

BIOGRAPHY

Ms. Elswick is an architectural historian with over ten years of experience researching the history of buildings and communities, conducting historic resource surveys, evaluating National Register eligibility, and providing enriching heritage tourism experiences for the public. She has assisted ARA on historic resource surveys throughout West Virginia, from field surveys through report preparation, covering hundreds of properties of all types. In her work with the National Coal Heritage Area, Ms. Elswick has created interpretive signs, planned events, and promoted preservation throughout Southern West Virginia.

EDUCATION

- **Certificate in Geographic Information Systems**, Mountain Empire Community College, May 2021
- **Certificate in Historic Preservation**, Bucks County Community College, August 2019
- **Master of Arts** in American Studies, The University of Alabama, December 2007
- **Virginia Teaching Certification** in 6-12 Social Studies and History, Bluefield College, May 2005
- **Bachelor of Arts** in American Studies, Randolph-Macon Woman's College, May 2003

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Architectural Historian, Aurora Research Associates, LLC

2016 to present

New River Gorge National Park Historic Resource Survey, 2022 (ongoing)

- Served as an independent contractor for a historical survey of the New River Gorge National Park
- Researched the coal and railroad industries in the New River Gorge Region, agriculture, state parks, Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), and New River Gorge National Park and Preserve
- Searched files at the West Virginia State Historic Preservation Office in Charleston
- Surveyed and photographed 21 historic sites in the New River Gorge National Park and Preserve
- Prepared 21 Historic Property Inventory Forms for historic sites in the Park
- Created an outline for the historical context of the New River Gorge National Park Historic Survey
- Wrote town statements about the communities of Hinton, Prince, Thurmond, and Fayetteville and the historical context

Glendale Steps National Register Nomination, 2022 (ongoing)

- Preparing a National Register of Historic Places nomination for the Glendale Steps in Akron, Ohio, a set of stone steps serving pedestrians
- Researched Akron, Ohio, Work Progress Administration, and landscape architect Warren H. Manning

Buxton & Landstreet National Register Nomination, 2021

- Prepared a project proposal to write a National Register of Historic Places nomination for the Buxton and Landstreet Company Store in Thomas, West Virginia
- Researched the northern West Virginia coal industry, the West Virginia Central & Pittsburg Railroad, Henry Gassaway Davis, and the company store
- Wrote the architectural description and part of the historical narrative for the nomination (Listed April 2022)
- Took photographs of the Buxton and Landstreet Company Store and the surrounding area

West Virginia State University Historic Resource Survey and Faculty Houses National Register Nomination, 2020

- Surveyed 50 structures on the campus of West Virginia State University and the town of the Institute
- Photographed structures and campus views using a Canon DSLR camera
- Conducted research about West Virginia State University, Public Works Administration, and architect John C. Norman, Sr.
- Evaluated each structure for potential eligibility on the National Register of Historic Places

- Wrote architectural descriptions for each structure
- Completed 50 West Virginia Historic Property Inventory Forms
- Contributed historical information and a chart of major construction to the historical context
- Wrote a National Register of Historic Places nomination for the WVSU Faculty House Historic District (Listed April 2021)

West Virginia Schools for the Colored Deaf and Blind National Register Nomination, 2018–2019

- Researched the West Virginia Schools for the Colored Deaf and Blind at the West Virginia State University archive, local libraries, and online
- Wrote a historical context about the West Virginia Schools for the Colored Deaf and Blind
- Prepared a National Register of Historic Places nomination for the West Virginia Schools for the Colored Deaf and Blind (Listed March 2021)
- Presented the nomination at the West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture, and History Fall Meeting

WVDOH Section 106 Surveys, 2018–2019

- Surveyed properties in Bartley Bottom (McDowell County) and Clear Fork (Wyoming County) for two bridge replacement projects for the West Virginia Division of Highways
- Identified and evaluated structures for possible listing on the National Register of Historic Places
- Prepared 8 Historic Property Inventory Forms for the Section 106 Review
- Determined both bridge replacement projects would have no adverse effect on surveyed properties

East End Historic District Historic Resource Survey Update, 2018–2019

- Surveyed and photographed 178 residences and commercial structures in the East End Historic District for the Charleston Historic Landmarks Commission
- Used WV State Historic Preservation Office Map Viewer to determine UTM coordinates and quadrangle names
- Identified significant architectural details and wrote property descriptions for each property
- Evaluated and identified structures as contributing or noncontributing resources

Coal Heritage Survey Update, McDowell County, WV, 2016–2017

- Member of a seven-person team who updated the 1991 Coal Heritage Survey of historic structures in McDowell County for the West Virginia Division of Highways
- Surveyed over 200 buildings using a FileMaker Pro database with the West Virginia Historic Property Inventory Forms
- Photographed over 200 homes, buildings, and streetscapes using a Canon DSLR digital camera
- Wrote architectural descriptions for each structure
- Evaluated each structure for potential eligibility on the National Register of Historic Places
- Conducted historical research about the coal and railroad industry, significant individuals, properties, and four communities in McDowell County
- Completed 299 West Virginia Historic Property Inventory Forms

OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE

GIS Intern: City of Bluefield Economic Development Authority, January 2021–May 2021

- Created an ArcGIS StoryMap of historic resources in Bluefield, West Virginia
- Selected historic commercial buildings, residences, schools, and athletic venues for the virtual tour
- Conducted historical research about the development of Bluefield, prominent citizens, and historical resources online and at the Eastern Regional Coal Archives



- Wrote 33 historical summaries about the selected resources
- Selected blueprints and historic photographs from the Eastern Regional Coal Archives
- Photographed 30 buildings, residences, athletic venues, and streetscapes using a Canon DSLR digital camera
- Downloaded historical topographic maps from the United State Geological Survey website and additional maps from the West Virginia GIS Technical Center
- Digitized the boundaries of 4 historic districts, three individual properties, and Bluefield City Park using ArcMap 10.7.1
- Created individual maps of the four historic districts, three individual properties, and the city park
- Presented the StoryMap to the City of Bluefield's Board of Directors at their May 2021 meeting

AmeriCorps VISTA Program Director & Depot Clerk, National Coal Heritage Area, August 2013 to present

- Conducted historical research online and at local, regional, and state archives and libraries
- Gathered primary and secondary source documents about the glass industry, Prince Amtrak Station, Chesapeake & Ohio Railroad, Norfolk & Western Railroad, Eccles Mine Disasters, Mercer County, Summers County, McDowell County, and the WV Mine Wars
- Prepared a West Virginia Historic Property Inventory Form and National Register of Historic Places Nomination for the Prince Amtrak Station
- Wrote 36 historical summaries and selected photographs resulting in 9 interpretive wayside signs in Summers County, 15 signs in McDowell County, two signs in Raleigh County, eight signs in Mercer County, and two signs in Cabell County
- Described and photographed sites for nine wayside signs resulting in an approved Section 106 Review
- Created an ArcGIS StoryMap about the West Virginia Mine Wars
- Researched coal mining disasters in southern West Virginia between 1900 and 1964
- Documented headstones at the Harlem Heights Cemetery in Oak Hill, West Virginia, and provided technical assistance to individuals interested in restoring local cemeteries
- Wrote 2 Clio entries about historic buildings in Bluefield, West Virginia
- Photo-documented homes and commercial buildings designed by Bluefield architect Alex Mahood
- Coordinated the NCHAA's AmeriCorps VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) program
- Reviewed project applications submitted by nonprofit organizations and government agencies who were interested in having a VISTA member
- Recruited individuals to serve as AmeriCorps VISTA members through social media posts, Service Listing Opportunities, and career fairs
- Scheduled site visits and met with VISTA members and site supervisors
- Prepared semiannual Progress Reports for the AmeriCorps regional office
- Organized service projects for the 2022 Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service and 9-11 Day of Service and Remembrance
- Member of Preservation Alliance of West Virginia's 2020 Statewide Historic Preservation Conference planning committee
- Wrote a WV Humanities Council grant for the Coal Mining Heritage Festival in Bramwell
- Designed and distributed a promotional brochure for the 2015 Youth Arts in the Park in Bramwell
- Coordinated and promoted the 2015 Youth Arts in the Park Festival and the 2018 and 2019 Coal Mining Heritage Festival
- Participated in restoring the Miners' Memorial in Mount Hope
- Wrote promotional articles and event announcements that were published in local newspapers
- Promoted the National Coal Heritage Area's mission of preserving, interpreting, and promoting the region's rich coal history and culture on social media platforms



- Managed the Bramwell Interpretive Center's gift shop, museum, and art gallery
- Provided visitor center support by greeting guests, answering questions, providing information about historic sites, and selling merchandise
- Prepared purchase orders for merchandise and office supplies

AmeriCorps VISTA, Community & Economic Development Coordinator, Mercer, and Summers Counties: New River Gorge Regional Development Authority, February 2011–July 2013

- Created the Adopt a Window program to fill vacant storefronts resulting in the beautification of downtown Hinton
- Created the Summers County Dilapidated Structures program
- Identified, photographed, and wrote property descriptions for thirty dilapidated structures resulting in the Dilapidated Structures Properties List
- Scheduled monthly meetings and wrote agendas, public notices, and meeting minutes for the Summers County Dilapidated Structures Committee
- Documented over 200 individuals buried at the Historic Oak Hill Cemetery near Bramwell
- Wrote a National Scenic Byways grant for interpretive signs at the John Henry Historical Park in Talcott
- Made presentations to civic organizations and students about "The Summit," Beautification Toolkit, and the Reaching the Summit Community Service Initiative
- Recruited nine volunteers for the 9-11 Day of Service and Remembrance service project at the Oak Hill Cemetery and the RTSCSI Mercer County demo project at the Bluefield City Park
- Coordinated the inaugural Mountain Pride Litter Sweep in Mercer and Summers counties resulting in the beautification of major roadways and riverbanks
- Recruited over 200 volunteers who picked up 12 tons of trash and collected 130 tires
- Created three litter sweep brochures and two posters using Microsoft Publisher that were distributed to residents in seven counties

Additional Education, Training, and Conferences

- 2022 Nonprofit Leadership Summit
- Cemetery Restoration Workshop, 2021
- ESRI User Virtual GIS Conference, 2021
- Preservation Alliance of West Virginia Virtual Conference, 2020 and 2021
- Chamber of Commerce of the Two Virginias Adult Leadership Class, 2019
- Virginia Association for Mapping and Information Systems, Virginia GIS Conference, 2017
- National Preservation Institute Seminars, Section 106 Review, Emerging Technologies for Cultural Resources, and Importance of Mapping Cultural Resources
- West Virginia State Historic Preservation Office, How to Write National Registry of Historic Places Nominations, and preservation grants and tax incentives workshops
- Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Cemetery Documentation, and Conservation workshop
- Greenbrier County Historical Society, How to Clean Headstones workshop
- Raleigh County Historical Society, Graveyard Restoration
- Preservation Alliance of West Virginia, 2012 Statewide Preservation Conference
- Main Street West Virginia, a workshop discussing preservation grants & tax incentives, fundraising, revitalizing downtowns, and Brownfields
- United States Department of Agriculture, 6-day SET (Stronger Economies Together) Training
- West Virginia Center for Civic Life, a 2-day workshop discussing how to organize community dialogue initiatives and moderate community discussions