

3249 CYRUS ROAD, COAL HOUSE
Cyrus
Wayne County
West Virginia

HABS No. WV-267-B

HABS
WVA
50-CYRUS,
4B-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
Northeast Region
U.S. Custom House
200 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

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Location: At the edge of Cyrus Road about 50 feet northeast of the house at 3249 Cyrus Road (County Road 1/6), Cyrus, Wayne County, West Virginia.

Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 17. 362530. 4241065.
USGS Quadrangle: Burnaugh, West Virginia/ Kentucky

Significance: The Coal House was a utilitarian structure contemporaneously used with the Albert Thacker House, built in 1903 and occupied by a local blacksmith. The Thacker House and Coal House are considered eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places in terms of their associations with community history.

Description: The Coal House is a one-room gabled-fronted building 112 inches long and 96 inches wide. Black tar-paper sheets presently cover its board roof. Its ridgeline is oriented at 306° bearing (magnetic). Pitch of the roof is 33°. The coal house is sided with vertical wooden boards ca. 12 inches wide, which overlap the sides of the sills and run flush with the surface of the concrete walls. The plank sills of its wooden superstructure are fastened to bolts imbedded in the tops of the concrete walls. The east wall of the concrete foundation rests upon the end of a mortared stone retaining wall fronting the house. Its 6-inch-thick concrete foundation is apparently unreinforced. The foundation was built relatively high in order to resist pressure from the coal formerly piled up on its dirt floor. Coal was delivered to it from the road through a square hatch, 35 inches wide. Across from the hatch is its only doorway, 31 inches wide, through which coal was taken to the house.

History: The Coal House was built around 1903 by Albert Thacker (1862-1939), a well-known local blacksmith. Locally, coal became more available for domestic heating after 1904 when construction of the Kenova and Big Sandy Railroad first allowed the Tug Fork fields in West Virginia to be exploited. The Coal House was used until 1945, when the house was connected to long-existing local gas lines (laid in 1927). Thereafter the shed was used for general storage of items such as cultivators and other tools used in the

Newmans' house garden.

Sources:

Miss Caroline Cyrus

Telephone interview with Douglas L. Bailey, 6:45-7:15 P.M.,
February 12, 1993

Donald Newman

Telephone interview with Douglas L. Bailey, 10-10:30 P.M.,
February 12, 1993

Pauline Newman

Interview with Douglas L. Bailey, 2-3 P.M., February 1, 1993

Clifford Smith

Interview with Douglas L. Bailey, 12:30-4:30 P.M., February
15, 1993

Historian:

Douglas L. Bailey, Consulting Archaeologist
618 Grant Street, Fairborn, Ohio 45234
May 31, 1994