preparation by
Fever River Research, Inc.
Springfield, Illinois

for
Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Springfield, Illinois

March 2010
ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
CULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
ABANDONED MINED LANDS RECLAMATION
CULTURAL RESOURCES EVALUATION

INTERSTATE COAL COMPANY MINE No. 22 SITE (11FK265)
(SOUTHERN GEM MINE No. 2/BREWERTON MINE No. 22)
SISSER, FRANKLIN COUNTY, ILLINOIS

by
Christopher Stratton
and
Floyd Mansberger

Floyd Mansberger
Principal Investigator

prepared by
Fever River Research, Inc.
Springfield, Illinois

for
Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Springfield, Illinois

March 2010
Locational Information and Survey Conditions

County: Franklin Quadrangle: Sesser (1975)

Project Type/Title: Phase II National Register of Historic Places evaluation of Interstate Coal Company Mine No. 22 Site at Sesser, Franklin County, Illinois. This mine operated under multiple names during its history including: Modern Coal Company Mine No. 1 (1917-1919); Southern Gem Coal Company Mine No. 2 (1920-1927); and Brewerton Coal Company Mine No. 22 (1927-1934). The Illinois State Geological Survey identifies the abandoned coal mine as Index Number 134.

Responsible Federal/State Agencies: IDNR (Abandoned Mined Lands Reclamation Division)

Legal Location:
- NE¼, SW¼, SE¼;
- NW¼, SW¼, SE¼,
- Section 12
- Township 5 South, Range 1 East of 3rd P.M.
- Franklin County
- Illinois

UTM: 320,533 North 4,218,969 East

Natural Division: 9b; Mt. Vernon Hill Country Section (b) of the Southern Till Plain Division (9) (Schwegman 1973).

Project Description: The project consisted of a Phase II National Register of Historic Places evaluation of an abandoned coal mining property that was in operation from 1917 through 1934. The proposed reclamation activity will primarily involve the removal of the above-grade portions of foundations and other structures and the filling or sealing of any visible or otherwise known shafts (i.e., mine entries, air shafts, etc.) and pits.

Topography: The mine site is located on the spur of a low upland ridge on the northeastern edge of the City of Sesser. The Burlington Northern-Santa Fe Railroad runs immediately west of the site and delineates its western limits. An upper tributary of Jaskie Branch wraps around the southern and eastern sides of the site. Much of the site presently is used as tilled agricultural ground. Second-growth forest, however, surrounds the ruins of the mine buildings and also is present along the stream.

Soils: Hoyelton—Cisne—Huey soil association.

Drainage: Unnamed intermittent stream; Jaskie Branch; Rend Lake; Big Muddy River; Mississippi River

Land Use/Ground Cover: Scattered forest with understory shrubs and herbaceous species separated by tilled agricultural ground.
Survey Limitations: The buildings and other structures at the site have either been demolished or have experienced severe deterioration since the mine’s abandonment. The ruinous state of the extant buildings, coupled with accumulation of soil and detritus through time, complicated their documentation in some instances. Several mine buildings known to have been present at the site (based on documentary sources) have no surface imprint at all. Subsurface features associated with these structures might remain but were not investigated.

Archaeological and Historical Information

Historical Plats/Atlases/Source:

Interstate Coal Company Mine No. 22 is located in northwestern Franklin County, which lies in the heart of the “Quality Circle” of the Southern Illinois coal field. The Herrin coal seam in this area is notable not only for its thickness, which averages 9’, but also for its high BTU rating and exceptionally low sulfur content (compared to other Illinois coals). The seam also is almost level and mostly free of faults, which makes the underground mining less complex and allows the workings to extend great distances beyond a central shaft (Brown and Webb 1941:XIX). Due to the extreme depth of the coal veins here, however, virtually no coal mining occurred in Franklin County during the nineteenth century. Indeed, there was considerable doubt as to the extent of the local coal resources until the Zeigler Coal Company opened the Leiter Mine at the present-day site of Zeigler and discovered one of the richest coal veins in the state (Angle 1983:118-119; Frier 1919:235-236; Aiken 1918:147). This mine, which started production in 1904, was the first to be opened in Franklin County. Although the total number of mines ultimately operated in Franklin was relatively low compared to other counties in the state, the mines there tended to be very large operations, employing hundreds of men. In 1918, for example, the twenty-four mines then operating in the county employed a work force of 11,618 and produced over 12 million tons of coal (Illinois Department of Mines and Minerals [IDMM] 1918:257). Franklin County enjoyed the distinction of producing more coal than any other county in the United States during this period. The coal industry also sparked a rapid increase in the county’s population, which rose from approximately 20,000 to 60,000 between 1900 and 1920 (Aiken 1918:151).

The early development of Sesser was intimately linked to the coal industry. The town was platted in 1905 by the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy Railroad (C. B. & Q. R.R.) along a new line the railroad was building into the Southern Illinois coal fields, running south from Centralia. It was named after John Sesser, a surveyor for the C. B. & Q. Early in 1906, the Keller Mine was sunk east of Sesser. The development of this mine shaft spurred a rapid growth of town. In November 1905, the community could claim a mere seventeen residents, but by March of the following year it reportedly had a population of around 600. By 1915, Sesser had 2,000 residents (City of Sesser 2009).

---

1 Identified as ISGS Index No. 50, this mine later was operated as the Sesser Coal Company (1907-1908, 1911-1920) and Franklin County Colliery Company (1908-11) Mine No. 1 and finally as Old Ben Coal Corporation Mine No. 16 (1920-1931) (ISGS 2003:1).
The mine site that is the subject of this report was opened in 1917 and was part of the generation of mines opened in Southern Illinois during the World War I-era coal boom. The mine was developed and initially operated by the Modern Coal Company. The May 19, 1917 edition of Coal Age carried a short notice in respect to the new mine in Sesser, stating: "Modern Coal Company, a composed largely of Champaign, Ill. business[s] men is preparing to sink a shaft northeast of town. A 4,000 ton mine is contemplated with electric hoist, haulage, and equipment" (Coal Age Vol. 11, No. 20: p. 892. col. 2). Work on the shaft must have been shortly after this article was published, considering that the mine was reported upon in the annual report for the Eleventh Inspection District of Illinois for the year ending June 30, 1917:

The Modern Coal Company, a new company of Franklin County, is sinking a mine one-half mile north of Sesser on the C. B. & Q. R.R. The hoisting shaft is 11 feet 4 inches by 17 feet 3 inches, to be equipped with self-dump cages. The air shaft is 11 feet by 15 feet. The shafts will be 660 feet deep to No. 6 coal. The coal at this location is 9 feet thick. The mine is to be modern and will be equipped for a daily production of 4,000 tons (Department of Mines and Minerals (IDMM 1917:249).

Construction work on the mine’s surface plant apparently continued into the first half of the following year, as the washhouse there has a 1918 date upon it. Development of the underground works also was still in progress. Between July 1, 1917 and June 30, 1918, the mine had hoisted only 14,845 tons of coal over 202 days of active operation and had employed ninety-six men. Its first full year of production was from July 1, 1918 to June 30, 1919, during which time 144,050 tons of coal were produced and 211 men were employed (IDMM 1918:256-257, 1919:240-241). Table 1 below provides production figures and selective statistics for mine by year.

The period that the mine operated under its original name—Modern Coal Company Mine No. 1—proved to be relatively short. By the time the 1920 Annual Coal Report was produced, its name had been changed to Southern Gem Coal Company Mine No. 2. Southern Gem operated another mine in Franklin County, at West Frankfort, which was designated as Mine No. 1. The circumstances under which the Sesser mine changed ownership are not known. Perhaps the initial costs of developing the mine, coupled with a decline in the coal market after the end of World War I, had proven too much of a financial burden to the Modern Coal Company. What is clear is that the Southern Gem Coal Company quickly pushed production at the mine to a level much higher than that achieved under Modern’s short period of operation. The Annual Coal Report for 1920 states that Southern Gem No. 2 produced 353,291 tons of coal, and this was followed by a further increase to 449,938 tons in 1921. Production scaled back in 1922-1924 but still averaged in the 350,000-ton range. The mine generally ranked within the middle third of Franklin County shipping mines during this period in respect to output. Not surprisingly, employment at Southern Gem No. 2 also steadily rose during this period, eventually peaking at 600 in 1924. The mine was mechanized, and the vast majority of the mining there was done with machines, thirty of which were in use by 1922. Excavation followed

Even as employment at Southern Gem No. 2 was peaking in 1923-1924, the number of days the mine was in operation actually was dropping. Between July 1, 1923 and June 30, 1924, the mine operated a mere seventy-seven days, which was less than half the days worked the year previous. Bowing to the sharp decline in the price of coal (or other market pressures), the Southern Gem Coal Company let both of its Franklin County mines sit idle in 1925 and 1926.

Table 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>PRODUCTION</th>
<th>SHIPPING MINE RANK</th>
<th>DAYS ACTIVE OPERATION</th>
<th>EMPLOYEES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1918</td>
<td>14,845</td>
<td>22 of 24</td>
<td>202</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1919</td>
<td>144,050</td>
<td>22 of 24</td>
<td>231</td>
<td>211</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1920</td>
<td>353,291</td>
<td>14 of 26</td>
<td>232</td>
<td>367</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1921</td>
<td>449,938</td>
<td>12 of 26</td>
<td>204</td>
<td>464</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1922</td>
<td>330,676</td>
<td>14 of 25</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>539</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1923</td>
<td>367,847</td>
<td>17 of 27</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>565</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1924</td>
<td>266,288</td>
<td>19 of 24</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1925</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>117.</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1926</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>117.</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1927</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>117.</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1928</td>
<td>87,153</td>
<td>19 of 19</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1929</td>
<td>264,981</td>
<td>16 of 18</td>
<td>148</td>
<td>255</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1930</td>
<td>430,910</td>
<td>12 of 16</td>
<td>242</td>
<td>295</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1931</td>
<td>62,445</td>
<td>14 of 15</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>255</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1932</td>
<td>72,699</td>
<td>14 of 14</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>213</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1933</td>
<td>253,436</td>
<td>11 of 14</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>332</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1934</td>
<td>195,984</td>
<td>12 of 15</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>344</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Data from the Annual Coal Report of Illinois for the years indicated. Up through 1925 the reporting year ran from July 1 to June 30. In 1926 the Annual Report began following the calendar year.

b Total tons of coal produced. Includes coal shipped, sold to railroads, sold to the local trade, and consumed or wasted at the mine.

c Rank among shipping coal mines in Franklin County, Illinois.

On June 10 1926, the *New York Times* reported upon a forthcoming merger of forty-three coal mines in Illinois and Indiana into the Brewerton Coal Company. Included in this merger were the Southern Gem Coal Company’s two Franklin County mines, as well as several others Southern Gem had operated around Pinckneyville in neighboring Jefferson and Perry counties (*New York Times*, Financial Section, p. 39).2 The president of the

---

2 The *Times* stated that Southern Gem’s three mines in Perry County had gone into receivership and were purchased by Brewerton at a receiver’s sale for $60,000. Southern Gem’s other mines in Jefferson and Franklin Counties may have been in similar straights. Aside from those mines already owned by Brewerton, the other entities involved in his proposed merger were: the O’ Gara Coal Company in Green County; the John A. Logan Coal Company and the
Brewerton Coal Company was W. A. Brewerton, a Chicago native with nearly three decades of experience in the coal industry. He had previously been associated with the O’Gara Coal Company and the Sangamon County Mining Company (Hull and Hale 1918:82). In 1927, the former Southern Gem Mine No. 1 in West Frankfort was reopened as Brewerton Coal Company Mine No. 21. Southern Gem Mine No. 2 at Sesser was renamed as Brewerton Mine No. 22. Operations at the latter mine were not renewed until 1928, and possibly did occur until late in that year, considering that only seventy-nine days of operation were reported. The next few years proved to be productive ones at Brewerton Mine No. 22. In 1930, the mine hoisted 430,910 tons of coal, which came close to matching the mine’s peak output achieved back in 1922. The mine was using loading machines by this date. Eight loaders were in use that year. However, mechanic conveyors had not been adopted yet, in contrast to most of the mechanized shipping mines in the state. Brewerton No. 21 and 22 were the only shipping mines in Franklin County that had not adopted conveyors by this date (IDMM 1930:66, 69, 190).

Production at Mine No. 22 dropped off precipitately in 1931 and 1932 as the nation’s economy descended into the depths of the Great Depression. For both years, output at the mine was well below 100,000 tons, and the mine had less fifty days of active operation. Even so, mine still had employed over 200 men these years (IDMM 1930:190-191, 1931:204-205). According to the *Pictorial History of Sesser*, Mine No. 22 “operated under many difficulties” during this period “due to slump in the coal industry, mismanagement, and labor friction” (City of Sesser 2009). Interestingly, a 1931 Sanborn map notes the mine as being owned and/or managed by Bert and Clements who were “receivers for the Interstate Coal Company.” The map makes no mention of the Brewerton Coal Company even though the latter firm consistently is listed as the mine’s operator in the *Annual Coal Report* during the period 1928-1934. In their notes on the mine, Myers and Chenoweth (2008:11) observe that it was “Known as Interstate Coal Company, Sesser No. 22 Mine, but did not report under this name.” The relationship between the Brewerton Coal Company and Interstate Coal Company is not understood, nor do we have any information on the Bert and Clements who were acting as receivers for Interstate. Given that Bert and Clements were receivers, however, it would suggest that the mine’s owners were having financial problems and had placed the mine into receivership in order to avoid bankruptcy and outright liquidation of property.

Production at Mine No. 22 rebounded in 1933, when 253,436 tons were hoisted, and it remained respectable (given the state of the economy) in 1934 as well (IDMM 1933:208-209, 1934:240-241). On the night of November 11, 1934, however, the “main building of the mine” (presumably the powerhouse; see discussion below) caught fire and was destroyed. Public opinion was that the fire was intentional, though no one apparently ever was charged with the crime. Mine No. 22 did not reopen after the fire. Its closure had a devastating impact on the economy in Sesser, especially as the other coal mine near town—Old Ben No. 16—had ceased operations several years before this (City of Sesser 2009).

Franklin County Coal Company in Franklin County; the Chicago Fuel Company in Jackson and Perry Counties; and seventeen mines in Indiana (*New York Times*, 10 June 1926, Financial Section, p. 39).
Several documentary sources provide detailed information regarding the character of the surface plant at the mine. One of these is a United States Geological Survey topographic map of the Du Quoin quadrangle published in 1926 (see Figures 4 and 5). This map illustrates five buildings at the mine site. A spur rail line servicing the mine also is depicted. This spur splits off from the main line of the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy Railroad roughly one-quarter mile south of the mine and rejoins it a similar distance to the north. A side spur branches off just north of the mine’s surface plant and runs a short distance to the east before terminating an impoundment pond. It is possibly that this side spur was used for hauling waste and tailings from the mine. The impoundment pond mentioned is one of three shown in the vicinity of the mine, the other two being located to the south of it. All three were created formed by dams closing off drainages feeding into Jaskie Branch. The ownership of the ponds is not indicated on the map, but they possibly were attached to the mine. Mining companies commonly created and utilized impoundments as a water source.

A second source that illustrates the surface plant at Mine No. 22 is a map produced the mine’s engineers, which shows the layout and extent of the underground workings and also illustrates the top works (see Figures 6 and 7). Such maps were standard for Illinois mines by the early twentieth century and were regularly updated—at least in respect to the underground works. The map for Mine No. 22 shows six buildings/structures on the surface and also illustrates the rail spur servicing the mine. The tipple and powerhouse are aligned on a north/south axis on the western edge of the site, adjacent to the rail spur. On approaching the mine, the spur splits into five separate tracks to accommodate multiple trains being filled with coal from the preparation plant. The outline of the preparation plant is not illustrated, though it certainly would have extended over the rail line described. The spur for the mine rejoins the main line of the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy Railroad one-half mine north of the mine. A washhouse and shop are shown to east of the tipple, and south of these is a small office building. An air shaft is illustrated on the eastern edge of the surface plant ( Interstate Coal Company [1930]).

A fire insurance map prepared by the Sanborn Map Company in 1931 provides the most detailed depiction of Mine No. 22’s surface plant (see Figure 8). This source shows all of the buildings illustrated by the mine company map but also illustrates several others absent from the latter. The Sanborn map depicts the powerhouse as being divided into four rooms, the largest of which is the boiler room on the northern end of the building. Three grouped of paired boilers (or six total) are illustrated, aligned along the east wall. Directly south of the boiler room is the hoist-engine room. Two smaller rooms abut the east side of the hoist-engine room; these are labeled as “ENG. RM.,” and presumably housed the electrical generating equipment. Extending off the west side of the tipple, out over the railroad tracks, is a “screening house” (i.e. preparation plant). A conveyor is shown running between the tipple and powerhouse. This would have been used to transfer coal directly into the boiler room. Lying to the east of the powerhouse is the washhouse, which is depicted as being nearly twice the length as that shown by the mine company map. The Sanborn indicates that the building was used both not only as a washhouse but also as a “store room.” A blacksmith shop located directly south of the
A car shop appears due east of this. The latter shop—used for the repair of pit cars—is absent from the company map. Further east yet is the fan house, which is shown in considerable detail. The fan house proper is divided between an engine room and a fan room. A cowling connects the fan room to the air shaft. A one-story frame office building with a porch on its south side is illustrated south of the blacksmith shop. This office also appears on the mine company map but it is the only structure shown in this area by this source. The Sanborn map, however, shows several other buildings around the office, including a one-story frame dwelling and two small storage buildings. The Sanborn map also illustrates a car puller house to the north of the powerhouse (Sanborn Map Company 1931).

Aerial photographs taken by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) in 1938 illustrate the mine site in some detail (see Figures 9 and 10). What immediately stands out is the condition of the powerhouse, which appears to be a gutted shell, with walls still standing but roof gone. The tipple and preparation plant, washhouse, and blacksmith shop, however, all have their roofs intact. This supports the conclusion that it was the powerhouse that burned on the night of November 11, 1934. The aerial photograph also shows several features not indicated by the historic mine map, including a large addition on the east end of the washhouse, as well as a separate building lying a short distance southeast of the washhouse. What appear to be mounds of bare earth—possibly representing mine tailings—lie along the eastern edge of the mine site (USDA 1938). The headframe and preparation plant components of the tipple were removed at some after this photograph was taken, possibly being salvaged out for scrap metal during World War II.

**Previously Reported Sites:** None.

**Previous Surveys:** No previous archaeological surveys are known to have been conducted in the project area.

**Regional Archaeologist Contacted:** No regional archaeologist was contacted.

**Investigation Techniques:** A pedestrian survey was conducted for the entire area over which the mine’s surface complex extended. Aboveground structural remains were documented through digital images and scaled line drawings. Documentary research was conducted at the Sesser Public Library to locate relevant local histories, historic photographs, and any other pertinent documents related to Interstate Coal Company Mine No. 22. Research also was conducted at the Illinois State Archives and Illinois State Library in Springfield and at the Lovejoy Library at Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville in order to assess any historic maps illustrating the surface complex at the mine and to obtain specific mine improvement and coal production data contained in the *Annual Coal Reports*.

**Time Expended:** 18 man-hours (in field).
Sites/Features Found: The locations of features documented during the field survey are identified on a site plan attached as Figure 12. Digital images and line drawings provide more detailed documentation of individual features. Feature numbers were not assigned to landscape features.

Feature 1 is the main hoisting shaft for the mine, which is located near the southwest corner of the site (see Figures 15 through 17). The hoisting shaft is concrete lined and measures 11'-6"x17'-2". Originally sunk to a depth of 660', the shaft was filled with mixed debris after the mine was abandoned. This fill has since settled to a depth of about 6' below the top of the shaft. There are two vertical recesses in the west wall of the shaft (6" deep and 7" wide), in which timbers for a cage track or structural supports perhaps were set into at one time. A broken off concrete pad extends out over the shaft directly above these recesses. This pad possibly served as a loading platform for men and equipment.

Feature 2 is the footings for the tipple headframe (see Figures 18 through 21). The footings are built of reinforced concrete, measure 26'-8-½"x19'-10" at the base and stand approximately 18' tall. They consist of six 1'-7"x6'-1" concrete "legs" which support an exceptionally thick concrete pad from which the steel superstructure of the headframe once rose. The footings are straight sided on the north, south, and east but are canted outward on the west. The openings between the "legs" allow complete access to the area beneath the headframe, and it was through this area that men and equipment likely were moved to the cage leading down the mine shaft.

Feature 3 is a separate concrete footing located 33' north of the shaft (see Figure 22). This footing which is 6'-6" square at grade, has tapered sides and a sloped "face" that angles toward the tipple. It possibly supported a diagonal brace for the tipple headframe. Large bolts are present in the face of the footing.

Feature 4 is the ruins of a large brick building that formerly housed the powerhouse for the mine, as well as the hoist engine (see Figures 23 through 35). It is in ruinous state, though a few walls remain standing to their full extent. The mechanical equipment has removed. The building has an irregular footprint that measures 168'-1" (north/south) by 97'-5" (east/west) at its greatest extents. The walls are constructed of large machine-made brick laid three courses wide. The bricks are the size of pavers (4"x9"x3-½"). Surviving door and window openings have segmental arched brick lintels. The cornice has corbelled brickwork. Pilasters are present on the exterior walls. In respect to floor plan, the powerhouse is divided into five rooms. On its southern end is a hoist-engine room, which measures 48'-4"x32'-8" on the interior. The electric hoist engine has been removed, but the footings on which it sat remain. The footings are of poured concrete and are quite massive compared to those found at the previous generation of coal mines (e.g. Cherry Mine and Hoosier Mine; ref. Stratton 2002a, 2002b). Lying immediately north of the hoist-engine room is a 15'-9"x32'-8" chamber with a raised concrete base or stand at its eastern end. Large steam pipes run along the floor. This room potentially housed a turbine and/or condenser. The original generator room lies to the east of this. It

---

3 These dimensions are slightly different from those reported in the 1917 coal report (11'-4"x17'-3").
measures 28'-6"x33'-10" on the interior and has a series of concrete footings on which electrical generating equipment would have once been mounted. A second—and later—generator room is located to the south of the original and measures 27'x43'-2" on the interior; it too has multiple concrete footings/mounts for mechanical equipment. The fifth and final space within the powerhouse is the boiler room, which is located on the north end of the building and measures out at a spacious 100'-6"x47'-46'-8" on the interior. The 1931 Sanborn illustrates three banks of boilers (each with two fireboxes) here, but these have been completely demolished and the refractory brick used to line them now litter the floor. Evidence suggests that the boiler room originally was only about 41' long and was later expanded significantly to the north. This expansion is indicated by butt joints in the brickwork, as well as by a comparison of the historic mine map to the 1931 Sanborn. The “new” generator room likely was added at the same time the boiler room was expanded; its walls also have butt joints where they meet the original generator room. The powerhouse possibly was enlarged after Southern Gem Coal Company acquired the mine in 1920.

**Feature 5** is the smokestack for the powerhouse (see Figure 36). The smokestack is independent of the powerhouse itself and is located immediately east (and outside) of the boiler room. It measures roughly 12’ in diameter at the base and rises approximately 80’ high. In respect to construction, the smokestack has an outer shell of reinforced concrete approximately 12” in thickness and an inner shell of refractory brick laid three wide. There is a large rectangular opening on the western face of the chimney. This opening originally would have been fitted with a cowling (or similar ductwork) through which exhaust smoke from the boilers would have been directed into smokestack.

**Feature 6** is a group of four 1’x2’ concrete footings located along the east side of the powerhouse. The footings are arranged in pairs and delineate an area measuring 6’-6”x16’-6”. Each footing has a bolt on its top surface. The exact purpose of the footings is not understood. The 1931 Sanborn map shows no structure in this area.

**Feature 7** is a 6” I.D. pipe set in a 1’-10”-square concrete footing along on the east side of the powerhouse, adjacent to the boiler room (see Figure 37). The pipe extends into the ground and is suspected to be water-related, as opposed to steam. It possibly served as a supply line for a water tank. The 1931 Sanborn map shows no structure in this area.

**Feature 8** is a set of concrete foundations located on the northern end of the mine site (see Figures 38 through 42). The 1931 Sanborn map illustrates scale house in this area, adjacent to the main spur line serving the mine. Feature 8 is believed to represent the remains of the building in question. On its western side, the feature has a shallow, concrete-lined pit measuring 7’-6” wide and 50’-4.” These dimensions approximate the size of a rail car, and the spur line is believed to have run over the pit. A narrower set of foundations extends off the eastern side of the pit, and flanking these are two large concrete footings. The scale house is believed have sat on the latter set of foundations.

**Feature 9** is a set of concrete foundations located 20’ east of Feature 8 (see Figures 43 and 44). The feature, which measures 6’ wide and 20’-6” long at its widest points,
consist of two distinct sections. The western end of the foundations have sloped sides on their interior—similar to a hopper—which dip inward toward to 18”-wide pit. Inverted railroad rails are set in concrete, 5’ on-center, flush with the top surface of the foundations. The 18”-wide pit mentioned continues into the eastern half of the feature has straight-sided walls set 5’-6” apart. The feature is open ended on the east. The exact function of Feature 9 is not understood. No structures are illustrated in this area on any of the historic maps. However, one possibility is that the feature is associated with the spur line that formerly wrapped around the northern end of the site and is suspected to have been used to haul waste mine. Assuming the rail cars passed over the western end of the feature—which is conjecture—the feature served as a type of dump itself.

**Feature 10** is the washhouse, a large, single-story, front-gabled building located due east of the powerhouse (see Figures 46 through 68). It is oriented east/west (with the front elevation located on the west) and has poured-concrete walls and a wood-frame roof. The main part of the washhouse measures 32’ (north/south) by 160’-1” (east/west). The ruins of a small 16’-8”x17’-6” extension are present on the southwest corner of the main building. There is evidence of the washhouse having been constructed in several episodes. The western half of the building represents original the structure and dates to 1918. This construction date is impressed in the concrete above front entrance, along with “M. C. C.”, the acronym of its builder, the Modern Coal Company. The original washhouse measured 32’x80.’ Most of its space was devoted to a large wash/changing room. However, it did have two small rooms on its western end, which flanked an entrance hall. The exact use of these rooms is not known, though they possibly served as offices, storage space, or perhaps as a lamp room. The ceiling in the washhouse was open to the rafters and roof ventilators were present to facilitate airflow. A cable system was employed to allow workers to hoist their work clothes up towards the ceiling to dry off and air out in between shifts—and to their street clothes while at work. The pulleys associated with this cable system are still present on the underside of the ceiling joists. The same system was employed in the east addition, which doubled the size of the original washhouse and likely was added during Southern Gem’s period of operation, when employment increased markedly. The east addition consists of one large open room, which was designed as a wash/changing room but apparently was used for storage as well at times (as suggested by the 1931 Sanborn map). The window openings in both sections of the washhouse had double-hung, wood sash and plank shutters. Due to post-abandonment salvage activity and general deterioration, the arrangement of the plumbing system in the washhouse is not entirely understood. However, there does seem to be evidence for water pipes running along the exterior walls of the two wash/changing rooms, off which separate lines for sinks (and shower heads?) may have extended. It is of interest that there was not a separate shower room as found at several other mine sites documented to date, including the Cherry and Bobby Dick mines (ref. Stratton 2002a and Stratton, Yingst, and Mansberger 2006). The small addition extending off the southwest corner of the original washhouse was constructed of primarily of rock-faced concrete and appears to have been covered with a shed roof. It is not depicted on the 1931 Sanborn map, which suggests that it was added after that date. The function of the extension is not known.
Feature 11 is the remains of the blacksmith shop at the mine and measures 40’ (north/south) by 60’ (east/west) (see Figures 69 through 76). Like the adjacent washhouse, this building has poured concrete walls. The wood truss roof has collapsed but it appears to have been hipped, based surviving remnants and the 1938 aerial photograph. The shop comprised a single open room. The building has a wide, vehicle-sized doorway in its east wall. A similar doorway potentially was located on the opposite, or west, side of the building; this is difficult to say with certainty due to the fact that the western end of the building largely has been demolished. In contrast to the washhouse with its double-hung sash, the window openings in the blacksmith shop simply were equipped with plank shutters. The absence of window sash may reflect the dirty and hot character of work carried out in the building. There is evidence of an overhead drive system mounted to the bottom side of the roof trusses. The arrangement of equipment within the shop is difficult to determine due to the amount of debris littering the interior. However, there is a concrete platform along the north side of the shop that possibly served as an engine mount or perhaps was associated with a forge. An inscription made by workmen in the wall adjacent to this platform indicates that the walls of the blacksmith shop were poured in September 1917.

A large area to the rear of the blacksmith shop has been fenced off. This fence is suspected to post-date the mine and possibly is associated with agricultural use of the property following the mine’s abandonment.

Feature 12 is a pile of concrete debris located a short distance off the southeast corner of the washhouse (see Figure 77). This material is located in the vicinity of the car shop illustrated on the 1931 Sanborn and possibly represents a “dump” for demolition debris from that building, which was torn down at some point post-1938 (based on the historic aerial photograph). The demolition of the car shop was extensive and presumably continued below grade, considering that its location is mostly tilled ground at present.

Feature 13 is the remains of the fan house at the mine, which lies on the eastern end of the site (see Figures 79 through 81). The 1931 Sanborn map indicates that this structure originally had an irregular L-shaped footprint divided amongst an engine room, fan room, and a cowling leading to the air shaft. Everything above the foundation level has been removed, and earth and detritus obscures much of the foundations. The foundations visible are of poured concrete measure 7-1/2” and 12” thick (depending on location). A raised concrete pad with bolts is located at the eastern end of the engine room; this likely served as an engine mount.

Feature 14 is the air shaft for the mine (see Figures 78 and 79). It has concrete sidewalls and measures approximately 11’x18’. The upper part of the shaft is filled with water of an undetermined depth.

Feature 15 is a circular concrete pad that measures 32’ in diameter (see Figure 82). The purpose of this pad is not known, though one possibility is that it supported a grain bin post-dating the mine. The IDNR narrative description mentions a grain bin being on site when their initial field investigation was conducted (IDNR 2009).
Cultural Material: None collected.

Collection Technique: The field investigation was focused on the documentation of structural remains, rather than the collection of artifacts.

Curated at: Short-term curation of notes and drawings is at Fever River Research, Springfield. Long-term curation is at the Illinois State Museum Research and Collections Center, Springfield.

Area Surveyed (acres and square meters): Approximately 10.1 acres (40,875 square meters).

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: As with all historical properties assessed within the context of cultural resources management, the value of the Interstate Coal Company Mine No. 22 Site (11FK265) and its individual structural components ultimately is determined by their eligibility for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Eligibility to the National Register is based on four broad criteria that are defined by the National Park Service and used to guide the evaluation process. These criteria state that

The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archaeology, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and

A) that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
B) that are associated with the lives of persons significant to our past; or

C) that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or

D) that have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history (36CFR60.4 Criteria for Evaluation).

A property may qualify under one or more the above criteria, provided: 1) that it is historically significant, through its association with an important historic context; 2) it retains the historic integrity of those features necessary to convey its significance; and, in the case of archaeological sites, 3) it offers information that can answer relevant research questions and fill in gaps in the historical record. Abandoned coal mine sites represent an atypical category of cultural resource. In order to better assess the significance of these properties, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources has sponsored “Pick, Shovel, Wedge, and Sledge”: A Historical Context for Evaluating Coal Mining Resources in Illinois (Mansberger and Stratton 2005). This report provides the basis by which the National Register criteria can be applied to coal mine sites in Illinois.

Interstate Coal Company Mine No. 22 was opened in 1917 at the peak of the World War I-era coal boom in Illinois. In many ways, this period represented the heyday of coal mining in Illinois. Employment within the industry reached unprecedented levels, and a whole new generation of large, modern mines were developed around the state. Franklin County, in particular, benefited from this surge in investment, and its coal towns like Sesser were flourishing. Sesser already was well-established community by the time Mine No. 22 opened. Yet, the mine was a welcome addition to the city’s economic base, and it remained one of the largest employers there up through 1934 (albeit interrupted by an idle period in 1925-1927).

Mine No. 22 is an example of what Mansberger and Stratton (2005) have discussed as an Electric-Powered Mechanized Mine. This class of mine represented the pinnacle of coal mining in Illinois. In terms of basic operations, these mines shared many characteristics with the Steam-Powered, Mechanized Mines. Where these two mine types differed was in scale and sophistication of operations, which surpassed anything previously seen in Illinois and allowed them to exploit deep coal seams well adapted to mechanized mining. The surface complexes of these mines were large, well built, and contained numerous structures. In some instances, two tipples were present, one of which was used primarily for hoisting coal, while the other was used for moving men and equipment into the mine (though it too could be used for coal during peak production periods). The processing of coal was more sophisticated at these mines, and preparation plants and coal washers often were present. The development of Electric-Powered, Mechanized Mines reflected a prevailing trend in the Illinois coal industry toward a smaller number of mines, but ones that were dramatically more productive than those preceding them (Mansberger and Stratton 2005:205-206).
Interstate Coal Company Mine No. 22 represents a scaled-down version of Electric-Power Mechanized mine, much more modest than the contemporary Orient No. 1 and Bell and Zoeller No. 2 mines. It had only one tipple and the scale of its surface plant was less extensive than its larger competitors. Part of the reason for this difference may relate to its original developer—the Modern Mining Company—of which we know little about other than its principal investors were businessmen from Champaign and that it operated the Sesser mine for only two or three years before being bought out. The company likely lacked the capitalization of such major producers as the Chicago, Wilmington, and Franklin Coal Company and the Bell and Zoeller Coal Company and did not have the means (or perhaps even desire) to build a mine complex intended to impress like these other firms did. The washhouse and blacksmith at the mine were very utilitarian and cost-effective in character, having bare concrete walls, as opposed to brick or a brick veneer, and wood frame sash (in the case of the washhouse) as opposed to steel frame. Indeed, the blacksmith shop had no window sash at all, simply being equipped with plank shutters. The mine office also was quite small. The one building that seemed designed to make an impression was the large powerhouse—a defining feature of Electric-Power Mechanized mines—which had brick walls with corbelled cornices and pilasters. The Southern Gem Mining Company, which acquired the mine in 1919-1920, was a larger firm than the Modern Mining Company and is suspected to have been responsible for the principal later changes to the mine’s surface complex, which involved a massive expansion of the powerhouse (enlarging the boiler room and addition of a generator room) and the doubling of the size of the washhouse. These building alterations illustrate the increased production and employment levels at the mine during Southern Gem’s early years of management. Subsequent changes to the surface complex during the Brewerton Coal Company and Interstate Coal Company’s period of ownership appear to be relatively limited.

Table 2 below provides a guideline for evaluating the National Register eligibility for abandoned coal mines under Criterion D (archaeology). The placement of Interstate Coal Company Mine No. 22 within this subject is shown in comparison to other abandoned coal mines evaluated through March 2010 by Fever River Research. The chart is predicated upon the assertion that archaeological integrity alone does not make a mine site eligible to the National Register under Criterion D. In addition to having integrity, a property must also provide important information not otherwise obtained by other sources. National Register eligibility increases in proportion to integrity and ability to fill relevant data gaps.

Under Table 2, Interstate Coal Company No. 2 falls on the dividing line between mines not eligible and those potentially eligible to the National Register. The mine site has several buildings that are partially intact, most notably to the washhouse, but also the blacksmith shop and the powerhouse. The foundation remains of a number of other structures also are evident above grade. Although the southern end of the site—where the mine office, a dwelling, and two storage buildings were located—appears to be destroyed, the site has good archaeology integrity overall. The surviving archaeological resources provide information regarding the structure, composition, and evolution of the
site, which are relevant data sets. That being said, however, the same information largely can be obtained from the documentary sources available for the mine. The archaeological remains certainly enhance our understanding of these data sets to some degree but not sufficiently to merit a National Register designation under Criterion D.

Table 2
National Register Assessment Chart for Mines
Evaluated under Criterion D

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Intact Surface Complex</th>
<th>Some Buildings Intact, Good Archaeological Integrity</th>
<th>No Standing Buildings, Good Archaeological Integrity</th>
<th>Portions of Site Destroyed or Standing Buildings, Poor Archaeological Integrity</th>
<th>Poor Archaeological Integrity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Associliated with Significant Event, Period, or Technological Advance</td>
<td>Cherry Mine</td>
<td>Illini Mine Rape</td>
<td>Non-Mine Standard City Industrial District</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poorly Documented (No Photographs or Maps)</td>
<td>Non-Mine Lincoln Oils</td>
<td>Non-Mine Lincoln Oils</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partially Documented (Photographs of Site or Buildings)</td>
<td>Non-Mine Non-Mine</td>
<td>Non-Mine Non-Mine</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Well Documented (Many Photographs or Photographs)</td>
<td>Non-Mine Non-Mine</td>
<td>Non-Mine Non-Mine</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Nor is the mine eligible under any of the other National Register criteria. While locally important in respect to the development of Sesser, the mine lacks the integrity required for eligibility under Criterion A. Similarly, the buildings at the mine site lack the architectural integrity expected for properties eligible under Criterion C. Similarly, the mine is not associated with an historically significant individual as covered by Criterion B. In summary, we do not consider Interstate Coal Company Mine No. 22 Site to be National Register eligible under any of the prescribed criteria. Project clearance of the proposed undertaking is recommended.

Contractor Information

Archaeological Contractor: Fever River Research, Inc.
PO Box 5234
Springfield, Illinois  62705-5234

Surveyor(s): F. Mansberger, C. Stratton,
Survey Date: 31 January and 26 February 2010

Report Completed By: Christopher Stratton and Floyd Mansberger
Fever River Research, Inc.
Date: March 2010
Submitted By (Signature and title): Dr. Hal Hassen
Cultural Resource Coordinator
Division of Ecosystem and Environment
Illinois Department of Natural Resources

Submittal Date: ________________

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. Hal Hassen
Cultural Resource Coordinator
Division of Ecosystem and Environment
Illinois Department of Natural Resources
One Natural Resources Way
Springfield, Illinois 62702

cc: Floyd Mansberger
    Fever River Research, Inc.
    P.O. Box 5234
    Springfield, Illinois 62705-5234

Reviewers’ Comments:
References Cited

Aiken, H. M.
1918 Franklin County History, Centennial History. Franklin County Centennial Committee, [Benton, Illinois].

Angle, Paul M.

Brown, Malcolm and John Webb

Coal Age
1917 Sesser, Ill. Coal Age II(20):892.

Frier, Harry L. (editor)

Goode-Barren Historical Society

Hull, Arthur M. and Sydney A. Hale (Editors)
1918 Coal Men of America. The Retail Coalmen, Chicago.

Illinois Department of Mines and Minerals (IDMM)

Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), Abandoned Mine Division
2009 Interstate Coal Company 2009 Grant Project Environmental Narrative. On file at Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

Illinois State Geological Survey (ISGS)

Interstate Coal Company

Mansberger, Floyd and Christopher Stratton

Myers, Alan R. and C. Chenoweth

New York Times

Stratton, Christopher


Stratton, Christopher, Jim Yingst, and Floyd Mansberger

United States Geological Survey (USGS)

Figure 1. United States Geological Survey (USGS) topographic map of the Sesser, Illinois Quadrangle (7.5-minute series) showing the location of the Interstate Coal Company Mine No. 22 Site and its relationship to the City of Sesser (USGS 1982).
Figure 2. Detail of an Illinois State Geological Survey (ISGS) map of mined-out coal lands in Franklin County, Illinois showing the Sesser vicinity. Mined lands are shaded in pink. The “134” on the map is the ISGS Index Number for the Interstate Coal Company’s Mine No. 22. The hatched squares indicate the location of mine shafts. This map well illustrates the extent of coal mining around Sesser, particularly to the north, east, and south of the town. It also shows the local rail network and its orientation to local mines (ISGS 2003).
Figure 3. Two Sanborn maps illustrating the surface plant of the old Keller Mine. Opened in 1906, this mine provided a stimulus for the development of Sesser. It later was purchased by the Old Ben Coal Corporation and operated as that firm's Mine No. 16. The map at TOP illustrated the top works in 1914, while that at BOTTOM shows conditions in 1931 (Sanborn Map Company 1914, 1931).
Figure 4. A 1926 United States Geological Survey (USGS) topographic map of the Du Quoin, Illinois Quadrangle (15-minute series), showing the City of Sesser and vicinity. The location of the Interstate Coal Company Mine No. 22 Site has been indicated. Also of note is the "Old Keller Mine", southeast of Sesser, which was then being operated as Old Ben Coal Corporation Mine No. 16 (USGS 1929).
Figure 5. Detail of the previous figure providing a close-up of the mine site. At least five buildings are illustrated at the site. This map also shows the spur rail line servicing the mine, as well as the road accessing it. Also of note are the impoundment ponds located north and south of the mine and the separate rail spur curving off to the north of the mine surface plant (USGS 1926).
Figure 6. Map section for Interstate Coal Company Mine No. 22 illustrating the underground works of the mine. The method of extraction used in the mine was room-and-pillar panel. The surface plant of the mine is illustrated in the lower left-hand corner (Interstate Coal Company [1930]).
Figure 7. Detail of the previous figure showing the surface complex of Interstate Coal Company Mine No. 22. This map was prepared in 1934 and shows a number of buildings and structures, including the powerhouse, washhouse, blacksmith shop, tipple, office, and air shaft (Interstate Coal Company [1930]).
Figure 8. A 1931 Sanborn map showing the surface plant of Interstate Coal Company Mine No. 22. This source illustrates additional buildings not shown on the mine company map, including three storage sheds, a car repair shop, a dwelling, and a car-puller house. It also shows the footprint of the “screening house” (preparation plant) on the west side of the tipple. Additionally, it shows that the washhouse had been significantly expanded, to the east since the mine company map was first drawn. The powerhouse also had been enlarged (Sanborn Map Company 1931).
Figure 9. A 1938 United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) aerial photograph of the Interstate Coal Company Mine No. 22 vicinity. The surface plant of the mine is circled in red. Several landscape features potentially associated with the mine also appear on the image and have been labeled. These include a railroad grade and the impoundment ponds illustrated on the 1926 USGS topographic map. The southern impoundment pond possibly was drained, or dry, by this date (USDA 1938).
Figure 10. Detail of the 1938 USDA aerial photograph showing the surface plant of Interstate Coal Company Mine No. 22, with buildings labeled. The surface plant of the mine appears to be largely intact at this date with the notable exception of the powerhouse and hoist-engine house, which appears to be a butted shell. By contrast, the other buildings still appear to be roofed over (USDA 1938).
Figure 11. ISGS map showing the total extent of underground workings associated with Mine No. 22, labeled here as the Brewerton Coal Company. Although Mine No. 22 was a relatively large operation in its day, its underground workings were quite modest compared to those of the later Old Ben No. 21 Mine (1960-1991) surrounding it (Myers and Chenowith 2008).
Figure 12. Map of the Interstate Coal Company Mine No. 22 Site (11FK265) showing features identified during the survey. The dashed lines indicate footprints of buildings illustrated on the 1931 Sanborn map but for which no above-ground evidence remains.
Figure 13. Panoramic view of the Interstate Coal Company Mine Site looking north from the southern edge of the site. The tipple remains are located in the trees at far left, and the smokestack for the powerhouse appears in the distance beyond. The washhouse and shop are located in the clump of trees in the center of this view. The airshaft is located at the far right, across the field from the washhouse. Several mine-related buildings once were located in the field in the foreground but these have been removed and no evidence of them remains above grade.
Figure 14. Panoramic view of the mine site looking south from a point due north of the site. The powerhouse and washhouse appear at the center of this view.
Figure 15. Plan of the hoisting shaft (Feature 1), remains of the tipple footings (Feature 2), and associated footing (Feature 3) at the mine site.
Figure 16. View of the concrete-lined hoisting shaft (Feature 1), looking into the southwest corner. The shaft has been filled with a variety of debris.

Figure 17. View of the west wall of the hoisting shaft. Note recesses in wall and concrete pad cantilevered out over the shaft (marked with arrow).
Figure 18. View of the massive concrete footings for the tipple (Feature 2), looking west.

Figure 19. View of the tipple footings looking north. Note the canted character of the footings on their west (left) side.
Figure 20. View of the tipple footings looking east.

Figure 21. View of the headframe footings looking southwest.
Figure 22. View of a concrete footing (Feature 3) located due north of the hoisting shaft. This feature is believed to have supported a diagonal brace for the tipple headframe.
Figure 23. Plan of the powerhouse complex (Feature 4) and several other associated features located adjacent to it. Main door openings and primary spaces within the powerhouse are indicated. Window openings are not shown. Associated features include: a large smokestack (Feature 5), unidentified footings (Feature 6), and a large water pipe (Feature 7).
Figure 24. (LEFT) View of the north end of the powerhouse complex (Feature 4). (RIGHT) Wall detail illustrating the character of the brickwork employed on the powerhouse. Note corbelled cornice.
Figure 25. View of the eastern side of the powerhouse complex. The tall brick wall at right is associated with the boiler room.

Figure 26. Interior view of the hoist-engine room on the south end of the powerhouse complex, looking southeast and showing the substantial concrete foundations upon which the electric hoist engine once sat. The exterior walls of the room largely have been demolished.
Figure 27. Interior view of the southern generator room on the eastern side of the powerhouse, looking north. This room represents an addition to the original structure.

Figure 28. The “new” generator room is filled with concrete footings with threaded tie-down bolts like those shown above. These footings likely supported a variety of electrical generating equipment.
Figure 29. Views of the room sandwiched between the hoist-engine room (to the right), generator room (to the rear), and boiler room (to the left). This room is small compared to the other spaces within the powerhouse. The tall concrete foundation/ shaft shown in the middle of the room is suspected to be associated with a steam condenser or turbine.
Figure 30. Interior view of the boiler room on the northern end of the powerhouse, looking south. This room is the largest within the building and was several stories tall.

Figure 31. Exterior view of the east wall of the boiler room, which is one of the more intact in the powerhouse. This image provides some sense as to the scale of the building. Note the brick pilasters.
Figure 32. Views of the east side of the boiler room, showing water/steam pipes at right and base of the smokestack (Feature 5).
Figure 33. Details of brickwork on east exterior wall of the boiler room, showing a butt joint indicative of an addition. Also of note is the different brick used, with the larger, darker brick on the left side in the images being associated with the original powerhouse and lighter brick being with the addition.
Figure 34. Opening to a tunnel located under the boiler room in the powerhouse. This tunnel possible served as an utility chase of some kind. The opening shown is located on the north end of the boiler house.

Figure 35. Interior view of the tunnel shown in the previous figure.
Figure 36. View looking inside the powerhouse’s smokestack (Feature 5) through the opening by which smoke from the boilers was vented out of the powerhouse. The interior of the smokestack is lined with refractory brick.
Figure 37. Two views of Feature 7, a large-diameter pipe located immediately east of the powerhouse boiler room. This pipe may have supplied water to the boiler room and potentially was connected to a water tank at one time.
Figure 38. Plan of Features 8 and 9 at the north end of the mine site. The purpose of these features is not known with certainty, though they are suspected to have been associated with the spur rail lines servicing the mine.
Figure 39. View of Feature 8 from a distance looking northwest.

Figure 40. Closer view of Feature 8. Note the concrete sidewalls flanking the shallow trench or depression.
Figure 41. View of the concrete footings and foundations located on the east side of Feature 8. An overlay of the 1931 Sanborn map over the site map suggests a small frame building one was located here.

Figure 42. View of Features 8 and 9 looking northwest. Feature 8 appears in the background while Feature 9 is at right foreground.
Figure 43. West end of Feature 9. This view looks east and shows the portion of the feature that resembles a hopper, having sloped sidewalls.

Figure 44. Detail of Feature 9 showing one of the inverted railroad rails set in concrete, flush with the top surface of the feature.
Figure 45. View of an abandoned railroad grade on the north end of the mine site. This grade was associated with the spur line serving the mine site, which reconnected to the main line of the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy Railroad (now Burlington Northern-Santa Fe) a short distance further north (or right). This grade is the most notable mine-related landscape feature at the site.
Figure 46. Plan of the washhouse (Feature 10) at the mine site showing existing conditions. The west (or left) half of the building represents the original structure. It later was doubled in size with an addition on the east. A small addition was constructed off the southwest corner of washhouse yet later on.
Figure 47. View of the front of the washhouse looking southeast. The building has concrete walls and a wood frame roof, most of which has collapsed.

Figure 48. Construction date impressed into the concrete above the front the entrance to the washhouse. “M C Co” refers to the Modern Coal Company, the entity that first developed the mine.
Figure 49. View of the front entrance to the washhouse, with date above doorway.
Figure 50. Interior view of the northern half of the washhouse, which represents the original section of the building. This view looks east. Note character of roof trusses.

Figure 51. View of the northwest corner of the washhouse, showing location of one of two small rooms located on the western end of the building. These rooms, which flanked the front entrance, possibly served as offices or storage.
Figure 52. Two views of the office or storage room in the southwest corner of the washhouse. The interior walls have collapsed, as has the roof. The image at right shows the north wall of the room and illustrates that the studs were left exposed on the interior and simply painted.
Figure 53. (LEFT) Another view of the north wall of southwest office/storage room in the washhouse, in this case showing its outside face, which faced onto an entrance hall and was finished with horizontal tongue-and-groove planking. (RIGHT) Detail of the same wall showing a hinge associated with a double door in the entrance hall. Doors here would have reduced drafts entering the wash/changing room as men entered and left the building through the front entrance.
Figure 54. Pulleys are attached to the ceiling joists in the washhouse. These are associated with the cable system by which workers would hoist their work clothes up to dry in between their work shifts.

Figure 55. Brackets located on the east wall of the original wash/changing room. These possibly supported a shelf at one time.
Figure 56. (LEFT) View of the one multiple roof ventilators that originally ran along the ridgeline of the washhouse. (RIGHT) Cut-off water pipe or drain in the floor of the washhouse.
Figure 57. Two views of the wide doorway between the two wash/changing rooms looking southeast (LEFT) and northeast (RIGHT).
Figure 58. Interior views of the east addition of the washhouse looking east (TOP) and west (BOTTOM). It is of similar construction as the original washhouse and consists of one large, open room.
Figure 59. (LEFT) Butt joint in south wall of the washhouse showing the junction between the original section (at left) and east addition (at right). (RIGHT) Window openings in the washhouse were equipped with hinged plank shutters such as that shown above.
Figure 60. (LEFT) View of the concrete-block chimney positioned along the north wall of the east addition to the washhouse. (RIGHT) The northeast corner of the east addition to the washhouse showing the elevated platform present here. The exact function of this platform is not known but it may have held equipment related to the operation of the washhouse.
Figure 61. The windows in the washhouse were equipped with frame double-hung sash with sash weights.

Figure 62. Detail of the one of the pulleys used for hoisting clothing in the washhouse.
Figure 63. The arrangement of the plumbing system in the washhouse is not understood very well. However, there is evidence for water pipes running along the exterior walls, with brackets set approximately 10’ on center (note arrows).

Figure 64. One of the brackets believed to have supported a water pipe in the original section of the washhouse.
Figure 65. View of the southeast corner of the east addition to the washhouse showing similar brackets as found in the original washhouse. The “T” on the bracket at right suggests that water pipes continued either side of it.

Figure 66. East end of the washhouse addition. The large doorway in the center of the elevation originally had hinged doors, which later were replaced by a sliding door on a track.
Figure 67. (LEFT) Later door track extending across original window opening in east wall of washhouse addition. (RIGHT) Shut off switch for electrical power to the washhouse. The box is located on the southeast corner of the washhouse.
Figure 68. Two views of the remnants of the front wall of a small addition made to the southwest corner of the washhouse. This wall is construction of both rock-faced concrete block as well as brick. The date and use of this addition is not known, though the Sanborn map of the mine site suggests that it post-dates 1931.
Figure 69. Plan of the blacksmith shop (Feature 11) at the mine site. The building lies directly south of the washhouse. The walls on its western end largely have been demolished.
Figure 70. View the south elevation of the blacksmith shop. The building is heavily overgrown by vines, making it difficult to photograph.

Figure 71. View of the northeast corner of the shop building. Like the washhouse, it has concrete walls and originally had a wood-truss roof. The roof however was hipped, rather than front-gabled like the washhouse.
Figure 72. Interior view of the shop building, showing south wall. The roof has completely deteriorated. The beams leaning up against the walls are remnants of the roof trusses.

Figure 73. Inscription on the north wall of the blacksmith shop indicating the date that concrete was poured (September 6, 1917) and the names of two of the builders involved in the project: J. B___ and Jonathan Smith.
Figure 74. Side (TOP) and front (BOTTOM) views of a concrete stand located along the north wall of the blacksmith shop. The stand has feet and is raised above the floor level. It possibly is associated with a forge or perhaps supported heavy equipment of some kind.
Figure 75. Two views of a collapsed platform in the southeast corner of the shop building. This sturdy platform likely supported overhead machinery. Remnants of similar overhead platforms were found on the north side of the shop.
Figure 76. Exterior (LEFT) and interior (RIGHT) views of window openings in the blacksmith shop. In contrast to the washhouse, the shop appears to have had no window sash; instead, the windows here were simply closed off with wood plank shutters.
Figure 77. A pile of concrete debris located immediately southeast of the washhouse. This debris, identified as Feature 12, possibly is associated with the car shop illustrated in this area on the historic Sanborn map. The site of the car shop is presently filled agricultural ground. The fence shown to the rear of the debris post-dates the mine’s period of operation.

Figure 78. View of the concrete-lined air shaft (Feature 14) at the mine site. This feature is located on the eastern edge of the site. Its upper extent is filled with water to an undetermined depth.
Figure 79. Plan of the remains of the fan house (Feature 13) and air shaft (Feature 14) at the mine. The fan house has been demolished to its foundations, portions of which are obscured by a mound of earth and debris.
Figure 80. View of a concrete building foundation situated due east of the air shaft. This feature is associated with a fan house (Feature 13)—specifically the engine room of that building.

Figure 81. Another view of the fan engine room foundations, looking northeast.
Figure 82. View of the large concrete pad located southeast of the powerhouse. This pad, which is circular and 32’ in diameter, possibly is associated with a grain bin post-dating the mine’s period of operation.
ILLINOIS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE RECORDING FORM

County: Franklin
Site Name: Interstate Coal Mine 22
Revisit: N
Field Number: State Site No.: 265
Quadrangle (7.5'): Sesser
Date Recorded: 2010.03.08

LEGAL DESCRIPTION (to quarter quarter quarter section)
Align: SE 1/4s: NENWSE NWNWSE SENWSE SWNWSE Section: 12 Township: S Range: 1E
Align: 1/4s: Section: 0 Township: 0 Range: 0
Align: 1/4s: Section: 0 Township: 0 Range: 0
Align: 1/4s: Section: 0 Township: 0 Range: 0

UTM Coordinates (by ISM): UTM Zone: 16 UTM North: 320533
UTM East: 4218969
Ownership: Private

ENVIRONMENT
Topography: Upland Ridge
Elevation (in meters): 140
Nearest Water Supply: Intermittent
Drainage: Big Muddy
Soil Association: Hoyleton-Cisne-Huey
Description: The site is located on the spur of a low upland ridge on the northeastern edge of Sesser. The site is bordered on the west by a railroad grade. Ground cover represents a mixture of tilled agricultural field and successional forest.

SURVEY
Project Name: Interstate Coal Mine 22
Site Area (square meters): 27858
Ground Cover (List up to 3): Forest Brush Stubble
Visibility (%): 20
Survey Methods (List up to 2): Pedestrian
Standing Structures: Y
Site Type (List up to 2): Commercial

SITE CONDITION
Extent of Damage: Moderate
Main Cause of Damage: Vandalism

MATERIAL OBSERVED
Number of Prehistoric Artifacts (count or estimate): 0
Number of Historic Artifacts (count or estimate): 0
Prehistoric Diagnostic Artifacts: N
Historic Diagnostic Artifacts: N
Prehistoric Surface Features: N
Historic Surface Features: Y
Description: There are several standing structures in a ruinous state and the foundation remains a number of other buildings at the site. These structural remains are associated with the surface plant of an abandoned coal mine.

TEMPORAL AFFILIATION (check all that apply)
Prehistoric Unknown: Late Archaic: Mississippian: Pioneer (1781-1840):
Archaic: Early Woodland: Protohistoric: Early Industrial (1871-1900):
Middle Archaic: Late Woodland: Historic (generic): Post-War (1946-present):
Description: A coal mine was in operation at this site from 1917 through 1934. First developed by the Modern Coal Company, the mine later was operated as Southern Gem Coal Company Mine No. 2 and Brewerton Coal Company Mine No. 22.

Surveyor: F. Mansberger
Institution: FRR
Survey Date: 02/26/2010
Curation Facility: ISM
Site Report by: C. Stratton
Institution: FRR
Date: 03/08/2010
IHPA Log No.: IHPA First Sur. Doc. No.: NRHP Listing: N
Compliance Status:
United States Geological Survey (USGS) topographic map of the Sesser Quadrangle (1982) showing the survey and site limits for the Interstate Coal Company Mine No. 22 Site.