

Boss Mine
Site 5ST544

The Boss Mine was one of the richest hardrock operations owned by the Wapiti Mining Company. In the mine, lessees produced wire, crystallized, and free gold so rare that samples were sent to the Colorado Museum of Natural History, the Colorado School of Mines, and the Smithsonian Institute for display. Today, the site lies on the south side Georgia Gulch's head at 10,800 feet elevation. The surrounding mountainside is steep and forested with second-growth subalpine firs. The site consists of four collapsed tunnels, their associated waste rock dumps, and little else. The middle tunnel and dump have been bulldozed, and the other waste rock dumps have been sorted for low-grade ore. As a result, the site possesses little integrity, few features, and a poor artifact assemblage. The site, however, is a contributing element of a historic landscape on Farncomb Hill's northeast slope.

Boss Mine Site Description

The mine featured four tunnels driven into a rich gold vein that trended northeast-southwest. All but the highest tunnel were bulldozed and are no longer recognizable. Four waste rock dumps currently denote the locations of the tunnels. On a broad scale, the dumps are currently rounded, but low-grade ore-sorting efforts left their surfaces hummocky. The smallest dump is 45 by 45 feet in area and 6 feet thick, and it denotes the location of one of the lower tunnels. The largest dump is 134 by 190 feet in area and 18 feet thick and marks the second lower tunnel. None of the dumps possess features commonly associated with hardrock mines such as shop platforms and ore bin foundations.

The site offers an impoverished artifact assemblage limited primarily to structural debris and domestic refuse, most of which rolled downslope from a bulldozed area where residences were located. A combination of cut nails and hole-in-cap cans assembled with lapped side seams reflect activity during the 1880s, and wire nails indicate that the mine was worked after 1890.

Boss Mine Site Significance and Management Recommendations

The Boss Mine lost its historic integrity to bulldozing, natural decay, and sorting for low-grade ore. No identifiable features remain except for a collapsed tunnel and four waste rock dumps, and the site possesses a poor artifact assemblage. 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.

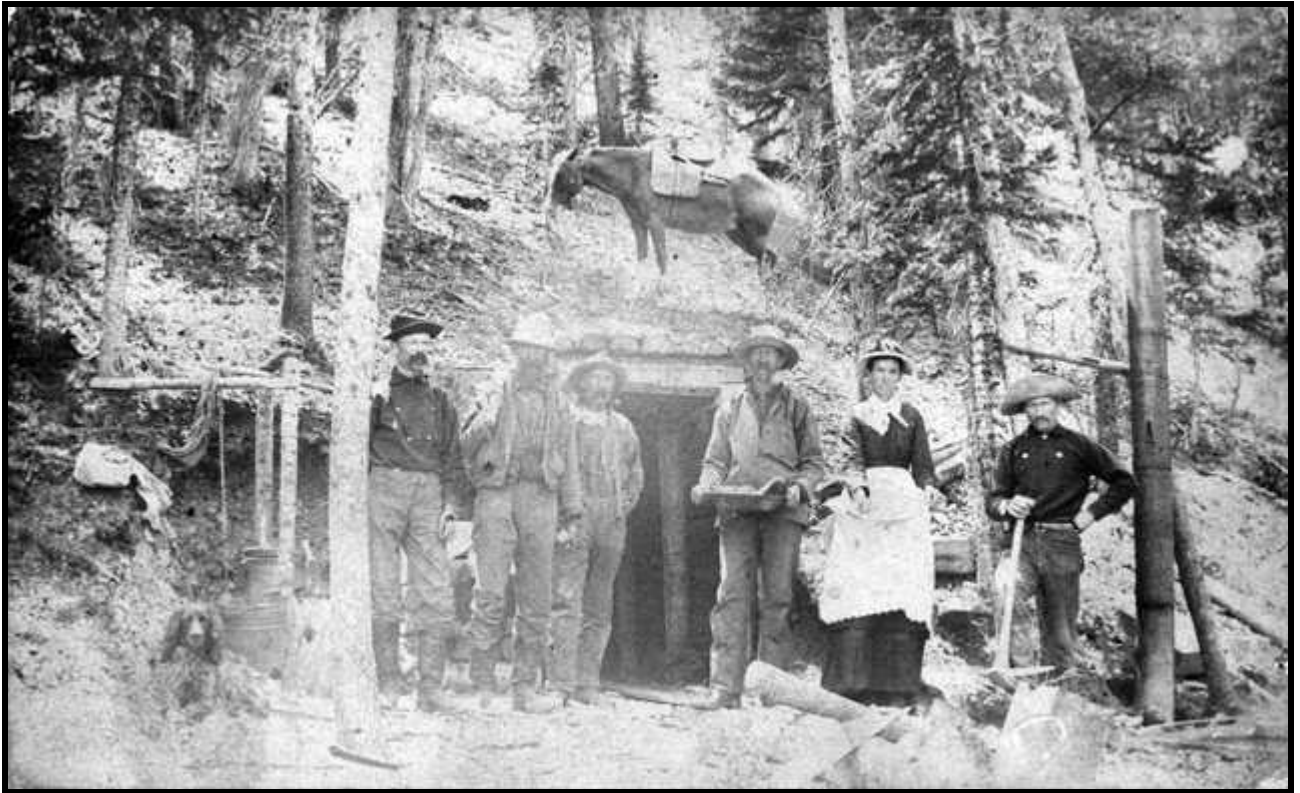


Figure 2.63: Grizzled miners stand at the portal of one of the Boss Mine's tunnels during the 1880s. Source: Denver Public Library, X-62400.


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GEORGIA PASS MINING DISTRICT, SUMMIT COUNTY, COLORADO

LEGEND

Scale:  = 30 ft

Waste Rock Dump Slope = 

Direction Downslope = 

Cut Bank = 