NPS Form 10-900
(Oct. 1990)

OMB No. 10024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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NATIONAL REGISTER

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Rose Lime Kiln

other names/site number Henson Creek Chimney 5HN 287

2. Location

street & number HC Road 20 N/A ☒ not for publication

city or town Lake City ☒ vicinity

state Colorado code CO county Hinsdale code 53 zip code 81235

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title — Date: March 5, 1993

State Historic Preservation Officer
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title — Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

Signature of the Keeper — Date of Action

- ☒ entered in the National Register. ☐ See continuation sheet. — Entered in the National Register — 4/8/93
- ☐ determined eligible for the National Register ☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ determined not eligible for the National Register.
- ☐ removed from the National Register.
- ☐ other, (explain:) _____

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- [X] private
- [ ] public-local
- [ ] public-State
- [ ] public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- [ ] building(s)
- [ ] district
- [ ] site
- [X] structure
- [ ] object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
0	0	buildings
0	0	sites
1	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

0

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION/Manufacturing facility

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

NO STYLE

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone
walls Brick
roof N/A
other N/A

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- [X] **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- [X] **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- [X] **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- [ ] **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- [ ] **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- [ ] **B** removed from its original location.
- [ ] **C** a birthplace or grave.
- [ ] **D** a cemetery.
- [ ] **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- [ ] **F** a commemorative property.
- [ ] **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

INDUSTRY
ENGINEERING

Period of Significance

1881 - 1882

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

George S. Lee

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Samuel Tarkington

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography
(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- [ ] preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- [ ] previously listed in the National Register
- [ ] previously determined eligible by the National Register
- [ ] designated a National Historic Landmark
- [ ] recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- [ ] recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- [ ] State Historic Preservation Office
- [ ] Other State agency
- [ ] Federal agency
- [ ] Local government
- [ ] University
- [ ] Other

Name of repository:

N/A

Rose Lime Kiln
Name of Property

Hinsdale, Colorado
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 5 acres

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	13	278350	4205640
2			
3			
4			

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Grant E. Houston and Thomas S. Curry

organization Hinsdale County Historical Society date September 25, 1992

street & number P. O. Box 353 telephone (303) 944-2515

city or town Lake City state CO zip code 81235

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items
(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name B. Carroll Tharp

street & number Route 3, Box 51A telephone (409) 588-3669

city or town Montgomery state TX zip code 77356

Rose Lime Kiln
Hinsdale County, Colorado

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Description and Location

The Rose Lime Kiln is a stone and brick industrial structure on the five-acre Rose Lime Mill Site located beside Henson Creek, a tributary of the Lake Fork of the Gunnison River, approximately 12 miles from Lake City in Hinsdale County, Colorado. The kiln is situated at an elevation of approximately 10,000' in the old Galena Mining District on the eastern edge of the San Juan Mining District of southwestern Colorado. On the oppose side of the creek, and at an elevation some 600' higher than the chimney, is Hinsdale County Road 20 which has recently been designated as a portion of the Bureau of Land Management's Alpine Loop Scenic & Historic Byway between Lake City, Silverton and Ouray.

The kiln, consisting of a tall rectangular brick chimney, with attached furnaces, was built in April and May, 1881, for Capitol City capitalist and mine developer George S. Lee, and named in honor of his daughter, Rose Lee; it was especially built to process limestone mined from the adjoining Rose Lime Lode, a 10.16-acre mining claim which was developed by Lee starting in April, 1881. The kiln was built at a time of high expectations for Lee who expected the lime mortar to be purchased for anticipated building projects in Capitol City, two and a half miles below on Henson Creek, and at Lake City. Due to local economic and weather conditions, the Rose Lime Kiln operated only during the summer and early fall of 1881 and 1882 before being abandoned. The kiln was never again placed in operation and remains today essentially the same as when it was lasted used. No alterations or repairs have been made to the structure since that time.

In addition to the chimney and ovens, the site includes a 5'6" tall, 20' long native stone retaining wall and portions of an overgrown road which would have served as access to the lime kiln during its brief period of significance. The kiln is located at a sufficient elevation above Henson Creek to preclude erosion of the structure, although portions of the access road both above and below the kiln have been washed away and are now covered by river rubble, trees and willows. A frame boarding house measuring 12 x 84', located directly across Henson Creek from the kiln, is no longer extant. The boarding house was presumably used by Lee's employees working at the limestone mine and kiln. The site of the boarding house is now covered with rubble from the road above.

Historical Use and Description

The Rose Lime Kiln is a variety of the vertical shaft kiln known as a separate feed kiln. This means that the heat is supplied by coke or charcoal burned in external attached ovens so that the fuel and the lime never come in contact. Such an arrangement was relatively sophisticated for its time, and resulted in a higher quality lime uncontaminated by ash.

Lime is produced by heating limestone to a temperature of about 1000-degrees C in a kiln. Heat for calcining the limestone was provided by two external fireplaces placed on opposite sides of the 10' square base of the kiln. Three holes are located on the kiln's backside: the top hole was used to load the limestone into the kiln, a middle poke hole allowed the operator to introduce a poker to break up any areas where the heating limestone rocks were sticking together, and

[X] see continuation sheet

Rose Lime Kiln
Hinsdale County, Colorado

there was a bottom inspection hole used to evaluate the temperature of the contents of the kiln. The finished lime was allowed to cool in the bottom five feet of the kiln, and was discharged through a metal hopper located at the bottom of the kiln. The lime produced was used to make lime mortar to bind bricks or stone used in masonry construction. Lime mortar was also used as chinking between the logs of log structures.

The Rose Lime Kiln is 44' tall and rectangular in outer dimension. Portions of the kiln that were filled with limestone are reinforced with external steel rods to resist the outward pressure of the weight of the stone. The drawings accompanying this nomination illustrate that the kiln is effectively divided into four zones. The top 14-1/2' is the chimney portion, serving to provide a proper draft to draw heat through the limestone and exhaust carbon dioxide out the top. Next comes a five-foot section with an oval interval configuration. This section served as the preheating zone. Limestone rocks measuring about four to eight inches in size were introduced through the top hole in the back of the kiln, and immediately entered the oval section where the hot exhaust from the lower portions of the kiln would begin to heat the rocks. This oval configuration prevented the rocks from getting stuck, and caused the rocks to rotate as they slowly made their way down the chimney to allow even heating on all surfaces. The mechanism by which the limestone rocks were elevated to the entry hole on the Rose Lime Kiln is unknown; two common means were a conveyor belt or a set of tracks on which a railcar was hoisted up.

The middle hole in the back of the kiln was a poke hole used to keep the lime and limestone from sticking in the burning section of the kiln. Any tendency of the kiln contents to stick together and plug the kiln could be broken up with a poker applied through this hole.

Preheated limestone then entered an eight-foot cylindrical portion of the kiln measuring about 45" in diameter. This was the calcining section in which the limestone was heated to temperatures of about 1000-degrees C. The bottom hole in the back of the kiln was an observation hole that could be closed with a sliding door. The lime burner could inspect the lime through this hole and determine if the temperature in the kiln was correct. The bottom internal five feet of the chimney were below the level of the heating furnaces, and this section served as the cooling zone for the lime. Before being drawn out through the hopper at the bottom of the kiln, the lime had to be cooled from 1000-degrees C to about 90-degrees C so that it could be safely shoveled into a wheelbarrow or waiting wagon.

Present Appearance

The nominated structure, a 44' tall red brick chimney with two external heating ovens, is located on the banks of Henson Creek at the base of 13,577' Gravel Mountain. The bricks are bonded with uniform mortar joints of white lime; both the bricks and lime were locally manufactured. The chimney consists of a square base 16' tall measuring 120' x 120'; directly above this is an 8' section tapering from 100' x 100' to 72' x 72", surmounted by an upper 16'6" portion tapering from 63" x 63" to 55" x 55" at the top. The chimney is unornamented with the exception of an arched unloading chamber at its base and corbelled brickwork at a point 5'5" from the top. In addition to the unloading chamber at the base of the chimney, there are two external heating furnaces located on opposite sides of the kiln which extend out 3' and measure 5'5" in

[X] see continuation sheet

Rose Lime Kiln
Hinsdale County, Colorado

height. On the rear of the chimney, facing the mountainside, are three holes measuring respectively 10" x 20", 18" x 18" and 10" x 16" which were used for loading the lime, a poke hole to dislodge the burning materials and, at the lowest level,

an observation port to view to lime burning. Metal slides for the lower observation port are still in place, although the actual sliding metal door no longer exists.

Due to inaccessibility from the county road in recent decades, only minimal vandalism has occurred to the site, other minor deterioration being limited to the natural effects of the environment and age. With the exception of a minor number of bricks which have been removed or weathered away, the chimney structure remains intact and structurally sound. Angle iron and bars installed on the lower portion of the chimney at the time of its construction have stabilized the structure in the decades since its abandonment and have reduced its deterioration. Brickwork for the two external ovens is in a poor state of preservation and vandals have removed the cast iron doors of both ovens; the configuration of both furnaces, however, remains intact, including reinforcing iron work, the door surrounds and the iron grating. Deterioration of the structure has not negatively impacted its integrity and it remains essentially as it was built in the early 1880's.

Rose Lime Kiln
Hinsdale County, Colorado

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Rose Lime Kiln is significant under criterion A due to the fact it is representative of industrial development in the San Juan Mining Region of Colorado and is indicative of the "boom and bust" economic cycle which was typical of Colorado mining communities in the late 19th Century. Criteria B and C have also been marked, C due to the fact the lime kiln is an excellent representation of late 19th Century industrial architecture and is especially notable since it is an example of relatively sophisticated technology located in what was then a remote portion of the state. Criterion B is also relevant because the lime kiln was built by Colorado capitalist George S. Lee who was largely responsible for development of the Capitol City region in the early 1880's.

The land encompassed by Hinsdale County in southwestern Colorado was a portion of the lands ceded to the United States by the Ute Indians under terms of the Brunot Treaty in 1873. The county was officially designated in June, 1874, and named in honor of Pueblo attorney George A. Hinsdale who had died the previous January. Mineral exploration in the area --- primarily for gold and silver --- in all probability dates back to Spanish exploration in the 18th Century. Members of the Fremont and Baker parties passed through the region respectively in 1848 and the 1860's. Early exploration of present-day Henson Creek includes the 1871 discovery of the Ute and Ulay lodes by Henry Henson, Joel K. Mullin, Albert Meade and Charles Godwin; the drainage, originally known as Godwin Creek, was later named Henson Creek in honor of Henry Henson. Other early explorations in the area include the ill-fated Alferd Packer expedition which passed up the Lake Fork Valley to the shores of Lake San Cristobal during the winter of 1873-74. The Henson Creek drainage was later included in what is known as the Galena Mining District of Hinsdale County.

Lake City, the county seat of Hinsdale County since February, 1875, was founded in August, 1874, by Enos T. Hotchkiss who was the leader of a road-building company constructing the Saguache & San Juan Toll road from Saguache, Colorado, to the upper Animas Valley at Howardsville. Hotchkiss and members of his party are credited with discovering the Hotchkiss Lode, later renamed the Golden Fleece, a rich gold mine which caused the initial rush of population to the area.

Development of the Hotchkiss Lode and other gold and silver mines on the Lake Fork River and Henson Creek drainages signalled the start of a "boom and bust" economic cycle which was typical of Colorado mining communities. According to Irving and Bancroft in their 1911 U.S. Geological Report on the area, "The history of the Lake City mining region is one of alterations --- of general depression and of excessive activity --- which have rendered its existence a little more eventful than that of the neighboring towns in the San Juan Mountains... similar variant conditions have prevailed to a greater or lesser extent in almost all mining centers, but in few places in Colorado have they been so pronounced as at Lake City."

The Lake City region's first period of great economic boom dates to the years 1876 and 1877 when the city's population expanded from a few hundred to nearly 3,000. During the year 1877 it was estimated 136 buildings were completed in the city at a value of $212,680. Industrial developments during the first period of boom included the Crooke Bros. Smelter

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(finished in 1876 at a cost of $50,000), the VanGieson Lixivation Works (1877, $35,000), and Ocean Wave Smelter (1877, $35,000). In addition to smelting operations, an increasing construction industry is evident in the completion of such notable structures as the Hinsdale County Courthouse (1877, $18,000), and commercial structures including the Stone Bank Block (1877, $22,000), Franklin Block (1877, $6,000), and Finley Block (1877, $8,000).

The high cost of transporting ore to outside markets, together with a siphoning off of the population due to the Leadville excitement, led to a depression in the Lake City area in 1878 and 1879.

The Rose Lime Kiln is representative of economic optimism which occurred during the area's second major building boom starting in 1880 and concluding in 1882. The kiln's abandonment after 1882 is also indicative of the depression period which followed in the mid and late-1880's. Unprecedented construction activity occurred in the Lake City area between 1880 and 1882, notably the brick Lake City Public School (designed by Denver architect R.S. Roeschlaub and completed in 1881 at a cost of $30,000), the Brockett Block (1880), Hough Block (1880/81 and 1882), and a number of stylish brick residences including the Kohler, Hilgenhaus, Hunt, and Foote residences, the latter of which cost in excess of $4,000. Economic activity at this date was spurred by silver discoveries in the Galena Mining District and other areas of Hinsdale County, together with initial grading of a spur railroad line from the Gunnison River near Gunnison to Lake City by the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad. The railroad expended $357,000 on railroad grade up the Lake Fork to Lake City between May and October, 1881. Economic expansion was based in part on the premise that the D & RG would reach Lake City in 1882; the second period of economic boom climaxed in 1882 when the railroad ceased its construction plans and withdrew from the area. Lake City remained economically stagnant from 1882 until 1889 when the railroad finally completed its branch line up the Lake Fork Valley.

Under Criterion C, as a technological and engineering example, the Rose Lime Kiln represents a relatively sophisticated technological process which was constructed in a remote region of Colorado. Lime production was the direct result of construction booms which occurred in 1876 and 1877, and between 1880 and 1882. Lime was a necessary ingredient for mortar chinking in log structures, and was also used to bond brick and stone construction; lime was also used in plaster interior finishes. The region's earliest lime producing facilities consisted of a "mixed feed" kiln in which alternating layers of limestone and coke were fired in conical brick ovens. The resulting product was often heavily contaminated by the coke ash, however, and resulted in a poorer quality lime. As early as 1880 Capitol City capitalist George S. Lee was burning limestone obtained from the Treasure Hill Spar Lode located on Nellie Creek, a tributary of Henson Creek near Lake City. For the year 1880 he produced an estimated 8,000 bushels of lime which he sold at a price of 90-cents per bushel at the kiln or $1.25 per bushel in Lake City.

In 1881, anticipating yet further increases in the local construction market, Lee announced plans to erect a "perpetual feed" lime kiln which had a capacity for producing up to 600 bushels of lime per day. The perpetual kiln represented an advancement in technology due to the fact it was fired by two external fireplaces, eliminating the need for mix-feeding and eliminating ash contamination. The result was a pure white lime which was considered superior for building purposes. Lee hired local brickmason Samuel Tarkington, who had previously been employed on the brick Hough and

[X] see continuation sheet

Rose Lime Kiln
Hinsdale County, Colorado

Brockett mercantile blocks in Lake City, to build the Rose Lime Kiln in April, 1881. The 44' high kiln was situated on the Rose Lime Mill Site which was located in the name of Lee's wife, Mary Jane Lee, in April, 1881. The kiln was in running order by May 15, 1881, at which time Lee advertised that lime would be sold at a price of $1 per bushel at the kiln; a specially produced "extra quality snow-white lime" was available for interior plastering at a cost of $1.25 a bushel.

In August, 1881, Lee reported he had produced 4,180 bushels of lime at his kiln. The Lee operations closed for the winter of 1881-82 and resumed in limited operation during the summer of 1882. The kiln apparently had a small output during the summer of 1882 but closed that fall, due in part to Lee's financial embarrassment, and never again operated. The Rose Lime Mill Site and improvements were acquired by Hinsdale County in 1889 in lieu of taxes; successive owners included the F.M. Anchor Mining Co. and Ajax Syndicate, both of which apparently held the property as an investment and never actually operated the kiln. The mill site and kiln were sold by H.L. Townsend to the present owner, B. Carroll Tharp of Montgomery, Texas, in 1973.

Criterion B is also marked in this nomination due to the Rose Lime Kiln's association with its builder, Capitol City capitalist George S. Lee. The kiln is named after his daughter, Rose Lee, who was born in Minnesota in 1870. The lime kiln represented only one facet of Lee's multiple business and mining interests in Hinsdale County; as a promoter he is credited as being the catalyst for development of Capitol City during the late 1870's and early 1880's. Aside from his interests in Hinsdale County, Lee was a remarkable pioneer of the west who was also a noted inventor. Like many early capitalists of his era, he claimed to have won and lost numerous fortunes during his years in Colorado and other western states.

Born in Illinois about 1840, Lee attended private academies in Connecticut and New York before signing on as a seaman on a ship headed for San Francisco. He worked briefly in the freight docks in Hong Kong, then returned to San Francisco to work in the placer fields. Losing his fortune as the result of poor investments, he raised sheep to regain his capital. In the 1860's he worked as a mine superintendent at Central City. Returning to New York, he perfected several patents for boot manufacturing, then developed lead mines in Missouri before locating at Capitol City in Hinsdale County, Colorado, in 1877. Describing himself as a mining engineer and metalurgist, he opened an office in Lake City and began a collection of representative San Juan minerals which he exhibited at the Chicago Exhibition in 1877.

Capitol City is located at an elevation of 9,480' at the forks of Henson Creek ten miles from Lake City. The town served as a supply center for neighboring silver mines, the best known of which were the Capitol City, Czar, Silver Chord, Yellow Medicine, Red Rover, Vermont and Excelsior. Despite significant growth in the late 1870's, and a population base of over 300 individuals at its peak, Capitol City remained a satellite community to Lake City. Mineral output in the Capitol City region steadily declined following silver demonetization in 1893 and by the turn of the century the town's population was fewer than 100; by 1930 it was considered a ghost town. Capitol City was officially abandoned and its incorporation papers nullified in August, 1974.

The townsite was first envisioned in 1875 by George B. Greene of Denver. who intended to name the settlement Silver

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Glen. Greene, who was also involved with a smelter located in Baker's Park near Silverton, started constructing a smelting operation a short distance above the town but never finished the project to due complications with the local ore and financial difficulties. After being known alternately as Silver Glen and Galena City, the town was finally named Capitol City in 1877. The name was supposedly suggested by George S. Lee based on the town's proximity to Capitol Mountain, the dome of which resembles a state capitol dome. According to popular legend, but unsubstantiated by written resources, Lee supposedly envisioned Capitol City ultimately becoming the capital of Colorado and it was toward that end which he developed industries in the area.

George Lee's municipal interests included promotion of the Capitol City townsite; at a meeting of the Capitol City Trustees in August, 1878, he offered to provide the money to patent the townsite and arranged for repayment from lot sales. He was elected as one of five Capitol City trustees in January, 1879, and was re-elected in 1880. Lee served as Capitol City Postmaster from October, 1881, to March, 1882.

Although George Lee and his wife, Mary Jane (Hiserodt) Lee, spent each winter among friends in Chicago or New York, he determined they needed a stylish summer residence at Capitol City. Completed in 1879, the house included a spacious veranda, formal parlor with bay window, an attached library wing and, according to some sources, a glass conservatory where tropical plants were grown, and a small ballroom. The exterior featured landscaped gardens and --- an unheard of luxury in the San Juan --- a gabled brick outhouse. The Lees entertained lavishly in the house, which they opened to the public as the Mountain House Hotel. Their guests included Colorado Governor F.W. Pitkin in 1879 and travel writer Frank Fossett who in 1880 wrote, "And right here among these rugged mountains of far away San Juan, where one would least expect to find it, is the most elegantly furnished house in Southern Colorado. The handsome brick residence of George S. Lee and lady, distinguished for their hospitality, is a landmark in this locality."

George Lee was an early advocate of the telephone and had a system connected between his house, Lake City and neighboring communities by 1881. Especially notable was a telephone concert, held in June, 1881, in which vocal selections and a variety of instrumental music was transmitted between Lake City, Capitol City, Ouray and Silverton. Mrs. Lee, ensconced in her Capitol City parlor, was joined by a Mr. Bates in Lake City in singing several duets for the occasion.

Lee's business interests in the Capitol City region in the late 1870's and early 1880's were truly remarkable. By his own estimate, his various interests employed in excess of 115 men, making him one of the county's largest employers. In addition to the Rose Lime Kiln, he operated several sawmills and lumber yards which provided timber, lath and shingles for building projects in Capitol City and Lake City, and across the range at Mineral Point and Animas Forks.

Lee's first industrial enterprise at Capitol City was the Lee Smelter which was built on the lower edge of Capitol City in 1878; funding for the smelter came from the Lee Mining & Smelting Co., comprised of Lee and a number of Chicago capitalists. His next smelter development was the Henson Creek Reduction works, located at the upper end of Capitol City, which encompassed the incomplete Greene Smelter. Funding for the reduction works was provided by the New York City-based Capitol City Mining & Reduction Co. Both of Lee's smelters operated only sporadically due to a lack of

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quality ores and low water power during much of the year. Lee also owned a brick kiln at Capitol City which in 1880 produced 240,000 bricks priced at $10 per thousand. Using the same calcite limestone which was burned in his kiln, Lee also envisioned an upper Henson Creek marble quarry, the polished stone of which he claimed rivaled marble from Italy, Vermont and Tennessee.

Capitol City, and to a large degree Lake City, ultimately failed to live up to George Lee's grand expectations: following the downturn of the local economy in 1882, Lee found himself financially over-extended. The Lee Smelter at the lower end of Capitol City was sold at sheriff's sale in March, 1882, and in August of the same year it was quietly announced that George and Mary Jane Lee had sold all their Hinsdale County holdings and would live in Denver while superintending a coal mine near Morrison. Lee's Capitol City ventures never again operated profitably: both smelters were dismantled for scrap within a short time, leaving only a few crumbling foundation walls today. The celebrated Lee Mansion --- some referred to it as the "Governor's Mansion" --- gradually fell into ruin. By 1910, stripped of its once elegant furnishings, wandering burros made their home in the abandoned building. Nothing remains of the structure today.

Of all George Lee's investments in Hinsdale County, only the Rose Lime Kiln remains today.

Lee's life after Capitol City indicates continued spotty success: in addition to the coal mine near Morrison, he searched for placer diggings in British Columbia, developed silver mines in New Mexico, and traveled to Mexico and Honduras in search of mineral and timber prospects. In 1884 it was reported the apparently financially-strapped Lee was doing a "flourishing business" manufacturing and selling toiletry articles and perfume in the basement of Grand Army Hall on Curtis Street in Denver. He continued experiments for inventions during his residence in Denver and, after 1890, in Hawthorne, New Jersey. Lee was a prolific inventor in those years, securing patents on a variety of apparatus, including fire proof paint (1888), composition for building blocks and bricks (1888), a cotton harvester (1898), air brake (1895), hand street sweeping cart (1900) and the innovative "wheel within a wheel," designed as a shock absorber for wagons and automobiles, which was the basis for the New Jersey-based Wheel Within a Wheel Co. which he formed after 1900. As a Democrat, he was an unsuccessful candidate for the New Jersey Assembly in 1902.

George Lee remained active to the very end of his life: while on a business trip representing copper mines near Ottisville, New Jersey, he slipped on an icy train platform and broke a leg. He was taken to a hospital in Middletown, New York, where he died on January 12, 1905. The consummate dreamer and visionary, Lee left a meager estate valued at $98.90. Ironically, the only other assets listed in his name was stock in a defunct New Mexico mining company.

Once a survey has been completed and research questions identified, the Rose Lime Kiln may also meet Criterion D for archaeological potential. When this is accomplished an amendment to the nomination will be submitted to the Register.

Rose Lime Kiln
Hinsdale County, Colorado

Technical Data

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Searle, A.B., Limestone & Its Products, Their Nature, Production, and Uses. London, Ernest Benn Limited, 1935.

Historical Data

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[X] see continuation sheet

Rose Lime Kiln
Hinsdale County, Colorado

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Plat Map of Rose Lime Lode and Mill Site signed by Colorado U.S. Surveyor Albert Johnson, dated 22 July 1882.

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Newspapers

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ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS, Denver, 110 October, 1958; 24 January, 1960; 11 February, 1990.

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Rose Lime Kiln
Hinsdale County, Colorado

Verbal boundary description

The Rose Lime Mill Site, U.S. Survey No. 1094B, located in the Galena Mining District, Hinsdale County, Colorado. See boundary map.

Boundary justification

The boundary encompasses the property historically associated with the Rose Lime Kiln.

Rose Lime Kiln
Hinsdale County, Colorado

Photo Log: black and white 5x7"

Rose Lime Kiln
upper Henson Creek
Hinsdale County, Colorado

Photographer: Grant Houston
Date: August 1992
Location of negatives: Grant Houston, PO Box 517, Lake City, CO 812335

Photo

#1 Rose Lime Kiln as viewed looking SE from county road; Henson Creek in foreground, Rose Lime Lode seen at upper left.

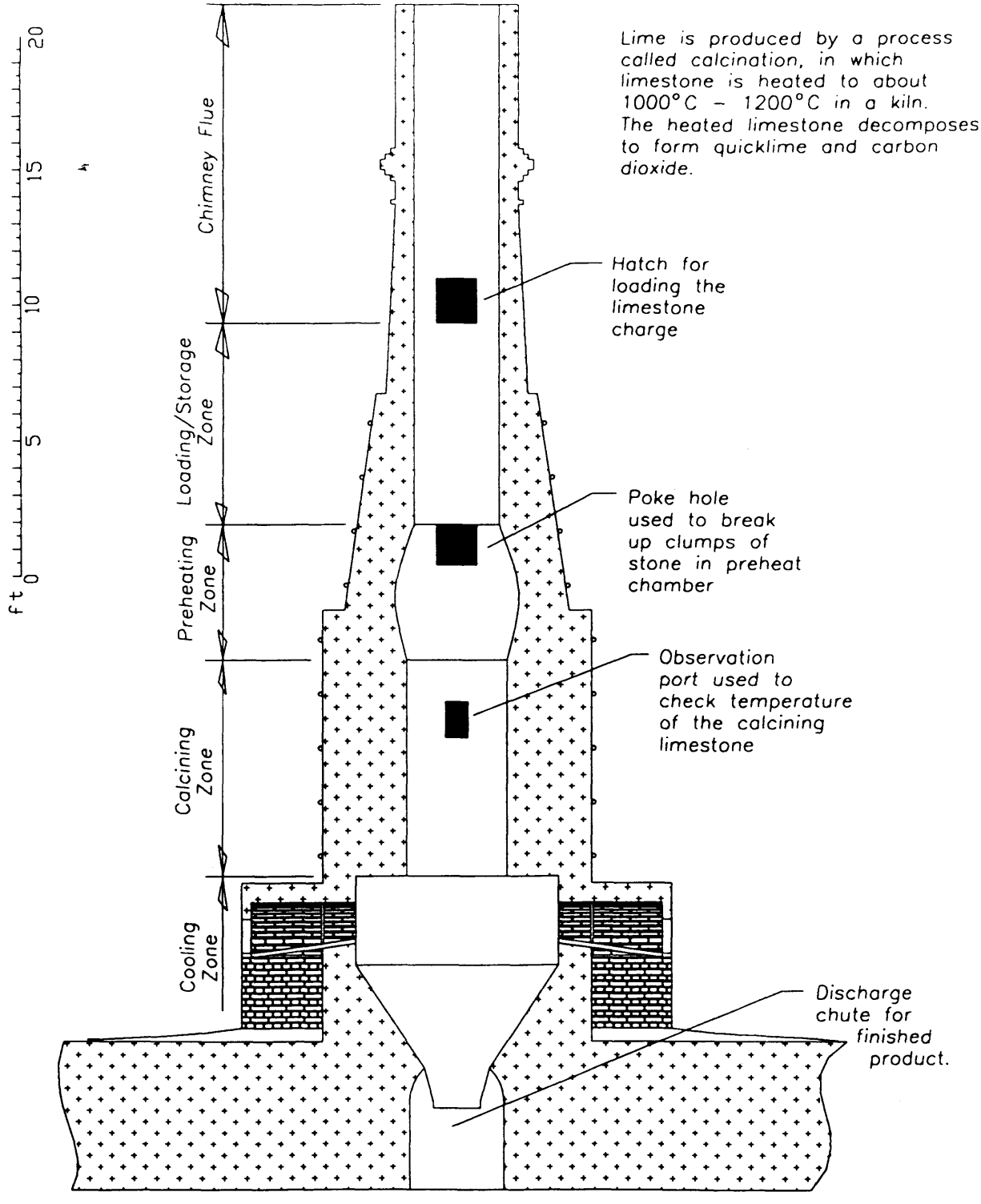
#2 Rose Lime Kiln as viewed looking SW: arched unloading chamber seen at bottom of chimney, external heating furnace at side. Also note portions of rock retaining wall fronting remains of access road.

#3 Rose Lime Kiln rear view as seen from NW: ironwork supports and three holes, upper for loading limestone, middle poke hole, and lowest hole for observation.

#4 Rose Lime Kiln: view of external oven on NE side of kiln showing supporting ironwork and door surround.

#5 Rose Lime Kiln: arched brickwork of unloading chamber at base of kiln; also visible is the metal hopper through which the cooled lime passed.

DRAWING 1 of 4

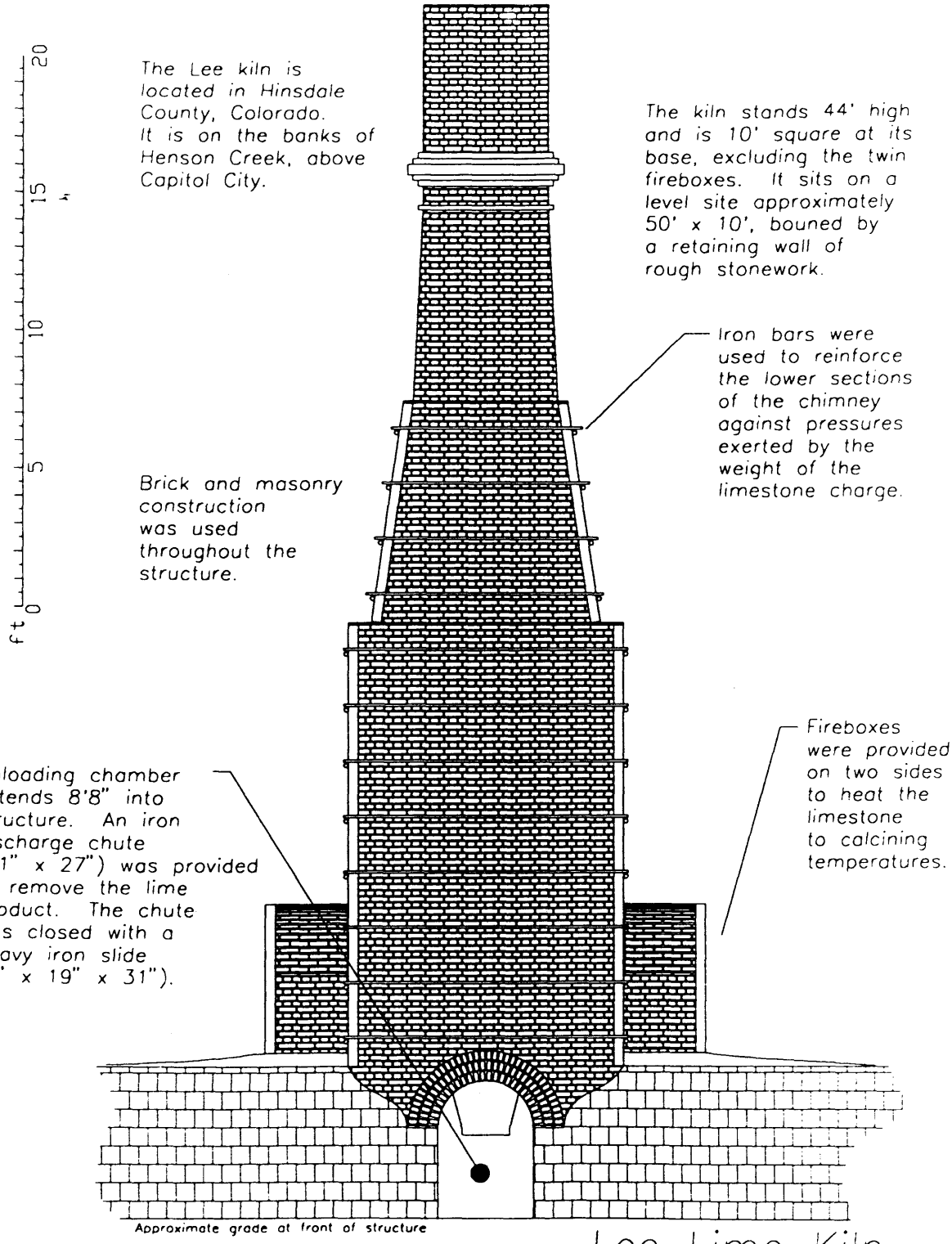


Cross Section -- Front

Based on sketches by G. Houston, T. Curry, and M. Curry
Drawing by J. Anderson

Lee Lime Kiln
Hinsdale Co., CO
August 1992

DRAWING 2 of 4

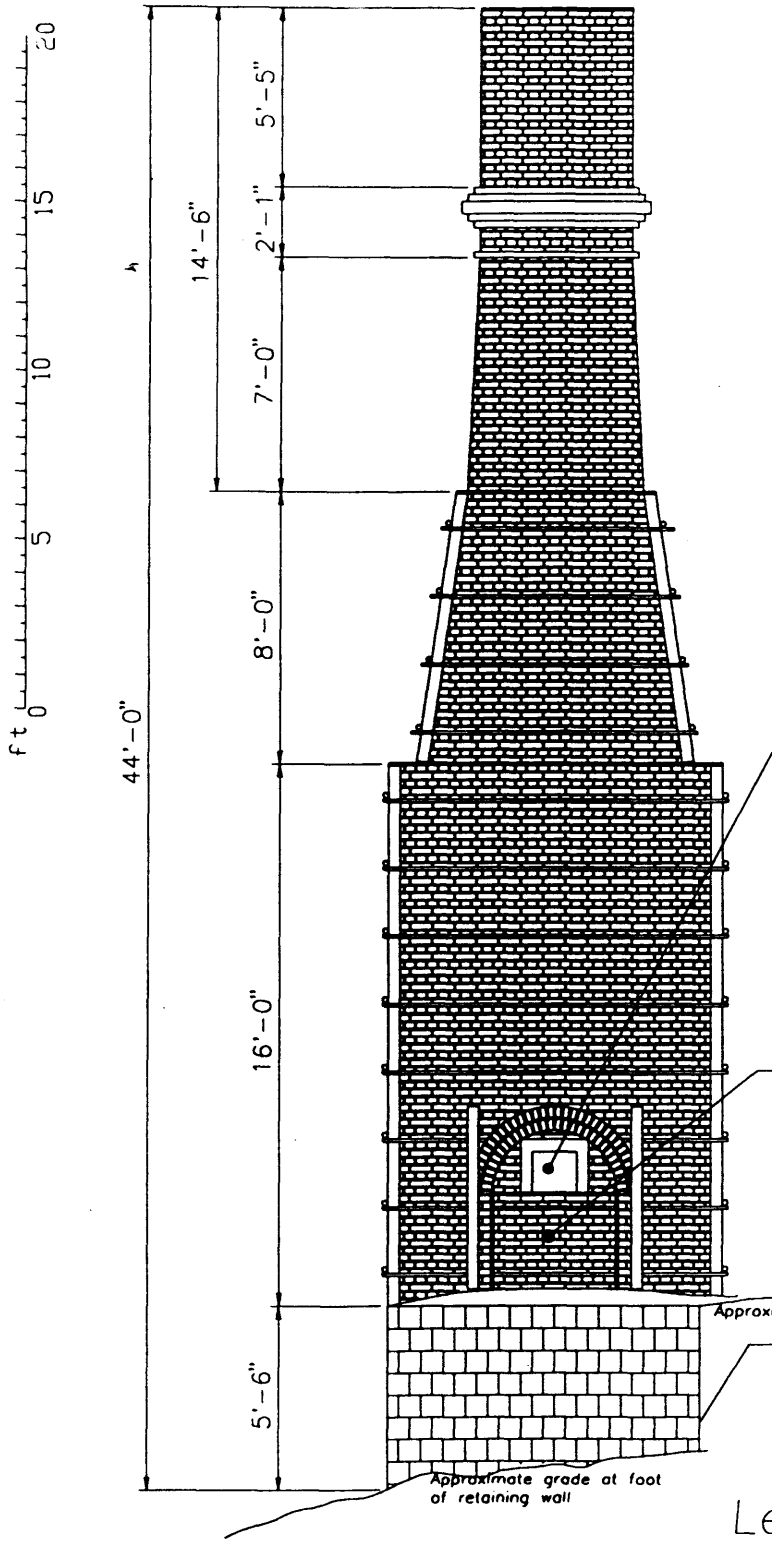


Front Elevation

Based on sketches by G. Houston, T. Curry, and M. Curry, August 1992
Drawing by J. Anderson

Lee Lime Kiln
Hinsdale Co., CO
August 1992

DRAWING 3 of 4



Firebox doors (missing) were set into angle iron frames. Opening is 16" x 15". Grate bars slope up to flue opening in kiln wall. Opening to interior of kiln is 16" tall. Grate at the front of the firebox is even with bottom of the firing door.

Fireboxes are open below the level of the stoking opening and grate.

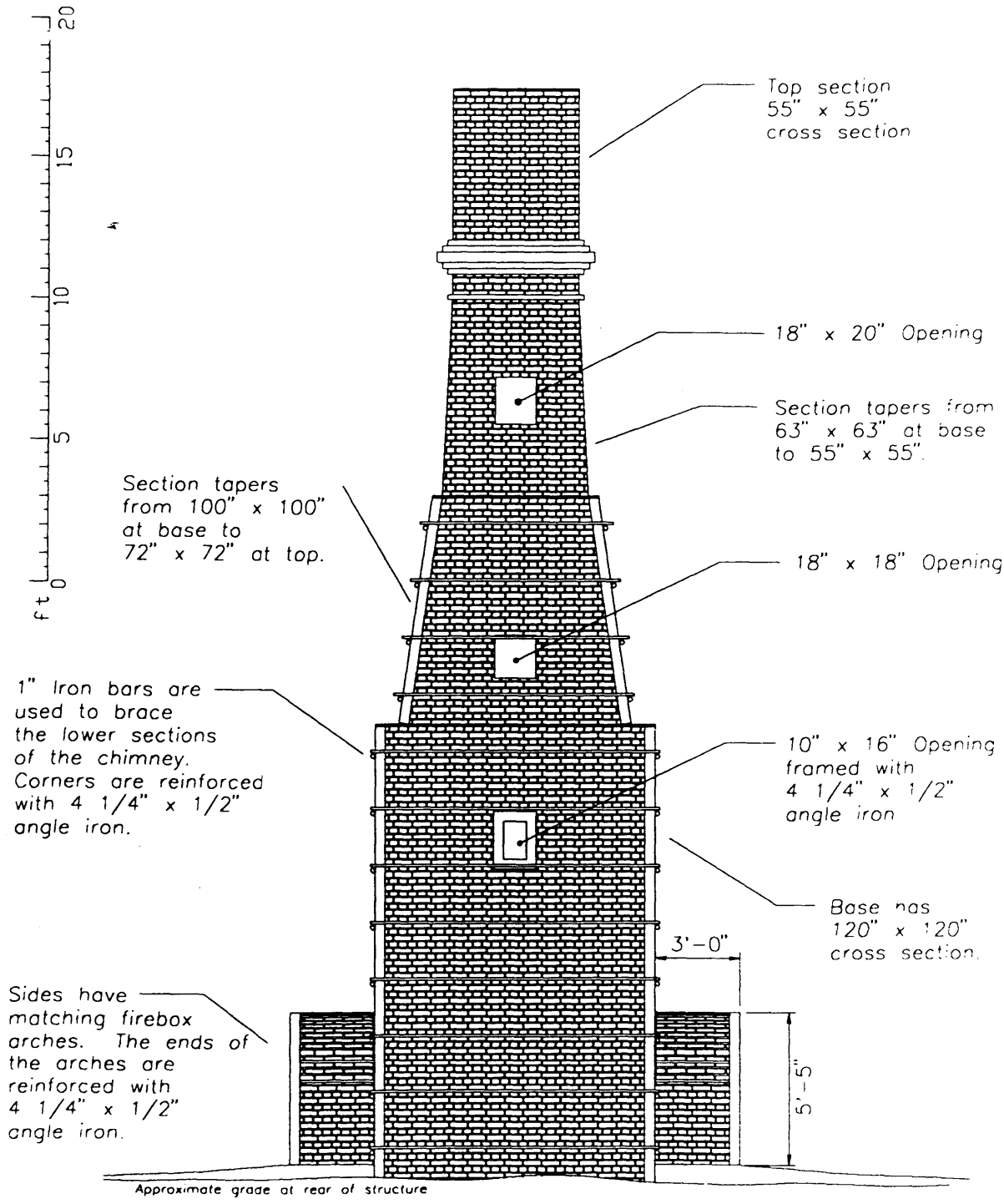
Stone retaining wall extends 20' on each side of the structure and reaches 9'4" from front of kiln.

Side Elevation

Approximate measurements obtained by G. Houston, T. Curry, and M. Curry
Drawing by J. Anderson

Lee Lime Kiln
Hinsdale Co., CO
August 1992

DRAWING 4 of 4



Rear Elevation

Approximate measurements obtained by G. Houston, T. Curry and M. Curry
Drawing by J. Anderson

Lee Lime Kiln
Hinsdale Co., CO
August 1992

Rose Lime Kiln
Hinsdale County
Survey # 1094 B
Boundary ----

Boundary Map

Map 2 of 3

SURVEY NO. 1094 A & B
Mineral District No. 7

PLAT

OF THE CLAIM OF

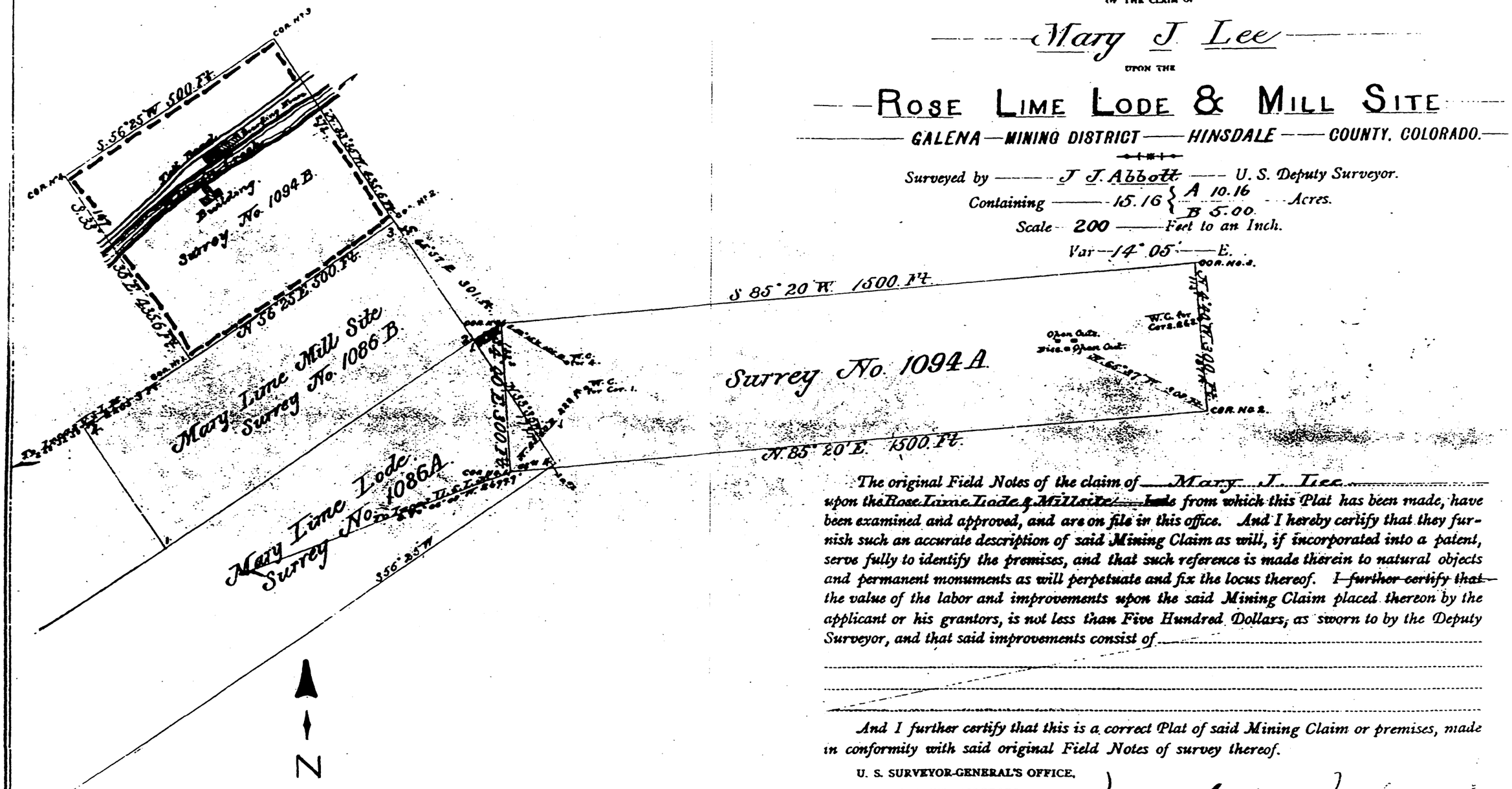
Mary J. Lee

UPON THE

ROSE LIME LODE & MILL SITE

GALENA — MINING DISTRICT — HINSDALE — COUNTY, COLORADO.

Surveyed by — J. J. Abbott — U. S. Deputy Surveyor.
Containing — 15.16 { A 10.16 / B 5.00 — Acres.
Scale — 200 — Feet to an Inch.
Var — 14° 05' — E.



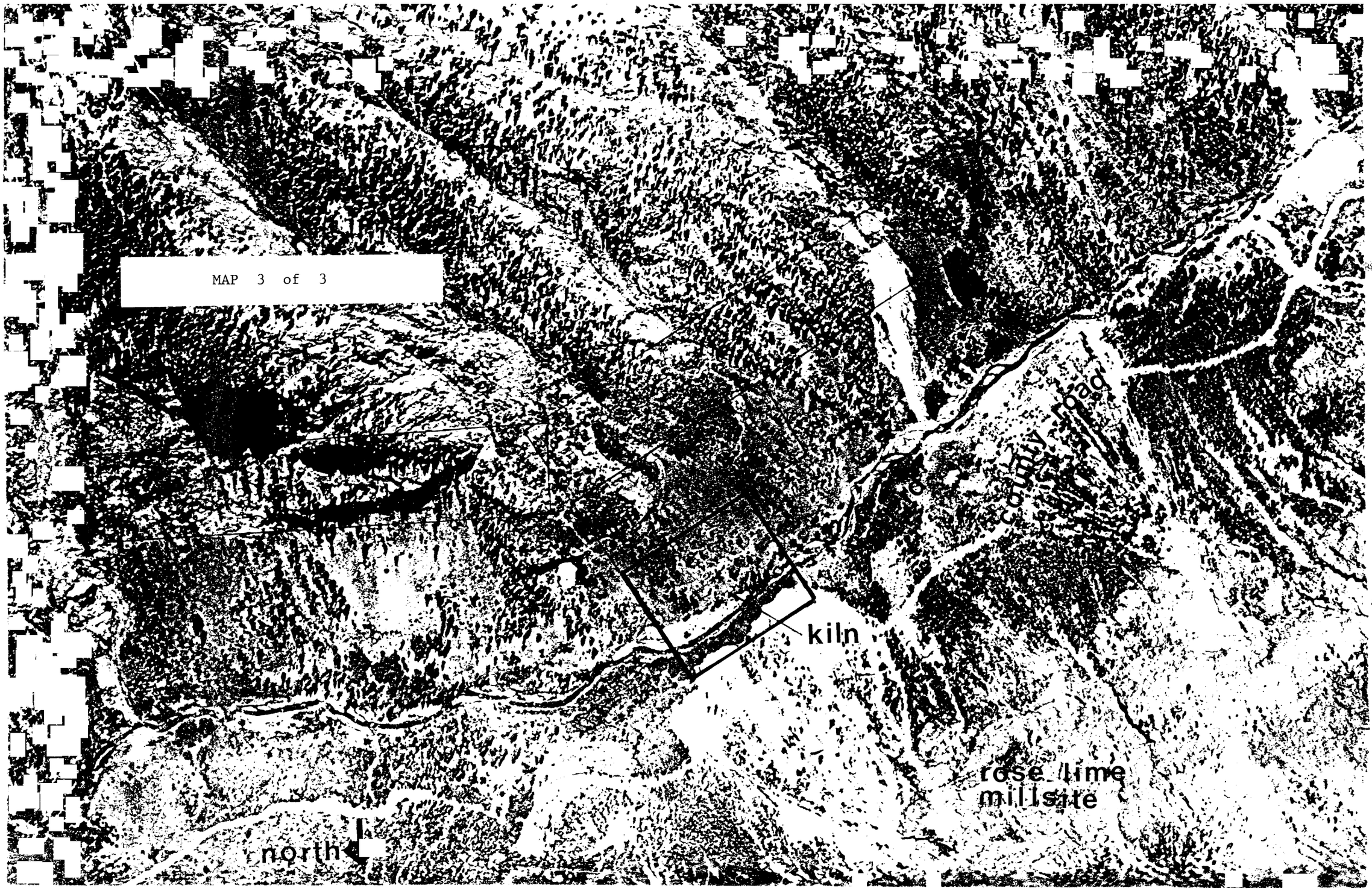
The original Field Notes of the claim of Mary J. Lee upon the Rose Lime Lode & Mill site ~~lode~~ from which this Plat has been made, have been examined and approved, and are on file in this office. And I hereby certify that they furnish such an accurate description of said Mining Claim as will, if incorporated into a patent, serve fully to identify the premises, and that such reference is made therein to natural objects and permanent monuments as will perpetuate and fix the locus thereof. ~~I further certify that~~ the value of the labor and improvements upon the said Mining Claim placed thereon by the applicant or his grantors, is not less than Five Hundred Dollars, as sworn to by the Deputy Surveyor, and that said improvements consist of

And I further certify that this is a correct Plat of said Mining Claim or premises, made in conformity with said original Field Notes of survey thereof.

U. S. SURVEYOR-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
DENVER, COLORADO.
July 22nd 1882

Albert Talbot
U. S. Surveyor-General for Colorado.

TRIBUNE, DENVER, COLO.


MAP 3 of 3
kiln
rose lime
millsite
north