

but whose mining operations lasted only one year.¹⁵² It was during this time that the mine was visited by Ebenezer Emmons, who described its geology and published a map of the underground workings (figure 15) showing that they had reached a depth of about 100 feet.¹⁵³ Information concerning the actual operations of the Rudisill Gold and Copper Company are, however, slight, and it appears that it lacked both an efficient mining system and good business management and consequently failed.¹⁵⁴ The property was again auctioned off by the sheriff,¹⁵⁵ and was once more mined only by local miners. In May, 1858, by a court decree, J. W. Osborne regained possession of the property¹⁵⁶ and later reported taking \$25,000.00 worth of gold (at about \$20 per ounce) out of the Rudisill for the year at a total mining cost of \$12,000.00.¹⁵⁷ The mine appears to have been operated for Osborne by a Mr. Orchard.¹⁵⁸

In 1860 the property was purchased from J. W. Osborne and possibly others by the Rudisill Gold Mining Company of Baltimore City (Maryland).¹⁵⁹ The purchase included the Rudisill gold mine and the Brush Hill (or Busch Hill) properties. At that time, the deepest workings were 22 feet on the incline below the 100 foot level and the surface machinery was evaluated at \$25,000 that included two steam engines of 75 and 45 horse power.¹⁶⁰

CIVIL WAR PERIOD

By the end of the 1850's, slavery had become the major political issue. In the 1860 presidential election, Mecklenburg County gave 1,101 votes to Breckenridge, 826 to Bell, 135 to Douglas, and none to Lincoln. "J. E. Herrick, a 'Northerner' who happened to be in Charlotte about that time, was reported to be suffering from 'a touch of Abolitionism',

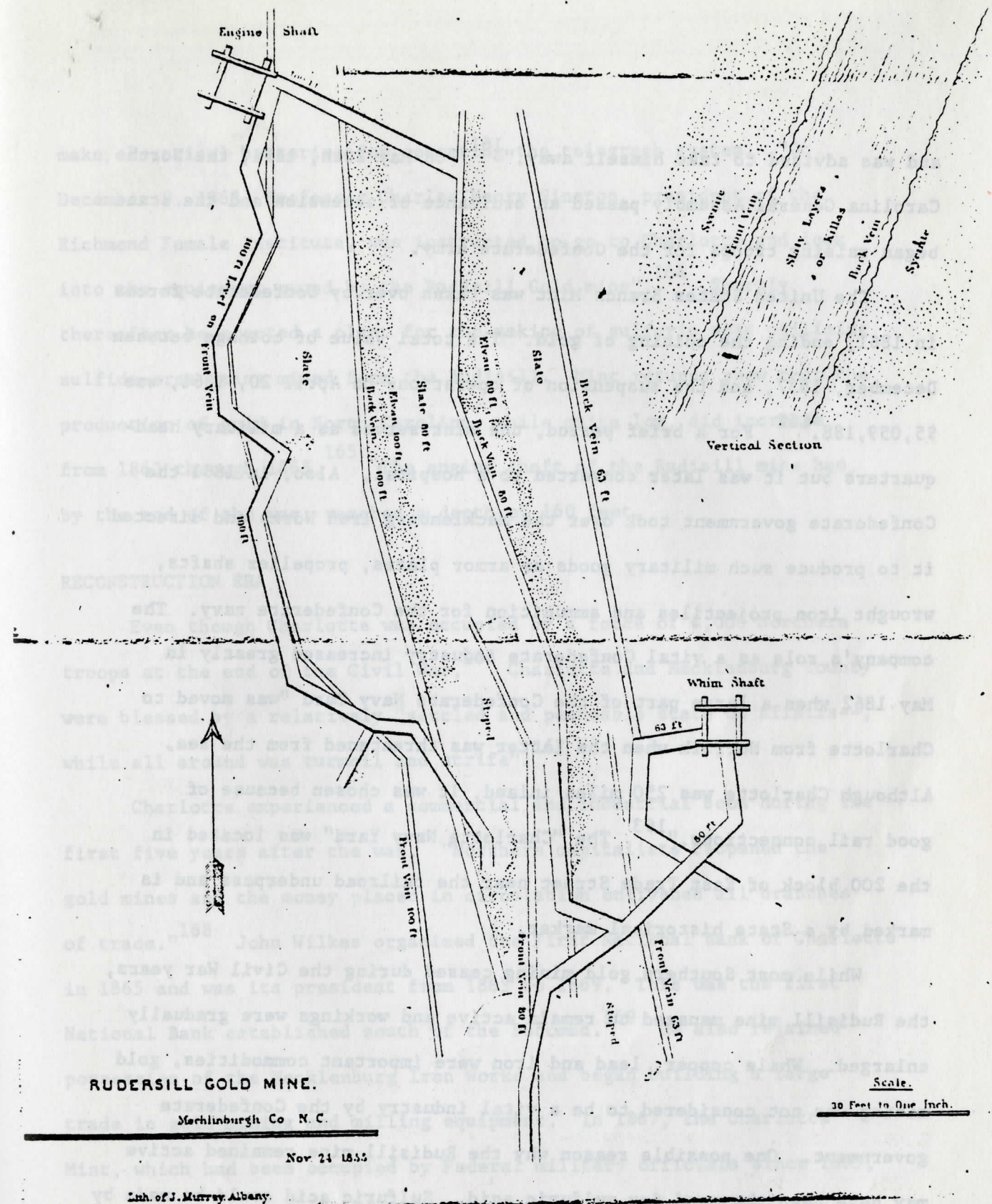


Figure 15. Underground workings of the "Rudersill" Gold Mine, 1854. Ebenezer Emmons, Geological Report of the Midland Counties of North Carolina (Raleigh, N. C.: Holden and Wilson, 1956), plate 12.