

Benjamin Elliott's Coal Trestle

This elevated trestle was built in 1926 by Benjamin Elliott. It allowed hopper cars on the W&OD Railway to pull atop the bins below the tracks and unload coal into trucks through openings in the bottom of the rail cars. This was faster than the previous method of loading delivery trucks by hand. The bins could be used as ground storage areas as well as for truck loading.

This was not the first trestle on the site for loading coal. A 1916 railroad plat of that area shows a trestle in place, but it may have been an earlier style made of wood built by Elliott's father Joseph Elliot.

After he took over the business, Benjamin built this one, which was much stronger and used concrete piers that were more durable than wood.



Above: Ad for Elliott Coal. Source: News-Observer, Nov. 17, 1927
Below: Coal trestle (center). Source: NOVA Parks / Photographed by Paul Dolkos.

The Robert Shreve family acquired the former Elliott Coal Company in 1938 and used the trestle for both coal and fuel oil until the W&OD Railroad was abandoned in 1968. The entire business at this site was closed. In 2014, a developer building a storage facility removed 28 percent of the trestle. The remaining portion was on NOVA Parks property and was saved.



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