

Form 180 Blue

2040

OXFORD MINING COMPANY

OXFORD MINING CO.
MINE INDEX NO. 976

	h	Sec. #3		
	g	T. 9	S.	
	f			
	e	R. 2	E.	
	d			
	c	Index No.		
	b			
	a			
		8	7	6
		5	4	3
	2	1		

WILLIAMSON COUNTY



(Sheets) COAL PRODUCTION (Sheet)

Period						Tons		
Mo.	Day	Year	Mo.	Day	Year			
					1977			5 170
					1978			5 370
					closed March 1979.			1 842
								<u>12 382</u>

OXFORD MINING CO.

NO. 4

SUMMARIES

No. to No.

Railroad, Wagon, Strip, Idle, Abandoned

IDENTIFICATION

County No. _____

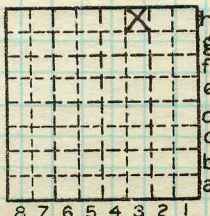
Coal No. _____

Coal Report No. _____

6

Quad.

County WILLIAMSON



Sec. 3

T. 9 N.
S. E.
R. 2 W.

Index No.

COAL MINE—PRODUCTION

ILLINOIS GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, URBANA



OXFORD MINING COMPANY (Strip Mine) WILLIAMSON
COUNTY

Visit by John Nelson 8/25/77

This strip mine, located in the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sect. 3, T.9S- R.2E Williamson County, is the latest mining venture for Harry and Russ Oxford. Their first two mines, located near New Burnside in Johnson County, now are closed. This new mine has been operating about two months.

Oxford is mining the pillars of coal left by an old shallow underground mine. It is the Herrin (No. 6) Coal and is said to be about 8 feet thick. According to Harry Oxford, superintendent, the old mine took about 2/3 of the coal leaving him about 1/3. This would be the equivalent of mining a uniform seam about 32" thick. Oxford estimates about 2 years reserves, but this is difficult to determine. The area appears to be completely surrounded by abandoned strip mines and Oxford obviously doesn't have a very large reserve.

Equipment on the site includes an old Link-Belt dragline with about a 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ yard bucket, a Koehring shovel, a couple of dozers, and a coal drill. The coal and overburden both are shot.

The mine lies south of the dirt road that runs through Crenshaw Crossing (see sketch map, over). The access road runs between a water-filled pit on the west and an abandoned highwall on the east. The active pit is about 1000 feet south of the dirt road and is about an acre in size. Overburden has been removed close to the top of the coal. I can find the top of the coal at one place only. The abandoned highwall continues several hundred feet south of Oxford's active pit.

It appears that the earlier stripping operator quit when he encountered the abandoned underground workings, and Oxford is simply taking up where he left off.

At the active pit and along the old highwall to the south the overburden is 20-30 feet thick and consists of 5-15' of surface material and glacial

(2)

drift (not studied) overlying 15-20' of gray shale of the Energy Shale Member. This shale is medium-dark gray, rather soft, poorly bedded, and silty, with numerous siderite bands and nodules. At the south end of the abandoned highwall some Anna Shale is seen above the Energy Shale. The Anna is black, sheety, and fissile, contains large oval concretions, and displays prominent 040 and 115 jointing. The Brereton Limestone apparently has been eroded off here.

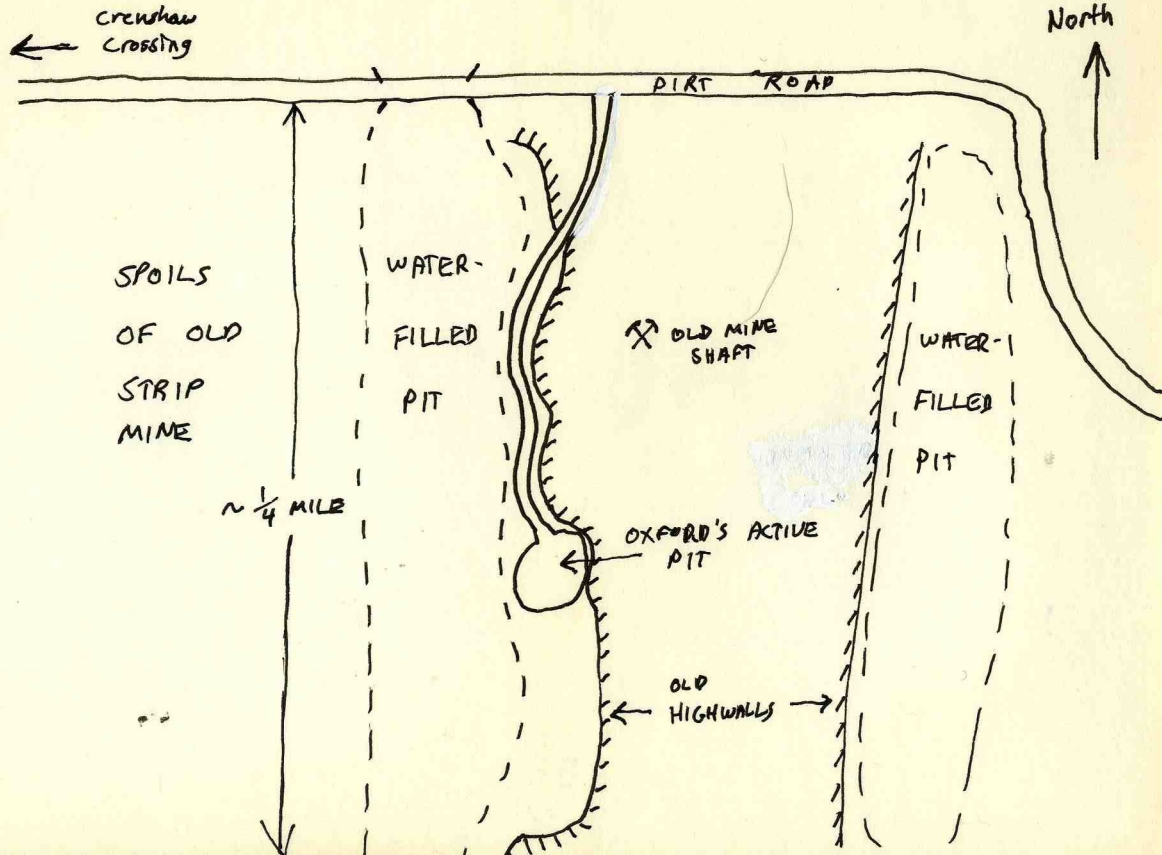
The highwall is slumped or collapsed at numerous places along this stretch, but it is impossible to tell what is due to cave-in of old underground works and what is simply slump. No mine openings are recognizable and the coal is not exposed except in one very small place, too small to tell anything.

Better exposures are to be had along the access road to the active pit. There the Energy Shale thins locally to 6-7' and both Anna Shale and Brereton Limestone can be seen. The Anna runs about 5 feet thick and sharply overlies the Energy Shale. The 040 jointing is very prominent. The upper part of the black shale appears softer and less fissile than the lower part. The Brereton Limestone is a hard, massive appearing rock that lies in a series of thick (2') benches near the top of the highwall. Not much of it has survived erosion, but in one place it is seen to be at least 6 feet thick. Units above the Brereton are not present.

The collapse of old works is quite apparent along this stretch, and in at least two places the caved-in mine openings can be clearly seen. Some of the entries are only partially caved, with the falls doming out in the Energy Shale or at the base of the Anna. In other places the falls have extended all the way to the surface. In some of these large masses of rock appear to have fallen more or less as a unit, with vertical or steeply-dipping "draw zones" at the margins. In other places the rock is all crushed and jumbled. The latter probably represent falls that

occured gradually, over a period of years, while the former are falls that occurred all at once.

Sketch Map of Mine





General view of abandoned highwall along access road to Oxford pit. Highest rock unit is the Brereton Limestone, which is seen as isolated boulders. One such is seen just right of the bush above the ruler (ruler is 6 feet long). Below the limestone is closely jointed, black Anna Shale 3-4' thick. The remainder of the highwall is composed of the gray, sideritic Energy Shale. The coal seam (Herrin- No. 6) is not exposed. Slumped appearance of highwall is probably due to the collapse of abandoned underground coal workings.

m_48-006 (P)



Collapsed mine opening seen on highwall. Ruler top is at base of Anna Shale, a closely jointed black shale. The roof of the mine has fallen to the base of the Anna Shale here.

m. 46.007.418



This fall has extended all the way to the surface
and glacial material has slumped into the hole.

mn_46-008.jpg



This mine entry is completely choked with fallen rock. Most of the mine openings visible along the highwall look like this.

mn-46-009.tif



Another collapsed mine opening in the highwall. This fall has domed out in the Energy Shale, a gray, silty, sideritic shale. Ruler is 6 feet long.

mn-46.010.410

Oxford Construction Co. Mine No. 4

June 6, 1978 Notes by John Nelson on visit with John Popp

Since the previous visit Oxford has mined eastward, forming a horseshoe-shaped pit with the arms pointing north. The coal has been uncovered around the south curving part of the pit, and a series of small pits have been dug in it. The coal seam has already been mined underground, so only irregular pillars remain for strip mining.

As seen in one of the pits the coal is at least 7.8' thick; 6.3' above the Blue Band and 1.5' below the Blue Band to water level.

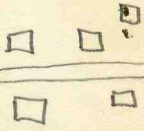
Approximate measured section:

- 0-14' Limestone (Brereton) medium gray, fine-grained very hard, thick coarsely nodular beds. Sharp contact:
- 0-7' Shale (Anna) Black, hard, fissile, smooth, well-jointed. Lower 2 feet less well jointed and more massive; possibly should be included with Energy Shale. Grades into:
- 0-20' Shale (Energy) Medium gray, moderately soft, poorly bedded, contains abundant sideritic lenses and bands.
- 7.8' Coal (Herrin (No. 6))

Sketch Map of Oxford
Mine No. 4



Crenshaw
Crossing



Dirt Road

pond
in
old
strip
pits

Haillage
Road

pit

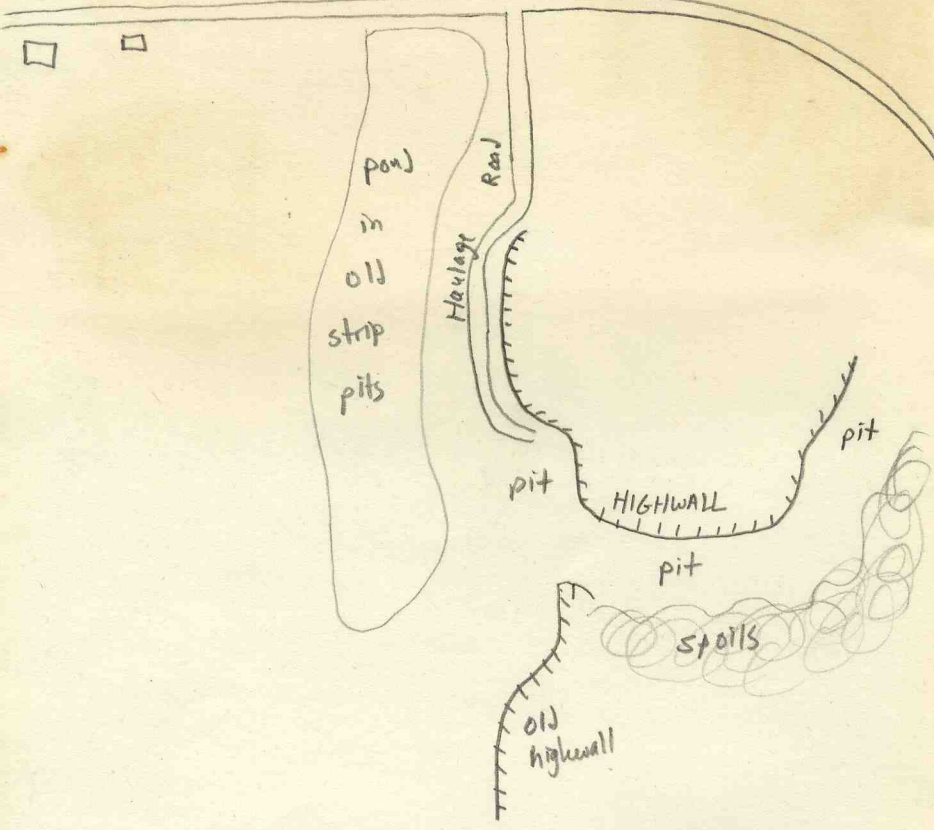
HIGHWALL

pit

pit

SPILLS

old
highwall



The roof is transitional with wedges of Energy Shale. On the east and west limbs of the pit the entire bedrock sequence is Energy Shale, about 20-25 feet thick. It is the usual medium gray, poorly bedded, sideritic shale. But the Energy Shale pinches out from both sides toward the south end of the pit, locally the Anna Shale rests directly on the coal. The Brereton and Anna are both unusually thick. As the Energy Shale thickens they override it, and are progressively removed by erosion.

In the area where the Anna Shale rests directly on the coal several irregular lenses of light gray, soft, poorly bedded shale are found directly above the coal. They protrude down into the coal and along the margins the coal is split, with "riders" entering the shale lenses and dividing the lenses from the overlying Anna Shale. The extent of the lenses cannot be determined, but they appear to be similar to features we have mapped as "rolls" in several underground mines north and east of here.

In this type of mining the percentage of recovery is low, especially when the coal is not cleaned. The shovel man cannot dig very far exploring for coal pillars because too much rock will be loaded with the coal.