

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received JUN 5 1985
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Douglas Coal and Coke Company Dunlap Mines

and or common Dunlap Coke Ovens (preferred)

2. Location

street & number Hickory Street and Cordell Road N/A ___ not for publication

city, town Dunlap N/A ___ vicinity of

state Tennessee code 047 county Sequatchie code 153

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> structure ^S	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: vacant

4. Owner of Property

name Hiwassee Land Company

street & number U.S. Highway 11

city, town Calhoun N/A vicinity of state Tennessee 37309

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Sequatchie County Courthouse

street & number P.O. Box 595

city, town Dunlap state Tennessee

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes no

date N/A N/A ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town N/A state N/A

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Situated along Coops Creek at the base of Fredonia Mountain and within the corporate limits of Dunlap (pop. 3,600), Tennessee, the Dunlap Coke Ovens are comprised of the remains of 268 brick and stone beehive ovens that were once part of a significant industry in the Sequatchie Valley. Built of brick and sandstone between 1902 and 1920 and originally filled in with sand and loam, the ovens are now surrounded by a dense growth of trees and bushes, including some growth within the ovens. Unused since the 1920s, all of the ovens have undergone some deterioration but overall still retain most of their historical and architectural integrity.

Called beehive ovens because of their shape, several ovens were constructed in a battery on top of a foundation of clay. The interior of each oven was built of firebrick (forming a beehive shape), leaving a segmentally arched opening, and topped with sand and loam. A battery was faced with battered walls of sandstone. Each oven was built approximately twelve feet in diameter with six feet tall arched openings.

In Dunlap the coke ovens were built in both single and double batteries with each battery approximately nine feet tall and thirty-five feet wide. Double batteries consist of individual ovens built in a staggered arrangement, back to back, with the unused space filled in with clay while the single battery arrangement is comprised of only one row of ovens.

Single batteries were built against a bank that acted as a retainer for the sand or loam infill. Railroad tracks (non-extant) were located adjacent to the batteries so coal could be dumped into the ovens from openings left at the top for this purpose. The openings were also used as a gas exit when the ovens were fired. The arched openings were partially closed with clay when the coking (burning) was in process and broken down after the ovens had cooled.

Thirty-eight ovens were constructed in one single battery and 230 ovens were built in several double batteries. The ovens are in various stages of deterioration with one hundred having only the sandstone facing and no remaining brick oven interiors; eighty-eight have only the brick oven interiors extant; sixty-two have been vandalized and have very little interior or exterior material extent and eighteen have been destroyed and are piles of rubble.

Located at the lower east end of the nominated property is one 725 foot long battery comprised of one hundred of the sandstone faced ovens. A second battery that is 600 feet in length is comprised of eighty-eight of the brick lined ovens and is located along the upper west edge of the nominated property. Of the vandalized ovens, thirty-eight form a single battery of 580 feet along the lower west edge of the property. East of these are located twenty-four ovens that form another double battery that is 180 feet long. The eighteen destroyed ovens are located in the middle section and once were part of a 180 foot long battery. A slate pile, the result of debris from the coal washer (non-extant), is located near the road in the central section of the nominated property, south of the ovens. The foundation of the commissary building is also located here.

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In the early twentieth century, when the ovens were still in use, the area adjacent to the mines and ovens contained a company town of approximately two hundred houses, two hotels, a commissary and clubhouse. The mining and coking operations included ten miles of railway track, a coal washer, machine shop, carpentry shop, steam plant, mule stable and assorted out buildings. Today, only the remains of the ovens, slate pile, commissary foundation, clubhouse and two company houses are extant. The houses have been altered to the extent that they no longer retain their architectural and historical integrity while the clubhouse is across the road from the ovens and separated from the ovens by a dense thicket of trees and bushes. It is not included within the boundaries of the nominated property.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1902–1928 **Builder/Architect** unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Dunlap Coke Ovens are being nominated under National Register criterion A for their historical significance in Dunlap, Sequatchie County, Tennessee. Begun in 1902, the coke ovens and the related mining industry were the most important catalyst to the growth and development of Dunlap during the first quarter of the twentieth century. As a leading industry in the area, the company provided employment in the mines and ovens and built and used local shipping facilities, thereby generating more economic activity and growth in and around Dunlap. The remains of the 268 coke ovens are the only extant structures associated with a much larger industry company town. All of the ovens have undergone some deterioration but overall they still retain their architectural and historical integrity.

In the mid-nineteenth century there were less than a dozen coke ovens, used to carbonize coal, in operation in the country but by 1917 approximately 100,000 ovens were in use. The growth of the industry was due in a large part to the expansion of the steel and iron industries which used about 90% of the coke produced to manufacture pig iron. Dunlap, located in a part of the Appalachian range that once supplied 80–90% of the coke in the United States, became part of this industry in the early twentieth century. Although the first mines in Sequatchie County were opened in 1899, the coal was too soft for most domestic uses and it was not until 1902, when the Douglas Coal and Coke Company announced plans to begin production of coke in an area less than a mile from the present day center of Dunlap (then known as Coops Creek), that Dunlap began to grow and prosper.

Dunlap was a small, rural community and the construction and operation of the ovens, mines and company town provided many people with their first non-farm employment. Douglas Coal and Coke Company built the first fifty ovens, developed the coal mines, built the commissary, clubhouse, residential area, hotels, an incline railway and several other buildings. The company had plans to construct additional ovens but it is not known if they built the remaining 218 ovens or if subsequent owners did.

In 1905 the Douglas Coal and Coke Company went bankrupt and the Chattanooga Iron and Coal Company purchased the Douglas property. Chattanooga Iron and Coal Company also owned ore land and rock quarries in Georgia, a factory site and blast furnace in Tannery Flats (a section of Chattanooga), over 16,000 acres of land in Sequatchie County and two saw mills. They operated the mines and ovens, expanding production until 1919 when Southern States Iron and Coal Company purchased all their properties, including the coking operation at Dunlap.

By the time Southern States Iron and Coal Company was actively running the mines and ovens, Dunlap had developed into two distinct communities. The town itself now had a population of 765 people while the company town, less than a mile northwest, had developed into a community of about 700 people. Approximately 350 men were employed by the company to work the mines, ovens, and related company owned businesses.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Camp, Henry R. Sequatchie County. Memphis: Memphis State University Press, 1984.
 "The Chattanooga Mines." The Cupola, October, 1920, pp. 3-13.
 "The Hidden History of Coal." Fall Creek Falls Review, Summer, 1984, pp. 6-7.
Sequatchie Valley News, 13 July 1889; 24 August 1889; 26 December 1901; 6 March 1902; 22 May 1902; 11 June 1903.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property approximately six acres

Quadrangle name Savage Point, TN

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	6	6	4	5	1	8	0	3	9	1	6	1	6	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing							

C

Zone		Easting				Northing							

D

Zone		Easting				Northing							

E

Zone		Easting				Northing							

F

Zone		Easting				Northing							

G

Zone		Easting				Northing							

H

Zone		Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Gary D. Hayes, Community Principal Planner
Claudette Stager, Historic Preservation Specialist
 organization Local Planning Office of the Tennessee Department of Economic & Community Development
Tennessee Historical Commission date March 12, 1985
 street & number 540 McCallie Avenue, Suite 700 telephone 615-755-6446
701 Broadway telephone 615-742-6723
 city or town Chattanooga state Tennessee 37402
Nashville state Tennessee 37219-5237

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

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

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer signature Herbert L. Hayes

title Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission date 5/20/85

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the National Register

for Allores Byers date 7-5-85
 Keeper of the National Register

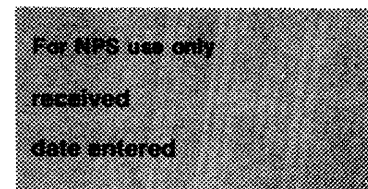
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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The coking process itself required eighty-five men to operate the ovens and took seventy-two hours to process six tons of coal into three tons of coke. An incline railway (non-extant) allowed the company to mine the top of Fredonia Mountain by running a steam engine from the coal mines to the ovens. In addition, ten miles of railroad (non-extant) began at the commissary (non-extant) and continued along the valley side of the mountain. The coke was then transported by rail to Chattanooga where it was used with red iron ore from the company's property in Georgia to make pig iron at Tannery Flats. In operation only for three years, Southern States Iron and Coal Company ceased production of coke in Dunlap in 1922.

From 1922 to 1928 the ovens, still owned by Southern States Iron and Coal Company, were not used. In 1928 E.P. Rosamund of Birmingham and his brother E.K. Rosamund of Chattanooga, both of whom had been involved in the iron and steel industries, purchased the mines, ovens, furnace and factory at Tannery Flats and land in Georgia and Sequatchie County. Because of unfavorable economic conditions, including falling coal prices and the onset of the depression, the mines were never reopened.

Today, the Dunlap Coke Ovens are the best extant representation of what was once a significant industry in Dunlap and the Sequatchie Valley. They are the only remaining coke ovens in the Sequatchie Valley and many have been vandalized in recent years. However, the ovens still retain their essential physical features and have maintained their historical integrity. Although presently unused, the Sequatchie Valley Historical Association has plans to clean the property and develop it into a park.

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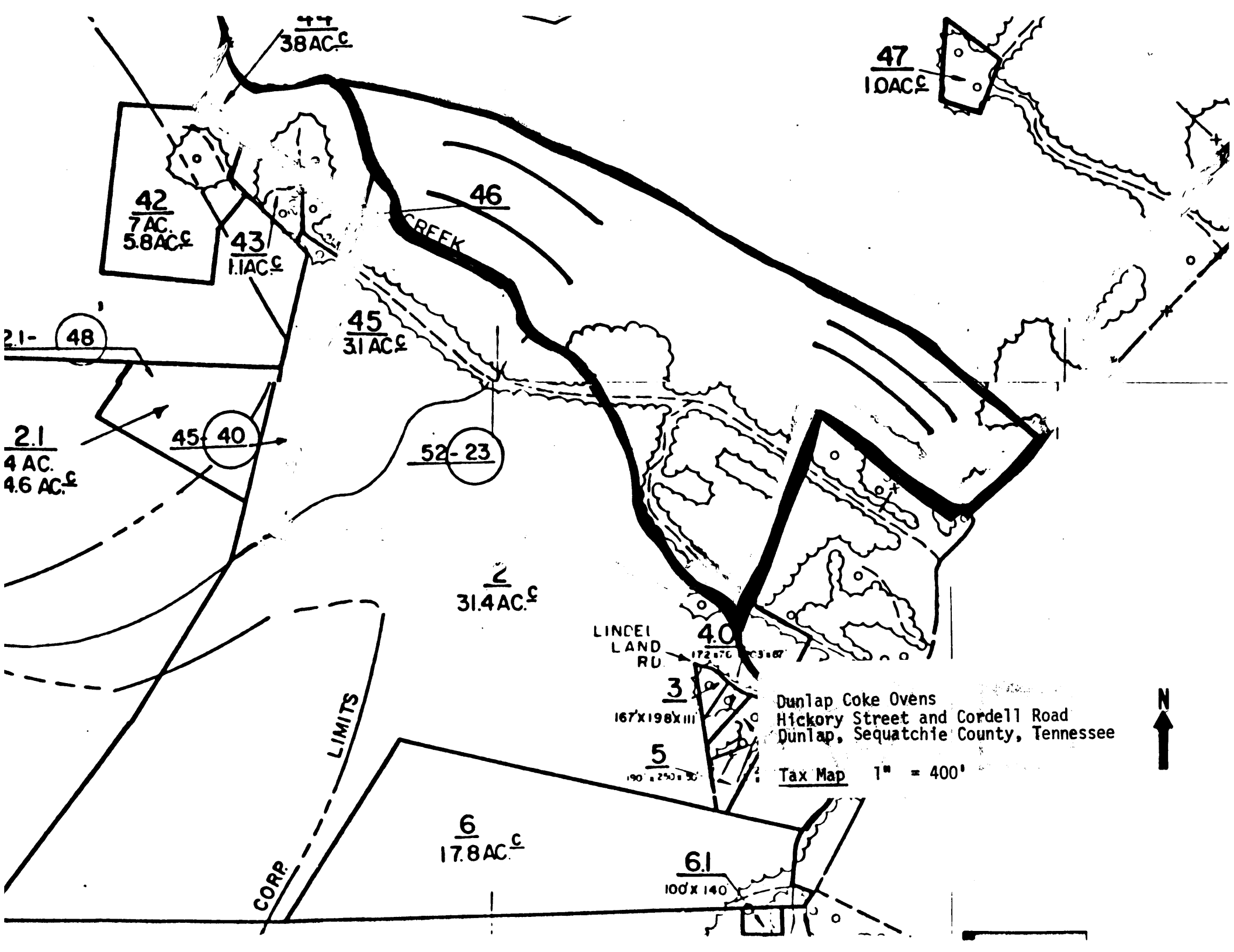
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Verbal Boundary Description and Justification

The nominated property, irregular in shape and approximately six acres in size, is bounded on the south by Cordell Road, on the east by adjacent property lines and on the west by Coops Creek. The northern boundary is an imaginary line 100 feet north of the upper coke ovens and running parallel to them. It extends from the adjacent property line of the east boundary to Coops Creek on the west. This includes enough land to protect the historic setting and architectural integrity of the Dunlap Coke Ovens.



44
38 AC

47
10 AC

42
7 AC
5.8 AC

43
1.1 AC

46

CREEK

45
31 AC

2.1- 48

2.1
4 AC
4.6 AC

45 40

52-23

2
31.4 AC

LINDEI
LAND
RD

4.0

3

167x198x111

5

190x250x50

Dunlap Coke Ovens
Hickory Street and Cordell Road
Dunlap, Sequatchie County, Tennessee

Tax Map 1" = 400'



CORP.
LIMITS

6
17.8 AC

6.1
100x140