

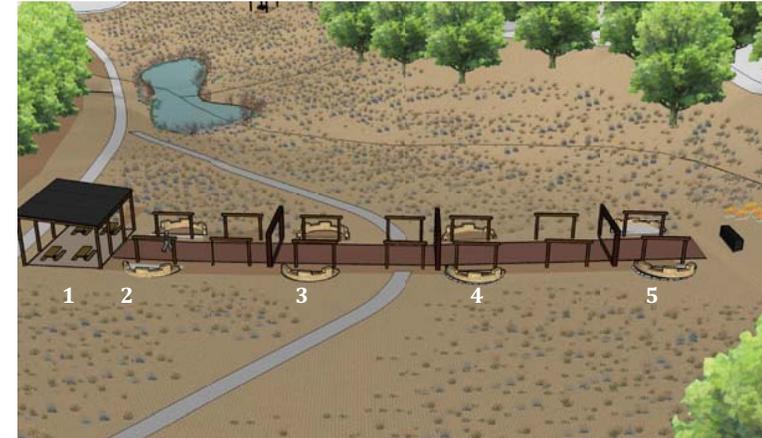


Main Promenade:

When remembering or commemorating painful events in history one tends to seek order. The main **1** walkway from the path to the memorial begins at the railroad right-of-way and continues through structures reminiscent of the architecture of the mine. The path follows the foundation of the tippie that delivered coal from the portal to train cars below. The straight axis **2** provides order and rhythm for those visiting to remember the miners. The path surface is crushed brick, a red seam in the ground. Its edges are defined by reused railroad timbers.

Along the path a variety of niches are constructed for interpretive displays. The niches **3** off the central path refer to the gridded layout of the underground structure of the mine. These displays will frame interpretative elements consisting of images and text. The interpretive niches will be framed with low rough cut limestone walls extracted from on site resources and timber frames. They will provide for individual reflection and education on the history of Federal Number 3 Mine.

Further down the path the sense of rhythm and sequential closure gives one the feeling of entering a mine space **4**. With the framing of the hillside and the framing of the memorial the visitor is stopped at the memorial with meadow enclosing both sides of the path. The spatial enclosure **5** at the memorial adds to the intensity of the experience of reaching the memorial and allows for a sense of intimacy when reading the names of the killed miners and reflecting on the tragic event. Planting of spring blooming wildflowers on the slope up from the memorial to the portal enhances the view and adds emotive color to the annual Memorial Service on the last Sunday in April. From the memorial one looks up at the portal framed by red, yellow and orange blooms evocative of the explosion of April 30, 1927.



MINERS' MEMORIAL PARK

Everettville, West Virginia
 for the Everettville Historical Association
 Peter Butler
 Assistant Professor of Landscape Architecture
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 West Virginia University
April 25- 2010



Circulation:

Turning to the right through the meadow one looks back across the wind-strewn grasses and forbs to the Sycamore tree **6**, standing as a sentinel to the north. The Sycamore serves as a witness to the disaster as the only remaining tree from the time of the explosion. Walking the forest/meadow edge one senses the darkness of the forest in contrast to the light of the meadow. On to the Sycamore one discovers a space around the massive tree. In a semi-circle round the Sycamore a formal amphitheater is constructed of found stone as a council ring for small sermons, services and performances. The single tree, as an archetypal form, connects the ground and humankind to heaven. The power and girth of the mottled white bark and expansive canopy provide shelter and a sense of comfort for those seeking solace in contemplating the mine explosion. The council ring space also transitions into the more recreation portion of the park within the forest.

Entering from the Friendship Baptist Church parking lot the accessible trail follows the historic "Walk to Work". This walk **7** had connected housing, church and school to the work site. The re-graded bench road that during mine operations led from out-buildings to the mine portal provides access to small pavilions for picnics or intimate gatherings set among the meadow grasses.

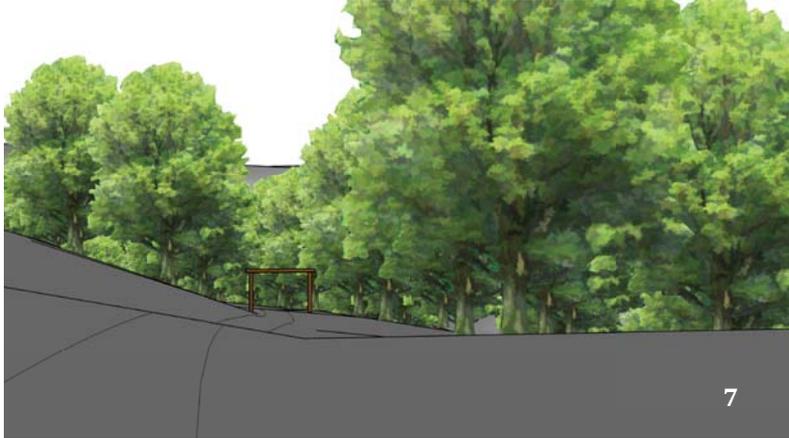
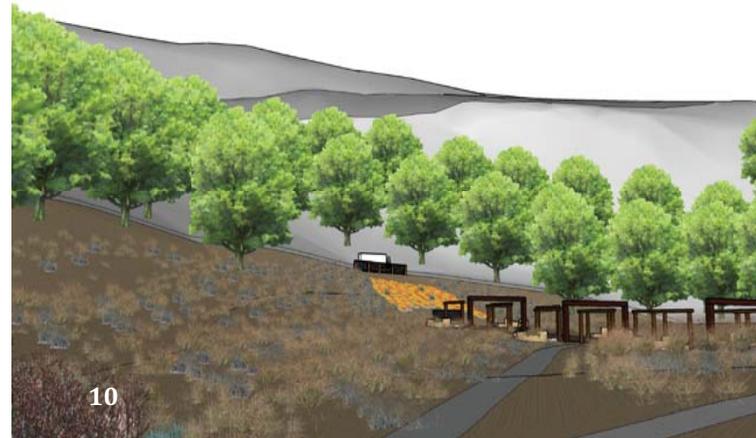
The view **8** from the pavilions provides a powerful image of the memorial walk and Little Indian Creek below. Walking along the bench road path to the portal brings the visitor to an overlook platform at the front of the portal and frames the eye down the main axis path to the pavilion. Here one may read the plaque installed post-reclamation to memorialize the explosion. Water leaving the mine portal **9** becomes visible. From the platform the path of the mine drainage through the constructed channel and on to the passive treatment pond reveals the process of cleansing occurring on site. One sees the entire path of the water as it leaves the pond, flows under the right-of-way, and enters the creek. Down the slope to the right of the portal, the path leads to the memorial and Sycamore.

The other route down from Friendship Baptist Church leads directly down the slope crossing the mine drainage stream. Here one may walk to the memorial or on to the main pavilion with access to the passive recreation of the forest area on the west side of the site. Throughout the forest area, walking trails connect to more picnic areas and campgrounds. Access to the creek is provided for anglers.

From the north side of the site the path begins at the old Company Store building and follows the alignment of the old road that had crossed Little Indian Creek. This walk had connected housing, church and school to the work place. A pedestrian bridge designed in an over-scaled rustic style alluding to the architecture of the tippie brings the pedestrian to the main trail **10**. The pavilion and memorial walk **11** are just to the west.

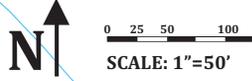
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RIPARIAN FOREST AREA
 CAMPING
 PICNIC SHELTERS
 PASSIVE RECREATION

In this area of existing riparian forest visitors can enjoy a stroll through the forest, access to Little Indian Creek for fishing and picnic shelters with barbecues for summer enjoyment. Clearing the understory of invasive plants and establishing a meandering path provides access to this area of the park.



PAVILION

The pavilion structure provides shelter for the annual memorial service and for daily users. Barbecues and water service would provide needed facilities for community events. The shelter is constructed of wood with oversized members alluding to the industrial scale of the tippie and other mine buildings previously constructed on the site.

PATH AND PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE

The path and bridge allow for access from the north side of Little Indian Creek. Following the "Path to Work", the new path connects the building of the old Company Store to the memorial park site. The accessible path connects to an expanded parking lot area at the building.

FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH

An improved parking facility at the church allows visitors to access the park space through a path down the hill and along the former bench road to the mine portal, the "Path to Work". Shelters along the path provide for picnic space for small group gatherings. Views of the site from above provide a visual connection to the memorial park.

SYCAMORE COUNCIL RING

The Sycamore tree that witnessed the mine explosion provides a powerful remnant of the history of the site. A stone council ring provides space for small gatherings, concerts and contemplation. The Sycamore defines the edge of the formal memorial space transitioning to the forest.

MAIN PROMENADE

The main promenade leads from the pavilion to the memorial. The path is constructed above ground so as not to disturb the foundation of the tippie. The paving surface is crushed brick edged with timbers. Overhead structures provide an allusion to mine architecture and a frame for viewing the memorial.

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**WATER TREATMENT POND/
 MINE DRAINAGE**

The limestone channel installed during reclamation in the 1990s has been disrupted. Restoring the system and creating a passive treatment pond will add to the story of the site's history and provide for cleaning the water as it enters Little Indian Creek. The grassland will be maintained as a meadow or clearing.

Site Program

- Education and Conservation
- Water Access
- Regional Trail Connections
- Passive Water Treatment
- Parking for Ten Vehicles
- Communal Gathering Space
- Connection to Church
- Recreational Space for Children
- Amphitheater or Theater Space
- Picnic Shelters/Barbecues
- Handicap Accessibility