

## Madrid Special Places Mapping 1. Civic Pride and History

Iowa Department of Transportation

**Trees Forever** 

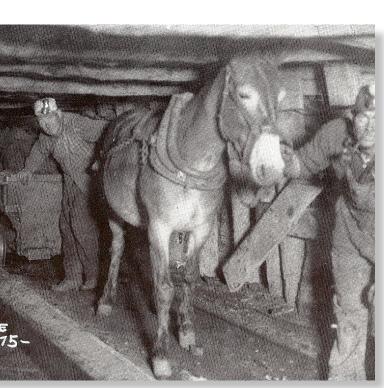
ISU Landscape Architecture Extension



Coal Mine Memorial. Source: Nate Schlorholtz



Coal Mine Memorial. Source: Nate Schlorholtz



Historic Coal Mine. Source: Madrid Iowa: A Proud Community pg.123

Madrid's history is intertwined with the development of mining and the old **Chicago** Milwaukee Railroad (3). Rich deposits of coal and shale underlie the land surrounding the Des Moines River Valley, which provided a valuable export and employment for residents of Madrid in the early 1900's. Madrid's town history is closely linked with surrounding **mining** history (1). The Driscoll/Blythe, Wisecup Bank, and Knox Brothers Mines were located north of Madrid, according to Madrid Centennial 1883– 1983. Other areas mines included The Pritchard Mine, WH Bernard Coal Company, the Carpenter Coal Company, and the Scandia Mine to the south; and the High Bridge Coal Company to the west at the site of the Des Moines River crossing. The Scandia Mine bought mineral rights to the area and ultimately became the area's largest operator and employer. The coal was mined using human and animal labor in the mines, using donkeys to bring the coal up from the mine shafts. From the mine shaft openings, coal was transported to the rail head where it was loaded and shipped.

Mining brought a diverse ethnic community to Madrid, which had been settled by Swedish immigrants. Croatians and Italians settled in the mining camp communities and frequented Madrid, with a liberal sprinkling of persons of Irish and German descent. **Boxtown (4)** was created in Madrid with the closing of some of the mine camps, so named because small, box-like homes were moved in from the nearby areas and placed within city limits to form an entirely new neighborhood.

Summer 20

ISU Extension Community and Economic Development