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**ABANDONED IRON MINES
OF
CHESTER BOROUGH and
CHESTER TOWNSHIP**

**MORRIS COUNTY
NEW JERSEY**

1979

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY
DIVISION OF WORKPLACE STANDARDS
OFFICE OF SAFETY COMPLIANCE
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY

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INTRODUCTION

This report was undertaken by the Department of Labor and Industry, Mine Safety Section, to accumulate in a single source, pertinent data concerning the known abandoned iron ore mines in Chester Boro and Chester Township, Morris County, New Jersey, as part of the New Jersey Abandoned Mine Project. Mine locations were visited by Mine Safety Section personnel and locations were plotted on Boro and Township maps which supplement this report.

Reference material consisted of: "1868 New Jersey Geological Survey", by Geo. H. Cook; "1910 New Jersey Geological Survey - Volume VII", by W.S. Bayley; "1940 Field Reports", by A.J. Getz, former Mine Safety Engineer; Maps and information on file at the Mine Safety Section Office.

The village of Chester was formerly an important mining center, not less than 30 different mines being operated or explored in its immediate vicinity. These were along five distinct ranges, shown on Plate 2, each comprising, perhaps several veins. Most of the lines of mines are short, but the main range, the one that passes through the village has a length of 13 miles terminating to the southwest in the Hacklebarney Mine and to the northwest in the Swedes Mine (Rockaway Township). Along the direct line joining these two mines, or very close to it on one side or

the other are fifteen groups of openings within the Chester area from which ore has been obtained. They are not all on the same vein, but the several veins are so close together and so distinctly separated from other veins, that they may be described as constituting a mineral zone.

The mines near Chester, beginning with those on southern range and following with those on more northerly ranges, in succession, and naming them in order from southwest to northeast are:

A. Range I

1. Wortman, Harden, Quimby, Tiger Mines

B. Range II

1. Childs, Woodhull, Budd and Horton Mines

C. Range III

1. Pitney and Gulick Mines

D. Range IV

1. Hacklebarney, Gulick Farm, Peach Orchard, Sampson, Skellenger, Cromwell, Hotel, Swayze, Cooper, Kean, Squiers, Barnes and Thorpe Mines

E. Range V

1. Hedges, Dickerson, Topping, Creamer, Leake, Beemer, Skellenger and Chester Mines

The most prolific producers of the Chester Mines were the Hacklebarney, Gulick Farm, Hedges and Cooper Mines. Although Chester is known for its numerous openings, most of the mines were not large, nearly half would be considered prospects or explorations at best. Most, if not all of the Chester Mines were abandoned by 1890.

Also, included in this report are the mines in Mendham Township and the areas near Peapack-Gladstone. This group includes four mines and are treated in the end of the report.

WORTMAN MINE

The Wortman Mine was a short distance west of the Pottersville Road about two miles north of the Somerset County line on lands owned by T. Wortman, generally located as shown on Plate 2.

Several prospect shafts were dug around 1873 to a depth of 35 feet. It was reported by Bayley that the red surface ore was of good quality, but no mining to any extent was carried out. The place was abandoned prior to 1890.

HARDEN MINE

The Harden prospect was about 1.5 miles south of Chester, supposedly on the south side of the road to Pottersville as shown on Plate 2. The place was explored in 1869 and a little ore in small veins and strings was found, but nothing to warrant further work. The area was inspected, but nothing visible to indicate past mining activity was found.

QUIMBY MINE

The Quimby Prospect Mine was in Chester Township, a little over a mile south of Chester near the intersection of Route 206 and Cooper Lane as shown on Plate 2. It lays between the Harden and the

Tiger Mines about one-quarter of a mile southwest of the latter. Some ore was mined here before 1883, but never developing into a producing operation. The place was abandoned in 1884.

TIGER MINE

The Tiger Mine was about one-quarter of a mile northeast of the Quimby Mine, south of Cooper Lane as shown on Plate 2. The vein was reported as being 3 feet wide, but the ore was in bunches and sulphurous. About 300 tons were mined before 1883 and was abandoned shortly afterward.

The present day workings consist of several small dry pits, and an elongated pit approximately 120 feet long with a 6 feet by 8 feet opening to a stope at the northeast end. The southeast end of the large pit was probably the result of surface work, underground work starting at the 6 feet by 8 feet stope opening. The 15 foot diameter pit may be a collapsed air shaft connecting to the underground stope. Plan of the present day remains are shown in Plate 3.

CHILD MINE

The Child Mine, in Chester Township, was situated about one mile east of Hacklebarney and 1.5 miles south of Chester on lands owned by L. Childs. Location is generally as shown on Plate 2. It was three-

fourths of a mile west of the Harden Mine and one-half of a mile east of the Gulick Mine about midway between the two ranges on which these mines are situated. The place was explored in 1874 and a small quantity of ore was removed. Outside of this brief operation the property has not been worked.

Inspection of the area did not reveal any visible evidence of past mining activity.

WOODHULL MINE

The Woodhull Mine was on the same range with the Budd and Gulick Mines, about one-half of a mile south of Chester on the west side of Route 206, as shown on Plate 2. It was opened around 1870, thoroughly explored, but nothing being found that was promising, the place was soon abandoned. It was re-started shortly after a shaft, south of the road, had been sunk. The ore body was 8 feet wide in some places, but narrowed considerably with depth, making it unprofitable to work. The dip near the surface was 70° southeast diminishing to 50° at the deeper explorations. The place never developed into a producing operation.

The area as shown on Plate 2 was examined without success in early 1978. Conceivably the location may be in error, if so hopefully,

some knowledgeable resident of the Chester area may call to our attention to the exact location.

BUDD MINE

The Budd Mine was opened in 1867 on the south side of Fairmount Avenue on lands owned by Daniel Budd generally located as shown on Plate 1. At the time of the opening the workings exposed a vein from 6 to 8 feet wide and was operated for a short time. It was reported, to be abandoned before 1873 and as far as is known has not yielded any ore since that time. No record of ore production is available for this mine, however, judging from the limited time of production and its brief treatment by Bayley, the total yield was apparently very small.

The are southwest of Charles Place was examined without success. Probably the mine was located in the farmland behind the farmhouse at 79 Fairmount Avenue, with any visible remains completely lost by leveling for farming.

DANIEL HORTON MINE

The Daniel Horton Mine was 3 miles northeast of Chester, about 500 feet off Route 24 on the dirt road opposite Bakers Road as shown on Plate 2. The area presently consists of about seven depressions, which

are filled with trash and very small dumps generally as shown on Plate 4.

The two elongated pits are presumably the result of ground subsidence caused by collapsed stopes along the trend. As noted, the pits are all rubbish filled and not much can be determined from surface observations.

The mine was opened in 1867 on a vein 4 to 9 feet thick, worked until 1870 and then operations ceased. One of the two slopes reached a reported depth of 160 feet when mining stopped. About 4,000 tons of ore were mined before the place was abandoned. The vein dipped 50° southeast and exhibited a northeast to southwest strike pitching northeast.

Approximately 3,000 feet southwest of the Horton area, 600 feet north of the Chester Place - South Road intersection is the remains of a prospect pit. There is no reference to this prospect in any of the literature. The remains of the prospect presently occur as a series of small, shallow pits (10 feet in diameter by 2 feet deep) with very small dumps surrounding the pits. The prospect was pointed out to the Mine Safety Section by Mr. John Byron of Parsippany, New Jersey. The location seems to be a prospect on the northeast end of the Wortman, Harden, Quimby and Tiger line of explorations, none of which developed into a producer.

PITNEY MINE

The Pitney Mine was about one-quarter mile northeast of the Langdon Mine (Washington Township) and on the same range. It is located 300 feet north of Hacklebarney State Park Road as shown on Plate 2.

The place was first explored in 1873 and some surface mining was done. A shaft was put down several years later and some underground mining was accomplished. The mine was abandoned in 1881. The total tonnage of ore shipped from the Pitney was estimated at 6,700 tons by Bayley. Getz reports, "In the shaft a vein 12 feet to 15 feet wide, pitching to the southwest was found. Since the ore was lean, the shoot evidently was not exploited."

The location, presently appears as a depression 200 feet long by approximately 20 feet wide overgrown with fair sized trees. Evidence of some waste rock is apparent, although most of the remains of mining activity have been pretty well obliterated.

HACKLEBARNEY MINE

The Hacklebarney Mines, comprised a large number of shafts and pits situated along both sides of Black River, about 1.5 miles south of Chester, located as shown on Plate 2. When active, they produced a large annual tonnage.

Ore was first obtained at this place about 215 years ago, from an opening southeast of the later mines. The ore was used in the Hacklebarney forge situated in the near vicinity. Up to the year 1868, all the ore obtained had been taken from near the surface.

Between 1868 and 1873, extensive underground explorations were undertaken by the Chester Iron Mining Company. These disclosed a series of veins half a mile long. On the southwest side of the river, two veins were opened, and these were traced to the northeast side, where a third vein was discovered. The western vein was followed 600 feet by an open drift. Its dip was 50° to 60° southeast, and its average width was 20 feet.

The mine was worked continuously between 1873 and 1884, during which period five veins were operated, on the northeast side of the river. In 1884, when production fell off, a roaster was built at the base of the hill near the present day Rockledge driveway. During 1885, six openings were being operated, of which two were on the hill southwest of the river and the other four on the hill on its northeast side. The mine was closed in 1888, but in the summer of 1890, work was resumed and mining continued on a small scale in 1891. A tunnel was driven west into the hill at the river level which penetrated a deposit 50 feet from its mouth. The portal of the tunnel is presently at the shed on the west side of Mr. Nielson's green pond. Small quantities of surface ore were removed

during the succeeding year, but gradually all operations ceased, and the entire plant was abandoned about 1896. When actively operated, the annual production was about 20,000 tons.

In 1880, when the operations were most active, there were fourteen or fifteen open cuts and pits on the property from which ore had been taken, and twelve or fifteen small shoots of ore were known that varied in widths from wone to twelve feet, and in height from fifteen feet to two hundred feet. The most eastern opening was an old pit about 300 yards southeast of the main mine, near the river. This was active in the early days, but had been abandoned long before the later mines were developed.

Of the many openings on the property, three were on the hill on the southwest side of the river. Two of these were open pits 135 feet long, 40 feet wide and 45 feet deep, on the same deposit. About 100 feet west of these was a narrow vein from 4 feet to 6 feet wide, that was worked by a shaft 125 feet deep. Another pit on the southwest side of the river was at the foot of the hill, near the river bank. This was known as the Coalhouse Pit. It was 150 feet long, 50 feet deep and about 30 feet wide. The Coalhouse Pit today appears as the green pond on the west side of the road, behind Mr. Nielson's wood fence.

On the northeast side of the river, opposite the Coalhouse Pit, two cuts were driven into the hillside. In the larger of these, known as

Andrew's Cut, the ore was 30 feet wide. The other cut, the "East Cut", was on a smaller vein east of the larger one and parallel with it. Further up on the hill, northeast of these two cuts, were the Tunnel and the Foley openings, which were in line with Andrew's Cut. The George vein opening was several hundred feet east of these. On the top of the hill it was worked from a shaft.

The dip of the ore bodies on the southwest side of the river was 70° southeast, and their strike was northeast, or a little more nearly north than the strike of the veins northeast of the stream. At the river a great fault throws the veins about 200 feet to the right, so that their northeast extension on the opposite side of the river is further to the east. On the hill which rises from the river bank, the explorations disclosed a series of ore veins, with an average dip of 65° southeast and a pitch of 20° to 30° to the northeast. The most persistent vein was known as the Tunnel vein. It is characterized by its uniform thickness of 5 feet to 6 feet and its regular dip of 55° southeast. Between this and the George Mine, which is 800 feet to the southeast, a large number of small veins were uncovered and mined by a number of shallow pits. Other openings to the northeast of these discovered still other ore bodies, one of which measured 15 feet across. The George vein itself, where opened by the pit, contained three parallel deposits pitching 30° northeast.

GULICK FARM MINES

The Gulick Farm Mines adjoined the Hacklebarney Mines on the northeast. They comprised a series of openings along the old road from Hacklebarney to Chester, as shown on Plate 2.

It is not known when the mines were first opened, but it was some time before 1872. In 1872 a shaft 60 feet deep was sunk, and through this some of the surface ore was removed. The mine was probably again opened in 1881, and was operated continuously until 1886. In this year all the shafts that were on the northwest side of the road, were abandoned, but another one was sunk on the road, which, at a depth of 20 feet, showed 6 feet of ore dipping 65° southeast. Evidently this shaft was not used long, as no further report of its operation can be found.

The mining developments disclosed the presence of three veins on the property. The eastern vein No. 1, was the continuation of the southeast vein at Hacklebarney. It was 12 feet wide, and tested for a 800 foot length. Three shafts were sunk on this. The whole length of the vein that was tested measured 800 feet. A fault, with a throw of 30 feet to the right, was encountered south of the northeast shaft, and at the northeast end of the vein, at a depth of 40 feet, the ore was suddenly replaced by rock, though the vein walls continued undisturbed beyond the ore with a uniform dip of 60° southeast.

The western veins were tested by a number of pits that disclosed a series of small ore shoots. From one of these considerable ore was taken, but most of them remained undeveloped. Near the Hacklebarney property line the line of shoots is faulted 30 feet to the right and northeast of this fault were two shoots lying side by side.

As at Hacklebarney, the surface ore was soft and red while at depth the ore was hard and black. At the main shaft which was 40 feet west of the road, the ore varied from 1 to 6 feet in width.

The output of the mine from 1881 to 1884 was 9,000 tons. Getz reports, "The evidence remaining is a series of pits and cuts, the latter probably marking traces of stopes breaking through to surface, and small lean dumps. The cuts are narrow, the ore remaining in place being lean. Most of the pits are rather shallow and small, one to the east being of good size. No date of abandonment is given, but it probably was soon after 1886. The only production figures available are from 1881 to 1884, when 9,000 tons were raised."

The present day remains of the east openings consist of a series of good size pits presently being filled with trash. The western openings consist of a series of pits and fair size dumps, one at the northeast end being a fairly large pit, measuring 75 feet by 30 feet wide by 15 feet deep.

The principal mine of this name was the Gulick Farm Mine just described. The other known as the Gulick Mine was never of any importance, its location shown on Plate 2.

PEACH ORCHARD (CREAGER) MINE

The Peach Orchard or Creager Mine consisted of a series of pits several hundred feet south of and paralleling Route 24 as shown on Plate 1. The pits have been filled in and traces of past mining activity are not visible. Bayley reports, "Several shafts and pits put down about 1870 proved a workable vein from which considerable ore had been taken before it was abandoned in 1873. It was re-explored in 1883 with unknown results."

SAMPSON MINE

The Sampson Mine was northeast of the Peach Orchard Mine, located as shown on Plate 1, at the intersection of Route 206 and Route 24.

The mine was opened in 1867 and worked continuously on surface material until 1873, when it was closed because of the low price of ore. In 1880, it was reopened, remained active five years, when it was again closed in the fall of 1885. Up to the year 1880, it had yielded a total of 39,200 tons.

Before 1873 the ore had been removed to a depth of 100 feet from a vein that averaged 5 feet in width. By 1883, the mine had reached a depth of 285 feet on the very steep slope of the footwall, and a length of 350 feet. The ore was mainly in a single large shoot 350 feet

long and 300 feet high. Its thickness varied between 3 feet and 8 feet. Below this, however, was a second shoot on which operations were begun before the mine closed down in 1885. The dip of the ore bodies was southeast and pitched 22° northeast.

It is the southernmost of the long series of mines on the range, which passes from this point northeast and successively through the Cromwell, Hotel, Swayze, Cooper, Kean, Squier's and other mines still further to the northeast.

SKELLENGER MINE

There were two Skellenger Mines in the vicinity of Chester. The older one was in Chester, about 200 feet west of Main Street in the village of Chester, in the area later occupied by the Cromwell and Sampson Mines.

This mine was first opened in 1867 on an attraction about one-fourth of a mile long. The vein, which had been explored to a depth of 15 or 20 feet in 1868, was said to be 4 feet wide. It was later worked as a part of the Sampson Mine.

CROMWELL MINE

The Cromwell, or Chester Highland Mine was in the Village of Chester, on the north side of Main Street as shown on Plate 1. It lies between the Sampson and the Hotel Mines, on the Sampson Mine shoot, and immediately northeast of the Sampson (later the Skellenger).

In 1883, the slope was reported to be 180 feet deep. The mine was probably opened around 1872. It was operated during the greater portion of the years from 1883 to 1886. In the latter year the main shaft was down 210 feet, the first 40 feet vertical, the rest on a slope of 60° , which is about the dip of the footwall to the southeast.

One vein, which was known to be 630 feet long, five shafts were sunk. The width of the deposit varied between 9 and 16 feet, (averaging about 10 feet) and its dip was 63° southeast. The pitch was 40° northeast. About 9,000 tons were raised in 1886. The mines capacity of 2,500 tons per month apparently was never attained.

Approximately 400 feet north of Main Street several overgrown and rubbish filled pits are the present day remains of the operations along with a stone foundation with anchor bolts at the north side of the pits indicating a shaft nearby.

1873, but Bayley reports nothing definite was known as to the character and quantity of the ore found. Since, however, a magnetic line is traceable between this mine, through the Cromwell Mine to the Sampson Mine, it is probable that the ore was of the same quality in all of these. The locality was never developed into a shipping mine.

Several small overgrown pits are still visible at the site as the only present day evidence of past mining activity.

A short distance north of the Hotel Mine, explorations on the Callis Farm were made in 1873 and about 70 tons of surface ore was removed. As far as is known nothing was done to further develop the operation.

SWAYZE MINE

The Swayze, or Seayze Mine was three-fourths of a mile north of the village of Chester on the Oakdale Road between the Hotel and the Copper Mines, probably in the same vein of ore.

The Swayze Mine was northeast of the Hotel Mine on both sides of Oakdale Road as shown on Plate 2. The first openings were made in 1870 probably on the same vein of ore as the Hotel. The mine was shipping surface ore in 1873 at which time it was closed and not re-opened until 1880. It operated intermittently until the spring of 1886 and then abandoned. The vein, measured 12 to 18 feet wide, dipped 45° southeast and a northeast strike.

Getz reports, "All that is now visible are two water filled pits. The pit to the south or west is evidently quite shallow as tree stumps are visible in it. Northeast of this pit is a long narrow pit, partially filled with water. A dump runs along side the narrow pit. The line of pits is not long and there is no evidence of very active mining."

The northeast pit was apparently located at the Oakdale Road-Cathy Court intersection in the front lawn of Mr. K. Kavanawlis property. Present day evidence of some settling in the front lawn of the property was shown to the writer by Mrs. Carmen Smith, a neighbor.

COOPER MINE

The Cooper Mine occupied the northeast extension of the Swayze Mine, located as shown on Plate 2 at present Melrose Village. It lay between the Swayze and the Kean Mines and consisted of a number of large

open pits and shafts. It was opened in late 1879 and worked almost continuously until 1885 and abandoned in 1886 when most of the machinery was removed. In the three years ending with 1883, the mine shipped 60,000 tons of ore, nearly all of which was surface material obtained from open pits. In the following two years about 30,000 tons additional were shipped, making the total aggregate production from the mine 90,000 tons.

Mining went underground when hard ore was reached. Four slopes were sunk in the footwall on an angle of 45° southeast. The ore in the Cooper vein was from 15 to 30 feet wide, dipped 45° southeast, and exhibited a northeast to southwest strike.

Much of the mining was done in open pits as Getz reports, "A very long, comparatively narrow pit is found, flanked on both sides by waste material. Near the northerly end the remains of a roaster were found. The pits cross an estate and are rapidly being filled in the process of development.

The northeast end of the mine is located at the northern end of Williamson Road and presently being used as a dump. The Kean Mine is located to the northeast, across Williamson Road.

KEAN MINE

The Kean Mine lies approximately 1,000 feet immediately northeast of the Cooper Mine as shown located on Plate 2. It was apparently on the same vein as the Cooper and Swayze Mines. Near the surface the ore was of the usual red variety, free from sulphur. Deeper, the blue variety was encountered and this as usual contained a little pyrite. The vein is remarkable for the close crowding of offsets; six of them within a distance of 54 feet resulted in the throw of the vein 58 feet to the right. At the southeast end another with a throw of 40 feet separated this mine from the Cooper Mine. The mine was abandoned prior to 1890. Very little ore was removed during the time it operated, the place never developing into a producing operation.

The present day remains consist of a series of comparatively small water filled pits as shown in plan on Plate 5. Location is adjacent to the Equs Acres property on the northwest side of Williamson Lane in the State Park.

SQUIER'S MINE

The Squier's Mine was about midway between the Kean and the Leake Mine in Chester Township, on the north side of Linabury Lane, as shown on Plate 2.

It was first opened about 1880 on the range containing the Cooper, Kean and other mines further southwest. Although nothing was reported by Bayley with reference to the history of the mine, considerable work apparently was done on the property, since the 1910 Survey indicates ground evidence of the former existence of five or six shafts at the location.

Getz reports in the 1940's, "Remaining surface evidence consists of a series of pits which may have been shafts covering a distance of 1,000 feet along the strike. The pits are overgrown. Dumps are small, scattered and lean."

BARNES MINE

The Barnes Mine was about one-half mile northeast of the Daniel Horton Mine on the north side of North Road. The openings are located approximately 800 feet northwest of the Lum Farmhouse. Seven pits are still visible with small dumps generally as shown on Plate 7. A 3 feet by 4 feet opening to a stope can be seen at the bottom of the northeast end of the 80 feet long pit, and the remains of a stone foundation with anchor bolts at the southwest end of the pit indicating the shaft location.

Bayley reports, "The mine was opened in 1869 under the management of E. Canfield, and worked for three years yielding several thousand tons of ore, which was shipped to the furnace at Stanhope. The vein was explored for 500 feet and in some places to a depth of 100 feet. It dipped

60° southeast, averaged 4 feet thick and exhibited a northeast strike. Three offsets about the width of the vein were found. The place was abandoned in 1883."

THORP MINE

The Thorp prospect was in Chester Township about one-half of a mile south of Ironia almost on the line between Chester and Randolph Townships as shown on Plate 2. The location can be reached driving north on Gubb Road until the dead-end. The area is in the rear of a new development and the present day remains consist of several very small shallow pits and very small dumps. Not much is known of the place except it was probably a small surface opening never yielding any significant amount of ore.

HEDGES MINE

The Hedges Mine operation was located in the western part of Chester Boro, its southwestern end in the Township, on the south side of the Chester branch of the Central Railroad of New Jersey, several hundred feet north of the West Chester Manor. The southwestern end of the mine is marked by two water filled pits, one on each side of the rail bed and fair sized dumps. Travelling northeast along the strike a series of small pits and dumps are visible for approximately 1,000 feet to the west

side of the New Jersey Power and Light Company right of way. Along with the Dickerson Farm Mine, it marks a range west of the main range of the Chester Mines.

This mine was once considered a large producer. It was first operated about 1870. The workings consisted of a great open cut 300 feet long and 50 feet deep, and a shaft north of this connected by a drift with the open cut. The ore was in two bodies, 25 feet and 5 feet wide, separated by rock 6 feet wide. The ore mined was nearly all surface material, and was taken out with pick and shovel. The mine was operating in 1874 and for a few years thereafter, but was abandoned around 1879.

In the 1940's Getz reports, "It is difficult to get a picture of the operations from present evidence. A long rubbish filled pit is almost the only sign of mining. Dumps are almost non-existent. A small water filled pit some 300 feet west may have been a portion of the property."

DICKERSON FARM MINE

The Dickerson Farm Mine was several hundred feet northeast of the Hedges Mine on the same line of attraction generally located on Plate 1. Its southwest end starting on the east side of the New Jersey Power and Light right of way and extending northeastward for several hundred feet. Presently the site consists of a series of overgrown pits the southeast end being used as a dump for refuse. About 150 feet northeast of the last

Dickerson Pit is a shallow pit about 50 feet long by 20 feet wide which very likely is the remains of the Blauvelt Mine described by Bayley as a prospect.

The mine was opened in about 1870 by two shafts, from which a small quantity of lean ore was raised, worked for a few years and then abandoned in 1872 or 1873. The openings, made when the mine was in operation, were 80 feet deep. The ore shoots were described as being short.

In 1890 new openings were made on a line of attraction 300 feet long. These uncovered a vein 4 feet wide, from which about 3,000 tons of surface ore were taken. The mine was abandoned shortly after 1890.

Getz reports, "There is not much remaining evidence of mining activities. A long, narrow, shallow pit, now overgrown and with no rock showing is the principal exhibit. Rather small dumps, also overgrown, along the edge are lean. Two shafts, striking lean ore are reported, but were not found. They probably have been filled in."

TOPPING MINE

The Topping Mine was in Chester, on the west side of Route 206 as shown on Plate 1, occupying the territory north of the Dickerson Farm Mine.

The mine worked both the main range through Chester and the

northwest range of the Hedges-Dickerson Farm Mines. It was opened in 1873 on the southeast or main range vein that crossed the property, and a large tonnage of ore was mined. The place was temporarily abandoned in 1879 and reopened for four months in 1880 yielding about 875 tons. Explorations were resumed in 1883, but without success. Test pits were put down on the northwest vein, but no mining was done.

Getz reports in 1940, "Two lines of pits are found, the western line being small. The eastern line had a good size pit, partially filled with rubbish and water. Several smaller pits were probably test points."

CREAMER MINE

The Creamer, or Cramer Mine was 2,000 feet northeast of the Topping Mine on the northwest vein passing through the Topping property as shown on Plate 6, located behind the house on 56 Hillside Road.

Ore was first dug here in 1873, but the operations were never more than explorations. So far as known none of the pits reached the solid ore.

SKELLENGER MINE

The Skellenger Mine lay about three-fourths of a mile northeast of the Squier Mine generally as shown on Plate 2. The Skellenger Mine referred to here encompasses the Leake and Beemer Mines which were operated

independently at various times. The southwest workings were originally known as the Leake Mine and the northeast workings later known as the Skellenger. The Beemer workings were located between the Leake and Skellenger operations. The northeast end of the pits lie approximately 300 feet north of the Ollie Roesing home about one-quarter mile off North Road. The present day evidence of the workings consist of a series of pits and dumps extending for about 2,000 feet, the northeast pits comparatively small and shallow, the south western pits larger and deeper with greater sized dumps. Near the southwest end, appears a large pit approximately 30 feet in diameter by 25 feet deep adjacent to a stone foundation with anchor bolts undoubtedly the remains of a shaft.

The southwest or Leake operation, was opened in 1866 by the Bethlehem Iron Company, on a line of attraction 1,000 feet long, striking north 55° east. The vein was about 5 to 8 feet thick with a foot of rock through the center. It was probably worked in 1868, but was closed down in the following year. It was reopened in 1882, but was again closed before the end of the season. It had then reached a depth of 80 feet.

The northern or Skellenger Mine operated in 1881 and 1882, but was soon afterwards abandoned because of the leanness of the ore.

The central or Beemer Mine was opened in 1886 just southwest of the Skellenger and northeast of the old workings of the Leake Mine. Two shafts sunk in 1886 had reached depths of 60 and 35 feet on a deposit which averaged $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet in width, dipping 55° southeast and pitching 20° northeast.

About 2,000 tons of ore were raised in 1886. The place was abandoned shortly after 1886.

CHESTER MINE

The Chester Mine or George Shaft was near Horton's Station on the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad, a short distance east of the Skellenger Mine.

On the east side of Bakers Road near the Power Line right of way are several small depressions, the only present day remains. The original openings were made in 1881 on a small vein of ore dipping southeast. It was followed down about 30 feet, and 400 tons of a sulphurous ore were taken out. The place was then abandoned.

MINES IN MENDHAM TOWNSHIP

JANES MINE

The Janes Mine in Bernards Township was located near the county line as shown on Plate 8. It is described as an old mine situated on Mine Mountain, opened prior to 1865, but never worked to any considerable extent.

AUBLE MINE

The Auble Mine was 1.5 miles northeast of Peapack-Gladstone south of Mosle Road located as shown on Plate 9, in Somerset County. It was reopened in 1890 in an old prospect hole by a shaft 50 feet deep and at the end of that year was 100 feet long. By the close of 1891 two shafts had been sunk, one 120 feet deep and the other 80 feet deep, and these had been connected by a drift 140 feet long. The vein was reported to be 3 feet wide. About 400 tons were raised and the mine was abandoned shortly afterward.

LEWIS MINE

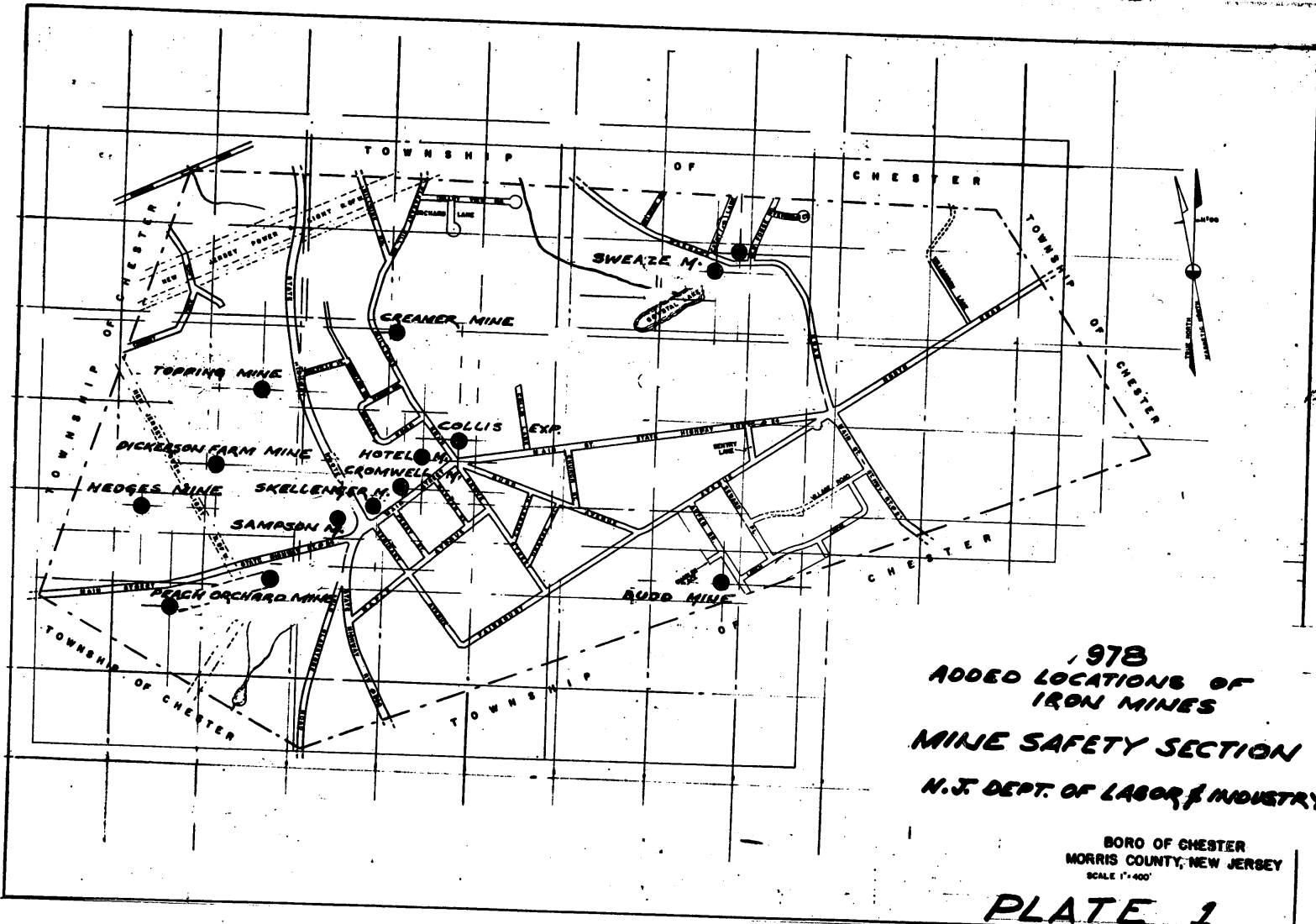
The Lewis or Herrick Mine was in Mendham Township about two miles southwest of Calais as shown located on Plate 10. There is no record as to the date at which this mine was opened. It was abandoned however in 1870 and remained closed until 1880, when a little work was done looking to its reopening. Three shafts had been sunk, one of which was reported to be 100 feet deep. The vein was reported to be four to six feet wide.

CONNET MINE

The Connet or Water Street Mine was on the south side of Whippany River at Brookside in Mendham Township as shown located on Plate 11.

The first opening at this place was a tunnel driven from near the river southward into the vein for a distance of about 200 feet, presumably in search of copper ore. This tunnel was reopened in 1869 and followed into a vein of magnetite. This was then drifted into for a distance of 300 feet, where the ore body became too narrow to warrant further working. A second tunnel, 500 feet long was driven along the vein beneath the first one. Throughout its entire length, the vein which was between four and seven feet wide, strikes southeast and dips southwest at 45° . The pitch of the ore shoots was southeast.

It is not known how long the mine was worked, but it has produced nothing since about 1875. When actively operated its yield was 4,500 tons annually.

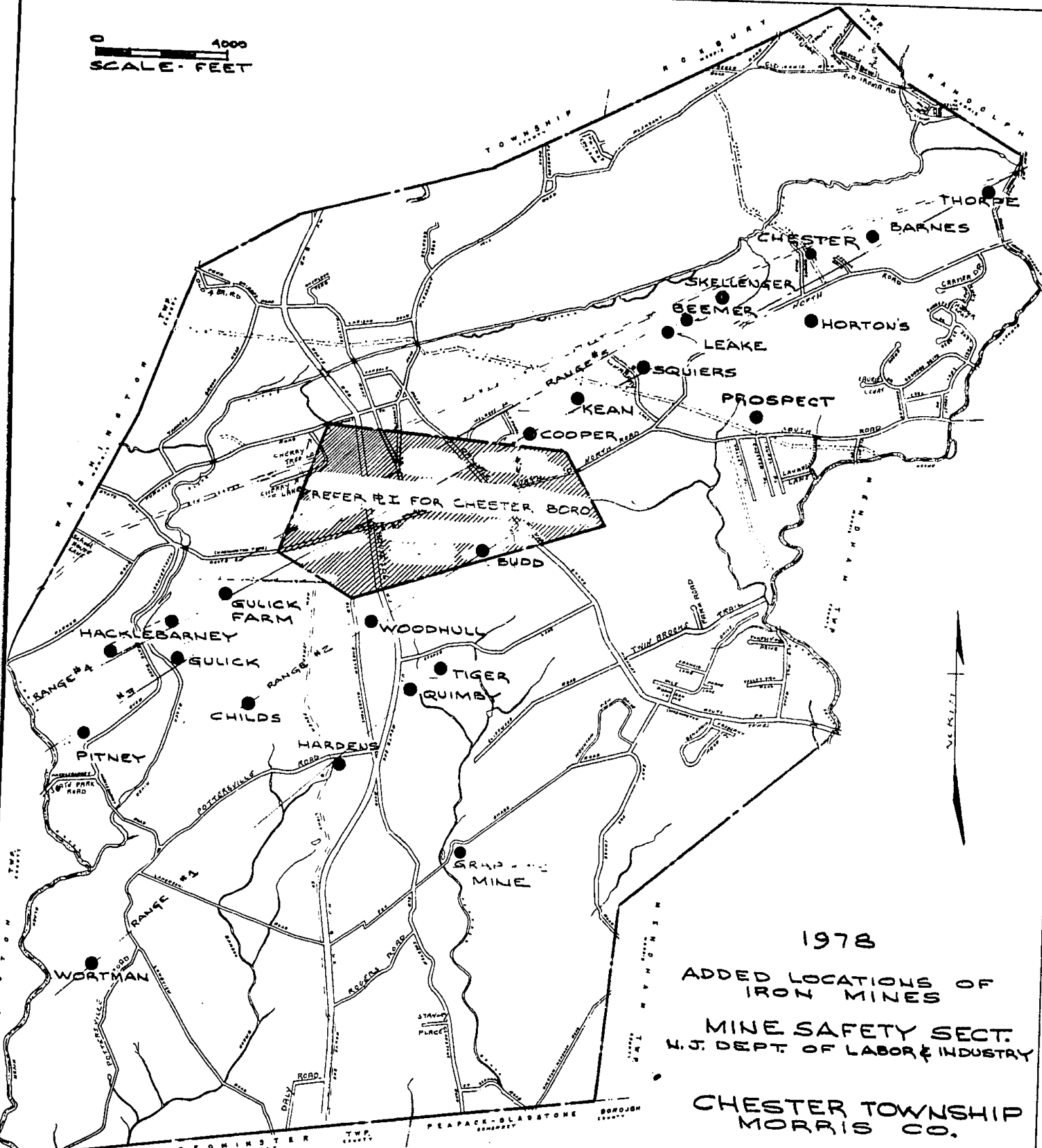


1978
 ADDED LOCATIONS OF
 IRON MINES
 MINE SAFETY SECTION
 N.J. DEPT. OF LABOR & INDUSTRY

BORO OF CHESTER
 MORRIS COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
 SCALE 1"=400'

PLATE 1

0 1000
SCALE - FEET



1978

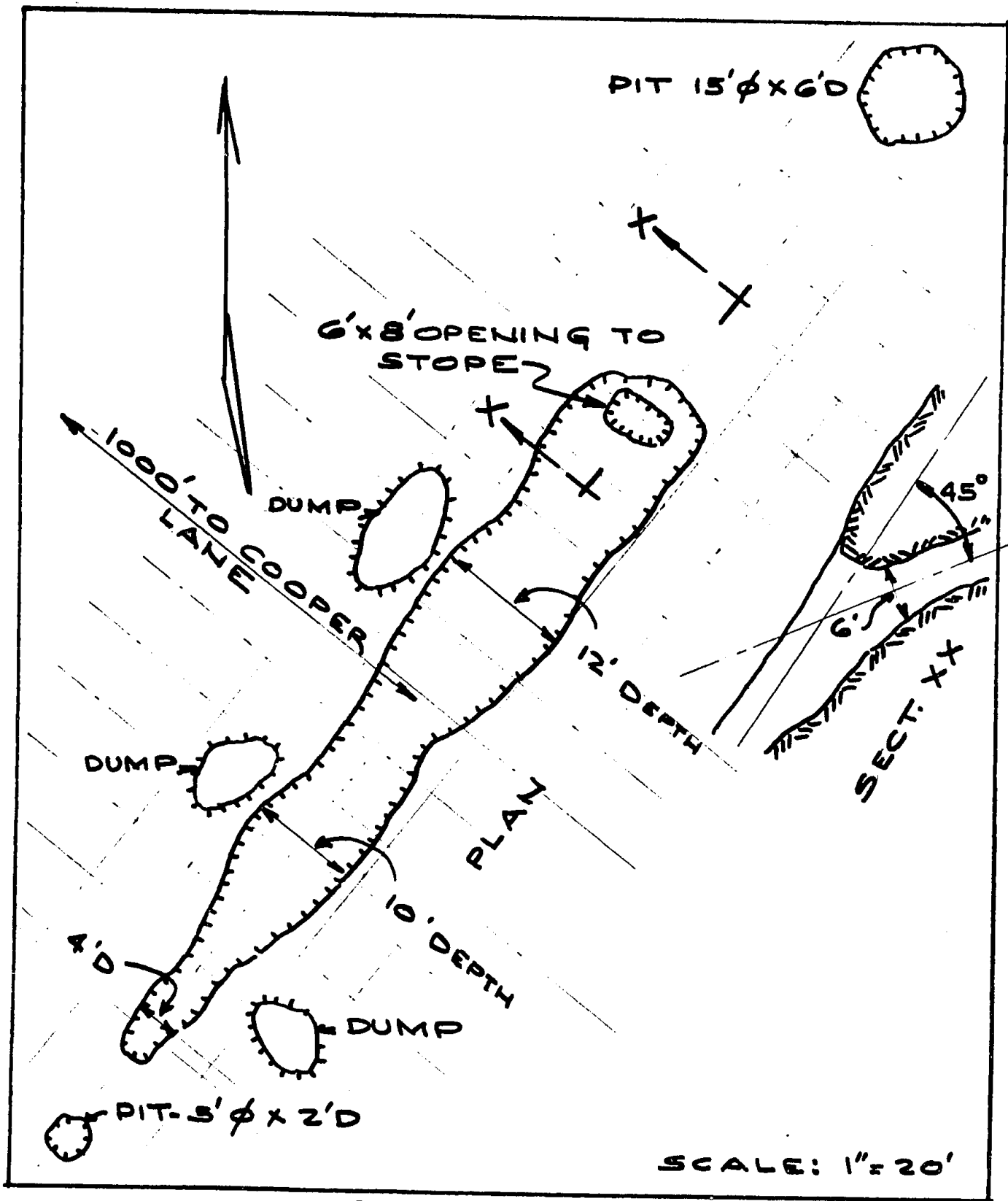
ADDED LOCATIONS OF
IRON MINES

MINE SAFETY SECT.
U. S. DEPT. OF LABOR & INDUSTRY

CHESTER TOWNSHIP
MORRIS CO.

PLATE 2

PLATE 2



1978
 TIGER MINE
 CHESTER TOWNSHIP
 MORRIS CO.
 MINE SAFETY SECTION
 N.J. DEPT. OF LABOR & INDUSTRY
 PLATE 3

SCALE: 1" = 30 FT.

DIRT ROAD NORTH RD.
350 FT NORTH RD.

HOME →

NORTH ↑

PIT-10'φ
PIT 10'x5'
PIT 15'φ
PIT 15'φ

SLOPE
PIT-50'x15'wx8'D.

PIT 80'x15'

ALL PITS RUBBISH FILLED

SLOPE
PIT-30'x10'

D. HORTON MINE

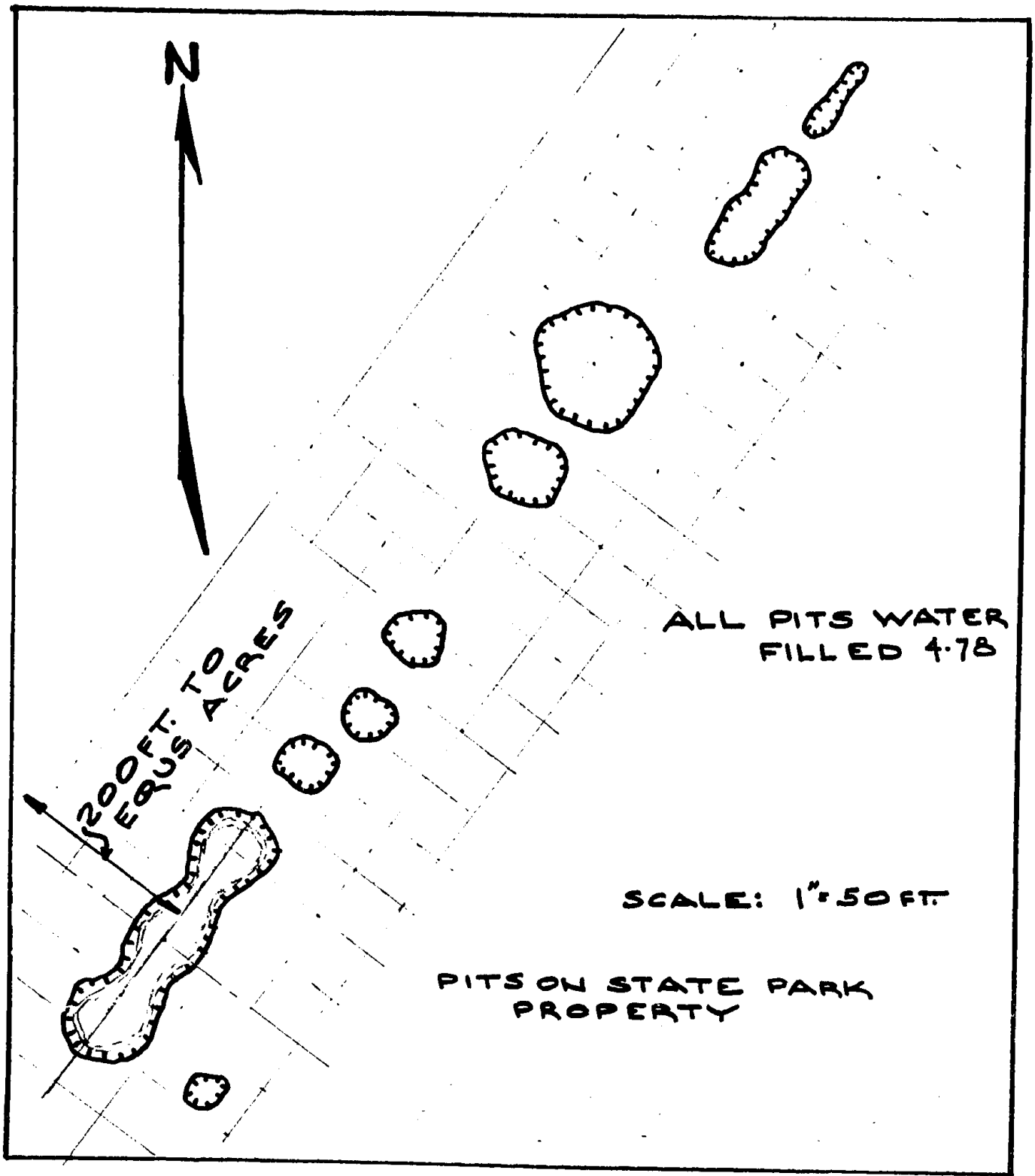
1978

CHESTER TOWNSHIP
MORRIS CO.

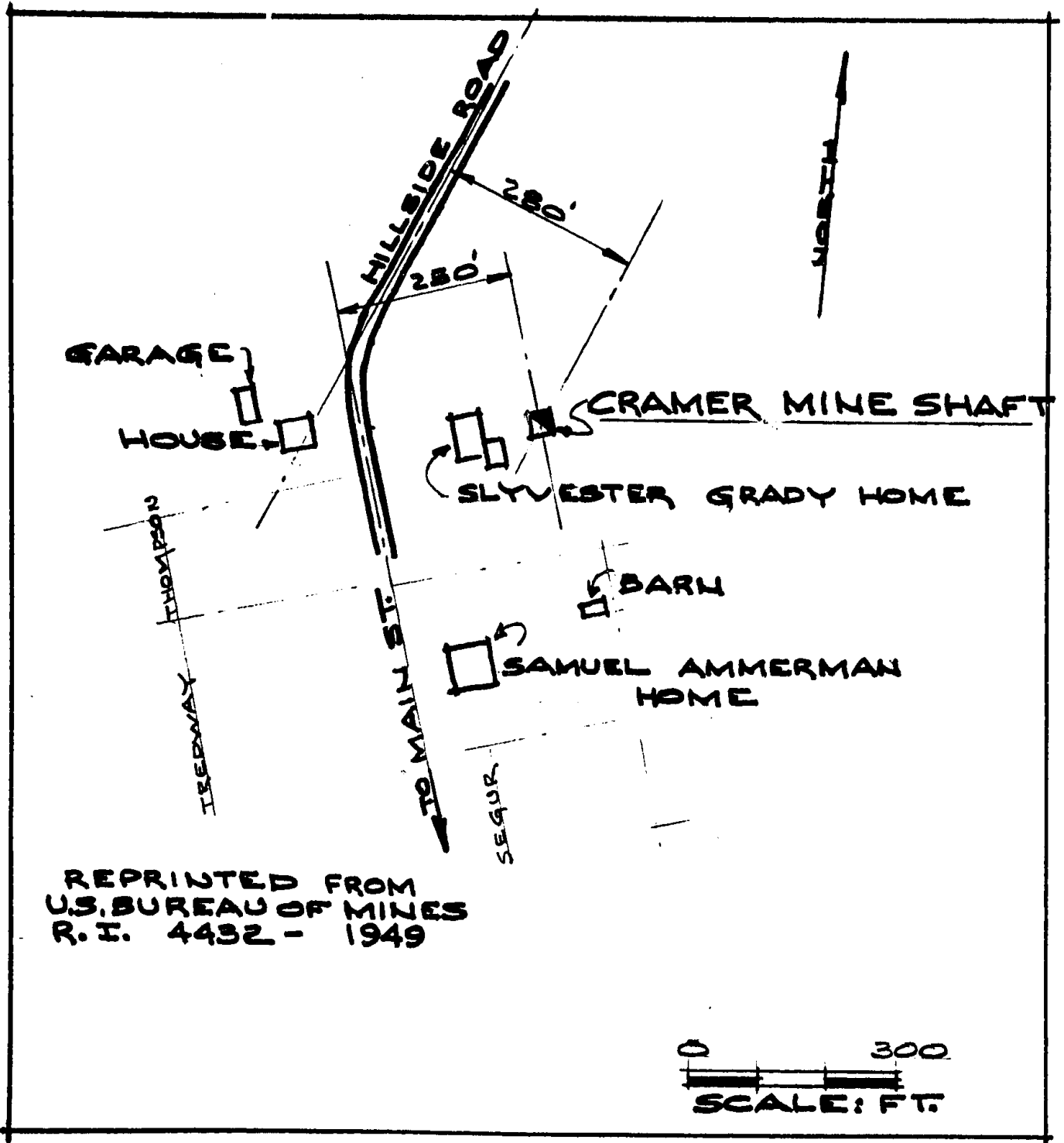
MINE SAFETY SECTION
U.S. DEPT. OF LABOR & INDUSTRY

PLATE 4

PLATE 4



1978
 KEAN MINE
 CHESTER TOWNSHIP
 MORRIS CO.
 MINE SAFETY SECTION
 N. J. DEPT. OF LABOR & INDUSTRY
 PLATE 5



1978

CRAMER MINE SHAFT AREA

CHESTER BORO

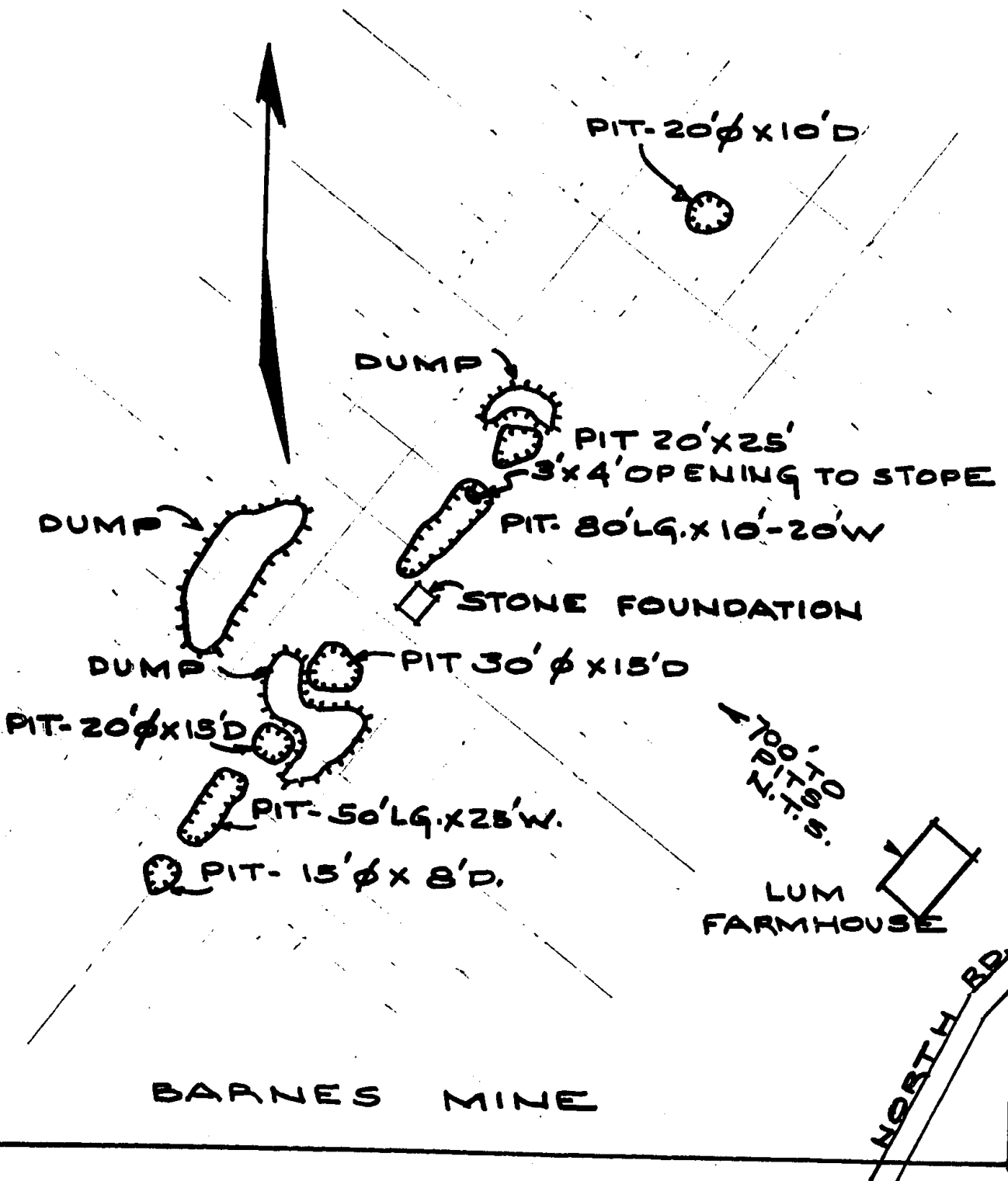
MORRIS CO. - N.J.

MINE SAFETY SECTION

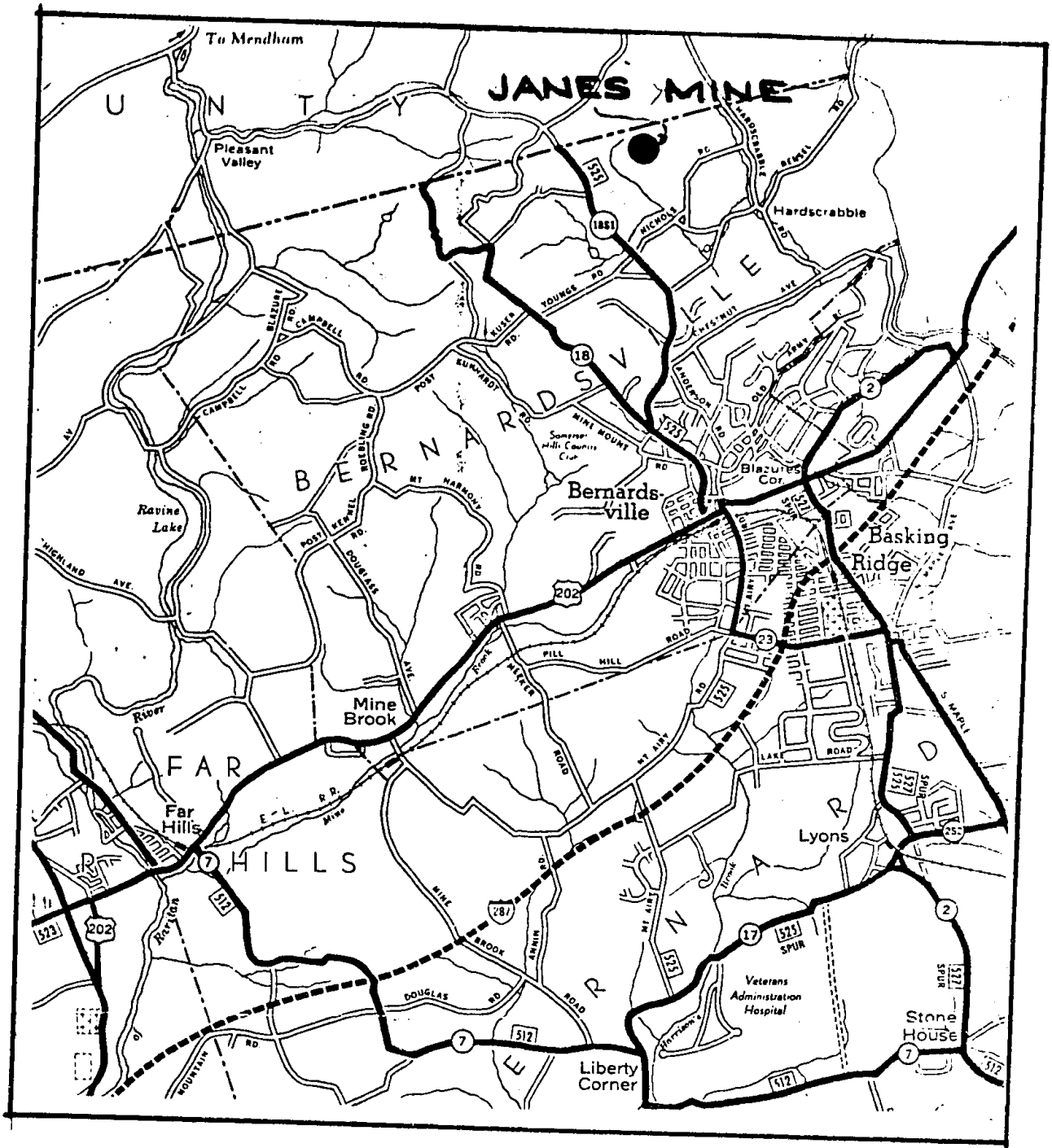
N.J. DEPT. OF LABOR & INDUSTRY

PLATE 6

SCALE: 1" = 100 FT.



1978
CHESTER TOWNSHIP
MORRIS CO.
MINE SAFETY SECTION
N. J. DEPT. OF LABOR & INDUSTRY
PLATE 7



JANES MINE LOCATION

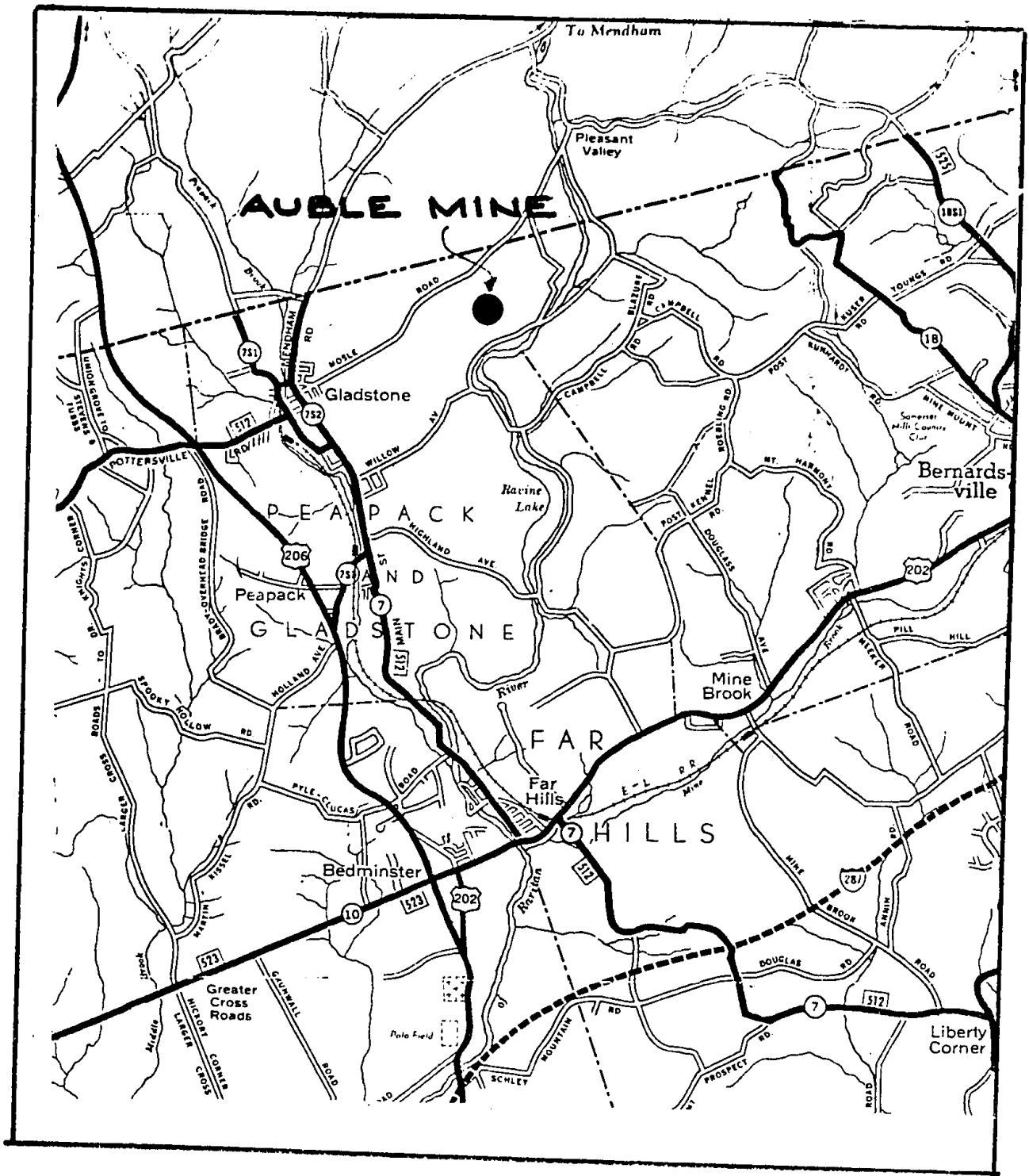
1979

BERNARDSVILLE

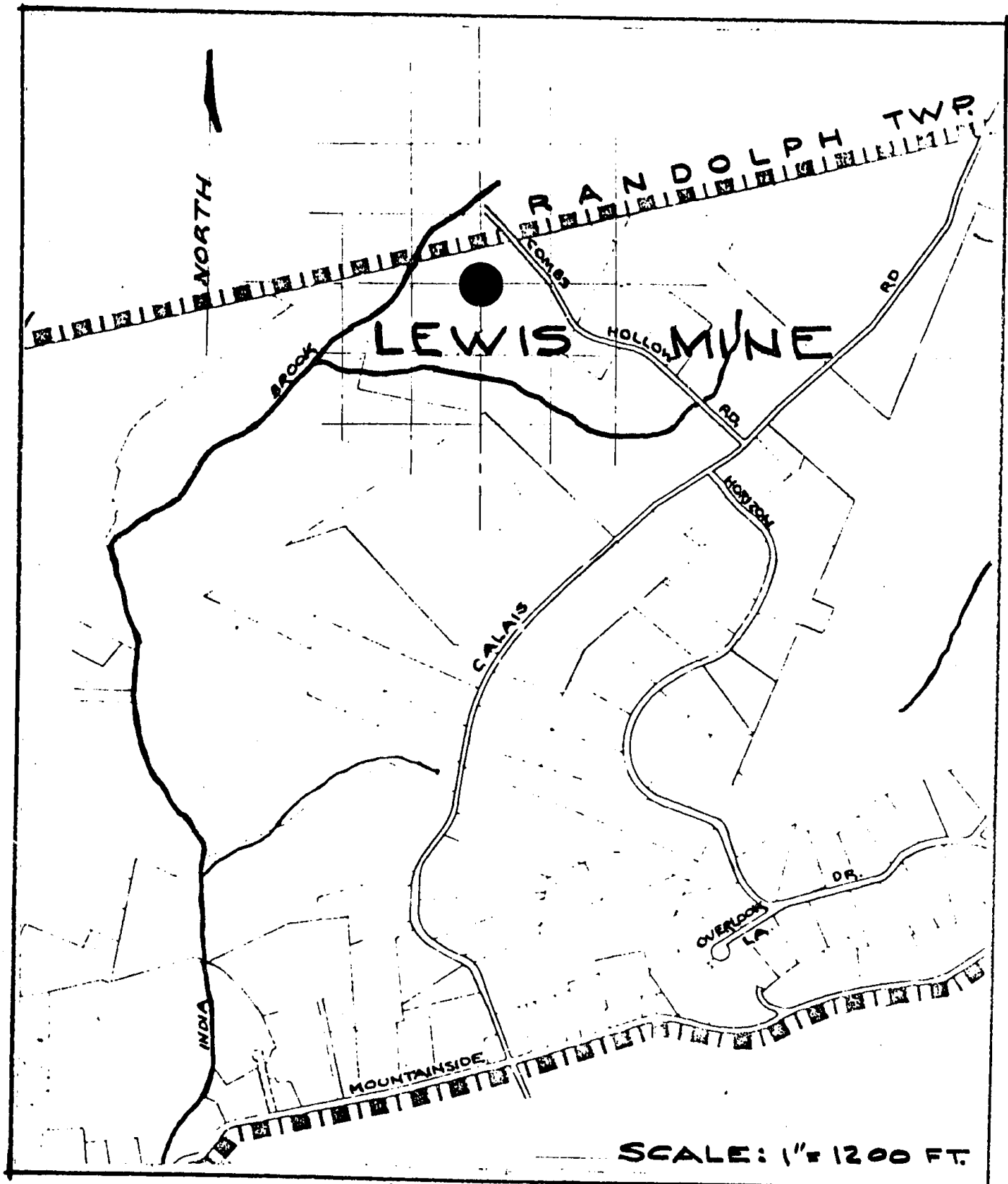
SOMERSET COUNTY

MINE SAFETY SECTION

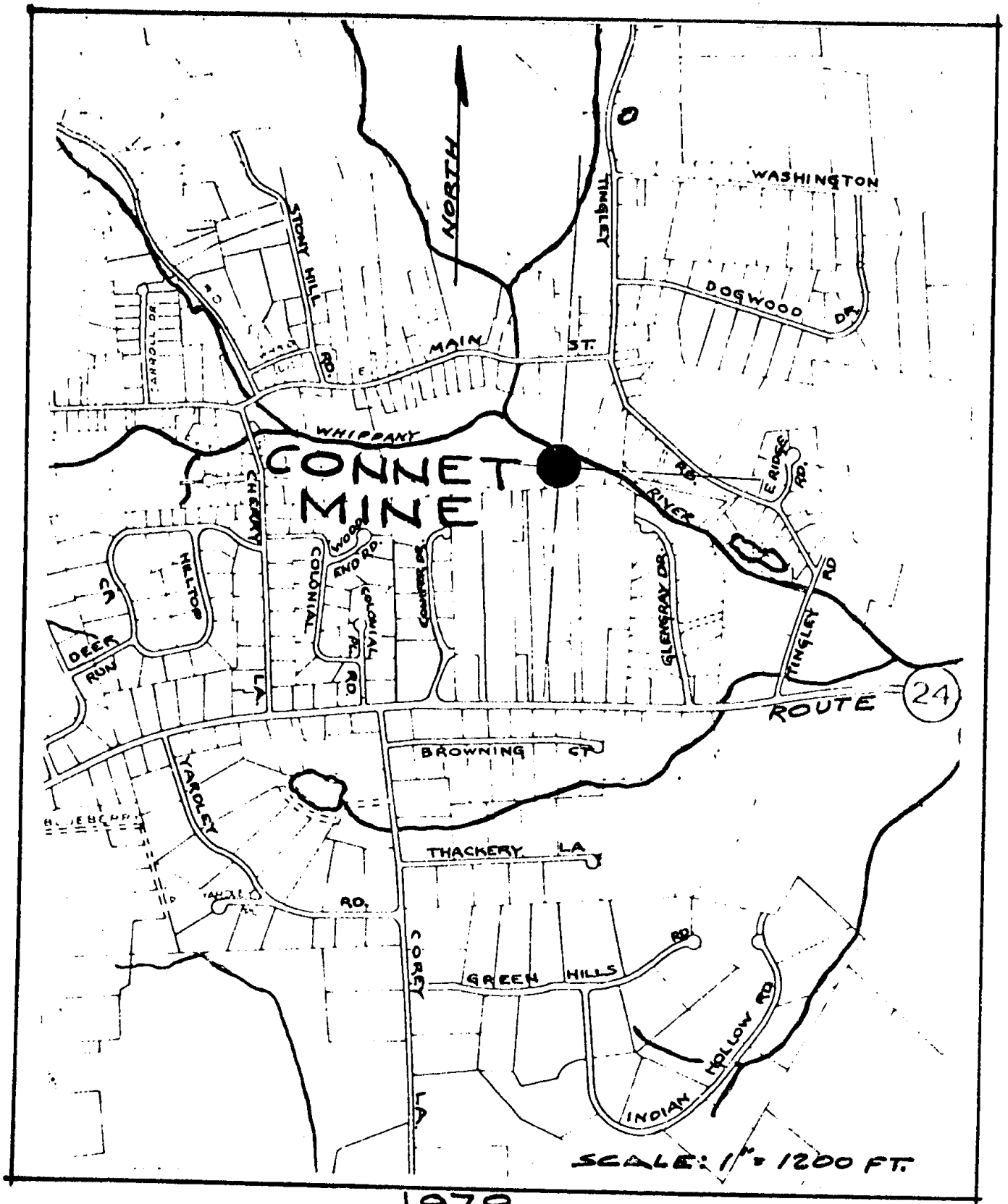
**N. J. DEPT. OF LABOR & INDUSTRY
PLATE 8**



AUBLE MINE LOCATION
1979
PEAPACK - GLADSTONE
SOMERSET COUNTY
MINE SAFETY SECTION
N. J. DEPT. OF LABOR & INDUSTRY
PLATE 9



1978
 LEWIS MINE AREA
 MENDHAM TWP.
 MORRIS CO.
 MINE SAFETY SECTION
 N. J. DEPT. OF LABOR & INDUSTRY
 PLATE 10



1978
 CONNET (WATER ST.) MINE AREA
 MENDHAM TWP.
 MORRIS CO.

MINE SAFETY SECTION
 N. J. DEPT. OF LABOR & INDUSTRY
 PLATE 11

NOTICE

THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & INDUSTRY REQUESTS THAT ANYONE, AWARE OF ANY SURFACE DEPRESSIONS THAT COULD HAVE BEEN CAUSED BY MINE WORKINGS WITHIN THE TOWNSHIP, THAT ARE NOT INCLUDED IN THIS REPORT, CONTACT THE MINE SAFETY SECTION AT:

(609) 292-2096