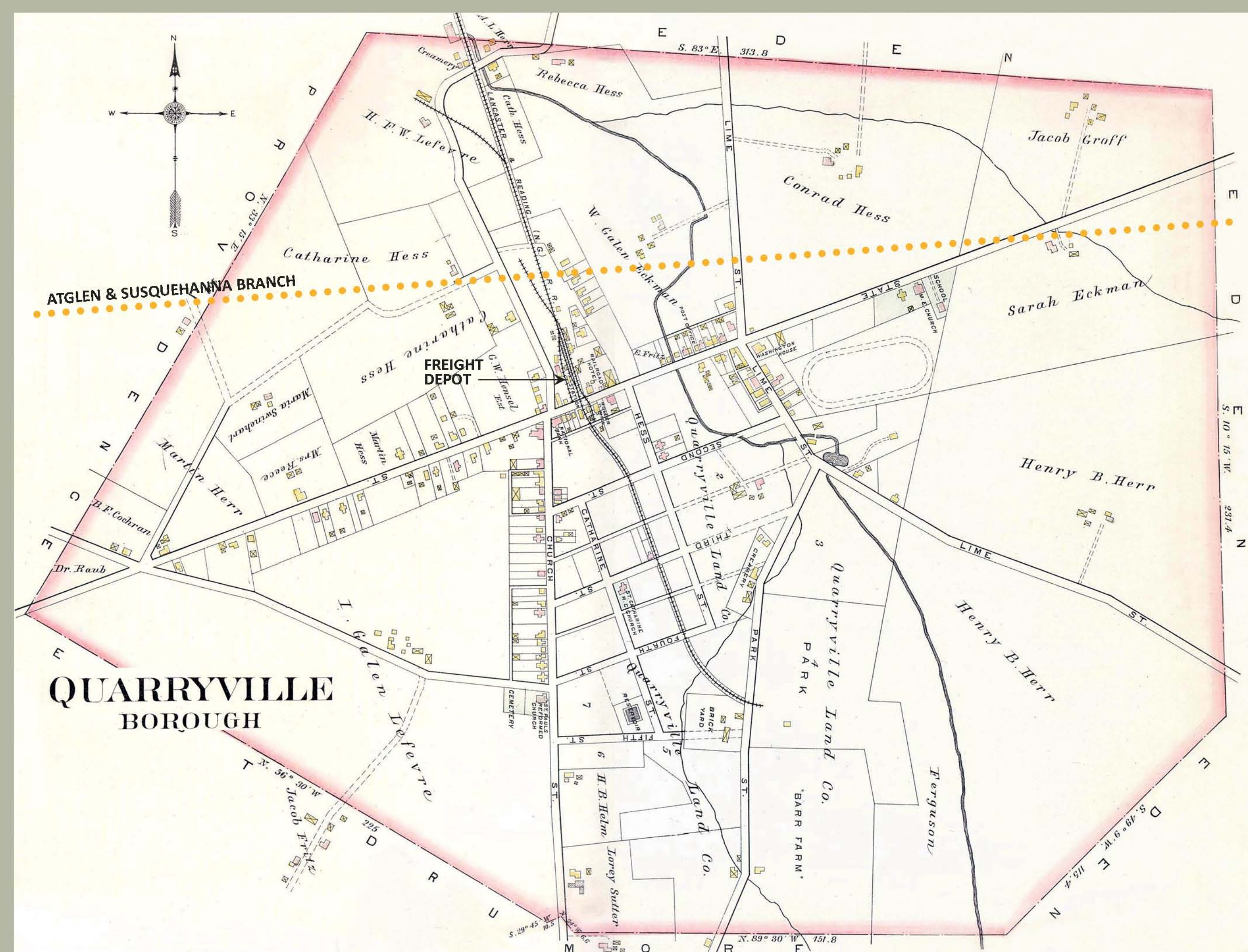


Coming Full Circle

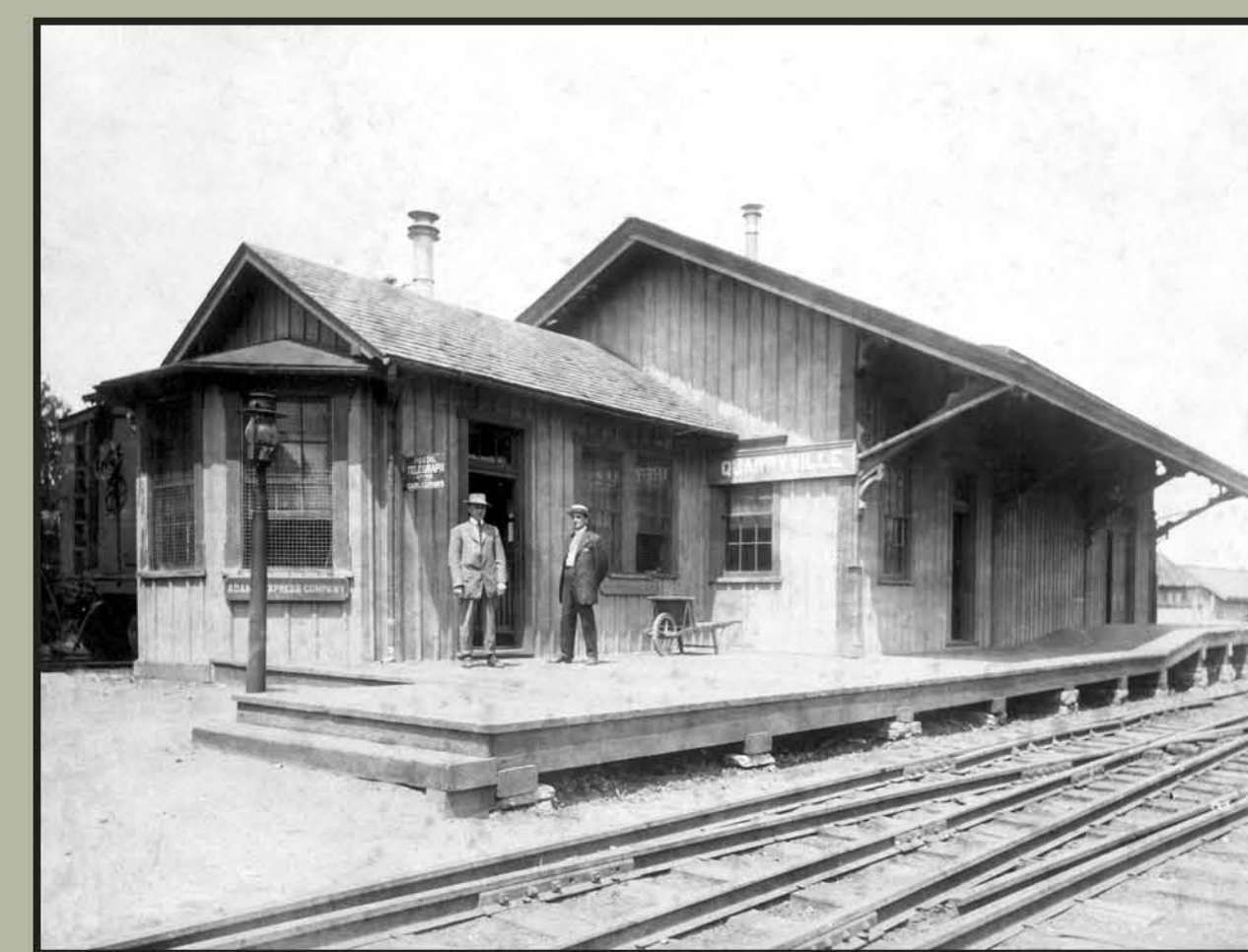
The Atglen & Susquehanna in the Borough of Quarryville



Southern Lancaster County Historical Society, Quarryville, PA.



Lancaster County Atlas, 1899



Personal collection of Walter Minnich, Jr., Quarryville, PA.



Personal collection of William L. Seigford, Mount Joy, PA.

Conceived and constructed as a dedicated through-freight route, the PRR never intended for the A&S to serve local freight customers. When Lottie Hess and her buggy posed at the Church Street bridge c.1906 (upper right image), the rural citizens of Lancaster County had no precedent for recognizing the distinction between a through-freight line and existing county rail routes, which served passengers alongside local businesses in small agricultural communities. A&S freight trains sped high above Quarryville on their own elevated road.

With the town being conveniently located near the mid-point of the eastern half of the route, heavy equipment and materials for construction of the A&S were transported via an existing rail connection (image below) to Lancaster. The flurry of A&S construction (1903-1906) proved itself to be just that, compared to the lifespan of Quarryville.

After Tropical Storm Agnes (1972), the Penn Central (successor to the PRR) announced that it would not repair the branch to Lancaster, leaving Quarryville's bulk agricultural businesses without freight service. The Quarryville Area Shippers Association formed, raised private funds and successfully collaborated with the Penn Central to construct a branch connection from the A&S, which opened on November 15, 1973 (center right image). The connection was active until its 1982 abandonment by Conrail (Penn Central's successor).



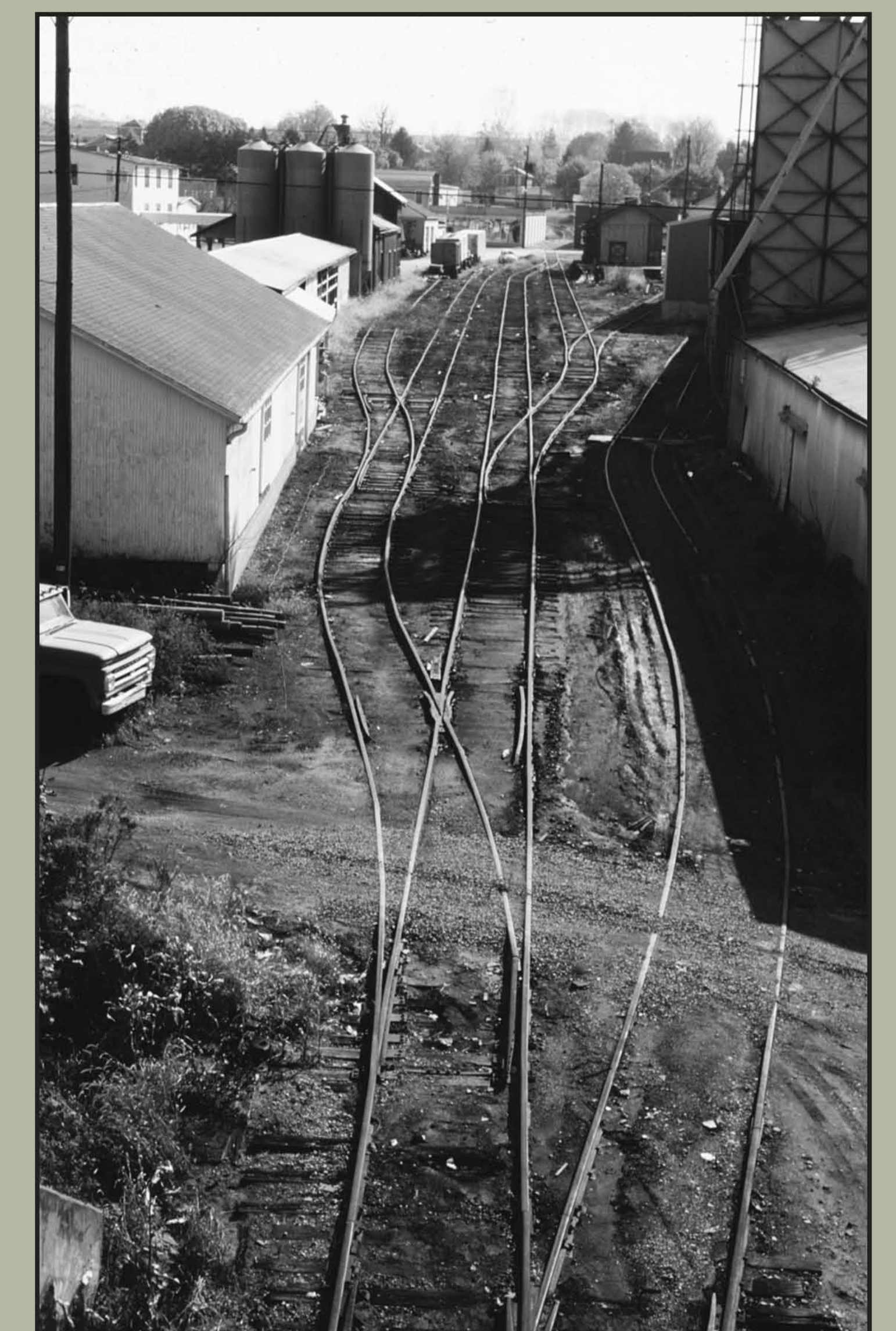
Southern Lancaster County Historical Society, Quarryville, PA.



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Photo by John Bowman, personal collection of Walter Minnich, Jr., Quarryville, PA.



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