United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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: Mead Marble Quarry

Other names/site number: Island Home Quarry; Ross & Republic Marble Company Quarry; Meade's [sic] 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: Tennessee County: Knox
Not For Publication: N/A Vicinity: N/A Zip Code: 37920

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 ___ 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**

Signature of certifying official/Title: **Date**

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**

Mead Marble Quarry | Knox County, Tennessee
Name of Property | 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 | Date of Action

5. Classification

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

Private	X
Public – Local	X
Public – State	
Public – Federal	

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box.)

Building(s)	
District	
Site	X
Structure	

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

Mead Marble Quarry | Knox County, Tennessee
Name of Property | County and State

6. Function or Use

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

7. Description

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

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)
Principal exterior materials of the property: STONE: Marble; CONCRETE

Narrative Description

The Mead Marble Quarry property is located east of Knoxville, in Knox County, Tennessee, approximately 1500 yards from the south bank of the Tennessee River, near the confluence of the French Broad and the Holston, which forms the Tennessee River. The former quarry site consists primarily of a deep lake (flooded quarry hole) surrounded by limestone bluffs. The 38.75-acre property is bounded by railroad tracks and a historic road trace on the east and south. Island Home Pike, which is crossed by railroad tracks, provides the northeast boundary of the property. The quarry retains strong integrity of setting. The quarry pit and the historic railroad corridor leading to the river remain intact, showing a clear association to extractive industry quarrying and processing, as well as transportation. A concrete pad on a bluff overlooks the south end of the lake, where a derrick and boom once operated to lift marble out of the quarry. The historic infrastructure is further evidenced by intact stone bluffs and outcrops bearing drill marks. Steel I-beam brackets project from the stone in places as do twisted metal cables that once anchored derricks.

Quarry workers installed many structures in the pit to extract and transport marble for processing. They used derricks, comprised of steel and wood mast and booms, concrete and stone derrick platforms, steel cables,

and guy wires, to pick up and move blocks. 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 whole onto a railcar. Waste piles often served as support structures for derricks. Workers relocated these structures frequently as they found other holes to quarry. Eventually, these structures were removed or abandoned after quarrying ceased and the pit was inundated with water. However, remnants of these features may be seen in the quarry walls *(See Photo 11)*.

A large rock wall on the western side of the quarry is particularly prominent and remains a character-defining feature of the site. *(see Photo 1)* A rock outcropping, known as "Pinkston Pointe," which is marked by bore holes and drilling patterns, juts out into the lake. *(see Photo 6)*

Around the site are several dump "walls" created from stacked waste blocks of marble. Other traces of historic infrastructure include a berm and concrete platform containing six cylindrical kiln holes with arched supports (former limekilns). This production complex retains a significant amount of material evidence. The Tennessee Marble Lime Company shared the kiln operation on the east side of the quarry on the site of the present-day interpretive plaza *(See Photos 12-14)*.[1] The lime plant complex was built largely on a raised area with a retaining wall *(See Photo 15)*. A 1920s photograph shows two gable-roof frame buildings in the foreground, one or both of which were powerhouses for the operation of machinery in the quarry pit.

The site is bounded by a railroad bed on the eastern side of the quarry *(See Photo 10)*. The construction of a railroad line into South Knoxville by the Southern Railway circa 1906 allowed direct shipment of the heavy marble blocks by rail to national markets. Prior to this, the marble was transported from the quarries to the nearby Tennessee River and floated on flatboats downstream to Concord Landing, which provided a direct rail connection for transport to national markets. The East Tennessee & Georgia Railroad, which reached Concord in 1855, became a through line from Knoxville eastward with the completion of the East Tennessee & Virginia Railroad to Bristol, Tennessee, in 1858. They joined to become the East Tennessee Virginia & Georgia (ETV&G) Railroad in 1869 and were consolidated into the Southern Railway system after 1894.

Large and small pieces of marble debris are scattered around the circumference of the quarry site *(See Photo 7)*. These stones, which have been moved over the years, nonetheless bear witness to the quarrying activities that occurred here. Large blocks of dimensional stone and pieces of finished stone with smooth sides and chiseled surfaces have been placed for use as benches and positioned near the former limekilns for interpretive purposes. Other large blocks have been left in proximity to the railroad tracks running through the site. *(See Photo 8)*. Additionally, there are several deposits of limestone bricks on the southern end of the quarry *(See Photo 9)*.

Historic photographs from the late 1890s show a two- and one-half story frame building on a stone foundation with a central stone chimney and rear ell addition. The building has a side-gabled roof with a shed roof front porch. This no longer extant building, whose location is unknown, was used for administrative purposes, which included a commissary for quarry workers. Once identified, the building site may contain important archaeological information. Other smaller frame structures were located in the pit and are no longer extant.

[1] Map (McAlpine).

Quarry activities intensely altered the landscape over the course of seventy years. After a period of neglect and abandonment, the Ijams Nature Center and the City of Knoxville have turned the quarry site into an "urban wilderness" recreational park, complete with a scenic lake surrounded by hiking trails.

Mead's Quarry

Quarry Pit - Contributing

The quarry pit, much of which is now underwater, is elongated in shape and runs northeast to southwest about twelve hundred feet. It is approximately five hundred feet across at the northern end, the quarry's widest point. The lake is as deep as eighty to one hundred feet. A bluff flanks the western side of the quarry and an observation deck offers clear views of the entire lake *(See Photos 1-4).*

Bits of metal cable or steel I-beam supports from mast and derrick rigging can be found still embedded in the stone bluffs. *(See Photo 11)* Drill holes are also visible where marble blocks were broken free of the bluff. = *(See Photo 5)* A rock outcropping, known as "Pinkston Pointe," juts out into the lake and also bears bore holes and quarry markings. *(See Photo 6)*

Quarry District - Contributing

- **Water Tank and Pump**
  South of the interpretive plaza is a cylindrical modern wood water storage tank situated atop a small rise *(See Photos 20-21)*. To the west of the water tank are three concrete pads whose function has yet to be determined. There is ample marble, brick, and ceramic debris in the vicinity. This area around the water tank has yet to be assessed archaeologically. On the southern end of the quarry, near the present day Tharp Trace hiking trail, are several deposits of limestone bricks, indicating the presence of structures. This area has yet to be assessed archaeologically.

  At the southern end of the quarry lake, there is a ram pump that helps control the lake's water level *(See Photo 22)*. Once quarry workers punctured the water table, the company had to constantly pump water out of the pit to continue mining activities. This modern re-creation of an historic pump is a cyclic water pump powered by hydropower. Because they operated using kinetic energy, ram pumps were often used in remote areas that did not have access to existing power sources. Near the pump, which was likely installed after the quarry was abandoned, are remnants of metal pipes that helped control the water level. After the cessation of mining activities, water filled the abandoned pit, creating a lake.

- **Lime Plant complex**
  A raised concrete pad, which served as the floor level inside the former lime plant located on this site, surrounds six cylindrical kiln holes. This complex abuts the eastern edge of the quarry pit, whose waste served the lime plant *(See Photo 16)*. The kiln holes have fire-brick lined chambers that would once have been topped with tall chimneys. Only the bases of the chimneys remain. The pad is supported by a concrete and brick retaining wall (*See Photo 19*) that allows ground level access to the arched heating ovens of the kilns. The lime plant was once clad in frame structure with a gable roof.

Workers constructed a steel tower structure in the middle of the complex with a wood gable structure on top. A lime worker could use this tower to then access a steel catwalk to regulate the fires in the limekilns.

- **Landscaped plaza and picnic shelter**
  Contemporary landscape architects have incorporated the chimney bases in their plaza design for the urban park. The chimney bases are used as planters *(See Photo 17)*. Brick posts with wooden fences contain the area and tie in these planters and limestone bricks are laid out in a circle pattern with several marble slab benches placed throughout the site *(See Photo 18)*. Adjacent to this site is a non-historic picnic shelter that covers a concrete slab that was likely the foundation for another structure. Additional debris piles in the area indicate other structures, which might be a blacksmith's shop (*see historic photo*) that was located in the quarry.

Mead Marble Quarry | Knox County, Tennessee
Name of Property | County and State

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
TRANSPORTATION

Period of Significance
1890-1940

Significant Dates
1901-1906

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 Mead Marble Quarry is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places for local and statewide significance under Criterion A for its contribution to patterns of marble processing, and extraction, and rail-related transportation in Knox County, Tennessee. 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. The Mead Marble Quarry stands as an example of industrial production and transportation in the East Tennessee marble industry during its greatest period of national significance (1890-1940). The pattern of development at this early quarrying site, the first known opening for the extraction of marble on the south side of the French Broad River, served as a prototype for the growth of the industry in the area. The East Tennessee marble industry is nationally significant for its contributions in building materials use in civic architecture. East Tennessee marble attracted national attention when it was used as a decorative interior marble in the U.S. Capitol "Extensions" in the mid to late 1850s. It was later employed as both an exterior dimensional stone and a decorative interior cladding in significant buildings and monuments in Washington, D.C., New York City, and state and provincial capital buildings, city hall buildings, banks, railway terminals, and other public buildings in the United States and Canada. With the post-Civil War expansion of the railroad grid into the northeast and mid-west, East Tennessee marble became a material of choice for the Beaux-Arts style of architecture favored by industrial capitalists across North America. The Morgan Library, completed in 1906 from East Tennessee "Ross Pink" marble from the Mead Quarry is a significant early example. The Mead Quarry site may also yield important information on the history of the Knoxville marble industry and quarry laborers. The Mead Quarry is one of a number of inoperative marble extraction sites in the Knoxville area. Though most of the associated structures are no longer extant, the fact that the quarry, its former limekiln operations, and a portion of the adjacent rail corridor are now situated within the Ijams Nature Center property has preserved the integrity of the Mead Quarry and its semi-rural setting.

Narrative Statement of Significance

The land developed into the Mead Quarry was acquired through lease and purchase, beginning in the 1880s, by John Murrell Ross, son of Knoxville marble pioneer George W. Ross. The elder Ross's Knoxville Marble Company had been operating across the French Broad River, in the Forks-of-the-River or the Seventeenth District, since its founding in 1873. The younger Ross ultimately built his own reputation as a marble man and an active advocate for the industry through his involvement with regional "boosterism" and marble marketing.[2] He began acquiring property in the Fourteenth District of Knox County as early as 1881, when he took out a ten-year lease on one- and one-half acres of property that was described as being "on the hill containing marble on the farm of said party of the first part [Jessie Simpson]…together with the right of way fifty feet wide from the river to said hill".[3]

[2] C.H. Gordon, Tennessee Department of Education, Division of Geology, "History, Occurences, and Distribution of the Marbles in East Tennessee," *Bulletin 28: Marble Deposits of East Tennessee* (Nashville: Williams Printing Company, 1924) 20.
[3] Knox County Register of Deeds, Trust Book F1, p. 98, Jessie Simpson to Jno M. Ross (28 March 1881).

The 1880 U.S. Census shows that quarrying had become an important economic component of the Fourteenth District of Knox County, with twenty-seven men, including twelve designated by race as either B (Black/African American) or M (Mulatto), noted as working in a quarry. Three men are listed as quarry bosses and one is noted as a stonecutter. Two of those designated as B (black) are shown to be boarding with the same W (white) family.[4] By 1886, John Ross was president of his father's former company, Knoxville Marble.[5] That year he purchased sixteen acres of land from Harmon Kreis and W.R. Monday, who had acquired the property from Minard L. Holman, whose father, John, had been another partner, along with William Patrick, in the Knoxville Marble Company.[6] Kreis had worked as a timekeeper at the Knoxville Marble Company Quarry, near Lebanon-in-the-Forks Presbyterian Church on Asbury Road, where the marble for Knoxville's Federal Post Office and Custom House was sourced. He and Monday, both of whom were landowners in the Forks of the River, Seventeenth District, also leased and purchased marble quarry properties in that district over the following decade.[7] Holman, Kreis, and Monday all owned land in the Fourteenth District by the mid-1880s.

An 1894 lease agreement indicates that Ross installed a rail line to use in the transportation of marble from his quarry operation to the river. The wording of the lease, signed by farm owner J. Toliver Johnson, allowed Ross to

> run a railroad from his quarry to the river, on land next to P's [sic] Dickenson's as is convenient to lay a track...(and) agree to let John M. Ross use the road as long as he wishes to quarry marble…it is understood that Ross is to have the railroad iron when he quits work as it is his own personal property.[8]

Perez Dickinson was the owner of Island Home, a vast estate located on the south bank where the French Broad and Holston rivers converge to form the Tennessee River. The mention of Johnson's shared property line with Perez Dickenson situates Ross's quarry operation where the Mead Quarry is today.

In May 1898, Ross sold his quarrying operation to the newly incorporated Ross Marble Company.[9] Two years prior, the property had been described as follows in an official publication of the Tennessee Department of Labor, Statistics, and Mines:

[4] United States Bureau of the Census, Washington, D.C. *Tenth Census* (1880), Knox County, Tennessee.
[5] George Frederick Mellen, William Rule, and John Wooldridge, eds., *Standard History of Knoxville* (Chicago: Lewis Publishing Company, 1900): 204-205. The Knoxville Directory listed J.M.Ross as in the marble business in 1884 (Detroit: Cotton Belt Publishing Co.) 79.
[6] Knox County Register of Deeds, Deed Book E4, pages 69-70, Kriss [sic] and Monday to John M. Ross (28 April 1886); United States Bureau of the Census, Washington, D.C. *Tenth Census* (1880), St. Louis, Missouri, shows relationship between Minard and John H. Holman.
[7] Max Kreis, personal interview, unpublished manuscript. Knox County Register of Deeds, Trust Book 77, page 7, Trustees of Lebanon Presbyterian Church to Harmon Kreis and W.R. Monday (1 January 1897); Trust Book 77, page 418, extension of same (1 June 1898).
[8] Knox County Register of Deeds, Trust Book 54, page 473, J.T. Johnson to J.M. Ross (3 March 1894).
[9] Knox County Register of Deeds, Tennessee, Deed Book 154, page 174, Jno M. and Callie W. Ross to Ross Marble Company (3 May 1898). The deed describes the property as follows: thirty one and ¾ acres and a right of way "as may be required for road and railroad not exceeding 100 feet in width...to the French Broad River and landing on the said river for boats through the Johnson

> Three miles directly east of Knoxville, and not far from the banks of the Tennessee River, is the quarry of Mr. John M. Ross, locally known as the 'Island Home Quarry'. There rises an abrupt mountain of almost solid marble, and it is on this mountain, or hill, that the quarry is located. About seventy-nine acres is included in the quarry property, nearly all of which is quarry land. It was in 1881 that Mr. Ross began operations here. Two extensive openings have been made, and the work of opening the third is now going on.[10]

A May 1899 article in the Chicago-based trade publication *The Reporter* announced that Frank Mead had become the owner of the Ross Marble Quarries through a purchase of thirty-two acres and three quarries, which had been successfully operated by John Ross for the past twelve years. The article also stated that: "Mr. Ross will remain with the company as salesman, and the name of the company will not be changed".[11] The following year Ross purchased additional acreage from J.K. Griffin for the purpose of future marble quarrying.[12]

At the time of the acquisition from Ross, Frank Seymore 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 ETV&G Railroad). Mead, who was born in New York City, had moved to Knoxville as young man. His father, William Spies Mead, was actively involved in the Knoxville iron industry by 1868 and also engaged in the marble industry as president of the Tennessee Marble Association in 1887.[13] William Spies Mead's eldest son, Arthur Mead, was the President of Republic Marble by 1889. By 1893, both sons were in the marble quarry business. Upon Arthur's death, in January 1894, younger brother Frank took over as President of Republic Marble Company. By 1901, father William had assumed the position of Secretary and Treasurer for Republic Marble, even though he is still listed in the 1900 U.S. Census as an iron manufacturer. By 1901, Frank Mead also had a business partner in the Ross Marble Company, Edwin H. Eaton, who is listed as President.[14] Mead and Eaton entered into a "Marble Deed" for 110 acres in the Fourteenth District that same year. This mortgage agreement, with Charles W. McCall and wife, granted them access to "all the marble in on and under the land…use of sufficient ground for dump heaps and quarrying for market and shipment and use of water from the spring branch for steam or other purposes of utilizing said marble…."[15] Two years later, the partners sold this same property to the "Ross

farm along the line of Perez Dickenson farm…" and the Ross Marble Company is described as a Tennessee corporation and the inscribed stamp includes the year 1898.

[10] *Fifth Annual Report of Bureau of Labor, Statistics and Mines* (Nashville: State of Tennessee, 1896), 254.

[11] "Big Deal in Marble," *The Reporter*, vol. 32, no. 5 (Chicago, Illinois: Nichols & Co., 1899), 11.

[12] Knox County Register of Deeds, Deed Book 151, page 153, J.K. Griffin to John M. Ross (31March 1899); *Stone: Devoted to the Quarrying and Cutting of Stone for Architectural Uses*, vol. 19, no. 2 (Chicago, Ilinois: D. H. Ranck & Co., 1899), 160. According to the *Stone* article, Ross had purchased a seventy-acre tract from Griffin near the old quarry and on which fine marble was supposed to be located but he did not intend to start quarrying right away.

[13] According to a biographical sketch compiled by Danette Welch, McClung Historical Collection/Knox County Public Library, the Knoxville City Directories 1887 and 1888 list William S. Mead as: President, Tennessee Marble Association.

[14] *Directory of Knoxville Tennessee 1901*, XVII (Knoxville: E.W. Crozier,1901), 627.

[15] Knox County Register of Deeds, Deed Book 172, page 272, Chas. W. McCall to Frank S. Mead and Edwin H. Eaton (2 November 1901).

Marble Company, a corporation of the State of Tennessee organized in the year 1898".[16] In 1910, with Mead serving as the company's president, the Ross Marble Company transferred its 110 acres from the McCall purchase to the Ross & Republic Marble Company, a corporation of the State of New Jersey, for the sum of five dollars.[17]

John M. Ross remained affiliated with Ross Marble Company for a few years, as superintendent, according to the Knoxville City Directory of 1901, but he was also in business for himself. 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 companies: the Ross Marble Company, the Republic Marble Company, and John M. Ross, Marble Dealer. All were prepared in September 1901.[18]

Long-distance contracts with architectural firms in New York, Atlanta, and elsewhere along the Atlantic Corridor were made possible by the Southern Railway's spur line which ran through the quarry lands. Beginning in 1905, the Southern Railway negotiated rights-of-way with John Ross in his own right, as well as with the Ross Marble Company, of which Frank S. Mead was Acting President.[19] One of these right-of-way agreements, dated May 28, 1906, between the Ross Marble Company and the Southern Railway Company, includes "a spur or side track to serve the Tennessee Marble Lime Company."[20]

A 1906 lease agreement between the Ross Marble Company and the Tennessee Marble Lime Company (incorporated in 1906), was signed by Frank [S.] Mead as President of Republic Marble Company and A.M. [Andrew] Glasgow, Vice President and General Manager, Tennessee Marble Lime Company. It negotiated a relationship in which the marble company allowed the lime company to set its kilns on the property (see Figure 1) and to operate concurrently with the marble business. A subsequent agreement was reached by the two companies regarding properties owned by the marble company in Union County on March 29, 1917. Mead, who was also president of the lime company, was vertically integrating his profits using scrap marble

[16] Knox County Register of Deeds, Deed Book 240, page 221, Frank S. Mead et al to Ross and Republic Marble Company (2 March 1903). Eaton is identified in this deed as residing in Union County, Tennessee, where the Republic Marble Company had opened a quarrying operation circa 1892.

[17] Knox County Register of Deeds, Deed Book 240, page 124, Ross Marble Company to The Ross & Republic Marble Co. (17 January 1910).

[18] 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 the same prices, wording, and terms. 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.

[19] 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).

[20] Knox County Register of Deeds, Deed Book 205, page 468, Ross Marble Co. to Southern Ry Co. (28 May 1906).

from his quarry to manufacture industrial lime.[21] An article entitled "Lime from the Knoxville Marble" touted the fact that lime in Knoxville was being produced from the waste of pure marble, stating that this purer product (as contrasted with lime produced elsewhere from blue limestone) being produced by modern methods, made Knoxville the largest lime-producing point in state…and that "all of the kilns for burning lime are located along the river, where the marble from quarries can be unloaded from steamers". [22]

The Ross & Republic Marble Company constructed a marble mill six hundred feet north of the quarry on the opposite side of Island Home Pike, between Island Home Pike and the Tennessee River, where workers dressed rough-cut stone for market. The date of construction is unknown, but it is mentioned in Gordon's 1911 geological survey bulletin on the East Tennessee marble industry. Historic photographs of the structure date to the 1910s, including a ca. 1920 aerial glass plate negative image. This image and a Soil Conservation aerial photograph from 1939 show the mill's location near the river and adjacent to the railroad. The site (not included in the Mead Marble Quarry boundary) of the former marble mill complex has been completely altered by pathways and parking lots, leaving no visible trace of previous industrial activity beyond its proximity to the former rail bed and to the river.

By the 1920s, the pink and gray marble found in the Ross-Republic Company's quarries had become part of the American cultural landscape. According to Geologist Charles H. Gordon's comprehensive 1924 report on the Tennessee Marble Industry, although much of the quarry output was dressed at the company's mill, which had burned in 1915, but had recently been rebuilt, and was located "on the north side of the road 200 yards north of the quarry" (see Figure 2). Marble blocks were also being shipped out in rough-cut form to be carved into statuary. Gordon attributed pink marble statues at government buildings in Providence, Cleveland, and Indianapolis, as well as the New York Customs House, to the company's Island Home quarry.[23]

In the late 1920s, the Ross and Republic Marble Company underwent a series of corporate reorganizations, reflecting the rapidly changing economic climate of the time. Ross and Republic Marble Company changed the state of its incorporation from New Jersey/Delaware in 1927 and subsequently re-financed its holdings as Ross-Republic Marble Corporation in Tennessee in 1931.[24] Five years later, in 1934, D.J. Kelly and R.S. Young purchased the property and equipment of the Ross-Republic Marble Company of Tennessee from Frank Mead and the widow and minor child of A.M. Glasgow, the former Vice-president of Tennessee

[21] The first lease to Tennessee Marble Lime, recorded in the Knox County Register of Deeds, Power of Attorney Book 2, page 274, Ross Marble Company to Tennessee Marble Lime Company (16 April 1906), was signed by Frank Mead as President of Ross and Republic and A.M. Glasgow as Vice President of Tennessee Marble Lime. Mead's name first appears as President of Tennessee Marble Lime Company in Deed Book 457, page 143, Tennessee Marble Lime Company to Ross and Republic Marble Company (26 September 1927). No other president ever appears on any leases or deeds for Tennessee Marble Lime Company.
[22] *Stone* XXXI (1910) 568.
[23] Gordon, 80-81.
[24] Knox County Register of Deeds, Deed Book 453, page 482, The Ross and Republic Marble Company to Ross and Republic Marble Company (27 October 1927); Knox County Register of Deeds, Trust Book 485, page 237 (9 February 1931). The company seal reflects the date of re-incorporation. "$1,000,000 Marble Merger," states that Ross and Republic Marble Company merged with Ross-Republic Marble Corporation, at which point Frank Mead became a minority stockholder, *New York Times,* Section 2, Business and Finance (13 February 1931).

Marble Lime Company.[25] As the economically tumultuous years of the 1930s took a toll on the marble industry, the Ross and Republic Company continued to convert their quarrying operations to lime production.[26]

By 1941 the mortgage was in default. The company's assets were sold to J.M. Cowan on January 17, 1941, and held by H.M. Harton, as Trustee. Soil conservation aerial photographs obtained from the McClung Historical Collection and the Knox County Metropolitan Planning Commission reveal a white expanse in the quarrying area by 1953 that had nearly tripled in acreage since 1939, which indicates that lime production in Mead's quarry was the main activity by this time; the area remains constant in size in 1960. By 1969 this white area is much diminished and the lake (flooded quarry) is clearly visible but the lime kilns and a nearby building appear still intact, even though the quarry lake is fully flooded, there is still a white expanse that suggests activity on the site in 1973 and even as late as 1985.

In 1960, Trustee H.M. Harton officially transferred the property to Vivian Williams, widow of former company president John Williams who's Williams Lime Manufacturing Company had held a lease arrangement with Mead's Ross and Republic Company since 1928.[27] Upon her death, Williams left the property to her children, John Jr., Harold, and Vivian.[28] Harold passed away in 1970, leaving his surviving siblings to dispose of their shared inheritance.[29] In 1990, John W. Williams II and Vivian Williams Davis signed a 27.47-acre portion of the property over to Ijams Nature Center.[30] The remainder of the property inherited from their mother and father, which is described as including the Mead quarry, was conveyed to Knox County on May 14, 2001, for the use of Ijams Nature Center, which has allowed it to be preserved for both its natural and historical value.[31]

Though only trace remains of former structures on the property are visible today, historic images and survey diagrams show that the Mead Quarry and its immediate surroundings housed infrastructure and outbuildings for both marble and lime company operations. The Historical and Architectural Inventory conducted by Knox County on 2 January 1986 (ID#12344) for "Meade's Quarry" on Island Home Pike, recorded the presence of "an old cinder block office building," a "stone building," a "corrugated metal building," a "concrete slab," and "limestone foundation." The report stated that these structures were "endangered" due to neglect and deterioration. There is potential for future study of the site as its presence within the property of Ijams Nature Center helps preserve physical evidence of the former industry and the interpretation of the site provides a context to understand the work that was performed on the quarry property, and the lives of the individuals who performed it.

[25] Knox County Register of Deeds, Trust Book 537, page 173, Ross-Republic Marble Company to D.J. Kelly and R.S. Young (21 November 1934).
[26] See Soil Conservation Aerials included with historic photographs.
[27] Knox County Register of Deeds, Deed Book 1370, page 658, H.M. Harton Jr. to Vivian M. Williams (21 November 1960); Knox County Register of Deeds, Trust Book 450, page 319, Ross and Republic to Williams Lime (26 April 1928).
[28] Knox County, Will Book 28, page 445 (probated 1 July 1961).
[29] Knox County, Will Book 1445 page 813 (probated 21 September 1970).
[30] Knox County Register of Deeds, Deed Book 2028, page 161, John W. Williams II and Vivian W. Davis to Ijams Nature Center, (26 December 1990). This is Knox County tax parcel 109DC027, which is not included in the nominated parcel boundary.
[31] Knox County Register of Deeds, Instrument 200106150079210, Vivian Williams Davis to Knox County (15 May 2001).

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Trust Book F1, page 98, Jessie Simpson to Jno M. Ross (28 March 1881)
Deed Book E4, pages 69-70, Kriss [sic] and Monday to John M. Ross (28 April 1886)
Trust Book 77, page 7, Trustees of Lebanon Presbyterian Church to Harmon Kreis and W.R. Monday (1 January 1897); Trust Book 77, page 418, extension of same (1 June 1898)
Trust Book 54, page 473, J.T. Johnson to J.M. Ross (3 March 1894)
Deed Book 154, page 174, Jno M. and Callie W. Ross to Ross Marble Company (3 May 1898)
Deed Book 151, page 153, J.K. Griffin to John M. Ross (31March 1899)
Deed Book 172, page 272, Chas. W. McCall to Frank S. Mead and Edwin H. Eaton (2 November 1901)
Deed Book 240, page 221, Frank S. Mead et al to Ross and Republic Marble Company (2 March 1903)
Deed Book 240, page 124, Ross Marble Company to The Ross & Republic Marble Co. (17 January 1910)
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)
Deed Book 205, page 468, Ross Marble Co. to Southern Ry Co. (28 May 1906)
Power of Attorney Book 2, page 274, Ross Marble Company to Tennessee Marble Lime Company (16 April 1906)
Deed Book 457, page 143, Tennessee Marble Lime Company to Ross and Republic Marble Company (26 September 1927)
Deed Book 453, page 482, The Ross and Republic Marble Company to Ross and Republic Marble Company (27 October 1927)
Trust Book 485, page 237 (9 February 1931)

Trust Book 537, page 173, Ross-Republic Marble Company to D.J. Kelly and R.S. Young (21 November 1934)
Deed Book 1370, page 658, H.M. Harton Jr. to Vivian M. Williams (21 November 1960)
Trust Book 450, page 319, Ross and Republic to Williams Lime (26 April 1928)
Will Book 28, page 445 (probated 1 July 1961)
Will Book 1445 page 813 (probated 21 September 1970)
Deed Book 2028, page 161, John W. Williams II and Vivian W. Davis to Ijams Nature Center (26 December 1990)
Instrument 200106150079210, Vivian Williams Davis to Knox County (15 May 2001)

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Map of Greater Knoxville, Tennessee. New York: C.F. McAlpine Co., 1920. McClung Historical Collection/Knox County Public Library.

McClung Historical Collection/Knox County Public Library. Digital Photograph Collection.
Photographer Unknown. *Meads Quarry. Building at Meads Quarry,* circa 1895. Image Number 200-062-044.
Photographer Unknown. *Mead's Quarry,* circa 1895. Image Number 200-062-045.
Photographer Unknown. *Mead's Quarry,* circa 1895. Image Number 200-062-046.
Photographer Unknown. *Meads Marble Quarry,* circa 1910s. Image Number 200-062-087.
Photographer Unknown. *Meads Marble Quarry,* circa 1910s. Image Number 200- 062-088.
Photographer Unknown. *Meads Marble Quarry,* circa 1910s. Image Number 200- 062-089.
Photographer Unknown. *Meads Marble Quarry,* circa 1910s. Image Number 200- 062-172.
Photographer Unknown. *Frank Mead and Mr. Harmon,* circa 1920s. Image Number 200- 062-051.
Photographer Unknown. *Frank Mead at Marble Mill,* circa 1920s. Image Number 200-062-054.
Photographer Unknown. *Mead. Mill at Marble Quarry,* circa 1920s. Image Number 200-062-055.
Photographer Unknown. *Meads Quarry Blacksmith,* circa 1920s. Image Number 200-062-058.
Photographer Unknown. *Mead's Marble Quarry,* circa 1920s. Image Number 200-062-060.
Photographer Unknown. *Mead's Marble Quarry,* circa 1920s. Image Number 200-062-061.
Photographer Unknown. *Mead's Marble Quarry,* circa 1920s. Image Number 200-062-082.

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_____. *Tennessee Marble Lime Company,* 1920. Ordered by Southern Rail System, May 27, 1920. Image Number N-1174. McClung Digital Photograph Collection, Knox County Public Library.

_____. *Tennessee Marble Lime Company,* 1920. Ordered by Southern Rail System, May 27, 1920. Image Number N-1175. McClung Digital Photograph Collection, Knox County Public Library.

_____. *Tennessee Marble Lime Company,* 1920. Ordered by Southern Rail System, May 27, 1920. Image Number N-1176. McClung Digital Photograph Collection, Knox County Public Library.

Thompson Brothers Photographers, *John Ross Marble Quarry*, Aerial photograph, G[lass]P[late]1113, date unknown. McClung Historical Collection/Knox County Public Library.

United States Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service, Aerial photographs dated 13 March 1939 and 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 #	Name of repository: MTSU: Center for Historic Preservation; Knox County Public Library; Knox County MPC; Ijams Nature Center	
Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): KN-12344 (Ferguson/Gardner1986)			

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 38.75 acres **USGS Quadrangle** Shooks Gap 147 NE

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

1. Latitude: 35.953586 Longitude: -83.871513
2. Latitude: 35.953642 Longitude: -83.865286
3. Latitude: 35.948794 Longitude: -83.871525
4. Latitude: 35.948829 Longitude: -83.865228

Verbal Boundary Description
Being the whole of tax parcel 109DC029 (13.6 acres) and the whole of tax parcel 109DC033 (12.23 acres) as well as a portion (12.92 acres) of tax parcel 110HA004, the boundaries of the historic quarrying area encompassing 38.75 acres. This property includes the quarry pit of the former Ross & Republic Marble Company and a lime kiln facility shared by that company with the former Tennessee Marble Lime Company.

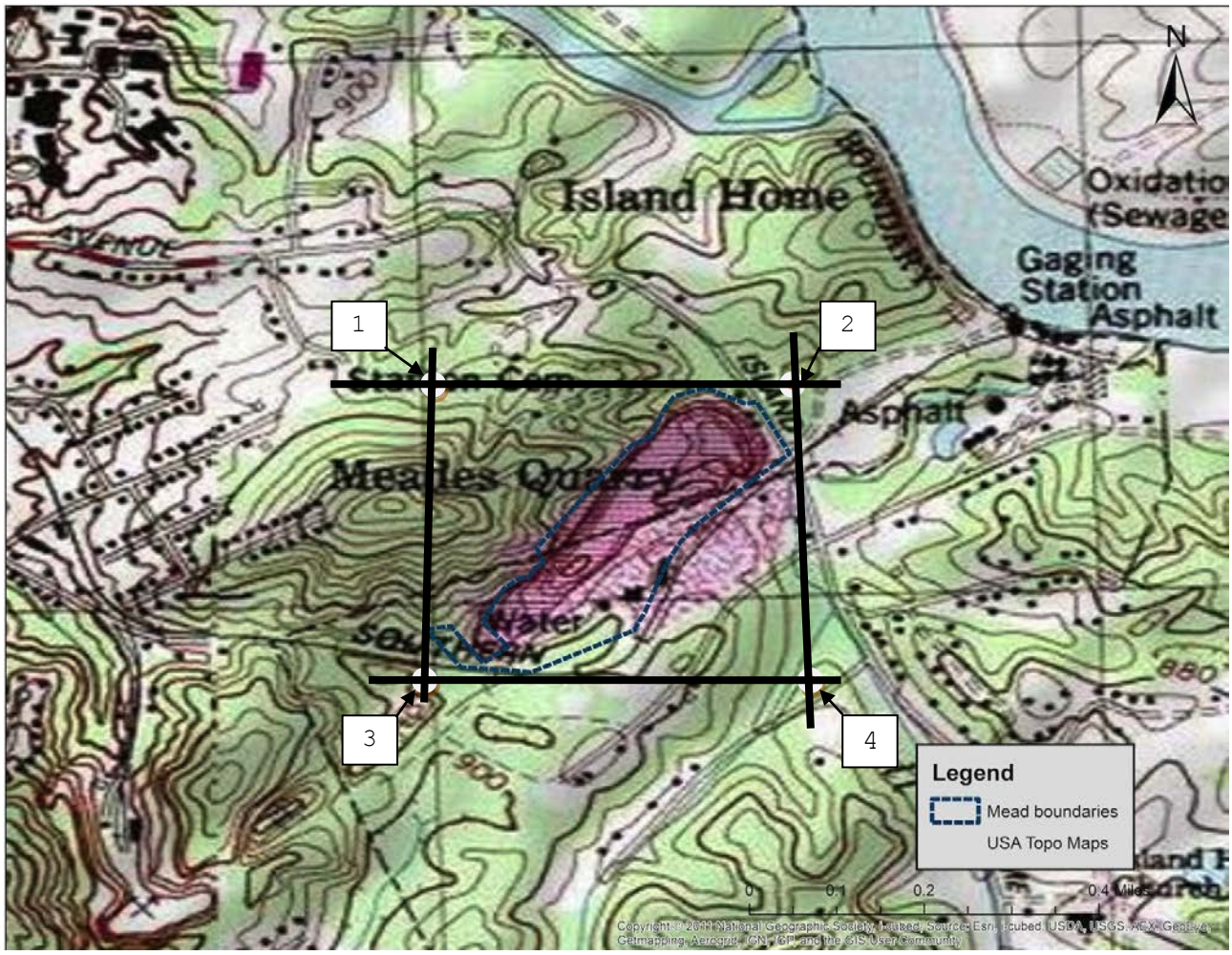
Boundary Justification

These parcels are within the boundaries of Ijams Nature Center, excluding private inholding. The boundaries of the former quarry pit follow a hiking trail around the quarry "lake" on the north and west of these parcels. The parcel boundaries on the east and south are delineated by a historic rail bed, which is now owned by the Gulf & Ohio, a short line railroad that serves a still-active asphalt plant nearby.



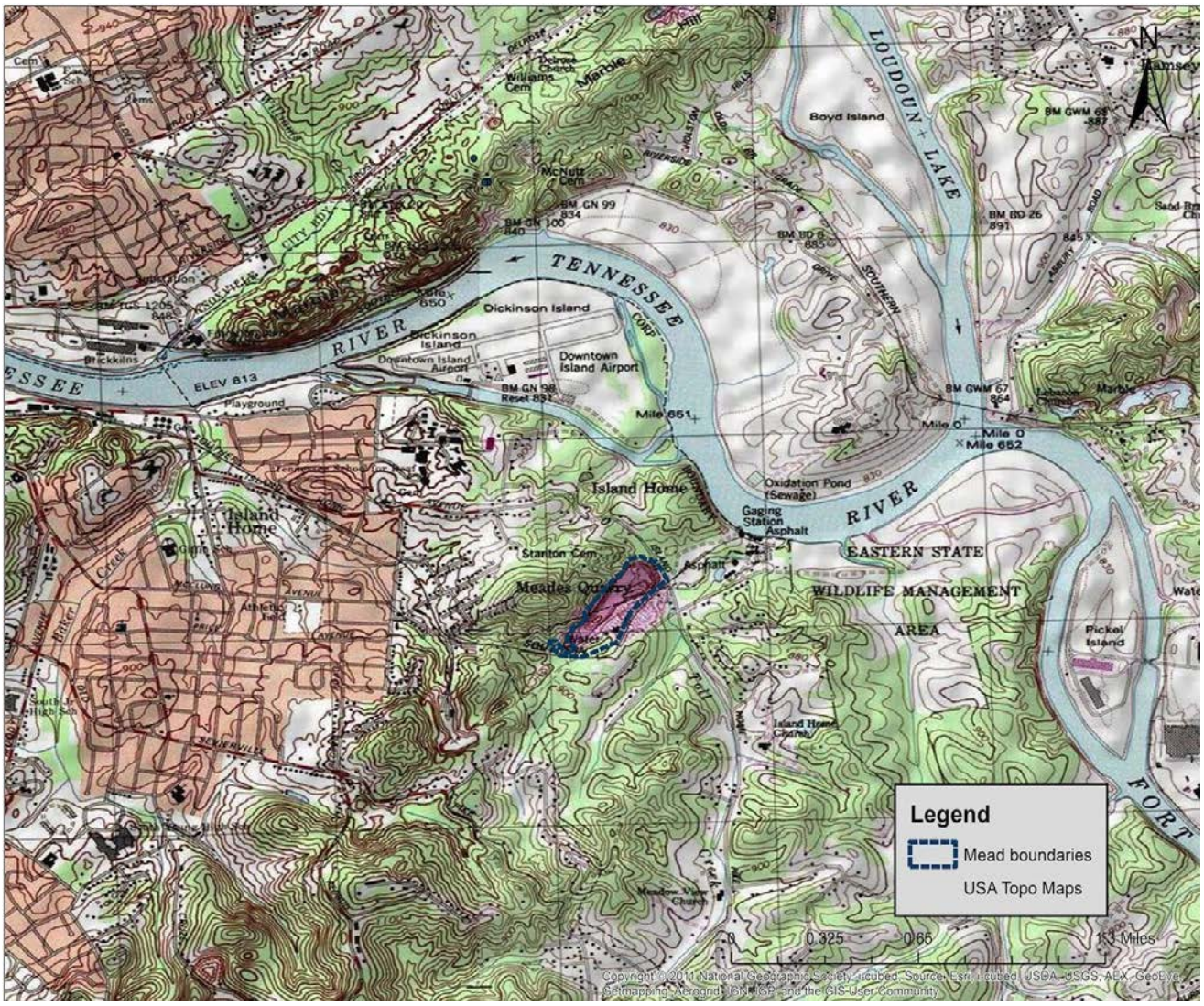
The Mead Marble Quarry boundaries are outlined in blue with Knox Tax Parcels 190DC029 and 109DC033 outlined in red overlaid on aerial map.
Map created by Lydia Simpson, August 2013

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



Topographic map with Mead Quarry boundary in blue onto Shooks Gap 147 NE topographical quad.
Map created by Lydia Simpson, August 2013

(Topographical map: USDA, USGS data sources incorporated into USA Topo Maps by National Geographic, copyright 2011.)



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

Map created by Lydia Simpson, August 2013

Topographical map: USDA, USGS data sources incorporated into USA Topo Maps by National Geographic, copyright 2011.

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

1 of 22. Quarry lake featuring prominent quarry wall. Photographer facing northwest.

2 of 22. Quarry lake. Photographer facing southeast at Mt. Leconte Overlook.

3 of 22. Quarry lake. Photographer facing northeast at Tharp Trace Overlook.

4 of 22. Quarry lake. Photographer facing east at Mt. Leconte Overlook.

5 of 22. Marble debris detail showing hole carved for grab hook. Photographed on east side of quarry near parking lot.

6 of 22. Pinkston Pointe. Photographer facing northwest.

7 of 22. Detail of marble debris with drill holes and seriation. Photographed on east side of quarry near parking lot.

8 of 22. Detail of marble debris showing worked stone. Photographed on east side of quarry near parking lot.

9 of 22. Detail of brick debris. Photographed on south end of quarry.

10 of 22. Railroad bed. Photographer facing northeast.

11 of 22. Detail of metal bracket and bore holes in southeast quarry wall. Photographer facing east.

12 of 22. Interpretive plaza. Photographer facing northwest.

13 of 22. Interpretive plaza. Photographer facing southeast.

14 of 22. Interpretive plaza. Photographer facing south.

15 of 22. Detail of block retaining wall. Photographer facing southwest.

16 of 22. Six lime kiln hearths. Photographer facing southwest.

17 of 22. Detail of lime kiln base turned planter. Photographer facing southeast.

18 of 22. Detail of brick patio in interpretive plaza. Photographer facing southeast.

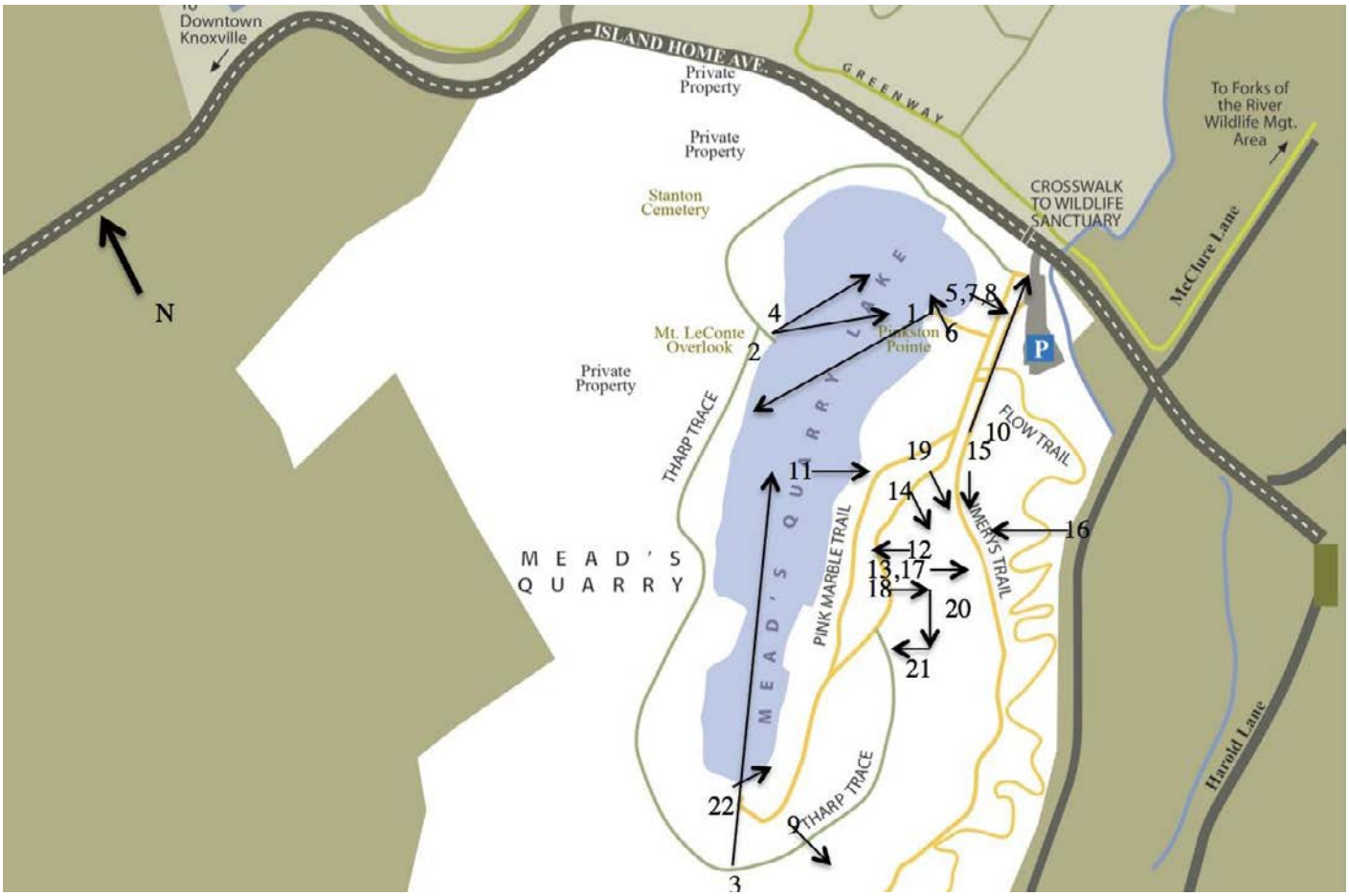
19 of 22. Detail of concrete pad covered with picnic shelter adjacent to retaining wall. Photographer facing south.

20 of 22. Water tank. Photographer facing south.

21 of 22. Concrete piers next to water tank. Photographer facing west.

22 of 22. Detail of ram pump. Photographed on south end of quarry lake.

Site Plan and Photo Key



Trail map courtesy of Ijams Nature Center, arrows indicating approximate location and direction of photographer

Site plan by Angela Sirna, August 2013

Figures and Historic Photographs

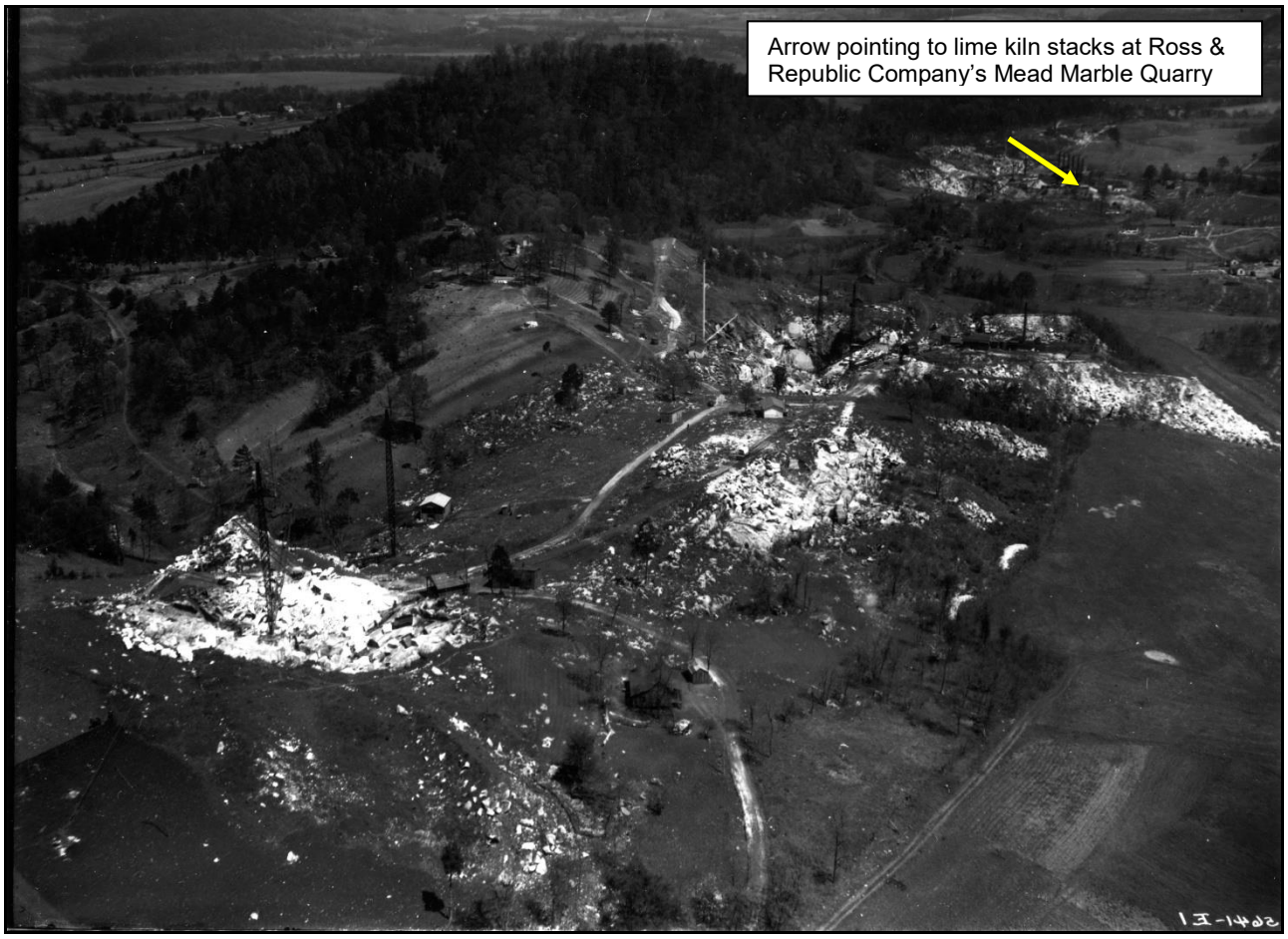


Figure 1. Thompson Brothers, *John Ross Marble Quarry*, date unknown. This photograph shows Ross Marble Quarry operations in the middle ground, a lime pit in the foreground, and the Ross & Republic Marble Company's Mead Marble Quarry and Tennessee Marble Lime Company lime kiln in the distance at upper right. *Photo Courtesy of the McClung Historical Collection, Knox County Public Library*

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Figures Page 26

Mead Marble Quarry
Name of Property
Knox County, Tennessee
County and State
Marble Industry of East Tennessee, ca. 1838-1963
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

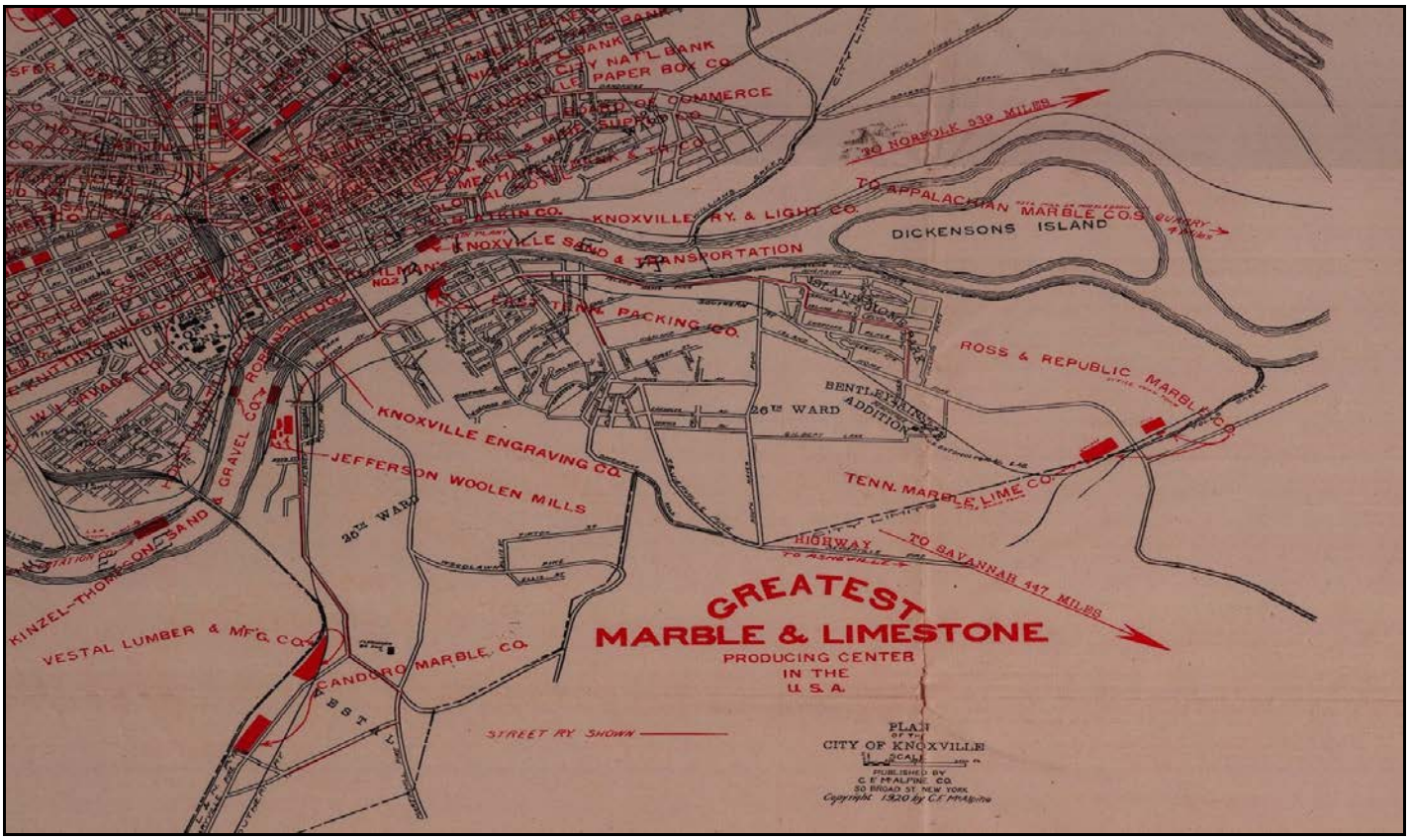


Figure 2. *Map of Greater Knoxville, Tennessee*, 1920, detail. The Ross & Republic Marble Co. and Tennessee Marble Lime Co. share the rectangular red symbol designated as "quarry." Note the presence of the former Ross & Republic Co. mill (no longer extant) on the opposite side of Island Home Pike. *Map Courtesy of the McClung Historical Collection, Knox County Public Library*

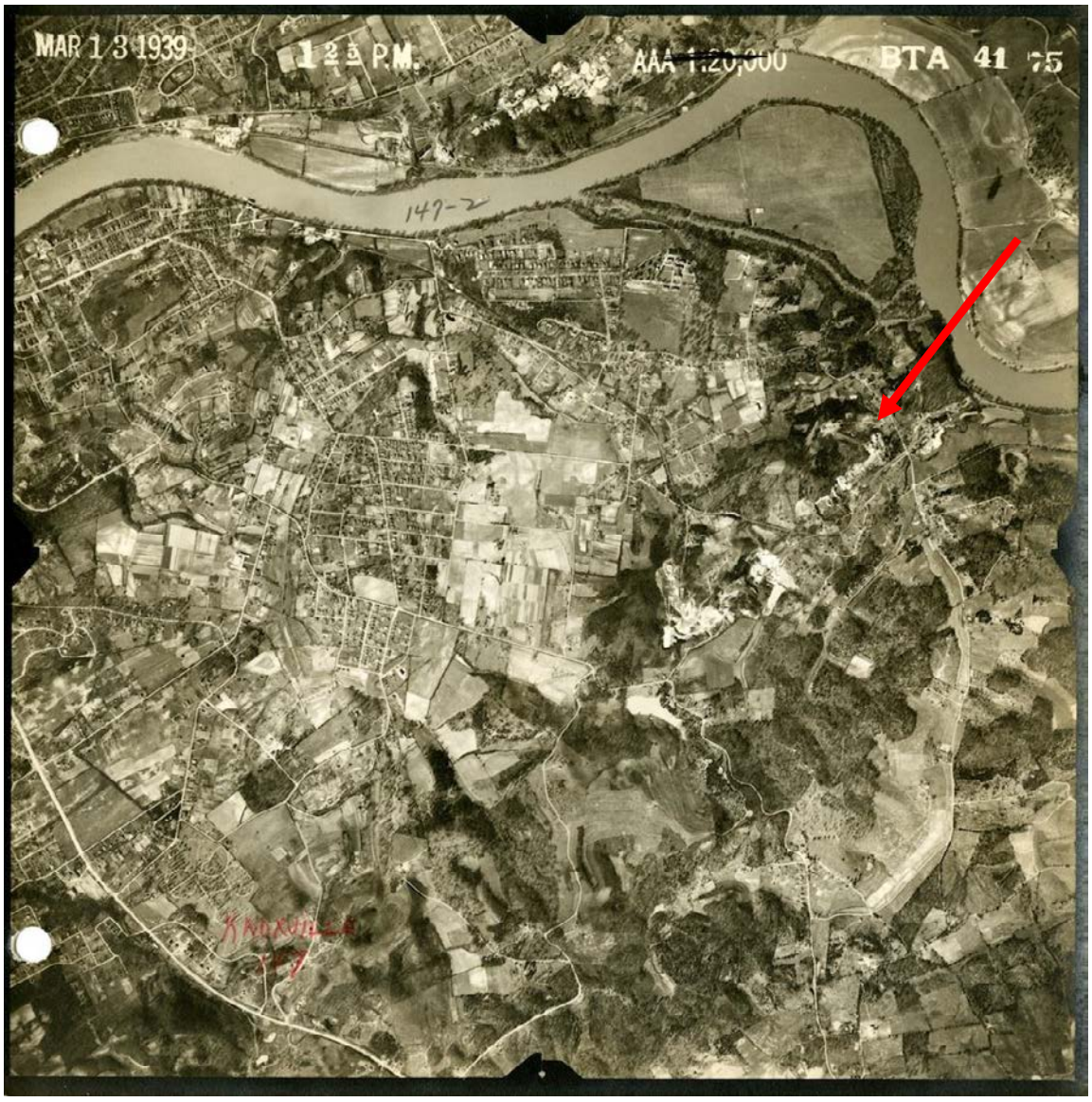


Figure 3. Aerial photograph, USDA Soil Conservation Service, 13 March 1939.

Photo Courtesy of the McClung Historical Collection, Knox County Public Library



Figure 4. Aerial photograph, USDA Soil Conservation Service, 1 April 1960.

Photo Courtesy of the McClung Historical Collection, Knox County Public Library



Figure 5. Meads Quarry. Building at Meads Quarry, circa 1895, photographer unknown.
Photo Courtesy of McClung Digital Photograph Collection, Knox County Public Library.



Figure 6. Mead's Quarry, circa 1895, photographer unknown.
Photo Courtesy of McClung Digital Photograph Collection, Knox County Public Library.



Figure 7. Mead's Quarry, circa 1895, photographer unknown.
Photo Courtesy of McClung Digital Photograph Collection, Knox County Public Library.



Figure 8. Meads Marble Quarry, circa 1910s, photographer unknown.
Photo Courtesy of McClung Digital Photograph Collection, Knox County Public Library.



Figure 9. Meads Marble Quarry, circa 1910s, photographer unknown.
Photo Courtesy of McClung Digital Photograph Collection, Knox County Public Library.



Figure 10. Meads Marble Quarry, circa 1910s, photographer unknown.
Photo Courtesy of McClung Digital Photograph Collection, Knox County Public Library.



Figure 11. Meads Marble Quarry, circa 1910s, photographer unknown.
Photo Courtesy of McClung Digital Photograph Collection, Knox County Public Library.

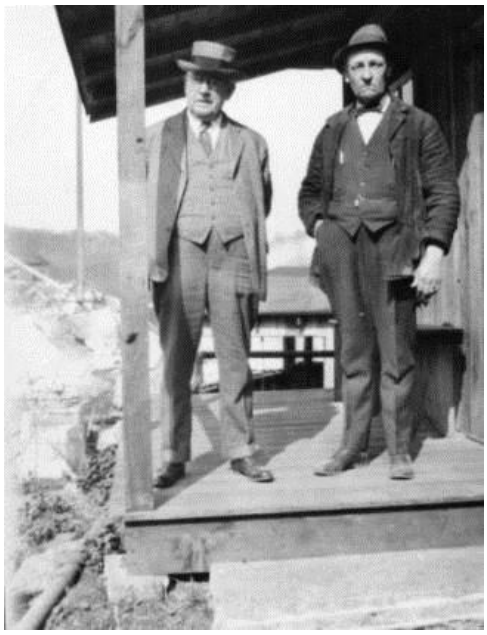


Figure 12. Frank Mead and Mr. Harmon, circa 1920s, photographer unknown.
Photo Courtesy of McClung Digital Photograph Collection, Knox County Public Library.



Figure 13. Frank Mead at Marble Mill, circa 1920s, photographer unknown.
Photo Courtesy of McClung Digital Photograph Collection, Knox County Public Library.



Figure 14. Mead Mill at Marble Quarry, circa 1920s, photographer unknown.
Photo Courtesy of McClung Digital Photograph Collection, Knox County Public Library.



Figure 15. Meads Quarry Blacksmith, circa 1920s, photographer unknown.
Photo Courtesy of McClung Digital Photograph Collection, Knox County Public Library.



Figure 16. Mead's Marble Quarry, circa 1920s.
Photo Courtesy of McClung Digital Photograph Collection, Knox County Public Library.



Figure 17. Mead's Marble Quarry, circa 1920s.
Photo Courtesy of McClung Digital Photograph Collection, Knox County Public Library.



Figure 18. Mead's Marble Quarry, circa 1920s.
Photo Courtesy of McClung Digital Photograph Collection, Knox County Public Library.



Figure 19. Tennessee Marble Lime Company, Thompson Brothers Photographers, 1920.
Photo Courtesy of McClung Digital Photograph Collection, Knox County Public Library.



Figure 20. Tennessee Marble Lime Company, Thompson Brothers Photographers, 1920.
Photo Courtesy of McClung Digital Photograph Collection, Knox County Public Library.

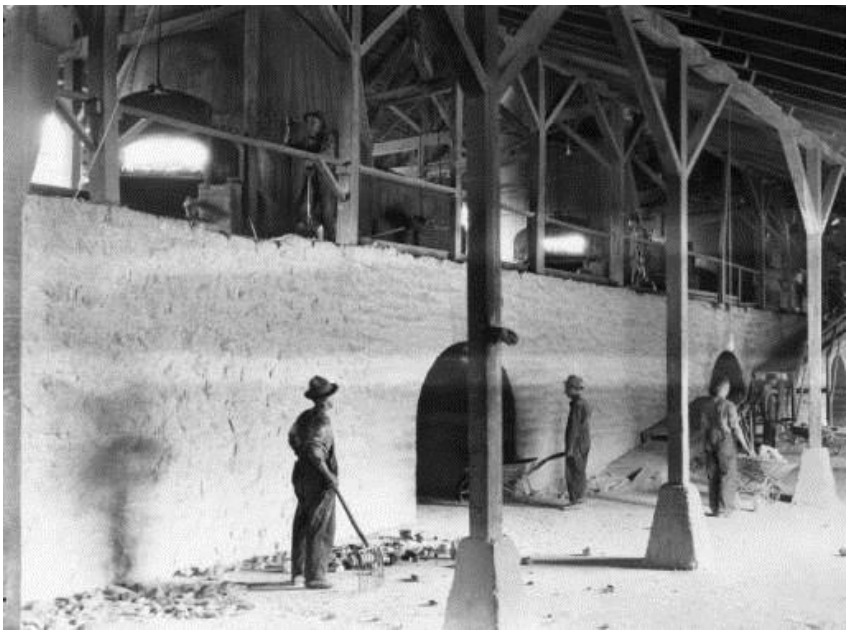


Figure 21. Tennessee Marble Lime Company, Thompson Brothers Photographers, 1920.
Photo Courtesy of McClung Digital Photograph Collection, Knox County Public Library.

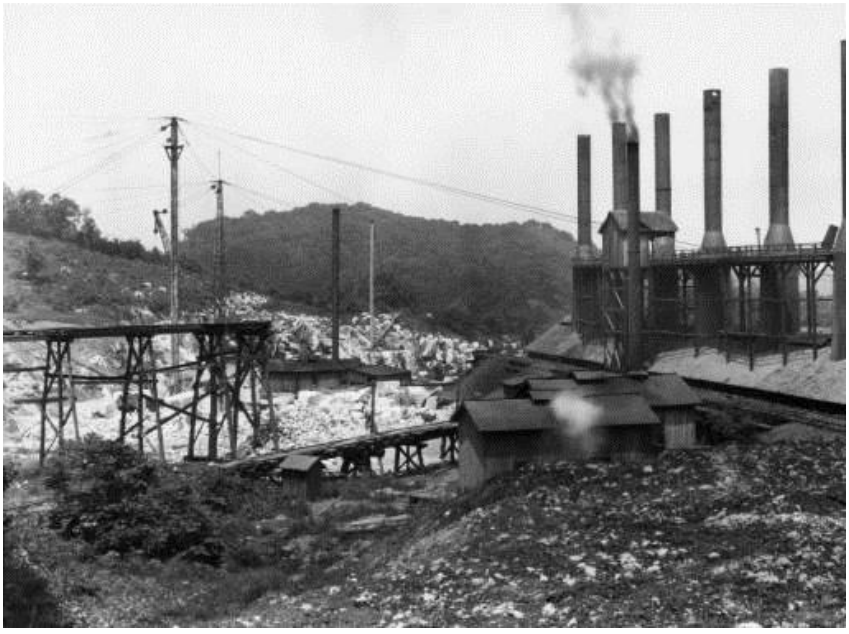


Figure 22. Ross and Republic Quarry and Lime Plant, Thompson Brothers Photographers,1920.
Photo Courtesy of McClung Digital Photograph Collection, Knox County Public Library.



Figure 23. Ross & Republic Marble Mill, 1920.
Photo Courtesy of McClung Digital Photograph Collection, Knox County Public Library.



Figure 24. Ross & Republic Marble Mill, Thompsons Brothers Photographers, 1920.
Photo Courtesy of McClung Digital Photograph Collection, Knox County Public Library.

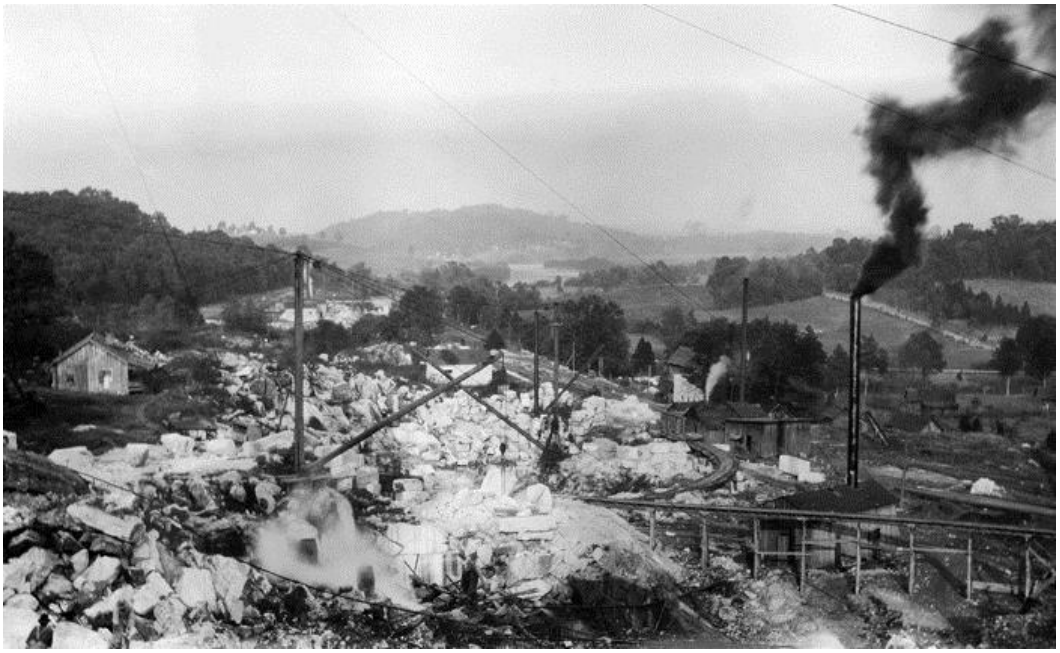


Figure 25. Four miles northeast of Knoxville, Tennessee. Marble Quarry of Ross and Republic Marble Company. Knox County, Tennessee, ca. 1922 by E.F. Burchard. *Photo courtesy of the U.S. Geological Survey Photographic Library*

Property Owner:

(This information will not be submitted to the National Park Service, but will remain on file at the Tennessee Historical Commission)

Name	**Paul James, Executive Director, Ijams Nature Center/Knox County**		
Street & Number	**2915 Island Home Avenue**	Telephone	**(865) 577-4717**
City or Town	**Knoxville**	State/Zip	**TN 37920**