

LOGGING CAMP
Site 5ST982
SWANDYKE MINING DISTRICT, SUMMIT COUNTY, COLORADO

Feature Descriptions

Feature 1 Building Foundation

Size: 12x12 ft

Description: Workers constructed the foundation with V-notched logs assembled three high. A center divider extends east-west down the center. The foundation, built on unaltered ground, apparently supported a frame building, now gone. Sod blankets the surrounding ground, probably obscuring artifacts. Regardless, a refuse scatter (F3) is visible between the foundation and the adjacent cabin remnant, and some items lie to the south. Shallow, buried yard deposits are possible along the foundation's south side.

Feature 2 Cabin Remnant

Size: 10x28 ft

Description: Workers built the cabin on a cut-and-fill platform large enough for the structure. They assembled the cabin with V-notched logs and chinked gaps with mud retained by log strips. Workers divided the cabin into two rooms, with the western room being 10 by 10 feet in area. They used logs for the interior wall and incorporated them into the exterior walls with additional V-notch joints. A root cellar extended off the western room and is currently mostly collapsed, leaving a depression 6 by 6 feet in area. Workers excavated the cellar from the ground north of the cabin, and used backdirt retained by cobbles for the cellar's walls. The cabin is also completely collapsed, low portions of the walls remain, and most of the logs were removed. The soil south of and adjacent to the cabin is exposed while sod blankets the surrounding ground. Shallow buried deposits may lie south and east of the cabin remnant. Bottle collectors excavated the cellar, revealing no cultural materials.

Feature 3 Refuse Scatter

Size: 12x30 ft

Description: The scatter lies between the building foundation and the cabin remnant and consists primarily of food cans. The scatter extends south from what appear to be two privy pits (F4 and F5). Shallow buried deposits may be present in the scatter's north portion.

Feature 4 Possible Privy Pit

Size: 3 ft diam, 1 ft deep

Description: The pit lies at the base of a large boulder at the north end of the refuse scatter. The pit manifests as a depression 3 feet in diameter and 1 foot deep. Bottle collectors removed some fill, exposing artifacts. As little backdirt is present, buried deposits would be shallow.

Feature 5 Possible Privy Pit

Size: 3 ft diam, 6 inches deep

Description: The pit lies in the refuse scatter at the building foundation's west corner. The pit is a refuse-covered depression 3 feet in diameter and 6 inches deep with what appears to be a small pile of backdirt south. As little backdirt is present, buried deposits would be shallow.

Feature 6 Stable Remnant

Size: 12x17 ft

Description: Workers erected the log stable, of which walls remain, on a cut-and-fill platform large enough for the structure. They assembled the logs with V-notch joints and chinked gaps with log strips and no mud. The workers also excavated a shallow ditch upslope to divert snowmelt. The doorway is in the northeast wall and is almost 4 feet wide, and a window 1 by 2 feet in size was cut out of the southeast wall. A manger 18 inches wide, mostly collapsed, extended along the northwest wall. Currently, the roof collapsed and manifests as decayed debris in the interior, and some wall logs were removed. Few artifacts and no domestic refuse is present, and buried deposits are unlikely.

Feature 7 Depression

Size: 8 ft diam, 2 ft deep

Description: The depression is 8 feet in diameter and 2 feet deep and its function is unknown. No artifacts are visible, although sod and duff blanket the area.

Feature 8 Prospect Adit

Size: 20 ft long, 3 ft wide

Description: Prospectors drove the small adit from the end of a trench 18 feet long and 3 feet wide. They piled waste rock downslope and the dump is 18 by 27 feet in area and 3 feet high. The dump's limited volume indicates that the adit was very short. The trench and adit collapsed, leaving a shallow, obscure area of subsidence.

Feature 9 Prospect Trench

Size: 25 ft long, 3 ft wide

Description: Prospectors piled waste rock on both sides of the trench.

Feature 10 Road

Size: 9 ft wide

Description: The road serves as the only avenue up the Middle Fork of the Swan River valley and begins on the Swan River and extends east and up to the valley's head. The road passes through the townsite of Swandyke (Site 5ST978), where it was recorded as Feature 45. The road sees heavy use by recreationists.