

Robertsdale East Broad Top Railroad Depot
Main Street
Robertsdale
Huntingdon County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-5556

HABS
PA,
31-RODA,
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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

Robertsdale East Broad Top Railroad Depot

HABS No. PA-5556

Location: Main Street, Robertsdale, Huntingdon County, Pa.

History and Description: According to historic photographs, the original Robertsdale railroad depot was a small, wood structure with board-and-batten siding that sat on the east side of Main Street between the company store and the railroad tracks. Nothing else is known about this early structure. Its successor and the extant railroad depot was erected around 1917, when the company built its office and the post office. The one-story, concrete-block depot was built across the street and on the north side of the railroad tracks from the site of the original depot. Oddly enough, neither structure was mentioned in tax records, but the later station appears on the Interstate Commerce Commission's 1917 valuation map of the East Broad Top Railroad, as well as on the 1926 map of the village of Robertsdale. A blueprint dated 1917, from the archives of the East Broad Top Railroad, indicates that a concrete-block station was also proposed for Woodvale. Whether or not this structure was ever built remains a matter of conjecture, however, as it cannot be positively identified from existing maps and aerial photographs.

Project Information and Sources: This report was part of a larger project to document the Rockhill Iron and Coal Company towns of Robertsdale and Woodvale in Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania. The project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record (HABS/HAER), Robert Kapsch, chief, at the request of America's Industrial Heritage Project (AIHP). For an overview history of the towns that provides the significance and context for this building as well as a comprehensive list of sources see HABS Nos. PA-5553, PA-5484, and PA-5485. See also additional HABS reports on buildings in each town.

Project historian Lola Bennett completed the research and writing for this project during summer 1989 under the direction of Alison K. Hoagland, senior HABS historian. Bennett's work was published as The Company Towns of the Rockhill Iron and Coal Company: Robertsdale and Woodvale, Pennsylvania (Washington, D.C.: HABS/HAER, National Park Service, 1990). Illustrations in the publication include 35mm photographs taken by Bennett; large-format photographs taken by HAER photographer Jet Lowe; and historic photographs from the collections of Thomas L. Matthews, Kenneth Morgan, Ron Morgan, and the Huntingdon County Historical Society. The publication was compiled and edited by HABS historians Kim E. Wallace and Sara Amy Leach. Contemporary 35mm and historic photographs used in the publication as well as other miscellaneous research materials were transmitted to the AIHP collection at Stapleton Library, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Indiana, Pa.