

***Cashier Mine: Upper Workings  
Site 5ST1159***

The Cashier Mine was one of the most important producers in the northeast portion of the Golden Horseshoe. Two separate sites represent the operation, and they include the main tunnel and base area (5ST1158) and the upper workings (5ST1159). The upper workings manifest as a voluminous open-cut, several smaller open stopes, and associated waste rock dumps. The workings represent the Cashier ore body, which miners initially developed near the surface then undermined through the main haulage tunnels.

The site, at around 10,100 feet elevation, lies on the east side of Brown Gulch directly above the Cashier Mine and Mill complex. The steep wall of Brown Gulch surrounds the site and is vegetated with a young lodgepole pine forest. The site retains archaeological integrity and is an important landscape feature.

Cashier Mine: Upper Workings Site Description

The open-cut is the most distinct feature on the site. The cut (F1) manifests as an irregular bowl around 135 by 300 feet in area and at least 60 feet deep. Initially, miners removed rock through a tunnel (F13), which they drove from a point downslope. In later years, they undermined the cut and drew the ore and waste rock down into underlying stopes and raises. As these collapsed over time, the cut's floor became a sinkhole. The cut's headwall, forming the northeast edge, is around 40 feet high, sheer, and features the remnants of two open stopes. Several waste rock dumps (F5-F7) lie on the cut's west edge, and they represent early development.

When the Royal Tiger Mines Company reopened the Cashier in 1917, they reworked the open-cut from the surface downward. Miners installed a system of cables over the open-cut to raise an ore bucket out of the void, and two cables (F8, F9) currently remain. Exactly how the hoisting system functioned is unknown.

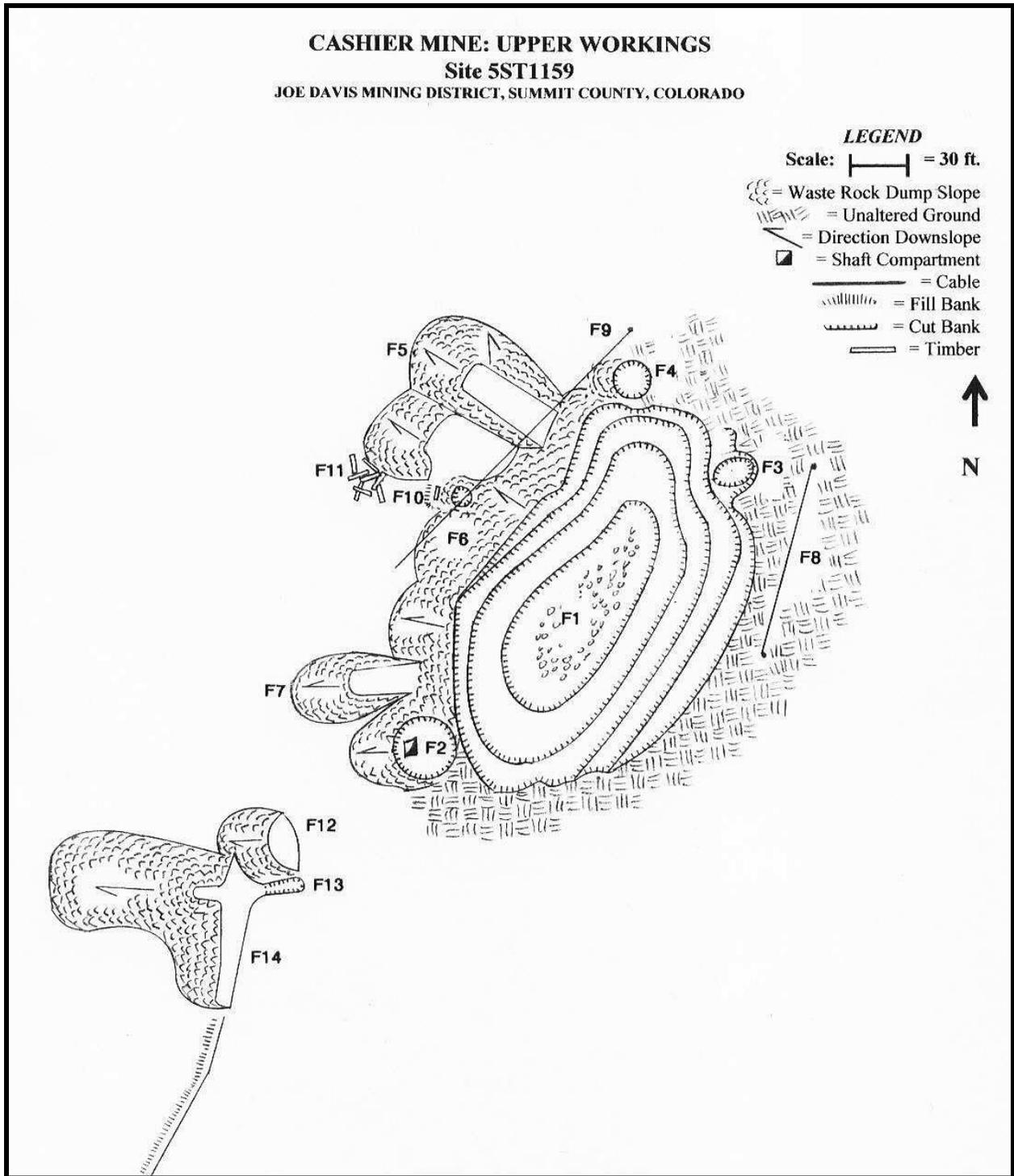


Figure 2.52: Plan view of the Cashier Mine's upper workings.

The Royal Tiger miners also constructed a primitive aerial tramway to send ore down to the Cashier Mill. The ruins of a terminal (F11) lie downslope from the open-cut, and they consist of jumbled structural debris. The sheave wheel (F10) for the tramway cable remains in place upslope from the terminal ruin, and workers installed it on a small cut-and-fill platform.

Workers assembled the sheave system with salvaged materials, including a wheel removed from a headframe somewhere else.

The site possesses a light artifact assemblage limited to structural materials and industrial hardware. Most of the artifacts are associated with the tramway remnant, and some industrial debris lies scattered on the waste rock dumps.

### Cashier Mine: Upper Workings Site Significance

The site is dominated by an open-cut, also known as a glory hole, approximately 135 by 300 feet in area and at least 60 feet deep. Workers initially created the cut around 1900 by undermining a system of gold veins, blasting the material, and drawing it down into the underground workings of the Cashier Mine. In 1917, miners extracted ore directly from the pit with a system of cables and pulleys. When finished, the miners left a massive hole that abruptly opens amid a dense pine forest. Because of the site's historical importance and appearance, it is recommended eligible for the NRHP and the SRHP under Criteria A and C.

In terms of Criterion A, the site is associated with trends important on local and statewide levels. Specifically, the open-cut is a direct manifestation of the Cashier Gold Mining & Milling Company's high volume of gold production. The company made substantial economic contributions on local and statewide levels through both its production and the acquisition of goods and services. Further, the company contributed to a boom that swept the Breckenridge area during the early 1900s. By successfully producing high volumes of ore, the company drew attention to the area, interested investors, and helped foster a sense of confidence in the mining industry. The company was also a major employer and retained a substantial workforce of around twenty miners.

In terms of Criterion C, the open-cut is an excellent example of a type of excavation popularly known as a glory hole. As noted above, glory holes were created when massive ore formations were mined from the bottom up and the blasted ore drawn down into a main tunnel for removal. Glory holes are uncommon because few ore bodies were large and disseminated enough to form massive pits when removed. Both historically and today, glory holes are evocative of successful mining on a large scale, and they are important landmarks epitomizing underground mining.

### Cashier Mine: Upper Workings Site Management Recommendations

Management recommendations are few because the site requires little work. The site does, however, feature several openings that Summit County Trails and Open Space may wish to close for safety reasons. Any proposed closures should seek to maintain the site's current visual impact.