

# Resources, Riches, and Rural America: A Visual Study of School Buildings and their Surroundings in Communities Dominated by Extractive Industries

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This research is to understand how schools tangibly and symbolically reflect their communities' social and economic structures. We aim to examine school buildings and their surroundings in US communities whose economies continue to be shaped primarily by extractive industries such as mining, logging, quarrying, and hydraulic fracking. Using historical images, as well as present-day photographs that we create, we will analyze visual data alongside tax revenue and school funding information, and existing scholarly literature to understand how extraction-driven communities change over time and how these changes are manifested in the community landscape. We intend to share our findings not only with other scholars but also with the general public via an exhibit of the images we find and create.

