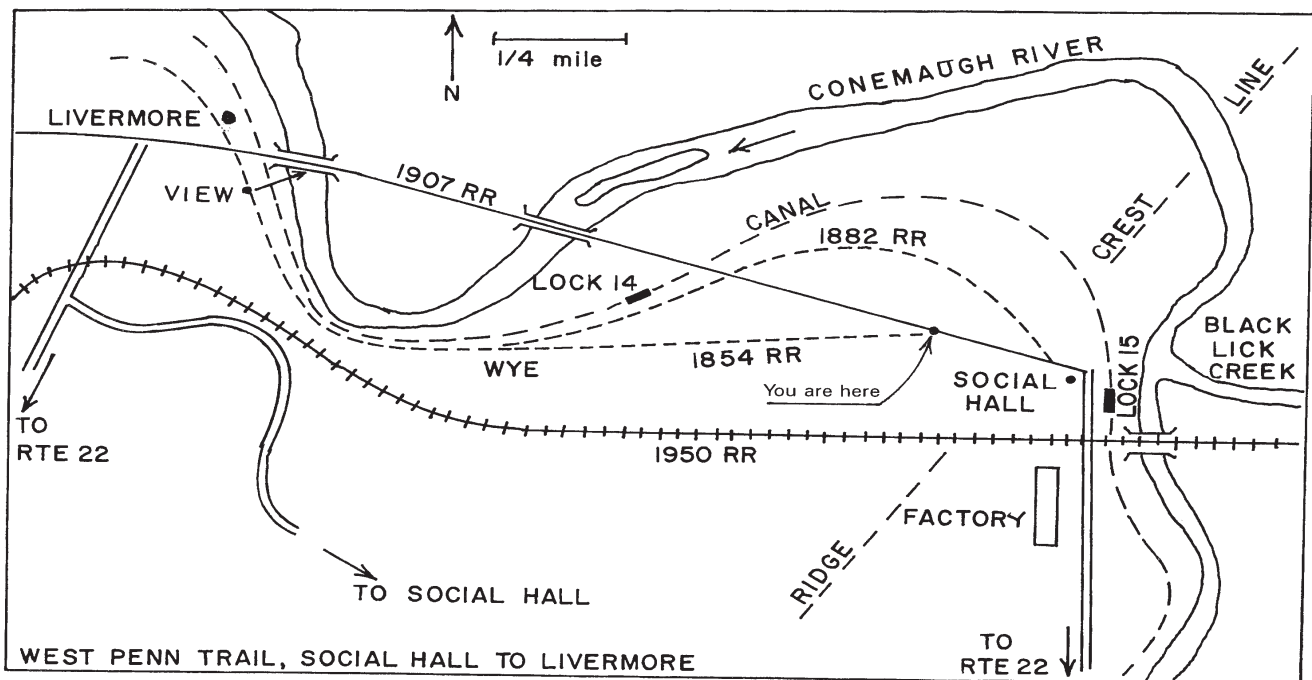


WEST PENN TRAIL at 1854 RR GRADE MERGE



Perched on the rim of this hillside, on the south side of this 1907 railroad cut, is the bed of the 1854 railroad line. The 1854 railroad grade descended from this elevated position down to the bridge that crossed the river, east of here, at Social Hall, where this hiker-biker trail begins. That down-sloping segment of the railroad bed was obliterated by excavation of the cut for the 1907 roadbed (on which you are standing).

Between Social Hall and this point, the 1907 roadbed (the trail) has dropped four feet, which means that from here to Social Hall, the 1854 grade dropped to a point four feet higher than where you are now standing. East-bound trains could glide down that slope, toward Social Hall, but trains west-bound from that station had to chug up a hill, climbing about 20 feet in only one-quarter of a mile.