

Monuments, Murals/Public Art, Memorials/Markers – Downtown Beckley

Monument, marker or unique site = black; Mural/Public Art = red

Word Park:



1 – General Alfred Beckley statue – the statue was created by Jeff Gallimore in 2004 to honor the founder of Beckley (1838) and Raleigh County (1850).

2 – Jim Word marker – Word Park was named for Jim Word, a life-long resident, banker, Beckley Area Foundation founder, and philanthropist who encouraged community service.

3 – Blue Star Memorial By-Way – a tribute to Armed Forces placed by the Phymosia Garden Club. The Blue Star Memorial Program was started by Women’s Clubs in 1945 following World War II to honor men and women who served in US Armed Forces. Blue Stars were an icon on flags and banners.

4 – Margaret Sayre marker to honor her for beautification efforts in the community

5 - 9-11 Memorial Steel from the World Trade Center – This Steel was recovered from the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center in New York City on September 11, 2001. Designated “I-0158” by the NY Port Authority, The Steel is 8’ long, 32” tall, 12” thick and weighs approximately 1,058 pounds. Research points that it came from the North Tower from somewhere between the 40th and 45th floors near one of the 99 elevators that were in each of the Twin Towers. The Steel is mounted on a custom, hand built, support constructed locally. The solid, single granite slab weighs over 9,000 pounds. All of this sets on a foundation of steel reinforced concrete that is about 16” thick. The total cost was \$12,000 and was funded by the City of Beckley, Raleigh County Commission, Beckley Area Foundation, Dan Bickey and other numerous contributors. It was dedicated September 11, 2011. A memorial ceremony takes place at the monument each year on September 11.

Leslie C. Gates Place: This segment of street was named after Leslie C. Gates, a reputable professional engineer and visionary. He earned a Purple Heart serving in the Army. This Spirit of Beckley honoree was instrumental in seeking funding for the Federal Building and other local projects.

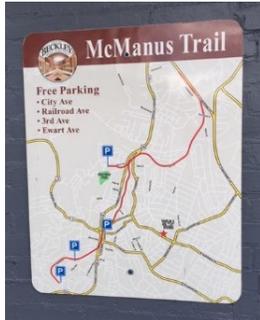


6 – Geometric Mural at Leslie C Gates Place - Organized by WVSU Community Development Extension Agent Christine Kinder; Sponsored by Downtown Beckley Business Association and Sherwin Williams; Designed by artist Valerie Spears; Painting volunteers included Independence Middle School art students and instructor Carolyn Buzbee painted during the Kids Classic Festival 2017.

7 – Beckley Police Department monument honors fallen police officers (Det. Charles E. Smith, II (2006), Sgt. David L. Lilly (1975), and Patrolman Carl D. Buckland (1959)) – *In Valor There Is Hope* – The lion monument was dedicated in 2019 at the new police department.

8 – Freedom Tree planted at the Federal complex in memory of 9-11-01 by the Raleigh County Garden Council planted in 2002.

Prince Street / McManus Trail:



9 – Children’s fitness activities painted on the trail near Prince Street– hop, skip, jump – painted by I-Heart Church in 2018, organized by Extension Agent Christine Kinder (promoting a healthier community initiative), sponsored by the Downtown Beckley Business Association, funded by Try This WV

10 – Bicycle Art along the trail – bike rim flowers at intersections where the McManus Trail crosses 3 streets – Organized by Extension Agent Christine Kinder (promoting a healthier community initiative), sponsored by the Downtown Beckley Business Association, funded by Try This WV, constructed by local Boy Scout troop 16 with help from Kinder and Jill Moorefield; Also, note other bike art (not at this intersection): Bicycle Arch on the shelter beside of Eisenhower Drive created by Public Works; Compass by Boy Scout Troop 16 near North Kanawha Street; Snowmen made from rims Christmas decorations, scouts, parks & rec; Bike rim tree at the Beckley Sanitary Board (will show later in the tour)

11 – Welcome Center and trail map sign – trail map sign (planned by Active SWV’s BPAC committee and Public Works); Trail Welcome / Volunteer center rehab in 2019 was led by Vickie Webb along with Public Works, Parks & Rec, Downtown Business Association and other volunteers. The center hopes to offer a bike share program and trail activities in the future. The building was formerly known as the Naff building and housed the Naff family business.

3rd Ave Art Park – McManus Trail:



12- Colorful steps – painted by WVU Tech students during Community Service Orientation, August 2018

13- Compass designs on the trail organized by Extension Agent Christine Kinder (Promoting a healthier community initiative), sponsored by the Downtown Beckley Business Association, funded by Try This WV, two compasses were painted on the trail – one at the 3rd Ave Art Park below the steps by Christine Kinder and another compass near the intersection of Kanawha Street (Christine Kinder, Jill Moorefield, Joe Guffy, Barry Spurlock, with Boy Scout Troop 16

Murals to the right of the steps:



14- Flowers by Ward 2 Council member Ann Worley along with youth in the community painted the flowers in 2018

15- Sunrise Mural – designed by Ridgeview Elementary art teacher Kimberley Sexton, painted by 5th graders at Ridgeview Elementary School in May 2019 – to encourage the community to Rise Up; with help from Christine Kinder and Ann Worley

16- Beckley Pride mural – design by Shane Pierce and Christine Kinder; painted by Beckley Pride members in 2019

Murals on the left of the steps:



17- Colorful Dots – planned by Ann Worley; painted by Washington Ave Church of Christ youth group from Evansville, Indiana, visiting Beckley’s First Church of Christ doing community service projects; Also, started painted a rock collection above the mural and Rubik cube and dice on stones

18- Butterfly and Peacock – Designs by Susan Fotos; Painted by WVU Tech Volleyball Team during Community Service Day 2019 with help from Christine Kinder, Ann Worley, Saja Montague and Jill Moorefield

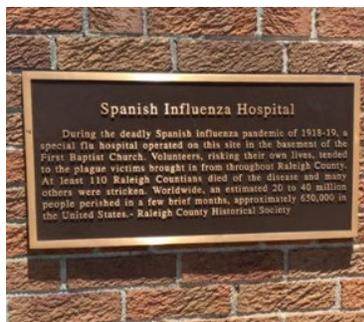
19- Piney Creek Watershed mural promotes WV, the environment, nature and the watershed – Painted by Susan Fotos with help from community members including Danielle Stewart, Christina Baisden, Shayar Jarrett, Ann Worley, Jill Moorefield, and others.



20 – Rails to Trails marker provides railroad history; used to be a train depot at this location; opened as a trail in 2004; The market was placed here by the Raleigh County Historical Society.

21 – The canon was donated to the City

Neville Street (in addition to those listed at Shoemaker Square):



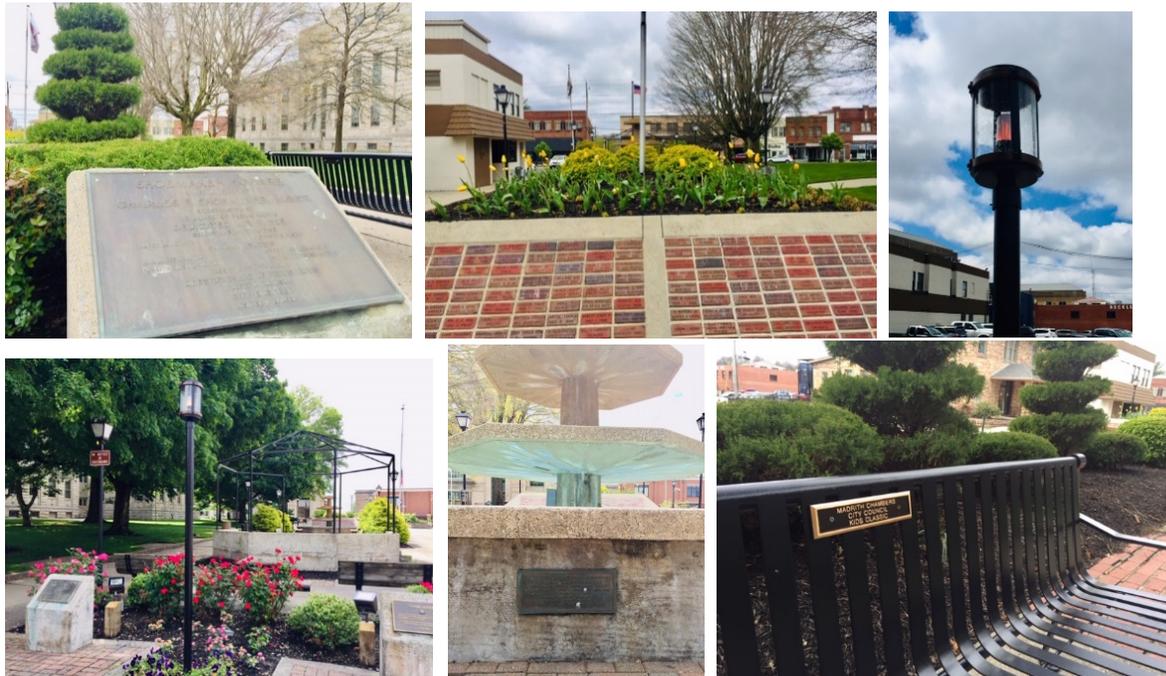
22 - Marker about Spanish flu epidemic in 1918 on First Baptist Church – During the Spanish flu epidemic, a special flu hospital operated on this site in the basement of the church. Volunteers risked their lives caring for plague victims. 110 Raleigh Countians died, 650,000 in the US and 20 to 40 million Worldwide perished. The marker was provided by Raleigh County Historical Society.

23 – Eagle emblem on the former Federal building, post office, RESA; emblem marked it as a federal building (built as post office in 1934, served as Federal courthouse from 1961 to 1999); The building is currently being remodeled by WVU Tech.

24 - State Building – marker designates State Office Building named after Clarence W. Meadows, 27th Governor of WV; The former JC Penney building was remodeled in 1989 to accommodate State offices

25 - Beckley Underground Arch – the arch was created by New River Community & Technical College Welding Department and funded by the City of Beckley in 2016. Also, notice the marquee for The Raleigh Theatre & Playhouse. The alley opens up to a plaza behind the buildings which was named Dan Bickey Plaza in appreciation for his downtown redevelopment efforts which included the Raleigh Theatre and Playhouse and several restaurants/taverns.

Shoemaker Square:



26 – Shoemaker Square marker – the mini-park was named for former City of Beckley Mayor Chuck Shoemaker, and dedicated in 1985

27 - Youth Museum’s memorial brick wall – bricks purchased between 1988 and 1998 to support the Youth Museum

28 – Veterans Flame of Freedom – dedicated to Veterans of all Wars in 1969 – The flame was recently re-lit through efforts of Jane Haga and Public Works; The other marker was dedicated in 1985 by local American Legions

29 – Shoemaker Square gazebo / pergola – marker on side to honor City of Beckley Citizens Hall of Fame 1985 (Gen. Alfred Beckley, Mayor John McCulloch, Fireman Steven Horwath, Captain Jon McBride, Police Sgt David Lilly, Patrolman Carl Buckland)

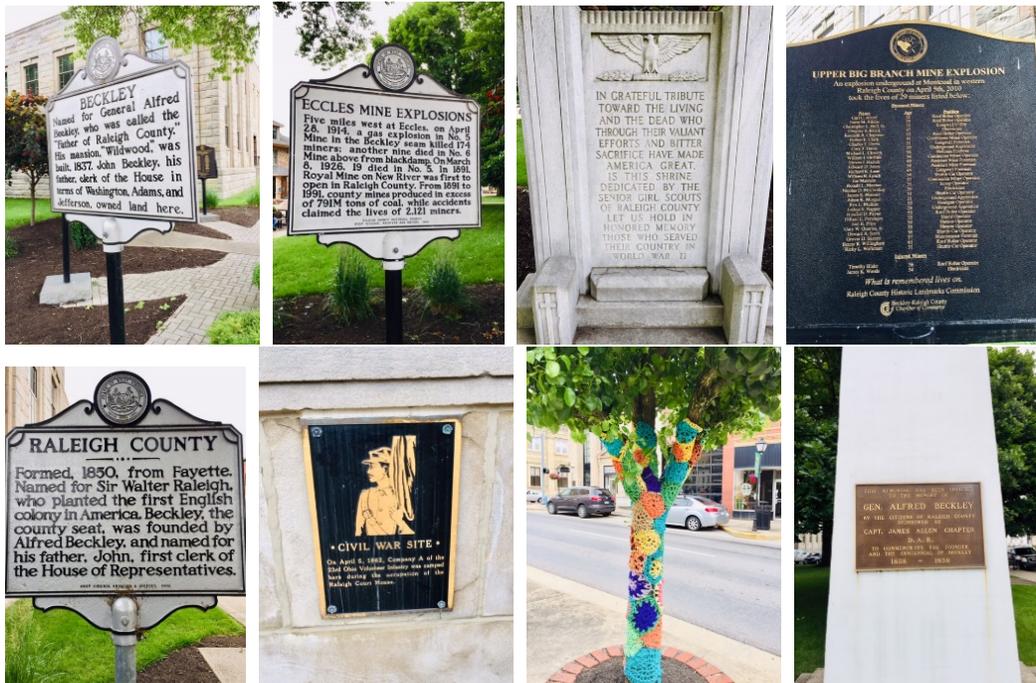
30 – Marker thanking groups for help with Beautification by Beckley Main Street – Woodcliff Garden Club, Beckley Area Foundation, Ophia & Elmer Davis Fund, & Public Works

31 – Shoemaker Square marker on the fountain – In recognition of special contributions to Shoemaker Square by the Knights of Columbus, Chamber of Commerce, Business Association, Rotary and Beckley Newspaper, in memory of Zeldia Walker Jones

32 – Bench in honor of Madrith Chambers – formerly on City Council, founder of Kids Classic Festival

Marker displays the seal/logo for Raleigh County – The Raleigh County Commission offices are adjacent to the park on one side and courthouse lawn on the other side.

Courthouse:



33– Beckley marker – Founder Gen. Alfred Beckley and “Father of Raleigh County”, marker mentions Wildwood and John Beckley

34 – Eccles Mine Explosions – 1914 explosion killed 174 miners + 6 from blackdamp; 1926 – 19 died; Royal Mine first mine in Raleigh County in 1891. From 1891 to 1991 – county mines produced over 791M tons of coal, while accidents claimed 2,121 miners

35 – Monument dedicated to those who served the country in World War 2 by Senior Girl Scouts

36 – Marker dedicated to the Upper Big Branch Mine Explosion – 29 miners died in April of 2010 – annual memorial ceremony with fireman ringing a bell 29 times to honor the miners is held on April 5

37 – Marker for Raleigh County – Formed in 1850 from Fayette County, named for Sir Walter Raleigh who planted the first English colony in America.

38 – Civil War marker attached to the Courthouse building by steps – encampment in April 1862

39 – Yarn-bomb tree by crochet group of Beckley Art Center – the center’s crochet club has yarn bombed several trees around the community

40 – Tall Monument in memory of Gen. Alfred Beckley, by citizens and Capt. James Allen Chapter of the DAR, commemorated the centennial of Beckley 1838-1938. Plus, an American Bicentennial (1776-1976) marker on the Fayette Street side of the monument noting a time capsule was buried there to be opened in 2076.

Other Main Street:



41 – Attar Center – dedicated to economic development of southern WV – marker describes history of the building which included several banks, and donation of the building by Marz Attar for an economic development center, 2003

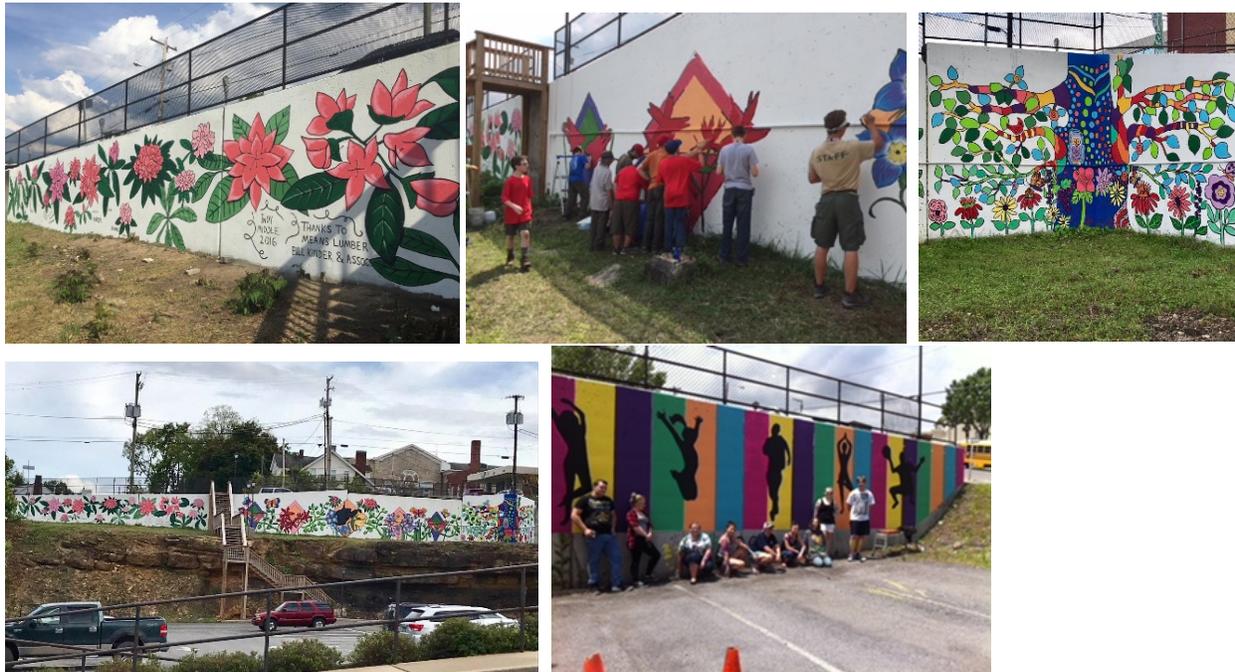
42 – Historic Clock at United Bank – (1918 or 1922?) - Warren Thornhill requested that it always be left on the building.

43 – Benches in memory of Susan Landis and in honor of Beckley Area Foundation, Carter Family Foundation with additional funding from the Rotary Club and Downtown Business Association, 2017

44 – Landmarks of WV marker on the bank, former Raleigh County Bank – noting headquarters during the Civil War and among the troop were two presidents Rutherford B. Hayes and William McKinney who stayed in the Davis Cottages

45 – Where Roads Meet marker – two important primitive pioneer roads converged here in the 1800’s

East Main Street mural wall:



46 – Rhododendron mural - Suggested by Beckley Beautification Commission, organized by Extension Agent Christine Kinder, designed by artists Carolyn Buzbee and Susan Fotos, materials donated by Kinder and Associates, Means Lumber, painted by Independence Middle School art students and Downtown Beckley Business Association volunteers

47 – WV Wildflowers mural – various groups – Organized by Christine Kinder, designed by artist Holly Pittman, BFD cleaned wall, sponsored by DBBA Committee, painted by Beckley Art Center youth summer art camp, Concord University students, National Boy Scout Jamboree scouts from Indiana, WVU Tech student orientation community service, 2017, with funding from Beckley Area Foundation

48 – Colorful Tree mural in the corner – organized by Ext. Agent Christine Kinder, designed by Debbie Lester of Beckley Art Center, Energy Express teachers and various community members painted on the mural, 2017

49 – Active Mural, Organized by Extension Agent Christine Kinder (promoting a healthy community initiative), funded by Try This WV, sponsored by Downtown Beckley Business Association, designed and painted by Independence Middle school art students and their instructor Carolyn Buzbee, 2017

Kanawha / Soldiers Memorial:



50 – Civil War marker – behind Executive Manor - Hull House – 1863 artillery, infantry and cavalry posted her by Gen. John McCausland to impede the advance of Union troops during the Civil War

51 – Betty Schlute marker – honored by Hospice and Beckley Beautification Commission (bench)

52 – 1931 Marker cornerstone on the side of the Soldiers building – built for the veterans; also served as the library, YMCA, magistrates offices, arts center, now a church

53 – James Bird Cole – built first home in 1842, a blacksmith, established first business, 23rd Mile Tree at intersection of Giles, Fayette and Kanawha Turnpike – “Seed of a Town” by Raleigh County Historical Society

54 – Civil War marker located at Carter Hall – Keffer house used as a Union hospital during the Civil War; Also, a cornerstone on Carter Hall – Beckley Public School 1818 – the building served as Beckley Jr. High School for many years; it has been included as part of college campus during recent years

55 – Mayor’s Office / City Hall – Historic marker about the City of Beckley is in front of the Mayor’s office; plus on the City Hall/Municipal building is a cornerstone and marker about the opening of the building in 1964 when John Wesley Smith was Mayor; The building was named for former Mayor Emmett S. Pugh III in 2018; Just inside the doors to Council Chambers is a wall with framed photos of all of the City’s former Mayors.

56 – Memorial Tree marker beside Soldiers – George Washington Bicentennial – 1732-1832 – place by the Daughters of the American Revolution

Heber Street:



57 – Civil War Marker – burial grounds for Union and Confederate soldiers 1862 & 1863 – bodies removed after the war, but two graves unearthed by workers in 1907

58 – Virginia Railway Heritage Trail marker – Deepwater Building, circa 1904

59 - Stained glass on the Beckley Water Company

60 – Robert C. Byrd Courthouse & Federal building – cornerstone USA, President Clinton, GSA, 1999, murals by famous artist Richard Haas in the lobby

61 – Clock at the Raleigh County Annex building on the corner

Other downtown sites:



62 – Beckley Intermodal Gateway Plaza – Outline of the State of WV on the plaza

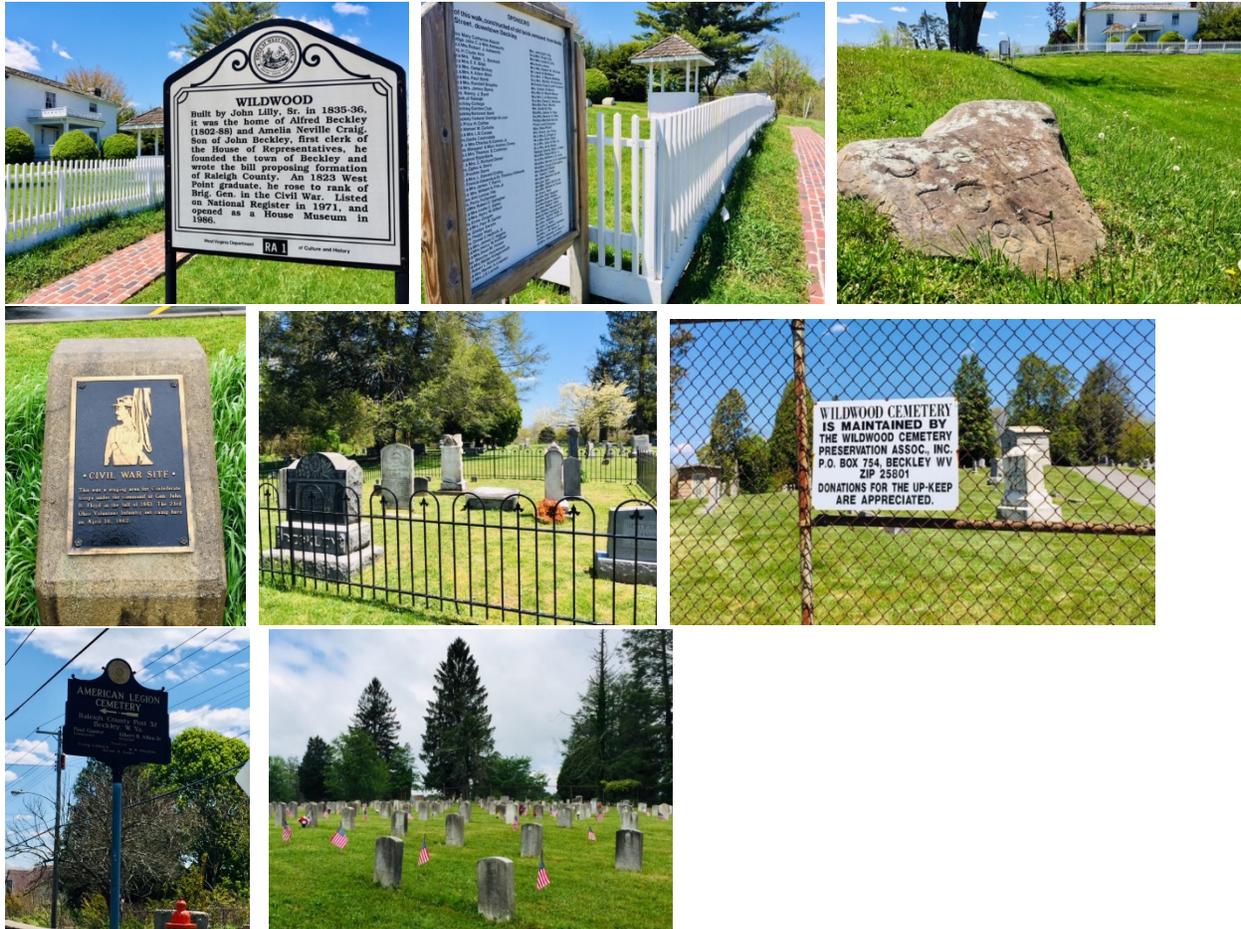
63 – Marker to honor George Bragg – author, photographer, advocate – placed by the Beckley Police Department for his commitment to seeking justice for victims of unsolved crime in WV.

64 - Statue in front of the Raleigh County Library

65 - Bicycle tree art sculpture made from bicycle wheels - located across from the Beckley Sanitary Board planned by the Beckley Beautification Commission and built by Public Works Department

Other areas:

- Wildwood House Area:



- Wildwood House historic marker – Describes history of this house, built in 1835-36, it was the home of Alfred Beckley, founder of the City of Beckley. The City owns the property and hosts events with the Raleigh County Historical Society, and tours by appointment.

- Wildwood House path marker thanks sponsors of the walk which was constructed from bricks removed from Neville Street

- Ferguson Rock – originally along Piney Creek, now on lawn in front of Wildwood; the 1814 date was carved on the rock by Ferguson fur-trapper. Ask local historian Tom Sopher about stories concerning this rock.

- Civil War site marker – located across from Wildwood by Memorial Baptist Parking lot – This was a staging area for Confederate troops in fall of 1861. The 23rd Ohio Volunteer Infantry set camp here in April 1862.
- Wildwood Cemetery – Beckley family plot
- Wildwood Cemetery – sign
- American Legion Cemetery marker & photo of cemetery – Raleigh County Post 32

Beckley Exhibition Coal Mine:



- Overview photo of mine and youth museum
- Miner statue
- Raleigh County Coal Mines marker – mentions first coal mine in Raleigh County in 1891 and provides information about the first century of mining
- Mine complex update – this sign honors the opening of the new Rahall Company Store building which was dedicated in 2008
- Coal Camp sign – Describes coal camps in early mining communities – the sign also has a map of the buildings located on the complex
- Slab Fork sign – from Slab Fork Coal Company, of Tams, was in business from 1949-1982; the sign was added here in 1991.

A coal camp has been recreated at the Beckley Exhibition Coal Mine with several structures moved from original coal camps to the complex.



- Miner's house marker describes a typical miner's house, known as "Jenny Linds"; the structures were built between 1925 and 1940. The house on the exhibition mine complex property is from Sprague and was owned by New River Company.

- Coal Camp Church – Built in 1921, the church is from the coal camp of Pemberton, WV. The marker describes how the church was the center of coal camp community.

- Bachelor's shanty – A one-room dwelling from Helen, WV, dates back to the 1920's.

- Superintendent's House – Constructed in 1906 in Skelton, WV, the "super's house" was a three-story structure for the mine superintendent. The marker provides information about Samuel Dixon's vision for the house and what can be found inside this house.

- Schoolhouse – Originally constructed as a two-room school, it became a one-room school when enrollment declined. Built in 1925 in Helen, WV. The marker describes schools in the coal camps.

- Buford Hartsog memorial marker and benches were placed by the schoolhouse in honor of this teacher and friend of the Exhibition Mine and Youth Museum

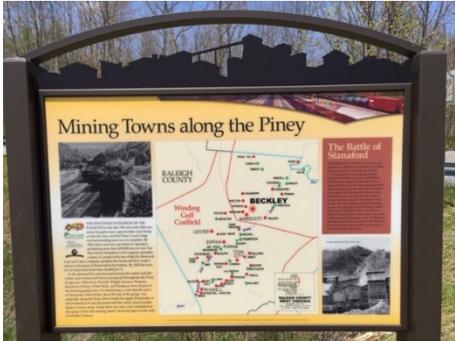
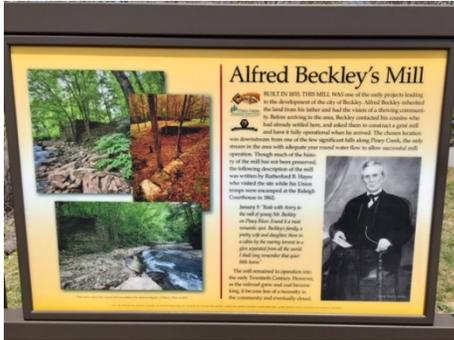
- Friends of the Depot – marker honors the businesses and organizations who contributed to building the depot for the mine cars.

Youth Museum/Mountain Homestead: Adjacent to the exhibition mine and recreated coal camp is the Youth Museum / Mountain Homestead. The Youth Museum's gallery is made up of four railroad boxcars, and features changing exhibits designed to entertain as well as educate, and also a planetarium. The Youth Museum received the National Museum Service Award in 2000. Beside the museum is the Mountain Homestead, a recreated typical Appalachian frontier settlement.



In addition to the museum photo, other photos include:

- The whimsical 20 ft. "Peace Totem pole in front of the Youth Museum was created by Mark Blumenstein
- Margaret Covey marker and bench placed in memory of Margaret who was dedicated to the community and education
- Dinky train - During the late 19th century and the early 20th century, smaller gauge track and trains were used to move people and freight short distances. This Dinky was used to haul coal for Crab Orchard Coal Company. When the mine closed over 40 years ago, the locomotive was donated to the city and placed in the newly developed New River Park. Very few of these trains remain. Many Beckley residents have memories of playing on the train which was originally located beside the city's pool. The train was restored and moved to the entrance of the Youth Museum and the Exhibition Coal Mine in 2016. Beckley Crane and Construction used a 165-ton crane to pick up the train and place it on an equipment trailer to move for restoration and then delivery.



YMCA and Beckley Mill markers:

- YMCA complex entrance sign – named the Paul Cline Memorial Sports Complex
- Piney Creek Trail System – two signs are located around the sports complex - include a map of the complex and the trails that are available for hiking, plus the signs list project partners.
- Trio of signs located along the paved walking trail around the soccer fields includes:

- Alfred Beckley's Mill – describes the history of the mill developed by Alfred Beckley along Piney Creek
- Mining Towns along the Piney – The marker describes the growth of the railroad and mining industry in the early 1900's and the small communities in the Piney Creek area. The marker includes a map of communities along Piney Creek and Winding Gulf area.
- The Piney Creek Subdivision sign includes railroad history along the creek - by 1921 included 14 rail stations and 16 coal mines.
- Back of the YMCA sign promotes the mission of the Y – “Builds Strong Kids, Strong Families and Strong Communities”
- Beckley Mill marker located at intersection of the East Beckley By-pass and New Jersey Ave – Alfred Beckley built a mill along Piney Creek (1838-1840) to spur economic growth on his wilderness landholdings. It mentions the President Hayes visited in 1862; mill was destroyed by flood in 1878 and rebuilt by Asa Spangler. Taz Worley owned the mill prior to closure in early 1900's. The site was added to the National Register in 2017.

Architectural details search – downtown churches:

