

AL-V-A-249 Eckhart Survey District
Eckhart (Clarysville vicinity), Allegany Co. MD
Not Eligible

Eckhart originated as a company town for the Maryland Mining Company when it opened the Eckhart mine in 1835. The survey district currently includes approximately 400 buildings dating from c. 1840 to the early 20th century. Old Rt. 40 was the earliest road through this district. No distinct districts eligible for the National Register were found during this review, although a detailed study of the 400 buildings could reveal small clusters of structures eligible for a thematic district. Although Eckhart is of significance to the coal mining history of Maryland, the majority of buildings in the town have been so altered by remodeling and extensive application of modern materials such as aluminum siding that the Eckhart Survey District is recommended as not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

Prepared by Merry Stinson
Paula S. Reed and Associates, Inc.
105 N. Potomac St.
Hagerstown, MD 21740
301-739-2070

3/00

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST	
Eligibility Recommended _____	Eligibility Not Recommended <u> 0 </u>
Criteria: <u> A </u> <u> B </u> <u> C </u> <u> D </u>	Considerations: <u> A </u> <u> B </u> <u> C </u> <u> D </u> <u> E </u> <u> F </u> <u> G </u> None
Comments: <u>It is likely that clusters of resources within the survey area may be eligible under Criterion A and/or C.</u>	
Reviewer, OPS: _____	Date: _____
Reviewer, NR Program: <u>P. Keutze</u>	Date: <u>6/13/00</u>

Stinson



View of Eckhart Survey District (AI-V-249).

AL-V-A-249

Eckhart Survey District
Eckhart
Multiple, private

1840s - present

The Eckhart Survey District is a group of approximately four hundred and thirty-five buildings within the town of Eckhart, a former coal mining community situated on either side of Md. Route 40 one mile east of Frostburg. Within the town are several examples of miner's houses built by the various coal companies which operated mines in Eckhart during the nineteenth and early twentieth century. In addition to these are a few widely scattered commercial buildings, two churches and some modern houses. In the center of town are the remains of the Eckhart Mine, opened in 1855 and in operation for more than a century.

The coal mining operations carried out in Eckhart by the Maryland Mining Company inaugurated the era of corporate development of coal resources in Maryland. Eckhart is a very early example of a "company town" in which the majority of miner's houses were built and owned by the Maryland Mining Company and its successors. Its physical development was therefore closely tied to the history of the parent company.

Eckhart is also significant as the center of the Great Strike of 1882, a crucial event in the economic history of the coal producing region of Western Maryland.

Maryland Historical Trust

State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Eckhart Mines

and/or common Eckhart

2. Location

street & number various streets ___ not for publication

city, town Eckhart ___ vicinity of congressional district 6

state Maryland county Allegany

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name multiple owners

street & number telephone no.:

city, town state and zip code

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Allegany County Courthouse liber

street & number Washington Street folio

city, town Cumberland state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Eckhart Survey District is a group of approximately four hundred and thirty-five buildings within the town of Eckhart, a former coal mining community situated on either side of Md. Route 40 one mile east of Frostburg. Within the town are several examples of miner's houses built by the various coal companies which operated mines in Eckhart during the nineteenth and early twentieth century. In addition to these are a few widely scattered commercial buildings, two churches and some modern houses. In the center of town are the remains of the Eckhart Mine, opened in 1835 and in operation for more than a century.

The street plan of Eckhart is made up of several winding and irregular roads which generally follow the hilly contours of the land. The elevations vary widely in Eckhart, ranging from a little over 1600 feet at the intersection of Route 40 with Old Route 40 to 1950 feet on the extreme western side of town.¹ Although Route 40 bisects Eckhart, it has little relationship to the town itself; the majority of houses are grouped along the east-west path of Old Route 40 and parallel streets, or along the north-south path of Md. Route 638. Most of the houses of historic or architectural significance stand in the southern half of town; many are only a short distance away from the Eckhart Mine and the later, early 20th century Mine No. 10.

A variety of building materials were used in the construction of houses in Eckhart, including stone, brick, and frame; there are also several examples of log construction. Unfortunately, the addition of asbestos or aluminum siding has obscured the original appearance of many houses in Eckhart.

Among the oldest houses in Eckhart are those built between 1840 and 1850 by the Consolidation Coal Company (AL-V-A-022, 021 and 019 which correspond to House # 31, 32, 33 on the accompanying map). These three houses stand in a row on the north side of Old Route 40. They are one-and-one-half stories high, three bays wide and are constructed of stone laid in rubble bond. Much of the early fabric of the buildings survives, including the flat stone lintels over the windows, the corbelled brick off-center chimneys found on AL-V-A-021 and AL-VA-022 and the horizontally panelled recessed door on AL-VA-019. A few of the original six-over-six double hung sash windows remain although most have been altered in favor of one-over-one or two-over-two sash. All three front porches as well as the wings to the rear are also recent additions.

Diagonally across Old Route 40 and facing north is house #27, a one-and-one-half story house evidently constructed in two parts. The earliest section is believed to be the two bay stone portion to the west, which is similar to the larger three bay stone houses across the road. A three bay frame section projects from the east gable of this small stone dwelling. The pitched gable roof of this section is slightly lower than the roof of the stone house, and the exterior is sheathed with German siding. There are two doors on the street facade, one in the west bay of the stone section and one in the center bay of the frame section. A one story porch with chamfered posts extends across the entire north facade.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
				labor history

Specific dates _____ **Builder/Architect** _____

check: Applicable Criteria: A B C D
and/or

Applicable Exception: A B C D E F G

Level of Significance: national state local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The coal mining operations carried out in Eckhart by the Maryland Mining Company inaugurated the era of corporate development of coal resources in Maryland. Eckhart is a very early example of a "company town" in which the majority of miner's houses were built and owned by the Maryland Mining Company and its successors. Its physical development was therefore closely tied to the history of the parent company.

Eckhart is also significant as the center of the Great Strike of 1882, a crucial event in the economic history of the coal producing region of Western Maryland.

The town derived its name from the Eckhart family, members of whom first settled in this area shortly after the Revolutionary War.¹ At first used only for farming, the Eckhart properties took on a new importance with the discovery of coal during the construction of the National Road in the early 1810s.²

The Maryland Mining Company was incorporated in 1828 to mine coal in the Eckhart area. The prototype of all future coal companies in the Georges Creek region, Maryland Mining was eventually permitted by the Legislature to hold up to five thousand acres of land and to build a railroad from its mine to Cumberland.³ A stock issue of \$200,000 was authorized, later increased to one million dollars in 1853.⁴

The company took over the property of George Eckhart, whose heirs possessed no proof of ownership and who received nothing for the coal-rich lands.⁵ The land was in fact acquired by Matthew St. Clair Clarke, president of the Maryland Mining Company; he did not deed it to the company until 1837, after which time Maryland Mining began to acquire property on its own.⁶

Mine No. 4 (AL-V-A-020), one of the few extant deep mine openings in the Georges Creek Valley, was opened by the Maryland Mining Company shortly after 1835. It and other mines in the immediate area operated more or less continuously for more than a century, making Eckhart Mines a center of the

While it is possible that this building was occupied by two families, it is more likely a single family dwelling.

Of particular interest are several frame double houses located in a row built into a sloping ridge on the south side of Old Route 40. These houses (see for example #69) are four bays long and two rooms deep; each has a substantial square chimney in the center of the pitched gable roof. An original open porch extends across the north or front facade and is set back under the main roof.

At the west end of this row is a house nearly identical to the double houses but with a five bay facade. This house has an entrance door with transom in the center bay and a small secondary door without transom in the west bay. This house may originally have been a four bay double-house and has been altered or it may be a single house variation intended as a foreman's house. The secondary entrance in the west bay may suggest a specialized function for the northwest room on the first floor, such as a pay office or store, or it may be an unaltered feature from the earlier double house form.

The largest of these duplexes stands on the south side of Old Route 40 near the Eckhart cemetery (House # 60). It is a one-and-one-half story, five bay wide house covered with German siding and set on a high stone foundation. A row of five 3/1 sash windows is set close to the eaves on the north facade, while on the first floor the windows have original 6/6 sash. The two panelled doors (one in the center, the other on the north-east corner) both have three-light transoms. Square Doric posts support the front porch with horizontally panelled balustrade.

Most of the log houses built in the mid-nineteenth century in Eckhart have been extensively altered in many cases obscuring the log construction. The best preserved is house #59, a two story five bay wide house built on stone foundations. The windows on the first floor have 2/2 sash, those on the second have 6/1 sash. The porch, an early twentieth century addition, is supported by Doric columns.

Two other examples of log construction, both extensively altered, stand near the intersection of Old Route 40 and Main Street (AL-V-A-017 and AL-V-A-023). The former, also known as the Michaels House, is a one-and-one-half story three bay wide house with a one-story rear wing. Most of the original exterior features have been covered by asbestos or asphalt shingles, although the corbelled chimneys and a few of the double hung sash windows appear to date from the nineteenth century.

Beer Alley, which runs west between Main Street and Old Route 40 contains a number of late nineteenth century frame houses which are set close together on high stone foundations, giving this area of Eckhart an almost urban appearance. One of the oldest of these buildings is house # 428, a narrow two story three bay wide frame dwelling on the south side of the street. The heavy cornice returns at the east and west gable ends below a high gable roof; above each of the windows is a small molded pediment. The building, once used as a local museum, has three entrances. Another prominent building is house # 418, a two-and-one-half story frame building set on a high foundation covered with latticework. Each of the windows is topped by a small classical cornice and there is a panelled balustrade along the one story porch on the gable end facade.

By far the most common house type found in Eckhart is the two story three bay wide frame house with front porch seen throughout the Georges Creek valley. Occasionally, examples of these are found with a cross gable or with jig sawn bargeboards, but these are the exception (House # 99-102 and 129-132). Most were built in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century for employees of the Consolidation Coal Company and were usually owned by the company. Examples of such company housing which have retained much of their original appearance are found on the north side of Beer Alley (also called Porter Street), east of Main Street (Houses 330, 334, 335 and 338), and along the road which circles around the top of the hill, just south of Route 40 (Houses 306-318, 323-328 and 404-405). House #319, also on this hill, is a considerably larger house, with a wide cross gable and deep front porch supported by Ionic columns.

Two of the most architecturally significant residences in Eckhart stand in the northern half of town on the east side of Route 638. The larger of these is House #175, a two-and-one-half story frame dwelling, built on an "L" plan with several projecting dormers. The house is noteworthy for the large one story porch which runs on raised foundation piers along the west and south facades of the main block and along the west facade of the wing. The porch has a horizontally panelled balustrade, and bracketed cornice, and is supported by paired square posts with capitals and triple posts at the corners. In addition to the porch, brackets are found along the eaves of the gables and on the dormers. North of this house is another two-and-one-half story frame house on high foundations with a porch which wraps around three of its sides (#177). Lacking the bracketed cornice and double columns found on the porch of #175, the house is nonetheless unusual for the double gable roof.

The majority of old commercial buildings in Eckhart are concentrated near the intersection of Beer Alley and Main Street. The old Eckhart Theatre (#410), now used for religious purposes, is the most unusual of these. A long narrow one story building with a gable end entrance, the theatre has a segmentally arched porch on the front facade; the recessed

doorway is set in the center, under the arch Byrnes' Grocery store (AL-V-A-026) was built in 1883 but has lost much of its original integrity with the addition of asphalt "brick pattern" siding.

Of the three buildings used for religious purposes in Eckhart, the house known as "Old Ebenezer" (AL-V-A-038) is the oldest, and was built in 1842 along present route 638. Considerably altered, the church was originally thirty by forty feet and of log construction with double hung 3/1 sash windows. The church was in use until 1866 by a Methodist Episcopal congregation which moved to the present United Methodist Church (AL-V-A-016) in 1871.² That church is a one-and-one-half story five bay wide frame building with a three story tower and louvered belfry. The brick covering on the main body of the church, laid in the 1950s, has substantially altered the original appearance of this church. On the south side of Old Route 40 stands the Eckhart Baptist Church, a two-and-one-half story brick building with a crenelated roofline built in 1956 and incorporating a small portion of the original circa 1831 building.

For more than a century, the most important feature of Eckhart were the coal mines; it was around these that the town grew and from which it derived its economic livelihood. However, very little physical evidence of the extensive coal operations carried out in Eckhart is still standing. Big View #4 (AL-V-A-020) opened in 1835 approximately five hundred feet north of Old Route 40, is one of the few tangible reminders of the coal industry in Eckhart, as well as one of the few extant deep mine openings in the Georges Creek Coal region. The mine entrance is marked by an arched concrete facing with the dates "1845-1916" inscribed over the arch. Nearby are the ruins of several building foundations, probably for a blacksmith's or carpenter's shop. To the west of Mine No. 4 are the ruins of Mine No. 10, (#435) opened in the early 1900s. Adjacent to this opening are an abandoned and deteriorating coal tipple and a brick magazine (#433).

Old Consolidation Coal Company insurance maps of Eckhart show a large number of buildings connected with coal mining operations standing in the center of town. Those buildings no longer standing include a locomotive house for the trains of the Cumberland and Pennsylvania Railroad, tipples, boiler houses, a weigh office, a foreman's office, hose houses and a large fan house.

¹ Topographic Map, Allegheny County Planning and Zoning Commission, April, 1963.
² Allegheny County Land Records, Cumberland, Maryland

extremely productive mining operations carried out in the upper Georges Creek coal region.

Much of the success of the Eckhart Mines was due to the availability of efficient modes of transport for the mined coal. Cumberland, ten miles to the east on the National Road, was the destination for coal from Eckhart, from which point it was shipped to Baltimore or Washington, via the B&O Railroad or the C&O Canal. The building of the Eckhart Branch Railroad by the company in 1846⁷ greatly facilitated the transportation of coal between Eckhart Mines and Cumberland.

The town which grew up around the mines consisted of houses built by the Maryland Mining Company to house its employees. The "company town", of which Eckhart was one of the first examples in Western Maryland, was based on the mining estates found in England in which the miners were forced to lease their homes, with seldom an opportunity to buy them outright.⁸ In providing rental housing for its miners, the typical coal company gained an added measure of control over its employees, a control which became important during the ensuing periods of labor turmoil when several companies evicted striking miners from the company owned houses.

After an initial investment in housing construction costs, the coal company usually realized between ten and fifteen percent of this amount annually from the rental it charged the miners.⁹ In 1847 the stockholder's report for the Maryland Mining Company reported that twenty three dwellings had been built for the miners in addition to a store and an office.¹⁰ These buildings had cost 10,000 dollars but were expected to bring in 1000 dollars annually in rent.¹¹ The following year the company made an additional appenditure of 9000 dollars for housing from which nearly fifteen percent was expected as a yearly return.¹²

Several of the houses built by the Maryland Mining Company and its successors in the 1830s and 1840s are still standing in Eckhart (AL-VA-017, 19, 21, 22, 23 and 29) and are representative of the dwellings built during this early period. A number of building materials were used, including brick, stone and wood; they were generally simple but substantial dwellings.

A company superintendant in nearby Mount Savage described the type of housing which was probably the norm in the Georges Creek region in the 1830-1860 period: "We have generally built log cabins for our miners, they contain one room and garrett and cost from \$70-\$80. The better class of houses contain two rooms and hall and kitchen on the ground floor and two rooms upstairs. The price paid for them by contrast was \$400."¹³ Stone was used in addition to log for many of the earlier houses in Eckhart.

By the time the property of the Maryland Mining Company was sold to the Cumberland Coal and Iron Company in 1851-1852, the town of Eckhart had grown considerably. An advertisement of the trustee's sale in the Cumberland Miner's Journal of July 2, 1852 states that there were one hundred buildings of wood, brick and stone, among them seventy dwellings (the rest were shops for carpenters, blacksmiths and engineers etc.) "all new and in the best repair." The population

was listed as "7 or 8 hundred souls."¹⁴ Also sold at a loss were the two railroads owned by the Maryland Mining Company and the railroad equipment.

The Consolidation Coal Company, which acquired the Eckhart Mines in 1870, was the dominant coal operators in the Georges Creek Valley for the rest of the century. A decline in the price of coal in the 1880s led to a decision by the company to reduce wages paid to its miners at Eckhart, precipitating the Great Strike of 1882.¹⁵

Although there had been several previous instances of labor unrest at Eckhart, most notably in 1846, the 1882 strike marked the first time that the miners allied themselves with the national organization of the Knights of Labor.¹⁶ Several other mines were drawn into the strike, which demanded higher wages and recognition by Consolidation Coal Company of the Knights of Labor.

Consolidation Coal, acting in concert with the other coal companies in the region, went to great lengths to crush the strike, eventually importing German workers, many of them unskilled, who were called "scabs" or "hoodlums" by the miners.¹⁷ To house the new workers the company constructed several large barracks within a six foot high stockade. The camp, named Camp Mayer, in honor of the company's president Charles F. Mayer, was heavily guarded by a special police force hired by Consolidation Coal.¹⁸ The company also threatened the striking miners with eviction from the company owned houses.

The strike, marked by little violence, ended after six months with the miners agreeing to the coal operator's terms. It dealt a crippling blow to the Knights of Labor in Maryland and to the future of labor organizations in the coal region of Maryland.¹⁹

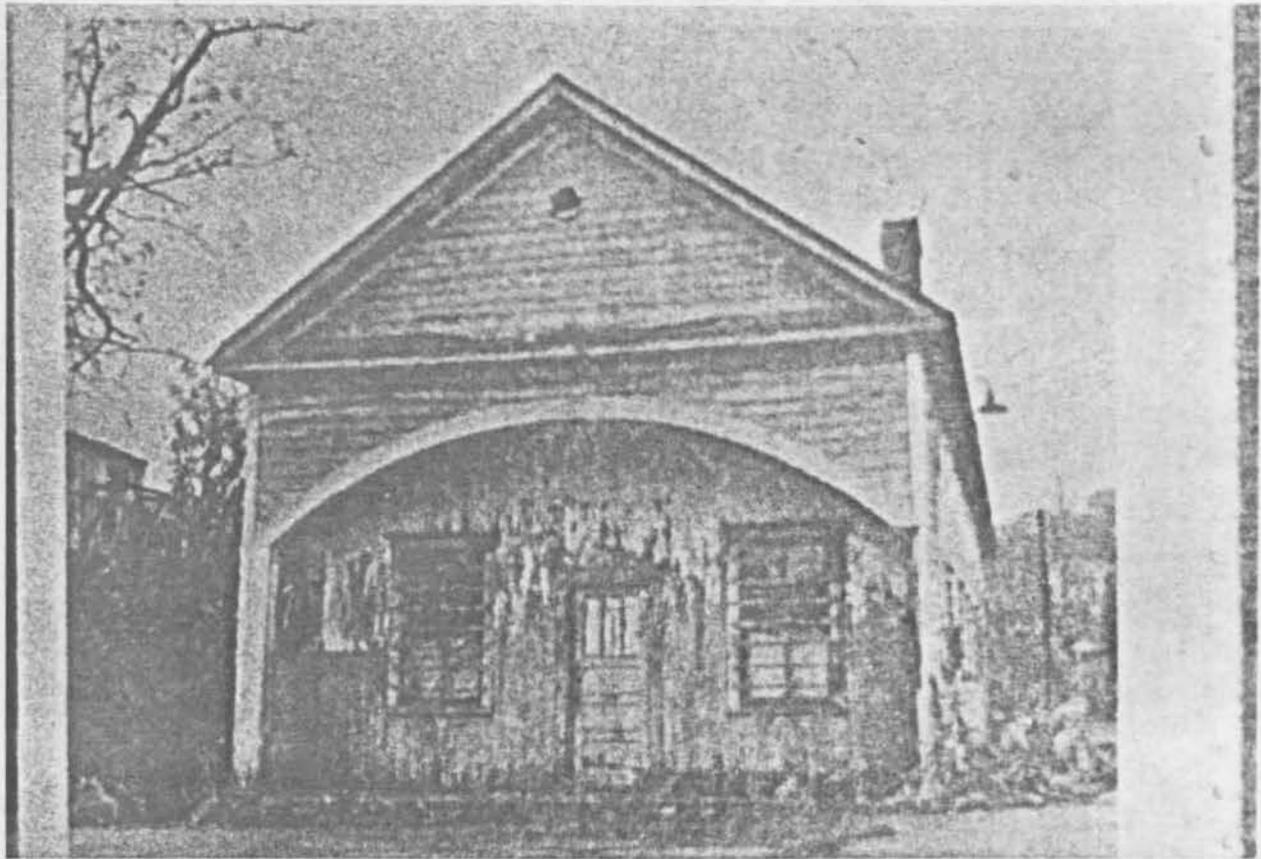
The mining of coal at Eckhart continued sporadically until the early 1950s. Two mines were in operation: Consolidation Coal Co.'s Mine No. 4 (AL-V-A-020) (the original Maryland Mining Co. opening), and Mine No. 10, a small vein mine opened in the early 1900s. The population grew to more than two thousand by 1910,²⁰ although the town was not incorporated due to the amount of land owned by the Consolidation Coal Company. While the nearby and much larger town of Frostburg drew most of the miner's business, Eckhart in 1910 had fifteen stores, three barber shops, and a meat market.²¹ It also supported a reading room, a library, two churches, a post office and a school.

The town was served by trains of the Cumberland & Pennsylvania Railroad and by the interurban line which was inaugurated in 1902 between Cumberland and Westernport.

Today, with few retail establishments and a smaller population than in 1910, Eckhart is a residential community which still contains important reminders of its years as a mining town.

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- 1 Stegmaier, Harry, et al Allegany County - A History (Mc Clain Printing Co.: Parsons, West Virginia) 1976, p. 84.
 - 2 Ibid., pps. 100-104.
 - 3 Harvey, Katherine The Best Dressed Miners - Life and Labor in the Maryland Coal Region 1835-1910 (Cornell University Press: Ithaca, New York) 1969. pps. 7-8
 - 4 Ibid., p. 7.
 - 5 Stegmaier et al, footnote no. 29, p. 147.
 - 6 "John and Mary Eckhart to Matthew St. Clair Clarke" Liber S Folio 93 1835, Allegany County Land Records, Cumberland, Maryland.
 - 7 Stegmaier, et al, pps. 141-142
 - 8 Harvey, p. 76.
 - 9 Ibid., p. 78.
 - 10 Ibid., p. 78.
 - 11 Ibid., p. 78.
 - 12 Ibid., p. 78.
 - 13 Ibid., p. 82.
 - 14 Stegmaier et al, pps. 139-140.
 - 15 Harvey, pps. 228-252.
 - 16 Ibid., p. 230.
 - 17 Unpublished Account of the "Great Strike" written by Mrs. Olive Patten contained in the vertical files; Special Collections, Frostburg State Library, Frostburg, Maryland, 1948.
 - 18 Harvey, p. 238.
 - 19 Harvey, pps. 239-240
 - 20 History of Eckhart, without author mentioned, contained in vertical files, Special Collections, Frostburg State College, Frostburg, Maryland, 1910.
 - 21 Ibid., n.p.

AL-V-A-249



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Eckhart, Md.
Copyright, 1917
Bowden Studio



Eckhart, Md.
Copyright, 07
Beween Stod

AL-V-A-249

A. FELDSTEIN



AL-V-A-249

1957

Balt. Sun



AL-V-A-249

Eckhart Mines Survey
District



AL-V-A-249

ECKHART MINES SURVEY DISTRICT



AL-V-A-249



AL-V-A-249



AL-V-A-249
Eckhart Mines Survey
District

Frame + stone house
on Old Rt. 40



AL-V-A-249

1951 Bath. Sur.



AL-V-A-249 -



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