

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property NELLIS HISTORIC DISTRICT

historic name: Town of Nellis
other name/site number:

2. Location

street & number: Off County Route 1 not for publication: N/A
city/town: Nellis vicinity: N/A
state: WV county: Boone code: 005 zip code: 25142

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 statewide x locally.

Susan M. Pierce
Signature of Certifying Official

2/10/2000
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/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau Date

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4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:	Signature of Keeper	Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other (explain): _____	_____	_____

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	
82	53	buildings
		sites
3		structures
1		objects
86	53	TOTAL

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling
COMMERCE: Business
INDUSTRIAL/EXTRACTION: Coal
RECREATION/CULTURE: Theatre & Hall
RELIGIOUS: Church
SOCIAL: Clubhouse
GOVERNMENT: Post Office
EDUCATION: School

Current Functions

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling
COMMERCE: Business
GOVERNMENT: Post Office
EDUCATION: School

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

VERNACULAR: Coal Company
Housing & Commercial

Materials

Foundation Concrete Block
Walls Wood, Brick
Roof Metal
Other Aluminum, Vinyl

Narrative Description

(See continuation on 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.

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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

Industry

Community Planning & Development

Period of Significance

1920-1955

Significant Dates

1920, 1943, 1955

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Minter Homes Corporation

Narrative Statement of Significance

(See continuation sheets.)

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The town of Nellis is located in northern Boone County, off of County Route 1. The town is flat near the railroad tracks that run along CR 1, and then rises in a series of terraces up to the level of the superintendent houses.

An access road goes off to the NW, which passed the mine opening to reach Bricktown. To reach John's Hollow, which was the former black section of town, one continued east on CR1 and then turned off to the north. The land between was hilly, and one section of town was not visible from another.

Although there are other houses similar to Nellis in close proximity, these are the houses identified on the historic maps as being part of the complex. Numbering the properties was difficult since no formal house numbers were given, other than those relating to the historic map of 1941. The following descriptions have a number that relates to the survey, followed by a old map number (A or D) or a current house number. The number in the parenthesis is the lot number, i.e., (17F-4) which can also be referenced on the tax map.

Since the town was sold in 1955, many of the company houses have been altered by individual owners. Those properties identified as contributing in the nomination, still have the original plan of the company house. In some cases trailers (22) have replaced the company houses, or outbuildings (13) have been added to the property. Only those outbuildings which were estimated to be in the historic time period have been counted as contributing.

1. (17G-2), church, Nellis Church/Nellis Archives
date: 1926

description: 1 story, 2 bay with stucco covered siding, asphalt shingle gable roof having exposed timbers and decorative eave trim. Corner square tower with Tudor arch doorway and recessed double doors, lancet openings in upper tower. Three part stained glass window covered with plywood. Rear gable extension.
1 contributing building

2. (17G-1), school Nellis Elementary School
date: 1980

description: 1 story, multiple bays with concrete block siding, concrete block foundation, flat roof. Elongated building with 1/1 double-hung sash vertical windows. Entrance to school with glass double door, transom and sidelights. Rear brick wing for auditorium with double metal doors. Recently built to replace original school.
1 noncontributing building

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3. (17G), WPA stone wall
date: c. 1935

description: Cut block rough sandstone wall built by the WPA as part of the C&O Railroad line. Approximately six feet in height and one-hundred yards in length. Cap stone extends out and tapers at both ends. The wall runs along the RR tracks, below the school. A second wall runs along the tracks, below the first tier of houses. A third wall runs below the superintendent homes.
3 contributing structures

4. (17G-24), industrial Coal Company Storage Building
date: c. 1945

description: 1 story, 1 bay with concrete block siding and a corrugated metal gable roof. Wide bays on each side. Small barred openings at gable end. Located along the railroad tracks.
1 contributing building

5. (17G-24), industrial Garages
date: c. 1930

description: 1 story, 5 bays with corrugated metal siding and metal shed roof. 5 double doors with knee bracing, awning overhang. Located behind the coal company store.
1 contributing building

6. (17G-25), commercial, Nellis Coal Company Store and Offices
date: 1922

description: 1 story, 5 bays with brick siding, standing seam metal center gable roof. Center storefront with small stores to each side, openings altered, pressed glass block transom, some decorative brick in parapet end. Side new entrance to store with small window openings, rear with 12/1 double-hung sash windows.
1 contributing building

7. (17G-26), church, Nellis Wesleyan Church
date: c. 1960

description: 1 story, multiple bays with concrete block siding, asphalt shingle gable roof. L-shape with corner red brick entrance having wooden base for small steeple. Four metal horizontal windows, others are colored glass. End of building angled for altar area.
1 noncontributing building

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8. (17G-26), Community Bulletin Board
date: c. 1921

description: Two wire brick, tan pillars with concrete base. Rectangular space for missing plaques.
1 contributing object

9. (17G-23), residential
date: c. 1990

description: trailer
1 noncontributing building

9A. (17G-22), residential
date: c. 1990

description: trailer
1 noncontributing building

10. 87 (17G-21), residential
date: c. 1925

description: 1 story, 3 bays with vinyl siding, brick foundation, standing seam metal roof with side gables. Center shed porch enclosed with sliding windows. Large picture window with side windows. Rear car port.
1 contributing building

11. 86 (17G-20), residential
date: c. 1925

description: 1 story, 2 bays with vinyl siding, skirt covered foundation, asphalt roof with side gables. New center gable portico with metal columns, new center glass sliding door. New windows are 6/6 double-hung sash. Rear wing addition.
1 noncontributing building

12. 94 (17G-19), residential
date: c. 1925

Description: 1 story, 4 bays with vinyl siding, concrete foundation, standing seam metal gable roof. Rectangular plan with flat roof porch, new door, sliding window, and picture window. Other new windows are 1/1 double-hung sash. Metal home built as an experiment by ARMCO.
1 contributing building

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13. 24 (17G-18), residential

date: c. 1925

description: 1 story, 2 bays with vinyl siding, brick foundation, side gable asphalt shingle roof. Center shed porch is enclosed with 1/1 double-hung sash windows and window to side.

Garage: 1 story with wood siding, corrugated metal roof and gable. NC

Shed: 1 story with wood siding, brick piers, and asphalt gable roof. 2/2 double-hung sash window. C

2 contributing buildings

1 noncontributing building

14. 25 (17G-32), residential

date: c. 1925

description: 1 story, 3 bays with vinyl siding, brick foundation, standing seam metal side gable roof. Center shed porch with wood supports and door. Shed extension to side.

1 contributing building

15. 27 (17F-31), residential

date: c. 1925

description: House has been damaged by fire, only the partial frame and brick foundation are present.

1 noncontributing building (due to fire)

16. 23 (17G-27), residential

date: c. 1925

description: 1 story, 3 bays with weatherboard siding, brick foundation, side gable standing seam metal roof. Center shed porch with wood posts. Center door with side picture window having side transoms. Other windows are 1/1 double-hung sash. Rear wing.

1 contributing building

17. 22 (17G-28), residential

date: c. 1925

description: 1 story, 3 bays with aluminum siding, brick foundation, side gable asphalt shingle roof. Center shed porch with center door and picture window. Other new windows are sliding. Permastone under porch.

1 contributing building

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18. 21 (17G-29), residential
date: c. 1925/1990

description: 1-2 story, 5 bays with vinyl siding, brick and concrete block foundation, standing seam metal gable roof. Center of house is original with center door and side windows. House altered with side wings, one is two story. Center porch has new metal posts and rail.
1 noncontributing building

19. 20 (17G-30), residential
date: c. 1925

description: 1 story, 3 bays with weatherboard siding, brick foundation, standing seam metal side gable roof. Center shed porch with wooden posts and railing with a pressed metal skirt. Original door with glass pane, 6/1 double-hung sash window with casement window to side. Elongated stairs to porch.
1 contributing building

20. 19 (17G-31), residential
date: c. 1925

description: 1 ½ story, 3 bays with aluminum siding, brick foundation with lower level, side gable standing seam metal roof. Center shed porch with wood posts, closed rail, metal awnings. Center door, 1/1 double-hung sash window, and picture window with side casements. Brick piers support porch. Rear shed entrance.
1 contributing building

21. 18 (17G-32), residential
date: c. 1925

description: 1 ½ stories, 3 bays with aluminum siding, brick foundation and lower level with horizontal windows, side gable standing seam metal roof. Center shed porch with wood posts, closed rail and stucco below. Center door with side 1/1 double-hung sash window, picture window with side casement. Gable roof.
1 contributing building

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22. 17 (17G-33), residential
date: c. 1925

description: 1 ½ stories, 3 bays with vinyl siding, brick foundation, side gable standing seam metal roof. Center shed porch with metal awnings, wood posts, pressed metal skirt. Center door with 1/1 double-hung sash windows to each side. One side window is 6/1 double-hung sash. Rear shed door addition with concrete block foundation.

1 contributing building

22A. (17G-34), residential
date: c. 1985

description: trailer

1 noncontributing building

23. 15 (17G-35), residential
date: c. 1925

description: 1 story, 3 bays with vinyl siding, brick and stucco foundation, side gable asphalt shingle roof. Shed extension across front enclosing original porch with new portico having metal awning. New vinyl windows. Shed extension across back.

1 contributing building

24. 37 (17G-11), residential
date: c. 1925

description: 1 ½ stories, 3 bays with vinyl siding, brick foundation, standing seam metal side gable roof. Elevated first floor and center porch with large round posts. Center door with side 6/6 double-hung sash windows. Lower level with side entrance.

1 contributing building

25. 36 (17G-12), residential
date: c. 1925

description: 1 ½ stories, 1 bay with aluminum siding, brick foundation, standing seam metal side gable roof. Elevated first floor with single entrance moved to lower level having new door. Bay windows. Two story porch columns support shed roof.

1 noncontributing building

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26. 35 (17G-13), residential
date: c. 1925

description: 1 story, 4 bays with aluminum siding, brick foundation, side gable standing seam metal roof. Side wing on concrete block foundation. Center porch with shed roof, wood posts and wood balustrade. Brick piers. Center door with new 6/1 double-hung sash windows. Shed addition to left side with door and window.

1 contributing building

27. 34 (17G-14), residential
date: c. 1925

description: 1 story, 3 bays with asbestos shingle siding, brick foundation, asphalt shingle side gable roof. Portico with metal awning, rails and supports. Paired windows, side picture window with casements.

1 contributing building

28. 33 (17G-15), residential
date: c. 1925

description: 1 story, 3 bays with vinyl siding, brick foundation, asphalt shingle side gable roof. Center porch with new deck and brick posts. Center door with new windows to side. Rear wing.

1 contributing building

29. 32 (17G-16), residential
date: c. 1925

description: 1 story, 3 bays with clapboard siding, brick foundation, standing seam metal side gable roof. Center porch with wood posts and lattice rail, brick piers. Center door with 1/1 double-hung sash windows with casements. Lower level cellar door. Rear side shed addition with aluminum siding.

1 contributing building

30. 31 (17G-17), residential
date: c. 1925

description: 1 story, 3 bays with vinyl siding, brick foundation, asphalt shingle side gable roof. Center shed porch with new posts and rail, concrete block foundation. Centered door with new vinyl windows. Rear shed addition across back.

1 contributing building

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31. 30 (17G-7), residential
date: c. 1925

description: 1 ½ stories, 3 bays with insul-brick siding, brick foundation, side gable roof. Center shed porch with wood posts and lattice rail. Center door with single windows to side. Gable roof with wooden eaves and rafter ends.

1 contributing building

31A. (17G-8), residential
date: c. 1990

description: trailer

1 noncontributing building

32. 29 (17G-6), residential
date: c. 1925

description: 1 story, 3 bays with brick siding and foundation. Side gable, standing seam metal roof. Center door with shed porch with metal posts. Windows are 1/1 double-hung sash.

1 contributing building

32A. (17G-5), residential
date: c. 1985

description: trailer

1 noncontributing building

33. (17G-4), residential
date: c. 1985

description: New residence having 2 stories, 3 bays with vinyl siding and side gable roof. Elevated first floor with two garage bays on lower level. Deck on first floor with door, paired and two single windows. 1 noncontributing building

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34. 89 (17G-4), residential Superintendent's House
date: c. 1925

description: 1 ½ stories, 4 bays with vinyl siding, brick foundation, asphalt shingle hip and gable roof. Front gable end with recessed arched porch, door on front with round arch overhang. New vinyl 1/1 double-hung sash windows. Gable front dormer. Side hip dormer, part gable and hip roof. Windows with shutters.

Garage: 1 story with T-111 siding, concrete block foundation, gable asphalt roof. NC
1 contributing building
1 noncontributing building

35. 90 (17G-3), residential, Clubhouse
date: c. 1925

description: 2 story, 4 bays with brick and stucco siding, brick foundation, side gable asphalt shingle roof. Center brick section with paired windows on first floor and single windows on second floor. Twin porches on side with brick piers. Stucco on second floor above porches. Gable roof has wooden eaves and rafter ends.

1 contributing building

36. 91 (17G-2), residential Assistant Superintendents House
date: c. 1925

description: 1 ½ stories, 4 bays with vinyl siding, brick foundation, asphalt shingle hip and gable roof. Front gable end with round arch door and side porch, picture window with side casements, paired windows above with octagonal vent in peak. Side hip section with paired windows. All new windows. Side hip dormer.

1 contributing building

37. 92 (17G-1), residential
date: c. 1925

description: 2 stories, 4 bays with vinyl siding, brick foundation, asphalt shingle hip roof. Front gable end with jerkin, recessed porch to left with small post. Door to left is flush, center paired window on both floors and on hip section.

1 contributing building

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37A. (17F-33), residential
date: c. 1985
description: trailer
1 noncontributing building

37B. (17F-33), residential
date: c. 1985
description: trailer
1 noncontributing building

38. 63 (17F-11), residential
date: c. 1925
description: 1 story, 3 bays with clapboard siding, brick foundation, standing seam metal side gable roof. Center shed porch with two extensions, center door and 6/6 double-hung sash windows.
1 contributing building

39. 64 (17F-12), residential
date: c. 1925
description: 1 story, 3 bays with vinyl siding, brick foundation, standing seam metal side gable roof. Center porch with metal screen. Center door with new windows. Gable roof with rear shed extension. Pressed metal skirt on porch.
1 contributing building

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Bricktown

40. D 39 (17E-10), residential
date: c. 1925

description: 1 story, 3 bays with brick siding and foundation. Double gable end roof with standing seam metal. Enclosed porch with door and double window, paired window to side, 1/1 double-hung sash window. Side chimney. Side square wing with aluminum siding, shed roof, brick piers.
1 contributing building

41. D 37 (17E-9), residential
date: c. 1925

description: 1 story, 2 bays with brick siding, brick foundation, seamed metal gable roof. Original porch enclosed. New porch recessed with metal columns. Front of house with T-111 siding and new multi light picture windows. Side brick chimney.
Garage: 1 story, 1 bay with vinyl siding, rolled asphalt gable roof. NC
1 contributing building
1 noncontributing building

42. D 35 (17E-8), residential
date: c. 1925

description: 1 story, 3 bays with brick and vinyl siding, brick foundation, standing seam metal roof with front gable. Original porch enclosed. New porch recessed with metal wood posts and concrete block piers. Front covered with vinyl siding, door projects out with side picture window. Paired window to side. Wooden eaves with rafter ends. Small windows beside fire place. One story addition with drop siding and shed roof.
1 contributing building

43. D 31 (17E-6), residential
date: c. 1925

description: 1 story, 3 bays with vinyl siding and seamed metal, front gable roof. Original porch enclosed. New porch recessed under single gable with new windows and door. Shed roof wing with horizontal windows.
1 contributing building

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44. D 29 (17E-5), residential

date: c. 1925

description: 1 story, 2 bays with vinyl siding and seamed metal front gable roof. Original porch enclosed. New porch recessed with paired windows, side door and angled bay window. One story narrow shed wing with pressed metal skirt. Garage attached to house is noncontributing element, with 1 story, 1 bay with plywood sides.

1 contributing building

45. D 27 (17E-4), residential

date: c. 1925

description: 1 story, 2 bays with vinyl siding, brick foundation, seamed metal front double gable end roof. Shed porch having sliding glass door. Paired 1/1 double-hung sash window to side. One story shed wing with additional screen porch.

1 contributing building

45A D 25 (17E-3), residential

date: c. 1985

description: trailer

1 noncontributing building

46. D 23 (17E-2), residential

date: c. 1925

description: 1 story, 3 bays with brick siding and foundation. Roof is seamed metal with double gable end. Recessed porch, concrete block foundation with wood posts. Center new door with window changes with new 1/1 double-hung sash and brick sill. Stucco in gable ends. Side one story wing with shed roof and plywood sides.

1 contributing building

47. D 21 (17E-1), residential

date: c. 1925

description: 1 story, 3 bays with brick siding and foundation. Seamed metal roof. Double-gable end with porch and wood posts and rail. Brick piers. Center door with new 6/6 double-hung sash window to side and picture window to right. Stucco in gable ends. Side brick chimney. One story shed wing with aluminum siding.

1 contributing building

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47A. (17E-16), residential
date: c. 1985
description: trailer
1 noncontributing building

48. D 22 (17E-15), residential
date: c. 1925
description: 1 story, 3 bays with aluminum siding, concrete block foundation, seamed metal gable roof. New recessed porch to front left with wood posts and open wood rail. Two 6/6 double-hung sash windows and door. To right is picture window with side multi-light windows. Brick chimney to right side of house. Right rear of house is shed extension. To left rear of house is gable extension with 6/6 double-hung sash windows.
1 contributing building

49. D 26 (17E-13), residential
date: c. 1925
description: 1 story, 4 bays with brick and stucco siding, brick foundation, standing seam metal roof. Double gable front end with partially recessed porch. Rectangular vent in house gable. To left of porch is new window with 6/6 double-hung sash window and filled in with wood. Side of house with brick chimney. Right rear shed extension with fixed windows.
1 contributing building

50. D 30 (17E-11), residential
date: c. 1925
description: 1 story, 3 bays with brick siding and foundation. Seamed metal roof. Double gable end with partially recessed porch, brick posts and piers. Closed rail with dropped siding. Vertical wood in gable, square vent in peak. Pair of windows to left of porch, 6/1 double-hung sash. Two pairs and two single 1/1 windows on side. Door on porch with 6/1 double-hung sash window. Brick chimney to right of house. Right side shed extension with fixed windows.
1 contributing building

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51. D 2 (16A-1), residential
date: c. 1925

description: 1 story, 2 bays with brick siding, brick foundation, standing seam metal roof. Double gable end with enclosed porch having picture window. New side porch and entrance. Paired window to left with 1/1 double-hung sash windows. Stucco in gable end.

1 contributing building

52. D 4 (16A-4), residential
date: c. 1925

description: 1 story, 3 bays with brick siding, brick foundation, standing seam metal roof. Double gable end with open porch having brick piers. Center door with 1/1 double-hung sash windows, paired to left. Stucco in gable ends.

1 contributing building

53. D 6 (16A-3), residential
date: c. 1925

description: 1 story, 3 bays with brick siding, brick foundation, standing seam metal roof. Double gable end with porch enclosed with screen, brick piers. Center door, picture window to side with metal awnings. Stucco in gable ends. Car port: open bay with metal gable roof, wood posts is noncontributing element.

1 contributing building

54. D 8 (16A-4), residential
date: c. 1925

description: 1 story, 3 bays with aluminum siding, brick foundation, standing seam metal roof. Double gable end with enclosed porch having picture window. New side door and paired windows to left. Stucco in gable ends. New flat roof porch. Pressed metal skirt.

1 contributing building

55. D 10 (16A-5), residential
date: c. 1925

description: 1 story, 3 bays with brick siding, brick foundation, standing seam metal roof. Double gable end with open porch with wood posts and lattice rail. Center door with side window and paired to left, all are 1/1 double-hung sash. Stucco in gable end.

1 contributing building

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56. D 12 (16A-6), residential

date: c. 1925

description: 1 ½ stories, multi bays with brick and vinyl siding, brick foundation, asphalt shingle gable roof. Center part is original with gable end porch with brick piers, paired windows to left and shingle to right, all 1/1 double-hung sash. Gable roof extends to new second story on left over lower level garage. Rear one story gable wing with vinyl siding.

1 noncontributing building

57. D 14 (16A-7), residential

date: c. 1925

description: 1 story, 3 bays with brick siding, brick foundation, standing seam metal roof. Double gable end with porch and brick piers. Center door with new 1/1 double-hung sash windows. Stucco in gable ends. Side brick chimney. Windows have brick lintels and sills. Rear one story wing with insul-brick covering.

1 contributing building

58. D 18 (16A-9), residential

date: c. 1925

description: 1 story, 3 bays with brick siding, brick foundation, seamed metal roof. Double gable end with enclosed porch with 3 vertical/1 double-hung sash windows. Side brick chimney. Paired windows to left with brick lintel and sill. Stucco in gable ends. One story, shed wing with clapboard siding.

1 contributing building

59. D 20 (16A-10), residential

date: c. 1925

description: 1 story, 5 bays with brick siding, brick foundation, standing seam metal roof. Double gable end with enclosed porch with clapboard siding and 2/2 double-hung sash windows. Other windows are paired 6/1 double-hung sash. Stucco in gable ends. New porch to right side.

1 contributing building

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60. D 19 (16A-12), residential
date: c. 1925

description: 1 story, 4 bays with brick and stucco siding, brick foundation, standing seam metal gable roof. Double gable end with enclosed porch with door and 6/6 double-hung sash window. Side windows are 1/1 double-hung sash. Front wood porch deck on post piers. Side brick chimney. Rafts show. Left side rear shed extension.

1 noncontributing building

61. D 17 (16A-13), residential
date: c. 1925

description: 1 story, 3 bays with brick and weatherboard siding, brick foundation, standing seam metal roof. Double gable front end with partially recessed porch. To front porch has brick posts and wood open rail, door and 1/1 double-hung sash windows. To right is pair of 6/1 double-hung sash windows. Side windows are 3 vertical panes with upper lights over 1. Side brick chimney and rear chimney. Left rear shed extension with fixed window.

1 contributing building

62. D 15 (16A-14), residential
date: c. 1925

description: 1 story, 3 bays with brick siding, brick foundation, standing seam metal roof. Double gable front end with partially recessed porch iwth door and 1/1 double-hung sash window. To side is pair of 1/1 double-hung sash window. Vent in peak. Rafter ends showing under eaves. Left rear shed extension with drop siding.

1 contributing building

63. D 13 (16A-15), residential
date: c. 1925

description: 1 story, 3 bays with brick siding, brick foundation, standing seam metal and asphalt shingle roof. Double gable end with new shed roof porch to right of original. Original gable porch enclosed with plywood and new 4/4 double-hung sash windows. Vent in main gable peak. Rafts under eaves show. Brick chimney on side of house. Shed roof car port on right of house. Rear gable extension with asphalt siding.

1 noncontributing building

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64. D 11 (16A-16), residential
date: c. 1925

description: 1 story, 2 bays with aluminum siding, brick foundation, standing seam metal roof. Double gable end with enclosed porch with metal skirt and brick piers. To left is new porch. Vent in main gable peak. 1/1 double-hung sash windows. Rafts under eaves show. Brick chimney. Left rear shed extension.

1 noncontributing building

65. D 9 (16A-17), residential
date: c. 1925

description: 1 story, 3 bays with brick siding, brick foundation, standing seam metal roof. Double gable end with vent in peak. Partially recessed porch with door and 1/1 double-hung sash window. To right is pair of 1/1 double-hung sash windows. Porch has closed rail with clapboard siding and brick posts.

Garage: 1 story, 1 bay with wood siding, concrete block foundation, gable asphalt roof. Windows are 1/1 double-hung sash. NC

1 contributing building

1 noncontributing building

66. D 7 (16A-18), residential
date: c. 1925

description: 1 story, 2 bays with vinyl siding, Recessed porch with metal columns. brick and concrete block foundation, standing seam metal roof. Double gable front with new shed porch with wood posts to right of original porch, now enclosed, bay window. Picture window to right side of house. Octagonal vent in main gable peak.

Shed: 1 story, 1 bay with aluminum siding and rolled asphalt roof. NC

Shed: 1 story, 1 bay with T-111 siding and rolled asphalt roof. NC

1 contributing building

2 noncontributing buildings

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67. D 5 (16A-19), residential
date: c. 1925

description: 1 story, 2 bays with brick siding, brick foundation, standing seam metal roof. Double gable end front with original porch enclosed, on brick piers, pair of fixed windows, with T-111 siding. To right is shed roof porch with wood posts and rail and pair of 6/1 double-hung sash windows. Side chimney.

Garage: 1 story, 1 bay with vinyl siding, concrete foundation, gable roof, swing open doors. NC
1 contributing building
1 noncontributing building

68. D 3 (16A-20), residential
date: c. 1925

description: 1 story, 2 bays with aluminum siding, brick foundation, standing seam metal roof. Double gable front end with original porch enclosed, picture window and side lights with shutters. To right is shed porch with wood posts and rail. To right rear is shed extension. Left rear is gable extension with rolled asphalt roof.

1 contributing building

69. D 1 (16A-21.1), residential
date: c. 1925

description: 1 story, 3 bays with brick siding, brick foundation, standing seam metal roof. Double gable end with open porch with brick piers and wood rail. Center door with side 6/1 window and large sliding window to right with brick lintel and sill. Stucco in gable ends, wood eaves with rafter ends.

Garage: 1 story, concrete block, seamed metal gable roof. NC
1 contributing building
1 noncontributing building

69A. (16A-21), residential
date: c. 1985

description: trailer

1 noncontributing building

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70. (17E-16), residential
date: c. 1925

description: 1 story, 4 bays with weatherboard siding, concrete foundation, rolled asphalt side gable roof. L-shape house, door with diamond lights, to left is picture window with side casements. Other windows are sliding. On north side of house is shed porch with wooden posts and rail. Ell has sliding door and 8/12 double-hung sash window.

Shed: 1 story with wooden vertical boards.

1 contributing building

1 noncontributing building

71. 49 (17F-3), residential
date: c. 1925

description: 1 story, 3 bays with T1-11 siding, concrete block piers, asphalt shingle side gable roof. Center door, no porch or front steps, sliding window and picture window with side casements. Side gables. Side extension with shed porch. Plywood skirt around house.

1 noncontributing building

71A. (17F-5), residential
date: c. 1980

description: trailer

1 noncontributing building

72. 50 (17F-4A), residential
date: c. 1925

description: 1 story, 3 bays with aluminum siding, brick foundation, seamed metal side gable roof. Center door with shed porch and wooden skirt. Windows are 1/1 double-hung sash. Rear shed addition on concrete block foundation.

1 contributing building

73. 52 (17F-4B), residential
date: c. 1925

description: 1 story, 3 bays with vinyl and aluminum siding, brick foundation, standing seam metal side gable roof. Center shed porch with lattice rail and wood posts. Center door, picture window with side casements. Side windows are 1/1 double-hung sash.

1 contributing building

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74A. (16B-5), residential
date: c. 1985
description: double wide trailer
1 noncontributing building

74B. (16B-10), residential
date: c. 1985
description: trailer
1 noncontributing building

74. (16B-10), residential
date: c. 1980
description: 1 story, multi-bay modular home with vinyl siding, concrete foundation, asphalt shingle side gable roof. Recessed porch to front right with vinyl columns. Two doors, windows are 6/6 double-hung sash with shutters. Sliding windows to left of porch.
1 noncontributing building

74C. (16B-11), residential
date: c. 1985
description: trailer
1 noncontributing building

75. 53 (17F-5.1), residential
date: c. 1925
description: 1 story, 3 bays with concrete block and wood siding, brick foundation, standing seam metal side gable roof. Full shed porch with open wood rail, square posts, and turned posts. Vinyl windows are 6/6 double-hung sash. Center door.
Shed: 1 story, 1 bay with board and batten siding, concrete block piers, rolled asphalt shed roof.
NC
1 contributing building
1 noncontributing building

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76. 54 (16B-12), residential

date: c. 1925

description: 1 story, 3 bays with T-111 siding, brick foundation, standing seam metal side gable roof. Shed porch to front left with open rail and wood posts and door. Windows are 1/1 double-hung sash.

1 contributing building

76A. (16B-13), residential

date: c. 1985

description: double wide trailer

1 noncontributing building

77. 56 (16B-14), residential

date: c. 1925

description: 1 story, 3 bays with T-111 siding, stucco covered brick foundation, asphalt shingle gable roof. Rear gable extension. Center door. New windows are 6/6 double-hung sash and 12/12 double-hung sash.

1 contributing building

77A. (17F-8), residential

date: c. 1985

description: trailer

1 noncontributing building

78. 57 (16B-15), residential

date: c. 1925

description: 1 story, 3 bays with prime siding, brick foundation, standing seam metal side gable roof. Shed porch to front right with rolled asphalt roof. Wood deck with lattice rail and wood posts. Windows are 1/1 double-hung sash.

1 contributing building

79. 58 (16B-17), residential

date: c. 1925

description: 1 story, 3 bays with dropped siding, brick foundation, standing seam metal side gable roof. Windows are 1/1 double-hung sash, others are fixed windows. Door on side of house.

1 contributing building

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80. 71 (16B-19), residential

date: c. 1925

description: 1 story, 3 bays with aluminum siding, brick foundation, standing seam metal side gable roof. Rear of house with shed roof porch. Windows are 1/1 double-hung sash.

1 contributing building

81. 70 (16B-20), residential

date: c. 1925

description: 1 story, 3 bays with clapboard siding, brick foundation, standing seam metal side gable roof. Rear of house with center door and 6/6 double-hung sash windows.

1 contributing building

82A. (16B-7), residential

date: c. 1985

description: trailer

1 noncontributing building

82. (17F-8), industrial Mine Laboratory

date: c. 1921

description: 1 story, 2 bays with brick siding, concrete pad foundation, corrugated metal shed roof. Small square building with door and sliding windows with stone sill. Stone coping. Rear door and side sliding window.

1 contributing building

83A. (17F-23), residential

date: c. 1985

description: trailer

Garage: 1 story, 1 bay with plywood siding and gable asphalt roof.

2 noncontributing buildings

83. 38 (17F-17), residential

date: c. 1925

description: 1 story, 3 bays with concrete block, vinyl, and insul-brick siding, brick foundation, rolled asphalt gable roof. New vinyl 6/6 double-hung sash windows, center door, missing porch..

1 noncontributing building

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84. 40 (17F-18), residential
date: c. 1925

description: 1 story with vinyl siding, brick foundation, standing seam metal gable roof. L-shape with shed roof porch partially enclosed with door. Wood deck in front. Windows are 1/1 double-hung sash. 1 noncontributing building

85. 42 (17F-20), residential
date: c. 1925

description: 1 story with clapboard siding, brick foundation, seamed metal and asphalt shingle gable roof. Front gable end porch is enclosed. Metal awning over door. 1/1 double-hung sash windows. Rear shed porch.
1 noncontributing building

85A. (17F-20), residential
date: c. 1985

description: trailer
1 noncontributing building

86. 61 (17F-28), residential
date: c. 1925

description: 1 story with vinyl siding, brick foundation, standing seam metal gable roof. Front gable end with shed porch with wood post and lattice rail. Two brick chimneys on ridge. Side shed extension.

Garage: concrete block. NC
1 contributing building
1 noncontributing building

87. 62 (17F-27), residential
date: c. 1925

description: 1 story with aluminum siding, brick foundation, standing seam metal roof with side gables. Front shed enclosed porch. To left is shed roof over door. Two brick chimneys on ridge.
1 contributing building

[#s 88-93 - Part of survey, out of NR boundaries]

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John's Hollow

94. 10 (17F-52), residential

date: c. 1925

description: 1 story, 3 bays with aluminum siding, brick foundation, standing seam metal side gable roof. Front right shed porch with closed rail and tapered wood posts on concrete foundation. Center door, to right is picture window with side casements. All other windows are 1/1 double-hung sash. To right is shed roof car port.

1 contributing building

95. 9 (17F-51), residential

date: c. 1925

description: 1 story, 3 bays with prime siding, brick foundation, standing seam metal side gable roof. Center shed porch with metal rail and posts. Center door and door to left, multi light casement windows, to right is picture window with side casements. Brick chimney on ridge. Side gable extension with sliding door. Side shed car port.

Cottage: 1 story, prime siding, concrete block foundation, and standing seam metal, side gable roof. Windows are 1/1 double-hung sash.

2 contributing buildings

96. 8 (17F-50), residential

date: c. 1925

description: 1 story, 3 bays with prime siding, brick foundation, standing seam metal side gable roof. Front shed porch is partially enclosed. Porch has a door and pair of 1/1 double-hung sash windows. Brick chimney on ridge.

Car port: 1 story, open bay with asphalt shingle, gable roof on concrete block supports. NC

Cottage: 1 story, 2 bays with clapboard siding, concrete block pier foundation, and standing seam metal, side gable roof. Windows are 6/6 double-hung sash. NC

1 contributing building

2 noncontributing buildings

97. 7 (17F-49), residential

date: c. 1925

description: 1 story, 3 bays with clapboard siding, brick foundation, asphalt shingle side gable roof. New windows are 6/6 double-hung sash. Door to right front side. Side concrete block chimney.

Porch missing

1 noncontributing building

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98. 6 (17F-48), residential
date: c. 1925

description: 1 story, 3 bays with aluminum siding, brick foundation, standing seam metal side gable roof. Front center shed porch enclosed with clapboard siding, center door, and fixed windows. Brick chimney on ridge.

1 contributing building

99. A4 (17F-47), residential
date: c. 1925

description: 1 story, 3 bays with brick siding, brick foundation, standing seam metal roof. Double gable front end with partially recessed porch. Open rail, brick posts and pier. Door with window to left on porch. To right is pair of windows. All windows are 6/1 double-hung sash. Left side shed extension.

1 contributing building

100. A3 (17F-46), residential
date: c. 1925

description: 1 story, 3 bays with brick siding, brick foundation, standing seam metal roof. Double gable front end with partially recessed porch having open rail, brick posts and pier. Door and 6/1 double-hung sash windows. Left rear shed extension with plywood siding.

Garage: 1 story, 1 bay with shed roof, plywood siding. NC

1 contributing building

1 noncontributing building

101. 5 (17F-45), residential
date: c. 1925

description: 1 story, 3 bays with aluminum siding, brick foundation, standing seam metal side gable roof. Shed roof porch with metal rail and posts on concrete block pier foundation. Center door, 1/1 double-hung sash windows, sliding window. Rear shed extension.

1 contributing building

102. 4 (17F-44), residential
date: c. 1925

description: 1 story, 2 bays with aluminum siding, concrete block foundation, asphalt shingle side gable roof. Full shed porch with open rail and wood posts, partially enclosed. 1/1 double-hung sash windows with metal awnings. Right rear gable extension.

1 contributing building

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¹⁰³
~~98.~~ 6 (17F-48), residential
date: c. 1925

description: 1 story, 3 bays with aluminum siding, brick foundation, standing seam metal side gable roof. Front center shed porch enclosed with clapboard siding, center door, and fixed windows. Brick chimney on ridge.

1 contributing building

104. 2 (17F-42), residential
date: c. 1925

description: 1 story, 2 bays with aluminum siding, concrete block foundation, standing seam metal side gable roof. Front shed extension with recessed porch, closed rail and wood posts. Picture window with side casements. Other windows are 6/6 double-hung sash. Rear shed extension.

1 contributing building

105. A2 (17F-41), residential
date: c. 1925

description: 1 story, 3 bays with brick siding, brick foundation, standing seam metal roof. Double gable front end with partially recessed porch, closed rail, brick posts and pier. Door and window on porch. All windows are 6/1 double-hung sash. Side brick chimney.

1 contributing building

106. A1 (17F-40), residential
date: c. 1925

description: 1 story, 3 bays with brick siding, brick foundation, standing seam metal roof. Double gable end with open rail and brick posts and piers. Windows on front are 6/1 double-hung sash. Side windows are fixed. Left side shed roof porch toward rear. Side brick chimney.

1 contributing building

106A. Lot 17F-40, residential
date: c. 1985

description: trailer

1 noncontributing building

(NPS Form 10-900)

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107. A5 (17F-55), residential

date: c. 1925

description: 2 stories, 3 bays with brick siding, brick foundation, standing seam metal front gable roof. Front gable porch on upper floor with open wooden rail and stairs, brick posts and pier.

Windows are 6/1 double-hung sash.

1 contributing building

Summary:

The community of Nellis is representative of the higher level of coal towns in West Virginia, especially Boone County. Begun in 1920, it developed into what was termed a "model town," having a convenient layout, store, school, church and theatre. Elements of the different building styles used in the company buildings and houses is very evident.

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Statement of Significance:

The Nellis Historic District is eligible under Criteria A and Industry, for its association with the coal industry; and under Community Planning and Development. The period of significance begins in 1920 when the town was developed and extends until 1955 when the mine closed. Criteria Consideration G is being used since the period of significance is less than 50 years of age.

Industrial Development

The Nellis Coal Company began operations in 1917 under T. E. B. Siler and Matthew Slush who named the town after Frank Nellis, the editor of the Mount Clemens Independent Newspaper. The company constructed a wooden tippie, a two-story boarding house, six four-room dwellings, and three dwellings with three rooms. A branch of the C&O Railroad was laid to Nellis and Brush Creek to transport the coal.

On 16 June 1920 the land was purchased by the American Rolling Mills Company (ARMCO) from Siler and the Coal River Mining Company. ARMCO had depleted their reserves in Ohio and Pennsylvania and needed a new source of coal. Operations started 1 July 1920 and the first shipment of coal left the Nellis mine on the last day of 1920. ARMCO transferred employees from their mine at Marting, Ohio and Pennsylvania to Nellis.

The publication *ARMCO in Coal* had the following to say about the establishment of Nellis: "The policy of owning its own coal mines and coke ovens was authorized by the Columbus Iron & Steel Company in 1902. Since that time this policy has been persistently followed until in 1921 ARMCO had a total or part interest in four properties and a large by-product coke oven plant. The first step in this field by the Columbus Iron & Steel Company was the purchase of a fifty year lease to run from the first of January 1903 on the Marting Mine which is a 2,000 acre tract of No. 2 gas coal on Smithers Creek in Fayette County, WV." This history goes on to give a detailed description of the Marting Mine and then notes that in 1920 the upper seam of coal was worked out and they established a committee to develop a 50-year production plan for the company and instructed them to search for other coal reserves that could meet their needs.

The following entry in the ARMCO history then continues: "After much investigation the Nellis leasehold of 500 acres of proved coal land, and about 9,500 acres of undeveloped coal land (Fork Creek Tract) which their own drillings showed to be of great value, was purchased in the summer of 1920 from Messers T. E. B. Siler and Matthew Slush. When the property (all of the northern part of Boone County, WV) was taken over, there was at Nellis mine nine new dwellings and one boarding house."

The Minter Homes Corporation of Huntington was hired to construct many of the company owned homes and buildings. Nellis gradually became a model coal mine town. There was a need to

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bring men into the Nellis area to work since Boone County was sparsely populated. At that time mining operations imported its workers, many straight "off the boat" from other countries. ARMCO brought some of the miners to Nellis who had lost their jobs in other company run operations that had been closed. Modern housing and other conveniences served as an inducement for the miners to move to Nellis with their families. The town plan was designed for maximum efficiency for the benefit of the company.

In 1924, the company expanded when a steel tippie was completed. Additional tracks were built for coal car sidings, new machines and equipment were purchased. The tippie was located near the mouth of the mine. Also located here were the supply store, other operating buildings, the bath house and locker room. A small brick laboratory was built that sampled and analyzed the rich coal. This is one of the few remaining buildings reflecting the town's industrial heritage. Figures for the late 1920s show a gradual build-up in production: March 1926 - 28,637 tons; March 1927 - 31,913 tons; and May 1928 - 35,946 tons. A cleaning plant was built in 1930 at Stone Hollow that increased production. Noted in reports is that the Nellis mine production continued to increase every year and ARMCO officials from other mines came to study the operations.

Between 1922-1929, ARMCO built a brick power house, machine shop and railroad shop on Stone Branch near the No. 2 mine at a cost of approximately \$40,000. The rail line was extended from the main line of the Brush Creek Branch, which was owned by the C&O Company. The steel tippie was built in 1924. Improvements to the lighting and water systems were made and board walks were built in Bricktown.

On February 22, 1922, eighty-seven employees signed an agreement to work under the terms of the ARMCO Association, which became the bargaining agent for the purpose of promoting the general welfare of the workers. The company supported this effort one hundred percent with charter members being: J. C. Miller, manager of the Ashland Division; H.C. Jepson, General Superintendent of Mines; and S. R. Rectanus. All these men worked to get the organization started. One must remember that this was six months after the Battle of Blair Mountain. When the miners marched across Lens Creek on their way to Logan County, they were less than five miles from the Nellis operations. This was a concern to the company officials. According to the *ARMCO Bulletin* of April 1924, in 1922 they made "every possible concession to provide for better living and working conditions." Matthew Spencer became the first president of the organization.

The ARMCO Association began its active existence by asking for the reopening of the mines since the organization of the association took place when the mine was shut down. The reopening was to have a wage scale that would make the coal competitive. The mine reopened and the employees also won the right to improved living conditions. The employees were promised a club room to hold their meetings as well as a social center. The ARMCO Association building was built a year later to fulfill this promise..

The Association's constitution and by-laws provided for weekly benefits in the amount of \$6 per week for a period of 39 weeks for incapacitation either by injury or sickness - subject to regulatory

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conditions. Operating under a separate name was the Nellis Burial Association. Dues of one dollar were collected each month for the benefits. This covered the funeral expenses of any member or a member of his immediate family. The Burial Association took charge of the funeral and made all arrangements. Medical care cost each miner two dollars a month. With this, the company hired a doctor and nurse to serve the community. Dr. Owen Poling was hired as the resident physician.

In 1924, the first attempt of the UMWA to organize the mine failed. When the miners called a strike, ARMCO management called a meeting and told employees of the many benefits derived from being a member of the ARMCO Association, such as the low cost of living and all the benefits they had living in a "Model Coal Mining Community." They pointed out they had agreed to work cooperatively in the Association, and insisted there was no need for a union. ARMCO made it known according to the company bulletin, that unless the union was defeated they would close the mine and have the employees move. Many black workers and some of the foreign employees refused to work without a union and left the mine. The employees and management worked under the ARMCO Association until July 1933, when the Nellis miners voted to discard the ARMCO Association and accept the United Mine Workers of America as their bargaining agent.

Nothing specific has been written to explain why the miners were allowed to have the UMWA as their bargaining agent. By that time the company may not have had any choice since the union was successful. It was also a culmination of the poor economic times brought on by the Great Depression. Many Boone County mines were unionized at this time as was a great deal of the southern coal fields.

The explosion at the No. 3 Mine on 6 November 1943 was the worst coal mining disaster in the history of Boone County. Nine miners were killed immediately and two died several hours after they were rescued. The impact of the explosion was so severe the clothing was ripped from the bodies of the victims.

According to the Department of the Mines, the November 1943 explosion at the No. 3 Mine was the result of the failure of the mine foreman to adopt a definite program. A safety program would have assured the safety of the operation and its personnel as it followed procedures when breaking through into abandoned parts of the mine suspected of containing inflammable gas and water.

Ironically, had it not been for a recent strike, the casualties could have been much higher. The miners had walked off the job over a wage dispute but it had been resolved two days earlier. The night crew was preparing to work the first shift since production resumed. Forty men, all experienced veterans of the mines, made their way to the portal that evening. Normally there were about 260 miners working at the mine, but the full force had not returned at this point.

Nellis Coal Operations

The coal seam itself averaged 48 inches thick, all of which was mined. The roof was slate and according to state mine officials, was of "a very dangerous character." "Slips, horse backs and kettle

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bottoms are encountered frequently. The mine is worked on the room and pillar system. The rooms being driven to a depth of 300 feet and the pillars are left standing for support. Two hundred foot barrier pillars are left between the main entries and the first rooms."

The actual mining of the coal itself was done utilizing short wall machines and shot with explosives. Three loading machines were used to load the coal directly into the mine cars and four chain conveyors emptied onto a belt line, which in turn emptied into the mine cars. No coal was loaded in the mine by hand at this time. Roof support came from posts, half-headers and crossbars. All the electrical machinery was of the open type, except for the coal loading machines.

Community Development and Social History

On July 29, 1924, a special election was held and a bond for a road in the Peytona District was passed. The bond would provide \$25,000 to construct a new road into Nellis which is today's County Route 1. Before this road was constructed, the only way to reach the town was by horse, train or foot power. The contract provided for grading approximately 6 miles of roadway. In the years to follow the county road would connect to US 119, State Route 94 and State Route 3. The road was eventually treated with a coat of gravel in 1935.

In 1926 the population of Nellis was 900. There were 80 autos and 133 houses in the town, with 40 being brick and the remainder frame. There were two passenger trains a day leaving from a platform next to the coal company store's confectionary shop, one in the morning and the second in the evening. The coal trains ran night and day. For 10 cents, one could travel the few miles from Nellis to Ridgeview, or Nellis to Brushton.

The Coal Company Store replaced the old crossroads store and residents could buy almost anything they wanted, i.e., tires, tacks, groceries, clothing, hardware, and furniture. It was said if they "didn't have it in the store, they could get it for you." Purchases were paid for with ARMCO scrip. The post office was also located in the center of town, where it remains today. The five company offices were also located in this building on the right side, and about 20 people were employed. There was a butcher shop in connection with the store, with a modern sanitary counter, and two enormous refrigerators. The basement was also a stock room and had a refrigeration plant with the capacity to produce an average of 6600 pounds of ice every 36 hours.

Completed in 1923, the ARMCO Association Building also served as a community center where a variety of activities were held. It contained a large well furnished meeting room, which doubled as a place for social gatherings such as dances and club meetings. The building was the site of the meetings of the ARMCO Association, which was a mutual benefit organization of the miners primarily paying sick, and death benefits. First aid training classes were conducted here by the Safety Department.

The theater comprised the middle section of the Association's building. Movies were shown every night except Sundays. The theater seated around 300 people. The doctor's

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office was on the left side of this building as was the Union Hall. On either side of the theater was a confectionery shop and the barber shop. There was a pool room on the same side as the confectionery.

The downtown section of Nellis was laid out in the form of a semi-circle facing the railroad. A little park was in the center of town. The clubhouse was made of brick and was located on the second terrace facing the store. There were overnight guest rooms to accommodate up to 22 persons in dormitory style rooms. It was known for its big comfortable sitting room and huge fireplace. Residents were served breakfast, lunch and dinner with everyone dressing for dinner. Some called it the "Bachelor's Club."

There were several bridge clubs in the community and they played at the clubhouse on Tuesdays and Thursdays. There was a formal dance every Saturday, usually with a band from Charleston. The club room was 20 X 60 feet, and there was also a pool room about the same size.

Also located on the second terrace were the Store Manager's Residence, Cashier's Residence, and the Superintendent's House. The surrounding communities, as well as many Nellis residents, referred to this as where the "Big Wheels" lived. These houses are still standing and retain their original character.

Located on Brushton Hill (outside of the boundaries) were recreational facilities that included a 9-hole golf course, two tennis courts, a large picnic shelter, and shooting range. These facilities were primarily used by company officials, although on certain days of the year celebrations were held. This included the Labor Day and Safety Day activities when the town, and even surrounding towns, were invited to the golf course for the festivities. Nellis had two small parks in the center of town. One was located between the theater building and the store, and the other one in the triangle in front of these two buildings.

Baseball was very popular in the early coal mining days with Nellis having a team. Nearly every coal camp had its own baseball team or teams. Often the teams played inter-company games and tournaments, as well as teams from other companies/camps. The teams traveled by train to their games, which were held in the various coal camps. Some of these camps included teams from Maxine, Dartmont, St. Albans, Martin ARMCO, Ashland, Madison, Ramage, Seth, and Dorothy. The games were often attended by several hundred people. Famous early players included Windsor Eagan, Joe Harry and his son John, who played for the St. Louis Cardinals. According to Joe Tagliente's history: "Baseball put Nellis on the sports map. [Although] at first Nellis played rather bad[ly] since very few of the men had experience playing baseball."

There was a Mine Foreman's Club, which held their meetings in the clubhouse. Many dressed and dined as if they were in New York. The Masons were active at this time, as were the Boy Scouts. In March 1928 the *Safety Post*, the Nellis newspaper, debuted and continued for most of the period of significance. After the mine closed, the leaders of the Presbyterian Church (the former Nellis Community Church) decided to keep a community based source of news and

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began in the mid-1960s to publish what they called the B.A.R.N. which was an acronym for Brusthton, Ashford, Nellis and Ridgeview, the communities that are located in the valley where the Nellis mine was located.

Activities for the whole community included dances that drew people from surrounding towns. There was an entertainment committee and a First Aid Association that helped facilitate recreational events. This latter group was initially organized to help educate the miners in basic first aid training so they would know how to respond to an emergency situation inside the mine and to help with accident prevention. As it expanded to include wives and children, it did become somewhat of a social organization. The first president was J. M. Marty, mine superintendent, and the instructor was Dr. Owen Poling. The association operated under the direction of the Central Safety Committee. Two teams were formed and would later represent Nellis in contests with other coal camps. Everyone was made conscious of safety at Nellis. The entire family received safety training. Women and children also had first aid teams. This observation was made in the company bulletin in December 1927: "It has been but a short time since organized safety work has begun at Nellis. The results have been pleasing. In 1926, Nellis had 56 mine accidents and a frequency rate of 89.9. In 1927, although Nellis finished 19th in the annual safety contest, there were but 25 major accidents and a frequency rate of 34.5."

The first aid teams became very popular and competition among Nellis teams was stiff. The Nellis teams competed at the county, state, and national level. ARMCO supported these efforts, much like companies support their mine rescue teams of today. Of course, today the families of the mine rescue team members are not involved like they were in the early days of the Nellis coal camp.

Safety meetings were well attended by residents in the town, and were reportedly "very interesting." Speakers from all over addressed the meetings, ARMCO pep songs were sung, men were recognized for the best kept working stations, films were shown and all phases of safety dealt with.

The first Annual Safety Day and Picnic was held on August 1927. This was a highlight of the year for the residents. Five first aid teams competed within the company itself and with other first aid teams. The mines shut down on this day, which was usually held near Labor Day. The activities grew and changed somewhat as time went on with hay rides, riding on fire engines, pie eating contests, beauty contest, and clowns. One contest had the men competing at pinning diapers on babies. Also held throughout the year were benefit suppers and holiday bazaars.

The First Aid Association was charged with accident prevention. All employees were required to take training. A small brick building was constructed near the drift mouth and labeled a First Aid Hospital. In 1927 a company nurse was hired. Ida Bell Adams was the first nurse and was affectionately known as Nurse Adams. She divided her time between the doctor's office and the first aid hospital performing basic first aid on cuts, scrapes, etc. The doctor's office was located in his residence which is the steel home located near the ball field. As time went on, he was given a regular office in one of the company buildings located on Main Street.

Nellis had its own water system, which consisted of two deep wells, pumps, cypress storage

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tanks and water hydrants. The initial cost was \$17,000. After the mine closed, the citizens of Nellis formed a private corporation to manage the Nellis Water Works. Citizens agreed to pay \$5 a month to have public water and sewage disposal. Elmer McClure managed the water works and was paid for his services from the monthly fee charged to the citizens. This continued until the early 1980s when the Coal River Public Service installed a new water line into the Nellis area. Telephone service was provided by the purchase of one-fourth interest in a line owned by the Brush Creek Coal Co., or the Bradley and Easley Coal Company.

Education

Nellis' early school was simply two dwellings constructed without partitions that were used as classrooms for the children. The local grade school was built by ARMCO in the spring of 1924. It was donated to the Boone County Board of Education when the mine closed in 1955. There were five teachers when the school began with the ARMCO Association helping to augment the salary of the teachers, which were hired by the company. The wall around the school was built with money from the Works Progress Administration (WPA) during the Great Depression. The original red brick school was built at a cost of \$12,000. It had five rooms and housed grades 1-8. One of the first principals was R.W. Williams. The teachers in the beginning came from out of state. A night school, taught by coal inspector Tom Hager was organized. In the June 1924 issue of the *ARMCO Bulletin*, this article was printed: "A night school has been organized for the purpose of giving the employees instruction in the three R's. Tom Hagen, coal inspector, is the professor and from reports he is able to maintain first class discipline. At the present time the class is deeply immersed in the mysteries of common fractions."

High school students attended a high school located at Easley which was on the right side as one turns into John's Hollow. This high school was discontinued in October 1928.

The September 1927 issue of the *ARMCO Bulletin* also reported that "Mr. C.M. Holmes, Merchandise Store Manager, having been elected President of the District Board of Education, has secured the services of Rev. Hugh Smith as principal of the school. Mr. Smith comes highly recommended from Virginia and will act as principal of the school and pastor of the Nellis Community Church. Another forward step is the addition of a Junior High School to our educational facilities, as, up until this year, all high school students from Nellis have had to ride 16 miles to Danville to attend School." During this time the Nellis School became part of an Independent School District totally operated by ARMCO. The old school was replaced with the present building in March 1980.

Church

The Nellis Community Church was for many years the sole place of worship for the residents. It was not typical of the type of architecture prevalent at that time in Boone County and was constructed in 1926. The church's role in the community was an important one. It served as a social

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center, house of worship, and had many funerals over the years. The white stucco church itself was built by the ARMCO Association with help of a donation of the land and an undetermined financial contribution from the company. The church was non-denominational with the worship section of the church holding from 185-200 people. There is a full basement that at one time contained restrooms. The building had a beautiful stained glass window, a piano and organ. The bell in the tower could be heard all over the valley.

The *ARMCO Bulletin* dated September-October 1926 had this statement about the church: "Sitting on a terrace to the left of the store and ARMCO Association buildings is as pretty a little church as one would want to see. It was built by the ARMCO Association plus a donation from the company. Here one may worship Catholic and Protestant, or Mohammedan for that matter, if there were any in Nellis, or any other creed, for it is strictly non-denominational and may be secured by reservation by any religious sect. It will accommodate 185 persons and is decidedly a monument to the Nellis ARMCO Association." The Presbyterian organization became involved when ARMCO gave it to them after the mine closed in June 1955. The church stopped maintaining the building as a place of worship by 1966. In the early 1970s, Armco deeded the church to the Board of Education to be used as a remedial classroom and for the kindergarten. The church continued to be used by the school system until a new school was completed at a cost of \$612,343 in March 1980. Although it was used by the school and the PTA as a storage area and occasional meeting place for PTA officers, the building was for all practical purposes not used between 1980 and 1998.

On June 27, 1997, the Boone County Commission, through its Boone County Historic Landmark Commission, erected a monument to the victims of the county's single worst coal mine disaster, which occurred November 6, 1943, at the Nellis #3 ARMCO mine. At this time, the commission announced plans to acquire the church from the coal company and support a project to restore it for an archives. In early 1998 the County Commission became responsible for the church and restoration officially began.

Housing:

It has been estimated that the housing in Nellis was constructed at the time the mine was opened in 1920. Only the note : "Minter Home Corporation was hired to construct much of the town" is found in the records.

The town was built in two waves, the first being in 1920 when 40 houses were built, and the second wave prior to 1941. The attached map depicting the town in 1941 is primarily the same as it looks today. The town of Nellis developed into several residential areas, with the main section near the coal company store. This section had three terraces with two levels of residential homes, and the company officials being on the top tier.

Other sections of the town are known as Bricktown, John's Hollow and Hunkie Hill. Bricktown's name is taken from the numerous brick homes which line the Y-shape formation of

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streets. John's Hollow is referenced in an *ARMCO Bulletin* as being constructed for the black residents of the town, and also had several of the brick homes found in Bricktown. The section known as Hunkie Hill disappeared after the mine closed when they were dismantled by the Byron Corporation. This section was located on the hillside above the mine portal. Research notes by Charlotte Halstead note: "there is nothing I gained from interviews with former residents or from any research to indicate that people were forced to live in any special section, except for the blacks who lived at John's Hollow. It seems the 'foreigners' naturally settled in the same area, which came to be known as Hunkie Hill. I have interviewed several former residents of this section of Nellis and not one has a negative recollection. The name Hunkie Hill was a designation, but it was not used in a negative sense. In all my reading and all my interviews and research I have not heard any segregation stories, nor have any reason to believe the black section was of less quality than any other section of town."

There are several styles of homes in Nellis, each found in a different section of the town. In the main section of town is Style One - a one story wood frame home, with front shed porch, brick foundation and a gable roof. The windows were originally 6/6 double-hung sash. Style Two is found in Bricktown, with the house having a wide front gable end with paired windows to the each side of the center doors. Style Three has a double gable end, with a porch projecting out with a second gable end and there is a door and a single window. Some of the porches on these homes are still open as they were originally, but many have been filled-in for additional living spaces. This same style of brick home can also be seen in John's Hollow, and are generally paired between Style One or Style Four. Style Four is a one story wood frame home with a side gable end, square in plan the porch is recessed to the side, with a front door. Because this style has been altered around the porch area, it is difficult to discern at times.

Originally each house had a coal house built next to it. For those who lived on elevated property, the coal was delivered by a slide directly to their homes. On the left rear corner is an addition that was added to every home, possibly for a dry toilet. These rooms have since been converted to various uses. Flush toilets were introduced in 1932. They replaced the old Kaustine Chemical Toilets, installed during the construction the houses. In his book, *Memories of a Model Coal Mining Town*, Joe Tagliente wrote: "Living conditions were the very best. Every house had electric lights, water at the back door, and indoor sanitary toilets; some had bathrooms."

The one unusual home in the town is the metal home used by the company doctor. This is number 12 on the map. Constructed of vertical metal panels, the house is not well insulated according to the present owner. This may have been an experiment in steel homes, which many WV steel companies tried in the early half of the twentieth century.

Mine closes

In the early 1950s the once high production of coal began a steady decline. The Nellis Mine officially closed on June 30, 1955, and just as rapidly as ARMCO moved into Nellis, they moved out. ARMCO sold their houses, the buildings on main street and other major buildings to the Byron

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Corporation of Boston. The Byron Corporation repainted some of the houses, rewired their electrical systems, installed hot water heaters, furnaces and made other necessary repairs. After completing the repairs, they began a major campaign to sell the houses and buildings. The Byron Corporation renamed Nellis "Apron Village" and advertised the community as a model community, one that anyone would be proud to live in.

The corporation reopened the store, theater, barber shop, etc. and began to sell the houses. The five-room dwellings sold for \$4,500 if they had been repaired and for \$3,500 if they had not received any repairs. The 4-room dwellings were sold for \$3,500 (\$2,500 if they had not been repaired). The large houses that housed the superintendent and company officials were sold for \$9,000. The houses in Bricktown were sold for \$3,500 if repaired and \$2,500 if they were not repaired. Many houses that had been deserted and the target of vandals sold for as little as \$200. The company store was sold for \$15,000.

After selling most of the houses, the Byron Corporation left, forgetting most of its promises and advertisements made after they purchased the town from the company. The theater, barber shop and confectionery closed. The houses that were not sold were destroyed by vandals. The building that housed the theater, barber shop, etc., was burned by vandals on October 31, 1983.

Instead of moving into the Fork Creek area that contained 9,500 acres of coal reserves, ARMCO purchased the stock of the Colcord Coal Company at Montcoal, Raleigh County, on December 21, 1942 and moved there. Three operating mines were on the Colcord property at the time of the purchase - the No. 1 at Montcoal in the Dorothy Seam; No. 2 at Stickney in the Dorothy Seam; No. 4 in the Hernshaw Seam at Montcoal. The No. 7 Mine at Montcoal was opened on July 5, 1955, in the No. 2 Gas Seam. ARMCO purchased the stock and assets of Princess Dorothy Coal Company, Twilight, on August 1, 1954. One mine in the Dorothy Seam was known as the Robin Hood Mine.

Summary:

Nellis became a model for coal communities in Boone County and the southern coal fields. The layout of the terraced streets and homes demonstrate that community planning used the hillside efficiently and provided good access to the main buildings along the railroad tracks and later County Route 1. Its story is one of "good times" as well as the decline with the changes in the coal industry and depletion of resources. At its height, the community offered its residents good housing, schools, and medical care. Recreational opportunities were also available with a theatre, sports groups, and social clubs. The community came together during annual celebrations for Safety Day and Labor Day. The 1943 explosion has also been a shared community experience and plans call for the miners to be further memorialized.

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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: Nellis Archives

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: Approximately 95 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

Quad Map: Racine

A 17 435620 4223175
Zone Easting Northing

B 17 435762 4222780
Zone Easting Northing

C 17 434700 4222455
Zone Easting Northing

D 17 434540 4223680
Zone Easting Northing

E 17 434945 4223700
Zone Easting Northing

F 17 435980 4222740
Zone Easting Northing

G 17 435740 4222640
Zone Easting Northing

H 17 435400 4222780
Zone Easting Northing

I 17 435480 4223140
Zone Easting Northing

Verbal Boundary Description
(See continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification
(See continuation sheet.)

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Ashford, WV: Self published, April 1989.

Keenan, Burke. COMPANY HISTORY 1910 - 1938. (Copied from original transcripts).

WV Department of Mines, Report on the 1943 Explosion.

Various notes were taken from the:

CHARLESTON GAZETTE - Mine Explosion, November 8, 9, 10 & 11, 1943.

HOMETOWN NEWS,

COAL VALLEY NEWS - "Nellis Dead Take Last Mantrip Ride," November 11, 1943.

ARMCO BULLETINS - 1923-1929, 1932-1940.

MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION PUBLICATIONS

Personal interviews, or extractions from written pieces, by Charlotte Halstead:

Roger Brogan, former resident whose father and grandfather were miners at Nellis

Martin Domokos, former resident whose father was killed in the 1943 explosion

John "Jack" W. Eagan, former personnel director for ARMCO

Mrs. Windsor Eagan, former postmaster at Nellis and wife of former personnel manager, from
a published account in Hometown News.

Donald Easterly, supervisor for public information, ARMCO Steel Corporation, from Joe
Tagliente's book.

Glada Gaunch, former cook at Nellis Grade School

Arnett Gunnoe, former resident whose father was killed in the 1943 explosion

Fred Harrison, retired Boone educator, resident

Edith Javins, a deceased Boone educator who was principal at Nellis for many years, from a
history of the town written by Javins.

Jack and JoAnn Keenan, former residents

Bob Kincaid, former coal miner and resident

Hazel Kinder, grandfather was at the Nellis mine explosion

Lois Kinder, retired Boone educator, resident, husband worked in mine

Wilma Kuhn, daughter of former mine supervisor

James Linville, former resident whose father was killed in 1943 explosion

Goldie Machi, former resident whose brother was killed in 1943 explosion

Gwen Mann, former resident whose father was killed in the 1943 explosion

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Donald Maxey, son of former chief mine engineer and former resident
George Oliver, former resident and Presbyterian youth worker at the Nellis Community Church
Rev. Ron Roberts, Presbyterian minister
Anna Gae Rymer, former resident whose father was killed in 1943 explosion
Donald Setliff, former resident whose father was killed in 1943 explosion
Barbara Smith, current resident
Joyce Stevens, former resident
Arbutus Stone, former resident whose father was killed in 1943 explosion.
Sue Townley, descendent of Nellis coal miner
Ann Turkovitch, former resident whose father was killed in 1943 explosion
Steve Turkovitch, former resident whose father was killed in 1943 explosion
Lawrence Vincent, former resident whose father was killed in 1943 explosion
Francis Walker, former resident whose father was killed in 1943 explosion
Bill Workman, former resident whose father was killed in 1943 explosion
Irene Workman, former resident
Various family interviews with the victims of the 1943 explosion.

(NPS Form 10-900)

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Verbal Boundary Description

Boundaries are marked on the accompanying tax parcel map.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries encompass the areas of: main section of Nellis, Bricktown and John's Hollow. These are the areas recognized by the old time residents and by the ARMCO records.

(NPS Form 10-900)

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Name of Property: Nellis Historic District
Address: Off County Route 1
Town: Nellis
County: Boone

Photographer: Katherine Jourdan and Erin Pogany

Date: May 1999

Negatives: WV SHPO, Charleston, WV

Photo 1 of 13 Coal Company Store #6
Camera looking NW

Photo 2 of 13 Railroad Wall, WPA #3
Camera looking W

Photo 3 of 13 Superintendent's House #34
Camera looking N

Photo 4 of 13 Clubhouse #35
Camera looking N

Photo 5 of 13 Asst. Superintendent's House #36
Camera looking N

Photo 6 of 13 Nellis Wesleyan Church (NC) #8
Camera looking N

Photo 7 of 13 Laboratory #82
Camera looking E

Photo 8 of 13 Steel House #12, (Lot 17G-19)
Camera looking NE

(NPS Form 10-900)

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- Photo 9 of 13 Style One - Main Area of town, #16, (Lot 17G-27)
Camera looking N
- Photo 10 of 13 Style Two - Bricktown #42, D35, (Lot 17E-8)
Camera looking NW
- Photo 11 of 13 Style Three - #50, D30 (Lot 17E-11)
Camera looking S
- Photo 12 of 13 Style Three - John's Hollow #99, A4, (Lot 17F-47)
Camera looking W
- Photo 13 of 13 Style Four - John's Hollow #96 (Lot 17F-50)

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11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: Erin Pogany, and Katherine Jourdan, WV SHPO
With Charlotte Halstead, Nellis Archives Date: December 1999

Street & Number: 1900 Kanawha Blvd East Phone: 304/558-0220

City or Town: Charleston State: WV Zip: 25305-0300

Property Owner

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

Name: Multiple Property Owners

Notified by Legal Notice, Coal Valley News

Map 1

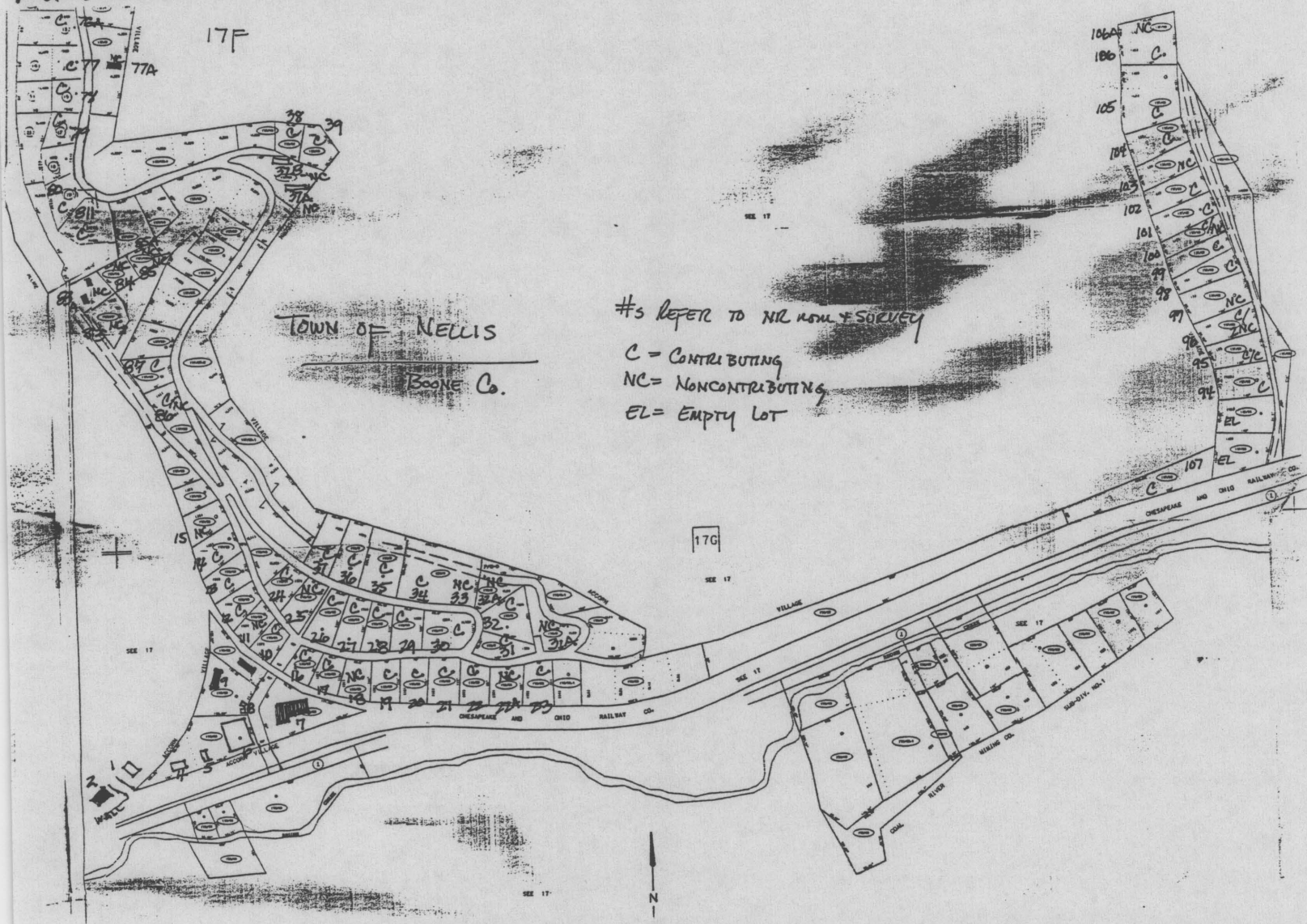
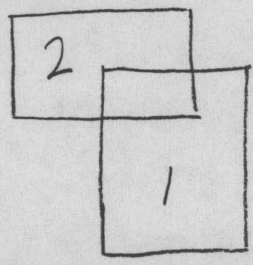
Map 2
Matches Here

17F

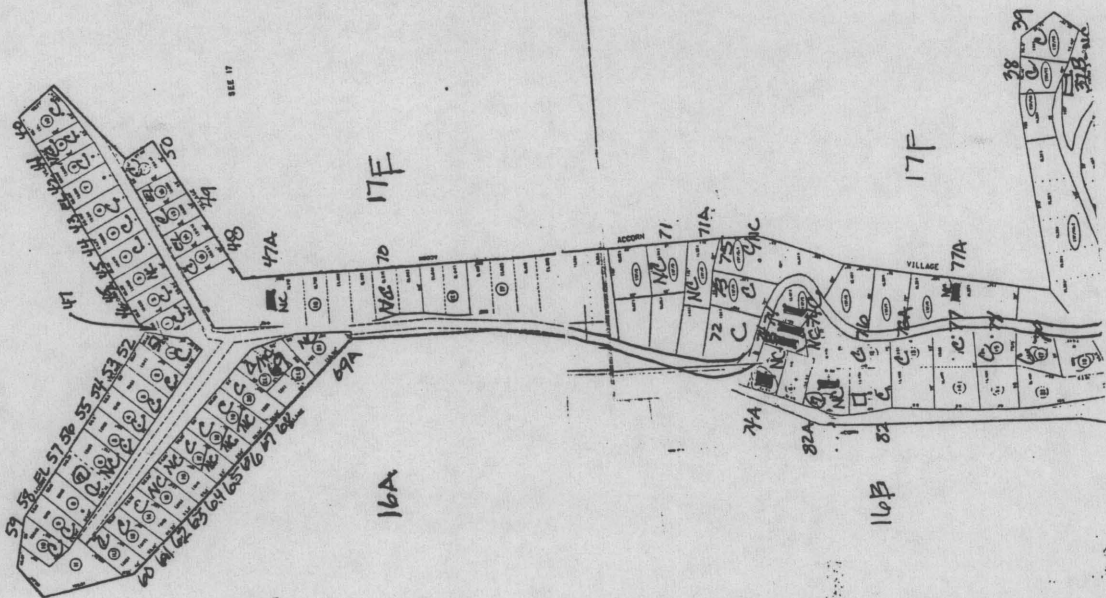
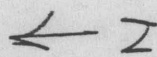
TOWN OF NELLIS
BOONE Co.

#s REFER TO N.R. NON. SURVEY
C = CONTRIBUTING
NC = NONCONTRIBUTING
EL = EMPTY LOT

17G



Map 2







JOSHUA 2415





NELLIS HISTORIC DISTRICT

- 17 435620
4223175
- 17 435762
4222780
- 17 434700
4222455
- 17 434540
4223680
- 17 434945
4223700
- 17 435980
4222740
- 17 435740
4222640
- 17 435400
4222780
- 17 435480
4223140

RACINE

