

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**  
FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

**FOR NPS USE ONLY**  
RECEIVED JAN 13 1987  
DATE ENTERED FEB 27 1987

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC  
Rush Historic District  
AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
Rush Road  
CITY, TOWN  
Yellville  
STATE  
Arkansas

—NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
Third Cong. District

VICINITY OF  
X

CODE  
05

COUNTY  
Marion

CODE  
089

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	NA <input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	NA <input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 AGENCY**

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: *(If applicable)*  
Southwest Region, National Park Service

STREET & NUMBER  
P. O. Box 728  
CITY, TOWN  
Santa Fe  
VICINITY OF  
STATE  
New Mexico 87501

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Marion County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER  
N/A  
CITY, TOWN  
Yellville  
STATE  
Arkansas 72687

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE  
See Continuation Sheet

DATE  
—FEDERAL —STATE —COUNTY —LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS  
CITY, TOWN  
STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

- EXCELLENT
- GOOD
- FAIR



- DETERIORATED
- RUINS
- UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

- UNALTERED
- ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

- ORIGINAL SITE
- MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

See Continuation Sheet

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only  
received  
date entered

Continuation sheet	Item number	Page
	6	1

Preliminary Survey of Historic Structures. Part I and Part II. 1973; 1975.  
Buffalo National River (federal)

List of Classified Structures Inventory. In preparation, 1985.  
Buffalo National River (federal)

Historic Structures Report. Draft, 1985. In preparation, 1985.  
Buffalo National River (federal)

## Description

### Summary

The Rush Historical District is a 1,316 acre area along the Buffalo River of northern Arkansas containing the structures and mines of a once-flourishing zinc mining community from 1880 to 1940. Standing buildings, ruins, and other documented site areas, as well as the mines themselves, and the connecting road system identify this area. The sites include those that have retained their historic mining community use and those that have been altered by the post-mining recreational use of the area. The district is divided by topography into three sections: the Rush Creek valley; the Clabber Creek valley; and the contiguous Buffalo River terraces and bluffs. A fault zone that parallels Rush Creek created easy access to ore-bearing rocks along the bluffs, thus leading to the change from a sparsely populated farming area to significant periods of zinc mining. Later use of the area has been primarily recreational.

### Area Description and Environmental Context

The Rush Historic District lies in Marion County, Arkansas, within the boundaries of Buffalo National River, an area created in 1972 to preserve the free-flowing Buffalo River. The Buffalo River runs west to east 132 miles through the southern Ozarks, finally emptying into the White River, a Mississippi River tributary. The Rush Historic District is twenty-five miles upstream from the mouth of the Buffalo River. The Buffalo River area is characterized by high forested bluffs and narrow tributary valleys; the mid-nineteenth century Anglo settlement of the Buffalo River area followed river bottom lands and tributaries. In the historic district, Rush Creek and Clabber Creek are the main Buffalo River tributaries. The district comprises the lower two miles of each tributary valley and adjoining land extending up the Buffalo River about one-half mile and down the Buffalo River about three-quarters of a mile.

Access to the area always has been limited. The steepness of terrain and the heavy vegetation limited transportation routes and post-mining use of the area, factors which contribute to the area's distinct boundaries today and have helped retain what remains of the mining era structures. The main access routes today are by way of state highway 14 and county road 26, and by waterway on the Buffalo River. It is also possible to reach the district over a network of rough mountain roads, most of which are now limited to four-wheel drive vehicles. Lands downstream from Rush lie within a legislated wilderness area with restricted vehicle access.

Historically, the main roadway from the county seat of Yellville to Rush followed Rush Creek along a rough dirt route which was replaced as the main route when the state highway system was developed in the late 1920s. The old Rush Creek road remains the main route within the district, although it was rerouted in the 1960s to eliminate numerous creek crossings; thus either the natural-rock crossings were bypassed, or concrete low water slabs were constructed. The National Park Service has widened this road and gravelled the surface. A major spring was located on Rush Creek and before the mining days

powered a grist mill. Originally, this spring was several times larger than it is today, but the county road relocation reduced the size of the spring, known locally as Boiling Springs.

The mine workings are located about 200 feet above the valley floors. The tunnels run at a fairly uniform contour line along the bluffs. The hillsides are also dotted with the abandoned prospects and digs of hopeful miners. Roadbed traces connect the mining areas. Fragments of mining apparatus such as hoist and supports and ore car track, are also visible along the tunnel level. Another reminder of the mining days are the numerous mining waste piles--many now covered with vegetation--and the more finely worked tailings. Many of the tunnels and shafts have collapsed in the intervening years, but four mining areas have accessible underground workings, and two have ore cars and other miscellaneous equipment such as buckets and rotting supports inside. In 1985 the National Park Service, for visitor safety, designed fences to restrict entry to the tunnels and shafts.

Natural features of the area which influenced district development are: the 500-foot high bluffs of limestone and dolomite containing the ore-bearing strata; the thick vegetation; and the numerous waterways and springs. The original forested slopes were cut during the mining period to provide power for mining operations; the present vegetation is a thick growth of greenbriers, blackberries, poison ivy, small shrubs, and young cedars which obscure many sites. Vegetation increased in the past fifteen years since the last group of residents left the area. The steepness of terrain influenced building patterns and use and the form of mining and mining facilities by allowing easy access to ore strata but creating the need for solutions to transporting the ore from mine to processing facilities and on to shipment terminals. The concentrating mills, built against the slopes, had tramways which moved the ore between the higher tunnels and the mills. The sudden steep slope of the bluffs also necessitated constructing buildings which had to be leveled by high rock piers on one end and foundation lines running to ground at the opposite end. The creeks, as well as the springs, also influenced building patterns, as well as contributing to the community water supply and providing water for the steam-powered mining equipment. Portions of the water piping systems are still visible. The waterways are subject to flooding. Periodic river and creek flooding, particularly the record-high 1982 flood, has deposited sand and mud over several structural foundations.

#### Description of District Resources

The Rush Historic District comprises most of a formally defined area once known as the Rush Mining District. The historic district is divided by topography into creek valley and river mining areas, and within these sections into community and processing areas centered around particular mines. As mining expanded, so did the district population and the number of buildings and structures. The area along the Rush Creek valley in the vicinity of the Morning Star and McIntosh Mines was known as "Rush" and remained the most stable community area in the district. All of the standing buildings are located in this section. Throughout the district are concrete foundations, limestone walls, chimneys, rock piers, fence lines, gates, and cast iron

pipings: the ruins of the many other buildings and structures which once grouped around the mining areas. In addition, site areas without existing above-grade remains can be identified throughout the district. All of these elements have contributed to an understanding of the pattern of life and progress of mining in the district. The mine level adds a fourth element to the valley layout, containing tunnels, apparatus, and transportation connections to the valley buildings.

### The Rush Buildings

No community existed at Rush before the mining days. The community developed in association with the mining and in many cases was supported by the mining companies. The standing buildings in the Morning Star area are on Morning Star land and were considered "company buildings," although they were constructed of varying designs. The buildings were constructed by local craftsmen using local materials from the area sawmills.

Nearly all the Rush buildings were constructed of single-layer vertical boards with minimal internal support. Foundations were rock piers, particularly for those houses built against the slope of the mountain. Larger buildings, such as the concentration plants, were supported on concrete piers. All of the earlier buildings had shingled roofs, but these have been recovered or replaced with galvanized metal roofs within the past fifty to sixty years. Most houses and many commercial buildings had simple porches. Siding was board and batten in the initial construction; later, horizontal siding was added to many buildings and painted.

Houses generally were one-story. Two to four rooms comprised the interiors. Windows were factory made: four over four double-hung. All the doors are now missing. The hardwood floors were uncovered and interior walls were unfinished. Newspaper and wallpaper layers, fragments of which still remain, insulated against the Ozark winters. There never has been any indoor plumbing in these buildings, even in modern times. Electricity was added later to several buildings, but only one house shows any evidence today. Heating was provided by wood stoves, for which the brick half chimneys on wooden supports are still present.

The standing structures in the district all show these patterns of historical construction. These buildings, all of which are positioned along the main valley road in the Morning Star area, are: five wood-frame houses, a wood-frame general store, a livery barn, and a combined blacksmith shop and warehouse; the old stone smelter; and, half a mile south, the rock-walled Hicks general store. Simple in design and materials, these buildings have been little changed over the years. Beginning about World War I, shed and lean-to rooms were added to the original structure as family needs changed. Most of these additions were equally simple and functional, frequently using material salvaged from other area buildings. The original exterior wall served as the new interior wall, with the original siding left intact. Existing doors and windows were converted into entrances to the new rooms or were boarded over, thus little affecting the original structural design.

Even as company buildings the buildings show individual design features. Although gable roofs were most common, one house has a hip roof. One house is a double-pen with double front doors, a common design in the Ozarks. Another house is one and one-half story, possibly reflecting an earlier log cabin which is said to have stood in that location. The wood-frame store once sported a handsome bay front.

The Rush buildings were utilized as houses, stores, and barns by residents who continued to live in the community after the mining era. Some houses were lived in until the 1960s. Since abandonment, weathering and vandalism have been the greatest threats to the structures as the vertical-board construction is easily affected by both. All window glazing is missing, window sashes are broken, and doors are gone. Two houses and the wood-frame general store have large sections of the single-layer exterior walls removed leaving gaping unsupported holes in the buildings. The wood-frame general store is missing its flooring and has had the bay front frame torn loose. Two houses, the livery barn, and the blacksmith shop retain most of the original structure. The giant warehouse addition to the blacksmith shop is collapsing due to loss of the protective metal roofing. The smelter and livery barn are in good condition following stabilization procedures by the National Park Service. All of the buildings and structures retain the sense of the mountain mining community. The wood-frame structures quickly weather to a ghost-town appearance, but one which visitors find fascinating as they visualize the mining era and rural community life.

The smelter was used strictly as a mining structure. Built in 1886 by smeltermen brought to Rush, it is the oldest structure in the Rush Historic District. It is constructed of rough-cut limestone blocks joined by a natural clay mortar. The fifteen-foot high tower has an arched mouth and a beehived-shaped burning chamber. Although only used briefly during the early mining period, the smelter was kept intact, a symbol of those early days.

The rock-walled Hicks store is unique for community structures at Rush as it was built of rock rather than wood. It was built in 1916 during a period of commercial expansion at Rush and reflects a current commercial construction style of the county seat. Although originally two-story, the second floor and original roof of the Hicks store were removed after the historic period, leaving the present limestone walls, which were then used to create a high one-story residence. The door and window placement on the front are original, although modern picture windows were added. The gable roof is new. The concrete porch in front, the concrete floor, and the back exit which climbs up out of the below-ground end of the building, are also the original design. There never have been windows along the long side walls. A handsome stone wall constructed during the mining days still separates the building from the road. Interior remodelling to the building was done in the 1970s when the building was converted to park housing. Present plans of the National Park Service are to divest the building of roof and other modern additions, leaving only the original limestone walls.

Preservation activities connected with the standing structures have been the stabilization of the livery barn and smelter in the summer of 1985 by a National Park Service preservation team. At the same time emergency support was given to the wood-frame general store. Encroaching vegetation has also been removed from around the store and houses, and the smelter and livery barn. A potential activity may be using volunteers under National Park Service direction to strengthen the frames of the remaining buildings and to maintain the area.

### Structural Sites and Ruins

In association with the standing buildings and structures are the ruins of the other Rush buildings, lost through fire, weathering, vandalism, neglect, or removal. The Morning Star Mining Company maintained its presence until the 1960s, either through a manager or caretaker. After the sale of the company lands in the late 1960s, many buildings which had stood until that time were removed entirely, leaving foundations and levelled sites.

Ruins and sites can be found throughout the district and contribute to a wider understanding of community layout, mining processes, and construction techniques. Most of these remains retain enough features of either outline or position to aid in sketching the wider district layout and its historic components.

The most substantial ruins are those of the large concentrating mills, now represented by the four foot to twelve foot high concrete piers which once supported the large plants. Additional foundation wall outlines, concrete supports for mill machinery, and cables, anchor bolts, and other metal pieces are also present. The Buffalo River section contains the greatest number of mill ruins and sites. With the exception of the mining tunnels, the mill ruins most visibly mark the mining areas.

Other district structures have less visible remains. The smaller and simpler wood-frame buildings built on rock piers, leave few remains. Some of the improvements during World War I and the 1920s used poured concrete foundations which are visible in outline in the vegetation. Old chimney stands mark house sites as do fence lines and posts and the series of road traces. Cast iron piping for the water drawn from the creeks and springs is also found in sections in the district.

Some of the most significant areas in the district have the least visible remains. The present Rush landing and campground was the site of two townsites, including the famous "New Town" of World War I. Only road traces and a few collapsed buildings mark the area today above grade. This area is continually affected by recreational use and river flooding.

There are other site areas within the district which can be identified generally from descriptive documentation and oral history, but which still need to be documented archeologically.



The ruins and sites form a very significant portion of the district and add to both the historical overview of the area and the sense of the historic community. The majority of ruins have not been affected by opposing uses and retain location and sense of original use. The ruins contribute greatly to the overall "discovery" of Rush by visitors.

### The Mines

The mine level is situated between Rush Valley and Clabber Valley, and along the Buffalo River where some mine tunnels reached below river level leading to difficulty with flooding. Most of these tunnels are horizontal. The ore strata is dolomite and limestone below a sandstone layer. Zinc was the only mineral actively mined. Room and pillar was a common tunnelling technique within the mines. The Morning Star Mine was famous for a quarry-like cut which was open-faced to the outside. Most of the mineral ore has long since been worked away, but the cut can still be seen as can exiting tunnels worked in the 1920s and the 1930s.

Roadbeds and traces connect the mine level in the Rush Valley, parts of which are supported yet by loose-rock retaining walls. Old roadbeds also extend up Clabber Creek. The Buffalo River mines used established roadbeds along the river edge. The main ore transportation route was down the Buffalo River from Rush to the river's mouth, a long, hard haul over the bluffs. This road exists today, within the wilderness area. The mining companies continually worked to improve this roadbed, the surface of which has remained rough and rocky. The line of the old railroad bed graded in 1915 to establish a rail connection for the mines is also still visible between the river and the main district road.

Other mining remains include ore cars and hoists, engines, and rotting frames left in the mines. In the mine vicinity are the ubiquitous iron anchor bolts, and other metal pieces for which the purpose is not yet known.

After the Morning Star Mines closed in the 1930s, local miners went to free oreing, removing the ore as individuals for sale to a buyer in Yellville. There were limited attempts in the late 1930s and 1940s to reopen some of the mines, but little work was done. The most recent attempt to work the mines occurred in the late 1950s when a processing mill was brought to Rush and reerected, and mines were opened up along Clabber Creek. The remains of the mill and some machinery, historic in themselves, remain from this period. Otherwise, the mines remain much as they were in the historic period.

In 1985 the National Park Service restricted entrance to the mines because of concern over visitor safety. Steel mesh fencing and gates were erected around each accessible opening.

### Recreational Use in the District

The greatest change to the area has come at Rush Landing, beginning in the 1930s when tourist cabins were erected and some of the old mining company land was used for subsistence agriculture. Some small cabins and ruins remain from

this period. Post-historic recreational uses of the area have included fishing, boating, camping, and horseback riding. Park Service plans call for continuing these recreational uses, including the river access point, parking lots, campground, picnic area, and trailhead. Interpretive programs and hiking trails are also being developed for the area. Development plans call for close monitoring of potential impact on cultural resources.

The multi-use of the Rush area has been documented to prehistoric occupancy, as far back as the Archaic period. Current studies sponsored by the National Park Service will help determine if these sites are potentially eligible for the National Register.

Near the mouth of Clabber Creek is an A-frame building constructed as a retirement home and presently occupied under the rules of Use and Occupancy of the National Park Service. Built of wood with hand tools, the dwelling and its outbuildings are nestled among the natural vegetation of the area and blend easily with the environment.

The modern-day recreational uses of the area continue historic uses which co-existed with the mining industry. Rush today could be Rush of one hundred years ago.

## CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES

Numbers in parentheses refer to Sketch Map

Standing Buildings and Structures (all buildings and structures retain integrity of location, setting, feeling, association)

Bundy House  
(2)

Bundy House. Circa. 1899. One-story, vertical board and batten dwelling, 15' X 26'. Rock pier foundation; hip roof; half-brick chimney on wooded support; porch platform and overhang across main facade. Shed addition on south (1930s) and north (1950s). Doors and window sashes missing; loss of exterior boards on east and north. Three outbuildings date from 1950s or later.

Building divided into two rooms plus space added by sheds. Interior flooring in core structure is tongue and groove over subflooring. Window casements extend nearly the length of the wall and show molding detail. Wooden drip caps protect windows on the outside.

Building exhibits design features, workmanship, and materials of historic period, but loss of physical features limits integrity to its value as unit with other dwellings and comparison in style.

This building appears to have been a fine dwelling in its day. Lived in until early 1970s.

Washhouse  
(3)

Washhouse. Circa 1899. One-story, vertical board and batten dwelling, 16' x 24'. Rock pier and post foundation; gable roof; porch platform and overhang across main facade, half brick chimney with masonry cover. Small horizontal board shed at rear (1960s). Doors and window sashes missing; loss of exterior boards on north.

Building divided into two rooms; tongue and groove flooring over a subflooring. Interior walls vary from 1 x 8s to 1 x 12s. Newspaper remnants on walls and ceilings are circa 1960s.

Building exhibits design features, workmanship, and materials of early historic periods, but loss of interior and exterior physical features limits integrity.

Building is of a rougher, less-finished construction style, similar to early buildings in Morning Star area. Used alternately as dwelling and community storage until early 1970s.

Kastning House.  
(4)

Kastning House. Circa 1899. One-story, wood frame house with overlapping siding, 21' x 31'. Design is double pen with separate entranceways, a frequent Ozark style although uncommon in Rush area. Rock pier foundation; gable roof; brick chimney on wooden support (top of chimney missing); porch platform and overhang extends across doorway entrances. Board and batten shed across length of rear (1920s or earlier). Doors and window sashes missing; some loss of interior wall boards. Wall construction is 1 x 4s and 1 x 6s over pine studding attached to 1 x 10s and 1 x 12s placed diagonally. Exterior siding painted green with white trim (1960s). Exterior construction detail more finished than other Rush buildings, including mitred corners.

Interior divided into two rooms with two additional rooms in shed. Numerous newspaper layers removed in 1950s and replaced with wallpaper, segments of which remain. Central chimney with double flue. Tongue and groove flooring over a subflooring.

Building exhibits design features, workmanship, and materials of historic periods and retains physical integrity.

Used as dwelling until early 1970s.

Brantley House.  
(5)

Brantley House. Circa 1899. One-story, vertical board and batten house with overlapping siding, 16' x 16'. A 10' x 16' shed addition at rear of house probably was added soon after construction. Rock pier foundation; gable roof; half brick chimney on wooden support (collapsing); porch platform and overhang across length of main structure. Board and batten lean-to on south (1960s) is deteriorating. Doors and windows missing.

One main room plus shed additions. Walls 1 x 12s. Butt-laid flooring (replacement?) and tongue and groove flooring. Newspaper and wallpaper remnants include 1910 newspaper. Two-wire electric cable runs along roof crawl space.

Building exhibits design features, workmanship, and materials of historic periods and retains physical integrity.

Rush schoolteacher boarded here during 1920s and 1930s. Used as dwelling until 1950s.

Storekeepers  
House  
(8)

Storekeepers House. Circa. 1899. One and one-half story vertical board house with overlapping siding, 14' X 14', with 8' x 14' shed addition (1920s or earlier). Rear shed addition (1950s). Rock pier foundation; gable roof; cemented brick chimney with double flue; porch platform and overhang across main facade and along 1920s addition. Remnants of green paint on exterior siding (1960s?). Half-story room over main structure, but flooring and joists have been removed; some siding loss on exterior; doors and window sashes missing. Sills are log.

Interior divided into one main room with side room and rear room in shed additions, plus half-story. Corner stairway to half story. Tongue and groove flooring. Newspaper insulation dated 1930s and wallpaper (1950s).

Building exhibits design, workmanship, materials of historic periods.

The Setzer family, co-founders of the Morning Star, lived in this house. Logan Setzer, who died in a mining accident in 1916, lived in this house. During the 1930s to 1950s the Taylor-Medley storekeepers lived in this house. A log house stood here in the mid-1880s.

Taylor-Medley  
General Store  
(9)

Taylor-Medley General Store. Circa 1899. One-story, vertical board and batten building, 20' x 33', with 14' x 33' vertical board shed addition. Store has gable roof with false front covering gable end; porch platform and overhang covers length of store and continues across front of shed; rock pier foundation. Doors and window sashes missing; part of the frame of a moulded bay front remains on the store showing evidence of green and yellow paint. Significant portions of the exterior boards have been removed on sides and rear.

The store interior originally was divided into a store section with a separate post office section, although no divisions remain today. The remains of a wall of 1 x 12 boards divides the store from the shed, which was used as a residence, and after the historic period, as storage. The store flooring and joists have been removed. Flooring is intact in the shed, where channel panelling covers walls and ceiling.

Structural loss is contributing to deterioration of the building. In 1985 a National Park Service preservation team gave emergency support to the building by adding supporting posts to the structure.

Historically, this building is of major importance to the Rush Historic District, serving as the Rush post office for the entire district that era, as well as serving as the focus of the dwindling Rush community after the mining days until the store closed about 1955. The Rush storekeeper also served as the justice of peace and married Rush couples in this building.

Morning Star  
Livery Barn  
(12)

Morning Star Livery Barn. Circa 1899. Vertical board and batten drive-through barn with eight stalls and a loft, 20' x 32'. Buried post foundation; gable roof, apparently originally shingled but now covered with galvanized metal. Open lean-to sheds along both lengths: early photographs show some enclosure of the lean-tos. Repaired 1920s with new boards from local sawmill; iron hardware made in 1925 blacksmith shop; board width varies but averages 1 x 12. Door intact on west gable end; window openings in loft, intact.

Interior divided into stalls with center drive-through. Portions of stall divisions missing, some hardware. Earthen floor. Open to rafters above loft.

In summer of 1985 a National Park Service preservation team stabilized this building replacing and adding framework for stability and putting building back into alignment. Vegetation was removed from the surrounding area.

This building exhibits design, workmanship, materials of the historic periods. The current physical components are either from the historic periods or are replacements added by the NPS preservation team. Despite board loss, the design and function of the barn is still evident.

Smelter  
(13)

Smelter. 1886. Random-coursed, rough-cut, mortared limestone tower, 11' x 11' x 15'. Mortar is a clay and lime mixture. Beehived-shaped central burning chamber; arched mouth; foundation stones banked into hillside.

In the summer of 1985 a National Park Service preservation team replaced and remortared fallen stone, including rebuilding the central chamber and repairing rock slippage in the mouth. (Historical photographs show the mouth rock slippage as early as 1911). Overgrown vegetation was removed from the area.

This structure is the oldest structure at Rush and the oldest existing structure from the historic mining period of the North Arkansas District. It illustrates early smelting systems as well as contributing to knowledge of the development of the North Arkansas District. It was used in 1886 to smelt zinc ore for other potential metals; and in 1898 to burn lime during construction of the Morning Star mill.

Photos included with this nomination show the smelter both before and after stabilization.

Blacksmith  
Shop  
(17)

Blacksmith Shop, with attached warehouse. 1925. Vertical board and batten building, 12' x 18'8", with an attached vertical board and lean-to warehouse, 30' x 42' x 25', built about 1927. Blacksmith shop rests on poured concrete foundation, 3' high above grade. Gable roof with galvanized metal covering, probably original. Shop interior divided into two rooms, one for the forge and work area, of which the forge brickwork and a portion of the stove pipe are intact as well as rude wooden work tables; and a parts room which used to have bin shelving. The floor is earthen; interior walls unfinished. Doors are missing from the entrances to each section. The frame of a porch overhang covers the forge entrance.

The warehouse towers above the blacksmith shop, and is divided into a main story and a loft, with divided storage bins along one long side and a concrete engine base 4 1/2' x 7 1/2' at the entrance to the opposite side. 2 x 4 uprights support the center. The structure is in a dangerously deteriorating condition due to removal of the protective galvanized metal roof covering and most of the interior boards on the rear and far side.

The blacksmith shop exhibits the design, materials, and workmanship of a rural blacksmith shop of the 1920s. The warehouse design provides an interesting look at auxiliary building needs of the mining companies, but the physical features are rapidly deteriorating.

The blacksmith shop was constructed in 1925 for the Morning Star Mining company during its final mining period. It was constructed and operated by Lee Medley, a local resident who had worked for the Morning Star during the World War I period and later served as the final caretaker of the Morning Star property as well as running the Taylor-Medley General Store and post office during its final years.

A historical photograph included with this nomination shows the blacksmith shop during the historical period.

Hicks General  
Store  
(42)

Hicks General Store. 1916. Rock-faced ashlar building, 28' x 60'. This is a remodelled building, originally a 2-story limestone structure with a slightly sloping gable roof. Presently, the building contains about 1 1/2 stories of the original walls, remodeled as a high 1-story building with new roof and rafters. The building entrances are in the original location, although modernized, as are windows on the front and rear. No windows ever existed along the sides. The concrete porch and steps are original, as is the stone wall which separates the face of the store from the road and is made from the same building material as the store. Limestone blocks form the foundation. The interior was remodelled in the 1970s for park housing. The concrete floor inside is original, but interior framework is new as well as conveniences such as indoor plumbing.

The limestone walls--the main portion of this structure--are the original material and show original workmanship and illustrate original design of a typical Rush building which because of terrain is above ground at front and runs under ground at rear. The substantial nature of the building is unique for Rush commercial buildings and illustrates the hopes of prosperity of the World War I times. This building also echoes a commercial business style of the county seat during the turn-of-the-century period when several large cut stone buildings were erected.



For the Rush district the Hicks store served as a trade center for mining companies along the lower portion of Rush Creek and as part of the expanded business interests of the Hicks family, which also operated a boarding hotel and livery service. The main floor of the building served as general store, and post office during the 1920s and 1930s; the second floor was used for boarders if additional space was needed. The Hicks family came to Rush about 1900 and were part of the commercial expansion of the district during three periods of significance.

Present plans of the National Park Service are to divest the building of modern additions, leaving the limestone walls. Whether as a standing structure or a ruin, this building is significant to the story of Rush.

No historical photographs have yet been located of this building.

Ruins (Unless noted, all ruins retain integrity of location and setting and are essential to plotting the overall community arrangement)

Ruins-Morning Star Area:

Raby  
House  
(7)

Raby House ruins. Circa 1899. The remains of a rectangular board and batten dwelling which collapsed in the winter of 1980. Current remains are a small back section of rude pole and frame construction, a pile of rough-sawn boards, the rock piers, and corrugated metal sheeting.

These ruins help sketch in the main road community placement plus providing a construction comparison with other buildings in the row.

Footbridge  
Pillar  
(10)

Rush Creek footbridge pillar. Circa 1915. Concrete pillar 9' high on 3 1/2' base; iron anchor bolts imbedded in top. Used as a support for footbridge over Rush Creek from mining area to houses.

Morning Star  
Hotel  
(14)

Morning Star Hotel ruins. Circa 1900. The two-story wooden structure which once stood here burned in 1947. Remaining is a graded area about 150' long marked by two sections of a dry-laid retaining wall. Portions of a concrete foundation and water pipe from the spring-fed water system are left. Presently covered by vegetation.

The structure which stood here was one of the best-known landmarks in Rush and housed many a visitor as well as being referred to in contemporary accounts. The first and last Morning Star mine managers lived in this building.

Chase &  
Mulholland  
Store  
(18)

Chase & Mulholland Store ruins. Circa 1899. A two-story board and batten building with later overlapping siding, removed 1960s. Current ruins are a poured concrete foundation 16' x 30' and a large earthen depression with dry-laid rock wall said to have been the storage cellar under the side room. Presently covered by vegetation.

The structure which stood here served as the Morning Star company store until the late 1920s.

Morning Star  
Mine Office  
(18)

Morning Star Mining Company Office ruins. Circa 1911. Poured concrete foundation 14 1/2' x 31', partially buried below grade. A 20' earthen passage with a concrete pad for the drive-through of the ore platform weighing scales is still visible between the office and the company store. Originally this was a 2-story board and batten building which served as company mine office, official location of company meetings, assay office, and ore wagon weighing. The building was removed in the 1960s. The site is presently covered with vegetation.

Smith House  
(19)

Smith House ruins. Circa 1899. A general levelled area locates the residential site. Remains include cedar post fencing, possibly of a later period, a 3' x 7' concrete base, and a 9' high masonry covered brick chimney stand. The first mill engineer for the Morning Star Company lived in this house, a one-story vertical board building.

Morning Star Concentrating Mill and auxiliary structures:

Morning Star  
Mill  
(20)

Morning Star Concentrating Mill ruins. 1898. Enlarged 1911. Refurbished 1926. The ruins of the mill cover an area at least 40' x 130', perhaps greater due to difficulties in identifying parts in the heavy vegetation. The most visible remain is a series of 6' high pyramidal concrete piers in an area about 25' x 91'. Smaller lines of piers, large concrete blocks with anchor bolts, concrete ribbing, 2' high dry laid rock walls with firebrick centers, cast iron pipes, and other concrete and loose rock foundation pieces mark this area. The mill building area was levelled and dug against the bluffside. A 200' unmortared rock retaining wall, over 8' high at mid-section, holds the down side of the bluff area. A sketch map of features located within the mill building area accompanies this nomination.

This is the most complete historic mill remains in the North Arkansas district. It was the first concentrating mill erected at Rush and the last in operation.

Historical photographs show this mill during each design change.

The mill building was burned and equipment salvaged during World War II.

- Tram  
(21) Mill tramway ruins. 1898. Enlarged 1911. Refurbished 1926. Concrete piers in parallel section, averaging 2' high, extend up the hillside from the mill building to the mine level. A wooden framework and track originally completed the tram, which operated on gravity. Presently covered by vegetation.
- Rockhouse  
(22) Rockhouse ruins. Circa 1911. With the 1911 enlargement of the mill a storage hopper filled a center point in the tram operation. Shallow concrete ribs, a corner block of concrete, and charred timbers from a 1951 fire, lie in a levelled area between the series of a tram piers.
- Oil Storage  
(27) Oil storage building ruins. Circa 1911. Six concrete piers in a 14' x 12' outline mark the location of a vertical board and batten building removed in the 1960s. This building stored the oil barrels used for operation of mill equipment after remodeling.
- Pumphouse  
(26) Pumphouse ruins. Circa 1911. Poured concrete foundation 11' x 23' overall exposed 1' above grade on the road side and 5' above grade on creek side. Within this base outline are other concrete divisions and a large concrete pad for machinery. Sections of pipe can be found between this ruin at creekside and on up the bluff to the mill. The pumphouse provided water power for the mill operation.
- Tailings  
(25) Mill Tailings. Circa 1898-1931 milling period. A sloping pile of the finely-worked ore material from the milling process. Once 40' high, the hill has been reduced to about half its original size.
- Ruins--McIntosh Mining area vicinity:
- Hicks Hotel  
(41) Hicks Hotel ruins. Circa 1903. A mortared rock wall 205' long holds a gently sloping area of the Hicks property. Mortared rock flower beds in a diamond shape, and concrete steps and platform leading to a squarish levelled area mark the Hicks Hotel site. The wall has two stone column entranceways, stone steps, and iron hinges left from a gate. The entranceway immediately in front of the Hotel ruins contains a mortared rock flower bed along a concrete walkway.

Area used as yard since 1960s for occupants of remodeled Hicks General Store.

The Hicks family ran a early boarding house for visitors to Rush, and a livery service to Yellville from Rush, as well as operating a general store during the boom period. Advertisements for their hotel and livery appeared in the Mountain Echo during the early 1900s.

Pop Campbell  
(45)

"Pop Campbell" house site ruins. Circa 1915. Rock piers in a area 17' x 22'; brick chimney stand; cedar posts and vertical board gates. The small vertical-board building burned in 1977. Remains represent one of the permanent houses in a small housing area near the McIntosh.

McIntosh Mill  
(46)

McIntosh Mill ruins. 1900. Remodeded 1915. Multi-level area of dry-laid stone retaining walls and foundations; concrete platforms for machinery; pyramidal-shaped concrete piers for a tramway; piping; anchor bolts; lumber ruins of small frame building.

The McIntosh mill concentrated ore through the World War I period. It served the McIntosh Mine and infrequently other mines without mills. Its layout is different from the other mill areas and represents a different use of the terrain.

McIntosh Hotel  
(52)

McIntosh Hotel ruins. 1900. Little remains of the handsome structure which once stood here before burning in the 1930s. Miscellaneous remains, such as a 3' x 6' concrete corner, dry-laid wall sections, and iron pipes mark the location.

This structure served as the boarding hotel for managers of the McIntosh Mining Company and visitors. It also served as a community gathering place for dances and other get-togethers. J. C. Shepherd, who consolidated several Rush area mines into a well-managed producing unit, lived at the McIntosh Hotel during the World War I period, later housing Rush's first automobile under the hotel's high porch.

McIntosh  
Livery  
(53)

McIntosh Livery ruins. Circa 1900. 35' x 9' dry-laid natural rock wall. In levelled area.

The McIntosh Hotel ran a livery in connection with its services. Advertisements appeared in the Yellville newspaper in the early 1900s.

Ruins-Rush Landing vicinity:

Rush  
Hilton  
(56)

Rush "Hilton." Circa 1915. Brick chimney, timbers. Originally, a 2-story wood frame building used by mill superintendents.

White Eagle  
Mill  
(57)

White Eagle Mill Ruins. 1903. 75' x 77' unmortared rough stone wall; 15' x 17' unmortared rock wall; 5' x 11' concrete blocks; six pyramidal concrete piers; anchor bolts in various places.

The mill ruins sit at the edge of the current Rush landing parking lot, while the parking lot utilizes the mill settling area.

This mill represents a less complex mill at Rush in design and equipment installed. It had sporadic use, due to problems with mine flooding. Its location probably is the same as the area used by the first organized mining company at Rush for its simpler jigging equipment during the first period of significance.

New Town  
Building  
(60)

"New Town" Building ruins. Circa 1915. Dry laid random-coursed rock foundation for early World War I building, possible a store according to oral history. Vertical board framing also marks area. Building collapsed in winter of 1980.

This ruin marks the only remaining structure from the World War I "New Town" of Rush, which at one time contained numerous businesses as well as residences. "New Town" was the World War I boom town of Rush and the site of many colorful stories.

Edith Mill  
(63)

Edith Mill ruins. 1916. Concrete pyramidal piers 12' high and concrete blocks in area 40' x 88', as well as a higher level of piers and foundation pieces.

The Edith represents one of the new mills of the World War I period. An office and other buildings, sites not located, once stood nearby according to oral history.

Yellow Rose Mill  
(65)

Yellow Rose Mill ruins. 1915. Cast concrete pyramidal piers averaging 4' high; concrete anchor blocks; dry-laid rock wall foundation; all in area 18' x 57'.

The Yellow Rose mill served one of the last mines to be developed at Rush. According to contemporary accounts, it was the first mill in the area to use oil-powered engines.

Yellow Rose  
Pumphouse  
(67)

Yellow Rose pumphouse ruins (?). 1915. Large concrete peices 5' x 5' x 7' and metal anchor pieces partially buried in river sediment may be part of the river-edge Yellow Rose pumphouse.

Red Cloud Mill  
(69)

Red Cloud mill ruins. 1900. Pyramidal concrete piers averaging 6' high; concrete engine blocks; piping; tram supports, in area approximately 30' x 91'.

Outlying portions of mill site are buried by river sediment. Office, hotel, and other buildings, said to have been here, are unlocated.

The Red Cloud mill served the Red Cloud mine, one of the overall largest ore producers at Rush.

Lonnie Boy  
Pumphouse  
(71)

Lonnie Boy pumphouse ruins. Circa late 1920s. Poured concrete chamber, 5' x 12' x 4', located on river edge slope.

Provided water power for the Lonnie Boy mine, a late development of the World War I period, and during the late 1920s and early 1930s.

Mines and Mining Areas (all retain location, setting, association, feeling)

- Morning Star Waste Rock Pile (24) Morning Star waste rock pile. Circa 1898-1931 mining period.
- Morning Star Roadbed (27) Morning Star roadbed. Circa 1898. Rock-rubble surface and natural-rock retaining wall, leading to mine area. Photograph 1900.
- Morning Star Mines (28) Morning Star Mines. (Morning Star Mining Co.) Active 1884-1935. Six horizontal tunnels; ore-face cut; mining apparatus: piping, concrete corners, dressed stones, track, air hose. Photographs 1892, 1898, 1900, 1911, 1912, 1915, 1920, 1925, 1927.
- The first significant and most famous mines at Rush.
- Hillside Prospects and Digs (29) Hillside prospects and digs. Numerous digs. Road trace. Rock foundation 15' x 17' with iron anchor. Not fully explored or documented. Heavily wooded, with exposed rock outcroppings.
- Morning Star Mine Trail (30) Morning Star mine trail. Used 1890-1935, Hard-dirt track connecting mining level, extending horizontally along Morning Star lands.
- Ben Carney Mine (31) Ben Carney Mine (operated by Morning Star Mining Co.). Active 1894-1931. Two horizontal tunnels; air hose; piping.
- Capps Mine (32) Capps Mine (operated by Morning Star Mining Co.). Active 1915-1935. Multi-chambered room and pillar mine; track, ore cars, piping, timber framework.
- Capps Mine Roadbed (33) Capps Mine roadbed. Used 1915-1935. Dirt-surfaced roadbed on two levels between Capps and Ben Carney; mortared, natural-rock retaining wall; one ore car at side. Originally, railroad track for ore cars.
- McIntosh Waste Pile (47) McIntosh waste pile. From mining period, to 1920.



- McIntosh Mine  
(48)
- McIntosh mine (McIntosh Mining Co.; Shepherd Mining Company). Active 1888-1919. Two-level entrance. Tunnels, and shaft. Photograph 1900.
- Mine Shaft  
(McIntosh Mill Area)  
(49)
- Mine Shaft (McIntosh Mill Area). Concrete block; cast-iron anchors.
- Mine Tunnel  
(McIntosh Mill Area)  
(50)
- Mine tunnel. Square tunnel mid-level on hillside.
- White Eagle Mines  
(58)
- White Eagle mines (Buffalo Zinc and Copper Company; Rush Creek Mining Company). Active 1885-1920s; 1959-1962. Presently, two hillside drifts now closed in; river edge shaft filled in by NPS; rock waste piles; fabric air hose. Additional mine locations noted on 1889 map.
- One of the three earliest mines at Rush.
- Edith Mine  
(64)
- Edith mine (Edith Mining Company, under lease from Buffalo Zinc and Copper Company). Active 1915-1919. Deep shaft, with concrete engine block at surface and cast-iron pipe. Waste-rock piles. Other tunnels drifted in.
- Yellow Rose Mine  
(66)
- Yellow Rose mine (Yellow Rose Mining Company). Active 1899-1901; 1915-1919. All closed drifts; waste piles.
- Separated from the Edith Mine by property lines rather than ore lines.
- Red Cloud Mines  
(68)
- Red Cloud mines (Red Cloud Mining Comapny). Active 1887-1919. Immense multi-entranced room and pillar mine. Roadbed connects to western tunnel area. Waste piles. Photographs, 1892, 1900, 1911, 1915.
- One of the greatest ore producers in the district.
- Lonnie Boy Mine  
(70)
- Lonnie Boy mine (under lease from Buffalo Zinc and Copper Company). Prospected late 1880s, active 1916-1930s, early 1960s. Tunnel and shaft; waste pile.
- Clabber Field  
Mine Shaft  
(72)
- Clabber field mine shaft, tunnel, waste pile. Name unknown. Possibly early Red Cloud dig.

Silver Hollow Mine  
(75)

Silver Hollow mine (Silver Hollow Mining Company). Prospected 1892; active 1904-1907; 1915-1919. Multi-entranced mine on two levels; mostly inaccessible.

During its active periods this mine supported a separate mining community known as Keystone.

Monte Cristo  
Mine  
(79)

Monte Cristo mine. Active 1900; 1915-1917; 1920s; 1961-1962. Two-level mine. Mine contains track, ore cars, boiler, hoist; other machinery near entrance. (Machinery is old but use probably dates to 1960s.) Mine once had aerial tram across Clabber Creek to Philadelphia mill.

This mine has been the most utilized in recent decades for scientific studies.

Various Prospects  
and Digs  
(81)

Various prospects and digs. Unexplored and undocumented. The Clabber Creek area is an early mining area, but has not been fully explored or referenced with available documentation.

Clabber Mine Area  
(82)

Clabber mine area. Early 1880s-early 1900s. Now, three drifted-in tunnels. Waste pile. Concrete-anchor block. This section of Clabber Creek dates to 1886 in mineral records.

Roadbeds and Transportation Routes

- Rush Creek  
(35) Old Rush Creek roadbed and crossing. 1850s-1964. Dirt trace of original routings of road down and across Rush Creek.
- Hicks Hill  
(36) Hicks hill road trace. Circa 1900-recent. Dirt trace of roadbed which connected Rush with former town of DeSoto Springs.
- McIntosh  
(51) McIntosh roadbed and spurs. Circa 1900 to 1930s. Dirt and rock trace of roadbeds connecting McIntosh mill and hotel, and McIntosh mine and hotel. Parts of trace have remaining rock retaining wall.
- Buffalo River  
(61) Dirt roadbed trace crossing Buffalo River, probably part of the early Rush road routing. 1915 and earlier.
- Campground  
(62) Roadbed to present primitive campground, once a part of the main street of New Town. Other connecting road traces are also visible. 1915 and earlier.
- Clabber Field  
(73) Clabber field roadbed. Circa early 1900s to 1960s. Dirt trace paralleling river and used for access to mines on south side of river.
- Ore Wagon Road  
(78) Ore Wagon roadbed. 1880s to present. Originally a rocky dirt road. Some clearing and grading done by Buffalo National River in 1982 and 1986 to allow access to cemetery at Cabin Creek. Within designated wilderness area. Gated entrance.
- Clabber Creek  
(80) Clabber Creek roadbeds. Dirt traces to areas up Clabber Creek, including mining areas out of district boundary. Late 1880s to present, although portions of roads appear on 1845 survey map.
- Railroad  
(83) Graded narrow-gauge railroad bed. 1915. Earthen mounds. The last of several railroad proposals for Rush to connect mines with depots. Surveyed and graded, but money ran out before track could be laid on Rush end.

Site Areas

The following listing contains areas in the Rush district which contain no visible above-grade remains but which are known to have contained contributing resources at one time. Although historical remains may never be located, it is felt that inclusion of these areas is essential to understanding the overall layout of the district.

Site areas were determined through, in the case of buildings which stood until recently, the identifications by individuals, or the site's connection with known buildings for which remains still exist.

- |                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Mulholland<br/>Buildings<br/>(1)</p>            | <p>Mulholland buildings. Site of three buildings (store, house, barn) and sawmill, erected 1900-1920. No visible above-grade ruins. Store possibly relocated from New Town.</p>                                                           |
| <p>Goatley House<br/>Site<br/>(6)</p>              | <p>Goatley house site. Circa 1899. No visible above-grade ruins. Eight-room, 2-story, wood-frame house, hip roof; burned 1930s.</p>                                                                                                       |
| <p>Cold Springs<br/>Hollow Structures<br/>(11)</p> | <p>Cold Springs Hollow structures site. Circa 1910-1920. Several houses stood here. No visible above-grade ruins.</p>                                                                                                                     |
| <p>Mine Manager's<br/>House Site<br/>(14)</p>      | <p>Mine manager's house site. Circa 1925. No visible above-grade ruins. Wood-frame house constructed from earlier building; burned 1947. Used by Morning Star Mining Co. Photographs of earlier building 1900, 1915, 1927.</p>            |
| <p>Courthouse Site<br/>(15)</p>                    | <p>Courthouse site. Circa 1916. No visible above-grade ruins. One-story, vertical, board-and-batten building removed intact 1960s and currently used as area home. Served as JP Court during World War I era. Photographs 1952, 1958.</p> |
| <p>Morning Star<br/>Houses Sites<br/>(16)</p>      | <p>Morning Star Houses sites, including doctor's office. Circa 1899. No visible above-grade ruins. Rectangular, one-story, board-and-batten buildings; burned or removed post-1920s. Photograph circa 1915.</p>                           |
| <p>Pat McCormick</p>                               | <p>Pat McCormick house site. No visible above-grade</p>                                                                                                                                                                                   |

- House Site  
(34) ruins. Photograph 1916.
- House and Barn  
(37) House and barn site. Circa 1900. Natural-rock retaining wall. Photograph 1916.
- Hicks Rental  
Houses Sites  
(39) Hicks rental houses sites. 1915. No visible above-grade ruins. One-story cabins rented out by Hicks family.
- Con Medley  
House Site  
(43) Con Medley house site. Circa World War I. No visible above-ground ruins. Daffodil plantings.
- William Fernimen  
Store Site  
(44) William Fernimen store site. 1906-1918. No visible above-grade ruins.
- Vicker Springs  
Houses Sites  
(54) Vicker Springs houses sites. Circa 1900. No visible above-grade ruins. Originally, wood-frame rental houses for McIntosh Mining Company.
- Messer General  
Store Site  
(55) Messer general store site. 1910-1917. No visible above-grade ruins.
- Exeter Site  
(59) Exeter town site. 1887-1890s. No visible above-grade ruin. Site of Buffalo Zinc and Copper Company town, the first planned mining company town at Rush. Some buildings removed in 1890s, others destroyed in 1904 tornado. 1889 plat map of town.
- New Town Site  
(60) "New Town" site. 1915-1920. Very limited above-grade ruins; including rock wall of building circa 1915, and metal bakery oven. Buffalo Zinc and Copper Company World War I town, once containing houses, some 20 businesses, graded railroad bed. Plat map, 1915. Photograph, 1916. This site is one of the oldest sections of the Rush area, dating to 1850s Anglo settlement and undoubtedly the Early Archaic prehistoric periods.
- Silver Hollow  
Mill Silver Hollow mill site. 1903. No visible above-grade ruins. Roadbed traces. Rock-waste pile. Originally,

(76)

wood-frame building. Photograph, 1916.

Keystone  
(77)

Keystone town site. Active 1904-1919. No visible above-grade ruins. Store, houses, for Silver Hollow mine workers. Census, 1910.

## NON-CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES

- Clabber Field  
Barn  
(74)
- Clabber field barn. Circa early 1900's or earlier. Slabwood, vertical-board, and peeled-log barn, 27' x 41'. Pens, loft, wire and board fenced farmyard. Belonged to Setzer family, co-founders of the Morning Star strike. Building collapsing due to 1982 flood damage.
- Rush Slab  
(84)
- Rush Creek low water slab. 1984. Concrete. Replaced 1964 slab.
- Rush Landing  
(85)
- Rush landing recreational facilities. 1970s and 1980s. Fiberglass pit toilet with wood-frame screening; wood-frame well house; concrete pad for former ranger station (destroyed flood 1982); informational sign boards. Rush Development Concept Plan, Draft 1985, calls for expansion of this area downstream along river.
- Rush Creek Mill  
(86)
- Rush Creek Mining Company mill ruins. Erected 1958. Concrete piers and foundations; pumping equipment and pressure-regulated water pump and pipe along the river bank. Original building brought to Rush from Missouri; bid out for salvage by NPS, 1979. Photograph 1961.
- Cabin  
(87)
- Cabin ruins. Possibly, circa 1930s and 1940s. Remains of three vertical-board cabins/sheds with composition shingle roofs. Also, standing pine slab and vertical-board barn with attached shed, 10' x 13'. All abandoned by 1965. Cabins burned 1979.
- Rush Campground  
(88)
- Rush primitive campground recreational facilities. 1950s-present. Present campground is 13-sites, with rail fencing, fireplaces, fiberglass pit toilets with wood frame screening, wood frame well house. Rush Development Concept Plan, Draft 1985, calls for upstream enlargement of this area.
- Cable  
(89)
- Cable. Corps of Engineers river cable and support system. 1950s. A-frame wooden support and twisted cable line, pulled out of position by 1982 flood.
- Clabber Farm  
(90)
- Clabber field house and barn site. After 1935. Scattered lumber and metal roofing. Destroyed, flood 1982.

- Bynum Trailer  
(91) Bynum trailer site. 1960s. Concrete steps and foundation.
- Red Wyatt Barn  
(92) Red Wyatt barn. 1960s. Vertical board barn with metal roof, 9' x 14'. Constructed from older area building.
- Bowman  
(93) Bowman use and occupancy. Buildings constructed 1960s-1970s. A-frame wood house 19' x 32' constructed with hand tools; wood frame cottage on concrete piers 16' x 24'; vertical board outhouse; corrugated metal shop 9' x 8'; cedar pole woodshed; cedar pole boathouse; vertical board shed 8' x 8'; vertical board garden shed constructed from relocated powder shed. These buildings fit naturally into the environment.
- Clabber Slab  
(94) Clabber Slab. Concrete low water slab, and culvert. 1964. Across Clabber Creek.

CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES OUTSIDE DISTRICT BOUNDARY

- Rush Schoolhouse  
(95) Rush schoolhouse ruins. Circa 1930. Concrete wall and steps. The names of the 1935 class are scratched into the wall. Burned, 1980. Originally, a wood frame building replacing 1890s frame building.
- Beulah Mine  
(96) Beulah mine. Active 1899-1904. Beulah mill ruins. 1901. Cut stone and concrete walls; anchor blocks.
- James House  
(97) James House. Late 1880s. One-story wood frame building. The James family were long-time Rush residents, operating a pre-mining era grist mill near Boiling Springs. Photograph, 1950.
- Philadelphia  
Mine  
(98) Philadelphia mine (American Mining and Investment Company, later Shepherd Mining Company; Rush Creek Mining Company in 1960s). Active 1887-1919; 1961-1962. One of the earliest and most productive Rush mines.
- Philadelphia  
Mine Ruins  
(99) Philadelphia mill ruins. 1915. Concrete piers. Included within Buffalo National River in earlier surveys, but eliminated in 1982 boundary survey.
- Rentchler Town  
Rentchler town site. 1888-1890. First Rush boom town.



Site  
(100)

Constructed by American Mining and Investment Company.  
Exact location currently unknown but may lie within  
district boundary. Area has not been explored for site  
remains.

Leader Mine  
(101)

Leader mine. Active with Philadelphia mine.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1931	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

---

SPECIFIC DATES	1885-1893	1915-1919	BUILDER/ARCHITECT	Various
	1898-1904	1925-1931		

---

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

See Continuation Sheet

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See Continuation Sheet

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1316

UTM REFERENCES

A 

1	5
---	---

5	3	8	30
---	---	---	----

3	9	9	8	9	5
---	---	---	---	---	---

  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B 

1	5
---	---

5	3	9	5	0
---	---	---	---	---

3	9	9	8	9	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C 

1	5
---	---

5	4	1	0	5
---	---	---	---	---

3	9	9	8	4	5
---	---	---	---	---	---

  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

D 

1	5
---	---

5	4	2	7	0
---	---	---	---	---

3	9	9	7	7	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See Continuation Sheet

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	N/A	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE		CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Suzanne D. Rogers, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Buffalo National River, National Park Service

DATE

August 29, 1986

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 1173

TELEPHONE

501/741-5443

CITY OR TOWN

Harrison,

STATE

Arkansas 72601

## 12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES

NO

NONE

*[Signature]*  
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is National XX State Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE *Ben Levy for EC Beards*

TITLE *Acting Chief Historian*

DATE *1/13/87*

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*Beth Grosvenor*

DATE *2/27/87*

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

## 8. SIGNIFICANCE

## CONTINUATION SHEETS

1

Summary

The Rush Historic District is nominated under Criterion A, for its part in the development of Arkansas mineral resources; Criterion C, for the significant cohesive unity of this historic Arkansas mining community; and Criterion D, for the information which its buildings, structures, mines, ruins, and archeological sites offer for an understanding of historical mining techniques and associated community life.

The Rush Historic District portrays the story of the zinc mining industry in the Ozarks: the extraction and commercial production of ore, as the industry moved from crude mining techniques to competitive "modern" techniques; the economics of turn-of-the-century capitalism; the effect of mining regionally on community growth and exchange of goods; and the contingent transportation difficulties of industrial production in the southern Ozarks.

The district buildings and structures, through isolation, have retained their historic design features and use and convey the sense of a turn-of-the century mining operation and Ozarks community. The ruins and archeological sites fill in the community layout and add to the knowledge of historic mining techniques and mining community construction; they retain and contribute to the feeling of the widespread activity of this once-bustling Ozarks mining community.

The discovery of zinc at Rush led directly to the establishment of the North Arkansas Lead and Zinc District and added Arkansas production to the developing national zinc industry. The success of the Rush mines stimulated economic development throughout northern Arkansas, providing jobs and county development, encouraging immigration, and contributing to the arrival of the railroad, in addition to providing national publicity for the value of Arkansas minerals. Rush was the oldest and most famous camp in the North Arkansas district and remained the largest and most productive.

The Rush Historic District contains one of the last areas in the Central States (Iowa, Wisconsin, Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma) zinc and lead region for documentation of a mining community of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. The standing buildings and structures are the last remaining unified structures of the early North Arkansas mineral period. The numerous ruins and documented sites represent complete mining facilities and community design. The Rush mines and sites have served as a valuable field laboratory for geologists, mining engineers, and university classes nationwide.

The mining era at Rush extended from 1880 to about 1940. Within this time are four periods which are significant in terms of the criteria listed above: (1) from 1885 to 1893, during which the discovery of zinc at Rush encouraged the development of the North Arkansas Lead and Zinc District and achieved national prominence for the state's mineral resources; (2) from 1898 to 1904, as a boom in the national zinc industry resulted in great investment at the Rush mines and economic development for the entire Ozarks region; (3) from 1915 to 1919, during which Rush played an important part in the national production of zinc

during the war and created a boom for northern Arkansas, a boom of such proportions that it is still talked about; and (4) from 1925 to 1931, when the reopening of the Rush mines gave Arkansas its last period of significant zinc mining.

#### Significance Under Criteria A

The Rush mines were responsible for the development of zinc mining in Arkansas. The discovery of marketable zinc ore deposits at Rush in the early 1880s coincided with the development of the national zinc industry as the transition was made from a country dependent on importing zinc to one producing its own. The Arkansas mines produced ore from 1885 to World War II. During World War I the Arkansas mines, of which Rush was the leading producer, were among the area leaders in production of oxidized zinc ore. The success of the Rush mines stimulated economic development throughout the Ozarks and created national publicity for the area.

The first Marion County newspaper commenced operations in 1886 to report on county development spurred by the new mining industry. Interest in the county became so great that the Marion County Bureau of Immigration elected to set up individual township bureaus to handle the requests it was receiving for information. Articles on the new mineral area began appearing in national mining journals. A 12,750 pound chunk of zinc carbonate from Rush exhibited as part of Arkansas's mineral exhibit at the Chicago World's Fair in 1893, won the "gold medal premium" for size and purity and achieved lasting national publicity for the Arkansas zinc region, stimulating investors to visit the Rush mines and the Arkansas field.

During the second period of significance, when the national zinc industry began to boom in the late 1890s, investors from New York, Boston, and London, visited Rush and invested in the Arkansas mines, creating a period of great economic development for the region. Articles on Rush and the Arkansas mines in popular publications such as the New York Sun and Harpers Weekly, focused additional attention on the region. Everywhere in the region people talked "min'ral." The period saw a building boom for not only the mineral area, but the entire region. Limited transportation facilities to the region provided economic gain for businesses as far as Kansas City, and West Plains, Missouri, and Eureka Springs, Arkansas, as stage and hack lines were added almost overnight to accommodate the flood of travellers to the mining area. Hotels were filled to capacity. The White River steamboats enjoyed a final boom period bringing visitors to the mineral region. The spectacular rise of the mining industry became a catalyst for encouraging railroad access to the region; Rush mine operators provided capital and land to entice the railroad, which finally reached the mineral lands by 1904.

During World War I, one of the most productive periods of the national zinc mining industry, the Rush mines were the center of the World War I zinc industry in Arkansas. Thousands of workers flocked to the region. New businesses were established and older businesses expanded as the mining activity became the dominant industry of the area. In Marion County, the Rush mining community outstripped the rest of the county in population and tax revenues. During the 1918 tax year a separate section was created in the tax books for the Rush district. State newspapers ran articles on the Rush mines and the seemingly endless future of zinc wealth for Arkansas.

The closing of the Arkansas zinc mines after World War I had devastating effects on the region; the reopening of the mines at Rush in the mid-1920s gave a brief surge to county economy and hopes for the old prosperity. The success of the brief reopening has remained in the minds of area residents who continue to believe that the zinc potential at Rush is still vast. In fact, Arkansas state planners still use the Rush mines to demonstrate the mineral potential of the state.

The Rush district was the oldest and most famous mining camp in the North Arkansas District and served as the springboard for all other mining camp development in the region. It was to the Rush mines that potential investors first went to assess the value of the Arkansas mineral. Publications about the Arkansas mines focused on the Rush mines, taking many of their illustrations from operations at the Rush mines.<sup>1</sup> The quality of the Rush ore was specifically noted. The type of mining done at Rush also achieved national attention: the Rush ore (except for lower level tunnels along the Buffalo) was recovered in water-free horizontal tunnels, unlike the shafts and pumping systems in use in other areas. The most famous mine of the North Arkansas district was the Morning Star, the site of Rush's original zinc discovery. The Morning Star's "quarry of zinc" was noted over and over again in publications. After winning the award at the Chicago World's Fair, the Morning Star Mining Company became synonymous with Arkansas mineral. To be a second Morning Star was the hope of and encouragement to every new prospect in the region.

The Rush camp remained the largest and most productive camp of all the Arkansas mining districts. Ten mining companies operated thirteen developed mines within the district, more than in any other mining district within the North Arkansas District. The stable community population remained high. From the earliest mining days it was predicted that the Rush community would outstrip the county seat in population. During World War I Rush did just that. Estimates as high as 5,000 (although 2,000-3,000 may be more accurate) have been given for the Rush population for this period. The Rush district ranked number one in production among the twenty-five districts of the North Arkansas District. Overall, the Rush mines accounted for thirty-five to forty percent of the zinc ore mined in Arkansas during the historic period. Arkansas mines, in effect the Rush mines, became one of the Central States leaders in production during World War I.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> For example, George Adams in Zinc and Lead Deposits of Northern Arkansas, USGS Professional Paper 24, (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1904) used nine of nineteen mining operations illustrations from the Rush mines. General articles on Arkansas zinc mines usually included a photograph of Rush.

<sup>2</sup> As noted in Edwin McKnight, Zinc and Lead Deposits of Northern Arkansas, USGS Bulletin 853 (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1935), pp. 6-7; 197-198.

Significance Under Criterion C

The buildings, structures, and ruins at Rush are the last visible remains of the historic zinc mining activity in Arkansas. Of all the other mining districts which one stretched across northern Arkansas, only limited debris, if that, now mark those sites. Rush is the only area left to retain not only the mines, but buildings and structures pertaining to mining and community life and a significant number of ruins to augment that story. Raymond Stroud, past director of the Arkansas Mining and Mineral Resources Research Institute, has stated that of the historic mining sites in Arkansas, Rush definitely is the one which should be singled out for National Register status.<sup>3</sup>

The Rush Historic District exists today within the same environment and setting as it did during its periods of historic significance. Nearly as isolated today as it was during the historic periods, it has been little touched by the subsequent advance of time. The terrain continues to limit digressions in layout and thus roadways and building locations remain as they always have been. The "ghost town" and the mines and waste piles visible on the bluffs overhead immediately set the flavor of the district as an abandoned mountain mining community. The district in location, setting, feeling, and association remains essentially as it has been since the periods of historic significance.

The buildings, structures, ruins, and sites in the district also exist in the same relationships as they did during the historic periods. The numerous ruins and sites, although no longer retaining integrity as buildings, contribute to the "feeling" of the Rush mining community. The sense of discovery they give as one stumbles upon them shrouded in vegetation, may be one of the reasons that writers from several disciplines have found Rush a compelling topic and return time and again to unravel some of its mysteries. The ruins, which are in their historic location and setting, also contribute to district unity by identifying spatial relationships within and between mining areas.

The "ghost town" of Rush remains famous in the region. Articles on Rush appear frequently in regional publications, bringing additional visitors to the valley to view the weathered buildings and ruins and explore the mining paths. As one visitor expressed it: "These buildings give me a tangible idea of what living was like here, more than any words you could put on a sign." A state geologist who has studied the mines of northern Arkansas for the past twenty years has noted that Rush has the last vestiges of the mining story of the zinc period in Arkansas, and that the presence of the "ghost town" and ruins adds to the uniqueness of the area<sup>4</sup> by showing how mining operations interacted with the supporting community. The historical design patterns, workmanship, and

<sup>3</sup>. Raymond Stroud to Suzanne Rogers, February 6, 1984, and July 23, 1986, telephone interviews.

<sup>4</sup>. Statement by John D. McFarland, Senior Geologist, Arkansas Geological Commission.

materials is still evident on the standing buildings, despite the deterioration of these buildings from weathering and vandalism. For this part of the Ozarks, where weathering and vandalism take heavy tolls of abandoned buildings, their condition is above average. The buildings, structures, and ruins of the Rush Historic District reflect and convey the historic mining period; the limited post-historic intrusions and non-contributing resources have blended with rather than distracted from this feeling and association.

The standing buildings as a group show a cross-section of Rush mining community life and document each period of significance. These buildings are the last visual expression of the Rush community. There is nothing else like them left in northern Arkansas to depict an overall community of the historic mining period. To have one building left would be significant, but to have a group of related buildings, which when added to the accompanying ruins and sites, depicts an entire range of activities of a historic Arkansas mining community, is exceptional. Houses, store, barn, and blacksmith shop all remain from the oldest community area of Rush and the lands of its most famous mining community. The Hicks store, though now altered, was a major focal point for the remaining Rush community, both for goods and supplies and during the 1920s and 1930s as the post office for the entire district. The 1886 smelter is significant individually. Besides being the oldest existing structure from the historic Arkansas zinc and lead period, it is an example of pre-twentieth century smelting techniques. It has stood intact for a hundred years, significant to Arkansas as a symbol of the dreams and trials of the first miners, who hoped that the then unprofitable zinc ore also would contain silver, but who preserved to establish the Arkansas zinc mining industry.

The Morning Star Mining Company area is a cohesive unit in itself; its standing buildings, ruins, and sites incorporate all aspects of the mining era at Rush, retaining integrity of location, setting, design, workmanship, materials, feeling, and association for the area overall. Although other individual mining areas within the district do not exhibit this special cohesiveness, they delineate spatial relationships among district components, contribute information about their own relationships, and identify the extent of the Rush mining industry.

#### Significance Under Criteria D

The standing buildings and structures, together with the ruins and documented archeological sites, have helped lay out the pattern of mining and community development at Rush. Already these resources have aided in documenting mining divisions and community relationships, and have led to additional site areas. Mining facilities and operations have been plotted through the pattern of structural remains, as has the road network and water system, which also tells the story of the transportation difficulties of the north Arkansas mining industry. Because the Rush area was well known, it was illustrated in



contemporary photographs and maps; thus, many Rush ruins can be identified, contributing also to documentation of the extended Buffalo River community as well as mining practices of the period. A rich oral history collection and historical photograph collection are also developing for the district.

The standing dwellings in the district offer significant information potential for understanding living accommodations at Rush and dwelling construction styles. Although historical photographs exist for many of the mining facilities and other commercial buildings, few photographs have yet been found showing the residential community. The buildings themselves are our most complete documentation with the exception of the more recent memories of former residents. The historical design patterns, materials, and workmanship is still evident on these buildings; their individual design features such as the variety of roof styles and trim reflect the longevity and stability of the Rush mines. The construction details of the standing buildings give a good idea of workmanship, materials, and design feature of rural architecture of the time and provide information on vertical board construction in particular. Other building details, such as the chimney supports, flooring, and newspaper insulation give clues to early twentieth-century life in an Ozark mining community.

The Rush mines and structural sites have remained an important field laboratory for geologists and mining engineers of what is now only textbook description of a type of mining done in the United States fifty to one hundred years ago. Regional universities regularly use the Rush area for field trips. A number of doctoral dissertations and master theses have been written on aspects of the Rush mines. The extent of structural sites in the Rush district is vast and is only now being fully identified and documented.

A striking structural remain of the area are the ruins of the large concentrating mills: the compactness of the district and the large investment in the Rush mines created an unusual number of processing mills in one mining camp area. The variety of construction techniques among these mill ruins shows development from simpler plants to the more "sophisticated" plants of the last mining periods. Associated tramway piers illustrate how the mining engineers overcame the problems of terrain in transporting ore. The ruins of the Morning Star mill include a complete concentrating mill complex showing developmental changes from 1898 to 1926; the mill's ruins include the processing plant ruins on the bluffside as well as auxiliary structural ruins such as the pumphouse along the creek in the valley below.

The Rush smelter, a standing structure stabilized in 1985 by a National Park Service preservation team, is an excellent example of the crude smelting techniques in use in mining fields in very early days. Its design, which the Yellville Mountain Echo (November 26, 1886) reported as "being built on the same principle of the smelters used in Bohemia" and its relatively late erection for the technology of the period lead to questions about the development of mining in northern Arkansas, which may be answered only by a more detailed examination of the structure itself.

The Rush mines also offer information potential. First, they remain much as they were during the historic mining period and offer a view of historic mining techniques not visible to such a degree anywhere else in the Arkansas district. Secondly, much of the mining in the Arkansas district was unique in the region as it was done in horizontal tunnelling or drifts, or as in the case of the Morning Star as a quarry-like cut; the Rush mines also illustrate this phenomenon better than any other mining area in the Arkansas district.

The mineralization characteristic of the North Arkansas District is typified in the Rush District, resulting in numerous research studies undertaken at the Rush mines. A recent study noted that "the Monte Cristo mine has provided an unusual opportunity to study the relationships between bedded and breccia types of mineralization . . . ."<sup>5</sup>

#### Description of District During Periods of Significance

The Rush Historic District can be described during four periods of significance. During the first period, from 1885 to 1893, the district was a newly developing area of separate mineral claims and fledging mining companies. Two mining companies laid out townsites at the mouths of Rush Creek and Clabber Creek, for which numerous newspaper descriptions and a plat map provide site documentation. Developments up Rush Creek at the Morning Star Mine concentrated on acquisition and development of the ore body and transportation facilities by road or river way. The present road network and the mining company land divisions date from this period. Building sites can be documented, although the only remaining structure is the 1886 smelter. The establishment of a post office at Rush landing in 1888 marked the beginning of the community.

During the second period, from 1898 to 1904, outside investments in the Rush mines spurred development and building, resulting in distinct mining communities: the Morning Star (Rush) and McIntosh on Rush Creek; and the Red Cloud and Silver Hollow (Keystone), on the Buffalo. The communities established by the mining companies were neat and tidy, with rail fences dividing residential areas from mining area. The buildings were made of locally-produced boards erected in vertical board and batten construction. Commercial buildings such as stores sported a false front. Porches were added to both commercial and residential buildings. The buildings were brightly painted. Telephone lines reached the area by 1900. Most of the present standing buildings date from this time including the house row, general store, and livery barn; all show the design features originated in this period. The first concentrating mills were constructed beginning in 1898. The ruins of three of these mills two with tramway piers, are present. Company hotels and

<sup>5</sup> Keith Long, et. al. "Ground Preparation and Zinc Mineralization in Bedded and Breccia ores of the Monte Cristo Mine, North Arkansas," Economic Geology, Volume 81 (June-July 1986), 827.

stores were another major construction; the ruins of two hotels and a store remain, as well as additional house sites. Most of the structural remains of the District date from this period and the following period. Mining areas were more fully explored and previously undeveloped prospects were turned into producing mines. All of the Rush mines had been discovered by the end of this period.

The third period, from 1915 to 1919, saw the greatest development of the district as hundreds came from all over the United States to work in the mines or to provide support services, turning the Rush district into one continuous area of settlement. Most of these new buildings were quickly raised, even tents were used to make use of all available space. The older structures were refurbished during this period; it is probable the earliest house additions had been added by this time. An entire new town was laid out along the mouth of Rush Creek. Few above-grade remains survive from New Town, but other documentation is available, including courthouse records, some photographs, plat map, and oral history. The 1916 Hicks store represents this World War I building boom. The ruins of three concentrating mills constructed during this period are also present. The mining tunnel level as it exists today reflects the development made during this period.

The final period of the Rush district was 1925 to 1931, when the mines enjoyed their last productive period. Activity was concentrated along Rush Valley, although free-oreing was carried out at other areas. Buildings remaining from earlier periods were repainted and newly trimmed. The overlapping siding of the standing structures may have been added during this time. The currently standing blacksmith shop and warehouse were constructed about 1926. The Taylor-Medley general store was enlarged and moved fifteen feet to avoid creek flooding. Several new buildings were constructed for which foundations remain. Both the Taylor-Medley and Hicks general stores were in operation. This was the last period of operation for the Morning Star mill, the last historic mill to operate in the district. It was also the last time that all the Morning Star houses were occupied.

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- John D. McFarland. Senior Geologist. Arkansas Geological Commission. Little Rock, Arkansas.
- Raymond Stroud. Director, Arkansas Mining and Mineral Resources Research Institute. Russellville, Arkansas.

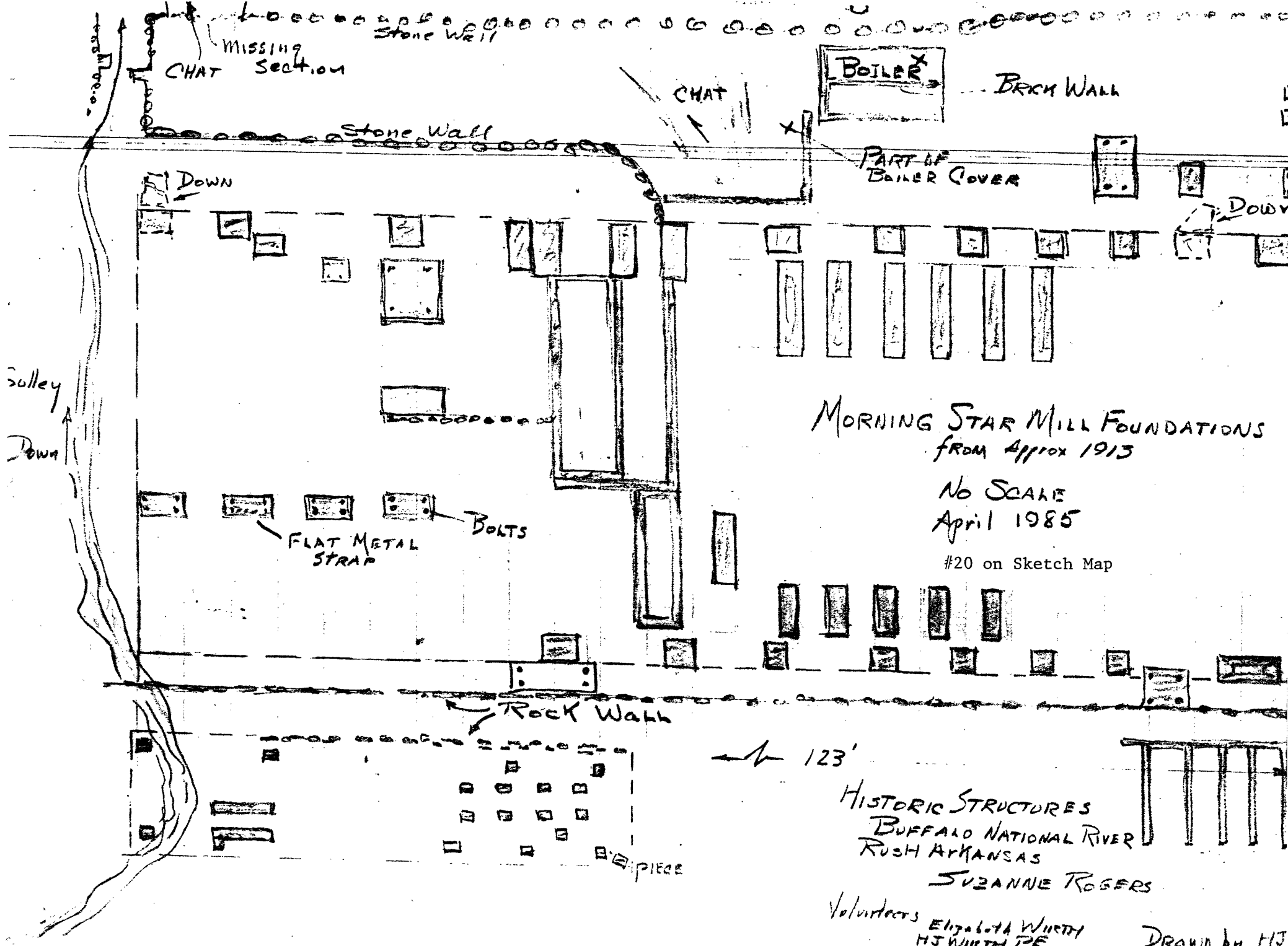
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Bounded on the north and west by the Buffalo National River boundary; and on the east by section lines of Sections 11 and 12; and on the south by quarter section lines of sections 10, 11, 12, to include the Red Cloud and Silver Hollow mines, all in Township 17 N Range 15 W 5 P. M., and including parts of sections 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, as indicated on the accompanying survey plat map.

#### Verbal boundary justification

The Rush Mining District, a formal division of recorded claims, was created as a separate entity in 1888. The wider area of this creation was later divided into smaller, more compact areas as the mining interests increased until the Rush Mining district was restricted to the mining area of the lower part of Rush Creek and Clabber Creek and the adjoining land along the Buffalo. The Rush Historic District includes only that part of the Rush Mining District within the boundary of Buffalo National River, but this includes the most significant and the oldest mines of the mining district. The district boundaries take in both the area of community settlement, and the area of mines and mining operations on the higher hillside. On the south and east the boundary includes only those areas actually worked as mines rather than the wider area owned by individual mining companies, as most of this extended area was wild, rugged land which never was actively mined. The historic district thus formed follows Rush settlement and mining use, and quarter section lines as surveyed for Buffalo National River in 1982. The 1982 boundary survey eliminated the Philadelphia mill, which is now on private property.



MISSING CHAT SECTION

BOILER

BRICK WALL

CHAT

PART OF BOILER COVER

DOWN

DOWN

MORNING STAR MILL FOUNDATIONS  
FROM APPROX 1913

NO SCALE  
APRIL 1985

#20 ON SKETCH MAP

FLAT METAL STRAP

BOLTS

ROCK WALL

123'

HISTORIC STRUCTURES  
BUFFALO NATIONAL RIVER  
RUSH ARKANSAS

SUZANNE ROGERS

Volunteers ELIZABETH WIRTH  
HJ WIRTH PE

DRAWN BY HJ