

Westland Mine

The Westland Mine was opened when the Montour RR constructed a branch line to Westland in 1928, enabling the Pittsburgh Coal Company to ship coal on its wholly owned railroad.

Pittsburgh Coal previously operated the three nearby Midland mines in the early 1900's, which had been serviced by the Pennsylvania Railroad.



A postcard showing Westland in 1909. The string of coal hoppers sits along Rt. 519 on a Pennsylvania RR branch serving the Midland Mines.

Westland's highest production years were in the 1930's, with a work force of over 1,200 employees.

Horizontal entry portals were used to reach the coal seam instead of the more common vertical shafts.



For more information go to: montourrr.com



Loaded mine cars curve under the loading conveyor at the Westland tipple in 1942. Conveyors carrying slate and rock to the waste dump are seen in the background. John Collier, Jr. photo

Following World War II, a portal west of Rt. 519 was opened, using a trestle over the road to deliver coal to the tipple and loading facilities.

Westland #2 was opened northwest of town and the mine railroad was extended to its location.

Westland #1 was closed in 1981, and Westland #2 shipped coal until 1983, the last mine served by the Montour. The mines were sealed and the tipple demolished in 1985.

MarkWest Energy Partners rebuilt the railroad branch in 2012 to serve its gas processing plant. Loading racks are just north of the coal tipple site.