

Brad Stanford's Coaling Station



This is a scale model of the 1940s coaling station at Cowan, Tenn., on my N-scale layout. I built it in 2020 using historical photographs. The coaling station is 7" high by 3.5" wide by 3.5" deep, including the black coal-lifting shack near the ground. The coal tower was located at the Nashville, Chattanooga and St. Louis Railway yard. It shows NC&StL Mountain 4-8-2 Class J1 taking on coal, water and sand.

The walls are scratchbuilt of plastic-coated cardboard, painted with acrylics and weathered with charcoal pencil. The coal chutes, sand wands and ladders came from commercial kits. The roofing is extra fine sandpaper. The black cable to the working pulleys that lower the coal chutes to the engine is thread from my wife's sewing kit. The sand wand from the coaling station to the sandbox on the right side is made from brass wire. The sandhouse is made of brass from a commercial kit. The water tower in the right background is a Walther's kitbash. **Brad Stanford**