

Fair Tunnel
Site 5ST1162

The Victoria Mining Company began driving the Fair Tunnel during the 1890s as an exploratory operation. The company hoped that the tunnel would encounter deep extensions of Farncomb Hill's rich gold veins, but the effort was largely a failure. Today, the site lies on the floor of American Gulch adjacent to the Victoria Mill (5ST1169) and a short distance south of the Wapiti Mining Company Office (5ST372). The gulch floor descends steeply east, its walls are abrupt, and the area is forested with second-growth lodgepole pines. The site consists of a waste rock dump and little else. The entire gulch floor, including the dump, has been completely bulldozed, leaving no historic attributes. As a result, the site possesses little integrity and was therefore not recorded in detail.

Fair Tunnel Site Description

The area where the tunnel was located has been completely bulldozed in conjunction with modern placer mining, which erased all historic features and artifacts. The tunnel portal and the associated surface plant have been completely obliterated, and the waste rock dump has been reduced to a bulldozed terrace of slate material on the steep floor of American Gulch. The dump's original size is unknown, and it currently measures 90 by 150 feet.

Fair Tunnel Site Significance and Management Recommendations

The Fair Tunnel lost its historic integrity to bulldozing, and no identifiable features remain except for the waste rock dump. As a result, the site is not a sound example of a hardrock mine, is no longer significant as a historic resource, and is recommended ineligible for the NRHP and the SRHP. Management recommendations suggest no further considerations as a historic resource.