

BRAMWELL HOME WALKING TOUR GUIDE

Bramwell was once considered the richest town in the United States for its size, reportedly with as many as fourteen millionaires living here in the early 20th century. Bramwell flourished with businesses, a busy train station, and a lavish social life until the early 1930's when the nationwide depression, hard felt in the coal industry contributed to the closing of the wealthy Bank of Bramwell. Today Bramwell's fascinating structures remain well-preserved, standing as remnants of West Virginia's version of the "gilded age."

1. Coal Heritage Trail Interpretive Center

In the town's heyday, as many as fourteen trains went in and out of Bramwell in one day. The original depot was torn down in the 50's. The Center houses the Bramwell Town Hall and serves as a museum for Bramwell and coal mining memorabilia.

2. Honeymoon Cottage

Built by Edward Cooper.

3. Cooper House

Built by Edward Cooper in 1910, son of John Cooper who started the Mill Creek mine in 1884, the first mine on the WV side of the Pocahontas coalfield. This house has a copper roof, and its orange brick was imported from England. An indoor swimming pool is contained in one of the orange brick buildings on the grounds.

4. Bramwell Presbyterian Church

Given in service to the Lord in 1903 by I. T. Mann, this handsome structure of local bluestone may have been modeled after a small cathedral in Wales.

5. Goodwill House

Built in 1895 and remodeled in 1905, this house belonged to Philip Goodwill, general manager of the Goodwill Coal and Coke and later president of the Pocahontas Company. The third floor of this house contains a ballroom.

6. Thomas House & Garage Apartment

This Revival Tudor style house (circa 1909-1912) was built by W. H. Thomas owner of several mines in the coalfield. Italian masons were employed to do the stonework on the house and retaining wall. The house may have cost as much as \$95,000 at that time to construct.

7. E. S. Baker House

Mr. Baker was the cashier for the Bank of Bramwell, served as WV Legislator for 10 years, and was the first principal of the Bramwell Public Grade School in 1894.

8. Mann House

Isaac T. Mann lived here with his wife and two children at various intervals for about 20 years. Mann was one of the most powerful men of the coalfield, having been associated with the Bank of Bramwell.

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9. Keller-Pritehard House

This house was built by Benjamin Franklin Keller, an attorney who became a US District Judge. The house was later sold to William & Anne Pritchard. (across the bridge).

10. Pack House

J.G. Pack was the General Manager for the Buckeye Coal & Coke Company.

11. Hewitt House (River's Bend Bed & Breakfast)

Built in 1914 by Katharine Hewitt, wife of Bramwell's first mayor and operator of Buckeye Coal and Coke Company, this house was later occupied by J.C. New- bold of the Bryant Pharmacy.

12. Meyers House (Pamela's Bed & Breakfast)

Duplex with one side rented out. It was common for folks to let rooms in their homes. Home of Vema Meyers, who later married the wealthiest person in Bramwell, Mr. I.T. Mann.

13. Coffins House

Occupied by Jairus Collins, another influential West Virginia coal operator.

14. Perry House (Perry House Bed & Breakfast)

Built by the Bank in 1902, this house was occupied for many years by one of the bank's first cashiers, J.B. Perry and his family.

15. Bank of Bramwell,

Incorporated in 1889 and constructed in 1893, this bank was once the richest in the United States for its size. It reportedly financed many projects outside the town, including the Burning Tree Country Club of Washington, D. C.

16. Masonic Temple

Constructed 1893, this building contained several offices at one time including the Pocahontas Company, an early marketing firm for Pocahontas Coal.

17. Main Street, Downtown Bramwell

Coal company offices, dry good and grocery stores have been housed in these buildings at different times. On the corner of Blooh and Main Streets stands the former Bryant/Newbold Pharmacy, reported to have been the third drug store in the United States to carry Chanel No. 5 perfume.

18. Victorian Elegance Apartments

Mendel Abrahamson and his family lived upstairs while they operated the Abrahamson store on Main Street.



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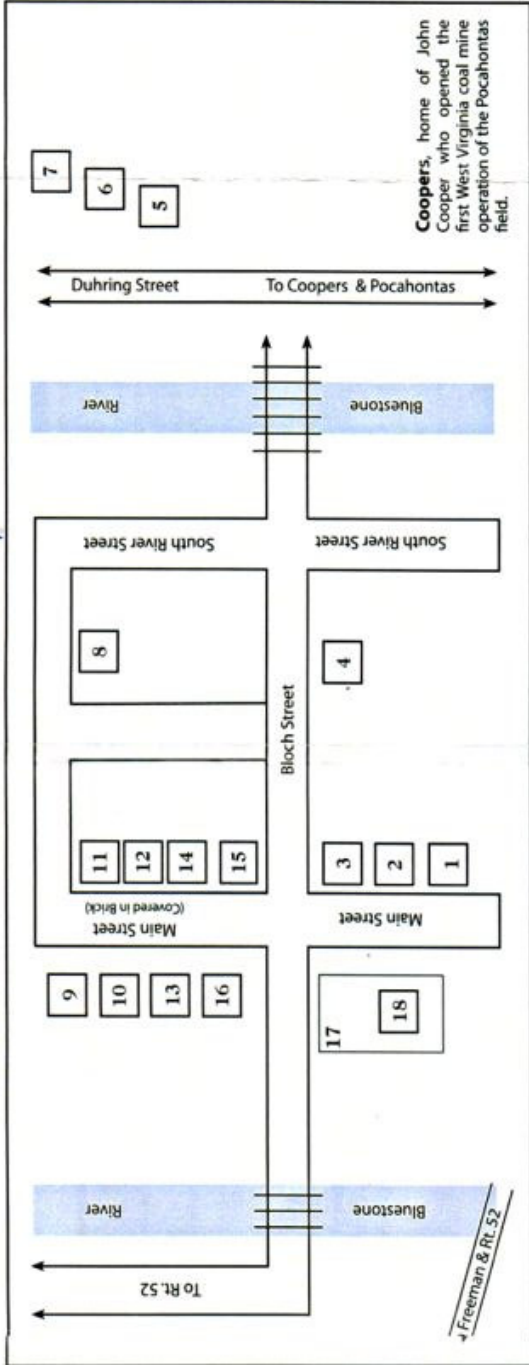
4. Bramwell Presbyterian Church



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6. Thomas House



2. Honeymoon Cottage



3. Cooper House