

Mullens, pictured here in the late 1800's and incorporated in 1912. The first railroad reached the city in 1906. A great fire destroyed much of downtown Mullens in 1919. A catastrophic flood placed much of the city underwater on July 8, 2001.

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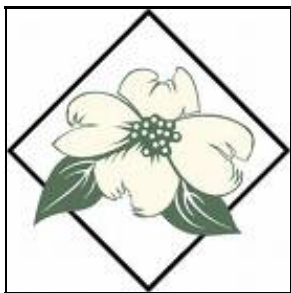


# Historic Walking Tour

## Mullens, WV

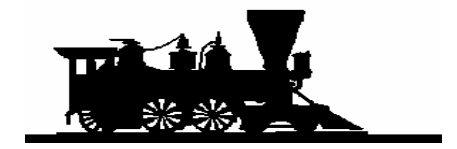
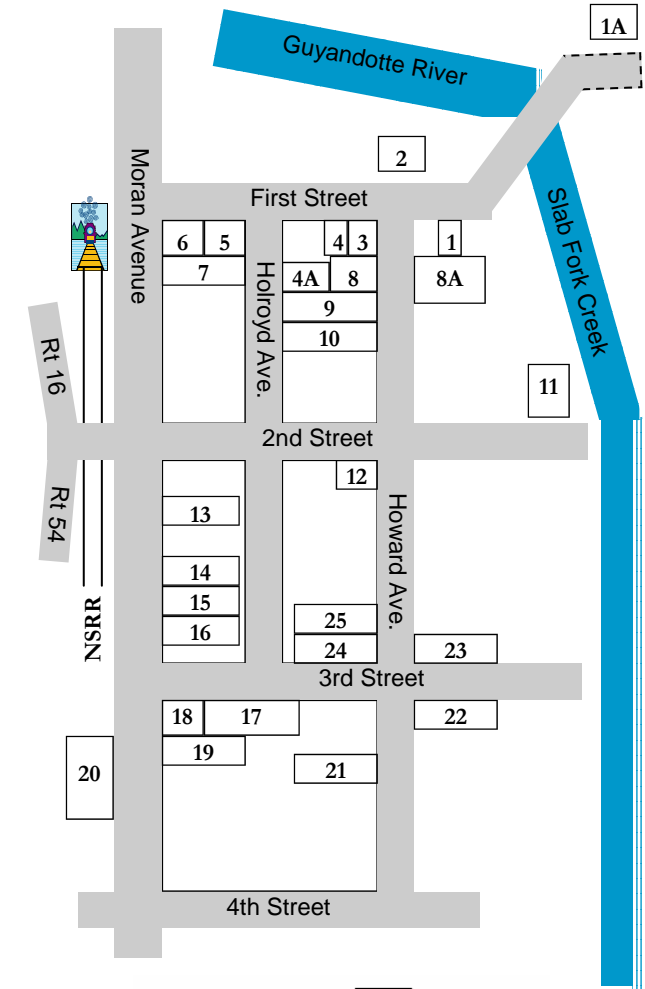


### ... the Dogwood City



- 1 The first Union Power Co. Building was built in 1926 for the electric utility company office and the Home Electric Co. selling electric appliances in the smaller part of the building and, in the larger part, an early self-service store. The Union Power Co., Home Electric and the Mullens Water Co. moved to their new building on the corner of Howard Ave. & 3rd St in 1942.
- 1A Webster Apartments was built by Dr. W. H. Wallingford in 1921, originally Mullens General Hospital. First floor originally occupied by the Mullens Bakery. Later Lively Furniture. Second floor entered from Wyoming Street was originally fused or hospital out-patient treatment and patient rooms; the floor had the operating room in front with large windows for natural light.
- 2 Wyoming Hotel was built in 1918, destroyed by fire in August, 1919, and rebuilt in 1920 by J. C. Sullivan, the owner of the coal mines at Tralee, Meade Poca and Barker's Creek. He transferred his Bank of Wyoming from the company store building in Meade Poca or South Mullens to this location in 1922. The hotel has five floors with a mezzanine over the lobby as well as social rooms on the second floor. The sleeping rooms on the 3rd, 4th, and 5th had a sink and some shared a bathroom. There was one bathroom in the hall on each floor. The 1st floor contained the lobby, dining room, kitchen, and "The Hub" grill. The Bank of Wyoming was in the front corner room. The vault for the bank remains in the building. Guests included then-Senator John F. Kennedy, UMW President John L. Lewis, Admiral Richard Bird, Babe Ruth, Jack Dempsey, Will Rogers, and many senators, congressmen, and governors. J. C. Sullivan went bankrupt in 1925, and the hotel was bought by the Shenandoah Life Insurance Co. of Roanoke, VA. The new People's Bank of Mullens moved in and took over the Bank of Wyoming in January 1926. The hotel was sold to Mr. M. H. Hodel, the owner of the Beckley Newspaper Co. in the 1940s and was later sold to Sam and Nelva Webster.
- 3 Eatwell Cafe was built c. 1922. For years it was an eatery with apartments on the 2nd floor. Later operated by Henry Hall and B. E. Hypes as Bud & Henry's Grill and Pool Room.
- 4 Smiley Department Store was built c. 1921 - 1922 and operated as a clothing store. At one time operated by Ben Lisagor as "The Hub" and later owned by C.A. Smiley.
- 4A Law Building was built in 1923. It was once used as an African-American hotel and restaurant; later, it was the law offices of Mr. Bill Holroyd and Mrs. Hallie Dushkoff, and then Ray Toler.
- 5 N.D. Tent Building was built in 1922 and occupied by the Frank Dunman Poolroom and the N.D. Tent Co. men's clothing store. After a small fire, the clothing store occupied all of the first floor until 1989. Offices were on the second floor with the entrance on Holroyd Ave. At other times, the building housed the Draft Board, Credit Bureau, and law offices of Fred and Ritz Kingdon.
- 6 Bank of Mullens A two-story stone building was built in 1910 and destroyed in the 1919 fire. A three-story brick building was built in 1921 and occupied by Bank of Mullens until 1927. The bank was closed by court order from the state banking authority in 1927. Lester Frantz, who also had stock in and was cashier of the Bank of Huntington, WV, was convicted of embezzlement and died while a prisoner at the state prison in Moundsville, WV. The People's Bank of Mullens owned the building from 1927 - 1968. It was later used as city hall and as a women's clothing store. On the 2nd floor were dentist, law, and real estate offices, as well as the C.V. Feller Insurance Agency. The 2nd and 3rd floors were later changed into apartments.
- 7 McGraw-Worrell Building Construction began in 1918. After damage by fire, it was completed in 1920 with fire-resistant brick and mortar and briefly occupied as retail clothing store, then subsequently as Robertson and Foglesong funeral home. Owner and director, Harry Foglesong, and family, lived in the apartments above.
- 8 Markowitz Building was built in 1922 by Selig and Paul Markowitz (only Jewish families to live in Mullens for an extended period) and occupied as the "Army & Navy" men's clothing store. Selig Markowitz and family lived above the store. After a few years of vacancy, CPA Robert Toler bought the building for his offices.
- 8A G. C. Murphy Co. was originally two buildings built in 1927. It was occupied by four stores: Central Pharmacy, R. N. Doss Electric Store, the Fashion Shop and Mullens 5¢ & 10¢ store. One building had apartments and medical and law offices on 2nd floor. The G. C. Murphy Co., a low-priced chain department store, leased the four buildings from J. E. Wyatt and the Early Brothers

# Historic Walking Tour Sites of Mullens, WV



**RURAL APPALACHIAN  
IMPROVEMENT LEAGUE**

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the plant was moved to Pineville. The Coke bottles had Mullens, WV, imprinted on the bottom. Tomchin Furniture built an addition in the 1950s and occupied it until the late 1990s.

**20** Armour Meat Co. was built in 1926 for the preparation and distribution of meats to local stores and company stores. It was remodeled for the Loyal Order of Moose Lodge #750 of Mullens; the original structure is visible on the rear of the building.

**21** Mullens Advocate & Early Apartments Built in 1927 by the Early Brothers Contractors, Cabel and Lester Early. The Mullens Advocate newspaper office was in the south side 1st floor with an apartment on the other side and four apartments on the 2nd floor with a yard and rose garden to the left of the building. Subsequent occupants were the Millers Advocate newspaper until 1948, and the Post Office from 1954 until the 2001 flood.

**22** Old Post Office Building was built in 1926 by the Early Brothers and leased to the U.S. Post Office until 1948. The building was subsequently occupied by Western Auto Store and then a doctor.

**23** Hickman Building was built in 1921 by George G. Hickman who, with John Pettit, owned the Hickman and Pettit Motor Co. and sold Dodge automobiles. The building has four apartments on the 2nd floor, and was occupied as a plumbing shop, then Charlie's Pharmacy.

**24** Eli Dushkoff Building was built in 1929 to be the Wyoming Baking Co. where Mr. Dushkoff made breads that sold wholesale or retail until 1935. Then, the store was divided between Eli's Men's Store and the Smartwear Shop. Mrs. Hallie Dushkoff had a law office behind with the entrance on the side. Ms Dushkoff was the first female attorney to practice in WV Federal Court.

**25** Lee Harmon Building was built in 1921 and occupied by an automobile sales room and repair shop. In 1939, the Amier Gas Utility Co. used the building for their sales offices and supply warehouse. It housed the law office of former WV House Majority Leader W. Richard Staton and has two apartments on the 2nd floor.

Funded in part by Preservation Alliance of WV and the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation

used for many of the town public meetings, banquets, weddings, and baby showers.

**15** C. H. Koontz Building was built in 1923 by Mr. Koontz for Guyan Plumbing and Heating Co. Koontz was the city clerk and a real estate developer. The beginning of the Great Depression bankrupted him in 1929. He moved to Charleston, to become Inspector and Supervisor of Public Offices for the State Tax Commission. In 1945, was appointed Director of the State Budget.

**16** American Electric and Armature Building was built in 1923 as a shop to supply electric motors primarily for coal mines. The company rebuilt and rewound electric armatures to recondition motors. In 1948, it moved to a plant in Itmann and the Mullens Advocate occupied the building until late 1970s. Radio station WPMW C-92 was located here for a few years prior to the 2001 flood.

**17** Wyoming Ice and Bottling Co. Building was built in 1921 by J. C. Sullivan and Associates to make ice, bottle Magic Cola, and make ice cream. The 2nd floor refrigerator would freeze water into blocks of 300 lbs. The railroad refrigerator cars needed to have ice refilled during a trip. From the 2nd floor a ramp with rollers was attached to the outside of the building and extended across Moran Ave. to the railroad siding. The large blocks of ice were moved across the ramp to the railroad siding and then hoisted into the refrigerator cars. The ice cream was called "WIBCO Ice Cream." It was shipped by rail or truck to the coal company stores in iced barrels. The ramp over the street to the railroad siding was taken down after the railroad cars were equipped with their own refrigeration in about 1929. The ramp hung on the side of the building until 1943 when it was needed for scrap metal collections during World War II. The freight elevator from the 1st to the 3rd floor remains in the building.

**18** WIBCO Office Building was built in 1921 as the offices for J. C. Sullivan's enterprises. The electricity for many of Sullivan's buildings was supplied from the generation plant at the Barker's Creek Coal Co. mine at Tralee. During WWII, ARC offices were on the 2nd floor.

**19** Raleigh-Wyoming Coca-Cola Bottling Co. Was built in 1923 and expanded in 1942. The Coca-Cola products were distributed to coal towns in Wyoming and Raleigh Counties until 1949 when

after a fire in 1944. G. C. Murphy Co. closed their store in 1986 and bought the buildings from the original owners or their heirs. The buildings were vacant for about ten years. In 1996, buildings were sold and remodeled to be used by Southern Highlands Mental Health, Inc.

**9** Mullens Dollar Store was built in 1924 by Ms. Maude Stone and operated as a department store primarily selling dry goods, clothing, and notions. It was the Stone and Cook Department Store after World War II when Mr. E. Claude Cook, a nephew of Ms. Stone, came into the business. The 2nd floor was the warehouse.

**10** Hatcher Building Built in 1922 for a furniture store and apartments on the second floor. First National Bank of Mullens occupied the building from 1924 - 1927. After the bank closed, it was a furniture store and a SEARS catalog ordering store. The Coffee Pot restaurant came in after the 2001 flood.

**11** Levi Lusk Apartments and Garage Building was built in 1929 for Craft Bus Line or Consolidation Bus Line as a service garage. Later it was a warehouse for Vickers Pawn Shop.

**12** Ball and Shannon Building was built by A. T. Ball and Frank Shannon from Pineville in 1928. The three-story brick building cost \$40,000. On the 1st floor, facing Howard Ave., was a general merchandise store selling groceries, meats, produce, canned food, clothing, shoes, school supplies, and books. The board of education didn't furnish free schoolbooks in those days.

**13** A.J. Mullins Building was built in 1921 by Andrew Jackson Mullins, the founder of the town and the first mayor. Following the destruction of his 1st Street store and hotel in the 1919 fire. The new building housed a real estate office with apartments on the second floor. A contractor misspelled the name on the facade as Mullens. The Mullens Motor Co. owned by Nash Bailey, sold Buicks, Pontiacs, Oaklands, and Star automobiles on the 1st floor for nearly 40 years.

**14** Masonic Lodge Building was built in 1923 by the Mullen Lodge No. 750 A. F. & A. M. The lodging, dining, and kitchen rooms were on the 2nd floor. 1st floor occupants included plumbing, engineering service, hardware, and automobile repair shops. In the 1920s and 1930s, the dining hall was