

# MISSOURI MINES STATE HISTORIC SITE MAP

## LEGEND

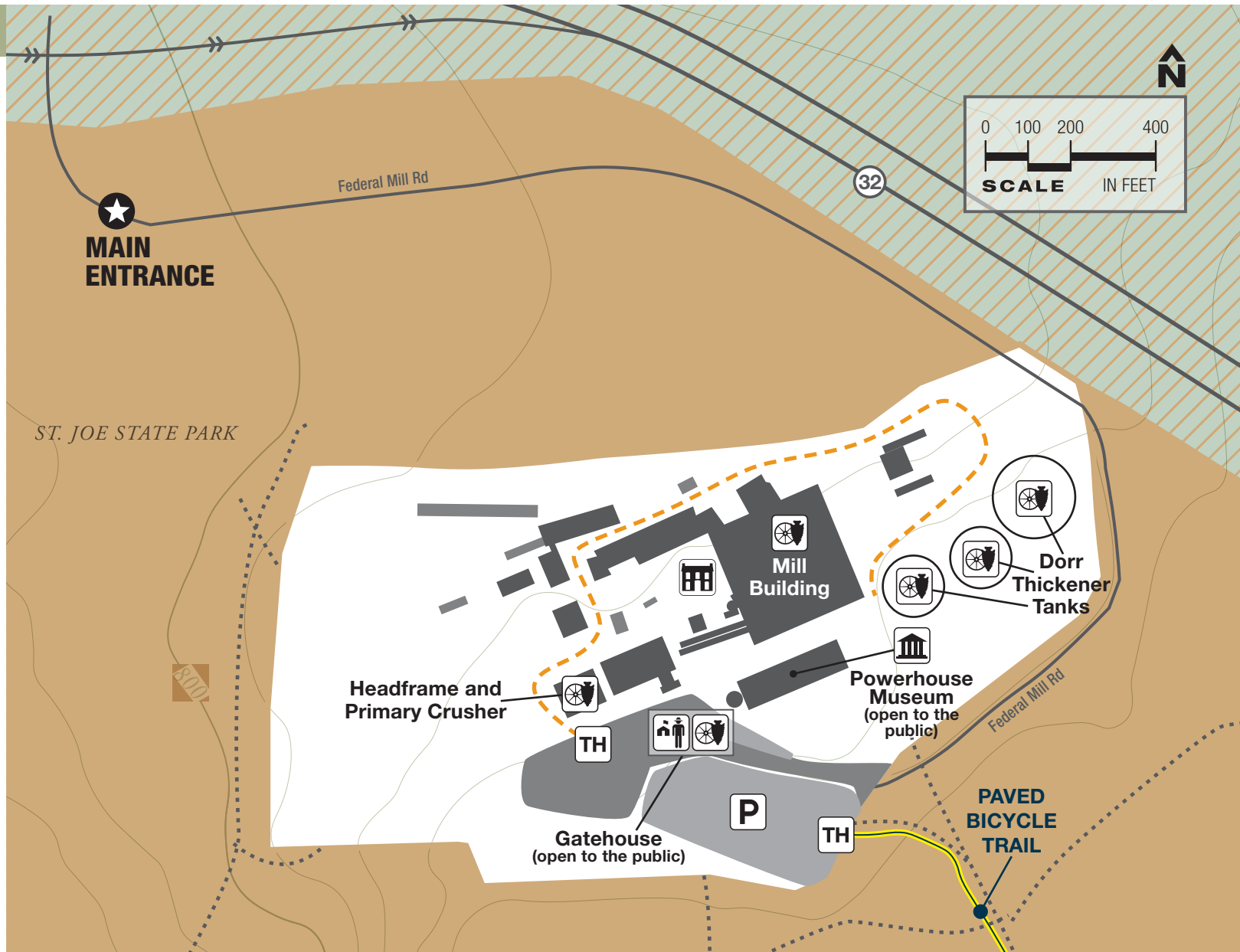
-  Main entrance
-  U.S. highway (multi-lane)
-  Road lines
-  Gravel road
-  Direction of travel
-  Land contour
-  Not state park property
-  Park boundary
-  Stream or creek
-  Guided trail tour
-  Trail blazed in yellow
-  Check station / park office
-  Cultural feature / historic area
-  Historic structure
-  Museum
-  Parking
-  Trailhead



## CONTACT INFORMATION

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State Historic Site  
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DISCLAIMER: This map is not a legal survey. The Missouri Department of Natural Resources makes no warranty, expressed or implied, as to the accuracy of the data or related materials and is not responsible for any damage or loss resulting from its use.

## INTRODUCTION

Located within the eastern Ozarks is an area known as the Lead Belt, part of the Southeast Missouri Lead District. This area became the nation's premier source of lead metal for over 60 years, and today Missouri Mines State Historic Site is one of the few remnants of the Old Lead Belt area.

Serious small-scale mining for lead began in the district in the early 1700s. A large demand for lead in the late 19th century brought major corporate enterprises to the area. Missouri Mines State Historic Site, originally built in 1906, was the location of Federal Mill #3 of the Federal Lead Company. In 1923, the St. Joseph Lead Company purchased the site and it became the largest lead mine and mill complex in the district. St. Joseph Lead Company continued to dominate ore production in the heart of the Old Lead Belt for the next several decades.

After demand and production decreased, operations ceased at the site in 1972. In 1976, the company donated the site's 25 buildings and surrounding land to the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. The donated property became Missouri Mines State Historic Site and St. Joe State Park. Missouri Mines State Historic Site opened to the public in 1988.

## GATEHOUSE

### *Open to the public*

The Gatehouse served as an administrative office for the site. This included a payroll office where miners would receive paychecks, a scale for weighing ore and waste rock, and a small company store. The building now serves as the site office and retail shop.

## POWERHOUSE MUSEUM

### *Open to the public*

Constructed in 1906, the Powerhouse was built to power the mill site. The building contained steam-generating turbines and used coal for fuel. In 1923, the building was converted to a more modern electrical system. Over time, the building took many forms with the addition of showers and locker rooms. It now is a museum that interprets Missouri's mining history and houses an extensive mineral collection that showcases Missouri's rich geological resources.

## HEADFRAME AND PRIMARY CRUSHER

These two structures were constructed in 1923 after the acquisition of the site by the St. Joseph Lead Company. Area mines already ran underground at the site, so the Headframe and elevator shaft were built from below ground up rather than top down, giving access to the preexisting mines. The Primary Crusher mechanically grinds down the ore before processing it at the Mill Building.

## MILL BUILDING

The Mill Building received rock and ore using large conveyor belts from the crushers. The ore was further crushed to the size of a grain of sand and mixed with water via mechanical equipment such as shaker tables. Over time, a chemical flotation process was added to aid in the separation of ore and waste rock. In the 1960s, the process was switched completely to chemical as it was a more efficient process.

## DORR THICKENER TANKS

The Dorr Thickener Tanks held concentrated wet products produced in the Mill Building. In addition, two other smaller tanks on-site were added to the processing of the product. These products were thickened with chemicals and rotated in the tank to aid in product movement at the site.

## GUIDED TRAIL TOUR ROUTE

The Interpretive Trail at Missouri Mines State Historic Site is an approximately 0.40-mile trail on gravel surfaces. The trail takes visitors on a guided walk around the structures that make up the historic mine site.

*\*The trail is open during select guided tours only.*

