

DIRECTORY OF COAL MINES IN ILLINOIS

Will County

This directory accompanies the Illinois Coal
Mines map or maps for this County.

August 2019

I ILLINOIS

Illinois State Geological Survey

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INTRODUCTION

Coal has been mined in 76 counties. More than 7,400 coal mines have operated since commercial mining began in Illinois circa 1810. Our maps of known mines for each county may help the public to identify mined areas. This accompanying coal mine directory provides basic information about the coal mines. Please note, however, that the accuracy and completeness of the maps and directories vary depending on the availability and quality of source material. Little or no information is available for many mines, especially the older ones, because mining activity was not regulated or documented until the late 1800's. Even then, reporting requirements were minimal.

The coal mine maps are maps compiled by the Illinois State Geological Survey (ISGS) of known mines: underground and surface coal mines as well as underground industrial mineral mines. Buffer regions for industrial mineral underground mines were incorporated into the maps due to limited information regarding these mines. The size of the buffer region is dependent on the uncertainty or inaccuracy of the mine location based on the quality of the source material. For more information regarding industrial mineral mines please contact the ISGS Industrial Minerals Section.

In cooperation with the Illinois State Geological Survey, the Office of Mines and Minerals (a division of the Department of Natural Resources) is in search of old underground mine maps of Illinois. Many of the undocumented maps are believed to be in libraries, historical societies and personal files of old mine employees. The Department asks that anyone who knows of one of these maps, please contact the Department at (618) 650-3197 or by emailing rgibson@siue.edu. A map specialist will come to your location, if you wish. Otherwise maps can be mailed, or you may stop by one of our offices in Edwardsville, Springfield, Ottawa, or Benton. These maps will be checked against existing inventory. If they are found to be a new discovery, they will be electronically imaged and returned to the owner (if requested).

MINE MAPS

The mined areas are shown on county base maps at a scale of 1:100,000.

Three types of mine information are shown on the maps: an index number that identifies the mine in the directory, a symbol that marks the 'location' of the mine, and an outline of the mined area if that is known. The location is almost always the site of the main mine opening or, in the case of surface mines, the location of the tippie (coal washing and storage facility). The type of symbol indicates whether the opening is a shaft, drift, or slope and whether the mine is active or abandoned. Another symbol represents a mine with an uncertain type of portal and/or uncertain location. When the exact location is unknown, the symbol is placed in the center of the section or quarter section in which the mine was reported to exist. If a mine cannot be located within a section, it is not shown on the map, but is listed in the directory.

The boundaries of the mined areas are also shown for most of the mines; however, for some mines the only information available is the location of the main opening. There are three types of coal-mined areas: underground, surface, and indefinite--which are shaded with different patterns. The underground mines also show large blocks of unmined coal within the mine, when that information is available. The indefinite areas, which have been plotted from sketchy or incomplete information, usually are underground workings, although the directory should be consulted to determine the specific mine type.

For most counties, one map shows all known mines. However, in Gallatin, Saline, Vermilion, and Williamson Counties, several seams have been extensively mined. For the sake of readability, separate maps have been produced for the mines in each seam. Mines in the Herrin Coal are shown on one map, those in the Springfield Coal are shown on another, and the mines in all other coals are shown on a third map. In Vermilion County, the mines that operated in the Herrin and the Danville Coals are presented on separate maps.

Quadrangle maps at 1:24,000 scale have been completed for select areas and contain more detailed outlines with directories that contain more detailed coal mine information. The maps and directories are available as downloadable PDF files or can be purchased. Please visit the ISGS web site for more information.

MINE DIRECTORIES

Each county directory is keyed to the mine map by the mine index number; the directory provides basic information about the coal mines shown on the map. The data have been compiled from a variety of sources such as the annual Coal Report of the Illinois Office of Mines and Minerals and field notes taken by ISGS geologists. The information presented in the table is described below. A blank in any column indicates that information is not available for that item. Again, we welcome any additional information that you may have.

ISGS Index Each mine in the state is identified with a unique number; this number is shown on the map and is the link between the map and the directory. The number is permanently assigned to a mine regardless of changes in the mine name, ownership, or operator.

Company Name A mine may have been operated by more than one company or the operating company may have changed its name. Separate entries in the directory show each name and the years of operation under the name. In many instances, names have been abbreviated to fit within the space available.

Mine Name and Mine Number An entry is included for each name and/or number the mine operated under, even if the company name remained the same. Many companies use the same name for all their mines, but differentiate them by number. Again, abbreviations have been used where necessary.

Mine Type Underground mines are either "shaft," "slope," or "drift" which refers to the type of opening used to remove the coal from the mine. In shaft mines the coal is removed through a vertical shaft. Slope designates mines in which the coal is removed via a sloping incline from the ground surface to the mining level. In slope mines, miners and equipment may use either the slope or a vertical shaft to get into the mine. A drift mine is an underground mine that is excavated where the coal outcrops in the side of a bluff or the highwall of a surface mine. The mine type for surface mines is "strip" because these mines are more commonly called "strip mines."

Method This refers to the pattern by which the coal was removed. Most underground mines in Illinois have used a type of room and pillar pattern, the areas where the coal is removed are the 'rooms' with 'pillars' of coal left in place to support the roof. In some mines, the pillars were later pulled to extract additional coal. The abbreviations are listed below and most are illustrated in Figure 1.

RP	Room & Pillar; specific type unknown
RPB	Room & Pillar Basic; irregular panels, typical of old mines
MRP	Modified Room & Pillar; a somewhat more regular pattern than Room & Pillar Basic
RPP	Room and Pillar Panel; similar to Modified Room & Pillar
BRP	Blind Room and Pillar; every 6th or 7th room is left unmined to provide additional support
CRP	Checkerboard Room and Pillar; evenly spaced large pillars
LW	Longwall; all coal is removed Old longwall mines were backfilled with rock to provide support Modern longwall mines allow roof to collapse behind as mining progresses
HER	High Extraction Retreat; a form of Room & Pillar mining that extracts most of the coal

Years Operated Years that the mine operated; these dates may include periods when the mine was idle or not in full operation. Dates of mining from different sources are sometimes contradictory. The conventions that we have used to indicate where we were uncertain of dates are as follows. If we know the full range of dates that a mine operated under a specific name, those are given (1928-1934). If we know when a mine last operated, but not when it began, we use a dash and end date (-1934). If we know that a mine operated in a particular year, but not when it opened or closed, we just give the year we know (1920). To avoid confusion with the previous case, if a mine opened and closed in the same year, the year is repeated (1926-1926). In cases where a mine operated under different names, but we don't know when the name change occurred, the full range of dates is given for all names (John Smith Sr. Mine 1913-1944, Bill Smith Mine 1913-1944). A blank indicates that we have no information on the dates that the mine operated.

Coal Seam Mined The seam name is that used by the Illinois State Geological Survey. Figure 2 shows these coal seams in a stratigraphic column and provides a cross-reference to other names commonly used for these coals. If a mine has operated in more than one seam, there are separate entries in the table for each seam mined.

Location The location given is the site of the main portal or, for surface mines, the tipple. For small surface mines, the pit and the tipple are assumed to be the same. The location is based on the Public Land Survey System of townships and sections. Townships are identified by a township (north-south) and range (east-west) designation such as T14N-R6E. Townships are subdivided into approximately 36 one-square-mile sections, which are numbered from 1 to 36.

ORDERING INFORMATION

A 1:100,000 scale color plot with the directory is available at a cost of \$12.50. This can be ordered by contacting the Information Office at (217) 244-2414 or sales@prairie.illinois.edu.

ACCURACY OF MAP

The maps and digital files used for this study were compiled from data obtained from a variety of sources and have varying degrees of completeness and accuracy. They present reasonable interpretations of the geology of the area and are based on available data. These data were compiled and digitized at a scale of 1:62,500, except for areas where quadrangle studies have been completed and the data was compiled at 1:24,000 or better. Locations of some features may be offset by 500 feet or more due to errors in the original source maps, the compilation process, digitizing, or a combination of these factors. These data are not intended for use in site-specific screening or decision-making. Data included in this map are suitable for use at a scale of 1:100,000.

DISCLAIMER

The Illinois State Geological Survey and the University of Illinois make no guarantee, expressed or implied, regarding the correctness of the interpretations presented in this data set and accept no liability for the consequences of decisions made by others on the basis of the information presented here.

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DIRECTORY OF COAL MINES FOR WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS (August 2019)

ISGS INDEX	COMPANY NAME	MINE NAME	MINE NO.	MINE TYPE	METHOD	YEARS OPERATED	SEAM MINED	COUNTY	LOCATION		
									TWP	RGE	SEC
224	MURPHY, KEENAN & CO.	MURPHY & KEENAN	4	SHAFT	LW	1908-1909	COLCHESTER	WILL	33N	9E	32
224	MURPHY, LINDSKY & KASHER	MURPHY, LINDSKY & KASHER	4	SHAFT	LW	1909-1916	COLCHESTER	WILL	33N	9E	32
359	NORTHERN ILLINOIS COAL CORP.	NORTHERN		STRIP	STR	1941-1956	COLCHESTER	WILL	33N	9E	29
359	PEABODY COAL CO.	NORTHERN		STRIP	STR	1957-1974	COLCHESTER	WILL	33N	9E	29
402	WILMINGTON COAL MINING CORP.	WILMINGTON	2	STRIP	STR	1940-1958	COLCHESTER	WILL	32N	9E	17
675	NORTHERN ILLINOIS COAL CORP.	NORTHERN		STRIP	STR	1948-1956	CARDIFF	GRUNDY	31N	9E	6
675	NORTHERN ILLINOIS COAL CORP.	NORTHERN		STRIP	STR	1948-1956	COLCHESTER	GRUNDY	31N	9E	6
675	NORTHERN ILLINOIS COAL CORP.	NORTHERN		STRIP	STR	1948-1956	HOUCHIN CREEK	GRUNDY	31N	9E	6
675	PEABODY COAL CO.	NORTHERN		STRIP	STR	1957-1974	CARDIFF	GRUNDY	31N	9E	6
675	PEABODY COAL CO.	NORTHERN		STRIP	STR	1957-1974	COLCHESTER	GRUNDY	31N	9E	6
675	PEABODY COAL CO.	NORTHERN		STRIP	STR	1957-1974	HOUCHIN CREEK	GRUNDY	31N	9E	6
834	NORTHERN ILLINOIS COAL CO.	NORTHERN		STRIP	STR	1928-1956	COLCHESTER	KANKAKEE	31N	9E	6
834	PEABODY COAL CO.	NORTHERN		STRIP	STR	1957-1974	COLCHESTER	KANKAKEE	31N	9E	6
2335	CHI, MILWAUKEE & VERM COAL CO	O		SHAFT	LW	1890-1895	COLCHESTER	GRUNDY	31N	8E	12
2341	WILMINGTON COAL MNG & MFG CO	DIAMOND	3	SHAFT	LW	1875-1892	COLCHESTER	GRUNDY	32N	8E	1
2342	WILMINGTON COAL MNG & MFG CO	DIAMOND	2	SHAFT	LW	-1883	COLCHESTER	GRUNDY	33N	9E	31
2354	WILM. & SPRINGFIELD COAL CO.	C		SHAFT	LW	1881-1886	COLCHESTER	GRUNDY	32N	8E	24
2354	CHI, WILMINGTON & VERMILION	K		SHAFT	LW	1886-1888	COLCHESTER	GRUNDY	32N	8E	24
3915	MORRIS COAL & MINING CO.	MORRIS	3	STRIP	STR	1934-1936	COLCHESTER	WILL	32N	9E	3
3915	WILMINGTON COAL MINING CORP.	WILMINGTON		STRIP	STR	1937-1940	COLCHESTER	WILL	32N	9E	3
3916	SKINNER BROTHERS COAL CO.	SKINNER	1	SHAFT	UG	1918-1920	COLCHESTER	WILL	32N	9E	4
3917	SKINNER BROTHERS COAL CO.	SKINNER	2	SHAFT	LW	1919-1924	COLCHESTER	WILL	32N	9E	4
3917	SKINNER COAL CO.	SKINNER	2	SHAFT	LW	1924-1928	COLCHESTER	WILL	32N	9E	4
3918	MURPHY, KEENAN & CO.	MURPHY & KEENAN	1	SHAFT	LW	1898-1902	COLCHESTER	WILL	32N	9E	5
3919	CHI, WILMINGTON & VERMILION CC	B		SHAFT	LW		COLCHESTER	WILL	32N	9E	5
3920	CHI, WILMINGTON & VERMILION	D		SHAFT	LW		COLCHESTER	WILL	32N	9E	5

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									TWP	RGE	SEC
3921	MURPHY, KEENAN & CO.	MURPHY & KEENAN	2	SHAFT	LW	1902-1904	COLCHESTER	WILL	32N	9E	5
3921	MURPHY, KEENAN & CO.	MURPHY & KEENAN	3	SHAFT	LW	1904-1909	COLCHESTER	WILL	32N	9E	5
3922	CHI, WILMINGTON & VERMILION	F		SHAFT	LW		COLCHESTER	WILL	32N	9E	5
3923	CHI, WILMINGTON & VERMILION	H		SHAFT	LW	1881-1887	COLCHESTER	WILL	32N	9E	6
3924	CHI, WILMINGTON & VERMILION	L		SHAFT	LW	1887-1889	COLCHESTER	WILL	32N	9E	6
3925	CHI, WILMINGTON & VERMILION	J		SHAFT	LW	1886-1891	COLCHESTER	WILL	32N	9E	6
3926	CHI, WILMINGTON & VERMILION	G		SHAFT	LW	1881-1886	COLCHESTER	WILL	32N	9E	7
3927	COOPERATIVE COAL CO.	EAGLE		SHAFT	UG	-1866	COLCHESTER	WILL	32N	9E	8
3927	CHI, WILMINGTON & VERMILION	A		SHAFT	UG	1866-1870	COLCHESTER	WILL	32N	9E	8
3927	BRAIDWOOD COAL CO.	BRODIE		SHAFT	UG	1874-1879	COLCHESTER	WILL	32N	9E	8
3928	WILL COUNTY COAL CO.	WILL		STRIP	TR	1935-1936	COLCHESTER	WILL	32N	9E	8
3929	CHI, WILMINGTON & VERMILION	E		SHAFT	LW		COLCHESTER	WILL	32N	9E	8
3930	BRAIDWOOD CO-OP COAL CO.	BRAIDWOOD CO-OPERATIVE		SHAFT	LW	1881-1889	COLCHESTER	WILL	32N	9E	8
3930	CO-OPERATIVE COAL CO.	CO-OPERATIVE		SHAFT	LW	1889-1901	COLCHESTER	WILL	32N	9E	8
3931	CHI, WILMINGTON & VERMILION	C		SHAFT	LW		COLCHESTER	WILL	32N	9E	8
3932	RAESCHKE(H.A.) CONSTRUCT. CO	RAESCHKE		STRIP	STR		COLCHESTER	WILL	32N	9E	16
3933	JOLIET-WILMINGTON COAL CO.	JOLIET-WILMINGTON	1	SHAFT	LW	1904-1905	COLCHESTER	WILL	32N	9E	20
3933	JOLIET-WILMINGTON COAL CO.	JOLIET-WILMINGTON	2	SHAFT	LW	1905-1908	COLCHESTER	WILL	32N	9E	20
3933	JOLIET & AURORA COAL CO.	JOLIET & AURORA	1	SHAFT	LW	1908-1909	COLCHESTER	WILL	32N	9E	20
3935	RIXSON COAL CO.	RIXSON		SHAFT	LW	1904-1906	COLCHESTER	WILL	32N	9E	30
3936	WILMINGTON COAL MNG & MFG CO	WILMINGTON	6	SHAFT	LW	1904-1919	COLCHESTER	WILL	32N	9E	31
3937	CHI, WILMINGTON & VERMILION	N		SHAFT	LW	1890-1893	COLCHESTER	WILL	33N	9E	31
3938	BROWN	BROWN		SHAFT	UG		COLCHESTER	WILL	33N	9E	31
3939	HUNTER	HUNTER		SHAFT	UG		COLCHESTER	WILL	33N	9E	32
3940	CARROLL	CARROLL		SHAFT	UG		COLCHESTER	WILL	33N	9E	32

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									TWP	RGE	SEC
3959	OSWALD & YOUNG	OSWALD & YOUNG		SHAFT	LW	1910-1919	COLCHESTER	WILL	32N	9E	5
4590							COLCHESTER	WILL	32N	9E	30
5663	JOLIET-WILMINGTON COAL CO.	RELIANCE		SHAFT	LW	1903-1904	COLCHESTER	WILL	32N	9E	7
5805	REILLY, MOFFAT & CO.	THISTLE		SHAFT	UG	1900-1902	COLCHESTER	WILL	32N	9E	8
5941	WILMINGTON COAL MNG & MFG CO	DIAMOND	1	SHAFT	LW	1881-1883	COLCHESTER	GRUNDY	32N	8E	1
5942	EUREKA COAL CO.	EUREKA	2	SHAFT	LW		COLCHESTER	WILL	32N	9E	7
5943	EUREKA COAL CO.	EUREKA		SHAFT	LW	1881-1882	COLCHESTER	WILL	32N	9E	7
5943	EUREKA COAL CO.	EUREKA		SHAFT	LW	1882-1883	COLCHESTER	WILL	32N	9E	7
5943	EUREKA COAL CO.	EUREKA	1	SHAFT	LW	1883-1884	COLCHESTER	WILL	32N	9E	7
5944				SHAFT	UG		COLCHESTER	WILL	32N	9E	18
5945				SHAFT	UG		COLCHESTER	WILL	32N	9E	18
5946	MALTBY (WILLIAM)	MALTBY		SHAFT	LW	1892-1902	COLCHESTER	WILL	32N	9E	4
5947	HASKETT	HASKETT		STRIP	STR		COLCHESTER	WILL	32N	9E	10
5948	BARDWELL	BARDWELL		SHAFT	UG	1860-1865	COLCHESTER	WILL	33N	9E	7
5951	BARTLETT (T. W.)	BARTLETT		SHAFT	UG		COLCHESTER	WILL	33N	9E	29
5952	SCHOONMAKER	SCHOONMAKER		SHAFT	UG	1860-1865	COLCHESTER	WILL	33N	9E	7
5953	SKINNER BROTHERS	SKINNER		SLOPE	LW	-1919	COLCHESTER	WILL	33N	9E	33
5955	BRAIDWOOD COAL CO.	BRAIDWOOD		SHAFT	UG		COLCHESTER	WILL	32N	9E	17
5956	CHI, WILMINGTON & VERMILION CC	M		SHAFT	LW	1888-1891	COLCHESTER	WILL	32N	9E	19
5958	MINE DUMP						COLCHESTER	WILL	32N	9E	5
5959	MINE DUMP						COLCHESTER	WILL	32N	9E	5
5960	MINE DUMP						COLCHESTER	WILL	32N	9E	8
5961	CHICAGO, WILM. & VERM. COAL C	I		SHAFT	LW	1883-1885	COLCHESTER	WILL	32N	9E	5

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									TWP	RGE	SEC
5962	MINE DUMP						COLCHESTER	WILL	32N	9E	8
5963							COLCHESTER	WILL	32N	9E	17
5964				SHAFT	UG		COLCHESTER	WILL	33N	9E	31
5965				SHAFT	UG		COLCHESTER	WILL	32N	9E	5
5966				SHAFT	UG		COLCHESTER	WILL	33N	9E	34
5967	BRAIDWOOD COAL CO.	CROMBIE		SHAFT	UG	1873-1879	COLCHESTER	WILL	32N	9E	8