

CHAPTER IV: SNAPSHOT VIEW & HIGHLIGHTS Of the Virginia Coal Heritage Trail



CHAPTER IV SNAPSHOT VIEW & HIGHLIGHTS Along the Virginia Coal Heritage Trail





In APPENDIX A is a snapshot view of the entire route divided into three sections; the Pocahontas to St. Paul Trail, the St. Paul Loop and the Norton Loop. All of this information was added to the Virginia Coal Heritage Byway initiative website along with photos of each of the sites to allow all involved or with an interest in the project to have easy access to the information.

Below is a page from the “mile by mile” inventory which shows what one will find on the first mile of the Norton Loop. From this inventory, recommendations were developed from observations made from driving the route. This inventory includes road descriptions, site information, preliminary recommendations, and points of interest visible from the road. It also points out areas of concern and reveals where byway signage is located as well as where more is needed and notes areas where additional signage is needed for safety purposes.

This information was then shared with those attending the town meetings as a way to engage the general public in the discussions and actively involve them in the process without having to actually take them to a given site.

This “mile by mile” photo format has proven to be invaluable in allowing issues to be raised and concerns addressed. When one can visually see what it is being discussed, one can make better, more informed decisions as to the action to take. It will also serve as a way to monitor the progress of the trail as specific sections are addressed and improved.

See APPENDIX A or visit the website trailsrus.com/vacoaltrail and click on any of the counties for a “mile by mile” inventory of that section of the byway.

 Buchanan Dickenson Lee City of Norton Bassett Scott Tauxemill Wise Background Vision Meetings News Adv. Committee Home Norton Loop through Wise & Lee Counties Pocahontas to St. Paul Trail St. Paul Loop						
NORTON LOOP THROUGH WISE & LEE COUNTIES						
This 68-mile loop travels from Norton through the communities of Appalachia, Pennington Gap and Big Stone Gap and travels a few backroads past old and new mining camps. The route also takes one past the Stone Face on the Mountain, Southwest Virginia Museum, Harry W. Meador Coal Museum, and numerous coal towns and monuments. Many of the roads are curvy, twisty with just a few hairpin turns. Some of the backroads are not heavily traveled which make this section ideal for motorcycles and those wanting a unique and interesting ride. Within the 68-mile loop, there are over 30 coal-related sites to see.						
LEGEND:	Coal	Road Description	Recommendation	Confirmation Signs	Side Trip	
PHOTO	COUNTY/TOWN	ROAD NAME	MILE	DIRECT	SIDE	DESCRIPTION
	City of Norton	Hwy 58/23	0	West	Both	At the intersection of Hwy 58/23 (also called Norton-Coeburn Rd) and 58 Alt traveling on Hwy 58/23 west into Downtown Norton.
	City of Norton	Hwy 58/23	0.1	West	Right	Confirmation sign - headed in right direction.
	City of Norton	Hwy 58/23	0.4	West	Right	Stoplight with restaurant on side road to the right that follows railroad track.
	Downtown Norton	Hwy 58/23	0.4 - 1.0	West	Both	Historic District with numerous restaurants, commercial buildings, gas station, offices, motel, shops, etc. 7 on the left is the Wise County Chamber of Commerce and a historic marker on Norton noting it as "the center of a bituminous coal region".

On the following pages are highlights of some of the unique and interesting sites one will find along the Virginia Coal Heritage Trail System. Each site is actually visible from the byway in which one is traveling unless a side trip is noted.