

E.J. Robert Grocery  
AL-VI-D-202  
Route 36 Franklin  
last quarter of the 19th century

Most of the early stores in the Georges' Creek mining region were company stores which were ineffectively banned in 1868 and effectively banned 1898. Most miners preferred the less expensive independent stores which didn't offer the easy credit of the company stores.

This store, although owned by a wealthy individual connected in some ways with the coal companies, was probably an independent store which was built during the last quarter of the nineteenth century in Franklin Mines. The name on the sign "E.J. Roberts" is still discernable despite the layers of paint that cover it. It was most likely a general store with a complete line of goods; there was at least one such store in each of the small towns of the mining region. The commercial facade, a pedimented three bays wide store front, is in original condition.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC **E.J. Roberts Grocery Store**

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

**Route 36**

**Sixth**

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

**Franklin  
Maryland**

— VICINITY OF

**Allegheny**

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input 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"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME **Viola P. Patton**

Telephone #: **359-0647**

STREET & NUMBER

**Route 1**

CITY, TOWN

**Westernport**

— VICINITY OF

**Maryland 21562**

STATE, zip code

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. **Allegheny County Courthouse**

Liber #: **248**  
Folio #: **416**

STREET & NUMBER

**30 Washington Street**

CITY, TOWN

**Cumberland**

STATE  
**Maryland 21502**

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING 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 type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED    DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

E.J. Roberts Grocery stands on the eastern side of Route 36 in Franklin.

The building consists of a two story, three bays wide rectangular frame structure with weatherboard siding. It rests on a low foundation of random rubble with a plain water table. The shed roof is covered with tar paper. Eaves consists of a cornice with soffit and bedmould. On the ends of the eaves are triple scrolled brackets and between these are eight smaller brackets. Wall features include an advertising sign flush on the western facade above the second story windows. An original corbeled brick chimney and a replaced brick chimney are located on the interior.

A three bays wide original store front is pedimented with two sets of triple scrolled brackets. At the base of the store front is a pedimented railing with recessed wooden panels. The entrance, recessed in the center of the facade, includes a transom and double doors of one panel and one light each with original hardware. Pedimented large fixed one light windows are surmounted with two light transoms. Windows elsewhere pedimented one over one light sash windows with wooden lugsills.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
REHISTORIC	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The first stores in the Georges's Creek mining region were owned and operated by the coal and iron companies. (1) Although a state law of 1868 banned the company stores it was necessary for the General Assembly to reinforce the law in 1898. (2) Miners preferred dealing with independent stores whose "goods were cheaper." (3) For the most part the workers refused the easy credit offered by company stores and insisted upon dealing in cash only. (4) Each small town in the mining region had "at least one store." (5)

This grocery was built in Franklin Mines during the last quarter of the 19th century by Edwin J. Roberts. Although it has been covered with paint, the name on the sign, E.J. Roberts, is still discernable. In all probability it was a general store offering a complete and varied line of goods. The owners relates that the store went out of business in the nineteen forties. (6) The original three bays wide pedimented store front is still intact and serves as a reminder of the commercial development in the Georges' Creek area during the late nineteenth century.

(1) Katherine A. Harvey, Best Dressed Miners: Life and Labor in the Maryland Coal Region, 1835-1910 (Ithaca: Cornell University Press) p.102

(2) Ibid., p.103-105

(3) Ibid., p.103

(4) Ibid

(5) Ibid., P.84

(6) Interview Mrs. Viola P. Patton, Franklin Mines. November 1, 1978.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Harvey, Katherine A. Best Dressed Miners: Life and Labor in the Maryland Coal Region, 1835-1910. Ithaca: Corness University Press, 1969

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 109'x118'

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	COUNTY
STATE	COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE David A. Dorsey, Historic Site Coordinator

ORGANIZATION Allegany County Historic Sites DATE July 10, 1979'

STREET & NUMBER 3 Pershing Street TELEPHONE 777-5944

CITY OR TOWN Cumberland STATE Maryland 21502

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

INVENTORY NO: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: AL-VI-D-202 11-1

MODELING: Drastic, moderate, minor E J ROBERTS GROCERY closed since 40's

PROPERTY: (Patton) store

LOCATION OF PROPERTY: E side of Rt 36 Franklin

DIRECTION DWELLING FACES: West

NAME OF OWNER: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

*MAP 67 Panel 2 36 Relocate on map*  
*see Harbl Reeves*  
*TRIPLE BRACKET 5*  
*VID*  
*200*  
*Mexico HET PATON*

STORIES: 1( ) 2() 3( ) 4( ) 5( ) 6( ) BAYS: 1( ) 2( ) 3() 4( ) 5( ) 6( ) 7( ) ( )

CHANGES, ADDITIONS: on E - older bldg.

CELLING SHAPE: (square, cross, rectangular)

ALL CONSTRUCTION:

- FRAME: Bevel, clapboard, weatherboard, wood shingles, board & batten (type?)
- BRICK: Bond type - common, English, Flemish. Sketch variants.
- STONE: Bond type - rubble, ashlar (random or regular), quoins-plain, rusticated
- LOG
- OTHER: Coverings

ALL FEATURES: Belt Course, Pilasters, Others Store FRONT BRACKETED PEDIMENT (AS ABOVE)

FOUNDATIONS: High, Low, Brick, Stone recessed pedimented 1 light 1 panel cas double doors shelf - posts on corners "hand" w/ panels - one cut w/ vent holes

WATER TABLE: None, Plain, Beveled, Moulded Brick

WINDOWS, TRIM, SHUTTERS: 1/1() 2/2( ) 6/6( ) 9/6( ) 9/9( ) other( ) lugails  
pegged( ) nailed() wide( ) narrow() mitred( ) pediment()

ENTRANCE, DOORS: LOCATION: center w/ facade  
HARDWARE: original() replaced( )  
FAN LIGHT, TRANSOM, SIDE LIGHTS, PLAIN  
Paneled, Vertical, Horizontal Boards

ORNICE, BARGE, EAVES: (crown, fascia, soffit, bed) soffit Bed. MARQUI.  
original() replaced( ) rafter ends, modillions, dentils, frieze, architrave

ROOF: Gable front, Gable flank, Hip, Shed, Mansard, Gambrel, Flat, Dormers # \_\_\_\_\_

MATERIAL: wood shingles, slate, tin, asphalt; original( ) replaced( )  
*TARPAPEP*

ARCHES: SHAPE OF ROOF - shed( ) hip( ) gable( ) 3 light casement w/ pane either sides.

CHIMNEYS: Number: 2 Brick() Stone( ) Corbeled() original() replaced()  
Location: Flush end( ) Inside end( ) Outside end( ) Central( ) Interior()

DOORS: Door & Windows: Keystone, Flat, Segmental, Semicircular

REMARKS: closed in 40's once housed museum church upstairs

USE: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF INSPECTION: \_\_\_\_\_





AL-VI-D-202

E.J. ROBERTS Grocery Store

Rt 36 FRANKLIN

DAVID A. DORSEY

11 / 1 / 78

NORTHEAST