

Midland Trail Scenic Highway Cultural Resource Survey



One of the Midland Trail's cultural resources, Glade Creek Grist Mill in Babcock State Park, W.Va. (Michael E. Workman, 1997)

Background

The Institute for the History of Technology and Industrial Archaeology (IHTIA) launched a collaborative relationship with the Midland Trail Scenic Highway Association, Inc. (MTSHA) in 1992, developing an interpretive map and guide to the Midland Trail, the 123-mile scenic byway that runs from White Sulphur Springs to Charleston, West Virginia, along the path of U.S. Route 60. In 1996 IHTIA worked with MTSHA to hold an industrial heritage symposium about the Midland Trail at the West Virginia University Institute of Technology (formerly West Virginia Tech.) at Montgomery, West Virginia. The following year, IHTIA worked with MTSHA and the Walkabout Company of Wheeling to produce a video documenting the history of salt-making in the Kanawha Valley.

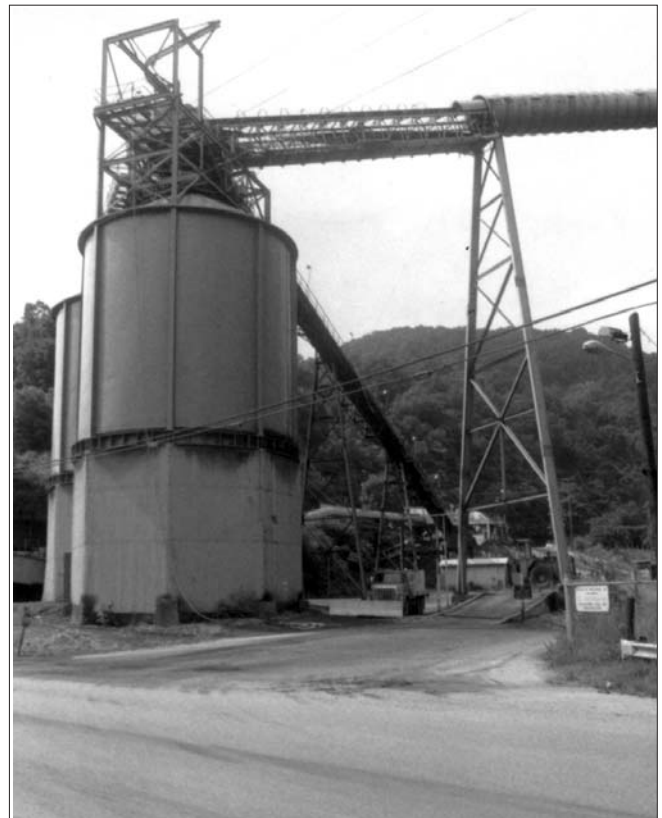
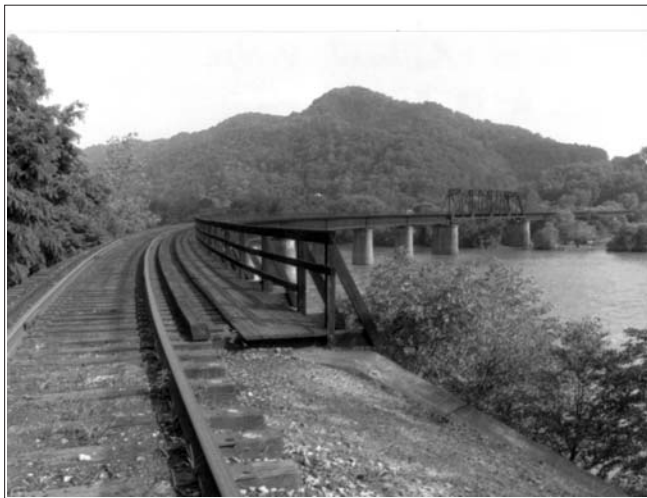
Scope

In 1999 MTSHA contracted IHTIA to produce a film highlighting the cultural, historic, natural, recreational, and scenic resources along the Midland Trail corridor. While IHTIA managed the project and provided direction and historical research, the Walkabout Company produced the film. Paul D. Marshall & Associates of Charleston, Cabin Creek Quilts of Malden, and Rock Renditions of Morgantown assisted with content, filming, script development, and editing. Existing film footage, historic photos, interviews, and on-camera talent told the interesting story of the Midland Trail. IHTIA provided assistance on industrial history, represented by segments on the historic role of river, road, and rail transportation, and on the coal, chemical, and lumber industries.

Results

The 56-minute film was completed in 2000. It was first aired on West Virginia Public Broadcast System on July 14, 2001. The film is also being marketed to the Travel Channel, and will soon be available for viewing at various tourist stops along the Midland Trail.

Principal Investigator: Michael E. Workman



Clockwise from top: Bratton's Antiques & Curiosity Shop, Marmet, W.Va.; Cannelton Coal Company preparation plant near Montgomery, W.Va.; Kanawha & Michigan Railroad bridge crossing the Kanawha River at Alloy, W.Va. (Michael E. Workman, 1997)