

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED OCT 31 1984
JUL 17 1985
DATE ENTEREDSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Homestake Mine (26CK3126)

AND/OR COMMON

26CK3126 (Nevada) LAME 82B (NPS temporary)

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

(Lake Mead National Recreation Area)

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

N/A

 VICINITY OF

Searchlight

01

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Nevada

CODE

32

COUNTY

Clark

CODE

003

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
N/A DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	N/A OCCUPIED	N/A AGRICULTURE N/A MUSEUM
N/A BUILDING(S)	N/A PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	N/A COMMERCIAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	N/A BOTH	N/A WORK IN PROGRESS	N/A EDUCATIONAL N/A PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	N/A ENTERTAINMENT N/A RELIGIOUS
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	N/A IN PROCESS	___ YES: RESTRICTED	N/A GOVERNMENT N/A SCIENTIFIC
	N/A BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	N/A INDUSTRIAL N/A TRANSPORTATION
		___ NO	N/A MILITARY N/A OTHER:

4 AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

National Park Service, Lake Mead National Recreation Area

STREET & NUMBER

601 Nevada Highway

702-293-4041

CITY, TOWN

Boulder City

N/A

VICINITY OF

Nevada 89005

STATE

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

County Clerk, County Clerk Courthouse

Division of Lands NPS

STREET & NUMBER

200 East Carson Street

450 Golden Gate Ave.
Western Region

CITY, TOWN

Las Vegas

San Francisco

STATE
Nevada

California

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

List of Classified Structures Survey

DATE

1976

 FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

National Park Service, Western Regional Office

CITY, TOWN

San Francisco

STATE
California

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> N/A EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> N/A GOOD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

SUMMARY

The Homestake Mine is composed of three activity areas illustrating mining activities within the Newberry Mountain Range of Nevada from 1860 s to 1937. Undisturbed features and technology exist in a desert setting to which miners adapted, bringing in selected aspects of specialized industry and economics.

Description

The Newberry Mining district is in the remote Newberry Mountains of Clark County, Nevada. The Homestake Mine is the most noteworthy mine in this district because it was the earliest discovered and most intensively worked of local mines. Prospectors have toiled intermittently at the location for gold and silver since the early 1860 s. Features and artifacts comprising Homestake Mine include a number of prospect pits, mine shafts, a tramway grade, vacated living areas, as well as a partially toppled masonry structure and an assortment of abandoned equipment. These materials are on the relatively flatter, cleared areas that occur among otherwise abrupt granitic cliffs of an unnamed canyon which is characteristic of the rugged topography in the Newberry Range. The rocky ground and steep, eroded slopes of this area are not optimal conditions for plant growth and vegetation is sparse in the hills around Homestake Mine. Excessive prospecting and mining activities have likely disrupted vegetation in the area. The hardy creosote-bursage community clothes the otherwise barren terrain at the Homestake Mine site.

The Homestake Mine is composed of four loci distinguished on the basis of major surface features. Locus 1 is the largest and consists of the remains of both mining and habitation activities. Mining features include a headframe, a loading chute, a refinery (possibly cyanide), as well as two mine shafts. A possible blacksmith shop or smelting operation was also present, indicated by the presence of dross. The habitation area within this locus consists of at least one tent platform (with pegs still implanted around a clearing) and a trash area. The trash scatter measures 25m x 10m and consists of refuse (cans, bottles, and other items) commonly associated with domestic activities as well as a gutted Model T automobile body.

Major features within Locus 2 are associated solely with mining activities. A 10 - stamp mill was constructed of large 12 in. x 12 in. timbers aturdily jointed with spiked mortise and tenon joints. Possibly a huge tipple, it is likely the remains of the 20 - stamp amalgamation mill which Vanderberg (1937:77) reported as having equipped the mine in the early day (pre-1891). The structure was constructed with granite blocks and mud/lime mortar, with a veneer of fire bricks marked "C.S.P. Co., Los Angeles." A door and damper assembly with a 28 in. stack lies near the boiler structure.

Artifacts comprising Locus 3 indicate that this area was used as living space by those who worked the mines. A wood-burning stove with a double oven, scattered trash (glass and rubber), bed springs, mesh, and lumber indicate that this area was used as a kitchen and for sleeping. Fifty meters north of this area is a privy which is no longer standing, consisting of fallen boards, a foundation, and a depression.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
N/A PREHISTORIC	N/A ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	N/A COMMUNITY PLANNING	N/A LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	N/A RELIGION
N/A 1400-1499	X ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	N/A CONSERVATION	N/A LAW	N/A SCIENCE
N/A 1500-1599	N/A AGRICULTURE	N/A ECONOMICS	N/A LITERATURE	N/A SCULPTURE
N/A 1600-1699	N/A ARCHITECTURE	N/A EDUCATION	N/A MILITARY	N/A SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
N/A 1700-1799	N/A ART	N/A ENGINEERING	N/A MUSIC	N/A THEATER
X 1800-1899	N/A COMMERCE	N/A EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	N/A PHILOSOPHY	N/A TRANSPORTATION
X 1900	N/A COMMUNICATIONS	X INDUSTRY (mining)	N/A POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	N/A OTHER (SPECIFY)
		N/A INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1860s-1937 BUILDER/ARCHITECT N/A

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SUMMARY

The Homestake Mine is a 19th and early 20th Century gold and silver mine site containing intact historic artifacts, structures and features illustrative of changes in mining methods, ore reduction, and "boom-and-bust" economics of this country. It was a consistently successful mine within a mining district of some 15 claim groups in the remote Newberry Mountains of Nevada. Research potential exists in historic technology, patterning of materials, and use of space over time, evidence for contacts with urban centers and local settlements, and in comparison to similar mining districts in desert California (Death Valley National Monument and Joshua Tree National Monument), southern Nevada, and northwestern Arizona.

The Homestake Mine is the earliest founded and most extensively developed of the 15 mine groups in the Newberry Mining district. The establishment of the mine in the early 1860's occurred at a time when large-scale placer mining was just beginning in Nevada and surrounding territories.

The mine claims through different claim holders, witnessed the initiation, proliferation, and subsidence of mining activity in the area. Many mines of the same period were exhausted, or simply closed after a few years, but the Homestake Mine produced respectable amounts of metallic ore for over a half century.

Due to remote location in the Newberry Range, the site probably retained the atmosphere of a secluded mining camp throughout its development, but reflected the trends of wider American society throughout the span of its exploitation. The pervasive changes which characterized late 19th Century American urban society are clearly evident in the first 30 years of development at Homestake Mine. Technological development increased more and more rapidly as the 20th Century approached, but fluctuated in the economic turmoil that characterized this period. In times of economic optimism, large investments were poured into mining equipment, construction, and excavation in the hope of a payoff. The abundance of expensive machinery now scattered throughout the Homestake Mine site attest to this. But rapid introduction of improved technology and fluctuation in prices can spell doom to a mine. This may have happened at the Homestake Mine. The same phenomena which led to the flourishing of Homestake Mine contributed to the cessation of operations in 1891.

Investor's erratic choices and changing technology that caused fluctuations before 1900 had stabilized when operations reopened at Homestake in 1910. Unbridled development and spending of earlier years was replaced with a more realistic view of the investment necessary before operations became unprofitable. This change is

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See Continuation Sheet

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 64 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A [REDACTED]
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B [REDACTED]
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C [REDACTED]

D [REDACTED]

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION
[REDACTED]

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
N/A		N/A	
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
N/A		N/A	

11 FORM PREPARED BY Edited by Roger E. Kelly; Regional Archeologist, NPS
NAME / TITLE Deni J. Seymour, Kay Simpson (Temporary Staff Archeologists) San Francisco
(July 1984)

ORGANIZATION <u>Western Archeological and Conservation Center</u>	DATE <u>September 1982</u>
STREET & NUMBER <u>PO Box 41058</u>	TELEPHONE <u>(602) 629-6501</u> Kelly (415) 556-6893
CITY OR TOWN <u>Tucson, Arizona</u>	STATE <u>Arizona</u> 85717

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES

NO

NONE

Ronald A. Jones
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is National State Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE Edward B. [REDACTED]

TITLE Chief Historian, National Park Service DATE October 12, 1984

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
<u>Yvonne A. Stewart</u>	DATE <u>7/17/85</u>
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION	DATE
ATTEST:	
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	

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These three loci described above demarcate the major clusters of features on the site. Trash and detached pieces of mining equipment, however, are scattered throughout the area surrounding these loci. In addition, there are prospect pits and core-boring holes along the cliffs.

The fourth locus consists of the abandoned earthen grade of a mine tramway which extended down the south side of a ravine from the mine to a river landing site, now under water. Ore cars, probably towed by mules, conveyed the concentrates to river steamers.

Some portable pieces of machinery and other items have been removed from the site by human and natural agencies.

Photographs of the boiler housing at Homestake Mine taken before 1978 (Belshaw and Peplow 1978) and in 1982 (Teague) show an example of the degree of recent damage done to the masonry. Vandals have removed numerous bricks from the walls of the structure, leaving some of them strewn along the canyon floor. Flash floods in the canyon have contributed to the redistribution of artifacts in some areas. Although [REDACTED] the site is intact and well preserved.

Boundary Justification

[REDACTED]

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reflected in the scale and nature of operations at Homestake between its earlier and later periods of development. While 19th Century features left at the site suggest the full range of mining and processes, during the later period less ore had been extracted and processed elsewhere.

Enough detail and integrity exist at the site that activity areas can be clearly delineated. Because much of the equipment and structures are in place and in upright positions, we can derive valuable information from them about spatial relations between activity areas on the site. Enough diagnostic artifacts are present and well preserved to provide dates, places of purchase, amount of investment involved, and the methods and stages of ore processing. More intensive survey, along with excavation, could provide additional information on spatial relations, mining techniques, as well as information on the background of the people who worked and lived in the mining camp. Survey within terrain contiguous to activities area will give information on environmental change made by miners during occupation such as rock collecting for construction.

Summary of Historical Context

Historical data on the Homestake Mine is thin, partly because of a number of other Homestake mines in the southwest. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] 1. US Bureau of Mines investigator W.O. Vanderburg reported in Information Circular No. 6964, page 77, in 1937, that this mine was discovered by soldiers from Fort Mohave, Arizona, in the early 1860s. He reported that the remains of three steam plants on the ground indicated that the mine was exploited very early. The Mining and Scientific Press reported in its issue dated June 2, 1900, on page 613, that the Homestake Mill had started up, apparently after a period of inactivity. The Engineering and Mining Journal of June 16, 1900, page 720, indicated that the mill had 20 stamps and a pumping plant supplied water to both the mine and mill. A subsequent owner, J. J. McDonald, of Searchlight, Nevada, began working the mine in 1910 and worked it intermittently on a small scale to 1937 at least. When Vandberburg visited it that year, McDonald employed one to three men and hauled selected ore [REDACTED] where it was treated in a small mill which used both amalgamation and cyanidation techniques, yielding \$40 per ton.

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