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

THE SHILOH MINE
(LENZ COAL AND MINING COMPANY NO. 2/ SOUTHERN COAL, COKE, AND MINING COMPANY NO. 8)
SHILOH STATION, SAINT CLAIR COUNTY, ILLINOIS

by
Christopher Stratton

prepared by
Fever River Research
Springfield, Illinois

for

Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Springfield, Illinois

December 2003

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Locational Information and Survey Conditions

County: Saint Clair **Quadrangle**: O'Fallon

Project Type/Title: Phase II archaeological survey of the Shiloh Mine Site.

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

Legal Location:
SE1/4, SW1/4, NE1/4
Section 17
Township 1 North, Range 7 West of 3rd P.M.
Saint Clair County
Illinois

UTM: 4,269,133 North
247,457 East

Project Description: The project consisted of a Phase II archaeological survey of the Shiloh Mine Site, an abandoned coal mining property that was in operation between 1903 and 1928. The primary purpose of the project was to document the large concrete smokestack that is present at the site and determine its historic use. In addition, a pedestrian survey was conducted over the surrounding area in order to the assess configuration of the mine's surface complex and determine site limits. The field investigation was conducted in expectation of the mine site being subjected to reclamation work in the near future. The proposed reclamation will involve the demolition of all hazardous building remains and their burial on site. In addition, the suspected mine shaft will be explored and, if found to be open or settled, filled using standard techniques.

Topography: The Shiloh Mine Site is located in a wooded tract of land, immediately north of the rural hamlet of Shiloh Station, in Shiloh Valley Township, St. Clair County, Illinois. The mine site is on level terrain and is covered with second-growth timber and brush. Honeysuckle is the predominate undergrowth and thickly covers some areas (particularly the mine building remains). Several intermittent streams—apparently fairly recent and formed by field runoff—cut through the site. Shiloh Station Road wraps around the northern and eastern edges of the site, while the Norfolk and Southern Railroad borders it on the south. Agricultural fields lie to the north and east. The village of Shiloh lies 1-1/2 miles due north of the site.

Soils: Joy-Tamma-Muscatine-Ipava-Sable

Drainage: Loop Creek, Silver Creek, Kaskaskia River

Land Use/Ground Cover: Timber, brush

Survey Limitations: All of the buildings associated with the mine's surface complex have been demolished down their foundations and footings, and in some cases (such as the tipple) the footings have been removed altogether. Furthermore, since the mine's abandonment, the site has been covered with timber and undergrowth, making difficult to see the buildings remains to their full extent and interpret them. Honeysuckle growth is particularly thick.

Archaeological and Historical Information

Historical Plats/Atlases/Source:

St. Clair County was one of the premier coal producing counties in Illinois from the middle nineteenth century into the early twentieth century. The county was the leader in statewide coal production during the period 1882-1892, and then dropped to second place (behind Sangamon County) in 1893-1902. By 1923-1930, it had lost ground and was ranked seventh in the state. For total coal production between 1882-1930, St. Clair County was ranked fifth (Department of Mines and Minerals 1954:21).

A number of coal mines were located in Shiloh Valley Township. The 1874 atlas of St. Clair County shows three mines located in the vicinity of Rentchler Station, in the southern part of the township. All three shafts were located along the St. Louis and Southeastern Railroad, and much of their coal likely was shipped to St. Louis (Warner and Beers 1874:31).

After the Southern Railway (also known as Louisville, Evansville, and St. Louis Consolidated Railroad) was constructed through the center part of the township later in the century, several coal mines were opened adjacent to that line. The first of these mines was Shiloh Mine, which initially was developed by the Lenz Coal and Mining Company in 1902-1903. Lenz was a local company and had one other mine (No. 1) in Belleville. Their Shiloh Mine originally was designated as Lenz Coal and Mining Company No. 2. The mine had a 200' deep shaft and exploited a 6'-thick section of the Herrin coal seam. All of the mining was done by hand, while the haulage within the mine done by mule. A steam-powered engine hoisted coal out of the mine. For the year ending October 1, 1904, the Shiloh mine produced 8,920 tons of coal. As a comparison, the company's Mine No. 1 produced 19,683 tons of coal (Illinois Bureau of Labor Statistics 1904:159).

At some point between July 1 1905 and June 1906, the Southern Coal and Mining Company purchased eight preexisting mines in St. Clair County, including the Lenz Coal and Mining Company's mines No. 1 and 2 in Belleville and Shiloh. The eight mines purchased were renumbered No. 1 through 8, with the Shiloh Mine being designated as No. 8 (Bureau of Labor Statistics 1906:314). The Southern Coal and Mining Company was a subsidiary of the Southern Railway, and its acquisition of these mines likely was spurred in part by a desire to control the supply of coal for their locomotives. In 1906-1907, the company erected a coal washer at Centerville Station. This washer was destroyed by fire in 1912, and a new one was erected soon after in East St. Louis (Stratton 2002: 2).

A 1906 United States Geological Survey topographic map illustrates a single building at the Shiloh Mine Site, which possibly represents the either the tipple or boiler/engine house there. It also shows a spur line extending off the main the line of the Southern Railway to the mine. In addition, the map shows five buildings at Shiloh Station, immediately south the mine site. Shiloh Station is not illustrated the 1901 atlas of St. Clair County, and there is possibility that it developed in conjuncture with the mine (USGS 1906; Ogle 1901:31).

On November 24, 1910, there was a fire at the Shiloh Mine, which resulted in the destruction of the boiler and engine house. Within six weeks, a new boiler and engine house was put up, the machinery repaired, and the mine placed back in operation (State Mining Board 1912:331). Several years later, the name of the company operating the mine was changed to "Southern Coal, Coke, and Mining Company."

In 1915, Shiloh Mine No. 8 produced 144,386 tons of coal for the year, with an average output of 2,220 tons per day. This production output placed the mine in the middle tier of mines of the state, although it was ranked relatively low among large shipping mines. The Shiloh Mine was ranked 140th out of the 69 shipping mines with an annual production of 100,000 tons or more. The mine employed 358 men, but was in operation for a mere 65 days out of the year. The mine clearly operated on a seasonal basis, with short periods of intense production followed by lengthy shutdowns (Department of Mines and Minerals 1915:11). This situation was by no means unique to the Shiloh Mine. The 1911 *Annual Coal Report*, for instance, noted that the mines in St. Clair County were worked an average of only one or two days a week between January and July 1911 (State Mining Board 1912:331).

Shiloh Mine shut down operations in 1928-1929 (Illinois State Geological Survey 2000:1).[1] Portions of the mine surface complex may have been intact as late 1956, considering that a county plat map published that year still labels the site as "Shiloh Mine"—even though the mine had been abandoned for nearly thirty years by that date (St. Clair Title Company 1956). Southern Coal, Coke, and Mining Company's mine No. 7 (known colloquially as "Little Oak"), which located 1-1/2 miles due west of the Shiloh Mine, remained in operation until 1948 (St. Clair County Geneological Society 1988:49).

Previously Reported Sites: None.

Previous Surveys: No previous archaeological surveys are known to have covered the Shiloh Mine Site.

Regional Archaeologist Contacted: No regional archaeologist was contacted.

[1] A history of Shiloh Valley Township published in the 1988 *History of St. Clair County* (St. Clair County Geneological Society) indicates that the mine remained in operation until 1932. This date is at conflict, however, with

Investigation Techniques: A pedestrian survey was conducted over the entire area over which the mine's surface complex extended. All visible aboveground structural remains were documented through photographs (35mm color film) and on a scaled site plan. Documentary research was conducted at the Belleville Public Library and the Illinois State Archives.

Time Expended: 12 man-hours (in field)

Sites/Features Found: The survey resulted in the documentation of a number of structural and topographic features associated with the mine. The locations of the features discussed below are indicated on the site map attached as Figure 9. The most prominent feature at the site is a large concrete smokestack that is collapsed and lies on its side. The smokestack is constructed of reinforced concrete and originally stood approximately 66' tall. It has outer and inner diameters of 9'-6" and 6'-0." The stack is unembellished, except near its top where there is a beveled band or shoulder. It is unclear whether the structure collapsed from its own weight or was intentionally dynamited, though the latter seems the more likely scenario given the overall good condition of the concrete and the neatness with which it broke off from its base.

The smokestack is positioned off the northeast corner of a boiler house and was intended to vent smoke generated from the coal-fired boilers within this building. The boiler house measured approximately 47' (north/south) by 30' (east/west)[2] and had concrete-block walls set on 10"-thick poured-concrete foundations. All of the walls have been demolished, as have the boiler chambers. There is a series of narrow openings in the floor of the building, marking the location of the boilers. These openings open into a tunnel, which appears to have run the length of the building (it is now filled with fire brick and other demolition debris), and are suspected to have served either as uptake vents or as cleanouts for clinkers and ash. The boilers generated steam power and heat for the mine complex. Smoke produced from the burned coal was directed into the smokestack, through an opening in the base of the stack. The precise number of boilers once present could not be determined due to the considerable demolition debris and honeysuckle covering the building site.

A pair of hoist engine mounts are located directly west of the boiler house. The mounts are constructed of poured concrete and measure 20' long and about 5' thick at the base. They have a series of threaded steel tie-downs on their upper surface. Their design is similar to mounts at other mine sites in Illinois, including those at the Cherry Mine in LaSalle County and the Hoosier Mine in Macoupin County (see Stratton 2002a, 2002b). When the mine was in operation, the mounts would have supported the hoist engine used to raise and lower the cage through the mine shaft. The orientation of the mounts suggests that the mine tipple was located directly south of them. If so, the tipple complex—consisting of the tipple proper, along with screens and coal hoppers—likely extended a good distance south until reaching the spur line running parallel to the Southern (now Norfolk and Southern) Railroad. This spur line is illustrated on the 1906

[2] The east/west dimensions of the boiler house were difficult to determine due the considerable demolition debris present and the fact that the smokestack lays across what would have been the east wall of the building.

topographic map and on the 1956 plat of St. Clair County. Although the rails have been removed, the bed is still evident. Unfortunately, there is no structural evidence for the tipple other than a concrete footing on the south side of the abandoned spur line.

There are a number of concrete footings and foundations located behind the hoist engine mounts. One set of 4”-thick foundations was associated with a small, probably frame, building that measured 9’x10.’ We do not know the exact function of this building, although it may have served as a pump house and housed the mechanicals for pumping water to and from the reservoir or pond behind it. The reservoir is man-made and is circuited by a tall earth berm its north side. It would have been used both as a source of a water for the mine surface complex (for the boilers, fire prevention, etc.) as well as a dumping ground for water pumped from the below-ground workings of the mine.

A number of other concrete footings, whose purpose is not understood, are located on the west side of the mine site. Similarly, there are two concentrations of concrete and brick demolition debris on the east end of the site. It is possible that each concentration of debris is associated with a specific building (i.e. shower house, store house, etc.), although what function they served remains unknown.

Cultural Material: None collected

Collection Technique: The field investigation was aimed at the documentation of building remains, rather than the collection of artifacts.

Curated at: All field notes and drawings are curated at Fever River Research, Springfield.

Area Surveyed (acres and square meters): approximately 3 acres (12,140 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: The Phase II archaeological survey of the Shiloh Mine Site resulted in the documentation of a medium-sized shipping mine that was in operation from 1902-1903 to 1928-1929. Initially developed as modest sized operation by the Lenz Coal and Mining Company, the facility later was expanded and its production increased under the management of the Southern Coal, Coke, and Mining Company. Archival research indicates that boiler and engine house at the mine was constructed in late 1910, following the destruction of an earlier building by fire. It is possible that the mine company wanted to fireproof the new building, and hence chose to build the walls out of concrete block and the smokestack out of reinforced concrete.

Like most abandoned coal mine sites in Illinois, the Shiloh Mine is in a deteriorated condition and its surface buildings have been demolished and mechanical equipment removed. Even so, the field investigation did result in a basic understanding of the special layout of the mine complex. Furthermore, the site serves as a case study for the use of concrete-block and reinforced concrete on specific mine building types.

Overall, however, the integrity of Shiloh Mine Site is poor compared to other mine sites previously studied. We do not feel that any additional fieldwork at the site is warranted. Nor do we feel that the resources there have sufficient integrity or significance to make the site potentially eligible for the National Places.

Surveyors: C. Stratton and J. Lewis

Survey Date: 5 December 2003

Report Completed By: C. Stratton and F. Mansberger
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Stratton, Christopher

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2002 "Illinois Department of Natural Resources Cultural Resource Management Program, Abandoned Mined Lands Reclamation, Cultural Resources Description of the Cherry Mine (St. Paul Coal Company No. 2), Cherry, Illinois." Report prepared by Fever River Research for the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

United States Geological Survey (USGS)

1988 Aerial photograph of Shiloh Station, Illinois. <http//:www.terraserver-usa.com>.

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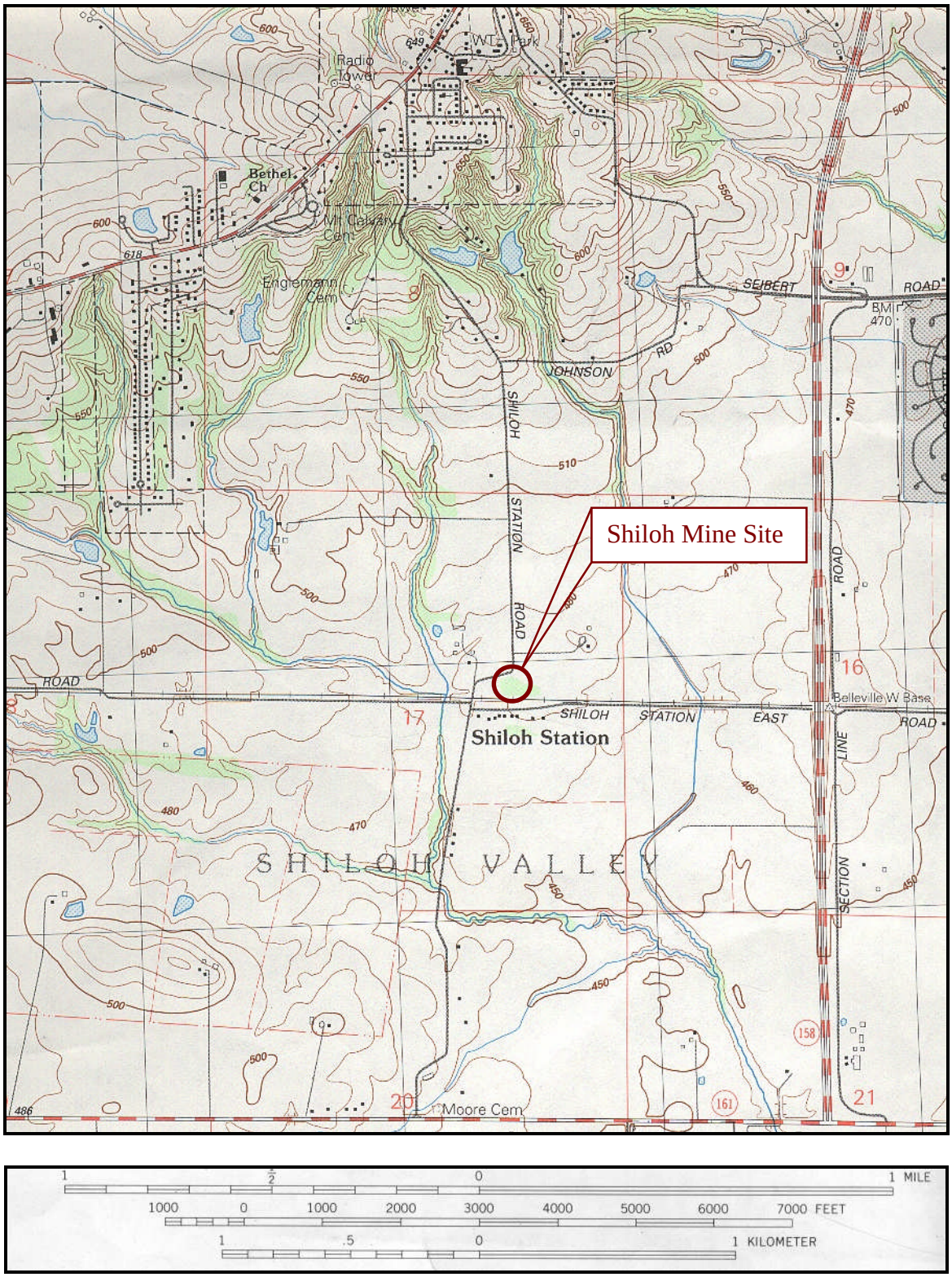


Figure 1. United States Geological Survey (USGS) topographic map showing the location of the Shiloh Mine Site (USGS, O'Fallon, Illinois Quadrangle, 1991).

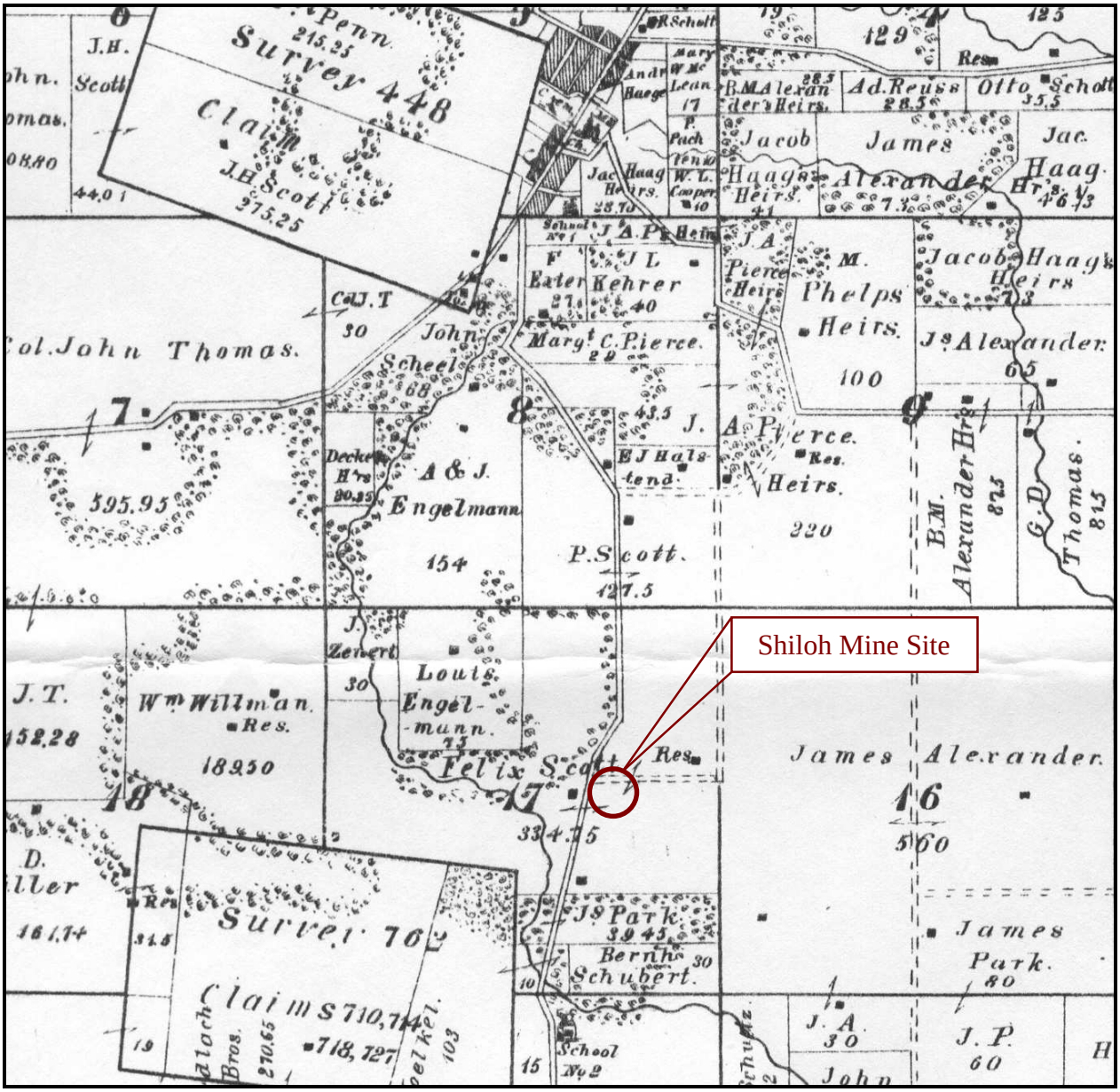


Figure 2. Location of the Shiloh Mine Site, as illustrated by an 1874 atlas of St. Clair County. At this date, the mine site had not yet been developed and was located on a large farm owned by Felix Scott. The village of Shiloh is shown 1-1/2 miles north of the mine site (Warner and Beers 1874:31).

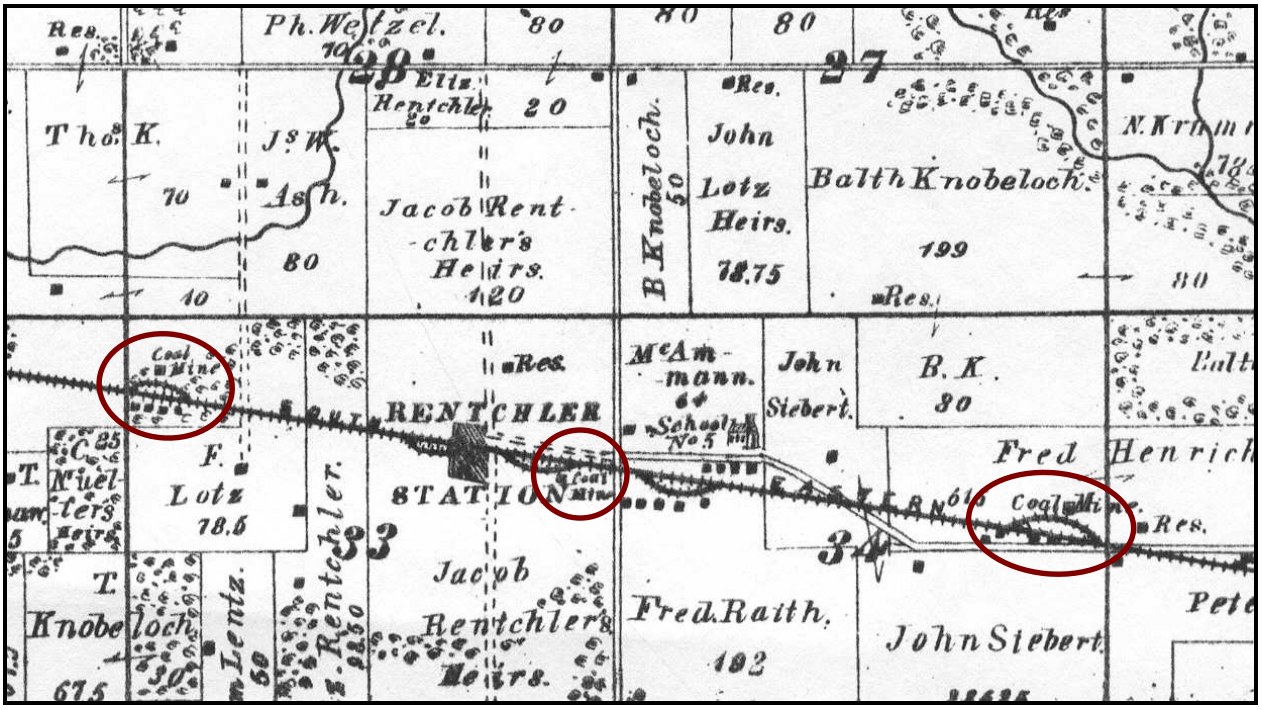


Figure 3. A number of coal mines had been established in Shiloh Valley Township by the 1870s. These were located around Rentchler Station, adjacent to the St. Louis and South Eastern Railroad. The map above shows three mines at Rentchler Station (all circled) (Warner and Beers 1874:31).

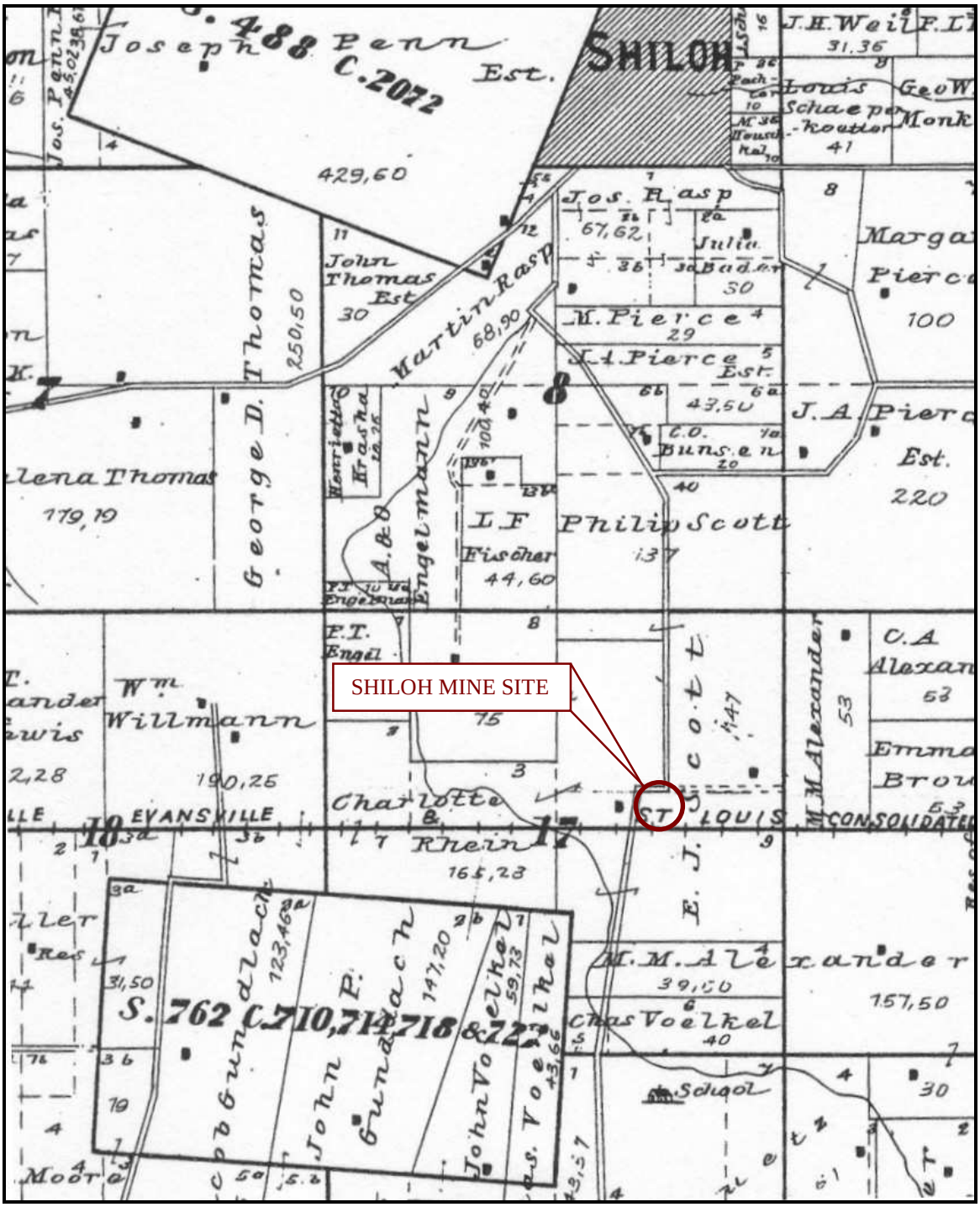


Figure 4. Detail from a 1901 plat of Shiloh Valley Township showing the location of the Shiloh Mine Site. The mine was established soon after the publication of this map. Note the Louisville, Evansville, and St. Louis Consolidated Railroad directly south of the mine site. Later purchased by the Southern Railway Company, this railroad serviced the mine during the entire period it was in operation (Ogle 1901).

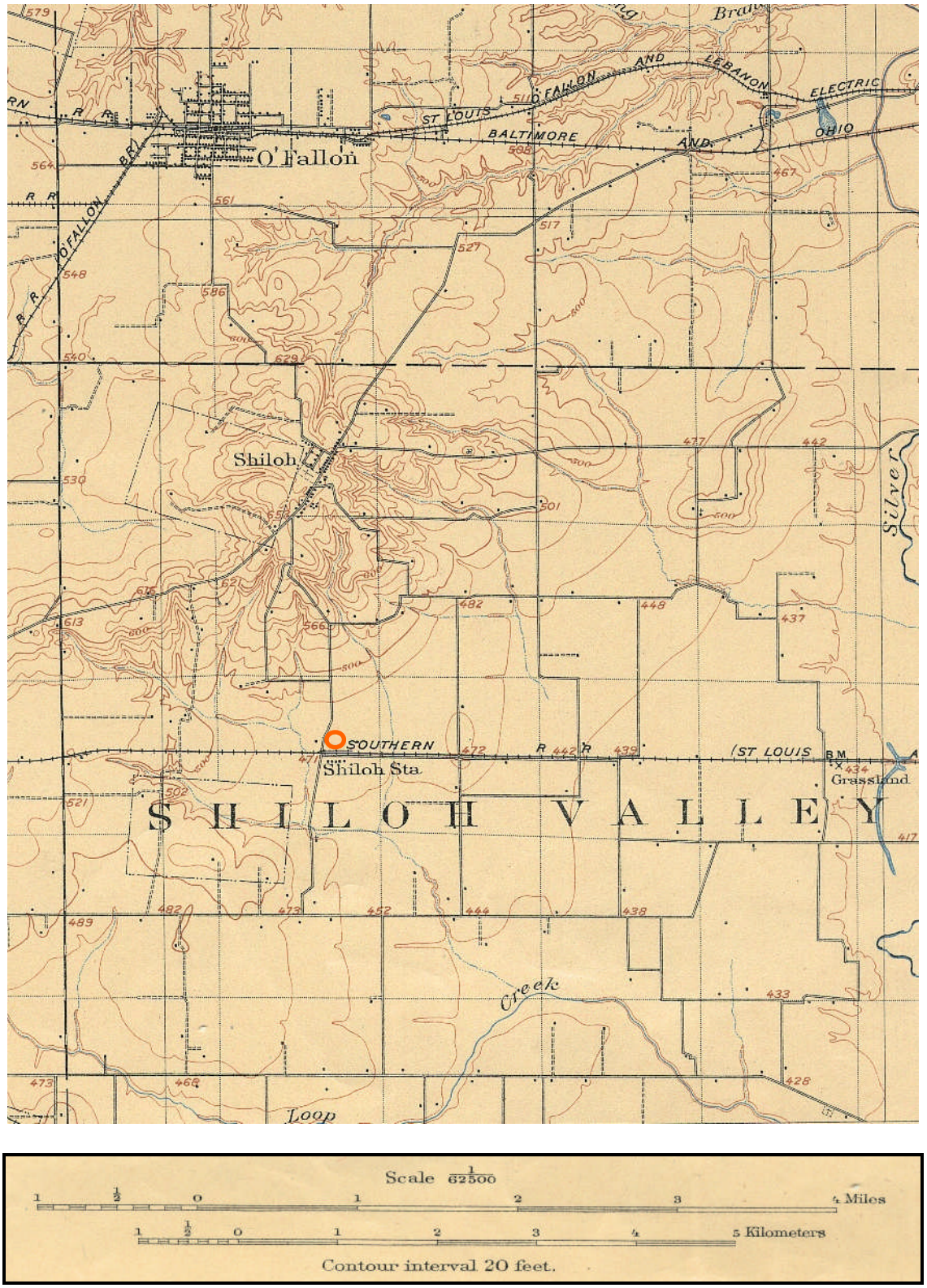


Figure 5. A 1906 United States Geological Survey topographic map showing the location of the Shiloh Mine Site (circled in red) (USGS 1906).

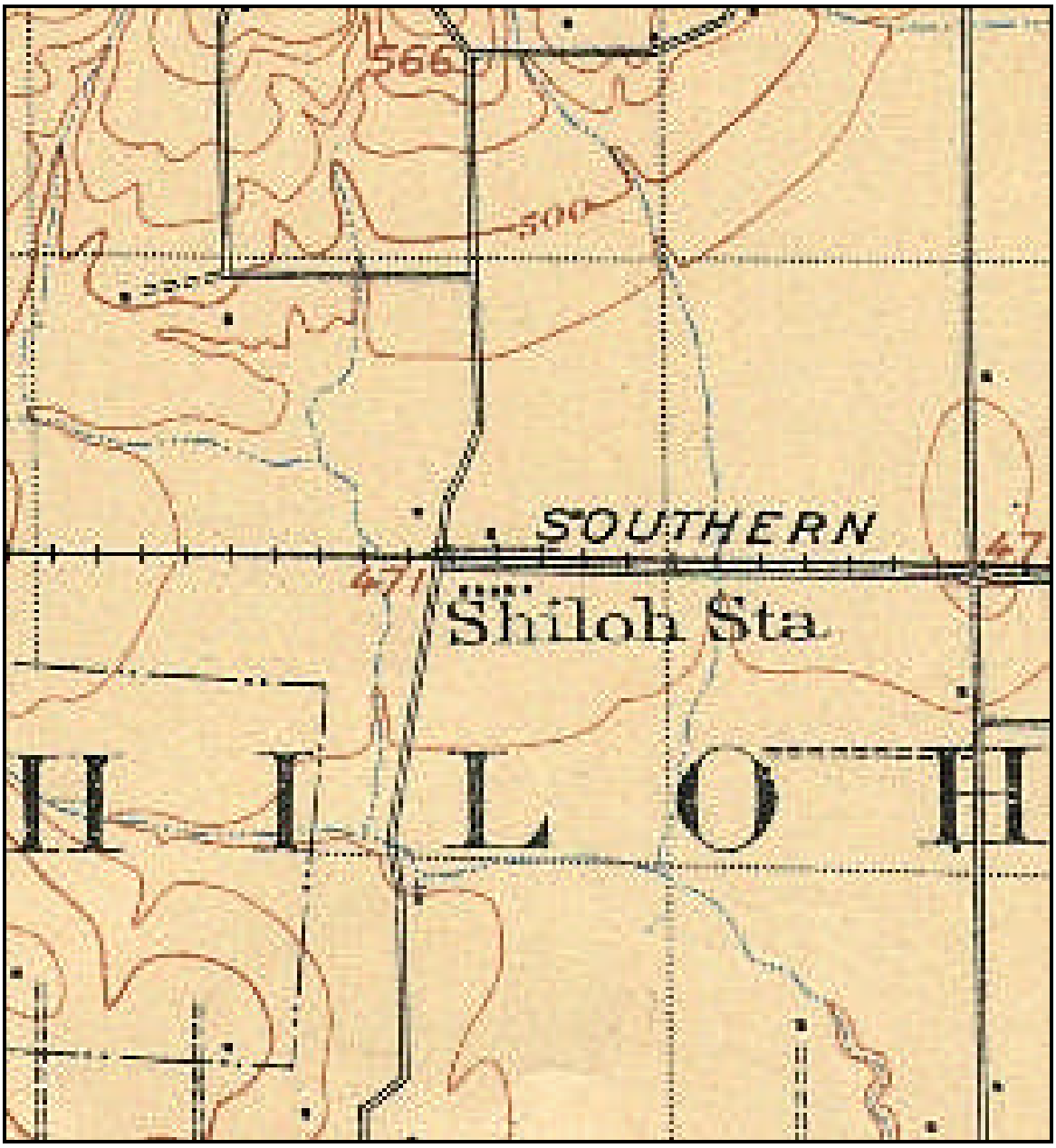


Figure 6. Detail of the previous figure. The map shows a single building at the mine site (possibly representing the tipple?), as well as a railroad spur extending off the Southern Railway into the mine. It also illustrates five buildings at Shiloh Station. The fact that no buildings are shown at the latter location on the 1901 atlas suggests that Shiloh Station developed in conjuncture with the mine (USGS, Belleville Quadrangle 1906).

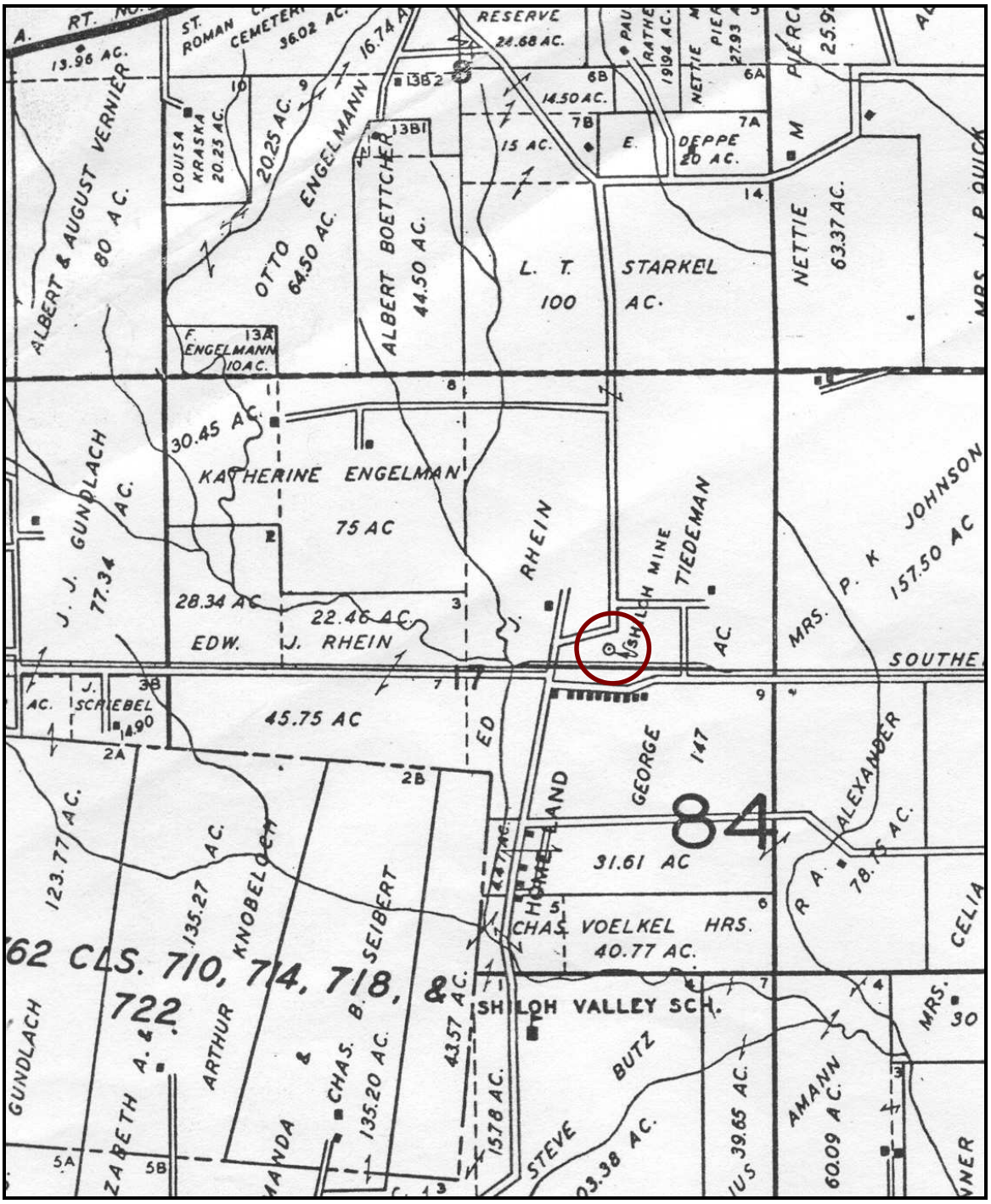


Figure 7. A 1956 plat map showing the location of the Shiloh Mine Site (circled in red). Although the mine had been abandoned for nearly three decades by this date, the map still labels the site as the "Shiloh Mine" and indicates the presence of a spur line. The row of buildings shown south of the mine site is Shiloh Station (St. Clair Title Company 1956).

Figure 8. Detail from a 1988 aerial photograph showing the location of the Shiloh Mine Site (United State Geological Survey 1988).

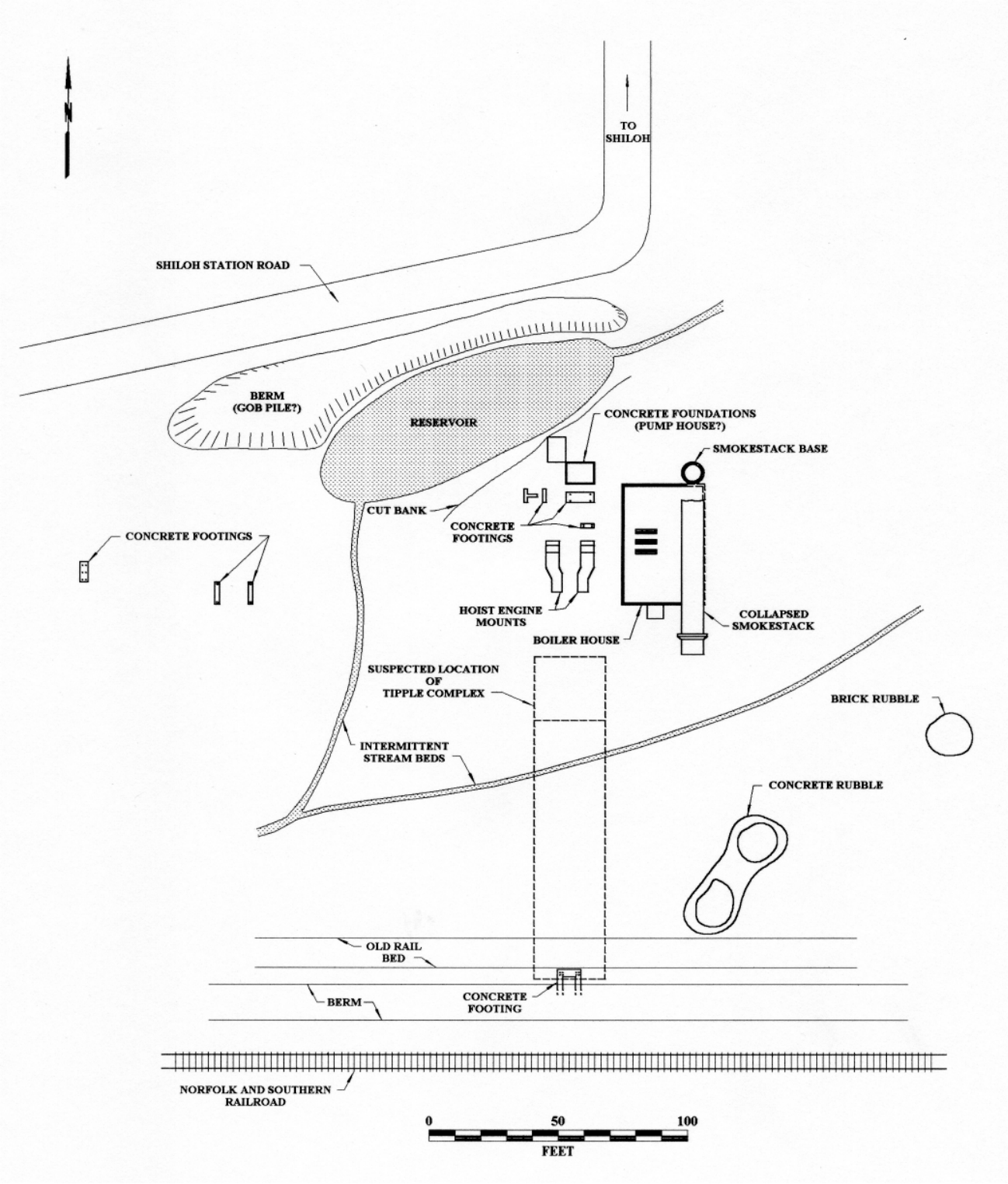


Figure 9. Plan of the Shiloh Mine Site, showing features identified during the field survey (FRR December 2003).

Figure 10. View of the boiler house smokestack at the Shiloh Mine Site. Originally standing nearly 70', the smokestack has collapsed and now lies on its side (FRR December 2003)

Figure 11. The smokestack is constructed of reinforced concrete and has an interior diameter of 6' (FRR December 2003).

Figure 12. View of the upper part of the smokestack. Note the shoulder or band that wraps around the top of the stack (FRR December 2003).

Figure 13. Interior view of the smokestack. The opening shown in the foreground is an intake vent, through which smoke from the boilers was directed into the stack (FRR December 2003).

Figure 14. Interior view showing the upper part of the smokestack. The walls of the shaft thicken here and a reinforced by the exterior band or shoulder shown in Figure 12. A ring of firebrick has been incorporated into the structure here (FRR December 2003).

Figure 15. The walls of the boiler house were constructed with concrete block. The blocks shown above were part of the east wall and rest beneath the collapsed smokestack (FRR December 2003).

Figure 16. View of the boiler house foundations, showing a section on the south side of the structure. This photograph also illustrates the extent to which honeysuckle has covered the building remains at the site (FRR December 2003).

Figure 17. View of one of a series of openings in the floor of the boiler house. We suspect these openings to have served as uptake (or clean-out?) vents for the boilers (FRR December 2003).

Figure 18. View of the large, paired concrete footings on which the hoist engine for the mine was mounted (FRR December 2003).

Figure 19. View of a set of footings on the west end of the site. Although the footings clearly are associated with the mine, we do not know what their exact purpose was. The corrugated steel panels shown are part of a collapsed livestock shed that built around the footings after the abandonment of the mine (FRR December 2003).

Figure 20. A small man-made pond extends along the northern edge of the mine site. The pond served as a reservoir during the period that the mine was in operation and is ringed by an earth berm (FRR December 2003).

APPENDIX I

IAS SITE FORM

ILLINOIS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE RECORDING FORM

County: Saint Clair **Site Name:** Shiloh Mine Site **Revisit:** N
Field Number: **State Site No.:**
Quadrangle (7.5'): O'Fallon (1991) **Date Recorded:**

LEGAL DESCRIPTION (to quarter quarter quarter)

Align: SE	**1/4s:** SE SW NE	**Section:** 17	**Township:** 1N	**Range:** 7W
Align:	**1/4s:**	**Section:**	**Township:**	**Range:**
Align:	**1/4s:**	**Section:**	**Township:**	**Range:**
Align:	**1/4s:**	**Section:**	**Township:**	**Range:**

UTM Coordinates (by ISM): **UTM Zone:** **UTM North:** **UTM East:**

Ownership: Private

ENVIRONMENT

Topography: Other Upland **Elevation (in meters):** 143
Nearest Water Supply: Loop Creek **Drainage:**
Soil Association:

Description: The site is located in a small timbered tract, on relatively level terrain one-half mile south of the Shiloh Hill. It bordered by agricultural fields on the north and east, by Shiloh Station Road on the north and west, and by the Norfolk and Southern Railroad on the south.

SURVEY

Project Name: Shiloh Mine Survey **Site Area (square meters):** 8,695
Ground Cover (List up to 3): Forest Brush Weeds **Visibility (%):** 0
Survey Methods (List up to 2): Pedestrian **Standing Structures:** N
Site Type (List up to 2):

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

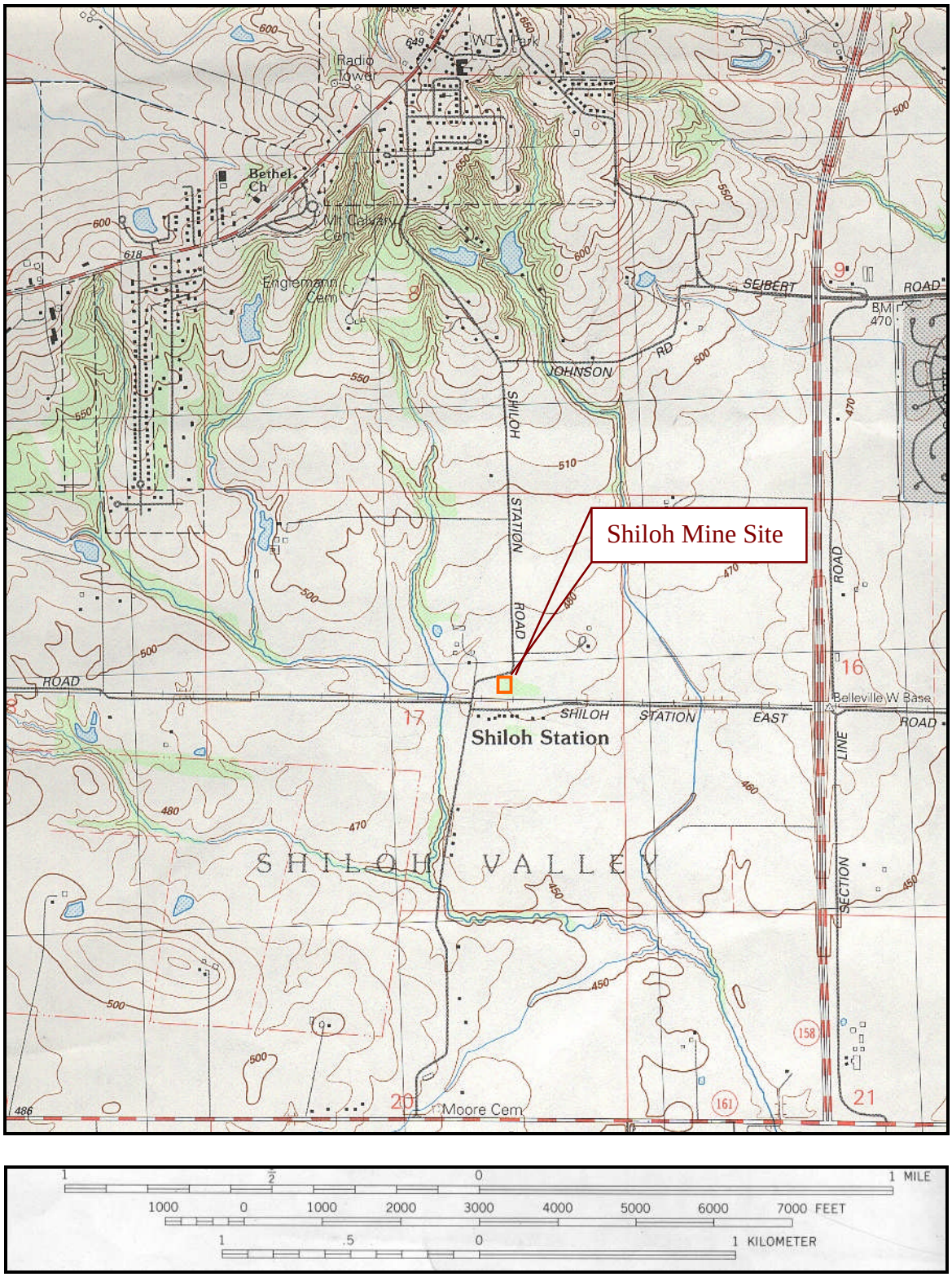
Description: A number of concrete building foundations and footings are present. These features are associated with the coal mine formerly active at this site.

TEMPORAL AFFILIATION (check all that apply)

			Colonial (1673-1780):
Prehistoric Unknown:	**Late Archaic:**	**Mississippian:**	**Pioneer (1781-1840):**
Paleoindian:	**Woodland:**	**Upper Mississippian:**	**Frontier (1841-1870):**
Archaic:	**Early Woodland:**	**Protohistoric:**	**Early Industrial (1871-1900):**
Early Archaic:	**Middle Woodland:**	**Historic Native American:**	**Urban Industrial (1901-1945):** Y
Middle Archaic:	**Late Woodland:**	**Historic (generic):**	**Post-War (1946-present):**

Description: Archival research documents the presence of a coal mine at this site between the years 1902 and 1929. The mine was operated by the Lenz Coal and Mining Company between 1902 and 1905 and by the Southern Coal, Coke, and Mining Company during the period 1905-1929.

Surveyor: C. Stratton, J. Lewis **Institution:** FRR **Survey Date:** 12/05/03 **Curation Facility:** FRR
Site Report by: C. Stratton **Institution:** FRR **Date:** 12/15/03
IHPA Log No.: **IHPA First Sur. Doc. No.:**
Compliance Status: **NRHP Listing:**


Shiloh Mine Site
Shiloh Station
SHILOH VALLEY
Radio Tower
Bethel Ch
Mt Calvary Cem
Engelmann Cem
SEIBERT ROAD
JOHNSON RD
SHILOH STATION ROAD
SHILOH STATION EAST ROAD
SECTION LINE ROAD
Belleville W Base
Moore Cem
BM 470
1 MILE
1000 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET
1 KILOMETER