

Biographical Notes on John Evander Patton



Born: November 4, 1870 - Sweeten's Cove, Marion County, Tennessee

Died: December 2, 1952 - Sarasota, Sarasota County, Florida

Buried: Forest Hills, Chattanooga, Hamilton County, Tennessee

Married: June 20, 1895

Knoxville, Knox County, Tennessee

Anna Clare Robbins

Children:

John Evander Patton, Jr. - Born: August 22, 1899

Robbins Patton - Born: 1902

Anna Patton - Born: 1905

Theodore Patton - Born: October 11, 1907

President of the Sewanee Fuel and Iron Company, Coalmont, Tennessee. Also president of the Southern Tennessee Coal Producers Association.

“In September ... 1908, the Sewanee Fuel and Iron Company bought out the holdings of Sewanee, Coal, Coke and Land. The buyers continued to produce coal for about the next 30 years. These productive facilities did not change hands again until November ... of 1939 when they were acquired by the Coalmont Coal and Coke Company, of which John E. Patton was president. This firm operated through most of World War II, up into 1944.

Whereas the coal mines of Tracy City carried the names of locales and individuals, or were given such colorful designations as Rattlesnake, Possum Trail, and Wildcat, those at Coalmont were named systemically, making use of the letters of the alphabet. They were A Mine, B Mine, C Mine and so on up to G Mine. B Mine, located under Sweeton Hill, was the most extensively worked ... These abandoned facilities are to be found along the old tracks just west of where they cross present Highway 56.” - From “The Story of Marion County”



According to an obituary in the files of Margaret Gray (Johnson) Patton, his daughter-in-law, he was a charter member of the Rotary Club of Chattanooga and a vestryman and lay leader at St. Paul's Episcopal Church between 1908-1925. "He helped his father on their farm until he was about 15 years of age when he went to Tracy City to work in a drug store and still later went to college. He was graduated in law from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor in 1892. Over a considerable period he was active in the coal mining business of the area ..." This obituary is undated and the newspaper in which it appears is unknown, though believed to be the Chattanooga newspaper.



According to "Tennessee Post Offices and Postmaster Appointments, 1789-1984," by D.R. Frazier, p. 360, he was appointed the first postmaster of Coalmont, effective August 14, 1903.



The following is from "The Twenty-First Annual Report of the Mining Department," State of Tennessee, by Geo. E. Sylvester, 1911, p. 108:

Grundy County

Clouse Hill Mine -- Owner and Operator, Sewanee Fuel and Iron Co., Coalmont; President, J.E. Patton, Chattanooga; Superintendent, H.S. Walden, Coalmont; Inside Foreman, J.S. Brown, Tracy City.

This is a Class D mine, located about 3 miles southwest of Coalmont, and connects with the N., C. & St. L. R.R. branch line. The Sewanee seam, located 1,950 feet above sea level, and having an average thickness of 3 feet, is worked. The roof and bottom are both slate. It is developed on the single entry system; it is ventilated by furnace and natural conditions, and is distributed by continuous current. Haulage is conducted by mules.

Coalmont A, B, L & O Mines -

Clouse Hill Mine -- Owner and Operator, Sewanee Fuel and Iron Co., Coalmont; President, J.E. Patton, Chattanooga; Superintendent, H.S. Walden, Coalmont; Inside Foreman, J.M. Sehorn, Coalmont.

These are Class C drift mines, located at Coalmont, the terminus of the N., C. & St. L. R.R. at Cowan, a distance of 27 miles. This mining plant consists of three openings, close together, L and O being connected. The Sewanee seam, located at 1,904, 1,923, and 1,907 feet, respectively, above seal level; having an average thickness of 34 inches, is worked. Both roof and bottom are slate, and it is developed on the single entry system. Generally speaking, these are damp mines,

and the coal being rather of a soft nature, is partly cut with pick and then loosened with black power. Ventilation is produced by furnaces, and conducted by means of doors and wooden stoppings to working places. Haulage is conducted from rooms to tipples by mules.

In the same report, John Evander Patton's sister-in-law's husband, Edward Lee Hampton, is shown as owner of Tennessee Consolidated Coal Company and its East Fork, Henley, Lone Rock, Ramsey, Reid Hill and Werner mines in Grundy County as well as the Pryor Ridge No. 1 and Pryor Ridge No. 2 mines in Marion County.



John Evander Patton must have become president of or bought the Sewanee Fuel and Iron Company about 1911 as the Clouse Hill mine, Coalmont mines B, H, O mine is listed in "The Twentieth Annual Report of the Mining Department," State of Tennessee, by Geo. E. Sylvester, 1910, p. 88 as owned by Sewanee Fuel and Iron, President, F.B. Martin.



From "The Development of Coal Mining on Tennessee's Cumberland Plateau, 1880-1930, Study Unit No. 6, by James B. Jones, of the Tennessee Historical Commission, State Preservation Office, October 30, 1987, p. 66:

"Grundy County: The term coal mining and Grundy County are nearly synonymous. It was the location for one of the earliest commercial coal mines in Tennessee, dating to the 1850s. As the 1882 "Handbook of Tennessee" put it over a century ago: 'The largest mining operation on the Tennessee coal field is that ... at Tracy City.' Tracy City and environs still have a great many cultural resources listed in the National Register. For example: the John E. Patton House (1904); coke ovens near Coalmont, which were worked by blacks in the 'Negro Quarters;' two banks of coke ovens, built in 1883 by the Tennessee Coal and Iron Company, and operated until 1892 by prison labor. Not listed in the National Register are a number houses apparently typical of late nineteenth and early twentieth century coal miners' housing, and a block of coke ovens in Coalmont whose inclusion in the Grundy County nomination was excluded due to owner objections. Also of importance in Tracy City are the Grundy County Lakes, Coke Ovens, the Heading Mine entrance, and the J. Patton house. Miners Hall burned and thus has been taken off the National Register." (Attached is the application for designation on the National Register of Historic Places.)



TENNESSEE MULTIPLE PROPERTY FORM

TITLE: Historic Resources of Grundy County

COUNTY: Grundy

SITE: 8

HISTORIC NAME: Patton, John E., House
COMMON NAME: Patton, John E., House
ADDRESS: Roddy Creek Road
Coalmont, Tennessee

OWNER: Ray Winton
ADDRESS: Box 295
Cowan, Tennessee 37318

HISTORIC USE: Residence CURRENT USE: Residence
CATEGORY/BUILDING TYPE: Building/Residence
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: c. 1904 ARCHITECT/BUILDER: unknown
ORIGINAL SITE: yes MOVED: N/A DATE: N/A
ORIGINAL OWNER/SIGNIFICANT INDIVIDUALS: John E. Patton

HAS THIS PROPERTY BEEN DETERMINED ELIGIBLE? no DATE: N/A

CONTRIBUTING:		NON-CONTRIBUTING:	
buildings	1	buildings	0
structures	0	structures	2
sites	0	sites	0
objects	0	objects	0
TOTAL	1	TOTAL	2

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION AND JUSTIFICATION:

The boundaries for the John E. Patton House begin at a point on Roddy Creek Road approximately 200 feet from the eastern boundary line. The boundary goes easterly approximately 200 feet along the south fence line to the east fence line, thence northerly approximately 200 feet to the north fence line, thence westerly along the north fence line approximately 250 feet to the west fence line, thence southerly along the west fence line 200 feet to the south fence line, thence easterly along the south fence line 60 feet to the point of beginning. See Map #8. This includes enough property to protect the historic integrity of the property.

ACREAGE: less than one acre

UTM REFERENCE: Tracy City, Tennessee 99SW
16/617560/3910470

SUPPLEMENTAL BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

PREPARED BY: Elizabeth A. Straw, Historic Preservation Specialist
ADDRESS: Tennessee Historical Commission
701 Broadway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219

TENNESSEE MULTIPLE PROPERTY FORM - CONTINUATION SHEET

TITLE: Historic Resources of Grundy County

SITE: 8

PAGE: 2

DESCRIPTION:

The John E. Patton House is located on a hill that sits above Highway 56 on the outskirts of Coalmont. The one-and-a-half story Craftsman style house was built circa 1904 with round logs and concrete chinking. The house has a variety of dormer and gable peaks that contains both straight edged and random cut shingles. On the main or east facade of the house is a simple screened-in shed roof porch with rectangular posts. A circular turret with a conical shaped roof is located on the northeast corner of the porch. The house contains a variety of windows including 1/1 sash, 20/1 sash, and small multi-paned sash in the dormers. A small rear porch has turned porch posts.

The interior of the house has been altered with the addition of 4' x 8' panel boards. However, all of the original wood trim has been retained around the doorways, fireplaces, and staircase. The door surrounds are pilaster trim with bullseye cornerblocks. The stairway is partially enclosed with beaded wainscot siding. The upper portion of the enclosing wall is composed of a ball and spindle frieze. Original fireplaces with a variety of glazed tile surrounds remain in all the downstairs rooms. All fireplaces with the exception of the living room fireplace have wooden mantels with Ionic columns and applied decorative trim. The dining room fireplace is larger than the bedroom fireplaces and contains a built-in mirror above the mantle shelf. The living room fireplace is of brick and stone. The brick ascends from the egg and dart mantel shelf in a stepped pyramidal pattern with a second egg and dart molding about halfway up the chimney.

There are two non-contributing outbuildings on the property, a concrete block heating plant on the north side of the house and a small frame shed at the rear of the house.

SIGNIFICANCE:

CRITERIA: B and C

CONSIDERATION: N/A

AREA OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture and Industry

PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE/SIGNIFICANT DATES: c.1904 - 1937

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local

The John E. Patton House is nominated under criteria B and C for its significance in architecture and industry in Grundy County. The Craftsman Style house is a good example of the vernacular adaption of a revival log cabin. The house is also significant because of its association with John E. Patton, a prominent person in the development of Coalmont.

Coalmont was founded in 1903 as an open company town by the Sewanee Coal, Coke and Land Company. John E. Patton was the first postmaster

TENNESSEE MULTIPLE PROPERTY FORM - CONTINUATION SHEET

TITLE: Historic Resources of Grundy County

SITE: 8

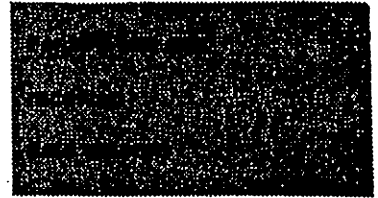
PAGE: 3

of the town. In 1908 the Sewanee Coal, Coke and Land Company was reorganized as the Sewanee Fuel and Iron Company with Patton as president. In 1939 the coal company was once again reorganized with Patton as president of the new company, the Coalmont Coal and Coke Company. In addition to his association with the coal companies, Patton was also director of the Coalmont Bank.

The John E. Patton House is important in both architecture and industry in Grundy County. The house is a good representative example of the Craftsman style of architecture in Grundy County and is important for its association with a prominent official of a coal company, the major industry in the county.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

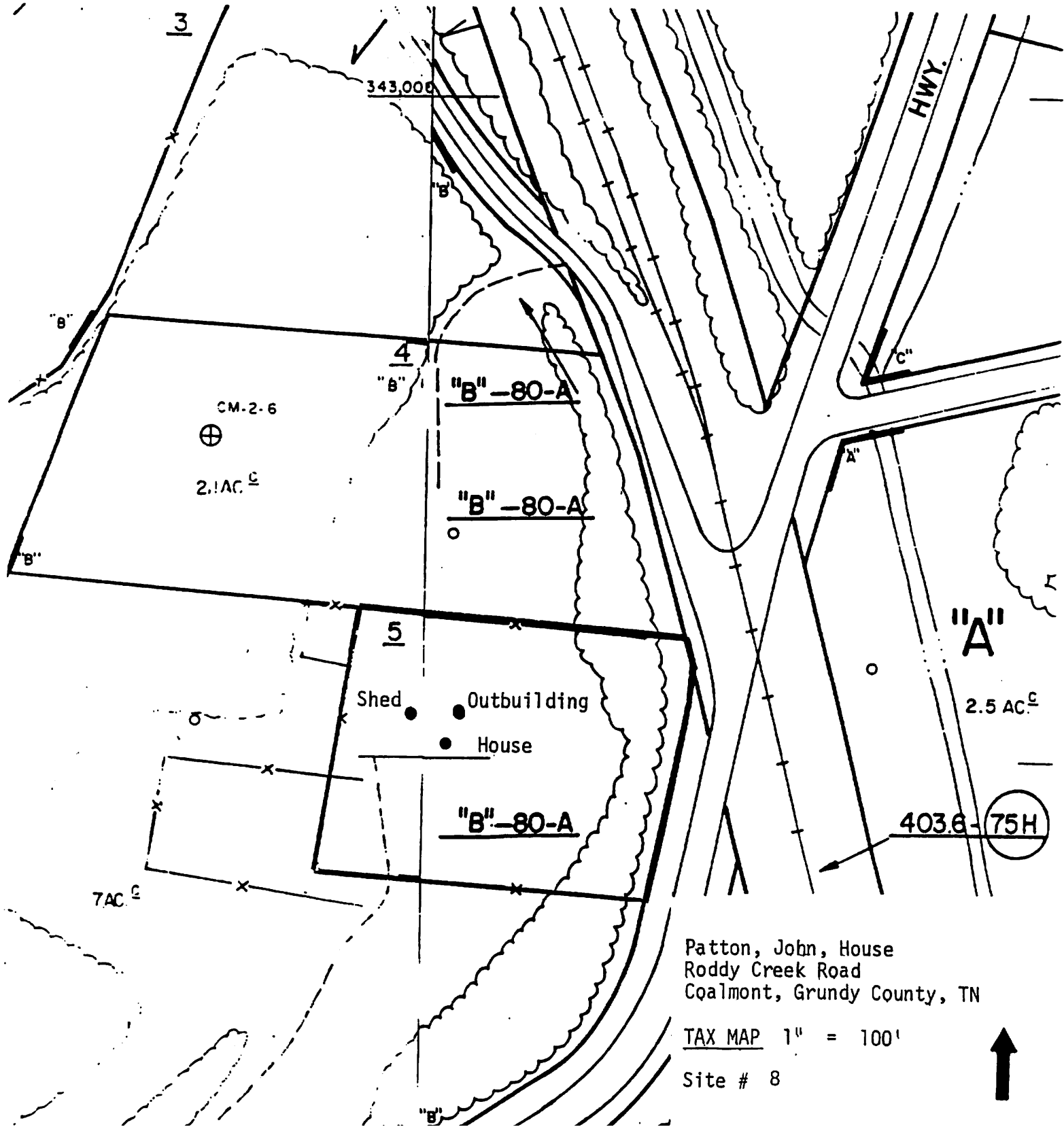
National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet Historic Resources of
Grundy County

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Page 8



Patton, John, House
Roddy Creek Road
Coalmont, Grundy County, TN

TAX MAP 1" = 100'

Site # 8



TENNESSEE MULTIPLE PROPERTY FORM

TITLE: Historic Resources of Grundy County

COUNTY: Grundy
SITE: 13

HISTORIC NAME: Tennessee Coal and Railroad Company Coke Ovens
COMMON NAME: Tracy City Coke Ovens (Preferred)
ADDRESS: West of Hobbs Hill Road
Tracy City, Tennessee

OWNER: Nellie Anderson
ADDRESS: General Delivery
Tracy City, Tennessee 37387

HISTORIC USE: Coke Ovens CURRENT USE: Abandoned
CATEGORY/BUILDING TYPE: Site
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1873 ARCHITECT/BUILDER: unknown
ORIGINAL SITE: yes MOVED: No DATE: N/A
ORIGINAL OWNER/SIGNIFICANT INDIVIDUALS: Tennessee Coal and Railroad
Company

HAS THIS PROPERTY BEEN DETERMINED ELIGIBLE? no DATE: N/A

CONTRIBUTING:		NON-CONTRIBUTING:	
buildings	0	buildings	0
structures	1	structures	0
sites	0	sites	0
objects	0	objects	0
TOTAL	1	TOTAL	0

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION AND JUSTIFICATION:

The boundaries for the Tracy City Coke Ovens begin at a point on the Tracy City corporate boundaries and follow the property lines northeasterly approximately 900 feet, thence northwesterly approximately 150 feet to the west property line, thence southwesterly approximately 800 feet along the west property line to the city limits, thence southeasterly 300 feet to the point of beginning. See Map #13. This includes enough land to protect the historic integrity of the Tracy City Coke Ovens.

ACREAGE: approximately 3.5 acres
UTM REFERENCE: Tracy City, Tennessee 99SW
16/615120/3904210

SUPPLEMENTAL BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

PREPARED BY: Elizabeth A. Straw, Historic Preservation Specialist
ADDRESS: Tennessee Historical Commission
701 Broadway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219

TENNESSEE MULTIPLE PROPERTY FORM - CONTINUATION SHEET

TITLE: Historic Resources of Grundy County

SITE: 13
PAGE: 2

DESCRIPTION:

The Tracy City Coke Ovens are located behind the County Garage and west of Hobbs Hill Road in an isolated and overgrown area. There are five batteries of ovens located in the wooded area running in a basically north-south alignment. The individual batteries range from approximately 30 feet long to 40 feet long and were originally double sided. The sandstone facing of the ovens is no longer extant, but the interior beehive shaped firebrick is visible in several areas as are the trunnel holes used to drop the coal in from the top of the batteries. Located near the ovens are the remainders of slag piles.

SIGNIFICANCE:

CRITERIA: A

CONSIDERATION: N/A

AREA OF SIGNIFICANCE: Industry

PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE/SIGNIFICANT DATES: 1873-1896

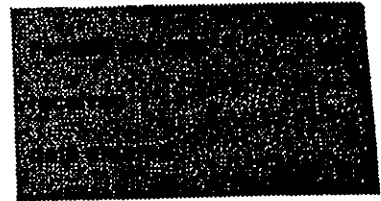
LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local

The Tracy City Coke Ovens are being nominated under National Register Criterion A for their significance to the coal mining industry in Grundy County. Built in 1873, the Tracy City Coke ovens are the oldest extant coke ovens in Grundy County.

The Tennessee Coal and Railroad Company built 120 coke ovens in Tracy City after the coal company had been using primitive pits, built in 1868, to produce coke. By 1876 TCR was valued at a million dollars and was producing 64,440 tons of coke. Most of the labor on the coke ovens was done by convicts leased from the state of \$1.00 a day plus keep. Most of the labor was done by blacks and due to poor treatment and hard labor the mortality rate was high. In 1882 the Tennessee Coal, Iron, and Railroad Company took over the ownership of the coke ovens. The Tracy City Coke Ovens were closed down in 1896 soon after the Tennessee Coal, Iron, and Railroad Company stopped using convict labor.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

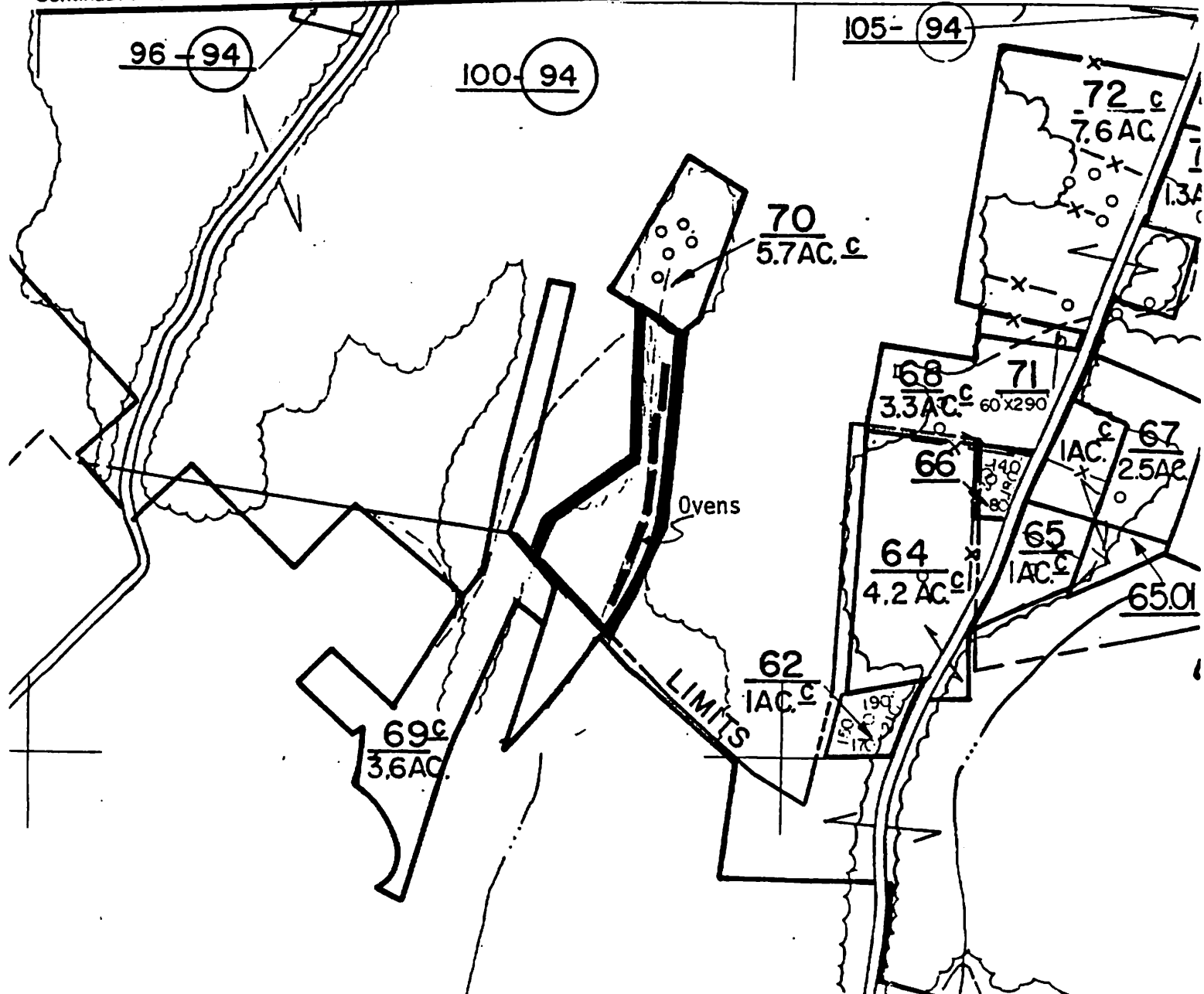
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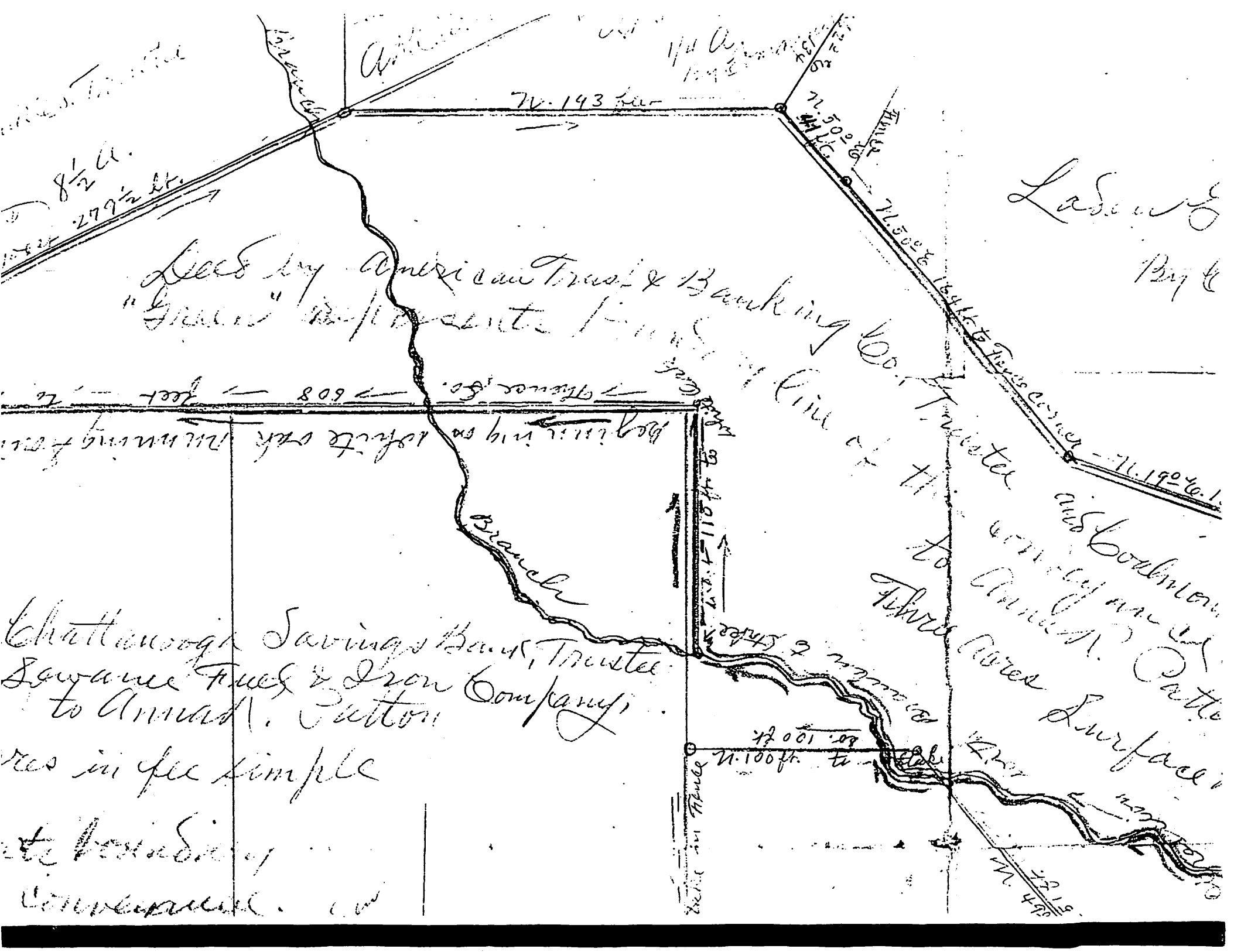


Tracy City Coke Ovens
West of Hobbs Hill Rd.
Tracy City, Grundy County, TN

TAX MAP 1" = 400'

Site # 13





8 1/2 A.
279 1/2 ft.

1/4 Acre 1893

71.193 bar

71.500

Fishes

Ladson
& Bay

Deeds by American Trust & Banking Co. Trustee
"Green" represents boundary

71.190
71.100 ft.

Branch

Chattanooga Savings Bank, Trustee
Sawannee Fuel & Iron Company,
to Anna M. Patton

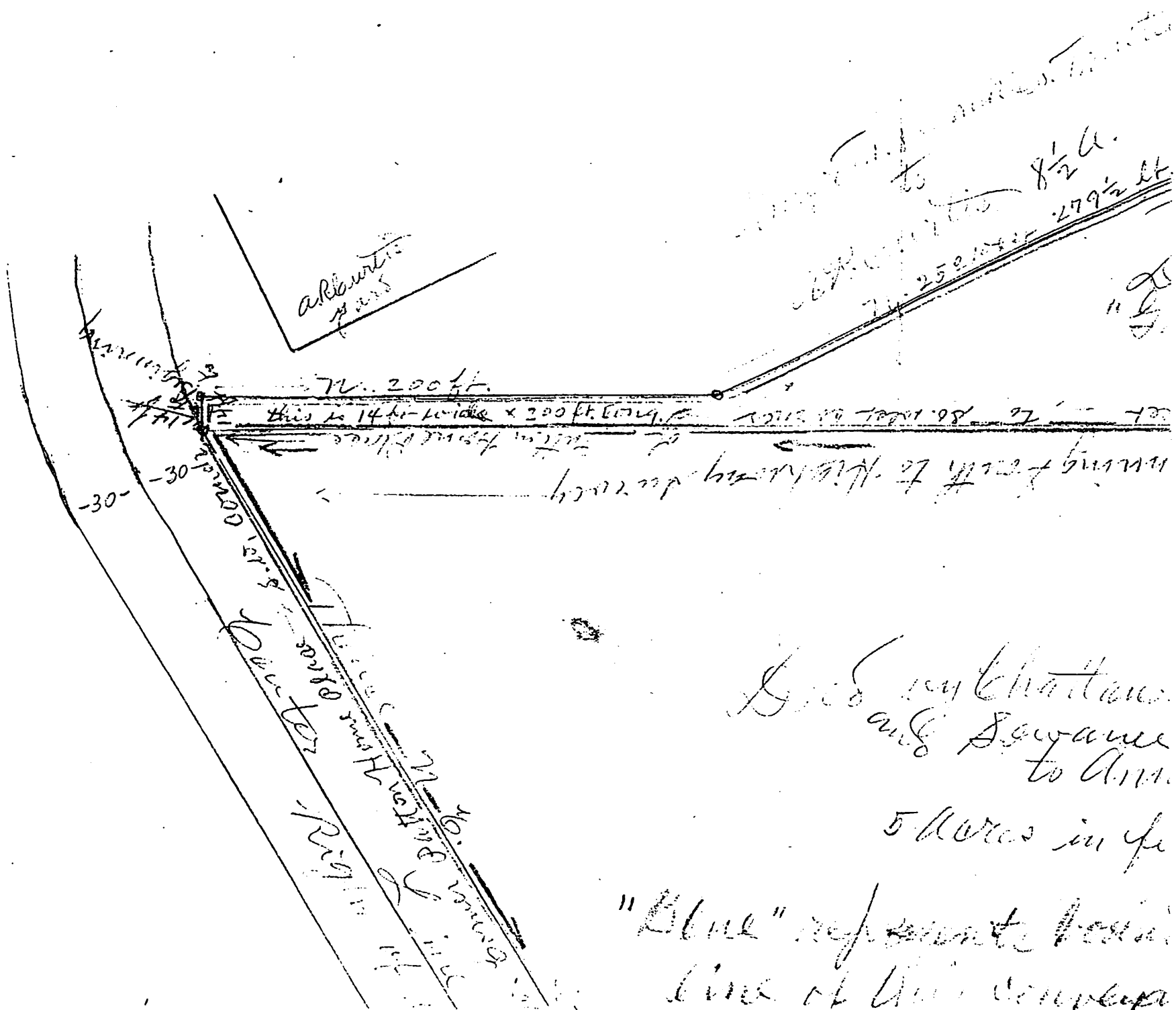
71.100 ft.

71.100 ft.

Fishes River surface

res in fee simple
etc boundary
conveyance.

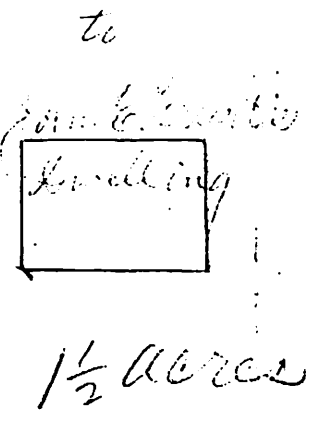
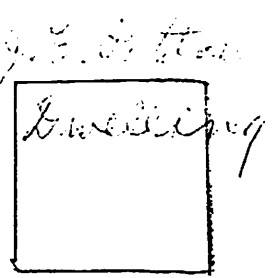
71.100 ft.



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and Sawance
to Ann.

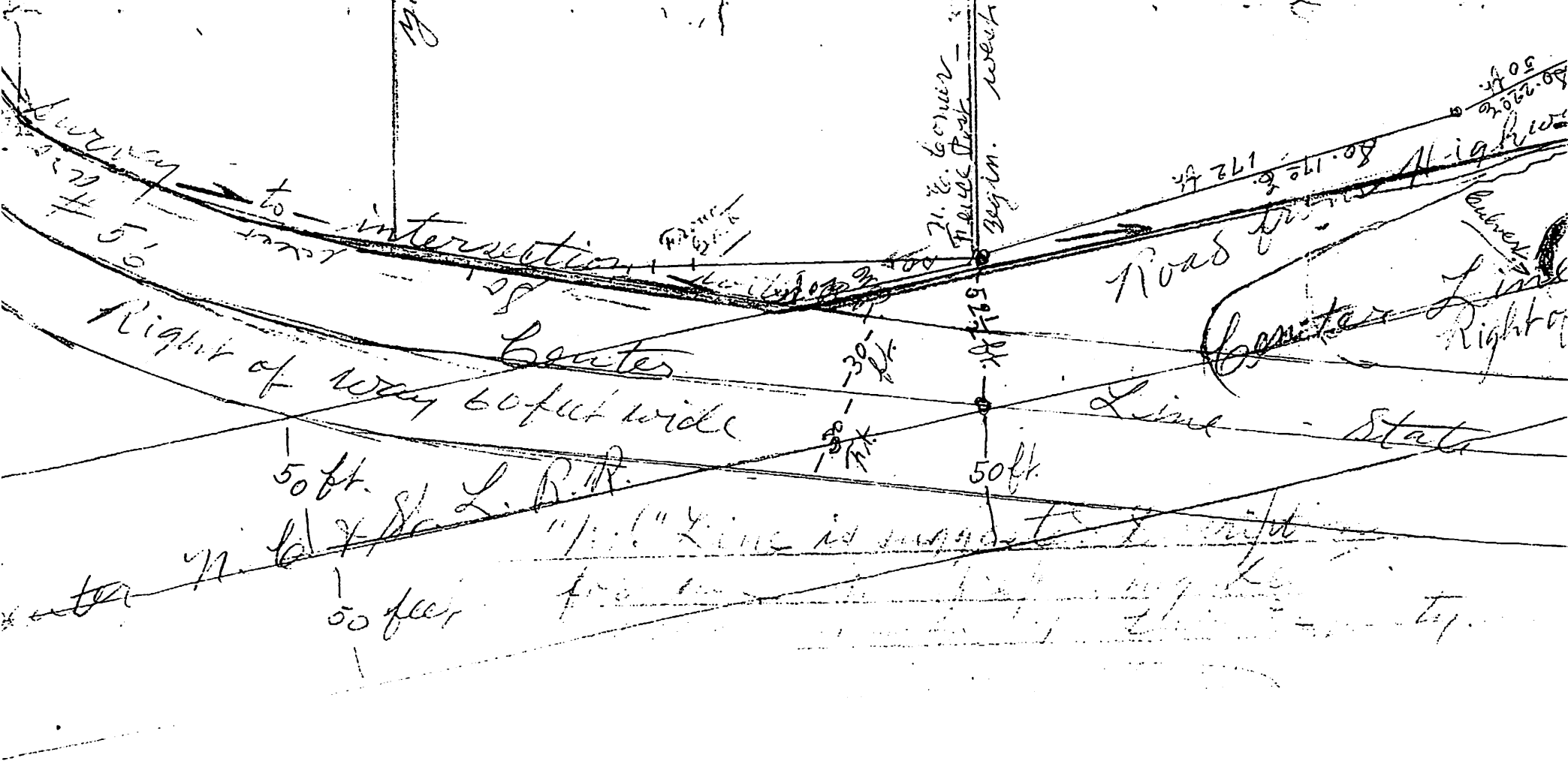
5 Acres in ft

"Blue" represent
line of this envelope

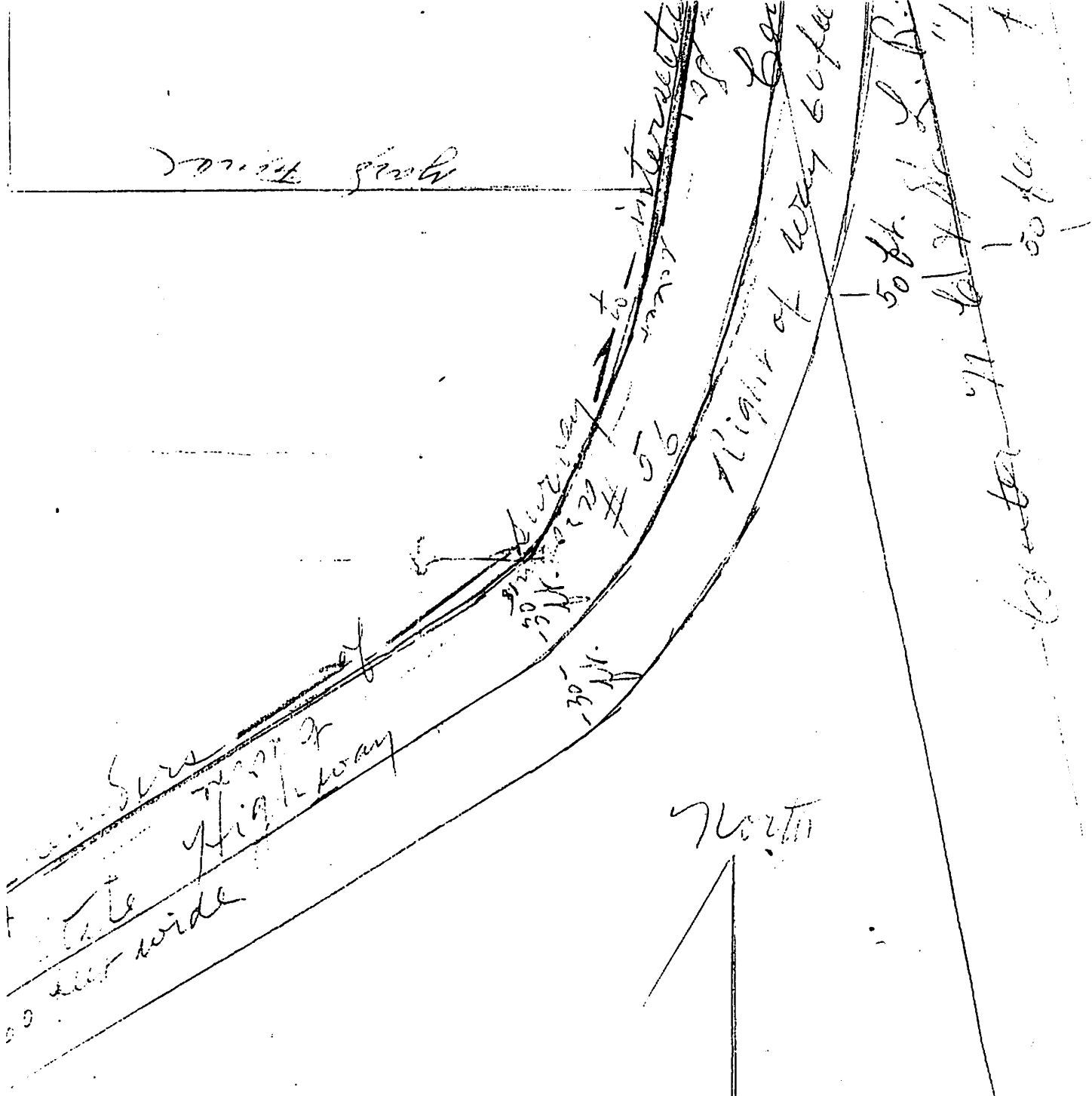


grass field

yard
347 ft.
21.6 corner
Three Dist
begin. west



Good track



North

West

East

Scale 1 inch = 50 feet

Scale 1/2 in. = 50 ft

When 1/2 in. = 50 ft

