

CARRIE MINE
Site 5ST971
SWANDYKE MINING DISTRICT, SUMMIT COUNTY, COLORADO

Feature Descriptions

Feature 1 Discovery Shaft

Size: 3x6 ft

Description: The shaft was the first principal mine working excavated on-site and represents initial exploration of the Carrie's vein. The shaft was 3 by 6 feet in-the-clear and supported with lumber lagging, and is currently mostly filled with rock. The remnants of a windlass frame extend out of the shaft's sides.

Feature 2 Waste Rock Dump

Size: 12x15 ft, 3 ft high

Description: The dump consists of a pile of rock that prospectors ejected from an ore bucket used in the associated prospect shaft. The remnants of a windlass spool lie on the dump.

Feature 3 Tunnel

Size: 42 ft long, 5 ft wide

Description: The tunnel portal collapsed, leaving an area of subsidence 42 feet long and 5 feet wide. The remnants of log cap-and-post timbering, lagged with small logs, is visible in the area of subsidence.

Feature 4 Waste Rock Dump

Size: 140x165 ft, 12 ft high

Description: The dump manifests as a pad extending outward from the tunnel portal. Because the dump offered the only flat surface in the area, its top-surface and flank were used for several purposes. Miners erected an ore bin on the flank and graded a road through the dump to the bin's base. They stockpiled logs and dressed mine timbers on the top-surface, and built a blacksmith shop by the tunnel portal. Artifacts on the dump proximal to the above surface plant components were inventoried with those features while items on the dump's lower flanks were inventoried with the dump. Among the artifacts on the dump is a length of ventilation tubing made from stovepipe with tarred joints.

Feature 5 Tunnel House Platform

Size: 10x10 ft

Description: Miners cut a platform out of the mountainside around the tunnel portal and erected a frame building on the flat area. The building housed a small blacksmith shop and the tunnel portal, and structural debris currently blanketing the platform conceals artifacts and interior features. While the woodwork was fastened primarily with wire nails, several logs feature a few cut nails, suggesting the structure was built around 1890.

Feature 6 Shop Platform

Size: 10x10 ft

Description: Workers graded a platform for a frame blacksmith shop on the waste rock dump. The platform is denoted by a concentration of forge clinker and structural debris, some of which is charred, indicating that the shop burned. Currently, a charred anvil block is visible on the platform's east corner and refuse lies scattered downslope.

Feature 7 Log Stockpile

Size: 6 ft wide, 12 ft long

Description: Miners stacked four raw logs on unaltered ground north of the tunnel for future use.

Feature 8 Log Stockpile

Size: 9 ft wide, 12 ft long

Description: Miners stacked 12 raw logs on the waste rock dump's top-surface for future use. The logs are heavily decayed.

Feature 9 Ore Bin

Size: 14x22 ft

Description: Miners built the ore bin of the flank of the waste rock dump and graded a road (F10) past its base. The bin is a sloped floor structure based on V-notched log cribbing 15 feet high. When workers assembled the cribbing, they staggered logs on the interior to support a sloped plank floor and lined the bin interior with planks. The bin features two cells and each was tapped through an ore chute. The bin also featured a frame superstructure, which is gone. Miners formed a lobe of waste rock from the tunnel to the bin to support a mine rail line, and erected a trestle pier on the bin's downslope, north edge to support the line's continuation. The bin is currently full of rock, many logs are rotten due to the highly mineralized surrounding waste rock, and the structure leans slightly west.

Feature 10 Trestle Pier

Size: 8 ft wide

Description: The trestle pier stands northwest of the ore bin and it supported a mine rail line used to dump waste rock. The line passed through the ore bin's superstructure and terminated on the trestle. Workers built the structure by burying two log pilings in waste rock and added a horizontal cap.

Feature 11 Road

Size: 8 ft wide

Description: The road, graded with cut-and-fill methods, was a component of a loop that provided one-way wagon access to the ore bin. Wagons passed northeast to the road's end, turned directly north and downslope, and pulled onto the ore bin's access road (F11). Scars remain in the mountainside from the wagons' cross-country descent.

Feature 12 Road

Size: 9 ft wide

Description: The road was a component of a loop that provided one-way wagon access to the ore bin. Workers graded the road through the waste rock dump and used cut-and-fill methods to the west.

Feature 13 Cabin Remnant

Size: 14x21 ft

Description: Workers built a log cabin on a platform they cut out of the mountainside adjacent to the tunnel portal. They assembled the structure with V-notched logs and used mud retained by log strips to chink gaps. Workers also hewed flat the interior faces of the logs. The northwest side featured a doorway and a window. Currently, portions of all but the southeast walls are standing, the roof is gone, and earth fills the interior. The southeast wall collapsed and the platform's cut-bank slumped into the structure. Cut nails were used to fasten the woodwork and wire nails reflect later rehabilitation. Artifacts lie scattered downslope northwest and buried deposits are possible in the cabin's interior.

Feature 14 Building Platform

Size: 9x9 ft

Description: Workers graded the platform with cut-and-fill methods west of the mine. Remnants of a small frame building, including a timber foundation, lie on the platform, and the materials indicate that the building consisted of a lumber frame and corrugated sheet iron siding. Numerous lengths of ventilation tubing, made from stovepipes sealed with tar, lie scattered to the west. The structure's function is unknown and it may have served as an explosives magazine and storage shed.

Feature 15 Road

Size: 9 ft wide

Description: The road descends from the top of Wise Mountain, passes through the site, continues past the Griffith Mill site (5ST972) where it manifests as Feature 21, and continues down to the North Fork of the Swan River. The road is currently heavily used by recreationists.