

## Chapter 2. Site History

### Historical Overview

1 Rush Historic District (study area) is a former  
2 zinc mining district and remnant industrial  
3 landscape. It contains the remains of open-pit  
4 and underground zinc mines, concentrating  
5 mills, and a community of housing and retail  
6 establishments. The study area is listed in the  
7 National Register of Historic Places (NRHP),  
8 with a period of significance covering the  
9 area's productive zinc mining period of 1885  
10 to 1931.

11  
12 Before its establishment as a zinc mining  
13 district, the landscape was inhabited by  
14 American Indians. The lush natural setting of  
15 the Buffalo River Valley drew people to the  
16 area as early as the Dalton period (10500  
17 to 9500 BP). They established temporary  
18 settlements at the confluence of Rush Creek  
19 and Buffalo River. By 800 AD, they had  
20 permanent dwellings and practiced small  
21 scale horticulture, growing squash and maize  
22 along the banks of the river were established.

23  
24 Beginning in the early 19th century, French  
25 settlers prospected for minerals in the Ozark  
26 Highlands. Zinc ore was discovered on Rush  
27 Mountain around 1880 near the site of the  
28 future Morning Star Mine. Prospectors were  
29 hopeful that the ore contained silver and  
30 built a smelter to process it. No silver was  
31 found. The smelter was abandoned, and  
32 remains today. However, the ores of Rush  
33 Mountain were very rich in zinc content (40  
34 to nearly 70% zinc) containing possibly the  
35 highest grade zinc ever discovered in North  
36 America.<sup>2.1</sup>

37  
38 In 1885 Morning Star Mine (M1) was  
39 founded, formally kicking off the mining  
40 industry and subsequent boom. Over time

41  
42 2.1 Suzanne Rogers, et al. *Historic Resource Documentation,*  
43 *Morning Star Mines Interpretive Area, Rush Historic*  
44 *District.* (U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park  
Service, 2006), II-5.

45 mines opened along Rush and Clabber creeks,  
46 creating the community first called Buffalo  
47 Mining District and later known as Rush  
48 Mining District.<sup>2.2</sup> Mines were established  
49 in the district, including White Eagle Mine  
50 (M2), Red Cloud Mine (M3), McIntosh Mine  
51 (M5), Ben Carney Mine (M6), and Yellow Rose  
52 Mine (M7). This contributed to the broader  
53 zinc industry in the Midwest, shipping ore  
54 for smelting to Van Buren, Fort Smith, and St.  
55 Louis.<sup>2.3</sup>

56  
57 Zinc is a component of the alloys brass  
58 and bronze. The zinc extracted at Rush  
59 Historic District was used in weapons and  
60 ammunition, and for common materials such  
61 as roofing, water tanks, paints, and rubber.  
62 Many of the first zinc deposits extracted were  
63 of relatively pure composition that did not  
64 require further processing before smelting.  
65 As demand for zinc grew, the purest deposits  
66 were mined out and mine owners invested  
67 in concentration mills with equipment that  
68 could roll, crush, and extract the zinc from the  
69 surrounding rock.

70  
71 The demand for zinc ebbed and flowed  
72 through the early 20th century. Mines  
73 would open, close, and reopen based on  
74 market prices. The start of World War I  
75 brought new demand for zinc, as munitions  
76 manufacturers sought out the material. As  
77 market pricing increased, mining operations  
78 accelerated resulting in a mining boom.

79 This led to ten different mining companies  
80 operating fourteen separate mines within  
81 the mining district.<sup>2.4</sup> As thousands of miners  
82 arrived, the community expanded to include  
83 hotels, stores, a post office, courthouse, and

84

85 2.2 Rogers et al., *Morning Star Mines Interpretive Area*, III-7.

86 2.3 Rogers et al., *Morning Star Mines Interpretive Area*, II-2.

87 2.4 Eleven mines are located in the study area. Three mines,  
88 Philadelphia Mine (M4), Leader Mine, and Beulah Mine,  
are outside NPS property and the NRHP boundary.

## Statement of Significance and Period of Significance

1 permanent residences. The influx of residents  
2 outpaced available housing, and many miners  
3 lived in tents.

4  
5 The mining boom became a bust towards the  
6 end of the war. National stockpiling of zinc led  
7 to a dramatic drop in prices. The majority of  
8 American zinc mines closed in the postwar  
9 recession. The closing of Morning Star Mine  
10 (M1) in 1931 marked the true end of the  
11 mining boom.<sup>2.5</sup> Efforts continued sporadically  
12 to reignite the mining industry but the arrival  
13 of the Great Depression kept investment low,  
14 and World War II failed to bring new business  
15 to the community. Gradually the residents of  
16 Rush left the town, and the post office closed  
17 in 1953. In the late 1950s investors made  
18 another attempt to revive the mining industry,  
19 while the remaining residents advertised the  
20 'Rush Ghost Town' in an attempt to generate  
21 tourism dollars. The last industrial mining  
22 ended when the New White Eagle Mine closed  
23 in 1962. With the closure of that mine the  
24 final residents relocated.

25  
26 The 1970s conservation movement brought  
27 changes to the region. The U.S. Army Corps  
28 of Engineers proposed two dams, Lone Rock  
29 on the lower river and Gilbert on the middle  
30 river. This served as a rallying point for  
31 environmentalists who advocated the river's  
32 continued conservation and recreational  
33 use. In 1972, Public Law 92-237 established  
34 Buffalo National River to preserve the river  
35 as a free-flowing stream, and the area which  
36 eventually became Rush Historic District  
37 came under jurisdiction of the NPS.

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40  
41  
42  
43 2.5 Rogers et al., *Morning Star Mines Interpretive Area*, II-23.

44 Rush Historic District's contributing  
45 resources have been listed in the NRHP under  
46 Criteria A, C, and D, representing a period  
47 of significance covering the productive zinc  
48 mining era, 1885 to 1931.

49  
50 The study area is associated with the mining  
51 industry of the Ozark Highlands, and its  
52 significance is evident in the mines, spoils  
53 piles, mill ruins, road and tramway networks,  
54 and community of stores, offices, and  
55 residences, now largely evidenced as ruins  
56 and lesser traces on the landscape. The study  
57 area's remnant features express the history of  
58 zinc mining and associated community life in  
59 the Ozark Highlands. The extant vernacular  
60 and industrial building styles express the  
61 design of Ozark culture and exemplify the  
62 forms of an isolated mining settlement. The  
63 built environment encapsulates a range of  
64 activities that occurred during the mining era,  
65 and reflects the regional economic influence  
66 of the mining industry. The successful mines  
67 stimulated development throughout northern  
68 Arkansas, providing jobs, encouraging  
69 settlement, contributing to the arrival of the  
70 railroad, and providing national publicity for  
71 the value of Arkansas minerals. The size and  
72 scale of the mines and mining companies  
73 were more than any other mining district in  
74 northern Arkansas.

75  
76 Rush Historic District contains buildings  
77 and features that represent the vernacular  
78 construction of the Ozark Highlands.  
79 Remaining houses depict common rural styles  
80 found in the Ozark Highlands in the early 20th  
81 century – simple massing and roof forms,  
82 vertical board construction, front porches,  
83 and stone pier foundations. Inexpensive  
84 materials, such as local stone, metal roofs, and  
85 newspaper insulation, indicate vernacular  
86 building traditions.

87



## Periods of Landscape Development

1 The study area's archeological features,  
2 including ruins and artifacts below-grade,  
3 have the ability to provide archeological  
4 information concerning the industrial and  
5 social life during the period of significance.  
6  
7 The period of significance, 1885 to 1931,  
8 captures the study area's development from  
9 a small mining outpost using crude mining  
10 techniques to a thriving commercial center  
11 utilizing modern methods. The end date  
12 marks the permanent closing of Morning Star  
13 Mine Complex (M1), the dominant mining  
14 operation.

44 Five periods of landscape change describe the  
45 physical evolution of Rush Historic District.  
46 The beginning and end of each period  
47 corresponds to, and documents, a point of  
48 major physical modifications or significant  
49 change in development patterns.

50  
51 These periods of development are described  
52 through narrative text and illustrations. One  
53 period falls within the period of significance,  
54 as noted in bold italic text.

55  
56 *Pre-European American Settlement (pre 1800)*

57  
58 *Early European American Settlement (1800 to*  
59 *1885)*

60  
61 ***The Mining Era (1885 to 1931)***

62  
63 *Post-Mining Era (1932 to 1971)*

64  
65 *Buffalo National River to Present Day (1972 to*  
66 *Present Day)*

## 1 Pre-European American Settlement (pre 2 1800)

3  
4 American Indian groups inhabited the Ozark  
5 Highlands beginning in the Paleo-Indian  
6 period. During the Archaic period (9500  
7 BP) the region warmed, bringing forth the  
8 deciduous forest and pine uplands that are  
9 extant today. By 800 AD, American Indians  
10 had established a permanent settlement at  
11 the confluence of Rush Creek and Buffalo  
12 River. They cleared the forest adjacent to the  
13 river and utilized the river terrace for crop  
14 production, growing domesticated plants of  
15 squash, gourds, and maize.

## 17 12000 to 9000 BP

18  
19 The Paleo-Indian period marks the earliest  
20 record of people living in the Ozark  
21 Highlands. People resided in the valleys and  
22 ridgetops, and utilized bluff shelters. These  
23 early people employed a variety of stone  
24 tools for killing and harvesting big game, and  
25 harvested nuts and berries.<sup>2.6</sup>

## 27 10500 to 9500 BP

28  
29 The Dalton period represents the expansion  
30 of generalized hunting and gathering  
31 adaptations to a changing environment in  
32 the Ozark Highlands.<sup>2.7</sup> People utilized a wide  
33 variety of tools, indicating familiarity with  
34 numerous plant and animal species and how  
35 to use them.

36  
37 During the Dalton-Early Archaic period,  
38 people established a settlement at the  
39 confluence of Rush Creek and Buffalo

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42 2.6 Dwight Pitcaithley, *Let the River Be, A History of the*  
43 *Ozarks Buffalo River*. (Santa Fe: U.S. Department of the  
44 Interior, National Park Service, Southwest Cultural  
45 Resources Center, 1989), 5.

45 2.7 Maria Nieves Zedeno. *Cultural Affiliation Statement,*  
46 *Buffalo National River*, (Arkansas. Bureau of Applied  
Research in Anthropology, Univ. of Arizona: 2008, 17.

47 River.<sup>2.8</sup> The Dirst Site contains a transitional  
48 Dalton-Archaic component, and was likely a  
49 temporary seasonal village.<sup>2.9</sup>

## 51 9500 to 5000 BP

52  
53 The Archaic period was a long span of time  
54 that generally marks the time between the  
55 end of the Pleistocene to the beginning of  
56 farming and pottery in North America. The  
57 Archaic period in the Ozark Highlands began  
58 a warmer and drier environment, which  
59 contributed to the formation of modern  
60 deciduous forests and creation of streams,  
61 such as Buffalo River.<sup>2.10</sup> People made seasonal  
62 rounds hunting small game, fishing and  
63 gathering wild foods. They would typically  
64 return to the same camp or seasonal village  
65 year after year, as was the case with the Dirst  
66 Site.<sup>2.11</sup>

## 68 3000 BP to 200 AD

69  
70 The late Archaic and Woodland Transition  
71 period marks an expansion of hickory/oak  
72 forests with an increase in pine in upland  
73 areas. Local domestication of plants began,  
74 and settlements began to be used year-round.  
75 The Dirst Site was occupied during this time,  
76 indicating some locally cultivated plants and  
77 stone tool manufacturing.<sup>2.12</sup>

## 79 500 BP to 800 AD

80  
81 During the Woodland period people in the  
82 Ozark Highlands utilized valley floors and  
83 stream bottoms to maintain domesticated  
84 plants.<sup>2.13</sup> Farming led to more permanent

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86 2.8 Theodore Catton. *Life, Leisure, and Hardship Along the*  
87 *Buffalo, Historic Resources Study, Buffalo National River.*  
88 (Omaha: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park  
89 Service, Midwest Region, 2008), 21.

89 2.9 Zedeno. *Cultural Affiliation Statement*, 18.

90 2.10 Zedeno. *Cultural Affiliation Statement*, 20.

91 2.11 Catton. *Life, Leisure, and Hardship along the Buffalo*, 12.

91 2.12 Zedeno. *Cultural Affiliation Statement*, 22.

92 2.13 Pitcaithley, *Let the River Be*, 5.

1	village sites, production of pottery, and	47	<b>1700s to 1800</b>
2	expanded trade networks.	48	
3		49	Around 1700 the Osage pushed into the Ozark
4	The Early Woodland component of the Dirst	50	Highlands from the north and east. They
5	site indicates that squash and gourds were	51	primarily resided in Missouri but ventured
6	grown adjacent to Buffalo River. <sup>2.14</sup>	52	into the Buffalo River Valley to hunt. <sup>2.18</sup>
7		53	
8	The Dirst site was occupied during the Middle	54	
9	to Late Woodland period. People established	55	
10	permanent dwellings, and artifacts show	56	
11	evidence of an “Emergent Mississippian”	57	
12	cultural presence, indicating cultural	58	
13	influence from the Mississippian peoples	59	
14	to the east. The village was occupied year-	60	
15	round, with a subsistence economy based on	61	
16	hunting, gathering, and domesticated plant	62	
17	production including maize. <sup>2.15</sup>	63	
18		64	
19	<b>800 AD to 1550</b>	65	
20		66	
21	During the Mississippian period, the major	67	
22	waterways of the Ozark Highlands were	68	
23	permanently occupied. The valleys were	69	
24	utilized for farming maize, and uplands were	70	
25	used for hunting. <sup>2.16</sup>	71	
26		72	
27	<b>1541 to 1700</b>	73	
28		74	
29	The first European presence in the Mississippi	75	
30	Valley did not provide much insight into the	76	
31	native use of the Ozark Highlands. According	77	
32	to early French settlers, the Quapaw had	78	
33	tenuous control of the Arkansas Ozarks and	79	
34	organized hunting parties into the Ozark	80	
35	region from their main settlement area in the	81	
36	lower Arkansas river. <sup>2.17</sup>	82	
37		83	
38		84	
39		85	
40		86	
41	2.14 Sabo, George, III, et al. <i>Archaeological Investigations at</i>	87	
42	<i>3MR80-Area D in the Rush Development Area, Buffalo</i>	88	
43	<i>National River, Arkansas.</i> (Santa Fe: U.S. Department of	89	
44	the Interior, National Park Service, Southwest Region,	90	
45	1990), 333.	91	
46	2.15 Sabo et al. <i>Archaeological Investigations</i> , 333.	92	2.18 Zedeno. <i>Cultural Affiliation Statement</i> , 3.
	2.16 Zedeno. <i>Cultural Affiliation Statement</i> , 29.		
	2.17 Catton. <i>Life, Leisure, and Hardship along the Buffalo</i> , 23.		

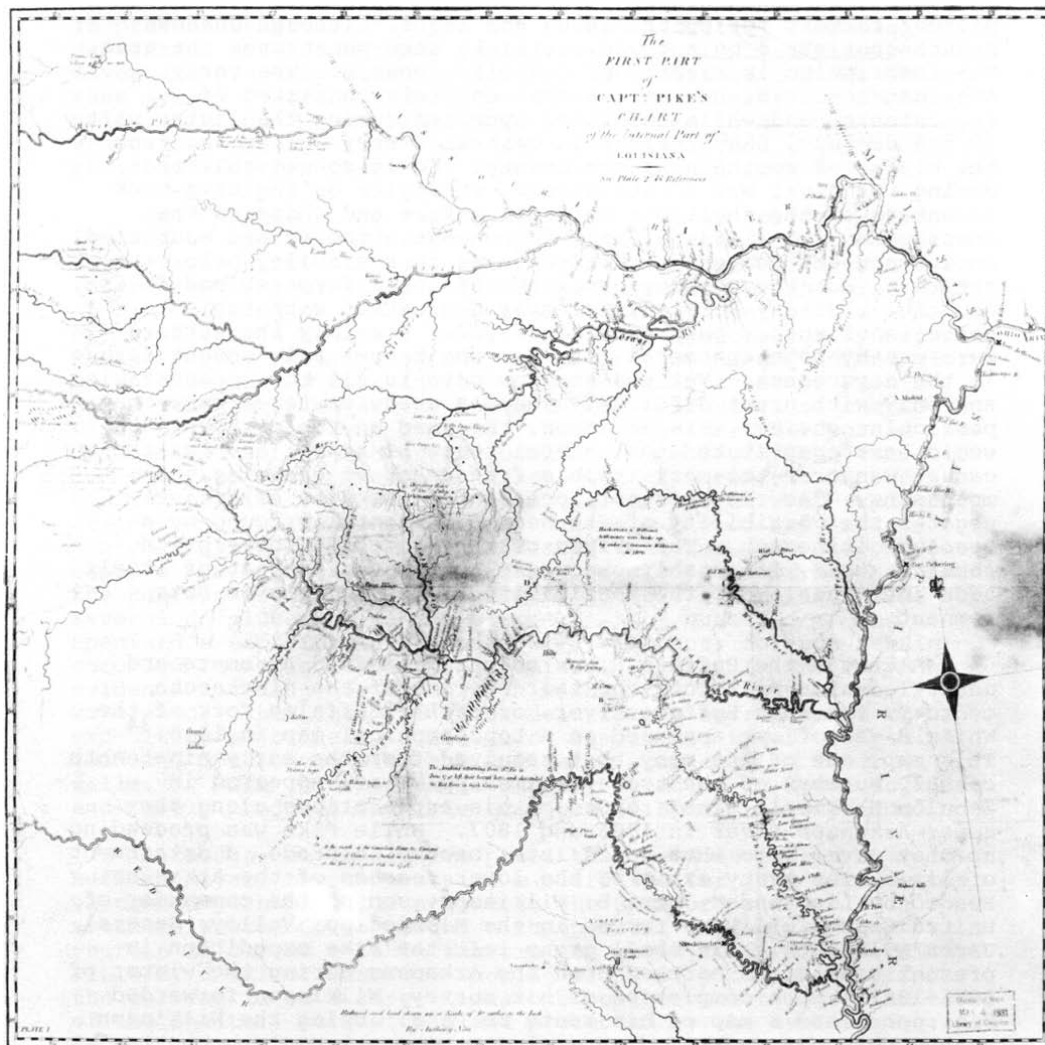


Figure 2-1. Zebulon Pike's 1810 map including the Buffalo River region. (Let the River Be)

## 1 Early European American Settlement (1800 2 to 1885)

3  
4 The 19th century was a period of transition,  
5 as American Indian groups who had settled  
6 and established permanent farms in the  
7 region were displaced by Europeans. To the  
8 new settlers, the region was rugged, remote,  
9 and heavily forested. General Land Office  
10 surveyors noted the predominance of cane  
11 breaks along the river, which have been linked  
12 to abandoned American Indian farms (cane  
13 grew up in places where corn had previously  
14 grown).<sup>2.19</sup> The region remained sparsely  
15 inhabited during the 19th century, but small  
16 farmsteads were established along the river  
17 bottoms by arriving Europeans, and a grist  
18 mill was built along Rush Creek.

### 19 20 Early 1800s

21  
22 American Indian groups in the eastern United  
23 States migrated west during this period. The  
24 Shawnee, Delaware, and Cherokee spent time  
25 in the Buffalo River region.<sup>2.20</sup> The Cherokee  
26 established farmsteads in the major river  
27 valleys and utilized the uplands on seasonal  
28 hunting trips.<sup>2.21</sup>

29  
30 French settlers from Louisiana migrated  
31 north to the Ozark Highlands to extract lead  
32 and other minerals from the mountains.<sup>2.22</sup>

### 33 34 1819

35  
36 Arkansas Territory was established out of the  
37 Missouri Territory by the United States.<sup>2.23</sup>

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41 2.19 Catton. *Life, Leisure, and Hardship along the Buffalo*, 44.

42 2.20 *Buffalo National River, Theme Identification Context*  
43 *Studies and Property Evaluations, SOL: N6068030063.*  
44 (Nashville: Thomason and Associates and Hawkins  
Partners, 2004), 6.

45 2.21 Catton. *Life, Leisure, and Hardship along the Buffalo*, 23.

46 2.22 *CLI*, 15.

2.23 *Theme Identification Context Studies*, 9.

## 47 1820s to 1830s

48  
49 Increasingly, European settlers arrived in the  
50 Buffalo River region. The area was sparsely  
51 settled until the 1830s due to the limited  
52 roads, rugged terrain, and remoteness of the  
53 area.<sup>2.24</sup>

### 54 55 1828

56  
57 The Cherokee who had settled in  
58 Arkansas began to move further west  
59 after relinquishing rights to their lands in  
60 Arkansas.<sup>2.25</sup>

### 61 62 1836

63  
64 The State of Arkansas was established.<sup>2.26</sup>

### 65 66 1838

67 The Trail of Tears, which moved the Cherokee  
68 out of their homeland in the Appalachians  
69 included a route that passed north of Rush  
70 Historic District through Yellville, AR.<sup>2.27</sup>

### 71 72 1845

73  
74 Surveyors of the General Land Office recorded  
75 the Buffalo River Valley.<sup>2.28</sup>

76  
77 Survey Plats and Notes of townships show  
78 creeks, roads, and cane breaks along the valley  
79 floors.<sup>2.29</sup>

80  
81 Settlement of the region increased until the  
82 Civil War.<sup>2.30</sup>

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85 2.24 *Theme Identification Context Studies*, 6.

86 2.25 *Theme Identification Context Studies*, 11.

87 2.26 *Theme Identification Context Studies*, 12.

88 2.27 Catton. *Life, Leisure, and Hardship along the Buffalo*, 39.

89 2.28 Catton. *Life, Leisure, and Hardship along the Buffalo*, 44.

90 2.29 General Land Office. Survey of Public Lands in Arkansas,  
Township 17 N, Range 15 W. U.S. Department of the  
Interior, Bureau of Land Management, 1845.

91 2.30 *Theme Identification Context Studies*, 7.



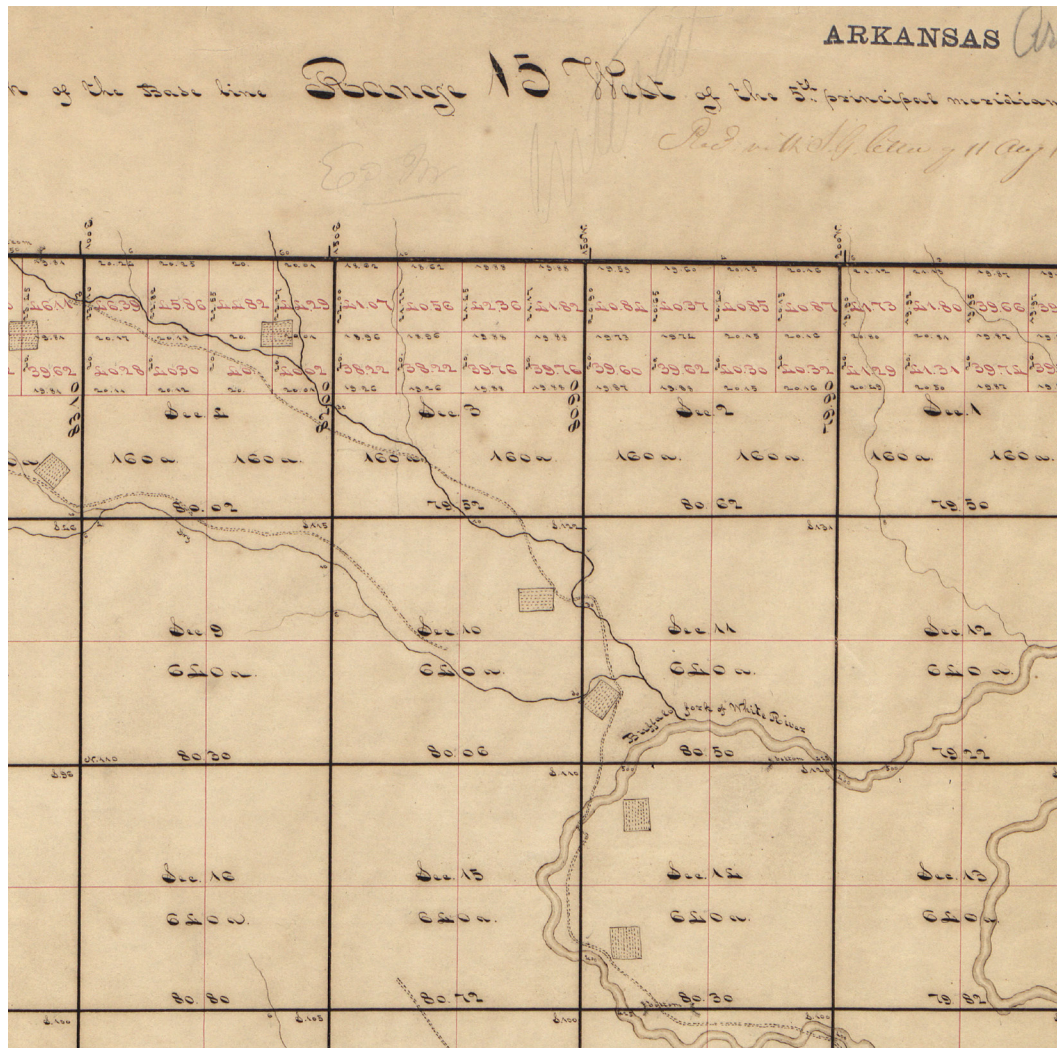


Figure 2-2. 1845 General Land Office Survey Plat of T17N-R15W of Buffalo River. Cane breaks, evidence of former agricultural fields, were noted on the valley floors. (Bureau of Land Management, Records)

1 **1880**

2

3 The first zinc deposits were discovered by  
4 James McCabe, a local farmer who discovered  
5 zinc ore showing in a bluff along a foot trail  
6 on Rush Mountain. He thought he had found  
7 gold.<sup>2.31</sup>

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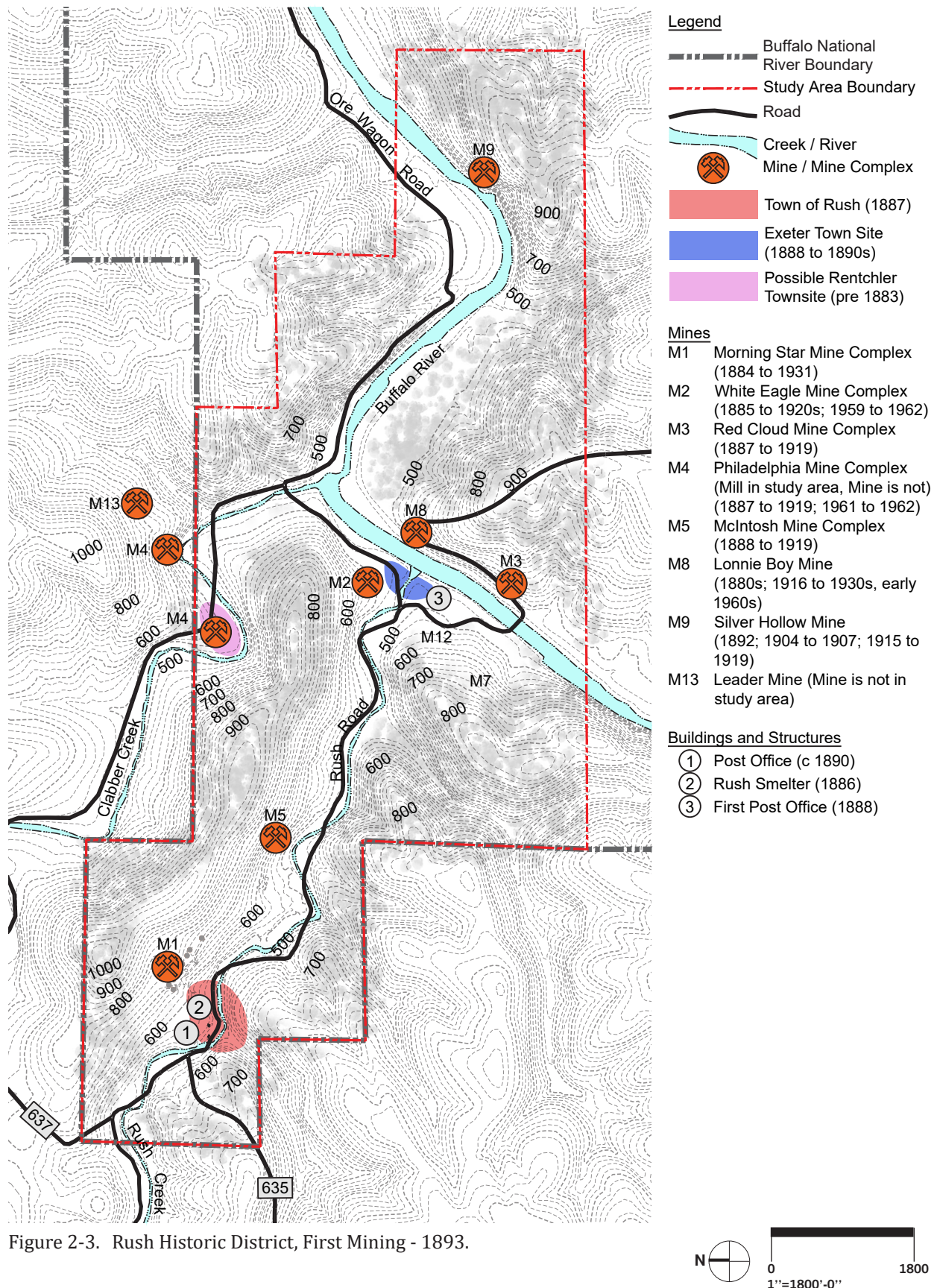
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<sup>2.31</sup> *CLI*, 26.





(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, BUFF Archives - Rush Period Plan, USGS 1893, 1989 Special Use Study)

## 1 The Mining Era (1885 to 1931)

2  
3 During this period, Rush Mining District  
4 included fourteen mines and seven mills.  
5 The population ranged from 2,000 to 3,000.  
6 The study area was a working industrial  
7 landscape with few trees, vast spoils piles,  
8 elevated tramways, and massive mill  
9 structures.  
10  
11 Mines were developed either as drift mines,  
12 shafts driven down into the earth, or as vast  
13 room-and-pillar structures that excavated  
14 earth horizontally. Waste rock was discarded  
15 at the entrance of each mine, forming large  
16 spoils piles. Ore was transported by elevated  
17 tramways to zinc concentrating mills. The  
18 mills were massive structures and were  
19 cooled by water held in large retention  
20 ponds. Tailings, the unwanted remains of the  
21 milling process, were spread at the base of  
22 the mills. To supply mills with fuel, hillsides  
23 were stripped of available timber. Aside from  
24 residential areas, the landscape appeared  
25 tree-less, with prominent mill buildings and  
26 waste rock on the hillsides.  
27  
28 Support structures and residential areas were  
29 clustered on the lower hillsides and valley  
30 floors below the mills. The town of Rush  
31 began as a cluster of development below the  
32 Morning Star Mill. The town grew to include  
33 offices, hotels, barns, stores, and a post office  
34 and courthouse. A row of houses was built at  
35 House Row, and development expanded to  
36 Hicks Hotel and New Town adjacent to the  
37 river. Additional smaller communities were  
38 associated with individual mining companies.  
39  
40 Although plans were made to develop a  
41 railroad, they were never realized. Zinc ore  
42 was hauled by wagon or truck along Ore  
43 Wagon Road that paralleled Buffalo River.  
44  
45  
46

## 47 1880 to 1885

48  
49 Mining began at Morning Star Mine (M1),  
50 founded by James McCabe, John Wolfer, and  
51 Allen Setzer.<sup>2.32</sup>  
52  
53 **1886**  
54  
55 Rush Smelter, the oldest extant structure at  
56 Rush Historic District, was built near Morning  
57 Star Mine (M1) by smeltermen brought to  
58 Rush by McCabe, Wolfer, and Setzer. The  
59 smelter was built to separate silver from the  
60 zinc ore, however there was no silver in the  
61 ore mined at Rush, and smelting was brief.<sup>2.33</sup>  
62  
63 **1889**  
64  
65 George Chase invested in the construction of  
66 Morning Star Mill.<sup>2.34</sup>  
67  
68 **1890**  
69  
70 The first 'lode claim' was filed in Arkansas by  
71 George Chase. Morning Star No. 1 claim was  
72 purchased by Charles A Mulholland.<sup>2.35</sup>  
73  
74 By 1890 at least four mining companies had  
75 developed mines in the study area. Buffalo  
76 Zinc and Copper opened two mines, White  
77 Eagle Mine (M2) and Red Cloud Mine (M3).  
78 Other mines included Silver Hollow Mine  
79 (M9), Monte Cristo Mine (M10), and Capps  
80 Mine (M11).<sup>2.36</sup>  
81  
82 **1891**  
83  
84 Morning Star Mine (M1) were purchased by  
85 George Chase, and the Morning Star Company  
86 was formally organized.<sup>2.37</sup>  
87  
88  
89 <sup>2.32</sup> CLI, 23.  
90 <sup>2.33</sup> Rogers et al., *Morning Star Mines Interpretive Area*, I-15.  
91 <sup>2.34</sup> Rogers et al., *Morning Star Mines Interpretive Area*, II-7.  
92 <sup>2.35</sup> CLI, 24.  
<sup>2.36</sup> CLI.  
<sup>2.37</sup> CLI, 24.



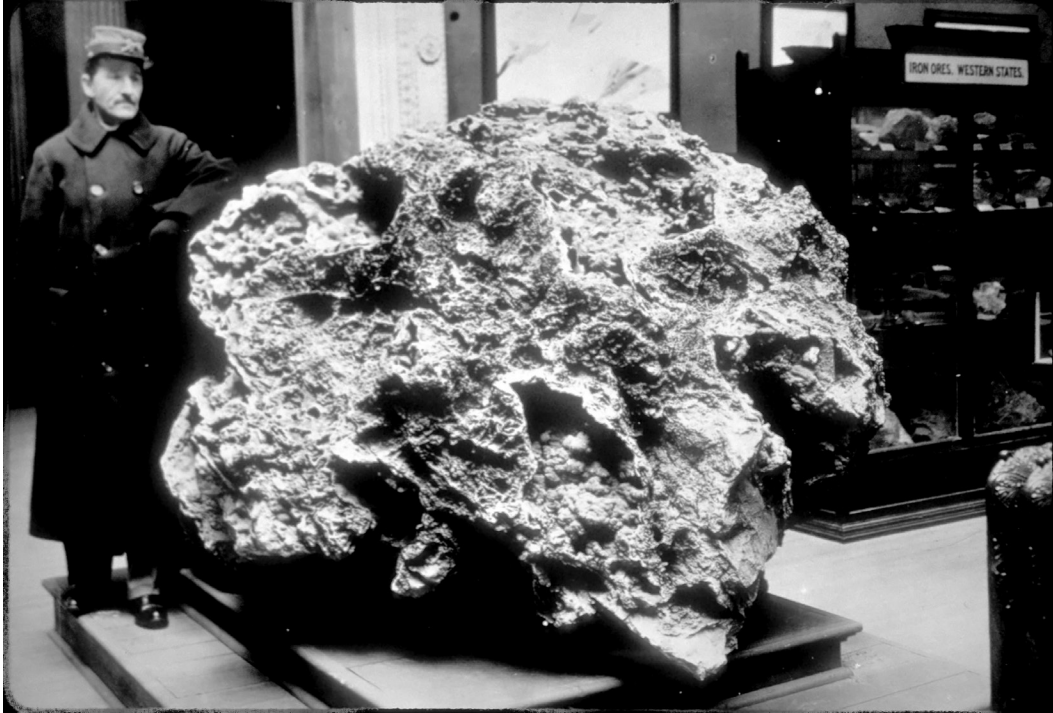


Figure 2-4. Jumbo, a six-ton piece of relatively pure zinc ore from Morning Star Mine (M1), as displayed at the World's Columbian Exposition, 1893. (Field Museum of Natural History)



Figure 2-5. Morning Star miners, 1898. (BUFF Archives, Bessie Kastning Collection)



1 **1893**

2  
3 A six-ton gold medal winning piece of  
4 relatively pure zinc ore, nicknamed 'Jumbo,'  
5 from Morning Star Mine (M1), was displayed  
6 at the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in  
7 Chicago.<sup>2.38</sup>

8  
9 **1898**

10  
11 Morning Star Mill was built to concentrate ore  
12 as the purest zinc deposits began to run out.  
13 Concentrating mills were later built at some  
14 other mines in the area.<sup>2.39</sup>

15  
16 **1894**

17  
18 Ben Carney Mine (M6) began production.<sup>2.40</sup>

19  
20 **1900**

21  
22 Red Cloud Mill was built to serve Red Cloud  
23 Mine (M3).<sup>2.41</sup>

24  
25 **1901**

26  
27 Zinc prices dropped and due to the high cost  
28 of shipping ore, mining activity slowed.<sup>2.42</sup>

29  
30 **1902**

31  
32 The Missouri and North Arkansas railroad  
33 was completed, connecting regional markets  
34 to Buffalo River. The railroad did not reach the  
35 mines at Rush Historic District.<sup>2.43</sup>

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42 2.38 CLI, 24.

43 2.39 CLI, 27.

44 2.40 CLI, 37.

45 2.41 Rogers et al., *Morning Star Mines Interpretive Area*, I-22.

46 2.42 Rogers, Suzanne. *Rush Historic Structures Report*,  
Working Draft (1985), 6.

47 2.43 *Theme Identification Context Studies*, 7.

48  
49 **1903**

50  
51 Hicks Hotel was built by Lee and Alice  
52 Hicks.<sup>2.44</sup>

53  
54 **Winter 1904 to 1905**

55  
56 Milling operations again ceased.<sup>2.45</sup>

57  
58 **1905**

59  
60 Mining operations resumed again.<sup>2.46</sup>

61  
62 **1911 to 1918**

63  
64 Between 1911 and 1918, mining experienced  
65 a dramatic boom in operations, labor force,  
66 and zinc sales in response to the demands  
67 of World War I. Promotional publications  
68 announced easy fortunes made in the Ozark  
69 Highlands, with special attention paid to  
70 Rush.<sup>2.47</sup>

71

72 New Town was platted at the confluence  
73 of Rush Creek and Buffalo River to house a  
74 growing population.<sup>2.48</sup>

75

76 **1914 to 1915**

77  
78 Zinc prices quadrupled.<sup>2.49</sup>

79

80 **1915**

81

82 A railroad bed was graded between Buffalo  
83 River and Rush Road, but rails were not laid.  
84 Before any track was laid the mining boom  
85 was over.<sup>2.50</sup>

86

87 Capps Mine (M11) began production.<sup>2.51</sup>

88

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89 2.44 CLI, 24.

90 2.45 Rogers, HSR, *Working Draft*, 6.

91 2.46 Rogers, HSR, *Working Draft*, 7.

92 2.47 *Scope of Work*.

93 2.48 CLI, 29.

94 2.49 CLI, 29.

95 2.50 CLI, 80.

96 2.51 CLI, 24.



Figure 2-6. Morning Star Mill, c 1904. The huge stack of lumber was used for fueling the mill. Surrounding hillsides were extensively cut during the mining period. (BUFF Archives)

1 **1916**

2

3 Lee and Alice Hicks expanded their business  
4 to include a general store near their hotel.<sup>2.52</sup>

5

6 **1919**

7

8 Marion County bought Morning Star Mine  
9 property as the zinc market collapses.<sup>2.53</sup>

10

11 **1920**

12

13 The state of Arkansas' production of zinc  
14 dropped to 917 tons per year. This was down  
15 from more than 18,000 tons per year in  
16 1916.<sup>2.54</sup>

17

18 Jefferson Township, in which Rush was  
19 located, dwindled to only 344 residents.<sup>2.55</sup>

20

21 **1931**

22

23 The last of the operating Morning Star Mines,  
24 Capps Mine (M11), closed.<sup>2.56</sup>

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43 2.52 *NRHP*, 7.

44 2.53 *CLI*, 24.

45 2.54 (Huggard 2004, 2-6) *CLI*, 15.

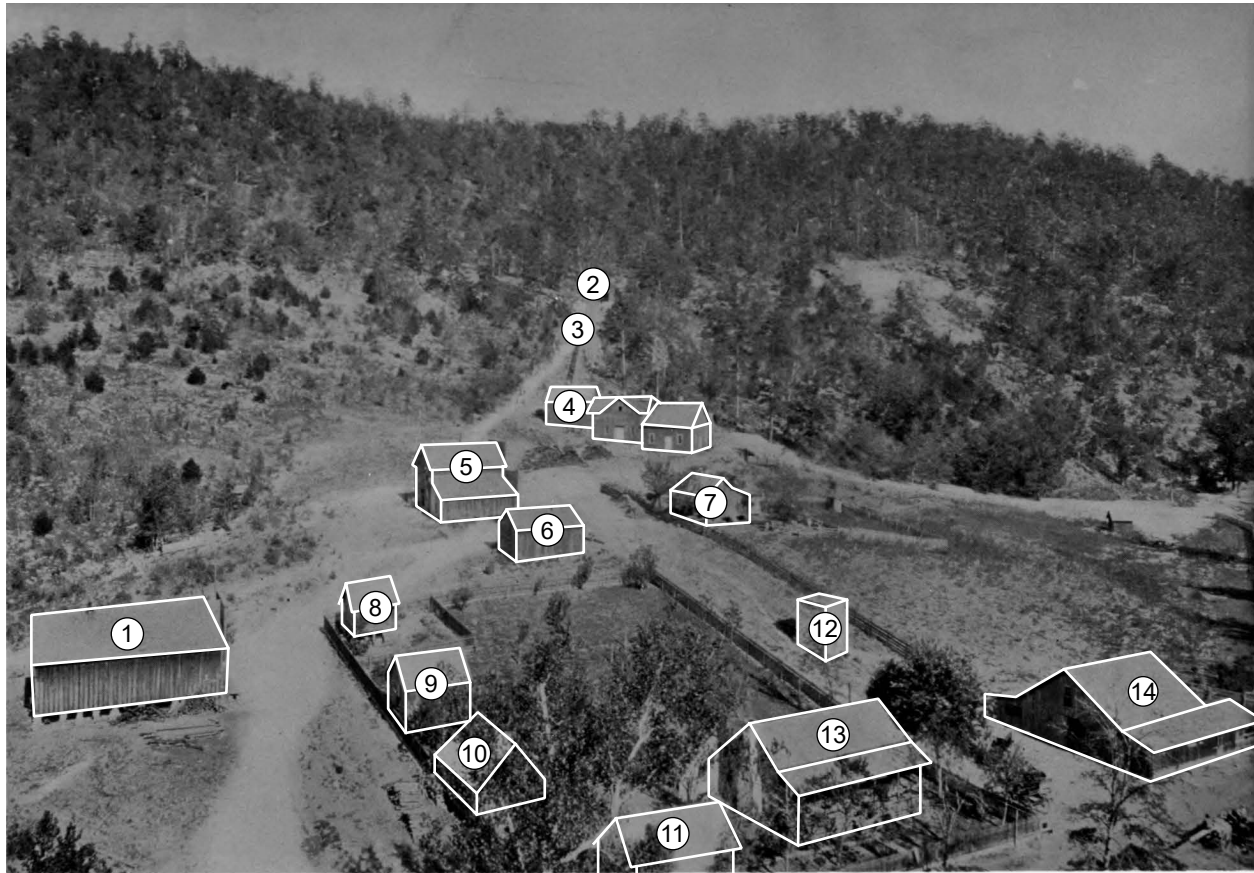
46 2.55 *CLI*, 29.

46 2.56 *CLI*, 4.



Figure 2-7. Rush Smelter with unknown building and Chase and Mulholland Store at left, 1900. (BUFF Archives, USGS Collection)



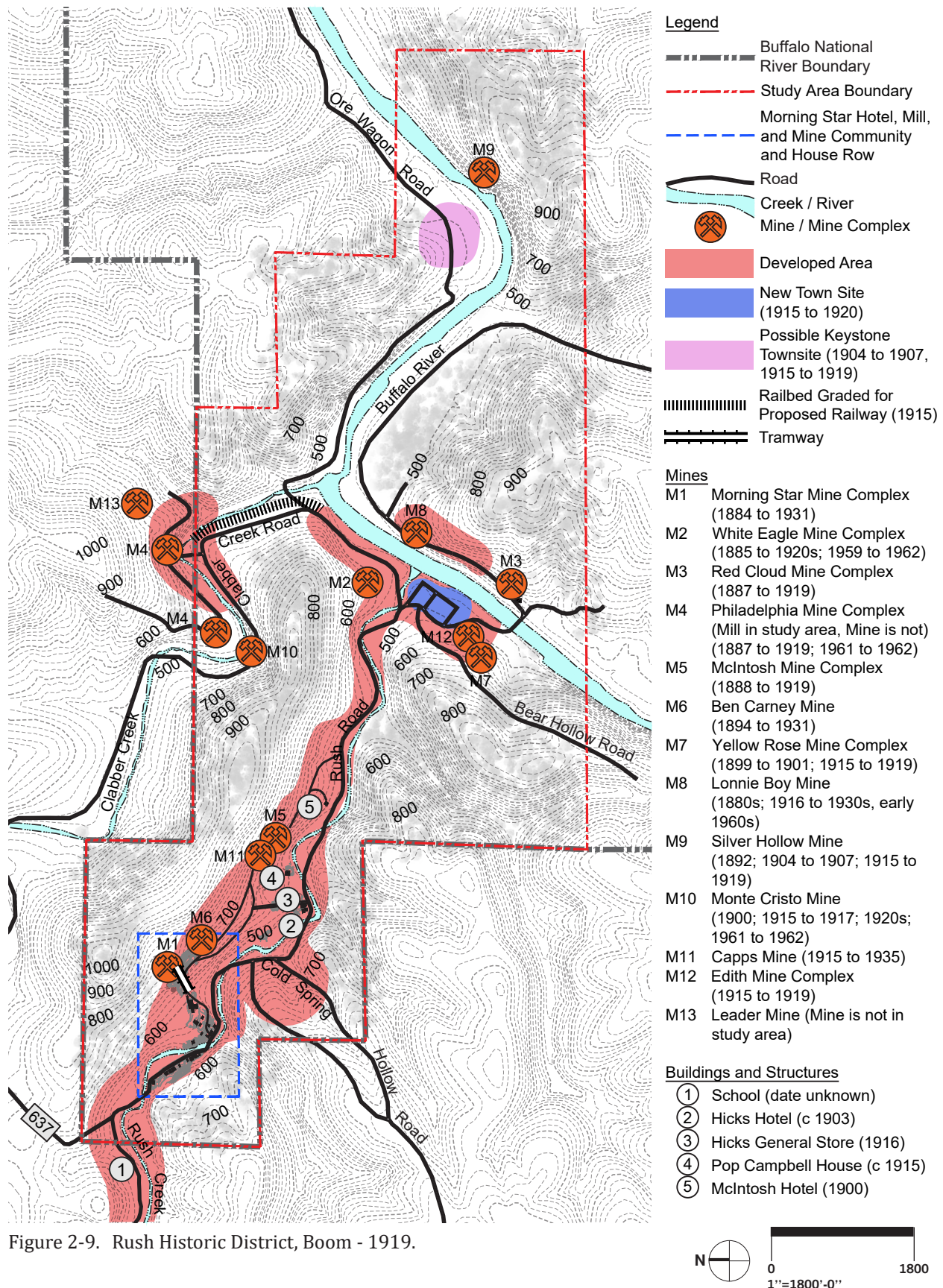


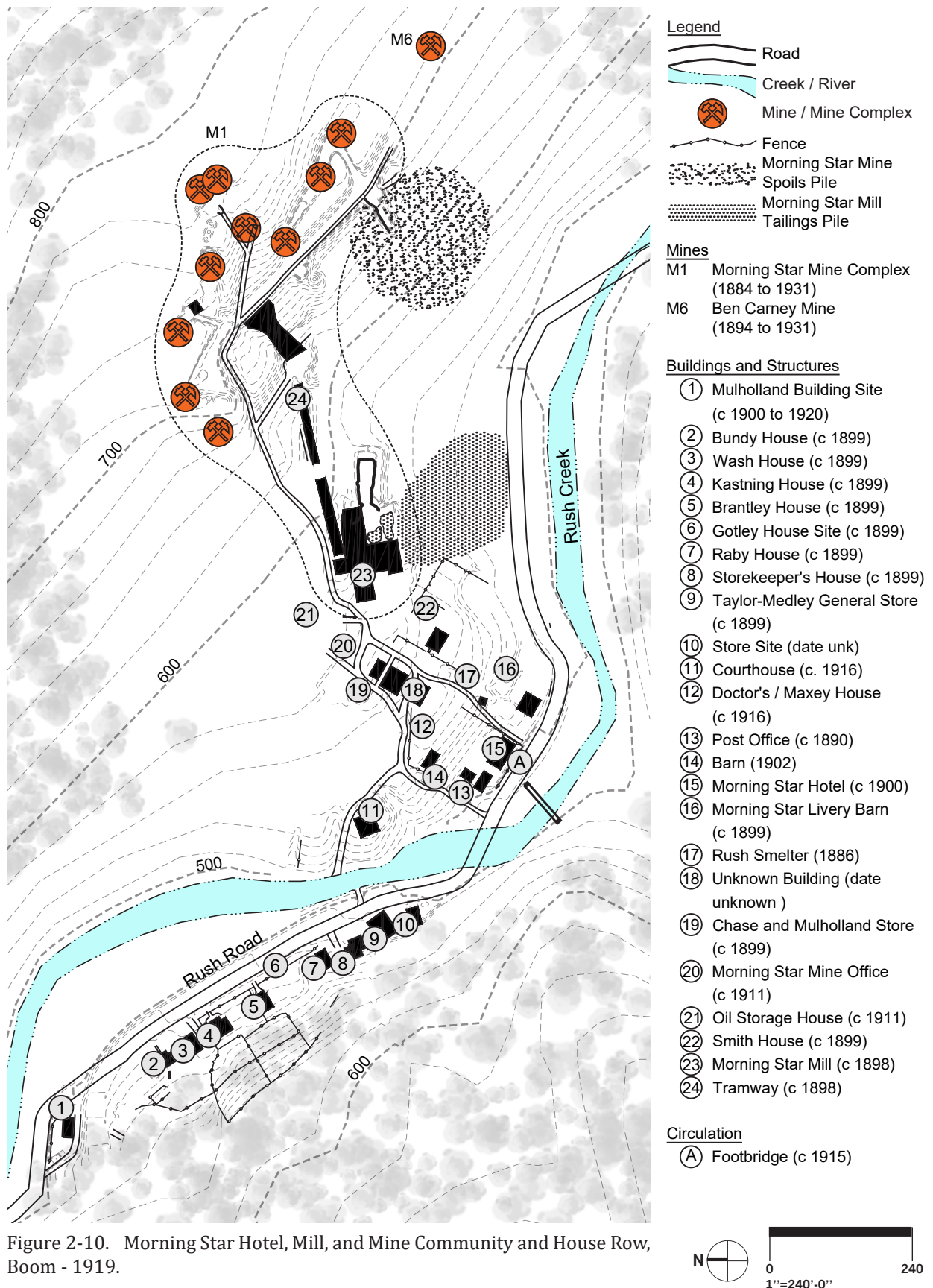
Legend

- ① Courthouse (c 1916)
- ② Hopper House (c 1898)
- ③ Tramway (c 1898)
- ④ Morning Star Mill (c 1898)
- ⑤ Chase and Mullholland Store (c 1898)
- ⑥ Unknown Building (date unknown)
- ⑦ Smith House (c 1899)
- ⑧ Chicken House (date unknown)
- ⑨ Doctor's / Maxey House (c 1916)
- ⑩ Barn (1902)
- ⑪ Post Office (c 1890)
- ⑫ Rush Smelter (1886)
- ⑬ Morning Star Hotel (c 1900)
- ⑭ Morning Star Livery Barn (c 1889)

Figure 2-8. The Morning Star Hotel, Mill, and Mine Community, looking northeast, c 1916. Note the lack of vegetation on hillside, waste rock pile in upper left, and the yard and open pasture around the Morning Star Hotel and Livery Barn. (BUFF Archives)

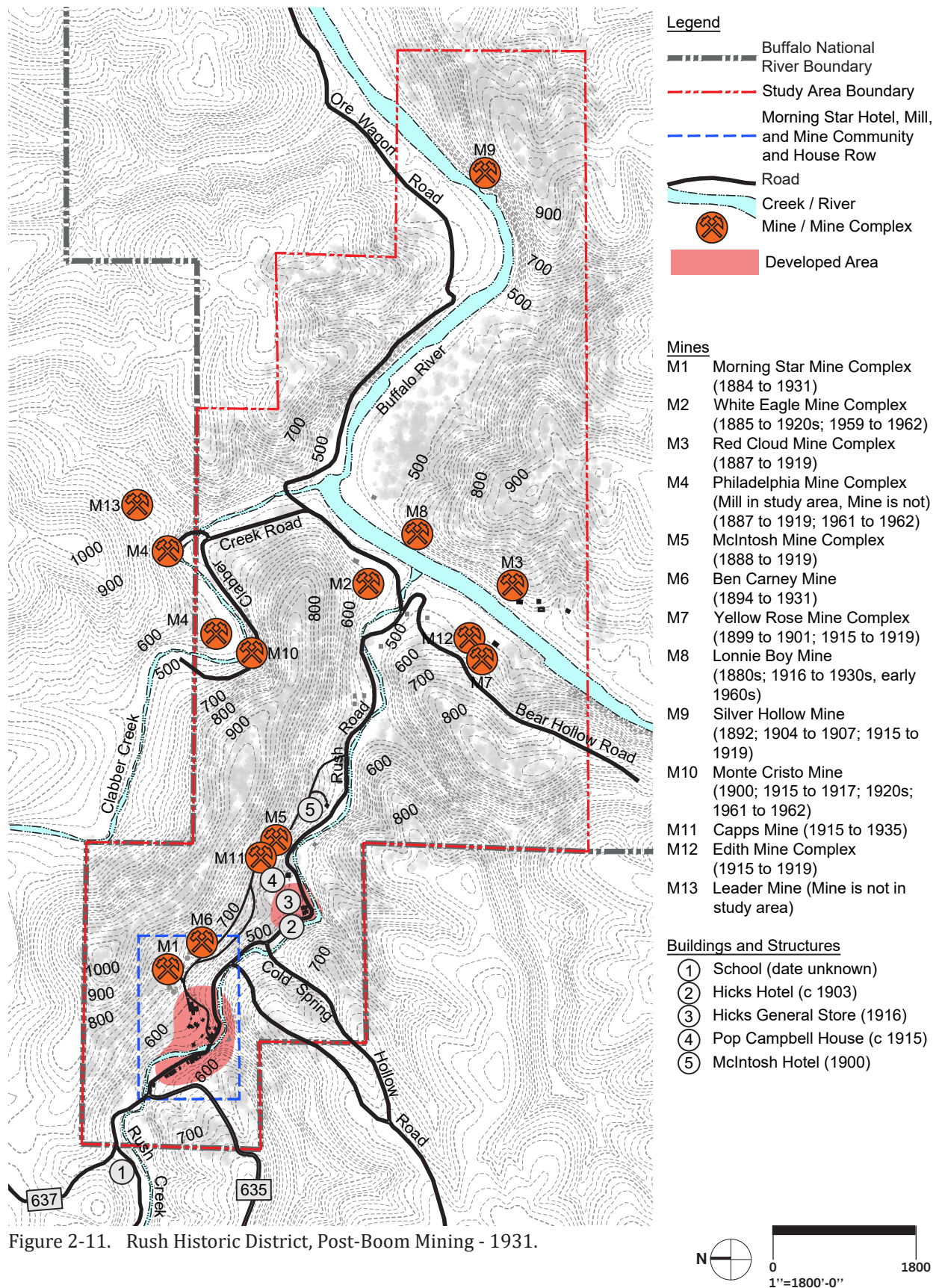






(USGS 2013 - National Geographic Society, Arkansas GIS (<https://gis.arkansas.gov/>), Google Maps 2017, Historic Resource Documentation Morning Star Mines Interpretive Area, Cultural Landscapes Inventory 2012, BUFF Archives - Rush Period Plan, USGS 1905, 1989 Special Use Study)





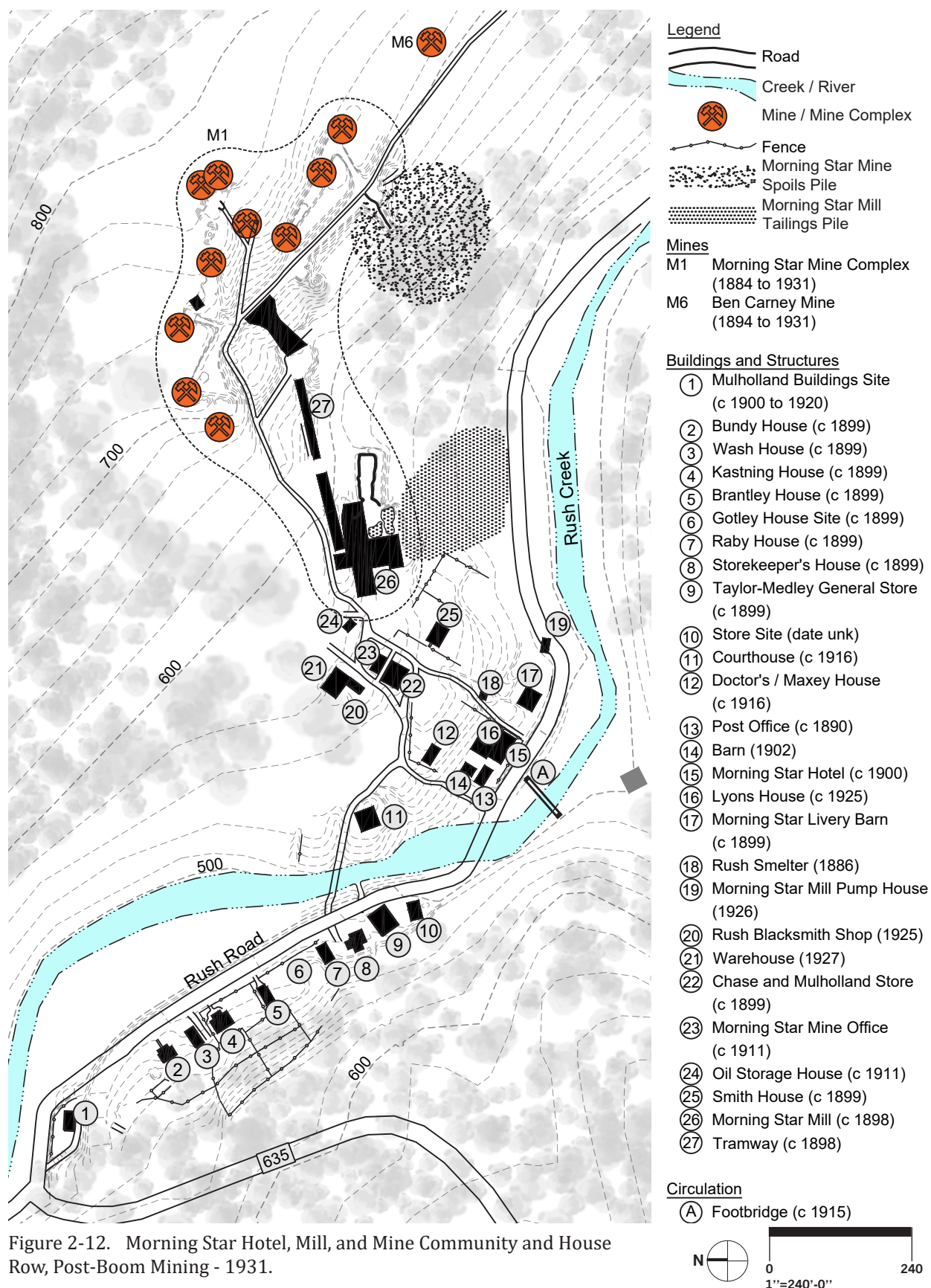


Figure 2-12. Morning Star Hotel, Mill, and Mine Community and House Row, Post-Boom Mining - 1931.

(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, BUFF Archives - Rush Period Plan, USGS 1929, 1989 Special Use Study)



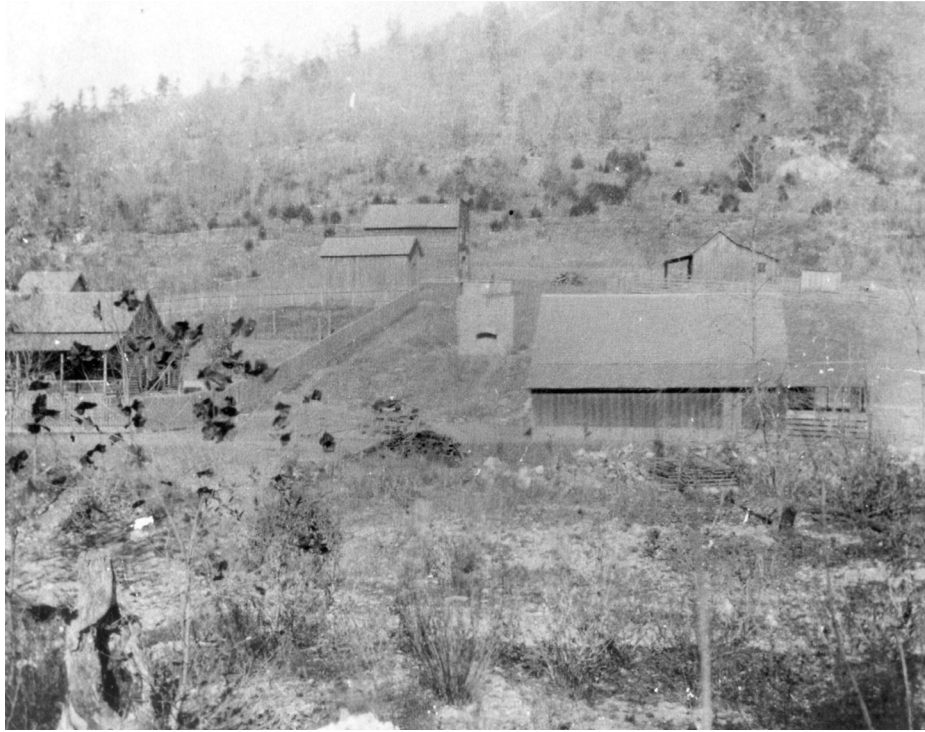


Figure 2-13. Morning Star Hotel, Rush Smelter, and Morning Star Livery Barn in the foreground and unknown building, Chase and Mulholland Store, and Smith House in the background, date unknown. (BUFF Archives, Arkansas History Commission)



Figure 2-14. Chase and Mulholland Store and Morning Star Mine Office, 1915. (BUFF Archives)





Figure 2-15. Rush Post Office, c 1920s. (BUFF Archives, Bessie Kastning Collection)



Figure 2-16. Morning Star Livery Barn, 1925. (BUFF Archives)

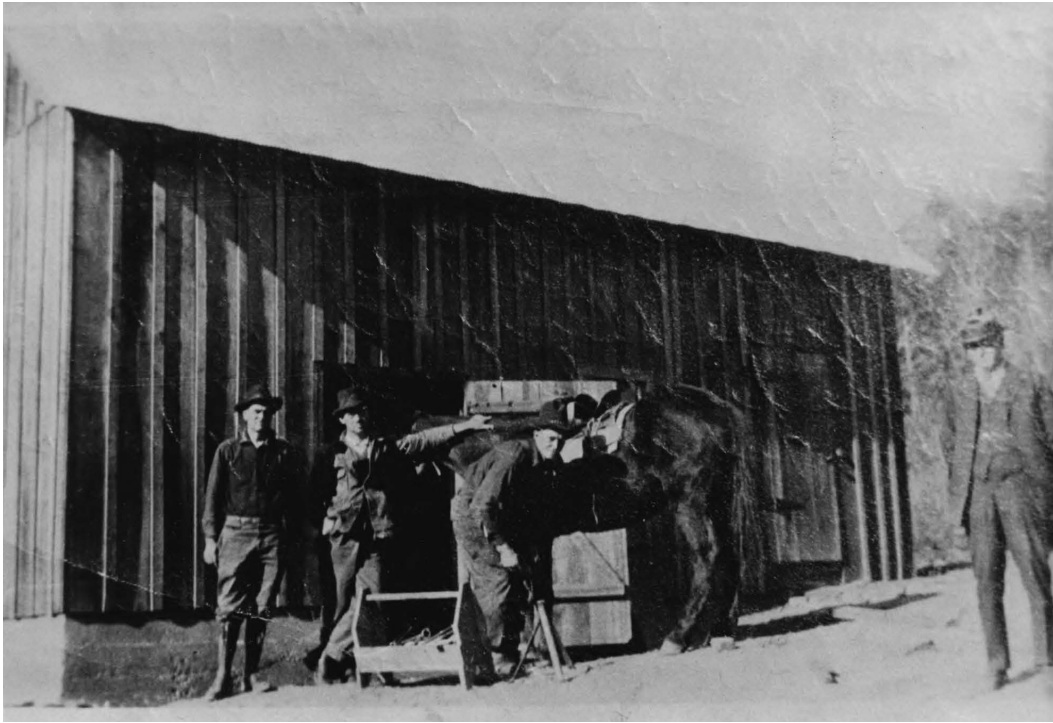


Figure 2-17. Rush Blacksmith Shop, 1925. (BUFF Archives)



Figure 2-18. View across the yard behind the Morning Star Hotel, towards the Chase and Mulholland Store and Morning Star Mill, 1926. (BUFF Archives, Bessie Kastning Collection)





Figure 2-19. Morning Star Mine, open cut, 1900. (BUFF Archives, USGS Collection)



Figure 2-20. Morning Star Mill, 1915. (BUFF Archives)



Figure 2-21. Morning Star Mill and Mine, 1916. (BUFF Archives, USGS Collection)

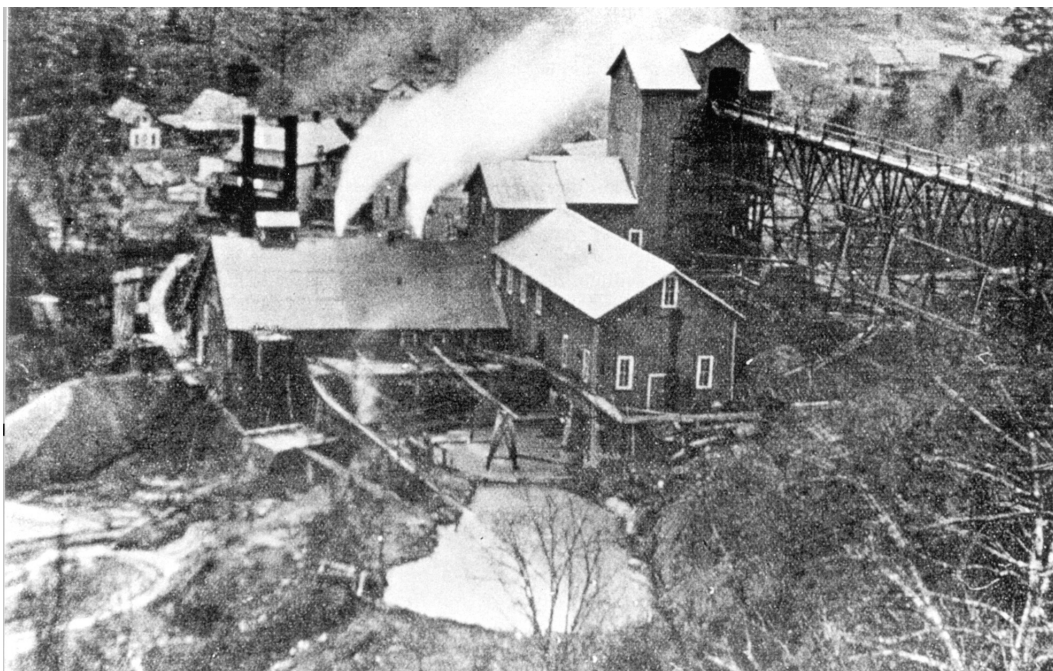


Figure 2-22. Morning Star Mill, 1918. (BUFF Archives)





Figure 2-23. Morning Star Mine, 1925. (BUFF Archives, Bessie Kastning Collection)

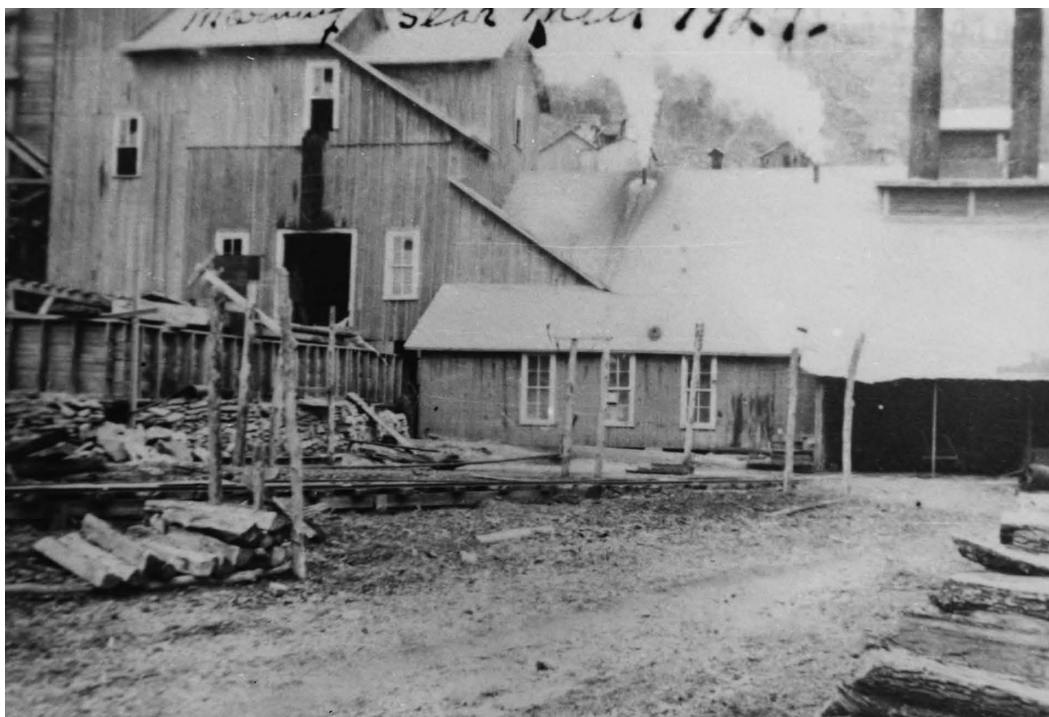


Figure 2-24. Morning Star Mill, 1927. (BUFF Archives)





Figure 2-25. Morning Star Mill, 1927. (BUFF Archives, Bessie Kastning Collection)

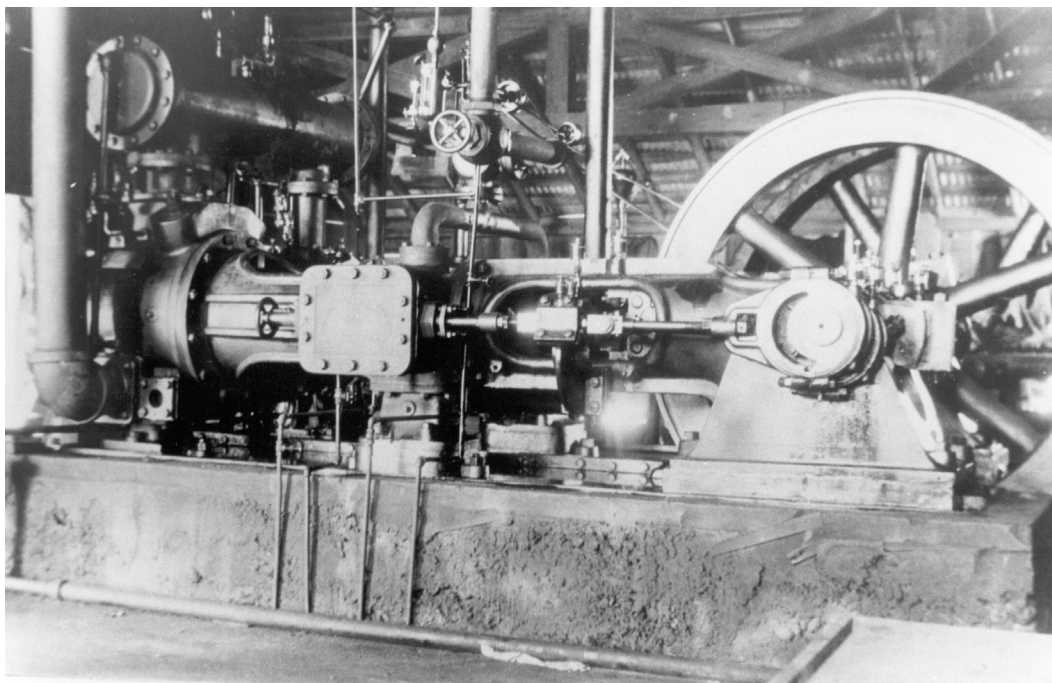


Figure 2-26. Air compressor at Morning Star Mill, 1927. (BUFF Archives, Bessie Kastning Collection)

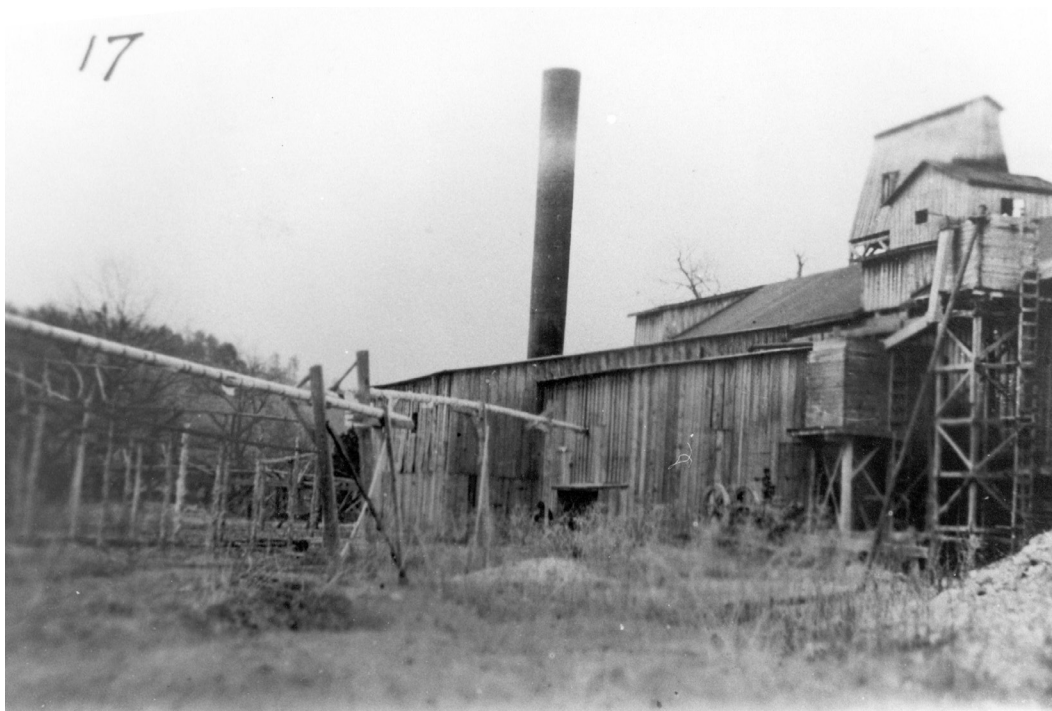


Figure 2-27. White Eagle Mill, 1917. (BUFF Archives, Bessie Kastning Collection)





Figure 2-28. Engineers G. DeBeughem and at Red Cloud Mill, 1909. (BUFF Archives)



Figure 2-29. The owners of Red Cloud Mine (M3), 1910. (BUFF Archives)



Figure 2-30. Red Cloud Mine (M3) and Mill from Buffalo River, looking east, 1915. (BUFF Archives)





Figure 2-31. Red Cloud Mill, 1915. (BUFF Archives, Bessie Kastning Collection)



Figure 2-32. Red Cloud miners, 1915 or 1916. (BUFF Archives, Helen Lack Collection)





Figure 2-33. McIntosh Mill, 1900. (BUFF Archives, USGS Collection)



Figure 2-34. McIntosh Hotel and Office, 1916. (BUFF Archives, USGS Collection)



Figure 2-35. McIntosh Mill, 1916. (BUFF Archives, Bessie Kastning Collection)





Figure 2-36. McIntosh Hotel, facing northeast, c 1922. (BUFF Archives)



Figure 2-37. Nettie Medley, infant Bessie Kastning, and boy in front of McIntosh Hotel, 1922. (BUFF Archives, Bessie Kastning Collection)



Figure 2-38. Unknown woman, Nettie Medley, and infant Bessie Kastning in front of McIntosh Hotel, 1922. (BUFF Archives, Bessie Kastning Collection)



Figure 2-39. Yellow Rose Mill, 1917. (BUFF Archives, Bessie Kastning Collection)





Figure 2-40. Edith Mill, 1918. (BUFF Archives, Bessie Kastning Collection)



Figure 2-41. Group in front of Hicks Hotel, 1920. (BUFF Archives, Bessie Kastning Collection)



Figure 2-42. Post mining use of the New Town area. Mine workings associated with Yellow Rose Mine (M7) and Edith Mine (M12) appear in the lower left, 1939. ((USGS 1939:LR383) Rogers et al, Historic Resource Documentation, Morning Star Mines Interpretive Area)

## 1 Post-Mining Era (1932 to 1971)

2  
3 Mines and businesses closed, and residents  
4 left Rush following the mining boom.  
5 Buildings were either taken down for salvage  
6 or were left to the elements. The economy  
7 shifted to tourism, with the vacant buildings  
8 lending to the promotion of “Rush Ghost  
9 Town” by the remaining residents. In the  
10 1950s and 1960s, locals made improvements  
11 to visitor amenities, including a boat landing,  
12 campground, and cabins, in order to attract  
13 tourists. Over time, the forest revegetated  
14 naturally, covering the spoils piles and  
15 ruins. Despite the closure of the mines,  
16 locals continued to extract free ore from the  
17 mines, selling to nearby mills. Some free  
18 ore operations caused mines to physically  
19 collapse.<sup>2.57</sup>

## 21 1930s

22  
23 Tourist cabins were built at Rush Landing.<sup>2.58</sup>

## 25 1942

26  
27 The United States Army Corps of Engineers  
28 explored Rush to benefit the national  
29 stockpile of zinc. Their exploratory borings  
30 confirmed that the remaining zinc deposits  
31 were minimal.<sup>2.59</sup>

## 33 1947

34  
35 The Morning Star Hotel was destroyed by  
36 fire.<sup>2.60</sup>

## 38 1950s

39  
40 In the late 1950s, Buffalo River became a  
41 popular tourist destination. Locals promoted  
42 the idea of the “Rush Ghost Town” to attract  
43 visitors.

---

45 <sup>2.57</sup> *CLI*, 29.

46 <sup>2.58</sup> *NRHP*, 9.

<sup>2.59</sup> *CLI*, 29.

<sup>2.60</sup> *CLI*, 25.

47 A boat landing and campground on Buffalo  
48 River was established by resident Fred

49 Dirst.<sup>2.61</sup>

## 51 1953

52  
53 The post office discontinued service at the  
54 Taylor-Medley General Store.<sup>2.62</sup>

## 56 1958

57  
58 New White Eagle Mill began production, but  
59 closed four years later.<sup>2.63</sup>

## 61 1960s

62  
63 Rush Road was rerouted to eliminate multiple  
64 creek crossings and to bypass natural rock  
65 crossings. Concrete water crossing slabs were  
66 added.<sup>2.64</sup>

## 68 Late 1960s

69  
70 Multiple buildings were demolished after the  
71 Morning Star Mining Company sold its land  
72 holdings.<sup>2.65</sup>

---

89 <sup>2.61</sup> (Stratton and Mansberger 2005, 23), *CLI*, 29.

90 <sup>2.62</sup> (Stratton and Mansberger 2005, 23), *CLI*, 29.

91 <sup>2.63</sup> *CLI*, 25.

92 <sup>2.64</sup> *NRHP*, 4.

<sup>2.65</sup> *NRHP*, 8.





Figure 2-43. Footbridge below post office, 1948. (BUFF Archives, Bessie Kastning Collection)



Figure 2-44. Rush Post Office and Taylor-Medley General Store, c 1950s. (BUFF Archives, Bessie Kastning Collection)



Figure 2-45. Rush Creek, c 1950s. (BUFF Archives, Bessie Kastning Collection)



Figure 2-46. Tourists at Rush Smelter, 1955. (BUFF Archives, Bessie Kastning Collection)





Figure 2-47. Chase and Mulholland Store and Morning Star Mine Office, 1955. A few residents were still living in Rush at this time, but the majority of the town's buildings were vacant. (BUFF Archives, Bessie Kastning Collection)



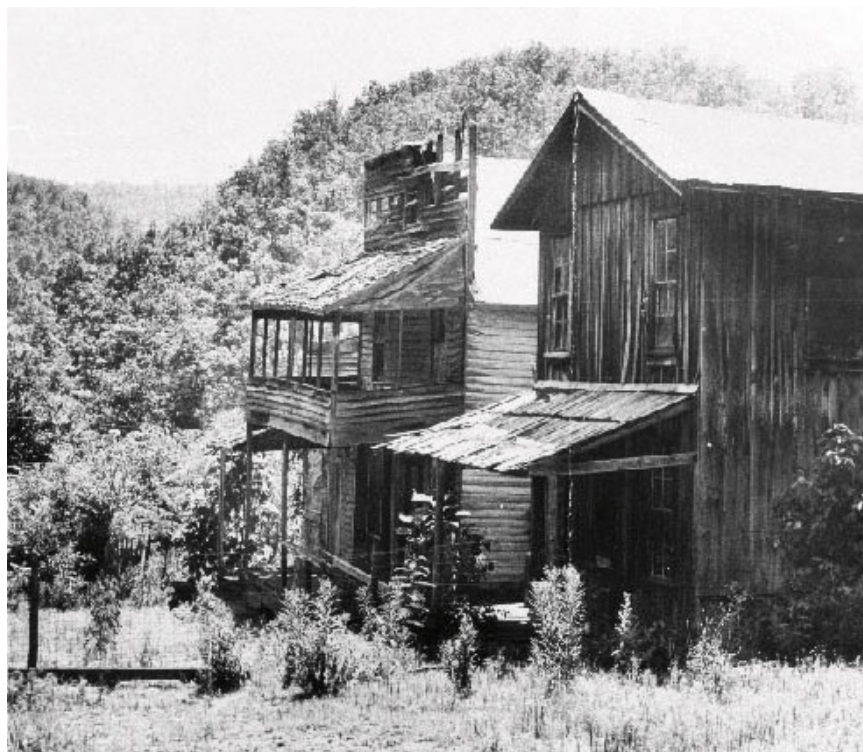


Figure 2-48. Chase and Mulholland Store and Morning Star Mine Office, 1958. (BUFF Archives)

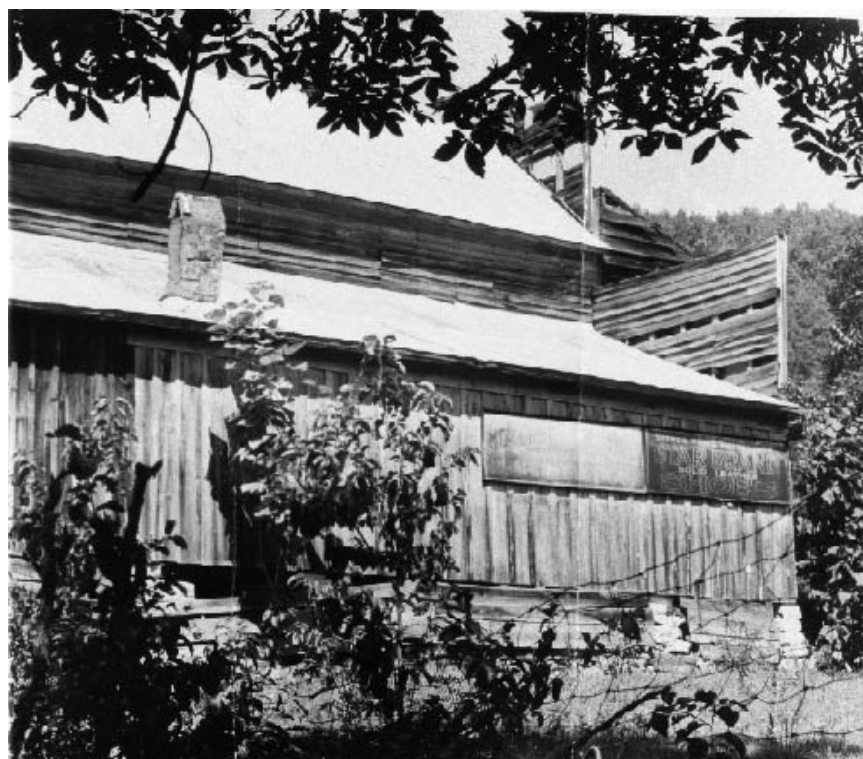


Figure 2-49. Chase and Mulholland Store, 1958. (B. Kastning, BUFF Archives)



Figure 2-50. Rush community members on porch of Taylor-Medley General Store, 1955. (BUFF Archives)



Figure 2-51. New White Eagle Mill, 1960. (BUFF Archives, Bessie Kastning Collection)





Figure 2-52. Rush Smelter, c 1960s. (BUFF Archives, Phelps Collection)



Figure 2-53. Main Street, c 1960s. (BUFF Archives, Phelps Collection)





Figure 2-54. Taylor-Medley General Store, c 1960s. (BUFF Archives, Phelps Collection)



Figure 2-55. Main Street, c 1960s. (BUFF Archives, Phelps Collection)





Figure 2-56. Mill foundation, c 1960s. (BUFF Archives, Phelps Collection)



Figure 2-57. Rush Mining Company Mill, New Mill 1969. (BUFF Archives)



Figure 2-58. Taylor-Medley General Store, 1977. (BUFF Archives)



1 **Buffalo National River/Present Day**  
 2 **(1972 to Present Day)**  
 3  
 4 Establishment of Buffalo National River in  
 5 1972 encompassed Rush Historic District. The  
 6 NPS documented the cultural landscape and  
 7 improvements were made to visitor access  
 8 and amenities. Rush Road was widened and  
 9 graveled, and a loop drive provided river  
 10 access at Rush Landing. Interpretive trails  
 11 were added to provide access to the mines  
 12 and mill ruins. Structures were stabilized  
 13 and vegetation was cleared from the ruins,  
 14 while other areas remained forested. Hicks  
 15 Store was remodeled and converted into NPS  
 16 staff housing. Many buildings and structures  
 17 collapsed over time, while others were  
 18 subject to arson, leaving only a few standing  
 19 today.  
 20  
 21 **1972**  
 22  
 23 Buffalo National River was established by U.S.  
 24 Congress on March 1, 1972. Four families still  
 25 resided in Rush at the time.<sup>2.66</sup>  
 26  
 27 **1972 to 1983**  
 28  
 29 The NPS acquired property from Donald  
 30 Willsey, including House Row.<sup>2.67</sup>  
 31  
 32 **1978**  
 33  
 34 Hicks Store was converted into NPS staff  
 35 housing.<sup>2.68</sup>  
 36  
 37 **1979**  
 38  
 39 Removal of the 1950s New White Eagle  
 40 Mill.<sup>2.69</sup>  
 41  
 42  
 43  
 44 2.66 FPM, 4.  
 45 2.67 CLI, 25.  
 46 2.68 Rogers, *Selected Time Line of NPS Undertakings*.  
 2.69 Rogers, *Selected Time Line of NPS Undertakings*.

47 **1980 to 1982**  
 48  
 49 Rush Road improvements were completed by  
 50 NPS.<sup>2.70</sup>  
 51  
 52 **1982**  
 53  
 54 A record high flood (100 and 500 year) on  
 55 Buffalo River deposited sand and mud into  
 56 the study area.<sup>2.71</sup>  
 57  
 58 **1984**  
 59  
 60 The mines were inspected by Office of Mine  
 61 Safety.<sup>2.72</sup>  
 62  
 63 Rush Road was improved, including  
 64 improvements to the concrete water slab.<sup>2.73</sup>  
 65  
 66 **1985**  
 67  
 68 The NPS built fences to restrict entry to mine  
 69 tunnels and shafts.<sup>2.74</sup>  
 70  
 71 Marion county paved the portion of Rush  
 72 Road owned by the county.<sup>2.75</sup>  
 73  
 74 The Warehouse adjacent the Rush Blacksmith  
 75 Shop collapsed due to heavy snow loads.  
 76  
 77 The NPS stabilized the Morning Star Livery  
 78 Barn, Rush Smelter, and Taylor-Medley  
 79 General Store with emergency support.  
 80 Some vegetation was thinned around the  
 81 structures.<sup>2.76</sup>  
 82  
 83  
 84  
 85 2.70 Rogers, *Selected Time Line of NPS Undertakings*.  
 2.71 *The Flood of December 1982 and the 100- and 500- Year*  
 86 *Flood on the Buffalo River. Arkansas.* (U. S. Geological  
 87 Survey, 1985).  
 2.72 Rogers, *Selected Time Line of NPS Undertakings*.  
 2.73 Rogers, *Selected Time Line of NPS Undertakings*.  
 89 2.74 NRHP, 5.  
 90 2.75 NPS Drawing, *Stabilize Historic Structures*. 1985. Dwg  
 91 Number 173-80018. Also, Rogers, *Selected Time Line of*  
*NPS Undertakings*.  
 92 2.76 NRHP, 8.



Figure 2-59. House Row, 1985. (S. Rogers, BUFF Archives)

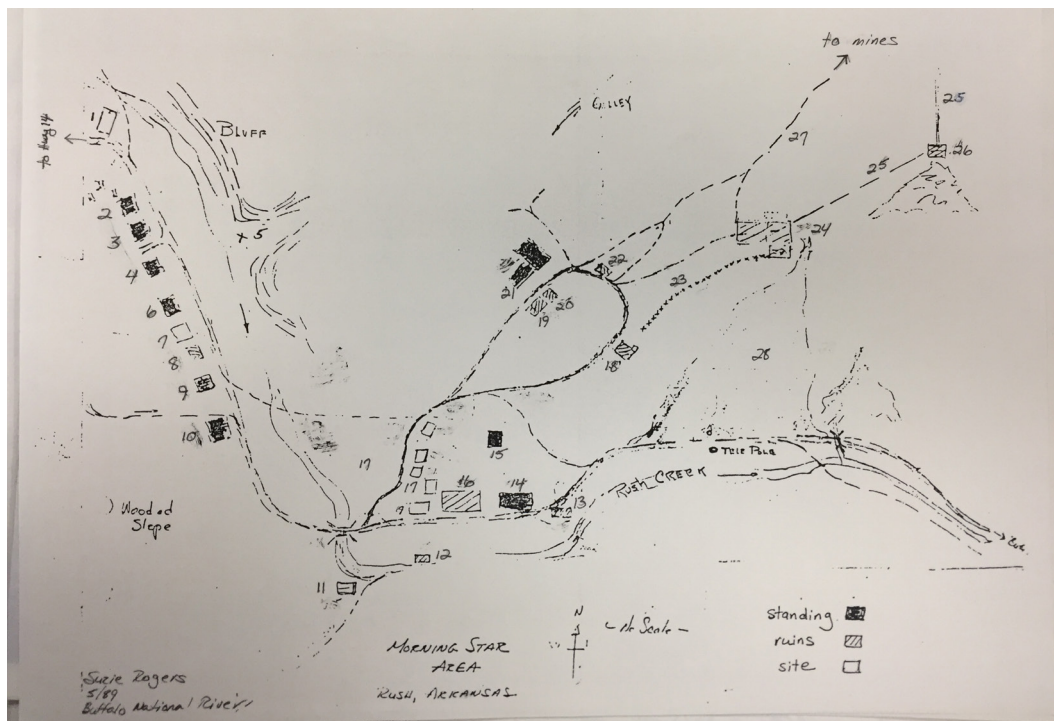


Figure 2-60. Morning Star Area standing structures, May 1989. (S. Rogers, BUFF Archives)

1 **1986**

2

3 Fencing around House Row completed.<sup>2.77</sup>

4

5 Rush Campground was improved with a road  
6 and water crossing from Rush Road to the  
7 campground. Other improvements included a  
8 loop road (extant) at the end of Rush Road to  
9 Rush Landing.<sup>2.78</sup>

10

11 **1987**

12

13 Rush Historic District was listed in the NRHP  
14 on February 27, 1987.<sup>2.79</sup>

15

16 Park maintenance staff and Youth  
17 Conservation Corps cleared vegetation  
18 around House Row and installed interpretive  
19 waysides.<sup>2.80</sup>

20

21 Morning Star Trail was built through  
22 the Morning Star Community landscape  
23 character area. Youth Conservation Corps  
24 and volunteers built the Morning Star Trail  
25 parking and two interpretive waysides.<sup>2.81</sup>

26

27 Rush Road was graded, widened and  
28 resurfaced.<sup>2.82</sup>

29

30 **1988**

31

32 Some House Row structures were stabilized  
33 and non-historic additions were removed.<sup>2.83</sup>

34

35 **1989**

36

37 Rush Blacksmith Shop was stabilized.<sup>2.84</sup>

38

39 <sup>2.77</sup> Rogers, *Selected Time Line of NPS Undertakings*.

40 <sup>2.78</sup> NPS Drawing, *Rush Campground*. Denver Service Center,  
41 1985-86. Dwg Number 173-41055.

42 <sup>2.79</sup> *Theme Identification Context Studies*, 8.

43 <sup>2.80</sup> Rogers, *Selected Time Line of NPS Undertakings*.

44 <sup>2.81</sup> Rogers, *Selected Time Line of NPS Undertakings*.

45 <sup>2.82</sup> NPS Drawing, *Rush Landing Comprehensive Design*. Dwg  
46 Number 173-41036.

47 <sup>2.83</sup> Rogers, *Selected Time Line of NPS Undertakings*.

48 <sup>2.84</sup> Rogers, *Selected Time Line of NPS Undertakings*.

47 Youth Conservation Corps performed trail

48 improvements.<sup>2.85</sup>

49

50 **1998**

51

52 Brantley House and Morning Star Livery Barn  
53 were destroyed by arson.<sup>2.86</sup>

54

55 **2000**

56

57 Hicks Wall, in front of the Hicks Hotel and

58 Hicks General Store, was repaired.<sup>2.87</sup>

59

60 **2001**

61

62 Visitor amenities were added by the NPS,  
63 including eleven interpretive exhibits and a  
64 one quarter of a mile visitor trail.

65

66 **2004**

67

68 Hicks General Store was destroyed by  
69 arson.<sup>2.88</sup>

70

71 **2005**

72

73 Laffoon Cemetery (outside study area) and  
74 White Eagle Mine New Mill Piers received  
75 a Determination of Eligibility for the NRHP  
76 from the Arkansas State Historic Preservation  
77 Office.<sup>2.89</sup>

78

79 **2011**

80

81 Emergency stabilization measures for  
82 the Taylor-Medley General Store were  
83 proposed.<sup>2.90</sup>

84

85 <sup>2.85</sup> Rogers, *Selected Time Line of NPS Undertakings*.

86 <sup>2.86</sup> Suzie Rogers, various emails RE; Arson loss, December,  
87 1998.

88 <sup>2.87</sup> *CLI*, 30.

89 <sup>2.88</sup> Rogers et al., *Morning Star Mines Interpretive Area*, III-  
299.

90 <sup>2.89</sup> *CLI*, 20.

91 <sup>2.90</sup> *Draft Project Agreement, PMIS 161446, Emergency*  
92 *Stabilization of Historic Taylor-Medley General Store*. (U.S.  
Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 2011).





Figure 2-61. Morning Star Livery Barn prior to stabilization, 1984. (S. Rogers, BUFF Archives)



Figure 2-62. Morning Star Livery Barn after stabilization, 1985. (S. Rogers, BUFF Archives)





Figure 2-63. Rush Smelter prior to stabilization, 1984. (S. Rogers, BUFF Archives)





Figure 2-64. Stabilization of the Rush Smelter included earthwork around the base of the smelter as part of the overall stabilization effort, c 1985. (BUFF Archives)



Figure 2-65. Rush Smelter after stabilization work, 1985. (S. Rogers, BUFF Archives)



Buffalo National River  
Rush Historic District  
Destruction of Historic Buildings

Brantley House LCS 60595



Figure 2-66. Brantley House was destroyed by arson in 1998. (S. Rogers, 1998)

**Buffalo National River  
Rush Historic District  
Destruction of Historic Buildings**

**Morning Star Barn LCS# 60598**



Figure 2-67. Morning Star Livery Barn was destroyed by arson in 1998. (S. Rogers, 1998)