Jeffrey Mfg Company of Columbus and the Ensign Mfg Company of Huntington, WV.

Cooper had a company store, two independent grocery stores, and a three-story hotel. It was divided into three sections: the camps, New Town and Cooper Hollow. The houses at the camps were reported to be prefabricated.

The Bramwell Additions Historic District is also significant under Criterion B for its association with John Davis Hewitt.

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Hewitt was another immigrant from England who worked his way up in the coal mines in the United States. He was born in 1847 and came to Pennsylvania in 1852. He served in the Union army during the Civil War for two years. After this he went to the Pittsburgh area, then on to Bramwell in 1886. He became a mining engineer and arrived in the Pocahontas coal fields in 1886. He discovered the seam which became the Buckeye mines. By 1896 he had become vice-president and general manager of the Buckeye Coal and Coke Company. They leased 900 acres. His partners in the venture were B. Moore, JB Stevenson, and William D. Mullin. He brought his family to live near the Buckeye mine but they moved into Bramwell about 1890, as many operators did. At first they lived with the Jenkin Jones family, then over the company store, prior to the move to Bramwell. Hewitt was the first mayor of Bramwell. By the time of his death in 1903, he had become a director of the Pocahontas Company.

The Buckeye C&C began as the Stephenson Mullen and Company in 1886 and changed in 1888 to Buckeye C&C. The mine had 200 employees in 1898. They leased 900 acres and had 100 coke ovens.

The Bramwell Additions Historic District is significant for its association with Jonathan Bowen and William Booth under Criterion B. Jonathan P. Bowen, in partnership with William Booth, formed the Booth-Bowen Coal and Coke Company. Bowen was born in Wales in 1830, but his family settled in Pennsylvania when he was only one year old. He rose to the position of mine superintendent in Pennsylvania and relocated to Bramwell in 1885 where he joined with Booth. He served in the Union army during the Civil War. His son, Jonathan, came to Bramwell in 1887 to take over the family business. He also served as vice-president for the Bank of Bramwell. Booth had started his company in 1884. The town of Simmons followed the lead of Cooper and Freeman. Booth-Bowen Coal and Coke was the fourth mine in the Flat Top field. When they incorporated as the Booth-Bowen Company, William Booth was the president; JP Bowen manager; Harry Bowen secretary; and James Booth treasurer. They controlled 1,038 acres of minerals in Freeman and employed 150 men.

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Bramwell Additions Historic District
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Harry Bowen, or William H., was born in 1860. He worked in the mines in Pennsylvania until 1887 when he came to the Flat Top field. He started as the secretary in the firm of William Booth and Company. In 1893 he was selected to fill the position of treasurer as well.

The Bramwell Additions Historic District is also significant under Criterion B for its association with Jenkin Jones and John Freeman. John Freeman, in partnership with Jenkin Jones, opened the Caswell Creek Coal and Coke Company in 1884 as the Freeman Jones Company. The town of Freeman was thus established with the same purpose as Cooper. Caswell Creek was the third mine to open in the field. The mine operated until 1889 under this name when it was changed to Caswell Creek Coal and Coke. In 1898 they leased 1,400 acres, had 231 coke ovens and employed 350 men. Freeman was once known as Simmons for Simmons Creek. It is on the eastern end of town. It had three company stores, a butcher shop and five groceries. It included the communities of Spicer Town, Ramey Town, Booth Row, Buckeye Row, and Jones Hill.

Freeman was born in England in 1822 and came to Pennsylvania ca. 1850. He worked in coal mines until 1863, when he relocated to Clifton Forge to work in the iron industry. He returned to coal mine work in Fire Creek, then to Bramwell. He died in 1892.

Jenkins Jones was born in South Wales in 1842. He also relocated to Pennsylvania and was a laborer in the mines there. He also worked in Quinnemont. In 1863 he relocated to Virginia and opened a small ore mine in Clifton Forge. From there he moved to the New River fields, to work with John Freeman at the Fire Creek Colliery. He came to Bramwell in 1883, where he opened the Caswell Creek Coal and Coke Company with Freeman.

The Bramwell Additions Historic District is also significant under Criterion B for its association with Captain I.A. Welch. Captain IA Welch came to Bramwell in 1883, as an engineer directing exploration and mapping of the region. Welch was born in 1852 in Doddridge County. He became an engineer and moved to Kanawha County, from where he served in the Virginia General

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Assembly for six years. When the Civil War broke out he enlisted in the Confederate Army and worked with Jedediah Hotchkiss. Thus began the association that eventually brought him into the Flat Top coal fields. After the war he was engaged in surveying the area for mining and other natural resources, and stayed on in Bramwell to make his fortune. He continued a career in the mining industry and the city of Welch, in adjacent McDowell County, is named for him.

The Bramwell Additions Historic District is significant under Criterion C as an example of company houses and the planned construction of neighborhoods by a company for its workers. These include all of the functions of a community from housing to work. They included all levels and strata of that community as well. The managers, owners, and workers all lived in the same geographic location. Under this significance, it is important to look at the overall interrelationship of the resources rather than the individual building or structure. It is this overall effect that makes the area significant.

Identical design and construction of the individual houses within each cluster is indicative of company control and represents the planned development and construction of the town by the company. It also represents standardized design and construction, thus translating to better profits for the company. The company provided for all aspects of a miner's life, including housing, food, shopping, medical attention, religion and death. It even provided for a limited form of insurance or worker's compensation in the Bramwell Accident Insurance Company, formed in 1896. Its officers were I.T. Mann, president; L.E. Tierney, VP; Edward Cooper, secretary and treasurer; W.G. Freeman, Thomas Cooper, W.H. Bowen, William Thomas, Stewart Buck, I.T. Mann, and L.E. Tierney, directors. The object of the company was to furnish insurance to men working the Flat Top field to provide "sufficient" income during periods of idleness due to injuries. There were three policies: "A" provided \$5 per week or \$50 per death for a cost of \$1/month; "B" provided \$3 per week or \$25 per death for a cost of 50 cents/month; "C" provided \$10 per week or \$10 per death for \$2 per month. An interesting aspect is that they

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paid for accidents whether they occurred on the job or not.

Cooper is a good example of the traditional company town, with the owner's residence adjacent to the company store, the managers' residences, the railroad facilities and the individual housing clusters. Freeman contains all of these elements as well, though an interesting quality of Freeman is that it was the home of not one company but three. Thus, the groupings and functions are intermingled. The best extant example of standardized company housing, though, is in Freeman, with the Buckeye Coal and Coke company houses, numbers 229 to 234.

The companies also provided for the spiritual needs of the miners. Elizabeth Bowen Jones provided funds for the Memorial Methodist Church, constructed in 1878. Members of the church included Greer Belcher, H.H. Tabor, H.H. Yost, and Mary Welch. The Tabors are an early settlement family in the county from the Pinnacle Rock vicinity. Belcher had settled in the vicinity in 1866 in what is now the I.T. Mann playhouse site in downtown Bramwell.

The Cooper Methodist Church was the first Methodist Church in the southern West Virginia coal fields. It was formed in 1884. The first church building was constructed in 1916. This was donated to the Board of Education for the Negro school when the new church was constructed in 1918.

The First Methodist Church was constructed in 1903. Members included E.W. Freeman, S.A. Toy, Harry Bowen and Edward H. Jones.

Education played an important role in Bramwell history. The first organized public school was located where the high school, (#333), is currently located. Private schools were formed for the operator's children. One was located where the Bluestone High School, (#153), is currently. The small building, (#35), behind the company store in Cooper is reported to have been a private school. One was also located where the home of Nannie Sexton currently is.

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The first school is reported to have been on Caswell Creek property where the Joseph Whitehead residence was. Professor Brown was the teacher with five students: George Freeman, Westley Freeman, Raleigh Freeman, Edward Jones, and Mae Llewellyn Jones. The building burned to the ground.

With the growth of Bramwell, a public school system was established and in 1894 the Bramwell Public Grade School was constructed. It had eight rooms and a library. Professor Baker, from Greenbrier County, was principal. Private subscriptions from John Hewitt, Harry Bowen, Jenkin Jones, and Captain IA Welch supported the extension of the school term over the state's six month limit. There were 200 students enrolled. A few years after the grade school was constructed, the first high school was organized. The school burned and a new one was constructed in 1934. Grade school was taught at the high school building during construction. In 1935 Bramwell had two school buildings, one for grades 1-8 and one for high school.

Under Criterion A the Bramwell Additions Historic District is significant for its association with the black history of the southern coal fields. It represents the economic and social development of minorities in the coal fields. The companies provided housing for minorities as well, and there are separate neighborhoods for black miners in the various camps. The houses provided were comparable in scale and architectural character to those provided for other workers. The only difference appears to be the segregated location of black housing. Within these black sections schools and churches are also located. In 1885 Mrs. Cooper provided funds for construction of the Mill Creek Missionary Baptist Church, (#18), for black families in the town of Cooper. Cooper also had a distinct neighborhood for African Americans and this extant cluster is still in original condition. The houses are all similar and contain a fair amount of architectural character.

At the Booth-Bowen community, things were similar. The Bluestone Missionary Baptist Church, (#154), located on Simmons Avenue, was organized in 1890. The land for the church was donated by Booth-

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Bowen. Rev. R.H. McKoy was pastor for 50 years. This served the black mining community of the Booth-Bowen Company. They also provided a school lot and school as well as the adjacent company housing cluster.

Black miners played a substantial role in the development and working of the Flat Top fields in West Virginia. In Mercer County African Americans comprised an increasing large percentage of the population as compared to adjacent Tazewell County, Virginia. Prior to establishment of the mines, the population was just under 5%. As production increased, Mercer County's total population increased, but the black population experienced a greater percentage increase. Thus in 1890 the percentage was 12.5 and grew to a high of 15.5 in 1910. This uncharacteristically high minority population continued into the 1950's. In comparison, Tazewell County's population started at a high of 17.6% in 1890 and steadily declined. These figures represent the significance of the black community to the development of the southern coal fields.

Fraternal societies played an important role in the life of the black miners. They had existed in the United States among African Americans since the early part of the nineteenth century. Many organizations continued into the century and the incidence increased in the latter half and the beginning of the twentieth century. Many were associated with the Free Mason movement, warranted in 1784 by the Grand Lodge of England. African Lodge number 459 in Boston grew into the Massachusetts Grand Lodge and there were lodges in New York and Pennsylvania as well in the middle of the nineteenth century. These grouped to form the National Grand Lodge in 1847, the Body of Colored York Rite Masons, Prince Hall Origin, National Compact. Thus, in 1893, Dr. William Alexander Holley formed West Virginia's first colored Masonic Lodge, Lodge #1, in Bramwell. Dr. Holley came to Bramwell from Howard University School of Medicine in 1892. He was born in Wytheville, Virginia in 1863. He also organized the Statewide Grand Lodge and was chosen first state Grand Master. The King Hiram name is derived from the biblical reference to King Hiram, who provided cedar and cypress to King Solomon for

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his temple in Jerusalem.

The King Hiram lodge played an important role in the social life of African American miners in southern West Virginia. They hosted the sixteenth triennial session of the National Grand Lodge in nearby Bluefield in 1895. They purchased the present lodge building, (#345), in 1942. At its high point the lodge had 200 members.

Another representation of the significance of Bramwell's black social history is the poetess, Anne Spencer, (1882-1975). She and her mother came to Bramwell in 1886, where she lived in the black section of Cooper with the Dixie family until entering the Virginia Seminary and Normal School in Lynchburg, Virginia in 1893. She graduated, at the age of 17, as valedictorian of her class in 1899. Following graduation, she returned to Bramwell where she taught in the black school which had been established in her absence. In 1901 she married Edward Alexander Spencer, her former tutor at Seminary, and the couple moved to Lynchburg. The Spencers' had two daughters and one son, Chauncey Edward. Chauncey became a black pioneer in aviation. Anne was a pioneer in establishing rights for African Americans. In Lynchburg she boycotted public transportation and established a black library. She served as its librarian from 1923 to 1945. The Spencer's home became a popular resting place for black travelers as they were refused accommodations locally. W.E.B. DuBois, Paul Robeson, Langston Hughes, George Washington Carver, and Sterling Brown were frequent guests. Anne was 38 before her first poem was published. James Weldon Johnson, who arrived in Lynchburg to organize a chapter of the NAACP, helped her to find a publisher. From the 1920's through the 1940's, Anne's work was represented in every volume of African American poetry and in American Negro Poetry since 1900. By 1940 Anne began to withdraw from public life and after her husband's death in 1964, she became a recluse. She died in 1975 at the age of 93. Anne attained fame in her lifetime through her poetry and as a cultural leader.

The Bramwell Additions Historic District is also significant under Criterion A for its association with the recreational needs

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of the southern coal fields. These predominantly center around the explosion and significance of baseball. As the town consisted of a self sufficient community it was necessary to also provide for recreation of its residents. Coal field baseball played a major role in the social systems of the companies and the miners. Each company had its own ball club and played rival companies in fierce competition. There are even rumors of worker recruiting based on baseball prowess. There was, and still is, a ball field in the Shinn Brier section of Cooper, one in the Freeman portion of Bramwell, and another on Jones Hill.

There was also an annual camp meeting in the park at Simmons. Families camped out during the duration. They had May Day activities there also. There were political rallies also. Chautauqua companies performed there as well. The Silas Green Show was a popular attraction.

In summary, the Bramwell Additions Historic District is significant under Criterion A for its association with the development of the Flat Top coal fields and the mining companies and communities that made up the Pocahontas field, Freeman, Simmons, Cooper and Bramwell. It is significant also for its association with the planned company town construction of the coal companies of the period. It is also significant under Criterion C for its representation of a planned company housing and company town development. Under Criterion A it is significant for its association with African American mining history, through its extant clusters of segregated housing, churches, schools and fraternal societies. It is also significant under Criterion A for its association with the baseball recreation in the southern coal fields.

Finally, it is significant under Criterion B for its association with the individuals who owned and operated the companies that made up the Pocahontas coal fields.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The boundaries for the Bramwell Additions Historic District are shown as the dotted line on the accompanying three maps titled "Bramwell Additions Historic District - Bramwell, West Virginia" dated Spring 1995.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

The boundaries encompass the extant built environment of the early individual coal company communities associated with the town of Bramwell and the Pocahontas coal fields.

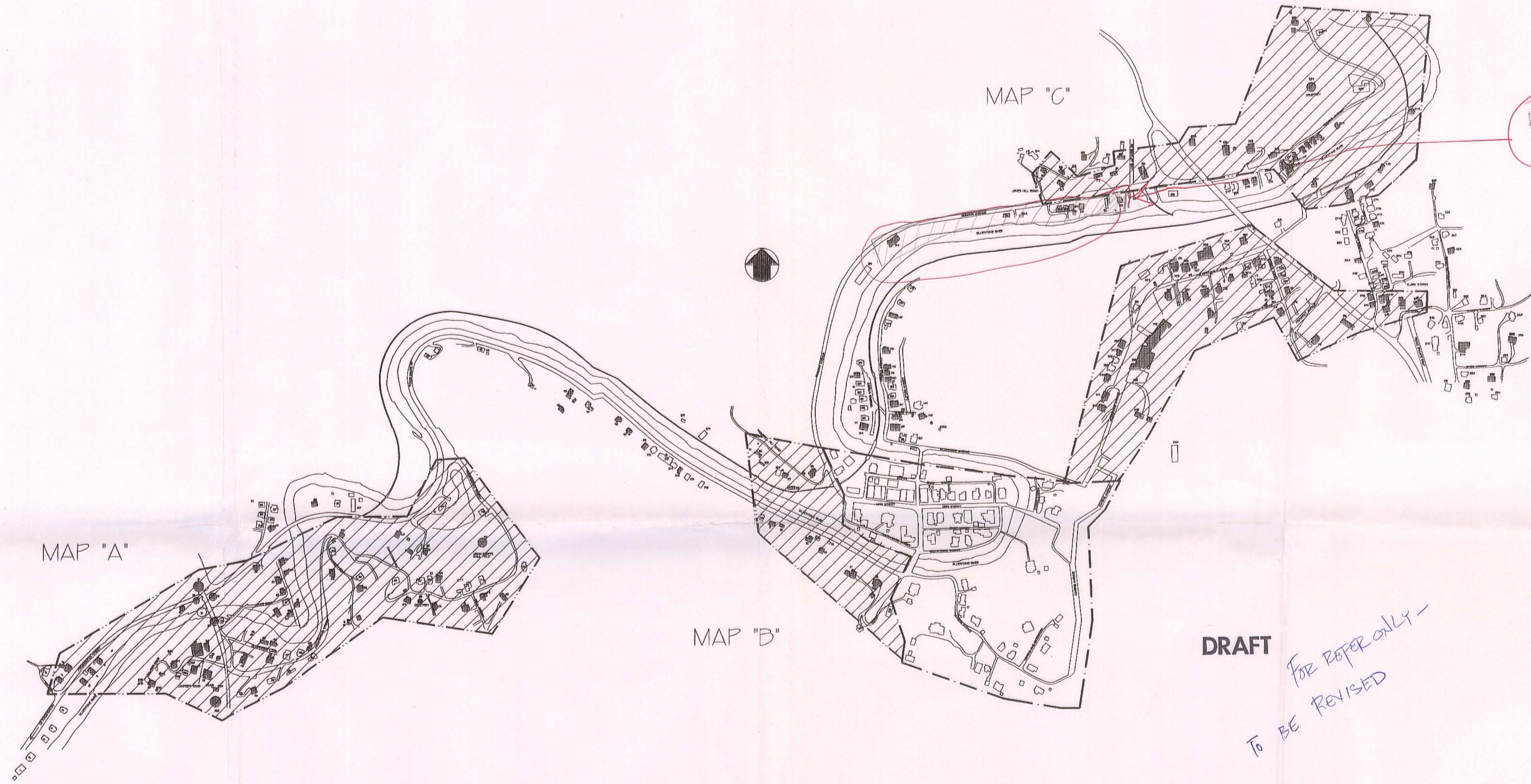
Date
SPRING 1995

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HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY
BRAMWELL, WEST VIRGINIA






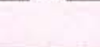
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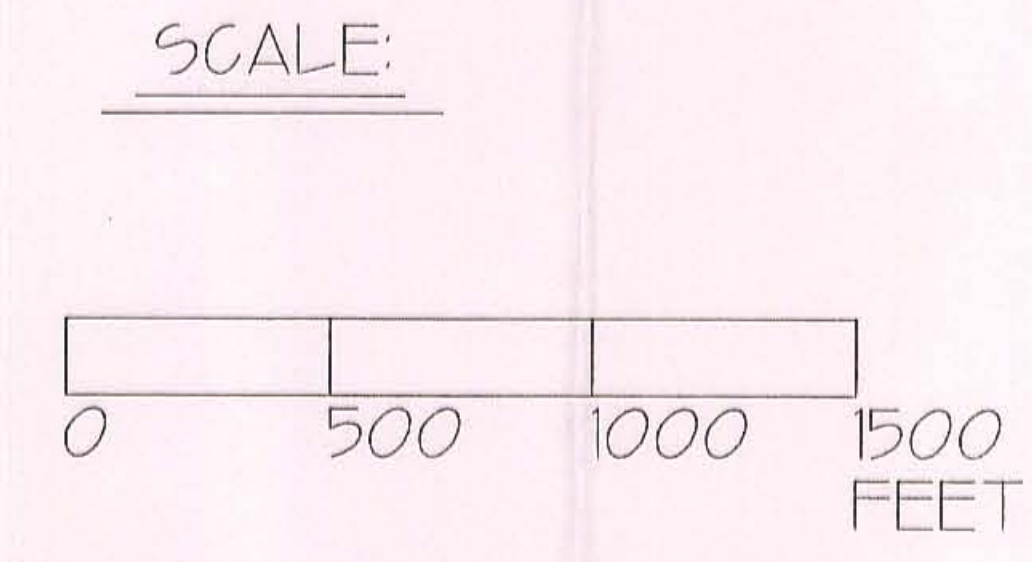
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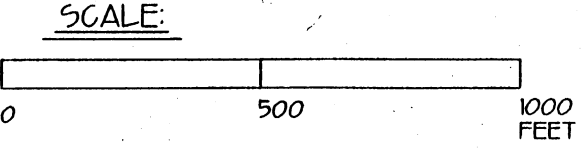
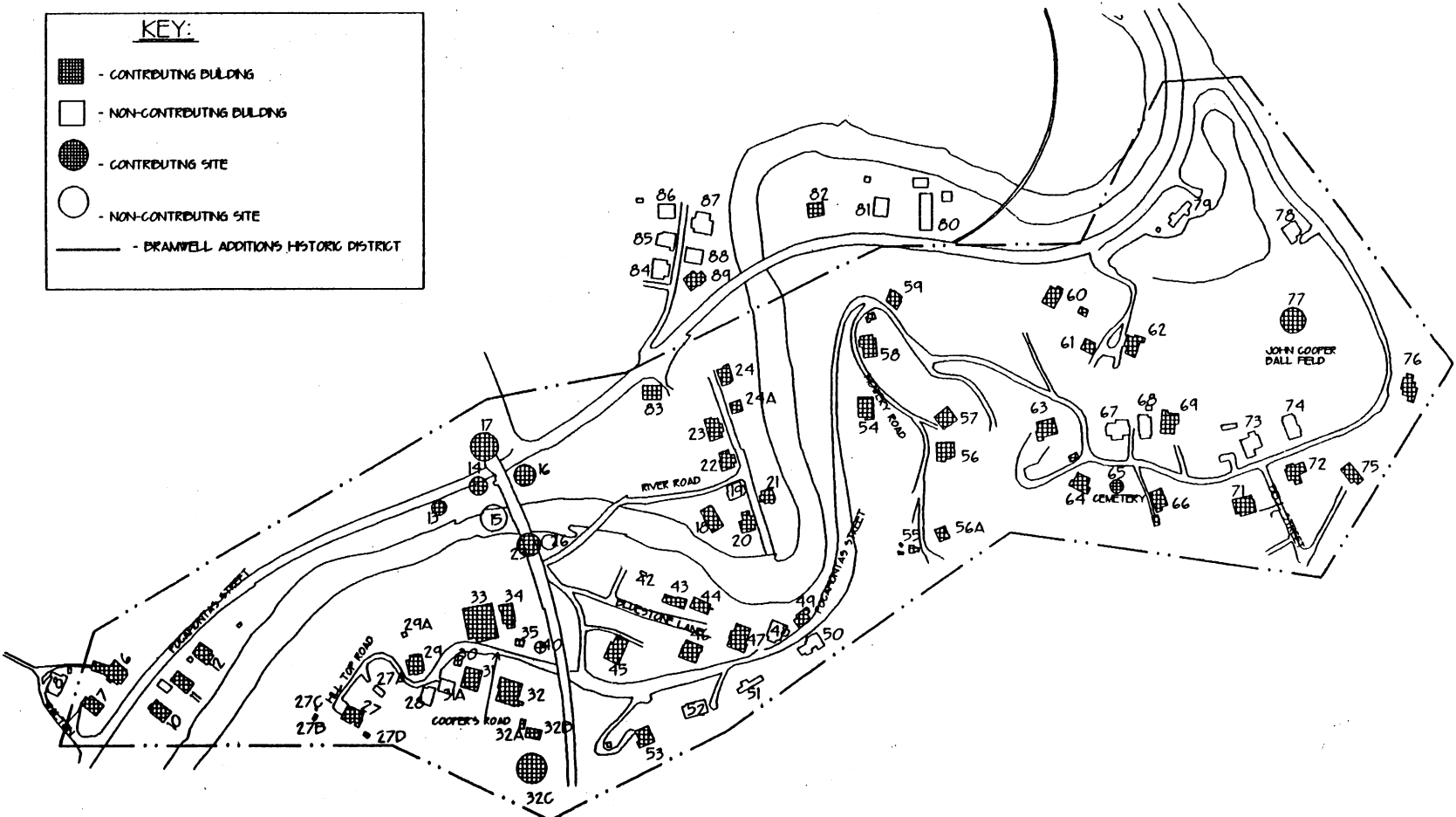
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-  - PROPOSED
- BRAMWELL ADDITIONS HISTORIC DISTRICT



KEY:

-  - CONTRIBUTING BUILDING
-  - NON-CONTRIBUTING BUILDING
-  - CONTRIBUTING SITE
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-  - BRAMWELL ADDITIONS HISTORIC DISTRICT



MAP "A"

COOPER

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BRAMWELL ADDITIONS HISTORIC DISTRICT
BRAMWELL, WEST VIRGINIA

DWG.
1 OF 3

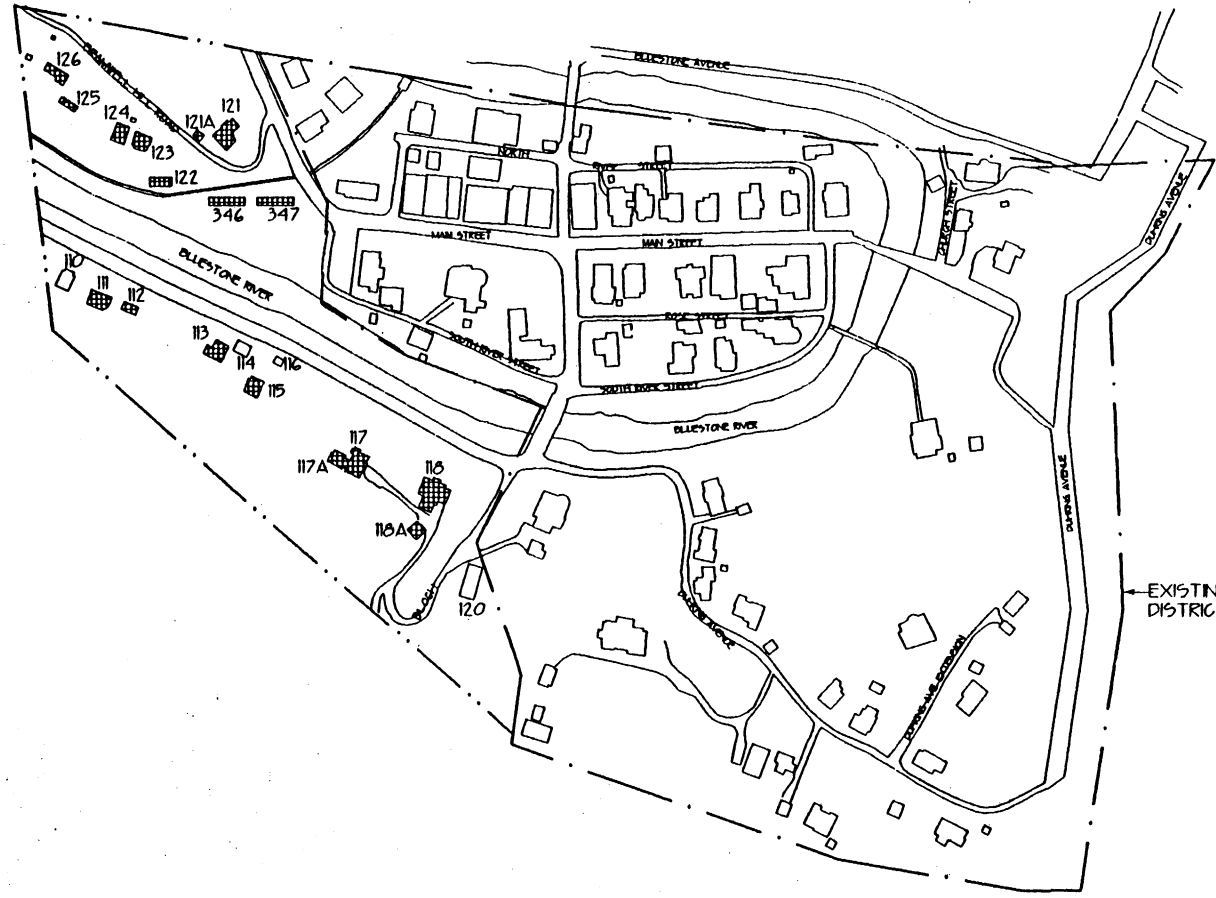
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BRAMWELL ADDITIONS HISTORIC DISTRICT
BRAMWELL, WEST VIRGINIA

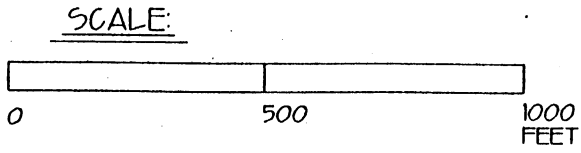
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MAP "B"

Date






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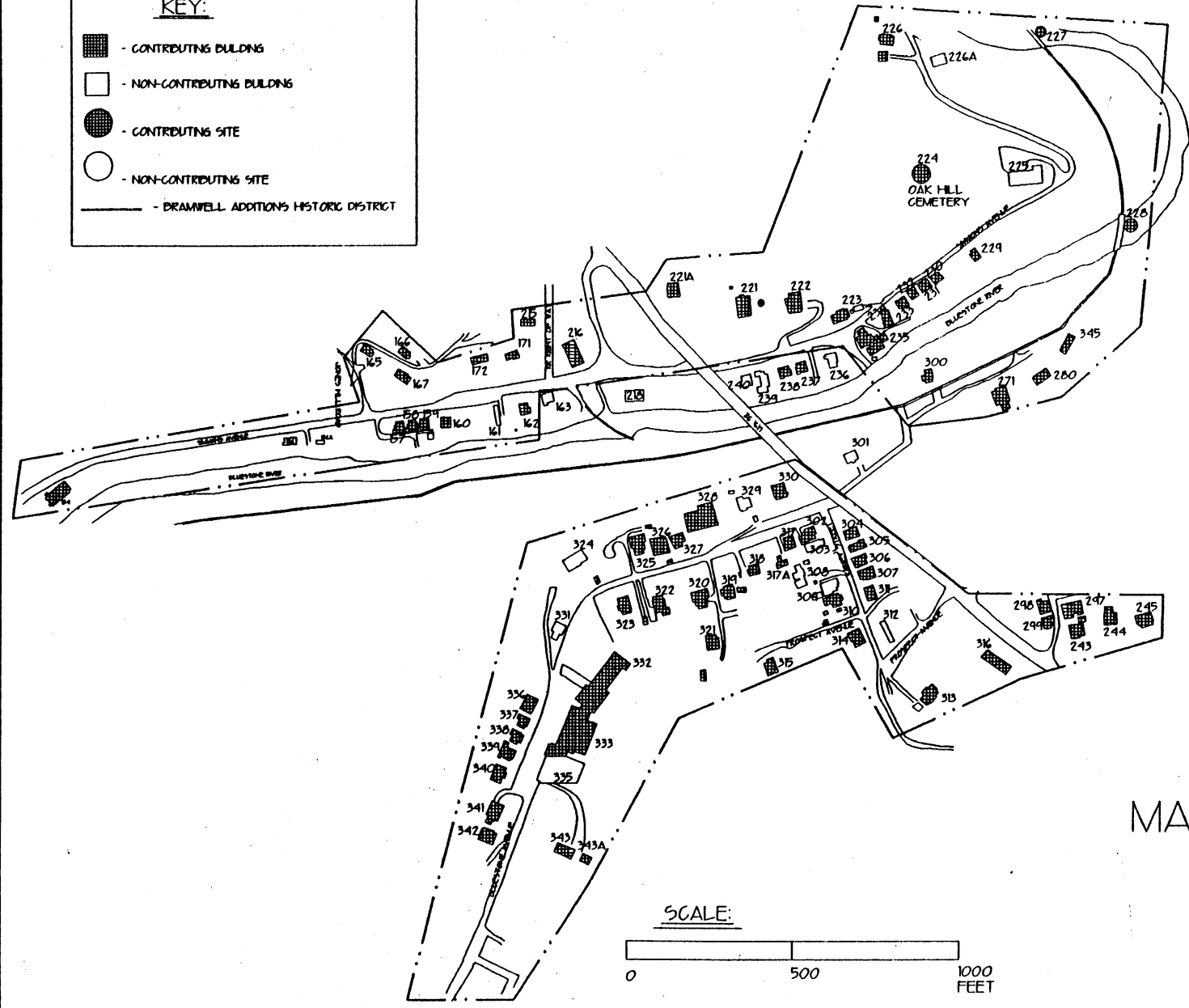
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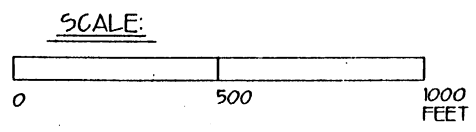
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MAP "C"









FREEMAN

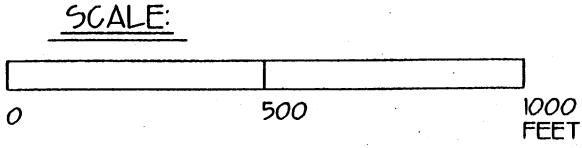
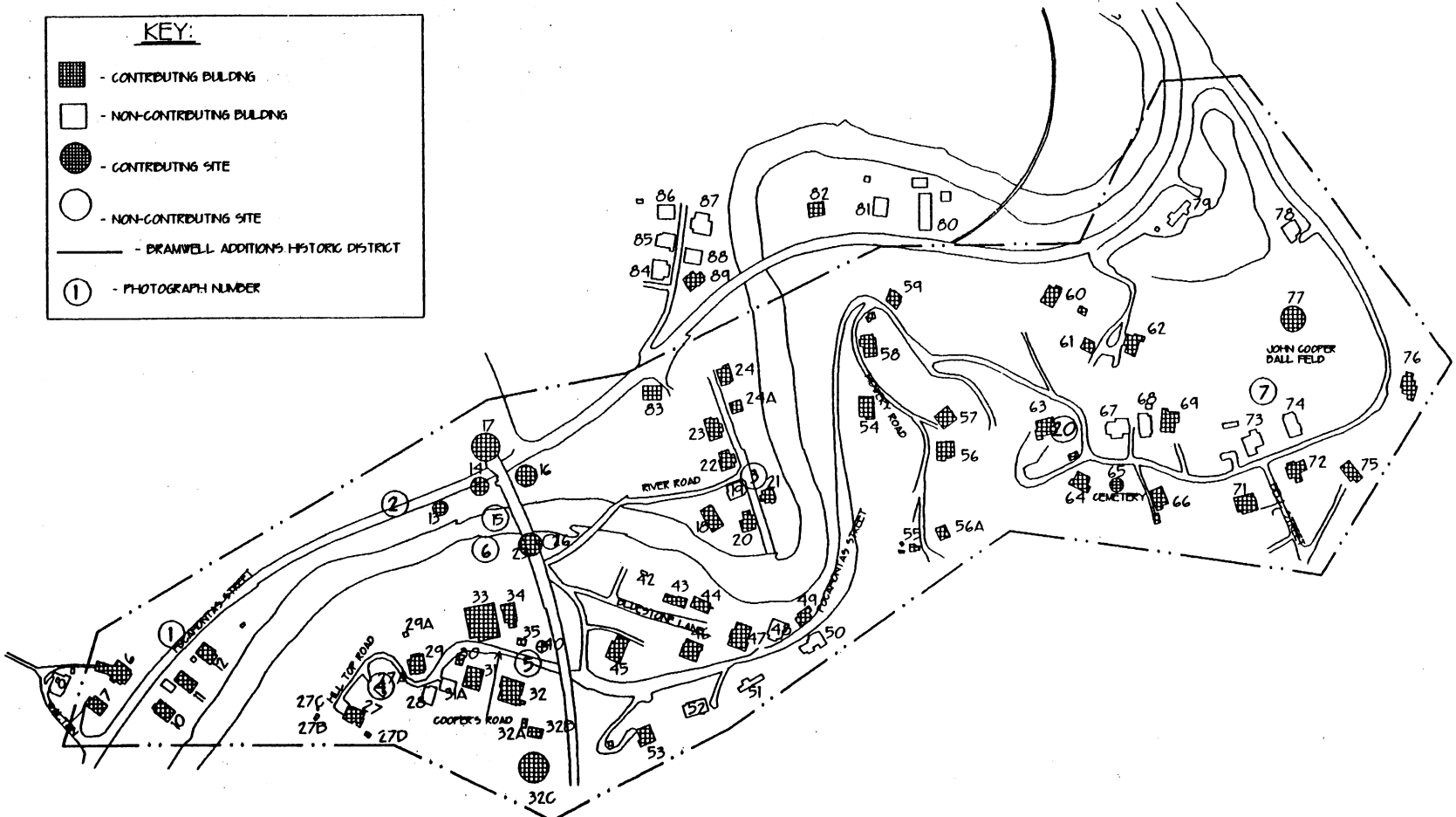
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BRAMWELL ADDITIONS HISTORIC DISTRICT
BRAMWELL, WEST VIRGINIA
PHOTOGRAPH LOG

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MAP "A"

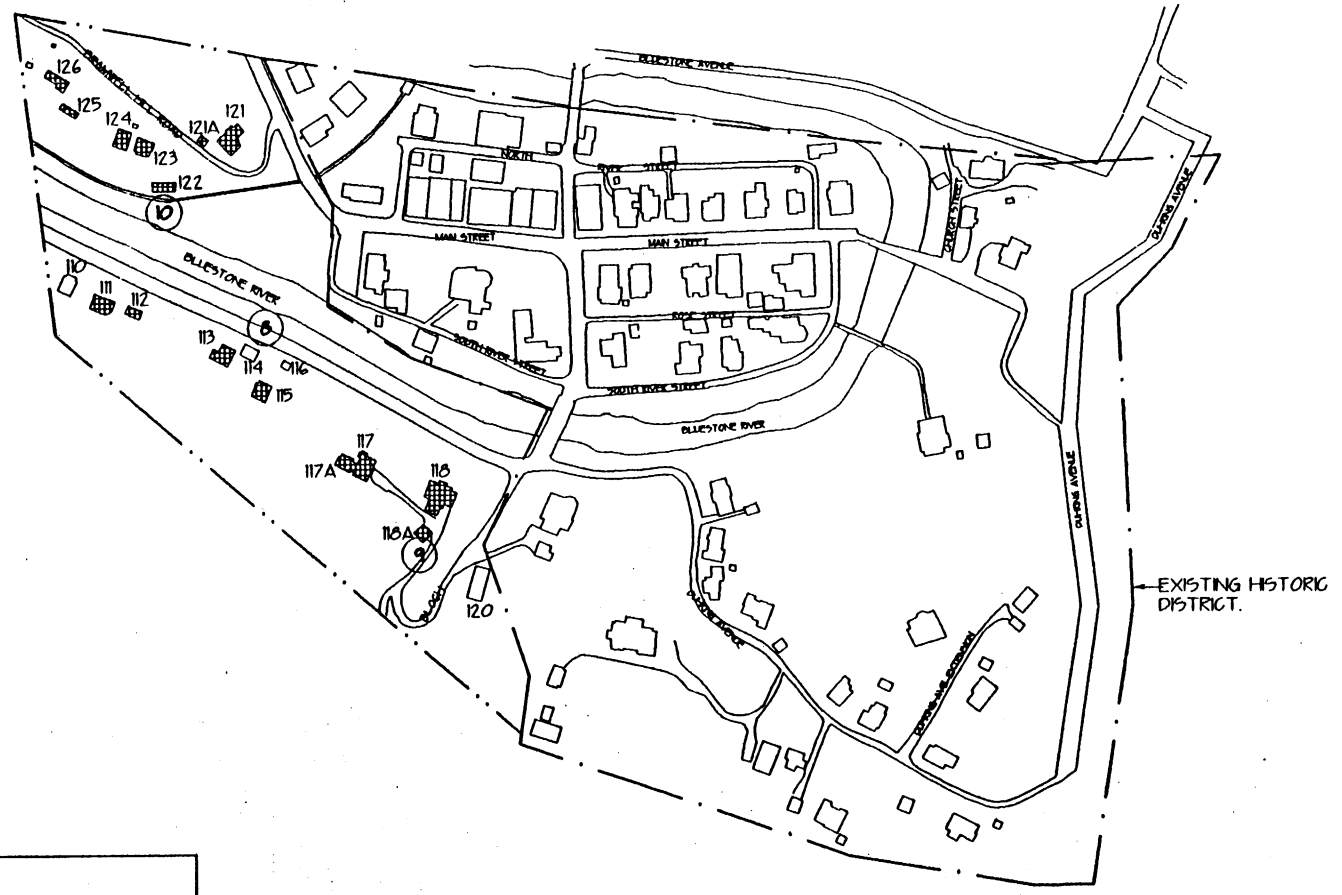
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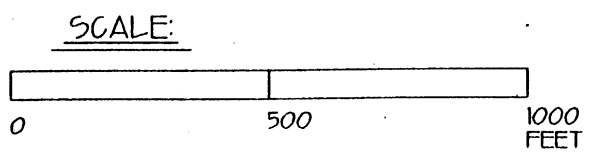
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2 OF 3



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MAP "B"

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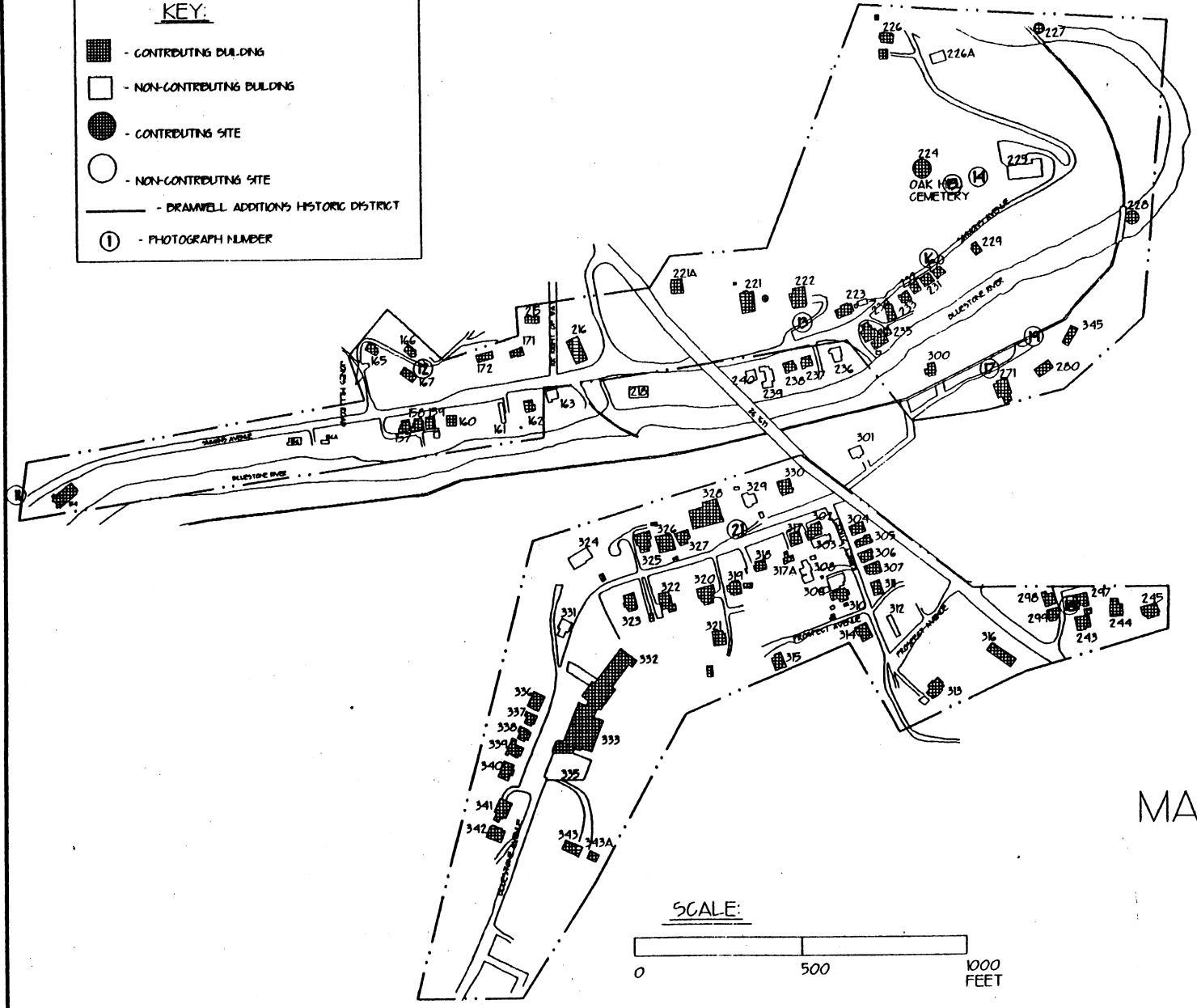
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612 MAIN STREET
SUTTON, WV 26601

BRAMWELL ADDITIONS HISTORIC DISTRICT
BRAMWELL, WEST VIRGINIA
PHOTOGRAPH LOG

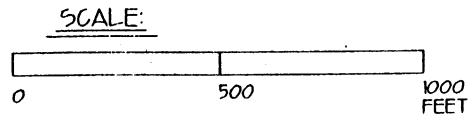
DWG.
3 OF 3

KEY:

-  - CONTRIBUTING BUILDING
-  - NON-CONTRIBUTING BUILDING
-  - CONTRIBUTING SITE
-  - NON-CONTRIBUTING SITE
-  - BRAMWELL ADDITIONS HISTORIC DISTRICT
-  - PHOTOGRAPH NUMBER



MAP "C"



FEET

380 000 FEET
(M.A.)

WELCH 24 MI.

**BRAMWELL ADDITIONS
HISTORIC DISTRICT**
BRAMWELL, MERCER COUNTY
WEST VIRGINIA
UTM REFERENCES

- A 17/473,300/4,131,840
- B 17/473,480/4,130,900
- C 17/470,860/4,130,300
- D 17/470,780/4,130,560
- E 17/471,400/4,131,200

4758 IV SW
(ANAWALT)



