

AL-VI-B-280

Midland Survey District

Architectural Survey File

This is the architectural survey file for this MIHP record. The survey file is organized reverse-chronological (that is, with the latest material on top). It contains all MIHP inventory forms, National Register nomination forms, determinations of eligibility (DOE) forms, and accompanying documentation such as photographs and maps.

Users should be aware that additional undigitized material about this property may be found in on-site architectural reports, copies of HABS/HAER or other documentation, drawings, and the “vertical files” at the MHT Library in Crownsville. The vertical files may include newspaper clippings, field notes, draft versions of forms and architectural reports, photographs, maps, and drawings. Researchers who need a thorough understanding of this property should plan to visit the MHT Library as part of their research project; look at the MHT web site (mht.maryland.gov) for details about how to make an appointment.

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Last Updated: 12-11-2003

AL-VI-B-280

Midland Survey District
Midland
Private

1856
mid-to-late 1850's

Midland Survey District is a typical town in the Georges Creek coal region of western Maryland. The architecture of the early period of the town's development is characterized by vernacular-styled company built dwellings. Later development in Midland occurred mostly on the eastern side of the town in the Koontz Addition to Midland. Many Victorian styled dwellings located in this portion of Midland were constructed during the last quarter of the 19th century.

Midland was established in 1856 by the Midland Coal and Iron Company. This company not only provided company housing for its employees but also sold building lots to those employees who could afford to build their own homes. Although Midland was originally a company town, its growth later in the 19th century was characterized mor by private development.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

AL-VI-B-280
MAGI #0112574538
SD

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Midland Survey District

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Maryland Route 36, approximately 5 miles south of Frostburg

CITY, TOWN

Midland

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

6th

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Allegany County

3 CLASSIFICATION**CATEGORY**☒ DISTRICT
☐ BUILDING(S)
☐ STRUCTURE
☐ SITE
☐ OBJECT**OWNERSHIP**☐ PUBLIC
☒ PRIVATE
☐ BOTH**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**☐ IN PROCESS
☐ BEING CONSIDERED**STATUS**☒ OCCUPIED
☐ UNOCCUPIED
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS**ACCESSIBLE**☒ YES: RESTRICTED
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED
☐ NO**PRESENT USE**☐ AGRICULTURE
☒ COMMERCIAL
☐ EDUCATIONAL
☐ ENTERTAINMENT
☐ GOVERNMENT
☐ INDUSTRIAL
☐ MILITARY
☐ MUSEUM
☐ PARK
☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☐ RELIGIOUS
☐ SCIENTIFIC
☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Multiple ownership

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Allegany County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

30 Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Cumberland

STATE

Maryland 21502

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

AL-VI-B-043, 044, 045, 046, 047, 048, 049, 062, 065, 066, 067, 068, 069, 070, 071, 072, 073, & 074

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

AL-VI-B-380

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☒ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☒ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Midland survey district is a typical town in the Georges Creek coal region of western Maryland. Maryland Route 36 travels NE to SW through the center of the town curving SE at the southern end of the town. The Cumberland and Pennsylvania Railroad and Georges Creek parallel the highway on the western side of the town. The terrain of the survey district ranges from hilly on the eastern side of Route 36 to relatively flat west of the highway.

The architecture of the early period of the town's development is characterized by vernacular-styled company built dwellings. Among these are three log houses built circa 1856 by the C & P Railroad. The 2 story, 3 bay by 1 bay structures rest on stone foundations and have gabled roofs. An example is AL-VI-B-046 (Map #15). Several early company houses in Midland are 1½ or 2 story, 4 bay by 1 bay frame duplex buildings. These structures rest on stone foundations and have gabled roofs and shed-roofed additions added to their rear additions giving the buildings the saltbox shape common to the mining region. An example is AL-VI-B-074 (Map #58)

A number of duplex "block" houses in Midland are typical of vernacular-styled company houses of the mining region. The 2 or 2½ story frame buildings are 4 bays and 2 bays deep. They rest on stone foundations and have gabled roofs, hip-roofed porches shelter their facades. Examples are # 25, 26, and 27 on the attached map. Single family vernacular-styled dwellings in Midland are typically 2 or 2½ story, 3 bay by 1 bay frame buildings with stone foundations and gabled roofs. They are rectangular or based on the ell or tee plan. Many of these buildings have central gables. Examples are AL-VI-B-045 (Map #85), AL-VI-B-062 (Map #207) or #169 on the attached map.

Later development in Midland occurred mostly on the eastern side of the town in the Koontz Addition to Midland. Many Victorian styled dwellings located in this portion of Midland were constructed during the last quarter of the 19th century. Examples of Victorian architecture found in Midland exhibit the detail, various roof shapes, towers and dormers characteristic of several Victorian styles. The Georgian influenced Koontz Frame House (AL-VI-B-069, Map #101) is an excellently preserved frame residence. The house rests on a stone foundation and has a gabled roof with decoratively bracketed eaves. An intricately bracketed hip roofed porch shelters a central entrance flanked by sidelights and surmounted by a transom. The Hessick House (AL-VI-B-071, Map #38) and house #95 on the attached map are examples of the Queen Anne Style. The Hessick House is a 2½ story frame building based on the ell plan with an octagonal tower and an entrance set diagonally to the walls. House #95 includes the varied roof shapes, a tower, and rounded veranda popular late in the 19th. century. A more modest Victorian styled dwelling, the Young House (Map #119) is a tee-shaped frame dwelling which exhibits the gingerbread decorations and shingle-covered gabled ends common to

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
☐ PREHISTORIC	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	☐ COMMUNITY PLANNING	☐ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	☐ RELIGION
☐ 1400-1499	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	☐ CONSERVATION	☐ LAW	☐ SCIENCE
☐ 1500-1599	☐ AGRICULTURE	☐ ECONOMICS	☐ LITERATURE	☐ SCULPTURE
☐ 1600-1699	☐ ARCHITECTURE	☐ EDUCATION	☐ MILITARY	☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
☐ 1700-1799	☐ ART	☐ ENGINEERING	☐ MUSIC	☐ THEATER
☒ 1800-1899	☐ COMMERCE	☐ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	☐ PHILOSOPHY	☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ 1900-	☐ COMMUNICATIONS	☐ INDUSTRY	☐ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)
		☐ INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1856

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Midland is one of the larger towns of the Georges Creek coal region of western Maryland. Like many towns of the Georges Creek Valley south of Frostburg, Midland was established during the mid-to-late 1850's after the railroad needed to carry coal from the region was completed and new mines were opened. In 1856 the Cumberland and Pennsylvania Railroad extended its main line from Frostburg to Lonaconing through Midland. During the construction of the railroad the company built at least 3 log houses to shelter construction crews at the future site of Midland, then a relatively undeveloped area known as Koontz.

Midland was established in 1856 by the Midland Coal and Iron Company. This company not only provided company housing for its employees but also sold building lots to those employees who could afford to build their own homes. Although Midland was originally a company town, its growth later in the 19th. century was characterized more by private development.

In 1856 the Midland Coal and Iron Company, one of several coal companies operating in the vicinity, was building duplex "block" houses in Midland at a cost of about \$400. each. Rent for each half of the double houses was from \$2-\$3 monthly. By 1862 there were 22 company houses in the town.

The mostly Irish Catholic population of Midland grew rapidly during the late 19th. and early 20th. century, from 276 people in 1880 to about 2000 in the early 1920's. The period was one of great change for the town as many homes were built in the Koontz Addition, an orchard opened for development around 1880. The Georges Creek and Cumberland Railroad, built through the center of Midland in 1880 was elevated on a wooden trestle. The town supported a large number of businesses which included boarding houses, at least 26 saloons and Allegany County's smallest bank, The First National Bank of Midland, which opened its doors in 1902. At the turn of the century the miners of Midland were employed at the Midland Mining Company's Enterprise Mine and the Georges Creek Coal and Iron Company's Columbia and Pine Hill mines.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See Footnotes

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

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 Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust/Bureau of Mines

DATE

April 1982

STREET & NUMBER

21 State Circle, Shaw House

TELEPHONE

(301) 269-2438

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland 21401

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

many residences in Midland.

The commercial buildings of Midland are examples of architectural styles dating from the 1870's through the early 20th. century. The Post Office and Old Inn (AL-VI-B-070, Map #80) is a vernacular-styled, 2½ story frame building featuring a two-tiered facade porch with heavily bracketed posts. The Bowen Hotel and Store (AL-VI-B-066, Map #78), the First National Bank of Midland (AL-VI-B-072-, Map#73) and the Ort Brothers Bakery (Map #51) are examples of Italianate architecture. These buildings exhibit the flat facade, shed roof, and projecting bracketed cornice common to Italianate architecture. The brick bank building has round-headed windows on its facade.

An example of Neo-Rationalistic architecture in Midland is the Midland School (AL-VI-B-073, Map # 163). The 2½ story rectangular brick building has the symmetrical design, hipped roof and dormers common to this functional late 19th. century style. The Grace Methodist Church (AL-VI-B-049, Map #7) was originally a typical frame meeting house type structure. Additions have obscured much of the original building. The Saint Joseph's Convent and School (AL-VI-B-043 and 044, (Map #5 and 6) are frame Romanesque Revival-influenced structures. Both buildings have the steeply pitched hip roofs and symmetrical design common to this style.

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(continuation of #8 significance)

In the early 1920's mining remained the "chief occupation of the people of the town". Mines in the vicinity of Midland were operated by the Consolidation Coal Company, the Midland Mining Company and three smaller companies. The large population of the town supported other industries like the Ort Bakery, Rosenbloom's shirt factory and the Midland Electric Light Company.

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Midland Survey District

Footnotes

¹Thomas and Williams, History of Allegany County Volume I, Baltimore: Regional Publishing Co., 1969, p. 538.

²Harry Stegmaier et al, Allegany County-A History, Parsons: McClain Printing Co., 1976, page 140, and see MHT inventory, AL-VI-B-045, 046, and 047

³Katherine Harvey, The Best-Dressed Miners, Life and Labor in the Maryland Coal Region, 1835-1910. Ithica: Cornell University Press, 1969, p. 80.

⁴Ibid., pp. 83 and 175.

⁵Ibid., p. 90.

⁶Ibid., p. 80.

⁷Stegmaier et al, p. 248, Katerine Harvey, p. 84, and Thomas and Williams, p. 498.

⁸See MHT Inventory, AL-VI-B-069

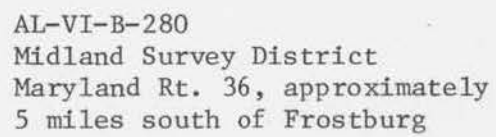
⁹Thomas Scharf, History of Western Maryland, Vol. II, Philadelphia: Louis H. Everts, 1882, p. 1430., and Stegmaier et al, p. 309.

¹⁰Stegmaier et al, pp. 250 and 361 and MHT Inventory, AL-VI-B-066, 070, and 072.

¹¹"Map of the Georges Creek Coal Basin Showing the Location of the Mining Companies and the Areal Extent of the Pittsburg ("Big Vein") and Lower Coals", Maryland Geological Survey, 1905.

¹²Thomas and Williams, p. 498.

¹³Ibid., pp. 498-499.





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Midland Survey District

Allegany Co., 8/81

David Dorsey

photo #1, looking E



AL-VI-B-280

Midland Survey District

Allegany Co., MD

David A. Dorsey 8/81

photo #2, looking west



AL-VI-B-280

Midland Survey District

Allegany Co., MD

David A. Dorsey 8/81

photo #3, looking west



AL-VI-B-280

Midland Survey District

Allegany Co., MD

David A. Dorsey 8/81

photo #4, looking north



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Midland Survey District

Allegany Co., MD

David A. Dorsey 8/81

photo 5, looking southeast



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Midland Survey District

Allegany Co., MD

David A. Dorsey 8/81

photo #6, looking west



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Midland Survey District

Allegany Co., MD

David A. Dorsey 8/81

photo #7, looking northwest



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Midland Survey District

Allegany Co., MD

David A. Dorsey 8/81

photo #8, looking west



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Midland Survey District

Allegany Co., MD

David A. Dorsey 8/81

photo #9, looking northeast



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Midland Survey District

Allegany Co., MD

David A. Dorsey 8/81

photo 10, looking southeast



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Midland Survey District

Allegany Co., MD

David A. Dorsey 8/81

photo 11, looking northeast



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Midland Survey District

Allegany Co., MD

David A. Dorsey 8/81

photo 12, looking northeast



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Midland Survey District

Allegany Co., MD 2/82

Mark Edwards, Photocopy: Art

Work of Allegany Co., 1897.