Consolidated Mine
(Little Canyon Mine)

The first indication of an interest in the phosphate rock in the Paris-Bloomington area occurred in 1903. On October 5, 1903, Charles C. Jones (of Waterloo Mine fame), his wife Elizabeth and six other individuals located a 150-acre association placer mining claim called the Jones Placer. This claim, in a shallow, dry canyon (Little Canyon) branching north from Bloomington Canyon (Figures 67 and 68), included the E½SW¼, SE¼NW¼, E½E½W½SW¼, and E½E½SW¼NW¼ of Section 21, T. 14 S., R. 43 E., BM. The location certificate lists the minerals being located as "lime carbonate and all other lime rocks, slates and shales in sedimentary deposit or strati-form with lime as the base or chief component." Bear Lake County records show that C. C. Jones and Elizabeth Jones executed a quit claim deed for the claim dated January 26, 1904, but there was no indication to whom. This mining claim soon became invalid and was voided as no affidavits of assessment work were filed on the claim since the discovery in 1903.

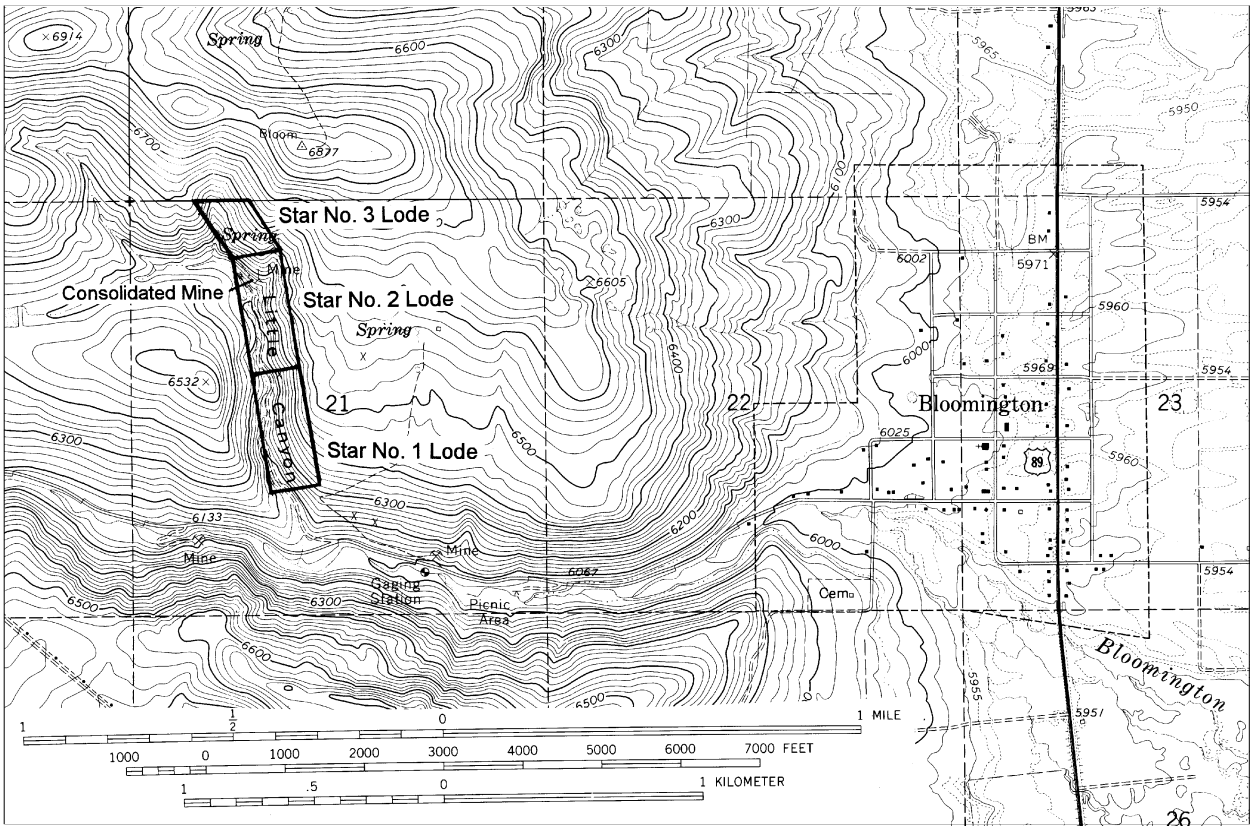

Figure 67. Map showing the location of the Consolidated Mine, Bear Lake County, Idaho.

On April 25, 1908, three prospectors named Joseph Oakey, G. W. Nebeker, and G. Spongberg located three lode mining claims. These three claims, Star Nos. 1, 2, and 3 (Table 6) were located for phosphate rock. The three prospectors conducted extensive exploration and development work on the claims between April, 1908 and June, 1915. Richards and Mansfield (1911) mention that the only prospects in the entire township at that time were the developments on these claims and that high grade phosphate rock was found near Spongberg's tunnel. This work included the following development:

Star No. 1 lode mining claim
- open cut and tunnel 59 feet long with a 16-foot drift (discovery point)
- open cut and tunnel 152 feet long

Star No. 2 lode mining claim
- open cut and tunnel 115 feet long (Spongberg's tunnel) (discovery point)
- open cut and tunnel 30 feet long
- open cut and tunnel 54 feet long
- open cut and tunnel 12 feet long
- open cut and tunnel 9 feet long

Star No. 3 lode mining claim
- shaft, 5x5x10 feet deep (discovery point)
- open cut 22 feet long
- open cut and tunnel 59 feet long

Table 6. Patented mining claims of the Consolidated Mine.

Claim Name	Date of Location	Mineral Survey Number	General Land Office Serial Number (Blackfoot)	Patent Number	Date of Patent
Star No. 1 Lode	April 25, 1908	MS 2765	BL-024025	592989	July 20, 1917
Star No. 2 Lode	April 25, 1908	MS 2765	BL-024025	592989	July 20, 1917
Star No. 3 Lode	April 25, 1908	MS 2765	BL-024025	592989	July 20, 1917

All three of the lode claims were located by Joseph Oakey, G. W. Nebeker, and G. Spongberg. The claimants sold the claims to the United States Phosphate Company of Michigan, L. A. Jeffs, agent. The claims were patented by that company.

The locators sold the three lode mining claims to the United States Phosphate Company of Michigan about 1914 or early 1915. That company filed papers with the State of Idaho to enable it to do business in Idaho on December 18, 1915. Lewis A. Jeffs, acting as an agent for the United States

Figure 68. Little Canyon spur off of Bloomington Canyon. Consolidated Mine at end of Little Canyon (arrows), August 12, 1975. Photo by Peter Oberlindacher, BLM.

Phosphate Company applied for a patent to the three claims on May 1, 1916, and the company received that patent on July 20, 1917.

There was an attempt to mine phosphate on the property from the west limb of an overturned syncline in 1920 (Butner, 1949). The United States Phosphate Company was unsuccessful in this venture but did recognize a relatively high vanadium content of the phosphate ore. Campbell (1921, 1922) reported that the property was idle in 1921 and 1922 and in fact, the United States Phosphate Company of Michigan transferred by quit claim deed the three patented claims on July 31, 1922 to Francis A. Jeffs, executor of the estate of Lewis A. Jeffs, a former agent of the company. The Company then voluntarily withdrew their rights to do business in Idaho on November 20, 1922. This brought to a close the first phase in the development of the Star lode mining claims. The three patented lode claims eventually became known as the "Jeff Phosphate Property" (Paris Post, 1930a).

In the later part of 1930, Solar Development Company, Ltd., acquired the property by lease and option from Francis A. Jeffs (Campbell, 1930) and began an extensive exploration program in Little Canyon (Service, 1966, 1967). Solar Development Company was a subsidiary of the Consolidated Mining and Smelting Co., Ltd. of Trail, British Columbia, Canada, and filed to do business in Idaho on

September 14, 1928. Campbell (1930) reported that the company constructed buildings, installed mining equipment and started sinking an inclined shaft in 1930 (Figure 69). The Paris Post (1930b) reported that the Solar Development Company was mining day and night with ore being rail shipped to the Consolidated plant at Trail, British Columbia. There was also a loading platform being built at the Oregon Short Line rail yard in Paris to speed shipments. Between 1930 and 1932, the Solar Development Company developed the Consolidated Mine. Several thousands of feet of drifts, crosscuts and raises were driven and ore mined from several stopes (Service, 1966, 1967). The mined ore was sent to the Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company's mill in Canada for beneficiation, and the finished triple superphosphate fertilizer product was marketed under the trade name of "Elephant Brand" (Campbell, 1931).

Figure 69. The Solar Development Company's Consolidated Mine, circa 1931. Photo from Campbell, 1931, p. 69.

In 1932, the inclined shaft was reported to be 200 feet deep with two intermediate lateral drifts, totaling about 3,500 feet of underground development (Campbell, 1932) (Figure 70). It has been reported that during January and February, 1932, Solar Development Company shipped about 3,500 tons of phosphate ore to the Consolidated mill in Trail, B. C. That apparently was the last shipment of ore because the mine was closed and all the equipment was removed in the early part of February, 1932. The lease and option held by Solar Development was returned to Francis A. Jeffs, the property owner. The Solar Development Company, Ltd., voluntarily withdrew their rights to do business in Idaho on

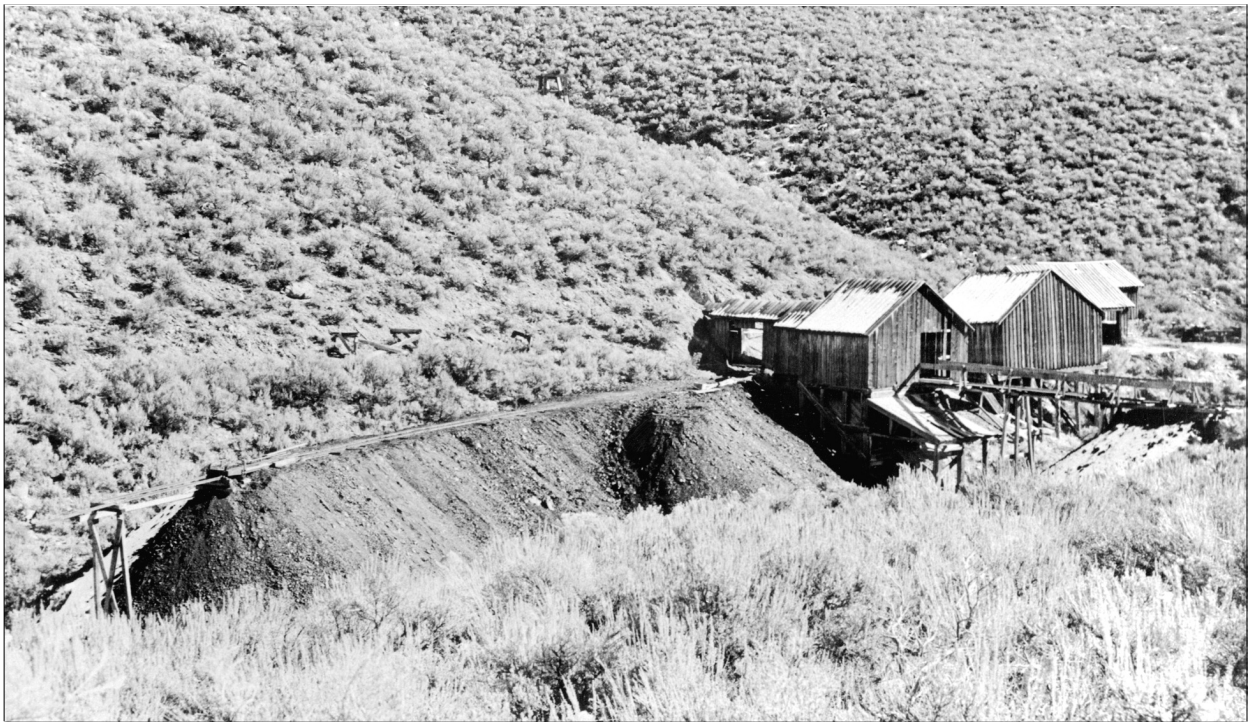

Figure 70. Portal of the Consolidated Mine showing the dump from the north and south drifts, circa 1943. Photo from Wyodak, 1943.

July 14, 1938. Thus, the second phase of phosphate mining on the patented Star lode mining claims came to a close. Figures 71, 72, and 73 show the Consolidated Mine as of the writing of this report.

The final phase of mining on the patented Star mining claims occurred in 1942-1943 and will be discussed later in this report under Wyodak's Paris-Bloomington vanadium exploration program.

Figure 71. The Consolidated Mine, June 25, 1996. Photo by the author.

Figure 72. Consolidated Mine showing the upper adit, June 25, 1966. Photo by the author.

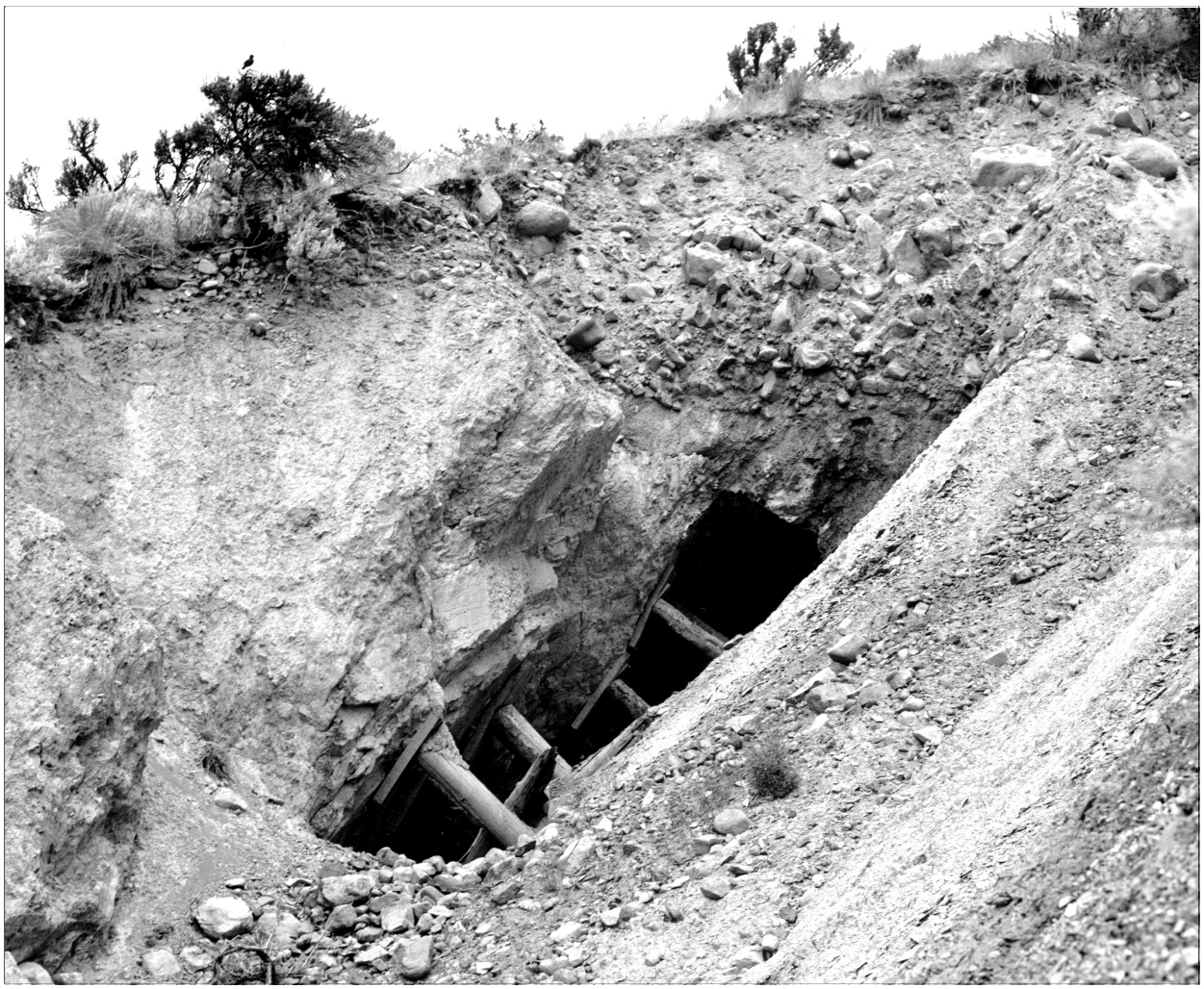

Figure 73. Upper adit, Consolidated Mine, June 25, 1966. Photo by Peter Oberlindacher, BLM.