

AL-V-A-284

Borden Shaft Survey District  
Shaft  
Private

1860's

Borden Shaft Survey District is located on MD Route 936, 3½ miles south of Frostburg. The architecture of the town is characterized by single family and duplex company housing. The buildings are 2 story, 3 bay by 1 bay frame buildings with gabled roofs, shed roofed porches sheltering the facades.

Borden Shaft is a typical company town in the Georges Creek coal region of western Maryland. The town was established circa 1860 by the Borden Mining Company.

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Borden Shaft Survey District

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

MD Route 936, 3½ miles S of Frostburg

CITY, TOWN

Shaft

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

6th

VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY  
Allegany County**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Multiple Ownership

Telephone #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Allegany County Courthouse

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

30 Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Cumberland

STATE

Maryland 21502

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Maryland Historical Trust Inventory, AL-V-A-041, 042, 043, 044, 045, 046,

DATE

052, and 055.

 FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

42-7-A-284

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Borden Shaft Survey District is located on MD Route 936, 3½ miles S of Frostburg. It lies near the center of the Georges Creek coal region of WV. The topography of the district is relatively flat. The majority of historic buildings of the district are located on Morgan Road, which meets Rt. 936 at Borden Shaft, and on side streets running N and S of Morgan Road. Georges Creek and an embankment of the abandoned C & P Railroad parallel Route 36 at Shaft.

The architecture of the town is characterized by single family and duplex company housing. Three single family company houses on Morgan Road are 2 story, 3 bay by 1 bay frame buildings with gabled roofs, shed roofed porches sheltering the facade, and gable roofed frame additions abutting the rear elevations. A row of duplex company houses on Morgan Road are 2 story, 4 bay by 1 bay frame buildings with gabled roofs, shed roofed porches, sheltering their facades and large rear wings with gabled roofs. A row of duplex company houses on Unnamed street are 1½ story, 4 bay by 2 bay brick buildings with gabled roofs extended on the rear elevations which give these buildings a saltbox shape. Windows of the brick duplex houses have tooled stone lintels with margins.

A number of vernacular styled dwellings in either the survey district are 2 story, 3 bay by 1 bay frame buildings based on the ell plan and have gabled roofs.

The Shaft Firemens' Hall is a 2½ story, 1 bay by 3 bay frame building with a gabled roof with a square hose tower and a large shed roofed addition abutting the western elevation.

\*Unnamed Street, South off Morgan Road between Georges Creek and Rt. 36.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Borden Shaft is a typical company town in the Georges Creek coal region of western Maryland. The town was established circa 1860 by the Borden Mining Company.<sup>1</sup> The town was built on the site of the Ward Farm which included a gristmill, a sawmill and a log farmhouse.<sup>2</sup> In 1856 the Borden Mining Company purchased 500 acres of the Ward Farm underlaid by 2 veins of coal.<sup>3</sup>

The Borden Mining Company's mine, Sunk in 1859, was the first vertical shaft mine in the Georges Creek region. Only one other vertical shaft mine ever existed in the region.<sup>4</sup> In 1880 the town's population was 289 and was growing rapidly.<sup>5</sup>

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Thomas Scharf, History of Western Maryland Vol. II, Philadelphia: Louis H. Everts, 1882.

Katherine Harvey, The Best Dressed Miners: Life and Labor in the Maryland Coal Region, 1835 - 1910. Ithica Cornell University Press, 1969.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE COUNTY

STATE COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

David A. Dorsey, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust/Bureau of Mines

DATE

April 1982

STREET & NUMBER

21 State Circle, Shaw House

TELEPHONE

(301) 269-2438

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland 21401

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

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Borden Shaft Survey District  
(#9 - Bibliography continued)

Interview with Mr. Cubby Watson, Borden Shaft.

Footnotes

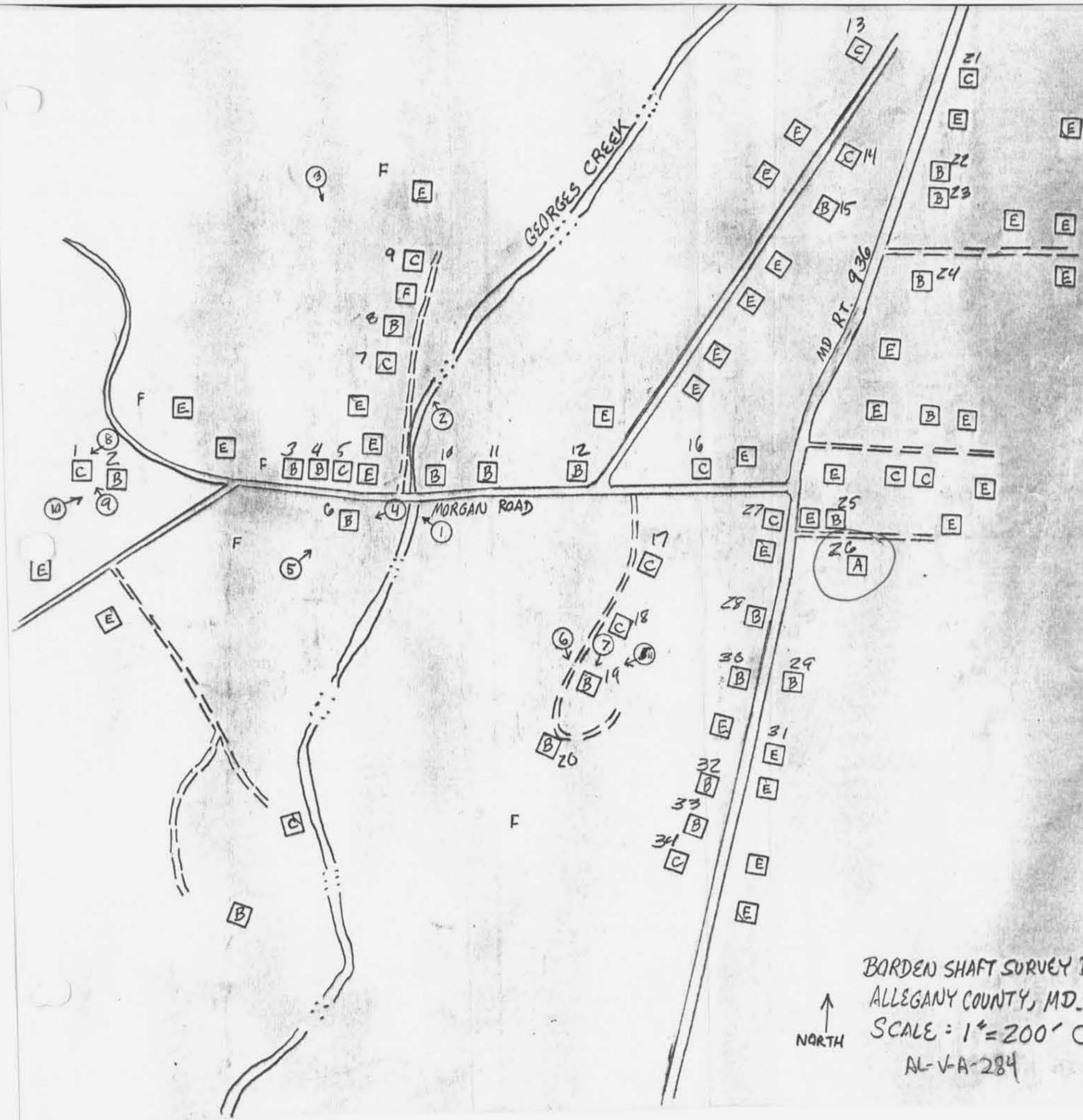
<sup>1</sup>Thomas Scharf, History of Western Maryland Vol. II, Philadelphia: Louis H. Everts, 1882, p. 1445.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid., p. 1475 and Interview with Mr. Cubby Watson, Borden Shaft.

<sup>3</sup>Scharf, p. 1445.

<sup>4</sup>Ibid., and Katherine Harvey, The Best Dressed Miners, Life and Labor in the Maryland Coal Region, 1835-1910, Ithica Cornell University Press, 1969, p. 34.

<sup>5</sup>Scharf, p. 1473, and Harvey, p. 81.



BORDEN SHAFT SURVEY DISTRICT  
 ALLEGANY COUNTY, MD.  
 SCALE = 1" = 200' ○ → photo views  
 AL-V-A-284



Frostburg: MD;PA  
 USGS 7.5 Minute Series  
 Scale 1:24,000  
 1949; photorevised 1974

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 Borden Shaft Survey District  
 MD Route 936, 3½ miles S of  
 Frostburg



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Borden Shaft Survey District

Allegany Co. 7/81

David A. Dorsey

Looking NW (photo #1)



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Borden Shaft Survey District

Allegany Co. 7/81

David A. Dorsey

Looking NW (photo #2)



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Borden Shaft Survey District

Allegheny County 7/81

Looking SE (photo #3)



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Borden Shaft Survey District

Allegany County 7/81

Looking W (photo #4)



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Borden Shaft Survey District

Allegany County 7/81

Looking NE (photo #5)



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Borden Shaft Survey District

Allegany Co. 7/81

David A. Dorsey

Looking SE (photo #6)



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Borden Shaft Survey District

Allegany Co. 7/81

David A. Dorsey

Looking S, Window, house #19  
(photo #7)



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Borden Shaft Survey District

Allegany Co. 7/81

David A. Dorsey

Looking SW (photo #8)



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Borden Shaft Survey District

Allegany Co. 7/81

David A. Dorsey

Looking NW (Photo #9)



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Borden Shaft Survey District

Allegany Co. 7/81

David A. Dorsey

Looking E (photo #10)



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Borden Shaft Survey District

Allegheny Co. 7/81

David A. Dorsey

Looking SW (photo#11)