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Centerfold: A Look at Historic Eckley

The Eckley Village is a living museum maintained by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. It represents a typical "mine patch" or company town during the nineteenth century. The Visotors Center provides a slide orientation show illustrating the history of the village and the anthracite industry. The Center also contains a museum depicting village life. The walking tour of the village is the most revealing feature of the museum. The visitor explores restored churches, the infamous company store, and a company house. While on the tour the observant visitor will note the environmental havoc attending coal mining, the physical dominance of the village by the breaker, and the use of backyards as a supplementary food source. The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission charges a nominal fee for this exposure to the quality of life in the "bad old days Eckley Village is located off Route 940, the road to Freeland:

Breaker at Eckley