

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM**

**1. Name of Property**

historic name: Shoaf Historic District  
other name/site number: Shoaf Number 1

**2. Location**

street & number: See continuation sheet. (N/A) not for publication  
city, town: Shoaf (Georges Township) (N/A) vicinity  
state: Penn. code: PA county: Fayette code: 051 zip code: 15478

**3. Classification**

Ownership of Property: Private  
Category of Property: District

Number of Resources within Property:

<u>Contributing</u>	<u>Noncontributing</u>	
<u>39</u>	<u>5</u>	buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>5</u>	<u>3</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>45</u>	<u>8</u>	TOTAL

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

Name of related multiple property listing: Bituminous Coal and Coke Resources of Pennsylvania, 1740-1945

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

5/14/94

Signature of certifying official  
Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of certifying 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

Extraction

Processing

Domestic

Current functions

Extraction

Domestic

Domestic

Subfunctions

Extractive Facility

Processing Site

Multiple Dwelling

Subfunctions

Not in Use

Multiple Dwelling

Single Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

Other: Utilitarian Industrial Buildings

Other: Vernacular Worker Housing

other: \_\_\_\_\_

Materials

foundation Stone

roof Asphalt

walls Weatherboard

other Brick

Describe present and historic appearance:

See continuation sheet.

8. Statement of Significance

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

Nationally     Statewide     Locally

Applicable National Register Criteria: A and C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): \_\_\_\_\_

Areas of Significance: Industry

Community Planning and Development

Engineering

Period(s) of Significance: 1904-43

Significant Dates: 1904, 1943

Years of Alterations: 1914

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: \_\_\_\_\_

W.G. Wilkins Company; Stark, Thomas;

Nicola Building Company

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

See continuation sheet.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 2 Page 2.1

Shoaf Historic District

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Location

Roughly bounded by the property lines of 1-170 First St., Second St., processing buildings and the bank of coke ovens.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Shoaf Historic District

The Shoaf Historic District is located in Georges Township, Fayette County, approximately 7 miles south of Uniontown. It comprises 38.5 acres, and consists of a mine and processing site, and a patch community first erected by the H.C. Frick Coke Company c1904-1907. The district is shaped like a V, with the mine and processing site forming the eastern leg, and the patch the western leg. The number of resources on the processing site was increased and additions to several buildings were made in the 1910s and 1920s. The patch was enlarged in 1914, then diminished by almost one-third in the 1950s due to the sale of lots and subsequent strip mining of coal. The total number of resources in the district is 53 (45 contributing and eight noncontributing), divided between processing site, utilitarian industrial buildings and structures, vernacular worker housing, and garage buildings. The integrity of the setting, location, feeling and association of the district is excellent. Both the processing site and patch evoke the historic function of the district as a coal mining community which dates from the first years of the twentieth century. Buildings and structures have retained integrity of design, workmanship and materials, with only slight compromise due to alterations, loss and construction after the period of significance.

The mine and processing area of Shoaf contains 13 resources, which includes one contributing site, eight structures (5 contributing and 3 noncontributing) and four contributing buildings. The site is comprised of the general coke and mine site, which includes the coke ovens, processing buildings and structures, plus railroad tracks, conveyors, mechanized extractors, larry and railroad cars, and other machinery. Dirt and stone roads, various trees, small vegetation and grasses are present throughout. The eight structures on the site include three original batteries of beehive coke ovens (one bank and two blocks, c1904), a Wood and Steel Tipple (c1905), a Mine Entrance Tipple (c1904), a metal "Baghouse" for pollution control (c1963), a large Steel Tipple (c1963) and a Steel Bin (c1960s). The four buildings located in this part of the district include the concrete block Lime and Sand House (1906), brick Power House (1905), brick Blacksmith and Carpenter Shop (c1910), and concrete block Supply House (c1919).

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**Section number 7 Page 2

Shoaf Historic District

The processing site is located on the eastern end of the district and runs in a north-south direction. To the west of the processing site, the district's main north-south vehicular road (Township Road-472) separates the processing site from the patch. The batteries of ovens are constructed in two parallel lines along the east side of the site. There is a 8' deep fieldstone passage between the bank and block ovens which allowed movement of coal rail cars below the level of the ovens for transport of the finished coke. All of the remaining contributing structures and buildings of this part of the district are located in the north end. The Wood and Steel Tipple is positioned directly to the north of the block ovens. Originally, the coal would have been transported from the Mine Entrance Tipple, across the elevated conveying system (no longer extant) and into the top of the Wood and Steel Tipple. It would then have been prepared for use in the coking ovens and loaded into larry cars beneath. The larry cars were then moved into position above the trunnel of each oven and coal was unloaded. When the coal was finished coking, it would have been drawn (by hand and later by mechanized extractor) and loaded into the railroad cars, which were positioned lower than the level of the ovens, and readied for transport to market. The heights of the structures is related to their role in this system of processing and the use of gravity for transfer of materials. The Lime and Sand House is also near this area, close to the ovens so that the sand to provide traction for the locomotives did not need to be transported far. The lime and sand would have also been components of the mortar that was part of the ovens. The Power House and Mine Entrance Tipple are atop the small hill to the west end. The Blacksmith and Carpenter Shop is located at the northern tip of the processing site and is currently used as a graphite recycling plant. The concrete block Supply House is located between the Blacksmith and Carpenter Shop and the batteries of ovens.

Improvements to the processing site c1963 included the construction of three of the noncontributing resources on the site. The large Steel Tipple was constructed on the site between the Mine Entrance Tipple and the Wood and Steel Tipple. This allowed the incorporation of some of the footings and piers from the elevated conveying system to be used in this new structure. The Steel Bin and "Baghouse" were also constructed at this time, but not put to use. The Steel Bin was intended to be part of the coal conveying system, while the "Baghouse" was part of a structure to collect and treat the smoke from the ovens.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3

Shoaf Historic District

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The patch, originally built c1904, was laid out in a grid pattern which rose along the slope of the land. This grid included the eastern half of First Street and contained three more rows of houses to the north. The north side of Second Street contained more semi-detached dwellings. Another street, Third Street, completed the grid and had more semi-detached dwellings on the eastern half. In 1914, a second group of houses was built. First Street was extended westward and ten more semi-detached houses built, and ten single family dwellings were erected on the west end of Third Street. It appears that there were also approximately nine shanties located to the north of the extension to First Street. The houses on the north side of Second Street and all of Third Street were demolished sometime after 1952, when the land was purchased by Daniel B. Swaney and strip mined. A recent growth of trees and vegetation, and a boney pile to the north are what remains of this era of strip mining.

Today the mine's patch community is basically rectangular in form. First Street, the patch's main street, runs the entire length of the district. Second Street parallels First on the eastern half of the patch only. These two streets follow the level areas in the slope of the land, with First Street set approximately 5' above the foundations of most of the houses on the south side. The north side of First Street and Second Street sit higher on the slope in the patch. Alleys are located along the back of the lots and also connect First and Second streets.

The lots for the semi-detached dwellings, which are the majority of the resources, average 40' in width and 105' in depth. Lots on some parts of First Street are longer: those built in 1907 on the south end average 220' and those developed in 1914 on the west end average 175'. There are also a variety of odd-shaped and sized lots around the perimeter of the community, most notably those in the east end which previously held the store manager's house and the company store, lots 14-12-16 and 14-12-15 respectively. Each lot would originally have included a double privy to the rear, some of which are extant.

The dwellings are semi-detached vernacular worker houses, two stories high with end-gables, four bays, full front porches and stone foundations. These houses are similar in size and 10'-20' setback from the front property line. The semi-detached houses were built according to two different sets of plans. On the north side of First and on Second Street the chimneys are mostly

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 4

Shoaf Historic District

centrally located on the front and back slopes of the roofs and are usually square. In addition, there are four windows on the main facade of the second floor. The houses on the western half and southern side of First Street, however, have two rectangular chimneys set on the ridge of the roof and only two windows on the second story. Three double dwellings on First Street (17-18, 19-20 and 21-22) are slightly larger in size and located close to the processing site, and may have been assistant foremen's homes. Many of these dwellings have been re-covered with asphalt or asbestos shingles, or synthetic siding, but some do retain their original weatherboard. It is not uncommon for each half of the semi-detached house to have different coverings. Also, some porches have been enclosed, additions have been made to the rear of some houses and chimneys have been stuccoed. These cosmetic changes do not detract from the overall form or style of the buildings, as a view down any street will attest to the overall similarities among the houses.

The other contributing dwelling buildings in the patch include the Rectory and 16 First Street, both of which are single family units. The Rectory is located along the south side of First Street, and continues to be owned by the adjoining Saint Helen's Roman Catholic Church. This detached dwelling is two stories high, two bays wide and has a full front porch. It is distinguished by a hip roof with dormers, as well as an original garage. The other single dwelling is located on the east end of First Street, near the processing site. This house is unlike the others in plan and includes a cross gable. The number of contributing dwelling buildings in the townsite is 34.

The patch also contains two multiple-car garages. One five-car garage was built in 1922. It is located in the alley behind the west end of First Street and is a contributing building. A second multiple-car garage is located near the north side of the middle of First Street, appears to have been moved there after 1952, and is considered a noncontributing building.

Shoaf also contains four non-contributing dwelling buildings, all of which are trailers. These resources are classified as noncontributing because they were built following the period of significance. None of the semi-detached dwellings or other buildings from the 1904-1922 period of construction are considered non-contributing because they have all retained their basic form, scale and features. Alterations such as the installation of



**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**Section number 7 Page 5

Choaf Historic District

septic systems and electric water heaters, new kitchen sinks, and structural improvements were made by John Galbreath, the owner c1950s. These and any later alterations that were made, such as enclosures or additions, were generally cosmetic and do not alter the scale or massing of the buildings.

The noncontributing resources in the Shoaf Historic District include five buildings (four dwellings and one garage) and three processing structures, and do not detract from the overall integrity of the area. The combination of an intact processing site and patch with minimally altered buildings make this district a fine example of an early twentieth century coal mining and coke processing community. The integrity of setting, location, design, materials, feeling and association is strong, despite alterations and loss of building stock in the 1950s.

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1

Shoaf Historic District

The Shoaf Historic District is significant under Criteria A and C, in the areas of Industry, Engineering, and Community Planning and Development. The district contains the Shoaf beehive coke ovens, processing site and mine entrance, as well as the associated patch town. Shoaf was one of three beehive coke operations that was constructed by the H.C. Frick Coke Company between 1904 and 1906. The construction of these beehive ovens is important because they are a part of the renowned Connellsville coke region and helped produce the beehive coke that fueled the steel industry of western Pennsylvania. These beehive ovens were built to late nineteenth century engineering standards of design and practice at a time when by-product ovens were starting to gain popularity. At some point the ovens were altered and tracks laid for the use of mechanized extractors, which significantly changed the daily workings of the operation. More than 300 ovens were constructed at Shoaf and in continual use until 1926. The ovens were later fired sporadically during World War II and between 1965-72, after which they were shut down due to their negative environmental impact. The related patch town is built according to common industry principles of design and construction for workers' housing, and is similar to other H.C. Frick Coke Company tenements as plans were used for numerous company communities. The Shoaf Historic District includes almost all elements of a coal and coke plant community: beehive ovens, structures, buildings and machinery on the processing site, as well as a patch town. The well-preserved ovens and processing site, existence of several industrial buildings and machinery, and patch houses of good integrity make it a distinctive resource exemplifying the coke industry of southwestern Pennsylvania in the early years of the twentieth century.

The H.C. Frick Coke Company that was to become one of the region's major producers of Connellsville coke was started in 1870 when Henry Clay Frick and his cousin, A.O. Tintzman, built 50 beehive ovens at Broad Ford, under the name of Frick and Company. Over the next several years Frick acquired a number of working coke operations, a pattern that was to become the trademark business strategy during his ownership of the company. The company prospered during the Panic of 1873, as Frick bought out his partners and competitors. In 1874 Frick renamed the business H.C. Frick and Company, securing additional monies through the purchase and sale of railroad lines and by bringing in a Pittsburgh investor. During the immediate year after the panic, Frick's was the only company in the Connellsville region that was producing coke regularly and, thus it was ready for the increased demand for

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

Shoaf Historic District

the product when the nation pulled out of the economic crisis at the end of the decade. In the early 1880s Frick continued to acquire numerous properties and operations, and had a total of more than a thousand ovens, making him the largest coke producer in the region.

In 1882 Frick joined with Thomas and Andrew Carnegie to form the H.C. Frick Coke Company. This partnership was especially important for Frick because it gave him the resources to expand the company at a time when he predicted, correctly, that the market for coke would grow. The H.C. Frick Coke Company continued the practice of acquiring solidly built, existing operations, which allowed it to expand quickly and to reduce competition at the same time. The company built only two plants between 1882 and 1903. By 1886, Frick was by far the largest coke operator in the Connellsville region, owner of over one-third of the coke ovens. By the close of the century he owned over 10,000 beehive ovens. Frick became a member of the Carnegie enterprise and was respected for his business sense. However, a series of disagreements during their years together came to a head in 1899. Frick believed Carnegie was paying H.C. Frick Coke Company too little for the coke that insured the success of Carnegie Steel. Frick took the matter to court, won the settlement, and severed relations with Carnegie.

The H.C. Frick Coke Company remained a part of Carnegie Steel, however, and in 1903 it was absorbed as part of the merger that formed United States Steel. The H.C. Frick Coke Company grew as assets from the merger were consolidated. It now held 16,770 ovens in the Connellsville and Lower Connellsville region. Although these ovens produced coke solely for U.S. Steel, they and the 30,000 ovens of U.S. Steel could not meet demand.

As a consequence, in the early decades of the twentieth century the H.C. Frick Coke Company altered its strategy of acquiring operations from competitors, and began to design and construct plants. In 1904 over 1.3 million dollars was appropriated for the construction campaign of three new beehive plants at York Run, Bitner, and Shoaf, a total of 900 ovens. These three sites were designed by W.G. Wilkins Company, which had extensive experience in designing coke plants. This company employed Wilbur M. Judd, one of the prominent engineers in the Connellsville region. Although many records have been lost concerning the construction of the site, a report in Coal and Timber stated that Thomas Stark of Greenburg had the contract for 200 ovens to be built at Shoaf. The

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 3

Shoaf Historic District

beehive ovens on the site were constructed of local fieldstone and fire brick, according to late nineteenth century standards and design, and were completed in 1906 at the cost of over \$334,000. By 1907 the decision to enlarge the operation had already been made, although it is not clear if the additional ovens were for Shoaf Number 1 or Shoaf Number 2/Smiley (a nearby processing site and patch). This addition cost more than \$100,000, and included 144 more ovens and 15 more double dwellings, contracted to H.F. Stark and the Nicola Building Company, respectively.

Following the expansion, the Shoaf site contained over 300 beehive ovens, one row of block (back-to-back) and a single row of bank ovens. A local drift mine in the Pittsburgh seam that had a 90-114" seam fed the site. The mine entrance was located at a Tipple near the Power House. Surface buildings included a steel tipple and bins (1905), a brick power house (1905), a frame oil house (1905), a brick fan motor house (1905), a 120,000 gallon steel water tank (1905), a frame supply house (1906), a frame blacksmith and carpenter shop (1906), a frame foreman's office (1906), a frame two-story stable (1906), a concrete and brick structure for lime and sand storage (1906), and a frame electric locomotive house (1907).

The majority of the Shoaf patch was built c1904, directly to the west of the processing site. It contained approximately 43 double dwellings, three single dwellings, a store manager's house and a brick Union Supply Company Store. Two nineteenth century houses, on the hills to the north and south of the patch, were part of the farmland sold to H.C. Frick Coke Company. They were large, single dwellings and were used by the Superintendent and Foreman. Stables were located along the south end of the townsite, parallel to the street, and there was also a park and a playground near the company store.

Throughout the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, patch towns were common features of coal and related industries. Over 50% of Pennsylvania miners lived in patch towns, the majority of them in the bituminous regions of the southwestern part of the state. These towns were built by the company that owned the mine in an effort to attract workers, control labor, and recapture some costs through rent and sales at company stores. A 1989 study of coal company towns in the bituminous regions of Pennsylvania identified patches as having the five following characteristics in common: towns were built, owned and operated by a single company;

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 4

Shoaf Historic District

the community was located near the mine site, but the mine and its associated buildings were of primary importance; company houses were constructed cheaply, and of very similar style and materials; worker houses tended to be two-story, wood-frame buildings that were semi-detached and had four or six rooms; and there was a clear hierarchy between the architecture of the management and the workers. (Mulrooney, p. 1, 14-16)

The H.C. Frick Coke Company patch community at Shoaf conforms to almost all of these characteristics. The worker houses are two-story, semi-detached, wood-frame buildings. However, those at Shoaf have eight or ten rooms. The eight-room plan was especially common for patches of the H.C. Frick Coke Company, and plans were used over and over, so that many of the Frick towns have very similar housing stock. The buildings themselves were of a common worker style and minimally outfitted, with no bathrooms or electricity until the 1950s. The houses of the store manager, and superintendent, as well as their assistants, were larger and more elaborately styled than the workers' houses, reflecting the architectural hierarchy common to patch towns. Shoaf also had a Union Supply Company Store, as did many Frick towns, as well as a church and rectory on land that was donated by the company. All these elements combined to make Shoaf a typical patch community.

Also typical was the company's control of the patch. The H.C. Frick Coke Company governed the town, setting the general rules to which the workers had to conform. Goods were purchased at the company store, although many residents grew small gardens to supplement their food supplies and offset high prices. Residents who rented houses from the company did not want to jeopardize their jobs for fear of losing their homes.

The Shoaf beehive ovens were in production during the final years of the reign of beehive coke. By the early years of the twentieth century, output from by-product ovens was challenging the industrial prominence of beehive coke. By-product coke oven technology was introduced in Europe around the 1880s, but it was not accepted in the United States until the 1890s. By-product ovens were designed to capture the by-products that were released during the coke-making process, thereby resulting in less pollution, less waste and greater profits. By 1894, the first by-product coke ovens were built and successfully used in the area, at the Dunbar Furnace Company of Connellsville. However, many companies continued to use and build beehive ovens, unsure of this

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 5

Shoaf Historic District

new technology and unwilling to invest in the expensive machinery. Beehives were still believed to produce the best coke for blast furnace operation (especially coke made from coal in the Connellsville region). With World War I, both beehive and by-product ovens were needed to support the steel-making operations during wartime. Simultaneously, European countries, most notably Germany, limited exports of certain coke by-products, such as tar derivatives to make explosive products, drugs and dyes. By-product ovens now had a more specific purpose and their popularity in America soared after the war.

The peak production of beehive coke was in 1916, with beehive ovens holding onto their dominant position only until 1919. During that year, the majority of coke was produced in by-product ovens, a trend which continues to today. This period of growth and success for the beehive ovens continues through c1919, and the following decline is reflected in the changes at Shoaf.

To meet the challenge from by-product ovens, between 1910-22 the H.C. Frick Coke Company expanded the Shoaf site, introducing mechanized technology on the site, and adding or improving both processing buildings and dwellings. Several mechanized extractors dating from c1905-1913 were brought to the site from other H.C. Frick Coke Company operations. The Covington Company invented a drawing machine near the end of the nineteenth century, in an effort to reduce the largest bottleneck in the beehive coke process-the extraction of the hot coke. The first mechanized drawer at a H.C. Frick Coke Company plant was at Continental Works in 1904. These machines allowed for faster removal of the coke, at a rate of 36 ovens per day, which was 12 times faster than any single man could draw coke by hand. This change at Shoaf required alterations to the site and in the ovens that were designed for hand drawing. Railroad tracks for the extractors were laid in front of each row of oven doors. The doors themselves were enlarged to allow greater room for manipulation of the machinery in the oven. Changes related to the processing buildings included additions to the supply house (1918 and 1919) and the blacksmith and carpenter shop (1907 and 1910), plus construction of storage buildings for lumber (1910 with 1918 addition), naphtha (1912) and steel (1918).

Houses were added to the Shoaf community site as follows: ten double dwellings in 1914, ten single dwellings in 1917 and at least one five-car garage in 1922. The H.C. Frick Coke Company also

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 6

Shoaf Historic District

appropriated land for St. Helen's, a Slavish Roman Catholic Church, in 1913, and a rectory in 1921.

Around 1922 the Shoaf coke ovens were idled, due to the bituminous coal miner's strike which affected the entire country. Concurrently, the demand for beehive-produced coke had fallen sharply and the H.C. Frick Coke Company began to close its beehive operations. The larry tracks which ran over the Shoaf beehive ovens were dismantled in 1926 and the removal of the water lines for cooling the coke followed in 1929. Between 1936-40 the demolition of buildings in the Shoaf housing area included nine double dwellings, the mine foreman's house and six single-family dwellings, but the surface buildings at the processing site were mostly left standing.

The beehive ovens returned to operation during World War II as the by-product ovens at the steel plants could not keep up with the demand for coke. The Shoaf mine still held coal reserves and the ovens were rehabilitated for a short period of use, with two more mechanized extractors being brought onto the site. The ovens were active again through 1951. However, by 1959 the H.C. Frick Coke Company sold the mine and ovens to Max and Helen Nobel. Nobel proceeded to rehabilitate the ovens extensively and to have them in steady operation by 1965. This rehabilitation included a lumnite cement/liner brick/clay mixture for new jamb blocks and trunnels, and a change in the composition of the crown bricks. It was at this time that Nobel designed the large steel tippie which sits in the central area of the site. It was constructed with beams from a plant near Pottsville and positioned among the footers of the original elevated conveying system. A steel bin was also positioned at the north end of the block ovens, intended for but never to be used in the new system. A "Baghouse" was built across the southern ends of the batteries of ovens, in an attempt to collect and purify the smoke from the ovens. However, the smoke was still too polluted and the ovens were shut down for the last time in 1972 because they failed to meet the air quality standards of the State of Pennsylvania. Today the brick Blacksmith and Carpenter Shop is the sole building in use on the processing site, acting as a graphite recycling center.

Ownership of the dwellings in the townsite was changed in the early fifties as the lots were sold to two developers. The lots and dwellings which are extant today (except those including the rectory, store manager and supervisor's houses, and company store)

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 7

Shoaf Historic District

were conveyed to John W. Galbreath in 1950. He rented these houses until the early 1960s, when he sold them to individuals. Three of these houses have since been demolished or lost. In 1952, Daniel B. Swaney bought the lots on the north side of Second Street and all of Third Street, and the dwellings on them were demolished sometime thereafter for strip mining (they are not visible on the 1964 USGS topographic map).

Other changes to the patch include the loss of various buildings due to fire and demolition. The original frame St. Helen's Church burned in 1972 and was replaced with a brick church on a nearby portion of the lot. The company store burned c1983 after numerous years of decay. The store manager's house on the adjoining lot was also lost to fire during the winter of 1991-92. Finally, three multiple dwellings on First and Second streets were lost to either fire or decay and demolition.

Despite these losses, the Shoaf Historic District is a very intact southwestern Pennsylvania coking industry resource from the early twentieth century. Coal towns and mine sites can be found throughout the region, but this historic district is one of the few examples with a well-preserved processing site and patch town. The H.C. Frick Coke Company built two other sites, York Run and Bitner, at the same time as Shoaf. Nearby York Run was strip mined and now contains only the brick Union Supply Company Store (which serves as a borough building) and some houses. Bitner is located about 8 miles north of Uniontown. This patch contains multiple dwellings that are of the same plans as at Shoaf. More dwellings have been altered here than at Shoaf, and some of them do not retain their integrity due to additions and change in scale. The wooden Union Supply store is extant, but has little integrity due to several alterations. The beehive ovens are not extant. Mammoth in Westmoreland County, acquired by H.C. Frick Coke Company in 1889, retains six beehive ovens out of 150. These are located near the lake in Mammoth County Park. The ovens were rehabilitated in 1976, and signs and coal cars help to interpret these "Historic Coke Ovens". The houses are no longer extant, as they were located where the lake stands now. In comparison to these three sites, Shoaf contains a processing site and patch with greater integrity of location, design, setting, materials and workmanship. Integrity of feeling and association is especially notable in the historic district. Shoaf retains the ability to illustrate work and life within an early twentieth century coke processing site and patch community.



## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 8

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### Shoaf Historic District

The Shoaf Historic District is particularly significant for the number and the integrity of the extant beehive ovens. The stones and bricks are intact throughout the batteries, and each oven can be clearly identified. Some ovens include hooks and pulling tools above the doors, as well as the dismantled water lines. There are also several original support buildings on the processing site, as well as drawing machines and larries, which provide a more complete understanding of the beehive coke industry, related engineering applications, and how they developed since the nineteenth century. There are some alterations to the trunnels and jamb blocks, due to the rehabilitations of the 1960s, but these are important as examples of an attempt to make beehive ovens useful in the later years of the twentieth century.

The patch town also maintains good integrity, with the majority of buildings retaining like massing, shape and setback that identifies it as a company town. Several semi-detached homes have been converted to single homes, but most remain multiple dwellings. Many of the houses also retain original weatherboard or mid-twentieth century improvements of asbestos and asphalt siding. The non-contributing buildings, such as the trailers, are few in number and spread throughout the patch, as are the noncontributing structures on the processing site. Consequently, they do not diminish the overall feel of the district. The existence of both the mine/processing site and patch town, and the high degree of integrity, make Shoaf a distinctive coal industry community resource from the early twentieth century.

The Bureau for Historic Preservation also notes that the Shoaf Historic District appears likely to have archeological significance, however, the present documentation is not adequate to evaluate significance under Criterion D.

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 # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other - Specify Repository: BHP-Johnstown Regional Office

10. Geographical DataAcreage of property: 38.5 acres

## UTM References:

	<u>Zone</u>	<u>Easting</u>	<u>Northing</u>		<u>Zone</u>	<u>Easting</u>	<u>Northing</u>
A	17	601460	4410900	B	17	602000	4410770
C	17	602270	4411040	D	17	602000	4410380

\_ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description See continuation sheet.Boundary Justification See continuation sheet.11. Form Prepared Byname/title Stephanie L. Reinert

organization PHMC/BHP date 13 August 1993

street & number 319 Washington St., Ste. 370 tel. (814)539-2016

city or town Johnstown state PA zip 15901

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 9 Page 9.1

Shoaf Historic District

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- The Coal Field Directory and Mining Catalogues of Coal Mining Equipment for the Year 1914. (Pittsburgh: Keystone Consolidated Publishing Co., Inc., 1914), 488.

Maps

- H.C. Frick Coke Company. "Shoaf Mines." General Plant Plans. (H.C. Frick Coke Company, 1928), 50.
- H.C. Frick Coke Company. "Standard 8 Room Double Tenement." (1914), 1 Sheet.
- Howard C. Frank for H.C. Frick Coke Company. "Standard Ten Room Double Tenement." (December 12, 1906), 6 sheets.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number   9   Page   9.2  

Shoaf Historic District

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"Insurance Map Showing Surface Lines, Rights of Way, Buildings, Pipe Lines Etc. at Shoaf Mine of the United States Steel Corporation." (January, 1909 with revisions through 1951, and conveyances through November 25, 1959), 2 sheets.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 10.1

Shoaf Historic District

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## Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at a point in Shoaf, Georges Township, where the rear line of the bank ovens of the processing site for Shoaf Number 1 intersects with Township Road 472, proceed northwest along the east side of the curve of the road to where it intersects with the back property lines of parcels 14-12-44 to 14-12-55. Turn northwest and follow these property lines to the west corner of parcel 14-12-55, and continue northeast along the property line of 14-12-55 and across First Street. Turn northwest and follow the front property lines of parcels 14-12-30 to 14-13-2. At the small alley which divides parcel 14-12-2, turn northeast and follow the east side of the alley, across the back alley to the point where it intersects with parcel 14-13-1. Follow the property lines of parcels 14-13-1 to 14-13-12 and 14-12-1 to 14-12-8. At the east corner of parcel 14-12-8 turn southwest and follow the property line across Second Street to the point where it meets the north corner of parcel 14-12-29. Turn southeast and follow the front property lines of parcels 14-12-29 to 14-12-16 the point it intersects with the northwest side property line of parcel 14-12-14. Turn northeast, cross Second Street and follow the side property lines of parcel 14-12-14, across the alley, and continue along the line of 14-12-10. At the north corner of parcel 14-12-10 turn southeast and follow the front property lines of parcels 14-12-10 to 14-12-12 and across Township Road 472. Follow the curve of the east side of the road a northerly direction along the processing site, to a point just north of the Power House. Turn and follow a northeasterly direction to the north corner of the Blacksmith and Carpenter Shop. Follow behind the building to the north and turn south at its east corner. Continue in a southerly direction to the north end of the battery of bank ovens. Turn southwest and follow the rear or east side of the row of bank ovens, connecting with the original point at the road.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 10 Page 10.2

Shoaf Historic District

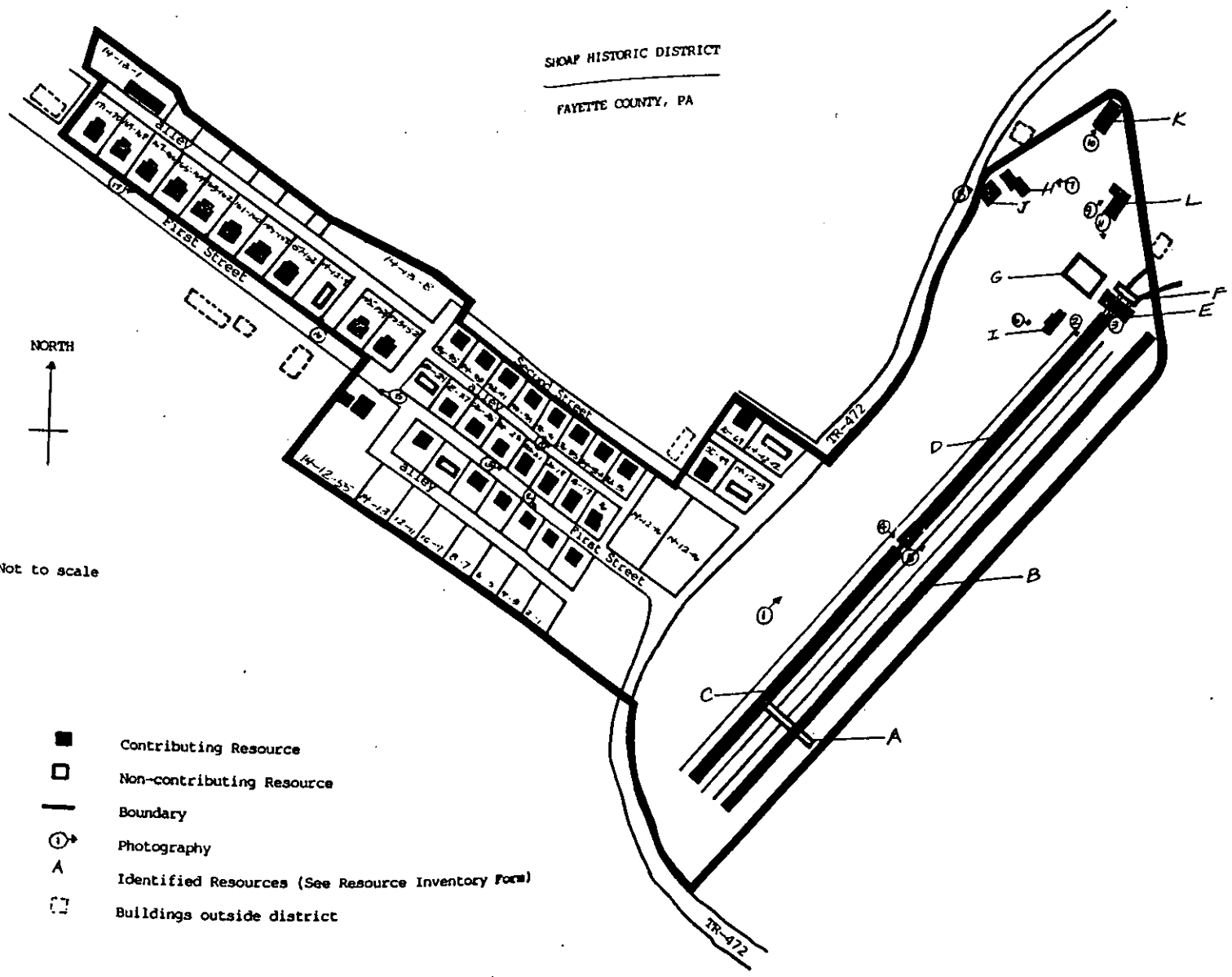
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Boundary Justification

The boundary contains land originally owned by H.C. Frick Coke Company as part of Shoaf Number 1, including the processing site with coke ovens, mine entrance and processing buildings, and associated patch town. The processing site includes the three batteries of beehive ovens, as well as related structures, machinery and railroad tracks. All extant buildings on the processing site are included, with the exception of two: a small, concrete block building to the north of the ovens and a brick dwelling near the Power House. They have been excluded because they were built following the period of significance. In the patch, all lots that were originally owned by H.C. Frick Coke Company and that have extant buildings are included. The Rectory was not built by H.C. Frick Coke Company, but is located on land that was owned by the company and given to the patch for construction of this building. St. Helen's R.C. Church, the lot directly to the northwest of the Rectory, is not included because the original frame church of c1913 burned c1972 and was replaced with another brick church that was built following the period of significance. Other buildings on the south side of and west end of First Street may have been built within the period of significance but they are not included because they were not a part of the original company town.

SHOAP HISTORIC DISTRICT

FAYETTE COUNTY, PA



Not to scale

- Contributing Resource
- Non-contributing Resource
- Boundary
- Ⓢ Photography
- A Identified Resources (See Resource Inventory Form)
- ⌚ Buildings outside district

