**Haydenville, Ohio**

Renowned as “The Last Company Owned Town in Ohio”, the community of Haydenville remains steeped in history not only through the rows of company houses that are still occupied, but also through the residents that perpetuate the legacy of the community as it once was.

Located in the Hocking Valley of Southeast Ohio, Haydenville was founded in 1852 by Columbus industrialist Peter Hayden as a place where workers and their families could live, work, play and worship together as a community. While the town’s physical appearance has not changed much over the years, that social foundation has shifted into a more quiet and guarded dynamic, with current residents often not socializing beyond their sections of town. Yet, within these self-constructed social groups, the community members have made Haydenville home.

In 1973, Haydenville was listed on the National Register of Historic Places, allowing the town to permanently serve as a testament to its prideful, industrial past. However, with only four businesses in town and the need to go elsewhere for essential materials as well as jobs, Haydenville’s uncertain economic present raises concerns for the future.

While Haydenville’s appointment on the National Register of Historic Places in 1973 served as a testament to its prideful, industrious past, its uncertain economic present raises concerns for the future.

While only about 141 families live in Haydenville today,

Haydenville is home.

lifelong residents, younger families, and newcomers often staying in their separate groups.

This project documents aspects of daily life within Haydenville that can only be uncovered through time spent there.

While the social cohesion may have faded when the plants closed in 1964 and the town was consequently sold back to its individual residents, there are still groups within the community today that revived that sense of fellowship. Driving through town on Old Route 33, one is likely to see a group of boys playing football together on the church lawn or several people chatting outside of Mel and Kim’s Carryout, one of only two locally owned businesses in town.

However,

However, as with many communities, where there is trust and affability, there is also wariness and suspicion.

But at the end of the day, Haydenville is home.

Whether a group of boys playing football together on the church lawn or several people chatting outside of Mel and Kim’s Carryout, one of only two locally owned businesses in town.

some housing lifelong residents and others full of young families, newcomers, or transients.

Only about 125 families live in Haydenville today and most of them do not work there.

There is some new industry: a lumber yard, a sand and gravel company and two small stores.

Haydenville serves as a testimonial to its industrial past.

According to lifelong residents, like Delbert Smith and Larry Horn, Haydenville was a place where you didn’t have to worry about locking your doors.

In the town of Haydenville, Ohio, history

As Katherine Vullmer, a Haydenville resident since 1951, describes it, “Haydenville is home.”

What plays a strong role in their lives? Family

Why do people live there? History, family or the economic advantages

How do they view the community? They tend to stick to who they know.

A company town is a geographical location where a company establishes an economic activity and provides housing for its workers.