

**UNINCORPORATED SWANDYKE**  
**Site 5ST979**  
SWANDYKE MINING DISTRICT, SUMMIT COUNTY, COLORADO

**Feature Descriptions**

Pompeii Mill Complex

Feature 1                      Mill Platform 1: Crushing  
Size: 18x20 ft

Description: Mill Platform 1 featured machinery that crushed raw ore. Workers graded the platform with cut-and-fill methods, erected a portion of the mill's frame building on the flat area, and apparently anchored machinery to timber foundations. Currently, several log footers lie embedded in the platform and a hook projects out of the platform's south edge. Industrial refuse and very little structural material remain.

Feature 2                      Mill Platform 2: Concentration and Storage  
Size: 12x18 ft

Description: Mill Platform 2 featured an area where crushed rock was concentrated and stored along with other materials. Workers graded the platform with cut-and-fill methods and erected a portion of the mill building over the flat area. The platform is overgrown and blanketed with duff, which obscures artifacts.

Feature 3                      Shop Platform  
Size: 9x12 ft

Description: A blacksmith shop, now gone, stood on a platform adjacent to and west of Mill Platform 1. Workers graded the platform with cut-and-fill methods and erected a dry-laid rock wall to retain fill. The platform is partially vegetated and features a combination of industrial and domestic refuse.

Feature 4                      Building Platform  
Size: 10x12 ft

Description: A frame building stood on a cut-and-fill platform located between the Pompeii Mill and a creek. Workers excavated a shallow ditch upslope to divert snowmelt. The platform is heavily overgrown, which obscures artifacts, and the structure's function is unknown. Shallow buried deposits are possible.

Unincorporated Swandyke

Feature 5                      Cabin  
Size: 13x15 ft

Description: The log cabin is front-gabled, one-and-one-half stories, and faces southeast. The structure is 13 by 15 feet in area, 8 feet high at the roof eaves, and 18 feet high at the gable's peak. Residents assembled the structure with V-notched logs chinked with rolls of newspaper retained by log strips. Residents hewed flat the logs' interior and exterior faces, and neatly trimmed the logs' ends. The structure stands on log footers laid on a cut-and-fill platform slightly smaller than the cabin. The roof consists of common rafters sided with planks clad by tarpaper, trimmed with 2x6 fascia boards, and the walls under the gables are made of planks.

Within the last several decades, recent occupants erected a plank porch, 6 by 15 feet in area, along the front. The porch is elevated 3 feet off the ground, as is the entry. The occupants used raw logs for posts, salvaged lumber for the frame, and planks for the top-surface. A staircase descends southeast to the ground.

The cabin possesses a doorway and a few windows retrofitted with plexi-glass. The southeast wall's ground-floor features a 29 by 66 inch doorway and a 29 by 34 inch window with a retro-fitted shutter, and the top-story features a 30 by 30 inch window. The northeast wall features a 28 by 28 inch window.

The cabin's interior apparently retains integrity. The bottom story, 7 feet high, features a wooden counter in the east corner and a bunkbed in the west corner. The floor consists of planks, and the most recent occupants laid down plastic sheets and added another layer of planks. A staircase ascends along the

southwest wall up to a loft, which consists of planks nailed to log joists incorporated into the cabin's log walls.

The cabin's last occupants left an abundance of domestic items and refuse, apparently dating to the 1970s. The cabin may have served as a primitive residence or recreational shelter, and most of the roof is recent. The cabin currently receives heavy visitation by recreationists, who contributed additional refuse. Given the intermittent use during the 1970s and today's visitations, historic artifacts are few, and those remaining lie scattered downslope. Historic items were inventoried while recent refuse was not. Shallow buried yard deposits are possible on the cabin's northeast and southeast sides.

The cabin stands in dilapidated condition. The roof leaks, permitting the interior to remain wet for lengthy periods of time, which promotes rot. The porch and loft are unsafe and the footer logs are partially decayed.

Feature 6                      Rock Rectangle

Size: 3x10 ft

Description: The rectangle lies east of the cabin on unaltered ground. The rectangle consists of a perimeter of large cobbles filled with small cobbles. The rectangle's function is unknown.

Feature 7                      Well

Size: 3x3 ft, 2 ft deep

Description: The well, downslope from the cabin, is 3 by 3 feet in area, currently 2 feet deep, and lined with rocks. Workers piled backdirt south and west, and rocks and water lie in the well floor. Buried deposits are unlikely.

Feature 8                      Privy

Size: 4½x4½ ft

Description: The cabin's last occupants erected a privy downslope over a shallow pit. The privy is a shed 4½ by 4½ feet in area, 7 feet on the south wall and 6 feet high at the north side. The structure was assembled with salvaged lumber and had no door.

Feature 9                      Foot Path

Size: 2 ft wide

Description: The foot path, made by traffic, extends between the cabin and a residential platform.

Feature 10                     Residential Platform

Size: 12x20 ft

Description: Workers graded a cut-and-fill platform for a frame building, now gone, on a natural flat area. They laid rocks along the platform's fill bank to support one of the building's wall footers. The platform and surrounding area are blanketed with groundcover and duff, which probably obscure artifacts. Regardless, a few items lay up to 60 feet downslope. The platform, and areas east and south, may possess very shallow buried yard deposits.

Feature 11                     Cabin Remnant

Size: 13x16 ft

Description: Partial, log walls and flooring represent the cabin remnant, which faced northeast. Workers assembled the structure with half dove-tail joints and chinked gaps with mud retained by log strips, and hewed flat the logs' interior and exterior faces. The cabin remnant stands on a cut-and-fill platform large enough for the structure, another crudely graded platform (F12) extends east, and a rectangular depression 9 by 9 feet in area extends west. The northeast wall featured a doorway and the south and west walls featured windows. Most of ground surrounding the cabin is exposed and artifacts downslope were recorded as a refuse scatter (F13). Buried yard deposits are possible on all sides. Recently, coin collectors pulled up some of the floorboards.

Feature 12 Platform

Size: 12x22 ft

Description: Residents graded a cut-and-fill platform extending east from the cabin remnant. They arranged cobbles to retain the platform's fill and erected a frame building on the platform's east portion. A rectangular pad 12 by 15 feet in area currently remains, and it features rocks at the corners. An off-road vehicle track crosses the platform's northeast corner, and shallow buried yard deposits are possible on all sides.

Feature 13 Refuse Scatter

Size: 60x60 ft

Description: The residents of the cabin remnant and structure on the platform adjacent and east threw their refuse downslope, creating a scatter 60 by 60 feet in area. Duff and groundcover blankets the area, concealing some artifacts. The scatter appears surficial and meaningful buried deposits are unlikely.

Feature 14 Residential Platform

Size: 12x20 ft

Description: Residents graded a cut-and-fill platform for a frame residential building near the east edge of an avalanche chute. An excavation that was probably a root cellar, 3 by 6 feet in area, extends off the platform's northeast corner and a collapsed rock hearth extends off the platform's north edge. A few logs lie on the platform and artifacts extend up to 70 feet downslope and south. Bottle collectors removed rocks from within the root cellar, exposing native soil. The area immediately downslope from the platform, as well as the platform itself, may feature shallow buried deposits.

Feature 15 Privy Pit

Size: 5 ft diam, 2 ft deep

Description: The pit manifests as a semi-circular incision adjacent to the residential platform, and residents used the backdirt to grade a platform 8 by 10 feet in area to the south. The incision is 5 feet in diameter and 2 feet deep, and residents erected a dry-laid rock alignment to retain the fill material. Duff currently blankets the pit and platform, and buried deposits are possible.

Feature 16 Road

Size: 8 ft wide

Description: The road descends southwest between the residential features and was graded with a combination of cut-and-fill methods and traffic. The road continues east from the Pompeii Mill and descends into Swandyke (Site 5ST978), where it was recorded as Feature 43. The road passes west out of the site to the Pompeii Mine.