

1 Vegetation

2
3 The study area's vegetation includes a mixed
4 hardwood forest, conifer glades, riverbank
5 vegetation, and maintained areas of open
6 mown lawn with remnant ornamental
7 vegetation. Vegetation for the study area and
8 Morning Star Community landscape character
9 area are described in this section.

10
11 The mixed hardwood forest includes
12 southern red oak (*Quercus falcata*),
13 hickory (*Carya spp.*), maple (*Acer spp.*), and
14 black locust (*Robinia pseudo-acacia*) as
15 predominant tree species. The lower canopy
16 is dense, particularly in lower elevations,
17 with mulberry (*Morus rubra*), sassafras
18 (*Sassafras albidum*), paw paw (*Asimina*
19 *triloba*), dogwood (*Cornus florida*), eastern
20 hophornbeam (*Ostrya virginiana*), and
21 leatherwood (*Dirca palustris*). Understory
22 plants include green brier, poison oak, and
23 wild grape.

24
25 Conifers, including Ashe's juniper (*Juniperus*
26 *ashei*) and eastern red cedar (*Juniperus*
27 *virginiana*) are on drier south facing slopes,
28 particularly on the higher elevations of Rush
29 Mountain. The Ashe's Juniper glade near
30 Morning Star Mine (M1) is described as a
31 "Special Element – Natural Community"
32 by Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission
33 and is being monitored.^{3.21} Plants in this
34 community are unique to the glade due to
35 their requirements for both soil condition and
36 topographic aspect.

37
38 In areas of mining activities, the forest is in
39 varied stages of succession. The south facing
40 slope of Rush Mountain was essentially
41 cleared of trees during active mining. Today
42 the mined slope is forested by eastern red

44 3.21 *Survey of the Morning Star Mine Interpretive Trail Unit:*
45 *Botanical Survey of 67 Acres and Recommendations.*
46 (Fayetteville: Hinterthuer Botanical Clearance and
Inventory, 2005).

47 cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*), chinkapin
48 oak (*Quercus muehlenbergii*), and bitternut
49 hickory (*Carya cordiformis*).

50
51 To the east and north of Rush Mountain,
52 the tree canopy is taller and more open,
53 presumably the forest has had a longer period
54 of time to regenerate since being cut in the
55 late 1800s/early 1900s. This forest has fewer
56 conifers, and includes maple, oak, and hickory.
57 Ferns appear on the northern slope adjacent
58 to Monte Cristo Mine (M10).

59
60 Riverbank vegetation includes cane breaks,
61 cottonwoods, and silver maples adjacent to
62 the creeks and Buffalo River.

63
64 Several areas are maintained as open mown
65 lawn. Rush Campground, Rush Landing
66 Shelter area, Rush Smelter and Morning
67 Star Livery Barn area, and House Row have
68 maintained landscapes of mown lawn. The
69 oldest trees in the study area are those
70 associated with specific buildings including
71 the former Courthouse site and at House
72 Row. These trees include southern red oak
73 (*Quercus falcata*), hickory (*Carya spp.*), and
74 southern catalpa (*Catalpa bignonioides*).

75
76 Non-native exotic plant species are associated
77 with areas that were historically yards,
78 gardens, or pastures. These were all likely
79 planted by the former residents. Extant
80 ornamental plant species include iris,
81 daffodils, lilac, grape hyacinth, forsythia,
82 Russian olive, mimosa, daylilies, and
83 flowering quince. Invasive exotic plant species
84 are those species planted by residents that
85 have now become problematic. These include
86 Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*),
87 Sericea lespedeza (*Lespedeza cuneata*),
88 multiflora rose (*Rosa spp.*), and yellow rocket
89 (*Barbarea vulgaris*).^{3.22} Non-native exotic
90 grasses have been found along Rush Road

91
92 3.22 *Botanical Survey of 67 Acres and Recommendations.*



Figure 3-85. Mixed hardwood forest near the Rush Blacksmith Shop. (Mundus Bishop 2017)



Figure 3-86. Oak-Hickory forest near Monte Cristo Mine (M10). (Mundus Bishop 2017)

1 and include fescue (*Lolium arundinaceum*),
2 downy brome (*Bromus tectorum*), Kentucky
3 bluegrass (*Poa pratensis*), Johnsongrass
4 (*Sorghum halepense*).

5

6 *Assessment of Integrity*

7 Prior to active mining, the study area was
8 heavily forested. The forest was clear cut to
9 accommodate mining activities and to fuel
10 mill machinery and homes. Bare hillsides
11 surrounding the developed area are evident
12 in historic photographs. Since the end of the
13 period of significance, the hardwood forest
14 has regrown and obscured relationships
15 between historic spaces. Dense understory
16 vegetation obscures features, making it
17 difficult to discern the study area's historic
18 appearance. Overgrown vegetation obscures
19 historic foundation ruins, spoils piles, and
20 mines, making it difficult to understand
21 the size and scale of mining and building
22 development. Vegetation has not regrown in
23 some places, most notably at the tailings pile
24 below Morning Star Mill ruins.

25

26 Present-day vegetation patterns and species
27 differ from the period of significance.
28 Historic man-made clearings are overgrown,
29 diminishing historic patterns of use and
30 settlement. The dense vegetation growing in
31 formerly cleared areas does not contribute
32 to the significance of the study area. The
33 vegetation in other areas, including the
34 mixed hardwood forest, conifer glades,
35 and riverbank vegetation contribute to the
36 character of the study area. Areas of open
37 mown lawn, ornamental vegetation, and
38 extant trees associated with specific buildings
39 retain integrity and contribute to the cultural
40 landscape.

41

42

43

44

45

46



Figure 3-87. Ashe's juniper glade near Morning Star Mine (M1). (Mundus Bishop 2017)



Figure 3-88. Successional forest near Yellow Rose Mine Complex (M7) and Edith Mine Complex (M12). (Mundus Bishop 2017)



Figure 3-89. Several large oak and hickory trees are extant from the period of significance, located near extant buildings and ruins. (Mundus Bishop 2017)

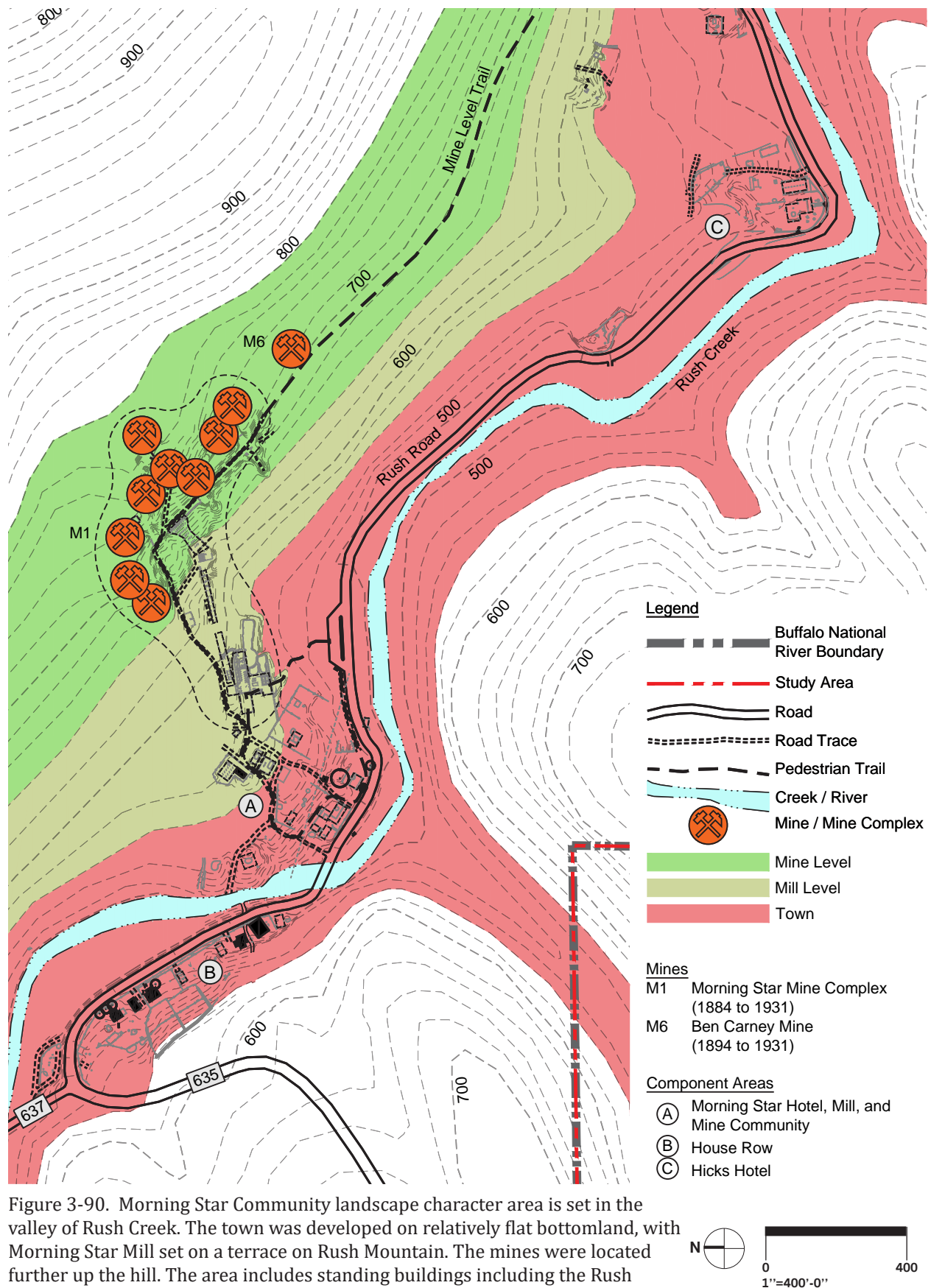


Figure 3-90. Morning Star Community landscape character area is set in the valley of Rush Creek. The town was developed on relatively flat bottomland, with Morning Star Mill set on a terrace on Rush Mountain. The mines were located further up the hill. The area includes standing buildings including the Rush Smelter, Taylor-Medley General Store, Rush Blacksmith Shop, and numerous ruins including the Morning Star Mill ruins, and Hicks General Store ruins.

(Mundus Bishop 2017, USGS 2013 - National Geographic Society, Arkansas GIS, Google Maps 2017, Historic Resource Documentation Morning Star Mines Interpretive Area, Cultural Landscapes Inventory 2012)

Morning Star Community Landscape Character Area

1 Morning Star Community landscape character
2 area represents the most intensely developed
3 area in Rush Historic District. Built primarily
4 between the late 1880s and 1930s, the
5 community developed due to the prosperous
6 Morning Star Mine (M1). Major features
7 include Morning Star Mine, the Morning Star
8 Mill, Rush Blacksmith Shop, Rush Smelter,
9 buildings at House Row, Hicks Hotel, and
10 Hicks General Store.

11
12 This section describes the existing condition
13 of the Morning Star Community landscape
14 character area, and analyzes its integrity. It
15 is organized to describe the entire landscape
16 character area as a whole, followed by
17 descriptions of three component areas.

- 18
- 19 • Morning Star Hotel, Mill, and Mine
- 20 Community
- 21 • House Row
- 22 • Hicks Hotel

23
24 Spatial organization, circulation, and
25 vegetation is described for the Morning
26 Star Community landscape character area
27 as a whole, and is presented first. The three
28 component areas are described separately
29 and are presented last.

30 31 **Spatial Organization**

32
33 Morning Star Community landscape character
34 area is set in the valley floor of Rush Creek
35 with steep hillsides to the north and south.
36 Rush Creek and Rush Road define a central
37 spine through the community from which
38 buildings and developments are offset.
39 The Morning Star Community landscape
40 character area consists of House Row to
41 the east, Morning Star Hotel, Mill, and Mine
42 Community in the middle, and Hicks Hotel on
43 the west.

44 House Row is situated on the east side of Rush
45 Creek, set parallel to Rush Road. Structures
46 face the road in an open area framed by
47 dense forest. House Row is distinct from the
48 remainder of the Morning Star Community
49 landscape character area, separated by Rush
50 Creek and dense vegetation.

51
52 Morning Star Hotel, Mill, and Mine are on a
53 terrace and hillside of Rush Mountain. An
54 open lawn is in front of, and surrounding, the
55 extant Rush Smelter and foundation of the
56 non-extant Morning Star Livery Barn. Forest
57 vegetation covers the sites of the Post Office
58 ruins, Courthouse site, Barn Ruins, Doctor's/
59 maxey House Ruins, Morning Star Hotel ruins,
60 Lyons House Ruins, Warehouse ruins, Chase
61 and Mulholland Store ruins, and Morning Star
62 Mine Office ruins. Morning Star Mill ruins are
63 set on a level terrace above the rest of these
64 structures.

65
66 Hicks Hotel is on the east side of the
67 landscape character area, set on an elevated
68 terrace above a bend in Rush Road. It is
69 physically distinct from the other component
70 areas, separated by topography.

71 72 *Assessment of Integrity*

73 Historically the three component areas were
74 visually and physically connected. Forest
75 vegetation was kept to a minimum during
76 the period of significance and open pastures
77 and yard spaces allowed for lines of sight
78 and views across the landscape. Circulation
79 routes physically connected the Morning
80 Star Community landscape character area,
81 including Rush Road and other vehicular
82 routes through the Morning Star Hotel, Mill,
83 and Mine Community.

84
85 Few changes have been made to the spatial
86 organization since the end of the period



Figure 3-91. House Row contains the highest number of extant buildings in the study area. It is situated on the east side of Rush Creek, set parallel to Rush Road. An open lawn area surrounds the five extant buildings, framed by dense forest and shade trees that date to the period of significance. Former yard and pasture areas were located behind the buildings. (Mundus Bishop 2017)



Figure 3-92. Morning Star Trail at the Rush Blacksmith Shop and site of the Morning Star Mine Office ruins. (Mundus Bishop 2017)

1 of significance, except for loss of visual
 2 connections. Vegetation growth has resulted
 3 in loss of connections between spaces.
 4 The spatial organization of Morning Star
 5 Community landscape character area retains
 6 integrity and is a contributing feature of the
 7 study area.

8 **Circulation**

10
 11 M within the Morning Star Community
 12 landscape character area includes Rush Road
 13 as the main vehicular route, abandoned
 14 roads to Morning Star Mill, and Hicks Hill
 15 Road Trace. Pedestrian circulation includes
 16 Morning Star Trail that connects to the Mine
 17 Level Trail (described previously under Study
 18 Area).

19
 20 Rush Road is the central spine of the
 21 landscape, and is the only circulation route
 22 for House Row, where it is wide enough for
 23 parallel parking adjacent the structures. Slight
 24 grade changes between some of the houses
 25 indicate former driveways.

26
 27 At Morning Star Hotel, Mill, and Mine
 28 Community, Rush Road is the only vehicular
 29 route. Two road traces connect to Rush
 30 Road on either side of the Morning Star
 31 Hotel ruins. These routes are separated
 32 from Rush Road by a change in grade and
 33 are mostly overgrown with vegetation. The
 34 route furthest east continues north, uphill
 35 towards Morning Star Mine Office ruins. The
 36 west route continues north uphill where
 37 it connects to an east-west route below
 38 Chase and Mulholland Store Ruins. Based on
 39 historic maps, this road once crossed Rush
 40 Creek, further north and west of the existing
 41 crossing. This portion of the route was not
 42 verified during field investigations. The
 43 network of roads at Morning Star Hotel, Mill,
 44 and Mine Community form a grid, connecting
 45 Rush Road with buildings on the hillside and
 46 the mine. These routes are overgrown with

47 young vegetation but are legible as former
 48 routes.
 49
 50 Vehicular circulation at Hicks Hotel is
 51 provided by Rush Road and a road trace to the
 52 east of Hicks General Store ruins. This route
 53 is not legible at the intersection with Rush
 54 Road, but becomes more evident as it ascends
 55 the hillside north of the store. Although
 56 overgrown with young trees it is visible as a
 57 slight trace.

58
 59 Pedestrian circulation includes Morning Star
 60 Trail. This trail makes a loop through Morning
 61 Star Hotel, Mill, and Mine Community. It
 62 begins at the parking at Rush Road, below
 63 Morning Star Mill ruins. The trail follows
 64 the remnant historic roads for a portion of
 65 its length. It crosses behind Morning Star
 66 Hotel ruins, and at Morning Star Mill ruins
 67 it becomes a new route across the historic
 68 retaining wall to descend the hillside.

69
 70 Morning Star Trail connects to the longer
 71 Mine Level Trail on the hillside above
 72 the Morning Star Hotel, Mill, and Mine
 73 Community on Rush Mountain. The Mine
 74 Level Trail follows the alignment of the
 75 former trail and tramway that led to Morning
 76 Star Mine (M1), used by miners during the
 77 period of significance.

78 *79 Assessment of Integrity*

80 The current vehicular circulation within
 81 Morning Star Community landscape
 82 character area follows the same configuration
 83 as during the period of significance.
 84 Historically, pedestrian circulation took
 85 place on roadways. The Morning Star Trail
 86 provides visitor access and waysides convey
 87 interpretive information, but they both
 88 disrupt historic spatial patterns and are not
 89 contributing features.

90
 91 All vehicular routes retain integrity and
 92 contribute to the cultural landscape. Rush



Figure 3-93. The opening in the woodland vegetation marks the foundation of Morning Star Livery Barn and provides a view from Rush Road into the formerly developed area. (Mundus Bishop 2017)



Figure 3-94. Morning Star Mill ruins include a series of concrete and stone piers, a stone retaining wall at the northern slope, a concrete platform for the engine, and a stone and brick boiler room. The mill is set on a level terrace above the remainder of Morning Star Hotel, Mill, and Mine Community. (Mundus Bishop 2017)

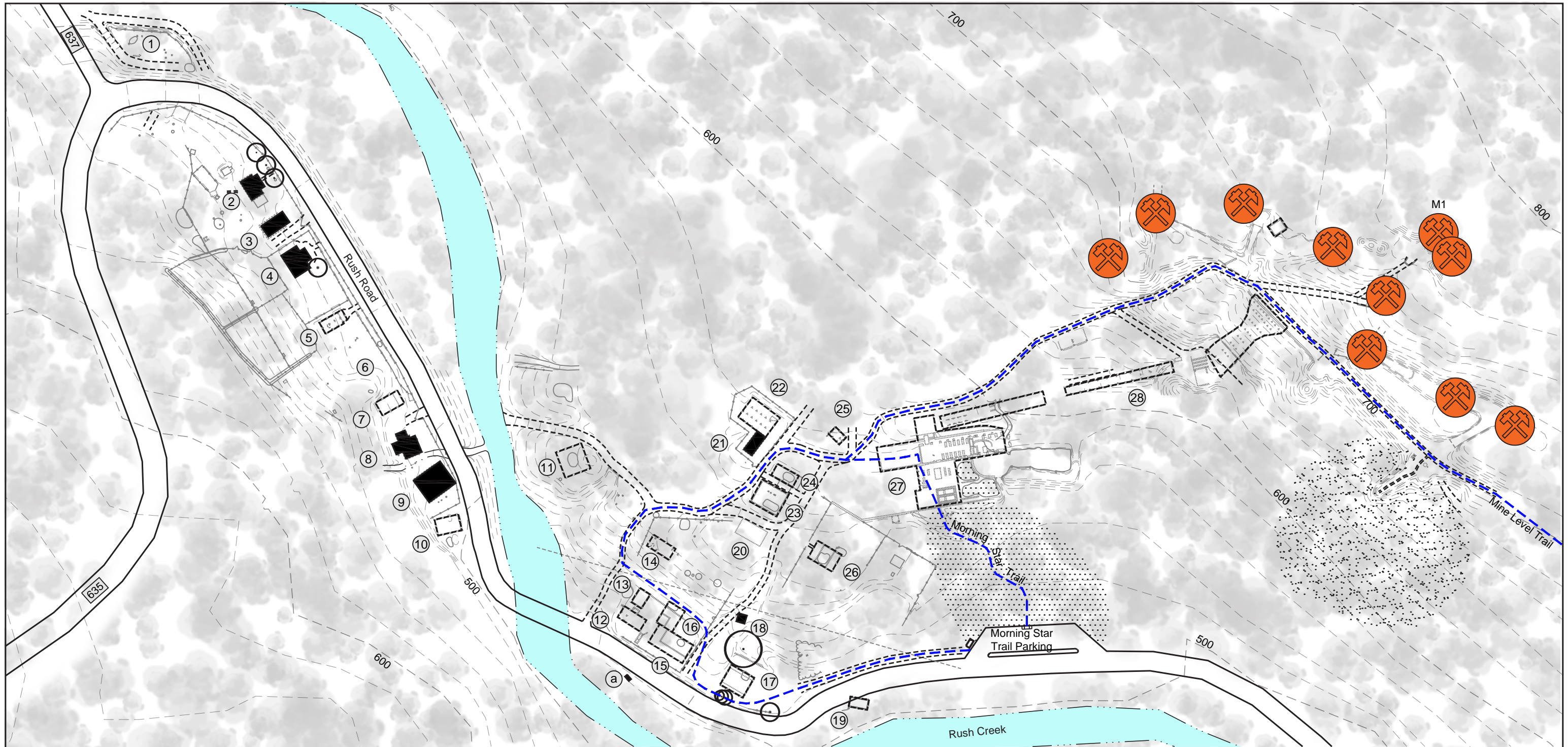
1 Road retains the original alignment and	47 Community landscape character area. Overall
2 remains the major route through Morning	48 vegetation was much sparser than it is today,
3 Star Community landscape character area. A	49 particularly the forests. By the 1950s and
4 newer parking lot below Morning Star Mill	50 1960s, hillsides reforested naturally making
5 ruins was established by the NPS in 1988 and	51 Morning Star Community landscape character
6 does not contribute to the cultural landscape.	52 area overgrown with trees and underbrush.
7 Mining Company roads are in fair to poor	53 Extant large trees that date from the period
8 condition but retain original alignments	54 of significance, ornamental vegetation,
9 and integrity. Since the end of the period of	55 and open lawn areas around House Row
10 significance, roads other than Rush Road have	56 and Rush Smelter assist in maintaining the
11 been closed off and are in various states of	57 historic character of the landscape character
12 deterioration.	58 area. These latter vegetation patterns retain
13	59 integrity and contribute to the cultural
14 Vegetation	60 landscape.
15	61
16 Morning Star Community landscape character	62
17 area's vegetation consists of oak hickory	63
18 forest on the hillsides of Rush Mountain,	64
19 and cleared areas around building clusters.	65
20 Grasses are mown around the structures	66
21 at House Row, and Rush Smelter and the	67
22 Morning Star Livery Barn ruins. A row of trees	68
23 lines Rush Road at House Row. Evidence of	69
24 historic gardens and perennial plantings is	70
25 extant including iris, daffodils and roses at	71
26 House Row. Historic trees, evidenced by their	72
27 large size, are near the former Courthouse	73
28 site and Morning Star Livery Barn ruins.	74
29 Ornamental plantings including daffodils,	75
30 daylilies, and flowering quince, are extant	76
31 at Hicks Hotel. Other historic plantings may	77
32 include roses, lilac, grape hyacinths, forsythia,	78
33 Russian olive, and mimosa. ^{3.23}	79
34	80
35 <i>Assessment of Integrity</i>	81
36 During the period of significance, vegetation	82
37 was maintained around buildings and	83
38 structures. Forest vegetation was cleared	84
39 on the hillsides, and gardens, lawns, and	85
40 shade trees were planted and maintained as	86
41 residential landscapes.	87
42	88
43 Through the 1930s, vegetation was kept	89
44 low and to a minimum within Morning Star	90
45	91
46 3.23 <i>Botanical Survey of 67 Acres and Recommendations.</i>	92



Figure 3-95. Morning Star Hotel, Mill, and Mine Community includes the ruins of several buildings and structures. Left to right, Morning Star Hotel, Chase and Mulholland Store, Morning Star Mine Office, Rush Smelter, Morning Star Livery Barn, and Smith House. (BUFF Archives)



Figure 3-96. Extant trees and ornamental vegetation at Hicks Hotel assist in maintaining the historic character of the landscape character area. (Mundus Bishop 2017)



Buildings and Structures

- | | |
|--|--|
| ① Mulholland Buildings Site (c 1900 to 1920) | ①⑦ Morning Star Livery Barn Ruins (c 1899) |
| ② Bundy House (c 1899) | ①⑧ Rush Smelter (1886) |
| ③ Wash House (c 1899) | ①⑨ Morning Star Mill Pumphouse Ruins (1926) |
| ④ Kastning House (c 1899) | ②⑩ Unknown Building (Unknown Date) |
| ⑤ Brantley House (c 1899) | ②① Rush Blacksmith Shop (1925) |
| ⑥ Gotley House Site (c 1899) | ②② Warehouse Ruins (1927) |
| ⑦ Raby House (c 1899) | ②③ Chase and Mulholland Store Ruins (c 1899) |
| ⑧ Storekeeper's House (c 1899) | ②④ Morning Star Mine Office Ruins (c 1911) |
| ⑨ Taylor - Medley General Store (c 1899) | ②⑤ Oil Storage House Ruins (c 1911) |
| ⑩ Store Site (date unk) | ②⑥ Smith House Ruins (c 1899) |
| ⑪ Courthouse Site (c 1916) | ②⑦ Morning Star Mill Ruins (c 1898) |
| ⑫ Post Office Ruins (c 1890) | ②⑧ Tramway Ruins (c 1898) |
| ⑬ Barn Ruins (1902) | |
| ⑭ Doctor's / Maxey House Ruins (c 1916) | |
| ⑮ Morning Star Hotel Ruins (c 1900) | |
| ⑯ Lyons House Ruins (c 1925) | |

Circulation

- ① a Footbridge Pillar (c 1915)

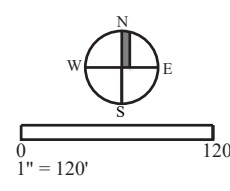
Legend

- Road
- Pedestrian Trail
- Creek / River
- Mine / Mine Complex
- Extant Building
- Building Ruins
- Road Trace
- Remnant Feature
- Morning Star Mine Waste Rock Pile
- Morning Star Mill Tailings Pile

Mines

- M1 Morning Star Mine Complex (1884 to 1931)

Sources:
 USGS 2013 - National Geographic Society, Arkansas GIS (<https://gis.arkansas.gov/>), Google Maps 2017, Historic Resource Documentation Morning Star Mines Interpretive Area, Cultural Landscapes Inventory 2012



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 173/141247

TITLE OF PROJECT
**CULTURAL LANDSCAPE REPORT
 AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**
 TITLE OF DRAWING
 EXISTING CONDITION - MORNING STAR HOTEL, MILL, AND MINE COMMUNITY, AND HOUSE ROW
 NAME OF PARK
RUSH HISTORIC DISTRICT
 REGION COUNTY STATE
 MIDWEST MARION ARKANSAS
 Illustration 3-2.
 3-83

1 **Morning Star Hotel, Mill, and Mine**

2 **Community**

3

4 **Spatial Organization**

5

6 Morning Star Hotel, Mill, and Mine

7 Community is set on the north side of Rush
8 Creek on the slope of Rush Mountain. The
9 ruins of the Morning Star Hotel, Post Office,
10 Courthouse, and Morning Star Livery Barn
11 are located closest to Rush Road. Uphill
12 and in a small cleared area is the extant
13 Rush Blacksmith Shop, and the ruins of
14 the Morning Star Mine Office, Chase and
15 Mulholland Store, and Warehouse. The
16 Morning Star Mill ruins are on a level terrace
17 west and uphill of the Morning Star Mine
18 Office ruins. Morning Star Mine (M1) is
19 located further uphill of Morning Star Mill
20 ruins.

21

22 An open lawn surrounds the extant Rush
23 Smelter. This opening in the woodland
24 vegetation marks the foundation of Morning
25 Star Livery Barn ruins and provides a view
26 from Rush Road into the formerly developed
27 area. Forest vegetation covers the ruins of
28 Morning Star Hotel, Courthouse, and Post
29 Office.

30

31 The extant Rush Blacksmith Shop and ruins of
32 the Warehouse, Chase and Mulholland Store,
33 and Morning Star Mine Office are separated
34 by dense vegetation and topography from
35 Morning Star Hotel ruins.

36

37 Morning Star Mill is set on a level terrace
38 slightly uphill and east of Morning Star Mine
39 Office. Mill ruins are oriented parallel to the
40 hillside contours. Above the mill is Morning
41 Star Mine (M1). Directly to the south and
42 downhill is the mill's tailings pile that is
43 sparsely vegetated and extends to Rush Road.

44

45 *Assessment of Integrity*

46 Few changes have been made to the spatial

47 organization since the end of the period
48 of significance. In 1988 the NPS added the
49 Morning Star Trail that forms a loop through
50 the Morning Star Hotel and Mill. The trail
51 crosses Morning Star Mill ruins and Morning
52 Star Mill Stone Retaining Wall, dividing the
53 space. This diminishes the sense of the size
54 of the terrace and mill operation. In another
55 location, the trail crosses a former yard space
56 behind Morning Star Hotel ruins. Together,
57 the trail and dense vegetation diminish the
58 historic spatial relationships.

59

60 The growth of vegetation over time has
61 diminished the setting and feeling as it
62 obscures the scale of the historic mining
63 operations. The extent of the community is no
64 longer evident due to the loss of buildings and
65 overgrown vegetation. This acts to visually
66 separate the mill ruins from the adjacent
67 community.

68

69 **Buildings and Structures/Ruins**

70

71 The only standing buildings and structures
72 are the Rush Blacksmith Shop and Rush
73 Smelter. These date from the period of
74 significance and retain integrity. Most
75 buildings and structures are ruins, including
76 Morning Star Hotel, Morning Star Mine
77 Office, Morning Star Livery Barn, Post Office,
78 Courthouse, Chase and Mulholland Store,
79 and Warehouse. In some cases, foundations,
80 footings, chimneys, and other evidence of
81 buildings are visible on the surface. Other
82 resources likely remain below-grade.

83

84 After the period of significance buildings
85 were abandoned. Some were dismantled
86 by the Morning Star Mine Company, i.e., the
87 Chase and Mulholland Store and Morning
88 Star Mine Office that was demolished in the
89 1960s. Others either collapsed or burned
90 later. Overgrown vegetation growth obscures
91 many building locations, making it difficult
92 to discern the mass, scale and extent of the



Figure 3-97. Morning Star Hotel, date unknown. (BUFF Archives)



Figure 3-98. Stone retaining wall rubble near Morning Star Hotel ruins, Lyons House ruins, Post Office ruins, and Barn ruins area. (Mundus Bishop 2017)

1 historic development of Morning Star Hotel,
2 Mill, and Mine Community.

3

4 Morning Star Mill

5

6 Morning Star Mill was built in 1898 and was
7 connected to Morning Star Mine (M1), Ben
8 Carney Mine, and Capps Mine (M11) by an
9 elevated tramway. Today mill ruins include a
10 series of parallel concrete and stone piers, a
11 stone retaining wall at the northern slope, a
12 concrete platform for the engine and a stone
13 and brick boiler room. A stone retaining
14 wall extends east to west along the hillside
15 providing level space for mill building and
16 operations. A large retention basin is extant to
17 the south, excavated into the earth and fed by
18 a small natural drainage from Rush Mountain.
19 Tailings piles are to the south and downhill of
20 the mill. The mass and scale of this building
21 and its relationship to other mine features
22 is not discernible today due to overgrown
23 vegetation.

24

25 *Assessment of Integrity*

26 The Rush Blacksmith Shop and Rush Smelter
27 retain historic integrity and contribute to the
28 cultural landscape. Non-extant buildings from
29 the period of significance are evident as ruins.
30 Their absence diminishes the integrity of the
31 study area.

32

33 **Mines**

34

35 *Morning Star Mine (M1) (1884 to 1935)*

36 Morning Star Mine (M1) was active from 1884
37 to 1935. It was the first and most famous
38 mine in Rush Historic District.

39

40 A portion of the Morning Star Mine (M1)
41 consists of an open-pit mine – a long narrow
42 open cut, approximately 400 feet long, 100
43 feet wide and 50 feet deep. The open cut
44 is the most obvious feature of the mine,
45 although it is not readily visible from the
46 Mine Level Trail. Rock fall within a portion of

47 the open cut conceals its full length. Morning
48 Star Mine also includes at least 6 adits at the
49 same elevation that extend into the rock face
50 west of the open cut. The overhang on most
51 portals are cracked and some are collapsed.
52 Additional adits extend into the hillside above
53 with no obvious portal. Morning Star Mine
54 open cut and adits are revegetated. The mines
55 are not easily seen from the Mine Level Trail
56 due to the overgrown vegetation. Chainlink
57 fencing secures the main entrance into
58 Morning Star Mine open cut and adits. Portals
59 also have metal grates. An enormous spoils
60 pile extends south downhill from Morning
61 Star Mine to the edge of Rush Road. Today
62 the spoils pile is covered with trees, making it
63 difficult to discern its immense size.

64

65 *Assessment of Integrity*

66 The Morning Star Mine (M1) retains historic
67 integrity and contributes to the cultural
68 landscape.

69

70 **Small Scale Features**

71

72 Contributing small scale features include
73 stone retaining walls, a concrete pier possibly
74 for a footbridge adjacent Rush Creek, a scale
75 pit, cellar depressions, and trash pits. A dry-
76 stacked stone retaining wall extends at the
77 edge of the tramway, varying in height at the
78 lower edge of the tramway. This dates from
79 the period of significance. The scale pit is
80 between the former Chase and Mulholland
81 Store and Morning Star Mine Office. The
82 scale pit was used to weigh the ore once
83 it left the mill. Today the pit is visible as a
84 clear depression between the two building
85 foundations.

86

87 Historic photographs indicate that during the
88 period of significance small scale features
89 were limited to fences, retaining walls,
90 garbage pits, and the scale pit. Fences appear
91 to have been wood post with horizontal wood
92 rails. These are not extant.



Figure 3-99. Morning Star Livery Barn, 1926. (BUFF Archives)



Figure 3-100. Morning Star Livery Barn ruins. (Mundus Bishop 2017)

1	<i>Assessment of Integrity</i>	47	By the 1960s, after buildings were
2	Since the period of significance features	48	abandoned, this area reforested naturally
3	have deteriorated and it is likely that many	49	and the once sparsely vegetated area became
4	have been lost, or exist as archeological	50	overgrown with trees and understory species.
5	remains. Additions made after the period of	51	This vegetation does not contribute to the
6	significance include contemporary fences,	52	study area and due to the dense vegetation it
7	signs, and benches. These features are non-	53	is difficult to discern the community spaces.
8	contributing.	54	
9		55	Extant large trees near the former Courthouse
10	Vegetation	56	site and Morning Star Livery Barn ruins date
11		57	from the period of significance and contribute
12	Vegetation at Morning Star Hotel, Mill, and	58	to the cultural landscape. The open area
13	Mine Community includes oak hickory forest	59	of mown grasses at the Rush Smelter also
14	and grasses are around buildings. Mown	60	contributes to the study area, as this area has
15	grasses are at the Rush Smelter and Morning	61	historically grassed with few trees.
16	Star Livery Barn ruins. Grasses and low	62	
17	shrubs occur at the Morning Star Mine Office	63	
18	ruins, obscuring the foundation. Vegetation	64	
19	at Morning Star Mill ruins is limited to young	65	
20	trees, grasses, and smaller shrubs including	66	
21	smooth sumac (<i>Rhus glabra</i>). Groves of	67	
22	eastern red cedar grow over the mill boiler	68	
23	room, engine room, retaining walls, and	69	
24	retention basins.	70	
25		71	
26	Extant historic trees are near the former	72	
27	Courthouse site and Morning Star Livery Barn	73	
28	ruins. These include large oak, hickory, and	74	
29	catalpa trees. Dense vegetation covers the	75	
30	sites of the Morning Star Hotel ruins, Post	76	
31	Office ruins, Courthouse site, Smith House	77	
32	ruins, and Oil Storage House ruins.	78	
33		79	
34	<i>Assessment of Integrity</i>	80	
35	During the period of significance, the area	81	
36	was largely cleared of trees except for a few	82	
37	that provided shade at buildings. Historic	83	
38	photos from the 1900s indicate a fenced lawn	84	
39	at the Morning Star Hotel, encompassing the	85	
40	hotel, post office, and barn. A fenced lawn was	86	
41	also at the Smith House. Shade trees edged	87	
42	the perimeter of the lawn and at building	88	
43	entrances. A fenced pasture surrounded the	89	
44	Morning Star Livery Barn. Trees had been cut	90	
45	on the slope around the mill and mines.	91	
46		92	



Figure 3-101. Oil Storage House ruins. (Mundus Bishop 2017)



Figure 3-102. Stone retaining wall at Chase and Mulholland Store. (Mundus Bishop 2017)