

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name Lansford Historic District
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number Roughly bounded by Cortright Street, Snyder Avenue, East Street and N/A not for publication
Water Street.
city or town Lansford N/A vicinity
state Pennsylvania code PA county Carbon code 025 zip code 18232

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:
 national statewide local

Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____
Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.
Signature of commenting official _____ Date _____
Title _____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:
 entered in the National Register determined eligible for the National Register
 determined not eligible for the National Register removed from the National Register
 other (explain:) _____
Signature of the Keeper _____ Date of Action _____

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5. Classification

Ownership of Property
 (Check as many boxes as apply.)

Category of Property
 (Check only **one** box.)

Number of Resources within Property
 (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1,498	407	buildings
3	0	sites
1	0	structures
0	0	objects
1,502	407	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
 (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

- DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling
- DOMESTIC/Multiple Dwelling
- COMMERCE/Business
- COMMERCE/Department Store
- SOCIAL/Meeting Hall
- GOVERNMENT/Fire Station
- GOVERNMENT/Correctional Facility
- EDUCATION/School
- RELIGION/Religious Facility
- RELIGION/Church School
- RECREATION AND CULTURE/Theater
- RECREATION AND CULTURE/Outdoor Recreation
- RECREATION AND CULTURE/Monument
- INDUSTRY/Manufacturing Facility
- INDUSTRY/Extractive Facility
- TRANSPORTATION/Rail-related

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

- DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling
- DOMESTIC/Multiple Dwelling
- COMMERCE/Business
- COMMERCE/Professional
- COMMERCE/Department Store
- GOVERNMENT/Government Office
- GOVERNMENT/Fire Station
- RELIGION/Religious Facility
- RELIGION/Church School
- RECREATION AND CULTURE/Museum
- RECREATION AND CULTURE/Outdoor Recreation
- RECREATION AND CULTURE/Monument
- INDUSTRY/Manufacturing Facility

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

No Style

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS
LATE 19TH and EARLY 20TH CENTURY
AMERICAN MOVEMENTS

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: STONE, CONCRETE

walls: SYNTHETICS/Vinyl, ASBESTOS,

ASPHALT, WOOD

roof: ASPHALT, STONE/Slate, ASBESTOS

other:

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

The Lansford Historic District is found in Carbon County, Pennsylvania. It is on the western edge of the county, and is surrounded by Coaldale (Schuylkill County), Summit Hill and Nesquehoning Boroughs. Lansford Borough is located in the Panther Valley, and is surrounded by hills on both the northern and southern sides. The town generally runs from west to east with the majority of the coal works and shops on the north side of town. The town has several large coal refuse deposits to the north of town, and runs up to the hill on the south side of town. The total size of the district is approximately 462 acres in size. The majority of the town of Lansford is mixed use, with bars and stores on street corners. However, there is a commercial district found on Ridge Street. There are also a small number of houses set farther away from the main block of town to the north, where the higher-level employees of the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company lived. The Lansford Historic District consists of 407 non-contributing resources, 1498 contributing buildings, 3 contributing sites, and 1 contributing structure. It continues to retain its integrity of Location, Design, Setting, Feeling and Association.

Narrative Description

Lansford is exemplary as an anthracite coal town in Pennsylvania. The majority of the town's buildings were built without a particular style, and with little or no ornamentation. Its development spanned from the mid-1800s through to the town's peak in the late 1800s, before the decline of the anthracite industry that began in the early 1900s and continued to the mid 1900s. This is, of course, reflected in the town's housing stock. In the oldest sections of the town there are a few buildings that represent the earliest developments, with increased development spreading out eastward. The predominant style within the district can be called vernacular, with Late 19th and Early 20th Century American Movements and Revivals also represented.

The town of Lansford runs west to east in the Panther Valley (named for the Panther Creek). Also in the Panther Valley are the towns of Coaldale, located just to the west of Lansford, and Nesquehoning, which is farther down the valley east of Lansford. Summit Hill is south of Lansford, at the ridge of the Sharp Mountains. Lansford is located in the valley created by the Sharp Mountains to the south and the Locust Mountains to the north. The Panther Creek runs to the north of the town. Most of the town itself is densely populated with

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buildings. However, north of the town is a small industrial area that housed the repair shops of the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company. The railroad tracks used to run north of town, taking coal from the entire valley out through the Number 7 Tunnel, which is located in the Locust Mountains north of Lansford. Another feature that is a part of the district is the once-used Number 9 Mine. This mine has since been converted to a museum, but the entrance is still clearly marked on the landscape, facing south into the mountain just to the northwest of Lansford. The town has a commercial district located on Ridge Street, which runs for approximately 4 blocks. The houses in Lansford are spaced quite tightly. Most of the houses are doubles, and many have a half-block back yard, especially in the older sections on the west side of the town. In the most southern and western sections of Lansford, there are areas where backyards are virtually nonexistent. This dense development corresponds with what was at one time the small village of Ashton. Also of interest is the northeast portion of the town where houses were company-built after 1900 and there is more space. Setbacks are deeper, lots wider, and backyards longer than in other portions of the town.

Sections of the town where upper managers lived are easy to note in Lansford. One example is the area surrounding Edgemont Lodge. This area is totally separated from the rest of the town and up on a hill. This is where the highest-level workers in the town lived. There are also two other areas where supervisor housing can be seen. This is on West Bertsch Street, in the 100 and 200 blocks. On the south side of the street, there are approximately 10 houses that are all made of concrete. Also, on the north side of the street there is a series of double houses which are larger than most in town. Overall, housing is mixed, but the majority of houses for the business owners who helped supply Lansford can be found on Ridge and Patterson Streets, generally before the 400 east block.

The town of Lansford clearly did not have a lot of planning put into it. A notable example where beautification was planned for is found at the intersection of Abbott and Springgarden Streets. For one block in each direction on Abbott, the roads are wider, and accommodate a small green around which cars drive. Due to the fact that Lansford is a cobbled-together borough of at least 4 small villages, the town exhibits the organic growth that was needed to accommodate workers for the coal company. By far most of the buildings do not have a particular style. There are, however, a few different forms of housing which are discussed below. There are also some instances of Revival styles and Late 19th and Early 20th Century American Movements. Each of these styles is discussed more fully below.

No Style/Vernacular

The homes that were constructed by the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company, as well as by local builders not associated with the coal company, tended to not represent a particular style. These homes were built cheaply, with the sole purpose of putting a roof over an employee's head. To this end, many of the houses are double houses. They tend to have either central doors, or sometimes end doors. In a few examples, the entrance door for the house is located on the side of the house. The most common examples have one window opening on the first floor, with two window openings on the second floor. Nearly all of the homes have a side-gabled roof, and include a front porch. These homes are two stories, with a full basement. The reason for the full basement is that many of the houses were built on a hill, and thus required deep foundations. Most of the buildings of this type were at one time sided with wood (in the form of clapboards or vertical siding, see Figure #1), but vinyl and asbestos siding now dominates. Also, these buildings originally had slate roofs, while asphalt shingles are now the most common material.

There are a few variations on the basic style presented here. One of the variations is a type that uses a front gable. With this variation, the porch is often found on the side of the house, and the house is built directly up to the sidewalk. However, two bays over two bays continue to be the dominant arrangement.

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There is another type of building that does not have a style that appears in abundance within Lansford. This type is seen in Figure #2 and is seen in two and three-story variations. Often, these structures have bay windows on the second and third floors. Again, these structures would, at one time, have been sided in wood (likely clapboards), and are now dominated by vinyl and asbestos siding. In several of these structures historic stained glass is still visible, sometimes on select floors but in a few instances on all floors. Porches are common, and roofing is now typically asphalt shingle.

There is one final un-styled residential example worth mentioning in Lansford. Houses of this form have a flat front, and a shed roof that declines toward the rear of the house. These homes have little or no ornamentation. This form can be seen in both 2 and 3-story variations and can be found in double houses, as well as in short rows, up to about 4 homes. One street which shows the rhythm these houses create is the North side of Ridge Street in the 600 block. They were all built in the early part of the 20th century. These can be seen in Figure #3.

There are many mid-century storefronts that replaced earlier storefronts in commercial buildings along Ridge Street. These contain enameled or porcelain panels, streamlined trim and curved windows, and period signage. These storefronts reflect the last years of twentieth century economic success in the town and contribute to the period of significance.

Late 19th and Early 20th Century American Movements

There are a few houses both in town, and out of town near Edgemont Lodge, that show examples of late 19th and early 20th century American movements. Another particular area in which these buildings can be found is on West Bertsch Street, in the 100-200 block. These homes are made entirely of concrete, and were likely built around 1910.

The homes found near Edgemont Lodge can also be classified as Late 19th and Early 20th Century American Movements. These homes are generally in the line of a bungalow style, with porch and roof details that lend themselves to this description. Some of these details include wide and heavy porch supports and exposed wooden eaves in the gables of the structures. An example of these homes can be seen in Figure #4.

Late 19th and Early 20th Century Revivals

The gothic revival style is represented in Lansford by a few churches. Several of these churches are found on Abbott Street. One good example is St. Michael the Archangel Roman Catholic Church. As can be seen in Figure #5 the church exhibits classic gothic elements such as gothic arched windows, a rose window, and a tall narrow steeple. Another good example is on Abbott Street. St. Peter and Paul Russian Catholic and Polish Catholic Churches were built in 1907 and 1926 respectively. Both display gothic styling through window and door openings.

Exotic Revival style is commonly demonstrated in Lansford by the churches that were built. These churches housed members of the Eastern orthodox faith, and thus the "onion dome" is a common sight within the district. A few examples of Exotic Revival Style are St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Church on East Bertsch Street and St. Nicholas Orthodox Catholic Church on the corner of West Bertsch Street and Center Street.

Uncounted Resources

There are many uncounted secondary resources in the district. These are largely garages, as this was a very common outbuilding added to residential rear yards. In lots with garages, they are usually found facing away from the house to the alley at the back of the lot. The areas of the town that do not feature garages tend to be the older sections of worker housing on Kline Avenue and Bertsch Street. In these sections, houses are located on half lots, and the backyards from one street meet backyards of houses on a parallel street. The garages in

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Lansford are most often made of either wood or concrete block. There also continue to be a few instances of extant summer kitchens, which are generally located at the rear of a house, and which are many times now connected to the main body of the house (see Figure #6). Finally, there are some sheds found throughout the district, often on lots where there was no space for a garage.

Street by Street Description

Spring Street is the southernmost street within the district, and it is built directly against Sharp Mountain. It runs for five blocks, and has most of its housing on the north side of the street. These houses are mostly doubles, with a few single homes intermixed. To the north of Spring Street is Abbott Street. The western portion of Abbott Street was part of the village of Ashton. Abbott Street runs for 9 blocks within the district. Again, it is mostly made up of double houses. A few notable exceptions are the churches that can be found along Abbott Street near its intersection with Springgarden Street. These are St. Michael the Archangel Roman Catholic Church at 124 East Abbott Street built in 1908, Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church at 104 East Abbott Street built in 1895, St. John the Evangelist Slovak Lutheran Church at 1 East Abbott Street built in 1903, and the Welsh Congregational Church at 208 West Abbott Street built in 1850.¹

To the north of Abbott Street is Kline Avenue. Kline Avenue is home to the earliest miner's house in the district, as well as more double houses. Kline Avenue is a very narrow street with homes rising on both sides on West Kline Avenue, but mostly on the south side on East Kline Avenue. North of Kline Avenue is Bertsch Street. Bertsch Street's buildings parallel closely with those on Abbott Street. Again, double houses dominate. There are several churches on Bertsch Street including St. Nicholas Orthodox Catholic Church on the corner of West Bertsch and Center Streets built in 1943, The Church of St. Ann at 8 East Bertsch Street built in 1911, St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Church at 114 East Bertsch Street built in 1910 and the Lansford United Methodist Church at 117-119 East Bertsch Street built in 1889.² Another significant building on Bertsch Street is found at 101 West Bertsch Street and was the old Palace Theatre. While it now sits vacant, it was recently in use as a restaurant. Finally, there is an important building located in the 300 block of West Bertsch Street. This is the Century Throwing Mill, located on the northeast corner of West Bertsch and Cortright Streets built in 1904.³

Patterson Street is the next street to the north. It is a different mix of buildings. At the far east of Patterson Street are several rows of company built houses from the early 20th century. These are the 700 and 800 blocks of East Patterson Street. The buildings are double houses, a side gable in the 700 block, and a front gable with side porches in the 800 block. Closer to the center of town are sets of doubles, and on the north side of the street two Victorian houses. One of these houses can be seen in Figure #7 showing how the house looked around 1900 and how it looks today. Development is very scattered on the rest of Patterson Street, between houses and the rear of many of the businesses of Ridge Street.

The next street is Ridge Street. Ridge Street combines both residential areas and the commercial district of Lansford. In the eastern section of Ridge Street, in the 100 through 800 blocks, double houses dominate with several different forms. For example the 700 block contains houses with a shed roof as seen in Figure #3. The commercial district of Lansford runs for 3 blocks. It contains many buildings that historically had storefronts, and still retains about half of those storefronts, including several striking storefronts added in the mid-20th century. There are several notable buildings in the commercial district. One of these is the Lyceum building located at 1 East Tunnel Street. This building was a community center and now houses several municipal

¹ Lansford Historical Society, "Taking Care of our Own: A Tour of Churches, Centers of Faith & Houses of Worship," 4-5.

² Lansford Historical Society, "Taking Care of our Own," 2-3.

³ Richard Hoben, *Lansford: The First One Hundred Years* (Lansford: Lansford Centennial Committee, 1976), 19.

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offices including the police station. There are several banks on Ridge Street. One of these is the First National Bank of Lansford. This building was constructed in 1903 in the Classical Revival style. Another highlight of Ridge Street is Bright's Store at 26-28 West Ridge Street. This building is Art Deco in style including an iron awning, and decorative concrete work as can be seen in Figure #8. While not a "company store" Bright's allowed employees to buy goods on credit, and then have what they owed deducted from their paychecks.⁴ After the business district, there is another residential area made up of double houses and row houses. The final two streets of the main portion of town are Snyder and Front Streets. Both of these streets are residential, containing double houses and sometimes small rows of three or four houses.

Finally, to the north of the town are Dock Street, Oak Street, and Edgemont Road. Dock Street takes in most of the remaining industrial resources related to Lansford's coal mining history. These resources include the No. 9 mine and wash shanty museum, the Lansford repair and manufacturing shops, and the freight depot of the Lehigh and New England Railroad. Oak Street is just north of the Panther Creek, and contains only three double houses. It is where the company office of Lehigh Coal and Navigation at one time stood. Now, there are ruins of the building's foundation. Edgemont Road runs perpendicular to Oak Street, and leads up a hill to the north. At the top of the hill, Edgemont Road is a circle. On Edgemont Road are several houses, and the Edgemont Lodge. This was the area in which the highest company officials that lived locally stayed, and was mostly constructed in the early part of the 20th century to replace an earlier section of manager's housing that was located further to the east.

Integrity

The Lansford Historic District continues to retain integrity of location, design, setting, workmanship, feeling and association. While there have been many changes to things such as siding and roofing materials, these are minor losses of integrity to individual buildings. However when taken as a whole, the *town* of Lansford retains its integrity. Design is seen through patterns of development over time, and the designation of certain areas for mid- and upper-level managers. Lansford also retains integrity of workmanship. The majority of houses in Lansford were built with no ornamentation – being houses for miners – and so the consistent lack of ornamentation helps establish the integrity of the district. Finally, Lansford most strongly possesses integrity of feeling and association. The town clearly feels like a mining town with some cramped streets and the appearance of coal chutes on many houses; and exhibits characteristic buildings such as industrial resources and ethnic churches that tell the story of anthracite mining in Pennsylvania.

An integrity assessment for individual resources within the district was approached as systematically as possible. This district has seen many changes, and it was necessary to determine which changes characterized a loss of integrity. By walking around the district and looking at basic forms and designs, it was determined that basic form and type is what would be considered when looking at integrity. As can be seen in Figure #9 the houses that were originally constructed by the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company were quite plain, and almost totally devoid of ornamentation. They did not even include porches, which were added later and became typical. So, the construction of porches was considered compatible with a buildings' integrity. Also, as long as they were not enclosed, other porch changes within the period of significance were counted as not affecting integrity. Another common alteration involved replacing the first floor window, which originally was tall and rectangular, with a larger, wider "picture" window. This was done regularly throughout the district, but a change in the shape of a single opening was not considered detrimental to integrity because the same number of window openings remained. The primary instances of a building being considered non-contributing due to its integrity, rather than its age, were instances where a building's main entrance had been moved. This was rather

⁴ Parton, *Death of a Great Company*, 41.

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more common in some of the steeper sections of town, as the stairs to the porch were disposed of, and a door was placed in the basement of the house. This was considered a major alteration and a loss of integrity.

Other than these minor issues with integrity, the town of Lansford continues to convey its significance through its buildings. This is because the general shape and rhythm of the streetscape is similar to what it was during the period of significance. Density of housing remains the same and exhibits the differences that can be seen between workers and managers, as well as the changes in approach over time by company builders allowing for wider, longer lots in the early 20th century. Furthermore, Lansford retains many of the buildings from its past, especially those related to its industrial history. A few notable buildings are no longer extant. These include the company office on Oak Street, which burned in 1975.⁵ Also, none of the early schoolhouses continue to dot the landscape. The other large structure that was removed from the landscape in Lansford is the Lansford Colliery or coal breaker. This was located on the east side of town, but was torn down because of safety issues and its footprint is not within the boundary of the district.

Overall, the integrity for Lansford remains intact, and the town continues to convey its significance as an industrial town of the late 19th and early 20th centuries that consisted of worker housing, a regional business district, and industrial resources associated with the coal industry.

⁵ W. Julian Parton, *Death of a Great Company* (Phillipsburg: Harmony Press, 1986), 32.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- 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

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Industry

Period of Significance

1850-1954

Significant Dates

1878

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance continues from the oldest known structure within the district to the time when the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company discontinued work in the anthracite coal industry in 1954. This decision was made because of the importance of the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company to the town of Lansford and its development. While there were a few other coal companies, mostly run by local interests, that attempted to make mining profitable after Lehigh Coal and Navigation's demise, none of these met with any real success or greatly influenced the town's streetscapes or economy.

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

The Lansford Historic District meets Criterion A, and is significant in the area of Industry on the local level, due to its association with the anthracite coal industry, and the influences of the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company. After coal's discovery in the Panther Valley in the 18th century, Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company purchased and controlled nearly all of the land on which Lansford now sits. Because of its long and dominant history in the southern anthracite coal field and the mark that it left on the community of Lansford in both architecture and landscapes, Lansford is an excellent example of a coal town from the southern anthracite fields, and continues to show these influences to this day. While the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company no longer participates in anthracite mining, the permanent record of its time in the Panther Valley can be seen and felt through the streets, houses, and churches of Lansford. This community, originally composed largely of immigrants, worked for Lehigh Coal and Navigation through the prosperous as well as the lean times. The workers fought the company when they felt they needed to, and turned inward to their fellow ethnic workers at other times. The story of Lansford is important to Pennsylvania's history and culture, and makes it a very significant resource.

Anthracite Mining in Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania was formed over a unique geologic feature. A small area of the state comprised of just seven counties sits atop a feature where 95% of the nation's anthracite coal was located. This fuel helped the nation to grow and prosper in the mid- to late-19th century and into the 20th century. It allowed for the modernization of America, producing in 1890 16% of the nation's energy.⁶ Anthracite coal was often used as an industrial energy source, however after some stove modifications it was also used as a domestic energy source. This allowed anthracite to have a wide use rate in large metropolitan areas such as Philadelphia and New York. The anthracite industry formed beginning in the 1820s, and blossomed around the turn of the twentieth century when the anthracite region was producing about 57 million tons of coal annually.⁷ The anthracite industry developed along with its means of transportation. This began in 1820 with the canal systems that began to crisscross the state. While this was successful, it also led to losses when barges carrying coal occasionally sank. However, railroads soon began to be implemented. After the use of railroads became common, coal shipment became easier and advances in the technology of coal extraction produced a greater volume of anthracite.

The anthracite industry flourished through World War I, but never recovered after the depression of 1929. While there was a slight uptick in demand around World War II, shortly afterward the anthracite industry was forced to revolutionize from one that was heavily staffed to one that ran on fewer workers and more machines. The deep shaft mining that was common at the end of the nineteenth and beginning of the twentieth centuries shifted to strip mining. Virtually all of the shaft mines of the anthracite region are no longer in use. There are a few exceptions however. These are usually for museums that provide tours into the mine shafts. Two examples of this are the Anthracite Heritage Museum in Scranton and the No. 9 Mine and Museum located in Lansford.

History of Lansford and the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company

The development of Lansford happened largely because of the discovery of coal in the Panther Valley. The first coal discovered in the valley was found at Summit Hill, on the ridge to the south of Lansford (See Figure 10). This discovery was said to have been made by a man named Philip Ginder in 1791.⁸ From this time

⁶ Thomas Dublin and Walter Licht, *The Face of Decline: The Pennsylvania Anthracite Region in the Twentieth Century* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2005), 1.

⁷ Dublin and Licht, *The Face of Decline*, 2.

⁸ Hoben, *Lansford*, 1.

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forward the region would see spurts and lulls of growth. Investors such as Erskine White and Josiah Hazard saw the potential usefulness of anthracite coal, and began to look for ways to efficiently get it to market. Originally wagon roads were used to get the coal to the Lehigh River at Mauch Chunk (now Jim Thorpe). From Mauch Chunk, the coal was floated down the river in arks, or boats.⁹ Too many of these boats were lost to the unpredictable river, and so it was decided that the river should be improved, and a canal constructed. To this effect the Lehigh Navigation Company was formed. Around the same time, the Lehigh Coal Company was formed to bring the coal to Mauch Chunk. After canal construction, anthracite coal began to make its way to Philadelphia and other markets with more ease, and the use of anthracite became more and more common.¹⁰ For example, in 1820, 365 tons of anthracite were shipped to Philadelphia, while just four years later 9,500 tons of anthracite were shipped, and in 1825 that number jumped to 28,400 tons.¹¹

However, as time went on the combined Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company looked for a way to more easily transport coal from the Panther Valley to Mauch Chunk. The early development of railroads offered the company a solution. However, at that time steam engines were not widely in use for railroads. The operators of the company built a very innovative transportation system called the Mauch Chunk Switchback, which was a gravity railroad. Using this railroad, constructed in 1827, the coal company was able to get coal from Summit Hill to Mauch Chunk, and from there to the metropolitan areas using the Lehigh Canal.¹² To get the coal from the small towns in the valley, planes¹³ were designed that would haul cars of coal to Summit Hill, where it would be loaded onto the gravity railroad. The gravity railroad was used for many years and did not go out of use for coal hauling until 1872.¹⁴

Development continued scattered and in small quantities until 1872. It was in this year that Tunnel No.7 was pushed through the Locust Mountains, enabling the coal company to take coal out of the valley on a railroad north of the town. Due to this development, the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company moved their offices from Summit Hill down into Lansford, where they built an office on Oak Street in 1873. This building was eventually lost to fire in 1975.¹⁵ The influence of the company brought increased development into the town, and Ridge Street became a regional hub of activity. Having the coal company headquarters in Lansford, with many of their mines along the valley, helped spur the growth of the town. This, combined with changes in mining techniques around 1870, allowed Lansford to experience a large period of growth from its incorporation through the beginning of the twentieth century. Not only were more workers' homes constructed, but homes were also required for the town's burgeoning business community. In the main business district, there were banks, stores, fraternal organizations and a community center called the Lyceum.¹⁶ Lansford is a borough that was incorporated from several smaller, independent villages. These small coal towns joined to become Lansford in 1878, naming their town after a man that had wanted the small villages to pull together into a borough, Asa Lansford Foster. After the incorporation of the borough, the town's growth took off. In 1880, in its first census, Lansford's population totaled just over 2,000 people.¹⁷ It was near the close of the 19th century

⁹ Hoben, *Lansford*, 3-4.

¹⁰ Hoben, *Lansford*, 3-5.

¹¹ Lehigh Navigation Coal Company, Inc., *Story of the Old Company* (Easton: Mack Printing Company, 1941), 17.

¹² Vincent Hydro Jr., *The Mauch Chunk Switchback: America's Pioneer Railroad* (Easton: Canal History and Technology Press), 24

¹³ Planes were tracks used to haul coal cars up to the top of the mountain to connect with the gravity railroad using a hook system to pull the cars. One way of understanding planes is the conveyors that pull rollercoasters up their hills.

¹⁴ Hydro, *The Mauch Chunk Switchback*, 109.

¹⁵ Hoben, *Lansford*, 112.

¹⁶ Hoben, *Lansford*, 20-21.

¹⁷ Hoben, *Lansford*, 16.

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that a trolley system was laid that connected Tamaqua and Lansford.¹⁸ The trolley barn stood just to the south of the high school football field on Bertsch Street.

At the turn of the 20th century, times were still very good in Lansford. In 1904, the Century Throwing Company opened a mill in Lansford. This provided a place of work for some of the wives and daughters of miners. Edgemont Lodge was built in Lansford in 1913, and the coal company now had a place to entertain outside visitors, as well as a well-to-do club for the company's bosses. This club had tennis courts and provided food and living quarters to company executives from out of town.¹⁹ By 1920, the population of the town had reached 9,625. This was Lansford's peak, as well as the peak for anthracite coal. While production still increased in the 1930s, anthracite's share of the fuel market was beginning to wane.²⁰ As the Great Depression sank in, people throughout Lansford were looking for work. One local WPA project helped to provide this work. This was the construction of the roof for the high school football stadium.²¹ In 1940, near the end of the coal company's tenure, Lansford's population had declined to 8,710 people.²²

Lansford's history was tied to the fortunes of the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company. While the coal company prospered into the 1920s, after World War II the market for anthracite coal quickly collapsed. This collapse in demand, along with the demands of workers, led the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company to close its mines and lease out its mineral rights to other companies in 1954.²³

While Lehigh Coal and Navigation stopped producing coal in Lansford in 1954, the mines continued to be operated on a much more limited basis by several smaller companies. One of these companies was the Panther Valley Coal Company, which opened the mines around Lansford and re-started the Lansford breaker. This company was bought out by Pierce Management in 1955, and by 1960 mining was again shut down in the valley.²⁴ One final attempt was made to revive the Lansford mines. In 1960 Greenwood Stripping Corporation bought the lease for all of the coal throughout the valley. However, "A small group of determined men, about a score, leased the No. 9 Mine in Lansford from the Greenwood firm, named themselves the Lanscoal Company, and for more than a decade sent premium, deep-mined anthracite to the Tamaqua preparation plant."²⁵ Finally, in 1972, the Lanscoal miners chose to discontinue mining operations, and the deep mines of the Panther Valley were closed. While strip mining continues in the valley today, it employs few residents and is a shadow of the formerly great industry that grew up in the Panther Valley.

Significance for Industry

The town of Lansford is significant because it continues to convey the important history of the anthracite industry within this part of Pennsylvania. Anthracite coal was a very important resource that drove industrialization throughout the state, especially east of the Allegheny Mountains. Prior to the discovery of anthracite coal in eastern Pennsylvania, fuel limitations stunted the growth of industry. As stated in the *Anthracite Resources of Northeastern Pennsylvania, 1769-1945*, Multiple Property Documentation Form

¹⁸ Hoben, *Lansford*, 19.

¹⁹ Hoben, *Lansford*, 121.

²⁰ Dublin and Licht, *The Face of Decline*, 88.

²¹ Hoben, *Lansford*, 27.

²² Hoben, *Lansford*, 29.

²³ Parton, *Death of a Great Company*, 113-115.

²⁴ Hoben, *Lansford*, 42.

²⁵ Hoben, *Lansford*, 43.

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The opening of the anthracite fields lifted this constraint upon American industry and helped initiate a period of unprecedented growth in the manufacturing sector of the nation's economy beginning in the 1830s.²⁶

Clearly, anthracite mining was a nationally significant trend and the role of the Panther Valley and Lansford was felt in the production capacities that came out of this small region of Pennsylvania.

Anthracite towns and bituminous towns are similar in many ways. Both enabled workers and their families to live near the mining facilities.²⁷ Both anthracite and bituminous towns provided churches, schools, and social halls. One difference between anthracite and bituminous towns seems to be the level of company involvement. In 1900, when anthracite was near its peak, it provided approximately 30 percent of the nation's energy needs, while bituminous coal was providing 60 percent of the nation's energy.²⁸ There was twice as much money to potentially be made in bituminous coal and it appears those companies strove to control everything, from mining machinery to workers, more than in the anthracite industry. So, bituminous coal towns were often more dominated by company-built housing and stores than is found in the anthracite region, where there were often more opportunities for new entrepreneurs to grow. While some anthracite communities were tightly controlled, such as in the Schuylkill Valley, there were also many decentralized anthracite towns across the larger region.²⁹

The town of Lansford has many of the elements that made up an anthracite town in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. First and foremost it had mines where workers toiled at producing the large quantities of coal needed for industrial and home usage. This is seen in the Number 9 mine and wash shanty. With the mines came the need for transportation infrastructure, such as the Lehigh and New England's freight depot, and the shops where coal cars were repaired. Anthracite towns also attracted other industries and businesses. These are found in Lansford's business district, and the now-vacant throwing mill. Recreation for employees is also necessary, and Lansford contains the park which was built by Lehigh Coal and Navigation for its community. Finally, an anthracite town should have housing that would have satisfied the needs of different levels of company employees. This too is visible in Lansford. It can be seen in the nice, large manager's houses located near Edgemont across the railroad tracks; in the mid-level management housing seen on West Bertsch Street; in the houses of the town's wealthy business men on Patterson Street; and finally in the rows upon rows of worker housing located throughout Lansford. In almost every way Lansford typifies what an anthracite town should be, and continues to tell the history of anthracite mining within the Panther Valley.

Transportation Hub

Early in the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company's history, they were already beginning to use rail transport to get coal to market. Coal from Summit Hill was sent to Mauch Chunk using the gravity railroad that was opened in 1827.³⁰ As the Panther Creek Valley was further opened for mining, the rail lines were extended into the valley using a switchback design in 1846.³¹ This allowed a car to gain speed, be stopped and re-routed by

²⁶Anthracite MPDF

²⁷ Bituminous MPDF, 427.

²⁸ Dublin and Licht, *The Face of Decline*, 51.

²⁹ Bituminous MPDF, 426-437.

³⁰ Hydro, *The Mauch Chunk Switchback*, 24

³¹ Hoben, *Lansford*, 5

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gravity, and then with a flipped switch, to continue its descent on another piece of track. From the beginning, Lansford was impacted by the use of rails to get coal to market.

This impact became greater when the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company, under a proposal by John Leisenring, decided to take Tunnel No. 7, which was in the south slope of the Locust Mountains, and dig it through to the other side of the mountain. This would allow the Panther Valley to connect to the Nesquehoning Valley Railroad. The plan was put into action by the company and completed in 1871, with the first train making passage in February of 1872.³² In part, the newfound ease with which transportation could be made to Mauch Chunk prompted the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company to move their offices from the peak of Sharp Mountain into the Panther Creek Valley and Lansford.

Lansford is also centrally located within the Panther Valley. Coaldale and Tamaqua are located to the West, and Nesquehoning is located to the East. Because of this central location, and because almost all coal cars went through the old No. 7 tunnel, Lansford became home to the shops that serviced the coal cars and railroad cars of the valley. These shops were built because of the heavy use of the coal cars, and the need for them to be well-maintained for the sake of both profits and safety. At their peak, these shops alone employed 350 men, helping to encourage the growth of Lansford.³³ These shops are located just north of the town and are still extant. Some of them continue to be in use for industrial purposes, with the Silberline manufacturing plant now using the buildings. Millions of tons of coal passed through Lansford and the old No. 7 Tunnel and were taken to markets across the eastern seaboard. For example, in 1919, Lehigh Coal and Navigation was able to produce about 4.7 million tons of coal. This amount of coal made it the sixth largest anthracite producer.³⁴

The Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company knew the importance that transportation played in getting their coal to market. With this in mind, they consolidated a rail line, called the Lehigh and New England Railroad that serviced the valley and hooked into the system of the Central Railroad of New Jersey. The Central Railroad of New Jersey eventually leased the rail line, which brought in profits to the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company.

Mining

Another important part of Lansford's significance in industry is its history of mining. The villages that would make up Lansford sprouted because the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company had nearly exhausted the mining possibilities at Summit Hill. The Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company considered expansion into the Panther Creek Valley as early as 1828, and according to the town's centennial history the valley was "a beehive of activity during the 1840's[sic]."³⁵ The section of the Panther Valley that would become Lansford was at this time made up of several small villages. A few of the villages that banded together to become the borough of Lansford are Ashton, Storm Hill, Jamestown, Richdale and Andrewsville. Ashton was associated with the No. 4 Tunnel, Storm Hill with No. 9, Andrewsville with No. 6, and Richdale with No. 7. Of the nine mines that were opened by the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company within the Panther Valley at this time, four of them—almost half—surrounded Lansford (See Figure #11).

³² Hydro, *The Mauch Chunk Switchback*, 109.

³³ Parton, *Death of a Great Company*, 30.

³⁴ Dublin and Licht, *The Face of Decline*, 48.

³⁵ Hydro, *The Mauch Chunk Switchback*, 84; Hoben, *Lansford*, 7.

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Mining in the southern anthracite fields was different than in other areas, particularly the northern field (See Figure #12). The coal found in the southern fields was often pitched steeply with the mountain ranges.³⁶ This meant that underground shaft mining was a must. With underground shaft mining came a host of occupations, which necessitated more housing, which helped places like Lansford grow. In *The Face of Decline*, at least a partial listing of the jobs that were needed is laid out:

Large mining operations required battalions of workers with varied skills: rockmen and muckers to evacuate shafts and drill underground gangways; timbermen to shore up gangways; skilled miners, assisted by helpers, to detonate and pick at coal seams to free the anthracite; loaders and mule drivers to transport the coal away from the coal face and out of the mines; fire bosses to test for dangerous buildups of carbon monoxide and methane gas; men and boys, who worked above ground in breakers, to crush, clean, and screen the coal into different sizes for various uses; stationary engineers and pump house crews to operate steam engines; machinists to fabricate and repair tools and equipment; carpenters to build and repair wooden structures; locomotive engineers and railway yard hands; and hosts of supervisors to manage the complex of activity.³⁷

Evidence of some of these activities remains visible in the industrial resources that remain in Lansford. For example, the large complex of shops where repairs were made is on the north side of town. These large stone and brick buildings are a testament to the industrial activities in Lansford (See Figure #13). Also, as part of the museum that exists at the No. 9 mine, there is a wash shanty, where many of the workers that worked below-ground would clean up before going home. Lansford's incredible growth following its incorporation in 1878 is in no small part due to changes in mining techniques. After 1870 open pit mining and drift mining, which was much less labor-intensive, was no longer practical. More workers were needed as shaft and tunnel mining became the primary form of mining in Lansford.

Mine workers were very important to the smooth functioning of the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company's properties. Many employment records exist from the period of 1920-1954, and some interesting trends can be identified from those records. All of this data is compiled in Thomas Dublin and Walter Licht's *The Face of Decline* on pages 48-50. The following are a few significant statistics. In 1919, 27% (2,000 men) of the overall workforce were contract miners. Contract miners were paid at a rate per ton of coal extracted. Conversely, at least 880 men and boys worked outside of the mines as engineers, machinists and slatepickers. The average miner that worked for Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company worked for them for 27 years. Mining was always a dangerous job, and workers for Lehigh Navigation and Coal had a 1 in 11 chance of being fatally injured while on the job.³⁸

With so many employees, there was a great need for the building of homes within Lansford. This was accomplished in two ways, local builders and company-sponsored builders. As Julian Parton writes in *The Death of a Great Company*, "In the early years, the Company built houses for the employees. Rent charged for the homes was extremely low."³⁹ These homes were most likely built around the areas where mining activity was the busiest. The Company also built several rows of homes in the early twentieth century. These can be seen on the 700 and 800 blocks of Ridge Street. They were clearly planned for with their uniform deep

³⁶ Dublin and Licht, *The Face of Decline*, 10

³⁷ Dublin and Licht, *The Face of Decline*, 21.

³⁸ Dublin and Licht, *The Face of Decline*, 49.

³⁹ Parton, *Death of a Great Company*, 41.

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setbacks and wide lots. There are also several streets identified as company built housing in the photo section of *Lansford: the First 100 Years*. All in all the housing needs were met with a combination of both company and private resources.

Ethnicity

Ethnicity is an important part of the anthracite story, as well as an important part of the story of Lansford. Immigration patterns in Lansford were similar to those across the rest of the anthracite region. In general, this means that there was an initial wave of immigrants from the United Kingdom (England, Scotland, Ireland, Wales) and Germany. Many of these immigrants brought with them knowledge of mining. This immigration pattern can be seen in Lansford through the development of the town's first church, the Welsh Congregational Church which was built in 1850. As time went on, these early immigrants either moved out of the area to larger towns like Mauch Chunk, or moved up within the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company management.⁴⁰ Either way, the number of immigrants of UK extraction began to decline in the second half of the 19th century.⁴¹

A second wave of immigrants proceeded into the anthracite fields and into Lansford in the late-19th and early 20th century. These immigrants tended to be of eastern European descent. For example, in Lansford in 1920, 28% of the population was foreign-born, with 5/6 of that population from south, central and eastern Europe.⁴² For these groups, their common ethnic culture was important. Throughout the region, their culture was manifested in ways such as the construction of social halls and churches. In Lansford, ethnic groups expressed their unique identities through their religion.⁴³ To this end, many Eastern Orthodox and Catholic churches were built. An interesting facet of Lansford pertains to its churches. There are no cemeteries in Lansford. All of the burial plots for the churches in town are located on the eastern side of Summit Hill. This was due to the fact that the company did not want any discrepancies between where bodies were found and coal was found. The entire valley was a potential coal mine, and so burials were relegated away from potentially lucrative areas. There were also some interesting divisions of labor along ethnic lines: In 1920, for example, "only 4 percent of the Italian mineworkers in the firm were contract miners, compared to 42 percent of Eastern Europeans."⁴⁴ One possible reason for this is the strength of ethnic ties, which led Eastern Europeans to surround themselves with members of their own ethnic group.

Labor Strife

A common experience shared by all miners within the anthracite coal fields was the constant tension with management over wages, safety and employment. This was almost universal, and became a greater issue around the turn of the 20th century. One important story of labor strife in the southern coal fields has to do with the famed Molly Maguires. In Lansford the Molly Maguires were accused of the killing of John P. Jones, a mine superintendent, and the killers were hanged at Mauch Chunk as part of a mass-hanging of people fomenting labor unrest.⁴⁵

Several strikes rocked the anthracite fields in the late 1800s and in the first half of the 1900s. One important industry-wide strike in the anthracite fields was in 1902. This strike was one of national importance, with the federal government stepping in to mediate between the United Mine Workers of America and the coal

⁴⁰ Dublin and Licht, *The Face of Decline*, 47.

⁴¹ Dublin and Licht, *The Face of Decline*, 204

⁴² Dublin and Licht, *The Face of Decline*, 43.

⁴³ Dublin and Licht, *The Face of Decline*, 23

⁴⁴ Dublin and Licht, *The Face of Decline*, 48.

⁴⁵ Hoben, *Lansford*, 9

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companies.⁴⁶ Regional papers ran many articles about the strikes, in particular focusing on the supposed militancy of the strikers. The Chester Times wrote on August 19, 1902:

Baird Snyder, assistant superintendent of the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company appealed to General Gobin, in command of the detachment of the National Guard now on duty at Shenandoah, to send troops to Lansford to preserve order. He said that the entire Panther Creek Valley from Nesquehoning to Mauch Chunk was in a riotous state and that serious trouble was feared.⁴⁷

Mining and Manufacturing

While men undertook mining, women and children in households searched out other places to work to supplement the uneven income that came from the mines. This opened an opportunity for owners in the garment industry. As Thomas Dublin discussed in *The Face of Decline*:

The need of local commercial interests to provide employment opportunities for second and third breadwinners in families of miners complemented developments unfolding a hundred miles east of the anthracite region, in Paterson, New Jersey. In the 1870's Paterson emerged as the silk-producing center of the United States.⁴⁸

This led to an expansion of textile mills and garment manufacturing sites in the anthracite region. For example, five Paterson, New Jersey, firms had opened plants in the anthracite region by the early 20th century. In 1904, Lansford got its factory when the Century Throwing Company of Paterson opened its doors on West Bertsch Street.⁴⁹ These incomes were very important to mining families. A study of child labor published in 1911 showed that in the average miner's family, children's income totaled 38% of family incomes.⁵⁰

Deindustrialization

Lansford and the anthracite industry also provide a good example of early instances of deindustrialization. This deindustrialization did not occur because of a lack of anthracite to mine, but instead occurred because of the inability to mechanize extraction, competition from alternative fuels, and the difficulty of working pitched seams rather than surface deposits.⁵¹ For example, as the market shifted from a demand for domestic or home coal consumption to one that was dominated by coal for boilers that heated entire buildings, a different grade of anthracite was required. Domestic consumption required larger chunks of coal, which were easily mined, while the boilers required finer grades which were more expensive because of additional processing. As other fuels replaced anthracite in city furnaces, anthracite was the biggest loser.⁵² Another example of the changes in mining is in the mechanization of extraction. In the northern field where extraction was easier because of flatter surface seams, extraction was mechanized with heavy equipment and thus done cheaper than in the southern fields.⁵³

⁴⁶ Dublin and Licht, *The Face of Decline*, 36-38.

⁴⁷ Unknown, "Deputy Kills a Striker," *Chester Times*, August 19, 1902, 7.

⁴⁸ Dublin and Licht, *The Face of Decline*, 28.

⁴⁹ Dublin and Licht, *The Face of Decline*, 28.

⁵⁰ Dublin and Licht, *The Face of Decline*, 40.

⁵¹ Dublin and Licht, *The Face of Decline*, 51-52.

⁵² Dublin and Licht, *The Face of Decline*, 52.

⁵³ Dublin and Licht, *The Face of Decline*, 51.

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In Lansford, deindustrialization meant the selling off of both buildings and leases on lands. There was a lot of money to potentially be reclaimed from the properties. For example, as Julian Parton pointed out, some of the investors in the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company had plans to sell from the time they began to purchase stock. These investors realized that the value of the company, its lands, structures and leases, was more than its stock price by a large margin. Investors could buy stock at \$8.50 and the total value of assets was approximately \$26.00. So in 1950 investors looking to make a quick return began to buy up stocks.⁵⁴

A comprehensive accounting of deindustrialization in the anthracite region can be found in *The Face of Decline* by Thomas Dublin and Walter Licht. However, in the instance of Lansford and the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company, deindustrialization entered full swing following the close of World War II. For example, in 1944 Lehigh Coal and Navigation made a profit of \$1.25 million. Just four years later their profits dropped to \$19,000.⁵⁵ This was a huge blow, and following World War II, the market for anthracite never fully returned. This was due in large part to the competition of other more low-cost fuels for home heating.⁵⁶ The Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company then stopped producing coal in the Panther Valley in 1954, leasing its coal rights to other companies.⁵⁷

Comparisons in Industry

Nesquehoning and Coaldale

Lansford has two sister towns in the Panther Creek Valley. These are Nesquehoning and Coaldale. Both towns are architecturally similar to Lansford. Clearly there were some builders that were working in all of these communities, most likely at the request of the coal company. The side-gable, two bay form is present throughout, as are the shed-roofed forms. The largest difference between Coaldale and Nesquehoning and Lansford is Lansford's large regional-size business district. There are 3 commercial blocks in Lansford with largely only 1-block business districts in the other two towns. Lansford was also home to the rail yard and repair shops, while Nesquehoning and Coaldale were merely towns that provided housing near to a coal breaker. Nesquehoning's proximity to Jim Thorpe provided a second source of employment after passenger rail was extended, while Lansford and Coaldale remained largely coal towns.

St. Clair

St. Clair, nearby in Schuylkill County, is another example of an anthracite coal town. Like Lansford, it is in the southern anthracite field, but it was headed by a different corporation. There are a few key differences between St. Clair and Lansford. One important difference was the number of years that coal was actively mined. While coal mining got under way in both locales around the same time—about 1830 for Lansford and 1835 for St. Clair—the town of St. Clair experienced growth, and then very rapid decline.⁵⁸ Lansford, on the other hand, continued to produce anthracite for the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company until 1954. The borough of St. Clair was incorporated in 1850, but it began to go into steep decline in 1870-1880 as the Reading Railroad began to have financial difficulties. Lansford did not incorporate until 1878, but continued to be a regional hub

⁵⁴ Dublin and Licht, *The Face of Decline*, 89.

⁵⁵ Dublin and Licht, *The Face of Decline*, 88

⁵⁶ Dublin and Licht, *The Face of Decline*, 88

⁵⁷ Dublin and Licht, *The Face of Decline*, 90

⁵⁸ Anthony Wallace, *St. Clair: A Nineteenth-Century Coal Town's Experience with a Disaster-Prone Industry* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1987), xvi.

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for businesses and coal production until after WWII, giving the town more time to impact its surrounding communities.⁵⁹

St. Clair, like Lansford, became a transportation hub for a railroad. Rather than for the Lehigh and New England Railroad, St. Clair became the home of the repair shops for the Reading Railroad. However, it did not become a transportation hub until after coal digging was virtually shut down.⁶⁰ In Lansford, transportation became important to the community while the anthracite industry continued to prosper. St. Clair's mines also never produced the same volumes of anthracite as those in the Panther Valley. The average output for collieries in the Pottsville Basin which holds St. Clair were only 18,000 tons per year. Meanwhile, to the east, the Panther Creek Valley's average colliery output was 60,000 tons per year.⁶¹

There are some similarities between St. Clair and Lansford. Both had a history populated by peoples of many ethnicities. This can be seen in both communities in the variety of churches that exists.⁶² Another important similarity is that neither town retains the large breakers that at one time dominated their landscape. These pieces of the industrial history of coal are largely missing across the region.⁶³ So, while both mining towns flourished in the 19th century, St. Clair's production quickly declined, while Lansford remained a regional player in the southern anthracite fields, and a regional hub for the Panther Valley.

Palmerton

There were many different industries in Carbon County's history. While much of the county was dominated by the coal industry, the county also attracted other businesses. One example is in Palmerton, which was known as the "Zinc City."⁶⁴ Palmerton was constructed because of the zinc industry. The New Jersey Zinc Company shipped its zinc ores from New Jersey and smelted them in Carbon County. While this company was powerful in its own right, producing large quantities of zinc for industrial and home use, it was not unlike or unconnected from towns like Lansford. One of the driving factors for the placement of Palmerton along the Lehigh River was to take advantage of the proximity to an important fuel source, anthracite coal. It was the anthracite from the nearby coal fields that encouraged other developments within Carbon County. For example, as late as 1960, Palmerton was still using large quantities of anthracite coal. In 1959-1960, Palmerton used 60,700 tons of coal, with 56,800 tons being used by the zinc plant.⁶⁵ This shows the extraordinary relationship between power providers like Lansford and power users like Palmerton.

Both Palmerton and Lansford were towns that remained closely aligned with their founding companies. In Palmerton, the New Jersey Zinc Company established its headquarters in 1914.⁶⁶ This parallels closely with the movement of the headquarters of Lehigh Coal and Navigation to its new office in Lansford in 1872. The companies that oversaw these towns wanted to be as close to their primary resources as possible. Finally, in both Palmerton and Lansford, the companies provided housing for their workers, and Palmerton's layout and development was closely controlled by the company. One difference between the two towns is that in Palmerton, the New Jersey Zinc Company encouraged home ownership through the Palmer Land Company, and

⁵⁹ Wallace, *St. Clair*, xvi, 437.

⁶⁰ Wallace, *St. Clair*, 442.

⁶¹ Wallace, *St. Clair*, 427-428.

⁶² Wallace, *St. Clair*, 444.

⁶³ Wallace, *St. Clair*, 444.

⁶⁴ Anonymous, *Silver Anniversary of the Founding of Palmerton* (Palmerton, Palmerton Printing Company, 1923), 182.

⁶⁵ Unknown, "Palmerton's Hard Coal Use Tops Total Exports to Italy," *Morning Call*.

⁶⁶ Anonymous, *Silver Anniversary*, 29.

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in Lansford, the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company kept control of its properties while deducting rents from its workers' paychecks.⁶⁷ This system allowed companies like the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company to maintain a greater amount of control over its workers. Both companies were important in Carbon County's industrial history, but without towns like Lansford, Palmerton probably would not have grown up where it did.

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Pennsylvania State Archives, Harrisburg, PA

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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): NA

10. Geographical Data

⁶⁷ Anthracite MPDF, 35.

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Acreage of Property 462 acres
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>18</u> Zone	<u>424127</u> Easting	<u>4520096</u> Northing	3	<u>18</u> Zone	<u>426838</u> Easting	<u>4521018</u> Northing
2	<u>18</u> Zone	<u>425039</u> Easting	<u>4520947</u> Northing	4	<u>18</u> Zone	<u>426898</u> Easting	<u>4520814</u> Northing
5	<u>18</u> Zone	<u>425795</u> Easting	<u>4520102</u> Northing	6	<u>18</u> Zone	<u>424356</u> Easting	<u>4519807</u> Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundary corresponds to the map shown in Map 1: Site Plan and the detail maps of the district presented in Maps 2-5.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary includes the bulk of the borough of Lansford, including those residential, commercial, civic, industrial, and recreational resources that continue to reflect the relationship between the company and the town developed to support the industry. Excluded from the boundary is the village of Andrews ville, located on the east side of Lansford. This portion of the borough was excluded because it is largely disconnected from the rest of the town.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Benjamin Harvey
organization _____ date October, 2011
street & number 508 Locust Grove Road telephone 717-968-6327
city or town York state PA zip code 17402
e-mail benjamin.a.harvey@gmail.com

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

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Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Photographer: Ben Harvey

Date of Photos: 1, 15-18, 25-26 March, 2011

3-4, 8-14, 19-21, 27-28 April, 2011

2, 5-7, 22-24 October, 2011

Printed: Epson Stylus R800 with Epson Ink and Premium Glossy Paper

Photo List

1. South and west facades of 2 Edgemont Road, facing northeast
2. Opening of No. 7 Tunnel facing north
3. Freight depot for Lehigh and New England Railroad, Dock Street, facing northeast
4. Portion of Lansford shops, Dock Street, facing northwest
5. No. 9 Mine wash shanty west and south facades, facing northeast
6. No. 9 Mine powder house north and west facades, facing southwest
7. No. 9 Mine tunnel opening, facing south
8. South side 200 block West Front Street showing original summer kitchen, facing southwest
9. 300 block West Ridge Street, facing west
10. POS of A Hall, 106-108 West Ridge Street north façade, facing south
11. First National Bank of Lansford, built 1903 south façade, 129 West Ridge Street, facing north
12. Bright's Store (now Panther Valley Mini Mall) north façade, 26-28 West Ridge Street, facing south
13. 100 block East Ridge Street, facing west
14. North side 700 block East Ridge Street, facing northeast
15. South side 800 block East Patterson, facing east
16. South and west facades 245 East Patterson Street, facing northeast
17. Old municipal building and jail, northeast corner of Patterson and Walnut Streets, facing northwest
18. South side 600 block East Bertsch Street, facing west
19. North façade St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Church, 114 East Bertsch Street, facing south
20. South side 100 block West Bertsch Street, facing southeast
21. Silk and textile mill, northeast corner Cortright and West Bertsch Streets, facing north
22. 300 block West Kline Avenue showing close spacing of early streets, facing northeast
23. 300 block West Abbott Street, facing northeast
24. East Abbott Street and Chestnut Street, facing west
25. West side Leisenring Street between Ridge and Patterson Streets, facing southwest
26. East side Walnut Street between Snyder and Ridge Streets, facing southeast
27. Original miner's house located at 207 West Kline Avenue, facing northeast
28. South side 300 block West Snyder Avenue, facing southeast

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Figure List

1. West Front Street as seen in 1902. From Hoben, *Lansford*, pg 103.
2. Representative example of No Style houses, East Bertsch Street facing northwest.
3. Variation of No Style houses on north side Ridge Street, facing northeast. The same photograph is seen in Photo #14.
4. South and west facades of 2 Edgemont Road, facing northeast. The same photograph is seen in Photo #1.
5. St. Michael the Archangel Roman Catholic Church on the right of the photo showing gothic details such as a rose window and tall narrow steeple.
6. West Front Street showing extant summer kitchen, facing southwest. The same photograph is seen in Photo #8.
7. On the left is the Davies House on Patterson Street, c. 1900 from Hoben, *Lansford*, 115. On the right is the Davies House's south and west facades as it stands today. Davies was an important member of the town as he was the president of the Panther Valley Electric Company, as written by Fred Brenckman in 1913's *History of Carbon County*. More detail of the current photo is seen in Photo #16.
8. North façade of Bright's Store on West Ridge Street. The same photograph is seen in Photo #12.
9. 600 block of East Bertsch Street c. 1915. Hoben, *Lansford*, 104. A current view of 600 East Bertsch Street is seen in Photo#18.
10. This aerial shows the relationship of Lansford to the other towns of the Panther Valley as well as the general topography of the eastern tip of the southern anthracite region.
11. This map shows the mine tunnels surrounding what would become Lansford, which includes the village of Ashton and the Richdale Patch. From Hydro, *The Mauch Chunk Switchback*, 96.
12. The anthracite coal fields, with a focus on the Panther Valley. From Dublin and Licht, *The Face of Decline*, Opposite page 1.
13. Part of the Lansford repair shops located on Dock Street north of town. This building is attached to the rear of the building that can be seen in Photo #4 and was constructed in the early twentieth century.
14. Aerial photograph with Lansford in the upper left from 1938. PennPilot.
15. Other half Lansford on right from 1938. PennPilot.
16. Aerial view of Lansford showing different important community and mining resources.

Property Owner:

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name _____
street & number _____ telephone _____
city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

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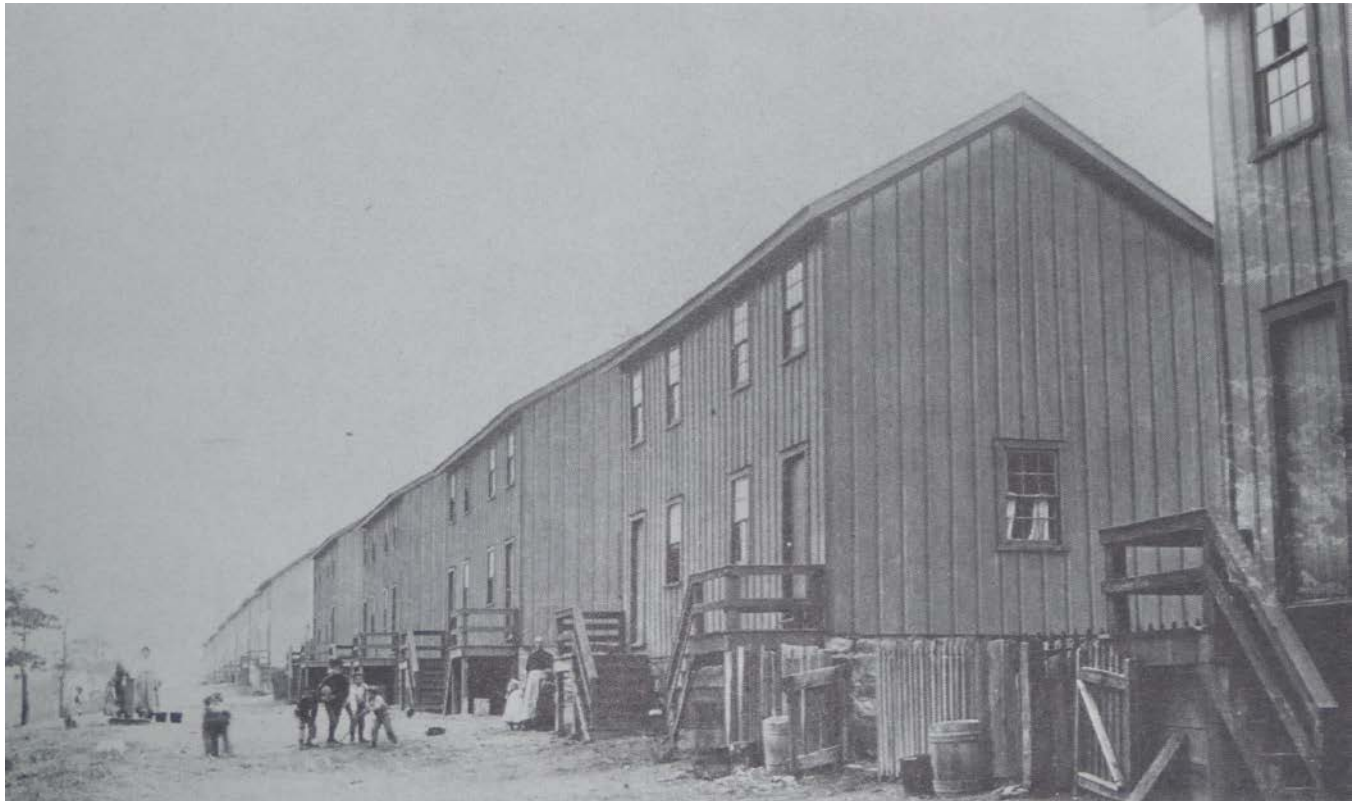


Figure #1: West Front Street as seen in 1902. From Hoben, *Lansford*, pg 103.

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Figure #2: Representative example of vernacular duplex and row houses, East Bertsch Street facing northwest.



Figure #3: Variation of vernacular duplex houses on north side Ridge Street, facing northeast. The same photograph is seen in Photo #14.

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Figure #4: South and west facades of 2 Edgemont Road, facing northeast. The same photograph is seen in Photo #1.



Figure #5: St. Michael the Archangel Roman Catholic Church on the right of the photo showing gothic details such as a rose window and tall narrow steeple.

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Figure #6: West Front Street showing extant summer kitchen, facing southwest. The same photograph is seen in Photo #8.

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Figure#7: Above is the Davies House on Patterson Street, c. 1900 from Hoben, *Lansford*, 115. Below is the Davies House's south and west facades as it stands today. Davies was an important member of the town as he was the president of the Panther Valley Electric Company, as written by Fred Brenckman in 1913's *History of Carbon County*. More detail of the current photo is seen in Photo #16.

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Figure #8: North façade of Bright’s Store on West Ridge Street. The same photograph is seen in Photo #12.



Figure #9: 600 block of East Bertsch Street c. 1915. Hoben, *Lansford*, 104. A current view of 600 East Bertsch Street is seen in Photo#18.

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Figure #10: This aerial shows the relationship of Lansford to the other towns of the Panther Valley as well as the general topography of the eastern tip of the southern anthracite region.

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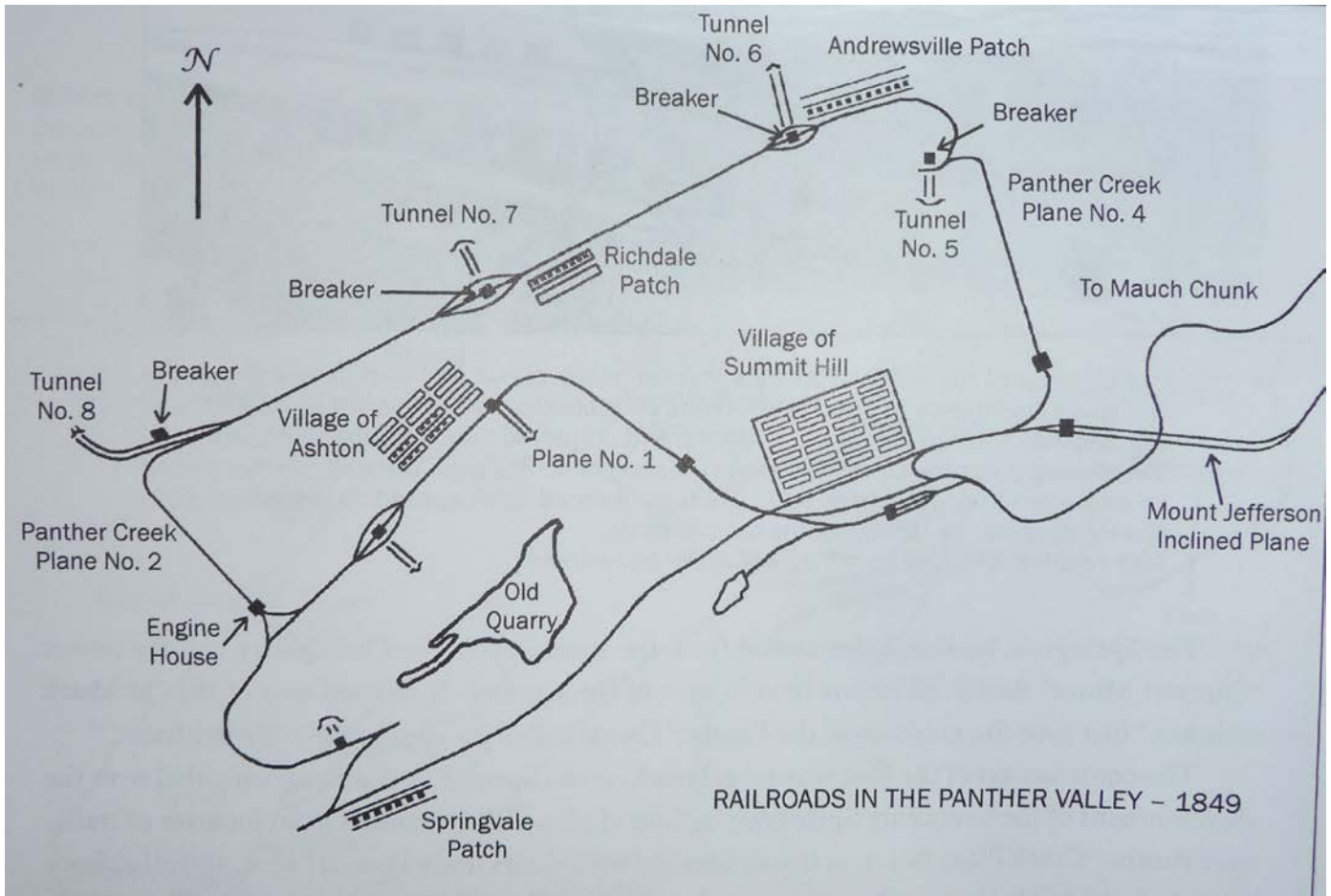


Figure #11: This map shows the mine tunnels surrounding what would become Lansford, which includes the village of Ashton and the Richdale Patch. From Hydro, *The Mauch Chunk Switchback*, 96.

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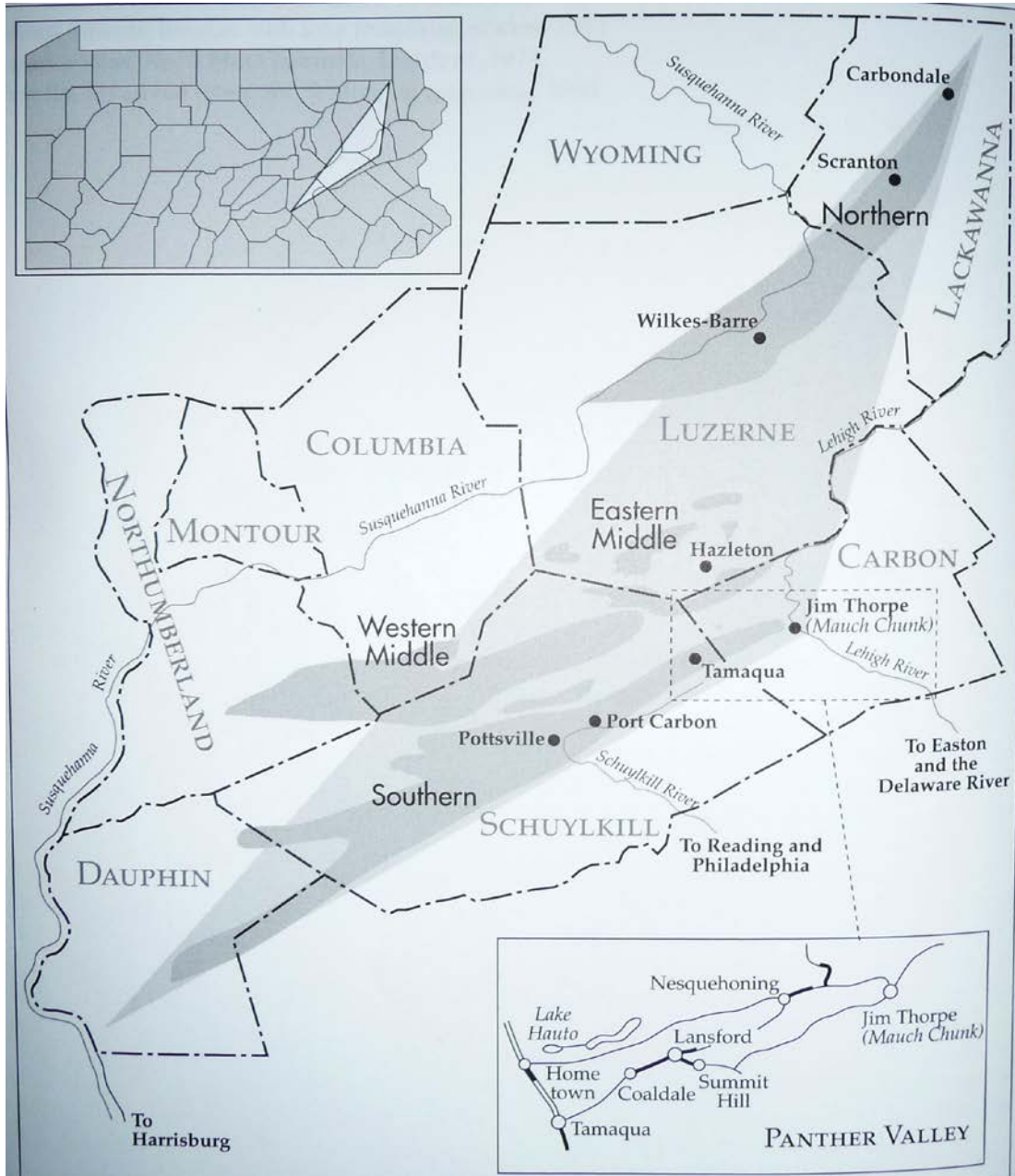


Figure #12: The anthracite coal fields, with a focus on the Panther Valley. From Dublin and Light, *The Face of Decline*, Opposite page 1.

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Figure #13: Part of the Lansford repair shops located on Dock Street north of town. This building is attached to the rear of the building that can be seen in Photo #4 and was constructed in the early twentieth century.

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Figure #14: Aerial photograph with Lansford in the upper left from 1938. PennPilot.

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Figure #15: Other half Lansford on right from 1938. PennPilot.

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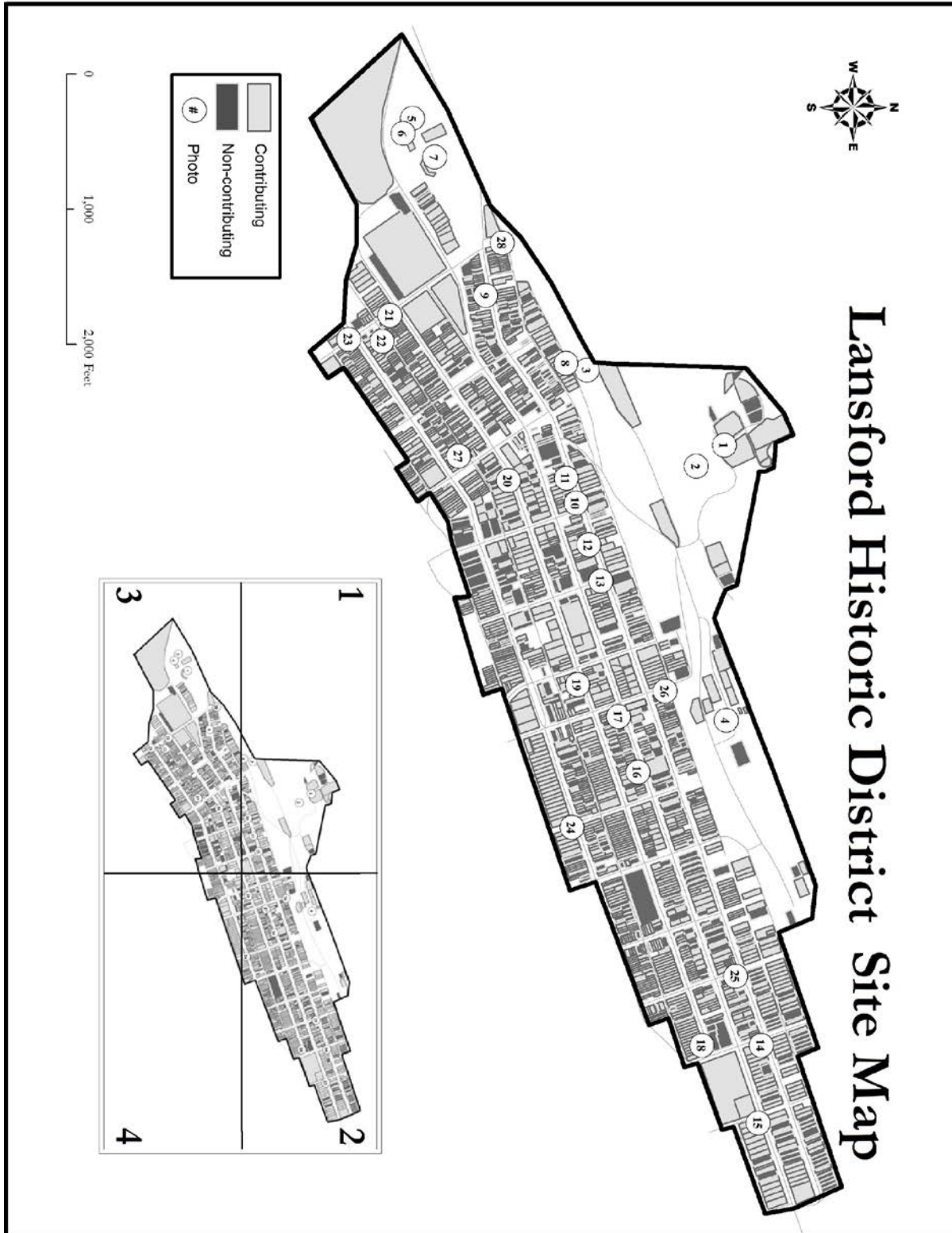
Figure #16: Aerial view of Lansford showing different important community and mining resources.

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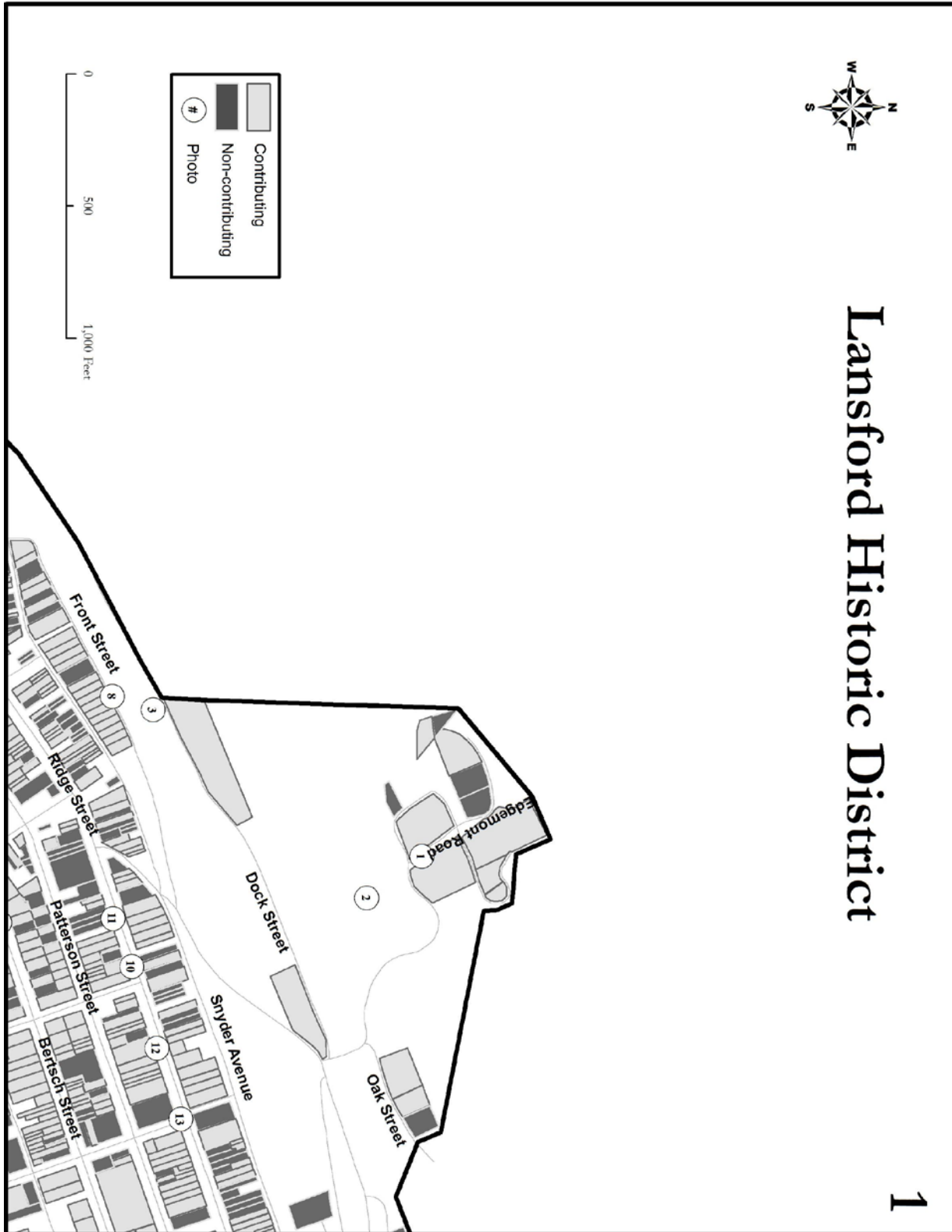
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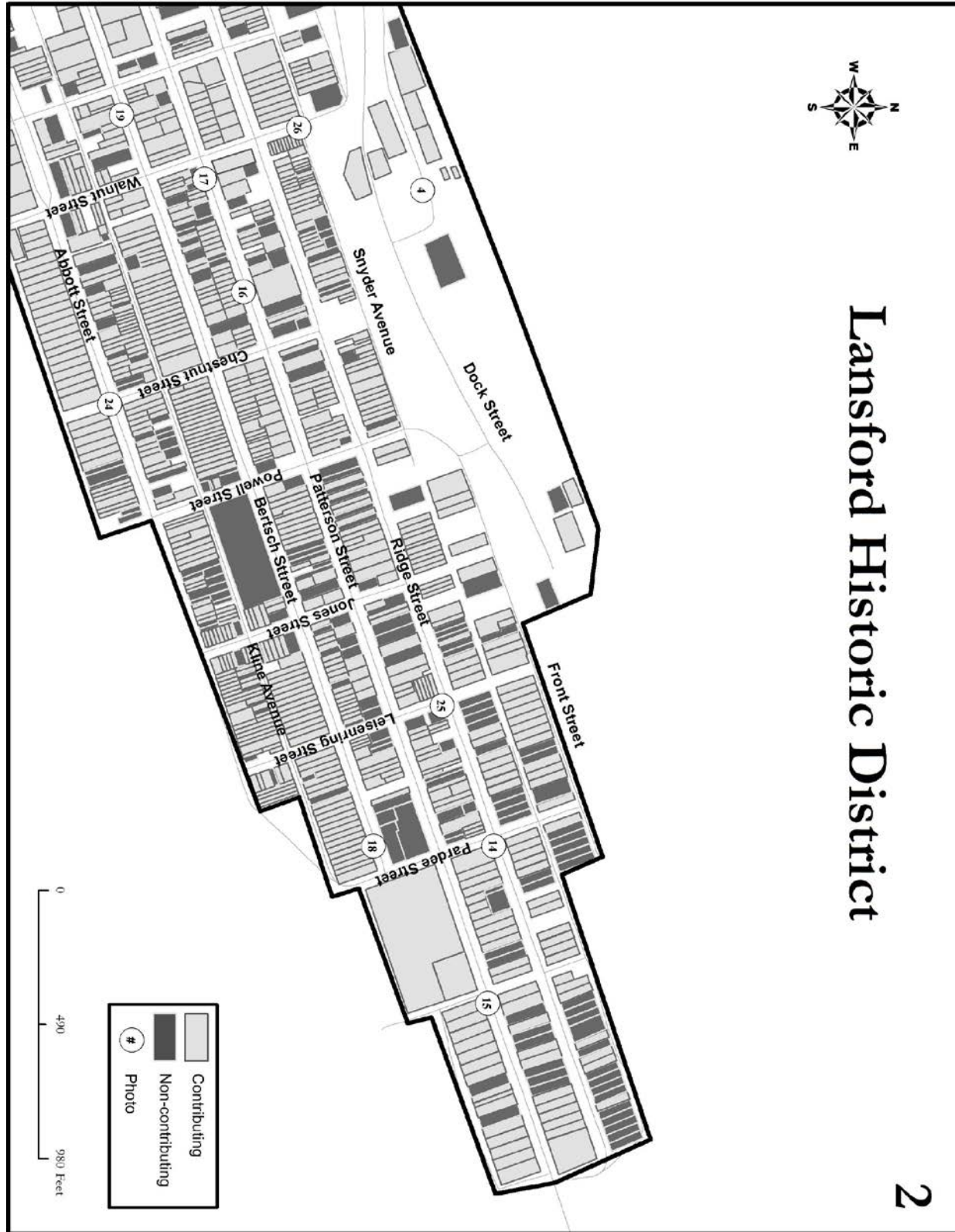
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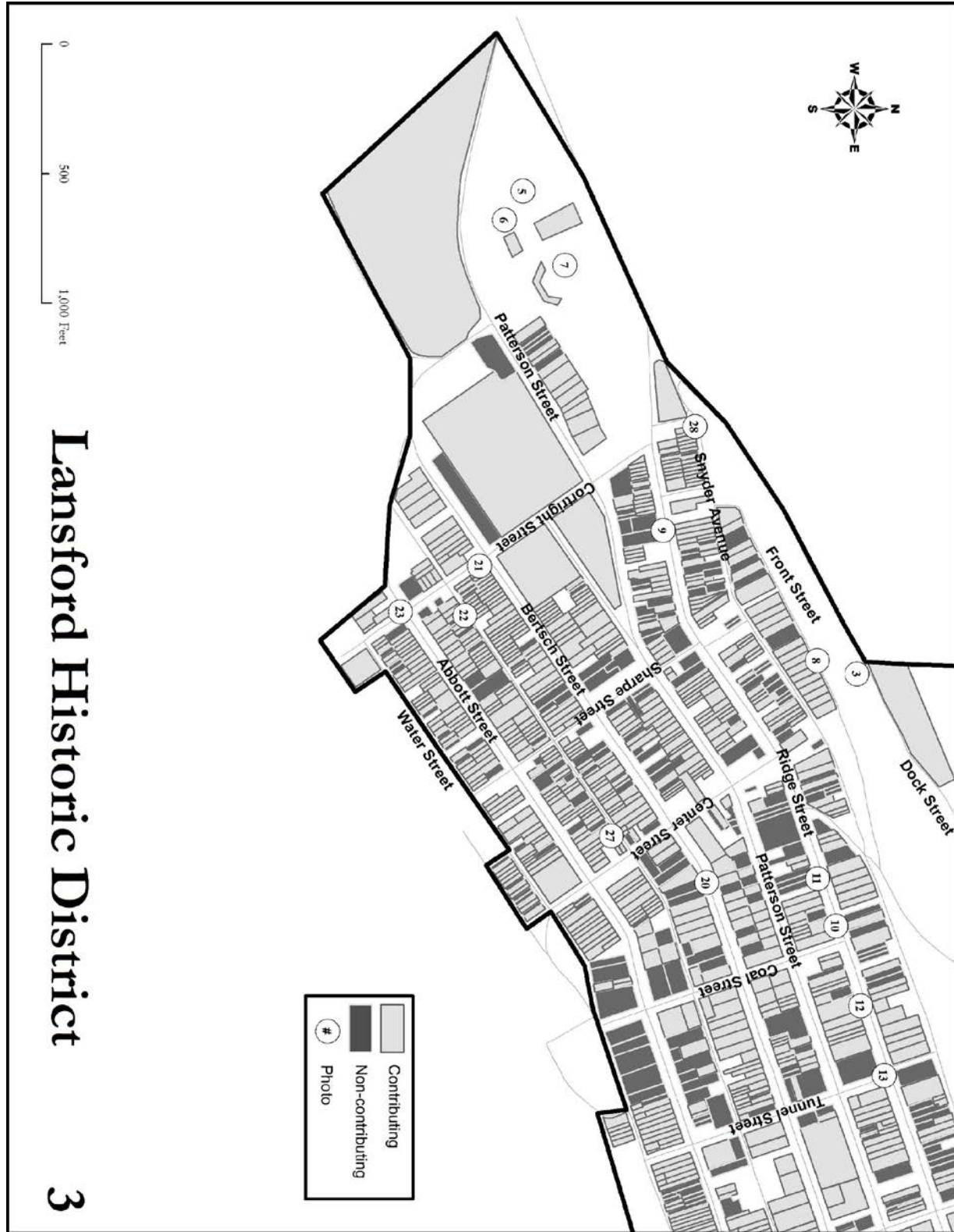


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	Contributing
	Non-contributing
	Photo