

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

NATIONAL REGISTER

1. Name of Property

historic name: Pocahontas Fuel Company Store

other name/site number: Norfolk Coal & Coke Company Store  
Henderson Market

2. Location

street & number: Highway 52

not for publication: n/a

city/town: Maybeury

vicinity: n/a

state: WV county: McDowell code: 047 zip code: 24861

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: private

Category of Property: building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>          </u>	buildings
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	sites
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	structures
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

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

Name of related property listing: Coal Company Stores in McDowell 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

nomination

request for determination of eligibility

meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property

meets

does not meet

the National Register Criteria.  See continuation sheet.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Certifying Official

2/10/92  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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 commenting or other official

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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

I, hereby certify that this property is:

**Entered in the  
National Register**

entered in the National Register

See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the

National Register

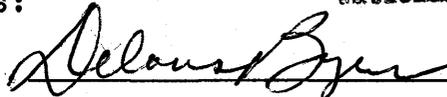
See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the

National Register

removed from the National Register

other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

 4/17/92

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Keeper

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

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

Historic: commerce/trade Sub: department store  
commerce/trade business  
government post office  
Current : domestic Sub: multiple dwelling  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

Architectural Classification:

other:box plan  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Other Description: n/a

Materials: foundation stone roof metal  
walls wood other brick  
concrete block

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: statewide.

Applicable National Register Criteria: A,C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) : n/a

Areas of Significance: architecture  
commerce  
industry  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period(s) of Significance: ca. 1903-1941

Significant Dates : n/a \_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person(s): n/a  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation: n/a

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

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

=====

9. Major Bibliographical References

=====

See continuation sheet.  x

Previous documentation on file (NPS):  n/a

- 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: \_\_\_\_\_

=====

10. Geographical Data

=====

Acreage of Property:  less than one acre

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing      Zone Easting Northing

A	<u> 17 </u>	<u> 467840 </u>	<u> 4136400 </u>	B	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>
C	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	D	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>

Verbal Boundary Description:      See continuation sheet.

220' northeast from the intersection of highway 52 and lower Angle Hollow road, the boundary extends 100' around each side forming a square around the building.

Boundary Justification:      See continuation sheet.

The boundary includes all of the property historically associated with the Pocahontas Fuel Company store in Maybeury.

=====

11. Form Prepared By

=====

Name/Title:  Stacy Sone, surveyor

Organization:  WV-SHPO  Date:  12/16/91

Street & Number:  Cultural Center  Telephone:  304-348-0240

City or Town:  Charleston  State:  WV  ZIP:  25305

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Pocahontas Fuel Company store,  
Maybeury

Section number 7 Page 1

---

The Pocahontas Fuel Company store, located on Highway 52, is one of few intact wood-frame company stores standing in southern West Virginia. The two-story building was constructed before 1903 by the Norfolk Coal and Coke Company. It stands substantially unaltered from its original appearance when it provided goods and services to residents employed in five area coal mines. The building's most significant features are its size, stone foundation, and its pyramidal roof in one corner. The company store has undergone few alterations and it retains the characteristics that reflect its importance to the community and to the coal industry.

The store's basic mass is on a stone-based Greek cross plan under an intersecting hipped roof. At each intersection of the plan and filling the first floor into a square are single rooms that may be early additions. The sections in three of the corners are one story under a hipped roof. In the southwest end, the corner stands two stories high under a tall pyramidal roof. This corner tower along with three chimneys and a gabled dormer on each side adds distinctive complexity to the roof line.

The company store's entrance facade faces west towards the main part of Maybeury. A double-door entrance with a transom stands in the center between two display windows. Originally, the display windows were larger and extended nearly the length of the door opening. A secondary doorway opens into the one-story corner room that once served as a payroll office. Extending across the front and around to the north facade is a broad concrete-surfaced porch floor. A wide stairway ascends to the porch in front of the main entrance.

The store's south facade was the closest to the railroad tracks and includes the delivery entrance into the basement. A concrete surface spans a small creek between the building and the tracks. The delivery door opens near an operating freight elevator that was installed when the building was constructed. The basement level is basically one large room with massive stone piers supporting the first floor. The remainder of the interior was altered to accommodate a general store that operated there until 1980, and four still-occupied apartments.

Most of the building's minor exterior alterations are limited to the south facade. The windows here have been boarded over, and metal shingles cover the weathered clapboard. These changes are simply protective and do not detract from the company store's turn-of-the-century appearance.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 1 Pocahontas Fuel Company store,  
Maybeury

---

The coal company store at Maybeury is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under criterion A for its historical association with southern West Virginia's coal mining industry and under criterion C for its architectural significance. The Maybeury store, like other company stores in West Virginia, played an extremely important role in the mining community. It is one of the earliest extant company stores in McDowell County and served as a busy mercantile center within the region (for detailed historical information about the Pocahontas Coalfield and the significance of company stores, see sections E and F in "Coal Company Stores in McDowell County", multiple property listing). The Maybeury store is architecturally significant not only for its impressive size but also because it is one of only two wood-frame company stores remaining in the county.

Before the coal industry boomed in southern West Virginia at the end of the nineteenth century, the area consisted of scattered, self-sufficient farms and communities. Because of the absence of railroads and good roads, the southern counties had little interaction with the rest of the nation. After the Civil War, however, the nation's industrial market expanded and outsiders began to turn their attention to West Virginia's vast coal reserve to meet growing demands.

The major railroads extended their lines into southern West Virginia allowing the area to be developed. Without a sufficient labor force, however, coal mining could not be productive. Companies recruited thousands of workers first from the older coalfields in Pennsylvania, and then from Eastern Europe and the American South. To accommodate these new arrivals, coal companies built self-sufficient communities to house and provide for their workers. The construction of company towns was absolutely necessary in southern West Virginia. Unlike the northern coalfields of Pennsylvania, where mining operations began in regions that were already settled, southern mines opened in sparsely settled areas with few organized communities. The company town was the most logical solution because it provided efficient and inexpensive housing for a large labor force.

Central to each of these communities was the company store. The store was usually the town's most prominent building and was typically placed in an easily accessible location. The buildings often housed not only a store but also the company's business office, a post office, and sometimes, a doctor's office. Because of its location and multiple functions, the store provided each community with a center for social gathering.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 2 Pocahontas Fuel Company store,  
Maybeury

---

The Maybeury store served as the community's most important building under two coal companies. The company that built the store, the Norfolk Coal and Coke Company, operated five mines in the Maybeury area. This company was established in 1888 after the completion of the N & W's tunnel through Flat Top Mountain making this one of the first operations to mine in McDowell County. The single store served the employees and families of all five of the company's mines. Although its exact construction date is unknown, it is clear from early shipping records that the store was operating in 1903.

During the 1910's, the company's owner, James Ellwood Jones, sold the Norfolk Coal and Coke Company to the Pocahontas Fuel Company which was to become the second largest coal producer in the state. The latter company expanded the operation and built a second store nearby at Switchback to serve a larger number of residents.

Company stores were typically the center of commercial and social activity in the busy mining communities and the Maybeury store was no exception. Miners and their families could purchase a wide variety of merchandise in this single building. They also could handle other business at the post office or the company payroll office which were included in the store building. Because of its various functions, the company store was the busiest place in town aside from the actual mine operation.

Although its importance diminished during the 1930's, the company store served in this capacity until the Pocahontas Fuel Company ceased its operation in that area in the 1950's. Good roads allowed Maybeury residents to live there but work in mines farther away. The store was sold into private hands and continued to operate as a market for the many residents who remained in the area. After at least eighty years of serving the community, the store closed and is now vacant except for four apartments. The fact that the Maybeury store stayed open as a market after the mines closed is quite an achievement. Unlike so many stores that were razed or abandoned, the Maybeury store offered merchandise until 1980.

Although some of McDowell County's other stores are more detailed architecturally, the Maybeury store is undeniably impressive. Its size, distinguished roofline, and stone foundation indicate the company's interest in providing an outstanding structure to serve the community. The building has been cared for throughout its long history. It retains nearly all of its original fabric and is structurally sound. The store stands as an outstanding and representative example of an early coal company store and its importance to the mining industry.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 9 Page 1 Pocahontas Fuel Company store,  
Maybeury

---

Bluefield Daily Telegraph, Industrial Edition, 1896. reprint 1983.

Company Stores, file. Eastern Regional Coal Archives, Bluefield, WV.

Eller, Ronald D. Miners, Millhands, and Mountaineers. Industrialization of the Appalachian South, 1880-1930. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1982.

Haynes, Paul and Grace, former property owners, site visit, 10-11-91.

Henderson, David and Jeanette, property owners, site visit, 10-11-91.