

# 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: 5ST994 2. Temporary Resource Number: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Attachments (check as many as apply)  
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)

4. Official determination (OAHP

- \_\_\_\_\_ Determined  
\_\_\_\_\_ Determined Not Eligible  
\_\_\_\_\_ Nominated  
\_\_\_\_\_ Need Data  
\_\_\_\_\_ Contributing to NR Dist.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Not Contributing to NR

Dist.

Other, specify: \_\_\_\_\_

### I. IDENTIFICATION

5. Resource Name: Summit Banner Reservoir

6. Project Name/Number: \_\_\_\_\_

7. Government Involvement: Local  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  building(s) \_\_\_\_\_ structure(s)  object(s) \_\_\_\_\_

in existing National Register District? yes \_\_\_\_\_ no  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: 170 m x 256 m Area: 43520 m<sup>2</sup> (÷4047) 11 acres

Area was calculated as: Length x Width  OR (length X width) X .785 \_\_\_\_\_  
rectangle/square ellipse

### II. LOCATION

12. Legal Location

PM 6 Township 6 S Range 78 W Section 26 N 1/2 of SW 1/4 of SE 1/4 of SE 1/4

PM 6 Township 6 S Range 78 W Section 26 S 1/2 of NW 1/4 of SE 1/4 of SE 1/4

if section is irregular, explain alignment method: A template was aligned with the  
Section's southwest corner.



29. Vegetation on Site (list predominant species): Lodgepole pine, subalpine fir, aspen, mountain juniper, kinnickinnick, forbes, grasses

30. Vegetation Associations/Communities Surrounding Site: Lodgepole pine forest

Resource Number: 5ST994  
Temporary Resource Number: \_\_\_\_\_

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**IV. National/State Register Eligibility Assessment**

31. Context or Theme: 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

Excellent

Good

Fair

Deteriorated

Ruins

b. Archaeological/Paleontological

Undisturbed

Light disturbance

Moderate disturbance

Heavy disturbance

Total disturbance

34. Describe condition: The site features two dry reservoirs impounded by intact dams. A penstock stands at the south reservoir. Most equipment and hardware was removed from the site.

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 X discuss: The site is isolated and not important enough in of itself.

Resource Number: 5ST994  
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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: The Peaks Trail, which is a heavily used recreational trail, passes

through the site.

40. Existing Protection: None  Marked \_\_\_ Fenced \_\_\_ Patrolled \_\_\_ Access  
controlled \_\_\_  
other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_

41. Local landmark designation: None 42. Easement: \_\_\_\_\_

43. Management Recommendations: Develop the site as a public heritage resource.

**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.

Colorado Historical Society - Office of Archaeology & Historic Preservation,  
1300 Broadway, Denver, CO 80203  
1303-866-3395

### Eligibility Recommendations

The Summit Banner Reservoir was one of the Iowa Hill Placer Mine's (Site 5ST881) most important facilities. The reservoir site retains a high degree of archaeological integrity. Several dams, a collapsed culvert, and a standing penstock contribute engineering integrity relative to the late 1890s when the mine operated. Heavy vegetation, however, impacts the site's ambiance and feel. The Iowa Hill Placer Mine is recommended eligible for the NRHP and SRHP under Criteria A, B, and C, and because the reservoir was a component of the greater Iowa Hill operation, it is recommended eligible for most of the same reasons.

In terms of *Criterion A*, the reservoir is associated with the same trends and themes relative to the late 1890s as the Iowa Hill Placer Mine, its parent site. In terms of *Criterion A*, the Iowa Hill Placer Mine is associated with important frontier, economic, social, and engineering themes and trends discussed at the beginning of Chapter 8 in the report noted on MDF Line 49. The site is associated with additional themes and trends. On state-wide and local scales, the Iowa Hill mine was a significant, profitable, and early operation in the central Rocky Mountains, and as such, it contributed to the development of the region's mining industry and associated settlement. The site contributed to the development and understanding of hydraulic engineering for both mining and non-mining uses, which had lasting implications for Colorado. By the late 1890s, when the reservoirs were built, the mine served as an example of how to apply advanced hydraulic and mechanical engineering to process gold-bearing gravel in economies of scale.

In terms of *Criterion B*, the reservoir was designed as part of the greater Iowa Hill Placer Mine by master engineer Lemuel Kingsbury. Specifically, in 1898, a group of investors hired Kingsbury to bring the mine into production in an organized, planned manner. As an engineer, Kingsbury was accomplished and had both some history in the development of Colorado's mining frontier, as well as introducing several important placer mining methods. Kingsbury began his ascent to prominence in 1880 when he joined the rush to the Roaring Fork Valley, which ultimately resulted in the establishment of Aspen. At that time, Kingsbury prospected and staked approximately 20 claims on Conundrum Creek several miles south of Aspen. When a small rush developed, Kingsbury and fellow prospectors organized the town of Highland City. Little is known of Kingsbury until the late 1890s, except that he was recognized as a mining engineer when he arrived in the Blue River drainage. At this time, a group of investors secured Kingsbury to first examine the Iowa Hill Placer Mine, then bring it into production. He also served as manager of the Brooks & Snider Mine, which was one of the Breckenridge area's richest producers. Iowa Hill became one of his primary concerns, and he developed a complex system to enhance hydraulic mining and booming. He also initiated the practice of bank-blasting to loosen huge volumes of gravel for hydraulic mining. Bank-blasting, traditionally used for railroad construction, involved driving an adit into dense, consolidated gravel, packing the adit with hundreds to thousands of pounds of explosives, and setting the charge off. The heaving explosion loosened but left in place tons of gravel, which could then be washed away with hydraulic mining and booming. At Iowa Hill, Kingsbury adapted machinery used for concentrating hardrock ores to concentrate gold-bearing placer tailings, as noted above. He continued as manager at Iowa Hill for the Summit Banner Placer Mining Co through

1906. Around this time, he also took the position of manager for the Buffalo Gold Placer Mining Company near Dillon. There, Kingsbury introduced the progressive use of a steam shovel to mine gravel when the mine's water supply proved inadequate for traditional hydraulic mining methods. The steam shovel permitted processing of gravel in economies of scale in the absence of sufficient water, and was later adopted by other water-poor mining companies in the West. Most of the infrastructure features and mine workings represented at Iowa Hill were planned by Kingsbury, and he personally supervised mining operations.<sup>1</sup>

In terms of *Criterion C*, the reservoir site clearly represents the type of water impoundment facilities constructed for advanced, mechanized, well-capitalized hydraulic placer mines. The reservoir site reflects sound engineering and planning. The site features two water impoundments, and material evidence indicates that the northern one was dedicated to provide the Iowa Hill mine with water for booming and sluicing, while the southern impoundment was dedicated to providing water for hydraulic monitors. The southern reservoir features an intact penstock that diverted water into a pipeline for the monitors, as well as archaeological features representing the means of transferring water from the reservoir into the penstock.

Placer mine infrastructure sites are rare and important for several reasons. First, because advanced and mechanized placer mines were rare, infrastructure sites remaining today are also uncommon. Second, placer mine infrastructure sites were subject to decay, erosion, and development, which claimed some of the sites surviving today. The sites are important because they represent often overlooked support facilities required to operate hydraulic placer mines, and they illuminate aspects of mechanical and water engineering. Some modern water engineering and impoundment systems were derived from placer mine infrastructures, which predated large-scale water projects for agricultural and municipal uses.

### Management Recommendations

Management recommendations suggest assessing the penstock for stability and preserving the structure as necessary, and developing the site as a public heritage resource since it lies on a recreational trail.

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<sup>1</sup> *Colorado State Mining Directory*, 1898:301; Griswold and Griswold, 1996:562; "Mining News" *EMJ* 5/26/06 p1022; "Mining News" *EMJ* 6/24/11 p1272; "Mining News" *MSP* 7/7/06 p25.