

Colorado Cultural Resource Survey

OAHP1400

Management Data Form

Rev. 9/98

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The Management Data Form should be completed for each cultural resource recorded during an archaeological survey. Exceptions to this are isolated finds and re-evaluations, neither of which require a Management Data Form. Please attach the appropriate component forms and use continuation pages if necessary.

1. Resource Number: 5ST364 2. Temporary Resource Number:

- 3. Attachments (check as many as apply)
4. Official determination (OAHP use only)
Prehistoric Archaeological Component
Historic Archaeological Component
Historic Architectural Component Form
Sketch/Instrument Map (required)
U.S.G.S. Map Photocopy (required)
Photograph(s)
Other, specify:
Determined
Determined Not Eligible
Nominated
Need Data
Contributing to NR Dist.
Not Contributing to NR Dist.

I. IDENTIFICATION

- 5. Resource Name: Hamilton Mine and Mill
6. Project Name/Number:
7. Government Involvement: Local X State Federal
Agency: Town of Breckenridge
8. Site Categories: Check as many as apply
Prehistoric: archaeological site paleontological site
in existing National Register District? yes no name
Historic: archaeology site X building(s) X structure(s) object(s)
in existing National Register District? yes no X name
9. Owner(s)'s Name and Address:
10. Boundary Description and Justification: Extent of visible features and artifacts.
11. Site/Property Dimensions: 183 m x 347 m Area: 49848 m^2 (=4047) 12 acres
Area was calculated as: Length x Width OR (length X width) X .785 X
rectangle/square ellipse

II. LOCATION

- 12. Legal Location
PM 6 Township 6 S Range 77 W Section 22 SW 1/4 of SE 1/4 of SW 1/4 of NW 1/4
PM 6 Township 6 S Range 77 W Section 22 NW 1/4 of SW 1/4 of SW 1/4 of NW 1/4
PM 6 Township 6 S Range 77 W Section 22 E 1/2 of SW 1/4 of SW 1/4 of NW 1/4
if section is irregular, explain alignment method: A template was aligned with the Section's northeast corner.

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13. USGS Quad: Keystone 7.5' X 15' Date(s): 1958 (attach photocopy)
14. County: Summit 15. Other Maps: \_\_\_\_\_
16. UTM Reference:  
A. 13; 414820 mE 4374230 mN  
B. 13; 415015 mE 4374100 mN  
C. 13; 414840 mE 4374060 mN  
D. 13; 414760 mE 4374240 mN
17. Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Lot\_\_\_ Block\_\_\_ Addition\_\_\_\_\_
18. Location/Access: From the intersection of Highway 9 and Tiger Run Road, travel east on Tiger Run Road approximately 2.5 miles to the mouth of Galena Gulch. Ascend Galena Gulch south on a gravel road around .8 miles to the first principal intersection, then veer northeast on another gravel road. Follow the road as it contours around the hillside, and after .75 miles, it enters Summit Gulch. Ascend the floor of Summit Gulch .5 miles to the site.

**III. NATURAL ENVIRONMENT**

19. Topographic Feature(s)  
 mountain                      \_\_\_ ledge                                      \_\_\_ playa  
\_\_\_ hill                                      \_\_\_ terrace/bench                              \_\_\_ talus slope  
\_\_\_ tableland/mesa                       canyon                                      \_\_\_ alluvial fan  
\_\_\_ ridge                                      \_\_\_ valley                                      \_\_\_ plain  
\_\_\_ saddle/pass                              \_\_\_ basin                                      \_\_\_ dune  
\_\_\_ alcove/rockshelter                      \_\_\_ floodplain                                      \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_ cliff                                      \_\_\_ cutbank                                      \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_ slope                                      \_\_\_ arroyo/gully                                      \_\_\_\_\_
20. Site Topographic Description (mention named landforms): The site lies near Summit Gulch's head.
21. Site Elevation: 10,300 feet =(x .3048) 3139.4 meters 22. Aspect: Northwest-facing
23. Degree of Slope on Site: 18-34 24. Soil Depth: Unknown cm
25. Soil Description (character and color): Medium-brown cobbly, silty loam
26. Depositional Environment:  
\_\_\_ Aeolian                       Colluvial                      \_\_\_ Residual  
\_\_\_ Alluvial                      \_\_\_ Moraine                      \_\_\_ None  
\_\_\_ Other, specify; \_\_\_\_\_
27. Nearest Water: name/nature: Summit Creek distance: On-site ft.
28. Nearest Permanent Water: name: As above distance: \_\_\_\_\_ m \_\_\_\_\_ ft.
29. Vegetation on Site (list predominant species): Lodgepole pine, mountain juniper, kinnickinnick, forbes, grasses
30. Vegetation Associations/Communities Surrounding Site: Lodgepole pine forest

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#### IV. National/State Register Eligibility Assessment

31. Context or Theme: Western precious and industrial metals mining

32. Applicable National Register Criteria:

Does not meet any of the below National Register criteria

A. Associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad pattern of our history; or

B. Associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or

C. Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or

D. Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in history or prehistory; or

Qualifies under exceptions A through G.

Level of Significance: National  State  Local

33. Condition

a. Architectural/Structural

Excellent

Good

Fair

Deteriorated

Ruins

b. Archaeological/Paleontological

Undisturbed

Light disturbance

Moderate disturbance

Heavy disturbance

Total disturbance

34. Describe condition: Most equipment and many small frame structures were removed, leaving collapsed log cabins and a collapsed mill. Recreationalists have ridden motorcycles through the site in a few places, leaving both single tracks and trails. Bottle collectors have removed flooring from cabin remnants, perused refuse scatters, and excavated several privy pits. Overall, however, the site remains archaeological intact and retains a standing log cabin.

35. Vandalism: yes  no  describe: \_\_\_\_\_

36. National Register Eligibility Field Assessment:

Eligible  Not Eligible  Need Data

Statement of Significance/N.R.H.P. Justification: See the attached sheet.

37. Status in an Existing National Register District:

Contributing  Non-Contributing

38. National Register District Potential yes  no  discuss: The site is isolated and not important enough to warrant district designation.

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**V. MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATIVE DATA**

39. Threats to Resource: Water erosion  Wind erosion \_\_\_ Grazing \_\_\_ Neglect   
Vandalism \_\_\_ Recreation  Construction \_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_  
comments: The site is subject to off-road motorcycle traffic and bottle collecting.
40. Existing Protection: None  Marked \_\_\_ Fenced \_\_\_ Patrolled \_\_\_ Access controlled \_\_\_  
other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_
41. Local landmark designation: None 42. Easement: \_\_\_\_\_
43. Management Recommendations: See the attached sheet

**VI. DOCUMENTATION**

44. Previous Actions Accomplished at the site:
- a. Excavations: Test \_\_\_ Partial \_\_\_ Complete \_\_\_ Date(s): \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Stabilization: Date(s): None
  - c. HABS/HAER Documentation: Date(s) & Numbers: None
  - d. Other: \_\_\_\_\_
45. Known collections/reports/interviews and other references (list): None
46. Primary Location of Additional Data: The town of Breckenridge
47. State or Federal Permit Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Collection Authorized: yes \_\_\_ no   
Artifact Collection: Yes \_\_\_ No  Artifact Repository: \_\_\_\_\_  
Collection Method: Diagnostics \_\_\_ Grab Sample \_\_\_ Random Sample \_\_\_ Transect  
Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_
48. Photograph Numbers: \_\_\_\_\_ Negatives filed at: \_\_\_\_\_
49. Report Title: Mining the Golden Horseshoe: An Inventory of Select Historic Sites Around Breckenridge, Summit County, Colorado
50. Recorder(s): Eric Twitty Date(s): August 30, 2003
51. Recorder Affiliation: Mountain States Historical  
Phone Number: 303)499-4334

NOTE: Please attach a sketch map, a photocopy of the USGS quad. map indicating resource location, and photographs.

## Eligibility Recommendations

The Hamilton Mine and Mill site possesses a high degree of archaeological integrity, some architectural integrity, and the ambiance and feel of mining in the Rocky Mountains during the 1890s and 1900s. The site is important on state and local levels, and is recommended eligible for the NRHP under Criteria A, C, and D, and for the SRHP under Criteria A, C, and E.

In terms of *Criterion A*, the site is associated with the important economic and social trends and themes outlined at the beginning of Chapter 8 in the report noted on MDF Line 49. The site is also associated with the maturation, expansion, and stabilization of the area's hardrock mining industry and associated settlement during the late 1880s and early 1890s. Prospectors discovered what became the Hamilton Mine in 1887, and several companies realized significant profits from gold and silver through the 1890s. In this light, the Hamilton Mine was not only part of a group of gold mines that helped the Blue River drainage weather Colorado's post Silver Crash depression during the 1890s, but also lent investor confidence in the region during a poor economic climate. The Hamilton continued to operate into the 1900s, contributing to the health of the Blue River drainage's mining industry at this time. On a broad scale, the site is associated with the greater wave of settlement and industrialization of the frontier Rocky Mountain West.

In terms of *Criterion C*, the site is an excellent archaeological example of a circa 1890s hardrock mine of the Rocky Mountains. The mine exemplifies how some operations produced handsomely despite poor engineering and inept management. The site offers evidence of poor engineering and disorganization in the forms of numerous adits and tunnels instead of a single, strategically located entry. The mill was built in an awkward location, and the operators constructed inefficient, labor-intensive ore transfer systems to compensate. Often, well-managed mining companies offered common housing for workers in a consolidated complex. In contrast, the Hamilton Mine featured residences disbursed throughout the site, and the households were independent and crude. The features associated with the various mine openings collectively serve as an archaeological example of the types of surface plants common to remote mines active during the 1880s and 1890s. The sum of prospect workings, the two main tunnels, and the mill remnants represent the sequential stages of the development of an ore body. The stages include prospecting, initial development, organized mining, and the application of deep mining and ore concentration to render low-grade payrock economical.

The site also features an intact log cabin, which lends importance under Criterion C. The cabin is an example of a type of residential building at one time common among remote mines.

In terms of *NRHP Criterion D* and *SRHP Criterion E*, the site is highly likely to yield meaningful information important to the understanding of social aspects and lifestyles of the Rocky Mountain mining frontier of the 1890s. Because the site currently retains a high degree of archaeological integrity, numerous artifacts and residential features permit a number of interesting conclusions. However, data gaps regarding gender, ethnicity, socio-economic status, social organization, and other arenas of inquiry exist. Testing and possible excavation of buried deposits may enhance the current understanding of the site's residents and social structure, and how they changed through time. The site offers five residential building features, three privy pits, and one possible privy pit that probably contain meaningful deposits. A cellar pit in one of the cabin remnants may contain evidence reflecting the types of goods and other items stored in cellars.

The Hamilton Mine and Mill site forms a key and intact component of the Swan River area's historic fabric. The site is important because it is one of the few archaeologically intact pieces of the region's fabric left from the Blue River drainage's 1890s hardrock gold mining industry. The site forms a localized visual landscape that conveys a sense of the region's 1890s mining boom.

### Management Recommendations

Management recommendations suggest several actions. The site is subject to heavy recreational use, especially in the form of motorcycles, which is directly contributing to and accelerating the decline of both features and setting. Bottle collectors also continue to probe privies and remove structural materials from residential features to expose the interiors. To stem vehicle traffic, it is important to either erect gates to prevent vehicles from driving through the site or place barriers in strategic locations. To foster a sense of stewardship and cooperation among the public, signs identifying and interpreting the site should be erected. The signs also should recommend that the public leave the site undisturbed. The site's cabin should be stabilized and preserved, which would probably require repairing rotten log footers, re-roofing the building, and replacing missing doors and windows. The last recommendation suggests conducting research according to NRHP Criterion D and SRHP Criterion E.