

After reviewing your “mystery operations” section, I sought and found some information on the Bradley Coal Company and the Bradley Coal Company washery.

The company was organized and managed by Richard Bradley, originally an employee of the lumber department of the New York, Ontario, & Western Railroad and, beginning around 1895, a timber merchant whose company sold mine “props” and railroad and mine railroad ties.

In 1905, Richard Bradley and Dwight Blakeslee (or Blakesley) ventured into the coal processing business when they purchased the rights to extract useable coal from the Delaware & Hudson Railroad’s “Plane E” culm bank. This washery was located in Bradley’s home town of Peckville.

In 1910, Bradley began construction of his second coal washery, the South Side Washery in Moosic Township. This is the washery that is identified as the “Bradley Coal Washery” on the two railroad maps. The South Side Washery was completed and placed into operation in November of 1911 [Scranton Tribune, November 13, 1911, page 12 and The Coal Trade Journal, May 22, 1912, page 475].

Relying on Mr. McMullen’s comment

The 1939 Shepard Map places "Bradley Washery" in the vicinity of the present-day warehouse complex housing Cee-Kay Auto Parts, between I-81 and US Route 11 in Moosic.
Francis C. McMullen · Dec 31, 2017

I consulted the Pennsylvania Mine Maps collection and, using the address of the auto parts warehouse and Spring Street, located a mapped washery at approximately that location.

The mine maps collection allowed me to overlay the mine map on a current aerial image of the warehouse and Spring Street. Additionally, the map shows a large “rock bank” (which I take to be a culm bank) as the source of the coal for this washery.

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Charles Scott
October 8, 2022



