

Colorado Cultural Resource Survey

OAHP1400

Management Data Form

Rev. 9/98

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The Management Data Form should be completed for each cultural resource recorded during an archaeological survey. Exceptions to this are isolated finds and re-evaluations, neither of which require a Management Data Form. Please attach the appropriate component forms and use continuation pages if necessary.

1. Resource Number: 5ST986 2. Temporary Resource Number:

- 3. Attachments (check as many as apply)
4. Official determination (OAHP use only)
Prehistoric Archaeological Component
Historic Archaeological Component
Historic Architectural Component Form
Sketch/Instrument Map (required)
U.S.G.S. Map Photocopy (required)
Photograph(s)
Other, specify:
Determined
Determined Not Eligible
Nominated
Need Data
Contributing to NR Dist.
Not Contributing to NR Dist.

I. IDENTIFICATION

- 5. Resource Name: Ouray Shaft
6. Project Name/Number:
7. Government Involvement: Local X State Federal
Agency: Town of Breckenridge
8. Site Categories: Check as many as apply
Prehistoric: archaeological site paleontological site
in existing National Register District? yes no name
Historic: archaeology site X building(s) structure(s) object(s) X
in existing National Register District? yes no X name
9. Owner(s)'s Name and Address: Town of Breckenridge
10. Boundary Description and Justification: Extent of visible features and artifacts.
11. Site/Property Dimensions: 48 m x 60 m Area: 2880 m^2 (+4047) 0.7 acres
Area was calculated as: Length x Width X OR (length X width) X .785
rectangle/square ellipse

II. LOCATION

- 12. Legal Location
PM 6 Township 7 S Range 77 W Section 5 NW 1/4 of NE 1/4 of SW 1/4 of SW 1/4
if section is irregular, explain alignment method: A template was aligned with the Section's southwest corner.

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13. USGS Quad: Breckenridge 7.5'  15' Date(s): 1970 (attach photocopy)
14. County: Summit 15. Other Maps: \_\_\_\_\_
16. UTM Reference:  
A. 13; 411610 mE 4368870 mN  
B. \_\_\_\_\_; \_\_\_\_\_ mE \_\_\_\_\_ mN
17. Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Lot\_\_ Block\_\_ Addition\_\_\_\_\_
18. Location/Access: From the intersection of Hwy 9 and Boreas Pass Road, ascend southeast on Boreas Pass Road approximately .8 miles to a broad, horseshoe curve. Where the curve begins, turn south on a gravel road and descend the ramp to the Ouray Mine (Site 5ST268). Travel by foot upslope and east to the site.

**III. NATURAL ENVIRONMENT**

19. Topographic Feature(s)
- |  |                     |                    |
|--|---------------------|--------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> mountain | _____ ledge         | _____ playa        |
| _____ hill                                   | _____ terrace/bench | _____ talus slope  |
| _____ tableland/mesa                         | _____ canyon        | _____ alluvial fan |
| _____ ridge                                  | _____ valley        | _____ plain        |
| _____ saddle/pass                            | _____ basin         | _____ dune         |
| _____ alcove/rockshelter                     | _____ floodplain    | _____              |
| _____ cliff                                  | _____ cutbank       | _____              |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> slope    | _____ arroyo/gully  | _____              |
20. Site Topographic Description (mention named landforms): The site lies east of Little Mtn.
21. Site Elevation: 9,950 feet = (x .3048) 3032.8 meters 22. Aspect: West-facing
23. Degree of Slope on Site: 12-34 24. Soil Depth: Unknown cm
25. Soil Description (character and color): Medium-brown cobbly, silty loam
26. Depositional Environment:  
\_\_\_\_\_ Aeolian  Colluvial \_\_\_\_\_ Residual  
\_\_\_\_\_ Alluvial \_\_\_\_\_ Moraine \_\_\_\_\_ None  
\_\_\_\_\_ Other, specify; \_\_\_\_\_
27. Nearest Water: name/nature: Beaver Pond distance: 207 m 680 ft.
28. Nearest Permanent Water: name: Illinois Creek distance: 487.7 m 1600 ft.
29. Vegetation on Site (list predominant species): Engleman spruce, aspen, mountain juniper, gooseberry, forbes, grasses
30. Vegetation Associations/Communities Surrounding Site: Spruce and pine forest grading into aspen forest

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**IV. National/State** Western precious and industrial metals mining

32. Applicable National Register Criteria:

Does not meet any of the below National Register criteria

A. Associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad pattern of our history; or

B. Associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or

C. Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or

D. Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in history or prehistory; or

Qualifies under exceptions A through G.

Level of Significance: National  State  Local

33. Condition

a. Architectural/Structural

b. Archaeological/Paleontological

Excellent

Undisturbed

Good

Light disturbance

Fair

Moderate disturbance

Deteriorated

Heavy disturbance

Ruins

Total disturbance

34. Describe condition: The collar of the Ouray Shaft collapsed, drawing in portions of the waste rock dump and shaft house platform. All structures and most equipment were removed, except for a rare Pennsylvania boiler and hoist parts. The site is also overgrown.

35. Vandalism: yes  no  describe: \_\_\_\_\_

36. National Register Eligibility Field Assessment:

Eligible  Not Eligible  Need Data

Statement of Significance/N.R.H.P. Justification: See the attached sheet.

37. Status in an Existing National Register District:

Contributing  Non-Contributing

38. National Register District Potential yes  no  discuss: The site is not important enough and is too isolated to warrant district designation.

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**V. MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATIVE DATA**

39. Threats to Resource: Water erosion  Wind erosion \_\_\_ Grazing \_\_\_ Neglect   
Vandalism \_\_\_ Recreation  Construction \_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_  
comments: \_\_\_\_\_
40. Existing Protection: None  Marked \_\_\_ Fenced \_\_\_ Patrolled \_\_\_ Access controlled \_\_\_  
other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_
41. Local landmark designation: None 42. Easement: \_\_\_\_\_
43. Management Recommendations: See the attached sheet.

**VI. DOCUMENTATION**

44. Previous Actions Accomplished at the site:
- a. Excavations: Test \_\_\_ Partial \_\_\_ Complete \_\_\_ Date(s): \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Stabilization: Date(s): None
  - c. HABS/HAER Documentation: Date(s) & Numbers: None
  - d. Other: \_\_\_\_\_
45. Known collections/reports/interviews and other references (list): None
46. Primary Location of Additional Data: Town of Breckenridge
47. State or Federal Permit Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Collection Authorized: yes \_\_\_ no   
Artifact Collection: Yes \_\_\_ No  Artifact Repository: \_\_\_\_\_  
Collection Method: Diagnostics \_\_\_ Grab Sample \_\_\_ Random Sample \_\_\_ Transect  
Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_
48. Photograph Numbers: \_\_\_\_\_ Negatives filed at: \_\_\_\_\_
49. Report Title: Mining the Golden Horseshoe: An Inventory of Select Historic Sites Around Breckenridge, Summit County, Colorado
50. Recorder(s): Eric Twitty Date(s): August 30, 2003
51. Recorder Affiliation: Mountain States Historical  
Phone Number: 303)499-4334

NOTE: Please attach a sketch map, a photocopy of the USGS quad. map indicating resource location, and photographs.

## Eligibility Recommendations

The Ouray Shaft site was an important component of the greater Ouray Mine, which was one of Breckenridge's richest gold and silver producers. The site currently retains archaeological and some engineering integrity relative to the 1890s. When the shaft collar collapsed, it drew in portions of the waste rock dump and shaft house platform, which impacted the archaeological integrity. The site's material remnants, however, clearly reflect the shaft's surface plant facilities. The site features an intact Pennsylvania boiler, which contributes engineering integrity. Industrial refuse, the boiler, and the site's setting create an ambiance and feel of mining in the Rocky Mountains. The site is of state and local importance and is recommended eligible under NRHP Criteria A, C, and D, and SRHP Criteria A, C, and E.

In terms of *Criterion A*, the Ouray Shaft is associated with the economic, social, and industrialization themes relative to the 1890s, as discussed in Chapter of the report noted on MDF Line 49. The site is also associated with the theme of mining engineering and industry. In this arena, the Ouray Shaft was one of the Blue River drainage's best-equipped shaft operations during the 1890s. The sizes of the shaft, shaft house and hoist, based on archaeological and archival information, were large and production-class in duty. This contrasts against most shaft mines in the region, which were usually equipped with substandard, temporary-class surface plants exemplified by the Sallie Barber Mine (Site 5ST369). Not until the 1900s did well-capitalized companies equip their shaft mines with substantial surface plants.

As part of the greater Ouray Mine, the Ouray Shaft is associated with an event important on state and local levels. Specifically, the Ouray Mining & Milling Company and the Puzzle Mining & Milling Company, which operated a mine adjacent and north, filed suit against each other in 1890 over rights to the vein. The case was finally decided in 1897 in favor of the Puzzle company. The case was important because it contributed to the body of legal decisions that helped set precedent for later mining litigation suits.

In terms of *Criterion C*, the Ouray Shaft serves as an example of a properly engineered, well-equipped shaft mine prior to the Silver Crash of 1893. The site's timeframe is important because most productive mines were reworked during and after the late 1890s, which erased early features and artifacts. The archaeological remnants represent all of the shaft's principal surface plant components, including the hoist, boiler, water system, shop, and shaft house. The boiler that remains on-site contributes to the site's importance under Criterion C because boilers are both rare and important, since steam powered Colorado's mining industry until the 1910s, when electricity became common. The site also represents how shafts were integrated into the overall production strategy of multiple-opening mines. The Ouray Shaft, while well-equipped, was not intended to raise ore to ground surface, which is why the site existing today lacks evidence of an ore bin. Instead, the shaft was intended to serve as a conduit to raise ore from deep workings to the level of the main tunnel (Site 5ST268), where it was hauled out and sent to the mill.

A party of lessees briefly reopened the Ouray Shaft in 1917 as part of an underground exploration campaign. According to material evidence, they reused the existing facilities and structures and installed a new hoist over the foundation of the original unit, which had been removed. Today, the hoist foundation possesses anchor bolts for the original 7 by 8 foot steam hoist and a second set of anchor bolts for a smaller hoist installed by the 1917 mining operation. Workers drilled holes in timbers, placed them over the original anchor bolts, and added additional anchor bolts to the timbers for a 6 by 6 foot single-drum steam hoist. The modifications to the hoist foundation reflect adaptive engineering, which was a practice in which poorly capitalized outfits installed new equipment on preexisting foundations.

In terms of *NRHP Criterion D* and *SRHP Criterion E*, the Ouray Shaft complex is highly likely to yield important and meaningful data. The site features a substantial privy pit that probably contains buried archaeological deposits from a relatively narrow window in time. The artifact assemblage represents deposits left in the workplace, rather than the domestic deposits traditionally researched. Workplace deposits may offer data for a study of the behavior of mine workers, as well as providing a sample of articles not usually represented by surface artifacts.

Because of its importance, integrity, and the presence of the intact boiler, the Ouray Shaft contributes to the historic fabric of the Breckenridge area. The Ouray Shaft is the last, principal vestige of the important Ouray Mine, and is one of a number of dwindling intact mine sites around Breckenridge. The Ouray Shaft is visible from afar and contributes to the Breckenridge area's visual landscape.

#### Management Recommendations

Because the site lies on a recreational trail, management recommendations suggest developing the site into a public heritage resource. Recommendations also suggest completing research in terms of NRHP Criterion D and SRHP Criterion E.