

Bramwell Additions Historic District  
Name of Property

Mercer County, West Virginia  
County and State

**4. 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: *Elson H. Beall*      Date of Action: 5/5/05

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**5. Classification:**

**Ownership of Property:**

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**

Contributing	Noncontributing	
27	11	buildings
		sites
1		structures
		objects
28	11	TOTAL

Name of related multiple property listing: NA

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 166

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**6. Functions or Use**

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**Historic Functions**

DOMESTIC: Single dwelling;

TRANSPORTATION: railroad bridge.

**Current Functions**

COMMERCE/TRADE: Business;

DOMESTIC: Single dwelling.

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**7. Description:**

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**Architectural Classification:**

LATE VICTORIAN: Queen Anne, Princess Anne, Folk Victorian;

LATE 19<sup>th</sup> AND 20<sup>th</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS: Colonial Revival;

MODERN MOVEMENT: Art Deco.

**Materials:**

Foundation: Brick; stone; concrete; stucco; terra cotta.

Walls: Vinyl; aluminum; wood; metal; brick; concrete; asbestos; asphalt.

Roof: Asphalt; metal; fiberglass.

Other: Brick; concrete; wood.

**Narrative Description**

(See continuation sheets.)

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**8. Statement of Significance:**

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**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.

**Criteria Considerations**

**A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

**B** removed from its original location.

**C** a birthplace or a 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**

Architecture;  
Community Planning and Development;  
Industry;  
Ethnic Heritage.

**Period of Significance**

1892-1948.

**Significant Dates**

N/A

**Significant Person**

Holley, William A.

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**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Unknown.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(See continuation sheets.)

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**9. Major Bibliographic References**

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**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:

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**10. Geographic Data:**

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Acreage of property: Approximately 12 acres.

Quad Map Name: Bramwell, W.Va. – VA.

**UTM References:**

<b>ZONE</b>	<b>EASTING</b>	<b>NORTHING</b>
<u>A. 17</u>	<u>472391</u>	<u>4131165</u>
<u>B. 17</u>	<u>472394</u>	<u>4130824</u>
<u>C. 17</u>	<u>472245</u>	<u>4130848</u>
<u>D. 17</u>	<u>472235</u>	<u>4131162.</u>

**Verbal Boundary Description**  
(See continuation sheet)

**Boundary Justification**  
(See continuation sheet)

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**11. Form prepared by:**

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Name/Title: Michael Gioulis, Historic Preservation Consultant

Organization: Same as above

Date: January 1, 2005

Street & Number: 612 Main Street

Telephone: (304) 765-5716

City or Town: Sutton State: WV

Zip: 26601

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**Property owner**

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Name: Multiple property owners

Street & Number:

Telephone:

City or Town:

State:

Zip:

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The Bramwell Additions Historic District (Boundary Increase) consists of a small residential neighborhood located to the north of the original Bramwell Historic District and to the north of the Bluestone River. The neighborhood is within a curve of the Bluestone River. It contains the historically poorer neighborhood of Bramwell. Also included is the Bluestone School on Simmons Avenue. This was the African-American school for the children of Bramwell. Bramwell is located in the far southwestern portion of Mercer County and the Virginia border is just to the southwest. The proposed increase is composed of a portion of Bluestone Avenue, Clifton Street, Renova Street, a portion of Simmons Avenue, and Simmons Street.

The nominated area contains approximately twelve (12) acres. There are thirty-nine (39) resources in the proposed boundary increase: twenty-seven (27) are considered contributing buildings; eleven (11) are considered non-contributing buildings; and there is one (1) contributing structure, the railroad trestle over the Bluestone River.

The neighborhood consists of single family residences of the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century. They are almost all two-story, wood frame houses with large yards. The residences on Simmons Street have the Bluestone River in their back yards so often have to deal with the effects of flooding. One interesting aspect of the neighborhood is the presence of stone retaining walls that outline many of the individual lots and some have stone gate posts defining the entrance to the house.

Most of the residences are Vernacular in style but there are several that are Queen Anne, Princess Anne, Colonial Revival or Folk Victorian. There are two Queen Anne style residences within the proposed historic district: site #132 and 134. The largest example is site #134, the Vinciguerra House, ca. 1900. It is a two-story, clipped gable roof house with a clipped gable dormer on the front. It also has a two-story, projecting, three-sided bay on the front with a pyramidal roof, typical of the Queen Anne style. The front porch has Doric columns with Ionic caps, also a typical Queen Anne element.

Similar to the Queen Anne style but a little less elaborate is the Princess Anne style. It is represented within the district by site #136, 4 Renova Street, Dr. W.A. Holley House, ca. 1892. This is also one of the oldest house within this neighborhood. It is a tall, steep, two-

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story, cross gable house with a two-story, front porch with a hip gable roof. It has a metal shingle roof and wood shingles and a diamond-shaped window in the front gable end. There is a cornice separating the floors of the front porch which has been enclosed, historically. This was the home of the area's black physician, Dr. William A. Holley.

The Folk Victorian style is illustrated with site #128, Goins House on Simmons Street, ca. 1900. It is a two-story, cross gable house with a large, hip dormer on the front. The first floor of the front gable is three-sided, chamfered with spoked brackets at the corners. This is a typical Folk Victorian style element as is the small, entrance porch within the roof overhang.

One of the largest residences within the district is Ellwood, site #135 on Renova Street, ca. 1911. It is Colonial Revival style. It is a very large, two-story, gambrel roof house with an attic level. The front gable end has shingles and two, Gothic arch, divided windows. The house has German siding with corner boards and a variety of divided windows: 4/4 in the front and 6/6, 12/2 and vertical 2/2 windows elsewhere. There is a one-story, shed roof, three-quarter length, front porch with Doric posts and Eastlake spindlework with dropped finials. There is also a wraparound rear porch with turned posts and spindled balustrade. It is in good condition and an interesting variation on the Colonial Revival style.

The Bluestone School, site #153 on Simmons Avenue, 1948, is a good example of the Art Deco style in a school building. It is a two-story, flat roof, school building. It has a corbeled concrete cornice and red brick façade. The windows are metal casements with smooth concrete sills. There is a one-story, flat roof, projecting, entrance bay with flanking entrances. The entrances are accentuated with vertical, fluted concrete accents flanking a window above each entrance and the doors have four light transoms. This was the African-American school for the area.

As stated earlier, there is one contributing structure within the district, the railroad trestle, site #Z1. It was constructed in 1901 by the American Bridge Company over the Bluestone River. It is in fair condition and is a typical railroad trestle.

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The following is a complete list of resources within the proposed district. The site numbers used are consistent with the original survey completed in 1994 and 1995 by Michael Gioulis. The one exception is the railroad trestle, site #Z1. This is a new number and not used anywhere else known to the consultant.

LIST OF SITES

BLUESTONE AVENUE

**150. Bluestone Avenue, residential**

**Goins House**

date: Ca. 1900

description: Two-story, side gable house. Asphalt shingle roof. Vinyl siding. Modern 1/1 windows with shutters. One-story, wraparound porch with modern Doric posts on a solid brick foundation. Brick foundation elsewhere. 2 X 2 bays. Attached, shed roof garage on the rear. Vernacular style. Modified. Stone wall surrounds rear yard.  
1 non-contributing building.

**151. Bluestone Avenue, residential**

**Ellis House**

date: Ca. 1900

description: Two-story, rear facing "T" house. Asphalt shingle roof. Frieze boards with brackets. Aluminum siding. Modern 1/1 windows. Central, two-story, shed roof, projecting, entrance bay: first floor has square posts and an enclosed balustrade; second floor has turned posts and enclosed balustrade. One-story, shed roof porch on rear with narrow Doric posts on brick piers. Parged stone foundation. 3 X 2 bays. One-story, end gable, cellar house attached on rear. Vernacular style.  
1 contributing building.

**151A.**

date: Ca. 1930

description: One-story, shed roof outbuilding. Asphalt shingle roof. Vertical board siding. Pier foundation. 2 X 1 bays.  
1 contributing building.

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**151B.**

date: Ca. 1970

description: Long, one-story, shed roof, garage building. Metal roof. Metal siding. Pier foundation. 6 X 1 bays.

1 non-contributing building.

**152. Bluestone Avenue, commercial**

**Rogers Auto Mart**

date: Ca. 1990

description: One-story, side gable office building. Asphalt shingle roof. T-111 siding. Concrete block foundation. 1 X 1 bays.

1 non-contributing building.

**CLIFTON STREET**

**148. Clifton Street, residential**

**Yon House**

date: Ca. 1920

description: Two-story, front facing "L" house. Asphalt shingle roof. Vinyl siding on the second floor; brick on first floor. Vertical 2/2 windows with simple surrounds. One-story, modified hip roof, three-quarter length, front porch with square brick columns and an enclosed brick balustrade with concrete cap. One-story, shed roof, enclosed porch on the side. Elevated deck on the side. Brick pier foundation. 3 X 3 bays. Vernacular style.

1 contributing building.

**148A.**

date: Ca. 1920

description: Two-story, end gable outbuilding/cellar house. Asphalt shingle roof. Concrete block façade on second floor; stone first floor and foundation. 1 X 1 bays.

1 contributing building.

**149. Clifton Street, residential**

**Hill House**

date: Ca. 1912

description: Two-story, rear facing "T" house. Asphalt shingle roof. Central, interior, corbelled brick chimney. Partial return cornice. Aluminum siding. Vertical 2/2 windows.

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One-story, modified hip roof, three-quarter length, front porch with Doric posts; second floor has central, end gable portico with Doric posts and a spindled balustrade. One side of the rear portion of the "T" has been fully enclosed for two stories. Other side of the "T" has an open, two-story porch with Doric columns on both floors; enclosed balustrade on the first floor; second floor has spindled balustrade. Concrete block foundation. 3 X 1 bays. Vernacular style. Stone retaining wall with stone gate posts with "1916" on one post.

1 contributing building.

**RENOVA STREET**

**135. Renova Street, residential**

**Ellwood**

date: Ca. 1911

description: Two-story, gambrel roof house with attic level. Asphalt shingle roof. Central, interior, brick chimney. Shingles in front gable end. Two, Gothic arch, divided windows in the front gable end. German siding. 4/4, 6/6, 12/2 and 2/2 windows. One-story, shed roof, three-quarter length, front porch with Doric posts and Eastlake spindelwork with dropped finials. Two-story, enclosed, rear porch with interior, brick chimney. Attached to enclosed rear porch is a one-story, wraparound porch with turned posts and spindled balustrade. Stucco foundation. 2 X 2 bays. Colonial Revival style.

1 contributing building.

**136. 4 Renova Street, residential**  
**Willis/Cajko/Dr. Holley House**

date: Ca. 1892

description: Tall, steep, two-story, cross gable house with a two-story, front porch with a hip gable roof. Central, interior, brick chimney. Small, gable dormer on the front. Standing seam metal and metal shingle roof. Shingles and diamond-shaped window in the front gable end. Asbestos shingle siding. 1/1 and 2/2 wood windows with shutters; many are paired. The second story of the front porch has large, paired, single pane windows divided into four sections. The first floor of the front porch is enclosed with windows and has a cornice separating the floors. One-story, gable, enclosed, rear wing. Stone pier foundation infilled with concrete block. 3 X 2 bays. Princess Anne style.

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1 contributing building.

**136A.**

date: Ca. 1892

description: One-story, shed roof, carriage house. Roll roofing. Clapboard siding. Stone foundation. 1 X 1 bays.

1 contributing building.

**137. Renova Street, residential**

**Lucus House**

date: Ca. 1900

description: Two-story, rear facing "L" house. Asphalt shingle roof. Vinyl siding. Modern horizontal 2/2 windows with shutters. Small, end gable, projecting, entrance bay with slightly battered square columns on an enclosed balustrade. Brick foundation. 3 X 4 bays. Vernacular style. Stone wall with stone entrance gate surrounds lot.

1 contributing building.

**137A.**

date: Ca. 1900

description: One-story, gable outbuilding. Asphalt shingle roof. Brick façade and foundation. 1 X 1 bays. Outbuilding sits atop the stone wall.

1 contributing building.

**138. Renova Street, residential**

**Tabor House**

date: Ca. 1900

description: Two-story, rear facing "L" house. Asphalt shingle roof. Aluminum siding. Modern 1/1 windows. One-story, modified hip roof, full length, front porch enclosed with windows and siding. Brick and stone foundation. 2 X 3 bays. Vernacular style. Stone retaining wall and entrance gate on the front. Modified.

1 contributing building.

**139. Renova Street, residential**

**Liss House**

date: Ca. 1900

description: Two-story house; was probably originally a front facing "L". Asphalt shingle roof. Brick veneer façade. Projecting, two-story, three-sided bay on right with attached, one-story, shed roof entrance bay. Front porch enclosed with brick and has sliding glass

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doors. Second floor added to front porch and enclosed. Brick foundation. 3 X 3 bays.  
Vernacular style. Very modified.

1 non-contributing building.

**139A.**

date: Ca. 1940

description: One-story garage. Roll roofing. Concrete block façade and foundation. 1 X 1 bays.

1 non-contributing building.

**140. Renova Street, residential**

**Payne House**

date: Ca. 1900

description: Two-story, rear facing "L" house with small, central, hip roof. Asphalt shingle roof. Clapboard siding with frieze and corner boards. Vertical 2/2 windows. One-story, full length, modified hip roof, front porch with chamfered posts with scrolled brackets and spindled balustrade. Concrete block foundation. 2 X 3 bays. Vernacular style.

1 contributing building.

**141. Renova Street COLLAPSED**

**142. Renova Street, residential**

**Walters House**

date: Ca. 1900

description: Two-story, front facing "T" house. Metal shingle roof. Vinyl siding. Vertical 2/2 windows. One-story, modified hip roof, full length, front porch with square posts and enclosed balustrade. Concrete block foundation. 3 X 1 bays. Vernacular style.

1 contributing building.

**143. Renova Street, residential**

**Shumate House**

date: Ca. 1900

description: Two-story, rear facing "L" house. Ell overhangs hillside and a stone cellar house. Metal shingle roof. Partial return cornice. Exposed, brick chimney on the rear. Asbestos shingle siding. Vertical 2/2 windows; front has shutters. One-story, modified

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hip roof, entrance porch with square paneled posts on brick piers and enclosed balustrade. Brick crawl space below porch. Stone and brick foundation. 3 X 3 bays. Vernacular style. 1 contributing building.

**144. Renova Street, residential**

**Walters House**

date: Ca. 1900

description: Two-story, rear facing "T" house. Asphalt shingle roof. Scrolled brackets. Aluminum siding. Vertical 2/2 windows. One-story, wraparound porch has wrought iron posts and railing. Rear section of porch on the side is enclosed. Concrete block foundation. 3 X 2 bays. One-story, shed roof, concrete block garage attached on side, below grade. Vernacular style. 1 contributing building.

**145. Renova Street, residential**

**Morgan House**

date: Ca. 1900

description: Two-story, end gable house. Asphalt shingle roof. Central, interior, brick, chimney. Asbestos shingle siding. Vertical 2/2 windows. One-story, modified hip roof, full length, front porch with turned posts and enclosed balustrade. Small entrance porch on the side matches the front porch. Stone foundation. 2 X 4 bays. Vernacular style. 1 contributing building.

**146. Renova Street, residential**

**Osborne House**

date: Ca. 1900

description: Two-story, end gable house. Asphalt shingle roof. Interior, brick chimney. Aluminum siding. Modern 1/1 windows. One-story, modified hip roof, full length, front porch with square posts and enclosed balustrade. Small, side porch matches front porch. Stone foundation. 2 X 4 bays. Vernacular style. 1 contributing building.

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**147. Renova Street, residential**

**Painter House**

date: Ca. 1900

description: Two-story, side gable house. Asphalt shingle roof. Aluminum siding. Vertical 2/2 windows with shutters. One-story, shed roof, full length, front porch with wrought iron posts and railing. One-story, shed roof, enclosed, rear porch. Stone foundation; concrete block crawl space under front porch. 3 X 2 bays. Vernacular style. 1 contributing building.

**147A.**

date: Ca. 2000

description: One-story, end gable garage. Asphalt shingle roof. Concrete block façade and foundation. 2 X 1 bays. 1 non-contributing building.

**SIMMONS AVENUE**

**153. Simmons Avenue, educational**

**Bluestone School**

date: 1948

description: Two-story, flat roof school building. Concrete roof cap. Corbeled concrete cornice. Red brick façade. Metal casement windows with concrete sills. Vertical fluted concrete accents on windows on each end. One-story, flat roof, red brick, projecting, entrance portico with flanking stairs. Entrance doors with four pane transom. Cut stone foundation. 7 X 2 bays. Cornerstone reads "1948/F. & A.A.Y. Masons/ King Hiram Lodge No. 1". Cornerstone has been removed. Art Deco style. 1 contributing building.

**SIMMONS STREET**

**127. Simmons Street, residential**

**Martin House**

date: Ca. 1900

description: Two-story, side gable house. Standing seam metal roof. Central, interior, corbelled brick chimney. Partial return cornice. Aluminum siding. 6/1 windows with shutters. One-story, modified hip roof, full length, enclosed, front porch. One-story,

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modified hip roof, full length, enclosed, rear porch. Brick foundation. 2 X 1 bays.  
Vernacular style.  
1 contributing building.

**128. Simmons Street, residential**

**Goins House**

date: Ca. 1900

description: Two-story, cross gable house. Large, hip dormer on right. First floor of gable bay on left is three-sided, chamfered, has spoked brackets at the corners. "V" seam metal roof. Exposed concrete block chimney on the side. Vinyl siding. 1/1 windows. Small, entrance porch within roof overhang. Stone foundation. 3 X 2 bays. Folk Victorian style. 1 contributing building.

**129. Simmons Street, residential**

**Goins House**

date: Ca. 1898

description: Two-story, end gable house. Metal roof. Central, interior, brick chimney. Partial return cornice. Vinyl siding. 1/1 windows with shutters. One-story, modified hip roof, full length, front porch with modern Doric posts on a concrete deck. One-story, modified hip roof, full length, enclosed, rear porch. Stone pier infilled with concrete block foundation. 2 X 4 bays. Vernacular style.  
1 contributing building.

**129A.**

date: Ca. 1900

description: One-story, end gable brick outbuilding partially covered with vinyl siding. Metal roof. Brick foundation. 1 X 1 bays.  
1 contributing building.

**130. Simmons Street, residential**

**Scott House**

date: Ca. 1915

description: Two-story, end gable house. Asphalt shingle roof. Central, interior, corbelled brick chimney. Aluminum siding. Modern 1/1 windows with shutters. One-story, full length, modified hip roof, front porch with wrought iron posts and railing. Front porch has metal roof and brick foundation. Two-story, gable wing on the rear with

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an interior, corbelled brick chimney. Brick pier foundation infilled with concrete block. 4 X 2 bays. Vernacular style.  
1 contributing building.

**130A.**

date: Ca. 1995

description: One-story, side gable outbuilding. Asphalt shingle roof. Concrete block façade and foundation. 1 X 1 bays.

1 non-contributing building.

**131. Simmons Street, residential**

**Goins House**

date: Ca. 1910

description: Two-story, rear facing "L" house. Asphalt shingle roof. Vinyl siding. 1/1 windows with shutters. One-story, shed roof, three-quarter length, front porch with modern Doric columns on a tiled deck supported by concrete block foundation. One-story, enclosed porch on the rear. Stone pier foundation infilled with terra cotta block and concrete block. 3 X 2 bays. Vernacular style. Modified.

1 non-contributing building.

**131A.**

date: Ca. 1940

description: Two-story, hip roof garage/apartment. Asphalt shingle roof. Concrete block façade and foundation. 2 X 1 bays.

1 non-contributing building.

**131B.**

date: Ca. 1930

description: Small, one-story, side gable residence/outbuilding. "V" seam metal roof. Asphalt shingle siding. 6/2 windows. Pier foundation.

1 non-contributing building.

**132. Simmons Street, residential**

**Edmonds House**

date: Ca. 1900

description: Two-story, front facing "L" house. Front gable projects and is three-sided. Onduline roof. Aluminum siding. 1/1 windows with shutters. Curved corner entrance porch with wrought iron posts and railing. One-story, shed roof, side porch with wrought

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iron posts. One-story, shed roof, full length, enclosed, rear porch. Stone pier foundation partially infilled with concrete block. 2 X 2 bays. Queen Anne style.  
1 contributing building.

**133. Simmons Street, residential**

**Corner House**

date: Ca. 1900

description: Two-story, rear facing "L" house. Asphalt shingle roof. Two, exposed, brick chimneys. Aluminum siding. 1/1 windows with shutters. One-story, modified hip roof, full length, front porch with modern Doric columns. Two-story, shed roof, full length, enclosed, rear porch/addition. Terra cotta block and concrete block foundation. 3 X 2 bays. Vernacular style.  
1 non-contributing building.

**134. Simmons Street, residential**

**Vinciguerra House**

date: Ca. 1900

description: Two-story, clipped gable roof house. Clipped gable dormer on the front. Two-story, projecting, three-sided bay on the front with peaked roof. Asphalt shingle roof. Central, interior, brick chimney. Aluminum siding. 1/1 windows. One-story, modified hip roof, full length, front porch with Doric columns with Ionic caps. Two-story, modified hip roof, open back porch with square columns on first floor; turned posts and slatted balustrade on second floor. Stone foundation. 3 X 2 bays. Queen Anne style.  
1 contributing building.

**134A.**

date: Ca. 1940

description: One-story, shed roof outbuilding. Asphalt shingle roof. Concrete block façade and foundation. 1 X 1 bays.  
1 contributing building.

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**Z1. Bluestone River, railroad**

**Railroad Trestle**

date: 1901

description: Railroad trestle goes over the Bluestone River. Currently unused. Typical railroad trestle with treated cross ties and rails. Attached to the cross ties are large vertical steel plates that form the bridge. There is a panel at one end of the bridge and on the panel is: line one – “1901”; line two – “American Bridge Company”; line three – “USA.”  
1 contributing structure.

**Summary:**

The buildings within the boundary increase of the Bramwell Additions Historic District are in good condition and maintain a close-knit neighborhood ambiance. The proposed boundary increase encompasses the traditionally poorer neighborhood of historic downtown Bramwell and also contains the home of the area’s black physician, Dr. William A. Holley, and the African-American school, Bluestone School. The period of significance, 1892 to 1948, dates to the Dr. William Holley House, site #136, ca. 1892 and goes to 1948, the date of Bluestone School, site #153.

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The Bramwell Additions Historic District boundary increase has been deemed necessary due to the recent discovery of additional information about this specific geographic area of Bramwell that was not known or discovered at the time of the original historic district.

The period of significance, 1892 to 1948, dates to the Dr. William Holley House, site #136, ca. 1892 and goes to 1948, the date of Bluestone School, site #153.

The Bramwell Additions Historic District boundary increase is significant under Criterion A for its association with Community Planning and Development through the development of a coal company town; and for its association with Industry through the development of the coal extraction industry in southern West Virginia and the Pocahontas-Flat Top coal fields. The district is significant under Criterion B for Ethnic Heritage through its association with Dr. William A. Holley, the area's African-American physician. The district is also significant under Criterion C for its association with Architecture as representative of several of the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century architectural styles and as typical examples of a lower middle class neighborhood in a coal company town.

The Bramwell Additions Historic District is significant under Criterion A for its association with Community Planning and Development through the development of a coal company town. It is also significant for its association with Industry through the development of the coal mining industry in southern West Virginia and the Flat Top coal field. Prior to the middle of the nineteenth century, settlement in southern western (West) Virginia was very limited. This was due primarily to the mountainous terrain and limited opportunities. This changed when Major Jedediah Hotchkiss and Captain I.A. Welch surveyed 480 square miles of a land grant dating from the Revolutionary War. Welch was employed to survey the area to determine timber and mineral resource value. Their reports in 1871-1873 interested potential investors from Philadelphia. Recognizing the need to transport the resources, their early activities centered on transportation construction as well as mineral land acquisition.

The lands were sold by the new state, West Virginia, following the War and Philadelphian, Thomas Graham purchased coal lands and developed the Atlantic

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Mississippi and Ohio Railroad. The railroad passed into the control of another group of Philadelphians, Clarence H. Clark and Frederick J. Kimball, through the EW Clark and Company bank. They converted the railroad into the Norfolk and Western Railroad. Following this they began to amass land in the coal fields.

In 1881, EW Clark and Company established the Southwest Virginia Improvement Company, shortly followed by the Flat Top Coal Land Association. Thomas Graham was vice-president of Flat Top. They constructed the first mine tipples and ovens in the fields, located in the town of Pocahontas, in Virginia just across the border. The rail line was completed to Pocahontas in 1883 and by the following year, the first coal was shipped from the West Virginia side of the Pocahontas coal fields.

Also in 1884, the Flat Top Coal Land Association purchased land in Mercer County along the Bluestone River. The Bluestone Coal Company planned the town of Bramwell and established its headquarters there in 1885. Flat Top determined to lease coal lands rather than operate the mines themselves. Consequently this brought in numerous operators such as John Cooper and JL Beury, Mill Creek Coal and Coke Company; Jonathan Bowen and William Booth, Booth-Bowen Coal and Coke; and John Freeman and Jenkin Jones, Caswell Creek Coal and Coke Company. Bramwell was incorporated in 1889. The local manager was O.H. Duhring. The town was the location of the offices for the company, residences of operators and company families and retail and commercial services to support the new town.

Bramwell was not your typical coal company town. It was home to the wealthy owners and operators of the coal mines for the most, although the boundary increase area was typically middle class including merchants, physicians, etc. Oral history states that this section of Bramwell was historically owned by African-Americans prior to the Flat Top buy out. The African-American custodian of the Bank of Bramwell, Henry Wade, lived in this section of town as did the African-American physician, William A. Holley.

The Bluestone Coal Company became the Flat Top Coal Land Association, the largest coal land owner in the Pocahontas coal fields. Flat Top eventually became the Pocahontas Coal and Coke Company.

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By 1898, the Flat Top fields had 38 coal and coke plants and 5,232 coke ovens. Total tonnage 1888 – 1,564,118; 1889 – 1,898,026; 1890 – 2,204,616; 1891 – 2,635,599; 1892 – 2,920,815; 1893 – 3,190,758; 1894 – 3,888,058; 1895 – 3,172,137. The fall in 1895 is the result of a strike.

Bramwell itself was named for its first post master, J.H. Bramwell, a Flat Top Company local superintendent. In 1886 the Pocahontas Coal Company was formed to act as the railroad's marketing arm for the coal fields. The offices were located in Bramwell. By 1896 the town had a population of 4,000 and by 1897 the N&W had completed lines into McDowell County. Mining activity expanded rapidly. By 1895 there were thirty-eight mines in the Flat Top field.

Bramwell quickly became the center of commerce and finance for the coal mines in the Flat Top field. The Bank of Bramwell was formed in 1889 by James Mann and his cousin, I.T. Mann established as its cashier. Mann, at one time, controlled all of the lands of the Flat Top Coal Land Association, which he in turn sold to the N&W Railroad at a handsome profit. At one time there were seventeen millionaires in the town of Bramwell.

The nationwide depression resulted in the closing of the Bank of Bramwell in the early 1930s and signaled the end of an era. Several coal operators lost control of their large fortunes and were forced to sell their mines. This impacted Bramwell proper but the outlying areas continued to mine coal and grow. Population of greater Bramwell and Mercer County steadily increased and peaked around 1950. This indicates the continued dependence on coal economy of the area into the 1950s.

The Bramwell Additions Historic District boundary increase is significant under Criterion B for Ethnic Heritage for its association with Dr. William Alexander Holley, the area's African-American physician. His house, site #136, is one of the oldest houses in this neighborhood of Bramwell. As stated earlier, this portion of town was historically African-American prior to the buy-out by the Flat Top Coal Land Association. It appears that Henry Wade, the custodian for the Bank of Bramwell and Dr. Holley continued to live in this neighborhood after other African-Americans left for the other side of the river.

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The far side of the river was more historically tied to the coal camp, Freeman, and this is where the Bluestone School and the Bluestone Baptist Church were located. Both were pivotal centers of African-American culture in the coal field.

The Raleigh Register, a Beckley newspaper, declared that “armies of men” had emigrated to work in the coal fields. By 1910 the population of the seven-county region, this included Mercer County, had surged to 166,490 and that same year the West Virginia Department of Mines counted a workforce of 40,362 in the southern coal fields. “American white” made up the largest number with 15,789 miners, followed by 10,844 African-Americans (35 percent of the workforce in the Pocahontas-Flat Top fields), 3,775 Italians and 3,210 Hungarians. Smaller numbers of miners came from Austria, England, Greece, Poland and Romania. Nineteen were from Japan. With the second largest workforce in the mines, African-Americans needed a physician to care for them. This was Dr. William Alexander Holley.

Dr. Holley was born in Wytheville, Virginia on July 6, 1863. His father was John Holley, for many years a foreman for the Western Union Telegraph Company and his mother was Martha Woodson. His mother died when he was three years old and his father was responsible for educating him. WA spent his childhood studying, often with a private tutor and attending school as much as eleven months of the year. He completed higher education at Lincoln University, taught school for a little while and then went on to the School of Medicine at Howard University where he completed his medical degree in 1892. He purchased the house in Bramwell that same year. While in medical school he published a weekly newspaper called the Southwestern Press, the first publication of its kind in the coal fields. He also earned extra money while teaching as a successful book agent.

Dr. Holley helped to organize and was at one time the President of the Flat Top Medical Society. He was also a member and ex-President of the State Medical and Dental Association and belonged to the National Medical Association. Dr. Holley was also a member in the Masons, Odd Fellows and Pythians and was a medical examiner at one time for all those organizations. He was delegate to several state conventions and was

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elected and served on the Town Council of Bramwell. He was probably the only African-American to do so. WA was the first Grand Master of the York Masons. He was also the medical examiner for the National Benefit Insurance Company of Washington, D.C. This was for the death and injury benefits of the African-American coal miners.

Dr. Holley was married twice. He married Maria J. McGee of Knoxville, Tennessee on June 6, 1891. Maria was a school teacher and she and WA had two children, George and Emma. He married the second time to Ella Wit of Tazewell, Virginia and he and Ella had five children: Lillian E.; Julia A.; Elizabeth; William; and John Holley. As with most African-Americans at the time, Dr. Holley was a Republican.

Dr. Holley was responsible for organizing the first African-American Masonic Lodge in West Virginia. He was granted the power of authority to do so in 1890. He and several other men gathered for a meeting on the railroad tracks across from the Bluestone Church and from this meeting the first lodge was organized in 1893. It was the very first black lodge in West Virginia and was known as "The King Hiram Lodge #1, Free and Accepted York Rite Masons of Bramwell, West Virginia."

Initially the Lodge meetings were held in member's homes. They then rented space from the Odd Fellows Lodge and finally purchased their own building in 1942. This building was remodeled into a Lodge hall and recreation center, known as Pinkard Hall and was located in Freeman, West Virginia.

Holley was not only responsible for the local Lodge but he organized the statewide organization affiliated with the National Grand Lodge. Holley was instrumental in bringing the sixteenth triennial session of the National Grand Lodge to Bluefield. At the Lodge's high point its membership was close to 200, the building was open every day and was a center for activities within the African-American community. The building purchased in 1942 by the Lodge still stands, although vacant, and is within the original Bramwell Additions Historic District.

King Hiram Lodge #1 was also instrumental in getting the Bluestone School for African-American children constructed in 1947-1948. There is a picture showing the cornerstone

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laying ceremony in 1947 and 107 members of the Lodge marched from their Lodge building to the school. Ansley Carter of Bramwell was the Master of the Lodge at that time. The cornerstone for the school reads "1948/F.& A.A.Y. Masons/King Hiram Lodge No.1." The cornerstone has been removed from the building.

As seen by the above, Dr. William A. Holley was a prominent individual in the lives of the African-American citizens of Bramwell and the surrounding area.

The Bramwell Additions Historic District boundary increase is significant under Criterion C for Architecture through its association with the architectural styles of the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries and as an example of middle class housing within the confines of the opulent mansions of Bramwell proper.

Most of the residences are Vernacular in style but there are several that are Queen Anne, Princess Anne, Colonial Revival or Folk Victorian. There are two Queen Anne style residences within the proposed historic district: site #132 and 134. The largest example is site #134, the Vinciguerra House, ca. 1900. It is a two-story, clipped gable roof house with a clipped gable dormer on the front. It also has a two-story, projecting, three-sided bay on the front with a pyramidal roof, typical of the Queen Anne style. The front porch has Doric columns with Ionic caps, also a typical Queen Anne element.

Similar to the Queen Anne style but a little less elaborate is the Princess Anne style. It is represented within the district by site #136, 4 Renova Street, Dr. W.A. Holley House, ca. 1892. This is also one of the oldest house within this neighborhood. It is a tall, steep, two-story, cross gable house with a two-story, front porch with a hip gable roof. It has a metal shingle roof and wood shingles and a diamond-shaped window in the front gable end. There is a cornice separating the floors of the front porch which has been enclosed, historically. This was the home of the area's black physician, Dr. William A. Holley.

The Folk Victorian style is illustrated with site #128, Goins House on Simmons Street, ca. 1900. It is a two-story, cross gable house with a large, hip dormer on the front. The first floor of the front gable is three-sided, chamfered with spoked brackets at the corners.

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This is a typical Folk Victorian style element as is the small, entrance porch within the roof overhang.

One of the largest residences within the district is Ellwood, site #135 on Renova Street, ca. 1911. It is Colonial Revival style. It is a very large, two-story, gambrel roof house with an attic level. The front gable end has shingles and two, Gothic arch, divided windows. The house has German siding with corner boards and a variety of divided windows: 4/4 in the front and 6/6, 12/2 and vertical 2/2 windows elsewhere. There is a one-story, shed roof, three-quarter length, front porch with Doric posts and Eastlake spindlework with dropped finials. There is also a wraparound rear porch with turned posts and spindled balustrade. It is in good condition and an interesting variation on the Colonial Revival style.

The Bluestone School, site #153 on Simmons Avenue, 1948, is a good example of the Art Deco style in a school building. It is a two-story, flat roof, school building. It has a corbeled concrete cornice and red brick façade. The windows are metal casements with smooth concrete sills. There is a one-story, flat roof, projecting, entrance bay with flanking entrances. The entrances are accentuated with vertical, fluted concrete accents flanking a window above each entrance and the doors have four light transoms. This was the African-American school for the area.

As stated earlier, there is one contributing structure within the district, the railroad trestle, site #Z1. It was constructed in 1901 by the American Bridge Company over the Bluestone River. It is in fair condition and is a typical railroad trestle.

An interesting aspect of this neighborhood is the stone retaining walls throughout the neighborhood. It is presumed that these were built by Italian stonemasons who were brought in by the millionaires to work on their mansions. They outline many of the lot lines on Renova Street and several of the homes have extant stone gate posts. The Hill House, site #149, has extant gate posts flanking stone steps leading up the hill to the house and on one of the posts is engraved "1916." The Lucas House, site #137, has a stone wall surrounding the lot and on the side facing Spring Street is a small brick

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outbuilding which sits directly on top of a brick and stone wall. It was obviously incorporated into the wall at the time of its construction. The walls are in excellent condition and help to define the boundaries of the neighborhood.

**Summary:** The Bramwell Additions Historic District boundary increase is significant for its association with community planning and development through its association with the coal extraction industry. It is also significant for its association with Dr. William A. Holley, a prominent African-American physician in Bramwell and for its association with several of the architectural styles of the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The period of significance, 1892 to 1948, relates to the construction of Dr. Holley's house, 1892, and the construction of the Bluestone School, 1948.

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**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:**

The boundary of the Bramwell Additions Historic District boundary increase is shown as the broken line on the accompanying map titled "Boundary Increase to Bramwell Additions Historic District Mercer County Bramwell, West Virginia" and dated August 2004. This map is used as the verbal boundary description.

**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:**

The boundaries encompass the residential section of Bramwell located to the north of downtown and within the curve of the Bluestone River as it passes through Bramwell. The northern boundary is the end of Renova Street; the eastern boundary is the rear of the lots on Renova Street and the few residences on Bluestone Avenue; the southern boundary is the south side of the Bluestone River; and the western boundary is Simmons Avenue, to the west of the Bluestone River. To the north of this boundary increase is the Freeman section of the Bramwell Additions Historic District and to the south is the original Bramwell Historic District.

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Name:	Bramwell Additions Historic District
Address:	
City:	Bramwell, WVa
County:	Mercer
Photographer:	Jean Boger
Date:	July 2004
Negatives:	WV SHPO, Charleston, WV
Photo 1 of 10	Site #Z1. Detail of bridge plate looking west.
Photo 2 of 10	Bluestone Avenue Streetscape looking west.
Photo 3 of 10	Renova Street looking north.
Photo 4 of 10	Site #135-Ellwood. Front elevation looking east.
Photo 5 of 10	Spring Street looking east.
Photo 6 of 10	Renova Street looking north.
Photo 7 of 10	Simmons Street looking west.
Photo 8 of 10	Site #132 on Simmons Street. Front elevation looking west.

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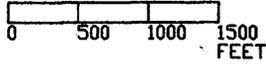
Photo 9 of 10

Simmons Street looking south.

Photo 10 of 10

Site #153 – Bluestone School. Front elevation looking east.

SCALE:



KEY:

- - CONTRIBUTING RESOURCE
- - NON-CONTRIBUTING RESOURCE
- - - - - BOUNDARY INCREASE

# FREEMAN



BRAMWELL ADDITIONS  
EXISTING HISTORIC DISTRICT.

BRAMWELL ADDITIONS  
EXISTING HISTORIC DISTRICT.

EXISTING HISTORIC DISTRICT.

LOCATION MAP

DWG.  
1 OF  
3

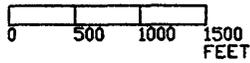
BOUNDARY INCREASE TO BRAMWELL ADDITIONS HISTORIC DISTRICT  
MERCER COUNTY  
BRAMWELL, WEST VIRGINIA

MICHAEL GIOLIS  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION CONSULTANT  
612 MAIN STREET  
SUTTON, WV 26601

AUG. 2004

DATE

SCALE:

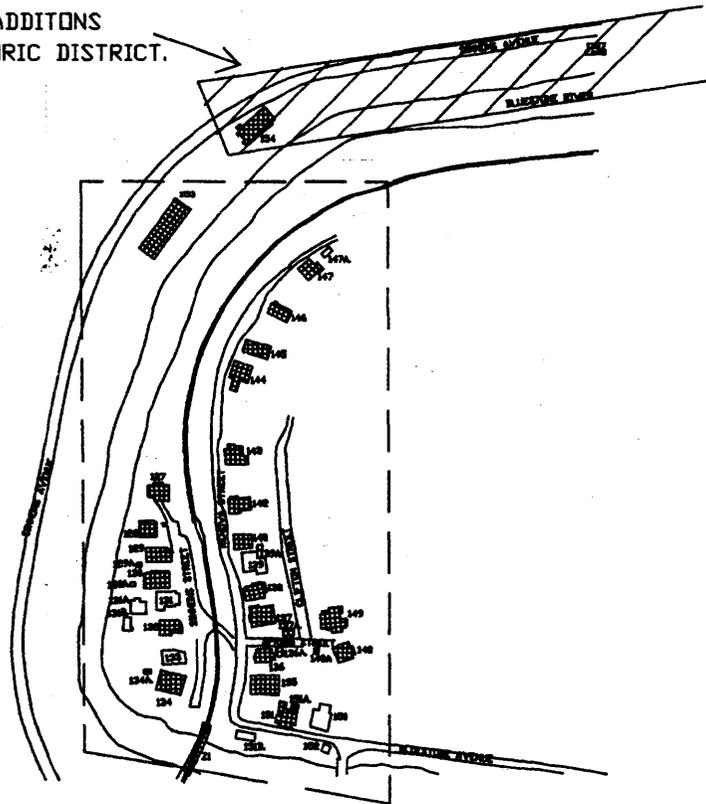


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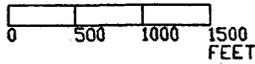
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- - NON-CONTRIBUTING RESOURCE
- - - - - BOUNDARY INCREASE

# FREEMAN

BRAMWELL ADDITONS  
EXISTING HISTORIC DISTRICT.



SCALE:

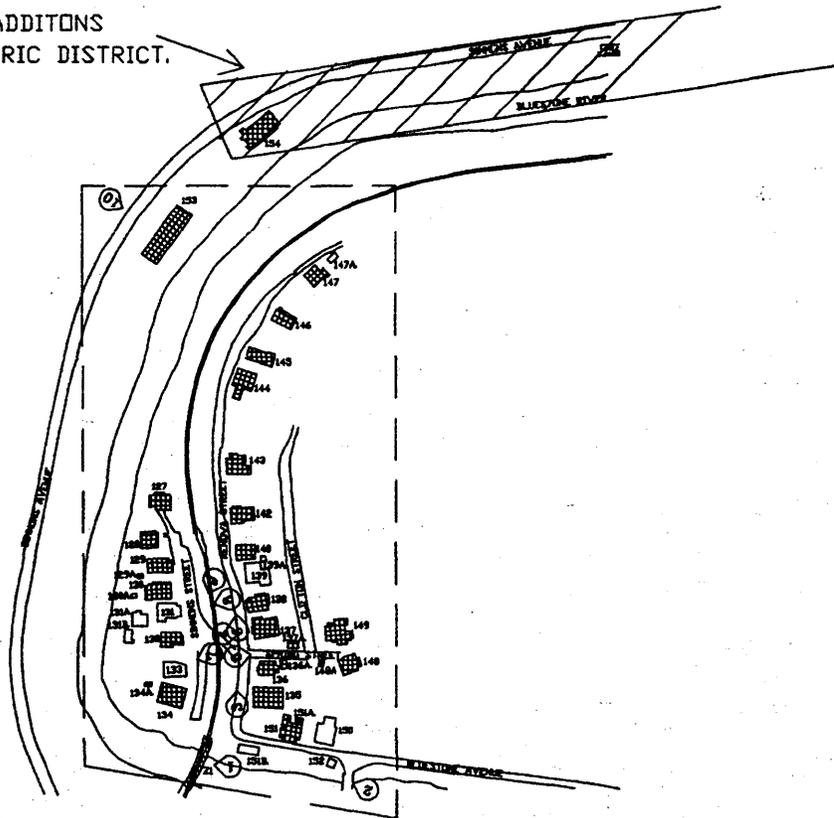


KEY:

- - CONTRIBUTING RESOURCE
- - NON-CONTRIBUTING RESOURCE
- ⊙ - PHOTO # & DIRECTION
- - BOUNDARY INCREASE

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BRAMWELL ADDITONS  
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DWG  
3 OF 3

BOUNDARY INCREASE TO BRAMWELL ADDITONS HISTORIC DISTRICT  
 PHOTOGRAPH LOG  
 MERCER COUNTY  
 BRAMWELL, WEST VIRGINIA

MICHAEL GIULIS  
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 SUTTON, WV 26601

Date  
 AUG. 2004