

Library Junction

Library Junction was built in 1918 to establish rail service to Montour Mine #10, then being opened in Library. In 1929, the branch was extended to Snowden in South Park to provide an interchange with the B&O Railroad.

The junction was constructed as a wye track which gave the railroad the flexibility to send trains to and from either direction to service mines and interchange points to the east and west, or along the Library Branch.

The triangular wye arrangement was also used to turn entire trains around to put its locomotive at the front end of a train for better operation.



This 1944 view shows the west switch of the junction set for the main line curving to the left toward Bethel Park. The diverging track to the right continued toward Library. Loaded coal hoppers can be seen in the background, stored on the siding along the east leg of the wye.

Photo courtesy Gene P. Schaeffer collection.



After shoving its cars all the way from Bethel Park, engine 75 backs down the east leg of the wye. It will run along each leg of the wye, recouple to its train and then proceed west with the engine leading the train. The storage siding track can be seen to the left of the train.

Gene P. Schaeffer photo.

A siding track ran along the east leg of the wye nearly to Church Hill Road. It could temporarily store up to 40 cars coming to or from the mine in Library or the Snowden interchange.

Operations on the Library Branch were ended in 1978 and service on the main line at the end of 1980.

In 1985, Peters Township purchased the abandoned railroad right-of-way for use as a recreational trail.



For more information go to: montourrr.com