

TENNESSEE MULTIPLE PROPERTY FORM

TITLE: Historic Resources of Grundy County

COUNTY: Grundy

SITE: 13

HISTORIC NAME: Tennessee Coal and Railroad Company Coke Ovens

COMMON NAME: Tracy City Coke Ovens (Preferred)

ADDRESS: West of Hobbs Hill Road  
Tracy City, Tennessee

OWNER: Nellie Anderson

ADDRESS: General Delivery  
Tracy City, Tennessee 37387

HISTORIC USE: Coke Ovens

CURRENT USE: Abandoned

CATEGORY/BUILDING TYPE: Site

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1873

ARCHITECT/BUILDER: unknown

ORIGINAL SITE: yes MOVED: No DATE: N/A

ORIGINAL OWNER/SIGNIFICANT INDIVIDUALS: Tennessee Coal and Railroad  
Company

HAS THIS PROPERTY BEEN DETERMINED ELIGIBLE? no DATE: N/A

CONTRIBUTING:

NON-CONTRIBUTING:

buildings	0	buildings	0
structures	1	structures	0
sites	0	sites	0
objects	0	objects	0

TOTAL	1	TOTAL	0
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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION AND JUSTIFICATION:

The boundaries for the Tracy City Coke Ovens begin at a point on the Tracy City corporate boundaries and follow the property lines northeasterly approximately 900 feet, thence northwesterly approximately 150 feet to the west property line, thence southwesterly approximately 800 feet along the west property line to the city limits, thence southeasterly 300 feet to the point of beginning. See Map #13. This includes enough land to protect the historic integrity of the Tracy City Coke Ovens.

ACREAGE: approximately 3.5 acres

UTM REFERENCE: Tracy City, Tennessee 99SW  
16/615120/3904210

SUPPLEMENTAL BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

PREPARED BY: Elizabeth A. Straw, Historic Preservation Specialist

ADDRESS: Tennessee Historical Commission  
701 Broadway  
Nashville, Tennessee 37219

**TENNESSEE MULTIPLE PROPERTY FORM - CONTINUATION SHEET**

**TITLE:** Historic Resources of Grundy County

**SITE:** 13

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**DESCRIPTION:**

The Tracy City Coke Ovens are located behind the County Garage and west of Hobbs Hill Road in an isolated and overgrown area. There are five batteries of ovens located in the wooded area running in a basically north-south alignment. The individual batteries range from approximately 30 feet long to 40 feet long and were originally double sided. The sandstone facing of the ovens is no longer extant, but the interior beehive shaped firebrick is visible in several areas as are the trunnel holes used to drop the coal in from the top of the batteries. Located near the ovens are the remainders of slag piles.

**SIGNIFICANCE:**

**CRITERIA:** A

**CONSIDERATION:** N/A

**AREA OF SIGNIFICANCE:** Industry

**PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE/SIGNIFICANT DATES:** 1873-1896

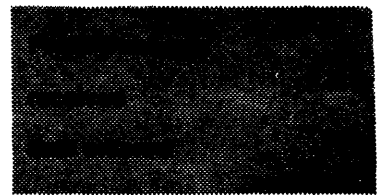
**LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE:** Local

The Tracy City Coke Ovens are being nominated under National Register Criterion A for their significance to the coal mining industry in Grundy County. Built in 1873, the Tracy City Coke ovens are the oldest extant coke ovens in Grundy County.

The Tennessee Coal and Railroad Company built 120 coke ovens in Tracy City after the coal company had been using primitive pits, built in 1868, to produce coke. By 1876 TCR was valued at a million dollars and was producing 64,440 tons of coke. Most of the labor on the coke ovens was done by convicts leased from the state of \$1.00 a day plus keep. Most of the labor was done by blacks and due to poor treatment and hard labor the mortality rate was high. In 1882 the Tennessee Coal, Iron, and Railroad Company took over the ownership of the coke ovens. The Tracy City Coke Ovens were closed down in 1896 soon after the Tennessee Coal, Iron, and Railroad Company stopped using convict labor.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

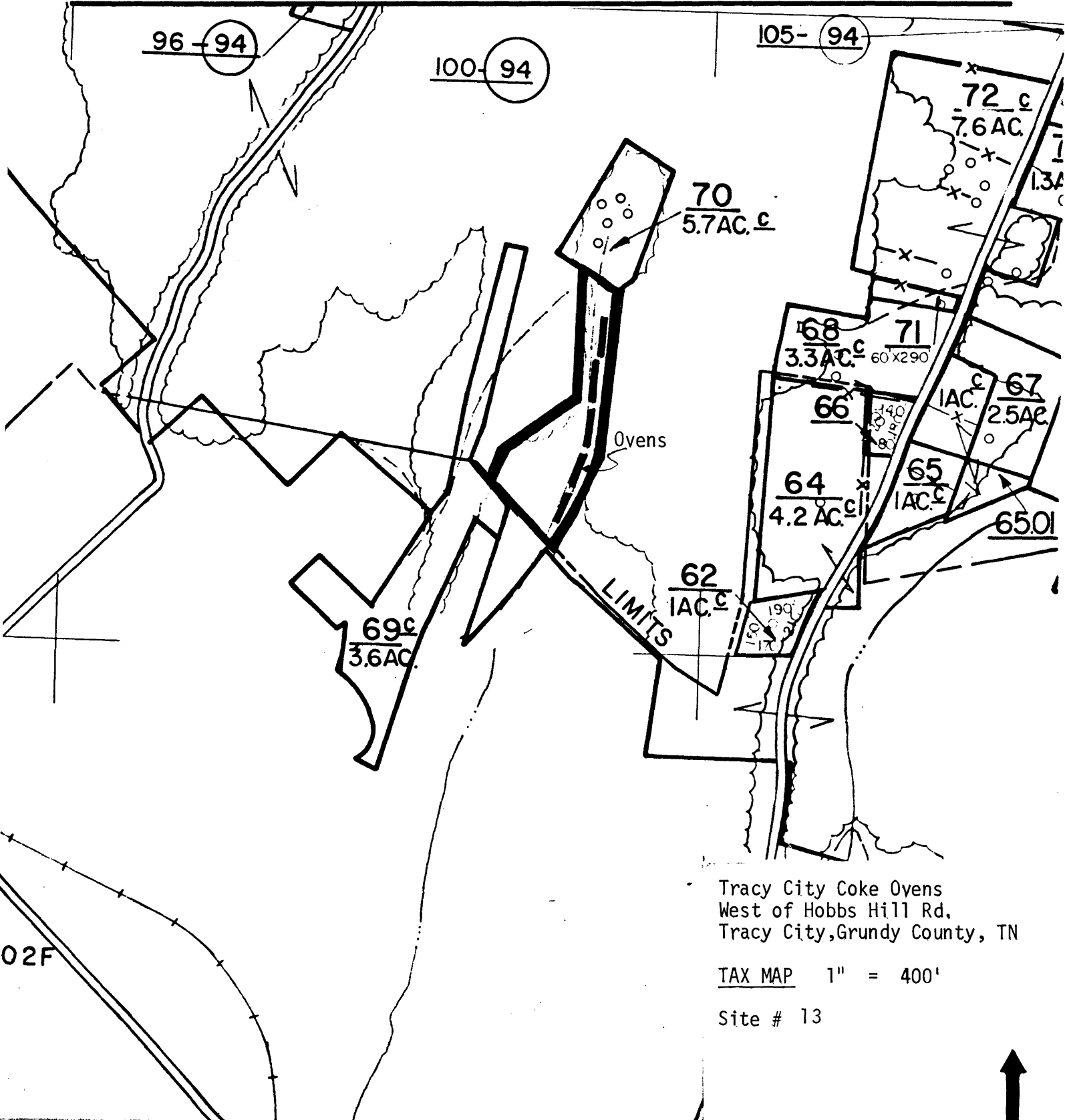
National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet Historic Resources of  
Grundy County

Item number 10

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Tracy City Coke Ovens  
West of Hobbs Hill Rd.  
Tracy City, Grundy County, TN

TAX MAP 1" = 400'

Site # 13

