

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

=====

1. Name of Property

=====

historic name: Minersville Coke Ovens

other name/site number: N/A _____

=====

2. Location

=====

street & number: 1 mi. east of Coalmont, north side of Route 913

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Carbon Township

vicinity: N/A

state: PA county: Huntingdon

code: 061 zip code: 18071

=====

3. Classification

=====

Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Site

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing
_____	_____ buildings
1	_____ sites
_____	_____ structures
_____	_____ objects
1	0 Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

Name of related multiple property listing: Industrial Resources of
Huntingdon County

=====
4. State/Federal Agency Certification
=====

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

Dr. Brent D. Glass

Brent D. Glass

1/30/90

Signature of certifying official

Date

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property _____ meets _____ does not meet the National Register criteria. _____ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

=====
5. National Park Service Certification
=====

I, hereby certify that this property is:

_____ entered in the National Register

_____ See continuation sheet.

_____ determined eligible for the
National Register

_____ See continuation sheet.

_____ determined not eligible for the
National Register

_____ removed from the National Register

_____ other (explain): _____

Signature of Keeper

Date
of Action

=====
6. Function or Use
=====

Historic Functions:

10 Industry/Processing/Extraction

Subfunctions:

10B Extractive Facility

10F Processing Site

Current Functions :

98 Vacant/Not In Use

Subfunctions:

=====
7. Description
=====

Architectural Classification:

80 Other

Other Description: 02 coke ovens

Materials: foundation Stone roof N/A
 walls Concrete other Brick

Describe present and historic physical appearance. X See continuation sheet.

=====
8. Statement of Significance
=====

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: locally.

Applicable National Register Criteria: AD

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) : _____

Areas of Significance: 160 Industry
 023 Historic - Non-aboriginal

Period(s) of Significance: 1879-1925 circa _____

Significant Dates : 1879c _____

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above. X See continuation sheet.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

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 # PA 061.077

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository: Huntingdon Co. Historical Society

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: 13

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A	17	739660	4455585	B	17	739805	4455450
C	17	739500	4455240	D	17	739435	4455355

___ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: See continuation sheet.

Boundary Justification: See continuation sheet.

11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: Deborah L. Suciou - Historic Preservation Specialist

Organization: PHMC - BHP

Date: November 1989

Street & Number: Box 1026 State Museum

Telephone: (717) 783-5796

City or Town: Harrisburg

State: PA ZIP: 17108 - 1016

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7

Minersville Coke Ovens Page #2

HAER Identification #: PA 061.077

DESCRIPTION OF APPEARANCE:

This mining and coke processing resource, one mile east of Coalmont on the north side of Route 913 is located in the rural, southern part of the county. For the most part it lies in a flat area between Millers Run and Shoups Run with steep hills coming down to the runs. The site has been left to deteriorate since the close of the operation and structural material has been removed from the buildings and structures. The foundations and above ground remains distinguish the components as they once stood. Although some earthmoving has taken place, the limits of the disturbance are clearly defined and lie outside the district boundaries. The nominated property includes the remains of the beehive and 'Mitchell' coke ovens, the pillars and remains of the tipple, the foundation remains of the supply house, engine and power house, substation and hoist house, blacksmith and machine shop, rail rights-of-way, and the Gordon Mine.

According to a 1925 auction map of the resource the site once contained 90 beehive coke ovens, 67 uncompleted Mitchell coke ovens, both narrow and standard gage rail lines, a supply house, an engine and power house, a substation and hoist house, a blacksmith and machine shop, a coal tipple, a coal pocket and the Gordon Mine.

The two banks of beehive coke ovens in the east part of the property and the concrete piers which lead from the Gordon Mine to the remains of the coal tipple in the west part of the property are the most prominent components of the site. The entire area between the coke ovens and the concrete piers contains low stone walls and foundations, remnants of the extensive operation shown in the Thropp catalog. Their relative location and shape generally correspond to structures identified on the 1925 map. From west to east stood the tipple, coal pocket, blacksmith/machine shop, substation/hoist house, engine/power house, and supply house. Running from the east of the remains of the supply house parallel to the right-of-way and the beehive ovens are the walls and foundations of the Mitchell ovens identified on the 1925 auction map. The rights-of-ways of the rail lines are visible as raised trails although the tracks have been long removed. The stone retaining wall which defines

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the southern boundary of the site appears to date before 1925 but its function has not been identified.

Several of the beehive ovens retain the stone facing which surrounded their doors, although the metal doors no longer remain. The brick and stone of the ovens has deteriorated with the weather and vegetation overgrowth but their original shape is still apparent. All that remain of the Mitchell ovens, the supply house, the engine and power house, the substation and hoist house and the blacksmith and machine shop are the concrete foundation remains. There are remains of brick walls at some of the Mitchell ovens and the blacksmith/machine shop. The engine/power house, and the substation/hoist house have very deep foundations. There is no machinery remaining. The mine entrance is timber frame.

The beehive ovens post-date 1885 and predate 1925, the remains identified as the Mitchell ovens date from 1924-25, the Gordon Mine predates 1913 and postdates 1879, the remains of the rest of the structures and buildings once associated with the site date between 1879 and 1925.

Although at one time there was housing associated with this production facility to the south, no remains were identified in this survey.

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SIGNIFICANCE:

This coal extraction and coke production facility is eligible under Criterion A in the area of industry for its association with a historically significant industry in Huntingdon County. The resource is also eligible under Criterion D in the area of historical archaeology for its potential to yield information on the efficiency of the scale and methods of operation of this extraction and production facility. Africa references the high efficiency of the operation based on geographic location and arrangement as well as labor saving machinery. Detailed mapping and drawing of the foundation remains and their relative positions may provide us with a representation of a coal extraction/coke processing plant. Careful study and documentation of the remains of the Mitchell ovens explain the use of this relatively unknown type of coke oven and its relationship to this site. Further research at the property may show how one coke producer tried to adapt technologically to improve efficiency; for example the relationship between the ovens and the mines and the placement of the rail lines.

In 1857, the Huntingdon and Broad Top Railroad Company opened the Prospect Mine, on the Shoup's Run branch of the railroad, one mile east of Coalmont. Robert Hare Powel purchased the mine in 1863 and constructed a bank of Belgian coke ovens, but operated them only briefly before turning his attention to his mines in Clearfield County and on the Youghiogheny River. In 1979 the Belgian coke ovens were put back in operation to supply fuel to Powels' iron furnace to the south. Joseph Thropp purchased the Gordon Mine and the property in this nomination before the turn of the century. He removed the Belgian ovens, constructed the beehive coke ovens at an unknown date and began construction of the Mitchell ovens in 1924-25. Thropp operated the site until 1925 when it was put to auction. The removal of machinery, buildings and structures at the site began after the sale.

This site may have considerable archeological potential, and its interpretation will be greatly enhanced by the careful examination of photographs and unusually detailed descriptions contained in the 1925 "Catalog of Sale of Joseph E. Thropp Iron Manufacturing Business" of which this resource was a part.

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SOURCES:

Africa, J. Simpson. History of Huntingdon and Blair Counties, Pennsylvania (Philadelphia: Louis H. Everts, 1883), pp. 229-32.

Atlas of Blair and Huntingdon Counties, Pennsylvania (Philadelphia: A. Pomeroy & Co., 1873), pp. 84-85.

Auction Catalog, Joseph E. Thropp Iron Manufacturing Business, 1925. Photocopy, Huntingdon County Historical Society.

Gardner, James H. The Broad Top Coal Field of Huntingdon, Bedford and Fulton Counties, Report #10 (Harrisburg: Wm. Stanley Ray, State Printer, 1913), pp. 16-18; maps separate volume.

Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania: An Inventory of Historic Engineering and Industrial Sites, Historic American Building Survey/Historic American Engineering Record, National Park Service(unpublished, 1988).

Shedd, Nancy S. HAER consultant 1988; President Huntingdon County Historical Society: interviews 1988-89

White, I.C. The Geology of Huntingdon County (Harrisburg: Second Geological Survey, 1885), pp. 303-312.

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Section number 10

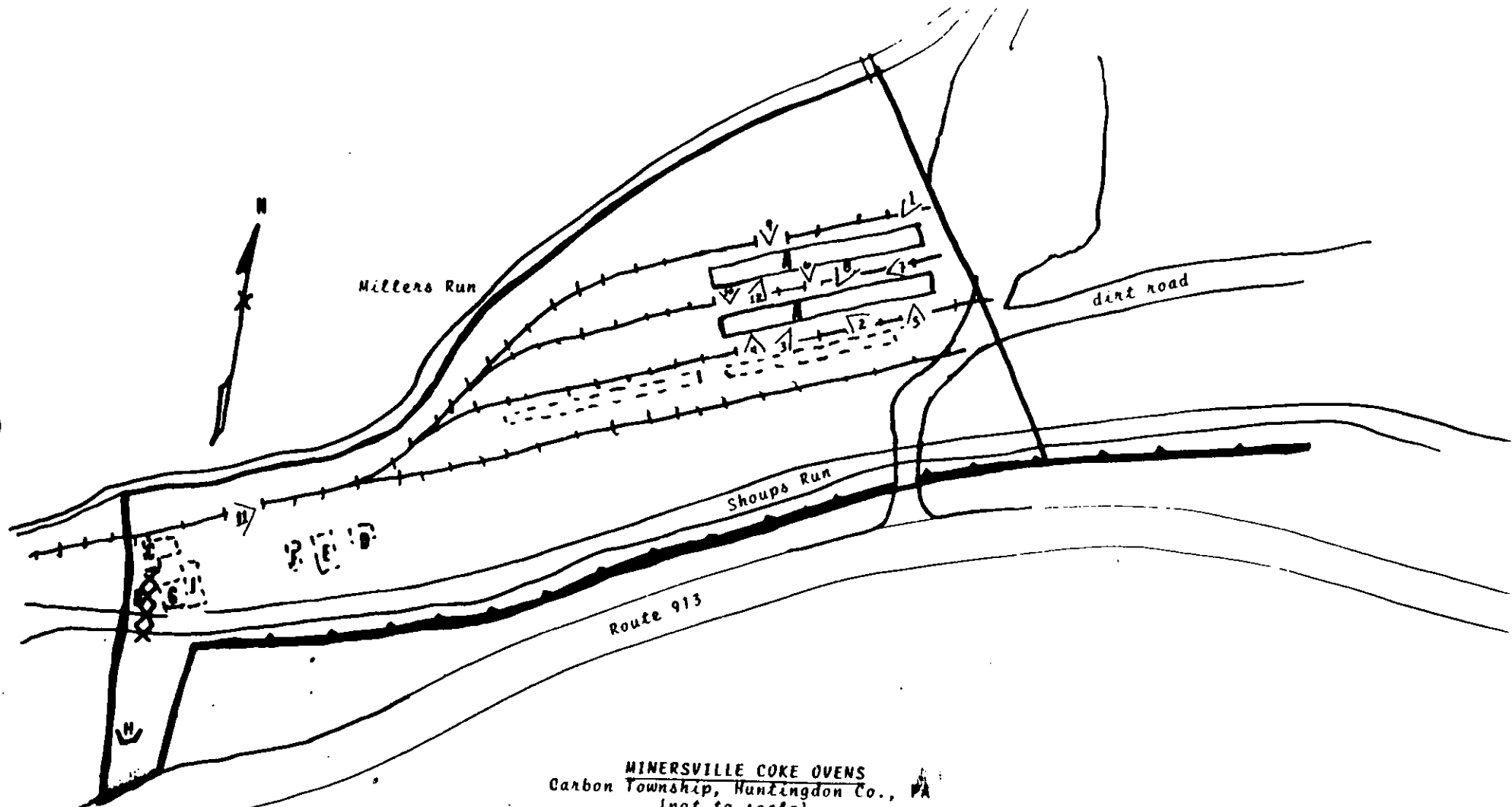
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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The boundary begins on the north side of Route 913, 2500 feet east of the corporate boundary of Coalmont, and heads northwest for about 400 feet to the southern bank of Millers run. At that point the boundary turns northeast and follows the southern bank of the run for about 1000 feet to the remains of a Huntingdon and Broad Top Mountain Railroad Bridge where it turns and runs southeast for approximately 650 feet across Shoups Run to the retaining wall located about 10 feet beyond the water course. At the retaining wall the boundary turns southwest and follows the wall for about 1000 feet where the boundary turns and heads south to the northern edge of Route 913. From that point the boundary turns southwest and follows the northern edge of Route 913 to the point of origin.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

The northwestern and southeastern boundaries for this site are water runs; Millers Run, and Shoups Run. Although there are foundation remains and mines beyond the northeastern boundary their association with the site during its period of significance has not been verified. The most of the northeast boundary edge is distinguishable on site by the ground excavation adjacent to it. The boundaries include the visually identifiable remains of the production facility.



MINERSVILLE COKE OVENS
 Carbon Township, Huntingdon Co., PA
 (not to scale)

- | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|--|--------------------|
| A | Coke Ovens | | rail right-of-way |
| B | Concrete Piers of tipple | | foundation remains |
| C | remains of Tipple | | concrete pillars |
| D | remains of Supply House | | Mine head |
| E | remains of Engine & Power House | | retaining wall |
| F | remains of Substation & Hoist House | | |
| G | remains of Coal Pocket | | |
| H | Garden Mine | | |
| I | Blacksmith & Machine Shop | | |

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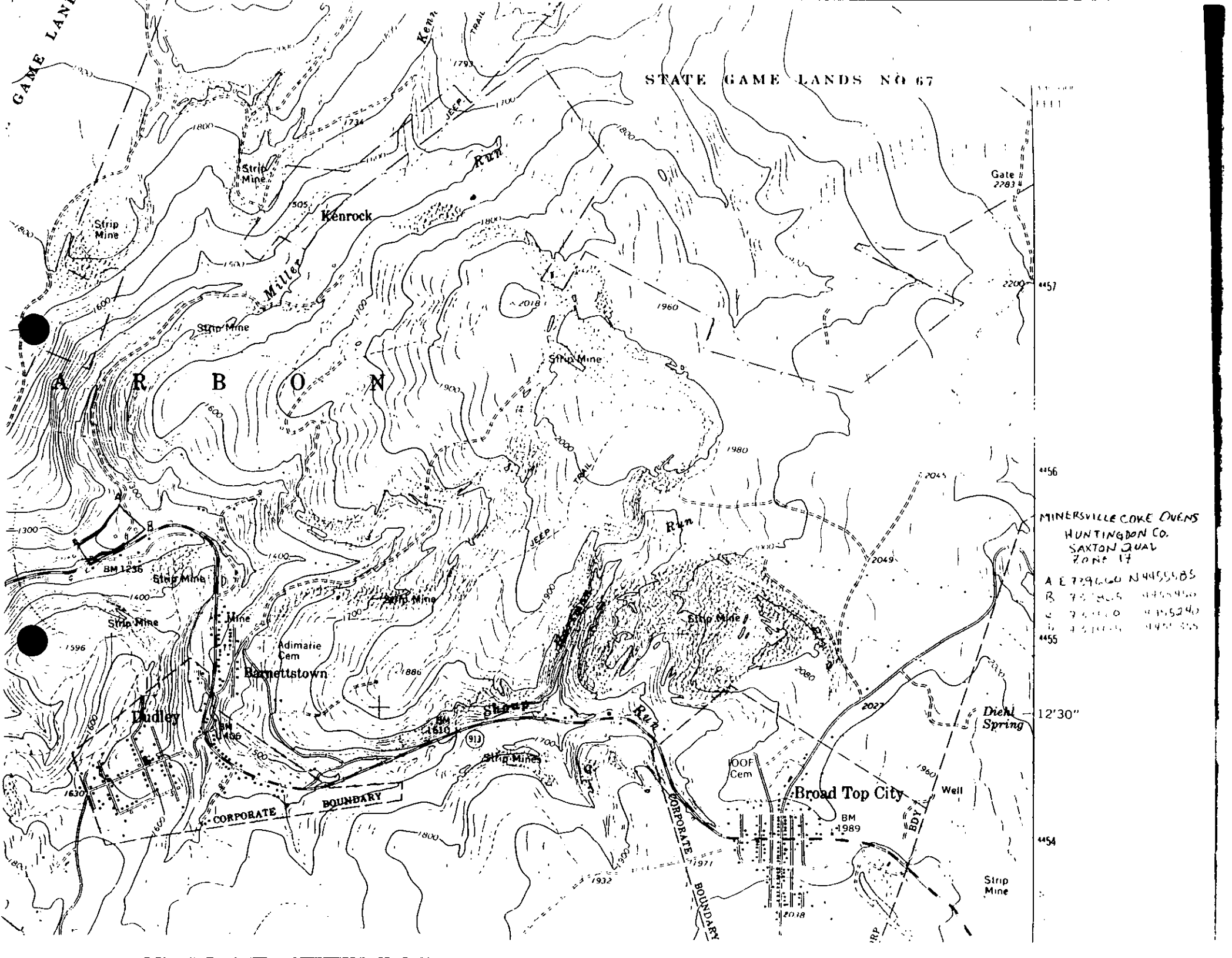
**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

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This nomination contains material taken directly from the unpublished report prepared in 1988 for the Historic American Engineering Record (see Bibliographical References).

The author of that report, Nancy Shedd, is a major contributor to the text of this nomination although not the preparer.



STATE GAME LANDS NO 67

1111

Gate 2283

2200 4457

4456

MINERSVILLE COKE OUVENS
HUNTINGDON CO.
SAXTON QUAL
ZONE 17

A	729660	N445585
B	729665	N445590
C	729670	N445640
D	729675	N445695

4455

12'30"

Diehl Spring

4454

Strip Mine

Broad Top City

BM 1989

Well

BDY

IRP

GAME LANDS

Kenrock

Kenrock

Miller

Strip Mine

R

B

O

N

Strip Mine

1960

1980

Run

Strip Mine

Barnettstown

Dudley

CORPORATE

BOUNDARY

CORPORATE BOUNDARY

OOF Cem

1630

1600

1400

1200

1000

800

600

400

200

0

-200

-400

-600

-800

-1000

-1200

-1400

-1600

-1800

-2000

-2200

-2400

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1596

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1780

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1930

1960

1990

2020

2050

2080

2110

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2170

2200

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2290

2320

1600

1620

1640

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