

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM**

1. Name of Property

historic name: Commodore Historic District  
other name/site number: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number: roughly bounded by Route (N/A) not for publication  
286, Vanderbilt Ave., Musser St., and Fisher Ave.  
city, town: Green Twp. (N/A) vicinity \_\_\_\_\_  
state: PA code: PA county: Indiana code: 063 zip code: 15729

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Private  
Category of Property: District

Number of Resources within Property:

<u>Contributing</u>	<u>Noncontributing</u>	
<u>94</u>	<u>17</u>	buildings
<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	sites
<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	structures
<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	objects
<u>94</u>	<u>17</u>	TOTAL

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

Name of related multiple property listing: Bituminous Coal and Coke Resources of Pennsylvania, 1740-1945.

**RECEIVED**  
MAY 31 1994  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION



**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

No Style

other: \_\_\_\_\_

Materials

foundation Concrete

roof Asphalt

walls Concrete

other Brick

Describe present and historic appearance:

see continuation sheet

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

Nationally     Statewide     Locally

Applicable National Register Criteria: A and C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): \_\_\_\_\_

Areas of Significance: Industry

Community planning and development

Architecture

Period(s) of Significance: 1919-1943

Significant Dates: 1919

Years of Alterations: \_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Gill, Paul

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References See continuation sheetPrevious documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other - Specify Repository: \_\_\_\_\_

10. Geographical DataAcreage of property: 36

## UTM References:

	<u>Zone</u>	<u>Easting</u>	<u>Northing</u>		<u>Zone</u>	<u>Easting</u>	<u>Northing</u>
A	17	673340	4508460	B	17	673640	4509280
C	17	673960	4508700	D	17	673620	4508480

 see continuation sheetVerbal Boundary Description see continuation sheetBoundary Justification see continuation sheet11. Form Prepared Byname/title R. Ann Safleyorganization PHMC/BHPdate May 26, 1994street & number 319 Washington St., Ste. 370 tel. (814) 539-2016city or town Johnstown state PA zip 15901

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The Commodore Historic District is located in the northeast section of Indiana County in Green Township. This region, formerly known as Pleasant Valley, is characterized by steep valley slopes and narrow channeled streams. The layout of the town conforms to the topography of the area and is roughly triangular with legs extending to the north and southwest along the main streets of the community. These streets, the spine of the town, run north-south parallel to and below State Route 286. The grid that forms the rest of the town extends east from this spine. The town lies largely within a fork where a north-south intermittent stream meets the North Branch of Two Lick Creek on land that gently rises from the creek bed. The mine site was located along this creek on the southern edge of the town.

The Commodore Historic District encompasses most of the town laid out and constructed in 1919-20 by the Clearfield Bituminous Coal Corporation (CBC). It contains 94 contributing and 17 noncontributing buildings. Primarily residential and vernacular in character, the historic district includes the former company store, bank building, doctor's office, school, and machine shop. The workers' housing, of uniform appearance, lot size, setback, and landscaping, convey the image of a typical coal patch. The extant houses are detached concrete block or brick buildings. Most of the buildings associated with the mining operations do not survive. The majority of the buildings in the historic district retain a high degree of integrity with only minor alterations which do not spoil their original appearance. The integrity of setting, location, feeling, and association is excellent, evoking the district's historic function as a coal mining community of the early twentieth century.

The Commodore Historic District is unusual compared to the majority of coal patch communities. Like most patches, Commodore features typical uniformly constructed miners' housing, but the material used is not typical. Most of the company built miner's houses are constructed of concrete block. These solid tan colored blocks were made on site from local materials. Eighteen houses not constructed of concrete were built of brick and six of wood. According to "Coal and Coke Resources of Pennsylvania, 1740-1945," by Carmen DiCiccio, only about five per cent of all bituminous coal patch communities in Pennsylvania were constructed of material other than wood (Section E, p. 152). Of the five percent, brick and stone are more common than concrete.

The miners' housing is concentrated along Vanderbilt, Herriman, and Fisher Avenues with a long row along Douglas Street extending north of town. Most of the housing is light timber framing with

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concrete block exterior walls and plastered interior walls. All housing included electricity and plumbing as well mechanical toilets on the back porch. The toilets were later found to be inadequate and changed to water toilets.

The spine of the town is made up of Hinterleitner, Smith, and Douglas Streets. Approaching the district from the southwest onto Hinterleitner Avenue, a group of six houses stand, facing southeast, to the northwest of the road. These asphalt shingled, wood frame, two story buildings sit toward the back of their lots, with long narrow front yards. Originally, Hinterleitner ran northwest of these houses so that the front doors faced northwest directly onto the street with long narrow back yards. The necessary alterations to the exterior that this reorientation required was minimal since the houses had both front and back doors and porches. They all have two bays with porches, and front gable roofs. The two houses at the south end have vinyl siding while the other four retain the old asphalt shingles. A barn stood on the property of the southernmost house but has been demolished. Called "Cowntown," this group is separated from the main portion of town by vacant overgrown land that has never been developed. On the east side of Hinterleitner, outside the historic district, lies more open land that once served as part of the mining operation and railroad lines and contains a recreation field.

There are three north-south streets in the district, Douglas, Smith, and Musser. Hinterleitner connects with the south end of Douglas and Smith Streets. At the south end of Smith Street stands a wood frame house which has been altered by vinyl siding and minor additions but retains the overall scale and massing of the other miners' houses. Next to this house stood an early independently owned store that predated the coal operations. On the west side of Smith Street toward the center of town is one of the old farm houses constructed before the coal company developed the area. This wood frame building has two stories, a cross gable roof, three bays, with a full width front porch.

Extending east from Smith Street along Vanderbilt Avenue are eighteen brick detached houses. All are front gable, two bay buildings with six rooms and front porches. The windows are segmentally arched. Some of the porches have been altered but many retain the shed roof above doors and windows. These houses are closest to the mine site, immediately to the south, and were occupied by the mine foremen. Number 1 Vanderbilt Avenue contains the post office on the first floor and an apartment on the second. This house has a new brick rear

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addition and new brick facade. At the west end of Vanderbilt Avenue stands three concrete block detached houses of the same configuration, size, and massing as the brick houses. Within the historic district, the houses on Herriman, Musser, Fisher, and Douglas are all detached concrete block construction. Most of these houses have front gable roofs although there are a few hip roofs at the west end of Herriman and along Fisher. The concrete block houses, like those at the end of Vanderbilt, are two bay with six rooms and front porches. The window treatment is simple, unlike the brick houses.

At the South end of Douglas Street, referred to as Douglas Extension, at the intersection of Douglas and Smith Streets, stand three large detached houses constructed of concrete block with three bays and hipped roofs. These were the bosses' houses. Douglas Street north of Smith Street contains a long line of miners' houses. Fourteen houses stand on the west side of the street with the line of houses continuing on the east side. A new housing development occupies the land on the west side of Douglas just north of the miner's houses and outside of the historic district. This area was known as Frog Hollow. On Olive Street, behind the doctor's house, stands the only semi-detached house in the town. This concrete block house is six bays across with a hip roof. Another identical semi-detached house stood next to this but has been demolished.

Although the concrete block and brick houses dominate the historic district, there are two houses that predate the company town. Both are on Smith Street. One was already mentioned above. The other stands across from the school at the intersection of Herriman and Smith. This two story, wood, side gabled, three bay house sits back from the street on a large lot. Outside of the historic district at the north end of Musser Street are several wood frame houses. These were privately constructed at later dates. A large gap separates this line of frame houses from the company built concrete housing.

A brick church with a bell tower and lancet windows once stood at the corner of Herriman and Musser Streets. This building was constructed in 1924 and demolished in 1976. Soon after this the Commodore Volunteer Fire Department erected a new building next to the site of the old church, using the church property as a parking area.

The intersection of Smith Street and Vanderbilt Avenue is the heart of the community. On the east side of Smith Street stands the former company store and bank which anchors two corners of

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this intersection. These two buildings, along with the doctor's office next to the former bank, create the small commercial area of Commodore.

Like most of the housing in Commodore, the company constructed the store of concrete blocks. The facade of the two story building is four bays across topped with a wood parapet. Ten windows are symmetrically spaced across the second floor facade, each a double hung one over one sash with a square transom above, divided into four lights. The first floor originally contained a display window within each end bay. The center bays were divided by a recessed entrance door with the display windows canted in toward the door. Transoms similar to those on the second floor topped the display windows on the first floor. Later, these transoms were replaced with prism glass. Today, the display windows have been bricked up and the transoms replaced with fixed windows. The front steps which once extended across the entire facade are now enclosed by a brick wall filled in with shrubs on the left side of the entrance and a war memorial with more shrubs on the right side. In spite of the loss of some detail, these alterations do not detract from the overall integrity of the building.

To the south, across Vanderbilt Avenue from the store, stands the former bank building. This two story, three bay, wood frame building sits on a concrete block foundation. Originally, two thirds of the central portion of the facade was slightly recessed. The two outer bays contained narrow double hung sash windows. This building today accommodates a bar and is sheathed in brick. Because the general massing and fenestration of the building remains, the integrity of the former bank building is still good and still conveys the impression of a building of the early twentieth century.

Next to the former bank on Smith Street stands what was once the company doctor's office and house. The two story concrete block house is three bays across with a hip roof and full width porch. Attached to the right of the house and slightly projecting toward the street is the one story, flat roof, two bay doctor's office. This concrete block building now houses a pizza shop. A hood consisting of a shed roof supported by knee braces covers the front entrance.

The school on Herriman Avenue sits back from and somewhat above the street. A stone retaining wall capped with vertically laid stones separates the school from the street. The building itself is vernacular with some Renaissance Revival details such as the



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tripartite blind arched windows and balconies at the projecting end bays. The two story, four bay school is constructed of brick with stucco covering the elevated first floor and second floor. Exposed brick details the base and water table of the building as well as the segmentally arched doors at the end bays, the balconies above the doors, the window sills and lintels, the arched tripartite blind windows and the corbelled cornice. The two center bays each contain four twenty-four light windows on each floor.

Constructed around 1921, the school was enlarged later with a brick addition. Recessed considerably from the original block, this extension matches the old school at the water table and cornice as well as having an elevated first floor. It is not stuccoed and has little decorative treatment. Four metal, twenty light windows are evenly spaced across each floor of the addition with smaller nine light windows in the bay closest to the original building. The small window on the second floor exhibits the only ornamentation in the addition, an arch containing diamond shaped tiles. A 5 bay gray cast stone school bus garage is located on the school lot near Musser Street. This school replaced the one-room Pleasant Valley schoolhouse which was built in 1873.

The old machine shop sits back on the former mining property at the end of Vanderbilt Avenue. This brick building once contained multi-pane metal windows. These have been replaced by corrugated metal, retaining the overall rhythm of the fenestration pattern. On the same tax parcel is a new building which stands on the site of the company bath house. The land south and east of this once contained the tipple, power substation, car garage, and tracks associated with the mining operation. To the west of the former machine shop stood the bath house and mine opening. South, across the north branch of Two Lick Creek, lie the Conrail tracks, formerly the New York Central Branch that transported the coal from the area.

The Commodore Historic District has a few noncontributing resources which do not significantly detract from its overall integrity. The majority of these are trailers moved onto lots once occupied by the typical miner's house or lots that had never been developed. These are mostly concentrated between Herriman and Vanderbilt Avenues. Other noncontributing resources are houses that have been highly altered such as one on Herriman that is now a garage or the house that was turned into a garage then abandoned and now in ruins. Another altered house is located at 130 Douglas Street. The original house is completely obscured in

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front by modern construction. Many of the houses remain minimally altered, having only received a coat of paint or siding. This has served to break up the monotony of the uniform rows. The noncontributing resources are scattered and do not disturb the integrity of the historic district.

The Commodore Historic District retains the typical physical features that identify it as a coal mining community: remarkably similar housing in terms of form and material, clear hierarchy of architecture that separates management, labor, and occupation, housing tending to be two-story detached or semi-detached with four to six rooms, and proximity to extraction operations (Mulrooney: 1). At the same time, the historic district exhibits an unusual feature, concrete block construction which, in terms of the number of buildings and integrity, makes it stand out from other coal mining communities. Other CBC towns in Indiana County, such as Barr Slope and Sample Run, also contain concrete block housing similar to Commodore's. These towns were smaller and have experienced more intrusions, alterations, and loss of resources and therefore do not retain the cohesiveness found in Commodore. The overall integrity of the Commodore Historic District is excellent in terms of feeling, location, setting, association, workmanship, and materials in spite of minor alterations and scattered intrusions.

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The Commodore Historic District is significant under Criteria A and C in the areas of industry, community planning and development, and architecture. It is a member of the Mining Communities property type as described in the "Bituminous Coal and Coke Resources of Pennsylvania" multiple property listing. Commodore reflects many characteristics of a typical planned bituminous coal mining community in Pennsylvania; uniform housing and lot size, company ownership of the land and buildings, and paternalism as typically practiced in industries in the early 20th century. At the same time the housing exhibits the use of atypical building material, concrete block, and some influence of the industrial housing reform movement of the early 20th century, such as the installation of toilettes, indoor plumbing, and a village-wide sewage system. The district was built by the Clearfield Bituminous Coal Corporation (CBC) in 1919. Unlike many coal facilities in western Pennsylvania that sold coal on the commercial market, the mine provided coal for the exclusive use in the locomotives of the New York Central Railroad, the parent company of CBC.

The area was originally called Pleasant Valley. It consisting of a number of farm houses and a small lumbering business. Coal mining dates back to the early 1800s in Indiana County but was confined to small scale operations in the southern part of the county which utilized transportation routes that were not developed in the northern part until the late 1800s. These early transportation routes included the Pennsylvania Mainline Canal, the key to opening this region of Indiana County to coal production. It was not until the late nineteenth century that several railroads began to expand into the northern region of the county to take advantage of the rich coal deposits. Two of the largest coal producers in Indiana County, the Buffalo, Rochester, and Pittsburgh Railroad and the New York Central Railroad, were railroad companies that mined what is called captive coal: coal not sold on the open market but used only by the companies. Many of the mines in Indiana County were captive mines, primarily for railroads and steel mills.

The Clearfield Bituminous Coal Corporation had its roots in the northern Pennsylvania coal fields in Lycoming County. Chartered in 1860 as the McIntyre Coal Company, the company mined coal there for about 20 years until the coal was exhausted. The President, C.J. Langdon, in association with the Vanderbilts of New York, formed the Clearfield Bituminous Coal Company in 1882 for the purpose of "mining and selling coal, iron ore, fire clay,

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~~and other minerals, and the manufacturing and selling of coke~~  
made from bituminous coal." (Musser) The company started acquiring coal properties in Clearfield and Centre Counties and established several mines. In order to transport the coal, the New York Central began surveying the Beech Creek Railroad which would run from Jersey Shore to Clearfield. Strong opposition from the Pennsylvania Railroad resulted in the survey and partial construction of a New York Central line between Harrisburg and Pittsburgh. After successful negotiations with the Pennsylvania Railroad, the New York Central continued the Beech Creek Railroad. In 1894, a line to Cherry Tree in northeastern Indiana County was being surveyed. With the threat of the New York Central Railroad approaching what was considered Pennsylvania Railroad territory, the two railroad companies, in 1903, agreed to build a railroad together and share the right-of-way. The New York Central extended their line from Burnside to Cherry Tree. This new railroad line, called the Cherry Tree & Dixon Railroad, was completed in 1904 and ran from Cherry Tree to Fleming Summit (Green Township), Purchase Line, Lovejoy, Shanktown, and Possum Glory Junction.

In 1886, the Clearfield Bituminous Coal Company became the Clearfield Bituminous Coal Corporation and continued acquiring coal lands and railroad lines in central Pennsylvania. In 1898, the CBC officially became a subsidiary of the New York Central Railroad and ceased its commercial coal business, mining the coal for New York Central Railroad fuel only. In 1900, the CBC started acquiring property in northern and central Indiana County, constructing the mines and associated company towns of Rossiter in 1900, Barr Slope in 1906, and Sample Run in ca. 1910. Clymer, located between Barr Slope and Sample Run, was constructed by the CBC in association with other coal operators. By 1916, the CBC had acquired 161,293 acres in Cambria and Indiana Counties (Douglas 1922, 28) and in 1919, the CBC's Indiana County mines provided almost three-fourths of the company's coal supply (Cooper, 1-13-79). Because so much of their coal holdings had shifted to the Indiana County region from Clearfield County, the CBC moved their offices from Peale, in Clearfield County, to Indiana Borough.

The development of Commodore began in the fall of 1919 with the opening of the mine. When the CBC built Commodore, they considered it their "model" town. It was situated on the Cherry Tree and Dixonville Railroad. Commodore boasted water and sewage systems, indoor plumbing and electricity and the mines included a modern steel tippie, machine shop, bath house, and power

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~~substation. It also boasted a bank, school, and public garage.~~

The mine utilized up-to-date equipment and produced 1000 tons of coal per day by 1922. The town was named after Commodore Cornelius Vanderbilt (1794-1877), the founder of the New York Central Railroad, and the streets were all named after officers of the company. F.E. Herriman was President, John Fisher was Vice President, H.B. Douglas was Assistant to the President, A.J. Musser was General Manager, and H.J. Hinterleitner was General Superintendent.

The town was laid out by Paul Gill, one of the company's engineers. By 1921 there were 100 houses completed. The buff colored solid concrete blocks used as construction material were made on site and mass produced using wooden forms. The blocks were patented by an Indiana contractor named John Klinglesmith. The wood used for the framing came from the CBC planing mill in Clymer. Although each house was provided with a chemical toilet, in 1924 these was replaced by a town sewage system and flush toilets placed on the back porch of each house.

The care and attention employed in the development of Commodore reflected, to a certain extent, the concerns and ideas advanced during the Progressive Era of the late 19th and early 20th century. The unhealthy conditions found in the tenements of overcrowded cities during the turn of the century caused great concern among civic leaders and some citizens. The social and cultural reforms advocated by the progressives called for the replacement of unsanitary living conditions with model dwellings (Mulrooney: 19). In 1917, architect Leslie Allen outlined some minimum requirements for industrial housing:

watertight construction; a bedroom for parents;  
separate bedrooms for male and female children; a  
living room for cooking, eating and general day use; a  
private toilet room with a sanitary water closet and  
sewer connections; suitable heating arrangements;  
running water supply fit for drinking; uninterrupted  
daylight and ventilation through windows in every room;  
and a sink in the kitchen with running water and waste.  
(Mulrooney: 23)

Although many "model" towns were constructed during the first two decades of the 20th century, they were still a novelty in the 1920s and the construction of Commodore created considerable excitement in the local newspapers: "In the near future Commodore will be known to everyone. The daily question -- 'Where

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~~is Commodore? -- will go into oblivion, and Commodore will be on the map, a real up-to-date coal town in a fine neighborhood." (Stephenson: III, 417.)~~

Newspaper accounts tended to be glowing and were obviously placed by the company to convey the idea that the town was constructed with what were humanitarian ideals. In reality, Commodore differed little in design, concept, style, management practice, or production systems from other coal patches. Individual pieces of the story--the toilets, electricity etc. were a reflection of introducing practices into Commodore that were already incorporated into most American homes. The fact that few of these services were not provided in other patches reflects their earlier construction and backwards ways, not "exceptional" or "model" benevolence on the part of Commodore's owners.

Still, the sewage treatment system and waterworks in Commodore were particularly uncommon in coal patches for the time. In 1923, the Coal Commission, formed by President Harding and Congress and better known as the Harding Commission, studied 713 company owned coal communities in the bituminous coal fields of Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Ohio. They found that fewer than 14 percent of the 71,000 dwellings had indoor running water, bath tubs and showers were found in 2.4 percent of all dwellings, and flush toilets in three percent (DiCiccio: 157). As the company's engineer, Paul Gill helped design the system which was "only the third of its kind in the state" (Cooper: 1/13/79). The six houses along Hinterleitner Street south of town were built for those families who wanted to keep cows. It was common in coal communities for miners to keep livestock but this was restricted in Commodore. These frame houses were located near the sewage treatment plant and separate from the town in order to maintain the clean image of the town.

Although Commodore was atypical in certain respects, in others it fit the description of most coal company towns. The study of coal communities in south central Pennsylvania by Margaret Mulrooney identified five characteristics common to most Pennsylvania coal towns: they were financed, built, owned and operated by one company; house construction was economical and similar in style and material; houses were located near the mine; they tended to be two story frame buildings and semi-detached with 4-6 rooms; a clear architectural hierarchy separated management housing from labor housing. (Mulrooney: 1). Companies not only built housing but also a company store and often a school. As a CBC official explained: "All this is not

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~~merely altruism, it is predicated on sound economics. Given a~~  
town attractively laid out; furnished with comfortable houses;  
provided with educational, religious and recreational facilities,  
and you are sure to find contented dwellers therein." (Douglas:  
29). Company towns were built to attract workers, control labor  
unrest through the threat of eviction from company housing, and  
gain revenue from sales at the company store and house rents in  
addition to mine or factory production.

Many of these characteristics are evident in Commodore. Although  
the majority of the housing is detached, in contrast to the semi-  
detached found in most patch communities, and has the atypical  
concrete block construction and sewage and water systems, this  
did not mask the uniformity of the miners' housing, so typical of  
coal towns. The houses are all two story, two bay, with six  
rooms. The housing for management and labor was clearly defined;  
the superintendents occupied three large concrete block houses  
near the company store, the foremen were housed in brick  
buildings close to the mining site, while the miners occupied the  
concrete block houses.

The company store was an important aspect of a company town. It  
symbolized the "paternalism" practiced by most coal companies.  
Commodore's Clearfield Supply Store was completed in 1924 by the  
CBC. It is located at the center of town and provided the miners  
and their families with basic needs, from food to furniture,  
mining supplies to clothes. Prices were usually inflated at  
company stores and miners were compelled to trade there,  
otherwise they risked the loss of their jobs or were assigned  
more dangerous jobs. The use of scrip and credit at company  
stores promoted debt that most miners could not surmount.

Coal companies often displayed benevolence by donating land for  
the construction of churches or building schools. When the old  
Pleasant Valley School House became overcrowded, the CBC built a  
new school in 1922 which it later enlarged. The company also  
helped the community build the New People's Bank in 1921 and a  
church in 1924. The medical needs of the miners and their  
families were provided by the company's doctor, Dr. Edward Hughs,  
whose salary was taken from the miners' paychecks. Dr. Hughs'  
wife, Lena, also made considerable contributions to the medical  
welfare of the community. As a midwife, she delivered over 200  
babies in Commodore. (Cooper: 2/10/79).

The residents of Commodore were, locally, more mobile than  
residents in many coal communities. A variety of transportation  
systems were accessible to them. Besides the streetcar stop in  
Clymer, only

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six miles away (which people walked to) some residents owned cars and were able to visit nearby Barr Slope, Clymer, and Sample Run. The company built a garage which stood across from the old farm house just south of the doctor's office. Many residents attended churches in these other communities and shopped at the company store in Clymer.

The first miners to be hired by the CBC to work in the Commodore mines were skilled American, English, and Scottish miners. Because Commodore developed after the main influx of immigrants before and during World War I, eastern Europeans were hired from older mining towns and had already become "Americanized citizens" (Stephenson: III, 416) who had socially adapted to American customs. Many mining communities developed ethnic enclaves as immigrant groups arrived in large numbers during the first decade of the 20th century. There is no evidence of this in Commodore.

The fact that Commodore was a captive mine to a transportation utility leavened both the hardships of Depression era economic life and the success of high demand, by the New York Central Railroad, for coal during world War Two. Nevertheless, significant trip reductions in the 1930s and increases in the 1940s by trains supplying trade and passenger service along the New York Central's lines occurred. Concomitantly a broad fall and rise in mining activity occurred in Commodore.

The general decline of the coal industry and the labor/management problems during the 1920s took its toll on Commodore when the Jacksonville Interstate Joint Agreement of 1924 expired on April 1, 1927. This agreement maintained the high labor wage scale of \$7.50 per day that was established in 1920. Many coal operators, not able to compete with non-union wages, broke this agreement long before its expiration. There were a few who did honor it. Frank E. Herriman, President of the Clearfield Bituminous Coal Corporation, was one who believed that the agreement was "legally and morally binding." (DiCiccio: 305). After that date, the company sought wage reductions and refused to recognize the union. The UMWA called for a general strike in 1927. Commodore miners participated. The CBC brought in strikebreakers and the Coal and Iron Police. Many coal companies hired their own police force known as the Coal and Iron Police. They performed a variety of duties including providing security for company property, evicting striking miners from company owned houses, and protecting the strike-breakers. When the Commodore mine became nonunion, many of the miners eventually went back to work,



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The other CBC company towns in Indiana County do not compare favorably to the Commodore Historic District. Rossiter, the first CBC town built in the county has experienced many changes over time. A majority of the houses are semi-detached and have undergone serious alterations. The commercial area, larger than Commodore's, retains little cohesiveness. Barr Slope and Sample Run are very small patch communities that contain housing similar to Commodore's. But these patches do not project the same feeling and association found in Commodore due to their smaller size. The comparison of the CBC company towns sets Commodore apart as a truly "model town" where some of the ideals of the Progressive Era have been implemented while maintaining the physical uniformity and social restrictions typical of coal mining communities.

