

***Victoria Mill
Site 5ST1169***

The Victoria Mining Company built the mill in 1888 to treat gold ore brought down from the Gold Flake, Boss, Key West, and other hardrock mines in the area. The mill was a substantial facility equipped with amalgamation and concentration machinery, and an inclined rail tramway that delivered ore from the mines above. Today, the site lies on the floor of American Gulch adjacent to the Fair Tunnel (5ST1162) 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 partial platforms, machine parts, and little else. The entire gulch floor, the adjacent Fair Tunnel, and the millsite have been completely bulldozed, leaving few historic attributes. As a result, the site possesses little integrity and therefore was not recorded in detail.

Victoria Mill Site Description

The mill remnants manifest as two concentrations of debris separated by a tongue of waste rock pushed by a bulldozer. The site is 50 by 105 feet in area and offers only several archaeological features from what was a much larger complex. The southwestern debris pile is 25 by 30 feet in area and consists of lumber, sheet iron, an articulated floor section, and an in situ post. Most of the debris was bulldozed from a location to the north. The northeast concentration is 30 by 45 feet in area and lies on what was one of the mill's platforms. The platform's head was damaged then buried by a bulldozer, and the cut-bank was removed probably for missed gold. The debris pile consists mostly of lumber. A machine foundation and the chassis and several rollers from a vanner (a concentration machine) also remain.

Victoria Mill Site Significance and Management Recommendations

The Victoria Mill site lost its historic integrity to bulldozing, and few identifiable features remain except for partial platforms and debris. As a result, the site is not a sound example of a mill, 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.