

# BAXTER-BALLARDI RAILROAD AND ASSOCIATED MINING AREAS

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## INTRODUCTION

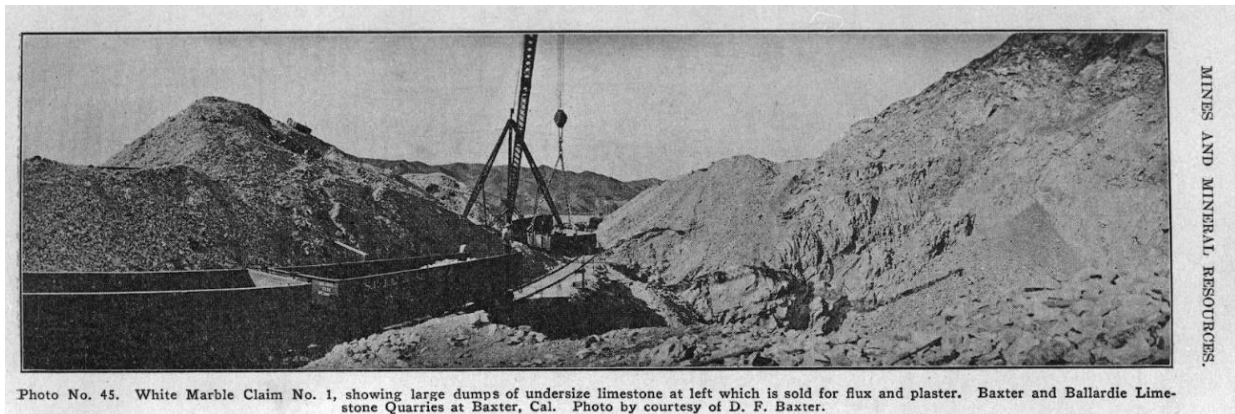
This report is part of a research project that describes the relationships between mines and railroads in the Mojave Desert and southwestern Great Basin. The collection can be accessed at <http://www.greggwilkerson.com/railroads.html>

## HISTORY

The Baxter-Ballardie Mine Railroad was a short spur line off of the **Basin** siding on the Los Angeles and Salt Lake (LA&SL) railroad. It is at the head of Afton Canyon between the east end of both the Cady and Cave mountains. Here the LA&SL followed the Old Mojave Road (Wilkerson, 2018c). The Cave Mountain iron deposits are mined from the Baxter open pit mine which has been intermittently active from the 1930's to the present (Bishop, 2012). Limestone has been mined here starting in 1907 (Logan, 1947).

The Baxter Mine area is described by Lamy (1948), Southern Pacific Company (1964) and Brown and Monroe (2000). Today there is an active iron deposit (Baxter) and an inactive limestone deposit (Cave Mountain). The name Cave Canyon used to apply to the iron deposit.

The Cave Canyon (Baxter and Ballardie, Evening Star, White Marble) deposits are described in Cloudman (1919, 872-876 ), Logan (1947:281), Tucker and Sampson (1943: 516), Collier and Danehy, 1958) and Wilkerson (2018b, 20023p).



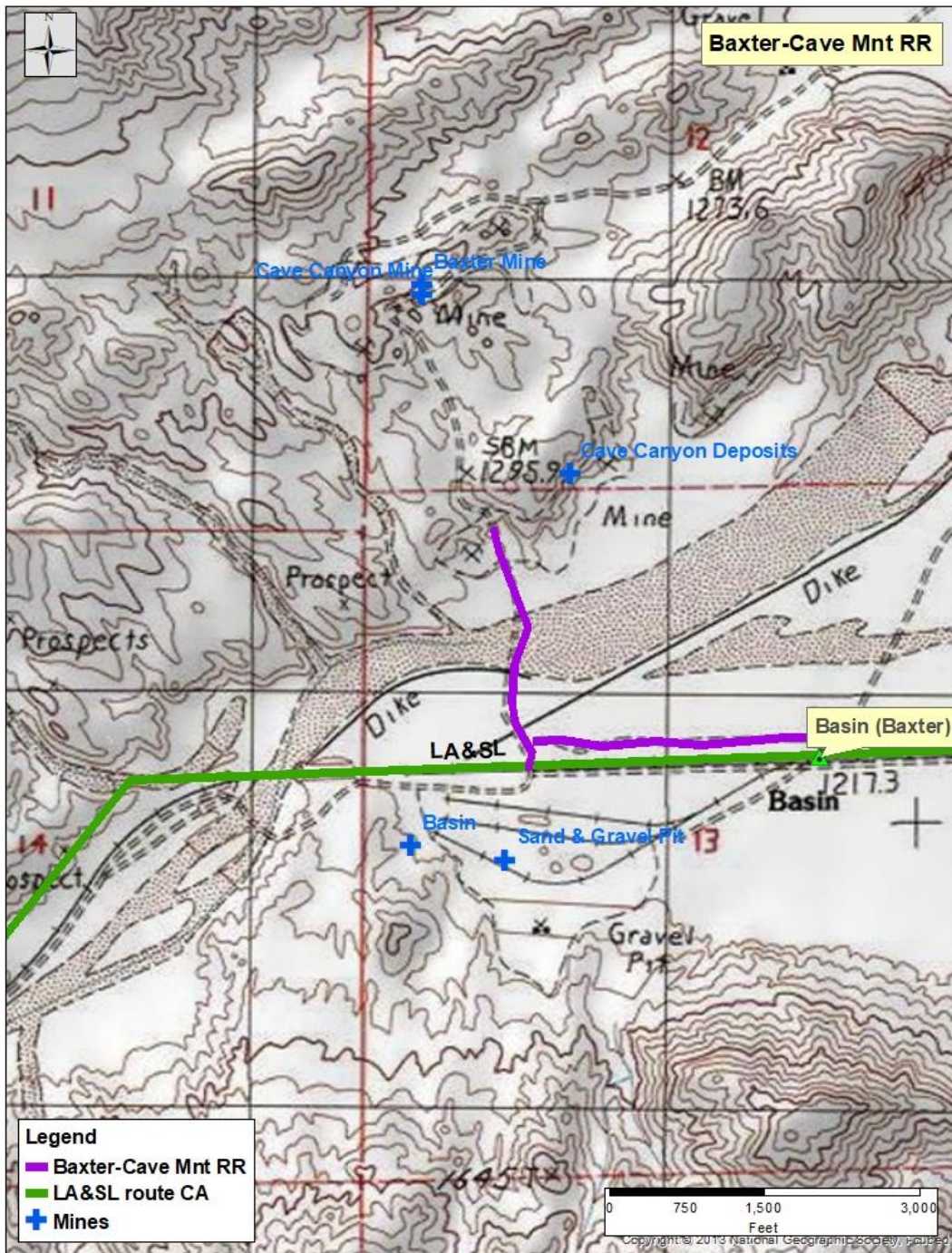
Caption: Baxter (White Marble) Mine. California Division of Mines and Geology, 1915. From Larry Vredenburg Collection.

The limestone was loaded into open ore cars through a series of ore dispensers. Instead of having one ore bin and moving cars sequentially under it, a series of cars were brought to the dispensing area and all loaded simultaneously. The Baxter mine railroad connecting to the LA&SL was constructed around 1910 with tracks added in 1914 and 1917 (Wilkerson, 2018b, Wilkerson 2023p, Myrick, 1963:760).



Caption. Limestone loading area, Cave Mine. Photo by Gregg Wilkerson, 2019.





## REFERENCES

All references in this report are listed at <http://www.greggwilkerson.com/iv-references.html>