

CORONER'S INQUEST.

This Deponent* Matthew M^c Mahon

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

on his oath saith, I am a miner

residing at Wanthaggi

* Christian and Surname in full.

I have had 7 months experience here and 17 years experience of gold mining chiefly alluvial.

300 yds on
I was working in No 5 shaft ^{1/4} of mile from the scene of accident. I viewed the board on Wednesday morning. I saw the coal when fell in decreased. I consider the board well timbered & in my opinion safe to work in.

To Mr McKenzie I am president of the local Miners Association Mr Murphy Secretary of Mr Moore & Mr McKenzie & Mr Brown were with me when I made inspection. I did not know deceased.

M. M^c Mahon

Taken and Sworn before me the 16th day

of June 1900 at Wanthaggi

Robert A. Cole

Coroner.

CORONER'S INQUEST.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

This Deponent* George Herbert Moore

on hⁱ oath saith, I am a Certificate Colliery Manager,

residing at _____

* Christian and Surname in full.

I have had about 25 years experience of coal mining. I am the general manager of the State Coal Mines. The men are engaged under the instructions of the mine manager. I have examined the scene of accident. I saw it the following morning. When I saw it I found a well timbered the last set of timber being about 7 feet from the face of the roof of the place which is of standard was good I noticed that a hole had been drilled on the right hand rib & that the hole had apparently been put in beyond the timber undercutting. With the result in my opinion that the energy of the shot had been expended in the solid coal rather than in bringing down the top coal. I saw the coal lying on the ground in 4 or 5 large pieces the left hand rib was clear of coal. The plan A. corresponds with my observation of the face & appears to correctly represent the conditions there. I have left the getting of hands entirely to the mine manager. In my opinion the acco

Plan A. and axes attached hereto

Taken and Sworn before me the _____ day

of _____ 190

18th 1910

Coroner.

CORONER'S INQUEST.

This Deponent* George Herbert Broome

VICTORIA, TO WIT,

on h oath saith, I am a Contractor

residing at.....

* Christian and Surname in full.

dent ought never to have occurred. The men could surely have taken down the coal & there was no occasion to work under it or to timber it. The usual practice after firing a shot is to turn down all loose coal before going into the face to work.

To Mr Conolly. The accident is I think attributable to negligence of the men engaged. If the hole had not been too deep the coal could probably have come away with the shot. I have heard the evidence of Lawson.

To the Com. I have heard Lawson's evidence. I have not before heard of two men working separately from each other in a face. They should have worked together. If not agreeing together it should have been reported they should have been mates. ~~It~~

Note

Geo. H. Broome

Taken and Sworn before me the 16th day of June 1900 at Wonthaggi
Mont J. Cole
Coroner.

CORONER'S INQUEST.

This Deponent* Daniel Campbell McKenzie

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

on h oath saith, I am a Mine Manager

residing at State Coal Mines

* Christian and Surname in full.

I have been for the last two months ^{the} manager of these mines before that I have had full control of the running operations here. I have a Certificate^{as} Colliery Manager both here in Victoria & in Great Britain. I have 16 years experience in all branches of the work including inspection of mines which position I held for 2 1/2 years. Under my direction the mining operations have been carried out. Looking at Plan A. it is drawn by the Surveyor under my direction. The work the measurements in my opinion it is correct. Roughly I measure the shot here it is fully 3 feet long. In my opinion it is too deep for the depth of coal or under cutting. It should have been 2 feet 4 inches deep assuming the under cutting to be 2 ft 6 in. The under cutting here I take to have been 2 ft 6 in or 2 ft 7 in. The chances are the top coal & the bottom coal would have come out to the depth of 2 ft 6 in if the shot had been properly balanced. The amount of charge is usually left to the miners judgement. Men are always putting in

Taken and Sworn before me the _____ day
 of _____ 1910 at _____

 Coroner.

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CORONER'S INQUEST.

This Deponent* Daniel Campbell McKenzie

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

on h oath saith, I am a Contractor

residing at _____

* Christian and Surname in full.

Mr. M. should measure a hole to get the length of fuse. Mr. M. should measure the amount of under cutting to be done. I did not know anything of the men's disagreement. Under the conditions it was impossible to get any certain work. In my opinion the place was one of the safest in the mine.

To Mr. Broome. I have heard the evidence of Lawson the charge he put in was ample to bring down the coal. My deputies have reported holes as put in too deep. In such case I should personally instruct him that the holes were not to be bored beyond the under cutting. I should speak severely to him as the practice is dangerous. If the mine was fiery or dusty it might cause a disastrous explosion.

To Mr. Conroy. I should say that I attribute the death to the absolute negligence of the men in that place.

To Mr. Broome. I have taken care to employ competent miners in the faces. In reporting a man as employed we take down his age then his condition married or not & then his ^{general} mining experience. In some cases

Taken and Sworn before me the _____ day
of 11th 1901, at 10.6.

Coroner.

CORONER'S INQUEST.

VICTORIA, TO WIT,

This Deponent*

Daniel Campbell McLenzie

on h

oath saith, I am a

Coalminer

residing at

* Christian and Surname in full.

Cases men are employed after a verbal questioning when we are satisfied that the man is a practical miner. Not necessarily a coal miner we give him a trial. It is not usual to get documentary evidence from a mine. We have to take his word. Then we observe his work.

So Mr. Sharpe. The deceased was not under my notice as incompetent. He had been 3 weeks in the mine working in the face. That should have taught him something.

So the coroner. If a man is employed for the first time in a face he is put with a chosen experienced man.

I think a gold mining experience is a qualification for a coal miners job. Gold miners particularly alluvial miners work under conditions when the general safety of the place requires constant observation & skill. They make better general timberers. Assuming therefore that the deceased had been in an alluvial mine he should have had some experience & some skill & ought to have been a careful man. I should not say that he was an untutored man who had to rely upon his mate.

Taken and Sworn before me the 16th day

of June 1900 at Wonthaggi

Mount St. Crow

Coroner.

D. C. Mackenzie

CORONER'S INQUEST.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

This Deponent*

Dodwell Henry Brown

on his oath saith, I am a *Submanager State Mines*

residing at *Wonthaggi*

* Christian and Surname in full.

I control the Mining Operations under Mr McKenzie. I engaged the man. I engaged the deceased about 3 weeks ago. I then took him from the quarries ^{state} Wonthaggi where he had been working for about 4 months. Immediately previous because he had asked me many times during that period for employment under ground having represented himself as a skilled alluvial miner from Chiltern. I having noticed him as a workman while employed with the Carpenter about 5 months ago I considered him a willing hardy man. We have to take men's word for qual questions it is usually reliable we judge them after employment by their work. I have always given my Deputies full power to discharge any man who may be considered by them to be incompetent. By incompetence I mean inability to do full measure of work as a miner. I have not had occasion to criticize his work. I relinquished this shaft No 3 just at the time he was engaged. I have seen the place of accident I agree with the evidence given as to its safety.

Taken and Sworn before me the *16th* day
of *June* 1900 at *Wonthaggi*
Mount Cole
Coroner.

D H Brown

CORONER'S INQUEST.

This Deponent* Arthur Newton Sharpe

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

on his oath saith, I am a Government Mining Inspector
residing at Preston.

* Christian and Surname in full.

I have had over 30 years experience of
 mining. I have had ~~some~~ ^{some} of Coal
 mining operations but not as working as
 a mine for 4 years at Koorumburra
 Outtrim & Jumburra. I have inspected
 the No 3 shaft & workings of the State
 Coal Mines Wonthaggi. I have seen the
 place of accident. My opinion is that
 the over hanging coal after the shaft
 was fixed was obviously so unsafe
 that without sounding or viewing it
 minutely it was the duty of deceased
 to wedge or bar it down according
 to circumstances. The mate should have
 seen to this: but ~~under~~ the conditions
 disclosed by his evidence. ~~the state~~
 of this are much peculiar & difficult
 to understand. I know the children
 mines they require expert men in the
 face. I would not say that his
 work in those mines rendered him
 careless. I cannot understand the
 matter unless I take it that deceased
 was not so mentally alert at the
 time as he should have been. The
 hole was too deep, but even with that blunder
 a wedge & hammer would have brought

Alc.

Taken and Sworn before me the 16th day
 of June 1900 at Wonthaggi
Robert A. Cole
 Coroner.

Arthur Newton Sharpe
Inspector of Mines

CORONER'S INQUEST.

This Deponent* Andrew Hawthorn Sharpe

VICTORIA, TO WIT,

on h oath saith, I am a Continuing

* Christian and Surname in full.

residing at _____

Away the Coal. I found all the working conditions favourable the air was clear the board was only 13 or 14 feet from the air way. I under those circumstances the smoke would not remain but would come into the drive & disperse. More accidents occur at night shift in my experience.

To Mr Broome. After agreeing to work apart I consider that under the circumstances he was covered by his mate.

To Mr Conolly. An experienced miner would not have put in the hole so deep. A thorough miner might stem up the hole but I do not think the general body

of miners would do it. Regarding the nature of roof & leafy character of coal it should have been the coal was in situ it should have come away nicely & should not have deceived the judgment of the miners. Charges do not always leave their burdens. The plan A is correct except at ^{generally} ~~the~~ ~~number~~ the roof is good.

Andrew Sharpe
Miner

Taken and Sworn before me the 16th day

of June 1910 at Wonthaggi

Mont H Cole

Coroner.

CORONER'S INQUEST.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

This Deponent* Alfred Doughton Pitt

on his oath saith, I am a Surveyor (Assistant)

residing at Wonthaggi

* Christian and Surname in full.

I am assistant surveyor in the State Coal mines. I see the plan produced I made it. All data measurements actually taken in the drags by myself. I was with a boy at the time. The measurements in ^{ink} pencil are correct. The notes ^{in ink} explain the plan.

R.H.C.

Alfred Pitt
 ?

Taken and Sworn before me the 16th day
 of June 1910 at Wonthaggi
Robert H. Cole
 Coroner.

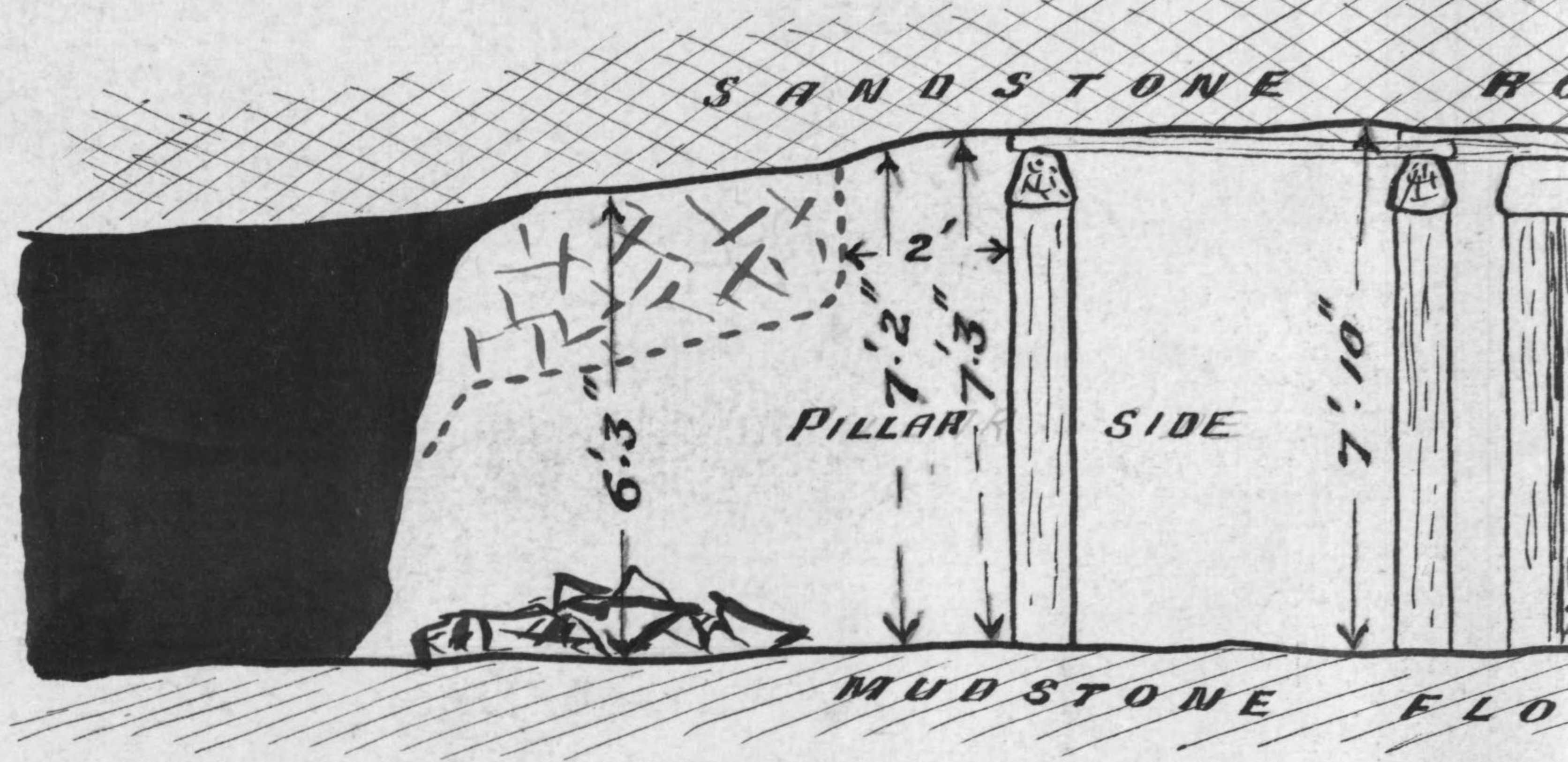
1 of 2

LONGITUDINAL SECTION

D II

SCENE OF

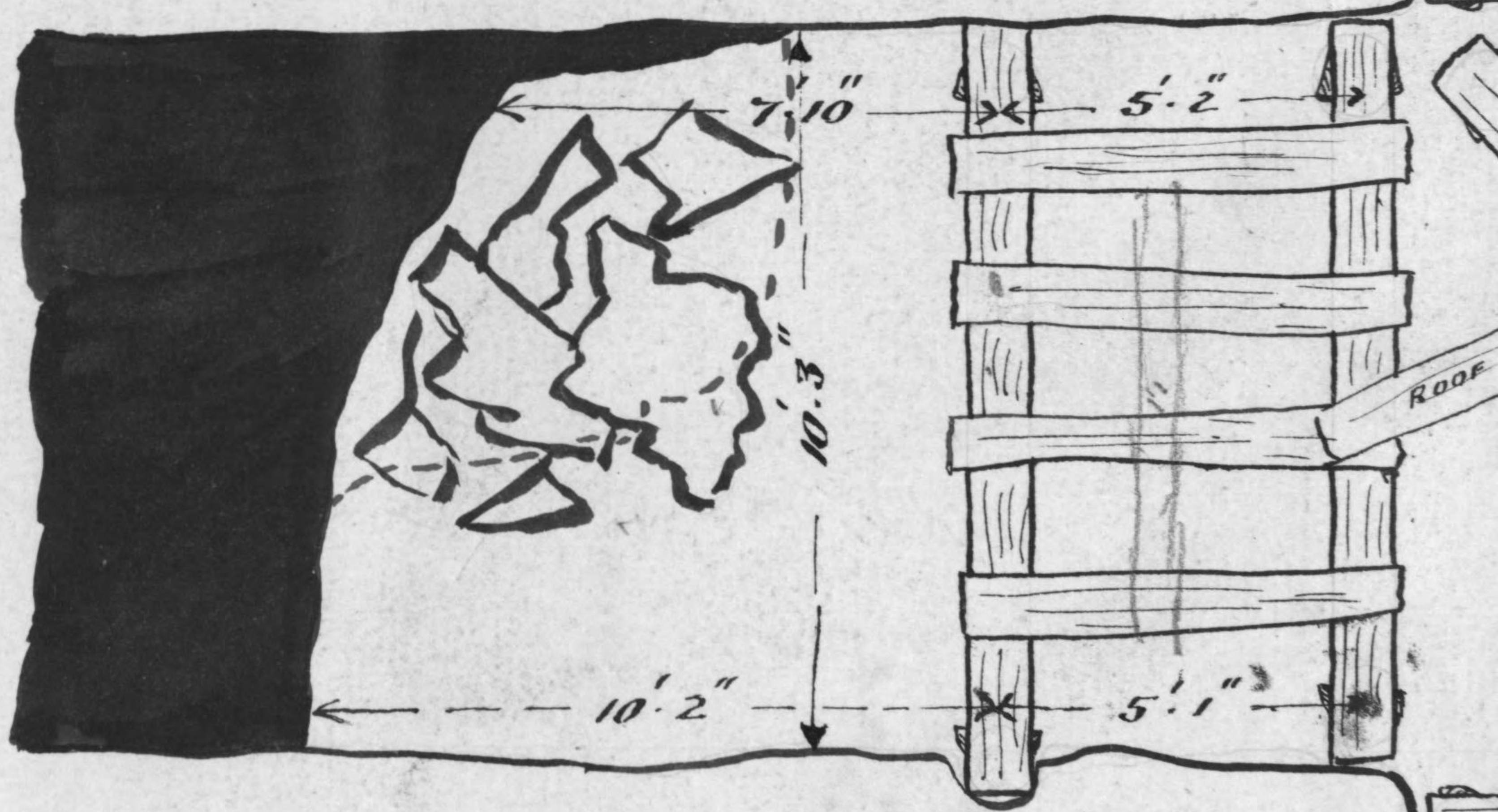
SCALE 4 FT



Note. Red lines denote approximate position of overhanging coal, immediately before accident.

Alfred Pitt
Assist. Surveyor.

PILLAR



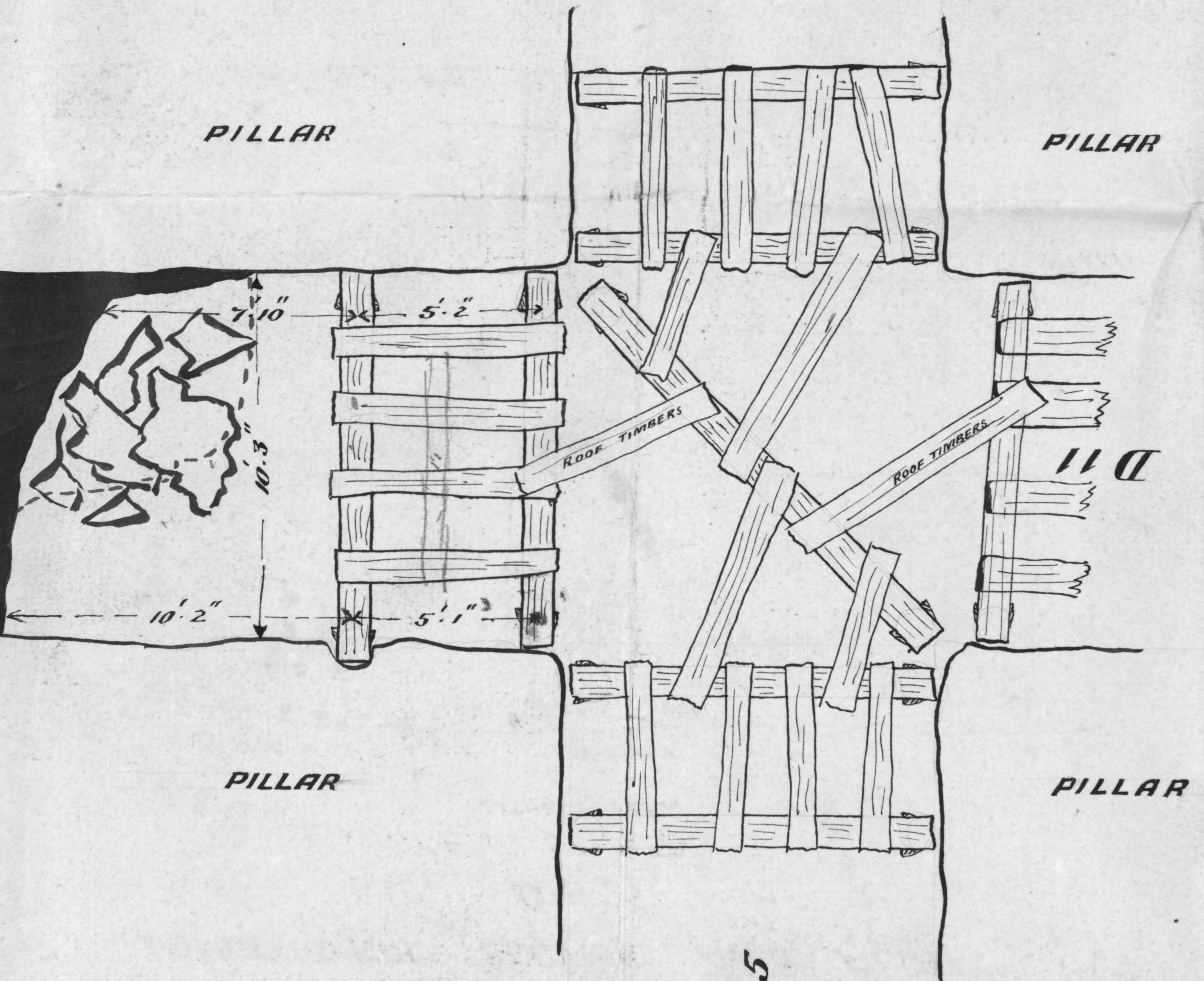
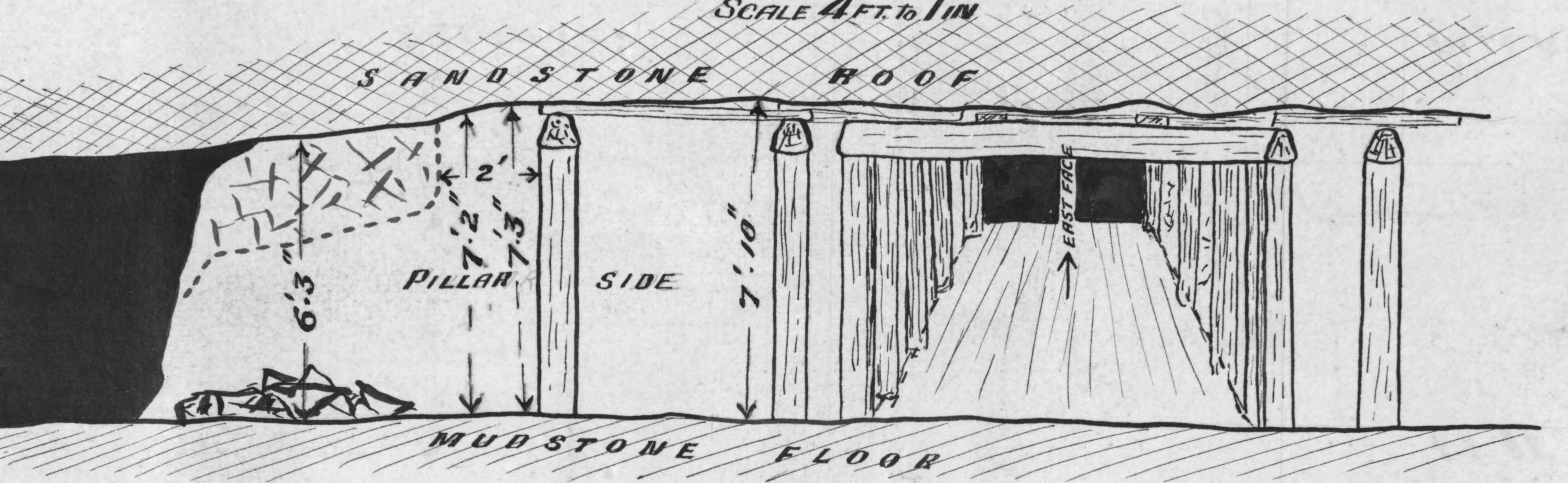
PILLAR

LONGITUDINAL SECTION AND PLAN

D II

SCENE OF FATALITY

SCALE 4 FT. TO 1 IN.



D 5

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