DMEA-2647
Mica
Region VII

6-12-53
#228

CLARENCE SPARKS, BURNSVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA. Wray Mica Mine, Yancey County, North Carolina.

Letter to the Field with reference to the Field Team report recommending reconditioning the New South Shaft, and requesting that the Field re-examine data in connection with this application with a view to recommending a new approach for exploring this pegmatite.

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DMEA-2647
Mica
Region VII

PHILLIPS, PHILLIPS, TIPPETT, AND BLALOCK, SPRUCE PINE, NORTH CAROLINA (Formerly Clarence Sparks). Wray Mica Mine, Yancey County, North Carolina.

Letter to the Applicant denying the application.

7-29-53
#248

JUL 2 9 1953

Mr. Sam L. Phillips

Spruce Pine, North Carolina

Re: Docket No. DMA-2647 - Mica
Sam L. Phillips, John Phillips,
N. T. Higgins and Ben Blalock
Grey Eagle
Yancey County, North Carolina

Dear Mr. Phillips:

Your application for aid for an exploration project and other reports available to us in Washington relating to the subject property have been reviewed.

A project approved by the Defense Mineral Exploration Administration must, in its judgment, offer definite promise of eventually yielding a acceptable grade in quantities that will significantly improve the mineral supply position for the National Defense Program.

Careful study of all our information indicates to us that the probability of disclosing minable ore reserves by your proposed program is not sufficiently promising to justify Government participation. We regret to advise you, under these circumstances, that your application for exploration assistance is denied.

We wish to thank you for your interest in the Defense Mineral Program and for bringing your mine to our attention.

Sincerely yours,

C. O. Mittendorf

Administrator

JTRobertson:gad 7/24/53
Copy to: Admr. R. File
Docket File
Field Team, Region VII
Operating Committee
Mr. Dietrich, 3526
Mr. Larrabee, G-232 GSA Bldg.
Mr. Houk

July 24, 1953

Memorandum

To: Administrator

From: Nonmetallic Minerals Division

Subject: A denial of exploration assistance and closing review
Docket No. DMMA-2647 - Mica
Property: Wray Mine (formerly Ray Mine)
Burnsville Township, Yancey County,
North Carolina
Located 2.3 miles S 31° W of
Burnsville, North Carolina
Applicant: Sam L. Phillips, John
Phillips, R. E. Tippett, and Ben
Blalock, a partnership (Lessees)
(Application originally presented by
Clarence Sparks, John Blalock and
Kenneth Blalock).
Amount requested: $8,936.50
No Contract: Application denied
Examination Report of Field Team,
dated Sept 19, 1952. Authors-
K. H. Teague, A. L. Peyton, and
L. E. Shirley.

Docket Summary:

8/11/52 Rec'd application Form MF-103.

8/13/52 Rec'd memo from P. L. Weis, U. S. G. S. suggesting a field team referral.

8/19/52 Rec'd memo from W. F. Dietrich, U. S. B. M. suggesting a field team referral.

9/22/52 Rec'd Report of Examination by Field Team, Region VII. Authors-K. H. Teague, A. L. Peyton, and L. E. Shirley A project in the amount of $7,200.00 is suggested in report.

9/26/52 Rec'd memo from R. M. Van Alstine, U. S. G. S. which points out some limitations but suggests following recommendation of Examination Report.

10/7/52 Rec'd memo from W. F. Dietrich, U. S. B. M. Concurs with Field Team recommendations.

11/6/52 Letter to Sam L. Phillips regarding an Owner's Consent to Lien. Property owners are many and widely scattered. Mr Phillips has had difficulty acquiring all signatures.

Note: Processing of application held in abeyance many months at the request of Mr. Phillips. Finally in June 1953 he presented a new lease, new Owner's Consent to Lien, and new names of partners.

6/3/53 Rec'd new lease from Mr. Sam L. Phillips

6/15/53 Operating Committee requested Mr. Laurence, Region VII, to re-examine the application.

6/23/53 Sent Administrator's letter to Mr. Sam Phillips requesting new application and to establish assignment of application by assignment of interest of former partners to the new partners.

6/23/53 Rec'd memo from Field Team, DMEA, Region VII, in answer to Operating Committee's letter of 6/15/53. Field Team agreeable to a denial of application if Washington Office does not consider the criteria sufficient to justify a project.

Resume:

This exploration concerns a mica-bearing pegmatite previously mined through two shafts separated, one from the other, about 150 feet; one, known as the Dolph Hensley Shaft is 70 feet deep, and the other, the New South Shaft is 100 feet deep. Accompanying the DMEA Examination Report is an excellent map with sections showing in detail the two shafts and connecting underground drifts and stopes.

The mine is now filled with water and at the time of inspection by the DMEA Field Team, there was little to observe. The engineers were compelled to base their deductions and recommendations on the historic report and maps pertaining to the property prepared by John H. Parker III, U. S. G. S., in 1944.

The report by the field engineers recommended an exploration project consisting of sinking the New South Shaft another 40 feet and drifting therefrom about 40 feet north and 40 feet south. The work was estimated to cost $7,200.00.

The proposed project was based on the assumption that mica enrichment (now mined out) described by Parker as occurring in one stope at 3250 to 3265 elevations and occurring in a second at 3228 to 3308 elevations, represented two separate lenses and that reoccurring lenses might occur dipping downward and raking to the Southwest. However, there is no positive criteria that such is the case and it is a probability that is somewhat remote. The 165 foot drift north

from the New South Shaft cut under the stoped ground and showed negative results, and to try at a greater depth, 40 feet, as proposed, would likewise prove negative, in all probability.

Upon the request of the Operating Committee, the DMEA Field Team restated their views, concluding their reply as follows:

> "If this possibility (in reference to the reoccurring leases) does not seem good enough to justify an exploration contract, we recommend that the application be denied."

There, therefore, seems to be general agreement that the basis for a project is weak and this is emphasized when one observes the proposed work indicated on Longitudinal Projection C-D of accompanying map of the Wray Mine.

Comments and Recommendation:

This application project is an example of a difficult exploration to appraise. There is little observable criteria, and even with the historic report and excellent plan and sections prepared by Mr. Parker, a determination is difficult to make. However, after weighing the pros and cons, as best possible, the Nonmetallic Minerals Division feels that the proposal is insufficiently sound to recommend for a contract. The application for exploration assistance should be denied.

Jasper T. Robertson
Nonmetallic Minerals Division

JTRobertson:dec 7/24/53
Copy to: Admr. R. File
Docket File
Mr. Houk

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
DEFENSE MINERALS EXPLORATION ADMINISTRATION
ROOM 13, POST OFFICE BLDG.
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.
KNOXVILLE 2, TENN.

June 23, 1953

Memorandum

To: Operating Committee, D M E A- Washington

From: Field Team, D M E A- Region VII

Subject: Docket No. DMEA-2547 (mica) Wray Mica Mine, Clarence Sparks, Applicant
Burnsville, N. C.

Reference is made to the Operating Committee's letter regarding subject application.

A review of available file data on subject mine does not indicate that adequate surface possibilities exist northeast of the Dolph Hensley shaft or southwest of the New South Shaft to justify surface exploration in those areas.

The Dolph Hensley shaft is caved and probably has been systematically robbed, thus there is little hope of approaching the pegmatite from that area.

The Field team report and recommendations therein is based almost entirely on a study and interpretation of Parker's, etc., report and maps. The examiners based their recommendations on the possibility that another concentration of mica might occur at depth as suggested in item 3 of the examination report.

If this possibility does not seem good enough to justify an exploration contract, we recommend that the application be denied.

Robert A. Laurence, Executive Officer
D. M. E. A.

Wm. A. Beck, for V. J. Lynch
U. S. Bureau of Mines

RAL/mm
cc:
Beck
Lynch---files

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
DEFENSE MINERALS ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

JUN 23 1953

Mr. Sam L. Phillips

Spruce Pine, North Carolina

Re: Docket No. DMEA-2647 (Mica)
Clarence Sparks
Wray Mica Mine
Burnsville, North Carolina

Dear Mr. Phillips:

Reference is made to your letter of June 2, addressed to Mr. Lawrence G. Houk, Chief, Nonmetallic Minerals Division, enclosing therein a new lease on the Wray Mine, referred to in application for Exploration Project Contract, Docket No. DMEA-2647.

The contract application is made in the name of Clarence Sparks, John Blalock, and Kenneth Blalock, doing business as the Wray Mica Mine, and is signed by Mr. C. B. Collins as attorney-in-fact for these individuals. The new lease which you have sent indicates that the lessees are R. E. Tippett, Ben Blalock, Sam L. Phillips, and John Phillips. None of these individuals appear to be parties to the original application, and neither do they seem to be members of the organization known as the Wray Mica Mine. Consequently, an exploration project contract cannot be issued in your name with respect to this property unless--

1. You obtain a statement from all the signers of the original application, or their attorney-in-fact, that they have withdrawn in your favor.

2. You sign and forward a new application.

3. You inform the Government of the names of those with whom the exploration project contract is to be made; if there is to be a partnership, its name, if any, should also be furnished.

Sincerely yours,

C. O. Mittendorf

Administrator

AEKane/ewd 6/23/53
Copy to: Docket
Adm. R. File
Op. Comm.
Field Team, Reg. VII(2)
L.G. Houk
J.L.Hofflund A.E.Kane chron. pending

Mr. Robert M. Laurence
Executive Officer, DMEA
Field Team, Region VII
Room 13, Post Office Bldg.
Knoxville 2, Tennessee

Subject: Docket No. [illegible]-3647 - Mica
Clarence Sparks
Gray Mica Mine
Burnsville, North Carolina

Dear Mr. Laurence:

Reference is made to the subject application and the field team report which recommended reconditioning the New South Shaft, deepening it 40 feet and drifting 40 feet north and 40 feet south, for a total expenditure of $7,200.00.

A review of the field team report, especially the portion quoted from John M. Parker III's unpublished U. S. Geological Survey Report, indicates to this office that the approach to exploring this pegmatite in depth offers little chance of making a significant discovery of mica. The New South Shaft and the drift on the 3,180 foot level indicate that any southwestward raking shoots had keeled out. What surface possibilities exist north of the Dolph Hensley Shaft and to the south of the New South Shaft?

It is, therefore, suggested that you re-examine the data in your files with a view to recommending a new approach to exploring this pegmatite.

Sincerely yours,

George C. Selfridge

Chairman, Operating Committee

Approved:

J. H. Hedges

Member, Bureau of Mines

A. R. Kinkel, Jr.

Member, Geological Survey

LGHouk:gad 6/10/53
Copy to: Admr. R. File
Docket File
Operating Committee
Mr. Dietrich, 3526
Mr. Larrabee, G-232 GSA Bldg.
Mr. Houk

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF MINES
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Defense Minerals Administration
RECEIVED
OCT 7 1952

October 7, 1952

Memorandum

To: Nonmetallic Minerals Division
Defense Minerals Exploration Administration

From: Chief, Ceramic and Fertilizer Materials Branch

Subject: DMEA-2647, Mica, Wray Mica Mine, Burnsville, North Carolina

I concur in the field team's recommendation for a exploration program in the amount of $7,200.

W. F. Dietrich

600

NOV 6 1952

Mr. Sam L. Phillips
Spruce Pine
North Carolina

Subject: Docket No. DME-2647 - Mica
Wray Mica Mine
Burnsville, North Carolina

Dear Mr. Phillips:

Reference is made to the subject docket. You will recall that in a telephone conversation we advised that the processing of a contract for the Wray Mica Mine was being held up until we received an Owner's Consent to Lien signed by the several owners of the mine.

As you know, the mining lease is of short duration, only three years, and under such circumstances Owner's Consent to Lien cannot be waived.

Please advise us as to the progress being made in obtaining the signatures of the owners to a consent to the Government lien. Please let us hear from you at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely yours,

/s/

Lawrence G. Houk, Chief
Nonmetallic Minerals Division

JTRobertson:gad 11/6/52

Copy to: Adm. R. File
Field Team, Region VII
Docket File
Mr. Dietrich, 3526
Mr. Norton, G-232 GSA Bldg.
Mr. Houk

IN REPLY REFER TO:

G-MD-CNM

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

September 26, 1952

Memorandum

REVIEW OF FIELD TEAM REPORT ON APPLICATION DMEA-2647 (mica)

To: L. G. Houk, Defense Minerals Exploration Administration
From: R. E. Van Alstine, U. S. Geological Survey
Applicant: Clarence Sparks, John and Kenneth Blalock.
Name of property: Wray mine.
Location of property: SE of Burnsville, Yancey County, North Carolina.
Date of field team report: September 19, 1952.
Authorship of field team report: K. H. Teague, A. L. Peyton, L. E. Shirley.
Field team's recommendation:

Dewater and recondition New South shaft; deepen it "to 140 feet." Drive 40-foot drift northward to intersect possible down-rake of mica zone. If unsuccessful drive 40-foot drift on pegmatite to the south from the most likely place between the 3140- and 3200-foot level. Total cost $7,200.

Comments:

1. Shaft is to be deepened 40 feet to 3140-foot level, not to 140 feet as stated on page 4.
2. Proposal to drift northward from New South shaft is not supported by the following data quoted in field team report, taken from a report made by a geologist who mapped the mine when it was accessible.
   P. 2 - "Very little mica was seen in these workings (northward from the New South shaft), and the whole operation seems to have been unprofitable."
   P. 3 - "The possibilities north of the new south shaft seem to have been exhausted. No adequate testing to the south, however, seems to have been done."
   Based largely upon the information in the report by the geologist that mapped the pegmatite when it was last accessible, the target appears to be a possible third lens along a discontinuous mica shoot beneath barren quartz-plagioclase pegmatite (see map) in a part of the Wray mine that seemed to have been the site of an unprofitable operation.

ACTION SUGGESTED:

Possibly proposal should be restricted to exploration south of the shaft, where testing is said to have been inadequate. If it is felt that the exploration north of the shaft is justifiable, follow the field team's recommendation.

R. E. Van Alstine

Van Alstine:jeh
G-9/26/52
cc: Director's reading 4212 GSA Bldg.
Branch " " " "
DMEA ✓
Norton files G-228 " "
Van Alstine G-230 " "

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

DEFENSE MINERALS EXPLORATION ADMINISTRATION

REPORT OF EXAMINATION BY FIELD TEAM, REGION VII

DMEA-2647, WRAY MINE (mica)

Applicants: Clarence Spraks, John Blalock,
and Kenneth Blalock
c/o Clarence Sparks, Burnsville, N. C.

By

Kefton H. Teague, Geologist
U. S. Geological Survey
-
A. L. Peyton, Mining Engineer
and
Lawrence E. Shirley, Mining Engineer
U. S. Bureau of Mines

Reviewed by
DMEA OPERATING COMMITTEE
9/24/52
(date)

September 19, 1952

Report of Field Examination on

IMEA-2647, WRAY MINE, (mica)

Applicants: Clarence Sparks, John Blalock,
and Kenneth Blalock.
c/o Clarence Sparks, Burnsville, N. C.

The Applicant's lease covers only that portion of the mine south of the small stream which crosses the mine property, namely the Dolph Hensley, and the New Shaft portion of the mine. The Applicants propose to deepen the New South shaft 40 feet and drive drifts on the pegmatite to the north and south. The Field Team believes that this proposal has merit, and recommends the following program:

Dewater and recondition the New South shaft. 100 feet @ $20/ft.	$2000.00	
Deepen shaft 40 feet @ $60/ft.	2400.00	
40-foot drift to N. on 3140 ft. level @ $35/ft.	1400.00	
40-foot drift to S. between 3140 and 3200 foot level @ $35/ft.	1400.00	
Total estimated cost		$7200.00
Estimated time 110 shifts		

The Field Team examined the property on September 9, 1952, accompanied by John Blalock and Clarence Sparks, two of the applicants. Three hours were spent on the examination.

The Wray mica mine (formerly known as the Ray mine) is in Yancey County, North Carolina, 2.3 miles S. 31° E of Burnsville. It lies on a steep hillside half a mile east of Bowlens creek, and can be reached by automobile from Burnsville over the following route: drive south on North Carolina Highway 197 (paved) for 0.9 mile from U. S. Highway 19W, then southeast on the Bowlens Creek road (paved) for 1.4 miles and finally eastward up a poor, rocky dirt road for half a mile.

No buildings or facilities are on the property. As stated in the lease and apparently shown on a sketch attached to the original application, this application covers only the two southernmost openings, namely the Dolph Hensley and the New South Shaft. The attached map shows these workings and the extent of the recommended exploration.

The lease covers adequate area to permit the proposed exploration.

The following description of the geology and workings is taken from John M. Parkers III unpublished report for the U. S. G. S., dated May 1944. No work has been done since that date. The mine is now flooded.

"The Dolph Hensley or Bailey workings lie near the crest of the low ridge south of the stream. They consist of a steeply inclined shaft that connects an old pit with an adit (now closed) from the west, as well as drifts at two levels (see the underground map and sections A-B and C-D). Northeastward from the shaft the pegmatite thickens markedly to as much as 35 feet, and a core of alaskite is present. To the southwest it pinches to a few inches at the surface and at the 3228 to 3238 foot level. The pegmatite widens rapidly at this lower level, and was very rich in mica for a distance of about 40 feet. It has been mined out to approximately the 3208-foot level."

"The new south shaft is about 100 feet deep, and from its bottom a drift extends 160 feet to the northeast. The last 70 feet of this drift was stoped at two levels; in the upper one the lowest Dolph Hensley works were encountered. The pegmatite is more than 15 feet thick at the foot of the shaft, but narrows to 4 feet near the inner end of the drift; at the heading it is expanding again to the north. Very little mica was seen in these workings, and the whole operation seems to have been unprofitable."

"About 80 feet east of the Dolph Hensley shaft is a small cut (Hicks cut) with an incline that plunges southwest. At the portal the pegmatite appears to crop out over an elliptical area; gneiss can be observed above and on both sides of the pegmatite, and apparently below as well."

"The pegmatite consists chiefly of white plagioclase feldspar (albite-oligoclase) and blue-gray quartz, mostly in masses as much as 5 to 6 inches across. Some of the plagioclase is glassy. White microcline in large masses (1 1/2 feet) is sufficiently abourdant to form a significant by-product of mining operations; some is pale green amazonstone. Biotite occurs sparingly in scattered irregular aggregates of flakes. Black tourmaline in thin crystals as long as 2 inches is abundant; it occurs as individual crystals and in irregular clusters or radiating aggregates. It is commonly bent or broken, with the fractures filled by quartz. Pale green translucent to transparent beryl is also abundant and occurs as well-formed crystals 1 1/2 inches in maximum thickness. Small red garnet crystals and fine granular masses of garnet are plentiful. Autunite, thulite, and columbite-tantalite are present but rather rare."

"The muscovite is of good grade, and is of clear, red rum color. Some is ruled or had "A" structure. What little mica can be seen in the mine seems to be most abundant near the walls. It is reported to be concentrated in "chimneys" or shoots, but this could not be checked by observation."

"At the Dolph Hensley workings the prospects to the north look poor. The bottom was not exposed, hence it is not known whether the mine could be deepened."

"The possibilities north of the new south shaft seem to have been exhausted. No adequate testing to the south, however, seems to have been done. In both the Dolph Hensley and the new south shafts considerable portions of both hanging and footwalls have been left; these might have yielded mica."

The proposal as indicated in the application is completely confused. Whoever prepared it had no idea of the problems involved and used their imagination freely. The proposed explorations as discussed by Blalock and Sparks at the time of the field examination is essentially the same as the one recommended in this report.

The recommendation for exploration is based on the following observations:

(1) The size of openings shown on the plan and longitudinal section of the Dolph Hensley shaft suggest that a lens of mica rich pegmatite occurred in that area probably between the 3250 and 3265-foot level.

(2) The above report by Parker states that "To the southwest.. ...at the 3238 foot level the pegmatite was very rich in mica for a distance of about 40 feet. It has been mined out to approximately the 3208-foot level."

(3) If these represent two different lenses, then there is a suggestion that the discontinuous mica shoot rakes to the southwest at an angle of approximately 45°. By deepening the 100-foot shaft and drifting to the north, the down rake extension of the zone should be cut.

It is recommended that the New South shaft be dewatered and reconditioned. This shaft is in unweathered rock and should be in good condition. Following reconditioning of the shaft it should be

deepened ~~to~~ 140 feet. A 40-foot drift should then be driven northward to intersect the possible down-rake of the mica zone. Should this program be successful, then no additional exploration is warrented; however, if it is unsuccessful a 40-foot drift should be driven on the pegmatite to the south from the most likely place between the 3140 and 3200 foot level.

Estimated cost of this program are shown in the first part of this report.

Sept. 9, 1952

K. H. Teague, USGS

L. E. Shirley, USBM

A. L. Peyton, USBM

zm

600

AUG 2 5 1952

Mr. Robert A. Lawrence
Executive Officer, DMEA
Field Team, Region VII
Room 13, Post Office Building
Knoxville 2, Tennessee

Subject: Docket No. DMEA-2647 - Miss Wray Mica Mine
Yancey County, North Carolina

Dear Mr. Lawrence:

Enclosed please find copies of memoranda from the U. S. Geological Survey and the Bureau of Mines on the subject exploration application. A Field Team review and probably a field examination of the property may be necessary.

The proposed work, as now submitted, is not considered as proper exploration; it appears to be for a 120-foot working shaft in ground already developed by drifts. However, a practical exploration project might be worked out with the owners at some other site.

We ask that the Field Team review and report on this property and determine with the applicant whether or not a project that is real exploration can be worked out.

Sincerely yours,

D. C. Selfridge

ACTING Chairman, Operating Committee
Defense Minerals Exploration Administration

Approved:

C. L. Johnson
Member, Bureau of Mines

D. M. Lemmon
Member, Geological Survey

JTRobertson:gad 8/15/52
Copy to: Admin. Reading File
Docket File
Operating Committee (2)
Mr. Dietrich, 3526
Mr. Norton, G-232 GSA Bldg.
Mr. Houk

Enclosures 2

600

AUG 25 1952

Mr. Clarence Sparks
Burnsville
North Carolina

Subject: Docket No. DMEA-2647 - Mica
Wray Mica Mine
Yancey County, North Carolina

Dear Mr. Sparks:

Your application is being referred to Mr. Robert A. Laurence, Executive Officer, DMEA Field Team, Region VII, Room 13, Post Office Building, Knoxville 2, Tennessee, for further information.

Sincerely yours,

Acting Administrator
Defense Minerals Exploration
Administration

JTRobertson:mp 8/18/52
cc: Docket File
Adm. Reading File
Operating Committee
Mr. Norton, G-232, GSA Bldg.
Mr. Dietrich, 3526
Mr. Houk
Field Team, Region VII

August 18, 1952

Memorandum

To: Chairman, Operating Committee, DMEA

From: Non-Metallic Minerals Division, DMEA

Subject: Docket No. DMEA-2647 - Mica
Wray Mica Mine
Yancey County, North Carolina

Re: A recommendation for DMEA Field Team examination.

The work proposed in this application is essentially the sinking of a new 120-ft. shaft. At the site proposed, it would not penetrate or explore new pegmatite or open up new ground; it would simply add a new working shaft as the ground already has been developed by old workings.

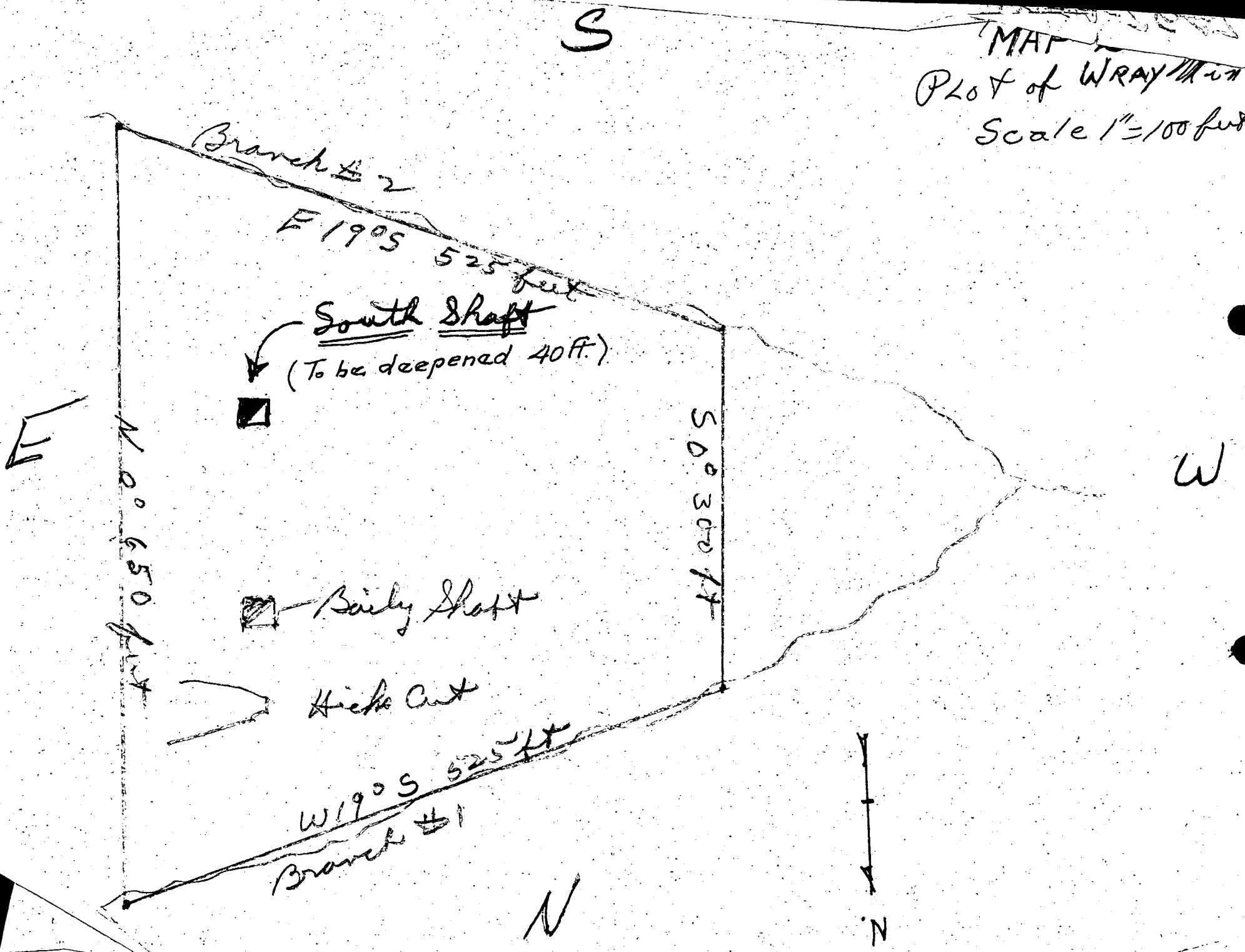
The applicant's proposal is impractical and a re-examination of the project should be made along the lines suggested by the memorandum, August 13, 1952, from Paul L. Weis, U. S. Geological Survey.

A field team referral is recommended.

Jasper T. Robertson
Non-Metallic Minerals Division

JTRobertson:mp
cc: Docket File
Adm. Reading File
Mr. Houk

MAP
Plot of WRAY Mine
Scale 1" = 100 feet



9/30/52

Form MF-103
(Revised June 1951)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
DEFENSE MINERALS ADMINISTRATION

Budget Bureau No. 42-R1035.1.

DEPT. OF THE INTERIOR
Defense Minerals Administration
RECEIVED
AUG 11 1952

MF-103 Should Be Filed With General Technical Data Form MF-100

APPLICATION FOR AID FOR AN EXPLORATION PROJECT PURSUANT TO MINERAL ORDER 5, UNDER DEFENSE PRODUCTION ACT OF 1950

Not To Be Filled in by Applicant

Docket No. DMEA-2647
Metal or Mineral
Date Received 8-11-52
Amount $
Participation (Government %)

Clarence Sparks, John Blalock
& Kenneth Blalock tr/a
Wray Mica Mine
c/o Clarence Sparks
Burnsville, North Carolina

Name and address of applicant

Date

If you have already filed MF-100, give date filed _____, type of assistance requested _____,

DMA Docket Number (if available) _____

INSTRUCTIONS

Read Mineral Order 5, Regulations Governing Government Aid in Defense Projects, before completing this application. Submit four copies each, of the signed application form, General Technical Data Form MF-100, and answers to questions as specified, to Defense Minerals Administration, Department of the Interior, Washington 25, D. C., or to the nearest field executive office thereof, with your name and address on each sheet of the application and all accompanying papers. If you have previously filed MF-100, it is not necessary to file it again. However, you should indicate in space provided above the type of assistance previously applied for (loans, procurement contracts, etc.) and DMA Docket Number, if available. *When a question is inapplicable it should be so stated in the form.* Additional sheets should be attached in answering any questions or in supplying additional information. IF YOU CANNOT ANSWER A QUESTION, SO STATE.

1. (*a*) Give a description of the real property that will be in any way involved in the exploration project, including any existing mine or operating property.

   (*b*) If you are not the owner of the property, submit a copy of the lease, purchase option, or other agreements under which you are authorized to operate the property with each copy of your application.

   (*c*) Give the legal description of the exact parcel, plot, or area upon which the exploration is to be conducted.

   NOTE: (1) If both areas are the same, so state. The only obligation to repay the Government is from the net earnings from any commercial discovery made in the area specified in (*c*) above in which the exploration is to be conducted, and the expenditure of funds which may be charged as costs of the project must be limited to that area or to work necessary to perform the exploration in that area.

   (2) If applicant is not the owner of the property or if there are any liens or encumbrances against the property, copy of agreements of claimants, lienors, encumbrances, and lessors subordinating their interests in the property to the interest of the Government under the Exploration Project Contract will be required for attachment to the Contract.

2. (*a*) What metals or minerals do you expect to find?

   (*b*) Furnish statement of the geologic features of your property, giving type of ore deposit and reasons for expecting to find commercial ore bodies. Illustrate with maps or sketches. If you have a geologic or engineering report, or assay maps showing width and grade, please send them with application, stating whether or not you wish to have them returned.

The information requested in questions 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 below should be answered specifically and in detail, as this information will be attached to and incorporated as part of the Exploration Project Contract, if such contract is entered into with you by the Government.

ANSWER EACH QUESTION ON SEPARATE SHEETS OF PAPER AND SUBMIT A COPY OF EACH ANSWER FOR EACH COPY OF YOUR APPLICATION.

3. (*a*) Describe fully the proposed work and give the total cost of the project.

   (*b*) State the time required to start the project and to complete it.

4. Submit a map or sketch of the property involved showing a plan (and cross section, if needed) of the present mine workings and the *location of the proposed exploration work* as related to geologic features, such as contacts, veins, ore-bearing beds, etc.

5. Furnish an itemized list of existing facilities, buildings, installations, and fixtures with a statement of the cost of any necessary rehabilitation or repairs to put into useful and operable condition.

6. Furnish a detailed list of additional facilities, buildings, and fixtures to be purchased, installed, or erected by you, with the estimated cost of each item.

7. Furnish a detailed list of operating equipment, separated into items to be—

   (*a*) Rented

   (*b*) Purchased

   (*c*) Furnished by you

   with the rental, purchase price, or depreciation of each item, as the case may be, to be charged as a cost of the project.

8. Furnish an itemized schedule of labor, by numbers and classes (miners, muckers, etc.) and of supervisors by numbers and positions, with the maximum wages or salaries to be paid to each.

9. Furnish a detailed list with estimated cost of each item for materials, supplies, engineering, assaying, accounting, power, water, utilities, and any other items not provided for above.

10. (*a*) How much are you prepared to invest in the proposed project?

    (*b*) Is this amount sufficient to pay your part of the cost of the project, in accordance with the regulations on Government participation (Sec. 9 of MO–5)?

11. State any conditions or circumstances regarding the property not sufficiently brought out by the foregoing questions.

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned company, and the official executing this certification on its behalf, hereby certify that the information contained in this form and accompanying papers is correct and complete to the best of their knowledge and belief.

Clarence Sparks, John Blalock
& Kenneth Blalock tr/a
Wray Mica Mine

(Name of company)

By C B Collins
(Signature of authorized official)

August 7, 1952
(Date)

Atty in fact
(Title)

Title 18, U. S. Code (Crimes), Section 1001, makes it a criminal offense to make a willfully false statement or representation to any department or agency of the United States as to any matter within its jurisdiction.

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 16—64067-2

Clarence Sparks, John Blalock
& Kenneth Blalock tr/a
Wray Mica Mine
c/o Clarence Sparks
Burnsville, North Carolina

1. (a) See lease attached as Exhibit A.
   (b) See Exhibit A.
   (c) Both areas are the same. See map marked Exhibit B.

2. (a) Strategic grade sheet mica meeting Government purchase specifications.
   (b) See U. S. Geological Survey map attached as Exhibit C.

3. (a) It is proposed to sink a 5x7 shaft to a depth of 120 feet commencing at the 3300 foot surface level and lowering it through the three inferred pegmatites which appear to exist at approximately the 3186, 3238, and 3253 foot levels. (See composite map of the "New South" and "Dolph Hensley" shafts and drifts as mapped by J. M. Parker and J. R. Wolfe, May 2, 1944, attached.)

   Three pegmatites have been penetrated at the southern end of this mining property, and it appears that they run parallel, one on top of the other, in a general NE course through the mining property.

   The applicant will lower the proposed shaft through each of these levels with the exception of penetrating one or more of these inferred mica-bearing ore bodies. At each level a pegmatite is penetrated, and mica-bearing ore is contacted, it is proposed to drive a drift 20 feet on each side of the shaft at each such contact so as to determine the mica richness and general mineralization of each pegmatite so penetrated.

   It appearing that at least two pegmatites will be penetrated, the total drifting would be 40 feet for each level, or a total of 80 feet. If the field team or mining engineers of DMEA should suggest any alterations to this proposal, their suggestions shall be adhered to and followed.

   (b) It is contemplated that the exploration project will be completed within 16 weeks after a contract is granted.

   Set forth below in itemized form are the expected expenditures which are itemized and classified.

LABOR	1 week	16 WEEKS
2 Muckers at	$60 ea.	1,920
1 Drillman at	$70	1,120
1 Hoist Operator at	$70	1,120
Supervisor		
½ time at	$50	800
		4,960

Clarence Sparks, John Blalock
& Kenneth Blalock tr/a
Wray Mica Mine
c/o Clarence Sparks
Burnsville, North Carolina

EQUIPMENT

Rental

1 Air Compressor 105 cu ft at $200 per month	800
1 Jackhamer at $50 per month	200
1 35 air Sump Pump	60
1 Hoist with 28" pulley blocks and 300' ½" steel cable	800
1 Jack leg at $50 per month	200
	2,060

Purchase

150 feet 2" black pipe at 60¢	90.00
50 feet 2" water hose at 95¢	47.50
250 feet 1" black pipe at 40¢	100.00
50 feet air hose with fittings and oiler	65.00
500 feet guy wire (½")	110.00
2 Buckets	80.00
1 Blasting Generator	65.00
	557.50

SUPPLIES

Gasoline 1000 gals at 28¢	280
Oil 10 gallons	9
Dynamite & Caps $50 per wk.	800
1,500 ft. rough Lumber at $80 per M	120
Pipe wrenches, elbows, fittings	50
Shovels, picks, wheelbarrows	50
Safety helmets, boots	50
	1,359
TOTAL	$8,936.50

Clarence Sparks, John Blalock
& Kenneth Blalock tr/a
Wray Mica Mine
c/o Clarence Sparks
Burnsville, North Carolina

4. Map attached.

5. There are no existing facilities which may be utilized.

6. See 3(b) above.

7. (a) See 3(b) above.
   (b) See 3(b) above.
   (c) None

8. See 3(b) above.

9. See 3(b) above.

10. (a) 10% in cash.
    (b) Yes.

11. Breakdown of work.

Shaft:

120 feet shaft
Working at rate of 2 feet per day

```
     60
2/ 120      equals 60 working days or 3 months
  2,238.10
4/8,936.50  cost per month

 2,238.10
     3
 6,714.30   cost for sinking shafts
     $ 55.95 per foot of depth
120/ 6,714.30
```

5x7 size of shaft 120' deep
5x7 x 120 equals 4200 cu. ft.

```
27/4200 equals 155 cu. yards.
     $43.31  per cu. yd.
155/$6,714.30
```

Clarence Sparks, John Blalock
& Kenneth Blalock tr/a
Wray Mica Mine
c/o Clarence Sparks
Burnsville, North Carolina

Drifting.

80 feet of drifting

27.97 per foot of drift
80/ 2,238.1 cost per month
4 feet of drift per day
20/80

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
DEFENSE MINERALS ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, $800
(PMGC)

DMEA-2647

BEN T. BLALOCK

Mr. Ben T. Blalock was borned in Yancy County at Celo and lived in Yancy County all his life. He is 62 years old. He has a high school education. His first job was mining and he has mined all his life. The following are some mines he has worked at, Big Ridge, Fanny Gouge, Old Presley, Gibbs Mine, Bailey Mt. Mine , Deer Park Mine in Mitchell County and many others. He worked for United Feldspar for 18 years as Superindent of Mine. The last mine he he has worked was Carson Rock in Yancy County for mica exclusive.

References:

Mr. J. P. McKinney
Spruce Pine
N. C.

Mr. W. S. Flynt
Spruce Pine
N. C.

Mr. Herb Hall
Newdale
N. C.

Wray mine
DMEA No. 2647

Defense Minerals Administration
RECEIVED
JUN 19 1953

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He started mining in 1932 in Arizona for zink and lead. Then going to Sandersville, Georgia, where he was owner and operator of Kolian for 2 years. Back to Colorado where he was Vice-President of Bufflo Placess Corporation, a gold mining corporation, for 2 years. In 1937 he was in the mica business at Franklin, North Carolina. In 1948 and 1949 he was in Arkansas in a lead and zink mine. Then to Burnsville, North Carolina, in 1952 Jig Mining for 1 year as President of Hassett Mining Company. He is still President of Board of Hassett Mining Company, which is still in operation. In December 1952 he bought the Carson Rock Mine in Yancy County, North Carolina, which is still in operation.

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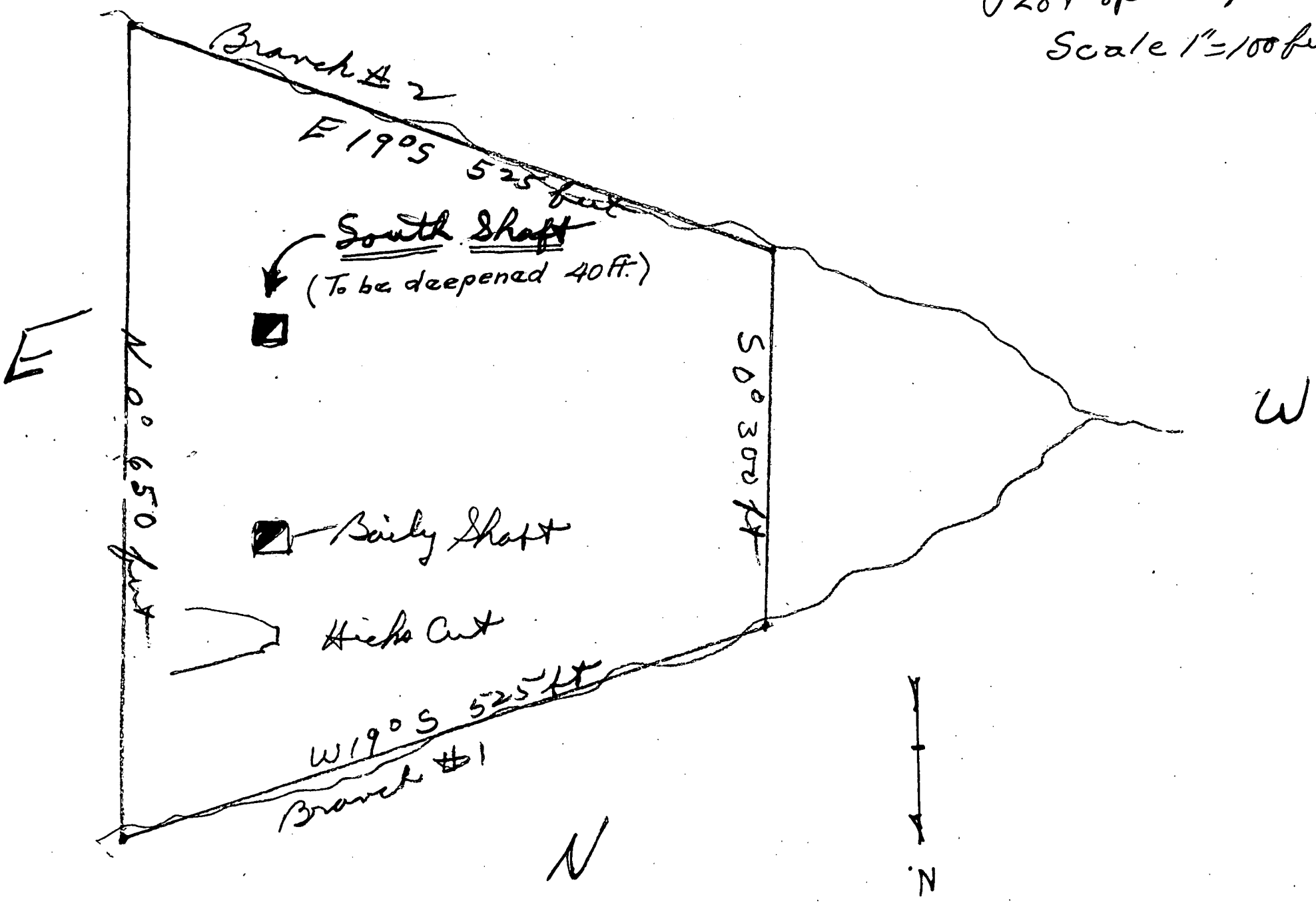
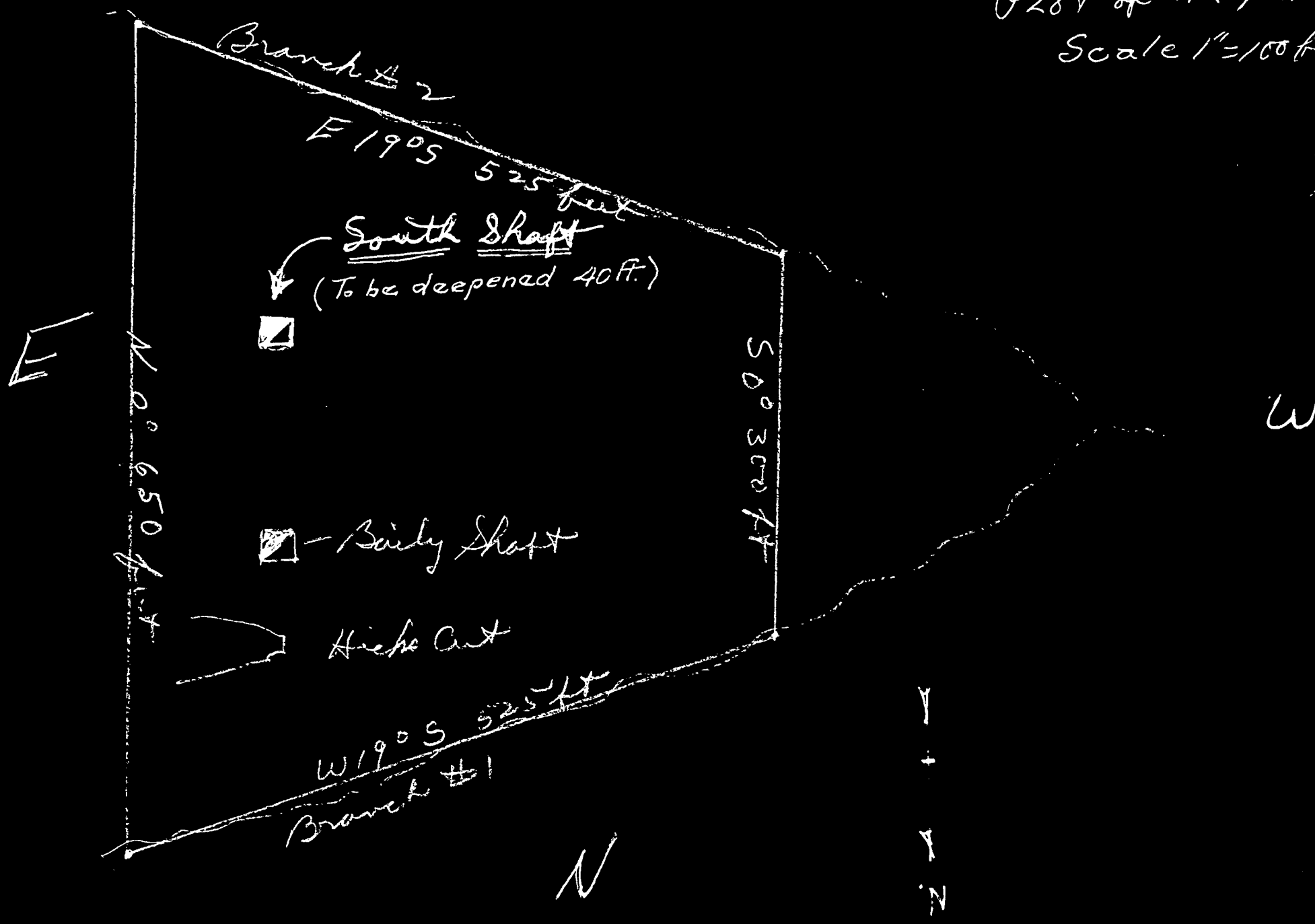
DMEA-2647
MAP-2
Plot of WRAY Mine
Scale 1" = 100 feet



9/30/52

DMEA-2647
MAP-2
Plot of WRAY Mine
Scale 1" = 100 feet



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DMEA-2647
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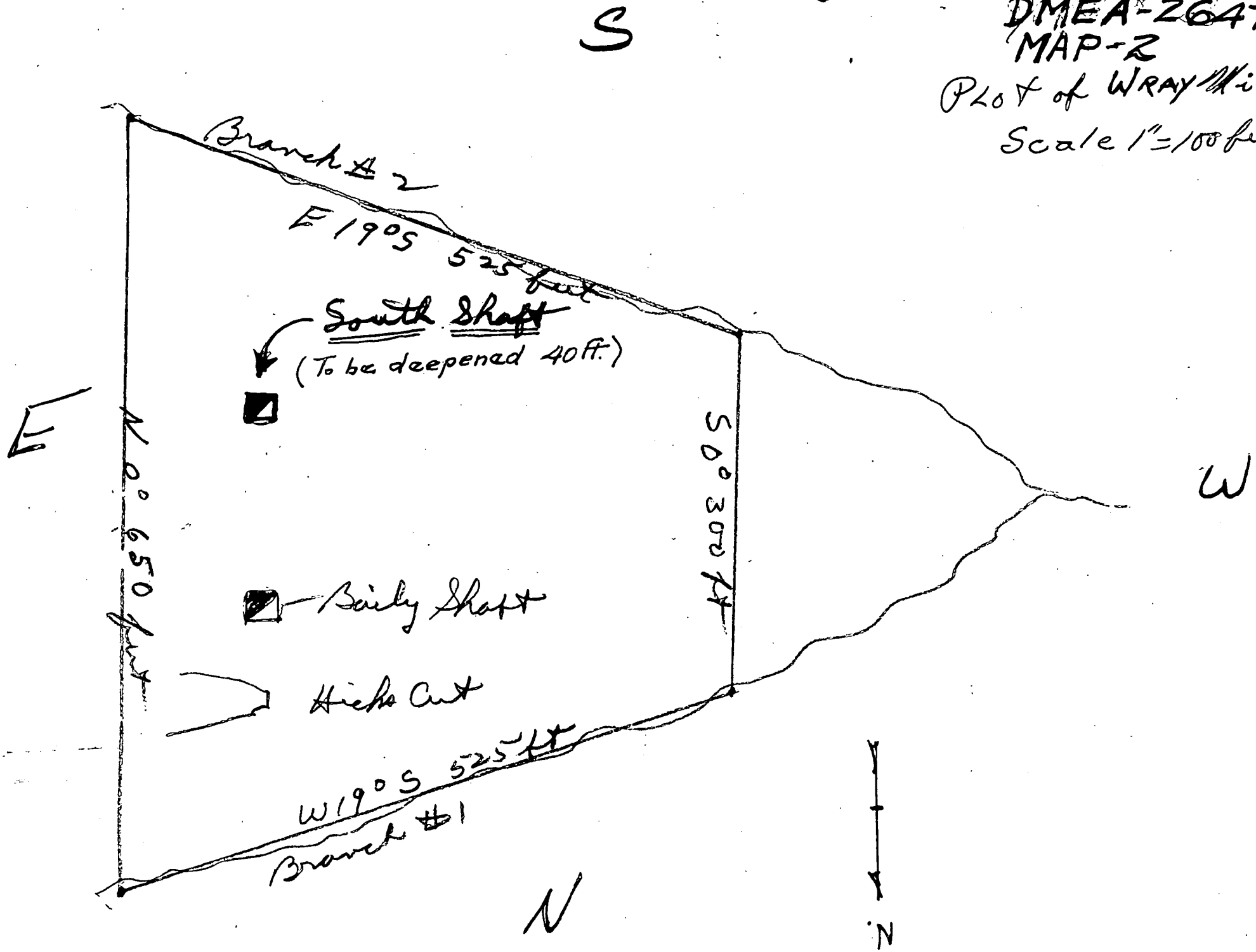

9/30/52

DMEA-2647
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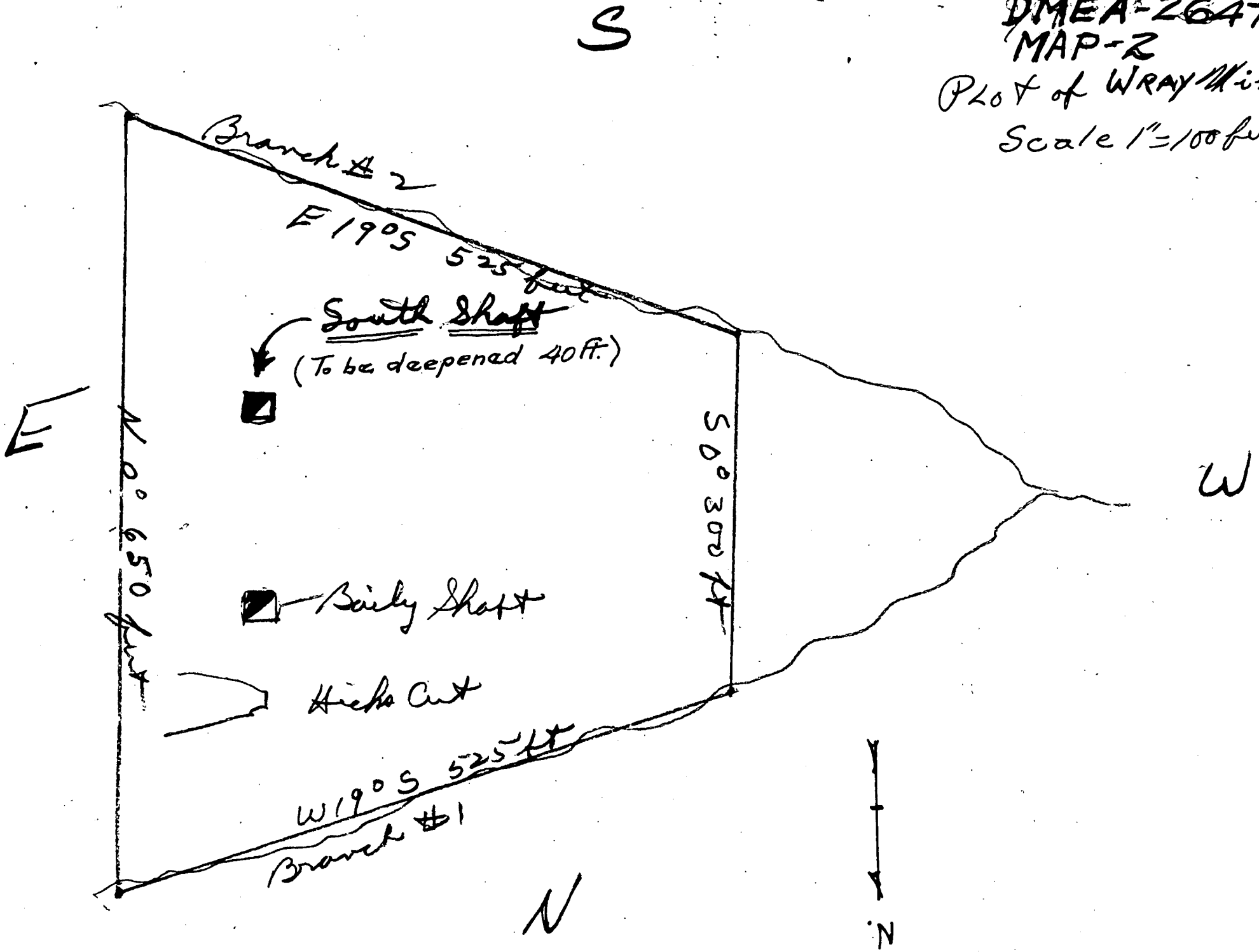
Plot of WRAY Mine
Scale 1" = 100 feet



9/30/52

DMEA-2647
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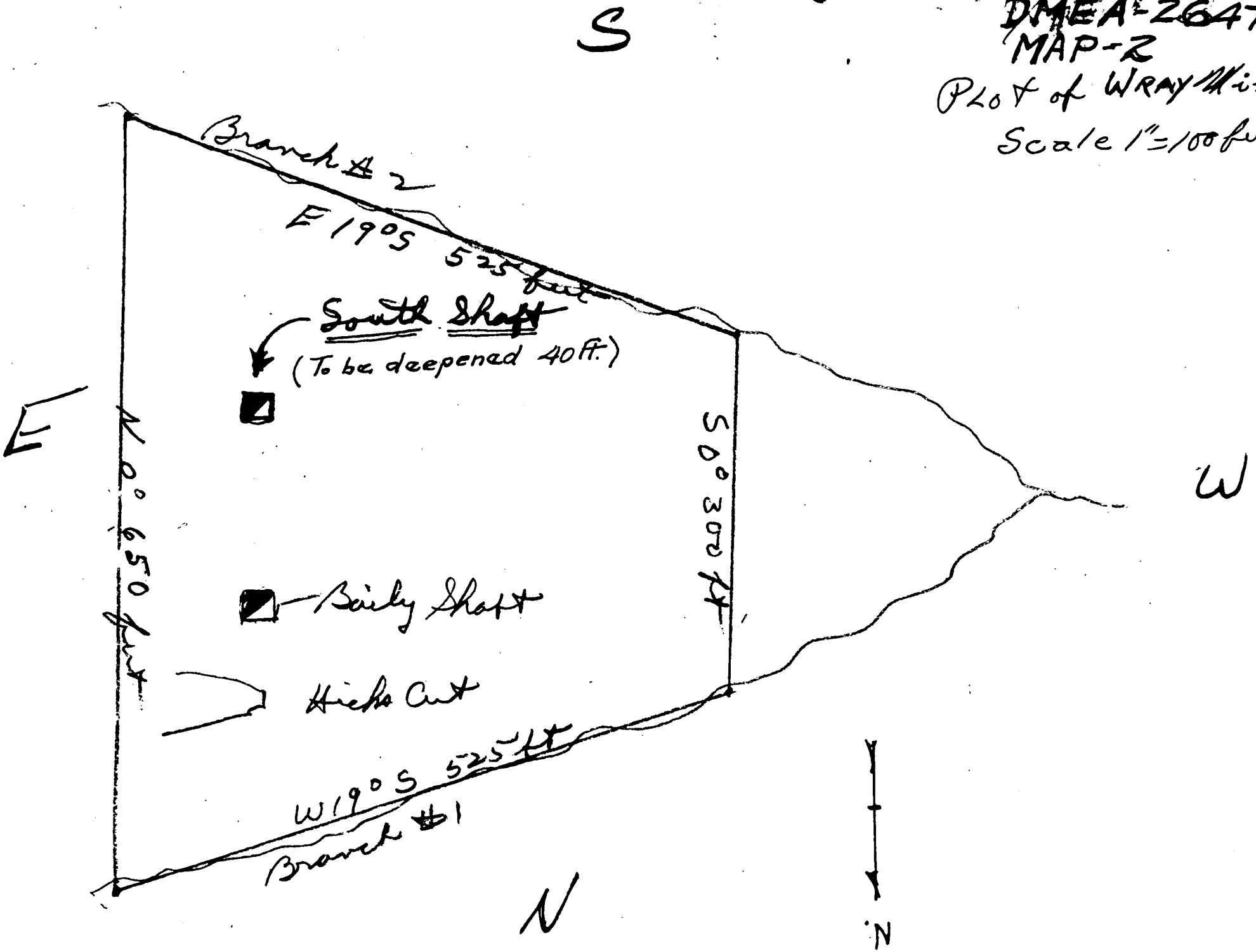
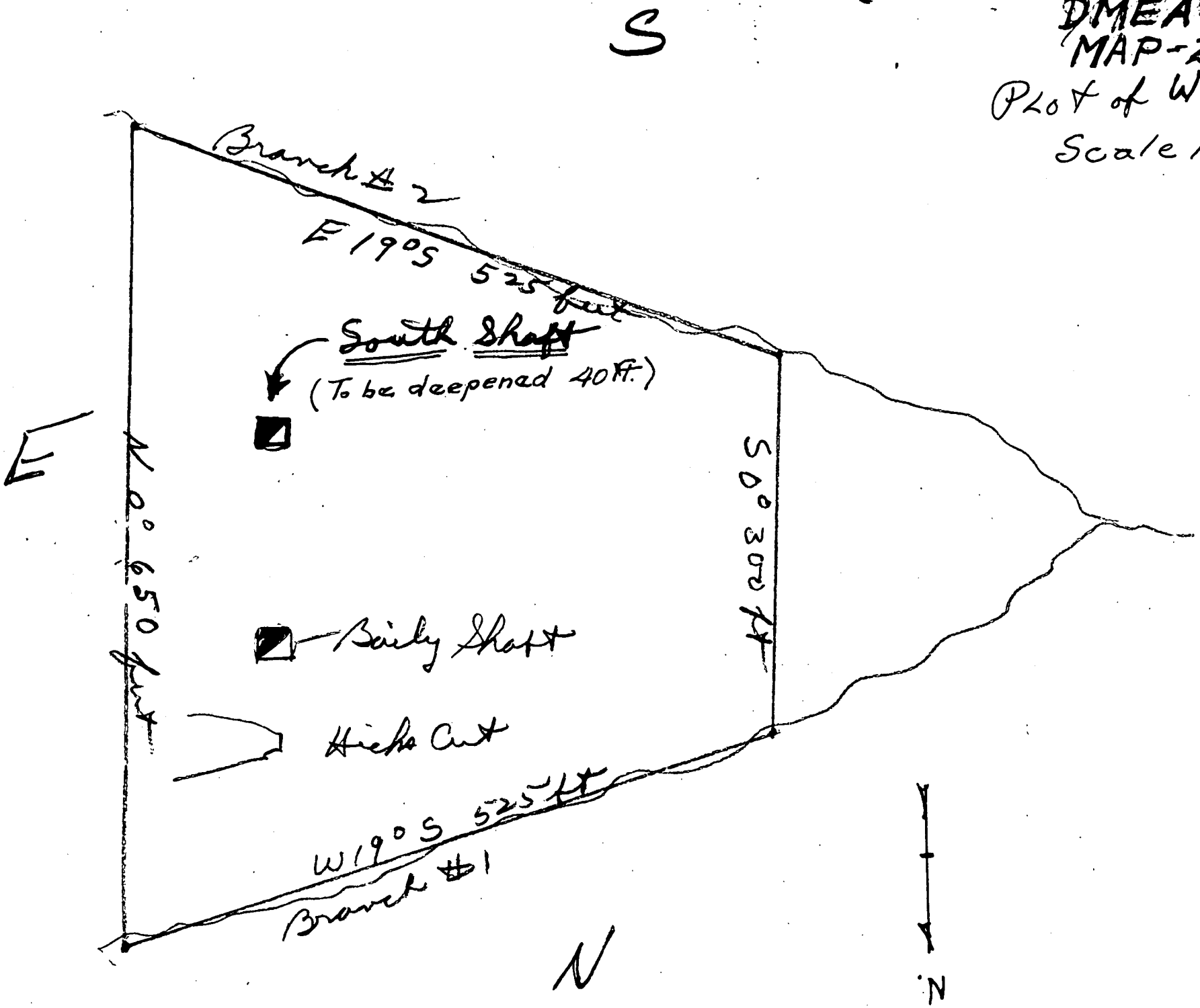


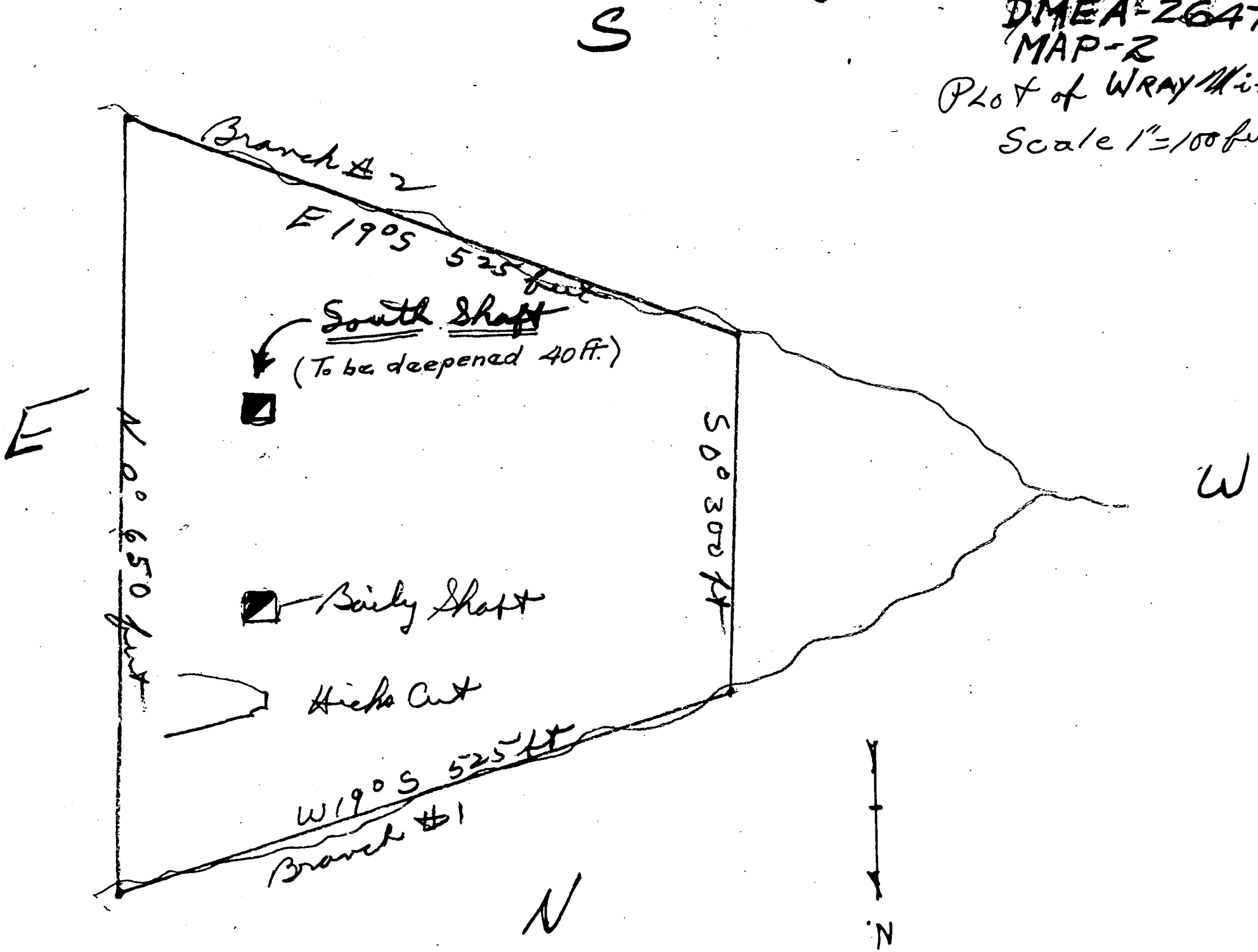
9/30/52

DMEA-2647
MAP-2
Plot of Wray Mine
Scale 1" = 100 feet



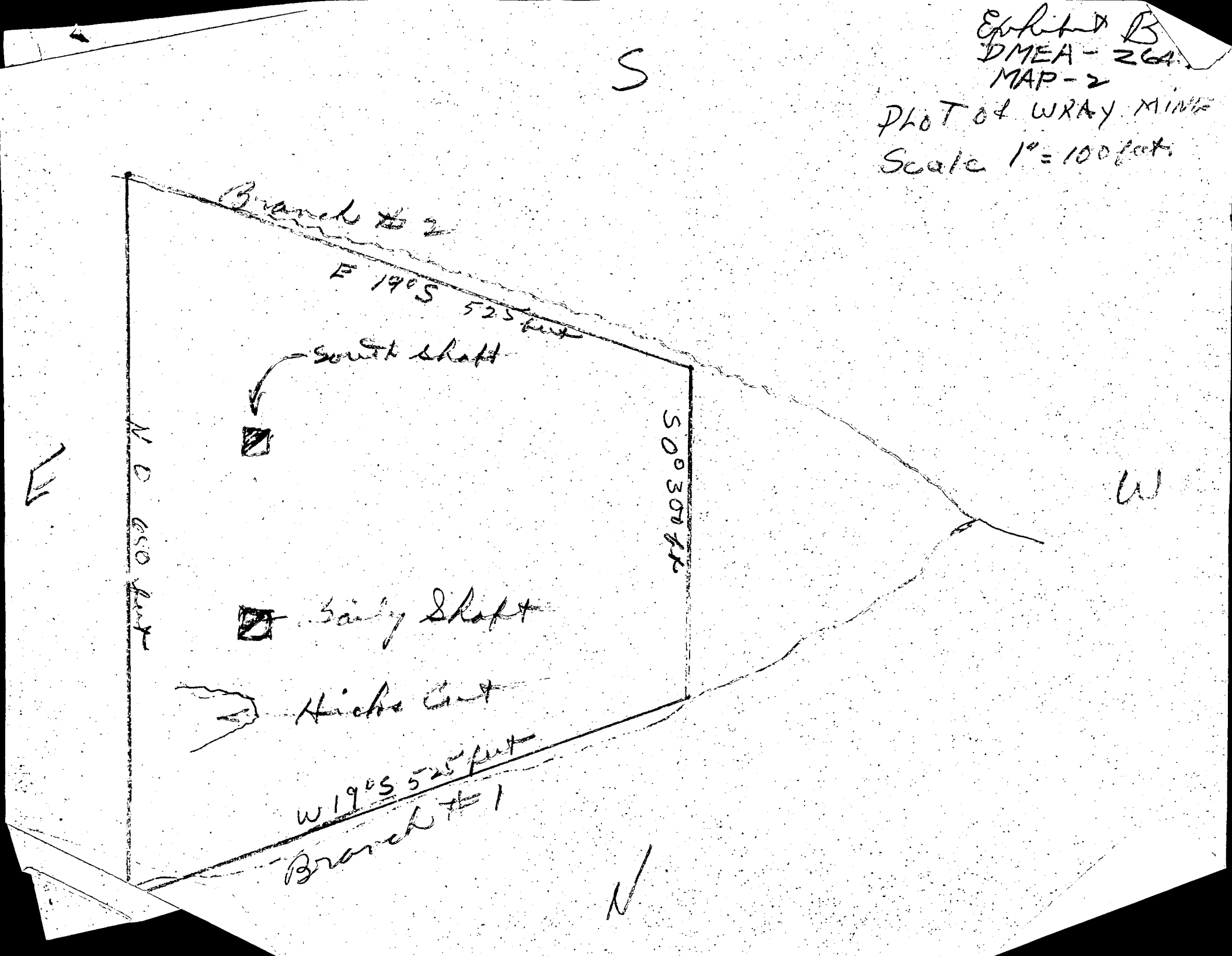
9/30/52

DMEA-2647
MAP-2
Plot of Wray Mine
Scale 1" = 100 feet

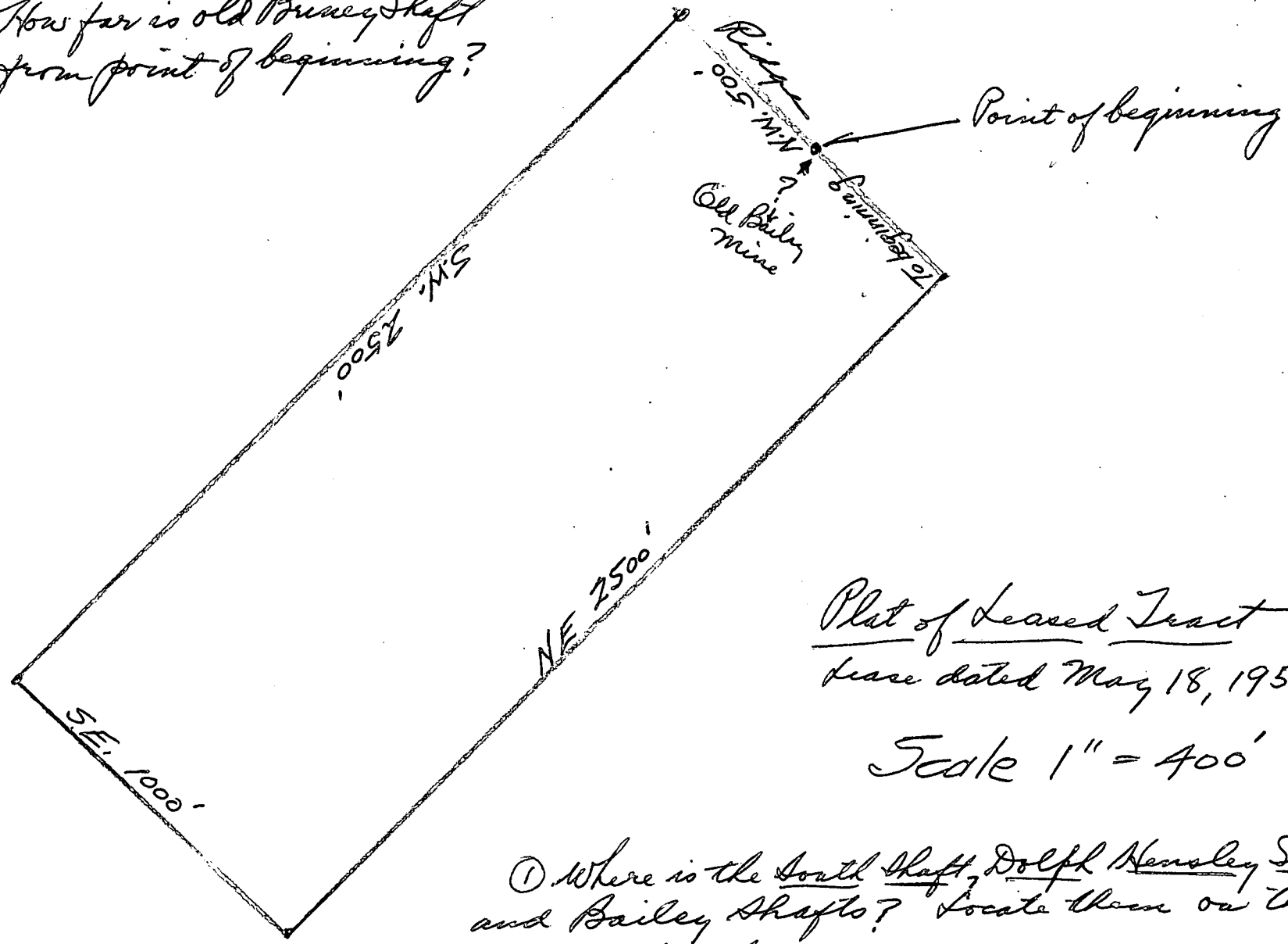


9/30/52

Exhibit B
DMEA - 264
MAP - 2
PLOT of WRAY MINE
Scale 1" = 100 feet



How far is old Briney Shaft from point of beginning?

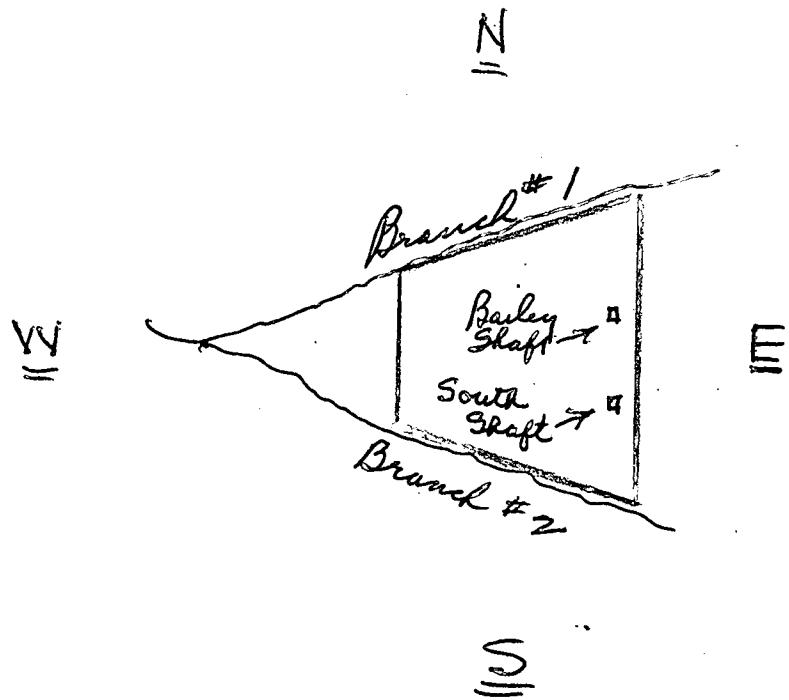


Plat of Leased Tract
Lease dated May 18, 1953

Scale 1" = 400'

① Where is the South Shaft, Dolph Henley Shaft and Bailey Shafts? Locate them on the leased tract

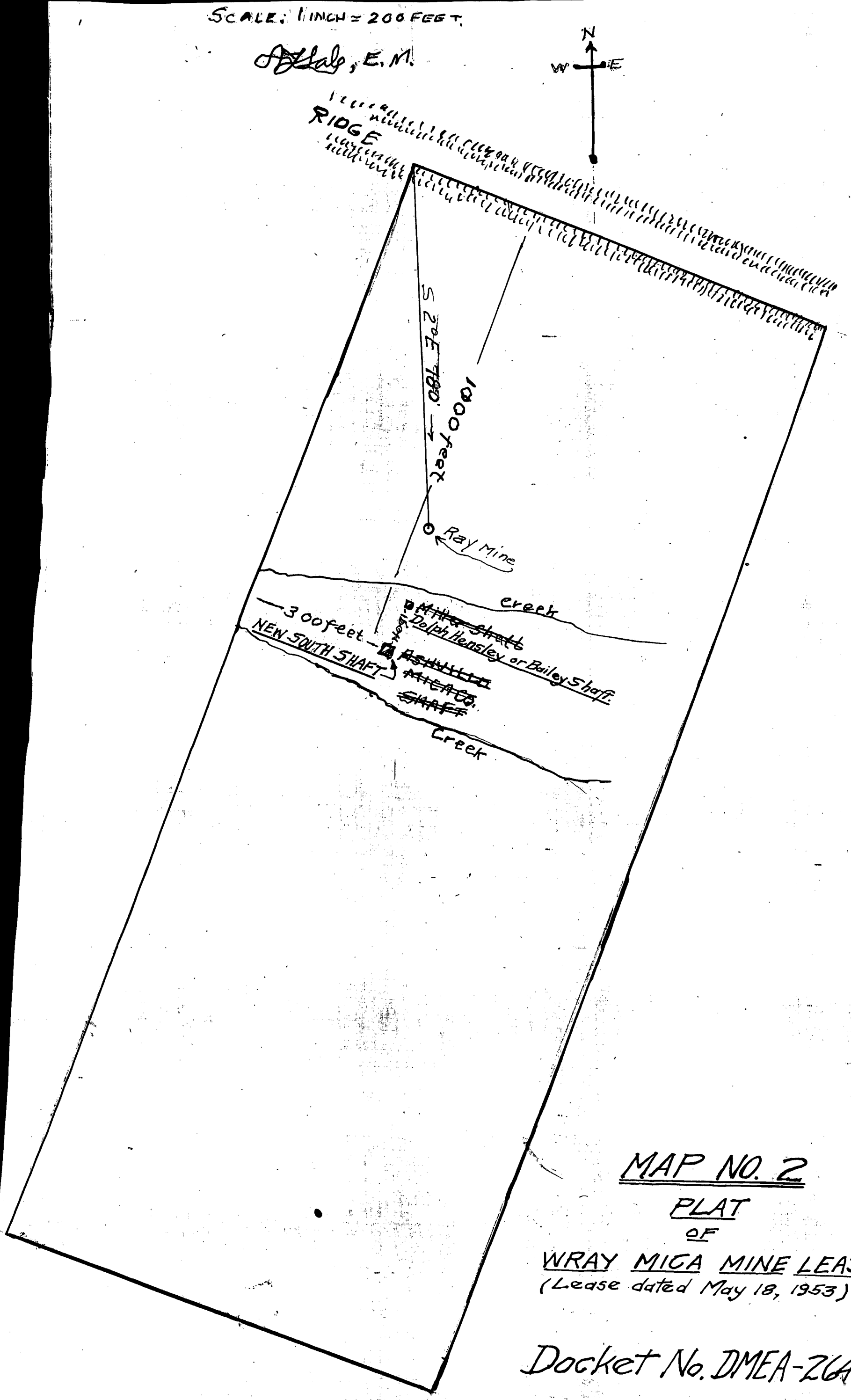
② Is your original sketch Exhibit "B" the project boundaries? If so, indicate the location



Your sketch Reduced to a scale of
1" = 400

SCALE: 1 INCH = 200 FEET.

~~Dale~~, E. M.



MAP NO. 2

PLAT

OF

WRAY MICA MINE LEASE

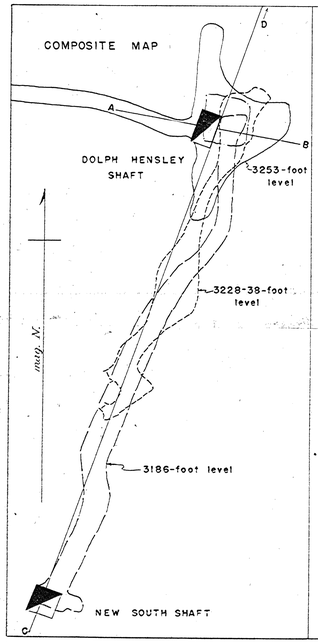
(Lease dated May 18, 1953)

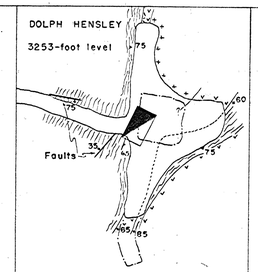
Docket No. DMEA-2647.

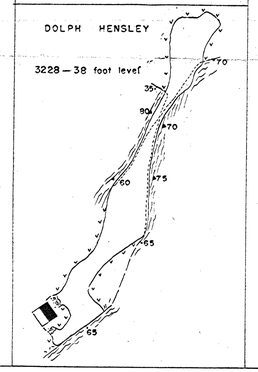
dmea-2647

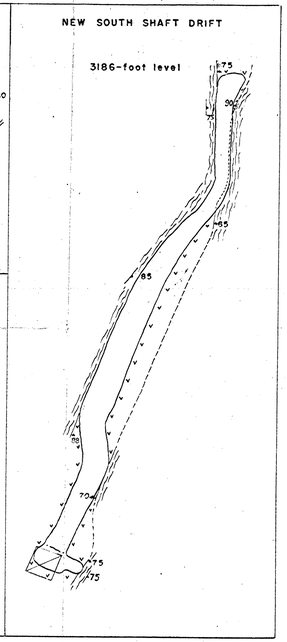
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

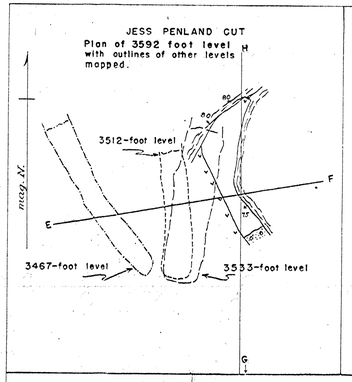
STRATEGIC MINERALS INVESTIGATIONS
PRELIMINARY MAP

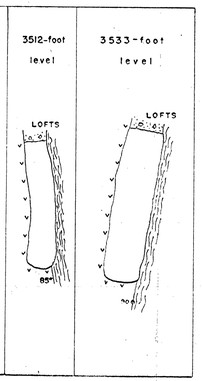


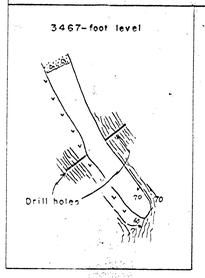


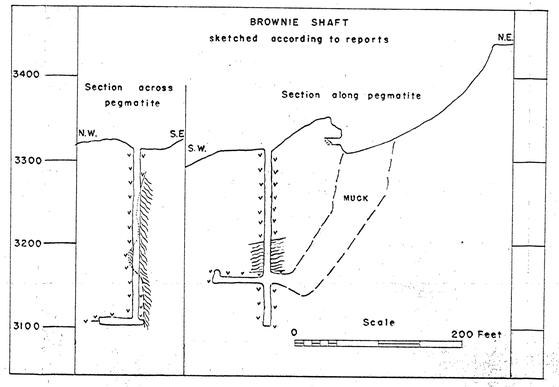






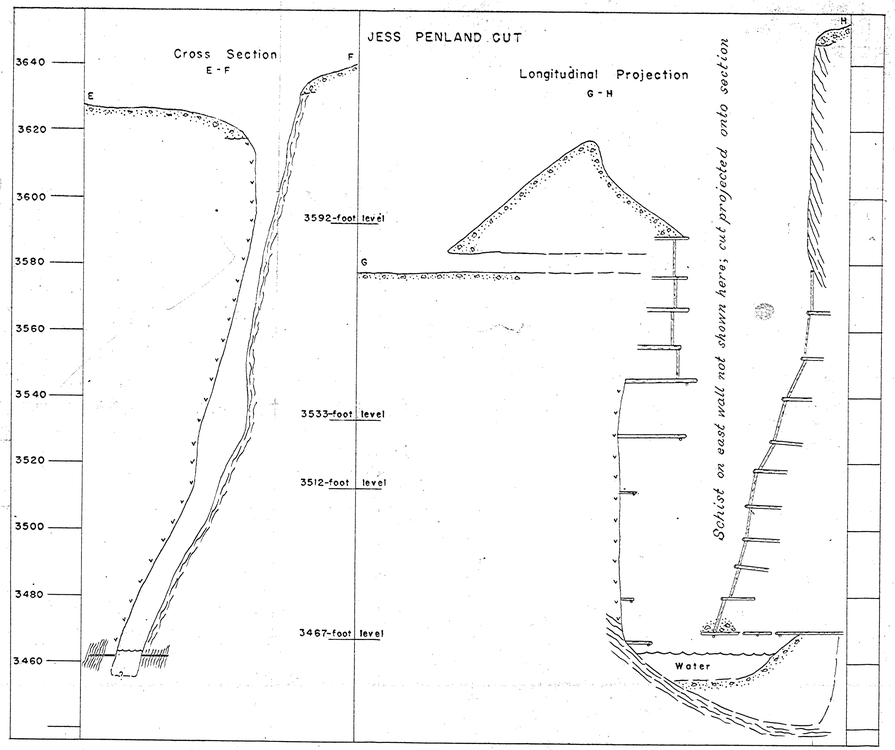


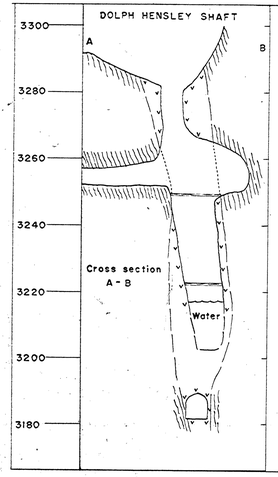


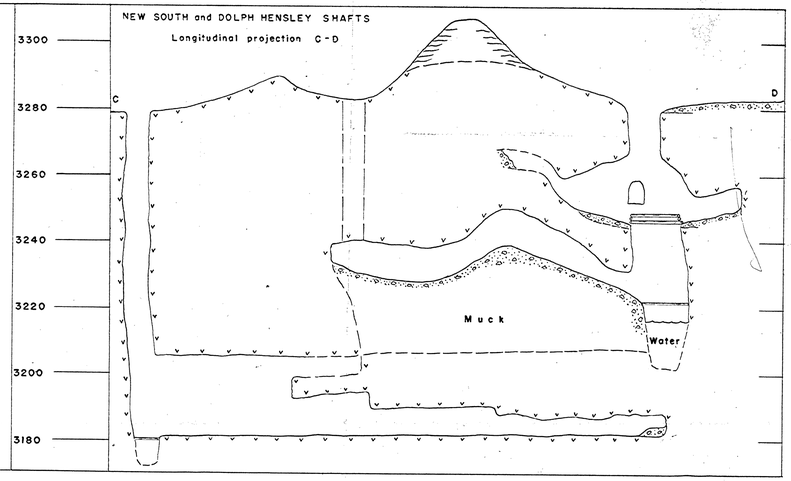


Prepared in cooperation with North Carolina Department of Conservation and Development

Mapped by J. M. Parker and J. R. Wolfe
May 2 — 11, 1944







EXPLANATION

- Mica gneiss
- Alaskite
- Barren quartz-plagioclase pegmatite
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- Shaft, open
- Shaft, filled

SCALES

Horizontal and vertical

0 50 100 Feet

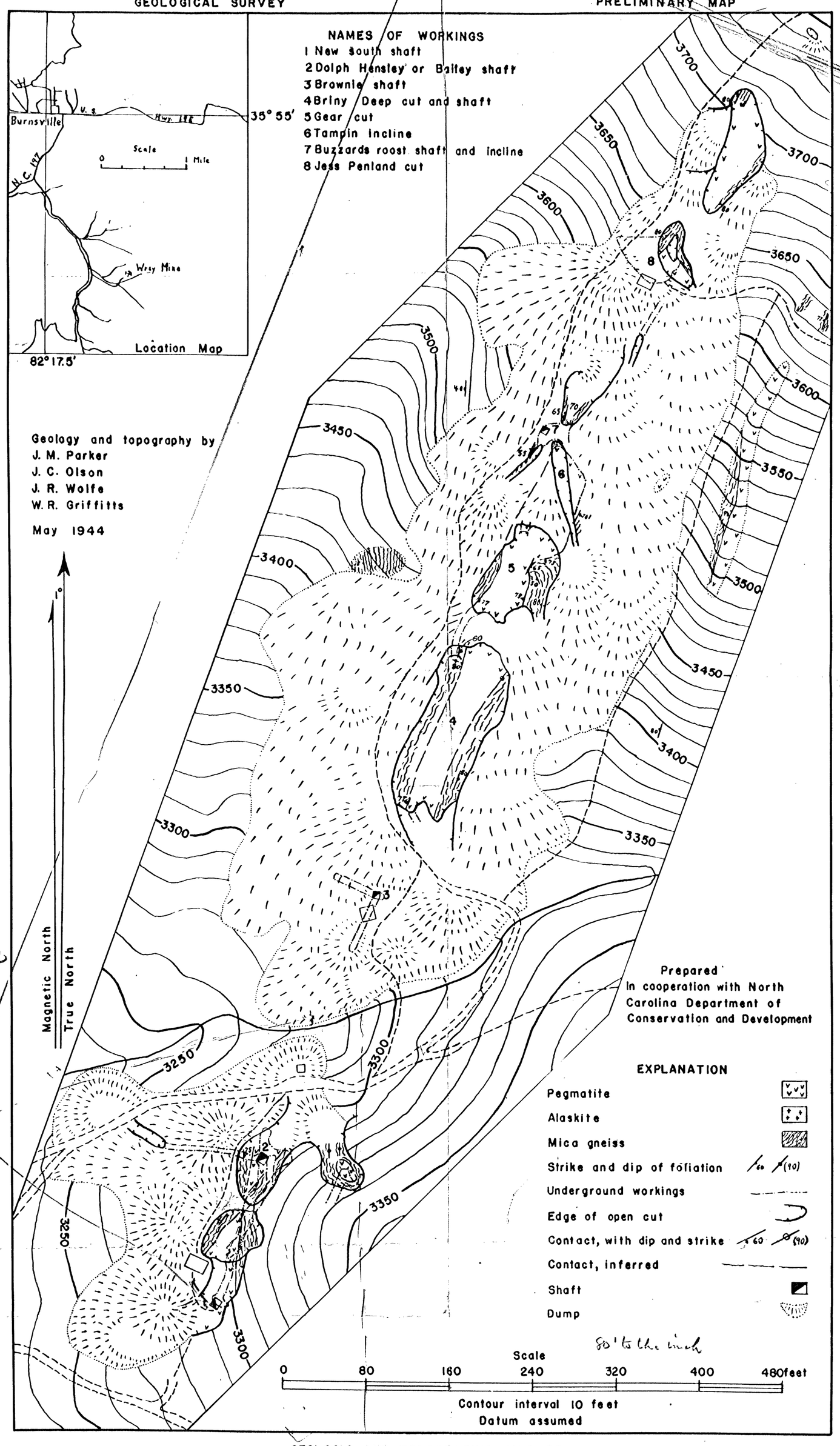
Maps and sections of underground workings

WRAY MICA MINE, YANCEY COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

Open filed Sept 41

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

STRATEGIC MINERALS INVESTIGATIONS
PRELIMINARY MAP



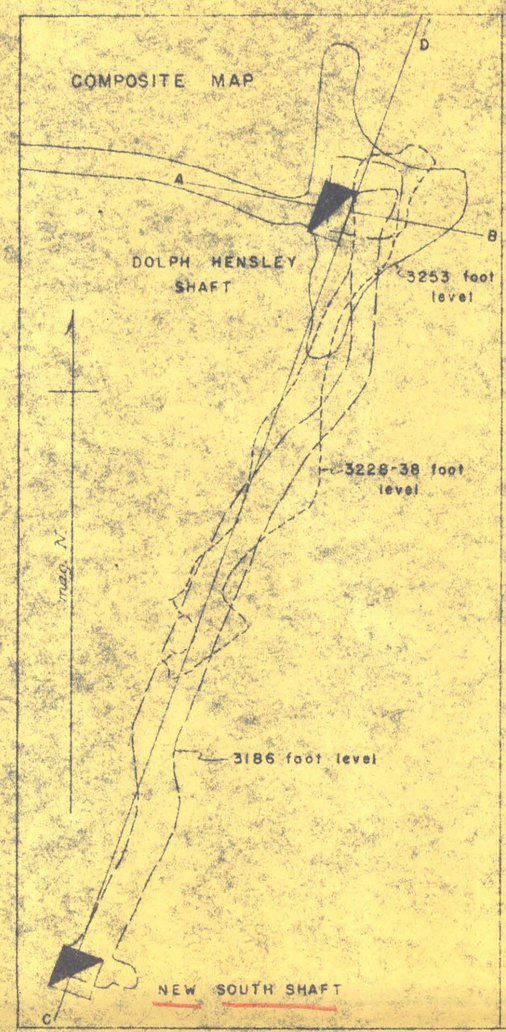
GEOLOGIC AND TOPOGRAPHIC MAP OF
THE WRAY MICA MINE, YANCEY COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

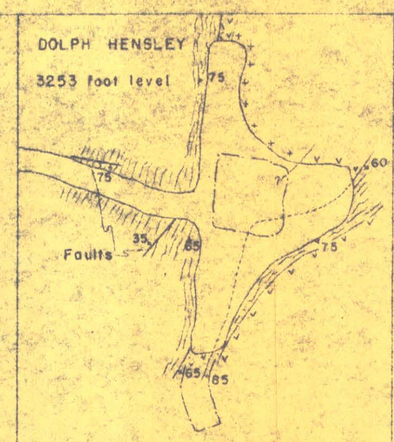
Proposed Shaft

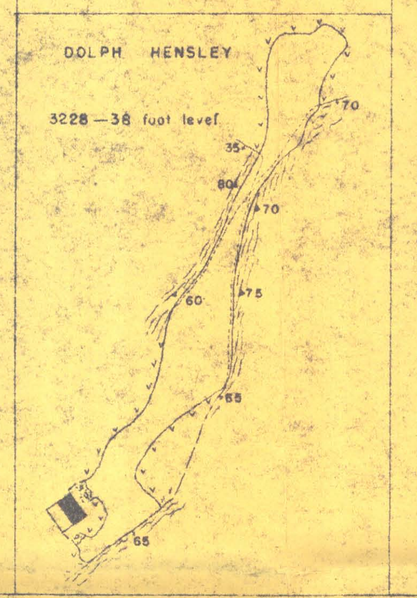
Area Involved?
J.T.R.

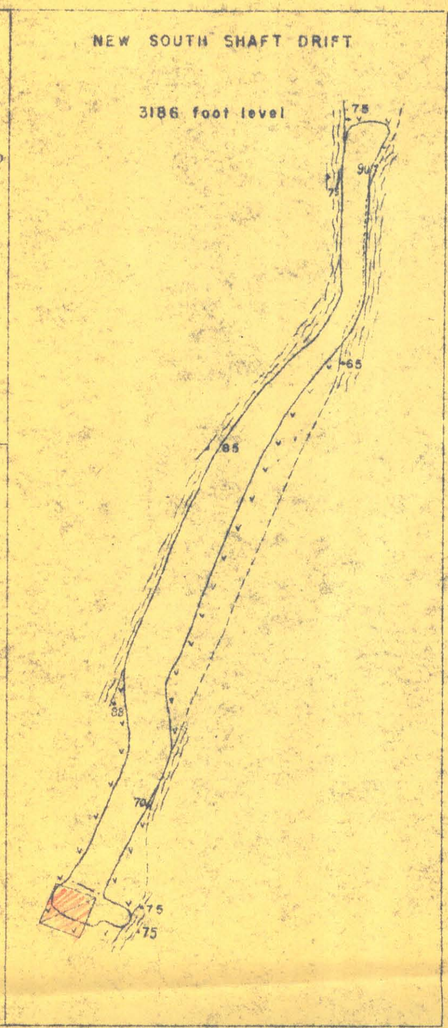
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

STRATEGIC MINERALS INVESTIGATIONS
PRELIMINARY MAP









Prepared
in cooperation with North
Carolina Department of
Conservation and Development

Mapped by
J. M. Parker and J. R. Wolfe
May 2—11, 1944

EXPLANATION

- Mica gneiss,
- Aplite
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- Sheet mica
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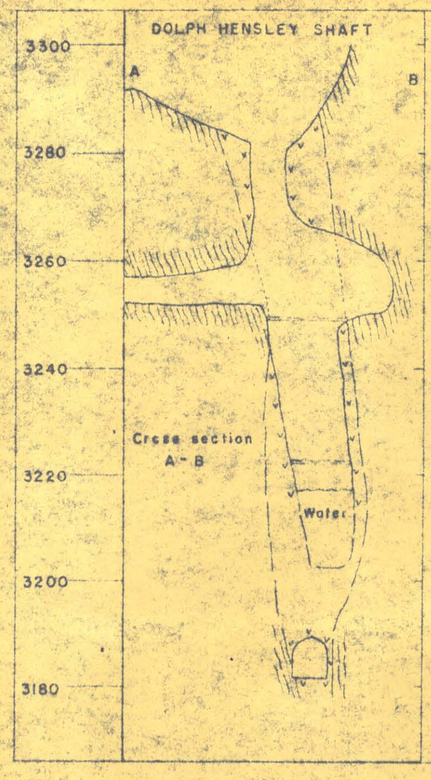
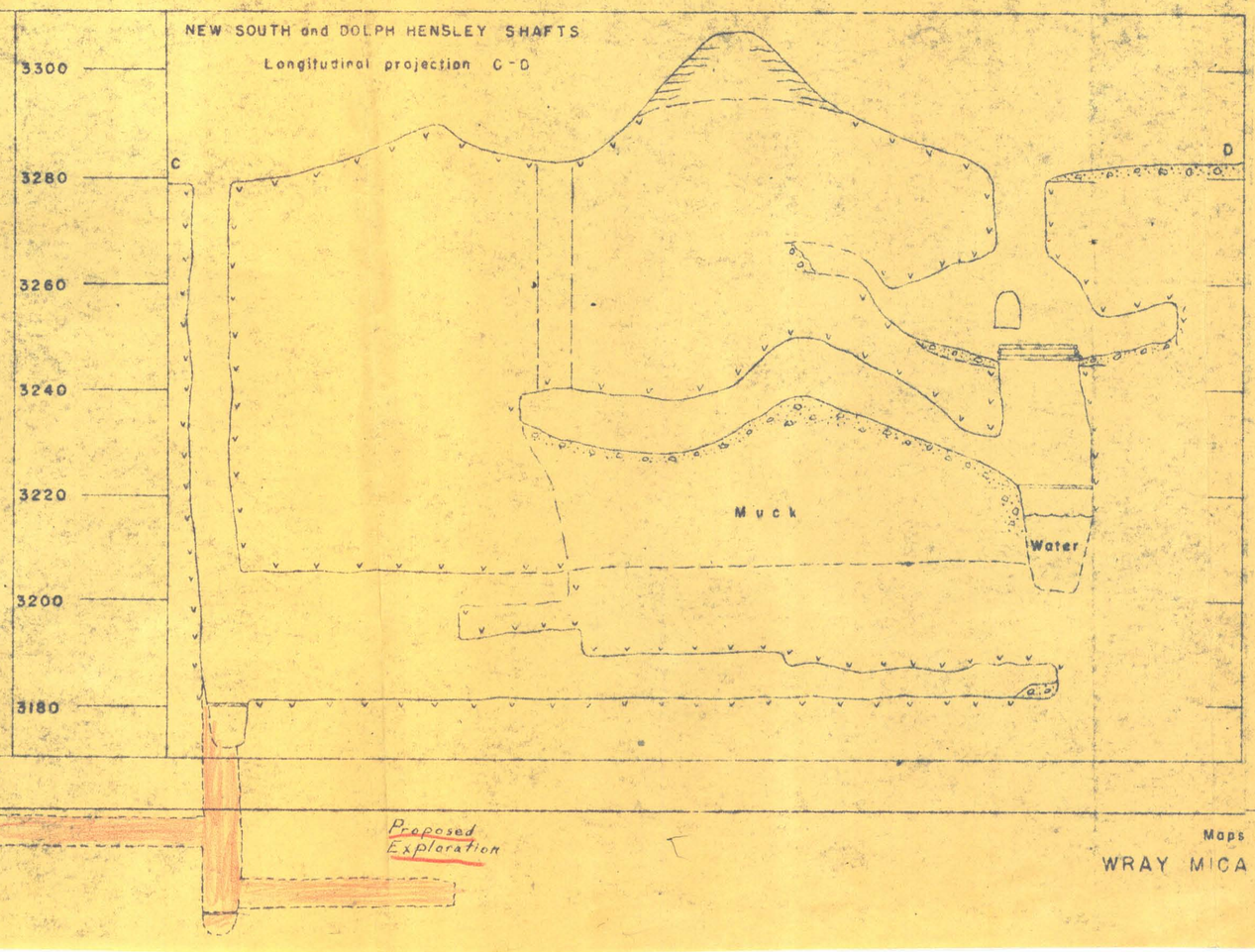




MAP No. 1

Plan & Sections showing New South Shaft and Proposed Exploration

Docket No. DMEA-2647

SCALES

Horizontal and vertical

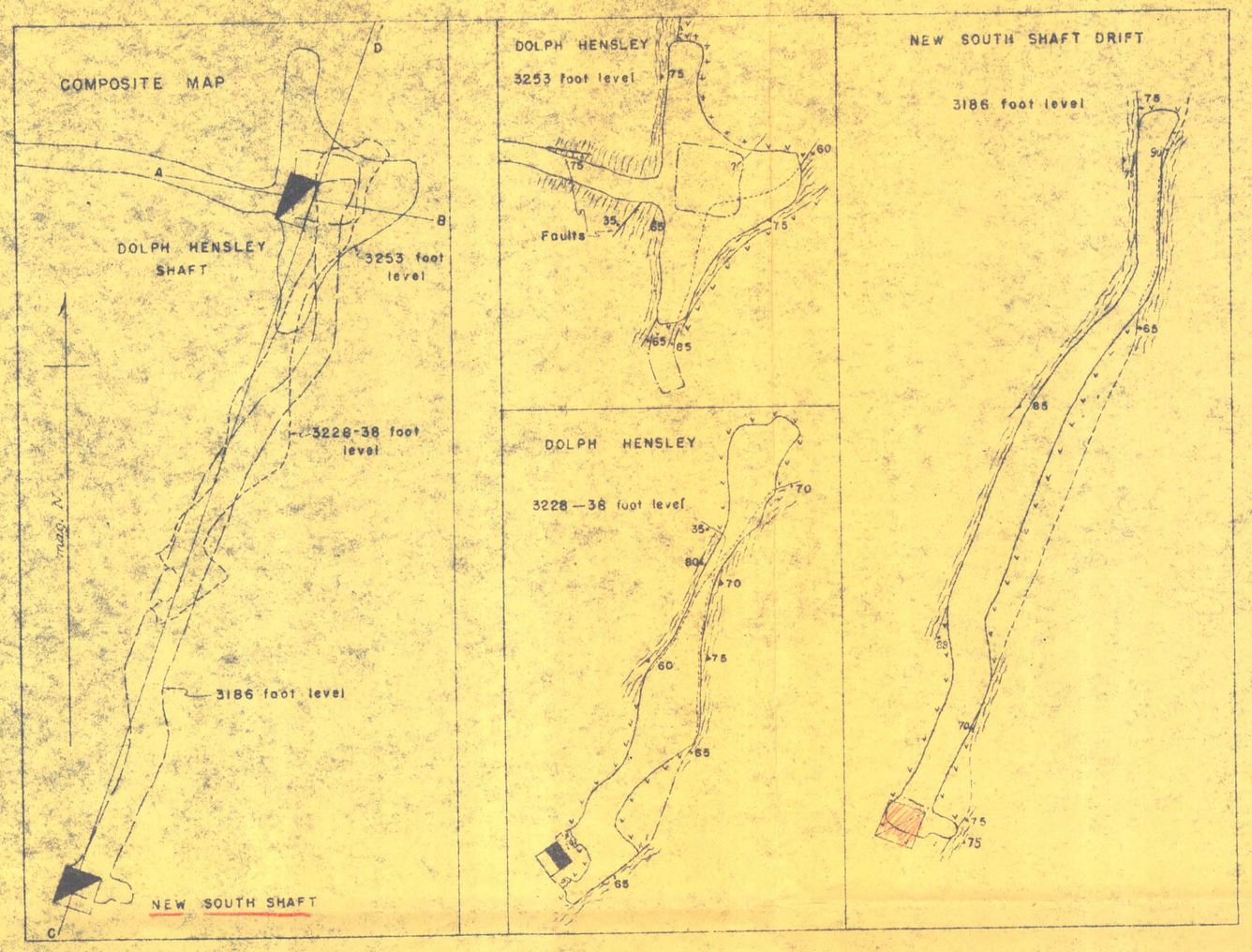
0 50 100 Feet

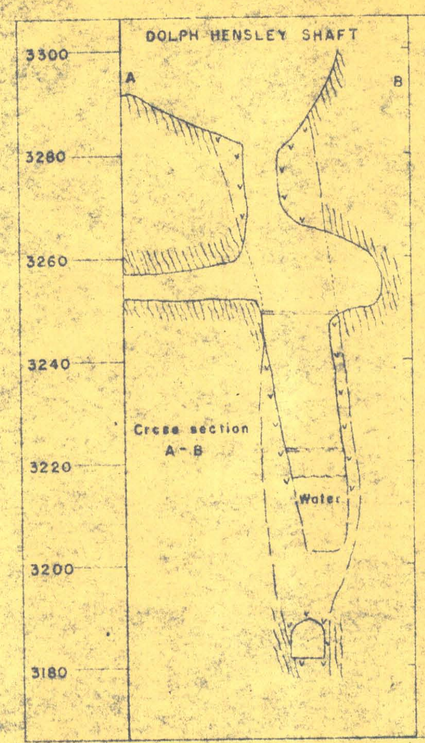
Maps and sections of underground workings
WRAY MICA MINE, YANCEY COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

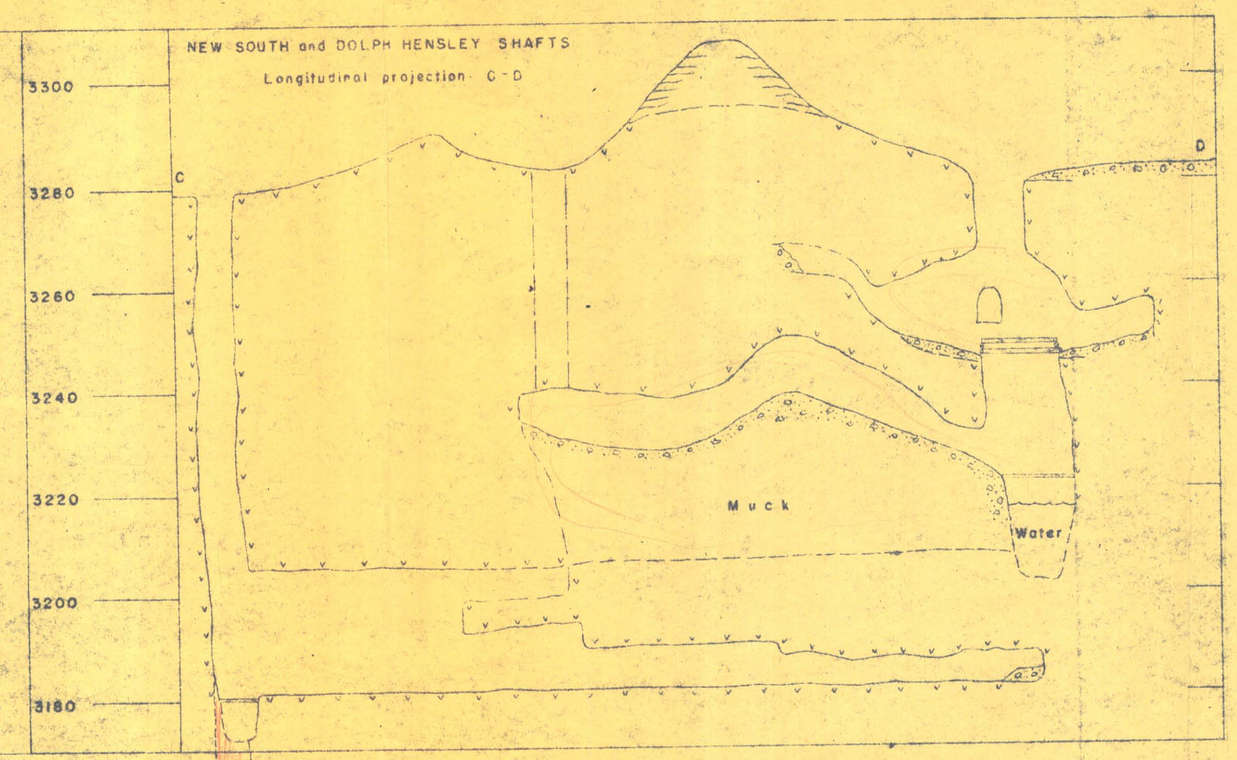
DMEA-2647
MAP-1.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

STRATEGIC MINERALS INVESTIGATIONS
PRELIMINARY MAP







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Mapped by
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MAP NO. 1

Plan & Sections
Showing
New South Shaft and
Proposed Exploration
Docket No. DMEA-2647

SCALES
Horizontal and vertical
0 50 100 Feet

Proposed Exploration

Maps and sections of underground workings
WRAY MICA MINE, YANCEY COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

DMEA-2647
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GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

STRATEGIC MINERALS INVESTIGATIONS
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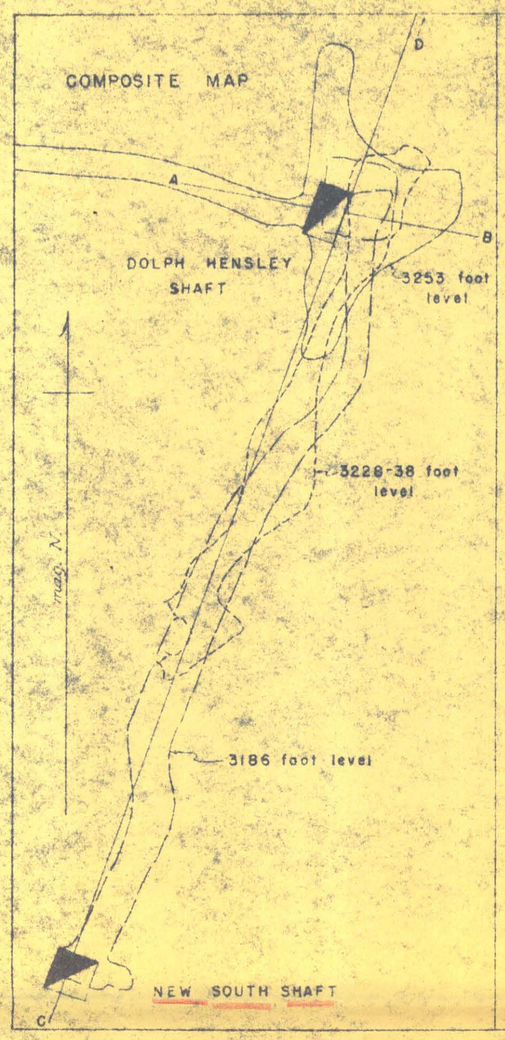

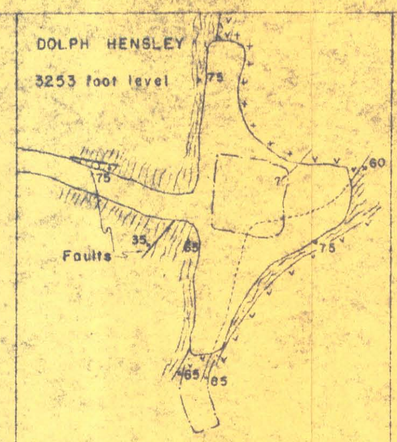

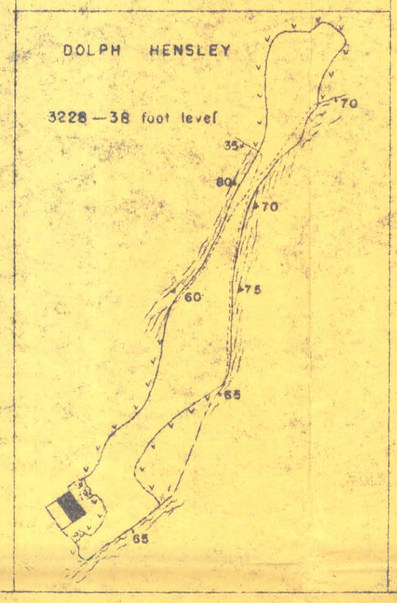

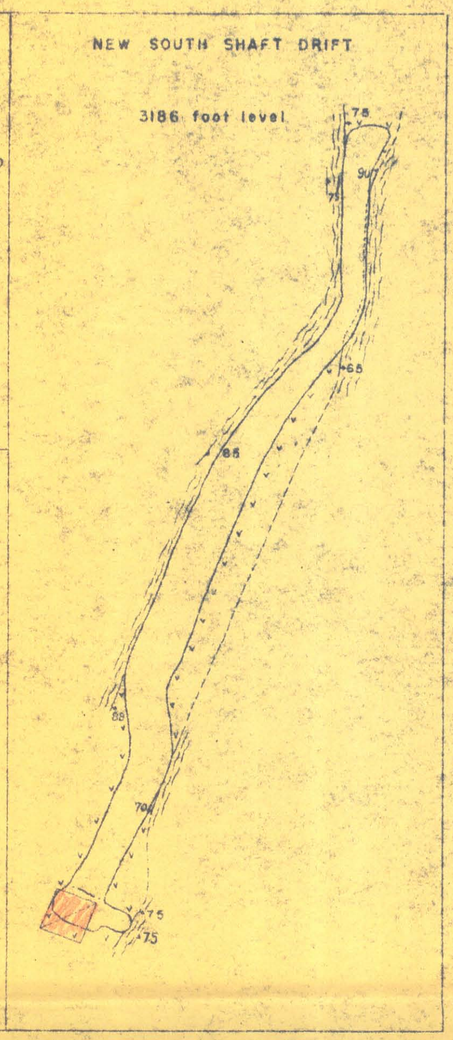

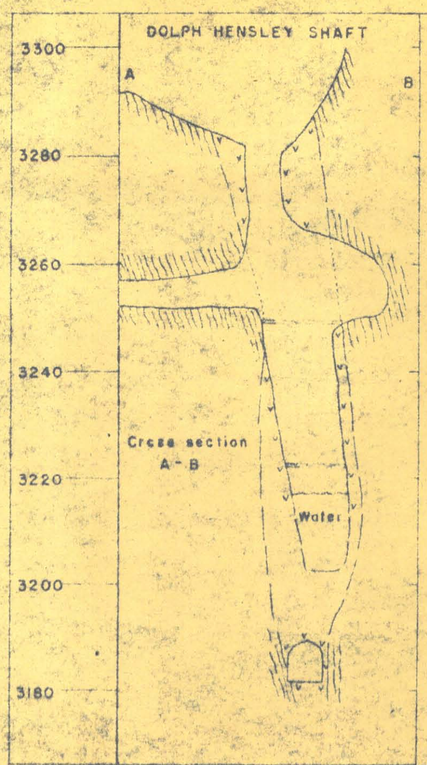

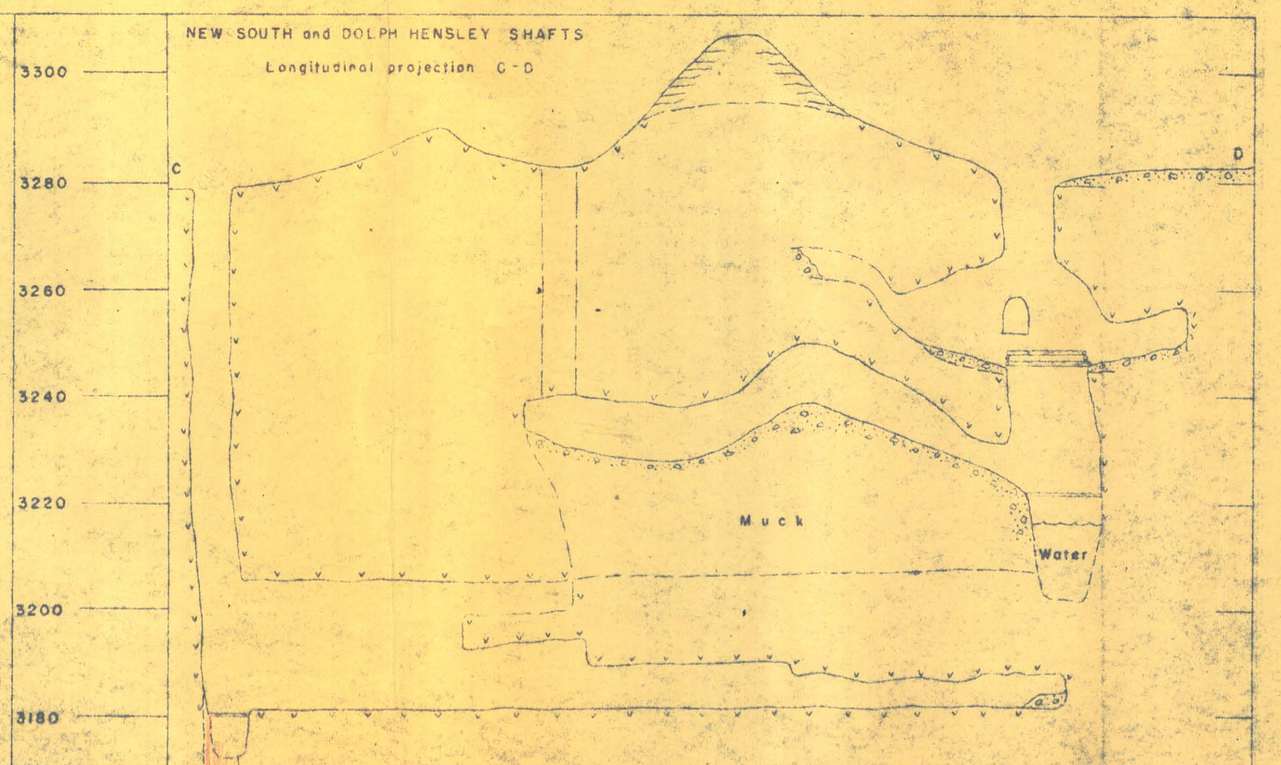

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MAP No. 1

Plan & Sections
showing
New South Shaft and
Proposed Exploration
Docket No. DMEA-2647

SCALES
Horizontal and vertical
0 50 100 Feet

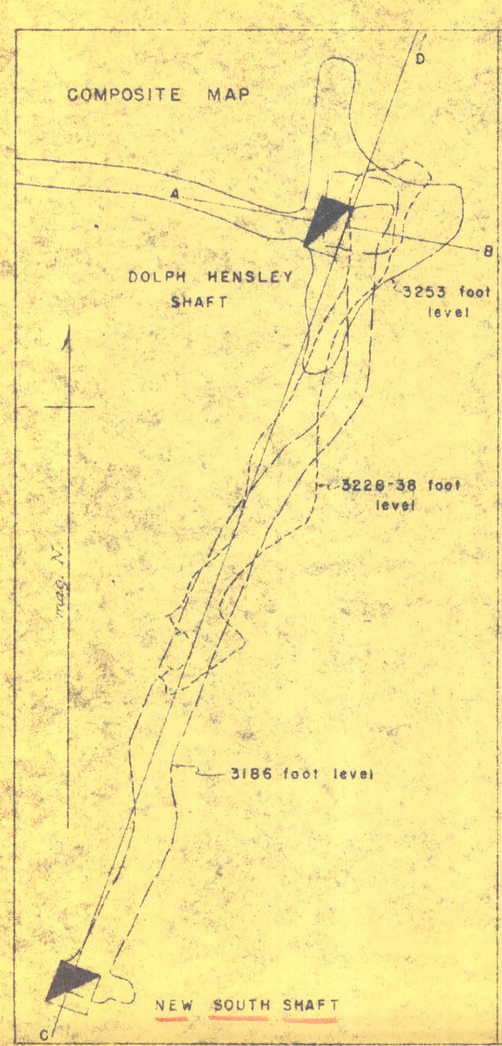
Proposed Exploration

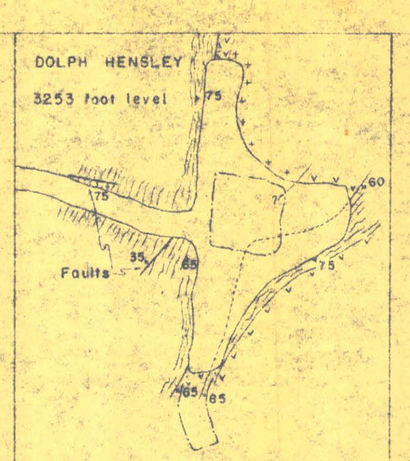
Maps and sections of underground workings
WRAY MICA MINE, YANCEY COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

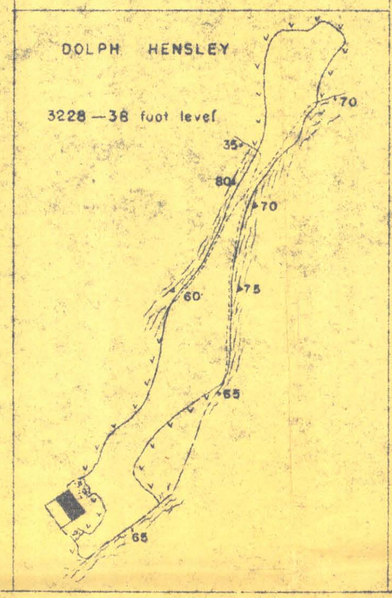
DMEA-2647
MAP-1

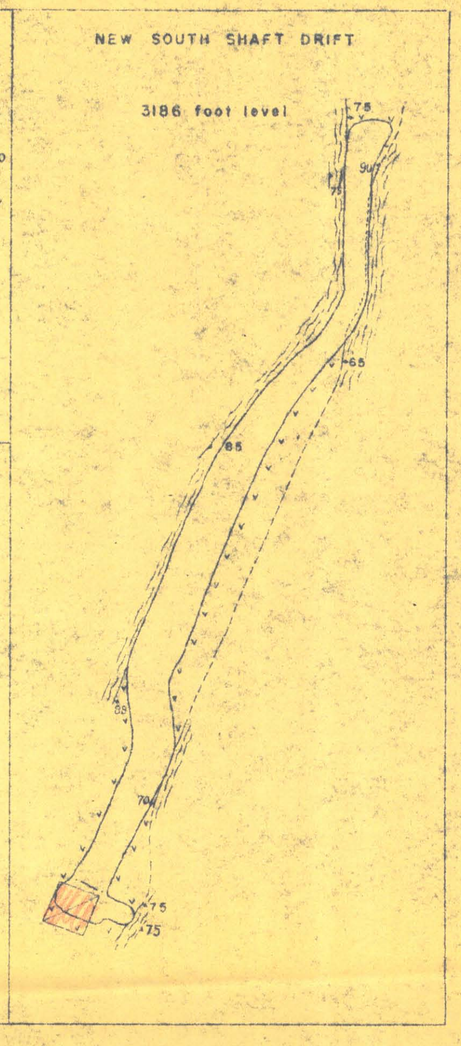
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

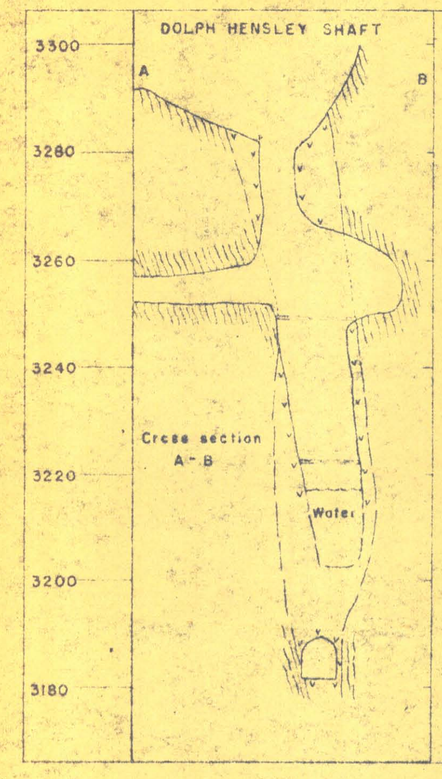
STRATEGIC MINERALS INVESTIGATIONS
PRELIMINARY MAP

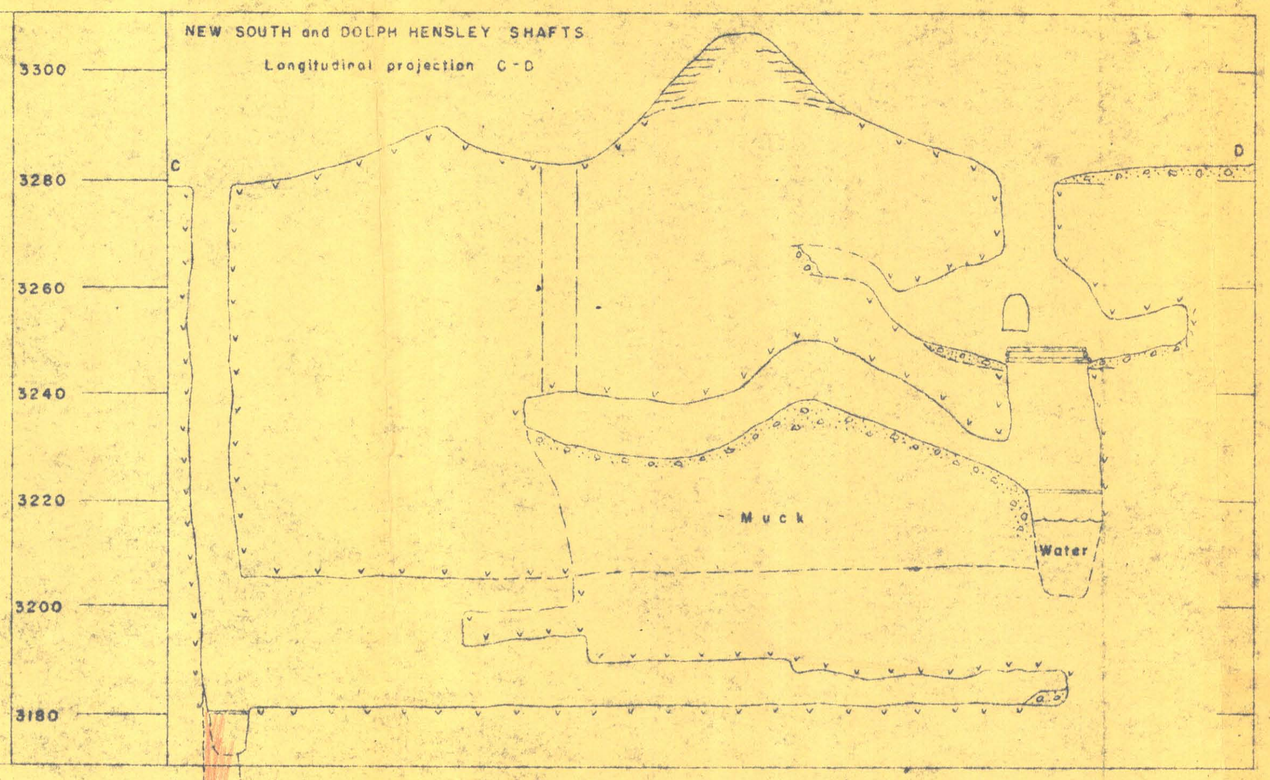












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MAP No. 1

Plan & Sections showing New South Shaft and Proposed Exploration

Docket No. DMEA-2647

SCALES

Horizontal and vertical

0 50 100 Feet

Proposed Exploration

Maps and sections of underground workings
WRAY MICA MINE, YANCEY COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

DMEA-2647
MAP-1.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

STRATEGIC MINERALS INVESTIGATIONS
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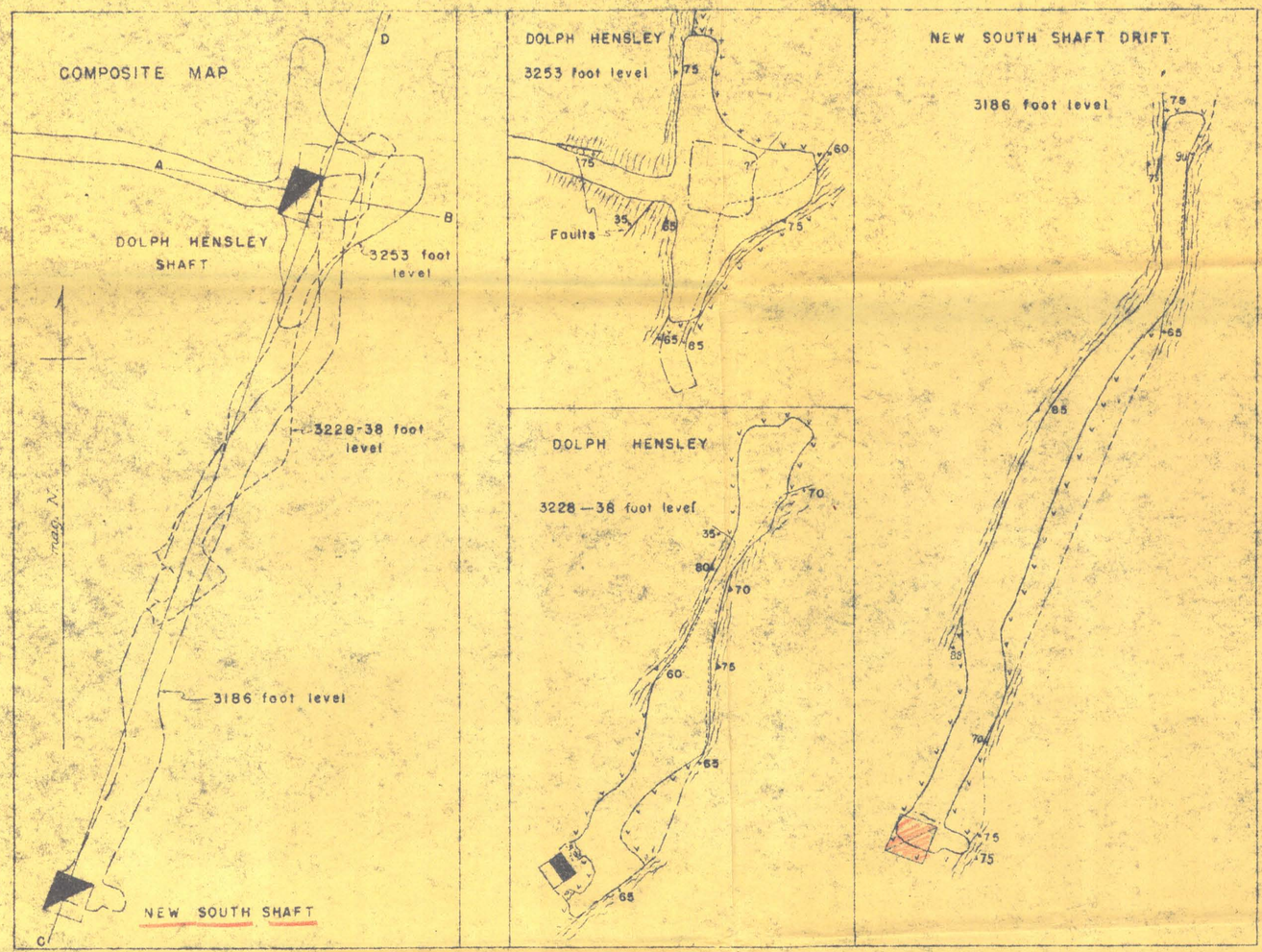

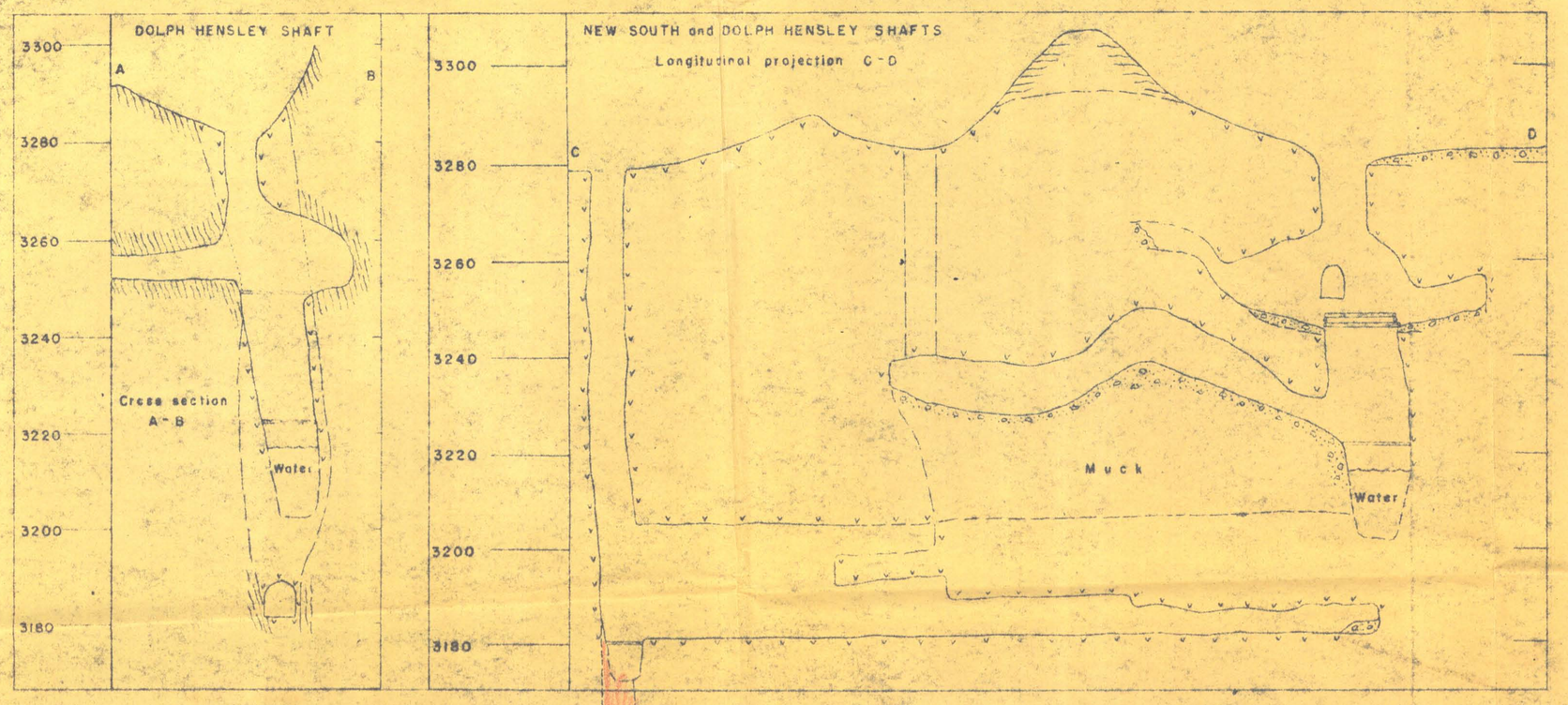

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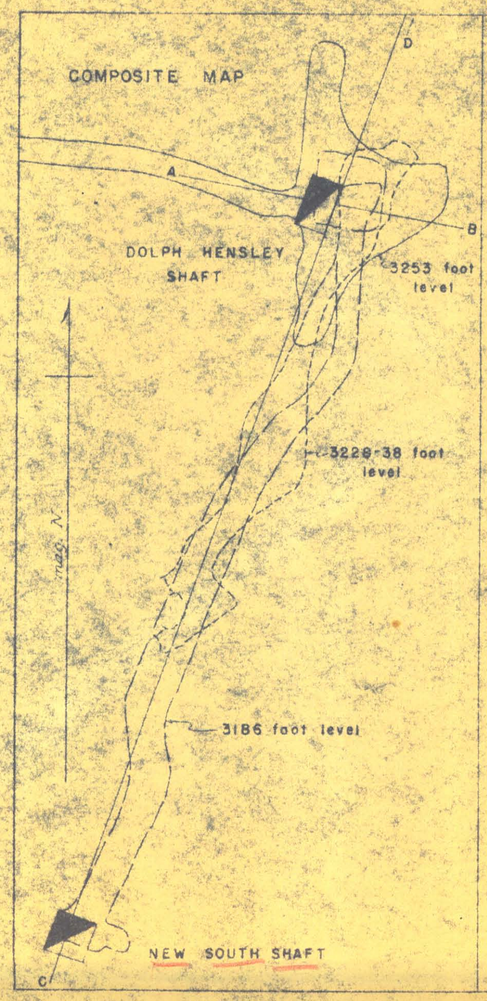

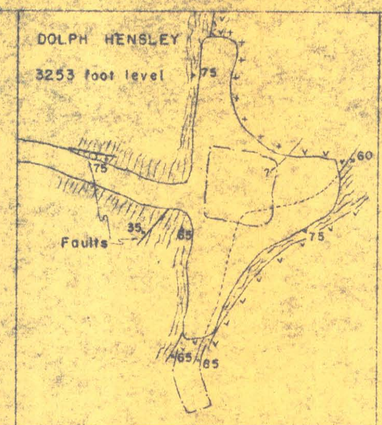

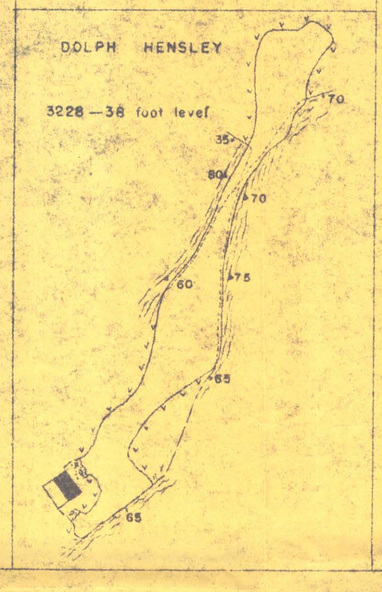

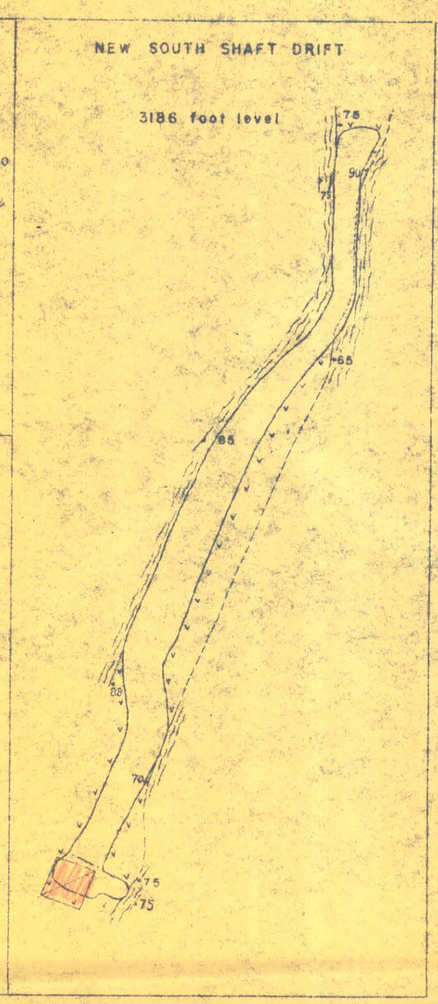

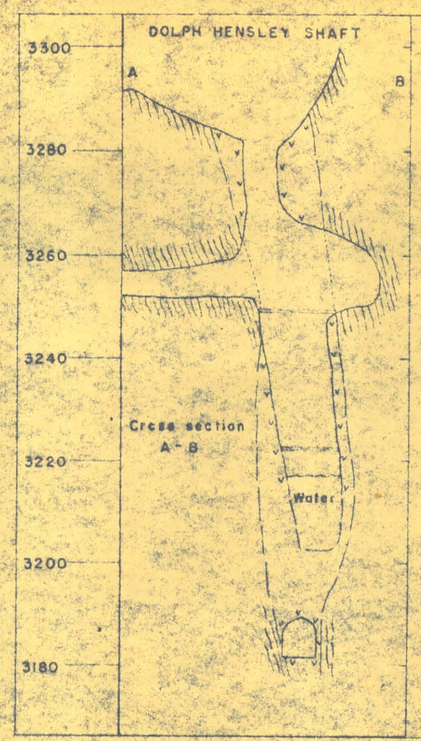

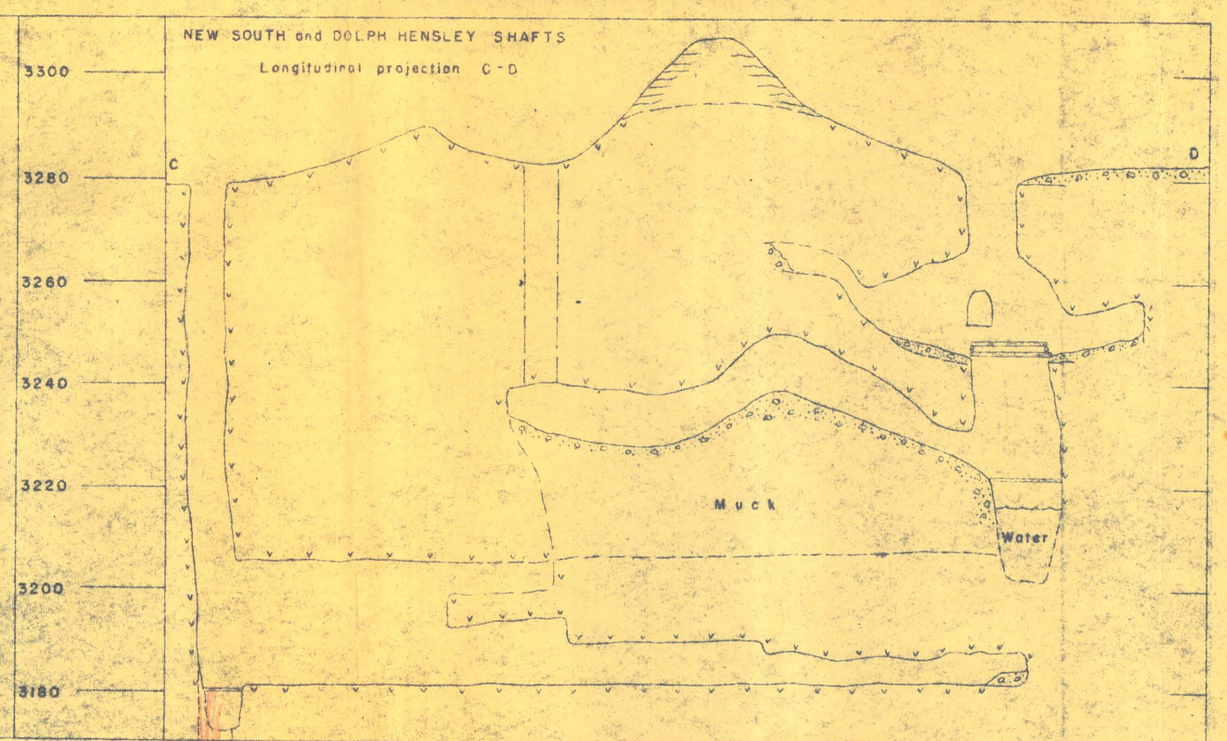

Proposed Exploration

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SCALES

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WRAY MICA MINE, YANCEY COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

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GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

STRATEGIC MINERALS INVESTIGATIONS
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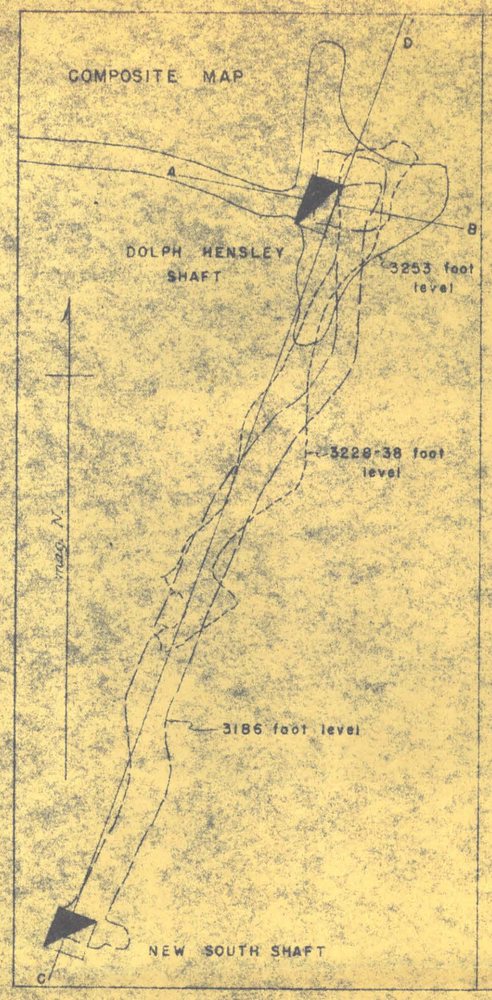

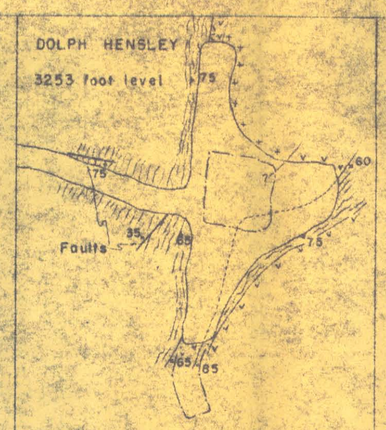

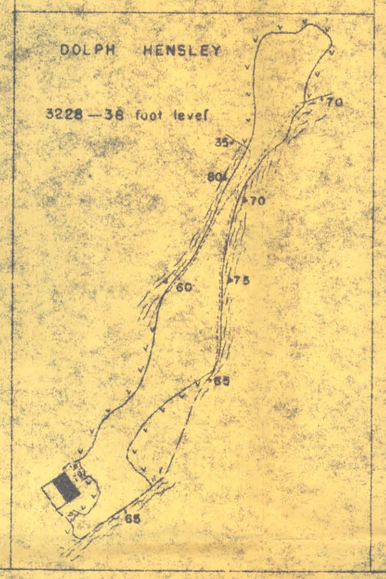

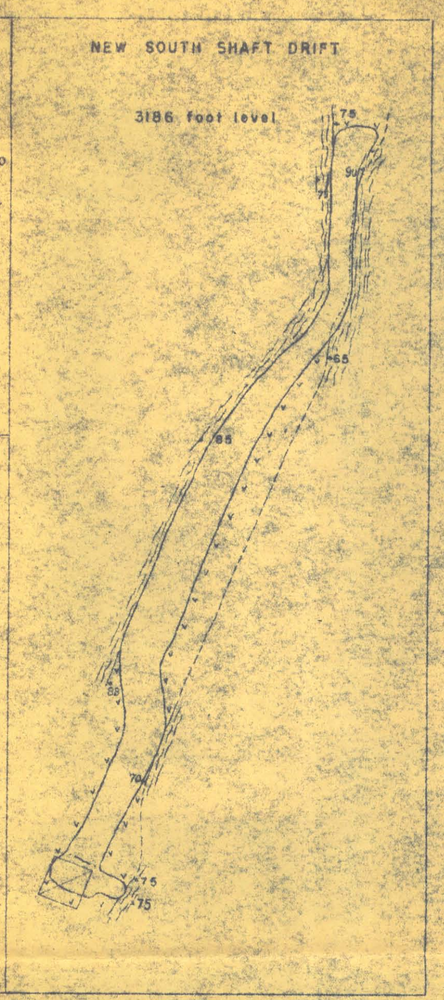

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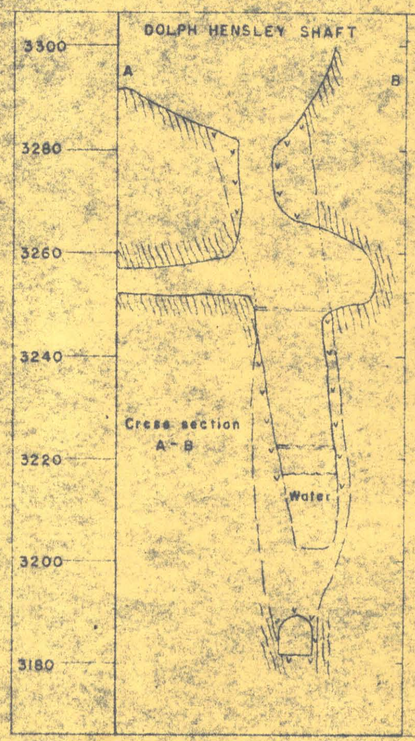

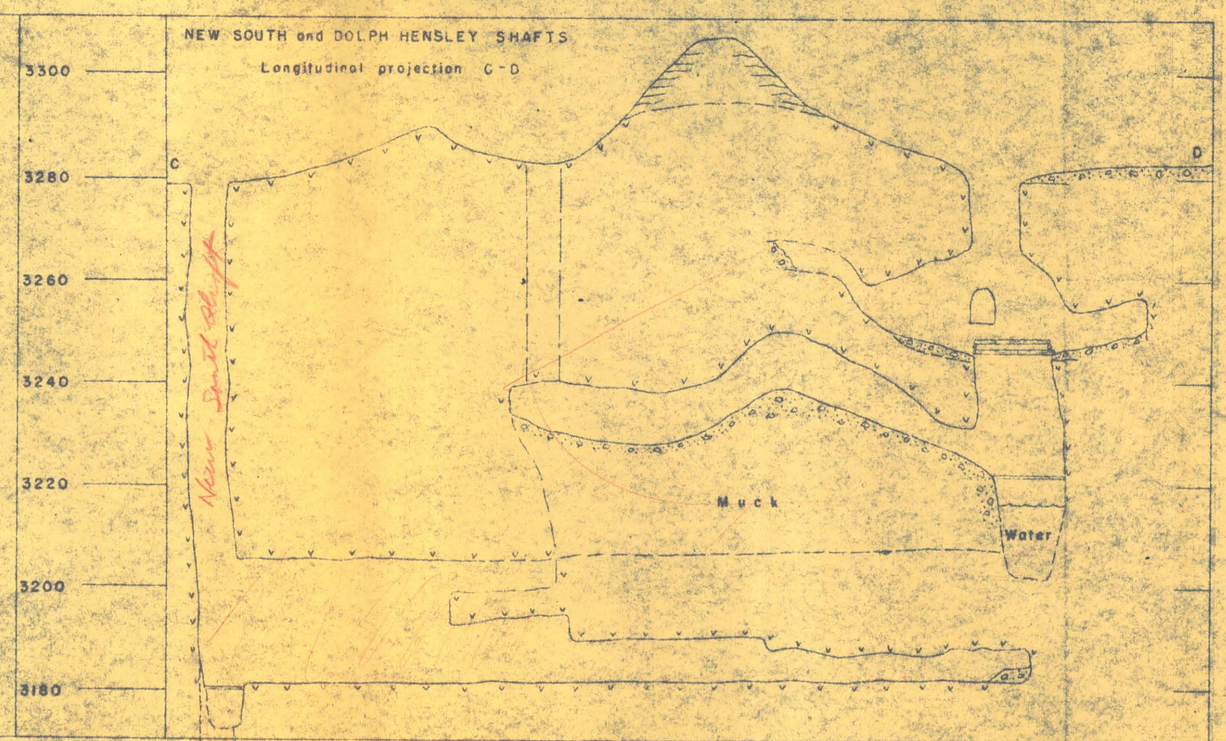

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SCALES

Horizontal and vertical

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