United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.* If any 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.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Ross Marble Quarry

Other names/site number: John M. Ross Marble Quarry; Knoxville Marble Company Quarry; Tennessee Marble Company Quarry

Name of related multiple property listing: Marble Industry of East Tennessee, ca. 1838-1963
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & Number: Ijams Nature Center, 2915 Island Home Avenue
City or town: Knoxville State: TN 37920 County: Knox
Not For Publication: N/A Vicinity: N/A

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

[ ] national [X] statewide [X] local

Applicable National Register Criteria: [X] A [ ] B [ ] C [ ] D

Claudette Stipes 1/30/14
Signature of certifying official/Title: **Date**
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Tennessee Historical Commission
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of Commenting Official: **Date**

Title: **State of Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government**

Ross Marble Quarry
Name of Property

Knox, Tennessee
County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

✓ entered in the National Register
___ determined eligible for the National Register
___ determined not eligible for the National Register
___ removed from the National Register
___ other (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

3·26·2014
Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Private	X
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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
0	0	buildings
2	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
2	0	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)	Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)
INDUSTRY/EXTRACTION/extractive facility	RECREATION AND CULTURE/outdoor recreation
TRANSPORTATION/rail-related	

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)
N/A

Materials:
Principal exterior materials of the property: STONE: Marble; CONCRETE

Narrative Description

The Ross Marble Quarry property is located in Knox County, Tennessee, approximately 2,500 yards from the Tennessee River. It consists of two dry quarry sites. The 35.48-acre site is bounded by the Mead Quarry (the former Ross & Republic Marble Company Quarry) to the north, the former Southern Railway tracks to the east, and land owned by the Williams Lime Company on the south and west. The historic integrity of the site is evidenced by two large quarry pits surrounded by intact stone bluffs, several with the stepped-back appearance of "bench" quarrying, and outcrops bearing drill marks. Concrete platforms mark former derrick locations. There are several "walls" created from stacked waste blocks of marble, including one prominent, structural wall that served as a bridge and contains a "key hole," between two sides of one quarry pit.

The Ross Marble Quarry is located within the city of Knoxville, Tennessee, a city that became widely known for marble production beginning in the third quarter of the nineteenth century. The quarry is located near the Tennessee River between Sevierville Pike and Island Home Pike. The quarry contains two distinctive quarry sites (hereafter referred to as Quarry Pit #1 and #2). The quarry pits remain dry and have been reclaimed by nature.

These quarries also contain a network of caves, particularly Quarry Pit #1. Quarry Pit #2 remains the most striking feature of the Ross Marble Quarry. It has two deep pits separated by a stacked marble block wall with a keyhole. The City of Knoxville, Legacy Parks, and Ijams Nature Center have turned the area into an urban park and constructed trails to take visitors to sections of both quarries.

Few historic photographs are known to exist of the Ross Marble Quarry. However, a plat map surveyed by Sehorn & Kennedy Survey Engineers in 1918 and 1922 *(see Figure 3)*, with amendments in 1929, indicates the location of a number of structures, including quarry pits, railroad beds, and tramway lines. A circa 1920 aerial photograph taken by Knoxville's Thompson Brothers Photographers further illustrates the features rendered on the map *(see Figure 2).* The Sehorn & Kennedy plat map notes numerous three-room frame dwellings. Eight such dwellings appear on the northeast side of the property, while another twelve can be seen on the northwest. None of these buildings are extant and most of their locations are excluded from the proposed boundary, but identification of these sites may yield important archaeological data. The Thompson aerial shows a complex of buildings to the east of a quarry pit that on the Sehorn & Kennedy plat map is simply noted as "Boiler Engine." This complex housed the power plant and other support infrastructure for quarrying activities. In the photograph, a single smokestack can be seen on one building, which indicates the powerhouse. The photograph also shows that quarry workers used waste material to create a level landing for those buildings. A 1960 aerial photograph *(see Figure 4)* shows quarrying to have ceased in Quarry #1, although a former quarry employee recalls that quarrying had ended at the Ross Marble Quarry by the mid-1940s, prior to his employment there and immediately after his return to Knoxville at the end of World War II.[1]

Quarry workers installed many structures in the pits to extract and transport marble for processing. They used derricks, comprised of steel mast and booms, derrick platforms, and guy wires, to pick up and move blocks. Two derrick platforms can be seen at Quarry Pit #2. Marble blocks were stacked into waste piles before they were loaded onto a tramway to be moved to another part of the quarry to be crushed, milled, or loaded onto a railcar. Some waste stacks had structural uses like the marble block wall/bridge at Quarry Pit #2. Workers relocated these structures frequently as they found other holes to quarry. While many of these structures were removed after quarrying ceased, stacked block walls of waste marble can be found at several locations around the quarry site. Large and small pieces of marble debris are scattered around the periphery of both quarry sites. While these pieces have been moved around the site over the years, they bear witness to the quarrying activities that occurred here. There are some large blocks of dimensional stone, as well as smaller fragments of marble scattered around the area *(Photograph 1)*.

Quarry Pit #1 is the southernmost quarry pit, which was opened first *(Photographs 3-4)*. Generally, workers quarried stone in a northerly direction. The quarry pit is accessed by a footpath that leads down into a ravine Rock faces show evidence of quarrying activities along this narrow canyon-like area. Tall rock faces near the westernmost end show the most extensive quarrying activities. These tall rock walls have serrated surfaces. Caves within these walls have become refuges for a number of animal species. **(C)**

1. A concrete platform is extant at the top of the former quarry pit. It is a remnant of a derrick or similar structure.

[1] Personal interview with Shelton Hastings, former quarry worker, 10 May 2013.

Quarry Pit #2 retains the most integrity. It has two rectangular openings characterized by wide benches of serrated stone. Workers quarried the southern portion of the quarry pit first (*Photographs 7-10*) in the early part of the twentieth century. Both sections of this quarry are dry, but the floor is very close to the water table. A vent, now covered by a metal grate, at the southernmost edge of the quarry floor opens into an underground stream (*see Photograph 16*). Workers opened the adjacent quarry hole to the north by 1953. (*see Photographs 11-12*). **(C)**

1. **Rock Wall**
   In Quarry #2, workers constructed a stacked rock wall in the middle of the quarry pit, using waste blocks of marble. The date of construction is unknown (*see Photographs 5 & 6*). It is likely that the workers built the wall to store waste blocks away from areas of active quarrying, and also as a structure to support the derricks that moved the large marble blocks. Workers left an opening, or a "key hole," in the base of the wall to get from one side of the quarry to the other.

2. **Derrick Platforms** A steel derrick was located on top of the north side of the rock wall, and another was located on the south side of the quarry, a step down from the top and very near the wall. Two square concrete platforms remain where the derricks were placed. (*see Photographs 13-15*)

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.
- [ ] B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- [ ] 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 N/A
(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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)
INDUSTRY
TRANPORTATION

Period of Significance
1900-1941

Significant Dates
1901-1906
1938-1941

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)
N/A

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder
N/A

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

The Ross Marble Quarry is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places for local and statewide significance under Criterion A for its association with the East Tennessee Marble Industry during its greatest period of significance (1890-1940). As described in the Multiple Property Submission, "Marble Industry of East Tennessee, ca. 1838-1963," the marble industry was once an important sector of the regional economy. By the early 1850s, the varicolored marble quarried in East Tennessee began to be sought by architects and patrons for public buildings, such as state houses, court houses, and custom houses, after it was chosen for the interiors of the Tennessee State Capitol and the United States Capitol "Extensions". The Ross Marble Quarry contributed to the second phase of industry growth, in which the modern marble industry developed primarily in the Knoxville area. The quarries developed by John M. Ross provided marble for two exemplary museum buildings: the Morgan Library (1906) and the National Gallery of Art (1941). Because the Ross Marble Quarry is situated within Ijams Nature Center, the quarry's integrity has been preserved, although the associated houses and office buildings have long been demolished. What remains of the industrial landscape includes a rock wall created from marble waste blocks, two intact pits that demonstrate bench quarrying techniques, historic road traces and railroad berms, the location of the former railroad bed, and scattered piles and stacks of marble blocks. This property meets the registration requirements set forth in the aforementioned multiple property submission.

Narrative Statement of Significance

The Ross Marble Quarry was owned by John M. Ross, the Knoxville Marble Company, and the Tennessee Marble Company during its period of greatest activity and significance. It provided some or all of the marble used as exterior dimensional stone for the (J.P.) Morgan Library in New York (NRHP, 11/13/1966), as well as a major portion of the exterior dimensional and decorative interior stone for the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. As a site where marble was extracted for a prestigious building in the nation's business center just after the turn of the twentieth century, and where three decades later, the same marble was sourced for the national museum being donated by Andrew Mellon at the end of the Great Depression, it fits within the period (1890-1940) of the Tennessee marble industry's greatest significance.

The history of land ownership shows that the acreage on which the quarry is located was once a patchwork of rural farmlands with a large rock outcropping. Knoxville marble quarryman John M. Ross acquired tracts of land and right-of-ways through a number of properties in the vicinity beginning in the 1880s. After he developed and sold the adjacent "Mead" Marble Quarry, located just to the north, closer to the Tennessee River and historically known as the Ross & Republic Company quarry, to Frank S. Mead in 1888-9, Ross purchased this property and developed quarry operations. Property deeds show that Ross had developed some tramways and railroad access across neighboring properties prior to the arrival of the Southern Railway circa 1906. Both the Ross and Mead quarry operations utilized the Southern Railway to move marble blocks to the Tennessee River to reach national markets.

After the post-Civil War expansion of the railroad grid into the northeast and mid-west, Tennessee marble, traveling over both Southern Railway and L&N Railroad lines, became a material of choice for the Beaux-Arts and Second Classical Revival-styles of architecture that were favored by industrial capitalists. The turn-of-the-century building boom supported by a combination of corporate and government patronage reached back to classical sources to produce notable civic spaces that had a profound impact on architectural history. The Morgan Library, completed 1906, is a significant early example, and the National Gallery of Art, completed in 1941, is one of the last of its kind.

By 1880, quarrying was an important economic component of the Fourteenth District of Knox County, with at least thirty men involved in extraction and stonecutting.[2] In the final two decades of the nineteenth century, John M. Ross, son of Knoxville marble pioneer George W. Ross, built his own reputation as a marble man and an active advocate for the industry through his involvement in local "boosterism" and in marble marketing.[3] By 1886, Ross had become President of the Knoxville Marble Company, which had been founded in 1873 by his father, George W. Ross, of Knoxville, and William Patrick, James Patrick, and John H. Holman, all of St. Louis.[4] These parties, separately and together, owned and leased properties in the Seventeenth District of Knox County (this area, where the French Broad and Holston Rivers come together, is commonly referred to as the "Forks of the River").[5]

Although he was engaged in marble operations in the Forks of the River area as early as 1882, John M. Ross began acquiring property in the Fourteenth District (across from the "Forks") along the south bank of the Tennessee River, which includes the section known as Island Home, in the mid-1880s. In 1886, he purchased sixteen acres of land from marble pioneers Harmon Kreis and W.R. Monday, who had acquired the property from Minard L. Holman.[6] The presence of Holman, Kreis, and Monday on the land before Ross indicates that the marble history of the site goes much deeper than is evident on the landscape or in written history. In 1894, John M. Ross made an agreement with J. Tolliver Johnson to "run a rail road from his quarry to the river on land next to P's Dickensons [sic] as is convenient to lay a track".[7] This suggests that Ross constructed a local rail track to move the heavy marble from quarry to river transport, and it situates Ross's quarry operation in the vicinity of Island Home, the post-Civil War estate of prominent Knoxville merchant Perez Dickinson, just west of the confluence where the Holston and French Broad form the Tennessee River.

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[2] United States Bureau of the Census, Washington, D.C. *Tenth Census* (1880), Knox County, Tennessee.

[3] C.H. Gordon, "History, Occurrence and Distribution of the Marbles of East Tennessee" in *Marble Deposits of East Tennessee*, Bulletin 28, (Nashville: Tennessee Division of Geology, 1924) 20.

[4] George Frederick Mellen, William Rule, and John Wooldridge, eds., *Standard History of Knoxville* (Chicago: Lewis Publishing Company, 1900) 204-205; *Knoxville Directory 1881* (Nashville: Standard Directory Co.) lists the company as having been incorporated in 1871.

[5] Adam Brakebill to John H. Holman and others [William Patrick, James Patrick, and George W. Ross] (25 February 1873); Agreement T.R.C. Campbell et al [George A. W. McNutt, Jr., James M.McNutt and William Keener, Officers of the Lebanon Presbyterian Church] and George W. Ross et al. [The Knoxville Marble Company, W. Patrick, Prest., George W. Ross, Treasurer] (24 August 1885).

[6] Minard Holman's father, John H. Holman, had been a business partner of George Ross in the early years of Knoxville marble industry. United States Bureau of the Census, Washington, D.C. *Tenth Census* (1880), St. Louis, Missouri, shows relationship between Minard and John H. Holman; Knox County Register of Deeds, Deed Book E4, pages 69-70, Kriss [sic] and Monday to John M. Ross (28 April 1886).

[7] Knox County Register of Deeds, Knoxville, Trust Book 54, page 473, J.T. Johnson to J.M. Ross (3 March 1894).

In 1898, after selling the Island Home quarry property in the Fourteenth District to Frank S. Mead, Ross purchased adjoining acreage from J.K. Griffin for the purpose of future marble quarrying.[8] At the time of the acquisition from Ross, Frank Mead was president of the Republic Marble Company, whose quarries were located in Concord, Tennessee, just west of Knoxville on the mainline of the Southern Railway (the former East

Tennessee Virginia & Georgia Railroad or ETV&G). John M. Ross remained affiliated with the Ross Marble Company for a few years as the quarry superintendent and possibly also as a sales representative. When representatives of the New York architectural firm, McKim, Mead & White, visited Knoxville to find a source for marble for the library being commissioned by J.P. Morgan, they obtained nearly identical bids, specifying different colors and shades of Tennessee pink marble at slight variations in cost per foot (+/- 25 cents) from three Knoxville-area marble dealers: the Ross Marble Company, the Republic Marble Company, and John M. Ross, Marble Dealer. That these three had a business relationship is evident from these bids, which came from a similar address and quoted the same prices, while specifying different brands or types of marble. Correspondence in the construction records of the J.P. Morgan Library reveals that the two companies submitted identical bids on separate letterhead but with the same address (6-8 McNutt Building, P.O. Box 397) to furnish marble blocks and slabs for the library on 10 September 1901. On 12 September 1901, John M. Ross, Marble Dealer, P.O. Box 398, submitted his own bid for blocks only, but with same prices, wording, and terms.[9]

On January 3, 1903, architect Charles McKim received reports from two New York firms that had sent representatives south to assess the Knoxville area marble. In addition to spending time at the Ross Marble Company and perhaps also at the Republic Marble Company's operations in Concord and Luttrell, one or both of these men had inspected or at least considered the Evans Marble Company (former Knoxville Marble Company) quarry in the Forks of the River area, the John J. Craig Company operations near Friendsville (Blount County), and the [Tennessee] Producers Marble Company. Both New York firms suggested purchasing from John M. Ross, who, they wrote, had a quantity of marble on hand and enough of uniform color to satisfy the building requirements. One memo confirms that the Ross marble "conforms absolutely with the marble selected by Mr. Morgan, and can be quarried as Mr. McKim wishes it, some with veining and some without, while securing the greatest uniformity of color," which implies that Morgan and/or McKim had initiated the quest for a specific marble. He reinforced his recommendation by stating that "the entire order can be quarried and shipped in six months and considering the guarantee of the Railroads, via Atlanta for 15 day delivery from Knoxville into our Yard at Port Morris, consider the delivery absolutely conclusive".[10]

[8] Knox County Register of Deeds, Deed Book 151, page 153, J.K. Griffin to John M. Ross (31 March 1899); Anonymous, *Stone: Devoted to the Quarrying and Cutting of Stone for Architectural Uses*, 19:2 (July 1899), 160. According to the *Stone* article, Ross did not intend to start quarrying right away.

[9] New-York Historical Society, PR042: Morgan Library, Box 28; Years later, John M. Ross acknowledged, in a letter dated 20 March 1923, to an architectural firm that his company's Ross-Pink was the marble used in the Morgan Library. New York Historical Society, PR042, Morgan Library, Box 382.

[10] The Tompkins memo of 3 January 1903 stated that the railroad route through Cincinnati (on the L&N) sometimes took from thirty to sixty days as opposed to the guaranteed fifteen-day delivery via Atlanta (on the Southern Railway). New York Historical Society, PR 042, Morgan Library, Boxes 268-269.

Not long after Mead's purchase of the Island Home quarry from John Ross, Mead went into partnership with Edwin H. Eaton of Union County, Tennessee, where the Republic Marble Company had established a large quarrying and processing operation soon after the arrival of the railroad line in 1889. The two men acquired additional property in the Fourteenth District in 1901, which they then sold to the Ross Marble Company in 1903. It is unclear exactly when John M. Ross began drilling for marble on his new property, but by 1905 he was operating another quarry in the Fourteenth District under the auspices of the Knoxville Marble Company.[11] In 1905-1906, the Southern Railway extended tracks across the Tennessee River from downtown Knoxville, through Island Home, to reach the southern shore of the river near its beginning at the confluence of the Holston and French Broad Rivers.[12] The right-of-way deeds indicate that the Southern provided a main track from which the Ross Marble Company and John M. Ross also built tramways or agreed to allow the companies to build spurs to service their pits and mills in the area. By 1910, Mead and his partner Ed H. Eaton had changed the company name to the Ross & Republic Marble Company.[13] Quarry workers loaded the large blocks of marble onto train cars to take them to the nearby Tennessee River for transport to national markets.

Historically, the Southern Railway ran along the northern side of Quarry #2 as an artificial barrier separating it from the Ross & Republic property. The railway also ran alongside the eastern edge of both quarries. A spur also came from the west to serve the lime manufacturing operation. Lime manufacturing occurred to the south and west of the quarries. Lime is a byproduct of marble and the two operations have historically been interrelated. As early as 1918, the Williams Lime Company was operating on tracts adjacent to the Ross quarry with a tramway and wagon road that went onto John Ross's property. A 1922 agreement between John M. Ross and J.W. Williams described a cooperative agreement between the Knoxville Marble Company in which the Williams Limes Company acquired the rights to use waste marble by paying royalties to Knoxville Marble. In turn, Ross agreed to lease property to Williams on which he could build one or more limekilns. Ross also agreed to build a rail spur from the existing Southern Railway line to the leased property.[14] Evidence of a large lime processing plant on the property once leased to the Williams Lime Company can be found nearby at the end of Aberdeen Road.[15]

The side-by-side operations of John M. Ross's Ross Marble Quarry and the Ross & Republic Marble Company's Mead Marble Quarry played an important role in shaping the railroad corridor of the region. So too, did the lime processing facilities affiliated with the two marble operations. Southern Railway spur lines served not only the marble quarries, but also the Williams Lime Manufacturing Company, which used the Ross Marble

[11] In 1905, Ross transferred the quarry property into the company name. Knox County Register of Deeds, Deed Book 317 page 300 (2 April 1905).
[12] Rights-of-way at Knox County Register of Deeds, Deed Book 196, page 153, Ross Marble Company to Southern Railway Company (25 May 1905); Deed Book 196, page 158, John M. Ross et ux to Southern Railway Company (27 May 1905); Deed Book 205, page 360, John M. Ross et ux to Southern Railway Company (13 February 1906).
[13] Charles H. Gordon, "The Marbles of Tennessee: Extract (D)". *Preliminary Papers on the Mineral Resources of Tennessee*, Bulletin 2 (Nashville: State of Tennessee Geological Survey, 1911) 25.
[14] Knox County Register of Deeds, Deed Book 299, page 189, Knoxville Marble Company lease to J.W. Williams (July 20, 1922).
[15] This area, outside of the Ross Marble Quarry site boundaries, is recorded in the Knox County Survey #12334, 12/30/1985.

Quarry's unusable stone, and the Tennessee Marble Lime Company, an affiliate of the Ross & Republic Marble Company, with whom they shared a limekiln facility.[16]

By 1927, O.T. Roehl was President of the Knoxville Marble Company. Under his leadership, the company mortgaged all of its assets to Bankers Trust Company, Knoxville, Tennessee, which issued $250,000 in bonds for a twelve-year period of indebtedness ending in 1939.[17] By 1935, during the lean years of the Great Depression, Knoxville Marble Company had defaulted on the principal of its mortgage payments to Bankers Trust and was forced to relinquish its claims on all of its quarry properties in Knox and Union counties. On Saturday, February 9, 1935, the assets of the Knoxville Marble Company were sold to the highest bidder at the Knox County Courthouse. The bidder, who also acquired the assets of another Knoxville marble firm in the same manner that day, was Tennessee Marble, Incorporated.[18]

When representatives of the Mellon Foundation came to Knoxville in search of the same "Ross Pink" type of Tennessee pink marble used for the Morgan Library, the Ross Marble Quarry was being operated by the Tennessee Marble Company, with Alexander Harris as President. Tennessee Marble was one of three Knoxville area marble companies to form a collaborative partnership furnishing the marble for the National Gallery of Art in 1938.[19] The massive neo-classical building on the National Mall, designed by architect John Russell Pope and funded by philanthropist and former Secretary of the Treasury Andrew Mellon, was built entirely of Tennessee pink marble. It was opened to the public in 1941. More than forty years later, in an oral history interview conducted by an archivist at the National Gallery of Art, Malcolm Rice, who was responsible for selecting and matching the marble for the architecture firm, explained that Andrew Mellon and architect John Russell Pope wanted the gallery marble to look the same as the Morgan Library in New York. However, since it was to be a much larger building and construction was slated for a short time frame, Rice proposed to match the marble from seven different quarries in such a way as that the building exterior would look like a harmonious blend of pink Tennessee marble. And he recalled some very specific details about the marble blocks that went into the building, which tie it directly to the Ross Marble Quarry. Rice stated that two huge monolithic blocks were required for the lintels on either end of the building, and recalled their dimensions as twenty-two feet long by three foot six inches in height by eighteen to twenty inches deep:

> "They came from out of the bottom of the Ross Quarries in South Knoxville," he stated, "(those of) Tennessee Marble. When we took that out, there was a big hole in the bottom. And there was a cave right underneath that particular stone. That's that underground river that runs down and spills out over there just below where the office was where they did all the shop drawings." [20]

[16] *Map of Greater Knoxville, Tennessee* (New York: C.F. McAlpine Co., 1920), McClung Historical Collection, Knox County Public Library.
[17] Knox County Register of Deeds, Trust Book 327, page 166, Knoxville Marble Company to Bankers Trust Company (1 June 1927).
[18] Knox County Register of Deeds, Deed Book 551, page 118, Bankers Trust Company to Tennessee Marble, Inc. (9 February 1935). The Gray Eagle Marble Corporation, which owned three tracts in the Seventeenth District (Forks-of-the-River), as well as property in Union County, had taken out $400,000 in mortgage bonds in 1928 and $100,000 in 1930 from Bankers Trust Company.
[19] The others were Candoro Marble Company and Gray-Knox Marble Company. National Gallery of Art, Gallery Archives, Records of the A.W. Mellon Educational and Charitable Trust Construction Files.
[20] Malcolm Rice, Oral History interview conducted in Knoxville, Tennessee, 6 September 1988, by Alfred C. Viebranz, Archivist, National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.

Given Rice's specific and detailed description, it seems that at least one of the huge stones, similar in size to one pictured in a 1913 Thompson Brothers photograph (*see Figure #1*), may well have come from the Ross Quarry, which was then being operated by Tennessee Marble Incorporated. Tennessee Marble, Inc. operated the Ross Quarry until 1953, when the company name was discontinued under the terms of a merger with the Georgia Marble Company. The Georgia Marble Company, which subsequently underwent a series of ownership changes, was ultimately acquired by Imerys Marble Incorporated, which sold the property to the Legacy Parks Foundation and the City of Knoxville in 2007 for use by Ijams Nature Center.[21]

The presence of the quarry within the property controlled by the Ijams Nature Center provides an important opportunity to not only preserve the quarry pit but also allow public access to see the landscape impact of the marble industry. Though little of the built environment remains, this cultural landscape (human alterations to the landscape) provides a rare, close-up look at the historic marble industry. Clearly visible are drill markings on the sides of the pits and on blocks of quarried marble left near the former railroad bed and historic road trace, along with stacked walls of quarried blocks next to what are now hiking trails.

[21] Knox County Register of Deeds, Deed Book 1960, page 355, Imerys Marble, Inc. as successor by merger of Georgia Marble Holdings Corporations, to Legacy Parks Foundation (December 2007); *Survey of Legacy Parks Foundation Property for the City of Knoxville*, 29100-B, Donald L. Jenkins, City Surveyor, 17 February 2009.

9. Major Bibliographic References

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Deed Book 317 page 300 (2 April 1905)
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Deed Book 196, page 158, John M. Ross et ux to Southern Railway Company (27 May 1905)
Deed Book 205, page 360, John M. Ross et ux to Southern Railway Company (13 February 1906)
Deed Book 299, page 189, Knoxville Marble Company lease to J.W. Williams (July 20, 1922)
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Rothrock, Mary U. *The French Broad Holston Country*. Knoxville: East Tennessee Historical Society, 1946.

Sehorn & Kennedy. *Map of Quarry Property of Knoxville Marble Company, showing also property leased to the Williams Lime Manufacturing Co. Knoxville, Tennessee,* surveys dated 1918, 1922, 1929. City of Knoxville and Ijams Nature Center.

Thompson Brothers Photograph Collection, G[lass]P[late] #214, #1113. McClung Historical Collection, Knox County Public Library.

United States Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service, Aerial photograph dated 1 April 1960 McClung Historical Collection, Knox County Public Library.

Welch, Danette. "Biographical Profile of William Spies Mead." McClung Historical Collection/Knox County Public Library.

Wooldridge, J. "Manufacturing Interests." *Standard History of Knoxville*, edited by William Rule. 1900. Reprint, with index by Steve Cotham, McClung Historical Collection, Knox County Public Library. Knoxville: Charles A. Reeves, Jr., 2009.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):		**Primary location of additional data:**	
	preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)	X	State Historic Preservation Office
	previously listed in the National Register		Other State agency
	previously determined eligible by the National Register		Federal agency
	designated a National Historic Landmark	X	Local government
	recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #	X	University
	recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #	X	Other
	recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey #	Other: MTSU: Center for Historic Preservation; Knox County Public Library; Knox County MPC; Ijams Nature Center	
Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):			

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 35.48 acres **USGS Quadrangle** Shooks Gap 147 NE

(Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates. Delete the other.)

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates
Datum if other than WGS84:
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 35.949462 Longitude: -83.875078

2. Latitude: 35.949551 Longitude: -83.870365

3. Latitude: 35.945023 Longitude: -83.874910

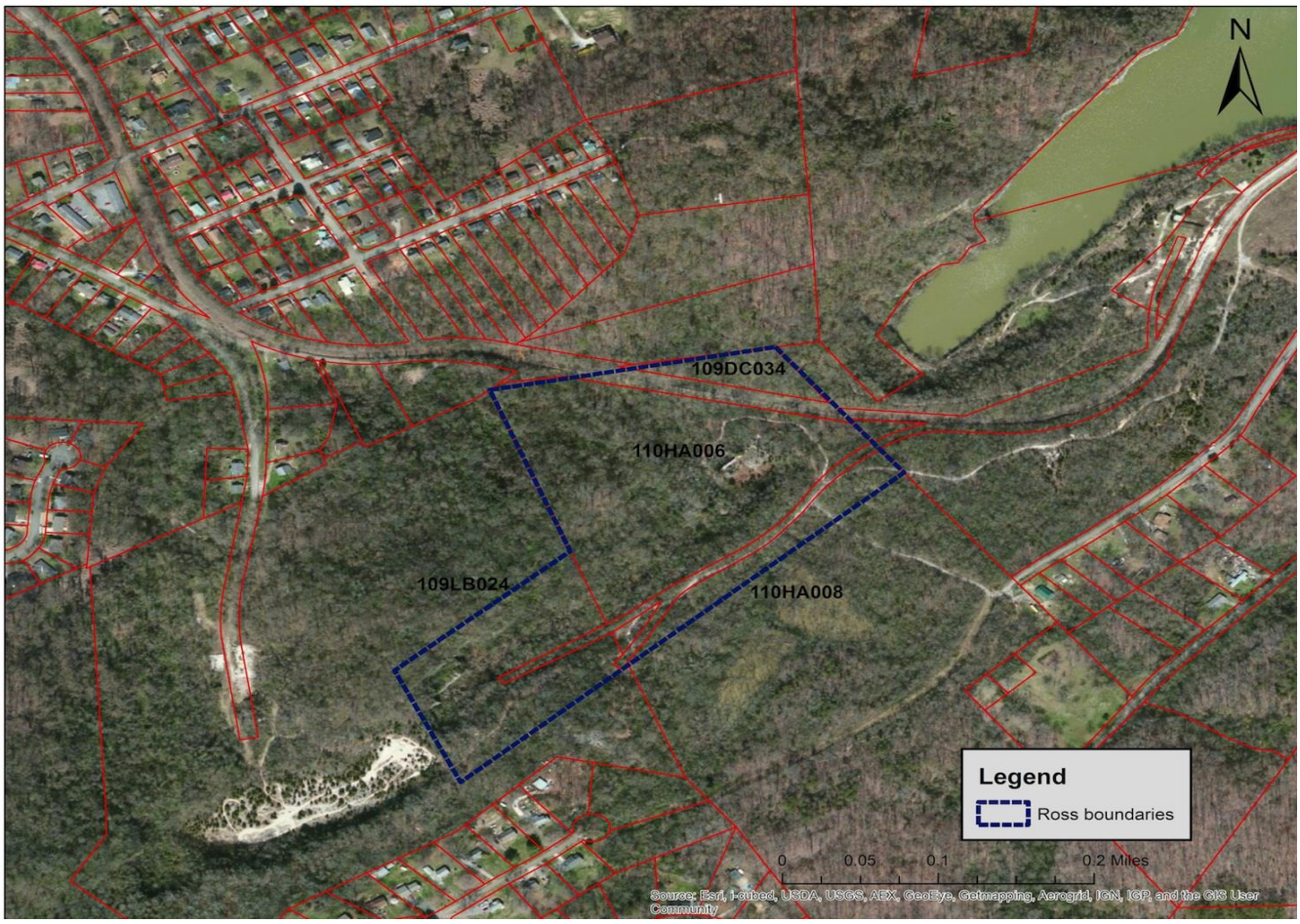
4. Latitude: 35.945230 Longitude: -83.870199

Verbal Boundary Description

The property is located in Knox County, Tennessee and is a part of Ijams Nature Center. Being the whole of tax parcels 110HA006 (12.5 acres) and 109DC034 (less than one-acre triangular piece of land just north of old rail bed, included because of possible dwelling shown on 1922 survey map) and portions of tax parcels 109LB024 and 110HA008 (22.98 acres) that have been selected to surround the geologic area where the marble quarries are located and include walking access to trail leading to the currently designated “Ross Quarry” and “Hayworth Hollow” areas of Ijams Nature Center property.

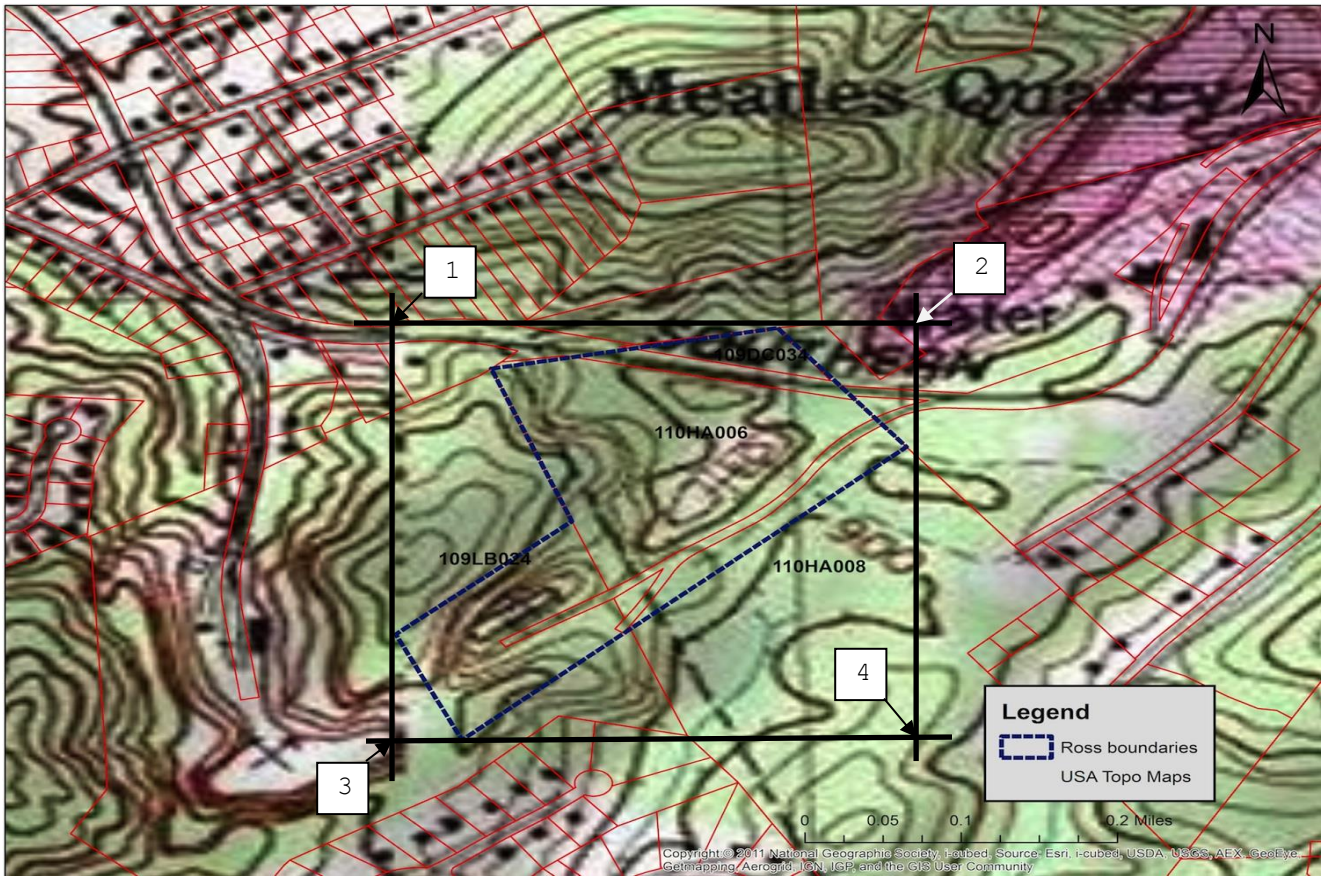
Boundary Justification

The 35.48-acre site is bounded by the Mead Marble Quarry, to the north, railroad tracks to the east, and land historically owned by the Williams Lime Company on the south and west. This property boundary includes the area that was historically associated with the Ross Marble Quarry, but excludes historic lime pit and former long-time lease to Williams Lime Company shown on Sehorn & Kennedy survey map *(see Figure 4)*.



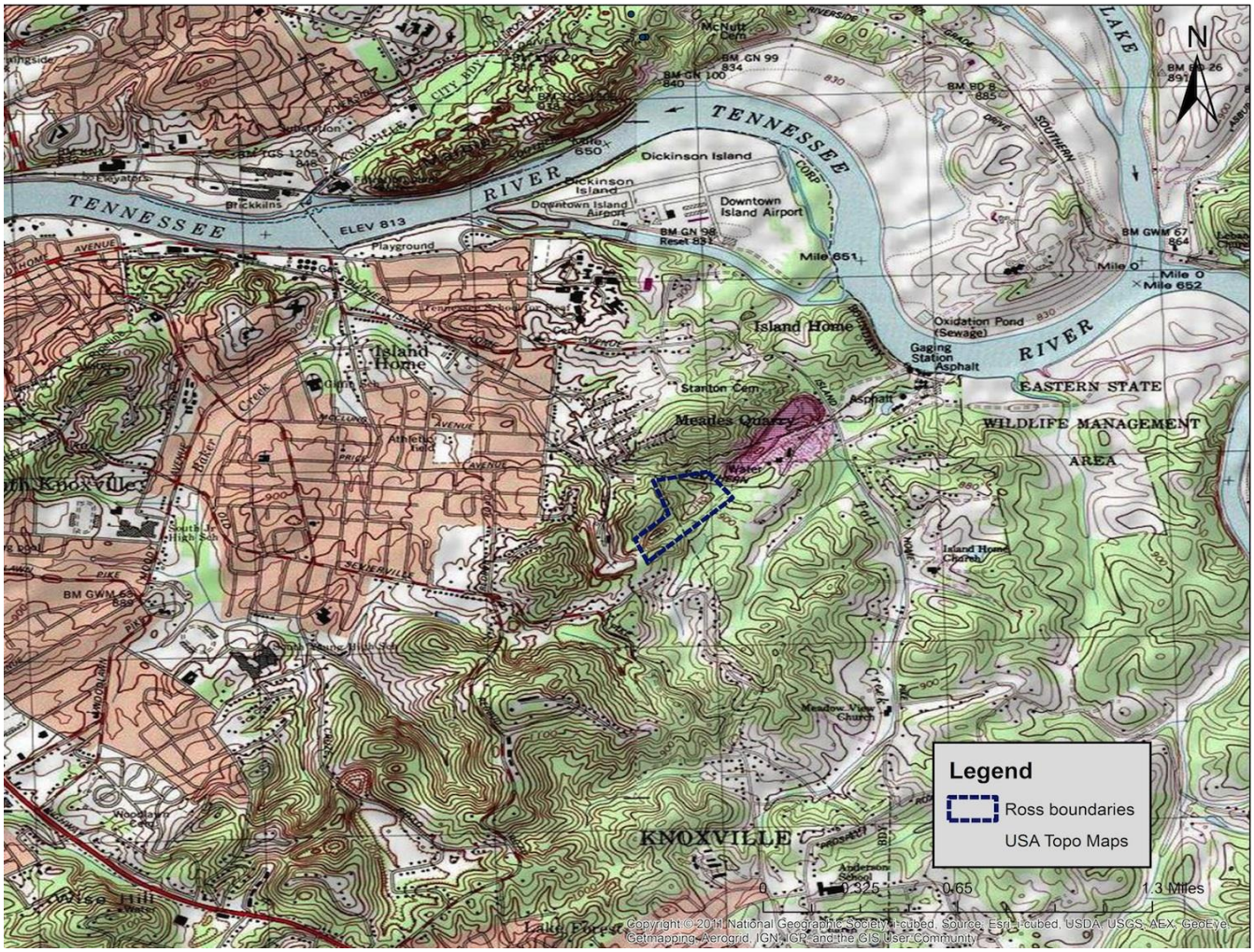
The Ross Marble Quarry boundaries are outlined in blue with Knox Tax Parcels 110HA006, 190DC034, and portions of 109LB024 and 110HA008 outlined in red overlaid on aerial map.

Tax Parcel data: Knox County Metropolitan Planning Commission, January 2012
World Imagery (Aerial): Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, i-cubed, USDA FSA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the GIS User Community, August 2013
Map created by Lydia Simpson, August 2013



The Ross Marble Quarry boundaries are outlined with a dashed blue line with Knox Tax Parcels 110HA006, 190DC034, and portions of 109LB024 and 110HA008 outlined in red overlaid onto USGS Shooks Gap 147 NE topographical quad.

Topographical map: USDA, USGS data sources incorporated into USA Topo Maps by National Geographic, copyright 2011.
Tax Parcel data: Knox County Metropolitan Planning Commission, January 2012
Map created by Lydia Simpson, August 2013



The Ross Marble Quarry boundaries are outlined with a dashed in blue line overlaid onto USGS Shooks Gap 147 NE topographical quad.

Topographical map: USDA, USGS data sources incorporated into USA Topo Maps by National Geographic, copyright 2011.
Map created by Lydia Simpson, August 2013

Ross Marble Quarry — Name of Property
Knox, Tennessee — County and State

11. Form Prepared By

Name	Susan W. Knowles, Ph.D.,Huhta Post-Doctoral Research Fellow; Lydia Simpson, Ph.D. Student; Angela Sirna, Ph.D. Student		
Organization	Center for Historic Preservation, Middle Tennessee State University		
Street & Number	Box 80	Date	August 27, 2013
City or Town	Murfreesboro	Telephone	(615) 898-2947
E-mail	susan.knowles@mtsu.edu	State TN	Zip Code 37132

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to map.
- **Photographs (**refer to Tennessee Historical Commission National Register *Photo Policy* for submittal of digital images and prints**)**
- **Additional items:** (additional supporting documentation including historic photographs, historic maps, etc. should be included on a Continuation Sheet following the photographic log and sketch maps)

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Ross Marble Quarry
City or Vicinity: Knoxville
County: Knox State: TN
Photographer: Angela Sirna and Lydia Simpson
Date Photographed: April 10, 2013

1 of 16. Marble waste stack. Photographer facing west.

2 of 16. Railroad bed. Photographer facing northeast.

3 of 16. Quarry #1 rock face. Photographer facing west.

4 of 16. Marble waste stack at Quarry #1. Photographer facing west.

5 of 16. Marble block bridge. Photographer facing south.

6 of 16. Marble block bridge. Photographer facing north.

7 of 16. East corner of southern pit in Quarry #2. Photographer facing northeast.

8 of 16. East wall of southern pit in Quarry #2. Photographer facing northeast.

9 of 16. South wall of southern pit in Quarry #2. Photographer facing south.

10 of 16. Southwestern corner of southern pit in Quarry #2. Photographer facing south.

11 of 16. North corner and west wall of northern pit in Quarry #2. Photographer facing north.

12 of 16. East corner of northern pit in Quarry #2. Photographer facing south.

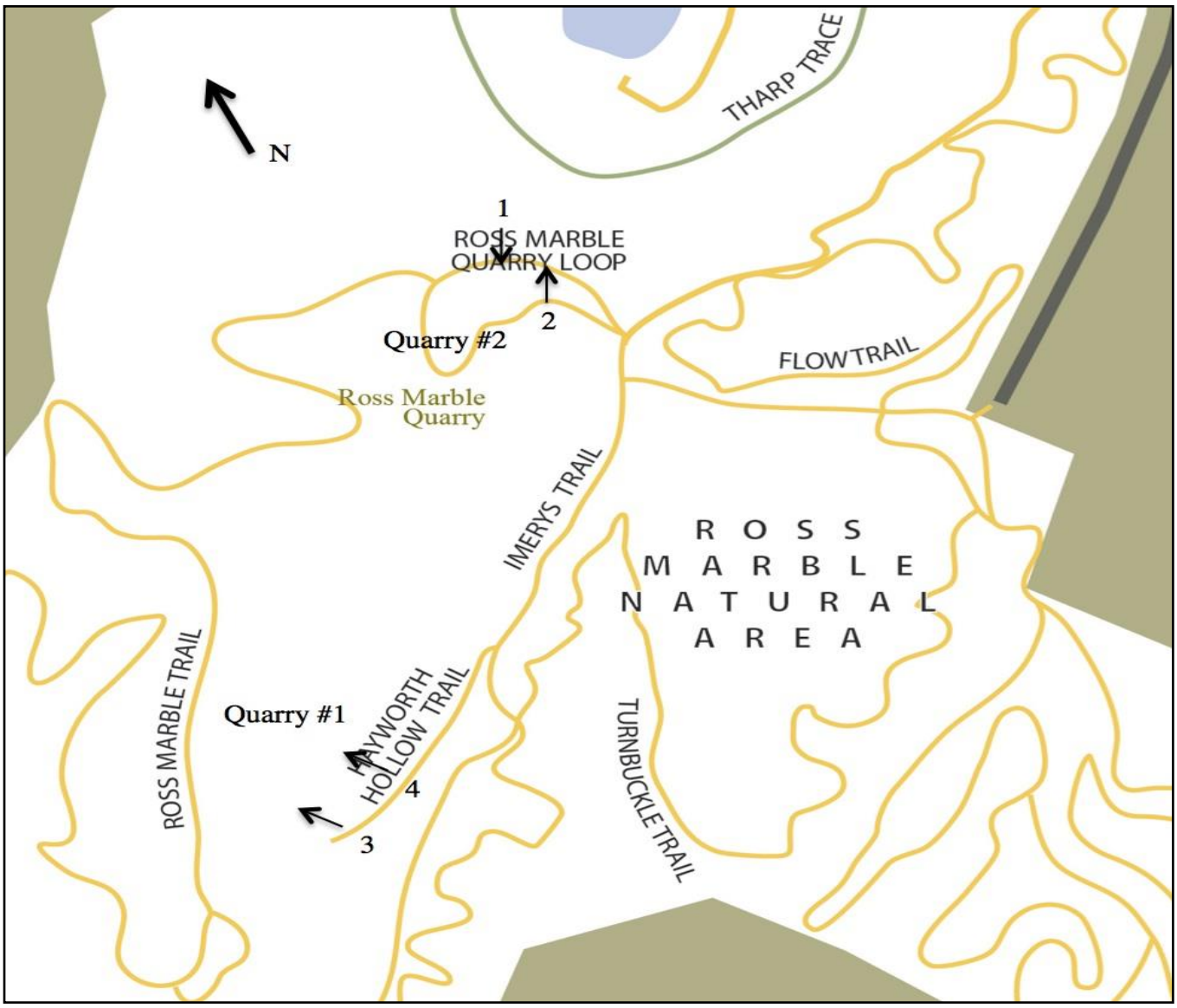
13 of 16. Concrete derrick platform on marble bridge in Quarry #2. Photographer facing west.

14 of 16. Detail view of concrete derrick platform on marble bridge in Quarry #2. Photographer facing west.

15 of 16. Concrete derrick platform on south wall of Quarry #2. Photographer facing northwest.

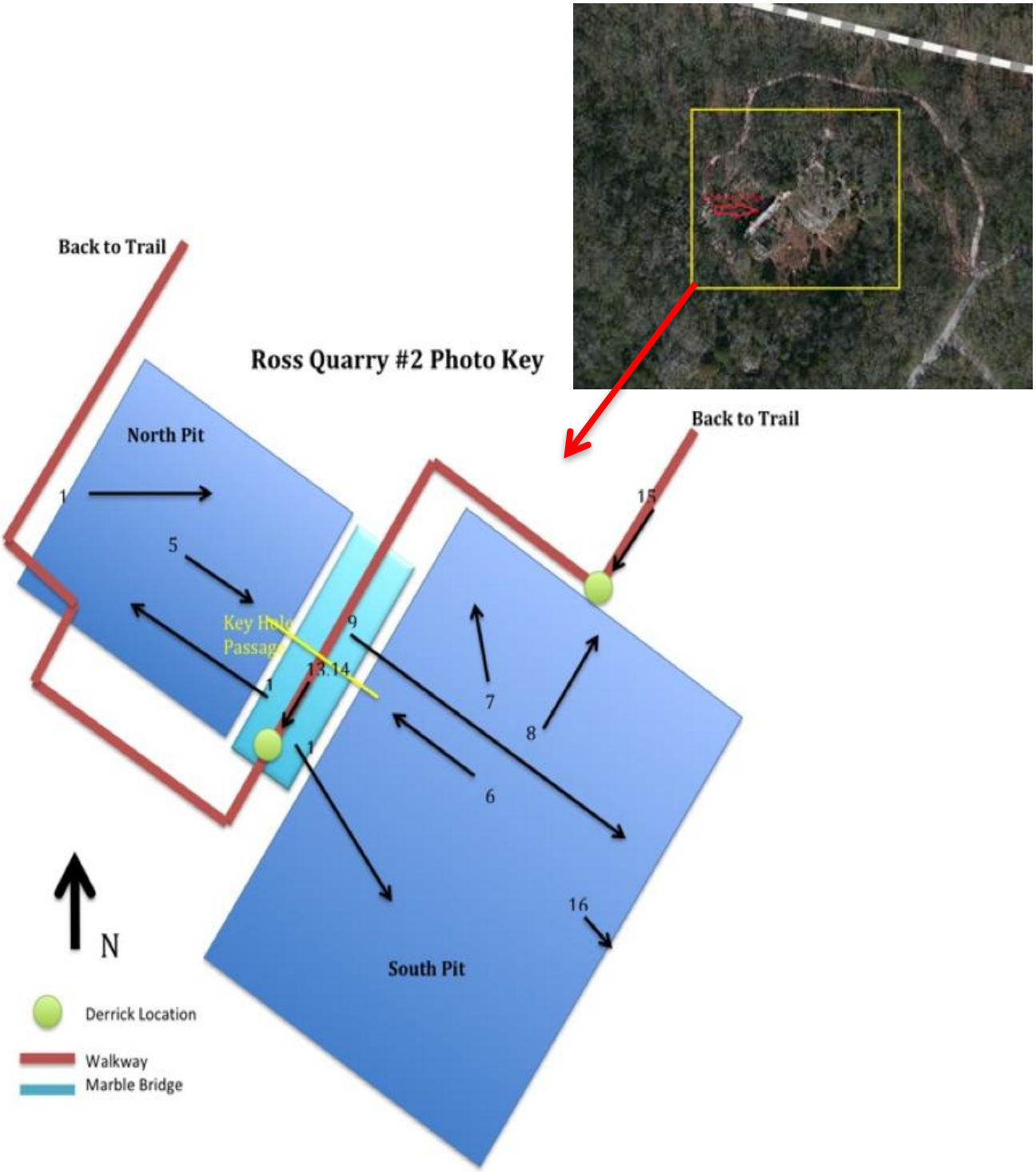
16 of 16. Vent at bottom of south wall in southern pit of Quarry #2. Photographer facing south.

Site Plan and Photo Key (not to scale)



Site Plan Photo Key Created by Angela Sirna, August 2013
Map courtesy of Ijams Nature Center

Site Plan and Photo Key (not to scale)



Site Plan/Photo Key Created by Angela Sirna-Aerial Insert by Lydia Simpson, August 2013

Figures and Historic Photographs

Figure 1: "From John M. Ross. Knoxville Tenn. Shipped July 8th 1913." Thompson Brothers Photographers
Photo courtesy of the McClung Historical Collection, Knox County Public Library

Figure 2: John Ross Marble Quarry (aerial view), n.d., Thompson Brothers Photographers.
Photo courtesy of the McClung Historical Collection, Knox County Public Library

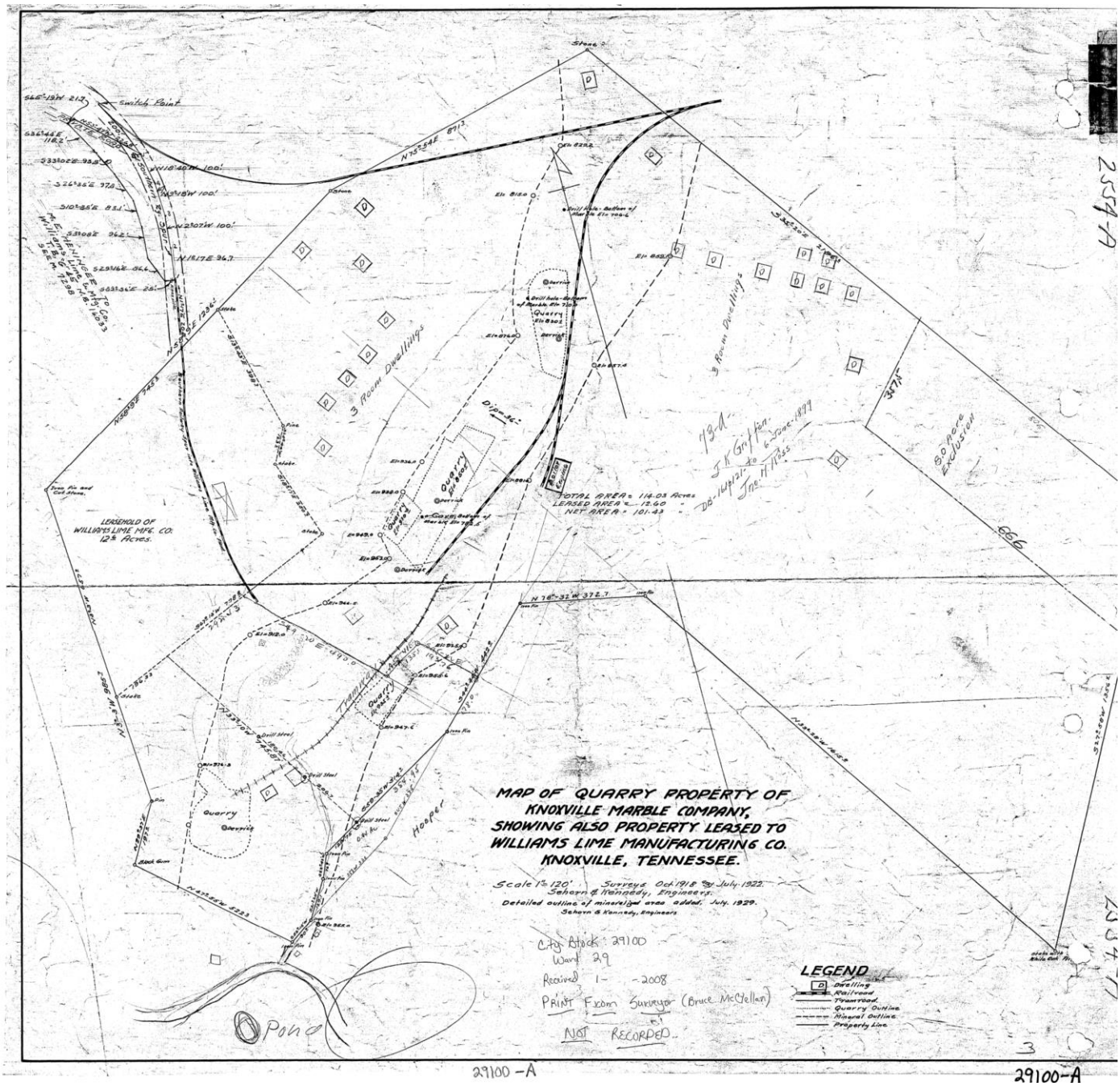


Figure 3: Map of Quarry Property of Knoxville Marble Company, showing also property leased to the Williams Lime Manufacturing Co. Knoxville, Tennessee
Surveys October 1918 and July 1922, Sehorn & Kennedy, Engineers
Image courtesy of the Ijams Nature Center

Figure 4. Aerial photograph, USDA Soil Conservation Service, 1 April 1960. Ross Marble Quarry within the dashed circle. ***Photo Courtesy of the McClung Historical Collection, Knox County Public Library.***