

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

RECEIVED MAY 24 1993

For Copy

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Mullens Historic District

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Bounded by line parallel to Lusk Avenue, not for publication
Highland Avenue, Norfolk and Southern Railroad, and Water Street

city or town Mullens vicinity

state West Virginia code WV county Wvomina code 109 zip code 25882

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

William G. [Signature] 10/5/93
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State of Federal agency and bureau _____

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

Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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 of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
95	29	buildings
		sites
1		structures
		objects
96	29	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed
in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

(See continuation sheet)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Queen Anne

Commercial Style

Bungalow/Craftsman

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete, stone

walls brick, cinder block

roof asphalt, asbestos shingles

other

Narrative Description

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

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- 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
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Commerce
- Transportation
- Architecture
- _____
- _____
- _____

Period of Significance

1912-1942

Significant Dates

1907
1912
1919

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder

Jubal Anderson Early
Robert Lester Early
Anderson Cabell Early

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Mullens Historic Landmarks Commission
P. O. Box 295
Mullens, WV 25882

10. Geographical Data

Acres of Property 38.5

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	Zone	Easting	Northing
2	Zone	Easting	Northing

3	Zone	Easting	Northing
4	Zone	Easting	Northing

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Howard G. Adkins and Mack H. Gillenwater

organization Department of Geography, Marshall University date May 1, 1993

street & number 400 Hal Greer Boulevard telephone (304) 696-2504

city or town Huntington state WV zip code 25755

Additional Documentation

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)

Property Owner

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

name _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 6 Page 1

6. Function or Use
Historic Functions

Domestic/single, multiple dwelling;
hotel

Commerce/financial institution;
specialty, department store;
restaurant; warehouse

Social/meeting hall

Government/post office, government
office

Religion/religious facility

Funerary/mortuary

recreation/theatre

Current Functions

Domestic/single, multiple dwelling;
apartments

Commercial/specialty department
store, restaurant

Social/meeting hall

Government/post office, government
office

Religion/religious facility

Speciality store

vacant

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

section 7 page 1 Mullens Historic District
Wyoming County, West Virginia

Mullens is located in eastern Wyoming County in southern West Virginia near the Wyoming-Raleigh county line. The city, which occupies a niche in the dissected Allegheny Plateau, is basically linear in shape, the corporate limits occupying an area approximately three miles in length and averaging one-half mile in width. The central business district is located near the confluence of the Guyandotte River and Slab Fork Creek. The proposed district boundaries form a compact shape beginning at the intersection of Moran and Lusk avenues; thence south along a line parallel to the Lusk Avenue to the intersection of Lusk and Highland avenues; thence southeast along a line parallel to Highland Avenue to the intersection of Highland and Guyandotte avenues; thence easterly across the Guyandotte River to the Norfolk and Southern Railroad (tracks); thence northeasterly along the Norfolk and Southern Railroad tracks embracing the railroad shops and storage buildings; thence northerly along the railroad tracks to the intersection of the railroad tracks and Water Street; thence southerly along Water Street to the intersection of Water Street and Moran Avenue; thence northerly along the northern edge of the Moran Avenue/Slab Fork Creek Bridge to the point of beginning. The proposed district (see Map 1) includes approximately 38.5 acres.

The Mullens central business district dominates the proposed historic district. The Norfolk and Southern Railroad passes through the eastern edge of the town and the railroad remains active.

Along the western edge of the proposed district lies a small residential section on both sides of Lusk and Highland avenues. Within this section the designs of the houses range from simple one or two-story gabled roof types to elaborate two-story pyramidal/gabled roof cubic designs. An elaborate and impressive church is located along Highland Avenue that lends integrity to the proposed district. Along the southern part of the proposed district lies a mix of old and new commercial/residential structures. The houses in this section also are primarily simple one and two-story gabled roof structures.

The majority of the commercial buildings in the central business area of the proposed district are of ordinary architectural design, mainly two-story brick or stone siding, simple window design, some with ornate metal or wooden cornices and flat, asphalt covered roofs. Most brick buildings consist of two simple brick laying structural systems: routine stretcher and stretcher/header.

Two churches within the proposed district exemplify rather unique designs. The Highlawn Baptist Church was designed by the first pastor, Jr. Criswell and built by Jubal A. Early. The ornate brick structure, built in 1925 in the form of a cross, contains an elaborate cupola. The Old Presbyterian Church has been altered externally several times, but the basic morphology remains

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

section 7 page 2 Mullens Historic District
Wyoming County, West Virginia

the same since its original construction in 1925. The church was designed and built by the firm of Alexander and Alexander of Richmond, Virginia. The foundation and first level are constructed of locally cut stone and is dominated by a low pitched portico supported by four tall but simple finished columns which rest on four-foot cut stone foundations. Native cut stone serves as both the foundation and walls of the first level of the two-story structure. The church was built on a thirty degree slope and has withstood over 65 years of time without slippage or structural damage.

The architectural designs of dwellings in the proposed district include colonial revival, prairie, craftsman, and simple one-story four and five room vernaculars.

A few new commercial structures and dwellings have been built in the proposed district in recent years. However, the overall morphology and townscape has changed very little since incorporation in 1912, despite several floods and fires, particularly from 1917 to 1920. Some of the commercial structures and dwellings have undergone facade alterations and a small number are in poor condition, but the majority of the buildings maintain their original ornateness and deserve special recognition. The following contributing properties are a few of the most significant in the proposed district. The properties are identified by numbers assigned by the State Historic Preservation Office during the 1990-91 Coal Heritage Survey in Wyoming County. Additional assignments were designated by the investigators.

Wyoming Hotel (WM 337), 1918.

This massive five-story brick hotel, designed by Alex Mahood, was built in the form of an "H", contains five street level commercial bays, 68 guest rooms and a dining/ball room with a 250 person seating capacity. A simple but unique entrance elaboration consists of two attached concrete pilasters on either side of the main entrance over which is situated a glassed oval arch fanlight. The original 2 over 2 sash-type windows rest on mortar sills and are prevalent throughout the building. A dropped decorative masonry cornice accentuates the upper facade of the building and consists of scroll-like modillions attached to a fascia and masonry dentils are situated directly beneath the modillions.

Bank of Mullens Building (WM 354), 1920.

The original bank burned in 1919 and this building was rebuilt on the original site. This three-story commercial structure contains five commercial bays with a retail business on the first level and apartments on the second and third level. The main entrance consists of attached mortar pilasters on either side of double-glass doors upon which rests a gentle pitched pediment with a frieze containing the name of the bank. Six pilaster

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

section 7 page 3 Mullens Historic District
Wyoming County, West Virginia

like mullions grace the facade and a pronounced belt course is situated between the second and third levels of the building.

Markowitz Building (WM 338), 1934.

This two-story white brick commercial building contains six commercial bays on both levels. The second story has had several utilizations over the years including clothing alteration and storage. The building was initially designed to retail women's fashions and maintained that function for five decades. Interesting facade details include five groups of narrow zig-zag display windows containing metal muntins, each group lying beneath a set of four narrow vertical single pane display windows resting on brick sills and capped by vertical-standing brick lintels. Seven built-in brick pilasters, each capped by a designed metal coping enhance the facade. Black tile surrounds the bay elements on the first level of the facade.

Highland Avenue Baptist Church (WM 333), 1923.

This impressive three-story brick church on Highlawn Avenue, overlooking the central business district, was built in the form of a cross. Four exposed roof gables form low-pitched pediments whose cornices and entablature are embellished with dentil molding. Atop the church in the center of the cross-shaped roof is an eloquent cupola with a domical roof. The brick siding on the first level of the building contains four stretcher rows per header while the upper two levels contain nine stretcher rows per header. Three window elaborations exist in the building: six over six and twelve-over-twelve sash and six twenty-five over twenty-five arched windows (three on either side of the sanctuary). Oddly enough, the first pastor, J. R. Criswell from Moundsville, WV., who was also an architect, designed the church according to plans he and a congregational committee devised.

Wyoming Ice and Bottling Company Building (WM 361), 1921.

This large three-story industrial building, located at the intersection of Moran Avenue and Third Street, was designed as a manufacturing building where ice, bottled soft drinks and fruit juices were produced for distribution throughout southern West Virginia. The edge of the flat roof is covered by terra cotta half tiles. Numerous twelve-over-twelve sash type windows with vertical brick lintels and horizontal brick sills dominate the facade of the building. A major indentation on the Third Street side of the building allows for a three-floor industrial elevator. The brick structural system consists of seven stretcher rows per header row. The division between the first and second levels of the building are defined by a brick header course, a soldier course, and a belt course.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

section 7 page 4

Mullens Historic District
Wyoming County, West Virginia

Ball Building (WM 344A), 1928.

This three-story beige brick commercial building, located at the intersection of Second Street and Howard Avenue, contains twelve street level commercial bays and four apartments on each upper floor. Interesting details include a flat roof with widespread castellation inserted in the false parapet. Heavy wooden awnings are cantilevered from the lowest limits of the parapet, covered by tile, and supported by decorative scrolls. Original one-over-one double windows dominate the structure. Two belt courses of brick define the interior floor levels.

Masonic Hall Building (WM 358), 1924.

This two-story brick building was originally designed as a Masonic Lodge Hall. Interesting facade details include a masonry roof crown with dentil moldings, five built-in exaggerated brick arches supported by six masonry columns with highly ornamental capitals and torus molding bases. Five small oculus windows with inlaid brick surrounds adorn the upper limits of the arches and five narrow, vertical single windows are located along the lower half. Two masonry belt courses, situated near the midsection of the building, contain brick foundations for the six masonry columns and an ornate brick lattice pattern.

Stewart Building (WM 326), ca.1925).

This three-story light brown brick commercial building contains five bays on the first floor and four apartments on each of the upper floors. The brick parapet, covered with a masonry crown molding, contains the building name. Alternate single and double windows in the upper facade are encased by vertically laid brick pilasters forming the vertical window casings and soldier brick courses form the window lintels. Within inlaid brick rectangles between the second and third floor window elements are found contrasting shaped objects in the form of a diamond. A belt course of soldier-positioned brick differentiate the first and second floors. Translucent windows above the commercial windows on the first floor characterize the building period.

Mullens Grocery Company Building (WM 377), ca. 1922.

This massive three-story commercial building contains 17 bays and a basement. The building was designed exclusively for grocery warehousing and wholesaling, and in 1922 it was the largest building in Wyoming County. A small section on the first level was utilized for office space, the remainder for grocery storage. The sloped asphalt covered roof contains a stair-step parapet to conform to the slope; terra-cotta tile covers the crown. A dual industrial elevator is situated in the rear of the building.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

section 7 page 5 Mullens Historic District
Wyoming County, West Virginia

Architecturally, the building design is very simple. The rectangular structure contains 17 pairs of six-over-six wooden casement windows, with a single window on both ends of the three rows, both front and rear. Three-tiered and slightly arched rowlock brick serve as window lintels. A protective simple slanted shed roof, supported by 14 cables, covers the unloading platform.

Norfolk and Southern Locomotive Repair Shop Building (WM 332A), 1925.

When the Virginia Railroad Company electrified its system in 1923, a decision was made to build a major repair shop near downtown Mullens. This large industrial brick building was constructed in two adjoining segments: a supply and office complex attached to a primary repair facility. The dual building contains a flat, asphalt covered roof with front-facing parapets whose crowns are covered with terra-cotta. Three industrial window designs exist in the structure but the most prevalent is the quadruple-hung, six-over-six metal casement and steel muntin type that are single and triple hung. Three large entrances to the repair segment of the building allows locomotives to enter for repair and service. Although the complex is not architecturally impressive, the building is in excellent condition and remains functional.

The following is a list of 125 resources in the proposed district. 96 are contributing.

W. M. Ruby/Cassinelli Residence (WM 313), 1926, Highland Avenue--two-story, weatherboard; contributing.

D. Grove Moler Residence (WM 314), 1912, Highland Avenue--two-story, brick; contributing.

J. K. Elkins Residence (WM 314A), ca.1915, Highland Avenue--two-story weatherboard; contributing.

Blake Castle Residence (WM 314B), ca.1916, Highland Avenue--two-story clapboard; contributing.

Dora Lewis Residence (WM 314C), ca.1916, Highland Avenue--two-story clapboard; contributing.

Carr Residence (WM 315), 1914, Highland Avenue--two story brick, pyramidal roof, double dormers; contributing.

F. J. Zsoldos Building (WM 315A), 1916, Highland Avenue--two story, basement, four apartments house, weatherboard; contributing.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

section 7 page 6 Mullens Historic District
Wyoming County, West Virginia

D. E. Jones Residence (WM 315B), 1916, Highland Avenue--two story weatherboard; contributing.

Vacant Residence (WM 316C), ca.1916, Highland Avenue--two-story, weatherboard; contributing.

Highland Avenue Baptist (WM 333), 1923, 319 Highland Avenue--three-story brick church; contributing.

Highland Avenue Baptist Church Parsonage, (WM 33A), 1934, 317 Highland Avenue--one-story brick house; contributing.

Kyle Cook Residence, (WM 333B), ca.1955, 315 Highland Avenue--one-story block-stucco house; noncontributing.

Robinson residence, (WM 333C), ca.1954, 313 Highland Avenue--one-story shingle house; noncontributing.

Vacant Lot (parking for church), (WM 333D); noncontributing.

First Presbyterian Church, (WM 374), 1925, 416 Lusk Avenue--two-story, weatherboard; contributing.

Lucile Hays Residence, (WM 373), ca.1928, 414 Lusk Avenue--one-story front/side facing gable, vinyl siding, clapboard; contributing.

W. W. Wells Residence, (WM 372), ca.1928, 412 Lusk Avenue--two-story clapboard, front facing gable; contributing.

Onney Bailey, Sr., Residence, (WM 371), ca.1928, 410 Lusk Avenue--one-story, side facing gables; contributing.

Residence, (WM 371A), ca.1928, 408 Lusk Avenue--one-story, side-facing gable, vinyl siding; contributing.

Kirk Residence, (WM 371B), ca.1928, 406 Lusk Avenue--one-story, side-facing gable, brick siding; contributing.

Newsome Residence, (WM 371C), ca.1928, 404 Lusk Avenue--one-story, side-facing gable, vinyl shingle siding; contributing.

Lloyd Reynolds Residence, (WM 371D), ca.1928, 402 Lusk Avenue--one-story, side-facing gable, vinyl shingle siding; contributing.

Sam Stratton Residence, (WM 374C), ca.1930, 400 Lusk Avenue--two-story

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

section 7 page 7 Mullens Historic District
Wyoming County, West Virginia

brick/clapboard siding; contributing.

Al Perry Residence, (WM 375), ca.1938, 415 Lusk Avenue--two-story brick, front facing gable; contributing.

C. A. Ellison Residence, (WM 375A), ca.1938, 413 Lusk Avenue--one-story, hip roof, vinyl siding; contributing.

Laura Thorn Residence, (WM 375B), ca.1938, 411 Lusk Avenue--two-story, vinyl siding, end facing gable; contributing.

Sykes Residence, (WM 375C), ca.1940; 409 Lusk Avenue--one-story, vinyl siding, front facing gable; contributing.

R. L. Gordon Residence, (WM 375D), ca.1939, 407 Lusk Avenue--two-story, brick siding, end facing gable; contributing.

Pate King Residence, (WM 375E), ca.1939, 405 Lusk Avenue--one-story, vinyl siding, end facing gable; contributing.

Eli Dushkoff Residence, (WM 369), ca.1935, 403 Lusk Avenue--two-story, cut stone siding, end facing gable; contributing.

Welch Apartment Building, (WM 318), ca.1930, 220 Guyandotte Avenue--two-story apartment building, cinder block foundation, weatherboard siding on second-story, original function was retailing on first level and apartments on second level; contributing.

C. C. Stewart Residence, (WM 319), ca.1928, 218 Guyandotte Avenue--two story "I" house, end facing gable roof, clapboard siding; contributing.

Don Sisk Residence, (WM 320), ca.1928, 216 Guyandotte Avenue--two story "I" house, first floor rear extended room, end facing gable roof, clapboard siding; contributing.

Onney Bailey Building, (WM 321), ca.1924, 210-208 Guyandotte Avenue--two story beige brick/cinder block, commercial building; noncontributing.

Ethel Sisk Residence, (WM 322), ca.1930, 202 Guyandotte Avenue--two-story "I" house, end facing gable roof, clapboard siding; contributing.

Telephone Exchange Building, (WM 322A), ca.1966, 200 Guyandotte Avenue--brick building; noncontributing.

United Methodist Church, (WM 322B), ca.1971, 198 Guyandotte Avenue--one-story

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

section 7 page 8 Mullens Historic District
Wyoming County, West Virginia

brick building; noncontributing.

Swan Cleaners Building, (WM 334A), ca.1926, 104 Guyandotte Avenue--one-story brick/cinder block commercial building; contributing.

ABC Florist Building, (WM 334B), ca.1928, 106 Guyandotte Avenue--two-story brick commercial building; contributing.

Old Hospital/Webster Apartments, (WM 335), ca.1928, 108 Guyandotte Avenue--four-story brick commercial building; contributing.

Cliffside Apartment Building, (WM 336), ca.1940, Patton Street--two-story brick apartment building; contributing.

Ray Wells Chevrolet Building, (WM 323), 1922, 211 Guyandotte Avenue--one-story commercial brick building; contributing.

Wyoming Auto Company Building, (WM 324), ca.1926, 207 Guyandotte Avenue--one-story commercial brick building; contributing.

Residence, (WM 324A), ca.1920, Guyandotte Avenue--one-story clapboard siding, gable roof dwelling; contributing.

Stewart Apartment Building, (WM 326), ca.1925, 200 Guyandotte Avenue--three-story brick apartment building; contributing.

Clifford Cook Residence, (WM 326A), ca.1926, 125 Guyandotte Avenue--two-story asbestos shingle siding, end-facing gable; contributing.

Trevor Brammer Residence, (WM 326B), ca.1926, 125 Guyandotte Avenue--two-story, asbestos shingle siding, end-facing gable; contributing.

Molly Heath Residence, (WM 326C), ca.1927, 11th Street--one-story clapboard siding house; contributing.

Residence, (WM 325), ca.1924, 205 Guyandotte Avenue--one-story wood frame dwelling; contributing.

Pvezeno Building, (WM 325B), 1940, 119 Guyandotte Avenue--two-story brick commercial building; contributing.

Cataffo Building, (WM 330A), 1940, 115 Guyandotte Avenue--two-story brick commercial building; contributing.

Radwin Building, (WM 330B), 1940, 109 Guyandotte Avenue--two-story brick/block commercial building; contributing.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

section 7 page 9 Mullens Historic District
Wyoming County, West Virginia

Weaver Hotel Building, (WM 340), 1920, 307 First Street--Four-story brick apartment building; retail on first floor, apartment on three remaining floors; contributing.

Mullens Furniture Company Building, (WM 339), 1925, 303 First Street--two-story brick commercial building; contributing.

Markowitz Building, (WM 338), 1934, 301 First Street--two-story brick commercial building; contributing.

Eatwell Cafe Building, (WM 344), 1926, 205 First Street--two-story brick commercial building; contributing.

Smiley Department Store Building, (WM 355D), 1921, 205 First Street--three-story brick commercial building; contributing.

B. E. Hypes Building, (WM 355C), ca.1968, 101 First Street--one-story brick commercial building; noncontributing.

Trent Building, (WM 353), 1938, 103 First Street--two-story brick commercial building; contributing.

Bank of Mullens Building, (WM 354), First Street and Moran Avenue--three-story brick commercial building; contributing.

Lewis Building, (WM 352), 1922, 20 Moran Avenue--three-story brick commercial building; contributing.

Lapinski Building, (WM 351), 1928, 16-18 Moran Avenue--three-story brick commercial building; contributing.

Steel Drug Building, (WM 350), 1925, 12-14 Moran Avenue--two-story brick commercial building; contributing.

Santon Building, (WM 349), 1927, 10 Moran Avenue--two-story brick commercial building; contributing.

Norfolk and Southern Railroad Switching Building, (WM 332), 1925, Moran Avenue--two-story brick industrial building; contributing.

Norfolk and Southern Railroad Electric Locomotive Repair Shop, (WM 332A), 1925--large brick industrial building; contributing.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

section 7 page 10 Mullens Historic District
Wyoming County, West Virginia

McGraw/Worrell Building, (WM 355), 1919, 102-104 Moran Avenue--two-story brick commercial building; contributing.

Residence, (WM 355A), ca.1920--one-story prefabricated wooden house; noncontributing.

Vacant Parking Lot, (WM 355B)--noncontributing.

Doss/Kroger Building, (WM 336B), 1938, 114-118 Moran Avenue--two-story brick commercial building; contributing.

Commercial Building, (WM 336C), 1950, Moran Avenue and Third Street--one-story; noncontributing.

A. J. Mullins Building, (WM 356), ca.1922, 204 Moran Avenue--two-story commercial building; contributing.

Mullens Motor Company Building, (WM 357), ca.1938, 208 Moran Avenue--two-story brick commercial building; contributing.

Masonic Hall Building, (WM 358), 1924, 210 Moran Avenue--two-story brick meeting hall; contributing.

Rosenbaum Hardware Building, (WM 359), 1926, 212 Moran Avenue--two-story brick commercial building; contributing.

American Armature Building, (WM 360), 1928, 214 Moran Avenue--one-story brick commercial building; contributing.

Wyoming Ice and Bottling Building (WM 361), 1921, 300 Moran Avenue--three-story brick commercial building; contributing.

Coca-Cola Bottling/Tomchin Furniture Building, (WM 361A), 1926, 304 Moran Avenue--two-story brick commercial building; contributing.

American Legion Building, (WM 361B), 1952--one-story brick meeting hall building; noncontributing.

City Hall/Library, (WM 361C), 1975, Moran Avenue--brick municipal building; noncontributing.

Rite Aid Pharmacy Building, (WM 361D), 1988, 101 Fourth Street--one-story brick commercial building; noncontributing.

Homer Lilly Building, (WM 361E), 1948, 219 Moran Avenue--one-story brick commercial building; noncontributing.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

section 7 page 11 Mullens Historic District
Wyoming County, West Virginia

Moose Club Building, (WM 361F), 1924, 311 Moran Avenue--one-story
brick/stucco meeting hall; noncontributing.

Dogwood Inn Building, (WM 361G), 1989, 313 Moran Avenue--one-story brick
commercial building; noncontributing.

Bailey Lumber Company, (WM 361H), 1922, 503 Water Street--two-story wood
frame commercial building; noncontributing.

Mullens Grocery Company, (WM 377), 1922, Water Street--three-story brick
commercial building--contributing.

Bluefield Produce Building, (WM 377A), 1926, 513 Water Street--two-story
brick commercial building; contributing.

Moran Avenue/Slab Fork Bridge, (WM 376), 1917, Moran Avenue--one lane
concrete automobile bridge; contributing.

Virginia Caboose, #307, (WM 368), 1949, Fourth Street--Virginian Railroad
Caboose Museum, Virginian Railroad relic moved to present site in 1989;
contributing (see explanation, p. 18).

Dr. Wells Office Building, (WM 368A), 1955, Fourth Street--one-story brick
office building; noncontributing.

First Presbyterian Church, (WM 366), 1954, Howard Avenue--one-story brick
church; noncontributing. Architectural firm: Alexander and Alexander,
Richmond, VA..

Old Post Office Building, (WM 365), 1925, Howard Avenue--two-story brick post
office/commercial building; contributing.

New Post Office Building, (WM 364), 1927, 305 Howard Avenue--two-story brick
post office and second floor apartment building; contributing.

Union Power Company Building, (WM 363), 1942, 301 Howard Avenue--two-story
brick public works building; contributing.

Eli's Clothing Building, (WM 263A), ca.1926, 221 Howard Avenue--one-story
brick/permastone-clad commercial specialty building; contributing.

L./Harmon/Stanton Building, (WM 263B), ca.1924, 219 Howard Avenue--one-story
brick-cinder block commercial building; contributing.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

section 7 page 12 Mullens Historic District
Wyoming County, West Virginia

Conner/Feller Insurance Building, (WM 263C), ca.1946, 217 Howard Avenue--one-story commercial building; noncontributing.

C. C. Cassinelli Building, (WM 263D), 1946, 211-215 Howard Avenue--two-story commercial building; noncontributing.

Bob Jones Electric Building, (WM 263E), 1950, 207-209 Howard Avenue--one-story brick commercial building; noncontributing.

Stump Drug Building, (WM 263F), 1972, 203-205 Howard Avenue--two-story brick commercial building; noncontributing.

Ball and Shannon Building, (WM 344A), 1928, 201 Howard Avenue--three-story brick commercial building; contributing.

Vacant lot, (WM 344B), 119-121 Howard Avenue; noncontributing.

Clark Hardware Building, (WM 348), 1938, 117 Howard Avenue--two-story brick commercial building; contributing.

Hash Furniture Building, (WM 348A), 1932, 115 Howard Avenue--one-story brick commercial building; contributing.

Wallingford/First National Bank Building, (WM 347), 1922, 113 Howard Avenue--two-story commercial building; contributing.

Stone and Cook Building, (WM 346), 1926, 111 Howard Avenue--two-story brick commercial building; contributing.

Selig A. Markowitz Building, (WM 345), 1926, 109 Howard Avenue--two-story brick commercial building; contributing.

Eatwell Cafe Building, (WM 344), 1922, 207 First Street--two-story brick commercial; contributing.

Holroyd Building, (WM 345A), 1929, Holroyd Avenue--two-story brick law office building; contributing.

Robertson and Foglesong Funeral Building, (WM 365A), 1926, 220 Howard Avenue--(substantially altered) two-story brick commercial building; noncontributing.

Craft Bus Station Building, (WM 365B), 1938, 218 Howard Avenue--one-story brick commercial building; contributing.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

section 7 page 13 Mullens Historic District
Wyoming County, West Virginia

Commercial Building, (WM 365C), 1955, 216 Howard Avenue--one-story block building; noncontributing.

Vacant lot, (WM 365D), 210 Howard Avenue; noncontributing.

Piggly-Wiggly Building, (WM 365E), 1929, 206 Howard Avenue--two-story commercial building; contributing.

Homer Lilly Building, (WM 365F), 1930, 204 Howard Avenue--two-story commercial building; contributing.

Roma Pizza Building, (WM 365G), 1984, 200 Howard Avenue--one-story brick commercial building; noncontributing.

Wyoming Theatre Building, (WM 343), 1922, ¹²²Howard Avenue--two-story brick movie theatre; contributing.

Hill Motor Company Building, (WM 343A), ca.1920, 120 Howard Avenue--one-story brick commercial building--contributing.

Collins Building, (WM 343B), ca.1926, 118 Howard Avenue--one-story brick commercial building; contributing.

Doss Electric Building, (WM 343C), ca.1926, 116 Howard Avenue--one-story brick commercial building; contributing.

G. C. Murphy Company Building, (WM 341), ca.1926, 114 Howard Avenue--two-story brick commercial building; contributing.

Wyoming Hotel, (WM 337), 1918, 300-304 First Street--five-story brick hotel; contributing.

People's Bank of Mullens, (WM 337A), 1961, 200 First Street--one-story modern brick; noncontributing.

Residence, (WM 331), 1915, near Virginian Locomotive Repair Shop--two-story board and batten house; contributing.

Residence, (WM 331A), 1915, near Virginian Locomotive Repair Shop--one-story board and batten house; contributing.

Residence, (WM 331B), 1915, near Virginian Locomotive Repair Shop--one-story shingle siding house; noncontributing

Mullens Fire Department Building, (WM 366A), 1954, 206 Early Street--two-

(NPS Form 10-900)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

section 7 page 14 Mullens Historic District
Wyoming County, West Virginia

story brick fire house; noncontributing.

Mullens Water Works Building, (WM 366B), 1924, 212 Early Street--two-story
brick municipal waterworks; contributing.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

section 8 page 15

Mullens Historic District
Wyoming County, West Virginia

Statement of Significance

The proposed Mullens Historic District is significant because it is a representation of several small cities in southern West Virginia and indeed central Appalachia. Small cities with populations fewer than 5,000 evolved as economic centers which served regional timbering and coal mining towns beginning around the turn of the twentieth century. A few small cities of comparable size in southern West Virginia such as Iaeger, Matoaka, Northfork, Man and Bramwell resemble Mullens in their central business district morphologies, architectural design of dwellings and commercial buildings, and resource hinterlands. Although the city of Mullens, whose population never exceeded 3,500, has declined economically since 1960, it continues to maintain a degree of economic impetus and architectural integrity. Because of these and the forgoing situations, the proposed Mullens Historic District should be nominated and placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The period of significance of the proposed district ranges from 1912, when the Virginian Railroad completed construction of its main line to the town, to around 1942, when the regional coal mining technology began to change radically by utilizing mining machinery to replace hand labor. The Mullens Historic District is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A as an example of a small city that illustrates urban, historical and cultural development in southern West Virginia and central Appalachia.

The city of Mullens can trace the construction of numerous commercial buildings and dwellings to one family, namely Jubal A. Early, a direct descendant of Confederate General Jubal Anderson Early, and his two sons, Robert Lester Early and Anderson Cabell Early. Builders by trade and extensive experience, these men established the Early Brothers Construction Company in 1915 and during succeeding years built several mining towns around Mullens and no less than 60 commercial buildings and dwellings in the city of Mullens. Known for their diversification and quality of workmanship, the Earlys built mining town houses, tipples, company stores and large commercial buildings in Mullens. For these reasons, Criterion C is being included to support the nomination.

Historical Background and Significance:

The site of the city of Mullens was first settled by Andrew J. Mullins in 1894 when he purchased 69 acres of land around the confluence of Slab Fork and Guyandotte River. Mullins Cleared the land and built a cabin near the present intersection of First Street and Moran Avenue and established a small

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

section 8 page 16 Mullens Historic District
Wyoming County, West Virginia

saw mill one-half mile up Slab Fork. Two years later Mullins and neighbors built a one-room school, post office, store and boarding house. The existence of vast timber and coal resources had been reported by Jed Hotchkiss in 1872 and by 1903 logging operations were becoming established at Amigo and Maben, three-to-four miles distance from the Mullins farm. The logging operation attracted people to the area, and by 1903 it was estimated that 250 people lived in the immediate vicinity.

Upon hearing of vast timber and coal resources in eastern Wyoming County, the Deepwater Railroad, out of Kanawha County, obtained right-of ways into Slab Fork and Guyandotte valleys, which passed through the A. J. Mullins property. By 1906, the railroad was completed from the Kanawha River to Mullens. The Virginian Railroad Company acquired the Deepwater Railroad in 1907, a situation which allowed lumber and coal operations to develop around Mullens, especially the well-known Ritter Lumber Company, five miles distance from the Mullins farm.

The first coal mine in Wyoming County began operating in 1908 on the outskirts of the proposed historic district. A. J. Mullins began to lay out a few streets and avenues and sell lots on that part of his farm which now occupies most of the present site of the city.

Between 1908 and 1912, several two-story wood frame business buildings, including the Bank of Mullens, were erected on and around Moran and Howard avenues and First Street, and numerous wood frame dwellings in west and south Mullens. In the meantime, Jubal Anderson Early and his two sons were involved in building the mining towns of Tams (1908) and Mead Poca (south of Mullens) in 1912. The settlement of Mullens was incorporated in 1912. The town was named after A. J. Mullins, but a mistake in spelling of his last name was made at the county courthouse, hence the name Mullens.

By 1915, six mining towns had been built within four miles of Mullens, employing 225 miners. Lumber mills at the villages of Herndon and Maben, both less than 10 miles distance, collectively employed over 500 men, and the Virginian Railroad employed 115 men at Elmore, two miles south of Mullens. As the population in eastern Wyoming began to surge upward in these coal, lumber and railroad settlements, the town of Mullens was rapidly becoming the primary service center of the county.

Based on the populations of Mullens, Beckley, Princeton and Pineville and the distances between places, the hinterland trade area for Mullens was calculated as shown in Table 1.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

section 8 page 17 Mullens Historic District
Wyoming County, West Virginia

Table 1

"Population"

Town	1920	1930	1940	1950
Mullens	1,425	2,356	3,026	3,470
Pineville	304	536	769	1,082
Princeton	6,224	6,993	7,426	8,279
Beckley	4,149	9,357	12,852	19,397

"Calculated" Trade Area (Miles)

From Mullens		1920	1930	1940	1950
to	Miles				
Pineville	14	10	10	9	9
Princeton	35	11	13	14	14
Beckley(via Rt.54)	20	8	7	7	6
Beckley(via Rt.16)	26	10	9	9	8

From 1920 to 1950, the Mullens economic area extended along Route 10 toward Pineville as far as New Richmond; along Route 10 toward Princeton as far as Covell; along Route 16 toward Beckley as far as Helen; and along Route 54 toward Beckley as far as the Wyoming/Raleigh County line.

In order to accommodate the commercial business (food, clothing, hardware, and entertainment) that was developing as a result of the nearby mining towns and railroad operations, additional wood frame commercial buildings with false store fronts were quickly erected. By 1915, the town resembled a western frontier settlement. But two fires and a flood between 1917 and 1919 destroyed much of the commercial district around First Street between Howard and Moran avenues. Afterwards, a city ordinance required that any new buildings constructed within the central business district must be brick or stone. It was during this period that Jubal Early and sons began their building endeavors in the city.

The primary building period of commercial structures in the proposed district ranged from about 1915 to 1925, and by 1930 the basic morphology of the city was established. Except for the 1929 depression, commercial enterprises excelled until 1942 when employment in the coal business began to decline.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

section 8 page 18 Mullens Historic District
Wyoming County, West Virginia

The city's population has stabilized at approximately 2,700 and the area of the proposed district, with the exception of the five buildings, is impressively well-preserved.

In addition to the properties featured in the Part 7 Description, the following include a secondary group of contributing commercial properties in the proposed district. The majority of these properties reveal simple vernacular design and exemplify routine early 20th. century movements, with limited imagination. However, their appearance and prestige bring distinction to the proposed district:

D. Grove Moler Residence, (WM 314), 1912, 316 Highland Avenue.

This two-story brick Queen Anne gabled roof dwelling with a dormer and a wrap around porch was built by William Lambert. Dr. Fred S. Robertson purchased the house and utilized it for the city's first hospital but 10 years later Andrew Cabell Early converted the house back into a residence. Only a few modest exterior changes have been added to the structure since 1912 and it remains in excellent condition.

Union Power Company Building, (WM 363), 1942, 301 Howard Avenue.

This two-story Art Moderne beige brick municipal building has a flat roof, a smooth wall surface and large windows on the first level. The building is attractive and in excellent condition.

Ray Wells Chevrolet Building, (WM 323), 1922, 211 Guyandotte Avenue.

This one-story brick commercial building is a simple vernacular structure designed to display new automobiles, which remain its current function. A simple flat roof and commercial windows are the major characteristics of this neat and attractive retail facility.

Weaver Hotel Building, (WM 340), 1920, 307 First Street.

This impressive four-story brick building was designed and built by the Early Brothers as a hotel but since has been converted to apartments. Double six-over-one original windows with mortar sills, a flat asphalt-covered roof and small imbedded white masonry creations grace the facade between the window placements. The first level is currently used for retail purposes.

Wyoming Theatre Building, (WM 343), 1922, 122 Howard Avenue.

Built by A. W. Daubenspek, President, Wyoming Theater Corporation, this two-story brick movie theatre contains a sloping asphalt covered roof with a simple upper window design in the facade above the marquee. Silent movies

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

section 8 page 19 Mullens Historic District
Wyoming County, West Virginia

with a piano accompaniment were initially shown, but replaced when "talkies" appeared around the early 1930's. The facility is presently closed.

Moran Avenue/Slab Fork Bridge, (WM 376), 1917.

This one-lane concrete automobile bridge is one of several dozen bridges constructed in southern West Virginia during the early part of this century. This heavy concrete structure has withstood several floods over a 75 year period and continues as the only through route connecting the proposed district and the residential area along Moran Avenue. There are no immediate plans to replace the bridge.

Notation Regarding Virginian Railroad Caboose:

The Virginian Railroad was purchased by the Norfolk and Western Railroad Company (now Norfolk and Southern) in 1959. Most all former Virginian equipment such as locomotives, coal cars and cabooses were altered and names painted over to read Norfolk and Southern Railroad Company". The Norfolk and Southern Railroad donated a "Virginian" caboose to the city of Mullens to be used as a railroad museum.

SUMMARY:

In many ways the city of Mullens is representative of numerous small West Virginia and indeed central Appalachian cities with a population under 5000. Small cities of this population range generally function as political entities (county seats), economic centers, small manufacturing centers, or combinations thereof. And yet, upon close examination of cities of comparable size and function (Bramwell, Matewan, Welch, and etc.), one finds a uniqueness in each. Mullens represents a small southern West Virginia city that evolved due to a strategic geographical location with regard to the Virginian Railroad Company as well as an economic center of a region embracing Wyoming and southern Raleigh counties.

As the Virginian Railroad grew and prospered during the early 1900s, there was a need for expansion of commercial enterprises in Mullens. Services needed to be expanded and commercial buildings needed to be constructed to contain these services. This situation brought on a modest population and building "boom" during the period of 1915 to 1925.

With the modest influx of population around this period came a few architects and builders with their own ideas of designs for new commercial buildings in the downtown or replacement of wooden commercial buildings

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

section 8 page 20 Mullens Historic District
Wyoming County, West Virginia

destroyed by fire between 1912 and 1918. Most prominently among these designers and builders were Jubal Anderson Early, Robert Lester Early, Anderson Cabell Early, J. R. Criswell, A. J. Mahood, the Virginian Railroad, and the firm of Alexander and Alexander. Jubal Early brought with him a reputation of not only an exceptional designer but a prominent master builder, characteristics that were passed on to his sons, Robert and Anderson Early. J. R. Criswell, with limited designing experience, produced the plan for the Highland Baptist Church, an edifice considered by many as one of the outstanding in the area. Alex Mahood's contribution in the design of the Wyoming Hotel is another example of both unique design and workmanship. The Virginian Railroad Company was responsible for designing and building the railway shop and associated buildings. Although the railroad structures reveal limited architectural imagination, several similar structures are widely scattered where the railroad extended its lines in southern West Virginia.

Based upon the evidence described in this document, it is believed that the property (proposed Mullens Historic District) qualifies for a nomination as an Historic District and should be placed on the National Register. The proposed Historic District and indeed its history and culture by its continued existence with quality and integrity manifested in the individual structures, presents a significant contribution to the broad pattern of historic development of the state of West Virginia and central Appalachia.

Specifically in the AREA OF SIGNIFICANCE, CRITERION A: the property is significant as a former railroad coal terminal and regional railroad repair shop. The shop still stands as a stark reminder of its past significance to the economic and cultural aspects of the city and region. Likewise, in CRITERION C, the proposed district's commercial buildings, railroad structures, and the massive wholesale and retail structures (Mullens Grocery Company and Wyoming Ice and Bottling buildings) are evidence of the role the city played as an economic center for the region.

The previously mentioned architects and builders helped mold much of the proposed district. Though not of national prominence, their work is manifested in their designs and craftsmanship and exemplifies creativity found in other small West Virginia cities.

Contextually, the evidence put forth in this document is truly representative of the history and culture of southern West Virginia and the inputs of many individuals have yielded a small but unique city where pride has been maintained to the present

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 9 Page 1Mullens Historic District
Wyoming County, WV

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United States Department of the Interior
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Continuation SheetSection number 9 Page 2Mullens Historic District
Wyoming County, WV

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 1

Mullens Historic District
Wyoming County, WV

UTM References:	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	17	4660400	4159850
B	17	4660600	4159730
C	17	4660500	4159470
D	17	4660550	4159000
E	17	4660020	4159220

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 10 Page 2Mullens Historic District
Wyoming County, WVVerbal Boundary Description

Beginning at the point of intersection of Lusk Avenue and Patton Street; thence southwest along the centerline of Patton Street to a point approximately 200 feet from the point of beginning; thence south along a line parallel to Lusk Avenue to the intersection of Lusk Avenue and Highland Avenue; thence south along a line approximately 250 feet from and parallel to Highland Avenue to the intersection of Highland Avenue and Guyandotte Avenue; thence southeast along a straight line from the intersection of Guyandotte Avenue and Highland Avenue to the N & W Railroad tracks; thence west along the railroad tracks to the intersection of the railroad tracks and Water Street; thence southwest along Water Street and across Moran/Slab Fork Bridge to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries on the west side were selected to include the row of houses along Lusk and Highland avenues as examples of urban dwellings in the proposed district. Additionally, the steepness of the terrain above Lusk and Highland Avenues justified the boundary decision. On the south, at the intersection of Highland and Guyandotte avenues, the central business district abruptly terminates. On the east, the N & W railroad tracks, which embraces the railroad repair shop, is situated at the base of steep hills, forming both a cultural and natural boundary.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Page 1

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

Photograph No. 1

Photographer: Gerald Sutphin
Date: Photograph illustration CA. 1925; Photograph of photograph taken in 1992.
Location of negative: Mullens Landmarks Commission.
Direction of camera: Looking west from Route 16.

Photograph No. 2

Photographer: Mack Gillenwater
Date: March 1993.
Location of negative: Mullens Landmarks Commission.
Direction of camera: Looking northeast from Fairview Street.

Photograph No. 3

Photographer: Mack Gillenwater
Date: March 1993.
Location of negative: Mullens Landmarks Commission.
Direction of camera: Looking west from Intersection of First Street and Howard Avenue.

Photograph No. 4

Photographer: Gerald Sutphin
Date: 1923 and 1992.
Location of negative: Mullens Landmarks Commission.
Direction of camera: Looking east from Howard Street

Photograph No. 5

Photographer: Mack Gillenwater (Gillenwater photographed all succeeding pictures from this point.)
Date: March 1993 (All photography taken in March, 1993.)
Location of negative: Mullens Landmarks Commission. (All negatives are located at Mullens Landmarks Commission, Mullens, West Virginia.)
Direction of camera: Looking southwest along First Street.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Page 2

Photograph No. 6

Direction of camera: Looking north along Moran Avenue

Photograph No. 7

Direction of camera: Looking southwest from Route 54, behind Mullens Grocery Company Building.

Photograph No. 8

Direction of camera: Looking southwest along Lusk Avenue from intersection of Lusk and Moran Avenues.

Photograph No. 9

Direction of camera: Looking southwest from intersection of Second Street and Howard Avenue.

Photograph No. 10

Photographer: Unknown (Gerald Sutphin made copy of photo taken in 1982).
Direction of camera: Looking west along First Street.
Source: Mullens History Collection, Jack Feller, unpublished manuscript.

Photograph No. 11

Direction of camera: Looking south toward Wyoming Hotel from Howard Street

Photograph No. 12

Direction of camera: Looking east from intersection of Third Street and Howard Avenue.

Photograph No. 13

Direction of camera: Looking south on Guyandotte Avenue.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Page 3

Photograph No. 14

Direction of camera: Looking west from First Street and Howard Avenue.

Photograph No. 15

Direction of camera: Looking west from Moran Avenue.

Photograph No. 16

Direction of camera: Looking east from Howard Avenue and Second Street.

Photograph No. 17

Direction of camera: Looking northwest from Rt. 54.

Photograph No. 18

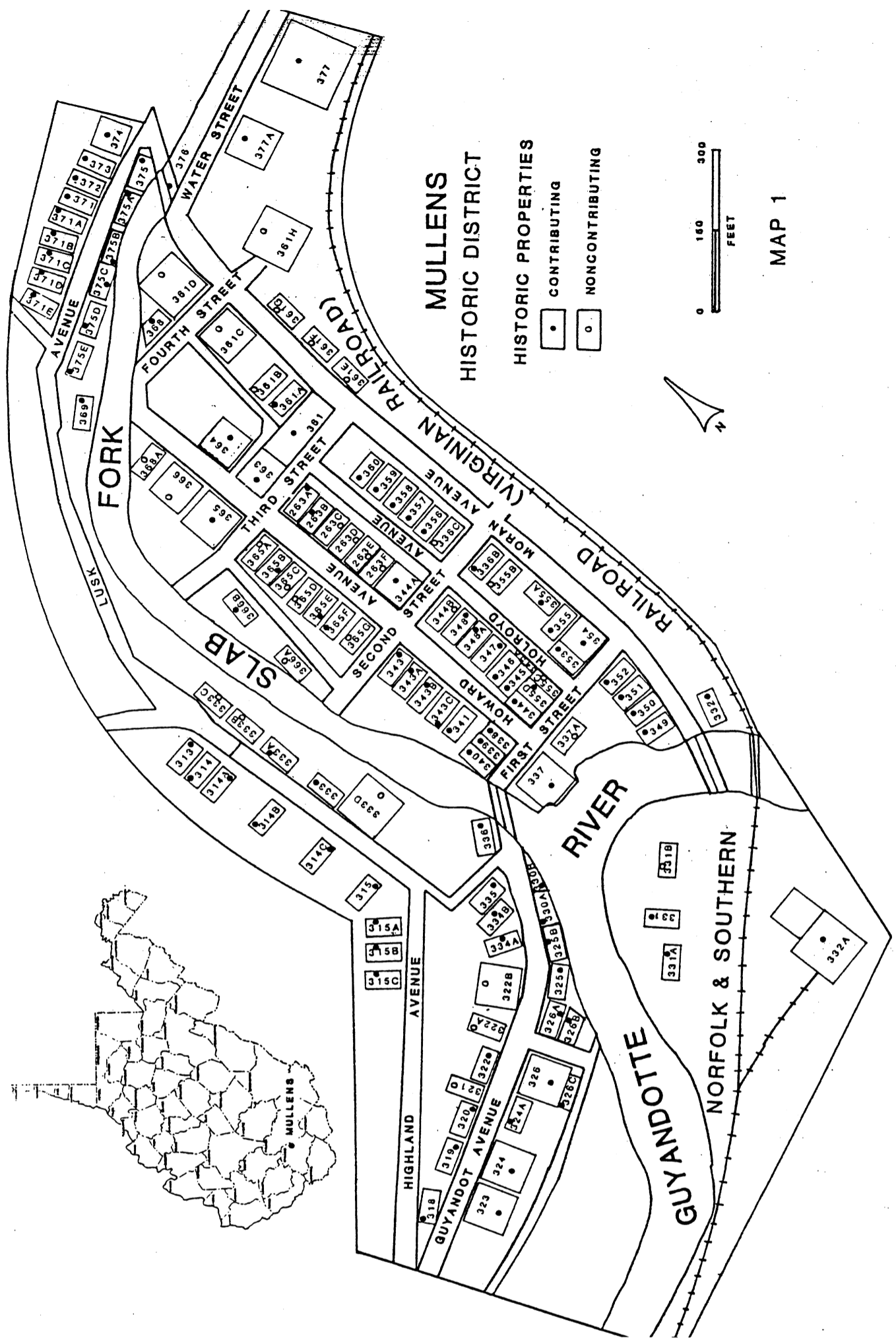
Direction of camera: Looking northwest from Rt. 54.

Photograph No. 19

Direction of camera: Looking east from N & W Railroad tracks.

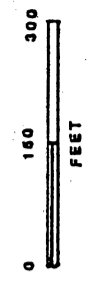
Photograph No. 20

Direction of camera: Looking west along Water Street

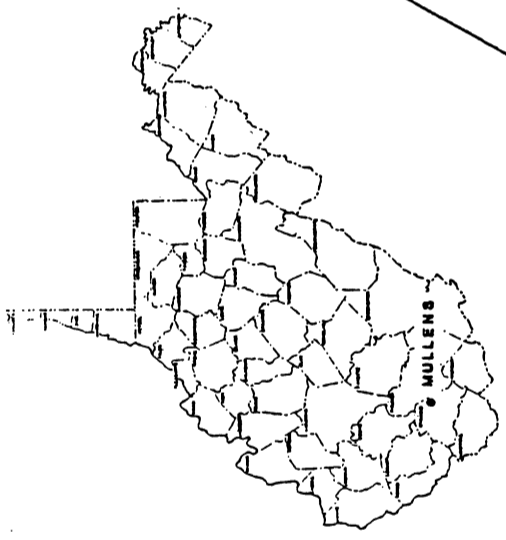


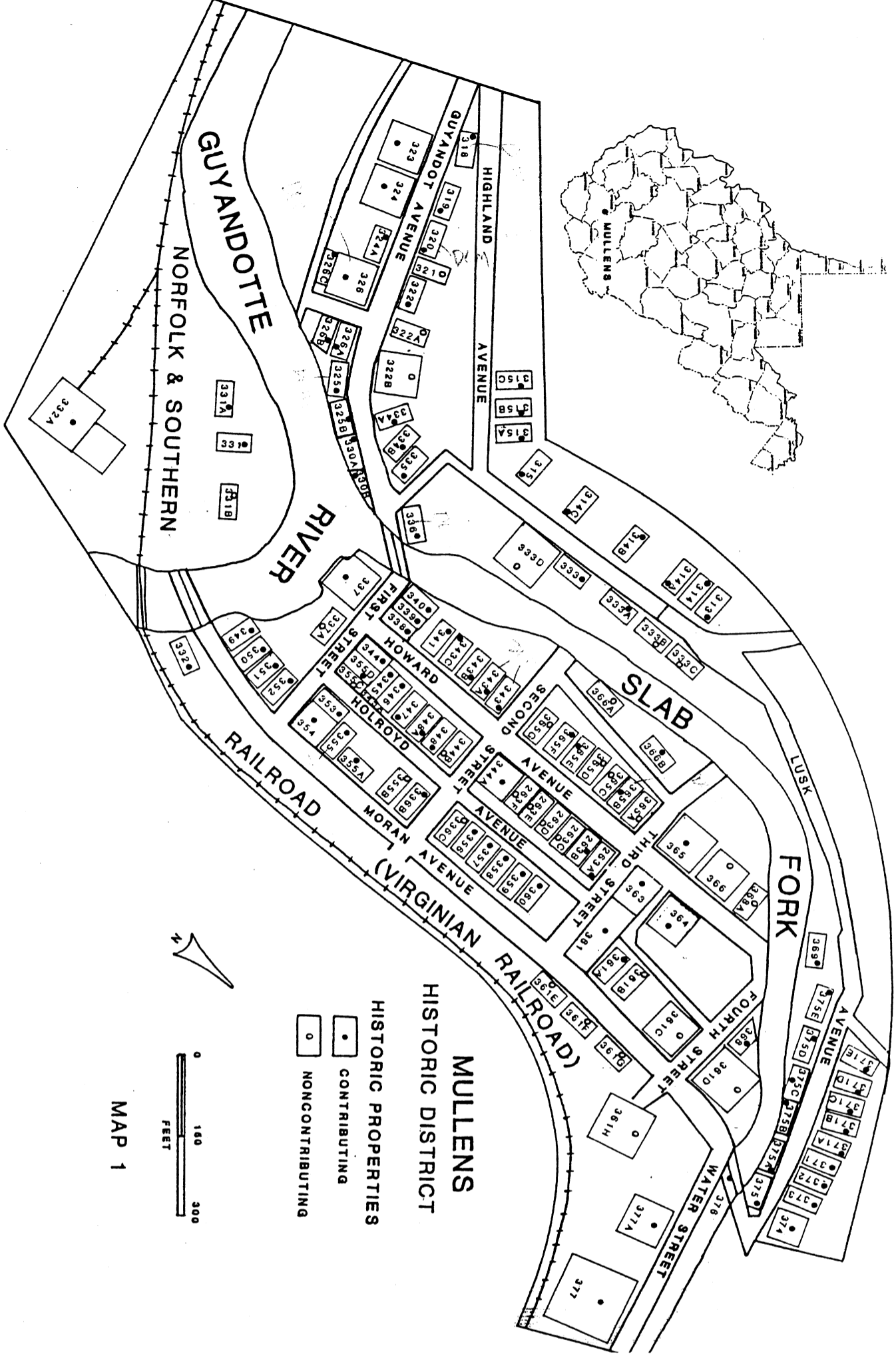
**MULLENS
HISTORIC DISTRICT**

HISTORIC PROPERTIES
 ● CONTRIBUTING
 ○ NONCONTRIBUTING



MAP 1





MULLENS
HISTORIC DISTRICT

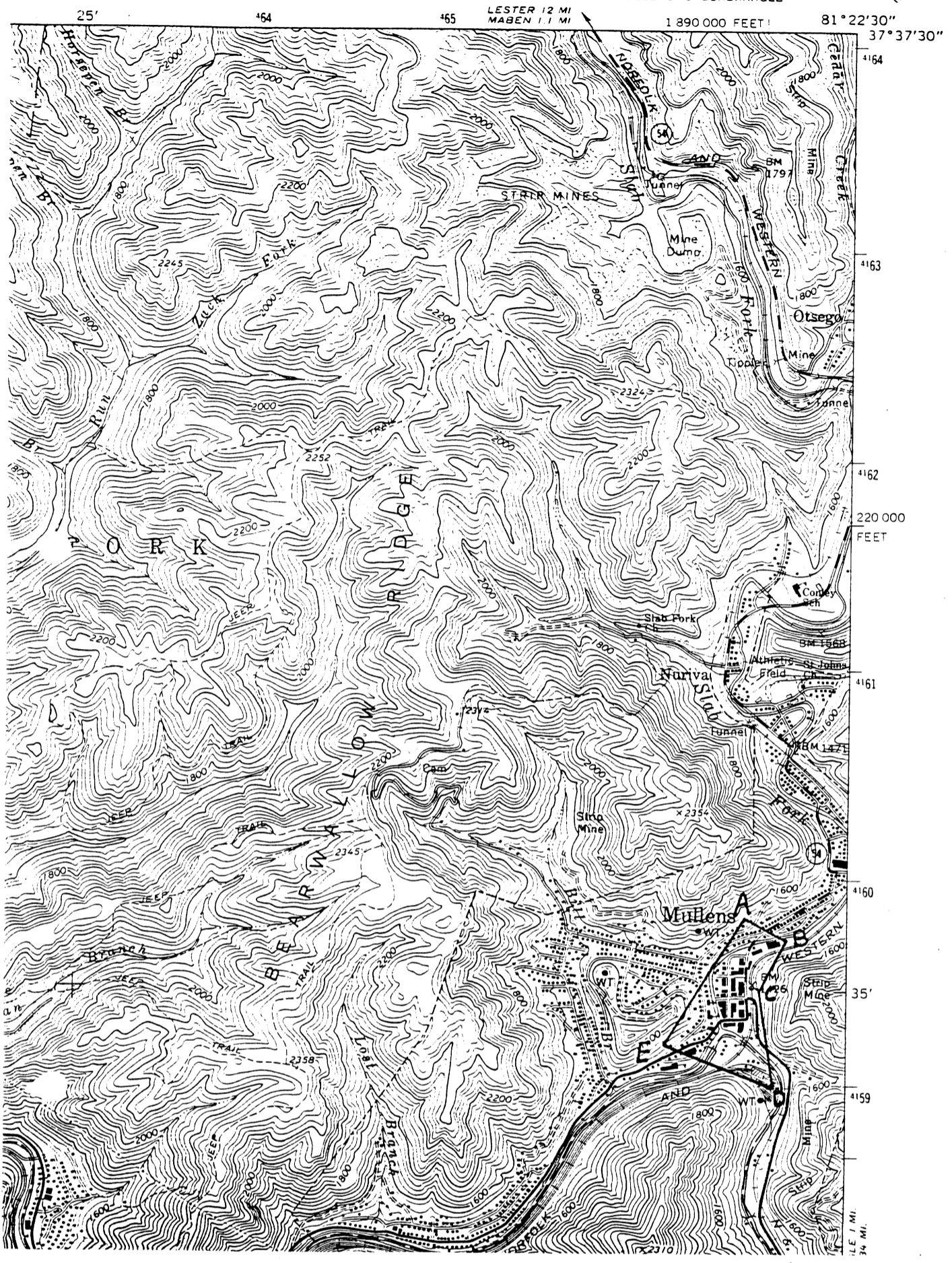
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

- CONTRIBUTING
- NONCONTRIBUTING

MAP 1

MULLENS QUADRANGLE
WEST VIRGINIA - WYOMING CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
SW/4 MULLENS 15' QUADRANGLE

479 III NE
(LESTER)





BECKLEY
VILLE →
TH SOUTH
16
→

MOTEL
WYOMING

WYOMING MOTEL

SOROWN
WEST VIRGINIA











PEPSI
BUD & HEERY'S GRILL

STONER

Coca-Cola
SPORTSMAN
FOR HAPPY DRINKING

WALK

2

CITY OF
SPORTSMAN

