UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

#### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES **INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

	LITA	SHFFT	
FOR NPS USE RECEIVED DATE ENTERE	DEC 19	<b>1977</b> May 2.4. 1978	

California

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

#### SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS **TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**

#### **1 NAME** HISTORIC Great Sierra Mine (Dana Village) Historic Site AND/OR COMMON Great Sierra Mine 2 LOCATION White the barries in the with Ref. STREET & NUMBER Not applicable (Yosemite National Park) NOT FOR PUBLICATION CITY, TOWN CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT Lee Vining x vicinity of Gaylor Lake. Tioga Hill 14th Not applicable CODE STATE COUNTY CODE California 06 Tuolumne 109 **CLASSIFICATION** CATEGORY OWNERSHIP STATUS PRESENT USE X\_PUBLIC \_DISTRICT \_\_OCCUPIED \_\_\_AGRICULTURE .....MUSEUM X\_BUILDING(S) \_\_\_PRIVATE X UNOCCUPIED \_\_\_COMMERCIAL XPARK \_\_\_STRUCTURE \_\_вотн ----WORK IN PROGRESS \_\_\_EDUCATIONAL --- PRIVATE RESIDENCE X\_SITE PUBLIC ACQUISITION ACCESSIBLE \_\_\_ENTERTAINMENT ----RELIGIOUS \_\_OBJECT \_\_IN PROCESS \_\_YES: RESTRICTED GOVERNMENT \_\_SCIENTIFIC \_\_\_\_BEING CONSIDERED X YES: UNRESTRICTED ....INDUSTRIAL \_\_\_TRANSPORTATION \_\_\_NO .....MILITARY ....OTHER: AGENCY REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable) National Park Service Western Regional Office STREET & NUMBER 450 Golden Gate Avenue Box 36063 CITY, TOWN STATE San Francisco California - VICINITY OF LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION COURTHOUSE. REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. National Park Service, Yosemite National Park headquarters STREET & NUMBER P.O. Box 577 CITY, TOWN STATE Yosemite National Park California 95389 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS TITLE Historic Buildings Inventory DATE **X**FEDERAL \_\_STATE \_\_COUNTY \_\_LOCAL 1961 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Yosemite National Park files CITY, TOWN STATE Yosemite National Park



C	DNDITION	CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
EXCELLENT GOOD XFAIR		UNALTERED	xoriginal site xmoved date <u>1960s*</u>
*rAin	UNEXPOSED *Mining	g equipment moved to	Pioneer History Center, Wawona

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Great Sierra Mining Company established Dana Village as the support facility for the operations of the Sheepherder Lode. The village is located above Gaylor Lake on Tioga Hill.

The remains of 5 stone cabins, a wooden blacksmith shop, and a small stone powder house can be seen today. The equipment originally in this mine was removed by the Park for reasons of preservation, and is displayed at the History Center (Wawona).

The walls of the cabins and powder house are well defined, but portions are toppled over and in ruins. The blacksmith shop was destroyed in an explosion during the last months of operation, and those timbers are scattered about the site. The shaft openings are caved in, and filled with rubble.

One cabin is relatively intact with only its roof removed. The cabin is a one-story, one-room masonry structure measuring c.  $25' \times 18'$ .

The walls are very thick, c. 4' at the base and 3' at the top, consisting of small jagged slabs of metamorphic rock (schist or slate) and stacked on a rubble bond completely without mortar. There is one window on the south wall and one door on the east wall, both framed with hand-hewn lumber, weathered and bleached. The cabin had a gable roof which was removed; the gable ends were stone masonry. The plates for the roof structure and 4 beams are intact.

The cabin has evidently been rebuilt and repaired several times, but the nature of the dry-masonry construction requires this type of maintenance. The cabin therefore does not violate the criteria concerning reconstruction.

To prevent further collapse of masonry, the roof should be restored. A new gable on the south end will have to be built and debris should be removed from inside the building. The building has potential as an interpretive tool in relating the story of the silver miners and the opening of the Tioga Pass region. Maintenance of the cabin is adequate preservation for this resource.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AP	REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH	ECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	
PREHISTORIC 1400-1499	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING CONSERVATION	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE LAW	RELIGION SCIENCE
	AGRICULTURE AGRICULTURE ART COMMERCE COMMUNICATIONS	LECONOMICS LEDUCATION LENGINEERING LEXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT XINDUSTRY LINVENTION	LITERATURE MILITARY MUSIC PHILOSOPHY POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	SCULPTURE SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN THEATER TRANSPORTATION OTHER (SPECIEY)

#### SPECIFIC DATES 1881-1884

# BUILDER/ARCHITECT Great Sierra Consolidated Silver Co.

#### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Mining activity on the crest and eastern slope of the central Sierra Nevada is closely interwoven with events leading to the formation of Yosemite National Park. The Great Sierra Mine (Dana Village) was the site of the most intensive, albeit unprofitable, silver mining effort within the present park boundary and is of local significance in industry. The cabin is of local significance architecturally; its type of masonry construction is very rare, and it exhibits a high level of handcraftsmanship. The Great Sierra Mine, originally called the "High Rock" or "Mt. Dana", was one of several claims located along a ledge atop Tioga Hill and about 800 feet south of the fabled Sheepherder Lode, reputed to be a fabulously rich silver vein. The Lode was discovered in 1860 and rediscovered in 1874 by a young sheepherder, Thomas Brusky, Jr. Brusky and others staked claims along the Sheepherder and the adjacent ledge, and the ensuing seven years produced a confusing litany of title changes, counterclaims, In 1881 the Great Sierra Consolidated Silver Mining Company purchased all claims etc. in the immediate vicinity of Tioga Hill. The company established the mountaintop community of Dana, including a post office branch, that same year, intending to work the mining operation year-round. Living conditions at c. 11,000 feet were difficult and the miners soon relocated at "Bennettville" near the northern base of Tioga Hill.

Originally the company sank two shafts at the Great Sierra Mine, going down 100 feet before summit work was abandoned in favor of a tunnel through the side of the hill that would intersect both silver ledges. Driving a tunnel into extremely hard rock required special drilling machinery. It took more than two months to haul eight tons of equipment the nine miles from the foot of Bloody Canyon to the Great Sierra Mine tunnel. The equipment was transported on 6 heavy sleds by 10 to 12 men and 2 mules. One section required an almost vertical climb of 2,160 feet.

In 1884 the tunnel had been driven 1,784 feet and more than \$300,000 expended when the Great Sierra Consolidated Silver Mining Company collapsed and closed down operations. The claim changed hands several times and in 1933 work was resumed with modern equipment. The tunnel was driven several hundred feet further without striking the Sheepherder Lode and the second ill-fated operation ended. Today the National Park Service controls access to the mine tunnel.

The mining activity on Tioga Hill attracted hundreds of men and women to Yosemite's high Sierra region. Conservationists, already lobbying to establish a federal reserve that would abolish grazing in Tuolumne Meadows and the indiscriminate cutting of trees in the sugar pine tracts, agitated anew over the potential destruction of spectacular scenery caused by mining. It is difficult to assess whether Tioga Hill and its environs would have been included in the boundaries delineating Yosemite National Park in 1890 if the Sheepherder Lode had proven to contain factual, instead of legendary, wealth.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES pioneer Yosemite History Center, Interpretive Prospectus, Yosemite NP Library Uhte, Robert F., "Yosemite's Pioneer Cabins", Yosemite Nature Notes, V. 35:10 (Oct.1956) Report of the State Mineralogist, No. 8, 1888. Bureau of Mines. Sacramento, Calif. Report of the State Mineralogist, No. 36, 1940. Bureau of Mines, Sacramento, Calif. Mining and Scientific Press, V. 78: 239, 1899. San Francisco, Calif. Hubbard, Douglass, Ghost Mines of Yosemite. (Fresno: Awani Press, 1958) Russell, Carl P. 100 Years in Yosemite, rev. ed. (Yosemite Natural Hist. Assn., 1957)

#### **10**GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than 10 acres on summit UTM REFERENCES

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

A complete delineation of the boundaries of the Great Sierra Mine could probably be ascertained from the title patent to the mine. The prime resources on the site are the drywall masonry cabin and the ruins of the other structures on the summit of Tioga Hill

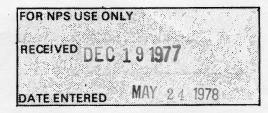
	ALL STATES AND COUNTIES	5 FOR PROPER	TIES OVERLAPPING S	STATE OR COUN	TY BOUND	ARIES	
STATE		CODE	COUNTY			CODE	
STATE		CODE	COUNTY			CODE	
FORM	PREPARED BY		<u></u>				
NAME / TITLE	Leslie Starr Hart	, Historia	n				
	Merrill Ann Wilso	•					
ORGANIZATION		-		DATE			
STREET & NUM	<u>National Park Ser</u>	<u>vice, Denv</u>	<u>ver Service Cen</u>	ter	August		717
STREET & NUM		<b>D</b> O D	05007	IELEPH		234-4509	
CITY OR TOWN	655 Parfet Street	<u>, P.O. Box</u>	25287	STATE	(303)	234-5545	<u>(W</u> 115
	Denver.				Colorad	o 80225	
				MA M	Ellen	4	
			ST	ATE HISTORIC PRES	SERVATION OF	FICER SIGNATUR	RE
Historic Preser evaluate its sig FEDERAL REP	with Executive Order 11593, vation Officer has been allow nificance. The evaluated level RESENTATIVE SIGNATURE	ed 90 days in v of significance	ate this property to the	e National Regist			
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Form No. 10-301a (Pev. 10-74)

> UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM



#### SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS TYPE ALL ENTRIES ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME	
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HISTORIC

Great Sierra Mine (Dana Village) Historic Site

AND/OR COMMON

Great Sierra Mine

# 2 LOCATION

CITY. TOWN \_\_\_\_VICINITY OF COUNTY STATE Yosemite National Park Gaylor Lake/Tioga Hill Tuolumne CA

# **PHOTO REFERENCE**

PHOTO CREDIT Merrill Ann Wilson/National Park Service DATE OF PHOTO 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT Denver Service Center/National Park Service/655 Parfet, P.O. Box 25287/ Denver, CO 80225 (TWE)

# **D** IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET PHOTO NO. 1. Dry wall masonry cabin showing entrance and window. View is to north.

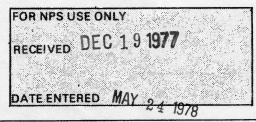
Crest of Tioga Hill is directly behind chimney.



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110	NAME

HISTORIC

Great Sierra Mine (Dana Village) Historic Site

AND/OR COMMON

Great Sierra Mine



LOCATION

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Vacamita National Dark	Corrlan Ialas /mia		40

Yosemite National Park Gaylor Lake/Tioga Hill Tuolumne



# **PHOTO REFERENCE**

PHOTO CREDIT Merrill Ann Wilson/National Park SErvice DATE OF PHOTO 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT Denver Service Center/National Park Service/655 Parfet, P.O. Box 25287 Denver, Co 80225 (TWE)



### **IDENTIFICATION**

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET Wall and window framing detail-cabin at the Great Sierra Mine. PHOTO NO. 2.