



Wayne National Forest Headquarters Nelsonville, Ohio

The Design: Elements of local history were incorporated into the unique design of the Wayne National Forest office. This office houses the Forest Supervisor's Headquarters and the Athens Ranger District. The striking building with its tower and unusual architecture was conceived after designers spent many hours driving the southeastern Ohio countryside and delving into local libraries. Depending on your background, you may see many different facets in this distinctive building. If you have spent time on a farm, you'll recognize a dairy barn, including a grain silo and a cattle chute. If you grew up in the coal fields, you may see a coal tippie, with a loading tower and chute reminiscent of local structures such as Hisylvania Coal Company Mine No. 22 (1913 – 1925) near Glouster (Athens County) which is one of the only brick tippies in the country. The portico out front may even remind you of one of the many covered bridges in our area. The architects were able to pull together many aspects of Ohio's Hill Country into a single building.

The Site: Beneath the foundation of this office lies a portion of the now abandoned New Pittsburgh Coal Company Mine No. 9. The land was also previously used as a highway rest stop along U.S. Highway 33.

The Structure: The reclaimed bricks used on this project came from several surrounding communities that once boasted their own brick and tile manufacturing plants or clay quarries. The star bricks on the receptionist counter were once a local product and were salvaged from a neighboring business. These decorative tiles were stamped in a relief pattern, then glazed and fired. The stone flooring and native hardwoods are also from the local area. Many of the materials used in the building such as the steel siding and roofing, carpeting, insulation, ceiling tiles, and wallboard were made with recycled products. The building was dedicated on April 27, 2001.

The Vision: The ideal location of this building on U.S. Highway 33 makes this the perfect gateway to Southeastern Ohio. Working with partners from communities throughout the area, the Forest Service hopes to build on the displays and information we have today to make this truly the premier place for visitors to stop before mapping out a route to further explore the rich heritage, beautiful hills, and intriguing culture of the Ohio Hill Country.

