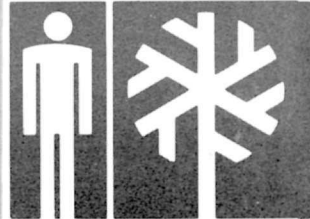


historical and archeological investigations

september 1990

**NEW RIVER GORGE NATIONAL RIVER  
CANYON RIM VISITOR CENTER IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**



WEST VIRGINIA

HISTORICAL AND ARCHEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS  
CANYON RIM VISITOR CENTER IMPROVEMENT PROJECT  
NEW RIVER GORGE NATIONAL RIVER  
FAYETTE COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

Prepared for the National Park Service by:

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## ABSTRACT

This report describes historical and archeological investigations at the Canyon Rim Visitor Center development area, New River Gorge National River, West Virginia. Contained in investment properties and then in subsistence farms until the 1870s, by 1900 the project area appears to have been divided into small properties owned by coal miners and farmers. Between 1910 and 1928, a cluster of worker housing, referred to as New Town, was presumably constructed by the Ames Mining Company. Most of these houses were abandoned by the mid-1940s; those that survived were razed in the 1970s for construction of Route 19, which bisects the project area. Besides the worker housing represented by New Town, there were four farmhouses, occupied by Hicks, Minnix, Duncan, and Bobbitt, that were demolished in the 1970s. A cemetery of unmarked graves was relocated from the project area in 1971. According to one informant, the unmarked cemetery was itself the result of a relocation that occurred in 1939 or 1940 when the Ames Mining Company built a new tipple. The archeological survey and testing program for the development area, which included the examination of several adjacent rockshelters, did not locate any prehistoric remains or undisturbed historic deposits.

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## I. INTRODUCTION

The Cultural Resource Group of Louis Berger & Associates, Inc. (LBA) conducted a historical overview and archeological survey of proposed facility improvements at the Canyon Rim Visitor Center, New River Gorge National River, Fayette County, West Virginia. These investigations were performed through an indefinite quantities contract between LBA and the National Park Service (NPS), Denver Service Center. The objectives of the historical research, Work Order No. 7, were to characterize the historical development in the project area and assess cultural resource potential. Of particular concern was the possibility that human remains might be present within the area of direct impact, as unmarked graves had been encountered during construction in 1971. The archeological survey, conducted under Work Order No. 17, included a surface inspection and selected shovel testing.

Historical research was conducted in West Virginia between February 21 and March 3, 1989. Information was collected at the following agencies and repositories: Park Headquarters and Land Office of the New River Gorge National River, Oak Hill; Fayette County Clerk's Office, Fayette County Courthouse, Fayetteville; Fayette County Circuit Court Office, Fayette County Courthouse; Fayette County Tax Assessor's Office, Fayetteville; West Virginia State Archives, Charleston; and the West Virginia Historic Preservation Office, Charleston.

Research included examination of titles and deeds, maps and atlases, census records, and local histories. A Cultural Research Project; The New River Gorge National River, West Virginia, Vol. II, edited by Paul D. Marshall (1981), was of particular importance in establishing the principal themes in the historic development of this area. This material was augmented by informant interviews with Lowell ("Uncle Bud") Kincaid, Morris Hatfield, and Anna ("Babe") Woods.

Dr. Amy Friedlander was Principal Investigator for the historical research project and Dr. Michael Alterman was the Principal Investigator for the archeological survey. Dr. Friedlander and Dr. Alterman were the senior authors of this report. Ingrid Wuebber conducted historical research and informant interviews in West Virginia. The archeological field survey was conducted from May 30 through June 8, 1989. The Field Director was John Martin and the Field Archeologists were Ricardo Fernandez-Sardino and James Hirsch.

All work was conducted according to NPS guidelines, including NPS-28 (Cultural Resources Management Guideline), and the instructions and intents set forth in the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, and the Procedures for the Protection of Historic and Cultural Properties (36 CFR 800).

## II. PROJECT SETTING AND PREHISTORIC BACKGROUND

The project area is located near the northern boundary of the New River Gorge National River, about two miles northeast of Fayetteville in Fayette County, West Virginia (Figures 1, 2, and 3). The closest town to the project area is Lansing. The study area, which straddles Route 19, is being developed as part of the Canyon Rim Visitor Center.

New River Gorge is within the Appalachian Mountain Province (Fenneman 1938). A 52-mile section of the river was incorporated into the National Park System in 1978. The depth of the gorge, which cuts through hard stratified sandstone, ranges from 600 to 1400 feet, with steep slopes of 30 to 35 degrees. The width of the gorge ranges from only 0.5 miles at the north end near Canyon Rim to just over one mile at the southern end of the gorge (Englund et al. 1977:4).

In the northern park area, the uplands are broad and fairly level, extending almost to the canyon rim. The elevation of the ridgetop on which the visitor facilities are situated ranges from 1,720 to 1,800 feet above mean sea level. The river elevation in this vicinity is approximately 820 feet above mean sea level. Bottomland is very restricted in this portion of the river. Soils found on the ridgetops and mountainsides in the project area are classified in the DeKalb and Gilpin series. These are well-drained soils that are derived from sandstone and shale bedrock, respectively. The majority of mapped soil units have slopes ranging from 10 to 20 percent (USDA 1975).

The uplands are dissected by numerous streams. Two unnamed first-order streams cross the project area. Some cliff overhangs, which are common along upland streams, have produced evidence of prehistoric use (Fuerst 1981a). The one recorded prehistoric site within the project area, 46Fa119, is associated with a rock overhang.

Site 46Fa119 is described as a limited activity rockshelter. No temporally diagnostic artifacts have been reported from this site. This absence is typical of other known prehistoric sites near the project area, with the exceptions of a single Late Archaic Susquehanna point from 46Fa104 and some Late Woodland Buck Garden ceramics from 46Fa90 and 46Fa91 (Strunk Rockshelters #1 and #2), dated circa 500-1000 A.D. (Fuerst 1981b; Maslowski and King 1983:73). An overview of prehistoric chronology and aboriginal occupation in the New River Gorge region is provided by Fuerst (1981a).

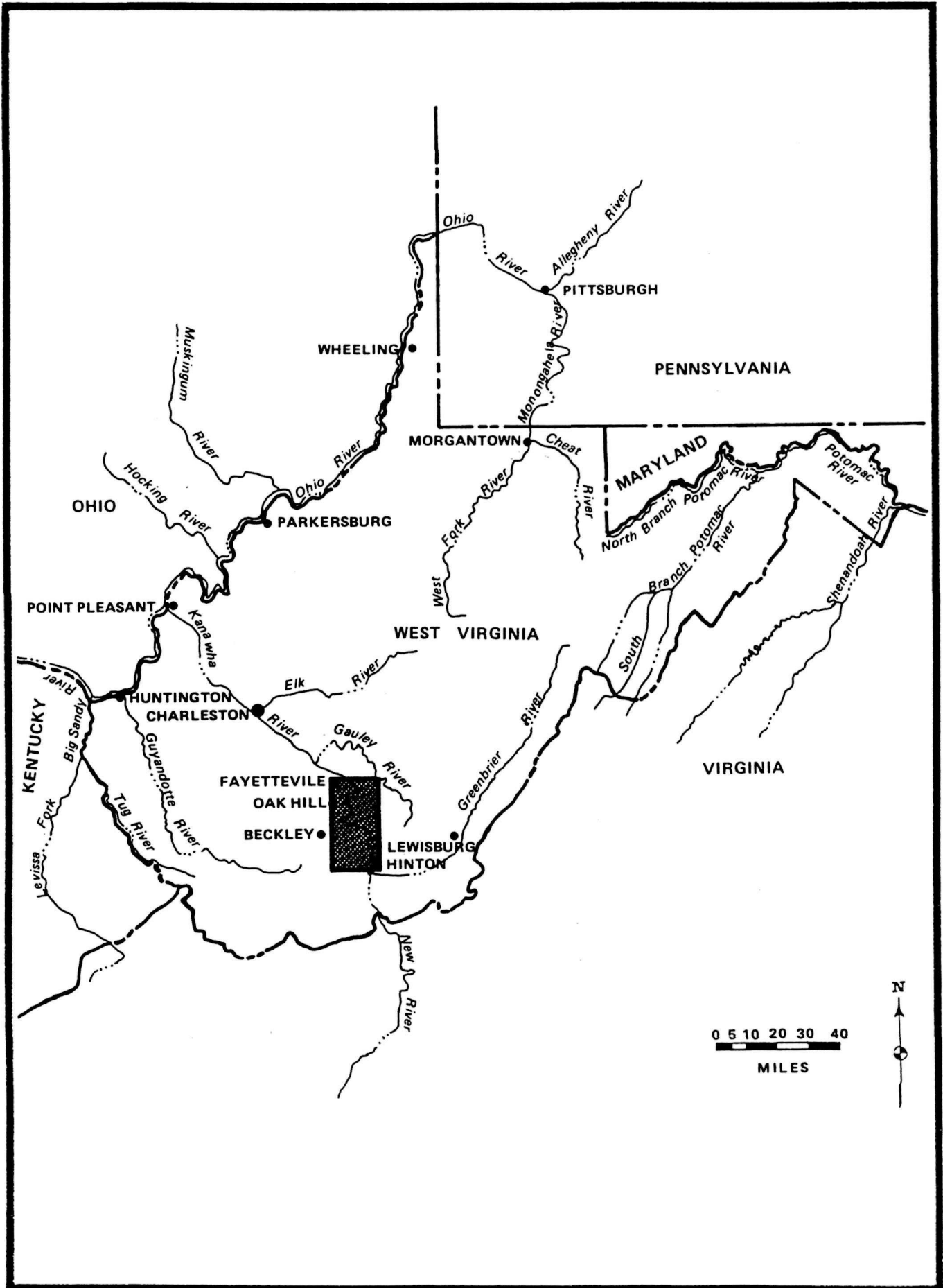


FIGURE 1: New River Gorge National River Study Area

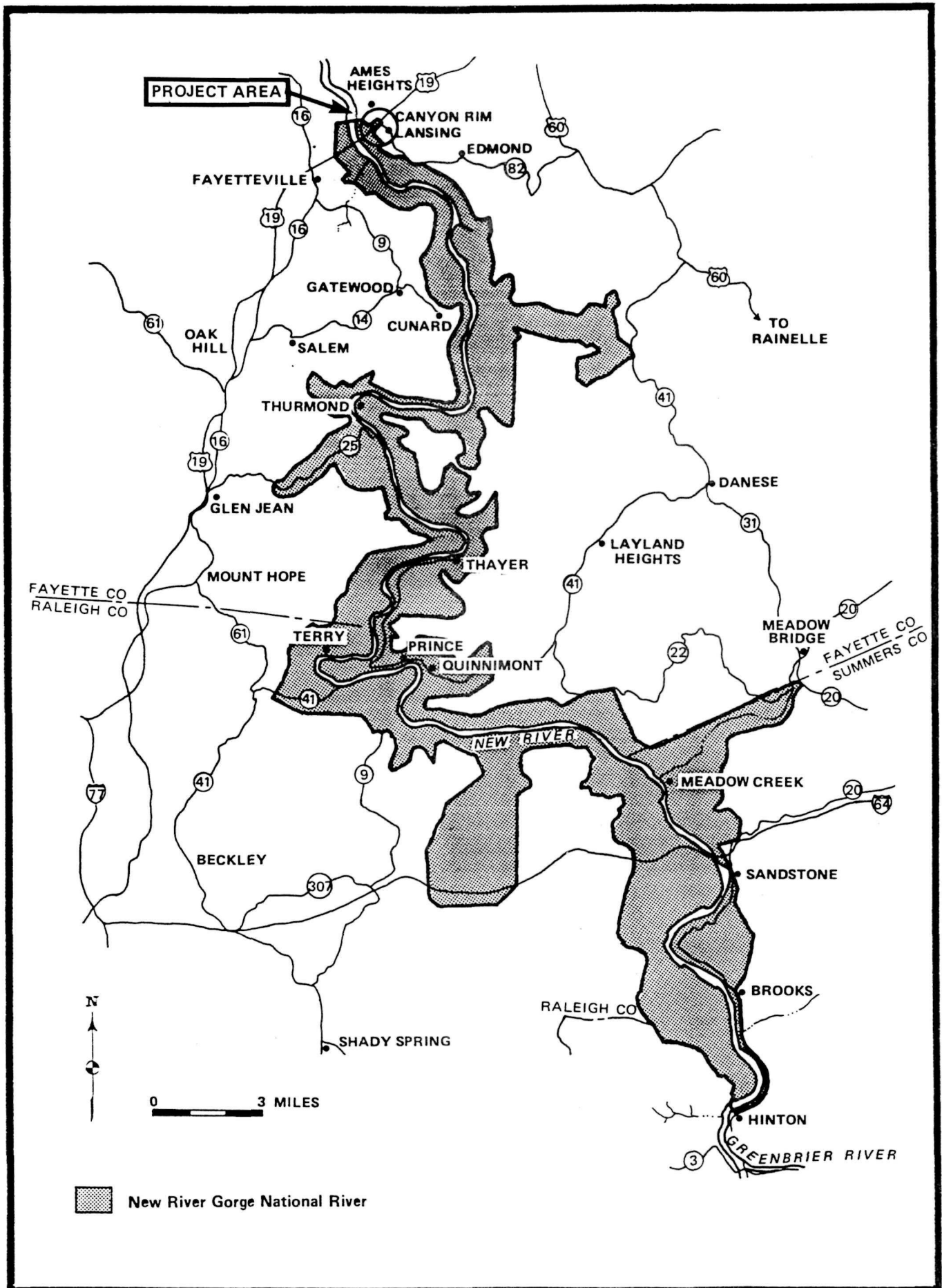
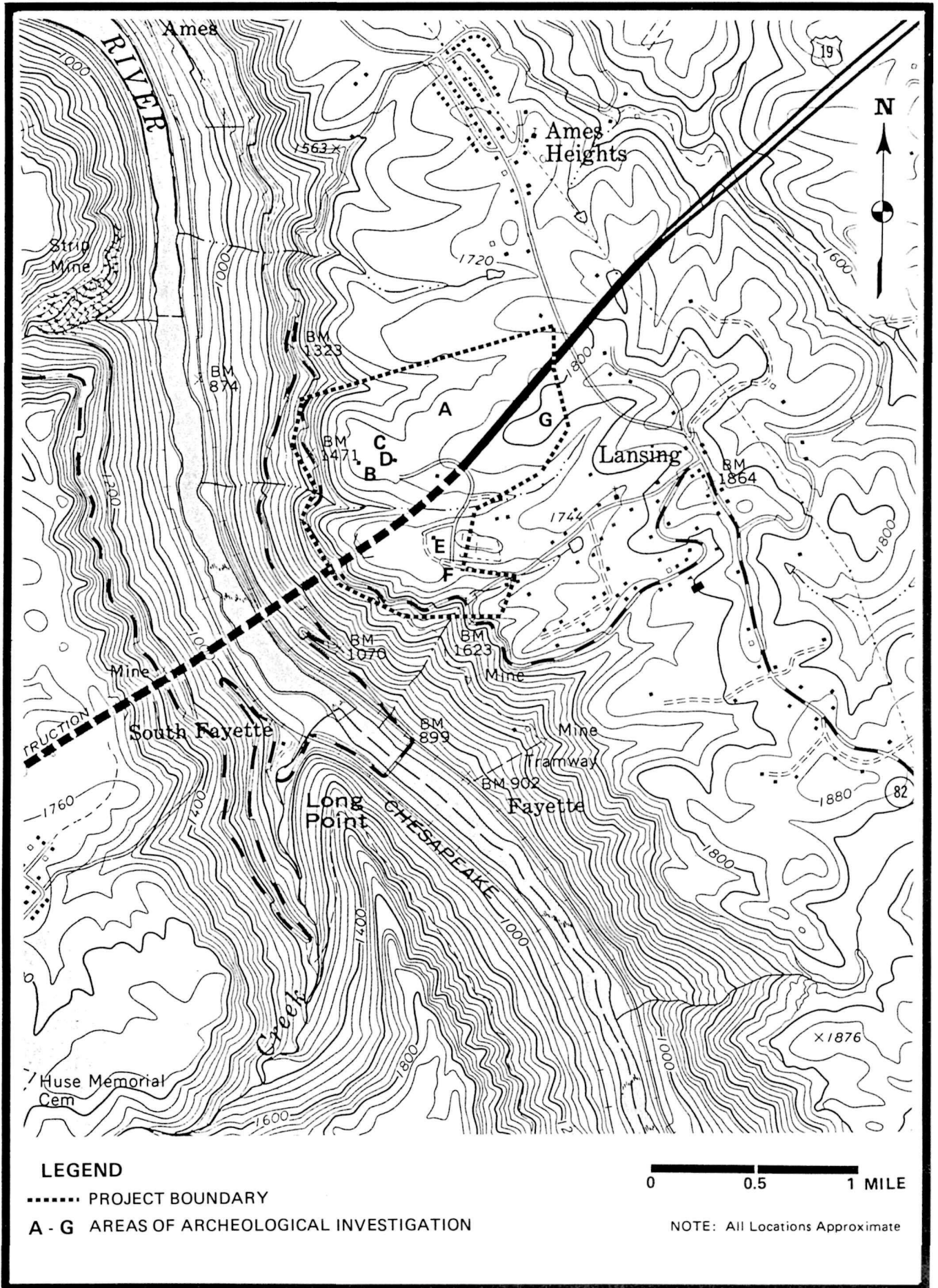


FIGURE 2: Project Location





**LEGEND**

- PROJECT BOUNDARY
- A - G AREAS OF ARCHEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION

0 0.5 1 MILE

NOTE: All Locations Approximate

FIGURE 3: Project Area

SOURCE: U.S.G.S. Map, Fayetteville, WV Quadrangle, 1976

### III. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The following synopsis of historical development in the project area is based on Marshall's (1981) careful study of the New River Gorge National River area.

Initial exploration of the river by Europeans dates to the mid-to-late seventeenth century, when several hardy souls attempted to find a water passage west to the "South Sea." These expeditions were followed by fur-seeking parties in the eighteenth century. By 1748, Draper's Meadows had been established near the present town of Blacksburg, Virginia. The earliest settlement within the National River boundaries was founded by Peter Bowyer in 1798 and is believed to have been located on New River at the mouth of Manns Creek. Bowyer established a ferry, and the small settlement, first known as Bowyers Ferry, developed into an important industrial town called Sewell. Other early settlements in the vicinity were Ansted (ca. 1790), Fayetteville (1818-1825), Glen Ferris (1812), and Quinnimont (1827) (Donnelly 1958:14; Marshall 1981:135-137).

Occupation of lands proceeded slowly, in part due to the rugged terrain and in part due to intense conflicts with the Shawnee. Sovereignty over this area was disputed by both the French and the English, who achieved temporary resolution of their imperial differences at the conclusion of the French and Indian War in 1764. The subsequent Treaty of Fort Stanwix (1768) mediated the conflict between the English and the Six Nations. The Shawnee, however, contested the claim by the Six Nations over this area and launched raids against the new settlements until the end of the eighteenth century (Marshall 1981:138-139).

Initial land acquisitions were quite large. The first recorded land survey in Fayette County was issued to Henry Banks in 1785 for 40,680 acres on the New River. By 1800, approximately 70 surveys and grants for land along the creeks and river had been issued. Pioneers from nearby counties in Virginia and Pennsylvania trickled slowly into the valleys where they established small-scale subsistence farms. Subsequent generations extended settlement further up the creeks and back into the hills (Marshall 1981:140). In 1831, Fayette County, Virginia, was created from parts of Greenbrier, Nicholas, Kanawha, and Logan counties (Donnelly 1958:27). In 1863, as a result of the Civil War, Fayette County became part of the new State of West Virginia.

The project area remained thinly settled throughout the first seven decades of the nineteenth century. On the eve of the Civil War, the county's population numbered 5,997, or 8.2 persons per square mile. By 1950, the population of Fayette County had grown to 80,682 and density had increased to 121 persons per square mile. Increasing concentration was partly a function of a decrease in the size of the county, from 730 square miles to 666.5 square miles when



Summers County was organized in 1871, and partly the result of economic growth, which included successful exploitation of coal reserves (Donnelly 1958:16).

Attempts to exploit the area's coal resources, which had been recognized as early as Thomas Jefferson's Notes on Virginia (1787), were constrained by inadequate transportation. It was not until railroads were built through the New River Valley that it became profitable to mine the local coal deposits. The Chesapeake and Ohio (C & O) Railroad built the first line along the New River through Fayette County in 1872 for access to midwestern agricultural regions. By the 1890s, with the addition of trunk lines that followed the New River tributaries, the C & O committed itself to the coal industry (Marshall 1981:197-198).

The first businesses in Lansing date to 1883 and 1884. A post office was established in 1884, and the local Baptist Church was organized in 1887. The population of Fayette County increased by a factor of 2.5 between 1890 and 1910. By 1910, the population of Lansing was 161 (Cavalier 1985:12, 245-246; Hennen et al. 1919:19, 28).

A rapid increase in population was ascribed largely to "the development of more than one hundred commercial coal mines within the county" (Peters and Carden 1926:5). Coal mines in the vicinity of Lansing included Ajax, Michigan, Exelsior, and Sunnyside (Figure 4). These were later consolidated into the Ames Mining Company. Other mines nearby included Elmo and Thomas. By 1910, Sunnyside had been abandoned (Hennen et al. 1919:684).

Three principal groups were represented among the miners: local whites, blacks, and immigrants. The local people were considered the most advantaged of the three since they typically "had modest resources or at least had family in the area" (Marshall 1981: 213). These miners frequently lived outside of the mining towns. The cluster of housing in the project area (i.e., New Town) would appear to represent a group of such workers.

The mines also stimulated local agriculture. In the early twentieth century, the coal mining towns in the area were supplied by truck farms located in the southeastern portion of Fayette County (Peters and Carden 1926:3). Ellen Mitchell worked on Morgan Townsend's farm outside of Lansing in the early twentieth century where she tended the orchard and looked after "such truck as was commonly raised by the old man [i.e., Townsend] when he was able to work (Deposition of Dr. E. J. Grose, March 18, 1925, Estate of Morgan H. Townsend, Chancery #611). Lowell Kincaid recalled that nearly everyone had a horse or cow and a vegetable garden and that he himself had corn planted where Route 19 now runs (Kincaid, personal communication 1989).

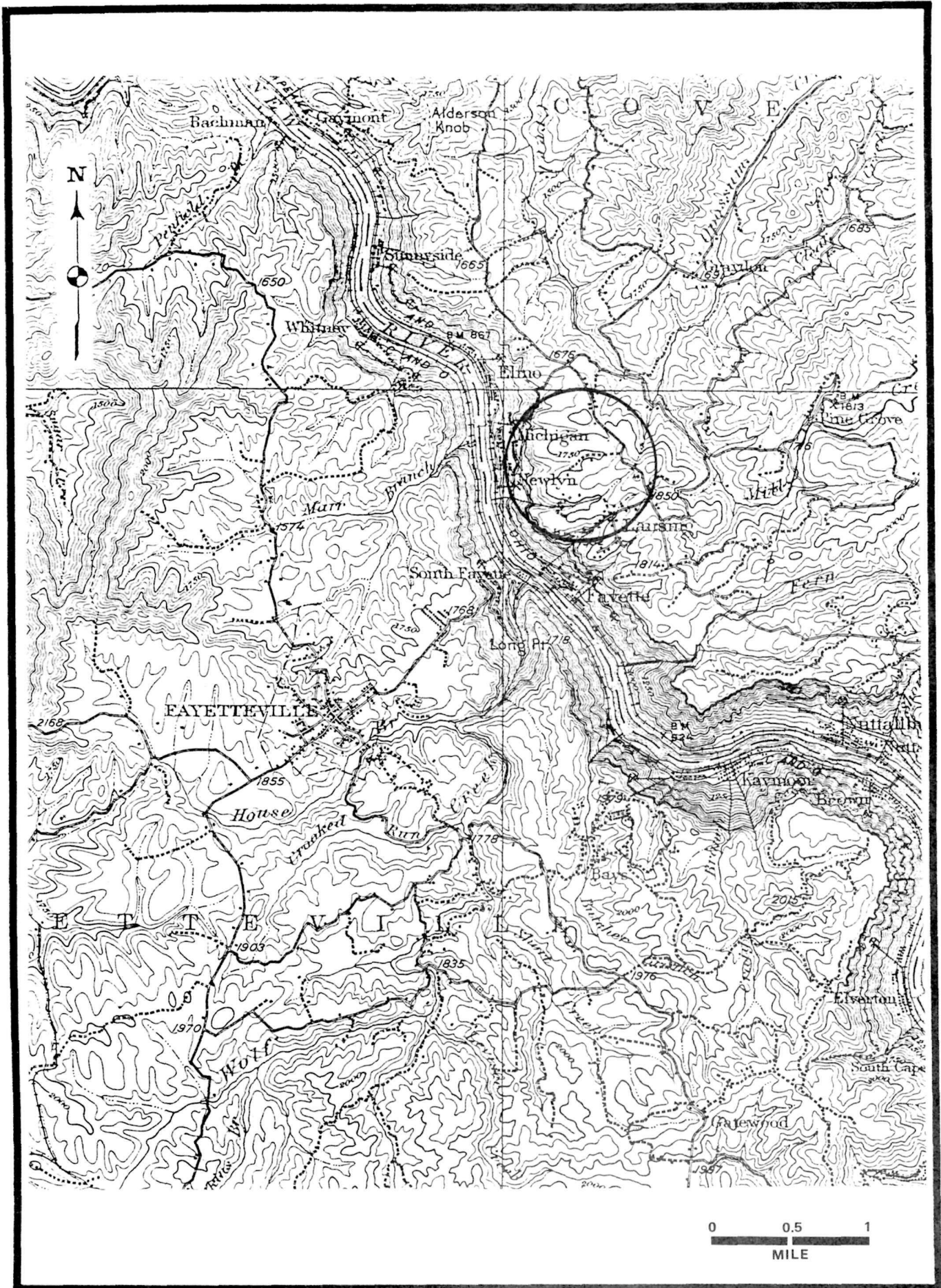


FIGURE 4: Project Area and Vicinity, Circa 1910

SOURCE: USGS 1910

#### IV. LAND OWNERSHIP AND USE IN THE STUDY AREA

Title searches were completed on Tracts 154-30, 154-31, 154-33, and 154-35 within the project area (Figure 5). Much of this property had been assembled in the 1970s by Canyon Inns, Inc. The owners had initially intended to develop the property as a motel. These efforts were unsuccessful and a campground, known as Burnwood, was established instead. In 1971, the West Virginia Department of Highways acquired a corridor in this area for construction of Route 19. Portions of this corridor were conveyed to the National Park Service in 1984 together with the Burnwood campground.

The area now occupied by the Canyon Rim Visitor Center and the Route 19 right-of-way was contained in a series of small farms that date to the 1870s and 1880s and were inhabited by families associated with both farming and mining.

Local histories state that the entire area was sold by Elijah Wood to John Townsend in 1841; it has not been possible to confirm this information in county deed records. Figure 6 shows the reconstruction of the earliest land boundaries of properties belonging to John Sims and Morgan Townsend. Table 1 summarizes transactions associated with parcels contained in the study area. The land owned by the Ames Mining Company (later the Ames Timber & Land Company) has unfortunately not been traceable.

By the mid-nineteenth century, Morgan Townsend and John Sims clearly owned a substantial amount of land in this area. The 1872 sale by Sims to Zimmerman alludes to prior acquisition of this land by Sims from John McPherson (Fayette County Deed Book H:43). This may refer to a 325-acre tract adjacent to the New River that Sims bought from John W. and Margaret A. McPherson in May 1867 (Fayette County Deed Book F:42). The McPhersons were residents of Christian County, Kentucky, and had obviously bought the land as an investment. It had previously been contained in a 650-acre parcel that McPherson had bought from Henry O. Middleton of Greenbrier County in 1854 (Fayette County Deed Book D:543). The grant from the Commonwealth of Virginia was dated March 30, 1842 (Fayette County Deed Book D:102).

It is not clear that either Sims or Townsend ever established homesteads within or near the study area. It had initially been thought that the early Townsend farm site was contained in the study area and that it had been destroyed during construction of Route 19. However, it appears that although the structures were razed, the sites of the various late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century farms that were partitioned within the boundaries of the larger properties owned by Sims and Townsend were not impacted by construction of the road. None of these sites, however,

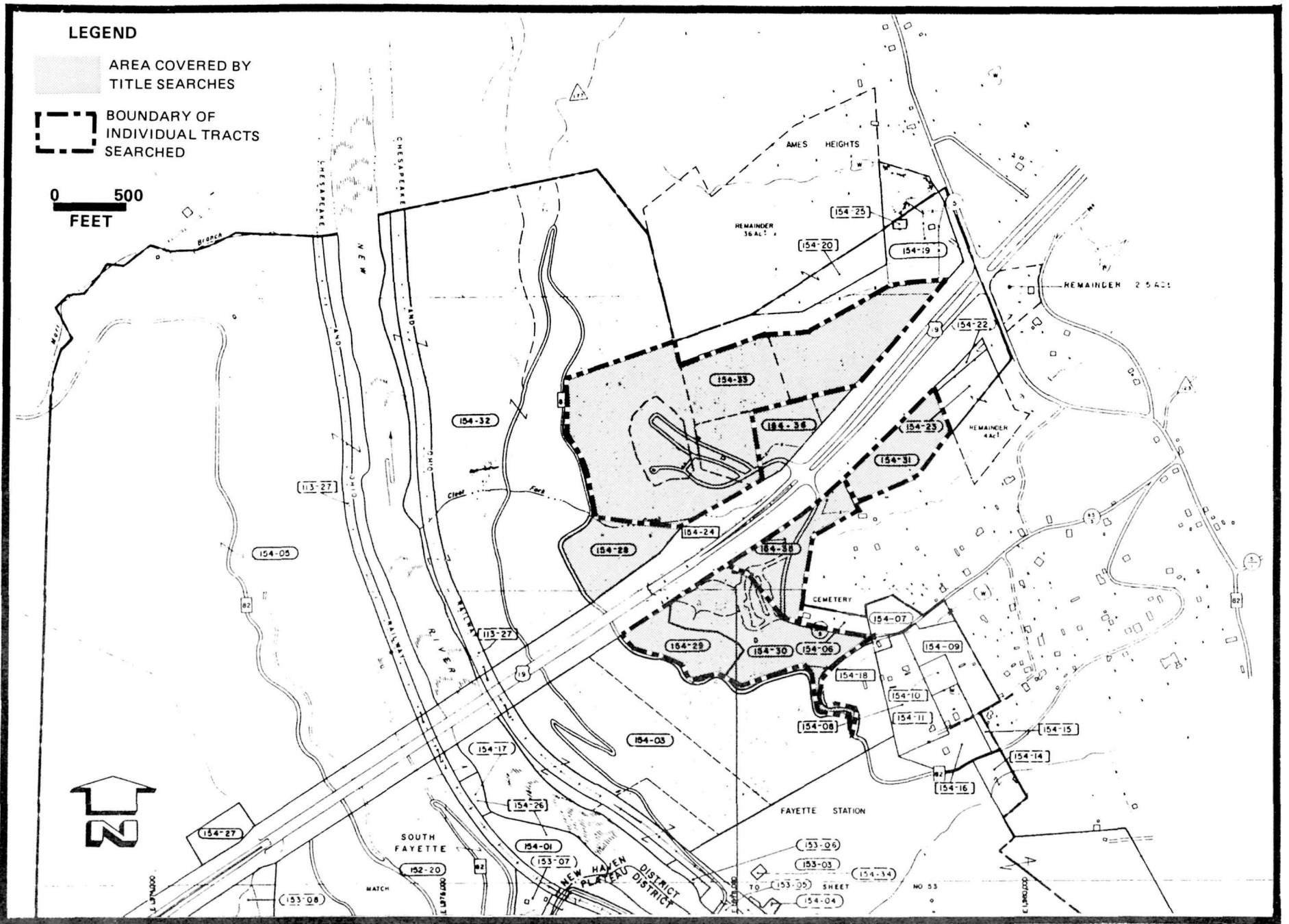


FIGURE 5: Location of Land Ownership Tracts



**LEGEND**

- 1 - N.K. TOWNSEND  
HOME LOT, 27.25 ACRES
- 2 - TOWNSEND FROM SIMS, 1872,  
29 ACRES, G:405
- 3 - SIMS TO ZIMMERMAN, 1872 H:43

0 500  
FEET

11

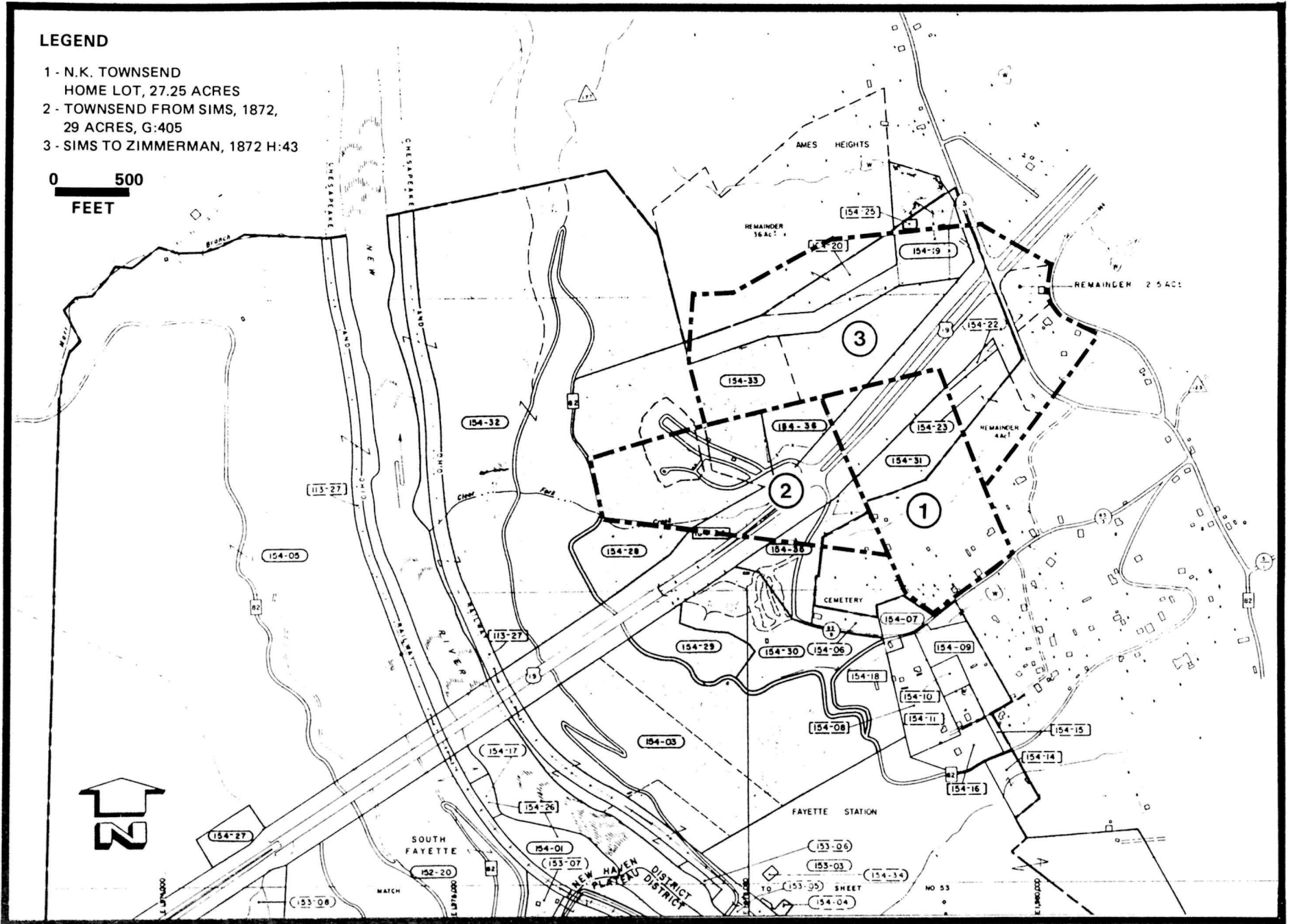


FIGURE 6: Initial Partitioning, Circa 1872

TABLE 1  
LAND OWNERSHIP HISTORY

A. TRACT 154-30

<u>Date</u>	<u>Grantor</u>	<u>Grantee</u>	<u>Acreage</u>	<u>Book:Page</u>
3/20/1984	West Virginia Dept. of Highways	New River Gorge National River	11.87	File
2/23/1972	William Hicks et al.	West Virginia Dept. of Highways	11.88	301:203
3/6/1956	Ames Mining Co.	William and Edith Hicks	4.78	199:342
6/15/1971	Emory and Virginia Kincaid	West Virginia Dept. of Highways	0.34	300:577
10/21/1954	Ames Mining Co.	Emory and Virginia Kincaid	11.62	195:311

B. TRACT 154-31

<u>Date</u>	<u>Grantor</u>	<u>Grantee</u>	<u>Acreage</u>	<u>Book:Page</u>
3/20/1984	West Virginia Dept. of Highways	New River Gorge National River	5.4	File
8/2/1971	Mona B. Jones	West Virginia Dept. of Highways	11.50	297:290
4/5/1932	Ellen Mitchell and George B. Bobbitt	Mona B. Jones	17	78:488

TABLE 1 (continued)

B. TRACT 154-31 (continued)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Grantor</u>	<u>Grantee</u>	<u>Acreage</u>	<u>Book:Page</u>
2/22/1932	R. W. and Lizzie Dorsey	Ellen Mitchell Bobbitt	17	75:234
9/15/1928	Ellen Mitchell and George B. Bobbitt	R. W. Dorsey	17	67:227
10/21/1925	C. W. Dillon, Special Commissioner	Ellen Mitchell	17	60:92
11/12/1886	Lemuel Rodgers	M. H. Townsend	22	9:33
9/19/1882	Morgan Townsend	Lemuel Rodgers	27.25	5:84

C. TRACT 154-35

<u>Date</u>	<u>Grantor</u>	<u>Grantee</u>	<u>Acreage</u>	<u>Book:Page</u>
8/30/1988	West Virginia Dept. of Highways	New River Gorge National River	6.77	300:557
5/13/1975	Boyd and Phyllis Minnix et al.	West Virginia Dept. of Highways	5.11	333:628
9/15/1891	M. H. Townsend	William Minnix	4.5+/-	314:631
6/11/1971	Lowell and Kathleen Kincaid	West Virginia Dept. of Highways	0.73	298:169

TABLE 1 (continued)

C. TRACT 154-35 (continued)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Grantor</u>	<u>Grantee</u>	<u>Acreage</u>	<u>Book:Page</u>
11/9/1964	Ruby K. Tygrett et al.	Lowell and Kathleen Kincaid	3.5	259:118
6/20/1923	John W. and Bertha Jones	O. L. Kincaid	3.5	55:573
3/27/1900	M. H. Townsend	Eliza A. Kincaid	3.5	45:18

D. TRACT 154-33

<u>Date</u>	<u>Grantor</u>	<u>Grantee</u>	<u>Acreage</u>	<u>Book:Page</u>
10/12/1984	Burnwood Company	U.S.A.	44.06	File
3/1/1977	Ames Timber & Land Co.	Canyon Inns, Inc.	Not Given	353:447
11/15/1971	Ames Mining Co.	Ames Timber & Land Co.	6831	300:47
12/23/1977	Blackburn-Patteson Realty Co.	Canyon Inns, Inc.	4.14	364:339
4/23/1973	Anise and Nellis Morris	Blackburn-Patteson Realty Co.	4.14	312:368
9/22/1954	Ames Mining Co.	Anise and Nellis Morris	4.14	187:273
9/21/1983	Donna Shadowen Houchins, Guardian of Bonnie Sue Shadowen	Burnwood Co.	29.63	420:100



TABLE 1 (continued)

D. TRACT 154-33 (continued)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Grantor</u>	<u>Grantee</u>	<u>Acreage</u>	<u>Book:Page</u>
7/9/1976	Donna Shadowen Houchins, Guardian of Robin Kay Shadowen, Christina Ann Shadowen, and Bonnie Sue Shadowen	Canyon Inns, Inc.	7.01	342:442
7/9/1976	Elsie May Shadowen et al.	Canyon Inns, Inc.	7.01	346:235
11/12/1970	Elsie May Shadowen et al.	West Virginia Dept. of Highways	9.789	294:430
9/14/1960	Willis and Bernice Shadowen	Elsie Mae Shadowen	38.78 <sup>1</sup>	234:419
6/24/1944	C. D. and Kathleen Suttle	W. J. and Elsie May Shadowen	29.63	106:584
5/8/1944	Jane E. Woodville	C. D. Suttle	29.63	106:195
3/13/1939	John B. Woodville, Jr.	Jane D. Woodville	38.5	93:638
6/13/1916	U. G. and Cora W. Thomas	J. B. Woodville	29.63	43:163
4/25/1890	N. W. and Rachel Thomas	U. G. Thomas	41.75	13:202
3/23/1877	Rebecca C. and John A. Zimmerman	N. W. Thomas	41.75	2:232

TABLE 1 (continued)

D. TRACT 154-33 (continued)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Grantor</u>	<u>Grantee</u>	<u>Acreage</u>	<u>Book:Page</u>
12/20/1872	John E. and Hannah Sims	Rebecca Zimmerman	41.75	H:43
8/24/1872	John E. and Hannah Sims	Nathan W. Thomas	122.5	G:437
4/4/1975	Buster and Ruth Duncan	Canyon Inns, Inc.	4+/-	332:363
6/10/1972	Matthew and Eva Duncan	Buster Duncan	4+/-	305:66
6/20/1971	Rettie Duncan	West Virginia Dept. of Highways	1.07	298:482
12/14/1942	H.R. Beckelheimer, Clerk	Rettie Duncan	4+/-	106:246
11/12/1886	M. H. Townsend	B. M. Townsend	4+/-	21:174
11/18/1872	John E. and Hannah Sims	Morgan H. Townsend	29	G:405

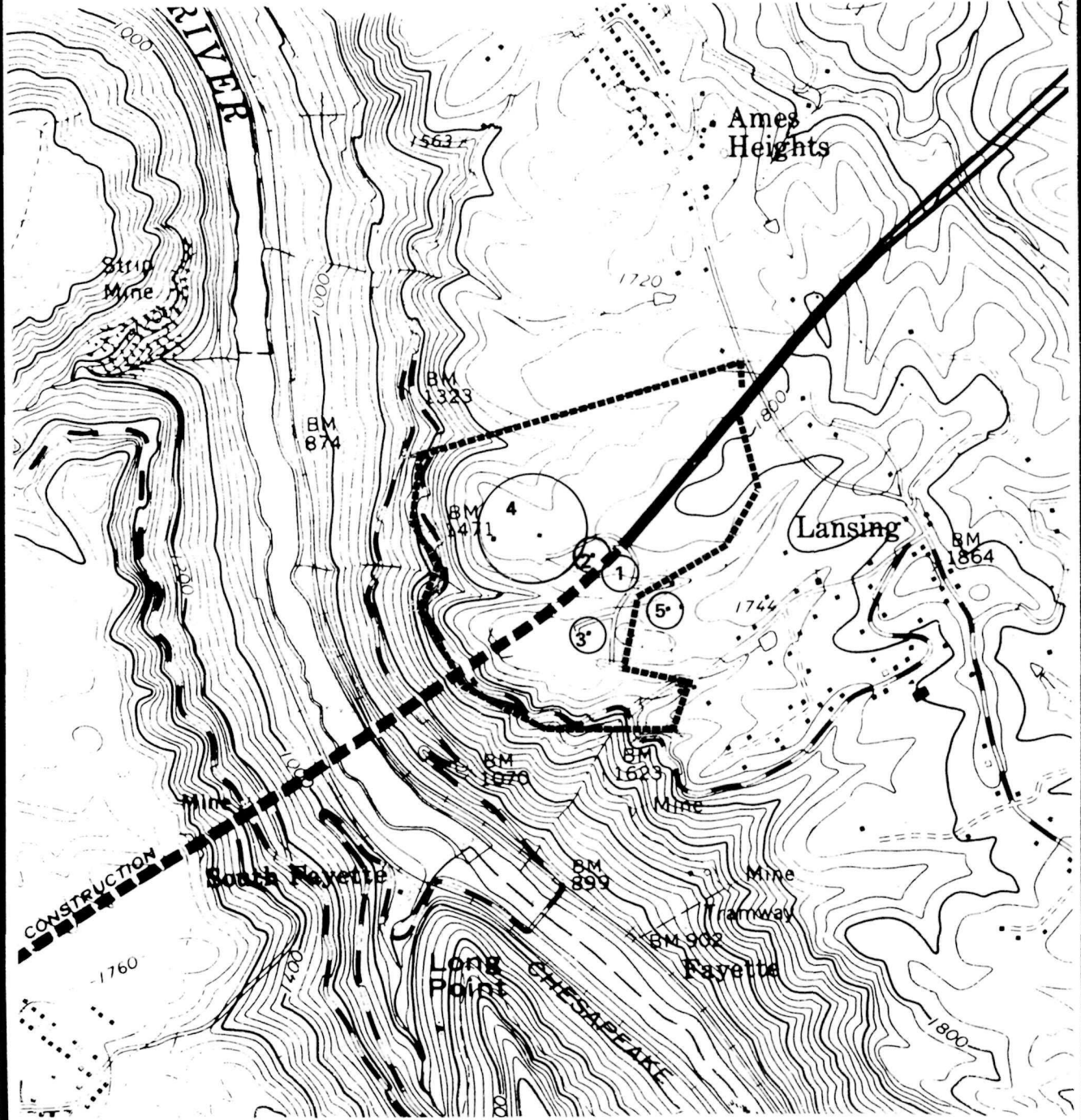
can be definitively assigned either to Townsend or to Sims, and it is entirely conceivable that both families maintained residences elsewhere, possibly in the village of Lansing itself or along the original road from Ansted.

It is clear that the small farms occupied by Hicks, Bobbitt, Kincaid, Duncan, and Minnix were essentially created between 1870 and 1900, when local mining stimulated development in this area (Figure 7). Of the five farms contained in the study area, four (Bobbitt, Minnix, Kincaid, and Duncan) came out of land owned by Morgan Townsend. Townsend sold land to William Minnix in 1891 and to Eliza Kincaid in 1900; both small tracts were contained in Tract 154-35 (see Table 1). The Bobbitt farm may have been part of the land worked by Morgan Townsend himself, since it became the property of Ellen Mitchell, Morgan Townsend's niece, when he died. The Duncan farm was also apparently occupied by a member of the Townsend family, namely Benjamin Townsend, who bought the property from Morgan Townsend in 1886. Finally, the Hicks farm, part of which is covered by the present visitor center and parking lot, was purchased from the Ames Mining Company in 1956, although the family may have occupied it prior to this time.

Tables 2, 3, and 4 (at the end of the chapter) summarize information available in the federal censuses for 1880, 1900, and 1910. It has proved impossible to link individual sites within the project area to individual entries in these lists. The sequence of names as predicted from the land records does not conform to the sequence of names that appears in the census, which is known to reflect the order in which census takers located households. Also, there are no maps available that indicate land ownership, which could, in turn, be used to postulate census enumerators' routes. The absence of pattern itself suggests that landholders in the project area may have lived elsewhere, possibly in Lansing, a conclusion already suggested by the pattern of land acquisition and sale.

The cluster of names associated with property in the project area (Townsend, Minnix, Kincaid, etc.) was taken to indicate the general area in which the sites were contained. This series of entries has been used as the basis for several generalizations about the character of the area.

The significance of mining is apparent in the numbers of householders and household members employed in the coal mines. Also reflected in the lists of occupations associated with residents of the project area and vicinity is the importance of the railroad as a source of employment as well as for transportation of the coal. The survival of farming, either as the principal source of income or in association with coal mining or another occupation, is a third feature of these households at the turn of the century. While few miners also called themselves farmers, Kincaid recalled that most of the residents supplemented their earnings with home-grown



**LEGEND**

- 1 - MINNIX/TOWNSEND FARMSTEAD (1891)
- 2 - BOBBITT/TOWNSEND FARMSTEAD (?)
- 3 - HICKS/AMES MINING CO. FARMSTEAD (1956?)
- 4 - DUNCAN/TOWNSEND FARMSTEAD (1886)
- 5 - KINCAID/TOWNSEND FARMSTEAD (1900)

----- PROJECT BOUNDARY



0 0.5 1 MILE

NOTE: All Locations Approximate

FIGURE 7: Late Nineteenth-Century Farmsteads in The Study Area

SOURCE: USGS 1976

vegetables and dairy products. Ellen Mitchell, Morgan Townsend's niece, was responsible for the orchard and truck garden, suggesting that the wives and daughters, none of whom worked outside the home, may have been responsible for agricultural activities while the men found employment in the mines or on the railroad.

The general area included black as well as white families, although blacks were associated primarily with mining or semi-skilled labor and not with agriculture. Marshall (1981:212-213) reported that both blacks and immigrants were brought in by the coal companies specifically to work in the mines. These groups found themselves isolated from the local population and more dependent upon the mining companies. Housing provided for blacks was inferior to that generally made available to white workers and blacks were compelled to accept more menial positions. Given the scenario drawn by Marshall, it is not surprising to find the black workers crowded into a boarding house in 1880 rather than distributed in individual family or household units.

New Town, the cluster of worker housing built by the Ames Mining Company, appears to have been constructed between 1910 and 1928, based on USGS quadrangle maps (Figure 8). New Town more or less prospered with the fortunes of the Ames Mining Company. Kincaid recalled a maximum of 19 houses, all of which were built by the company. Only two were still occupied after World War II, and abandoned houses were allowed to deteriorate.

Besides the worker housing represented by New Town, there were four farm complexes, occupied by Hicks, Minnix, Duncan, and Bobbitt, that were demolished in the 1970s (Figure 9).

During the construction of Route 19, a total of 17 bodies and 7 other "suspected remains" were relocated from unmarked graves (see Figure 9) to Meadow Haven Memorial Park in August 1971. These are believed to have been the remains of blacks who were employed at Ajax, Michigan, and Elmo. According to one informant, the cemetery area was itself the result of a relocation that occurred in 1939 or 1940 when the Ames Mining Company built a new tipple. Morris Hatfield, the former director of the Memory Gardens, confirmed that he had moved the remains, and he described his method for locating graves. This comprised surficial inspection for subsidence, followed by probing to find loose, disturbed soil.



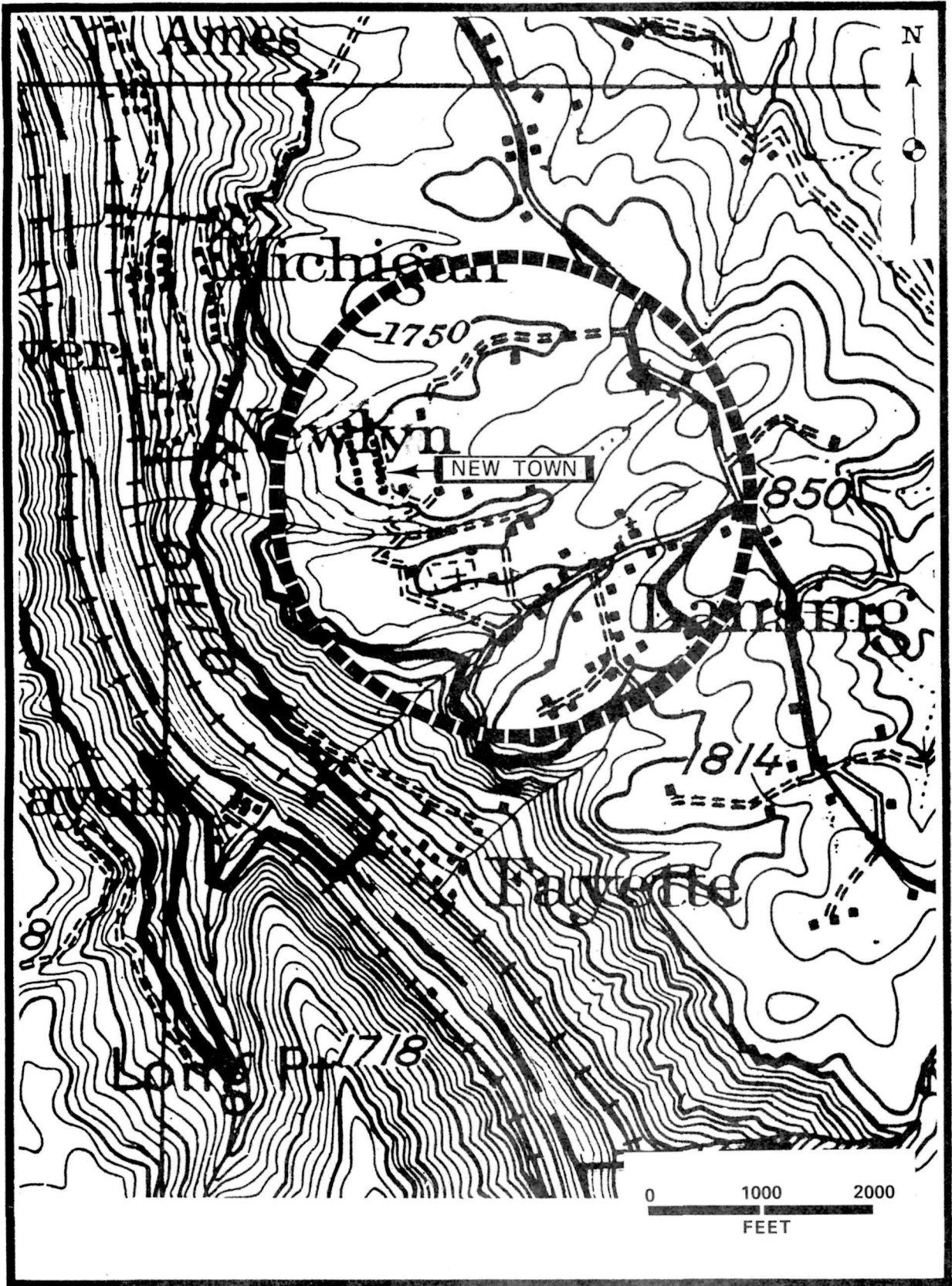


FIGURE 8: Project Area and Vicinity, circa 1928

SOURCE: U.S.G.S. 1928

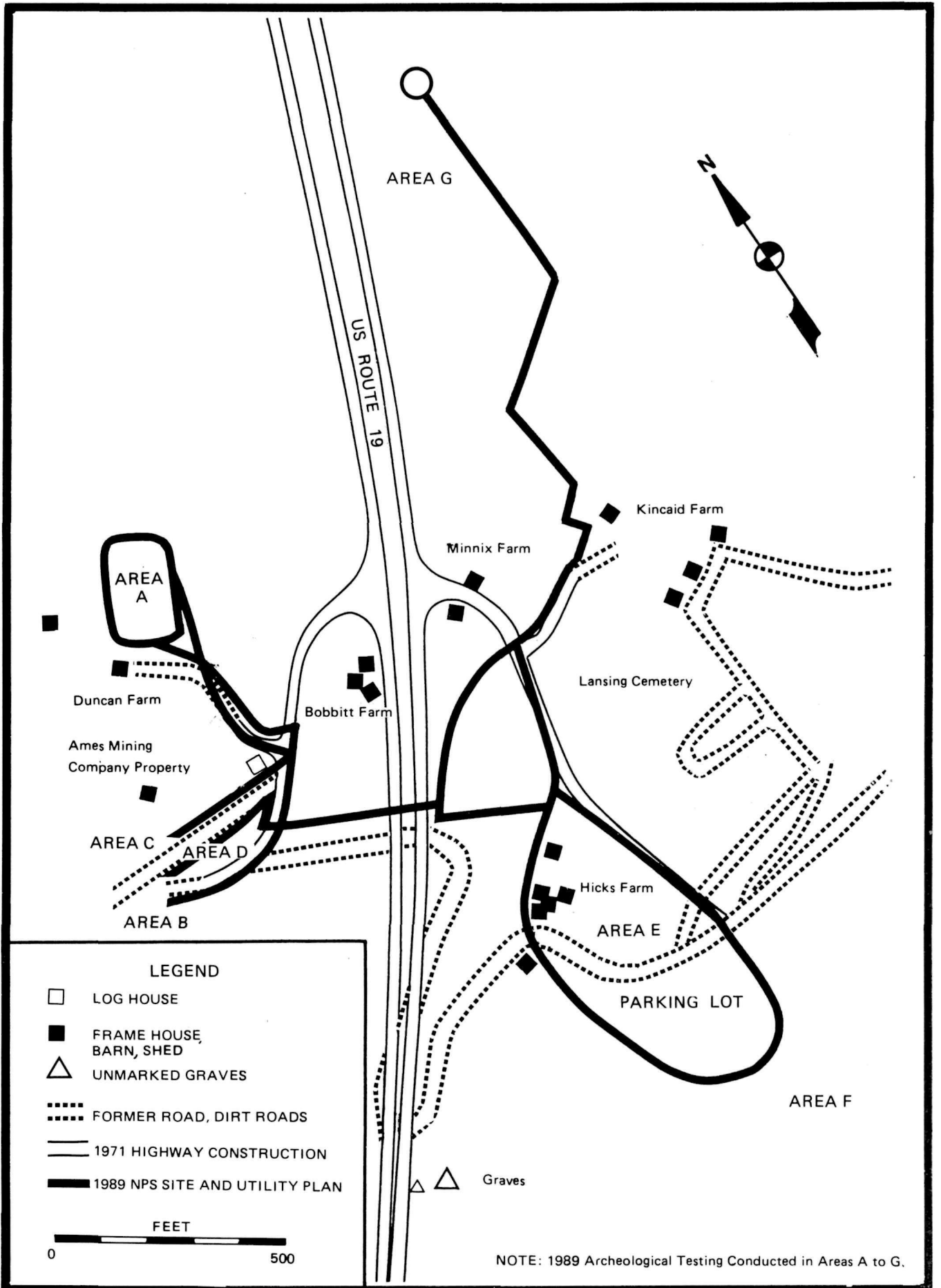


FIGURE 9: Current Development Plans Shown on Project Area Map from 1971.

TABLE 2  
DATA FROM FEDERAL CENSUS OF 1880

<u>Name</u>	<u>Race</u>	<u>Sex</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Household Status</u>	<u>Occupation</u>
William F. Woods	W	M	38	Head	Blacksmith
Martha Woods	W	F	34	Wife	
Laura J. Woods	W	F	15	Daughter	
Virginia Woods	W	F	11	Daughter	
Ota G. Woods	W	M	10	Son	
Lewis E. Woods	W	M	8	Son	
Mollie Woods	W	F	4	Daughter	
Nellie Woods	W	F	1	Daughter	
Thomas W. Withrow	W	M	24	Head	Coal Mines
Nancy Withrow	W	F	27	Wife	
Leonidas Withrow	W	M	11 mos.	Son	
James A. Tuly [?]	W	M	28	Head	Farmer
Sarah Tuly	W	F	23	Wife	
George W. Tuly	W	M	5	Son	
Jno. W. Tuly	W	M	4	Son	
James W. Tuly	W	M	2	Son	
Henry M. Tuly	W	M	2 mos.	Son	
D. D. Baber	W	M	26	Head	Coal Mines
Bettie W. Baber	W	F	21	Wife	
Eva A. Baber	W	F	2	Daughter	
Walker Baber	W	F	1	Son	
Mary Baber	W	F	53	Mother	
Joseph Baber	W	M	25	Head	[Not Given]
Anna E. Baber	W	F	21	Wife	
J. A. McDowell	W	M	27	Head	Coal Mines
Ellen McDowell	W	F	17	Wife	
Hannah J. McDowell	W	F	3 mos.	Daughter	
James H. McGraw	W	M	31	Head	Farmer
Nancy McGraw	W	F	63	Mother	
Charles S. McGraw	W	M	9	Son	
Robert McGraw	W	M	7	Son	
Alexander W. McGraw	W	M	5	Son	



TABLE 2 (continued)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Race</u>	<u>Sex</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Household Status</u>	<u>Occupation</u>
C. J. Daniel	W	M	53	Head	Mason
Martha Daniel	W	F	53	Wife	
William C. Daniel	W	M	17	Son	Coal Mines
Nancy A. Daniel	W	F	14	Daughter	
R. E. Lee Daniel	W	M	12	Son	
S. J. Daniel	W	F	9	Daughter	
*N. W. Thomas	W	M	43	Head	Farmer
Elizabeth Thomas	W	F	38	Wife	
William S. Thomas	W	M	21	Son	
George W. Thomas	W	M	16	Son	
James M. Thomas	W	M	13	Son	
Grant Thomas	W	M	11	Son	
Henry A. Thomas	W	M	8	Son	
Mary S. Thomas	W	F	5	Daughter	
Sarah N. Thomas	W	F	3	Daughter	
Lawrence Thomas	W	M	7 mos.	Son	
R. C. Moss	W	M	42	Head	Farmer
Mary S. Moss	W	F	33	Wife	
James Arnold	W	M	29	Head	Farmer
Virginia Arnold	W	F	31	Wife	
William H. Arnold	W	M	16	Son	
Margaret Arnold	W	F	6	Daughter	
Hester Arnold	W	F	4	Daughter	
*Jno. E. Simms	W	M	61	Head	Farmer
Hannah W. Simms	W	F	40	Wife	
James W. Simms	W	M	17	Son	Laborer
Jno. W. Simms	W	M	15	Son	Laborer
Charles E. Simms	W	M	13	Son	Laborer
Winfield Simms	W	M	11	Son	
Silas Simms	W	M	7	Son	
Manda Simms	W	F	5	Daughter	
Nancy Simms	W	F	1	Daughter	
G. M. Blume	W	M	51	Head	Merchant
Evaline C. Blume	W	F	45	Wife	
Anna L. Blume	W	F	13	Daughter	
Mary E. Blume	W	F	11	Daughter	
Cora M. Blume	W	F	9	Daughter	
Ada E. Blume	W	F	6	Daughter	
Edward G. Blume	W	M	3	Son	
Joseph B. Blume	W	M	49	Brother	Dentist

TABLE 2 (continued)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Race</u>	<u>Sex</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Household Status</u>	<u>Occupation</u>
W. W. Spencer	W	M	28	Boarder	Section Boss, C & O RR
Obediah Brooks	B	M	50	[see note]	C & O RR
Winston Jones	B	M	21		[Not Given]
Andrew Carter	B	M	21		C & O RR
Carter Morton	B	M	19		C & O RR
Ned Jones	B	M	21		C & O RR
Isaac Linsey	B	M	50		C & O RR
Edward Lewis	B	M	45		C & O RR
Edmund Barnes	B	M	24		C & O RR
Thomas Howard	B	M	24		C & O RR
[Name Illegible]	Mu	M	24		Cook
					Watchman on Train
*Benjamin Townsend	W	M	49	Head	
J. A. Townsend	W	F	44	Wife	
William H. Townsend	W	M	24	Son	Coal Mines
Mary Townsend	W	F	21	Daughter	
Annie Townsend	W	F	18	Daughter	
George L. Townsend	W	M	13	Son	Laborer
Jno. J. Townsend	W	M	10	Son	
Junious Townsend	W	M	8	Son	
Chesington Townsend	W	M	2	Son	
Jeremiah Cox	B	M	45	Head	
Betsey Cox	B	F	35	Wife	
George Cox	B	M	4	Son	
Georgia Hundley	W	F	17		Housekeeper
*M. H. Townsend	W	M	36	Head	Farmer
Eliza Townsend	W	F	68	Mother	
Mary Burdette	W	F	91	Aunt	
Jno. W. Jones	W	M	9		Laborer
J. W. Stroud	W	M	45	Head	Farmer

\* Landowner in the project area; not necessarily in residence on site.

NOTE: Residence probably in company boarding house

SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of Census 1880:15-17

TABLE 3

## DATA FROM FEDERAL CENSUS OF 1900

<u>Name</u>	<u>Race</u>	<u>Sex</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Household Status</u>	<u>Occupation</u>
*Morgan Townsend	W	M	67	Head	Farmer (F)
Joseph Martin	W	M	43	Head	Blacksmith
Minnie Martin	W	F	27	Wife	
Joseph Martin	W	M	49	Head	Farmer (F)
Mary C. Martin	W	F	34	Wife	
Lester A. Martin	W	M	8	Son	
Janey Bennett	W	F	34	Boarder	
Benjamin Linch	W	M	41	Head	Farmer (F)
Mary M. M. Linch	W	F	41	Wife	
*Thomas Grant	W	M	31	Head	Merchant (F)
Cora A. Grant	W	F	29	Wife	
Oren Grant	W	F	9	Son	
Luone [?] Grant	W	F	7	Daughter	
Annie Davis	W	F	18	Boarder	
George Atkisson	W	M	52	Head	Day Laborer
Barbara Atkisson	W	F	46	Wife	
James A. Atkisson	W	M	27	Son	Day Laborer
Wallace I. Atkisson	W	M	20	Son	
Huey [?] J. Atkisson	W	M	19	Son	Coal Miner
Alpha B. Atkisson	W	F	13	Daughter	
Mary E. Atkisson	W	F	6	Daughter	Coal Miner
Mary Burdette	W	F	64	Boarder	
George Bobbitt	W	M	41	Head	Coal Miner
Eliza Bobbitt	W	F	33	Wife	
William E. Bobbitt	W	M	13	Son	Coal Miner
Monie Bobbitt	W	F	10	Daughter	
Minnie Bobbitt	W	F	9	Daughter	Coal Miner
Verner Bobbitt	W	M	7	Daughter	
George Bobbitt	W	M	5	Son	
B. Townsend	W	M	69	Head	Day Laborer
George Townsend	W	M	33	Son	

TABLE 3 (continued)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Race</u>	<u>Sex</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Household Status</u>	<u>Occupation</u>
*William Minnix	W	M	30	Head	Coal Miner
Willie Minnix	W	F	33	Wife	
Everett Minnix	W	M	11	Son	
Ethel Minnix	W	F	8	Daughter	
Virgia [ <u>sic</u> ] Minnix	W	F	6	Daughter	
Rory Minnix	W	M	4	Son	
Binnard Minnix	W	M	8 mos.	Son	
John Rodes	W	M	36	Head	Coal Miner
Allice Rodes	W	F	32	Wife	
Irene Rodes	W	F	8	Daughter	
Nana Rodes	W	F	6	Daughter	
Margaret Rodes	W	F	7	Daughter	
Raymond Rodes	W	M	4	Son	
Aaron Rodes	W	M	2	Son	
Henry W. Rodes	W	M	1	Son	
Lenora Alexander	W	F	54	Head	
Boyd B. Alexander	W	M	19	Son	Day Laborer
Amando Baker	W	M		Head	Coal Miner

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\* Landowner in the project area; not necessarily in residence on site.

(F) Farm Ownership indicated in entry.

SOURCE: U.S., Bureau of Census 1900:10

TABLE 4  
DATA FROM FEDERAL CENSUS OF 1910

<u>Name</u>	<u>Race</u>	<u>Sex</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Household Status</u>	<u>Occupation</u>
*William L. Minnix	W	M	40	Head	Coal Miner
Willie Minnix	W	F	35	Wife	
Virgie A. Minnix	W	F	14	Daughter	
Roy W. Minnix	W	M	13	Son	
Denard B. Minnix	W	M	10	Son	
Floyd Minnix	W	M	7	Son	
Clarence W. Minnix	W	M	2	Son	
Myrtle Minnix	W	F	7 mos.	Daughter	
John S. Strand	W	M	36	Head	Teamster
Annie M. Strand	W	F	34	Wife	
Flossie Strand	W	F	13	Daughter	
Gertrude Strand	W	F	9	Daughter	
Charlie Strand	W	M	8	Son	
Harvey Strand	W	M	6	Son	
Russell Strand	W	M	3	Son	
Eddie Strand	W	M	7 mos.	Son	
Allen Stephenson	W	M	18	Boarder	Merchant
*Ulysses S. Thomas	W	M	41	Head	None (F)
Cora Thomas	W	F	39	Wife	
Oran Thomas	W	M	18	Son	None
Lionel Thomas	W	M	17	Son	None
Lenina Thomas	W	F	9	Daughter	
Charlie R. Dixon	W	M	26	Head	Coal Miner
Alpha Dixon	W	F	23	Wife	
Denver Dixon	W	M	2	Son	
James B. Grubbs	W	M	45	Head	Farmer (F)
Martha F. Grubbs	W	F	45	Wife	
Winfield M. Simms	W	M	40	Head	Coal Miner (F)
Jenetta Simms	W	F	33	Wife	
Earl J. Simms	W	M	9	Son	
Naomi Simms	W	F	7	Daughter	
Ray E. Simms	W	M	6	Son	
Samuel Arnold	W	M	30	Boarder	Coal Miner

TABLE 4 (continued)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Race</u>	<u>Sex</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Household Status</u>	<u>Occupation</u>
Resseler Propps	W	M	29	Head	Coal Miner (F)
Dona [ <u>sic</u> ] Propps	W	F	21	Wife	
Oris Propps	W	M	9 mos.	Son	
Eliza Propps	W	F	25	Sister	
James P. Basham	W	M	56	Head	House Carpenter
Virginia Basham	W	F	40	Wife	
Gracie Basham	W	F	10	Daughter	
Olive Wood	W	F	12	Niece	
James W. Simms	W	M	46	Head	Foreman in Coal Mines
Clara E. Simms	W	F	37	Wife	
John R. Simms	W	M	13	Son	
Monie B. McVey	W	F	12	Niece	
Henry McVey	W	M	25	Head	Driver in Coal Mines
Eva McVey	W	F	29	Wife	
Everett Minnix	W	M	19	Head	Driver in Coal Mines
Tishie Minnix	W	F	20	Wife	
Samuel Christian, Sr.	W	M	38	Head	Coal Miner
Rachel Christian	W	F	36	Wife	
Orva Christian	W	F	15	Daughter	
Jessie Christian	W	F	11	Daughter	
Goldie Christian	W	F	9	Daughter	
Paule [ <u>sic</u> ] Christian	W	M	7	Son	
Fay Christian	W	F	5	Daughter	
Camilla Christian	W	F	3	Daughter	
Samuel Christian, Jr.	W	M	6 mos.	Son	
George B. Bobbitt	W	M	50	Head	Coal Miner (F)
George P. Bobbitt	W	M	14	Son	
Mona Brugh	W	F	21	Daughter	
Ronald Brugh	W	M	5 mos.	Grandson	
Benjamin M. Townsend	W	M	79	Head	Farmer (F) Coal Miner
George L. Townsend	W	M	43	Son	

TABLE 4 (continued)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Race</u>	<u>Sex</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Household Status</u>	<u>Occupation</u>
George W. Atkinson	W	M	62	Head	Weighmaster, Coal Mines
Barbara Atkinson	W	F	56	Wife	
James Atkinson	W	M	39	Son	Laborer
Mary E. Atkinson	W	F	14	Daughter	
James R. Cart	W	M	62	Head	Blacksmith, Coal Mines
Elizabeth J. Cart	W	F	64	Wife	
Huston C. Cart	W	M	22	Son	
Millie Smith	B	F	25	Head	Washerwoman
Virgie Smith	B	F	10	Daughter	
Colonel Smith	B	M	4	Son	
Horace Smith	B	M	1	Son	
Luke McCain	B	M	28	Boarder	Coal Miner
Hester Nunnelly	B	F	22	Boarder	Cook, Boarding House
George Coyer	W	M	46	Head	Coal Miner
Elizabeth Coyer	W	F	39	Wife	
Earle Coyer	W	M	18	Son	Salesman
Arthur Coyer	W	M	16	Son	Teamster, Coal Mines
Melva Coyer	W	F	11	Daughter	
Freddie Coyer	W	M	7	Daughter	
Joseph L. Martin	W	M	54	Head	Blacksmith, Coal Mines
Minnie J. Martin	W	F	26	Wife	
Cyril W. Martin	W	M	7	Son	
Forest S. Bolding	W	M	35	Head	Coal Miner
Lillie Bolding	W	F	32	Wife	
Harry Bolding	W	M	10	Son	
Inez Bolding	W	F	7	Daughter	
Erie Bolding	W	M	5	Son	
George Bolding	W	M	7 mos.	Son	
Catharine Alexander	W	F	66	Head	
Boyd B. Alexander	W	M	28	Son	Coal Miner

TABLE 4 (continued)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Race</u>	<u>Sex</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Household Status</u>	<u>Occupation</u>
John Puckett	W	M	30	Head	Coal Miner
Myrtle Puckett	W	F	28	Wife	
Hulda Sabne	W	F	26	Servant	Servant, Private Family
*Liza Kincaid	W	F	56	Head	
Elliott Bobbitt	W	M	23	Son-in-law	Coal Miner
Ida Bobbitt	W	F	24	Daughter	
Norma Bobbitt	W	F	3	Granddaughter	
Roberta Bobbitt	W	F	1	Granddaughter	
Otie Kincaid	W	M	25	Head	Coal Miner
Nannie Kincaid	W	F	20	Wife	
Ruthie Kincaid	W	F	7 mos.	Daughter	
Ruth Ramsey	W	F	22	Sister-in-law	
Marie Ramsey	W	F	1	Niece	
*Morgan H. Townsend	W	M	69	Head	Farmer (F)
Ellen Mitchell	W	F	40	Niece	
Lile [ <u>sic</u> ] Mitchell	W	M	7	Nephew	
Catharine Mitchell	W	F	5	Niece	

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\*Landowner in the project area; not necessarily in residence on site.

(F) Farm Ownership indicated in entry.

SOURCE: U.S., Bureau of Census 1910:7B-8B



## V. FIELD INVESTIGATIONS

The archaeological survey of the project area consisted of a walkover of the entire impact area and subsurface testing of selected portions that were considered to have archeological potential. Areas that were extremely steep and/or clearly disturbed were not tested. The selection of areas for subsurface examination and the intensity of testing was determined in consultation with the NPS Eastern Applied Archeology Office representative.

The Scope of Services specified intervals of 20 feet between shovel tests in potentially undisturbed, relatively level portions of the project area. A larger test interval was employed in areas that appeared to be disturbed. The locations of shovel tests were determined using compass and tape. Excavations proceeded by natural soil horizons at least 0.3 foot into natural subsoil or to bedrock.

All excavated soil was passed through 1/4-inch hardware mesh to recover artifacts. All cultural materials were retained for laboratory analysis with the exception of coal and cinders. Recovered artifacts were bagged according to the strata from which they were recovered. Soil profiles were recorded using USDA soil texture and Munsell Soil Color classifications. Photographs were taken to record field conditions.

Archeological testing in seven areas of potential impact, labelled A through G, are described below. Areas A, B, C, and D were on the northwest side of U.S. Route 19. This area is referred to as Burnwood, after the former campground. Areas E, F, and G were southeast of the highway, where the present Canyon Rim visitor facilities are situated (see Figures 3 and 9). The central portion of the Burnwood area has been subjected to severe ground disturbance as a result of its use as a mining community, and subsequent development as a campground and for park maintenance activities. This portion of the project area was confirmed through augering and, therefore, eliminated from testing. The disturbance is evidenced by the presence of the natural subsoil at the surface.

Area A is the location of a proposed sewage lagoon and polishing pond, as well as the pipeline corridors leading to them along both sides of a dirt access road. The area is covered with saplings, shrubs, and grasses. A total of 35 shovel tests were excavated in Area A, 29 in the lagoon and pond area and 6 along comparatively level portions of the access road (Figure 10).

The typical soil profile in Area A consisted of a dark yellowish brown silt loam A horizon, that ranged in depth from 0.6 to 1.2 feet, over a yellowish brown loam B horizon. Various artifacts mixed with modern trash were recovered from the A horizon. Most of the potentially historic artifacts, such as ceramic and glass bottle sherds, cannot be securely dated. Exceptions are four

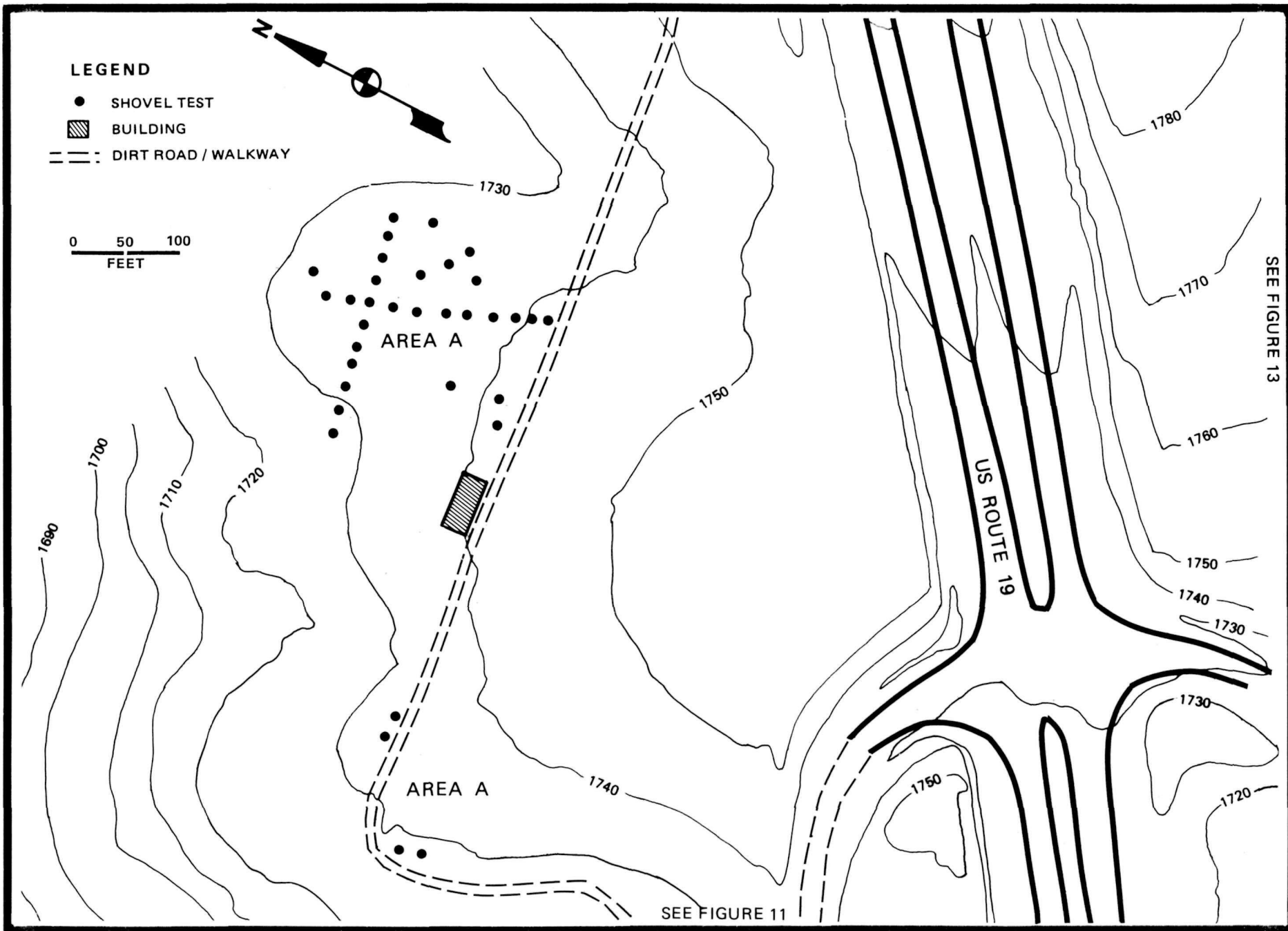


FIGURE 10: Location of Archeological Tests in Area A

fragments of broad glass (window), which have a date range of 1820 to 1926, and one fragment of amethyst solarized glass, which has a date range of 1880 to 1915.

Area B represents the location for proposed water and electrical lines. The ground surface in this area is presently covered by grass. An alignment of 22 shovel tests excavated at 20-foot intervals extended south of the area of fill soils, identified by the NPS, to the beginning of the descent to the river gorge (Figure 11). Most of the soil profiles exhibited somewhat mixed or nondiscrete horizons, which suggests some degree of soil disturbance. Where intact soils were encountered, the soil profile consisted of a brown (10 YR 5/3) silt loam A horizon, 0.4 to 0.9 foot thick, and a silt loam subsoil that ranged in color from a strong brown (7.5 YR 5/8) to a yellowish brown (10 YR 5/6). Historic and recent household items were recovered from 18 of the shovel tests, all from within the A horizon and mixed A/B horizon. The only securely datable artifacts were broad glass, represented by 23 fragments. This type of window glass, which has a manufacturing range of 1820 to 1926, probably represents architectural debris from the miner housing community, New Town, that was built in this vicinity. The majority of the other recovered artifacts were sherds of unidentifiable glass bottles and tableware.

Area C is at the south end of the proposed parking lot and septic field, immediately southwest of the severely impacted area that was excluded from the testing program. Eleven shovel tests were employed in the examination of this area, which is currently a mowed lawn (Figure 11). Soil stratigraphy indicated mottled soils and mixed A and B horizons characteristic of previous ground disturbance. A typical soil profile consisted of a dark grayish brown (10 YR 4/2) silt loam, about one-half foot thick, above a brownish yellow (10 YR 6/6-6/8) silt loam. Historic and modern cultural materials were recovered from the A horizon in eight of the tests. Three fragments of broad glass (window) were recovered. Other artifacts, including whiteware sherds and glass bottle fragments, cannot be securely dated. Obviously modern debris included a plastic case shotgun shell and a 1980 penny.

Area D, located just south of Area C, is presently used as a parking area for NPS equipment. The northeast portion of Area D is disturbed from the previous installation of electrical lines. Six shovel tests were placed along the route of a proposed water line through this area (Figure 11). Three of these tests contained undated bottle glass fragments within the top soil stratum, a very dark grayish brown (10 YR 3/2). In several tests, this surface soil covered a distinct burned layer at the top of the subsoil, a yellowish brown (10 YR 5/6) silt loam. This stratigraphic discontinuity is interpreted as evidence that the upper soil horizon is fill material.

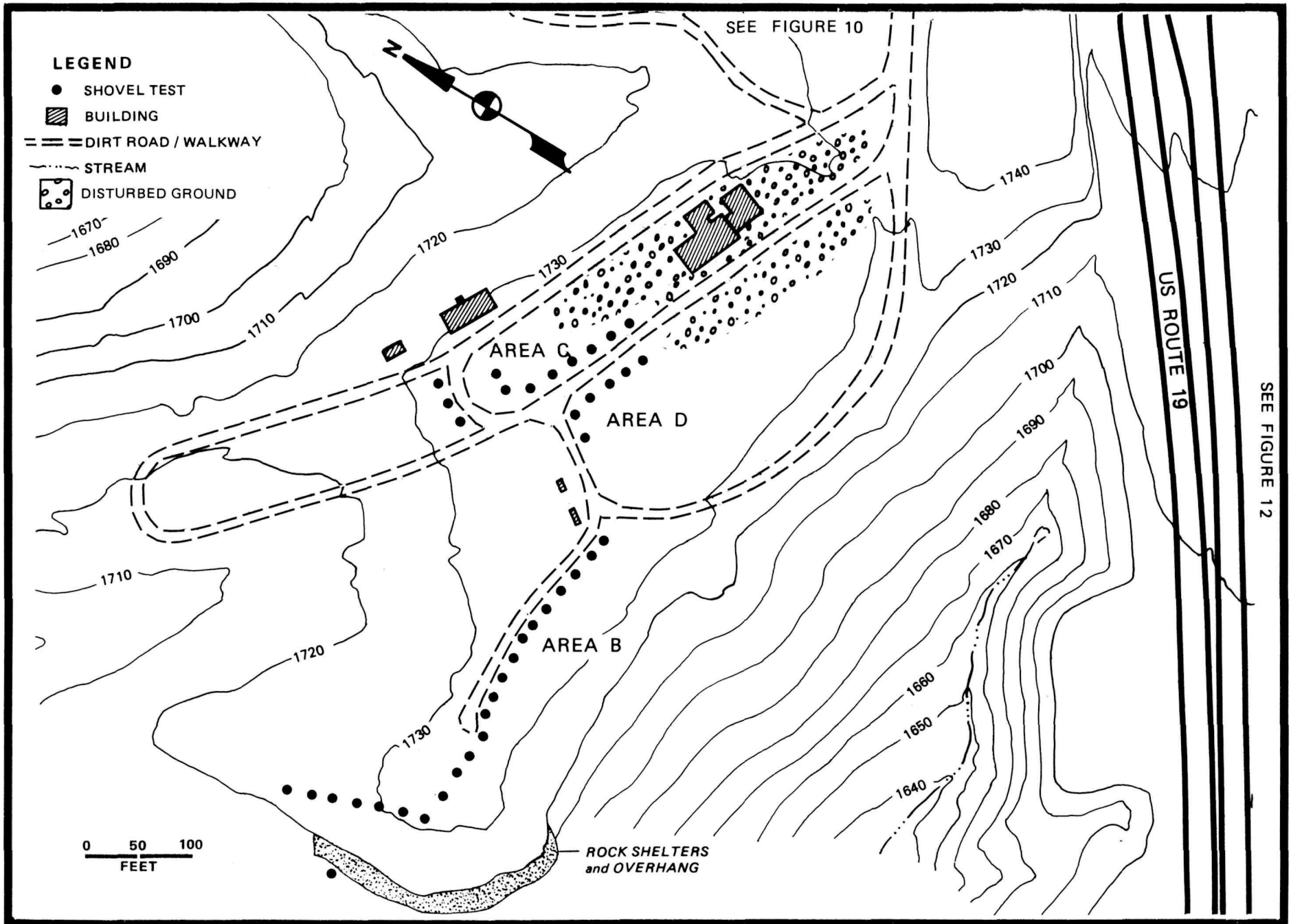


FIGURE 11 : Location of Archeological Tests in Areas B, C and D

The Canyon Rim side of the project area has suffered even more extensive disturbance than Burnwood, as a result of construction of existing National Park facilities. Therefore, most of this area has a very low potential for containing intact archeological remains. Shovel tests were excavated in three areas to document the level of disturbance present and test potentially intact soils. Area E represents the existing visitor center parking lot.

Three shovel tests were excavated in grassy islands of this parking lot (Figure 12). All exhibited truncated soil profiles and extensive disturbance, including fill (mottled soil and gravel) and, in one case, a buried asphalt surface. Artifacts were recovered from two tests in the topsoil, which is a recent landscaping deposit. These materials included ceramic sherds, bottle glass, and a glass marble.

Area F was on the small knoll south of the existing parking lot and directly north of the pit toilets. The area is currently mowed lawn with some surface exposure of trap rock gravel. A total of six shovel tests were excavated in this area with five having been placed at 20-foot intervals along the proposed sewer line and a single test being excavated near the highest elevation in this area (Figure 12). The soils revealed in these tests indicate truncated soil profiles with mottled, hard-packed loam near the surface. No cultural material was recovered from any of the tests. The area seems to have been graded and filled to create a relatively level surface.

Area G represents the ridge top where the proposed 10,000 gallon water tank will be located, as well as the alignment for water lines leading to and from the tank. The area is presently wooded with a mix of saplings, mature trees, and undergrowth. Much of the area consists of steep slopes that were not tested. A single transect of eight shovel tests at 20-foot intervals was placed across the most level portion of the hill. An additional shovel test was excavated along the proposed water line, approximately 600 feet southwest of the tank area, in a fairly level portion of the slope (Figure 13). The typical soil profile consisted of yellowish brown (10 YR 5/4) clay loam, 0.5 to 0.9 foot thick, above a brownish yellow (10 YR 6/8) silty clay. No cultural material was recovered from any of the tests in Area G.

In addition to the seven test areas that were tested, an examination was conducted of rockshelters and overhangs adjacent to the proposed development. Two large rockshelters and an extensive overhang were examined on the Burnwood side, just south of Area B (see Figure 10). A prehistoric component previously identified in one of these rockshelters is referred to as Site 46Fa119. This rockshelter is approximately 50 feet across, a maximum of 25 feet deep, and between 4 and 6 feet high at the opening. A large portion of the rockshelter has been turned into a clubhouse; the floor has been excavated to bedrock and the area



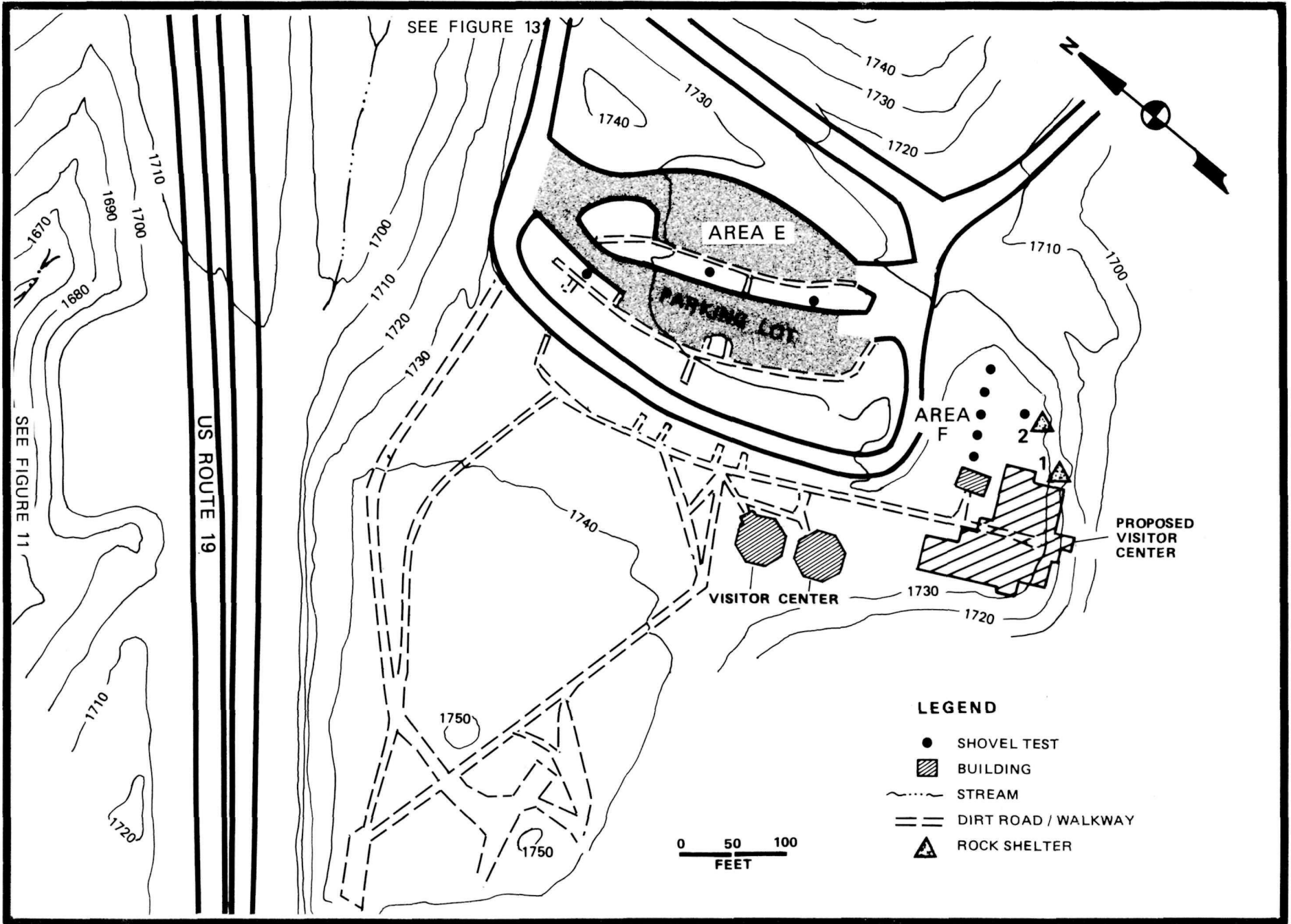


FIGURE 12 : Location of Archeological Tests in Areas E and F

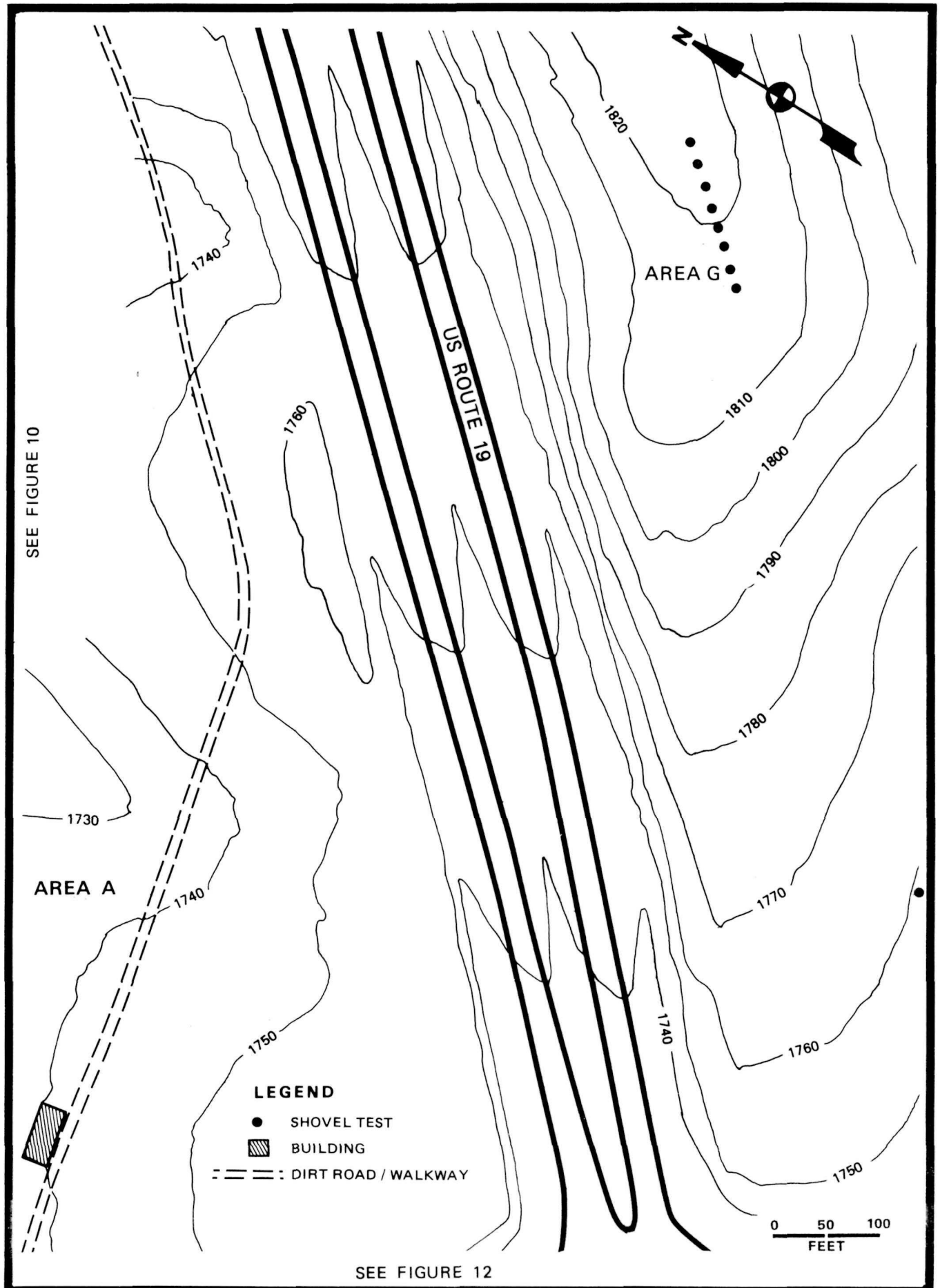


FIGURE 13: Location of Archeological Tests in Area G

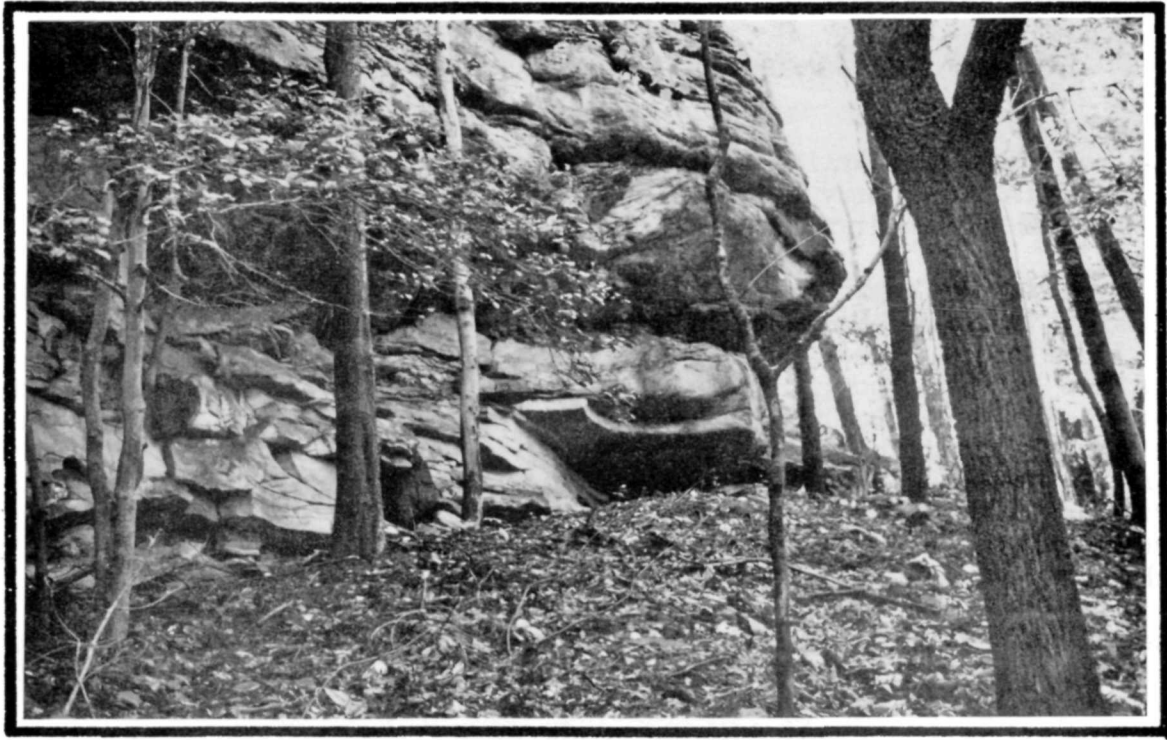


enclosed by dry-laid stone walls. The interior of this enclosure is furnished with a vinyl car seat and strewn with modern litter. Modification of this rockshelter may have occurred earlier in this century, possibly in association with the mining community on the ridgetop; however, there is no material evidence to support this interpretation. The only area that appears to have potential for preserving prehistoric deposits is beneath a large rock fall. The other rockshelter on the Burnwood side faces up the slope of the hill. There is no soil accumulation under this shelter that would preserve remains of prehistoric utilization. Recent trash was also observed in the vicinity of this shelter.

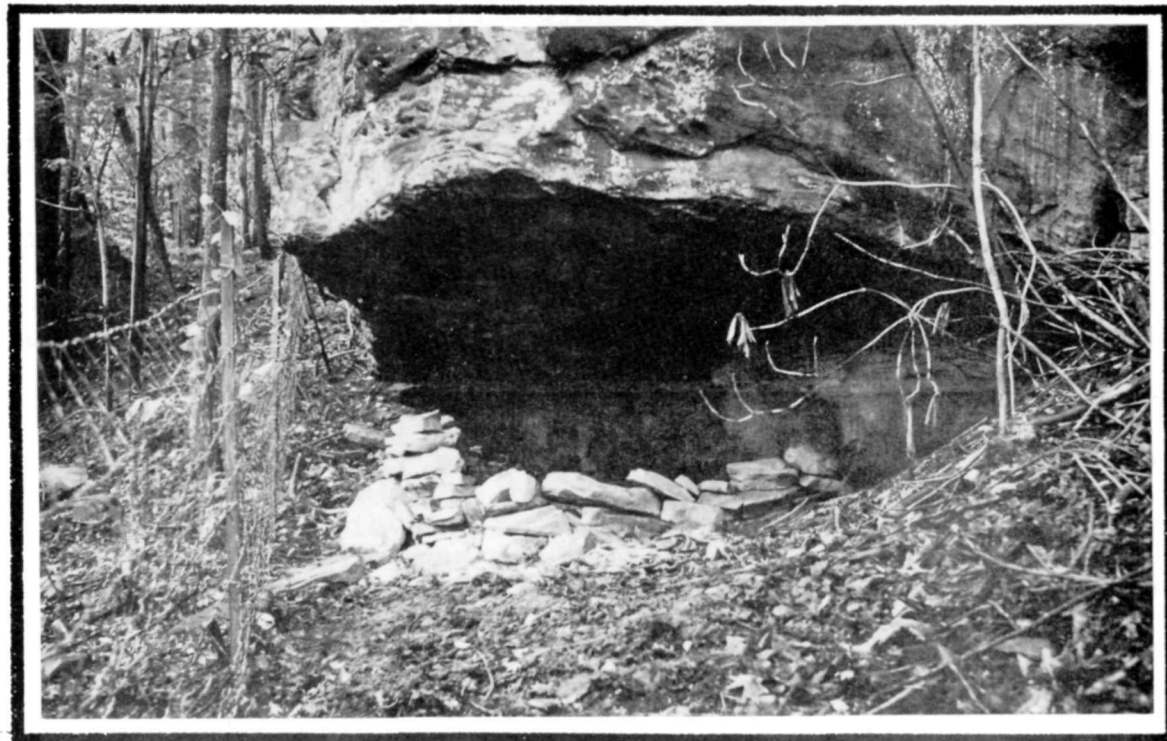
A rock overhang, about 150 feet long, is located to the west of the two rockshelters on the Burnwood side. The height of the overhang is estimated to be between 10 and 20 feet above the ground surface which undulates below the outcrop (Figure 14). Historic and/or recent trash is in evidence all around the slope in front of the overhang. One shovel test was excavated in the front of this overhang where there was some soil accumulation. A depth of 2.8 feet below surface was obtained before rock obstructed further excavation. No prehistoric artifacts were recovered.

Two small rockshelters located near the proposed Canyon Rim Visitor Center were tested (see Figure 12). Although both are of modest size, they appear to have been suitable for prehistoric utilization. Rockshelter #1, which is the one furthest to the south, is approximately 18 feet across, 9 feet deep, and 5 feet high. Two near-perpendicular dry-laid stone walls enclose much of the sheltered floor which has been covered with roughly one-half inch of cement (Figure 15). Historic and modern trash is present on the surface within and in front of the shelter. Two shovel tests were excavated in front of Rockshelter #1. The tests were able to extend down to depths of two and three feet, respectively, before bedrock was reached. One shovel test yielded 51 fragments of assorted glass bottles, 2 fragments of broad glass, and a glazed earthenware marble, which can be dated circa 1880-1920. The other shovel test yielded three fragments of bottle glass. No aboriginal remains were recovered from either test.

Rockshelter #2, located approximately 45 feet north of the other rockshelter, is approximately 24 feet wide, 11 feet deep, and 5 feet high at the opening. Recent trash was observed within and surrounding the rockshelter. Two shovel tests were excavated in front of the opening to depths of 1.7 and 3.0 feet, respectively, before encountering bedrock. One of the tests was completely devoid of cultural material and the other was found to contain glass and ceramic sherds with no diagnostic date ranges. No aboriginal remains were recovered.



**FIGURE 14: Rock Overhang, Burnwood**



**FIGURE 15: Rock Shelter No. 1, Canyon Rim**

## VI. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The historical significance of New Town and the small farms that existed in the study area is associated with local coal mining that developed beginning in the late 1800s.

Of the five farms studied, one, the Kincaid property, is just outside the project boundaries. Another, the Hicks farm, is likely to have been greatly impacted by construction of the present visitor center and parking lot at Canyon Rim. Remains of the three other farms - Bobbitt/ Townsend, Minnix/Townsend, and Duncan/Townsend - may still survive. Among these farms, the only one that can be clearly assigned to specific occupations is the Minnix property. Given the number of properties that the Townsend family owned, their physical (as opposed to legal) association with the Bobbitt and Duncan sites is still somewhat speculative.

The title chain to the Minnix property is quite straightforward, and the presence of the Minnix family in the area, based on deeds, is consistent with the information reported in the federal census. William Minnix, a coal miner, apparently bought the land in 1891. He is not listed in the 1880 census, but appears in the 1900 and 1910 lists.

Although archeological investigation of the Minnix farm is warranted, at this time it appears that the property will not be directly affected by proposed development plans for the Canyon Rim Visitor Center.

With respect to the potential for encountering human burial remains in the project area, available information indicates that all unmarked graves were disinterred and relocated in 1971. This effort appears to have been as thorough as possible, including all remains regardless of their specific identification. The number of graves that were present at this cemetery is unknown and it is unlikely that any additional documentary research would clarify this point.

The archeological testing program failed to uncover any evidence of prehistoric utilization of the areas to be impacted. This is consistent with the regional data base that suggests ephemeral utilization by aboriginal populations in this part of the New River Gorge, probably related to the lack of a developed floodplain. Much of the project area was also found to have disturbed soils, which would affect the preservation of shallow archeological sites such as lithic scatters.

The most likely locations for prehistoric occupation in this area are the rockshelters along the rim of the gorge. All of the rockshelters and overhangs near the impact area were examined. These locations exhibit twentieth-century use; all are

characterized by scattered trash, two have dry stone wall enclosures, and one has a cement floor. The rockshelters examined on the Burnwood side of the project area have little to no soil development that would preserve archeological deposits, with the possible exception of an area beneath rockfall that could not be tested. In contrast, the two rockshelters that were examined near the proposed Canyon Rim Visitor Center have some soil depth. Although no prehistoric remains were recovered in the testing program, it is possible that the excavation of larger units in these rockshelters would be productive.

The historic cultural materials that were recovered during the archeological testing program are highly fragmentary and have very long date ranges that extend from the nineteenth century through to the present. With the exception of broad glass (window), which was not manufactured after circa 1926, no artifacts can be definitely associated with the historic occupation of the project area. In addition, most of the artifact contexts included obviously modern debris which, along with soil characteristics, indicated widespread ground disturbance. The recovered artifacts have no research or display value and were, therefore, discarded after identification.

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Report Certification

I certify that "Historical and Archeological Investigations Canyon Rim

Visitor Center Improvements Project New River Gorge NR. has been reviewed against the criteria contained in 43 CFR Part 7.18(a)(1) and upon recommendation of the Regional Archeologist has been classified as Available.

  
Regional Director

7/6/90  
Date

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