

GRIFFITH MILL
Site 5ST972
SWANDYKE MINING DISTRICT, SUMMIT COUNTY, COLORADO

Feature Descriptions

Feature 1 Mill Platform 1: Ore Receiving Bins

Size: 15x50 ft

Description: Mill Platform 1 supported a broad flat-bottom bin that received crude ore delivered by wagon. Workers built the bin on a foundation of log cribbing assembled with a combination of V- and saddle-notch joints. Some the cribbing members are timbers that workers hewed from logs. The bin floor consisted of timbers hewed from logs and the walls apparently were made with raw logs. While the foundation is 15 by 50 feet in area, the bin floor was only 15 by 40 feet in area. Workers dumped sorted and fine ore in the bin's western half and cobbles requiring crushing on the eastern half. They fed the fine ore into a screening system on the platform below (F3) and the cobbles into an adjacent crusher. A portion of the bin's western floor, blanketed with rock, remains intact.

Feature 2 Mill Platform 2: Primary Crushing

Size: 9x12 ft

Description: A crusher area lies adjacent to and north of the ore bin's east half. The area is denoted by a mound of crushed rock 22 by 38 feet in area and 1 foot high. A decayed support post projects out of the mound. The crusher, almost certainly anchored to the mill building's framework, reduced crude ore to gravel and shunted the material to the screening platform.

Feature 3 Mill Platform 3: Screening Station

Size: 15x30 ft

Description: Mill Platform 3 featured a screening system that classified ore by size. A platform cut out of the mountainside represents the screening station. The screens were probably trommels anchored to the mill's support frame, which is gone. Workers fed fine ore stored on the western portion of the ore bin into the screens while the adjacent crusher provided more material. Structural materials and crushed rock lie on the platform.

Feature 4 Mill Platform 4: Secondary Crushing

Size: 18x25 ft

Description: Workers cut Mill Platform 4 out of the mountainside and erected a battery of stamps on the flat area to provide secondary crushing. The remnants of the battery box pedestal (F5) currently stand on the platform's main portion, which is 18 by 25 feet in area. The platform also features a western extension 8 feet wide and 12 feet long. Erosional deposits blanket the platform, which featured two small levels divided by the battery pedestal. Structural and industrial debris remains.

Feature 5 Stamp Battery Pedestal

Size: 2x10 ft

Description: The battery box pedestal consists of two rectangular clusters of timbers on-end and framed by horizontal logs. Each cluster is 2 by 4 feet in area and supported a battery box for a set of stamps. Due to decay, the pedestal's original height remains unknown.

Feature 6 Mill Platform 5: Ore Concentration

Size: 22x48 ft

Description: The platform, graded with cut-and-fill methods, supported the portion of the mill that housed metals recovery and concentration machinery, the mill's powerplant, and other facilities. Erosional deposits and tailings blanket the platform's western portion, and the eastern portion is marshy and vegetated with dense groundcover, which probably conceals artifacts and small features. The presence of the tailings on the platform's western portion represents the location of the concentration machinery, and the engine foundation on the eastern portion reflects the powerplant. Structural and industrial materials remain.

Feature 7 Steam Engine Foundation

Size: 3x9 ft

Description: The foundation, which anchored the mill's drive engine, consists of a cluster of anchor bolts projecting out of the eastern portion of Mill Platform 5 (F6). The foundation features four pairs of bolts that anchored the engine body and a second, off-set pair that anchored an outboard flywheel bearing. The engine was apparently 9 feet long and 2 feet wide. The area around the foundation is flooded, rendering the foundation's construction uncertain.

Feature 8 Mill Platform 6: Concentration

Size: 38x45 ft

Description: Workers graded the platform with fill material generated from excavating the other mill platforms. They dumped the fill in the creek bed, forcing the creek east, and over time, the creek began flowing over the platform, causing it to be marshy. The platform is almost completely blanketed with groundcover, some structural debris lies on the fill-bank, and a stack of twenty water tank bands lies across the creek. The platform supported a portion of the mill that housed concentration facilities.

Feature 9 Foundation

Size: 10x20 ft

Description: The foundation consists of four log beams laid over a log footer on unaltered ground. The foundation featured no other woodwork and probably supported water tanks.

Feature 10 Platform

Size: 36x48 ft

Description: Workers graded a broad platform with cut-and-fill methods and erected a frame structure on the flat area. The platform's main portion is 36 by 48 feet in area, and an extension 10 by 18 projects northwest. A road (F11) descends from the platform's northwest edge. The platform is blanketed with mill tailings, and a few trees grow on the perimeter. Structural items remain.

Feature 11 Road

Size: 8 ft wide

Description: Workers graded the road with cut-and-fill methods. The road descends from the west edge of F10 and joins the main road (F21) that passes through the site.

Feature 12 Water Tank Platform

Size: 9 ft diam

Description: The platform is semi-circular and cut out of the stream's west bank. A disassembled pipeline extends up-gradient.

Feature 13 Reservoir Remnant

Size: 20x40 ft

Description: Workers excavated a shallow reservoir in the creek floor and used the backdirt to build a low dam. The reservoir is filled with gravel and the stream breached the dam.

Feature 14 Stable Remnant

Size: 13x16 ft

Description: The stable was a log structure located east of the mill on the east side of Garibaldi Creek. The stable apparently was side-gabled and faced southwest, and was 13 by 16 feet in area and 6 feet high at the roof eaves. Workers built the stable on a cut-and-fill platform large enough for the structure, and assembled the logs with V-notch joints. They also chinked gaps with log strips and did not seal them with mud. The southwest wall featured a 36 by 56 inch doorway and a 32 by 26 inch window. A manger 2 feet wide and 2 feet high extended along the northeast wall. Currently, only the walls stand and the interior is buried with debris and duff, as trees grow on all sides. Duff surrounding the structure almost certainly conceals artifacts, although the stable remnant is unlikely to offer meaningful buried deposits.

Feature 15 Residential Platform

Size: 15x15 ft

Description: Workers graded the platform upslope from the mill with cut-and-fill methods. They erected a frame building, now gone, on the flat area and used logs supported by rocks for the foundation. Structural debris lies on and downslope from the platform and domestic refuse is also scattered downslope. Groundcover surrounds and grows on the platform, obscuring artifacts, and shallow buried deposits may be likely downslope and on the west edge.

Feature 16 Building Platform

Size: 15x25 ft

Description: Workers graded the platform with cut-and-fill methods upslope from the mill and adjacent to the site's main road. They erected a frame building, now gone, on the flat area and used logs supported by rocks as the foundation. The platform currently features a rock alignment on the west edge and several log footers embedded along south and east sides. Groundcover surrounds and grows on the platform, obscuring artifacts. Regardless, structural debris and domestic refuse are visible on the platform and downslope. Shallow buried deposits may be likely downslope and on the west edge.

Feature 17 Privy Pit

Size: 4x6 ft, 18 inches deep

Description: The pit manifests as an ovoid depression 4 by 6 feet in area and 18 inches deep. Backdirt was piled downslope, the pit is filled with duff, and the surrounding area is blanketed with duff and groundcover. A few cans lie downslope and the pit may possess buried deposits.

Feature 18 Boardinghouse Platform

Size: 15x50 ft

Description: Workers graded a platform for a frame boardinghouse, now gone, with cut-and-fill methods upslope from the confluence of two creeks. They excavated a cellar pit in the platform's east portion, which is currently 9 by 12 feet in area and 3 feet deep. Two log foundation footers are visible, one located on the platform's west edge and the other on the cellar pit's west edge. A concentration of domestic refuse downslope and west may reflect the location of a doorway. Charred wood and warped stove parts indicate that the boardinghouse burned. The platform is blanketed with duff, the area upslope features groundcover, and the areas east and north are heavily overgrown with sod. Regardless, some domestic refuse is visible and buried deposits are highly likely in the cellar pit, and downslope to the west, north, and east.

Feature 19 Platform

Size: 12x15 ft

Description: Workers graded a platform with cut-and-fill methods immediately downslope from that for the boardinghouse, probably for a privy. The platform and surrounding area are blanketed with thick sod, which obscures artifacts. In addition, the platform is swampy. A few artifacts are visible and buried deposits, albeit saturated, are likely.

Feature 20 Stable Remnant

Size: 11x12 ft

Description: Workers built a log stable on a cut-and-fill platform large enough for the structure east of and across Garibaldi Creek from the boardinghouse. They assembled the logs with V-notch joints and chinked only the largest gaps with split logs. The south wall featured a doorway and a manger extended along the west wall. Currently, only portions of the walls stand and a tree fell across the cabin's center. The interior is filled with debris and duff and groundcover blankets the surrounding area, which obscures artifacts.

Feature 21 Road

Size: 9 ft wide

Description: The road passes through the site and is heavily used by recreationists. The road was originally graded with cut-and-fill methods and served as the main artery between the mill and the Carrie Mine (Site 5ST971). The road ascends to the summit of Wise Mountain, and where it passes through the Carrie Mine site it manifests as Feature 15.