

HAMILTON MINE AND MILL
Site 5ST364
JOE DAVIS MINING DISTRICT, SUMMIT COUNTY, COLORADO

Feature Descriptions

Level No.1 Tunnel and Level No.2 Tunnel Complex

Feature 1 Prospect Adit

Size: 40 ft long, 6 ft wide

Description: The adit collapsed, leaving an area of subsidence 40 feet long and 6 feet wide. The remains of log cap-and-post timbers are exposed in the area of subsidence. The waste rock dump manifests as a fan of three lobes radiating outward from the adit portal. The dump, 30 by 36 feet in area and 4 feet high, is hummocky and slopes downward, reflecting deposition from a wheelbarrow.

Feature 2 Prospect Adit

Size: 30 ft long, 8 ft wide

Description: The adit collapsed, leaving an area of subsidence 30 feet long and 8 feet wide. The waste rock dump manifests as a pad approximately 36 by 40 feet in area and 6 feet high. The dump's hummocky surface indicates that prospectors used wheelbarrows to dump the rock.

Feature 3 Level No.1 Tunnel

Size: 66 ft long, 8 ft wide

Description: The tunnel collapsed, leaving an area of subsidence 66 feet long and 8 feet wide. Prospectors erected log cap-and-post timber sets to support the portal, which are exposed in the area of subsidence. The logs feature a combination of cut- and wire nails, reflecting installation prior to 1890 and rehabilitation afterward.

Feature 4 Waste Rock Dump

Size: 78x78 ft, 8 ft high

Description: The dump features three principal lobes radiating outward from the tunnel portal, and miners graded the top-surface flat. A scatter of forge clinker and shop refuse indicates a small blacksmith shop stood on the dump.

Feature 5 Level No.2 Tunnel

Size: 78 ft long, 7 ft wide

Description: The tunnel collapsed, leaving an area of subsidence 78 feet long and 7 feet wide. Prospectors erected log cap-and-post timber sets to support the portal, which are exposed in the area of subsidence. The remains of a snowshed, once made with log posts and lumber siding, link the tunnel portal with the nearby shop remnant. Wire nails were used to fasten the woodwork.

Feature 6 Waste Rock Dump

Size: 96x110 ft, 10 ft high

Description: The dump features two principal lobes extending outward from the tunnel portal. Miners graded the dump's top-surface flat and erected a shop adjacent to the tunnel portal.

Feature 7 Shop Remnant

Size: 11x11 ft

Description: Miners built a log shop adjacent to the portal of Level No.2 Tunnel to maintain tools and fabricate hardware. They constructed the shop with V-notched joints and chinked gaps between the logs with log strips on the exterior and planks on the interior, which retain duff insulation. The walls stand 5½ feet high and the roof collapsed. The north wall features a doorway 32 inches wide and 5 feet high, and the west wall features a 32 by 32 inch window. A gravel-filled wood box forge, 3½ by 3½ feet in area and 2 feet high, stands in the shop's southwest corner. A shop worker dumped forge clinker outside the west wall, creating a small mound.

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Feature Descriptions

Southern Prospect Workings

Feature 8 Prospect Adit

Size: 36 ft long, 6 ft wide

Description: The adit collapsed, leaving an area of subsidence 36 feet long and 6 feet wide. The remains of log cap-and-post timbering are exposed in the area of subsidence. The waste rock dump manifests as a pad 27 feet in area and the top-surface slopes away, reflecting deposition from wheelbarrows.

Feature 9 Prospect Shafts

Size: 10 ft diam

Description: Prospectors sank a pair of shallow shafts near the floor of Summit Creek. The collars of both shafts collapsed, leaving depressions 10 feet in diameter and 5 feet deep. The waste rock dump is 24 by 36 feet in area and 3 feet high. Within the last week the property owner graded a narrow road across the dump's top-surface with a small bulldozer.

Feature 10 Waste Rock Dump

Size: 18x50 ft, 4 ft high

Description: The waste rock dump manifests as a rectangular pad of rock. The associated adit was obliterated by bulldozing within the last week. The remnants of a log structure stand on the dump's north portion and a building platform lies on the south portion. The log structure remnant is 10 by 15 feet in area and consists of two partial walls 4 feet high. The building platform is 8 by 10 feet in area and is countersunk in the dump's top-surface. Duff, which may obscure artifacts, blankets the dump.

Feature 11 Prospect Adit

Size: 15 ft long, 5 ft wide

Description: The prospect adit collapsed, leaving an area of subsidence 15 feet long and 5 feet wide.

Feature 12 Waste Rock Dump

Size: 30x26 ft, 4 ft high

Description: The dump is currently used as a vehicle pullout and no longer retains its original top-surface. Artifacts on and around the dump were recorded with the adjacent residential features.

Feature 13 Prospect Pit Series

Size: 60 ft long

Description: Prospectors excavated a linear series of four prospect pits across the hillslope. Each pit is approximately 6 feet in diameter and 5 feet deep. The center pits may have been used as privy pits, and domestic refuse associated with the residential features located upslope lies around.

Feature 14 Prospect Adit

Size: 4x8 ft

Description: The adit portal collapsed, leaving an area of subsidence that currently undermines a cabin remnant upslope. An intact log cap-and-post timber set stands at the portal.

Feature 15 Waste Rock Dump

Size: 42x60 ft, 6 ft high

Description: The dump manifests as a pad extending outward from the adit portal. A road passes across the top-surface, and the top-surface was bulldozed in decades past. Artifacts on the dump were recorded with the residential features located upslope.

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Feature Descriptions

Mid-Level Tunnel Complex

Feature 16 Tunnel

Size: 90 ft long, 8 ft wide

Description: The tunnel collapsed, leaving an area of subsidence 90 feet long and 8 feet wide. The remains of log cap-and-post timber sets are visible in the area of subsidence, and miners erected dry-laid rock walls, now collapsed, to retain soil at the portal.

Feature 17 Waste Rock Dump

Size: 68x126 ft, 8 ft high

Description: The waste rock dump features two principal lobes extending outward from the tunnel portal. The northern-most lobe features the remnants of a hewn log trestle that supported a mine rail line used for dumping waste rock. A small stack of dressed mine timbers lies on the dump near the tunnel portal. Based on the adjacent saw platform (F18) and artifacts, miners prepared timbers on the dump.

Feature 18 Saw Platform

Size: 9x18 ft

Description: Miners built the saw platform by erecting two log cribbing cells totaling 9 by 18 feet in area. Each cell is 9 by 9 feet in area and approximately 3 feet high. The top of the cribbing is concurrent in elevation with a gently sloped area on the adjacent hillside. Two log stringers permitted miners to roll raw logs from a stack upslope (F19) over the top of the cribbing, where they dressed the logs into mine timbers. Workers assembled the cribbing with saddle-notch joints, and the structure is partially intact.

Feature 19 Log Stockpile

Size: 9x18 ft

Description: The stockpile represents a cache of raw logs to be dressed as mine timbers on the saw platform (F18) downslope. The logs are heavily decayed.

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Feature Descriptions

Level No.3 Tunnel Complex

Feature 20 Level No.3 Tunnel

Size: 6x8 ft

Description: The tunnel collapsed and within the last week the property owner graded a road over the area of subsidence.

Feature 21 Waste Rock Dump

Size: 78x186 ft, 8 ft high

Description: The waste rock dump features a principal lobe extending along the hillside from the portal of Level No.3 Tunnel. Miners graded the dump's top-surface flat. A mine rail line exited the tunnel, veered northwest, crossed a minor lobe, crossed a trestle, and terminated at the upper terminal for an aerial tramway (F29).

Feature 22 Waste Rock Dump

Size: 42x60 ft, 12 ft high

Description: The dump consists of an isolated pile of rock west of Level No.3 Tunnel. A trestle, now gone, extended west from the tunnel portal to the top of the dump where miners discharged waste rock. A road (Feature 57) ascends between the dump and F21.

Feature 23 Shop Platform

Size: 18x20 ft

Description: Workers graded a platform for a blacksmith shop adjacent to Level No.3 Tunnel with cut-and-fill methods. They constructed rock alignments to retain fill material and erected a frame structure, removed, on the flat area. A collapsed gravel-filled rock forge lies on the platform's east side.

Feature 24 Prospect Pit

Size: 6 ft diam

Description: The pit is currently filled with earth and was deeper at one time. Workers graded a building platform on the waste rock dump, recorded as F44.

Feature 25 Ore Raise

Size: 4x12 ft

Description: The raise is vertical and descends to the mine's main haulageway (F26). Miners trammed ore out of Level No.3 Tunnel, dumped it into a chute that emptied into the raise, and miners in the main haulageway drew it out to the mill. The raise is open and supported by open-cribbing assembled with logs. The raise features three compartments; the outer two are slightly less than 4 by 4 feet in-the-clear and the center is 3 by 4 feet in-the-clear. The cribbing extends above ground-level and the south side features an access port 22 by 27 inches.

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Feature Descriptions

Main Haulageway Tunnel Complex

Feature 26 Main Haulageway Tunnel

Size: 30 ft long, 8 ft wide

Description: The tunnel collapsed, leaving an area of subsidence 30 feet long and 8 feet wide. The remains of log cap-and-post timber sets are exposed in the area of subsidence and water drains out of the tunnel.

Feature 27 Waste Rock Dump

Size: 90x100 ft, 10 ft high

Description: The dump manifests as a pad on the floor of Summit Creek, and workers built a shop (F28) adjacent to the tunnel portal. A historic road, currently used, crosses the dump, and a berm of rock impounds the creek, forming a pond.

Feature 28 Shop Remnant

Size: 10x18 ft

Description: The shop stood at the Main Haulageway Tunnel portal and is currently completely collapsed. The structure consisted of log walls nailed to corner posts covered by a corrugated iron roof. The interior is blanketed with moss and earth, which conceals artifacts and interior features.

Feature 29 Aerial Tramway Terminal: Upper

Size: 8x12 ft

Description: The terminal remnant stands on the flank of the waste rock dump associated with Level No.3 Tunnel. Most of the beamwork and all of the hardware was removed, leaving several posts and cross-members. The remnants of a trestle that supported a rail line to the terminal lie in a crook in the waste rock dump. A downed cable extends between the terminal and the site's first mill remnant (F30).

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Feature Descriptions

Hamilton Mill Complex

Feature 30 Mill Remnant

Size: 11x12 ft

Description: The mill remnant stands on a platform, 11 by 12 feet in area, cut out of the hillside. Log walls retain the cut-banks, and the frame for a ten-stamp battery stands on the platform's west, open end. The battery frame is 11 feet wide, 12 feet high, and consists of two 10x16 posts and a 10x10 cross-member. Sockets for hardware were cut out of the posts, and a few bolts remain. A mound of boiler clinker lies in the platform's southwest corner and a few cut nails fastened some woodwork. Domestic refuse dumped from a cabin upslope also lies in the platform and was recorded with the cabin (F48). After the mill was abandoned, a historic road was graded past the battery frame.

Feature 31 Rail Bed

Size: 5 ft wide

Description: The rail bed supported the rail line that linked the Main Haulageway (F26) with the most recent mill (F32). Workers graded the bed with waste rock.

Feature 32 Hamilton Mill Remnant

Size: 18x60 ft

Description: The mill was a large, frame structure erected on a series of three platforms excavated out of the hillside on the west bank of Summit Creek. Most hardware and machinery were removed, and most of the structure collapsed, leaving the ore bin and stamp battery frame standing.

The ore bin stands on the upper platform, is 15 by 15 feet in area and 15 feet high, and possesses a sloped floor. A series of 4 12x12 hewn log posts supports the high, east end and similar diagonal posts and cross-members bolted together support the floor. A vernacular frame of logs and timbers support the bin walls. A series of five 12x12 stringers are spaced over the top and they supported a frame superstructure, which collapsed. The area underneath the bin remains open. The bin's exterior was sided with a combination of planks and sheet iron. Dry-rot compromises much of the woodwork.

The stamp battery frame stands on the center platform west of and adjacent to the ore bin. The structure features three posts that supported the stamp battery, three more 12x12 posts to the east, which currently support the ore bin, and three 12x12 horizontal tie beams. The assembly, bolted together, is 9 by 13 feet in area and 14 feet high. A driveshaft for machinery currently lies across the assembly's top. The battery posts feature sockets for anchoring bearings and other hardware. Ore chutes delivered ore from the bin directly to the stamps.

The recovery room occupied the lowest platform and currently consists of a jumble of structural debris. Heavy beams reflect a substantial structure. Because the recovery room completely collapsed, determination of area and interior contents remains impossible.

Feature 33 Electrical Substation Platform

Size: 8x10 ft

Description: Workers graded a platform for an electrical substation north of the mill with cut-and-fill methods. A frame building, now gone, enclosed the substation. A guy line anchor projects out of the ground 10 feet south, and a stump 8 feet east also served as a guy anchor.

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Feature Descriptions

Corral Complex

Feature 34 Corral Remnant

Size: 18x68 ft

Description: Workers fenced a corral featuring two cells on unaltered hillslope around a manger. The corral consists of fencing wire nailed to trees.

Feature 35 Manger Remnant

Size: 4x9 ft

Description: The manger remnant stands on a cut-and-fill platform 10 by 15 feet in area. The manger features partially standing walls 3 feet high and made of planks nailed to cross-logs. The structure's ends are nailed to trees and a roof may have covered the manger.

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Feature Descriptions

Southern Residential Complex

Feature 36 Residential Platform

Size: 12x15 ft

Description: Workers graded the platform with cut-and-fill methods and erected a frame building on the flat area. Duff surrounds the platform and the platform's surface is overgrown with moss, all of which probably obscures small artifacts. The platform is unlikely to possess meaningful buried deposits.

Feature 37 Residential Platform

Size: 12x18 ft

Description: The platform was graded with cut-and-fill methods and workers erected a frame building on log footers. The logs remain and a rock alignment serves as the platform's east side. The platform features a light blanket of duff, a light scatter of artifacts is visible, and meaningful buried deposits are unlikely. Charred wood and charcoal indicates that the structure burned.

Feature 38 Residential Platform

Size: 12x18 ft

Description: The platform was graded with cut-and-fill methods and workers erected a frame building on log footers. The logs remain, and the platform is slightly lower than the neighboring platform adjacent and west (F37). The platform features a light blanket of duff, a light scatter of artifacts is visible, and meaningful buried deposits are unlikely. Charred wood and charcoal indicates that the structure burned.

Feature 39 Stable Remnant

Size: 11x18 ft

Description: The stable was a log cabin made with saddle-notched joints and a low-angle, front-gabled roof supported by three log beams. Workers erected the structure on a cut-and-fill platform and the south wall abutted the platform's cut-bank. The structure was 6 feet high, and currently the roof and north wall are collapsed. The logs abutting the platform's cut-bank rotted and also collapsed. Workers chinked gaps between the logs with log strips and built a feed manger in the southwest corner. The east wall features a doorway 40 inches wide and the frame had slats for a removable half-door. The north wall featured a window. The area encompassing the structure is blanketed with duff, which probably conceals artifacts.

Feature 40 Privy Pit

Size: 3x6 ft, 3 ft deep

Description: The privy pit is rectangular, 3 feet deep, and was framed with logs. The remnants of the privy structure lie downslope on a pile of backdirt. Bottle collectors removed some fill material and threw planks aside. The pit may feature meaningful deposits.

Feature 41 Possible Privy Pit

Size: 6 ft diam

Description: The potential privy manifests as a semi-circular bench in the hillslope 6 feet in diameter with a substantial pile of backdirt and rocks immediately downslope. The bench is firm and blanketed with soil and sand. The pit may feature meaningful buried deposits.

Feature 42 Cabin Remnant

Size: 12x36 ft

Description: The cabin consists of two components. The western portion, 12 by 14 feet in area, was the original and consisted of saddle-notched log walls and a rafter roof. Workers chinked gaps between the logs with mud, mortar, and log strips. The west and east walls featured doorways 30 inches wide, the north wall featured a 30x36 inch window, and the east wall featured a 24 by 31 inch window. Cut nails fasten the woodwork.

The cabin's eastern portion was added later, and workers boarded over the adjoining window in the original structure. Workers built the eastern portion with square-notch joints and chinked gaps between the logs with mortar. They installed a 30 inch doorway in the south wall and a 27 by 58 inch sliding window in the east wall. Within recent weeks, bottle collectors removed flooring in the addition, revealing a privy pit, lined with logs, that was capped. They excavated the pit to a depth of 4 feet, exhuming numerous artifacts and organic fill. The cabin remnant features partially intact north and west walls, and the south wall and roof collapsed. Artifacts proximal to the structure were recorded with the cabin remnant while those surrounding were recorded with the associated Refuse Scatter (F43). A vernacular dining table lies under the collapsed roof of the addition.

Feature 43 Refuse Scatter

Size: 120x190 ft

Description: The scatter consists primarily of domestic refuse disbursed across a broad area. Most of the material lies downslope from the cabin remnant and privy pit, and decreases in density away from these two features. The residents of all of the small complex's buildings probably contributed to the scatter. Many cans have collected on flat areas such as on the road, in pits, and against stumps. While most of the scatter appears surficial, it features several areas with a high likelihood of offering shallow buried deposits. Specifically, buried materials are visible east and west of the cabin remnant (F42), and the area downslope from the privy (F40), where duff coverage is heavy, is likely. Within the last decade, bottle collectors perused the scatter.

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Feature Descriptions

Eastern Residential Complex

Feature 44 Residential Platform

Size: 10x15 ft

Description: Workers graded a platform for a small, frame building on the flank of a small waste rock dump associated with a prospect pit (F24). They laid rocks at the platform's corners to support the building's plank floor. The platform features a south extension 5 by 7 feet in area that may denote the structure's entry. Refuse lies scattered up to 100 feet downslope, and because the platform was graded on waste rock, buried deposits are unlikely. Duff blankets much of the area downslope, which probably conceals small items.

Feature 45 Privy Pit

Size: 4 ft diam, 1 ft deep

Description: The pit manifests as a depression with a small pile of backdirt downslope. The collapsed privy structure also lies immediately downslope. Bottle collectors excavated a minor amount of fill from the pit, revealing native soil. The pit appears to have been shallow and probably contains only minor deposits.

Feature 46 Residential Platform

Size: 11x13 ft

Description: Workers graded the platform with cut-and-fill methods and erected a frame building, now gone, on the flat area. The platform is unlikely to possess buried deposits and refuse lies scattered up to 45 feet downslope.

Feature 47 Stable Remnant

Size: 13x19 ft

Description: Workers built the stable on a cut-and-fill platform by saddle-notching raw logs and chinking gaps with mud retained by small logs and split logs. The structure was front-gabled with a low roof supported by three log beams. The north and south walls featured 28 by 38 inch doorways, and the west wall featured a 28 inch wide window. Currently, only the north wall remains intact and the others are partially standing. A lack of domestic refuse suggests that the building served as a stable.

Feature 48 Cabin Remnant

Size: 18x21 ft

Description: Workers built the log cabin on a cut-and-fill platform 9 feet longer than the structure and excavated a small cellar pit in the platform's north portion. The pit is currently 4 by 6 feet in area and 2 feet deep. The cabin was constructed with half-V-notch joints, and gaps between the logs were chinked with mud retained by small logs. The structure had a plank floor and a side-gabled roof supported by three log beams. The west and south walls featured doorways and the east wall featured two 28 by 28 inch windows on leather hinges. The structure is currently mostly collapsed. Refuse extends 45 feet downslope and invades the site's original mill remnant (F30), and duff coverage probably obscures small items. Buried yard deposits are likely on all sides.

Feature 49 Privy Remnant

Size: 3 ft diam, 1 ft deep

Description: The pit is 3 feet in diameter and 1 feet deep, and a small pile of backdirt extends downslope. The collapsed privy structure also lies downslope. The pit appears unexcavated and probably features buried deposits. Domestic refuse extends downslope.

Feature 50 Cabin

Size: 13x16 ft

Description: Most of the log cabin stands on a cut-and-fill platform and a stump supports the northwest corner. The structure is front-gabled, 13 by 16 feet in area, 6 feet high at the roof eaves, and 9½ feet high at the peak. Workers built the cabin with semi-dove-tailed joints and chinked gaps with mortar retained by small logs. The floor consists of planks supported by log joists, and the roof consists of planks supported by three log beams. The south wall features a 30 by 60 inch plank door and the other walls featured 28 by 57 inch by double-hung windows. The cabin's platform extends 10 feet southeast beyond the doorway, providing an activity area. A stovepipe port in the roof indicates that a stove stood in the southeast corner, and the stove, custom-made from sheet iron, remains in the cabin. The cabin currently stands in dilapidated condition. Some roof planks are missing, which admit moisture, bottle collectors pulled up some floorboards, the south wall has shifted, and the cabin leans south. Refuse extends downslope 35 feet and some invaded the site's original mill remnant (F30). Duff probably conceals small items and the area around the cabin may feature shallow buried deposits.

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Feature Descriptions

Mill Residential Complex

Feature 51 Boardinghouse Platform

Size: 20x85 ft

Description: Workers graded a cut-and-fill platform for a large, frame boardinghouse. The platform features two surfaces. The eastern portion is 15 by 30 feet in area, the western portion is 20 by 55 feet in area, and the western portion features a pit 5 feet in diameter and 2 feet deep. While the pit may have been for a privy, it was most likely for a small cellar. The platform is both overgrown and blanketed with duff, which obscures artifacts. Buried deposits are highly likely.

Feature 52 Boardinghouse Platform

Size: 20x25 ft

Description: Workers cut a platform out of the hillslope for a large, frame boardinghouse. The platform possesses an irregular surface, indicating that the boardinghouse's downslope-edge was elevated. An incision into the hillslope at the platform's southeast corner, 8 by 8 feet in area, may have served as a root cellar. The platform is heavily overgrown and blanketed with duff, which obscures artifacts. Buried deposits are highly likely.

Feature 53 Refuse Dump

Size: 75x130 ft

Description: The dump extends downslope from and west of the two boardinghouse platforms. The area is overgrown with sod and features heavy duff coverage in the trees, which obscures artifacts. While bottle collectors perused the dump, shallow buried deposits are likely on gently sloped areas.

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Feature Descriptions

Transportation Network

Feature 54 Road

Size: 8 ft wide

Description: The road traverses east from Galena Gulch to the floor of Summit Gulch, switches back and passes through the Main Haulageway complex, passes by the head of the recent mill complex, and descends through Summit Gulch. Workers initially graded the road with cut-and-fill methods, and the road was widened with a bulldozer in later years. The road currently sees heavy recreational use.

Feature 55 Road

Size: 8 ft wide

Description: The road, graded with a bulldozer, descends east off F54 and terminates by the mid-level tunnel.

Feature 56 Road

Size: 8 ft wide

Description: The road descends from the most recent mill complex and provided access to the mill.

Feature 57 Road

Size: 7 ft wide

Description: The road, graded with cut-and-fill methods, descends northwest from Level No.3 Tunnel complex, through the eastern residential complex, and joins F54.

Feature 58 Road

Size: 7 ft wide

Description: The road, graded with cut-and-fill methods, descends from the Level No.1 and No.2 Tunnels and curves west, where it becomes a wagon track on the mountainside.