

# WHITSETT, PA

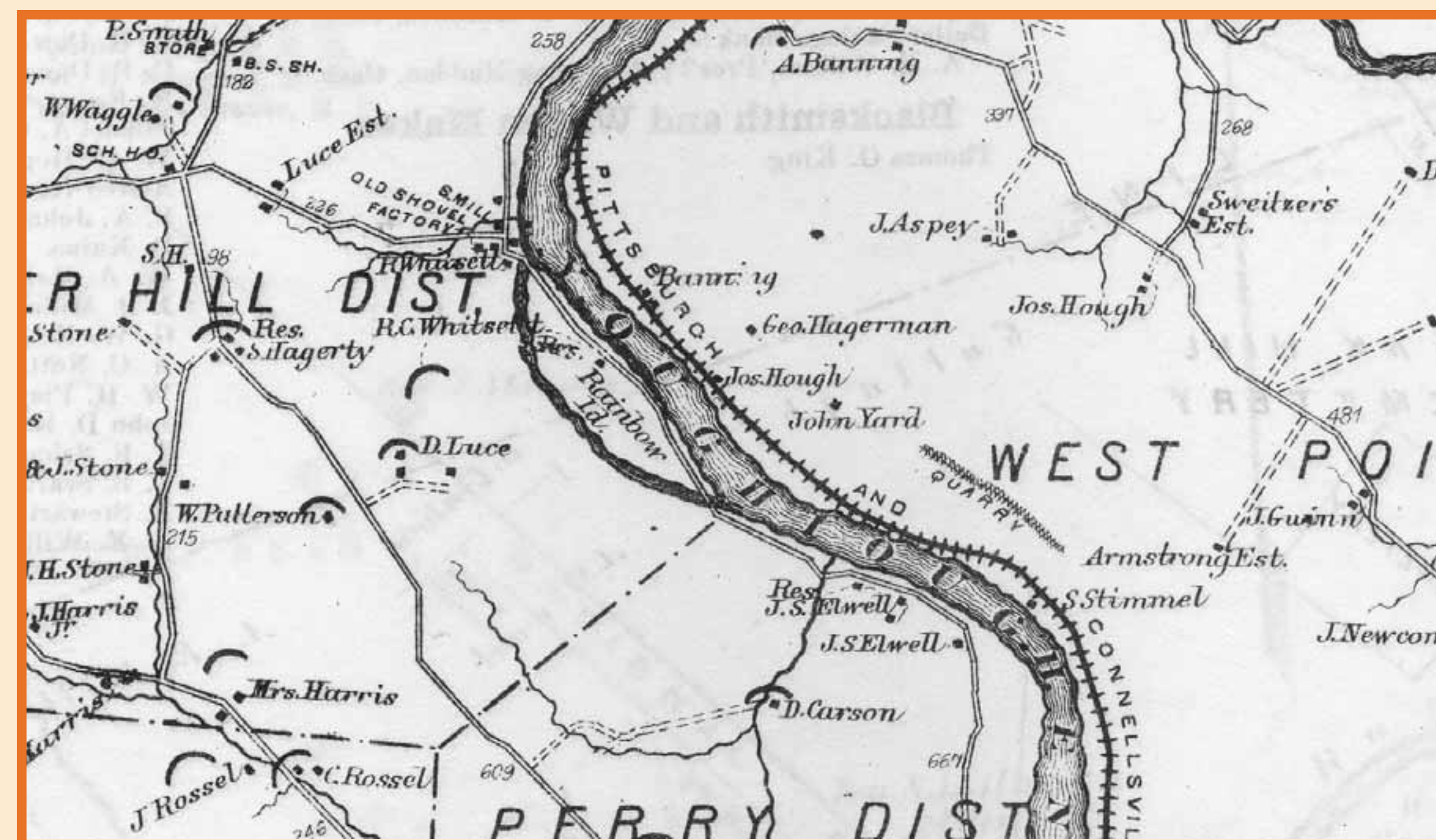
## *A historic company town*

Welcome to Whitsett, a typical “patch town” with “company houses.” The Pittsburgh Coal Company provided houses, most built between 1900 and 1920, for its employees. You are in the Lower Patch which contains duplexes, larger manager houses and a bunk house for men without families.

While most of the buildings have been updated, the setting, the street plan, and the design of the town and structures are intact and relatively well-preserved. In 1995, Whitsett’s Historic District was placed on the National Register of Historic Places.



This photo, circa 1920, was taken on the hillside above the lower patch. The fences were white-washed regularly by Pittsburgh Coal Company crew.



In colonial times, you would have been standing on an island. A river channel, since filled in, carved out the bank. The origin of the name Rainbow Island is unknown; however, it was used when the land was first patented in 1787. Whitsett family members, owners of Rainbow Island by 1872, began coal mining here. Gradually the mine and the town became known as Whitsett.



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Whitsett has a long history of being a successfully integrated community. In the 1920s Eastern European immigrants and southern African Americans worked together in the mines and coke ovens. Today their descendants work together to maintain their parks and trail. Whitsett school children celebrate Halloween.