

**ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
CULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
ABANDONED MINED LANDS RECLAMATION
CULTURAL RESOURCES EVALUATION**

**THE MOHN'S MINE SITE (11P534),
BARTONVILLE, PEORIA COUNTY, ILLINOIS**

By:
Christopher Stratton
Fever River Research
Springfield, Illinois

Floyd Mansberger
Principal Investigator

Prepared for:
Illinois Department of Natural Resources

November 2000

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY SHORT REPORT

Illinois Historic Preservation Agency
Old State Capitol, Springfield, Illinois

Reviewer: _____

Date: _____

_____ Accepted

_____ Rejected

Locational Information and Survey Conditions

County: Peoria

Quadrangle: Peoria West, IL (1996)

Project Type/Title: Phase I archaeological survey of the Mohn's Mine 2000 Grant Project.

Responsible Federal/State Agencies: IDNR (Abandoned Mines Division)

Legal Location:

N½, SE¼, SE¼ and S½, NE¼, SE¼, Section 23
Township 8 North, Range 7 East (Limestone Township),
Bartonville, Illinois

UTM: 4503684m North;
274699m East

Project Description: Phase I archaeological survey of the Mohn's Mine Site, a twentieth-century coal mining property that is slated for reclamation. The survey was confined to those areas that will be impacted by the proposed reclamation. Reclamation will entail the sealing of slope-entry mine shaft, removal of deteriorated building/structure foundations from drainageways, and the demolition of a standing powder house.

Topography: The area surveyed is located in the heavily dissected bluffs bordering the Illinois River Valley, in an incorporated --but undeveloped-- area in the Village of Bartonville. The survey area extends across portions of several ravines located to either side of Smithville Road. The portions of the site to be impacted by the proposed reclamation project generally have bluffslope settings.

Soils: Fayette-Rozetta-Stronghurst

Drainage: Unnamed creek, Kickapoo Creek, Illinois River

Land Use/Ground Cover: Timber and brush

Survey Limitations: Surface visibility was poor (0-20%), due the woodland setting, and the natural ground surface across much of the site was buried beneath modern overburden deposited as part of mining activity. Additionally, the majority of the buildings at the site had been demolished down to their foundations, making the interpretation of some of those buildings difficult.

Archaeological and Historical Information

Historical Plats/Atlases/Source: Township 8 North, Range 7 West (Limestone Township) was surveyed in 1817. The plat map that was produced from this survey illustrated no structures or cultural features located on, or in proximity, to Section 23. Except for its northwest corner (which was prairie), Section 23 was noted as being covered with timber (United States Surveyor General 1862). The earliest published landownership map of Peoria County dates to 1861. This 1861 map indicates that Smithville Road had been laid out by that date but illustrates no buildings adjacent to the road within the immediate vicinity of the survey area. The closest buildings shown to the survey area on the map are located further west, at the point where Smithville Road ascends out of the bluffs into the uplands. Three buildings are shown at this point, one of which is labeled as “J. Hay’s School.” The 1861 map designates the entire SE¼ of Section 23 as being owned by “L. Brown.” No coal mines are illustrated in southern Limestone Township on the 1861 map, although several mines are shown in the township bordering it to the south (Hollis Township). The Hollis Township coal mines were located adjacent to the Peoria, Pekin and Jacksonville Railroad (Allen 1861).

Despite its omission from the 1861 county map, some coal mining likely was taking place in Limestone Township during the Civil War period. The first coal mine in the township was opened at a relatively early date by a man named Warner, who seems to have extracted the coal by cutting into an exposed coal bank located on the SE¼ of Section 24. A family by the name of Moffit later worked Warner’s coal bank and shipped coal to St. Louis via keel boat (Johnson and Company 1880:602). The early method of stripping away, or “drifting,” into a hillside where a coal seam was exposed eventually was supplanted by deep shaft mining (Bateman and Selby 1902:736).

An 1871 Peoria County atlas illustrates the survey area as being timbered and shows no buildings on the site. The school building illustrated on the 1861 map appears on this map. A second school building is depicted further east, down the ravine through which Smithville Road ascends from the Illinois River bottoms into the uplands. At this date, the survey area was encompassed within an irregularly shaped, 106-acre tract owned by Isaac Brown. Another feature of note on the 1871 atlas is a coal mine owned by Barker and Company on the SW¼, NE¼ of Section 25, immediately south of the future town of Bartonville. Like the mines shown in Hollis Township on the 1861 county map, this coal mine was situated adjacent to the Peoria, Pekin, and Jacksonville Railroad. Although Bartonville had yet to be platted by this date, the number of buildings illustrated by

the atlas along Smithville Road, west of Kickapoo Creek, suggests that an informal community had already started to coalesce at that point (Andreas 1871:157). Describing the coal resources of Limestone Township, an 1880 county history noted that, “Nearly the whole township is underlaid with coal, and the mines now worked extend four miles along the eastern tier of sections, and there are several hundred miners employed in the different mines. Peoria is largely supplied with coal from the Limestone mines” (Johnson and Company 12880:602).

County maps published in 1904 and 1911 designate the Issac Brown Estate as owing the land on which the survey area is located. Neither of these maps illustrates any buildings within the survey area, nor does a 1905 United States Geological Survey topographic map (Hixson 1904; Kenyon Company 1911; USGS 1905).

Coal mining in the survey area apparently was initiated in 1918, when Edward Mohn opened a slope mine there that was named the “Empire Mine.” The Empire Mine remained active until 1952 and ultimately extended beneath much of Section 23, as well as part of Section 24. The mine exploited the Springfield coal seam using the room-and-pillar method. The Empire Mine seems to have persisted longer than some its nearby competitors, many of which had closed by the start of the Second World War (Illinois State Geological Survey 2000). Unfortunately, none of the maps consulted that date from the period during which the mine was in operation illustrate buildings and/structures at the mine site. A ca. 1930 county plat book emphasizes landownership and does not illustrate any buildings; this plat book designates Edward Mohn and Son as the owning 101 acres of land on the eastern half of Section 23 (Hixson [1930]). Similarly, a United States Geological Survey topographic map shows no structures on the site, and even fails to note it as a mine property (USGS 1934). The Mohn family retained ownership of the Mohn’s Mine Site through the late 1970s (Rockford Map Publishers 1978, 1980). The mine site property remains under private ownership.

Previously Reported Sites: No sites have been reported within the project area prior to this survey. Nor have there been any sites previously reported within Section 23.

Previous Surveys: In 1999, a Phase I archaeological survey was conducted along Airport Road, across portions of Sections 14, 22, 23, 26, 27, 34, and 25 in Township 8 North, Range 7 East. No sites were identified in the survey (Barr 1999)

Regional Archaeologist Contacted: IHPA site files.

Investigation Techniques: The field techniques utilized included a pedestrian survey, directed shovel testing, and the recording of structural features that were visible above ground. The pedestrian survey was aimed at identifying above-surface structural features and the extent of landscape modification across the site. The

shovel testing was concentrated in those areas where the greatest amount of ground disturbance is to occur as part of the reclamation project --namely, those areas where building foundations are to be removed.

Time Expended: 5 man-hours (in field)

Sites/Features Found: The survey documented an extant powder house, a mine entry, building foundations and footings, gob piles, and landscape modifications that are believed to be associated with the Empire Mine --the coal mine operated by the Mohn Family between 1918 and 1952. The structural features are located in three distinct areas of the site.

The mine entrance and the remains of two buildings are located on the eastern slope of a ravine, on the northwest edge of the survey area. The mine entrance measures 6'-4" wide and is framed with concrete-block walls and poured-concrete-slab roof panels. Flanking the entrance to the north and south are the remains of two buildings. Both have been demolished down to their concrete-block foundations. The building to the north of the mine measures 13'-9"x11'-0" and has a poured-concrete floor on its interior. The superstructure of this building is unknown, although the lack of masonry debris scattered around it suggests that it may have been frame. A raised concrete pad abuts the north side of the building. It is possible that this structure may have served as an engine house for a generator providing electricity to the mine. The southern of two buildings measures 24'-4"x12'-0" and has a poured-concrete floor. On its interior, the building is divided into two sections: a 5'-8"x10'-8" chamber on the north, whose floor is set 10-1/2" lower than that in the rest of the building; and a 17'-4"x10'-8" area, on the south, that has a drain on its northern end. An exterior brick chimney was located along the west wall of the building. It is possible that the southern building may have served as a shower house and/or changing room for the miners. A pair of concrete bridge abutments is located opposite (to the east) of the mine entrance. The abutments presumably probably supported a trestle on which a narrow-gauge railroad crossed the creek in front of the mine.

An extant powder house and the remains of scale platform are located in a ravine east of the one where the mine entrance is situated. The powder house measures 9'-4"x9'-4" and is constructed of concrete block and poured concrete. The scale platform measures 26'-9"x60'-10" and is constructed with poured concrete. Railroad tracks run down the length of the platform, crossing a 6'-3"x12'-0" scale pit along the way. While it is presumed that there was a structure of some sort over the platform (i.e. scale house), the character of that structure --if present at all-- is uncertain. The only evidence noticed in the field of such a structure are the footings that are integrated into the perimeter foundations and the presence of broken glass and asphalt siding along the edge of the platform. If the footings do, in fact, delineate the footprint of a scale house, that structure measured approximately 26'-9"x20'-6" and appears to have covered only the

eastern end of the platform, while the north end of the platform was left uncovered.

The third area in which structural features were identified during the survey is located on the south side of Smithville Road, adjacent to the creek there. These features were more deteriorated than those previously described. One of the features appears to be an abutment that may have supported a bridge across the creek. Located upstream from the possible abutment is a set of deteriorated concrete foundations that is lined with brick on its interior. The purpose of these foundations is unknown.

For more information on the structural features identified during the survey, see the attached drawings and photographs.

Cultural Material: The cultural material observed during the survey was almost entirely architectural in character (i.e. concrete block, brick, window glass, wire nails, and smoke stacks) and was concentrated around the building foundations. A number of twentieth-century, machine-made bottle fragments also were observed. This material appears to be associated with the mining activity at the site, or was deposited after the abandonment of the mine.

Collection Technique: All material recovered in the shovel testing was collected. Demolition debris that was observed adjacent to building foundations (and clearly associated with those buildings) was not collected. An inventory of material collected during the shovel tests has been attached.

Curated at: Fever River Research, Springfield (short-term)
Illinois State Museum, Springfield (long-term)

Area Surveyed (acres and square meters): 7.5 acres, 30,351 square meters (approx.)

RESULTS OF INVESTIGATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- ☐ Phase I archaeological reconnaissance has located no archaeological material [in this portion of the site]; project clearance is recommended.
- ☒ Phase I archaeological reconnaissance has located archaeological materials; site(s) does(do) not meet requirements for National Register eligibility; project clearance is recommended.
- ☐ Phase I archaeological reconnaissance has located archaeological materials; site(s) may meet requirements for National Register eligibility; further testing is recommended.
- ☐ Phase II archaeological investigation has indicated that site(s) does(do) not meet requirements for National Register eligibility; project clearance is recommended.

- ☐ Phase II archaeological investigation has indicated that site(s) meet requirements for National Register eligibility; formal report is pending and a determination of eligibility is recommended.

Comments: Although the survey did identify a range of structural features associated with a moderately sized, early-twentieth-century coal-mining site, this site is not considered eligible for the National Register. Aside from the powder house, the buildings at the site have been demolished down to their foundations, which has compromised their integrity and complicates their interpretation --as well that of the site structure. The structural features with the best integrity have been documented with photographs and scaled drawings.

The likelihood of the reclamation project adversely affecting an earlier occupation, pre-dating the mine, seems remote. Neither the documentary research nor the field survey detected an earlier occupation within the survey area. Furthermore, the two areas that will be subjected to most aggressive reclamation activity --the area adjacent to the mine entrance and the ravine where the powder house and scale platform are located--represent industrially modified landscapes. The level terraces seen in both areas mentioned are not natural, but rather have been formed by the deposition of fill. This was clearly exhibited by the soil profiles of the shovel tests that were excavated in these areas. Disturbed fill (including coal, clinkers, mixed clays, demolition/construction debris) continued to be encountered 60 to 70cm b.s. in the shovel tests and was evident at deeper levels when bank faces were cut back. As such, we believe that the limited excavation required for the reclamation project will primarily impact re-deposited soils and industrial fills instead of stable, historic ground surfaces. No further work is recommended on the site.

Surveyors: C. Stratton

Survey Date: November 22, 2000

Report Completed By: C. Stratton

Submitted By (Signature and title):

F. Mansberger (Director)

Attachment Check List:

- ☒ 1. USGS Topographic Map
- ☒ 2. Project Map
- ☒ 3. Site Form (Two copies)
- ☒ 4. Relevant Correspondence
- ☐ 5. Additional Information Sheets

Address of Agency to whom SHPO comment should be mailed:

Dr. Harold Hassen
Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Division of Planning
524 South Second Street
Springfield, Illinois 62701-1787

Reviewers' Comments:

REFERENCES CITED

- Allen, D. B.
1861 *Map of Peoria County, Illinois*. Mathews, Crane, and Company, Philadelphia.
- Andreas, A. T.
1873 *Atlas Map of Peoria County, Illinois*. Chicago.
- Bateman, Newton and Paul Selby (editors)
1902 *Historical Encyclopedia of Illinois and History of Peoria County*. Munsell Publishing Company, Chicago.
- Illinois State Geological Survey
2000 *Directory of Coal Mines in Illinois*. Champaign.
- Johnson and Company
1880 *The History of Peoria County, Illinois*. Chicago.
- Kenyon Company
1911 *Map of Peoria County, Illinois*. Peoria Journal, Peoria.
- Rockford Map Publishers
1978 *Atlas and Plat Book of Peoria County, Illinois*. Rockford, Illinois.

1980 *Atlas and Plat Book of Peoria County, Illinois*. Rockford, Illinois.
- United States Geological Survey (USGS)
1905 *Peoria, Illinois Quadrangle Map*. 15 minute series. United States Geological Survey, Washington, DC.

1934 *Peoria, Illinois Quadrangle Map*. 15 minute series. United States Geological Survey, Washington, DC.

1996 *Peoria West, Illinois Quadrangle Map*. 7.5 minute series. United States Geological Survey, Washington, DC.
- United States Surveyor General
1862 *Plat of Township No. 8 North of the baseline, Range No. 7 East of the 4th Principal Meridian*. St. Louis. Copy on file at Illinois State Archives.
- W. W. Hixson and Company
1904 *Map of Peoria County, Illinois*. Hendrickson and Richardson, n.p.

[1930] *Plat Book of Peoria County, Illinois*. Rockford, Illinois.

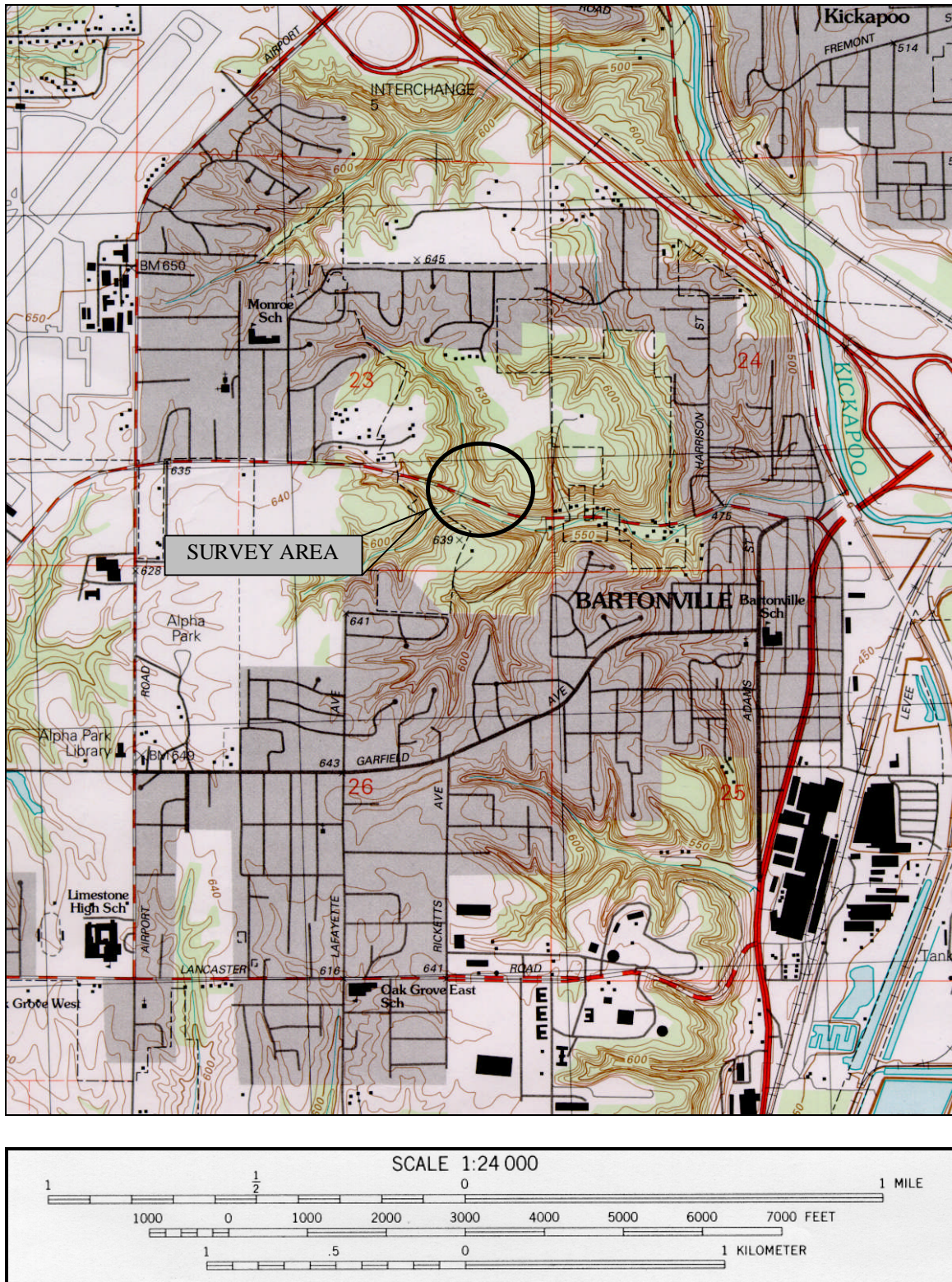
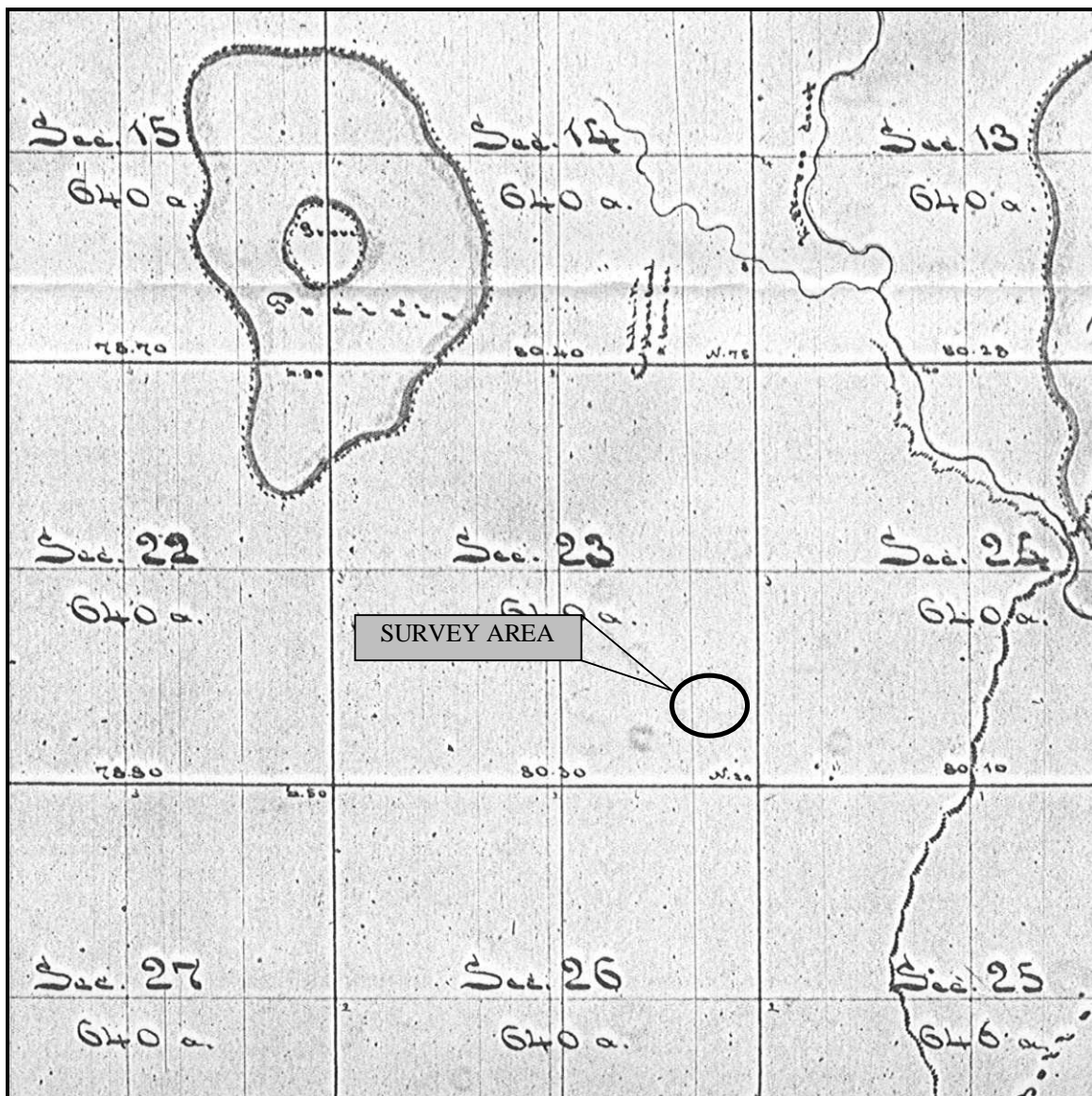


Figure 1. United States Geological Survey topographical map showing the location of the survey area (USGS Peoria West, IL Quadrangle 1996).



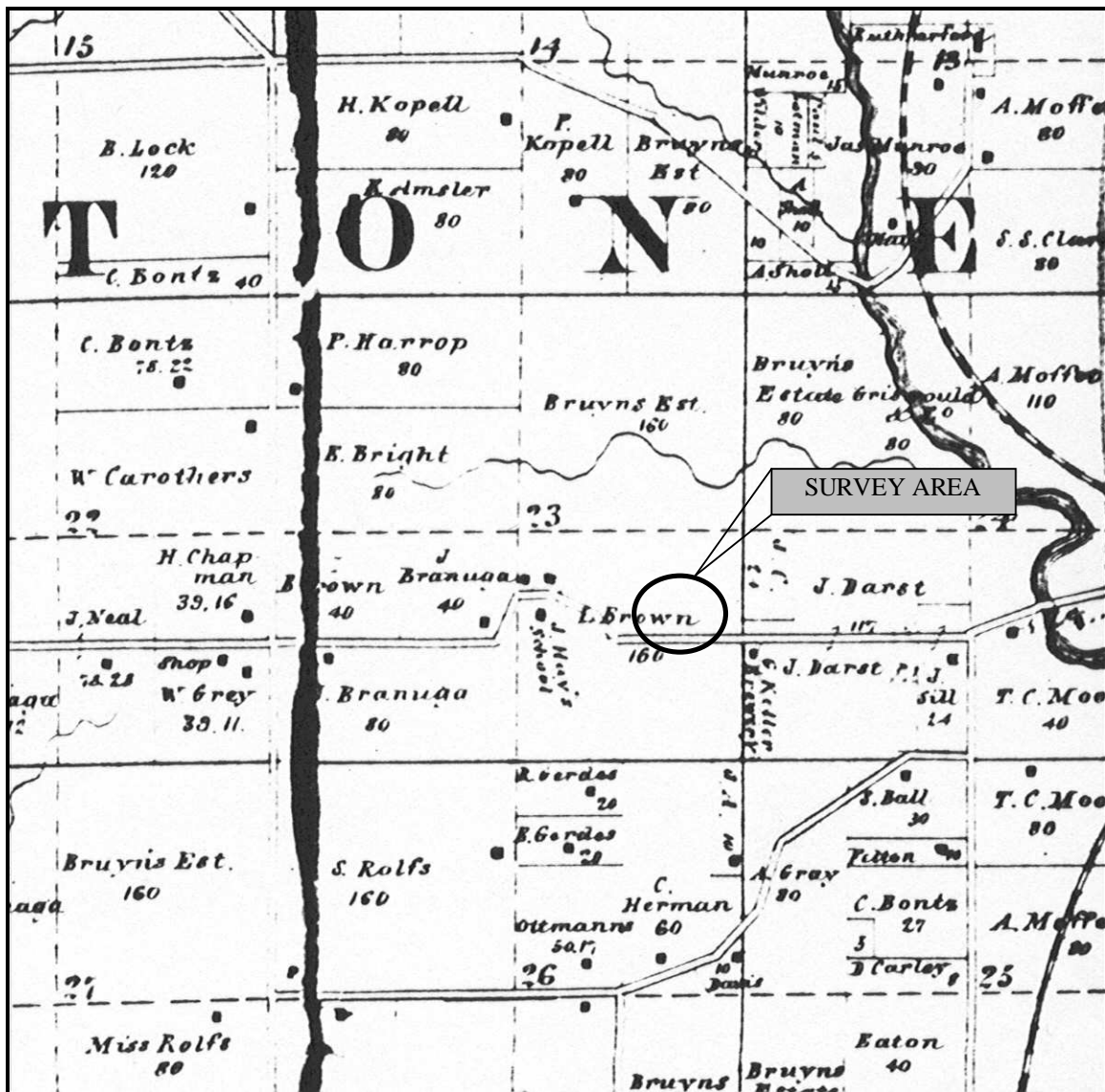


Figure 3. Detail of an 1861 map of Peoria County, showing the survey area. This map places Smithville Road further north than it actually runs, and the survey area (as noted here) has been shifted north to correspond with the road (Allen 1861).

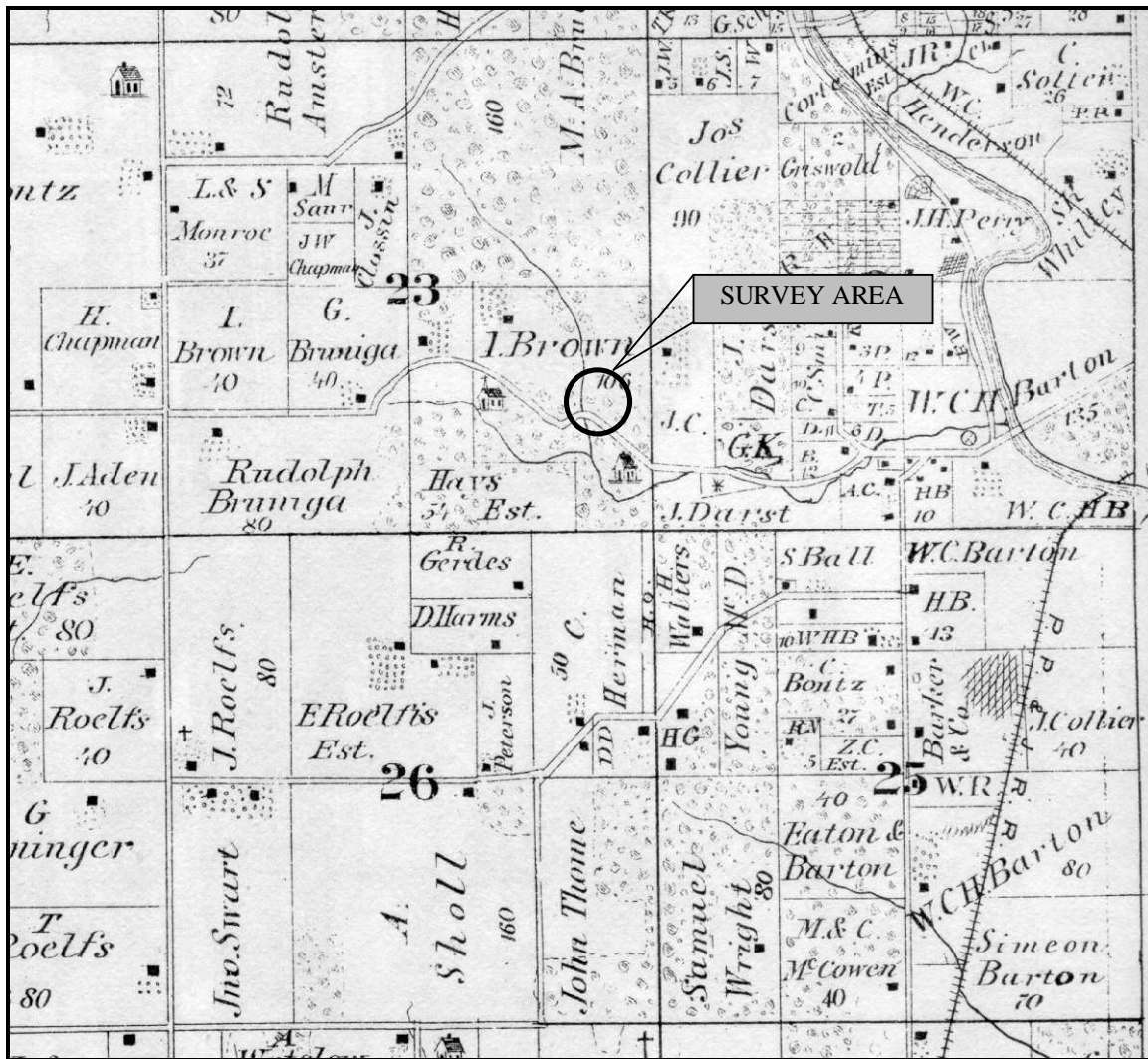


Figure 4. Detail of an 1873 map of Limestone Township, showing the survey area . The crossed-hatched area depicted southeast of the survey area indicates the Barker and Company coal mine (Andreas 1873:157).

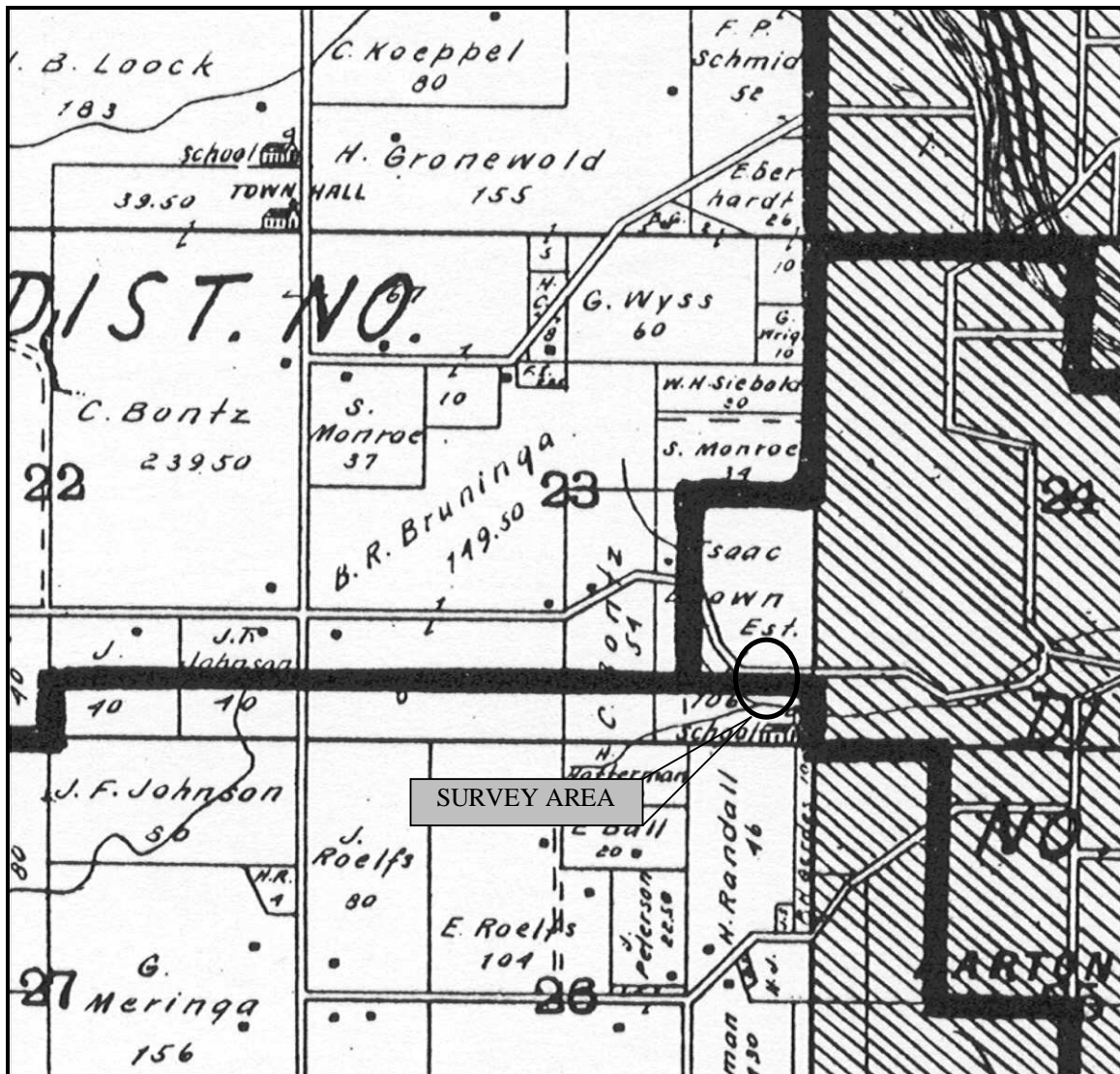


Figure 5. Detail of an 1904 map of Peoria County, showing the survey area. Note the development of Bartonville, east of the survey area, since the publication of the 1873 county atlas (Hixson 1904).

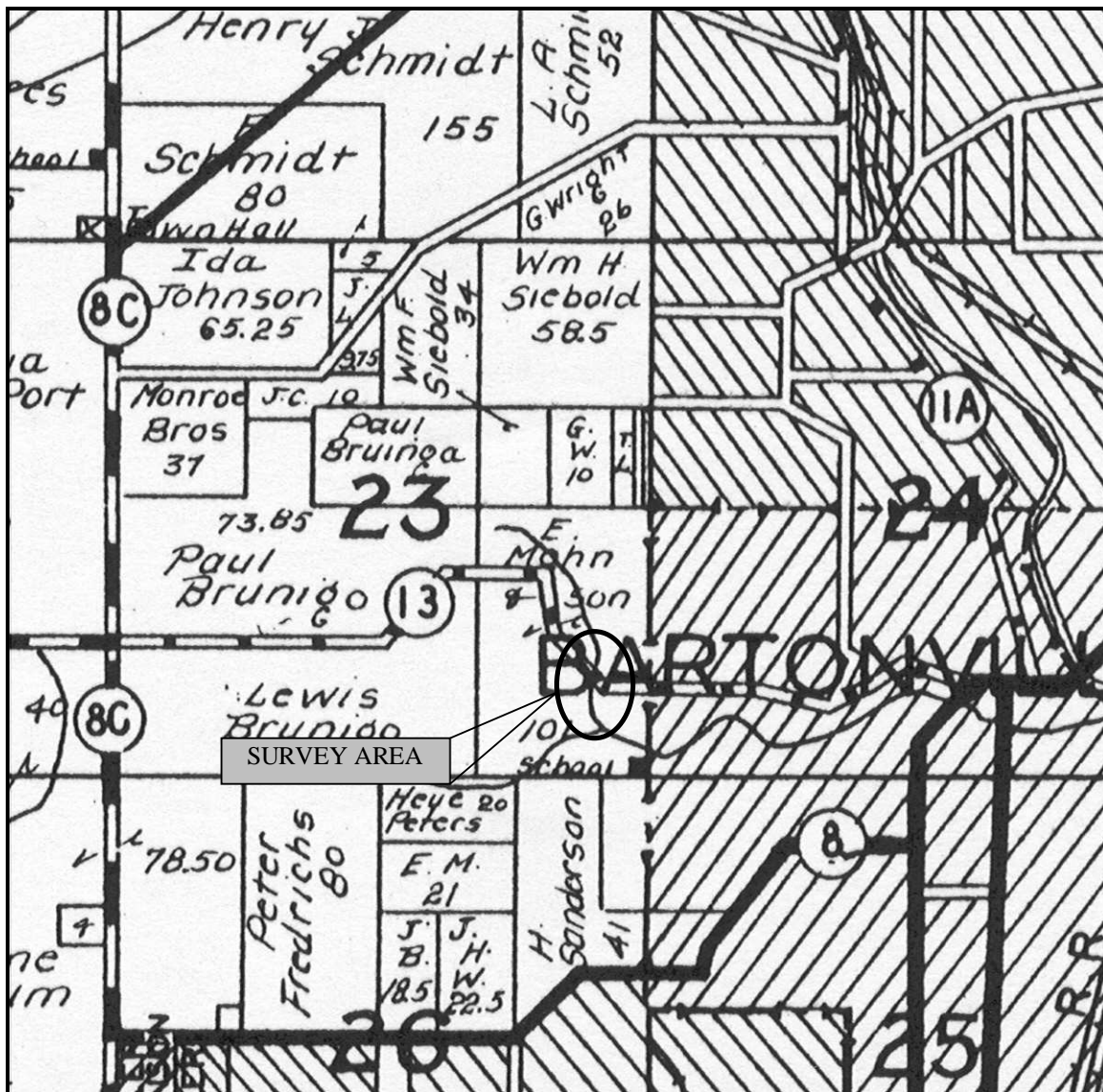


Figure 6. Ca. 1930 plat map, showing the location of the survey area. By this date, Edward Mohn and Son owned the property (Hixson [1930]).

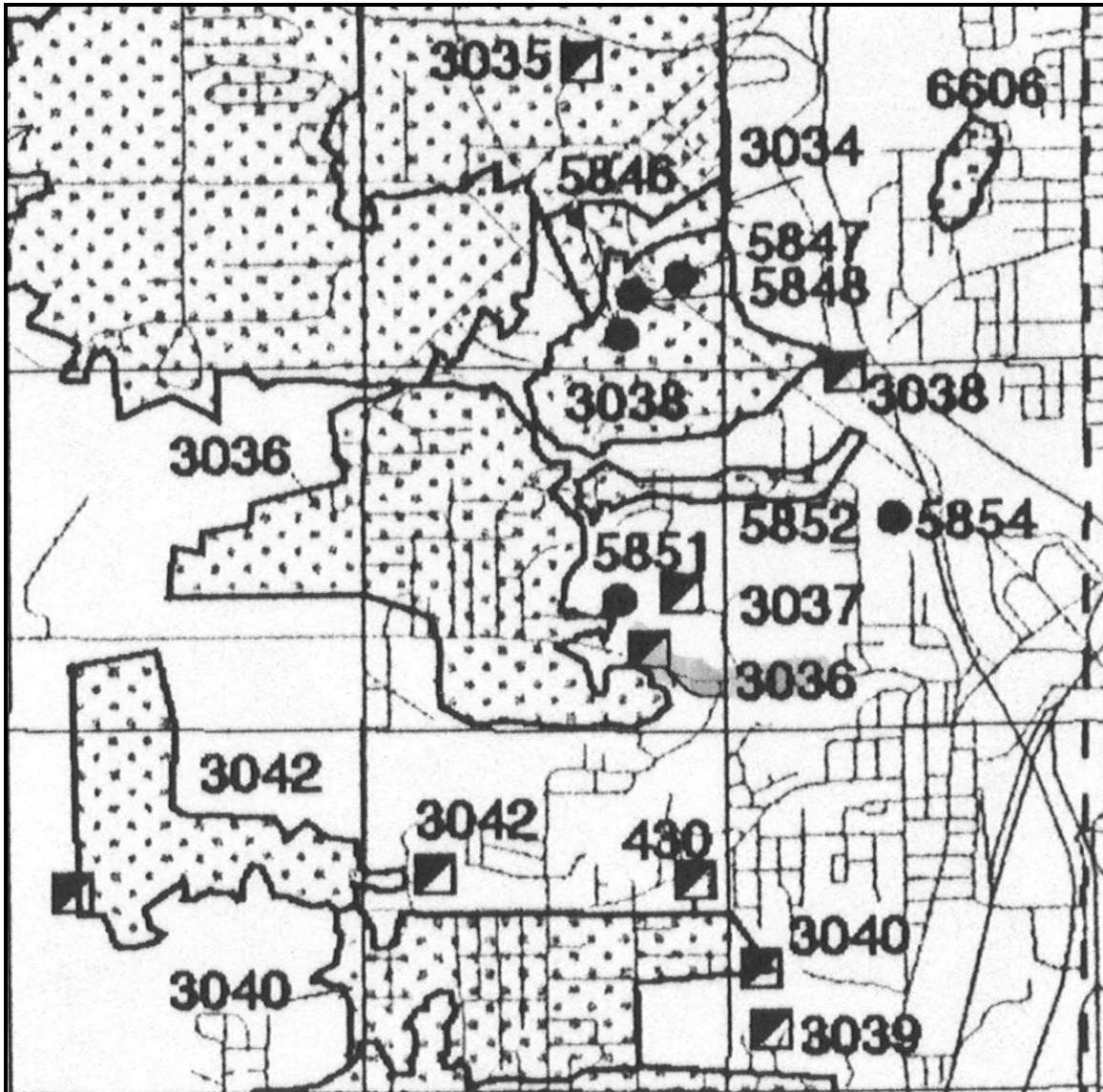


Figure 7. Map showing the location of coal mines in the Bartonville area. Number 3036 designates Edward Mohn's "Empire Mine." The Empire Mine is depicted as extending beneath much of Section 23 and parts of Section 22 (Illinois State Geological Survey 2000).

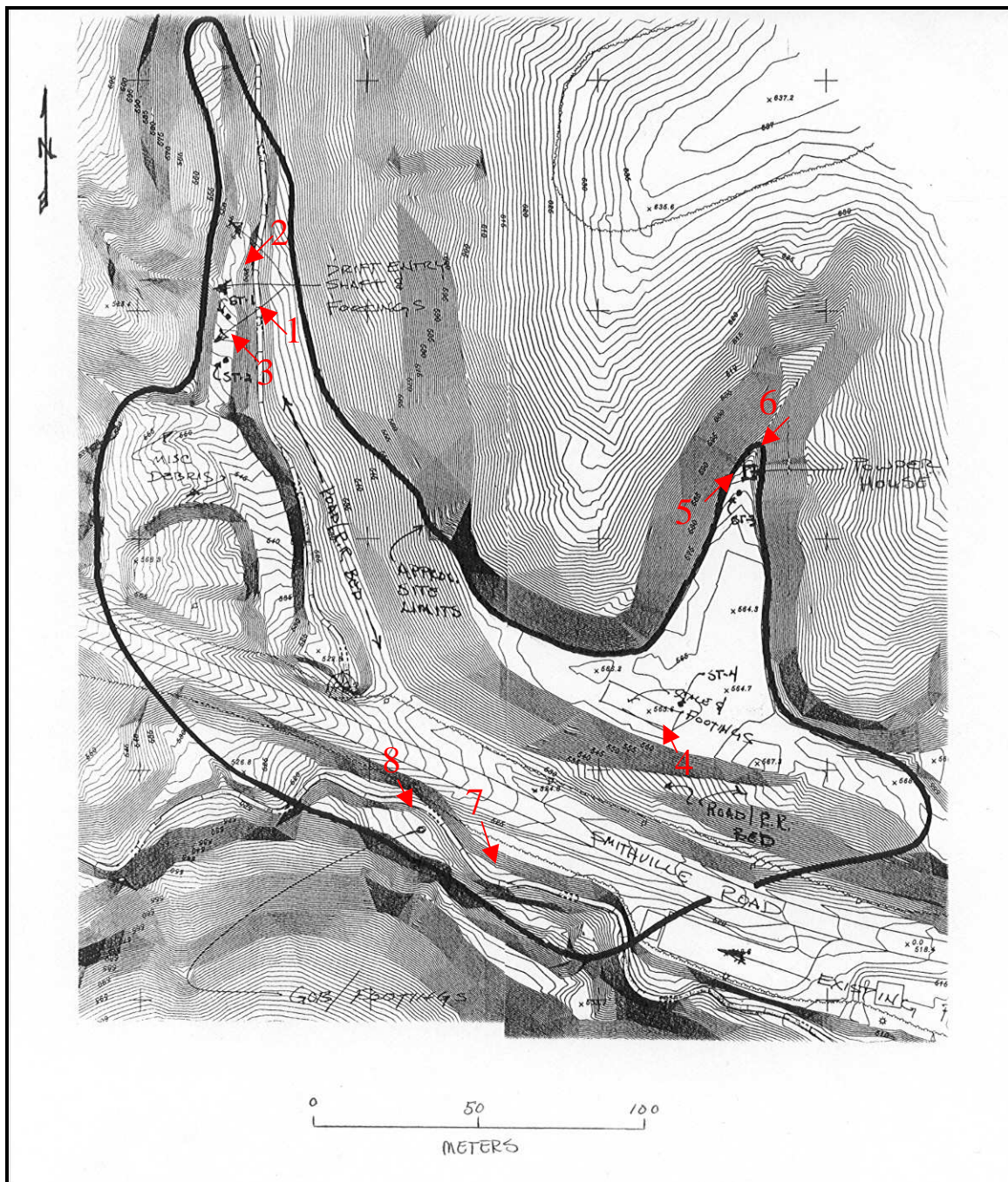


Figure 8. Map showing the limits of the Mohn's Mine Site and significant features associated with it, as determined by the Phase I archaeological survey. The red arrows and numbers reference the attached photographs.



Photo 1 (Top). View of the structures around the mine entrance, looking northwest. The mine entrance appears in the left-background, while the bridge abutments are in the foreground (Fever River Research 2000).

Photo 2 (Bottom). View of the mine entrance and associated building foundations, looking southwest (FRR 2000).



Photo 3 (Top). Close-up of the mine entrance (FRR 2000).

Photo 4 (Bottom). View of the scale platform, looking northwest. The scale pit appears in the foreground (FRR 2000).



Photo 5 (Top). View of powder house, looking northeast (FRR 2000).

Photo 6 (Bottom). View of powder house, looking southwest (FRR 2000).



Photo 7 (Top). View of a possible bridge abutment located adjacent to the creek running along the south side of Smithville Road (FRR 2000).

Photo 8 (Bottom). View of building foundations located on the south side of Smithville Road. The character of the building or structure once supported by these foundations is unknown (FRR 2000).

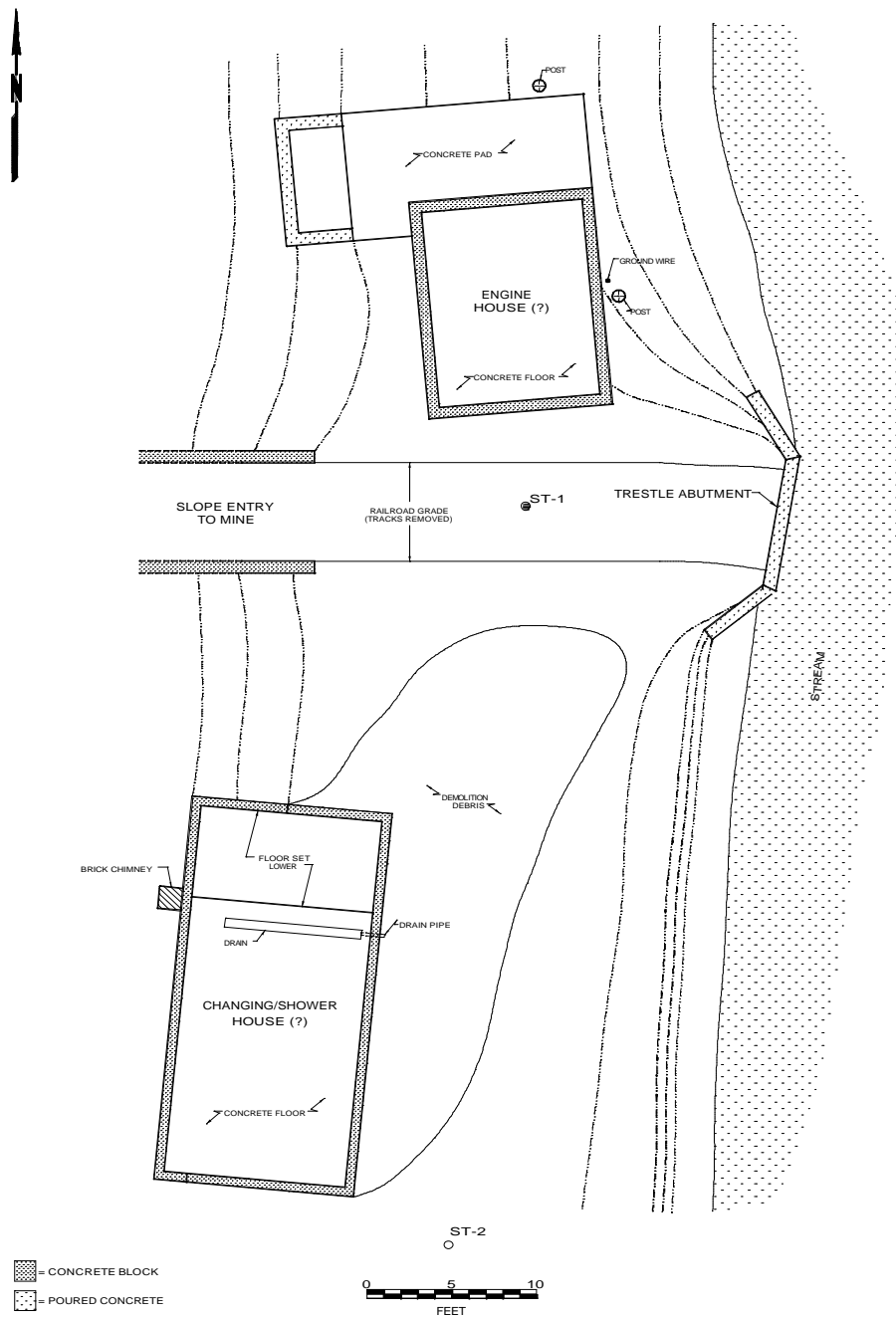


Figure 9. Plan of the mine entrance and adjacent structural features at the Mohn's Mine Site (FRR 2000).

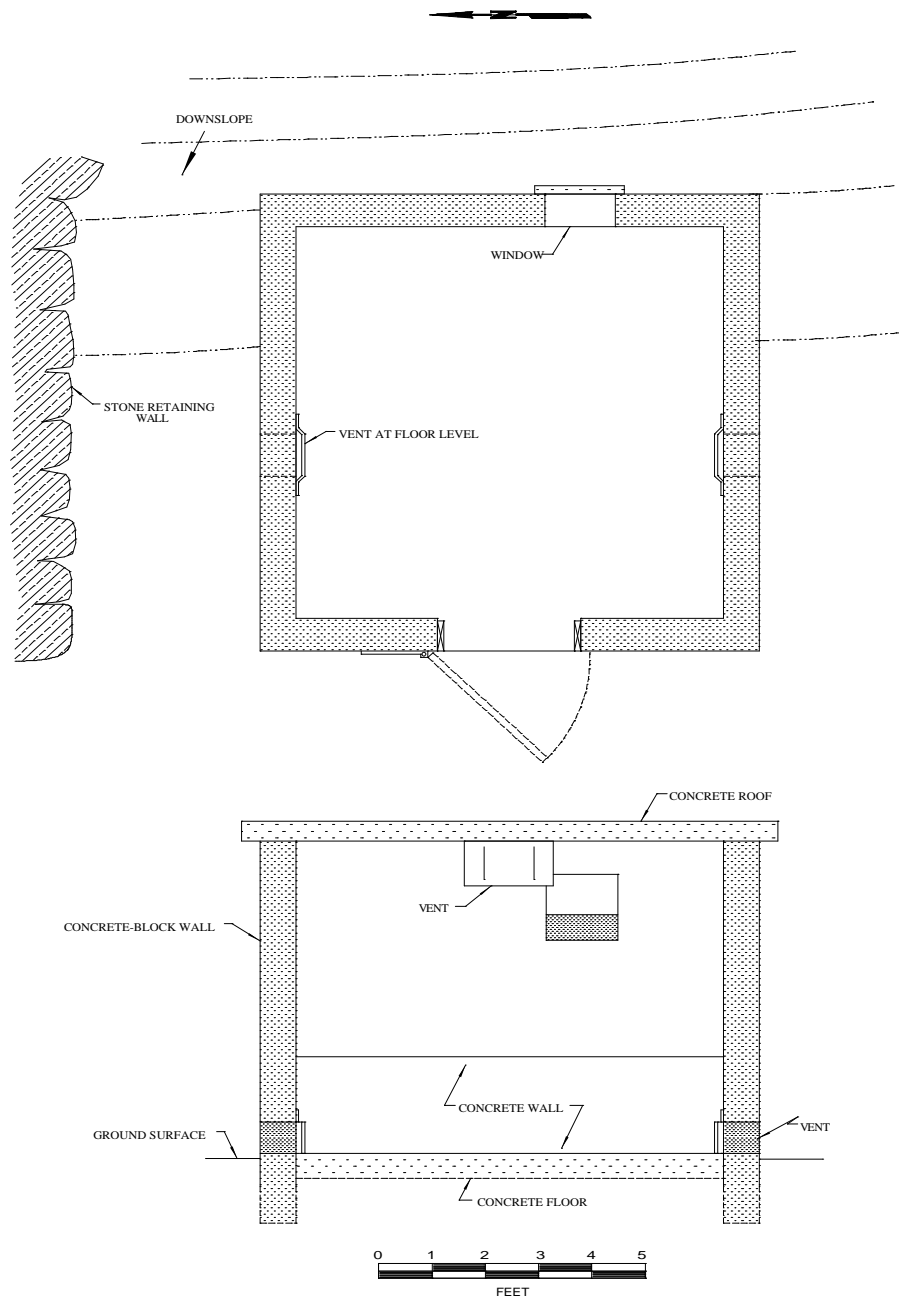


Figure 10. Plan and sectional drawings of the extant powder house at the Mohn's Mine Site (FRR 2000).

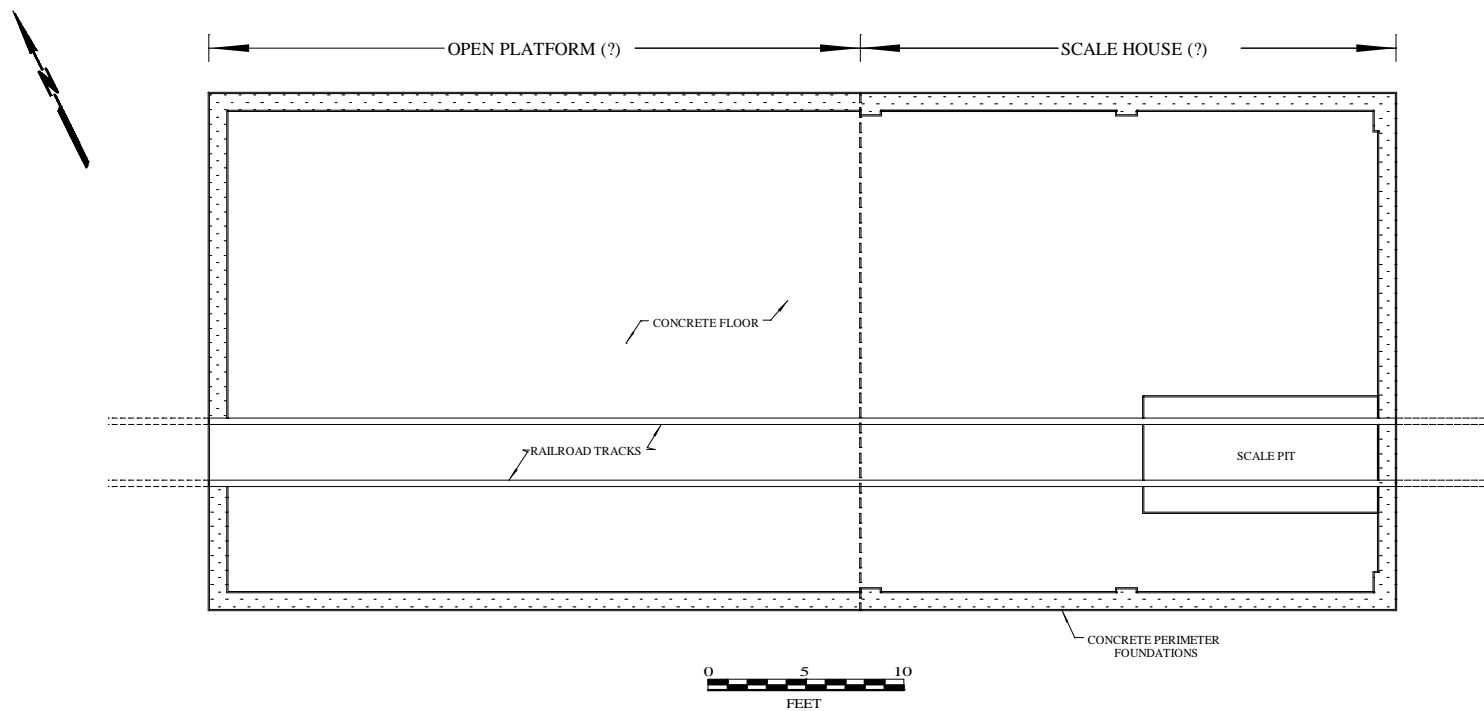


Figure 11. Plan of the scale platform at the Mohn's Mine Site. A scale house may have covered the eastern end of the platform originally (FRR 2000).

Lot Inventory
Mohn's Mine Site

Shovel Tests

ST-1

- 1 flat glass (clear)
- 2 flat glass (clear, 1/4" thick)
- 1 wire nail (4")
- 1 wire nail (2 1/2")

ST-2

- 1 wire nail (2")
- 1 wire nail (2 1/2")

PROJECT CORRESPONDENCE

Exhibit A:

301

see
ready
historic arch



**Illinois Historic
Preservation Agency**

1 Old State Capitol Plaza • Springfield, Illinois 62701-1507 • (217) 782-4836 • TTY (217) 524-7128

Peoria County Please refer to: IHPA LOG #0007140002P-P
Bartonville
Ravine North of Smithville Road
~~Mohr's Mine 2000 Grant~~

July 14, 2000

J. Gregory Pinto
Illinois Department of Natural Resources
524 South Second Street
Springfield, IL 62701-1787

Dear Mr. Pinto:

Thank you for requesting comments from our office concerning the possible effects of the project referenced above on cultural resources. Our comments are required by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16 USC 470), as amended, and its implementing regulations, 36 CFR 800: "Protection of Historic Properties".

The project area has not been surveyed and may contain prehistoric/historic archaeological resources. Accordingly, a Phase I archaeological reconnaissance survey to locate, identify, and record all archaeological resources within the project area will be required. This decision is based upon our understanding that there has not been any large scale disturbance of the ground surface (excluding agricultural activities) such as major construction activity within the project area which would have destroyed existing cultural resources prior to your project. If the area has been heavily disturbed prior to your project, please contact our office with the appropriate written and/or photographic evidence.

The area(s) that need(s) to be surveyed include(s) all area(s) that will be developed as a result of the issuance of the federal agency permit(s) or the granting of the federal grants, funds, or loan guarantees that have prompted this review.

Enclosed you will find an attachment briefly describing Phase I surveys and a list of archaeological contracting services. THE IHPA LOG NUMBER OR A COPY OF THIS LETTER SHOULD BE PROVIDED TO THE SELECTED PROFESSIONAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTRACTOR TO ENSURE THAT THE SURVEY RESULTS ARE CONNECTED TO YOUR PROJECT PAPERWORK.

If you have any further questions, please contact Joseph S. Phillippe at 217/785-1279.

Sincerely,


Joseph S. Phillippe
Deputy State Historic
Preservation Officer

AEH:JSP:jw

Enclosure: Archaeology Contractor List

Exhibit B:

**Mohn's Mine
2000 Grant Project
Environmental Narrative
Abandoned Mine Division**

The Mohn's Mine is located in the Village of Bartonville, off of Smithville Road, adjacent to residential areas. This mine operated from 1922 to 1952, mining coal utilizing a slope entry located in the ravine north of Smithville Road. Two other mines, the Winter Mine and Treasure Mine, adjoined to the east and to the south respectively.

Problems at this site consists of one partially collapsed slope entry, numerous deteriorated foundations adjacent to or in drainageways, two or more possible settled shafts, a powder house and other miscellaneous foundations. Some scattered gob exists at the site, however it is mostly vegetated.

Reclamation of this site shall consist of sealing the slope entry, filling the settled shafts with on site soil, and removing the powder house. The deteriorated foundations will be removed from the drainageways. They will be buried on site or used as bank stabilization if possible. All disturbed areas will be revegetated.



Drift Entry



Foundations