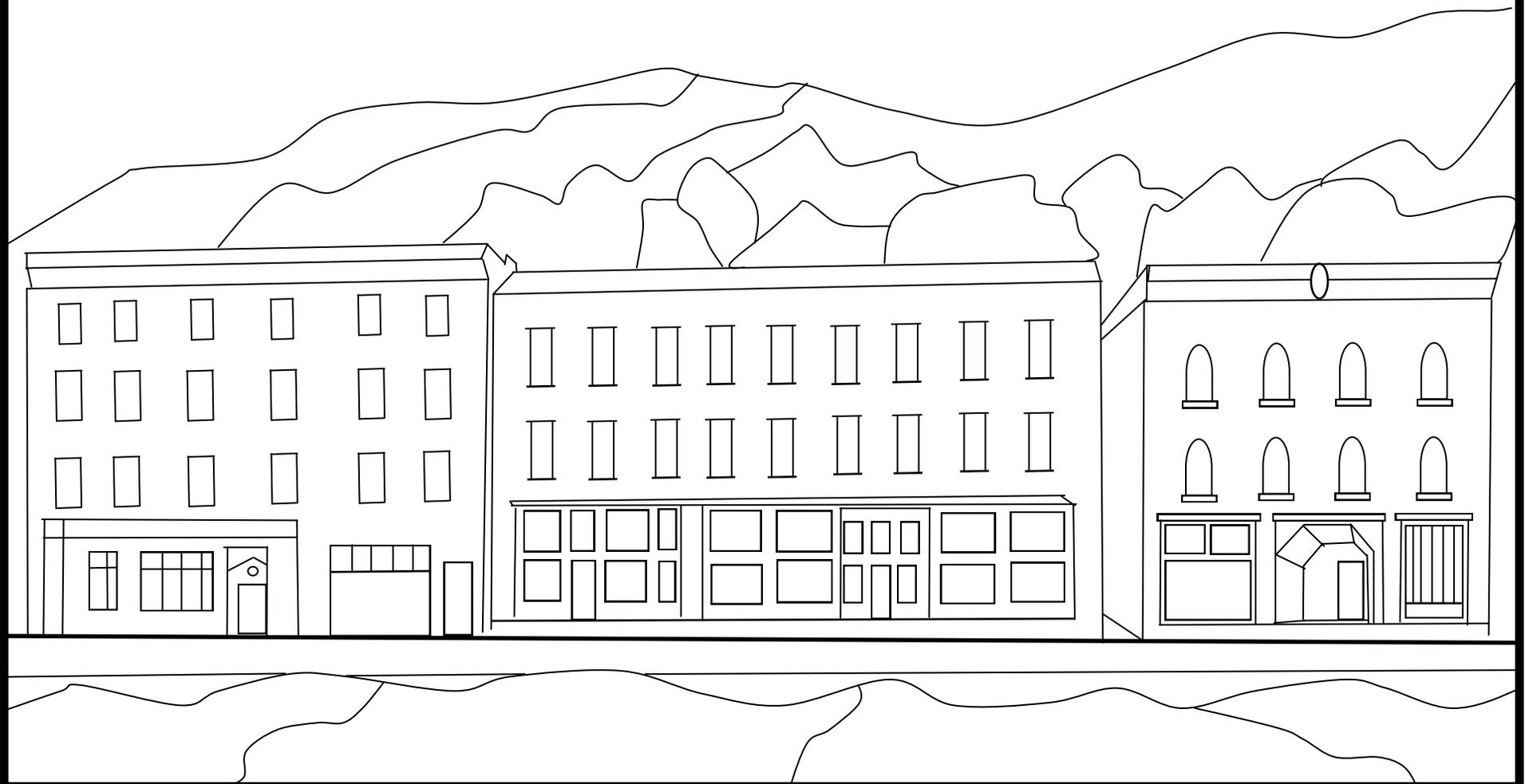
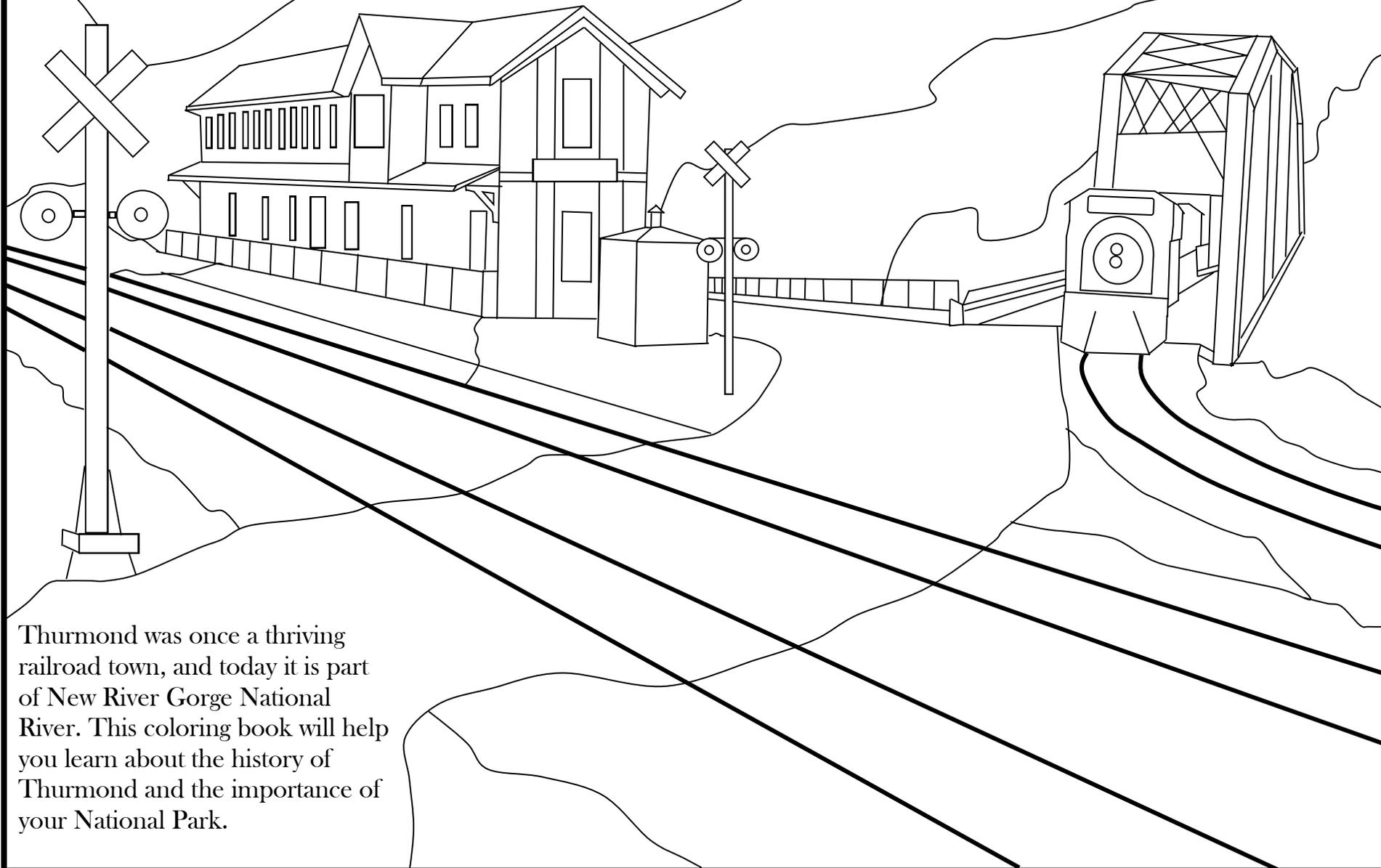


THURMOND



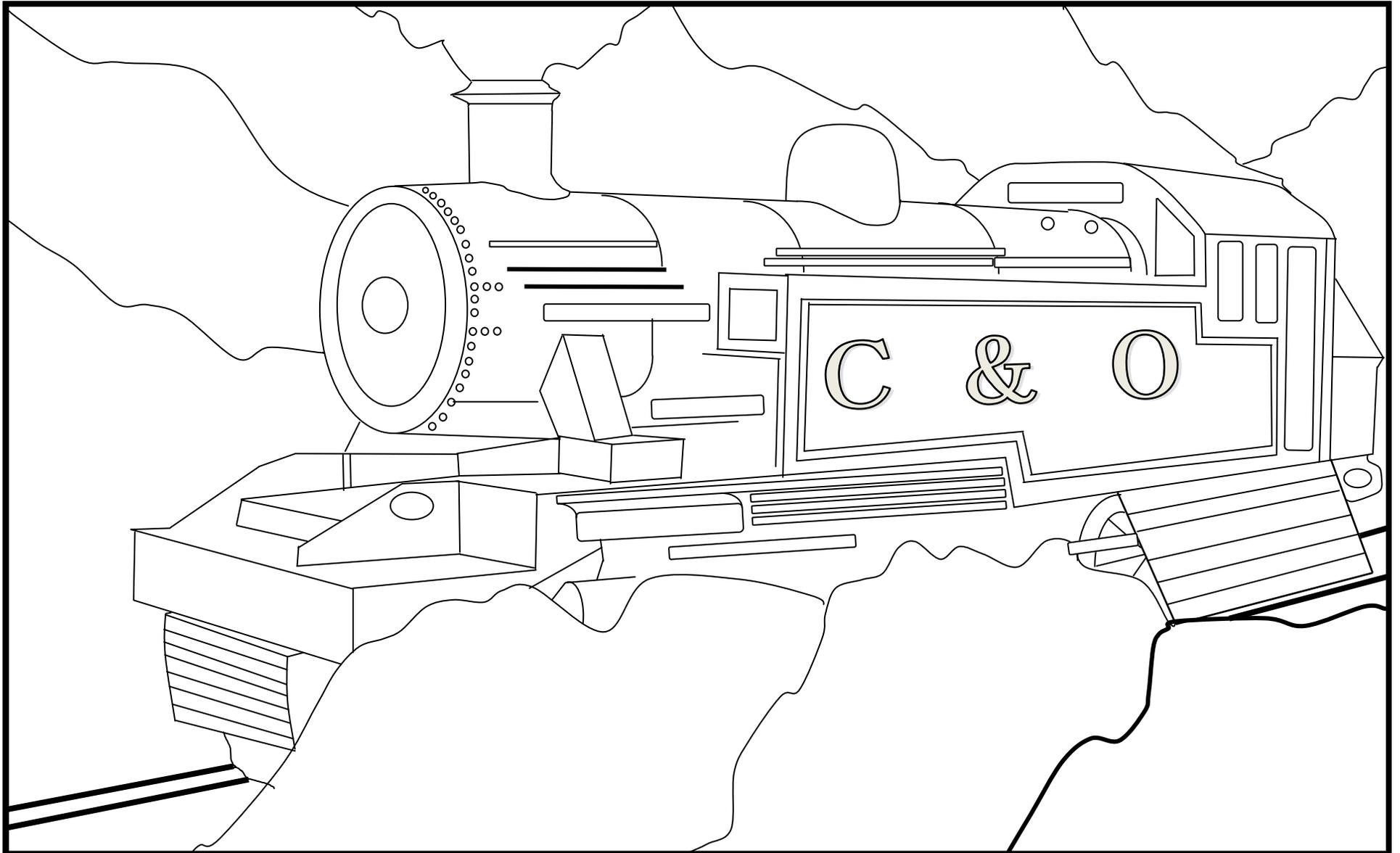
Welcome to Thurmond Historic District



Thurmond was once a thriving railroad town, and today it is part of New River Gorge National River. This coloring book will help you learn about the history of Thurmond and the importance of your National Park.

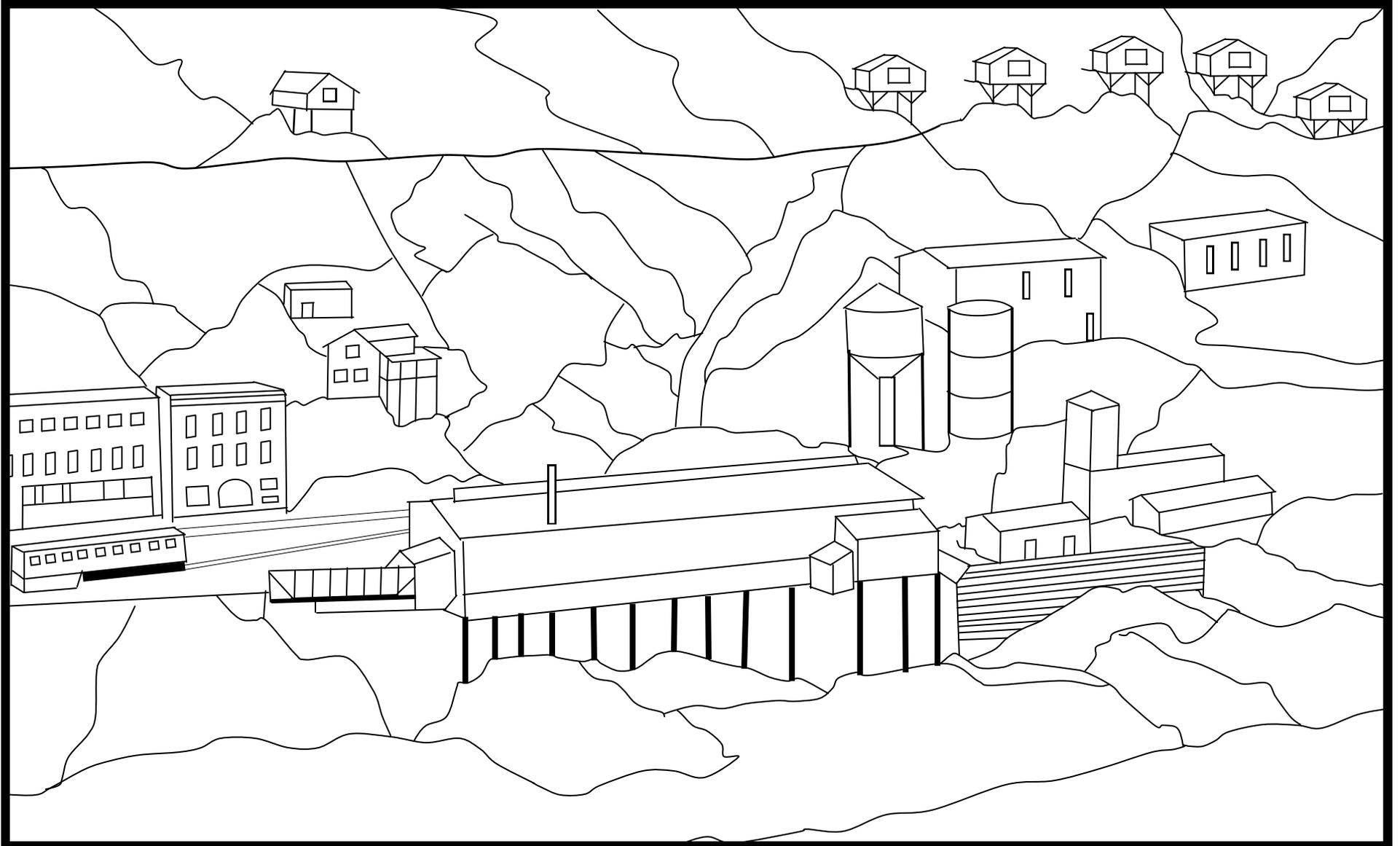
The railroad comes to the gorge

The Chesapeake & Ohio Railroad finished laying racks through the New River Gorge in 1873. For almost 70 years, steam engines like this one would move coal, lumber, and passengers through West Virginia. The C&O expanded the rail yard and made Thurmond a center for servicing engines and assembling coal trains.



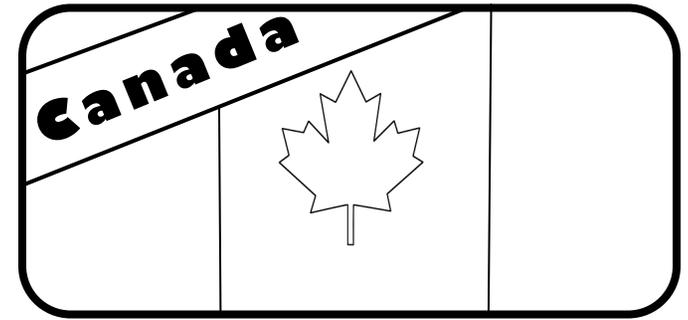
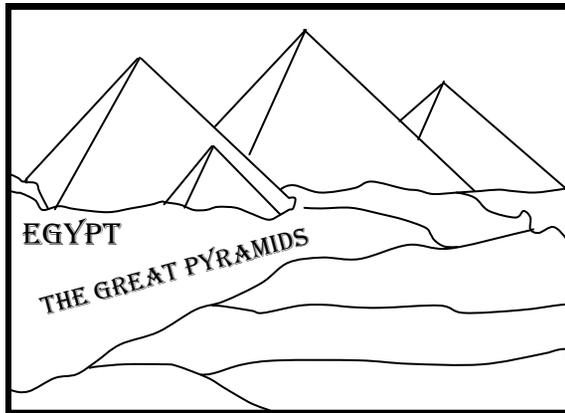
A bustling town at work

By 1920, Thurmond was a bustling town and was home to two banks, two hotels, restaurants, clothing stores, a jewelry store, and a movie theatre. Thurmond became a hub of activity for business in the gorge. For ladies looking to escape their homes and men looking for entertainment, Thurmond and nearby Dun Glen was the place to come to enjoy a weekend.

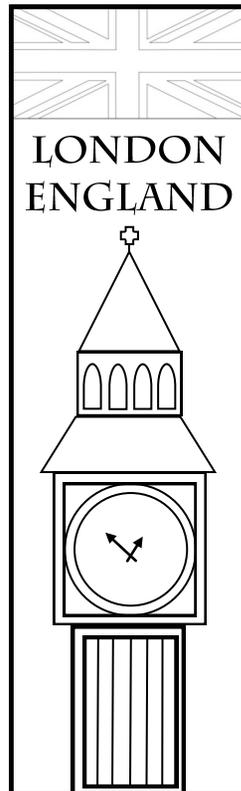


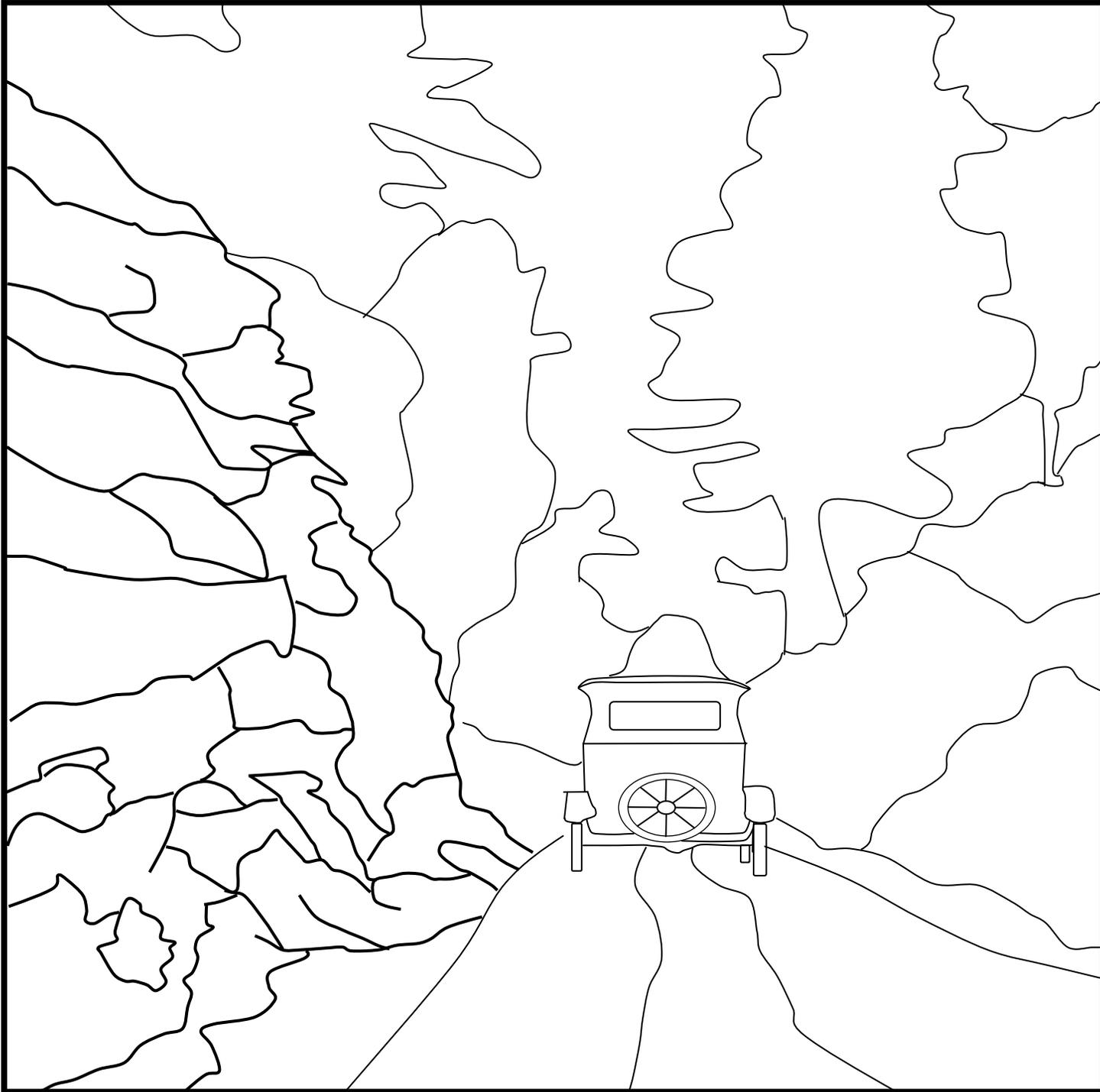
Just passing through

Thurmond was a busy passenger stop at one time, and on almost every piece of luggage was a sticker. These stickers let people know all the exciting places that you had been to. In 1910, 75,000 passengers passed through the Thurmond station. In the square below you can make your own sticker to remember your visit to West Virginia.



Draw your picture here

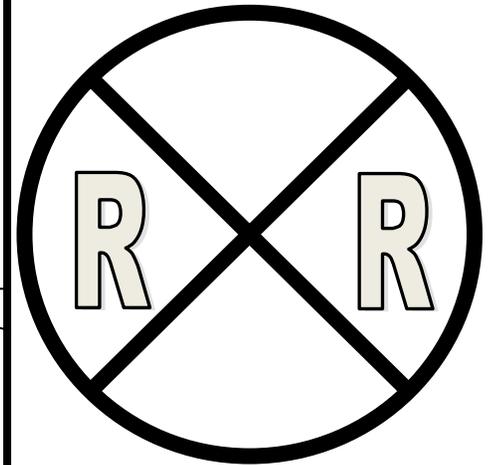




A highway to Thurmond

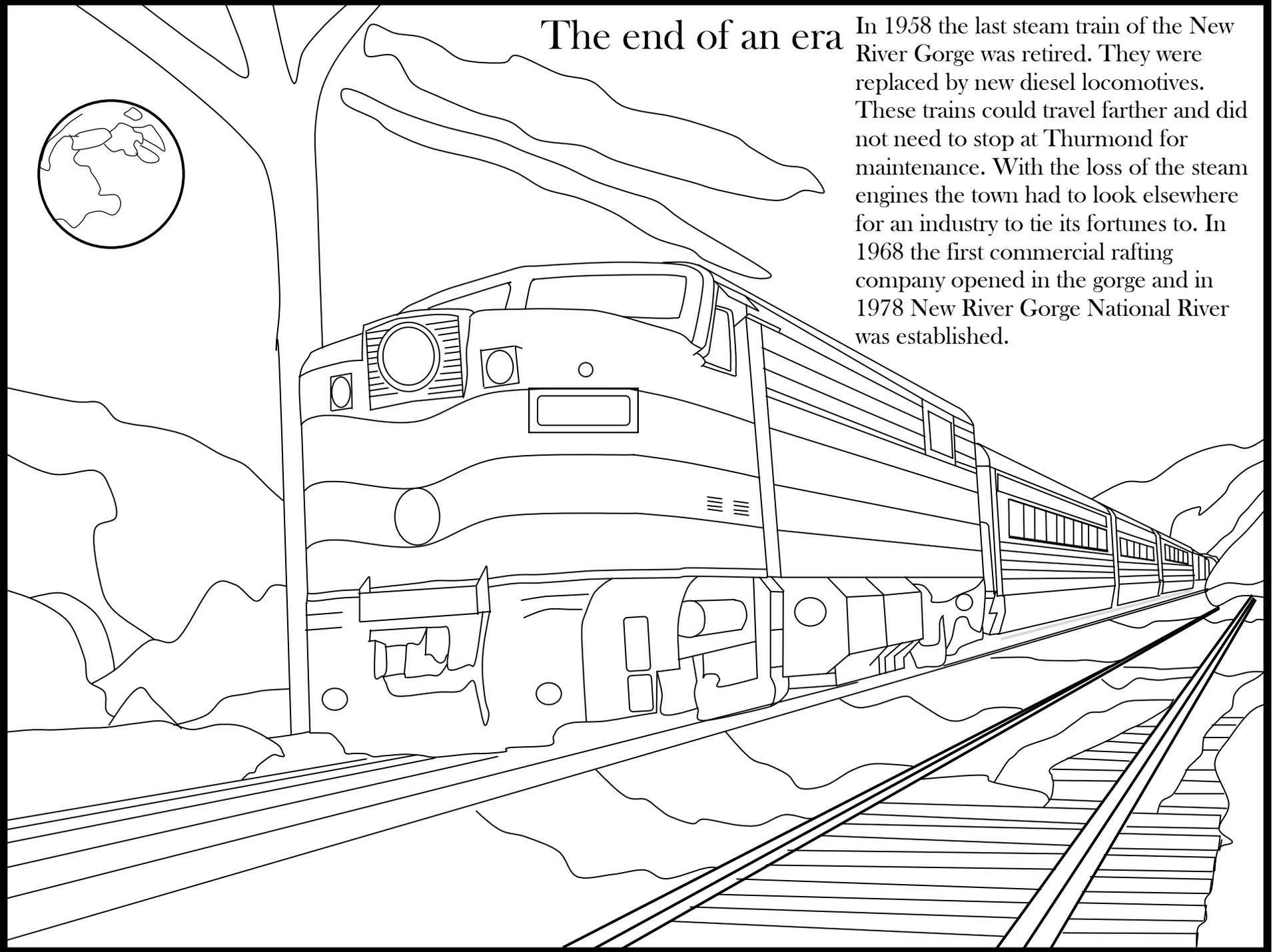
In 1921 a road from Glen Jean was completed, following Dunloup Creek from the plateau down to the river. The road brought new business and for the first time automobiles rolled into Thurmond. Their drivers found a town so tied to the railroad that there was no main street for them.

The cars were just the first transportation change that would ultimately lead to the decline of this West Virginia railroad town.



The end of an era

In 1958 the last steam train of the New River Gorge was retired. They were replaced by new diesel locomotives. These trains could travel farther and did not need to stop at Thurmond for maintenance. With the loss of the steam engines the town had to look elsewhere for an industry to tie its fortunes to. In 1968 the first commercial rafting company opened in the gorge and in 1978 New River Gorge National River was established.



Thurmond Today

Today, Thurmond is part of New River Gorge National River. In 1995 the train depot was restored to its original splendor of 1904. Inside, visitors can find displays on the region's railroading history and coal mining heritage. The town of Thurmond is a great place to learn about the important role that many West Virginia towns played in the industrialization of the United States.

