

Indiana Property

Dick's business in the early 1900s was mining, grinding and shipping clay and shale refractory material to the steel mills in the Chicago and Gary area. The business lasted until about 1915. The clay and shale was horizontally mined out of the strata lying under the bluffs along the west side of the Wabash River valley. The bluffs were up to 150 feet tall with deep ravines snaking westerly from the face of the bluff. See page 2, a recent topographic map of the area. Proximity of the railroad made the business profitable; the finished product was loaded on railcars that were headed straight north to the Chicago area. At the time, the railroad was the main route of the Chicago and Eastern Illinois Rail Road. Presently, it is one of the main routes of Norfolk Southern.

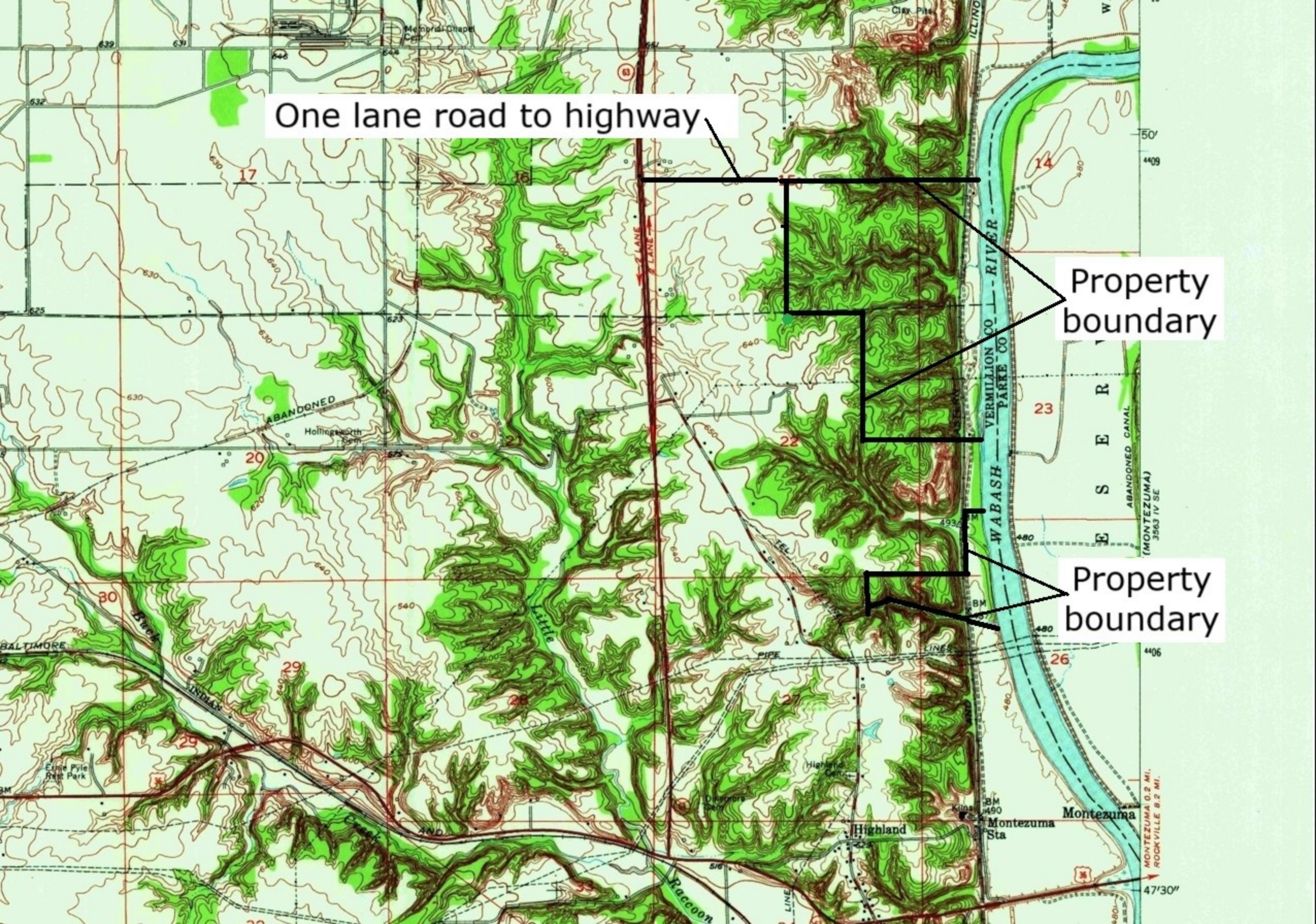
Dick's business began in the smaller of the two tracts of land and he bought the larger tract for more mining if the business expanded. Along with the ravines and bluffs, Dick also purchased the land east of the railroad to the bank of the river. In addition to mining, some income was gained from renting the tillable land along the river and atop the bluff to local farmers, and sharing in the sale of crops. However, the river rose each year in the spring and flooded the land east of the railroad.

A map of the property on page 3 drawn by Dick shows some other businesses along the railroad, brick works, Powder works and stone quarry. Photographs on pages 4 and 5 show the milling building, railroad and house east of the railroad across from the milling building.

One lane road to highway

Property boundary

Property boundary



D. N. LANYON,
 Miner, Grinder and Shipper of
HIGH GRADE FIRE CLAY
 ...Operating the...
 "Jonesdale" and "Russell," Ind. Mines.

Hillsdale, Indiana,
 Or
 325 Englewood Ave.
 Chicago.

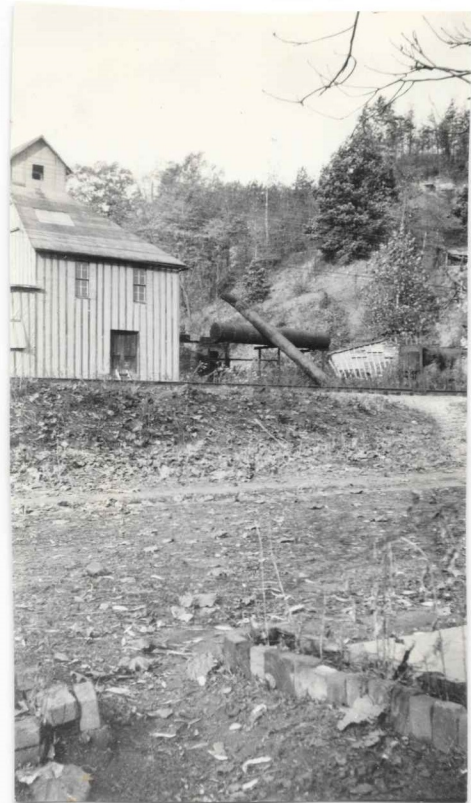
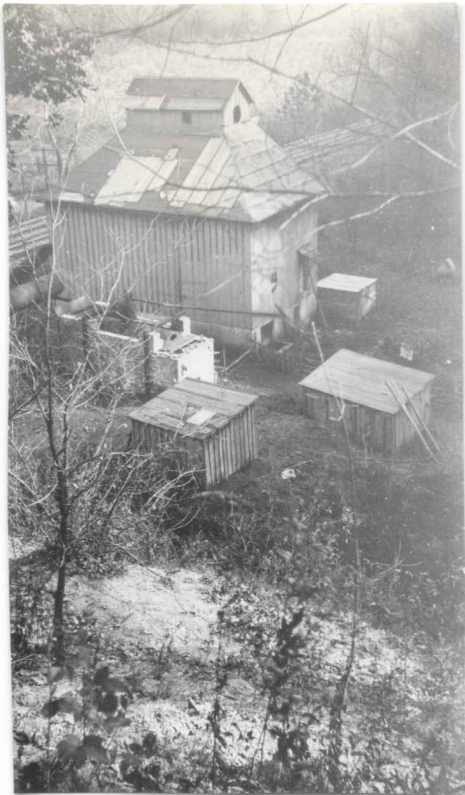
Plat of D. N. LANYON'S Lands
 Situate in township (16) North Range
 9 - West, Vermillion County
 in Sections
 (14) - (15) - (22) - (23) -
 (26) and (27) Indiana
 450 - Acres,
 more or less



The R.R. Station of
 West Montezuma
 is 80 rods south
 of Russell Switch



When Dick bought the property, the existing milling buildings were in need of repair. Looking northwest from the railroad track, the high forested bluff can be seen behind the milling building.



Left, looking southeast and down from the bluff, repair of the milling building is underway. Standing water appears behind the cupola atop the milling building. In flood, the Wabash River would rise to near the railroad track. At repair of the milling building appears complete.



Left, looking southeast and down from the bluff, the interior of the milling building is exposed during repairs. At the top of the view, an automobile is seen across the railroad track. Right, looking southeast at the house across the railroad track where Dick and family lived when on the property. Often, just Dick and Howard (Little Dick) visited the property without other family members.