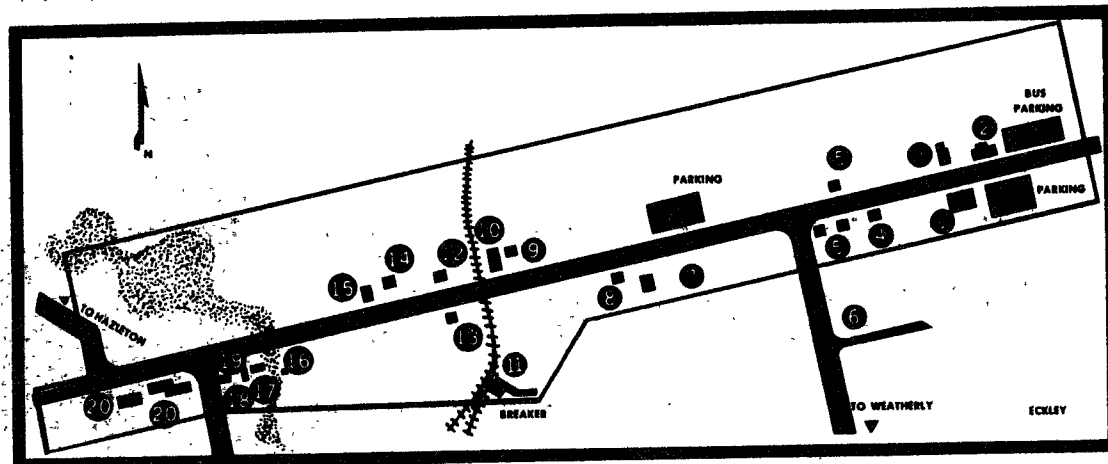


Historic Eckley

A NINETEENTH CENTURY ANTHRACITE
MINING COMMUNITY

Photography by

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Guided Tour

Eckley, as with many mining and industrial villages, was a planned community. As you walk through the village you may note the differences in size and architecture of the dwellings, from the double family dwellings near the visitors' center to the large single houses of the mine owners at the far end of the village.

1. Visitors Center. Rest Rooms. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.
2. Rectory c. 1861. Occupied.
3. Immaculate Conception Roman Catholic Church. Built 1861. Open to the Public.
4. Double Family Dwelling. Typical of the smaller two-family houses originally built for the laborers and breaker workers. Occupied.
5. Foundation of double dwellings.
6. Back Street. The last

original house on a street of thirty-two dwellings. Occupied.

7. Eckley Social and Sports Club, c. 1946. Emerald House false front added for Paramount Studios' production of *The Molly Maguires*. Occupied.

8. Miner's Double Dwelling, furnished, c. 1890. One side represents furnishings of recent immigrant; other side has furnishings of established miner. Open to the Public.

9. Mule Barn, c. 1968. Prop for *The Molly Maguires*.

10. Company Store, c. 1968. Prop for *The Molly Maguires*. Museum shop and snack bar. Open to the Public.

11. Breaker, c. 1968. Prop for *The Molly Maguires*.

12. Double Family Dwelling. Typical of the larger two-family houses originally built for the

miners. Occupied.

13. Single Family Dwelling. Originally built for the colliery superintendents and mine foremen. Under development.

14. Site of Presbyterian Church, c. 1859.

15. St. James Episcopal Church, c. 1859. Open to the Public.

16. Waste water and trailings from operating breaker; flows into holding area or silt dam across the road.

17. Foundation of Eckley Hotel, c. 1858.

18. Doctor's Office. Later a single-family dwelling. Under development.

19. Site of original Company Store.

20. Mine owners' houses. Under development.

A brief history

One of hundreds of mining towns developed in the anthracite region during the early 19th century.

In 1837, Weiss and Company leased land from the Cox family and began work on the Eckley Colliery and the village of Eckley. The Eckley Colliery was the colliery where the coal was mined and provided housing for the miners and their families. Schools and churches supplied the educational and religious needs of the tenants. It was a company town with greater control over the lives of the miners.

When Sharpe and Weiss's lease expired, they operated the colliery themselves. Eckley was sold to other coal companies. The Tench family sold its holdings, including Eckley, to George H. Huss. Huss was separated from the mining industry in 1869 when Huss sold Eckley to the Eckley Site Museum, Inc., a group of Greater Pittsburgh businessmen; they, in turn, deeded it to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. In 1971, Louis C. Harrison purchased the land around Eckley and has since the coal first exploited by Sharpe, the Eckley Company.

Over the period other changes took place. Through successive waves of immigrants seeking economic opportunities and religious or political freedom, Welsh and German miners were followed by Irish and then southern and eastern European miners. These groups formed an ethnic mosaic found in the anthracite region.

At the same time, strip mining, begun in 1890, replaced underground mining. The land around Eckley and the population of Eckley were stripped away. The Eckley Colliery and the population of Eckley declined from fifteen hundred people in 1870, to only a hundred people remained.

The Eckley Colliery has disappeared but Eckley lives on in its town until its acquisition by the Eckley Site Museum Commission, Eckley is a way of life which dominated the anthracite region for 140 years.



Miner's home,
breaker in
background

Main Street

