

Cambria and Indiana Railroad, Engine House No. 1
.25 miles NW of Colver
Colver Vicinity
Cambria County
Pennsylvania

HAER No. PA-238-A

HAER
PA,
II-COLV.V,
I-A-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record
National Park Service
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

CAMBRIA AND INDIANA RAILROAD, ENGINE HOUSE NO. 1

HAER
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11-COLV.V.
1-A-

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Location: .25 miles Northwest of Colver, Colver Vicinity, Cambria County, Pennsylvania

USGS Quad: Colver, Pennsylvania (1:24000)
UTM: 17 E.686250 N.4490240

Date of Construction: 1920

Builder: Ebensburg Coal Company

Present Owner: Bethlehem Steel

Present Use: Abandoned

Significance: The Engine House No. 1 is part of a larger rail yard and shop complex built in the late 1910s by the Cambria & Indiana Railroad, captive railroad of the Ebensburg Coal Company. This company was one of the top ten coal producers in Cambria County in the late 1910s and 1920s.

Project Information: In February 1987, the Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) and the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) began a multi-year historical and architectural documentation project in southwestern Pennsylvania. Carried out in conjunction with America's Industrial Heritage Project (AIHP), HAER undertook a comprehensive inventory of Blair and Cambria counties as the first step in identifying the region's surviving historic engineering works and industrial resources.

The results of this project have been published in Blair County and Cambria County, Pennsylvania: An Inventory of Historic Engineering and Industrial Sites (1990), edited by Gray Fitzsimons and produced by HABS/HAER for the National Park Service.

Compiler: Nancy Shedd and Ken Heineman, Historians
Gray Fitzsimons and Kenneth Rose, Editors

History:

Shortly after the completion of No. 2 Roundhouse in 1921, the Ebensburg Coal Company erected a second roundhouse with an adjoining machine shop and blacksmith shop. Called the Lower Roundhouse, this facility handled the repair of rail-car trucks, and served as storage area. The engine house contains timber and iron Howe roof trusses, brick pilasters, and brick walls. To the north, the machine shop and blacksmith shop contain structural steel frames and steel purlins supporting the roofs. In 1977 the Bethlehem Steel Company acquired the C&I Railroad and continued to operate the repair shop facility at Colver. The two roundhouses remain in service and are in good condition.

Sources:

Jencks, S.H. "A History of the Cambria and Indiana Railroad," unpublished diary of S.H. Jencks, former Chief Engineer, Cambria and Indiana Railroad, Colver, Pennsylvania, 1885-1931.
Sanborn Map Company. Colver, Pennsylvania. New York, New York: Sanborn Map Co., 1924.
Prazinko, William. Acting Superintendent, C&I Railroad, Colver. Interview, June 1987.