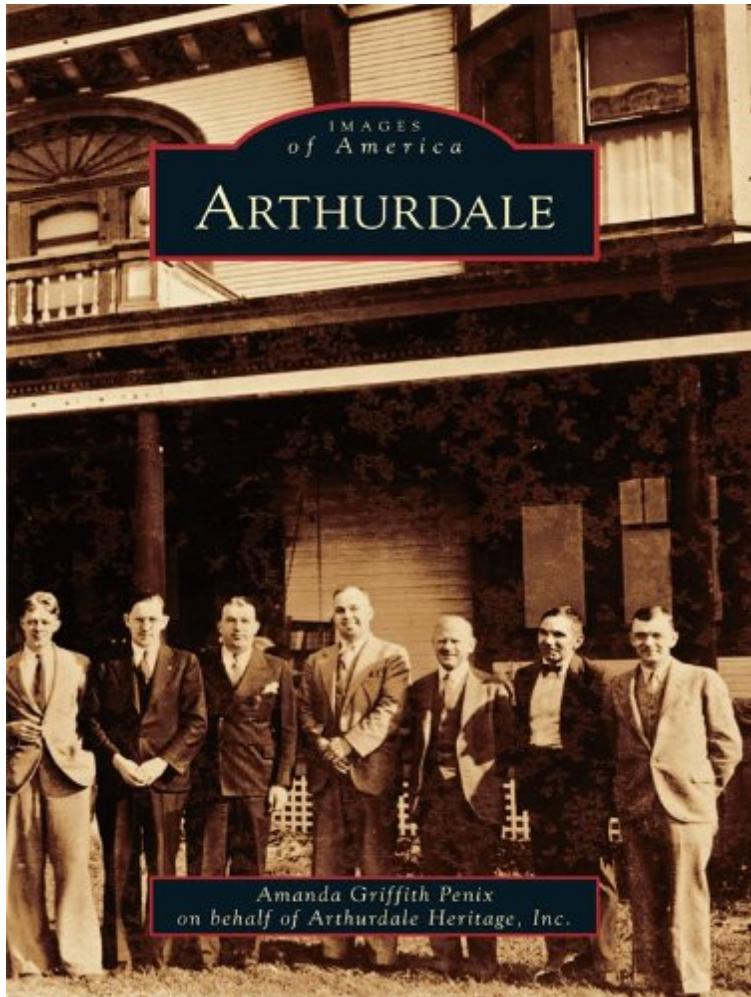


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Amanda Griffith Penix

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Amanda Griffith Penix : Arthurdale (Images of America) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Arthurdale (Images of America):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Success and failure of New Deal resettlementBy CustomerPenix gives a balanced account of this community. It's a story repeated in other experimental communities fostered by FDR. These communities provided help to people completely destitute. But the communities short term benefits did not last as local economies were not sufficient to maintain them. Also there was gross incompetence in the planning phase. The prefab homes did not fit the foundations by as much as 8 feet. I also think building a community like Arthurdale assumes the homeowners will be willing to occupy a site with no history. A tradition is vital to local pride. Arthurdale was a village with no past. As bad as they were the hollows of Scotts Run were land occupied for generations. The people who lived there accepted food relief for their children but none for themselves. It would be hard for such West Virginians to feel pride of place and pride of ownership of a neat little town like Arthurdale. Eleanor Roosevelt's

compassion was limitless. But it was tragic her compassion was not coupled with better planning for the long haul. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good experienceBy R. Blair SavageGood experience

In August 1933, Eleanor Roosevelt visited the impoverished coal communities of north central West Virginia. Suffering from the effects of the Great Depression, these coal families looked to the First Lady for help out of the devastating economic times. Her visit spurred the creation of Arthurdale, the nations first New Deal Homestead Community. Arthurdale quickly became known as Eleanors Little Village because of the First Ladys involvement with the project. She visited the community often to dine, dance, and converse with the homesteaders and to attend high school graduations. In addition to the creation of new housing, Arthurdale featured a community business center, state-of-the-art school buildings, a craft industry, an industrial factory, and home-based agricultural production. Although not a financial triumph for the federal government, the social success of the community is immeasurable.

About the Author Amanda Griffith Penix is the executive director of Arthurdale Heritage, Inc., a nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation of historic Arthurdale. This collection of historic images illustrates the history of Arthurdale during the federal government's management from 1933 to 1947, with the majority of the images coming from the West Virginia and Regional History Collection of the West Virginia University Libraries and the Library of Congress.