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## **THE HISTORY OF ROOM-AND-PILLAR SALT MINES IN NEW YORK STATE**

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### **Abstract**

The first room-and-pillar salt mine in New York State, the Retsof Mine, went into operation in 1885. Other mines in Genesee and Livingston Counties that soon followed and included the Lehigh, Livonia, Greigsville, and Sterling Mines. The Retsof Mine ultimately grew to be the largest salt mine in the western hemisphere before succumbing to groundwater inflow in 1995.

The Cayuga Salt Mine, located along the eastern shore of Cayuga Lake at Lansing, Tompkins County, started shaft sinking in 1916 and started production in 1923. This mine is the easternmost room-and-pillar salt mine developed in the United States.

The Himrod Mine started operations on the west side of Seneca Lake in 1971. A combination of low salt prices, geologic complexity, environmental issues, and other factors led to the mine closure by 1976.

The Hampton Corners Mine, located east of Mount Morris, Livingston County, is the newest mine in New York. It was originally planned as a replacement for the Retsof Mine. The Hampton Corners Mine started development in 1998 and opened in 2000.

**Keywords:** Salt, Mine, New York, History

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