

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY
NOMINATION FORM

<u>Continuation Sheet</u>		<u>Item Number</u>	<u>Page</u>
<u>Name</u>	Historic Rockton and Rion Railroad Historic District Common	<u>Location</u> <u>Classification</u>	Along the 12 mile stretch of the Rockton and Rion Railroad and including Anderson Quarry, Phillips Granite Works, Rion Granite Quarry and Brooks Granite Company.
<u>Owner</u>	Multiple Ownership (see continuation sheet)	<u>District</u>	

Representation in Existing Surveys South Carolina Inventory of Historic Places, 1984

Description The Rockton and Rion Railroad Historic District is composed of forty-five properties located along the twelve mile stretch of the Rockton and Rion Railroad in south central Fairfield County. The district includes the Anderson and Rion Quarry sites, industrial buildings and structures associated with granite quarrying and finishing operations at the Rion and Anderson Quarries, residences constructed for management personnel at Anderson Quarry, the Rockton and Rion Railroad line and side tracks, two steam locomotives from the Rockton and Rion Railroad, and a school building constructed of granite. These properties were constructed or significantly utilized between ca. 1883 and ca. 1945 by the Winnsboro Granite Company. The district retains sufficient integrity to reflect the history of the Winnsboro Granite Company and granite quarrying in the area *.

Significance The Rockton and Rion Railroad Historic District is significant as a collection of buildings, sites, structures, and objects associated with the quarrying, finishing, and transporting of Winnsboro blue granite between ca. 1883 and ca. 1945. The blue granite from the Anderson Quarry gained national attention as the ideal monument stone.

In addition, the Winnsboro Granite Company, owners and operators of the two quarries, provided the granite for many of the country's finest granite buildings including the Land Title and Trust Building in Philadelphia and the Flat-Iron Building in New York.

As early as 1820, the deposits of granite in this area of Fairfield County were being utilized for construction. However, it was not until the late nineteenth century that **

Acreeage Approximately 150 acres

Verbal Boundary Description The boundary for the Rockton and Rion Railroad Historic District is shown as the black line on the accompanying USGS topographic maps, Winnsboro Mills and Rion Quadrangles, with a scale of 1:24000. It includes the Anderson Quarry and associated buildings, the Rion Quarry and associated buildings, Greenbrier School, the twelve mile length of Rockton and Rion Railroad track, and an arbitrary twenty-foot right-of-way along the track which allows the inclusion of the track's immediate surroundings for the purposes of this UTM Reference Point nomination only.

See continuation sheet

Other Information Additional information on these properties is located in the South Carolina Inventory of Historic Places and in the National Register files.

*between ca. 1883 and ca. 1945. The properties, with the exception of Greenbrier School (#1), are grouped into two complexes, the Anderson Quarry-Phillips Granite Works and the Rion Granite Quarry-Brooks Granite Company. (See continuation sheets.)

**systematic quarrying began, first at the Rion Quarry ca. 1883, and later at the Anderson Quarry, ca. 1897.¹

By 1887, the Winnsboro Granite Company had been formed and had acquired Thomas Woodward's Rock City (Rion) Quarry, and by 1890 it had acquired the Anderson Quarry track. Despite financial problems, the company produced building and monument stone which became known as the "Silk of the Trade." About 1930, the Rion Quarry began operating the Rion Crush Stone Plant which produced various types of crushed stone.²

In 1883, a steam tramway had been constructed connecting Woodward's quarry with the Southern Railroad at Rockton. About 1893, after the Anderson Quarry had been acquired, the Winnsboro Granite Company began construction of a standard-gauge railroad, completed ca. 1897, to connect the Anderson Quarry to the Rion Quarry and the Southern line at Rockton. The rail line became a separate corporation, the Rockton and Rion Railway, run by the Winnsboro Granite Company in 1936. The railroad was one of the last in the Southeast to use steam power; it converted to diesel in 1967.³

In the early twentieth century, the Winnsboro Granite Company was advertised abroad for the opportunities it offered skilled stone cutters willing to locate near the quarries. Among the inducements cited were various lease arrangements for tools and work space and a company-built village (now demolished) in Rion. The campaign attracted a number of craftsmen from Scotland and Italy.⁴

Most of the buildings and structures in the Rockton and Rion Railroad Historic District were constructed of Winnsboro blue granite between ca. 1883 and ca. 1945 with the majority constructed from the late 1920s to the late 1930s. The industrial buildings are for the most part utilitarian in form. Several of the managers' houses and outbuildings, however, feature unusual granite ornamentation, including quoins and triangular granite insets.

¹Robert Mills, Statistics, p. 552; Robert Mills, Mills Atlas of South Carolina; Thornwell Jacobs, Story of the "Silk of the Trade" (Rion, S.C.: Winnsboro Blue Granite, 1952), pp.3-6,11,26; State Board of Agriculture of South Carolina, South Carolina Resources, pp.608, 708; Thomas Leonard Watson, Granites of the Southeastern Atlantic States (Bulletin 426) (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1910), pp. 186, 188.

²Fairfield County Deed Book AM, pp. 179-183, 193-196, 211,213, 630; Fairfield County Courthouse, Winnsboro, S.C.; Jacobs, Story, pp. 1-2, 7-16,26,29.

³South Carolina Resources, pp. 608,708; Jacobs, Story, p. 22; Watson, Granites, pp. 186-187; Agent of the Department of Agriculture, Commerce and Immigration of South Carolina, The Granite Industry of South Carolina, U.S.A. (Columbia, S.C.: S.C. Department of Agriculture, 1906), p. 3; Fairfield County Deed Book BT, p. 418; John Krause with H. Reid, Rails Through Dixie (San Marina, Calif.: Golden West Books, 1965), pp. 28-31; Ron Ziel, The Twilight of Steam Locomotives (New York: Grosset & Dunlap, 1963), p. 108; Ron Ziel and George H. Foster, Steam in the Sixties (New York: Meredith Press, 1967), pp. 21,109,117.

⁴Agent of the Department of Agriculture, The Granite Industry, pp. 1-9.

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Property Owners

South Carolina Railroad Museum
P.O. Box 7246
Columbia, S.C. 29202-7246

Hayward S. Christensen, Chairman
Fairfield County School District
Route 1, Box 214
Elgin, S.C. 29045

Martin-Marietta Corporation
P.O. Box 2568
Raleigh, N.C. 27602

Winnsboro Granite Corporation
Rion, S.C. 29132

Ben Haynes
Fairfield Enterprises
Route 3, Box 201
Winnsboro, S.C. 29180

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Properties Which Contribute to the Character of the Historic District:

1. Greenbrier School: constructed ca. 1941; one-story, rectangular, granite building with a hipped roof; pedimented portico and two recessed wings all with quoins; central entrance pavilion featuring a double-door entrance with sidelights and transom surrounded by fluted pilasters and a denticulated entablature surmounted by a semi-circular fanlight; single twelve-over-twelve windows with peaked stone arches with keystones and concrete aprons flank the entrance; also on the property is a granite fence constructed ca. 1951.

Rion Granite Quarry and Brooks Granite Company

2. Brooks Granite Co. Blacksmith Shop: constructed 1936; rectangular granite building with a gabled roof.
3. Brooks Granite Co. Office: constructed 1934; rectangular granite building with hipped roof; granite porch spans facade.
4. Brooks Granite Co. Compressor Building: constructed 1937; rectangular granite building with a gabled roof.
5. Brooks Granite Co. Finishing Plant: constructed 1945; large, open, gable-roofed shed supported by granite pillars; attached granite compartments for various finishing processes.
6. Rion Quarry: approximately forty acres of fine-grained white and gray granite; a source of stone since at least 1820; systematic quarrying began ca. 1883.
7. Rion Quarry Crush Stone Plant: constructed ca. 1930; large steel and granite structure used for crushing stone.
8. Rion Quarry Crush Stone Machine Shop: constructed 1945; rectangular, granite building with a gabled roof; two arched garage bays; numerous windows with granite lintels and sills.
9. Rion Quarry Crush Stone Parts Shed: constructed 1939; rectangular granite building with gable roof.
10. Rion Quarry Crush Stone Office: constructed 1939; rectangular granite building with hipped roof.
11. Rion Quarry Crush Stone Magazine: constructed 1940; granite building with gable roof; used for storing explosives.
12. Baldwin 712 Locomotive: constructed 1903; heavy duty, eighteen-wheel steam locomotive.
13. Saddletank Switcher: constructed ca. 1920; industrial switching engine.

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Anderson Quarry- Phillips Granite Works

15. Phillips Granite Co. Finishing Plant: constructed in three phases 1930-1936; enormous, rectangular, open building; gable roof supported by granite pillars; numerous attached, granite, utility compartments; used for cutting, carving, polishing and other finishing processes.
16. Phillips Granite Co. Oil House: constructed 1933; rusticated granite building.
17. Phillips Granite Co. Bath House: constructed ca. 1933; rusticated granite building.
18. Phillips Granite Co. Dust Collector Base: constructed ca. 1933; granite pedestal for dust filter.
19. Phillips Granite Co. Office: constructed 1934; hip-roofed, granite building.
20. Phillips Granite Co. Office: constructed 1933; rectangular, rusticated granite building.
21. Phillips Granite Co. Office: constructed 1934; rectangular, rusticated building.
22. Anderson Quarry Generator House : constructed 1928; rectangular granite building; housed equipment for generating coal-fueled electric power.
23. Rockton and Rion Railroad Engine House: constructed 1934; massive granite structure displays stepped parapet ends above large twin-arched locomotive bays; repetitive side elevation fenestration.
24. Anderson Quarry Bath House: constructed 1938; granite building consists of a core and east wing, both accented with quoins.
25. Anderson Quarry Machine Shop: constructed 1931; granite structure has stepped parapet ends; extension to the northeast, used for machinery maintenance and repair.
26. Anderson Quarry Gas Shed: constructed 1934; two granite pillars support this structure.
27. Anderson Quarry Store: constructed 1934; granite building featuring board-and-batten doors with granite lintels.
28. Anderson Quarry Garage: constructed 1934; rectangular building; pink granite quoins; pink granite pillars separate the facade bays.
29. Anderson Quarry Weighing Scale: heavy plank floor which straddles a pit containing weighing mechanisms connected to a vertical iron scale; used to ensure conformance to freight weight regulations.

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- 27 30. Anderson Quarry Garage: constructed 1937; granite garage with four garage bays.
- 28 31. Anderson Quarry Oil House: constructed 1927; rectangular granite building with a gabled roof; used for lubrication of machinery.
- 29 32. Anderson Quarry Compressor House: constructed 1937; granite building features keystones and voussoirs.
- 26 33. Anderson Quarry Switch House: constructed 1919; originally a compressor house; rectangular granite building with a gabled roof; used to house electrical equipment.
34. Rockton and Rion Railroad Water Tanks: two cylindrical metal tanks set above a high pedestal of granite.
35. Anderson Quarry Pump House: constructed 1927; small, square, granite structure; used to provide drinking water.
36. Winnsboro Granite Co. Office: constructed 1928; rectangular, granite building with loading dock which runs the length of the facade; decorative entrance surrounds with keystones and voussoirs.
- 29 37. Anderson Quarry Pipe House: constructed 1919; rectangular granite building; used to store iron pipe and fittings used in quarrying.
38. Anderson Quarry Blacksmith Shop: constructed 1927; rectangular, granite building; doors and windows feature keystones and voussoirs.
39. Anderson Quarry: opened for systematic quarrying ca. 1897; large deposit of blue granite; two large excavations.
- 31 40. Anderson Quarry Transformer Station: constructed ca. 1937; granite building with a twenty-five foot long granite platform.
- 30 41. Earle Eisenhower House: constructed 1939; large, rectangular, two-and-one-half-story, gable-roofed granite residence; granite ornamentation.
- 32 42. Ernest Miner House and Garage: constructed 1938; large, two-story, multi-gabled, granite residence; one-story entrance portico on facade; granite ornamentation; granite garage.
- 35 43. C.E. Glover House and Garage: constructed 1938; asymmetrical, one-and-one-half-story, multi-gabled, granite residence; large, irregular, granite door and window surrounds; granite quoins; granite garage.
- 37 44. Hobgood-Sellers House, Pump House, and Garage: constructed 1937; asymmetrical, one-and-one-half-story, cross-gabled, granite residence; granite pump house, granite garage.
- 40 45. John Sapp House: constructed ca. 1930; asymmetrical, one-story, gable-roofed, granite residence.

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47. Rockton and Rion Railroad Line: constructed ca. 1893-97; twelve-mile long, standard guage rail line; extends from Anderson Quarry through the Rion Quarry to the Southern Railroad at Rockton; includes several sidetracks.

Properties Which Do Not Contribute to the Character of the Historic District:

10. Rion Quarry Crush Stone Welding Shop: modern industrial building.
46. Anderson Quarry Portable Blacksmith Shop: modern industrial building.

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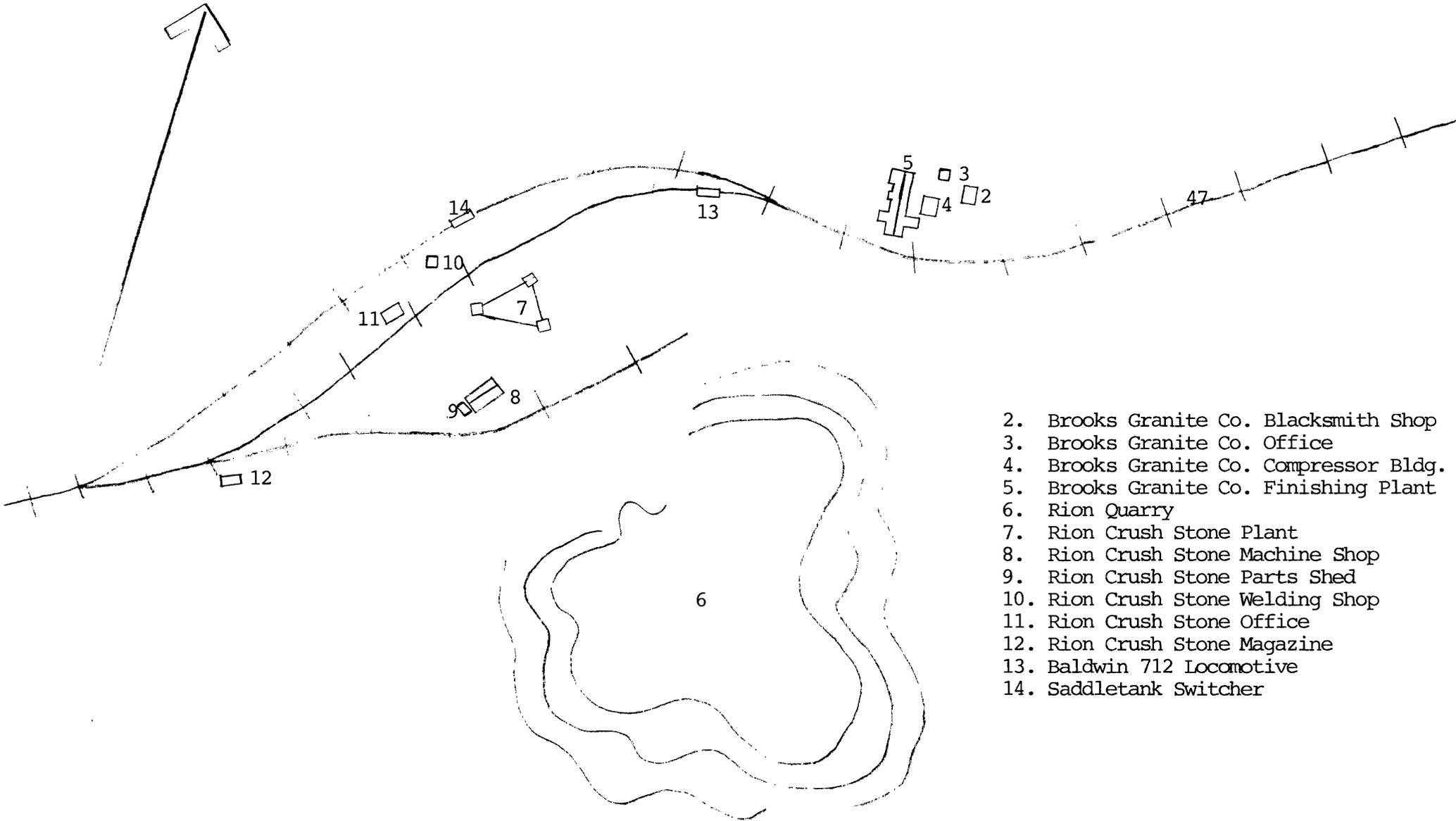
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ROCKTON AND RION RAILROAD HISTORIC DISTRICT

Rion Granite Quarry and
1 Brooks Granite Company



2. Brooks Granite Co. Blacksmith Shop
3. Brooks Granite Co. Office
4. Brooks Granite Co. Compressor Bldg.
5. Brooks Granite Co. Finishing Plant
6. Rion Quarry
7. Rion Crush Stone Plant
8. Rion Crush Stone Machine Shop
9. Rion Crush Stone Parts Shed
10. Rion Crush Stone Welding Shop
11. Rion Crush Stone Office
12. Rion Crush Stone Magazine
13. Baldwin 712 Locomotive
14. Saddletank Switcher

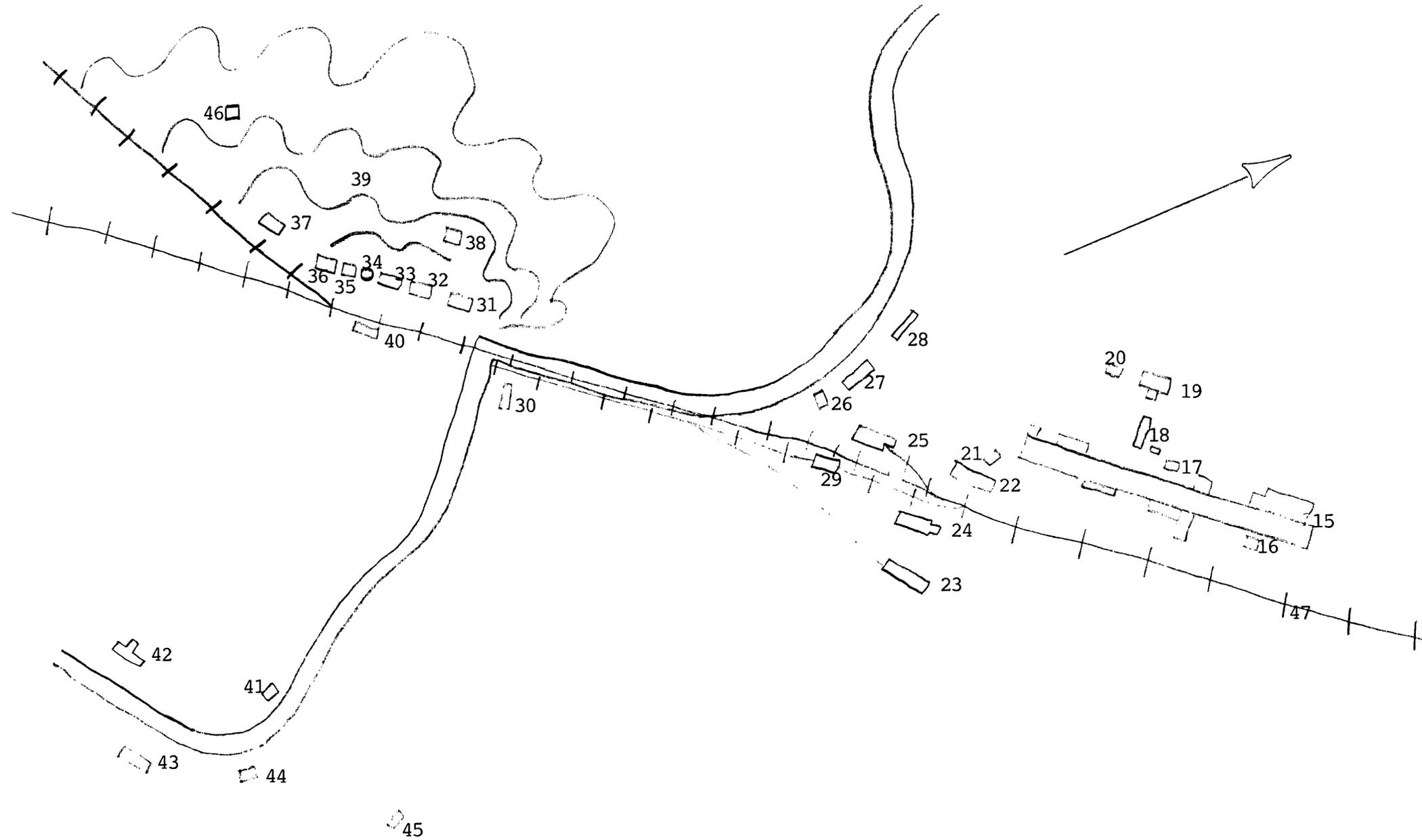
ROCKTON AND RION RAILROAD HISTORIC DISTRICT

Anderson Quarry and Phillips

Granite Works

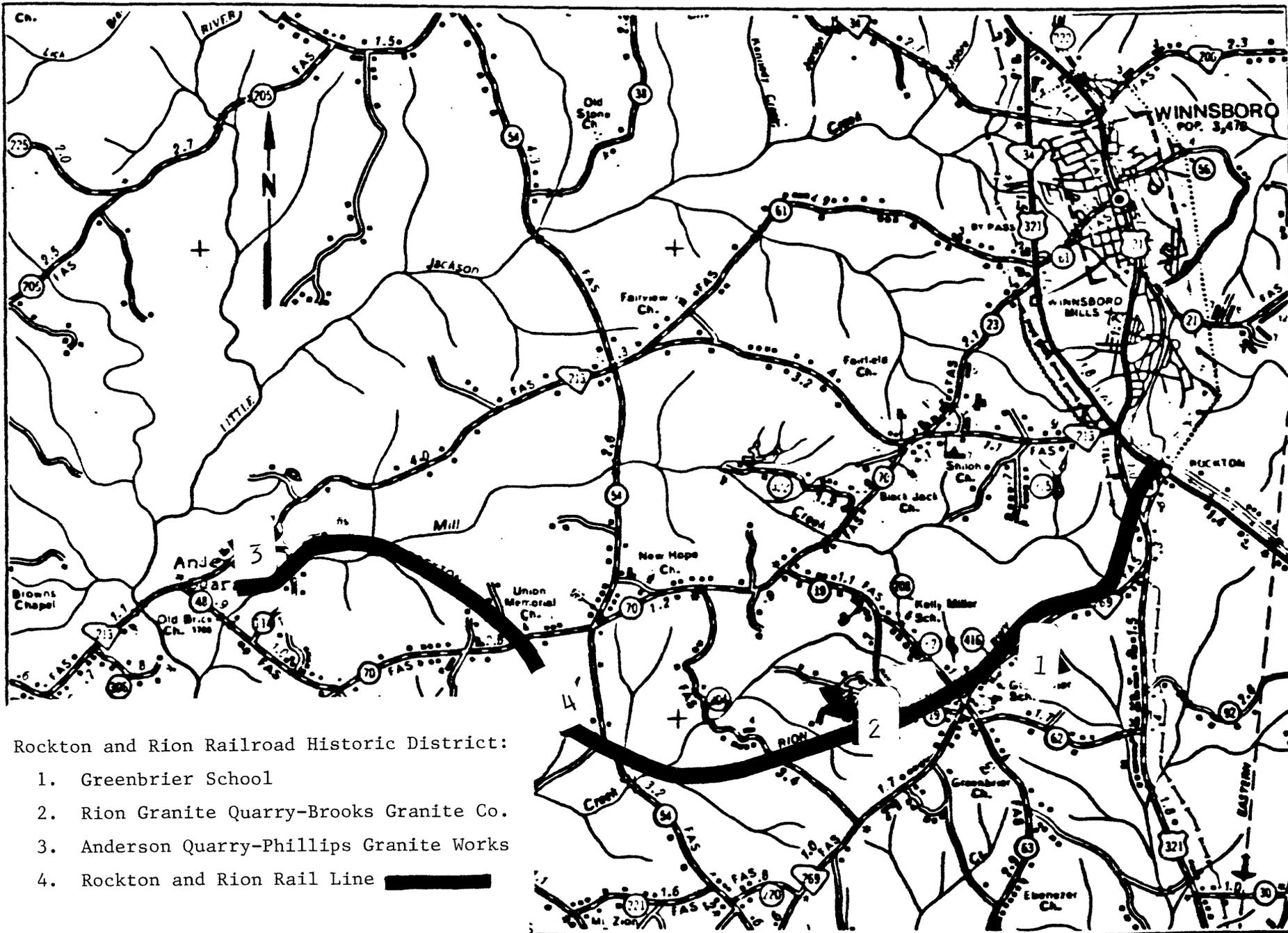
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Not to Scale



Anderson Quarry and Phillips Granite Works

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| 15. Phillips Granite Works Finishing Plant | 41. Earle Eisenhower House |
| 16. Phillips Granite Works Oil House | 42. Ernest Miner House and Garage |
| 17. Phillips Granite Works Bath House | 43. C.E. Glover House and Garage |
| 18. Phillips Granite Works Dust Collector Base | 44. Hobgood-Sellers House, Pump House,
and Garage |
| 19. Phillips Granite Works Office | 45. John Sapp House |
| 20. Phillips Granite Works Office | 46. Anderson Quarry Portable Black-
smith Shop |
| 21. Phillips Granite Works Office | 47. Rockton and Rion Railroad Rail
Line |
| 22. Anderson Quarry Generator House | |
| 23. Rockton and Rion Engine House | |
| 24. Anderson Quarry Bath House | |
| 25. Anderson Quarry Machine Shop | |
| 26. Anderson Quarry Gas Shed | |
| 27. Anderson Quarry Store | |
| 28. Anderson Quarry Garage | |
| 29. Anderson Quarry Weighing Scale | |
| 30. Anderson Quarry Garage | |
| 31. Anderson Quarry Oil House | |
| 32. Anderson Quarry Compressor House | |
| 33. Anderson Quarry Switch House | |
| 34. Rockton and Rion Water Tanks | |
| 35. Anderson Quarry Pump House | |
| 36. Winnsboro Granite Co. Office | |
| 37. Anderson Quarry Pipe House | |
| 38. Anderson Quarry Blacksmith Shop | |
| 39. Anderson Quarry | |
| 40. Anderson Quarry Transformer Station | |



Rockton and Rion Railroad Historic District:

1. Greenbrier School
2. Rion Granite Quarry-Brooks Granite Co.
3. Anderson Quarry-Phillips Granite Works
4. Rockton and Rion Rail Line ██████████