

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Pennsylvania	
COUNTY: Fayette	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Brier Hill

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Brier Hill Congressional District: ^{TWENTY} Sixth

STATE: Pennsylvania CODE: 42 COUNTY: Fayette CODE: 051

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) Redevelopment area

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
~~Redstone Central Railroad Company~~ First National Bank of Washington Pa.

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
~~Brier Hill~~

STATE: Pennsylvania CODE: 42

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Fayette County Courthouse, Recorder's Office Deed Book 1092 page 652

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Uniontown

STATE: Pennsylvania CODE: 42

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
none

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

 Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

(Check One)

 Altered Unaltered

(Check One)

 Moved Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Brier Hill was a mining town of the early twentieth century. The mining district consists basically of three elements: the company houses, the mining buildings and the coking ovens.

All of the mining houses are inhabited at present or were lived in until the mid-summer of 1972. There are five of these buildings, each of which is a double house. Two of the houses are six room houses while the other three are four room. Each house rests on a dressed sandstone foundation and has a basement under the front half. The houses have a medium pitched gable roof with about a fifteen inch overhang and are roofed and sided with charcoal gray asphalt roofing shingles.

All of the houses are four bays across (except for later modifications), have two chimneys (one over each of the inside bays) and two doors (one below each of the outside bays). All of the houses have a hip roof porch and wooden steps servicing each of the doors. The original windows were 6/6 double hung sash (some of which have been modified). The houses differ in that the six room houses have a gable section in the rear, making the house significantly deeper than the four room variety.

Each section of the duplex house of the four room variety has two rooms to each floor. The six room type has three rooms to each floor per section. Through the front door you enter the living room which still contains, in several homes, a small coal burning stove which is connected to a brick chimney. These stoves were originally the only means of heating the homes. The kitchen is to the rear of the living room and the stairway to the second story bedrooms is in the kitchen. The floor in all the rooms consists of four inch wide tongue and groove pine flooring upon which linoleum has been laid in some instances. All of the walls are plastered, some of which have been painted, others wallpapered.

All of the original mining buildings, which were probably built between 1902 and 1904, are constructed of sixteen to eighteen inch thick dressed sandstone walls with slate roofs. Presently eight whole or partial buildings still remain standing. The equipment contained in the buildings and most of the windows of the structures was removed about 1937 to pay debts when the mine was closed, but otherwise the remaining buildings are in good structural condition except for deteriorating roofs.

The Power House, designated as building 8, is "T" shaped, measuring about 100 feet by 40 feet with a 25 foot vertical extension at the rear of the building. It has steel trusses supporting a hipped roof. Each six inch wide roof board runs from the eaves to gable, unlike roof boards in most buildings. The floor of the structure is concrete, but it has been lain over a brick floor. Brick was also used to build two chimneys

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7. description

which abutted two of the outside walls. The only other interesting architectural attribute of the structure is the use of radiating sandstone voussoirs over all windows and doors and solid sandstone sills.

The Hoist House, designated as building 9, is about 20 feet by 30 feet and is constructed similar to the Power House. Several deep pits (About six feet) inside the building indicate where the large hoists or pulleys were placed. A dormer on one end of the building shows where the cables entered and exited the hoist room. It has one chimney, but unlike the chimneys in the other buildings, it is built on the outside of the structure.

All that remains of an unidentified building, designated as building 10, is most of one wall. Unlike all the other buildings, no original lintels appear above the windows in this wall. The dressed sandstone blocks are presently supported by poured concrete lintels. This may indicate that the building has been changed slightly from its original design. All of the windows have sandstone sills.

Another unidentified building, designated as building 11, is similar to the Power House and measures 74 feet by 36 feet. In design this building is similar to the others with respect to the roof, lintels, voussoirs, use of sandstone for wall, and concrete floors. It differs in that it is rectangular in shape and contains one chimney.

An unidentified structure, designated as building 7, is again like the other buildings of the mining district. It is 60 feet by 28 feet and differs from the others because it uses rectangular sandstone lintels instead of radiating voussoirs. Its roof trusses are of wood instead of steel. One brick chimney exits on this structure.

The smallest of all the buildings is designated as building 12. The typical sandstone construction and hipped roof were carried throughout the structure but roof rafters and tie joists were used instead of roof trusses. Further, it was from evidence in this building that window sash construction for the sandstone buildings with radiating voussoirs was hypothesized. One remaining sash indicated that the top sash was arched at the top so as to fit the opening which resulted from using the arched and radiating stone lintels.

A garage, designated as building 13, is one of the two buildings that appears to have been built after the sandstone structures were built. It is a two vehicle frame garage

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian; | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1902-01

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of Brier Hill mining district is several fold. First, it represents an important phase in the growth of southwestern Pennsylvania. It is typical of the company owned coal mining towns which almost "sprang" into existence during the late 1800's and early 1900's. As such, it portrays the remnants of the almost feudalistic manner in which coal mining towns were established and operated. The geographical relationship of the mining town or "patch" and the mining complex is clearly depicted. Likewise, coal mining town architecture is portrayed by several well preserved company houses. These double houses are complete with small coal burning heating stoves, privies, and vegetable gardens. Unlike most company towns, the homes of Brier Hill are spaced far enough apart so that each double house has a small front yard and a fairly spacious back yard.

Apart from its geographical layout and town architecture, a second point of significance of the Brier Hill complex is that the mine was 700 feet deep, the deepest bituminous coal mine in Pennsylvania. It was because of its depth that it was closed in 1936; water began flowing into the mine faster than it could be pumped out.

Although the mine has not functioned for nearly 35 years, a good deal of the original buildings are still standing. Their condition is generally good with the exception of roofs, windows and doors. For buildings that housed mining machinery, they are exceptionally sturdy and picturesque in comparison to other southwestern Pennsylvania mining buildings.

Their quality may reflect the interest of the Brier Hill Coke Company, the original owner of the town, in their investment. The coke company was commissioned by its parent company, the Brier Hill Steel Company of Brier Hill, Ohio to produce coke for its blast furnaces. The mining complex was an integral part of the development of coal mining and coke producing technology which centered in the coal fields of Pennsylvania during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The Brier Hill mine produced coal solely for use in the 600 beehive coking ovens which extended for nearly one-half mile west

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8. significance

of the mine tipple. During the first decades of the twentieth century, the coking operations, which functioned in conjunction with many mines of southwestern Pennsylvania, were the world's leading coke producers.

An added point of significance for considering its preservation is that it is an integral part of an application under Title VII-Housing and Urban Development Act of 1970, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for a "New Town" designation. The developers of the project, the Redstone Central Railroad Company, want to make the preservation and restoration of the district a central part of building "New Town" Brier Hill. Landmark status will help them to get funding for restoration in the early building phases of the project.

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7. description

which has a pyramidal hipped roof covered with corrugated sheet metal. Inside the garage, which has a concrete floor, there is a pit which appears to have been used as an oil changing pit.

A garage, designated as building 6, is much larger than building 13. This large rectangular frame building was a twelve stall garage measuring about 100 feet by 17 feet. It was constructed of pre-formed building blocks. The doors are made of vertically laid boards, which are held together with battens. A concrete floor exists throughout the garage. The roof is presently covered with tar paper.

On the site are located approximately 75 of the original 600 coking ovens. The ovens are the typical brick beehive type ovens.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Brier Hill Coke Company Mining Records
 Archaeology Laboratory, California State College, California, Pa.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE				
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	39°	58'	51"	79°	52'	50"			
NE	39°	58'	51"	79°	52'	30"			
SE	39°	58'	40"	79°	52'	30"			
SW	39°	58'	40"	79°	52'	50"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1.5

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Ronald Michael

ORGANIZATION: California, Pennsylvania DATE: _____
California State College, Department of Anthropology

STREET AND NUMBER: _____

CITY OR TOWN: California STATE: Pennsylvania CODE: 42

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: *William J. Wewer*
William J. Wewer

Title: _____
Deputy Executive Director

Date: 1/23/73

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: _____

ATTEST: _____

 Keeper of The National Register

Date: _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

