

MINING IN ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK

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INTRODUCTION

This paper is taken verbatim from Chapter 6 in *The Historic Archeology of Rocky Mountain National Park* (Butler 2005), and only the page numbers have been changed. It is thought that this separate paper will be of more useful to individuals interested in mining, rather than the complete 300 page report with chapters on homesteading, sawmills, transportation, ranches and resorts, water, hydroelectric plants, Civilian Conservation Corps, and National Park Service archeological sites. The information presented here is limited to that necessary to place the resource in perspective for archeological identification and evaluation, i.e., it is not intended to be a complete history of the mines or mining; other sources should be sought for more in-depth information. Reference is often made to studies by John Gubbins who has been an invaluable source of information on mining on the west side of the park. Mr. Gubbins spent his summers in the Kawuneeche Valley and investigated the mines and mining archives as a hobby. His forthcoming book on “Mining in the Kawuneeche Valley” will put some flesh on the bare bones presented here. The text often refers to mines and features as being on the “east side” or “west side” of the park, i.e., east or west of the Continental Divide.

BACKGROUND

The history of Colorado is often said to have begun when gold was discovered near Denver in 1858-1859. The Colorado mineral belt stretches from the northeast mountains just south of the park in the Jamestown and Gold Hill area, southwest across the state to the San Juan Mountains just north of Durango. In order of production in 1994, Colorado ranks at or near the top nationally for the production of silver, molybdenum, vanadium gold, tungsten, lead, zinc and copper, and is second only to California in terms of mineral variety and total production. Placer mining of minerals on or near the surface was followed by underground lode mining (Noel, Mahoney, and Stevens 1994:33).

Of the 505 major gold mining districts in the United States, 46 are in Colorado. Colorado also has 7 of the 25 principal silver districts in the nation (Noel, Mahoney, and Stevens 1994:33). Here we are concerned with the mines in the Longs Peak Mining District (aka the Allenspark or Meeker Mines) on the east side of the park, and in the Campbell and Lead Mountain Mining Districts in the Kawuneeche Valley. All of the mines in the park were excavations using vertical or horizontal shafts, and no placer mining is known from archival sources or from field observations to have occurred in the area. A brief history of mining is summarized below for Allenspark area from the unpublished manuscripts by Robert Spude (1990), and in the Kawuneeche Valley from notes and conversations with local mining historian John Gubbins (see also Gubbins n.d.).

The recent donation to the park of several original documents about Joseph Shipler and the Denver and Middle Park Mining Company in the Lead Mountain District provides important information on mining in the valley in the 1880s.

Figure 6.1 present the major mines on both sides of the park, and Tables 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 list of all the mines known for the park. Table 6.4 is concerned with those mines noted on an 1880 map for the Lead Mountain Mining District (Figure 6.2). Although mines dating from the 1870s were present on both sides of the park, all mining activity ended before the turn of the century primarily because of the low quality ores and the high costs associated with long distant transportation to reduction mills.

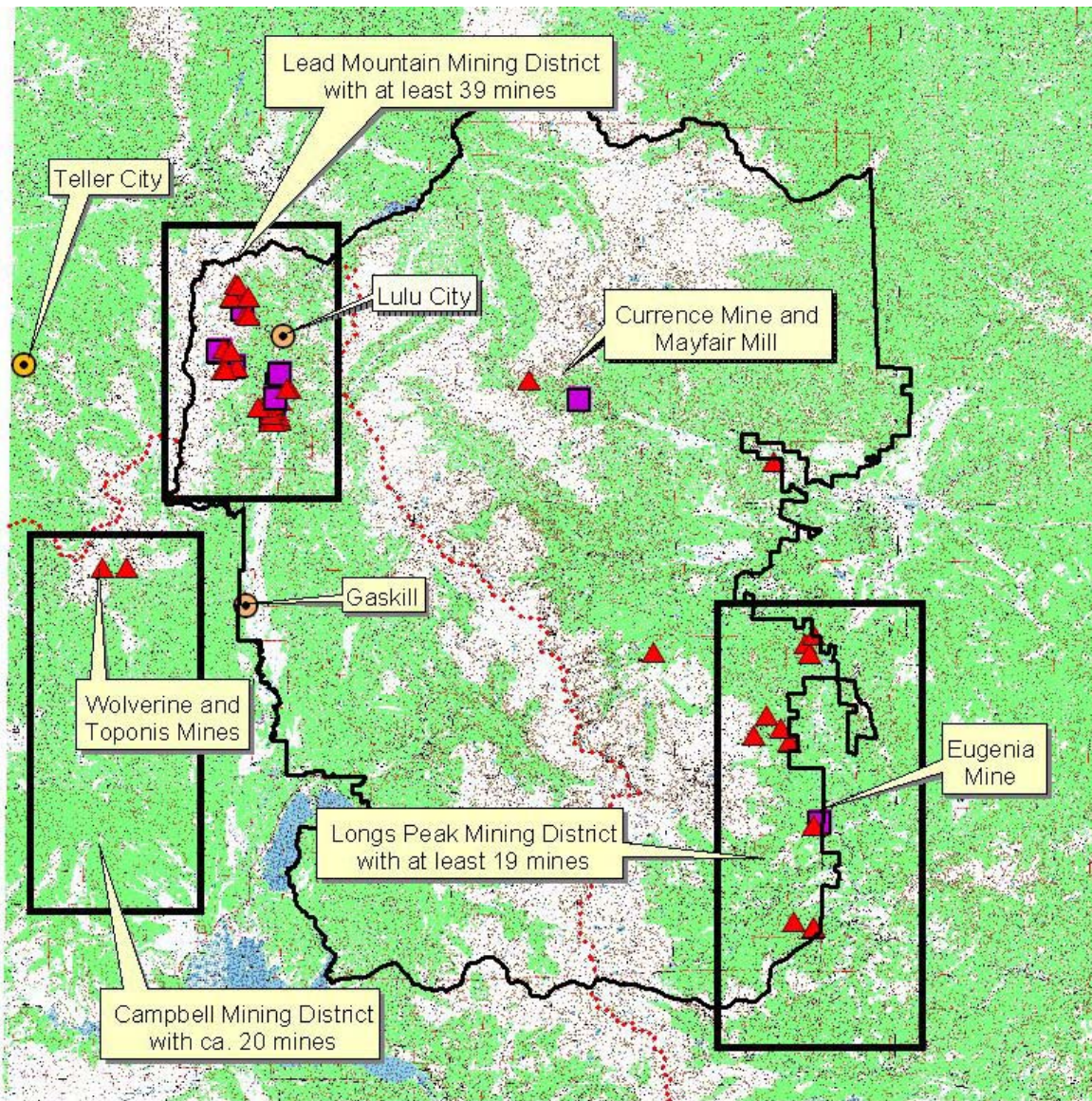


Figure 6.1. Mines and Mining Related Sites in Rocky Mountain National Park.

Although the location of 19 mines are known for the east side of the park in the Longs Peak Mining District, information on most of them is very scant. On the west side of the park, copper was mined south of Grand Lake, and coal was mined west of the Never Summer Range in North Park (Black 1969:294).

The northern-most source of commercial grade ores was the fairly successful Wolverine gold mine on Bowen Gulch west of the Kawuneeche Valley. In fact, the Wolverine was the only mine anywhere in the area that actually produced ore and made money.

The Wolverine, Toponis, Ruby, Cross, and Cleopatra mines, and the Jim Bourne Tunnel (and several more mines) are all located outside the west side of the park in Bowen Gulch and in what was known as the Campbell Mining District. Some of these mines are discussed here because of their relationship to the towns of Gaskill and Lulu City and the rest of the mining endeavors in the Kawuneeche Valley.

About 56 mines, or mine claims, are known from the literature for the Lead Mountain District in Kawuneeche Valley. Although the actual location is known for 39 mines, archeological remains and archival information is available for less than 20. These are discussed below in the section on West Side Mining.

Mines on the east side of the park included the Prospect Canyon Mine, Johnny Adams, Eugenia, Pack Rat, Jimmy Fields, Bill Currence, Big Indian, and Meeker Mines. Several other mines outside the park in the Tahosa Valley were also patented such as the Columbia and Clara Belle.

Mining related equipment such as shovels, drills, picks, wheelbarrows, boilers, ore cars that ran on tracks, tracks in a mine, etc., are rarely found. Not only did the CCC clean up the park and remove many of these items in the 1930s, the Mineral Mining Service's "Abandoned Mine" program in the 1960s resulted in further removal of such items as well as closure of mines with steel bars or by collapsing the entrances.

Although Allenspark can be considered a mining town, the only real mining towns were those on the west side of the park such as Teller City, Lulu City, and Gaskill. Dutchtown, Gillette, and Fairfax are mentioned as being towns, when in fact they were only a couple of cabins.

The following presents what information is known about the mines in the park along with archeological descriptions. We note, however, that many mines and prospects may have been filled in by natural collapsing of the steep slopes where they were located which has thus made field identification difficult. Furthermore, the NPS, CCC, and Mineral Mining Service have all done their best to remove any indication of their existence.

INTRODUCTION TO MINING

No attempt will be made here to present all the information one needs to know to understand the complexities of mining in Colorado. Hopefully, what is provided is some

basic information that will assist in understanding the archeological record. Mining terms, equipment, and procedures, etc., can be found in Noble and Spude (1992), and especially in Eric Twitty's *Riches to Rust: A Guide to Mining in the Old West* (2002). Many sources exist on mining in general and mining in Colorado, and readers are directed to the extensive bibliography in Twitty (2002). An overview of mining in Colorado can be found in the *Historical Atlas of Colorado* (Noel, Mahoney, and Stevens 1994:32-38).

One of the more interesting sources of information on mining was a pamphlet produced by the Colorado and Southern Railway to promote mining: the "Edition of 1889 of the Colorado Mineral Series" included a lengthy section on "Hints for Prospectors, with Summary of Most Important Mining Laws, Maps, and General Information". Although this pamphlet does not include any discussion or maps of mines or districts north of the town of Ward (well south of the park), it does contain a wealth of historical information about mining in general, mining districts, mining terms, methods of mining and mine development, methods of ore reduction, mining laws and mining claims. One of the more interesting sections includes a series of tables on the weight of various minerals by cubic foot, the cubic feet in one ton, conversion tables to the metric system, methods for determining the costs for stoping (digging) per ton, list of minerals, capacity of cisterns and tanks, melting points of various metals, "miners inch of water" flow, and the costs of mining in Colorado in the 1880s (Colorado and Southern 1889).

The following section briefly explains how mining claims were laid out in Colorado as this information is important in understanding physical nature and distribution of prospects, mines, adits, etc., that might be found during a cultural resource survey. This information is also important in understanding the archival records and in locating mines and claims in the field. The following is derived from the Colorado and Southern pamphlet (1889), Spude (1990), Noel, Mahoney, and Stevens (1994), and Twitty (2002).

Staking a Claim

Mining claims in Colorado followed the mining district laws that originated in California in the 1850s. The Federal Government passed the first mining law for public lands in 1866, that were later refined in the Federal Mining Law of 1872; these laws are still in effect. Placer claims were filed for surface minerals and the claim area was restricted after 1872 to a minimum of 20 acres, and a maximum of 160 acres. Lode, i.e. underground, claims were initially between 100 and 300 feet wide and 1,500 feet long. The width was expanded to 600 feet in Colorado. Miners could also file for additional sections of land to build mills or other ore processing facilities.

Mining Engineer and professor at the Colorado School of Mines, Arthur Lakes, described the method to locate claims in his popular prospectors guide. He describes the tellurium and sulphide gold veins of Boulder County and how to prospect, discover and locate or claim them. Colorado's mining law and the 1872 federal mining law as applied to Boulder, Gilpin, Clear Creek, and Summit counties were unique. Though federal law allowed claims to be staked 600' by

1500', in these counties the federal law allowed for earlier territorial laws to be applied which allowed claims of only 150' wide by 1500'. Claims in Allenspark, Boulder County staked at this time were 150' by 1500'. Those claims staked across the Larimer County line were 300' by 1500'. This differed from most claims in the West, which were 600 feet wide (Spude 1990).

Also, each claim had to be marked, a notice giving the boundaries and date of location left on the claim – and a copy filed at the county recorder's office – and a ten foot shaft dug into the mineral bearing ledge. Thus, every claim in the Allenspark area had to have a ten foot "discovery" shaft. Also, a claim stake with the discovery notice was posted, trees blazed or piles of stones erected to mark corners (Spude 1990).

And Twitty (2002:28) notes that:

Historians of the West have aptly characterized mineral rushes to heavily promoted mining districts as a frenzy of prospectors who laid a quilt work of mineral claims. In most districts the recognized hardrock claim was restricted to being 1,500 feet long and 600 feet wide, which left limited work space both above and below ground. In Colorado, prospectors were legally obligated to drive an adit or shaft, or sink a pit to a minimum of 10 feet to hold title to a hardrock claim, while they had to conduct \$100 worth of labor in other states. A small adit or pit was not adequate to fully explore the depths bounded by a 1,500 by 600 foot plot of ground, let alone to extract ore, forcing prospectors and mining companies to sink shafts.

Furthermore,

To hold the claim, \$100 worth of work on the mine or \$500 worth of improvements to the area was required each year – the "annual assessment". If the work was not performed, the claim reverted to federal ownership and was available for others to stake. In general, the amount of work was loosely interpreted to mean two weeks in the mine or the erection of a cabin (Spude 1990) (see also Noel, Mahoney, and Stevens 1994:13).

Thus, federal law required each claim to have a ten foot shaft, which required additional depth each year, that trees be hacked, rocks gathered and mounded, and cabins built or trails cleared in order to keep claims. For six miles around Allenspark, the former home of cowboy and coyote was now a mess of pits, stone piles and blazed trees. Longs Peak area resident Enos Mills, writing of a contemporary rush in 1897, editorialized on mining excitements: "There are thousands of claims, and like lottery tickets, most of them are not only worthless but expensive. The piles of worthless rock dug out of valueless claims are but monuments of wasted work; while the stakes marking their boundaries are standing like headstones above buried hope . . . What a terrible plague is the gold fever!" (Spude 1990).

The Colorado and Southern Railroad pamphlet of 1889 also summarizes sections of the 1878, 1883 and 1892 mining laws.

The physical staking of a claim was to include posting (signing) and marking with “six substantial posts hewed or marked on the side of sides which are in toward the claim, and sunk in the ground ... one at each corner and one at the center of each side line” (Colorado and Southern 1889:19).

A prospector must file on the claim within three months of the date of discovery with the county where the claim is located with “. . . a location certificate which shall contain: 1. The name of the load. 2. The name of the locator. 3. The date of location. 4. The number of feet in length claimed on each side of the center of the discovery shaft. 5. The general course of the lode as near as may be” (Colorado and Southern 1889:19).

The pamphlet goes on to provide information on relocation of abandoned claims, placer claims, lode claims, and tunnel claims, etc. Of interest to Rocky Mountain National Park are the sections in the pamphlet on “The Right to Timber on Public Lands”. Basically, the laws said that any bona fide resident is authorized to “fell and remove, for building, agricultural, mining or other domestic purposes, any timber or other trees growing or being on the building lands ... subject to such rules and regulation as the secretary of the interior may prescribe for the protection of the timber and of the undergrowth growing on such lands ...” (Colorado and Southern 1889:22).

Historic photographs of mining towns and mines in Colorado shows that enforcement of the secretary’s rules for forest preservation must have been very lax.

Processing

A discussion of ore milling and processing is far beyond the bounds of this paper, and readers are referred to Twitty (2002) for explanations. However, Twitty notes an important distinction between digging the ore out of the ground and processing it that leaves different signatures in the archeological record:

Engineers referred to exploration facilities as *temporary plants* and as *sinking plants* when associated with shafts. Such facilities were by nature small, labor-intensive, inefficient, portable, and most important, they required little capital. *Production plants*, on the other hand, usually represented long-term investment, and they were intended to maximize production while minimizing operating costs such as labor, maintenance, and energy consumption. Such facilities emphasized capital-intensive mechanization, engineering, planning, and scientific calculation. (Twitty 2002:28).

We note here that no evidence has been found in the park to suggest that any of the mining activity resulted in the construction of production plants.

MINES AND MINING RELATED SITES

As noted above, the history of Colorado is said to have begun with the finding of gold 1858 on the South Platte River near Cherry Creek in what is now Denver. Other finds quickly followed such as at Idaho Springs on Clear Creek in 1859, and on the North Fork of Clear Creek near the present day towns of Blackhawk and Central City (Buchholtz 1983:44-45). Miners also explored the Rocky Mountain National Park region beginning with Joel Estes in 1859 on the east side of the Park. Although Estes never found any paydirt, it did not discourage others from looking, and numerous prospect pits were dug throughout the area (Buchholtz 1983:89). Although it is said that numerous prospects (i.e., small 10 x 10 foot exploratory and claim pits) were excavated seemingly at random throughout the country side, few have been found and formally recorded in the park.

Although the Katherine Mill, Three Sisters Mill, and the Bill Currence Mill appear in the literature by those names, they were actually simple log cabins and no milling or processing took place at them, or in fact at any location in the park. Even the simplest and inexpensive to build and operate arrastras (rock crushers and mercury amalgam mills) were never constructed on the west side (see Twitty, Martin, and Kohler 2003 for information about arrastras). Information from the treasurer of the Denver and Middle Park Mining Company elaborates on the lack of anything but pick and shovels for mining on the west side. However, a mill was constructed in 1902 or 1903 near Allenspark (or Allen's Park) on the east side. However, the Allenspark mill (also called the Clara Belle) was a failure and there was no further mining near Horse Creek after about 1910 (Spude 1990).

Mining related resources may include cabins, mills, towns, and equipment such as shovels, drills, picks, wheel barrows, boilers, ore wagons that ran on tracks, tracks in a mine, etc. (see Noble and Spude 1992). Unfortunately, not only did the Civilian Conservation Corps clean up the park and remove many of these items in the 1930s, the Mineral Mining Service's "Abandoned Mine" program in the 1960s resulted in further removal of such items as well as the closure of mines with steel bars or by collapsing the entrances (John Gubbins, p.c. 2002).

Tables 6.1 lists all the mines and prospects known on the east side of the park, and Tables 6.2 and 6.3 for the west side; we caution that several other mines or prospects may exist in the park that have yet to be identified. Table 6.4 includes mines and prospects shown on the 1880 map of Lead Mountain Mining District. Many of these mines and prospects have not been formally recorded, and are so noted on the table as NEEDS REC. Several mines on this table are presently known only from a memo dated June 15, 1960 on quit claim deeds issued to the park in the 1959 and 1960. Also, information on several mines included on the tables have not been found as mines were often sold and renamed. Mines not in the park are not included on this table. Mines and mining-related resources were evaluated within the framework provided in *Guidelines for Identifying, Evaluating, and Registering Historic Mining Properties* (Noble and Spude 1992).

Table 6.1. Mines and Prospects on the East Side of Rocky Mountain National Park. Arrangement is from north to south, and east to west.

SITE NAME	REMARKS	SITE NO
	Longs Peak District	
Jimmy Fields Cabin and mine	Name from Jack Melton (YMCA). Mine 5LR10470 on USFS may be related.	5LR10475
Jimmy Fields (?) Prospects	NEEDS REC: Mining prospects along Aspen Brook may be related to the Jimmy Fields mines	
Mine Name Unknown	Outside park east of Aspen Brook on USFS lands; May be related to Jimmy Fields.	5LR10470
Eugenia Mine	Mine, steam boiler, walls of structure, wagon road.	5LR8950
Big Indian Mine	NEEDS REC; Reported as being on old Longs Peak trail a mile west of Longs Peak Inn.	
Pack Rat Mine	Mine shaft; powder magazine (?); see Pickering 1999:245.	5LR10511
Pack Rat Prospects	Two large prospect pits above 5LR10511	5LR10512
Pseudo mine claim pits	NEEDS REC; Two "mine pits" of Hughes Kirkwood (ca. 1900) said dug to discourage other prospectors:	5LR9874
Meeker Mines Cabin site: Spude #1	Cabin, tent site.	5BL3431.1
Meeker Mines Adit; Spude #2	Mine ca. 105 ft horizontal depth.	5BL3451.2
Meeker Mines Adit; Spude #3	Mine ca 90 ft horizontal depth.	5BL3451.3
Meeker Mines Prospect; Spude #4	Prospect Pit 20 x 20 x 15 ft deep.	5BL3451.4
Meeker Mines Prospect; Spude #5	Prospect Pit 20 x 20 x 10 ft deep	5BL3451.5
Mine Shaft	NEEDS REC; Longs Peak area.	
Mine prospects and debris	NEEDS REC; Longs Peak area.	
Mine Name Unknown	NEEDS REC; several mines on ridge south of Wild Basin; may be on 1906 Cooper map.	
	Fall River Area	
Johnny Adams Mine	NEEDS REC; reported by P. Hondius 5/11/01 to be a mine 6' wide x 100 ft deep; ca. 1930s? dug by J. Adams.	
Miner Bill Currence Cabins	Platforms for Hackmandy and Snowshoe Cabins	5LR10857
Miner Bill Currence Mines	NEEDS REC; Lincoln Lodes and White Rock Mines	5LR10858
Miner Bill Currence Mill Site	NEEDS REC; cabin was not a mill	5LR10859
	Glacier Basin Area	
Schwilke Prospect Canyon Mine	Ca. 1909; 100 foot deep mine and cabin located along Bear Lake Road. No archeological remains.	

Table 6.2. Mines and Prospects on the West Side of Rocky Mountain National Park. Arrangement is from north to south, and east to west.

SITE NAME	REMARKS	SITE NO
	Campbell – Lead Mountain Districts	
Possible Mine - Name Unknown	NEEDS REC; north of Dutchtown; no record of mine being recorded in GLO	
Possible Mine - Name Unknown	NEEDS REC; north of Dutchtown; no record of mine being recorded in GLO	
Three Sister Claim	NEEDS REC; south of Dutchtown; associated with E. W. Hitchings – see Hitchings Cabins and “Mill”	
Three Sister Mill	NEEDS REC; south of Dutchtown; associated with E. W. Hitchings – see Hitchings Cabins and “Mill”	
Mining prospect	Prospect hole 30 x 30 ft x 10 ft deep	5GA2880
Esmeralda Mine aka Esmeralda Lode	NEEDS REC; Notes on old USGS map: "Esmeralda Mine?" .	
Skeleton Gulch Cabin	Cabin ca. 10 x 12 ft log cabin remains; ca 1880-1910; related to Boanerges and Esmeralda Mines?	5GA2703
Boanerges Mine aka Boanerges Lode	NEEDS REC; Notes on old USGS Map "Buanerges Mine"; need verification.	
North Star Mine	1880s - 1920s; horizontal shaft to 300 ft. NPS "bat bars" across opening	5GA2201
Southern Cross Mine	NEEDS REC; vertical shaft mine 300 ft deep. Gold was found at mine.	5GA2200
Tiger Mine	NEEDS REC; High on west side of Shipler Mountain; tailings visible from trail	5GA2198
Elmer Mine	Name by process of elimination by John Gubbins	5GA2193
Prospect	Mine prospect ca. 60 ft east of Elmer Mine	5GA2891
Prospect Pit ?	Pit cut into granite, ca. 1878-1900	5GA2694
Wild Rose Mine	Ca. 150 ft SE of Triumph Mine and near trail	5GA2196
F. A. Wendenberger Prospect	Mine prospect SE of Wild Rose Mine; hidden under scree slope	5GA2892
Triumph Mine	Vertical shaft mine; important graffiti on wood supports. May have been part of a scam.	5GA2195
Mine - Name Unknown	NEEDS REC; Info only from Atkins 1964 map	
Illinois Mine	Also could be the James Mine; prospect holes 30 to 90 ft from mine; Also on Atkins 1964 map	5GA2888
Prospect below Illinois Mine	Mine prospect: ca. 120 ft east of Illinois mine; 10 x 10 x 10 deep.	5GA2889
Prospect	Mine prospect; ca. 120 meters SE of Illinois Mine. Might be the Ruby Mine.	5GA2890
Prospect	Mine prospect ca. 20 meters east of the Elmer Mine. Might be the Ruby Mine.	5GA2891
Rattler's Mine #1	NEEDS REC; Actually two mines ca 50 feet apart vertically; WBB arbitrary “Mine #1”	5GA2192.1
Rattler's Mine #2	NEEDS REC; Mine arbitrary numbered "Mine #2"	5GA2192.2

Table 6.2 (Concluded). Mines and Prospects on the West Side of Rocky Mountain National Park. Arrangement is from north to south, and east to west.

SITE NAME	REMARKS	SITE NO
Campbell – Lead Mountain Districts		
Iowa Prospect	Ca. 120 ft west of Katherine Mill site; NPS memo on quit claim mining deeds dated June 15, 1960 includes the following: Mineral Certificate No.2054; GLO Survey No. 17823A and 17823B; Tract No. 311; 49.99 acres and included the Illinois, Ruby, Iowa, and Elmer, Katherine Mining Claims, and Katherine Mill Site. Grand County Recorder Book 130 at Page 180.	5GA2191
Katherine Mill Site	Ca. 120 ft east of Iowa Prospect log cabin remains; not a mill site; NPS memo on quit claim mining deeds dated June 15, 1960 includes the following: Mineral Certificate No.2054; GLO Survey No. 17823A and 17823B; Tract No. 311; 49.99 acres and included the Illinois, Ruby, Iowa, and Elmer, Katherine Mining Claims, and Katherine Mill Site. Grand County Recorder Book 130 at Page 180.	5GA2190
Silver Star Mine	NEEDS REC; Mine; could be the Silver Streak Mine	5GA2189
Lulu Mine	Ca. 150 ft west of Burnett cabin (5GA2186)	5GA2187
Mining prospect	Pit 30 x 10 ft filled w/concrete	5GA2696
Burnett Cabin	Cabin: Benjamin Franklin Burnett Log cabin remains near his Lulu Mine (5GA2187)	5GA2186
Prospect Hole #1	Small prospect hole of Bob Wheeler (?)	5GA2184
Iron Mine	Mine	5GA2185
Diamond Crystal Mine	Ca. 1878	5GA2188

Table 6.3 Mines and Prospects on the West Site of Rocky Mountain National Park. Location Unknown, but in either the Campbell or Lead Mountain Districts. Most likely are related to mines of same name on Table 6.2 or 6.4.

SITE NAME	REMARKS	SITE NO
Location Unknown		
Independence Lode	GLO Survey No. 17826; Tract No. 300; Mineral Certificate No. 2082; Grand County Recorder Book 132 at Page 72; included in 41.3 acre area with the Boanerges, Shaffer, and Esmeralda. Independence and Shaffer not found in any literature.	
Shaffer Lode	GLO Survey No. 17810; Tract No. 301; Mineral Certificate No. 2073; Grand County Recorder Book 132 at Page 72; included in 41.3 acre area with the Boanerges, Independence, and Esmeralda. Independence and Shaffer not found in any literature.	
Dunderbery Lode	Mineral Certificate No. 3180 issued November 19, 1890. Surveyor General Lot 2244, Tract 305, as containing 10.33 acres. Grand County Recorder Book 132 at Page 289.	
Allie S. Claim	Mineral Certificate No.743; GLO Survey No. 12730; Tract No. 310; 33.8 acre area includes Wood Chuck, Jumbo, and Jeanette Claims. Grand County Recorder Book 130 at Page 180.	
Wood Chuck Claim	Mineral Certificate No.743; GLO Survey No. 12730; Tract No. 310; 33.8 acre area includes Allie S., Jumbo, and Jeanette Claims. Grand County Recorder Book 130 at Page 180.	
Jumbo Claim	Mineral Certificate No.743; GLO Survey No. 12730; Tract No. 310; 33.8 acre area includes Allie S., Wood Chuck, and Jeanette Claims. Grand County Recorder Book 130 at Page 180.	
Jeanette Claim	Mineral Certificate No.743; GLO Survey No. 12730; Tract No. 310; 33.8 acre area includes Allie S., Wood Chuck, and Jumbo Claims. Grand County Recorder Book 130 at Page 180.	
Katherine Mining Claims	NPS memo on quit claim mining deeds dated June 15, 1960 includes the following: Mineral Certificate No.2054; GLO Survey No. 17823A and 17823B; Tract No. 311; 49.99 acres and included the Illinois, Ruby, Iowa, and Elmer, Katherine Mining Claims, and Katherine Mill Site. Grand County Recorder Book 130 at Page 180.	

EAST SIDE MINING

Longs Peak Mining District – Allens Park and the Meeker Mines

Most of the information presented here concerning the mines in the Longs Peak Mining District, also known as the “Allens Park” (aka Allenspark) or “Meeker Mines”, comes from an unpublished manuscript by National Park Service historian Robert Spude (1990). No photographs have been found of any of the Meeker Mines while they were in operation.

Arps and Kingery (1994:17) suggest that the first prospecting in the Tahosa Valley may have been by Alonzo Nelson Allen who placed some prospect holes in the area in about 1864. He built a cabin about two miles east of the present town of Allenspark (the post office spelling) and helped blaze a trail from the park that was to take his name to Ward.

In October 1897, a party located two claims on the outcrop that likely is the site of the mine now known as the Eugenia, the furthest north of the Longs Peak district claims. The Larimer County records indicate that the Big Mary Lode was staked by John Zweg and W. F. McCoary, and the Eclipse Lode was staked by Mary Zweg, W. F. McCoary, and J. Hasmplugg. The name Zweg is prominent in the annals of mining in the early history of Boulder County. The first settler in 1860 of Jamestown was George Zweg and the discovery of important teluride ores at Gold Hill [near Boulder] occurred in 1879 by a "farmer" named Zweg. The unique name tempts a relationship but can't be confirmed (Spude 1990: Appendix 3).

After the 1896-1897 rush to Longs Peak district, mining collapsed until investors from Nebraska speculated on mines and built a mill in 1902-3 at Allenspark, six miles from the Eugenia. In 1902, a Denver Times reporter noted that the owners of the claims on the trail up Longs Peak were performing their annual assessment work, probably in anticipation of selling out. Unfortunately, there is no further reference to the original locators or their claims. In 1905 the claims were "discovered" again and staked by Carl P. Norwall and Edward Cudahy (Spude 1990: Appendix 3).

The Meeker Mines in the park included the Little Giant, Gold King, and Columbia Claim, and all were active between 1896-1902. However, the largest mines in the area were the Cashier and Homestead (Spude 1990). Other mines in the area were the Columbia and Clara Belle which began the mining boom in the Allenspark area in 1903 (Pickering 1999:244-245).

The Caribou Mine near Boulder was a very successful silver mine, and tungsten was also mined in the same area. However, nothing approaching commercial grade ore was found north of Allenspark.

The relationship between mining and the proposed Rocky Mountain National Park was not without conflict in the Allenspark area. Miners, ranchers, and the timber industry opposed the creation of the park as they believed a park would stop all these extractive industries. As the park was originally proposed to include most of the Indian Peaks area to the south, their opposition was effective in reducing the size of the park to about its present extent. As might be expected, opposition to the park diminished greatly when the mines played out and summer cabins and tourism became important (Buchholtz 1983; Spude 1990).

The mines of the Allenspark area were all speculative ventures that never produced mineral beyond the odd lot sold for mill tests or, in the case of the Clara Belle company, at a loss. Most claims were staked during the rush of 1896, more in the hopes of finding another Cripple Creek than the reality of finding rich ore. The investors from Nebraska wasted their capital on explorations that never panned out. Books that describe mining and mining camps of Colorado or Boulder County are silent on Allenspark and the Longs Peak Mining District, appropriately so. It was an ephemeral gold rush that caused the development of a nonproductive gold district. Mining's relationship to the settling of the local Allenspark area is minor, being overshadowed by the ranchers and homesteaders, and later tourism, that supports the community today (Spude 1990).

Jimmy Field's Mine (5LR10475)

Background

Site 5LR10475 is the cabin remains and associated prospect identified by Jack Melton of the YMCA of the Rockies as having belonged to a Mr. Jimmy Fields. No information has been found in any historical records about Fields or his mine, and a check of the BLM General Land Office patent records indicate that the mine was never filed on. The Field's cabin may be related to unnamed mine 5LR10470 located a quarter of a mile to the north of the cabin.

Archeological Observations

The cabin and mine were located on the south side of Aspen Brook along the ca. 1905 Reichardt (Aspen Brook) Stage Road (5LR1476) that went from Estes Park up to the Wind River Pass area. The cabin remains consist of a collapsed cabin constructed of milled boards on a rock and concrete foundation inset into a northeast facing mountainside. The cabin is set into the hill side and in outline measures 19 x 14 feet, and the east end consist of a porch roof extending the full width of the structure. Several bags of cured concrete were found near the porch – we speculate they may have become wet and thus were used in the bag as part of the porch foundation or steps. Fragments of a metal stove, purple bottle glass, and metal fragments are located adjacent to the structure. A 5 foot diameter privy pit (?) platform and filled in hole is located 50 feet to the north of the cabin. Some 80 feet to the south-southeast and on the same lower slope, is a 15 x 13

foot “mine” which really looks like nothing more than a prospect pit; very little in the way of tailings suggest excavations of only a few feet into the mountain. A large 26 foot long by 14 foot wide log and branch pile is located a few feet southeast (downslope) of the pit. Artifacts and construction traits suggest the site dates to early 20th Century, ca. 1900-1920.

Unnamed Mine (5LR10470)

The mine is located just outside the Park on lands administered by the U.S.D.A. Forest Service, Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest. The mine is located on the west facing side of Lily Mountain about 300 feet (100 meters) above Aspen Brook. The mine opening covers a surface area of about 20 x 25 feet, and extends downward about 30 feet from the surface. This mine might be related to the Jimmy Fields cabin and prospects (5LR10475) as it is located in the same valley and about one quarter of a mile to the north. Because of the paucity of tailings at the cabin, this may in fact be the Jimmy Fields mine. No information about the mine could be found in the BLM General Land Office patent records.

Eugenia Mine (5LR8950)

Background

The Eugenia Mine was filed on in October of 1897, and work began in 1905, and lasted until 1910 or 1911. Like so many other mines that did not pay off, information on the Eugenia is very limited.

The mining records of Larimer County, Carl P. Norwall and Edward Cudahy filed location notices on Eugenia claims No. 1 through 7 on August 21, 1905. On January 3, 1908, they filed again on the Eugenia Nos. 1 through 11, actually a relocation of 1 through 7, and new location on 8 through 11. Unlike Boulder County claims, the Eugenia claims were 300 feet wide (as opposed to 150) and the standard 1500 feet long. The eleven claims covered nearly one third mile square (Spude 1990: Appendix 3).

The first few seasons included only annual assessment work, the building of a boarding house, and doing a "summer's worth of work." In 1909-1910, activity increased under the superintendency of D. W. Slaughter, a stamperder of 1896 and contract miner. Slaughter worked through the winter and reported finding good copper sulphide ore and that the owners were contemplating building a mill. He concluded that, "The tunnel is now in several hundred of feet and the outlook is very promising for the Norwall claims to be shipping next summer." By June 1910, the tunnel had reached 1500', and Norwall came for a brief inspection of the "Cudahy property." (Spude 1990: Appendix 3).

By June of 1910, the tunnel had reached 1500 feet into the mountains side, but all activity evidently cease soon thereafter, and the claims were formally relinquished in 1922 (Spude 1990: Appendix 3). No record exists for any ore being produced from the mine.

Archeological Observations

Spude noted in a trip report dated July 19, 1990 that:

“The Eugenia mine is off the Longs Peak Trail [actually a branch of the Eugenia-Alpine Brook wagon road – 5LR9864], easily accessible to hikers. The site consists of approximately 7 prospect pits and collapsed tunnels, the ruins of a cabin (four walls standing), steam boiler, tailings, and various debris and artifacts - - tin cans, broken glass, etc. Like the Meeker mines the site, has been picked pretty clean of artifacts”.

Present observations include a 10 ft diameter x 1 ft deep depression high on the hill side that may be a prospect. It is located about 70 yards north and uphill of what is suspected to be what may have been the opening of an adit or test shaft. Another possible prospect pit (or adit) is located some 20 yards downhill and due south of a spoil pile/linear depression from the upper adit. The tunnel and major spoil pile/mine tailings for the Eugenia Mine itself are just above and along the north side of Inn Brook. About 20 trees, some 12 inches in diameter, can be found in the creek and have been sawed off at water level (by the NPS?). It is suggested that at one time that the tops were above the water level and that they may have held a platform for processing (washing ?) ore; a large tailings area is located south side of the creek, i.e., across the creek from the mine, and its location may be related to the nearby suspected processing area in the creek.

The actual horizontal mine shafts were sealed by collapsing the opening sometime during the 1960s when the mouths of all mines in the park were closed by the Mineral Management Service as part of a mining safety project (Figure 6.2). The area has seen extensive cleaned up by the Park Service and/or by visitors since Spude’s 1990 field visit.

The only artifact related to mining activity present today is a large vertical steam boiler, ca. 10 feet long by 4 feet in diameter (Figure 6.3).

During the 1880s the *Pennsylvania boiler*, the *locomotive boiler*, and the *upright boiler*, also known as the *vertical boiler*, quickly gained popularity among the West’s prospect operations. These boilers were well-suited to mining the West because they were self-contained and freestanding, ready to fire up, and able to withstand mistreatment. Because these boilers were designed to be portable at the expense of fuel-efficiency, mining engineers declared them fit only for sinking duty (*italics in the original*) (Twitty 2002:168-169).

Furthermore:

Durable, inexpensive, but highly inefficient, upright boilers had the capacity to power sinking-class steam hoists or other mine machines such as blowers and small compressors. The great ease of portability rendered upright boilers popular among small mining and prospecting operations working in remote areas. However, because upright boilers could not generate a substantial head of steam they saw limited application (Twitty 2002:168-169).

As noted above, “sinking duty” refers to sinking a shaft, driving an audit, and under ground exploration.

The only other remaining structure at the mine is that of the boarding house mentioned above. It now consists of about 6 courses of logs in a single large (20 x 20 ft) log cabin (see Figure 6.4).

Spude (1990) was unable to find any photographs of the Eugenia mine when it was open. He suggests that the steam boiler at the Eugenia may have been used to produce power to ventilate the main tunnel. Because the mine is located just above the creek, we suggest that the power could have been used for a pump to de-water the mine.



Figure 6.2. Eugenia Mine in 1999.



Figure 6.3 Eugenia Mine Boiler in 1999.



Figure 6.4. Eugenia Mine Bunkhouse in ca. 1955.
(RMNP Historical Collection).

Pack Rat Mine (5LR10511) and Big Indian Mine

Background

The background information on these mines comes from Pickering (1999:244-245):

Charles Edwin Hewes speaks in the unpublished autobiography, which he completed in May of 1916, of having encountered “relics, an old fireplace and decayed cabin logs, of a miner and prospector generation visiting the Vale from five to ten years previous to our coming, erected a couple of cabins and dug a shaft and started two short tunnels on the west side of the Vale”. These two tunnels, he tells us in a November 1933 journal entry, were called the Big Indian and the Pack Rat – the former located on the old Longs Peak trail about a quarter mile west of Longs Peak Inn; the latter on the northern bank of Alpine Brook, a quarter mile upstream from the Longs Peak Campground. See “The Autobiography of Charles Edwin Hewes”, unpublished manuscript, Estes Park Historical Museum, P. 217; Hewes “Journal”, 911.

The early mining activity referred to by Hewes would belong to the period between 1870 and 1875; the latter to the turn of the century. Newspaper accounts from 1898 to 1903 confirm a number of efforts to discover what the *Longmont Ledger* referred to in August 1898 as “the long lost rich vein of Long’s Peak” and mention several claims on the peak as high as the timberline (*Longmont Ledger*, August 19, 1898,2).

Archeological Observations

The NPS or Mineral Mining Service tried to seal the Pack Rat (5LR10511) mine at some time in the past by caving in the slopes above the opening. Subsequent erosion has resulted in a small opening ca. 4 x 3 feet in size near the roof of the shaft. Individuals who have entered the mine said that it extends into the hillside some 50 feet, and the shaft averages about five feet high by five feet wide. No timbers, rails, or other artifacts were noted in the mine. A large talus slope lies in front of the mine opening. Probably associated with the mine is a structure located about 50 feet west of the mine opening. The back (north) rock and dirt wall of the structure is immediately adjacent to the Eugenia-Alpine Brook Road (5LR9864) leading down a hill to the mine. The feature consists of three walls measuring 15 x 15 feet and 4-5 feet in height. The open side toward the creek was most likely for a door, and its size suggests a garage/shed. The walls have collapsed inward, and undisturbed deposits of ca. 20 – 30 cm are present. No cut logs or milled lumber were found, but they may have been removed during site clean up. The mine and prospects (5LR10512) are probably associated with mining exploration in the Longs Peak Mining District between the years of 1859 and 1922 (Spude 1990) and as presented in the above quotes. A check of the BLM General Land Office patent records does not show any mines being filed on at this location.

The Big Indian mine has not been located for recording.

Pack Rat Prospects (5LR10512)

Two mining prospects are adjacent to each other and next to the Eugenia Mine – Alpine Brook Road (5LR9864), and immediately above the Pack Rat mine (5LR10511). Naming them the “Pack Rat Prospects” is only because of their proximity to the mine, and their real name (if they ever had any) are unknown. The eastern-most prospect measures about 25 feet e-w by 20 feet n-s, and is about 8 feet deep. The western-most prospect is immediately adjacent to the eastern prospect and measures about 10 x 10 x 6-8 feet in depth. No artifacts were found in association with either prospect. The prospects and mine (5LR10511) are probably associated with mining exploration in the Longs Peak Mining District between the years of 1859 and 1922 (Spude 1990). A check of the BLM General Land Office patent records does not show any mines being filed at this location.

Pseudo Mines (5LR9874)

According to long time Park Ranger Jim Detterline, two “pseudo mines” were dug in the hope of discouraging other prospectors from claiming the same land. They were thought to have been dug by sheep rancher Hughes Kirkwood who lived in the area in the late 1800s through the early 1900s. The Hewes-Kirkwood Inn is located just outside the park boundary. An alternate explanation is that they were simple prospecting pits similar to those at 5LR10512 which are located about a mile down stream on Alpine Brook.

Meeker Mines Little Giant, Gold King, Columbia (5BL3431)

The Meeker Mines included the Little Giant, Gold King, and Columbia Claim. All these mines were active between 1896-1902. The mines were discovered in 1896 and filed on in 1899 (Spude 1990). The mines are located just inside the park boundary along Horse Creek and consist of two adits and two shallow prospect pits south of Horse Creek. The two adits open near the creek along with two shallow shafts on the ridge above the adits. A cabin was located between the adits, and a line of stones near the cabin were suggested by Spude to have been the location of a tent site. The bottom logs of a cabin can be found on the north side of the creek near the trail up the creek.

Archeological Observations

Spude's observations are that:

The site contains the two collapsed adits that open near Horse Creek, two shallow shafts on the ridge above the adits, the bottom logs of a cabin near the west adit, stones in a row possible evidence of a tent site, and a cabin ruin across the creek from the adits. The mine waste dumps are overgrown and have trees of possibly fifty years age. Below the dumps is a swamp-like area, overflow from the creek. No artifacts were found – the area looks like it has been picked clean (Spude 1990 site form).

A national register assessment based on field recording by Robert Spude resulted in the mines being determined not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places on August 15, 1991.

Fall River Valley

Johnny Adams Mine

The Johnny Adams Mine was reported as being located south of the Fall River and on the northeast slope of Deer Mountain by long time resident Peter Hondius (see Hondius Ranch). Historian Ken Jessen said that at one time a head frame made of logs could be seen from Highway 34, but it is not visible today. Aerial photographs show a large area of disturbed ground that may have been the location of the mine. An archeological survey in the area in 2002 failed to locate the mine, but a resurvey is warranted given the above information.

Miner Bill Currence Mines, Cabins, and Mill

Miner Bill Currence established the Lincoln Lode (5LR10858) and White Rock Mines on the north side of the Fall River Valley about 3 miles west of the where the Fall River Road begins its ascent from Sheep Lakes Junction to Fall River Pass. Included with the mines are the Snowshoe and Hackmandy cabins (5LR10857) below the mines on a

terrace on the north side of the Fall River. He also built the May Fair Mill (5LR10859) along the river to the east of the cabin site. Currence built all these structures between about 1908 until 1930 – 1931 (Robinson 1984:5, 14). See Figures 6.5 to 6.9.

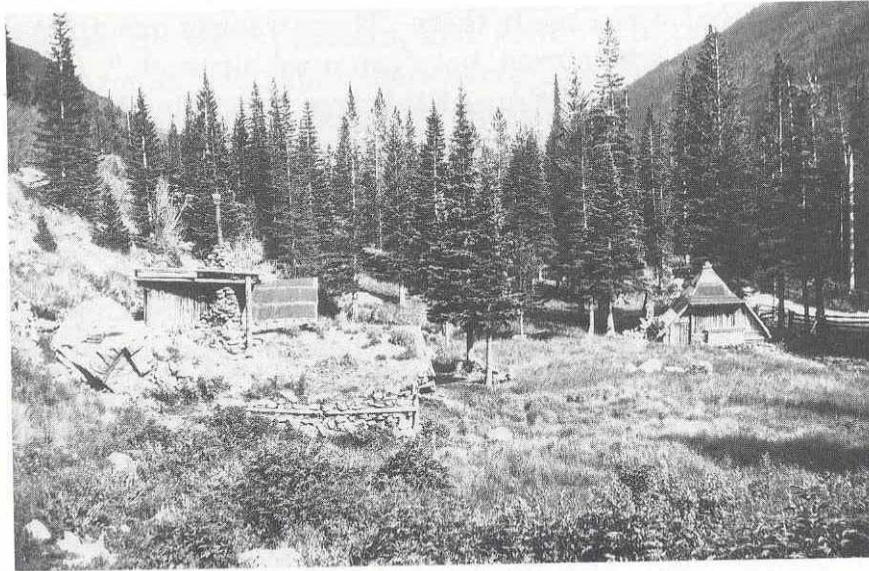


Figure 6.5. Miner Bill Currence Cabins Hackmandy (left) and Snowshoe (right) in the 1940s. RMNP Cat No. 10-C-242.



Figure 6.6. Hackmandy Cabin in 1940s. (RMNP Historical Collection)

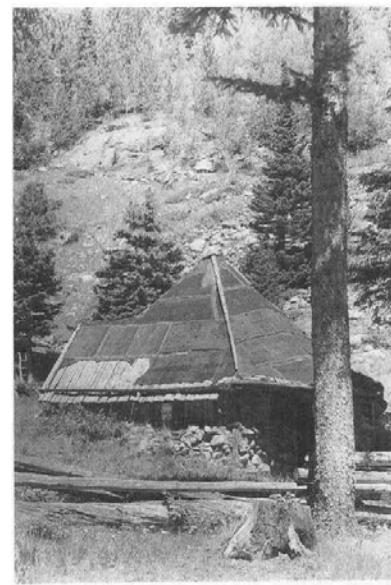


Figure 6.7 Snowshoe Cabin in 1940s (RMNP Historical Collection)

Cabins “Snowshoe” and “Hackmandy” (5LR10857)

Background

Miner Bill Currence constructed two cabins along the Fall River Road below the trail to the Lincoln Lodes. The cabins were known as “Snowshoe” and “Hackmandy”.

Robinson (1984:14, 18) shows two pictures of Hackmandy, and two of Snowshoe taken in about 1940 (Robinson 1984:23, 30).

The Snowshoe was an eight-sided cabin with a pyramid shaped roof with a flat rock on top. The roof appears to have been covered with rolled asphalt (Robinson 1984:23). The photo on page 23 indicates that it was set in a dugout area (Figures 6.5 and 6.7).

The Hackmandy cabin was also set into the hillside. It was a south facing front gabled 1½ story log cabin with a room with a flat roof to the rear of the front, and two flat (or semi-flat) roofed sheds/rooms off each side. Other than the window in the front of the upper story, other windows (3 ?) and doors (4 ?) appear to be located along the south wall in an almost random manner (Figures 6.5 and 6.6).

As both buildings were rather odd in design, it is not clear as to which structure Moomaw was describing when he said:

His log hut was set against the base of the mountain, and was half dugout and half cabin. There was an almost-level front yard of several hundred square feet, which he had cleared of all but a few trees, and enclosed with an old fashioned log fence. In this yard he later built a guest house. The architecture of this structure was unique. I don't think that Bill knew it, but it resembled the log dwellings that have been made by primitive men through the ages (Moomaw 1963:127).

The location of the cabins lie inside a switchback of the Fall River Road. The photograph on page 30 of Robinson taken looking east shows the Snowshoe Cabin to be nearest the road on the south, and Hackmandy was built into the side of the mountain to the north; the upper part of the Fall River Road switchback can be seen just up hill of the cabin.

Information derived by the park's unofficial historian Ferrell Atkins provides some information about his operation and his problems with park administration (Atkins 1964: Structures Report, Vol. II):

On June 23, 1918, the Superintendent examined the William Currence mining claims (S. M. R., July 13, 1918), and soon thereafter learned that Mr. Currence was to be a source of considerable trouble. On June 7, 1919, Currence was ejected from the Park for erecting buildings and other improvements on federal lands without a permit (S. M. R., June 30, 1919). September 2, 1919, Mr. Currence

returned to the Park and was arrested by Ranger Beeler and taken before the U. S. Commissioner. Mr. Currance agreed to stay off Park lands and the Superintendent gave him permission to work two uncanceled claims above the Fall River Road so long as he did not go onto the cancelled claims or the millsite. Permission was given, however, to store his belongings in cabins on the cancelled claims (S.M.R., September 30, 1919).

The first of June 1920, Mr. Currance returned to the cancelled mining claims on the Fall River Road. A warrant was served on him by a Deputy U.S. Marshal, and he was taken first to Ft. Collins and then to Denver. It was at last agreed to let Mr. Currance return to the Park if he would live on the two upper claims and would not claim the lower locations.(S. M. R., June 30, 1920).

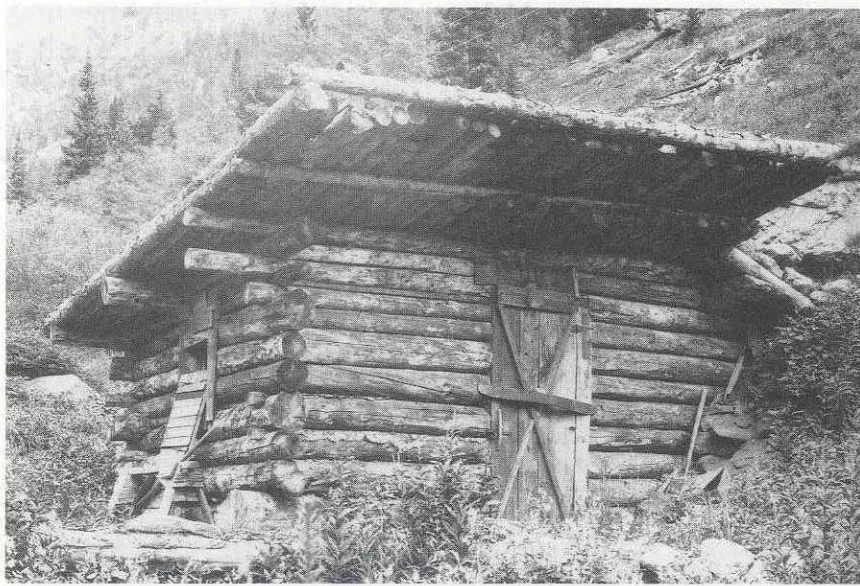
Mr. Charles Hix believes that Mr. Currance came to Estes Park about 1910 and was then about thirty years old. About 1928, Currance moved into a half cave-half house shelter which he built on land lent him by Mr. F. O. Stanley in the north end of Estes Park. Mr. Hix believes that Mr. Currance still went into the Park in the summer to mine, however. About 1940, the people of Estes Park decided that Mr. Currance was becoming overly eccentric, and he was sent to the mental institution in Pueblo. “Miner Bill” found living conditions there far better than any he had previously experienced – in recent years at any rate – feared that when he was returned to this area for a hearing he might not be permitted to return to Pueblo. He was returned, however, and presumably died in that institution (Interview, Charles Hix, June 13, 1963).

Archeological Observations

Field inspection revealed that nothing remains except for a few low retaining walls where the cabins were set. The trail up to his mine begins behind the cabins. The lower portion of the trail is held in place with rock retaining walls. Comments from local historians Jackie Johnson and Kris Holien were that Bill Currence may not have been much of a miner, but he was very skilled in constructing retaining walls along the trail to the mine; they believe he probably spent more time building walls than digging for gold.

The site occupies an area about 150 feet east-west by 100 feet or so north-south. The two flat areas measure about 60 feet square for the northwest platform (Hackmandy Cabin), and about the same size for the platform nearest the road to the southeast (Snowshoe Cabin). Some low rock walls can be found on the downhill side of these areas; they are highly disturbed.

Nothing remains of the cabins which were removed in the 1950s after Currence’s death. The entire area has been cleaned up by the NPS and only the vestiges of the cabin platform areas are visible today.



**Figure 6.8. Miner Bill Currence Shed at the Lincoln Lode Mine.
Date Unknown. (RMNP Historical Collection).**



**Figure 6.9. Miner Bill Currence May Fair Mill in 1926.
(RMNP Historical Collection).**

Lincoln Lodes No. 1 and No. 2 (5LR10858)

According to Robinson (1984), in 1908 William Clyde Currence and Julius Bussman laid claim to the Lincoln Lode No. 1 and No. 2 on the west side of Mount Chapin (then known as Zion Mountain) north of a rock formation now known as “Miner Bill’s Spire”. A 1918 affidavit by Currence stated that:

... I concentrated practically all my work on the Lincoln No. 1 and Lincoln No. 2 lodes ... I drove a tunnel about 200 feet northerly with cross-cuts to northeast and northwest at one place. Above this tunnel and cross-cuts, there is another caved tunnel about 20 feet long, 6x6, and other small surface cuts (where) iron pyrites are exposed (Robinson 1984:6).

Today it is possible to locate the 20 foot tunnel which circles back to meet itself after going a short distance into the mountain. There is also a cave in prospect hole. No where is there evidence of a 200 foot tunnel. Since the Lincoln Lodes are adjacent to slide area, the mouth of the tunnel may have been obliterated, or perhaps it never existed. (Robinson 1984:7).

Photographs in Robinson (1984:7) from the Park archives shows a log structure built into the side of the mountain (Figure 6.8). The sloping flat roof is also made of logs. The photo shows a single door on one long side, and a small window on an adjacent wall. The cabin is estimated to be about 10 ft x 8 ft in size, with one end of the cabin against the mountain side suggesting that the mine opening was in that location. The caption on the photos says: “Miner Bill’s upper shaft house on the Lincoln Lodes”.

The mines have yet to be formally recorded.

White Rock No. 1 and No. 2

These claims are described in the same affidavit by Currence cited above as:

That as to White Rock No. 1 and No. 2 load claims the State Wagon road (Fall River Road) zigzags from the near center of both claims. The north end of each claim lays on steep side hills which slope to south and Fall River and this State wagon road. The south end of each of the claims lays on side hills sloping to north on the south side of Fall River (Robinson 1984:8).

These claims say only minimal work was accomplished but an assay report dated December 8, 1921 stated that the ore paid out to \$2.00 per ton, which is not very good.

No archeological survey has been conducted in the area where the White Rock mines may have been located.

May Fair Mill (5LR10859)

Sometime after Currence and Bussmann filed their claim they: "... located a mill a mile south on Fall River. The "May Fair Millsite" occupied "5 acres of ground laying in a square alongside (the) State wagon road as described, taking in both sides of the river and the small lake alongside river". Currence later admitted to never having put his millsite location on the County records"(Robinson 1984:9). The mill was constructed supposedly to process ore from Currences's mines, but as there is no evidence that any processing anywhere in the vicinity of the site.

Archeological Observations

The mill site area measures about 120 feet by 100 feet (40 x 30 m) along the south side of the Fall River Road. The two flat areas have been cut into the hill side with the road (constructed between 1914 and 1920) to the north, and the Fall River to the south. The two flat areas measure 40 x 20 and 35 x 18 ft, respectively. The southern (downhill) edge of the platforms are rock walls running the full length of the platforms. A small shed (?) is located about 20 feet southeast of the eastern most platform. The structure measures about 6 x 8 ft with an east facing door along one 6 ft wall. The height of the structures is about 2 – 3 feet and consists of 4 – 6 horizontally laid logs. Remnants of what appears to have been a flat roof can be found on the wall at the west end. Soil and some small logs seen inside the building suggests a dirt covered roof. The small size and height of the structure suggests a possible function as a storage room for food and supplies, or possibly for dynamite.

Two tin can dumps are present downhill from the platforms. These ca. 10 – 15 ft square dumps consist mostly of rusted sanitary cans, and a few hole in the top cans. One can 6 ½ inch in diameter with a 2 ½ inch cap in the center is style often used to hold black powder. However, the whole can has been opened with an axe which suggests that it was not used for black powder.

No integrity exists for the main site and platforms as the area has been cleaned up except for a couple of sanitary tin can dumps and the shed. However, it would appear that the dirt covered roof of the shed has collapsed into the structure and has thus sealed some *in situ* deposits that could reflect on the function of the building and on Miner Bill Currence; testing is needed.

Glacier Basin

Prospect Canyon Mine

Background

Pickering (1999:244-245) provides some insight as to the mine reported to have been located below Bear Lake near Prospect Canyon:

Abner Sprague recalled that years earlier, in the fall of 1875 or 1876, a pair of hunters from Boulder, which included a man named Barber, found ore bearing rock in the Wind River and Glacier Basin drainage, and that Barber returned for several years trying in vain to locate the spot. He also remembered being told that the artist Albert Bierstadt had picked up a piece of quartz “shot through with free gold, until it was almost a nugget” during one of his excursions into the Loch Vale region. See Abner Sprague “Lost Mines”, *Estes Park Trail*, March 3, 1922, 7 (Pickering 1999:244-245).

In 1909, Albert Schwilke prospected along Glacier Creek and constructed a small cabin that came to be known as the “Miners Cabin” or “Poker Cabin”. The cabin is mentioned by the superintendent Roger Toll in 1915 (S.A.R. 1915, P. 8) and again in July of 1916 when reporting on trip he made in the area (*Mountaineering in R.M.N.P.* p 69). Schwilke’s original shaft was 100 ft. deep and was later covered by the present Bear Lake Road. He also dug a horizontal tunnel still visible on the east wall of the canyon (Atkins 1964: Glacier Creek). Apparently, Schwilke did find traces of gold in both shafts, but decided the mine was not worth the expense of further development and gave possession to the National Park Service.

Archeological Observations

No evidence of the cabin or mine shafts could be located during recent surveys, and as noted above, the vertical shaft may have been covered by the construction of the present Bear Lake Road in 1926 – 1928.

WEST SIDE MINING

Campbell and Lead Mountain Mining Districts

Like the east side of the park, archival source material on the mining on the west side is less than many would desire. Much of the information presented here on the mines and mining related structures in the Kawuneeche Valley derives from the research of John Gubbins. Mr. Gubbins spent most of his summers in the Kawuneeche and has conducted extensive field and archival research on mining in the valley (Gubbins n.d.).

The Campbell Mining District was established in the southern end of the Kawuneeche Valley and west of crest of the Never Summer Range which was known before the 1920 as the Rabbit Ears, or as an extension of the Medicine Bow Mountains (Arps and Kingery 1977:166). The Lead Mountain Mining District encompassed the northern part of the Kawuneeche Valley and all the mines in the park (Buchholtz 1983:95). All of the mines and towns discussed here were active between about 1879 and the early 1890s.

Although a smelter was never built and the railroad did not arrive until years after mining activity had ended, the fact was that, despite reports to the contrary, the ore being taken from the mines was quite low-grade in quality. These three factors together were more than enough reason for the short-lived period of mining activity, and in fact it is astonishing that interest in the Rabbit Ears Range lasted as long as it did. Nevertheless, the desire to strike it rich was powerful and the optimism and belief of those involved caused them to overlook the signs of failure that were readily visible after the first two years (Baldwin 1980:26).

Like the mines farther north in the Kawuneeche Valley, the proposed mineral wealth in Middle Park was not what was expected and “their preliminary copper shipments of 1904 fetched \$143.00, and the yield never increased significantly thereafter”. In fact, all of Grand County in 1908 produced only \$556.00 worth of gold, \$38.00 of silver, \$206.00 of copper. An unexpected gold placer in 1909 yielded an additional \$1,183.00 (Black 1969:294-301, 355).

Denver and Middle Park Mining Company

Joseph Shipler was an important figure in the development of the mining in the Kawuneeche Valley. Mr. Frank H. Robinson and Victor B. Robinson, descendants of Joseph Shipler, recently donated several documents to the park about Shipler and his mining endeavors that reveal important historical information about Shipler and mining in the valley.

Among the documents donated by the Robinsons was the stock “Prospectus of the Denver and Middle Park Mining Company” dated December 1880. Included with the prospectus was a map showing the location of all the mines in the Lead Mountain District as of 1880. The prospectus itself stated that:

Developments which are going on are proving beyond a doubt that Middle Park is one of the richest mining districts in Colorado.

The first discoveries of mineral in Middle Park were made in 1877, on the celebrated Wolverine, Bank of England and Mountain Quail Lodes, which are being worked this winter. The Wolverine mine was recently sold to eastern parties for Fifty Thousand Dollars, and they are satisfied that they have a bargain.

However, Frank Robinson's note accompanying the documents noted that although the Denver and Middle Park Mining Company was capitalized at 100,000 shares at \$10.00 each "... not a penny was ever realized from these shares." A letter from The Denver Mining Brokerage Company to Elsie J. Robinson (a daughter of Elsie L. Shipler) of McKeesport, Pennsylvania, dated January 31, 1898 said that the brokerage firm had been unable to locate any of the officers of the company and that they "surmise it is defunct".

However, a letter from Shipler in 1900 indicates that the company was in existence:

I was in Middle Park in July and part of August, but not working on the properties of the Denver & M. P. Co. but on some of my own. Those properties are all right if a R.R. is ever built in the park. And I think that will be done soon. Surveying has been going on there for a number of years. Either a R.R. there, or a concentrating plant to reduce the ore, and there will be big money in the property (J. E. Shipler letter November 8, 1900).

Although the brokerage firm was unable to locate the officers in 1898, a letter from the office of the company to all stockholders dated December 12, 1900 announced a meeting to renew incorporation papers. Included in the letter is the following financial information which provides a glimpse into the cost of running the company:

The Fee for Filing and Recording re-incorporation papers in the office of the Secretary of State, is \$152.50. Other expenses connected with papers will probably amount to \$25. The money advanced personally by the officers of this company to pay taxes for past ten years amounts to about \$150. . . It costs the company \$300 per year for Assessment work before the mines were patented.

The State of Colorado increased the licensing and administrative fees for the company from \$152 to \$260. In order to address these increased costs, the company mailed a letter to all stockholders on September 19, 1901 wherein it was proposed that those fees could be reduced through a reduction in capitalization from one million dollars to one hundred thousand dollars that would make the par value for the shares one dollar each instead of ten dollars.

A letter from Treasurer J. D. Moore dated January 28, 1902 said that the company was renewed for 20 years from December 13, 1900, with capitalization being reduced to an unstated amount – probably one hundred thousand as noted above.

The stock “Prospectus of the Denver and Middle Park Mining Company” of 1880 lists six mines and two tunnels that were owned by the company. Included with the prospectus is a map of the “Lead Mountain Mining District, Grand County, Colorado” that locates 56 claims in the area. Hand written (probably by J. D. Moore – see below) in the prospectus were references as to which of the mines were patented.

After discussing some stock matters and the failure of some stock holders to contribute funds to running the company, Treasurer J. D. Moore noted in a letter of April 15, 1903 to Elsie J. Robinson several important facts about the mines:

I think the nearest point of the main road [Denver & Salt Lake Railroad, aka the Moffat Road] will be about 25 or 30 miles from the mines. However, it is supposed that a branch road [the Rocky Mountain Railway] will be run to the town of Grand Lake which is about 16 miles from the mines [see Railroads in Chapter 5 on Transportation].

Five of the six original claims lie side by side on Lead Mountain. The sixth, Dunderburg, lies on Howard Mt., Silver Mt. lying between as you will see by the map in the prospectus which I will send you under separate cover. This prospectus was issued over 22 years ago, but it will give you some idea of the property held by the company.

The six leads mentions are all held secure by the United States Patens on these claims. The two tunnels [Great Western and Mount Shipler] have of course been forfeited as no work has been done on them for years.

The mines have only been worked as required by law to obtain patents. There is no machinery. None was ever put in. The work on them being done with pick, shovel, and giant powder, and wheel borrow.

The assays yielded gold, silver, and other metals. It is expected that there will be great activity in the neighborhood of the claims this summer owing to this new railroad going through. Cousin Joe Shipler expects to start soon to spend the greater part of the summer in that vicinity.

I am in hopes that after all these years of struggling to hold these properties that we may before long realize something from them.

Unfortunately, the mines did not live up to expectations as the low quality of the ore coupled with long distances to the mills at Georgetown proved them to be unprofitable. A letter from Carl S. Milliken, Secretary of State for Colorado, to stockholder Mrs. K. M Cross of Cheswick, Pennsylvania dated April 16, 1924 stated that:

Replying to your letter of the 11th inst. in re the DENVER & MIDDLE PARK MINING COMPANY.

This company was declared defunct and inoperative on Sept. 3, 1913 according to the laws of our state, copy of which we herewith enclose.

This office has no information regarding equipment on these abandoned properties nor any legal proceedings that might be taken.

The Lead Mountain Mining District Map of 1880

Included with the stock “Prospectus of the Denver and Middle Park Mining Company” was the “Lead Mountain Mining District, Grand County, Colorado” map. This map shows all the mines in the district as of 1880. The prospects/mines included on the map are presented on Table 6.4. The following observations and cautions should be kept in mind when attempting to use the information presented on this table.

Mine Names and Location: The location and names of the mines on this map are often not in agreement with other research, and information on some mines named on Tables 6.2 to 6.4 has not been found. The problems seem to be related to the fact that the map is not very accurate in terms of distances and relationships to landmarks which engenders suspicions about the locations shown for the mines. Also, the mines on the 1880 map could have been sold or renamed after the map was produced which would thus result in no agreement with the names provided from other sources dated to the 1890s when they were patented, etc. Furthermore, many mines were never patented and thus no record exists with the General Land Office as to ownership, etc. Gubbins also noted that he was often unable to get names and locations to agree completely in his extensive archival research on the mines in the valley.

Additional known locational errors include the Reindeer Mine is shown on the map as being in two locations, and we are unable to resolve the double name.

The Lead Mountain mines are actually located on an unnamed mountain that is three-fourths of a mile east of what is now recognized as being Lead Mountain.

Mines vs. Prospects: Many of the named mines listed on the map may have actually consisted of only the minimal 10 x 10 x 10 ft prospecting pit necessary to obtain a patent. We suggest a prospector may have called his prospect a mine as a way of inflating its value. Most of the mines on the list were probably never filed on. However, Mr. Gubbins said that he has seen prospect holes for most of the mines shown on the map.

Map Numbers and Symbols: The mine numbers on the table corresponds to number shown on the map for a 150 by 1500 foot mining claim. The Western and Shipler Tunnels are shown as being claims of about 300 x 500 feet in size.

The numbering on the 1880 map is generally from west to east or south east. “DMP” on Table 6.4 indicates a mine that was included in the Denver and Middle Park Mining Company prospectus, and “P” indicates the mine was patented by the DMP. The symbol PK means that a prospect hole has been observed in the field near to where a mine is shown on the 1880 map, but it has not been formally recorded. As noted above, we also should consider that the prospect hole is actually the mine and was so called by the prospector who may have exaggerated a little bit in order to attract funds for expansion, etc.

Numbering Errors: Mine No. 43 (the Butternut) is shown on the map as being on the south slope of Sheep Mountain, and also on the west slope of Mt. Shipler. Its location on Sheep Mountain is probably correct as the mines appear to be misnumbered on Mt. Shipler: they are numbered from northwest to southeast as 35 to 40, then 42 and 43. I suspect that 42 is really 41 as this number does not show up anywhere on the map, i.e., No. 42 on the map is really the Hecla, and 43 is the Rustic.

Place Names: Several of the names of mountains, creeks, and trails shown on the 1880 map have changed:

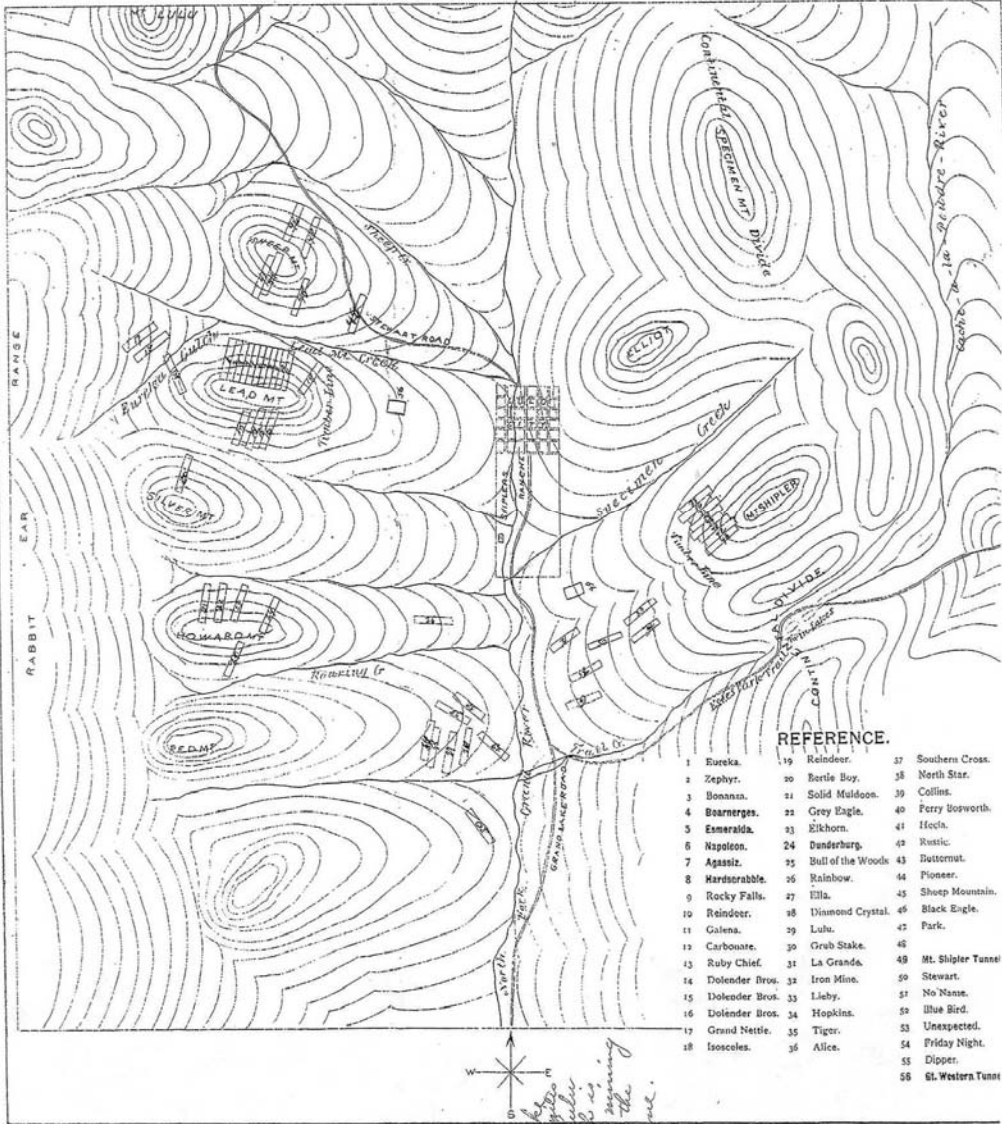
- Sheep Mountain is shown on the 1880 maps as being the far eastern end of Mount Richthofen; there is no “Sheep Mountain” on present day maps.
- Sheep Creek is now Lulu Creek.
- Silver Mountain is now an unnamed mountain one-half mile southwest of Lead Mountain, and one-half mile northeast of Mt. Cirrus.
- Lead Mountain Creek is now Skeleton Gulch/Sawmill Creek
- Lead Mountain on the map is presently an unnamed mountain three quarters of a mile east of the present day location of Lead Mountain.
- Crater Gulch/Crater Creek was Specimen Creek on the 1880 map.
- Specimen Creek is shown on present maps as being about one mile north of Lulu City, and not to the south as shown on the map.
- Phantom Creek was Trail Creek in 1880;
- The Estes Park Trail on the south side of Trail Creek was the 1880 name for the Ute or Deer Trail.
- Trail Creek is now Beaver Creek
- Red Gulch/Red Creek was Roaring Creek in 1880.
- Red Mountain on the 1880 map is an unnamed hill side on modern maps; no mines have been found on what is now known as Red Mountain.

State Site Numbers: State (Smithsonian) site numbers are included if the mine has been formally recorded. “No ID” means a mine has not been identified in the literature or from field work. Site numbers or text with a question mark indicates identification is uncertain.

FROM: "The Denver & Middle Park Mining Company of Middle Park, Colorado"
Accompanied the "Prospectors for Capital Stock, December 1880."

LEAD MOUNTAIN MINING DISTRICT,
GRAND COUNTY, COLORADO:

SCALE IN FEET:



Shipley's ranch used to belong to Joe Shipley son of Uncle Peter Shipley of Mendon. Shipley mountain is named for him.

not likely to be very far from the top of the mountain, which is, indeed, rising up at the west end.

Numbers 4, 5, and 24 are the patented properties.

Figure 6.10. The Lead Mountain Mining District in 1880.

Table 6.4. Mines shown on the “Lead Mountain Mining District, Grand County, Colorado” Map of 1880.

Mine Name	Location	Comment	Site Number
1 Eureka	North Slope Lead Mtn		No ID
2 Zephyr	North Slope Lead Mtn		No ID
3 Bonanza	North Slope Lead Mtn		No ID
4 Boanerges	North Slope Lead Mtn	DMP / P; Boanerges on map; see text	
5 Esmeralda	North Slope Lead Mtn	DMP / P; see text	
6 Napoleon	North Slope Lead Mtn	DMP; see text	
7 Agassiz	North Slope Lead Mtn	DMP; see text	
8 Hardscrabble	North Slope Lead Mtn	DMP; see text	
9 Rocky Falls	North Slope Lead Mtn		No ID
10 Reindeer	North Slope Lead Mtn	See also No. 19	
11 Galena	North Slope Lead Mtn		No ID
12 Carbonate	North Slope Lead Mtn		No ID
13 Ruby Chief	South Slope Lead Mtn		No ID
14 Dolender Bros.	South Slope Lead Mtn		No ID
15 Dolender Bros.	South Slope Lead Mtn		No ID
16 Dolender Bros.	South Slope Lead Mtn		No ID
17 Grand Nettie	West Slope Lead Mtn		No ID
18 Isosceles	West Slope Lead Mtn		No ID
19 Reindeer	West Slope Lead Mtn	See also No. 10	
20 Bertie Boy	North Slope Silver Mtn		No ID
21 Solid Muldoon	No Slope Howard Mtn		No ID
22 Grey Eagle	No Slope Howard Mtn		No ID
23 Elkhorn	No Slope Howard Mtn		No ID
24 Dunderburg	No Slope Howard Mtn	DMP / P; see text	
25 Bull of the Woods	So Slope Howard Mtn		No ID
26 Rainbow	East Slope Howard Mtn	Elmer Mine 5GA2193 ? or Prospect 5GA2891 ?	
27 Ella	West Slope Red Mtn		5GA2196?
28 Diamond Crystal	West Slope Red Mtn	see text	5GA2188
29 Lulu	West Slope Red Mtn		5GA2187
30 Grub Stake	East Slope So of Red Cr		PK
31 La Grande	West Slope Mt. Shipler	Wendzerberger 5GA2892 ?	
32 Iron Mine	West Slope Mt. Shipler	see text	5GA2185
33 Lieby	West Slope Mt. Shipler		PK
34 Hopkins	West Slope Mt. Shipler		PK
35 Tiger	West Slope Mt. Shipler	see text	PK
36 Alice	West Slope Mt. Shipler	see text	PK
37 Southern Cross	West Slope Mt. Shipler	see text	5GA2200
38 North Star	West Slope Mt. Shipler	see text	5GA2201
39 Collins	West Slope Mt. Shipler		PK

Table 6.4. (Concluded). Mines shown on the “Lead Mountain Mining District, Grand County, Colorado” Map of 1880.

40 Perry Bosworth	West Slope Mt. Shipler		PK
41 Hecla	West Slope Mt. Shipler		PK
42 Rustic	West Slope Mt. Shipler		PK
43 Butternut	South Slope Sheep Mtn	see below	PK
44 Pioneer	South Slope Sheep Mtn		PK
45 Sheep Mountain	South Slope Sheep Mtn		PK
46 Black Eagle	North Slope Sheep Mtn		PK
47 Park	North Slope Sheep Mtn		PK
48 None on Legend	East Slope Sheep Mtn		
49 Mt. Shipler Tunnel	West Slope Mt. Shipler	DMP; see text; 5GA2694?	
50 Stewart	West Slope Mt. Shipler		No ID
51 No Name	West Slope Mt. Shipler	Triumph 5GA2195 ? or Prospect 5GA2686 ?	
52 Blue Bird	West Slope Red Mtn	Silver Star 5GA2189 ?	
53 Unexpected	West Slope Red Mtn	Silver Star 5GA2189 ?	
54 Friday Night	West Slope Red Mtn		No ID
55 Dipper	West Slope Red Mtn		No ID
56 Great Western Tunnel	East Slope Lead Mtn	DMP; see text	

West Side Mines

The Wolverine, Toponis, Ruby, Cross, Cleopatra, and Jim Bourne Tunnel are all located outside the park in Bowen Gulch and in what was known as the Campbell Mining District. Some of these mines are discussed at the end of this section because of their relationship to the towns of Gaskill and Lulu City and the rest of the mining endeavors in the Kawuneeche Valley. The following mines are those in the Lead Mountain Mining District and in the park.

Agassiz Mine. This mine has not been archeologically recorded. This mine was included in the 1880 “Prospectus of the Denver and Middle Park Mining Company”, but was apparently not patented. The prospectus on the mine says:

Has a fourteen-foot drift, showing a true fissure vein of ore six feet in width – mineral streak eighteen inches wide, carrying galena, sulphurets and iron and copper pyrites. Assays obtained from the claim run 26 ounces silver on the surface. Situate on Lead Mountain. See map. Grand County, Colorado.

Boanerges Mine. The Boanerges has not been archeologically recorded. The Grand County recorder books note that it was owned by J. E. Shipler. A hand written note in the 1880 “Prospectus of the Denver and Middle Park Mining Company” indicates that the mine was patented. The prospectus on the mine says:

We have a fifteen-foot drift on this claim, and have a five foot crevice (tricite).

First – Argentiferous.

Second – Auriferous.

Third – Galena, iron and copper pyrites (*gray copper*).

Results from assays obtained from the different prospect holes sunk in said claim have ranged as high as 157 7/10 ounces silver and 1 3/10 ounces gold.

Situate about the middle of the north side of Lead Mountain, as will appear on map. Grand County, Colorado.

As noted above by the Denver and Middle Park Mining Company Treasurer, very little work was actually done on the mine. As the Skeleton Gulch cabin (5GA2703) lies below the Boanerges and Esmeralda mines, it was probably associated with them.

The Boanerges Mine was included as being part of the Independence Lode in GLO Survey No. 17826; Tract No. 300; Mineral Certificate No. 2082; and GLO Survey No. 2243; Tract No. 302; Mineral Certificate No. 3179; both on Grand County Recorder Book 132 at Page 72; as part of the 41.3 acre area with the Boanerges, Shaffer, and Esmeralda. The Independence was also included in the National Park Service memo on quit claim mining deeds dated June 15, 1960 that included the above information. We have not found any information on the Independence or Shaffer mines/lodes, but they must have existed to be included in a quit claim deeds.

Diamond Crystal Mine (5GA2188). The mine consists of a 15 – 25 foot wide and 40 foot long cut into the mountain side that has been collapsed. John Gubbins suggests that it may have been collapsed by Squeaky Bob Wheeler as Gubbins said it was collapsed before the Mineral Mining Service came through the Park in the 1980s closing all mine openings. Gubbins further suggests dates of ca. 1877-1878 from mining records he has found. This date is reasonable as the 1880 Lead Mountain map shows the mine was in existence before 1880. Dug into east face of hill side with 45 degree + slope. Tailings about 20 ft in height extend some 30 feet out from collapsed mouth of mine. Gubbins suspects that some milled lumber in a pile of rocks may have held mine/claim name. Rocks with minerals on south edge of the tailings suggesting purposeful separation from “country rock” which makes up the vast majority of the tailing pile. No artifacts or other material culture is associated with the mine as such items were cleaned up by the CCC in the 1930s.

Dunderburg Mine. This mine has not been archeologically recorded. A hand written note in the 1880 “Prospectus of the Denver and Middle Park Mining Company” indicates that the mine was patented. The prospectus on the mine says:

We have a fourteen-foot drift on this claim, showing a twelve-foot vein of auriferous and argentiferous ores, carrying gold, galena, black sulphuretes, yellow chloride and iron and copper pyrites in abundance for flux. Assays obtained from

above claim run from 66-100 oz. of gold and as high as 44 ounces of silver.
Situates on Howard Mountain, as will appear on map. Grand County, Colorado.

As noted above by the Denver and Middle Park Mining Company Treasurer, very little work was actually done on the mine.

Ella Mine (5GA2196). Gubbins said that documents point to a mine being located just north of Kierstead's cabin and near the Colorado River trail which would match the location of either the Ella or the Wild Rose Mine (see below).

John L. Kierstead and Simon H. Egberton filed a claim on the Ella Mine on August 1, 1879. The Ella was noted in a newspaper article (Gubbins n.d.) to have been about 1,200 feet north of Kierstead's Homestead. There are no mines located 1,200 feet north of Kierstead's and along the trail. In addition, I suggest that any mine capable of being mentioned in a newspaper must have been larger than a simple 10 x 10 prospect which is what best describes the Wild Rose. A mine about 100 feet north of Kierstead's and beside the current trail up the valley may in fact be the Ella as it consists of a 25 -30 foot long by 15 foot wide, by 8 – 10 foot deep hole on the east side of the valley. A significant tailings pile can be found in the bottom of the pit and immediately adjacent to the mine on the west.

We note, however, that the 1880 map shows the Ella as being west of the Colorado River; we cannot resolve this disagreement at this time but note that several locations on the 1880 map have been shown to be wrong for several mines.

Elmer Mine (5GA2193). The mine opening has collapsed and John Gubbins suggests that the mine may have been as deep as 300 feet into the mountain as based on the large talus pile. The collapsed opening extends some 40 – 50 feet into the mountain, and is about 25 feet wide. An old wheelbarrow that was probably associated with the mine is lying near to what was probably the mine opening. The mine is located about 20 meters west of prospect 5GA2891. No other information is presently available about the mine.

A National Park Service on quit claim mining deeds dated June 15, 1960 includes the following: Mineral Certificate No.2054; GLO Survey No. 17823A and 17823B; Tract No. 311; 49.99 acres and included the Illinois, Ruby, Iowa, and Elmer, Katherine Mining Claims, and Katherine Mill Site. Grand County Recorder Book 130 at Page 180.

Esmeralda Mine. The Esmeralda has not been archeologically recorded. The Grand County recorder books note that it was owned by J. E. Shipler. A hand written note in the 1880 "Prospectus of the Denver and Middle Park Mining Company" indicates that the mine was patented. The prospectus on the mine says:

We have a thirteen-foot drift on this claim, and have a thirty-eight inch vein of ore, carrying galena, gray copper, sulphurets, iron and copper pyrites. The results of assays obtained from this load run 70 ounces of silver. Situate on Lead

Mountain, about 600 feet east of the “Boanerges”. See map. Grand County, Colorado.

As noted above by the Denver and Middle Park Mining Company Treasurer, very little work was actually done on the mine. As the Skeleton Gulch cabin (5GA2703) lies below Boanerges and Esmeralda mines, it was probably associated with them.

The Esmeralda Mine was included as being part of the Independence Lode in GLO Survey No. 17826; Tract No. 300; Mineral Certificate No. 2082; and GLO Survey No. 2243; Tract No. 302; Mineral Certificate No. 3179; both on Grand County Recorder Book 132 at Page 72; as part of the 41.3 acre area with the Boanerges, Shaffer, and Esmeralda. The Independence was also included in the National Park Service memo on quit claim mining deeds dated June 15, 1960 that included the above information. We have not found any information on the Independence or Shaffer mines/lodes, but they must have existed to be included in a quit claim deeds.

Great Western Tunnel. This tunnel has not been found archeologically. This tunnel was included in the 1880 “Prospectus of the Denver and Middle Park Mining Company” where it is stated that:

Claim is situate on the east end of Lead Mountain, about two-thousand feet from the top or apex of said mountain, and runs at nearly right angles with all Leads now discovered on this famous mountain. Grand County, Colorado.

Company Treasurer J. D. Moore noted in a letter of April 15, 1903 to Elsie J. Robinson (see above) that: “The two tunnels [Great Western and Mount Shipler] have of course been forfeited as no work has been done on them for years.”

Hardscrabble Mine. This mine has not been archeologically recorded. This mine was included in the 1880 “Prospectus of the Denver and Middle Park Mining Company”, but was apparently not patented. The prospectus on the mine says:

We have a twelve-foot drift on this claim, showing a twenty-two inch vein of auriferous ore, carrying *Gold*, Galena and Copper and Iron Pyrites.

No assays obtained from this claim.

Situate on Lead Mountain as will appear on map. Grand County, Colorado.

Illinois Mine (5GA2888). Bureau of Land Management GLO Records (Doc No. 45906) shows that William C. Krauter filed on 44.993 acres containing the Illinois Mine on October 25, 1907 under the authority of Mineral Patent-Lode (14Stat.251) of July 26, 1866. No other historical information about the mine is known. The mine opening has collapsed but a ca 5 foot diameter opening remains. The mine extends about 15 feet into the hill side. A small prospect hole (ca. 15 x 15 ft square area) is located about 30 feet away and above the mine. Prospect 5GA2889 is located about 30 meters to the east of the mine. No artifacts or other material culture is associated with the mine as such items

were most likely cleaned up by the CCC in the 1930s. Krauter also filed on the Katherine Mill site, and Iowa Mine.

NPS memo on quit claim mining deeds dated June 15, 1960 includes the following: Mineral Certificate No.2054; GLO Survey No. 17823A and 17823B; Tract No. 311; 49.99 acres and included the Illinois, Ruby, Iowa, and Elmer, Katherine Mining Claims, and Katherine Mill Site. Grand County Recorder Book 130 at Page 180.

Lulu Mine (5GA2187) is located about 50 meters to the east of Burnett’s cabin (5GA2186). Identification of the remains as being those of the Lulu Mine was made by Gubbins. The cabin was built by Benjamin Franklin Burnett who was a founder of Lulu City (5GA302) in 1879. “Burnett claimed interest in 14 mines ‘at Lulu City and on or near Lead Mountain’ and said that his principal mine, the Lulu (named for his daughter), had assayed 104 oz. of silver per ton” (Atkins 1975 in Baldwin 1980:96). No other written information is known about the cabin or the Lulu mine. The mine is collapsed and original extent into the mountain is unknown. No artifacts or other material culture is associated with the mine as such items were most likely cleaned up by the CCC in the 1930s. The Burnett cabin is located about 150 feet east of the mine (see below).

Mount Shipler Tunnel. This tunnel has not been found archeologically. This tunnel was included in the 1880 “Prospectus of the Denver and Middle Park Mining Company” where it is stated that:

Claim is situate on the west side of Shipler Mountain, about two-thousand feet from the top or apex of said mountain and about two hundred yards from the Lulu City and Grand Lake road, and located between the Tiger and Southern Cross Lodes, and about six hundred yards northwest of the far famed North Star Lode.

This tunnel will strike the celebrated Tiger Lode in about sixty feet. Ore from this lode mill runs 243 ounces of silver. This is one of the many bodies that will be cut by the Mount Shipler Tunnel. We claim that the M. S. Tunnel site is worth as much as the whole of our claims are stocked for.

Company Treasurer J. D. Moore noted in a letter of April 15, 1903 to Elsie J. Robinson (see above) that: “The two tunnels [Great Western and Mount Shipler] have of course been forfeited as no work has been done on them for years.”

Napoleon Mine. This mine has not been archeologically recorded. This mine was included in the 1880 “Prospectus of the Denver and Middle Park Mining Company”, but was apparently not patented. The prospectus on the mine says:

Has a sixteen-foot drift, showing a twenty-six inch crevice of auriferous ore, carrying white sulphurets, chloride of lead and iron and copper pyrites. No assays obtained from this claim.

Situate on Lead Mountain. See map. Grand County, Colorado.

North Star Mine (5GA2201). The North Star Mine was established in 1879 by a small group of prospectors, including Joseph Shipler, Marcus Coon, William Smith, and Benjamin Duncia, from Fort Collins, Colorado (Baldwin 1980: 27, 75). According to John Gubbins, the North Star was also known as “Shipler’s Hole”, and has been often referred to locally as the “Shipler Mine”. This mine is shown on the 1880 Lead Mountain map.

The mine is located in a granite rock outcrop some 70 feet up a steep (45-50 degree) talus/tailings slope from the Poudre Pass trail on the west side of Shipler Mountain east of the upper Colorado River in the Kawuneeche Valley (Figures 6.11 to 6.13). According to John Gubbins, the mine shaft leads into the mountain for some 40 feet before it takes a right turn and disappears out of sight. The shaft measures five to six feet high and four to five wide throughout its length. The total length is believed to be ca. 300 feet and once contained rails for ore cars as the wood ties were still present; one of the cars can be found at the base of the talus slope. Mr. Gubbins said that it would appear the Joseph Shipler dug about 150 feet of the mine until he stopped work in about 1916. Gus Spitzmiller (an early settler in the Grand Lake area) then dug another 150 feet before he too quit working the shaft. He evidently quit when he had a mining geologist inspect the mine who told him it was nothing but granite. Mr. Gubbins also noted that there is no physical or documentary evidence that suggests the mine ever produced its intended lead, silver, or gold and it was likely abandoned within several months to a year of its initial sinking.



Figure 6.11. North Star Mine Talus Slope. (W. Butler 2004)



Figure 6.12. North Star Mine Opening Note “Bat Bars”. (W. Butler 2004)



Figure 6.13. North Star Mine Ore Cart. below talus slope. (W. Butler 2004)

The outer area of the mine shaft is in excellent condition and the mine entrance has a steel “bat” gate across its entrance, placed there by the State of Colorado Mine Land Reclamation Division sometime in the late 1980s. A circular stamped brass plate affixed to the bat bars reads: “State of Colorado / Mined Land Reclamation Div. / North Star Mine Project C8 / ¼ Section 1 T5 R76”.

Rattler’s Mines (5GA2192). Actually two mines some 100 feet apart on the east side of the Never Summer Range. Although assigned a site number, the mines have not been visited or formally recorded as they are very difficult to reach. However, Mr. Gubbins said there is a trail paralleling the mountain just below the mine openings. The mouths of the adits have been collapsed. The date for these mine is probably after 1880 as they do not appear on the 1880 Lead Mountain map.

Silver Star Mine (5GA2189). The mine was identified by local mining historian John Gubbins who suggested that although given a mine name, it was probably little more than a prospect. The absence of any talus pile suggests he is probably correct. The mine is about 50 meters north of the Lulu Mine (5GA2187). The date for the mine is probably after 1880 as it does not appear on the 1880 Lead Mountain map.

Southern Cross Mine (5GA2201). The mine has not been formally recorded. This mine should not be confused with the Cross mine which is located well to the west and outside the park in Bowen Gulch. Gubbins (n.d.) notes that an 1881 article appearing in the *Grand Lake Prospector* remarked that: “The boys at work on the ‘Southern Cross’ lode are overjoyed with their prospects. They took out some ore the other day that looked different from what they have been working in. One of them concluded to try the stuff by

fire and succeeded in melting out silver just from the heat of a camp fire”. The Southern Cross may have been the only mine in the Rabbit Ears to produce gold in any quantities. Gubbins reports that newspaper accounts said that the mine is a vertical shaft about 300 feet deep. Holes for mounting a winch are reported to still be visible at the entrance hole. The Southern Cross was another of Joe Shipler’s mines and is shown on the 1880 Lead Mountain map.

Tiger Mine (5GA2198). Although assigned a site number, the mine has not been visited or formally recorded. Mr. Gubbins said that it is a horizontal shaft mine that appears to have of some length, but the shaft dips and was filled with water when he visited it so its length is uncertain.

Triumph Mine (5GA2195). The mine is located on the east side of the Colorado River about 200 ft east of the Jack Kierstead Homestead. The large 8 x 8 inch timbers set vertically inside a ca. 10 foot deep excavation into the hill side may have been a head frame for a vertical shaft mine; the frame is set over a large 12 x 8 foot pit that has been filled in with rocks. A large talus slope in front of the opening suggests some depth to the mine. The date for the Triumph is probably after 1880 as it does not appear on the 1880 Lead Mountain map.

Inscribed in pencil on the upright wood timbers of the mine are several notations by Shipler (see above) and by various members of the CCC camp members that were building trails and cleaning up the valley in the 1930s.

“J. E. Shipler
August 11, 1897”

“Harry E. Buchman, Honey Grove, Tx”

“Norwin”

“CCC Colorado 1809 [CCC Company Number 1809 of camp NP-3-C]
Grand Lake, Colorado July 29, 1933”

“John Rogers,
Dkalt, Texas
Sept 14, 1933”

“CCC 1809 GL Co”

“Write me any time please”

A story relayed by John Gubbins about the mine as based on a short newspaper account is that after the owners realized that there was no profitable ore in the mine, they covered the opening with a wood door as part of a scam to sell a gold mine to unsuspecting buyer. The plan was to “salt” the rock near the exterior of the door with gold and keep it closed

so the potential buyer could not see that the mine was only 10 feet deep. The potential buyers were told that they could not see into the mine as they might tell the other miners about which way the deposit was trending and they might unfairly file on it. Gubbins said a newspaper account indicated that what might have been the Triumph sold for somewhere between \$5,000 and \$50,000.

Wild Rose Mine (5GA2694)

Prospect 5GA2694 is located 500 feet north of Kierstead's Homestead and also near the Colorado River trail, and is suggested here to be a more likely candidate for the Wild Rose than is 5GA2194 which we believe is the Ella (see above). The date for the Wild Rose is probably after 1880 as it does not appear on the 1880 Lead Mountain map. This mine actually appears to have been a prospect pit just outside the southeast corner of Shipler Park, east of and just off the La Poudre Pass Trail, and directly south of the right fork of the Colorado River. The mine is located on a granite outcropping and the 10 x 12 foot pit has a depth of about 7 to 10 feet.

West Side Prospects

F. A. Wendzerberg Prospect (5GA2892). This mining prospect in the side of the mountain measures about 20 ft long by 20 feet wide, and is shallow and/or collapsed. It is located about 100 meters east of the Wild Rose Mine (5GA2696). The name for the prospect was derived from research by John Gubbins. No material culture was associated with this prospect.

Iowa Prospect (5GA2191). The Iowa prospect hole is located about 40 meters due west of the Katherine Mill site (5GA2190). The prospect most likely was dug by William C. Krauter who filed on 5 acres of land on October 25, 1907 (BLM GLO Records Doc No. 45906). No other information is available about the prospect. No artifacts or other material culture is associated with the mine as such items were cleaned most likely cleaned up by the CCC in the 1930s. Krauter also filed on the Katherine Mill and Illinois mines – see above.

NPS memo on quit claim mining deeds dated June 15, 1960 includes the following: Mineral Certificate No.2054; GLO Survey No. 17823A and 17823B; Tract No. 311; 49.99 acres and included the Illinois, Ruby, Iowa, and Elmer, Katherine Mining Claims, and Katherine Mill Site. Grand County Recorder Book 130 at Page 180.

Prospect Hole #1 (5GA2184). The prospect consists of a twenty one by seventeen foot oval mining prospect pit on the side of an east-facing ridge rock outcrop 200 feet west of the Colorado River in the upper Kawuneeche Valley. Although the pit has been partially filled in through natural erosion, it is still six feet deep.

Prospect (5GA2696). The prospect is located on an east facing slope (of 15-20 degrees), approximately 340 meters west of the La Poudre Pass Trail, 125 meters west of the Colorado River and located southwest of the south end of Shipler Park. This small mine

(prospect pit) has an obvious trail leading up to it. The pit has been altered by the Park Service by poured concrete in the pit.

Prospect (5GA2880). This unnamed prospect hole measures about 30 ft x 20 ft and 8 ft deep. No other feature or material culture was found. John said that this is the only prospect he knows of in or near the bottom of the gulch. The prospect may be associated with the Three Sisters mine claims of Edward W. Hitchings as the prospect is only about 100 feet east of Hitchings Cabins (5GA2204).

Prospect (5GA2889). The prospect is located about 30 meters to the east of the Illinois Mine (5GA2888), and may be associated with the mine. The prospect is about 10 x 10 feet in size and over 10 feet deep. John Gubbins said that it is usually filled with water. The lack of water in the prospect is thought to be directly related to the drought being experienced throughout Colorado. Bureau of Land Management GLO Records (Doc No. 45906) shows that William C. Krauter filed on 44.993 acres containing the Illinois Mine on October 25, 1907 under the authority of Mineral Patent-Lode (14Stat.251) of July 26, 1866. No other historical information about the mine or the prospect is known.

Prospect (5GA2890). This vertical mining prospect measures about 10 ft square by 4-5 feet deep. It is located about 120 meters south east of the Illinois Mine (5GA2888). No material culture was associated with this prospect. This prospect, or Prospect 5GA2891 below might be the Ruby Mine as noted in the NPS memo on quit claim mining deeds dated June 15, 1960 that includes the following: Mineral Certificate No.2054; GLO Survey No. 17823A and 17823B; Tract No. 311; 49.99 acres and included the Illinois, Ruby, Iowa, and Elmer, Katherine Mining Claims, and Katherine Mill Site. Grand County Recorder Book 130 at Page 180. The Ruby mine is located outside the park in the Campbell Mining District.

Prospect (5GA2891) . This mining prospect in the side of the mountain measures about 25 ft long by 15 – 20 feet wide, and 8 feet deep. It is located about 20 meters east of the Elmer Mine (5GA2193). No material culture was associated with this prospect. No photographs are available at this time. This prospect, or Prospect 5GA2890 above might be the Ruby Mine as noted in the NPS memo on quit claim mining deeds dated June 15, 1960 that includes the following: Mineral Certificate No.2054; GLO Survey No. 17823A and 17823B; Tract No. 311; 49.99 acres and included the Illinois, Ruby, Iowa, and Elmer, Katherine Mining Claims, and Katherine Mill Site. Grand County Recorder Book 130 at Page 180. The Ruby mine is located outside the park in the Campbell Mining District.

Wolverine and Toponis Mines

The Wolverine, Toponis, Cleopatra Mine, Ruby, Cross, Seneca Lode are located outside the park to the west of the crest of the Never Summer Range in the Campbell Mining District. The Wolverine and Toponis are briefly discussed as they were two of the more important mines in the region, and they were associated with the towns of Gaskill and Grand Lake. John Gubbins notes that the Campbell Mining District also includes at least 14 other mines that are not discussed here.

John Gubbins (n.d.) notes that:

Gaskill sits on the west side of the Kawuneeche Valley where Bowen Gulch empties into the valley. A road runs from Gaskill, up to the Wolverine Mine, and then over Bowen Pass. Today, the road isn't much more than an indistinct trail, but in its day it was quite passable. The area from the Wolverine to the pass is littered with mine sites. Just about every inch of ground was claimed at one time or another. Some of these mines were big – the Wolverine, the Toponis, Bourn's Tunnel, the Ruby, and the Cleopatra, to name but a few. The little post office site of Fairfax – another forgotten mining boomtown – is up there, too.

Wolverine Mine

The Wolverine Mine was owned by the Chicago and Middle Park Mining Company, and was described in an article from the *Grand Lake Prospector* in 1884, as “the first in importance in the amount of development and extent of ore bodies exposed among the mines of this district”.

During 1881, newspapers sang the praises of the Wolverine, “one of the finest and most valuable free fissure lodges in the known world. The Wolverine and Ruby are steadily producing ore of good quality. By the end of the year it was reported that there were two hundred tons of ore on the dump of the Wolverine. This large amount of ore prompted the promise of the Grand Lake Mining and Smelting Company to construct a smelter since transporting such a large amount of low-grade silver ore would have been prohibitively expensive. As the years went by and the smelter did not materialize, it became apparent that the economics of erecting a smelter were also questionable. (One article stated that the smelter was to cost \$100,000) (Baldwin 1980:42).

Gubbins (n.d.) has provided the following brief information on the Wolverine.

The mine was located on the southern slope of Bowen Mountain, and consisted of two levels about 150 feet apart vertically. These drifts each extend some 300 to 400 feet into the mountain where the gold ore was exposed in a seam about 30 inches wide. Both upper and lower were buried in the mid-1970s by rockslides.

Just west of the ore dump near the mouth of the mines was the foundation of a plank shed, but most of the miners lived below the mine in two buildings in what was known as Wolverine Camp. One building was a long bunkhouse, and the other was square with a stone foundation. The square building had a plank floor with a stone hearth and a wood-burning stove and was likely the mine office. None of the buildings are now standing as a local outfitter used them for firewood in the 1960s.

Originally intended to be an improved wagon road running across the continental divide and down to Teller City, the Bowen Gulch Road coming from Gaskill was not completed due to a lack of funds; it is now a trail.

Toponis Mine

This mine has not been formally recorded, but Gubbins (n.d.) has assembled most of the information about the mine. The mine is located on Bowen Mountain just outside the park near the Wolverine Mine. The following is a brief introduction to the mine.

The history of the Toponis begins with a pair of prospectors named James Bourn (or Bourne) and Alexander Campbell. On July 1, 1875, the two men filed claims on several rock outcroppings in the western end of what is now called Bowen Gulch, west of the Kawuneeche Valley. Among the claims they made was the famous Wolverine lode, which at the time seemed destined for greatness. The pair also registered claims on a number of other mines that were to be significant in Grand Lake, including the St. Louis, the Silent Friend, the Pelican Lode, the Jim Bourn, the Convulsion, and the North Star Lode.

By 1884 when the ore was grossing \$500 to \$600 in silver per ton, the mine was making little profit due to the high cost of shipping the ore over 60 miles over Berthoud Pass to Georgetown for reducing, and the Toponis was closed in the 1884.

Jim Bourn and Sandy Campbell left the area, but Bourn's name lives as Bourn is the Bowen of Bowen Gulch and Bowen Mountain fame. Ferrel Atkins (p.c. 2000) believes that due to the county clerk's poor penmanship, the name "Bourn" was mistaken for "Bowen," and over the years that name was given to the areas discussed. The misunderstanding evolved into a tradition complete with the misspelling that continues today.

Mining Towns

Six “towns” were established in the area to serve the mines: Fairfax, Gillette, Teller City, Gaskill, Lulu City, and Dutchtown. Unfortunately, very little historical information has come to light about these short-lived towns. Although only Gaskill, Dutchtown, and Lulu City were located in the park, the other towns are discussed as that were related to the mining in the park.

Wycoff (1999:60-68) presents several observations on the commonalities in mining towns in Colorado in his discussion of “The Mining Townscape”. Given what little we know about these towns, it would appear that his observations might be applicable in the Never Summer Range.

Wycoff (1999:64-65) lists six institutions that “symbolized the permanence and promise of the settlement”: a public school, churches, a hotel (boardinghouse), saloons, banks, and a newspaper. From the descriptions available for these towns, we note that only Teller City had a school and a newspaper. Churches and banks are not mentioned in any of the descriptions of the towns discussed here. With the exception of the very short-lived Dutchtown, Fairfax, and Gillette, all had saloons and hotel/boardinghouses.

Fairfax – 1884 to 1885

Buchholtz (1983:93) noted that “...nearer some of the high country mines [e.g., Wolverine and Toponis], a spot named Fairfax appeared. It sported only a double log cabin and served as a post office for the miners from June of 1884 until July of 1885. It was located in Bowen Gulch near the Ruby Mine”. Baldwin (1980:18) described it as a mining camp near the mines of the Alice Ormand Mining Company, the Wolverine, Ruby, Cleopatra, and Cross mines. The “town” was in existence from March of 1884 to July of 1885 as a post office for the surrounding mines (Baldwin 1980:18). John Gubbins reported that the remains of two structures were visible in the 1980s.

Gillette Town - 1880

According to Baldwin (1980:19):

M.V.B. Gillette, another of the early prospectors of the region apparently decided he would establish a town, and even reported in the Fort Collins Courier [of July 9 and 15, 1880]. The article stated that Gillette was the newest town in the park and that fifty lots were to be given away in the center of the town to anyone willing to settle there. By way of inducement to prospective miners and settlers, the Fort Collins Courier described Gillette’s prime location. “Gillette is on the banks of the main branch of the Grand [Colorado] and within about a quarter of a mile of all the principal mines on Lead and Sheep Mountains . . .” Two weeks later, it was noted that the town was to be laid out next week. As these are the only references found about Gillette, it is assumed that as so many others, the town never became more than an idea.

Teller City – 1880 to 1886

Teller City, first called Jack City, was founded in 1880. The town is located about 10 miles west of the park, and seven miles north of the important Wolverine Mine. It became the largest of the towns in the Rabbit Ear Range [now Never Summer Range], and covered some 300 acres holding some 60 houses made of logs with dirt roofs, blankets for doors and holes in the walls for windows (Baldwin 1980:40). By 1881 it was incorporated and boasted a school and newspaper (*North Park Miner*), and a postal service was inaugurated. By 1882 it had a population of 500 individuals which were served by 30 businesses including a “...watchmaker, bakery and restaurant, several saloons and mining companies, a blacksmith and a doctor...” (Baldwin 1980:41). One of the sawmills near the town was operated by Hill and Beckwith who moved their mill from the Mill Creek/Bierstadt Moraine area to Teller City in 1880 where they were “supplying North Park settlers until the machinery wore out” (Arps and Kingery 1994:108).

A wagon road up Bowen Gulch once tied the towns of Gaskill and Lulu City to Teller City. The road then led down Jack Creek to the Middle Park town of Rand. A road from Rand then led to the larger town of Walden. Walden was also accessible by going north from Jack Creek and over some hills to the South Fork of Michigan Creek (Baldwin 1980:41).

Although Teller City was the largest mining town in the area, it suffered the same fate as the others as the costs of shipping the ore to mills far exceeded the value of the ore. “By 1886, Teller City was listed as having only four businesses and was not listed at all in the *Colorado Business Directory* of 1887 (Baldwin 1980:41).

Lulu City – 1879 to 1883

Background

Lulu City (5GA302) began as a small gold and silver mining camp in June of 1879 when two Fort Collins, Colorado, entrepreneurs organized the Middle Park and Grand River Mining and Land Development Company in order to establish the town of Lulu City (Geary 1999: 41-42). It is believed that the town was named after the daughter of Benjamin Burnett, a prospector and one of the town’s founders. By 1880, a 160 acre town site had been surveyed and lots were being sold. By 1881 more than a dozen businesses were operating “... including a butcher shop, post office, real estate agency, two sawmills running night and day, a hotel, at least one saloon, a general store . . . some forty cabins . . . a clothing store, a barber shop, assorted hardware, grocery, and liquor stores, and a two-cabin red light district just north of the town to service the region’s miners” (Geary 1999: 42). Figure 6.14 shows the town in 1889, and Figure 6.15 in the 1930s – none of the buildings shown on these figures exist today.

Shipler's enterprise was part of a small mining boom in the North Fork area in the 1870s and 1880s. Miners formed small settlements at Lulu City and Gaskill (Auburn) inside the present park boundaries, opening mine operations at Specimen Mountain and in the Never Summer Range. Grand Lake profited from supplying the various operations with provisions and the first hotels were established. In summer 1880, the primitive Stewart Toll Road was constructed over Thunder Pass from Fort Collins to Lulu City. Twice-weekly mail service began in August. The following month, a stage road was completed from the mining camp down Grand-River to Grand Lake. By the end of the summer of 1881, Lulu City had a population of five hundred, a dry goods store, an assay office, two sawmills, the Godsmark and Parker Hotel, and several grocery and liquor stores (Quin 1993:8).

The boom, however, proved short-lived. The mines produced very little ore, and it was generally of low grade. Plans for a "concentrator" or smelter were never realized, and it proved too costly to ship the unrefined ore to smelters farther away [the rail road did not reach Granby until 1904]. By the fall of 1883, Lulu City was largely abandoned, and mail service ceased in November. The *Colorado Miner* reported in December that bears and mountain lions had driven off most of the remaining residents. Gaskill, several miles south in Bowen Gulch, was similarly abandoned in 1886 (Quin 1993:8).



Figure 6.14. Lulu City ca. 1889. (RMNP Cat No. 651)

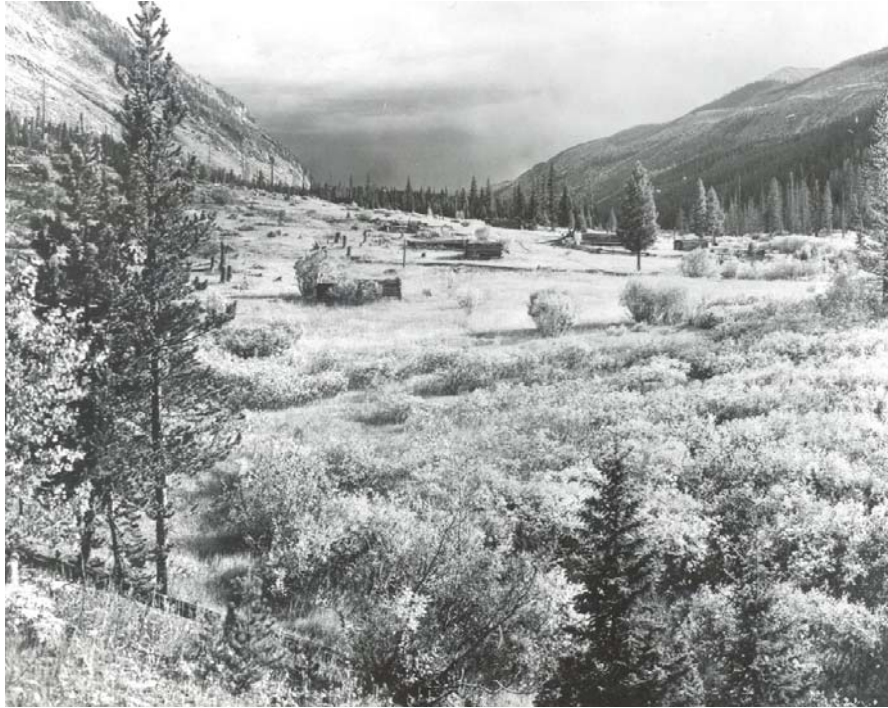


Figure 6.15. Lulu City in the 1930s before CCC Clean up. (RMNP 4694)

Between 1881 and 1882, Lulu City had as many as three stage coaches arriving each week from Walden, and two per week from the nearby town of Grand Lake. By 1884, mines were rapidly closing down due to the lack of good quality gold and silver ore (Buchholtz 1983: 96-97). Although most of its businesses and population left by the following year, some residents remained for a time and Lulu City officially became a ghost town by the mid 1890's. See also Atkins 1964, Baldwin 1980, Gubbins 1988, Holland 1971, Kaye 1983.

Archeological Observations

The site is located in a large meadow in a lodgepole pine forest on a slope east of the Colorado River floodplain. The town site has been field recorded as being over 10 acres in size (see also Gubbins 1988 and Figure 6.16). The main site area, i.e., "downtown", is located south of Lulu Creek and east and west of the lower end of what is now the Thunder Pass Trail. The present trail goes down what was the main street which was the Grand Lake-Lulu City – Walden Stage Road. The only visible structural remains of the former town are remnants of a log cabin, several ephemeral building platform outlines, a bear trap, and several light scatters of artifacts on the surface. Although two plat maps of the town were made in 1928, along with legal descriptions in 1949 (Baldwin 1980:75-81), they do not include the names or locations of the various structures in the town. However, in 1988, John Gubbins mapped the town using a metal detector and through historical records and photographs was able to identify the location of at least 19 structures, most of which he was able to name from archival sources (Gubbins 1988).

This map is presented as Figure 6.16. Lulu City was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on January 29, 1988.

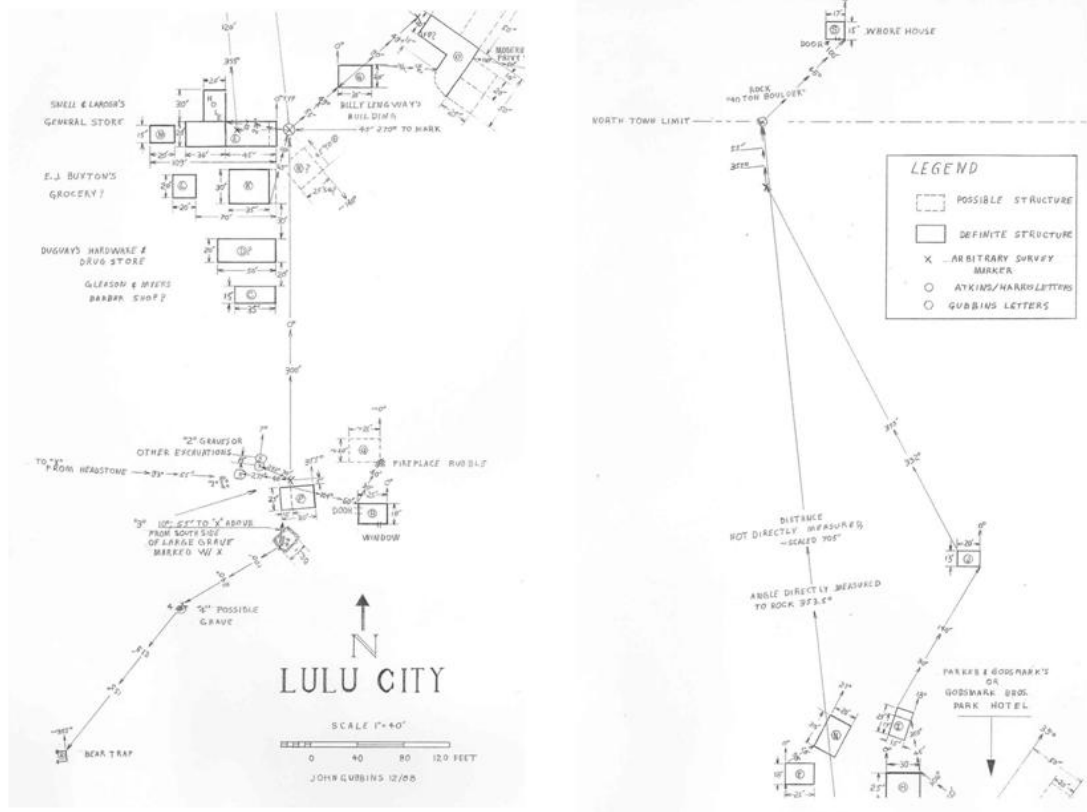


Figure 6.16. Lulu City Map by John Gubbins, 1988. The southern section is on the left, and the northern section of the town is on the right.

Dutchtown – 1879 to 1884

Background

The only historical source of information about Dutchtown (5GA807) comes from a letter written by long time Grand Lake resident Cloyd Redburn to Mr. Raymond Gregg at Rocky Mountain National Park on June 8, 1940; the entire letter is quoted below (see also Baldwin 1980, appendix 3).

I told you over here at the AAA Banquet that I would write you the story of Dutchtown, as told to me by an old fellow that was in Dutchtown at the time of the boom. His name was Andy Aerhart. This story was told to me in 1919 at Grand Lake.

The following is the story of Dutchtown, located in Hitchins Gulch, in the Never Summer Range. At the head of the North Fork of the Colorado River.

There seems to be considerable difference of opinion as to the actual dates of life of this little settlement, but 1879 to 1884 will take in the beginning and the end of this town.

Of course Lulu City was really established before Dutch Town, and Dutch Town was eventually to become a suburb of Lulu City.

It seems that even in those early days, the different nationalities were prejudiced against each others. The Dutch, Irish, and the Swedes. [Note that Baldwin (1980:38-39) believed that the Dutch were actually Germans, i.e., their name for their nationality is “Duetche”].

When Lulu City started each of these picked out their section of the City.

There were eight Dutchmen lived (sic) in one corner of the city. One day they went to Grand Lake and returned in the night sometime pretty well under the influence of liquor and proceeded to eliminate some of the other races of Lulu City.

With the result that they were completely and soundly beaten, their houses wrecked and some of them had to have medical aid.

Some of the more peaceful citizens of Lulu City were pretty badly damaged including one woman who came out of the fracas with a broken arm, one man with several broken ribs, and one fellow lost an eye.

Lulu's father, who by popular consent had always been the mayor of Lulu City demanded that they all be run out of town, and that no more Dutchmen be allowed to build or live within the limits of Lulu City.

As soon as the Dutchmen were able to be around again they were called together and told what the score was, and they believed it.

Consequently with many misgivings they left Lulu City and started up the Gulch where Mr. Hitchins had a claim, and a Cabin.

About two miles above Mr. Hitchins claim they decided on a site and camped and immediately started to build.

During the next two months they had plenty of trouble.

Some of the men a Lulu City were holding a grudge, and several time the Dutchmen were fired on from the hills surrounding their little village. One man being hit in the leg by a bullet.

They even went so far as to start a rock slide about the village hoping that it would wipe out the village and the men in it.

But the Dutchmen stuck and a natural barrier sprang up between them.

There is a small ridge between the Colorado Valley and Hitchens Gulch and this was declared as the deadline, and it wasn't considered safe for either side to venture across this ridge.

Thereafter if the population of Dutchtown had any business anywhere outside their little village they either had to go to Grand Lake or the little town of Gaskill, located at the mouth of Bowen Gulch, that was going strong at the same time.

While nobody every hit any ore that made them any money the settlement at Dutchtown stuck some six months to a year longer than at Lulu City, and Mr. Hitchins stayed with his claim about twenty years longer [ca. 1900].

Although the story may be true, the location of Dutchtown just below timberline and some two miles and 1,000 feet above Lulu City, suggests that the occupants may have been working the mines closer to the altitude of the camp. The location clearly indicates that the town was only occupied in the summer months.

Four unrecorded mines can be seen today from Dutchtown high on the sides of the mountains – two to the north, and two to the south. We suspect that they might be the Bertie Boy, Ruby Chief, or three mines of the Dolender Brothers on the south slope of Lead Mountain to the north of Dutchtown, or the Solid Muldoon, Grey Eagle, Elkhorn or Dunderburg reported to be to the south on the north slope of Howard Mountain. Note that the names of these mines are shown on the 1880 prospectus map which does not show Dutchtown or the Hitchens Cabins that were built sometime around 1879 – see below).

The National Register nomination by Ferrell Atkins describes the four buildings of the “town” in 1975 as follows:

An examination of the site reveals 4 decaying cabin ruins. The ruins of cabin #1 (see sketch map) stand about 4' high. This cabin, approximately 12' x 16', is constructed of square notched logs which protrude from the corners. Cabin #2, approximately 9' x 10', is constructed of saddle notched logs. This cabin stands about 2' high. Cabin #3, about 2' high, is approximately 15' x 18'. This cabin, of saddle notched logs, contains the ruins of a rubblestone chimney which stood in the

northwest wall. Cabin #4, approximately 12' x 15', stands about 2' high. This cabin of saddle notched logs had a rubblestone chimney in the west wall.

Archeological Observations

Dutchtown was recorded on June 25, 2002 as sites 5GA807.1 through 5GA807.4 (Figure 6.17). The same building numbering scheme used on a 1975 sketch map by Ferrel Atkins (Figure 6.18) were used in 2002.

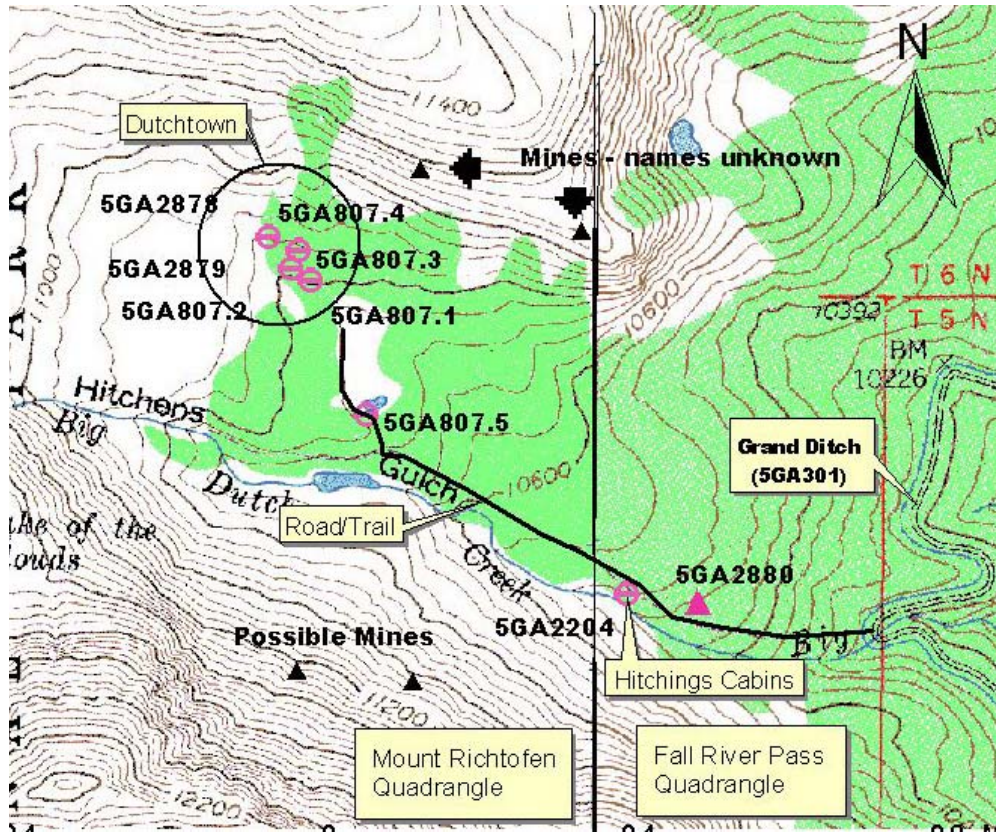


Figure 6.17. Dutchtown and Hitchens Cabins.

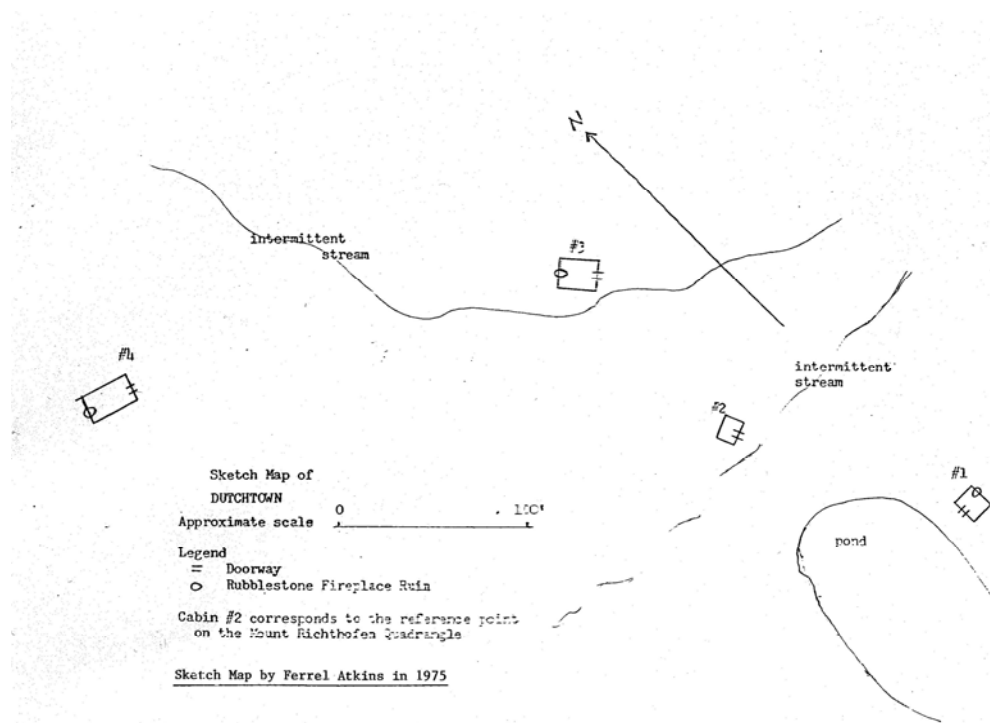


Figure 6.18. Dutchtown Sketch Map of Ferrel Atkins in 1975.

Cabin 1 (5GA807.1 – Figure 6.18 – 6.19): 24 x 12 ft plus a 6 ft lean-to or porch-like roof on the east end of the building. A 28 in wide south facing door is located on the south side of the structure where a piece of leather door hinge remains attached to the inside of the SW wall with a wire nail. A photograph taken in 1975 shows walls 6 logs high, whereas these walls are now only 4 logs high. Both wire and square nails were recovered along with a rusted forks and portions of two dinner knives.

Cabin 2 (5GA807.2): Measures ca. 10 x 9 ft. with only a few rocks left in place. No evidence of a fire place was seen in the structure. A photograph taken in 1964 shows the cabin with walls three logs high and a door in the center in what might have been the 10 foot long south wall. The two log high walls (in very poor condition) and a large downed tree observed in 1997 were completely gone by 2002. The bottom of a clear glass coke-sized bottle with the letters “CE ...” was found near the structure. Two rusted shovels were also found in the structure.



Figure 6.19. Dutchtown Cabin 1 in 1964.
(RMNP Historical Collection)



Figure 6.20. Dutchtown Cabin 1 in 2001. (W. Butler 2001)

Cabin 3 (5GA807.3): This cabin measures 17 x 15 ft and has the remains of a rock fireplace in the north west corner. The ca. 3 ft wide door is on the narrow east end of the building. Walls are three courses high in the southeast corner of the building.

Cabin 4 (5GA807.4): This is the western-most cabin on the site. It measures 20 x 13 ft with the remains of a collapsed rock fireplace in the northwest corner. A flattened sanitary can was found in the center of the cabin. Two roughly 4 x 4 ft square depressions were noted near the structure. One was about 4 feet from the southwest corner of the building, and the other was about 6 foot from the center of the north wall. These depressions are the only indications of outhouses anywhere in Dutchtown.

A photograph on file in the park has the notation “Ruins of blacksmith shop at Dutchtown in 1938”. This is the only mention of a blacksmith shop, and we suspect that the notation was in error as no other historical information mentions such a shop, and moreover, there is no archeological indication of a blacksmith’s forge, etc. The cabin shown has walls ca. 7 ft high, and we suspect the photograph is of Cabin 4 which had a large rock fireplace.

ChrisNik 1 ½ x ¼ inch Mag Nails were placed in the corners of the structures by the Park Archeologist to aid in future relocation when the log walls have completely disintegrated.

Dutchtown Road (5GA807.5) A small segment of the Dutchtown road (or wide trail) was seen some years ago on a field visit by John Gubbins. The approximate location is shown on the site forms. It is likely that the road was on, or closely paralleled, the current trail at least as far as the road along the Grand Ditch which was not in existence until after 1895 (see Plimpton 2000). The road/trail served both Dutchtown and the 1879 (?) Hitchen's Cabins. The location of the road/trail east (downhill) of the ditch has yet to be identified, but it is more likely that 5GA807.5 was a trail and that the formal road was not constructed until after the Grand Ditch was cut in the early 1900s.

Dutchtown was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on January 29, 1988.

Gaskill (Auburn) Townsite – 1880 to 1886

Background

The town of Gaskill (5GA2470) was established in 1880 after the towns of Lulu City and Teller, and lasted until about 1886 (Baldwin 1980:41-43). The town was renamed Auburn which was original residence of L. D. C. Gaskill in Auburn, New York, but the name was never used. The town was located at the mouth of Bowen Gulch to serve the Campbell Mining District which included Wolverine, Toponis, and Ruby Mines. The Gaskill town site is located on a terrace west of the Colorado River about 3 miles north of Grand Lake, and 8 miles south of Lulu City. Note that the 1958/1978 USGS Grand Lake quadrangle gives the name as Gaskil – with one “l”. Most of the information about Gaskill comes from the research of Susan Baldwin (1980). No photographs of the town have been found.

The *Georgetown Colorado Miner* of March 19, 1881 (quoted in Yost 2002) noted that:

In 1879, a promoter reported optimistically that “A town is to be laid off, and Gaskill, ‘ere long, may, with its superior advantages, become the chief town of Grand County. Besides its proximity to the mines, it is surrounded by hundreds of acres of the best meadow land on this side of the range. Good water and timber are also plentiful and convenient”. Gaskill boomed with a saloon, the storehouse of the Grand Lake Mining and Smelting Company, and “A saw mill with a capacity of five thousand feet per day [that was] in full blast” (but unable to fill the orders). In 1881, the papers reported “this new post office (Gaskill) is situated on the main route between Lulu City, and Grand Lake, about equally distant from both places, and at the mouth of the gulches leading up to the mines . . . At this place it is expected the works for trading ores will be erected during this summer.

Baldwin also notes that:

Meanwhile, the town of Gaskill continued to develop, though seemingly without the fervor of Lulu City and Teller City. A plan was drawn up by E. P. Weber, superintendent of the Wolverine, containing 165 blocks. Four blocks near the center were designated as a public square and there were 32 lots per block. The

north-south avenues were numbered from 1st to 11th and there were 15 streets running east-west named: Bluff, Weber, Main, Ashley, Park, Gaskill, Elizabeth, Centre, Grand, Beaver, Willows, Water, Pine, Mountain, and Spruce. Gaskill was renamed Auburn, for the original residence of L. D. C. Gaskill in Auburn, New York; however, the name was never used. According to the plat, laid out in June of 1882, Gaskill contained a post office, two saloons, one store and several occupied dwellings with more buildings under construction. The town, it was stated, “is destined to be one of the mining centres of the Rabbit Ear Mining District.” (Baldwin 1980:42-43).

During the summer of 1882, a Lulu began to decline, Gaskill was still growing. “Times are lively in this new burg” [Georgetown Miner, September 16, 1882]. Construction was booming. The new log houses were being erected and the Mowrey Brothers had enlarged their store. In competition with the Mowrey Brothers, Clements and Larson had also opened a general store. There was not one but two restaurants serving Gaskill at this time. Godsmark and Churchill (former residence of Lulu) were the proprietors of the Cascade Restaurant. A drugstore was to open soon as was a dance house. A by now familiar prediction was given by the Georgetown Colorado Miner [September 16, 1882] to the town” Gaskill will be the future metropolis of Grand County” (Baldwin 1980:43).

The population of Gaskill never increased beyond 50, and although it hung on for a short time longer than the others, it was also eventually abandoned. Its post office continued to operate; until November 11, 1886 but mining operations had ceased by this time (Baldwin 1980:43).

We have been unable to align the streets on the Auburn plat map of June 21, 1882 with a map produced by John Gubbins in 1986 (Figure 6.21, or with more recent archeological information. In addition, the location of only few named structures have been identified.

Find the center of Gaskill by locating a big hole ringed by large trees. That hole was Rogerson House, the hotel. A road cuts to the north, and cabin sites are along both sides. The site farthest north actually has some logs left to mark the spot. A second cabin site lies just south of the pyramid-shaped survey markers in the little creek, and just west of it is the riprap foundation of another cabin. This one actually stood with some of its roof intact until the mid 1970s (Gubbins 1986 map notes).

Gaskill failed along with the Kawuneeche mining boom, and few of its structures remain for several reasons. Chief among them is the Civilian Conservation Corps, or C.C.C. During the 1930s, the C.C.C. removed much of what remained of Gaskill and Lulu City. Some of the local ranchers “borrowed” the buildings to use in their operations, and the rest just rotted (Gubbins 1986 map notes).

Archeological Observations

Archaeological survey of the site in the summer of 2000 identified partial remains of at least 17 structures, including foundations and cellar pits belonging to former cabins, a saloon, hotel, and a sawmill (5GA2742). Numerous historic trash scatters and middens were also located, from which a sampling of seventeen diagnostic historic artifacts were collected and analyzed. Dates from the historic artifacts were found to range from 1850-1965, with most dates falling between 1880-1940. Two prehistoric lithic artifacts, a chert flake and a scraping tool were recovered from an entrenched two-track road running along the southwest boundary of the site, indicating a buried prehistoric component is present. Global Positioning System surveys of the site found its associated features and artifacts presently are scattered over an area of over 7 acres.

John Gubbin's 1986 map shows the town proper to have covered an area of at least 800 feet north-south by 400 feet east-west (Figure 6.21). His map shows the Rogerson Hotel along the Bowen Gulch Trail, two buildings to the south of the trail, a large building about 50 feet north of the hotel, a street (?) along the east side of the hotel extending north past a house. East of this street, and north of the Bowen Gulch Trail, are three buildings (stores ?), and four cabins. Some log walls exist on three of the cabins. Although roofs are missing, these cabins were only about 4 – 5 feet in internal wall height. The area is now covered with a dense growth of lodgepole pine and the surface is covered with pine needles, and Gubbins suggests that more buildings may be hidden in the dense tree covered area.

A collapsed log structure, ca. 30 x 20 feet in size, is located on the west edge of the town near the mouth of Bowen Gulch. The structure was built on a foundation of large river cobbles, and a collapsed wall was made of vertically set logs. Some milled lumber is also present, primarily as door frames. Buchholtz (1983:93) said that "A. G. Warner built a log cabin at the foot of Bowen Gulch and began offering miners provisions and liquor". Baldwin (1980:41) also notes that "John K. Mowrey and Jon Monger joined Warner in September [of 1880] and that they built another small cabin in which they kept a small stock of groceries, provisions and cigars". It is possible that the cabin remains described above are those of Warner, or Mowrey and Monger. It is also possible that these named cabins were located elsewhere and were absorbed into the town. A local informant suggested to John Gubbins that the building was the assay office for the town. We suggest that it could also have been the smelting company storehouse mentioned above. To further complicate the identification of the cabin, a study of the nearby 1922 Murray (aka Bowker Club) recreational cabin (removed in 2003) suggested that the structure was a garage associated with the cabin (Yost 2002). However, the collapsed log walls do not have large doors we would expect for a garage. The few artifacts remaining at the site (including an old iron bed frame) temporally encompass all the occupations.

The large excavation noted by Gubbins as being associated with the Rogerson Hotel is thought to be a cellar under the hotel for storing wine and food.

An experimental study to find buried deposits with ground penetrating radar and a metal detector was attempted by Larry Conyers and Thomas Lux of Denver University. The area examined was adjacent to the northwest side of the Rogerson House and cellar. Both the radar and metal detector were able to show the location of the remains of walls in this area, and these walls match those noted by Gubbins on his 1986 map.

Gaskill was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on January 29, 1988.

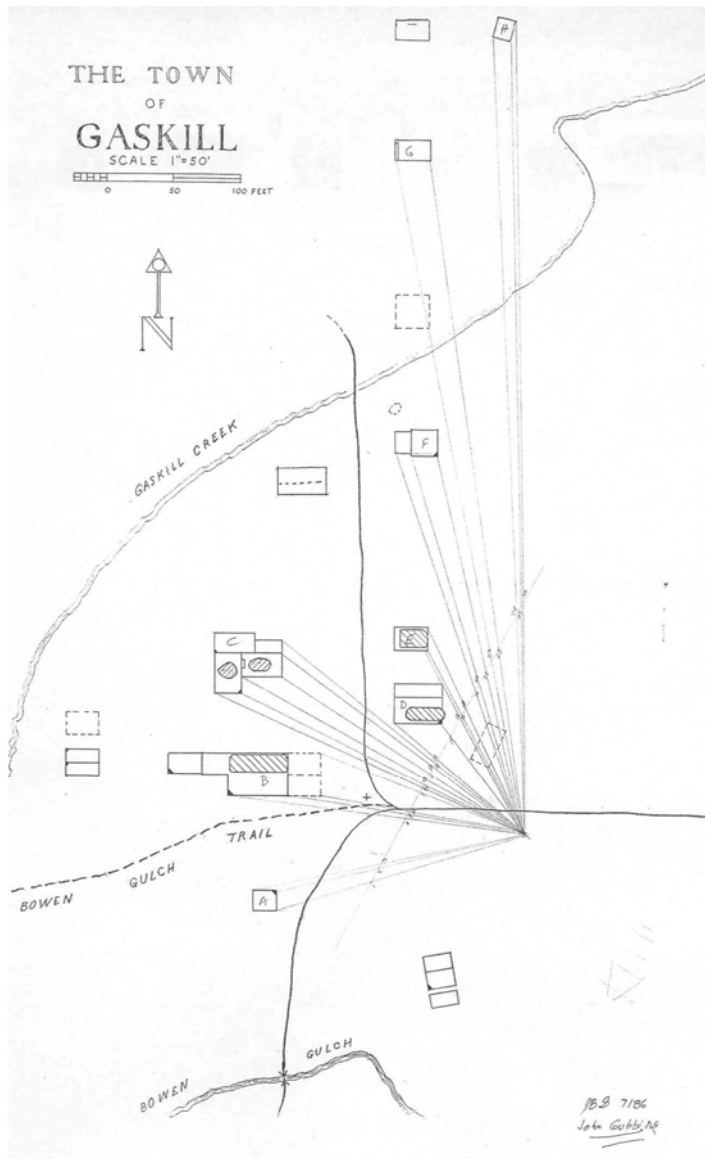


Figure 6.21. Gaskill (Auburn) Site Map by John Gubbins, 1986.

Mining Cabins

As Baldwin (1980:18-19) notes: “There were, of course, many cabins and camps which sprang up next to the mines they served, of which there remains a paucity of information.” This section presents what little is known about several cabins believed to have been associated with the mining in the valley.

B. F. Burnett Cabin (5GA2186)

Background

Identification of the remains as being those of Burnett’s cabin was made by John Gubbins. The cabin was built by Benjamin Franklin Burnett who was a founder of Lulu City (5GA302) in 1879. “Burnett claimed interest in 14 mines “at Lulu City and on or near Lead Mountain” and said that his principal mine, the Lulu (named for his daughter), had assayed 104 oz. of silver per ton” (Atkins 1975 in Baldwin 1980:96). The Lulu mine (5GA2187) is located about 150 feet to the west of the cabin. No other written information is known about the cabin or the Lulu mine.

Archeological Observations

The cabin remains consist of a rock foundation ca. 32 feet along what was the north side of the cabin, with the side walls each about 22 feet long as indicated by deteriorated logs. Other than the north wall, all other walls were apparently were set directly on the ground. Doorways are suggested along the north and south walls, and a concentration of rocks in a 3 x 3 ft area in the center of the south wall suggests a “porch”. A deteriorated ridge pole of pine is present along the east-west axis. Whether the ridge pole represented a gabled roof, or a flat roof cannot be determined. No fireplace was indicated inside the cabin, and an iron stove might be suspected as Burnett had the money to buy one and have it shipped to the cabin. A hearth 3 feet in diameter is located in the flat area about 17 feet due north of the center of the north wall. A can dump consisting mostly of rusted solder dot and sanitary cans is located about 30 feet south and slightly downhill from the cabin. The foundation and associated hearth is on a flat area on a moraine on the west side of the Kawuneeche Valley. The remains of a road can be seen leading from the cabin to the southwest, probably toward the main wagon road up the valley.

Hitchings (aka Hitchens) Cabins (5GA2204) – 1879 ? - 1904 aka Three Sisters Claim and Three Sisters Mill

Background

Very little is known about the Hitchings Cabins or their builder, and most of what is known comes from a letter and a mining claim reported by Atkins (1964: Hitchens Cabins). The cabins were recorded in 2002 as 5GA2204 (Figure 6.17).

The Bureau of Land Management's Mineral Survey files shows that an Edward W. Hitchings was awarded claim 18917 on June 17, 1909 which was cancelled and reissued as claim 19012 A and B of October 23, 1909. This filing was for the Three Sisters Claim and Three Sisters Mill located in Sec 1 & 2, Township 5N, Range 76W in the Lead Mountain Mining District. The area shown on a map accompany the claim shows the claim to be on the north facing side of Howard Mountain. Four possible prospects/mines were pointed out in the field by John Gubbins on June 25, 2002 on either side of Hitchens Gulch that may have been associated with the occupants of the cabin or with Dutchtown which is located a little over one half a mile up the gulch to the west.

Hitchens Gulch is shown on the Fall River USGS Quadrangle (1958) spelled with an "ens", but Ferrel Atkins (p.c. 2000) said that he believed the USGS researcher misheard the pronunciation of the actual name of Hitchings when deciding on a formal name for the gulch on the map.

However, Hitchins is mentioned in the letter written about Dutchtown by long time Grand Lake resident Cloyd Redburn to the park in June 8, 1940.

There seems to be considerable difference of opinion as to the actual dates of life of this little settlement, but 1879 to 1884 will take in the beginning and the end of this town.

Consequently with many misgivings they [the founders of Dutchtown] left Lulu City and started up the Gulch where Mr. Hitchins had a claim, and a Cabin.

About two miles above Mr. Hitchins claim they decided on a site and camped and immediately started to build.

While nobody every hit any ore that made them any money the settlement at Dutchtown stuck some six months to a year longer than at Lulu City, and Mr. Hitchins stayed with his claim about twenty years longer [ca. 1900 +].

Although Arps and Kingery (1994:79) add to the confusion about the correct spelling of his name, and what name is actually on the quadrangle (it is Hitchens) they note that:

A prospector named Hichens (misspelled Hichings on the 1961 map) located a vein here in the early 1890s. Over it he erected a shaft house and built a few other buildings, and here he lived and worked for years. When he was an old man, still coming to Grand Lake for supplies, he used to ask people what he should say when he met his three dogs in heaven. "Each of them thought he was my best friend".

Archeological Observations

Three cabins made of logs are located on the north side of Big Dutch Creek in Hitchens Gulch (the present name on the USGS Quadrangles – see Figure 6.17) and most likely are the Three Sisters Mill listed in the claim.. These cabins were recorded as site 5GA2204 – the mines associated with the claim have not been recorded. No evidence was found indicating that a mill was actually located in or near the cabins. As noted in the introduction, more land could be claimed for a mill than for a simple prospect or mine.

The cabins farthest from the creek consist of three rooms in one cabin that is separated by a 12 ft space from a single room cabin on the east. The doors all face south. Construction is of peeled logs with saddle notches; present walls are between 3 and 4 courses high. It is unknown as to what the original roof looked like, but a shed-like roof is suspected. John Gubbins (p.c. 2002) said that at one time you could see the location of windows in the walls. A single room cabin is located about 80 feet south of the other cabins and adjacent to Big Dutch Creek.

Cabin 1 consists of three rooms totaling 26 ft long by 13 ft wide. Room 1 (farthest west) is 13 x 10 ft; the entire south wall is gone so determining the location and size of the door or any windows cannot be done. However, it is possible that there was no door and that this was an open bay (barn?). Room 2 (east of Room 1) measures 6 by 10 ft and has a 26 inch wide door in the southwest corner of the room. Room 3 is set in from the south wall of Rooms 1 and 2, and thus measures 11 ft by 11 ft. The door is in the center of the south facing wall. Portions of a milled lumber door jamb are present on one side of the door in Room number 3.

Cabin 2 cabin measures 14ft long by 12 ft deep, and is located about 12 ft from the east end of Room 1. A central door faces south.

Cabin 3 is located near the creek and is 11 ft wide by 17 ft 6 in long. A single door is located in the center of the north wall. John Gubbins (p.c. 2002) recalled a wood burning stove in one of the corners on the west end of the room. A ridge pole for the roof lies at right angles to the door.

The Park Archeologist placed ChrisNik 1 ½ x ¼ inch Mag Nails in the corners of the structures to aid in future relocation when the log walls have completely disintegrated.

Prospect hole 5GA2880 is located about 100 feet east of the cabins and may be associated with Hitchings claims. John Gubbins said that this is the only prospect he knows of in or near the bottom of the gulch.

The Dutchtown Road (5GA807.5) passes through the Hitchens Cabins and parallels the current trail to the Grand Ditch (ca. 4,690 ft/ 1429 m) which was not in existence until after 1895 (see Plimpton 2000). The location of the road/trail east (downhill) of the ditch has yet to be identified, and in fact may not exist, i.e., the Dutchtown Road was most likely constructed after the ditch was completed in the early 1900s.

Jack Kierstead Homestead (5GA2194)

Background

Jack Kierstead homesteaded the area in the 1870s. Other than his name, no information about him or the homestead has been found. John L. Kierstead and Simon H. Egberton filed a claim on the Ella mine on August 1, 1879. We proposed above that this mine is about 100 feet north of the homestead.

This may have been one of the earliest homesteads in the valley and possibly in existence before any mining as John Gubbins noted that the references to many mines in the area are made in terms of their relationship to the location of the Kierstead Homestead. It was these references to a “double cabin” that allowed Gubbins to attach names to the mines and prospects such as the Ella, Lulu, Silver Star, and Diamond Crystal. That is to say, reference were made in newspaper articles and in other sources that said something like: “the Ella was about 200 feet north of Kierstead’s place”.

Although presently unsubstantiated, local lore suggested that it may have served as a stage stop along the Grand Lake – Lulu City Wagon Road. Its location next to the road and near several mines would make it a logical meeting place to catch a wagon or stage.

Archeological Observations

The remains today appear to be that of two cabins with a central breeze way that may have been covered at one time. The eastern most cabin is outlined by deteriorated pine logs ca. 30 ft (?) long along the east wall, and 20 ft north-south. The remains of a fireplace are noted in the center of the north wall, and immediately east of what appears to be a north facing doorway; an oddity as doors in cabins in the area usually faced south or east. The western part of the cabin consists of deteriorated logs outlining a depressed area ca 15 feet east-west by 20 feet north-south, and about 3 feet deep. No fireplace remains were noted in the western section, and the depression suggests a cellar (?) or storage room. However, the western section is built into the slope of the hill sloping downward to the west toward the river, i.e., it may not be a true cellar.

Katherine Mill Site (5GA2190)

Katherine Mining Claims

Background

Identification of the remains of a structure as the Katherine Mill was made by John Gubbins. Bureau of Land Management GLO Records (Doc No. 45906) shows that 5

acres were patented to William C. Krauter on October 25, 1907 under the authority of Mill Site Patent (17Stat.91) of May 10, 1872. Krauter also filed on 44.993 acres containing the Illinois Mine (5GA2888) on the same date.

An NPS memo on quit claim mining deeds dated June 15, 1960 includes the following: Mineral Certificate No.2054; GLO Survey No. 17823A and 17823B; Tract No. 311; 49.99 acres and included the Illinois, Ruby, Iowa, and Elmer, Katherine Mining Claims, and Katherine Mill Site. Grand County Recorder Book 130 at Page 180.

The only published reference mentioning a mill in the area is a short statement in Baldwin (1980:34) that includes a quote taken from the *Rocky Mountain News* of May 12, 1882: “The news of the construction of a smelter by the Grand Lake Mining and Smelting Company, owner of the Wolverine [mine located about 20 miles to the southwest and outside the park in Bowen Gulch], undoubtedly sparked the enthusiasm of many. The mill, it was thought, would induce many to develop their leads, and ‘make the camp [Lulu City] boom, as it would or could not without a mill’”. Indeed, a mill located anywhere in the area was needed to avoid the expensive task of shipping the raw ore over Berthoud Pass to Georgetown for processing.

The Katherine Mill was located about 2 miles south of Lulu City near the Grand Lake – Lulu City road (5GA2183), which would have been a good location for a mill, but John Gubbins suggests that using the word *mill* may have been a lie to allow for the claiming of more land than allowed with a regular mining claim. Mining claims measured 1500 x 300 ft to 600 ft (in Colorado), or up to about 160 acres in size, but miners could claim up to a section (640 acres) for establishing a mill or other ore processing facility (see the introduction to mining above and Colorado and Southern pamphlet 1889; Spude 1990; Noel, Mahoney, and Stevens 1994; and Twitty 2002).

We might also conjecture that Krauter was filing on the land and used the word in order to generate some financial interest in establishing a mill on his land. As noted on the component form, the archeological remains are that of a 16 x 14 ft log cabin – not a mill. In fact, no evidence could be found suggesting that any ore was processed at this “mill”. The Iowa Prospect (5GA2191) is located about 120 feet to the west of the site, and was probably dug by Krauter, or people he hired.

Archeological Observations

The log cabin measures about 21 feet n-s by 14 feet e-w. Walls are 4 to 5 courses high and corners are v-saddle notched. A 30 inch wide door way is located midway along the east wall. Remains of a collapsed rock fireplace are in the northeast corner of the cabin. A platform, possibly for sleeping, is located along the south wall. The platform was made by inserting the ends of the logs in the east and west walls. There is no evidence of any ore being processed anywhere in the area.

Mining Cabin (5GA2199)

Background

A few decomposed logs indicate the existence of a cabin located on a bench above the Colorado River south of Shipler's Cabins. According to John Gubbins, no archival information exists about the cabin. Gubbins suspects that the cabin may have been destroyed by an avalanche as it is located at the bottom of an obvious avalanche chute.

Archeological Observations

The cabin platform and historic artifacts are located immediately off the present La Poudre Pass trail (Grand Lake – Lulu City Wagon Road) on a low, narrow bench. The site is located in the vicinity of several working mines that were active in the 1870's and 1880's and likely provided shelter for a few of the miners (see Baldwin 1980: 18-19). The estimated size of the cabin was ca. 16 by 6-7 feet and appears to have been what is referred to here as a "sleeper cabin", used only for essential shelter and sleeping. Evidence of a rock fireplace was found in the southwest corner of the cabin. One small section of a former cabin wall is evident in a linear line of rotting wood. Both recent historic and late 19th Century artifacts were found at the site. They included a green, flat window glass sherd, a 3 ¾ inch diameter sanitary can lid, several fragments of brown beer bottle glass, two number 9 wire nails, several cut nails/spikes (3 and 6 inch), a cast iron metal fragment, several small pieces of anthracite coal (for a heating/cooking stove). Note that the coal was most likely derived from the coal mines located west of the Never Summer Range in North Park (Black 1969:294).

Shipler Cabins (5GA2202) 1879 to 1914

Background

Joseph Shipler was an important figure in the development of the mining in the Kawuneeche Valley. Mr. Frank H. Robinson and Victor B. Robinson, descendants of Joseph Shipler, recently donated several documents to the park about Shipler and his mining endeavors that provided important historical information about Shipler and mining in the valley.

The Robinsons' stated that their "great, great grandmother was Elsie L. Shipler (10/9/1798 – 11/25/1888) of Mercer County, PA. Her brothers were Peter and Joseph Shipler (F. Robinson letter August 23, 2004)." Joseph E. Shipler was the son of Peter Shipler of Mercer, Pennsylvania (J. E. Shipler letter November 8, 1900).

The Shipler's Cabins were also known as "Coon Town" after one of Shipler's associates (Baldwin 1980:18). Their primary owner was Joseph Shipler who had originally been a resident of Fort Collins, Colorado, before moving the valley to begin mining operations with three other partners in 1879. The second name, "Coon Town", was derived from Shipler's mining partner, Marcus Coon, who appears to have initially built one or both of the cabins before selling them to Shipler. The cabins were likely built from ca. 1879 to 1881 when mining prospects were getting underway in the area and Shipler and his associates were excavating several mining claims. Shipler was still living in his cabin in 1914 (Arps and Kingery 1994:143).

Archeological Observations

The remains of two cabins are located at the north edge of a large meadow extending to the southeast toward the Colorado River. The cabins are about twenty feet apart – see Figures 6.22 and 6.23. The western cabin measures 16 by 14 feet. The walls now consist of single logs on three sides, and two courses along the north wall; the walls have a maximum height of 1.5 feet. The larger cabin to the east measures 18 by 16 feet, and has log walls of 5 and 6 courses rising to nearly seven feet in places. Doors were to the south, and no evidence exists indicating the presence of a stone fireplace. The cabin log ends are ax-notched with triangular notches. No historic artifacts were noted in the area, but were probably "cleaned up" by the CCC and park staff, or collected by park visitors hiking the popular La Poudre Pass Trail (the old Grand Lake – Lulu City Wagon Road) next to the site.



Figure 6.22. Shipler Cabins in 1938 (RMNP Cat No. 692).



Figure 6.23. Shipler Cabins in 2003 (W. Butler 2003).

Skeleton Gulch Cabin (5GA2703)

Background

The Skeleton Gulch cabin (5GA2703) is located in Skeleton Gulch just south of Sawmill Creek. The cabin is located just below the Boanerges Mine and Esmeralda Mine, and was probably associated with them. These mines have not been recorded and little more than the name and location is known. As these mines were owned by J. E. Shipler (see above), it seems reasonable to assume that he also owned the cabin. No historical or archival information is available about the cabin itself. However, a check of the General Land Office records shows no mines being formally patented in the area.

Archeological Observations

The ca. 10 by 12 foot cabin consists of low walls about 6 logs in height, with saddle notched ends. Some small logs running at right angles to the long axis are probably stringers for a peaked (?) roof. A fire place of granite cobbles was located in the southwest corner of the structure. A ca. 2 ft wide door set in the log walls with milled 1 x 4 boards is located along the east wall of the building. Some shards of window glass were found to the south east of the cabin indicating glazed windows were present, and an opening in the south wall appears to have been for a window. A bed or shelf was constructed in the southeast corner to the left of the door by inserting logs directly into the southeast wall and at a right angle to the wall, i.e., the wall was one support for the bed. This is the same practice as previously found at the Katherine Mill Site (5GA2190).

A large area of trash ca. 10 ft in diameter is located about 20 feet to the northeast of the structure. The dump contains both wire and square nails, broken bottles, a pail, some solder dot cans, but with several large size sanitary cans; the large size suggests more than one or two people used the cabin. Parts of a shovel contains the notation “Time Temper Dynamic, No. 189859, Heat Treated”. The modern/historic cairn reported as 5GA2697 near the cabin may be a marker for a mining claim.

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