

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received OCT 7 1985

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Hattie (Gold Bug), Priest & Silver Pine Mines and Stampmill

and/or common Hangtown's Gold Bug Park

2. Location

street & number 2501 Bedford Avenue

n/a not for publication

city, town Placerville

n/a vicinity of

state California

code 06

county El Dorado

code 017

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: <u>Tours</u>

4. Owner of Property

name City of Placerville

street & number 487 Main Street

city, town Placerville

n/a vicinity of

state California 95667

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. El Dorado County Recorder's Office

street & number 360 Fair Lane

city, town Placerville

state California 95667

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Brochure and Tour Map of
Placerville/Hangtown

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1983

federal state county local

depository for survey records El Dorado County Chamber of Commerce
542 Main Street

city, town Placerville

state California

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date <u>N/A</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION -

Four original mining claims comprise the 61.45 acres of Hangtown's Gold Bug Park located 9/10ths of a mile from downtown Placerville, on Bedford Avenue north of highway 50. Highlights of the district are the three gold mines - Hattie, (Gold Bug), Priest and Silver Pine, the 8-stamp stamp mill, and a dam and holding pond. Located along the eastern side of the historic Mother Lode vein, the district's environment is typical of terrain encountered during early mining associated with the Gold Rush of 1849. Approximately 250 additional mining sites are evident, including tunnels, prospect holes, and ground sluicing all within the boundary of the district. As an integral part of the Placerville mining district, the park represents a typical mining district of the Mother Lode, with a variety of technologies employed to extract the gold. The Gold Bug Mine is currently accessible to the public, while the Priest and Silver Pine Mines are planned for restoration and public access. The stamp mill building, although somewhat deteriorated, is planned for restoration.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT OF DISTRICT AREA:

Situated in the foothills of the western slope of the Sierra Nevada range, the terrain is hilly, with the main canyon emphasized by Big Canyon Creek (first known as Little Big Creek) flowing east to west through the park. All the land is covered with natural flora of the foothills, dominated with growth of manzanita, oak and pine.

Some of the first gold panned in the area was done by Chilians *(7), in the spring fed Big Canyon Creek, which flows heavy in winter and spring, then turns almost dry in the late summer and fall. Squatter and miner cottages, dating back to the 1920's, located along the creek and in other areas, were removed after the area became a park in 1965 (12).

Troughing, done by miners to locate quartz veins, is still evident in many areas. When the City of Placerville took over the area in 1965, a dirt road entered the area and followed the creek to the other side of the park. So overgrown with shrubery - mostly blackberries - the road was only 8 to 10 feet wide. The road was soon widened and paved as it is today. The present road to the stamp mill was created when it was discovered that the road leading to it went across private property. Some 250 prospecting holes are also found when roaming off main trails. Five additional mine tunnels were along the main road in 1965 and are still visible as well as some along trails throughout the park. For safety reasons, most excavations were blasted closed in 1965. Also, general growth of chaparral has covered many of the diggings.

Continued on Continuation Sheet Item 7 Page 1

* Numbers indicate source references listed in the bibliography.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) Mining
Specific dates	1860-1920	Builder/Architect	n/a	

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

SUMMARY - The entire 61.45 acres are representative of the various mining technologies that were employed to extract and process gold from the first years of the Gold Rush to the mid-twentieth century. The district provides a wide diversity of historic resources related to the development of the mining industry in California. Retaining much the same environmental character as was once experienced during the mining era, the contributing resources - Hattie (Gold Bug), Priest and Silver Pine Mines, 8-stamp stamp mill - are all on their original sites within the Poverty Ridge Mining District. Once the major economic activity in Placerville, mining has largely disappeared from the modern scene; this complex is the last remaining historical evidence in the community of this once important regional economic activity. What remains today cannot be found elsewhere in public land, in the Mother Lode region, that typifies mining activity of the Gold Rush era as well as the stated district.

DISTRICT BOUNDARIES:

Four mining claims comprise the district boundaries. The boundaries of each of the claims were the last recorded boundaries for the area when the Bureau of Land Management took over in 1949. It is, of course, unknown who may have preceeded these miners. The Vulture claim and Hattie claim (hereafter referred to as the Gold Bug claim) became one when William A. Craddock and John Dench mined the area starting in 1882. The Gold Bug claim was sold again in 1902 to Thomas Bishop and Frank Monaghan. Another sale took place in 1930 to John McKay, who renamed the mine "Gold Bug", which name is retained today. Because of fires, files were lost and therefore no records remain in the El Dorado County Recorder's office.

Record books from the California Division of Mines and Geology indicate the Silver Pine Claim was, by possessor right, owned by H.P. Moulton with O.B. Gede, Henry Van Sickle and William G. Meagher, filed in 1930. Prior to that time it is believed, but not documented to this date, that Fred W. Mayer and Ben Federer may have owned the claim in 1900 to 1920.

The Springhill and Liberty claims show their last recording to be in 1940 and 1950, respectively, by Henry Gede and William G. Meagher.

The 1941 plat of the claim known as Springhill Lode reads "...Five Hundred Dollars worth of labor has been expended or improvements made upon....." and that "...said improvements consist of 4 pits; 1 cut; and 1 tunnel and crosscut; Value, \$695.00."

9. Major Bibliographical References

See attached Continuation Sheet Item 9 Page 1

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property 61.45

Quadrangle name Placerville

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A	<u>1 0</u>	<u>6 9 1 6 4 0</u>	<u>4 2 9 0 9 9 0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	<u>1 0</u>	<u>6 9 1 6 1 0</u>	<u>4 2 9 0 1 7 0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	<u>1 0</u>	<u>6 9 1 3 2 0</u>	<u>4 2 9 0 1 8 0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

D	<u>1 0</u>	<u>6 9 1 1 5 0</u>	<u>4 2 9 0 7 6 0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

E	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

F	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

G	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

H	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

Verbal boundary description and justification

Mount Diablo Meridian, Calif. T.10N, R.11E., Sec. 6, Lots 28 and 29

(See continuation sheet for item 10)

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	<u>n/a</u>	code	<u>n/a</u>	county	<u>n/a</u>	code	<u>n/a</u>
-------	------------	------	------------	--------	------------	------	------------

state	<u>n/a</u>	code	<u>n/a</u>	county	<u>n/a</u>	code	<u>n/a</u>
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mrs. Patricia Ann Cook, President and Chairman of the Board

organization Hangtown's Gold Bug Park Development Committee, Inc.

date Sept. 1, 1984

street & number 549 Main Street

telephone (916) 622-0832 or (916) 626-5056

city or town Placerville

state California 95667

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Marian Mitchell-Wilson

title DEPUTY STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

date 2/26/85

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

William B. Bushong

date 11/15/85

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES WITHIN THE DISTRICT:

1. HATTIE (GOLD BUG) MINE:

The original excavation of Hattie #1 was on the north side of Big Canyon Creek where an outcropping of quartz led to digging. The Hattie #2 (Gold Bug) is an extension of the vein on the south side of Big Canyon Creek. The Hattie #1 is evident by troughing and a hole which is now becoming covered by undergrowth.

Climbing part way up the hill on a narrow path, the original entrance to Hattie #2 (Gold Bug) was encountered. It was merely an open tunnel with such poor drainage that one waded through water to enter the mine. The entry has been replaced with a wood timber frame and door. Many times vandalized to obtain entry, the door has been replaced repeatedly. The door is locked at night, but opened on a daily basis for visitors. After the City of Placerville accepted the area in 1965 for park purposes, proper drainage was created and cement stairs and railing to the entrance were installed for visitor convenience.

Being in hardrock Mariposa slate, the mine has maintained its original form and is therefore considered in excellent shape. No shoring was necessary until 1979 when a small slide occurred inside the entry. Ranging from 5 to 6 feet in width and height, the tunnel extends 362 feet into the hill showing the quartz veins followed by the miners. The formation of the tunnel is a result of blasting the rock to extract the quartz bearing gold ore. All work done in the mine was by blasting and the use of hand tools.

Several feet into the mine, a 20 foot high drift rises above the tunnel exposing another quartz vein. Farther in, another drift extending 25 feet high exposes even another vein. As the tunnel proceeds into the hill, ground water can be experienced along the way.

At the back of the mine the tunnel splits into a "Y". The left tunnel ends at approximately 20 feet in an area called the "Black Hole of Calcutta". The right tunnel extends another 30-35 feet in an area called the "Blue Grotto Drift", showing the quartz vein overhead at a height just over 4 feet. Overhead at the "Y" where the ceiling is just about 6 feet, is the air shaft opening which extends 100 feet to the surface intersecting the Priest Mine above. A natural draft keeps the mine cool and fresh at all times.

About 40 to 50 feet of the original rail tracks for the ore carts used, are still in place on the dirt floor under the wooden flooring, first laid in 1965. A new wooden floor was laid the full length of the mine in 1982 by the City of Placerville to facilitate tourist traffic. Electric lighting was installed in 1966 for viewer convenience and safety. (1, 3, 4, 7, 9, 11, 12, 13)

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2. PRIEST MINE:

Located on the hill about 60 feet above the Hattie (Gold Bug), is the Priest mine. Quartz outcropping, again, encouraged early digging in the more sedimentary type rock. Additional excavations are also noted to the east of the tunnel.

The open entrance, once accessible by a dirt road from the south side of the park in 1965, indicated a typical example of weathering caused by tree roots, grass roots, and seasonal rainfall. The zone of weathering was considered to be approximately 12 inches at that time. An overgrown trail was found to be on the side of the hill coming up from the mine below; this is now the principal access route. Though more delicate in nature than the Hattie (Gold Bug), it is also considered to be in excellent condition.

The tunnel extends 147 feet into the side of the hill with a dirt floor. Ranging between 5 and 6 feet in width, the ceiling has a curved design and is about 5 feet high. The tool marks of the miners can be seen on the walls and ceiling throughout the entire mine.

About 65 feet in from the entrance is a room called the Powder Room drift, which has a carved column "supporting" the ceiling. The room is squared as opposed to being a dugout area. The quartz vein exposed on the wall of the room is believed to parallel the exposed vein in the Blue Grotto Drift in the mine below.

At the back of the mine, the drift raises about 8 feet, where the air shaft of the mine below is offset about 10 feet from the Priest mine as it rises to the top of the hill. Another large squared room is at the rear of the mine.

Lighting installed back in 1965 has been vandalized thus resulting in closure of the mine to the general public. The existing wooden door at the entrance of the mine has been wired and sealed until proper security can be established. (7, 11, 12, 13) Plans are being made to reopen the mine to the public.

3. SILVER PINE MINE:

Located 67'8" behind the ore hopper of the stamp mill is the opening of the Silver Pine mine excavation. In a low hill area of primarily sandstone and shale, the excavation extends 125' to the north, where the rest of the tunnel remains buried. The width of the excavation varies from 4' to 15' at the back. A 22'10" piece of rail track protrudes from the "floor" indicating additional track is probably still beneath the surface. About 82' from the entrance is a large, almost 5' hole showing part of the tunnel. Another 32' to the north is a 6' hole showing the vein followed in the excavation. The sides of the excavation vary from 1' to almost 7' at the back.

The destruction of the mine entrance occurred during an argument of the owners of the Silver Pine claim. If legend is correct, the mine will be an interesting one to open and develop for research and educational purposes. It is believed to still hold an ore cart with ore.

The development of this site, in conjunction with the stamp mill, will be a unique demonstration of hardrock mining in the Mother Lode era.

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4. 8-STAMP STAMP MILL:

The stamp mill, on its original site in front of the Silver Pine Mine, is situated on a slope in the northwest section of the district, housed in a building which is deteriorated. Considered in fair condition and probably workable at this time, the mill awaits restoration with the cooperation of Westinghouse Electric Company of Sunnyvale.

The frame holding the stamp mill was designed by Joshua Hendy Iron Works and is original. The automatic ore loaders are also from the Hendy Iron Works. It is believed that the 8-stamps were salvaged parts from an original 10-stamp stamp mill at this site. Westinghouse Electric Corporation of Sunnyvale has authenticated the mill from their catalogues of Joshua Hendy Iron Works. In restoring the mill, Westinghouse Electric will use all existing parts and manufacture only what needs to be replaced from original plans and casts. The framework stands approximately 15 feet high and is 12 feet wide. The frame with stamps and the ore loaders sit within an 8 1/2 foot by 12 foot area in front of the 12 foot by 12 foot ore hopper.

The building itself is on three levels and follows the plan of most stamp mill buildings. Constructed of a wooden frame it is covered with corrugated metal sheeting on the sides and roof. The building extends 48 1/2 feet down the slope and is 16 feet wide. A renovated building, incorporating what can be salvaged from the old building, has been designed following stamp mill building plans with visitor viewing areas added. The new building would add to the security of the stamp-mill as well as provide additional information on the process of gold extraction with exhibits. Also, under consideration, instead of a largely new building, is a contemporary addition, which would be added to a restored structure.

Originally, a Cadillac gasoline engine and belt transmitted the power to the cam shaft of the double four stamp mill. That engine was gone before the park was acquired and will be replaced by a motor first made by Westinghouse Electric - historical in itself. When the mill becomes operational, it will operate in a slow educational configuration for demonstration purposes and to preserve its integrity.

The type of gold extraction process that the mill presents was used widely in the Mother Lode and is directly associated with hardrock mining. This particular mill was first in place for use at the Silver Pine claim directly behind the stamp mill. It was later used by those in the immediate area and then extended its business to other parts of the Placerville area. Its particular setting and placement are very appropriate to the historical mining theme. (7, 10, 11, 15)

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NON-CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES WITHIN THE DISTRICT:

1. DAM AND HOLDING POND:

The cement dam across Big Canyon Creek shows two gates and two flow valves. The condition of the dam is good and needs only to have the silt removed behind it, for the creek to flow normally.

Its location is the site of a holding pond which provided water for use at a small stamp mill located along the creek near the Hattie (Gold Bug) mine. The dam was built in 1948.

The dam, 42 feet wide has two steel gates to hold the water. Below each gate, 6 feet down, are 16" flume pipes with covers. Concrete walls extending back from the dam, widen the pond to 52 feet. The water pond itself, extends about 200 feet behind the dam, depending on the amount of water collected from its source (a spring) and general runoff in the area.

The pond will be converted to a fishing pond after the silt has been removed. A pump will circulate water in the pond with water added from a hydrant nearby during the dry season to maintain a constant level. (16, 17)

2. MEAGHER SUMMER HOME:

The summer home, painted white, is a wood frame structure with white ship-lap siding on the outside, a veranda on all four sides, and shingle roofing.

Located at the end of the main park road, the house is situated in a wide flat area near the creek.

Oddly constructed, it is composed of three "bathroom" buildings purchased from Standard Oil Company in 1948 which were moved from Corning, California, to the site. The three buildings, placed side by side, were connected together to form three rooms - a kitchen, a bathroom, and a bedroom. One large room was built across the long side of the three rooms to form a 13'8" x 27'8" living room where a stone fireplace was built. The house itself is 27'8" x 24'6" with a 5'6" screened veranda all the way around the house.

When the property reverted to the Bureau of Land Management, and was then leased to the City of Placerville, it became the workshop for the Recreation and Parks Department. A new workshop will be built on other property, leaving the old white house available for clubhouse or museum development. Considered to be in good condition, some minor repairs are necessary to make the building habitable again. (16, 17)

3. LARGE METAL STORAGE GARAGE:

Adjacent to the Meagher Summer Home is a 24' x 47' building used by Recreation and Parks Department for vehicle storage. When the workshop is relocated, the garage would also be removed from the premises. The building was built in 1965.

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4. SMALL STORAGE SHED at entrance to Gold Bug Mine:

The storage shed is temporarily situation to house and protect the electric box for the Gold Bug Mine. Built in 1981, it replaced an old, delapidated nonhistoric structure. A small museum (reminiscent of stamp mill design) will be built at the site in the future.

5. COMFORT STATIONS:

Two self-contained comfort stations, constructed of wood, are located near the picnic area for visitor convenience. Additional comfort stations will have to be built in the park at other locations in the future. These two were built in 1965.

6. PICNIC AREAS with tables, benches, and trash recepticals:

At the present time there are two main picnic areas in the park -- along Big Canyon Creek, and near the Priest Mine. These consist of nine tables with attached benches and five trash recepticals.

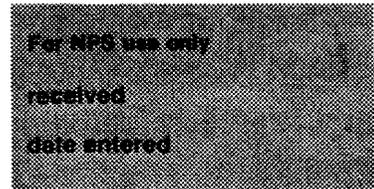
7. PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT AND ARCHERY RANGE:

Only two pieces of iron-pipe playground equipment remain today -- a teeter-totter and a merry-go-round. These will be moved to another area within the park more suited for a tot playground.

The archery range consists of 14 stations, all above ground and moveable. The range has been inspected and approved by the National Archery Association. On contract with the City of Placerville, the Hangtown Bowmen maintain the range and are subject to approval by not only the city, but by the Hangtown's Gold Bug Park Development Committee, Inc. as well.

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All four claims were acquired by Meagher of Independent Iron Works of Oakland in the 1940's, who decided not to develop the area due to its historical nature. He then turned the property over to the US Bureau of Land Management in 1949. The City of Placerville leased the property from BLM in 1965 to be used as a park under the Recreational Use Act. Finally in 1981, the property was turned over to the City of Placerville.

The irregular outline of the district is representative of the manner in which claims were staked, with little regard to any possible existing boundaries. The boundaries are justified historically and by remaining integrity as shown on the final cadastral survey plat; adjacent properties have been developed with modern housing resulting in the isolation of this area as the last intact historic enclave associated with the local mining industry.

The entire Poverty Ridge Mining District is known to have produced approximately \$17 million during the 1860 to 1880 period when gold was assayed at \$19.00 per ounce.

HISTORY OF MAJOR RESOURCES:

1. HATTIE (GOLD BUG) MINE:

In 1882, two men, William A Craddock and John Dench, were prospecting along Big Canon Creek in the Poverty Ridge Mining District. Out-croppings in the canyon walls inspired the beginning of drifts and tunnels following the quartz veins. With hand tools, they removed the Mariposa slate to get at the quartz that would be crushed at the 2-stamp stamp mill located at the edge of a pond in Big Canyon Creek. (1, 3, 4, 9)*

The first mine's name was "Hattie #1", after Craddock's eldest daughter. The second mine, an extension of the Hattie south of Big Canyon Creek, opened in 1900. The first 130 feet of the tunnel follows the grain layers of the slate at which point they ran out of the quartz vein. Making a 15 degree turn to the left, and going cross grain to the slate in an exploratory drift, it was another 130 feet before running across another vein of quartz. (9, 13)

Craddock and Dench dissolved their partnership in 1897. Craddock retained what was called the Vulture Mine claim - the Hattie mine being on the claim.

According to records with BLM, Bishop and Monaghan purchased the claim in 1902.

The Hattie mine was again sold in 1930 to McKay who worked the mine until 1940 and then closed it down. (2) The plat dated 1940 indicates "...that Five Hundred Dollars worth of labor has been expended or improvements made upon..." and that "...said improvements consist of 1 shaft; 2 cuts; 1 drift and raise; and 1 cut, tunnel, crosscuts and shaft; Value \$3892.00."

*Numbers indicate source references listed in the bibliography.

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After World War II, the Independent Iron Works, owned by W.G. Meagher of Oakland, California, took possession of all claims, which is the acreage that is now Gold Bug Park. In 1949, all mining was abandoned and the land reverted to the US Government, Bureau of Land Management. (2, 16, 17)

Though the mine was not large in size nor a rich producer of gold, it still enables the public to genuinely visualize what a typical small mine was like. It also has specific geological significance in regards to other slate mines in the Mother Lode. The engineering involved in developing a drift shows externally as well as internally by the troughing on the surface of the hill over the mine.

2. PRIEST MINE:

Information is still being gathered at this writing on the history of the mine, which is located on the Gold Bug claim.

Descendants of families in the area state that the San Francisco archdiocese conducted services in one of the back rooms for the miners of the area. - thus the name Priest mine. (17) Official records have been destroyed by fire in both San Francisco and El Dorado County, leaving little or no documentation available.

Originally, in 1925, an air shaft was sunk from the top of the mountain into the Gold Bug mine for fresh air. It was also used to drop the quartz from the Priest Mine some 65 feet above the Hattie Mine. (7, 9)

Said to produce more than the Gold Bug, the Priest mine's delicate nature is worthy of preservation.

3. SILVER PINE MINE:

With very little information to go on, it is known that Moulton, Gede, Van Sickle, and Meagher owned the Silver Pine mine in 1930. The Silver Pine claim was probably first mined in the 1860's, along with other claims in the general area. As mentioned before, Mayer and Federer may have owned the claim in the early 1900's.

Perhaps the greatest value this mine has today is the "unknown" about it. As the story goes, one of the owners had an argument as one was preparing to leave the area temporarily. And so, one of them blew up the mine entrance to protect his interest during his absence. By slowly and methodically reopening this mine, we will find perhaps some remnants of the early mining era. It is believed that an ore cart laden with quartz still exists in the back portion of the mine. If this is true, there is a strong potential to yield additional information regarding the entire gold mining process, as well as another interpretation for the public - all on the original site.

4. 8-STAMP STAMP MILL:

George Cozens was contracted to build a stamp mill on the slope of the Silver Pine Claim sometime between 1860 and 1874. (7, 10)

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George Peabody is thought to have built the building around the stamp mill, on that site, in 1900-1910 period. Fred Mayer and Ben Federer possibly owned the stamp mill and Silver Pine mine claim at that time.

A Mr. Schiff later became owner of the stamp mill and rebuilt it in the 1920's or early 1930's.

The castings were purchased from the Joshua Hendy Iron Works of San Francisco (now owned by Westinghouse Electric Corporation). The operation was set up as a custom crusher for any of the miners in the area. After Mr. Schiff's death, his widow, Agnes Schiff continued to manage the operation of the mill for some time. Consignments from a few tons to 100's of tons, were processed and shaped into amalgam balls. These were then taken to retorts for further refining and to remove the mercury and retain the gold. (11, 15)

Being on its original site and soon to be in working order, will make this stamp mill unique in the Mother Lode. The project presents, graphically, the full practice, by this method, of gold extraction of the hardrock mining era.

The mill represents an example of engineering ingenuity at that time in history. Not considered the best method to extract gold, the stamp mill process was later abandoned for more refined methods.

5. DAM AND HOLDING POND:

Big Canyon Creek begins on Indian Hill (formerly Nigger Hill) to the east. Though spring fed, in dry years the spring dries up. A pond developed in the area near the Hattie (Gold Bug), and served as a water supply for miners.

In late 1948, W. G. Meagher of Independent Iron Works, built a dam on the creek to hold water for a swimming hole. The dam and resulting pond are still there. (7, 8, 16, 17)

The creek itself was considered a good panning creek before the hardrock mines were developed. Because it eventually flows into the American River, it became a "trail" for gold panners in the 1850's. Legend tells us that the Chileans were panning in the area when the "white man" moved them out and down to the other side of the American River to the area known today as Chili Bar. There, on the first day of the Chileans gold panning, they took out more gold than the "white man" did on Big Canyon Creek.

6. MEAGHER SUMMER HOME:

After World War II, the W.G. Meagher family had picked up all the mining claims of the exact same 61.45 acres. One of the mining claims he purchased, was from a family by the name of Charles Lindsay who "camped out" on the property in a big tent. The family, with 10-12 children, were merely indigent workers in the area. They lived for several years on the property, until Meagher either paid them to leave or purchased their claim for \$150,00.

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Meagher decided to build a "summer home" on the site in 1948. One of Meagher's workers from Oakland, built a stone fireplace, and others helped to construct the building. (16, 17)

When the property reverted to the Bureau of Land Management, and then leased to the City of Placerville, it became the workshop for the Recreation and Parks Department. The City of Placerville will eventually relocate their workshop on other city property, leaving the building available for a clubhouse or museum.

Certainly, an interesting piece of "architecture", the building represents a typical "second home" of the 1940's.

MINING SIGNIFICANCE:

Because of the close proximity to the gold discovery site - Coloma - Placerville developed from a dry digging mining area into a major supply center for the miners. Placerville evolved, itself, from a variety of mining techniques to later become the county seat. The growing city served its inhabitants, travelers, and surrounding population with a variety of services. Consequently, Placerville's significance developed as a major city within the Mother Lode. The small district of 61.45 acres is representative of other areas of Placerville which later developed into residential neighborhoods, commercial sections, and the like.

Being a part of the Mother Lode holds its own distinction. Any property on the Mother Lode vein automatically becomes a part of that section of California invaded by numerous people during the Gold Rush.

Thus, this property exemplifies that period in time when California historically developed. And, soon became an integral part of the national development of the United States.

FUTURE PARK DEVELOPMENT:

The City of Placerville has accepted not only the responsibility of maintaining the historical character of the park, but has created the Hangtown's Gold Bug Park Development Committee, Inc. to ensure compatible development and control. The Committee is responsible for gathering, documenting and preserving the history of the district. A caretaker, provided by the City and approved by the Committee, will soon be on the property to provide security and information.

The Committee has developed a master plan which has been approved by both the City Planning Commission and the City Council. The Hattie Museum, to be built at the entrance of Gold Bug Mine, will house memorabilia from descendents of the area and general park information.

The tour program will be expanded to include all historical aspects on a regular basis.

By continuous research, reopening of the two mines and restoration of the stamp mill, the Committee will be able to establish this particular area as a typical mining neighborhood of Placerville.

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History of American Mining, T. A. Richard

Paolo Historical Souvenir of El Dorado County, Sioli, 1883, p. 209.

Placerville Republican, "Early History," Will Upton, 1933.

Footnotes (Published Sources):

(1) A Glimpse of El Dorado, Marilyn Ferguson, Heritage Association of El Dorado County, 1976

(2) The Argonauts, C. W. Haskins, Official Records of El Dorado County

(3) Historic Sites of El Dorado County, Jane Schlappi, Heritage Association of El Dorado County, 1975

(4) Geology of Northern California, Edgar Baily

(5) Hills of Gold, Herman Jerrett, Published by Author, 1963

(6) Gold Mines of Northern California, Jack Wagner, Howell Publishers, 1970

Footnotes (Interviews):

Most information has been obtained by interviews with individuals directly connected with the nominated area and their family descendants. All interviews have been taped.

(7) Ed Bishop, a miner of the area and aide to County Assessor.

(8) W. G. Meagher family, built the dam on Big Canyon Creek and the old white house.

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- (9) William Craddock family, includes sons and daughters of Hattie Craddock Bennett (eldest daughter of Craddock), the original developer of Gold Bug Mine.
- (10) George Cosens family, first built the stamp mill.
- (11) Mel Jensen, local historian and official tour guide of the park.
- (12) Charles Hinz, former Recreation and Parks Director for City of Placerville.
- (13) George Wheeldon, Geologist.
- (14) Golden Chain Council of the Mother Lode, Inc., P. O. Box 1246, Auburn, California 95603.
- (15) Joshua Hendy Iron Works Catalogue, Westinghouse Electric Corporation, Sunnyvale, California. (material in corporate archives)
- (16) Ora Goodwin, adjacent property owner.
- (17) Paul Samuel James, adjacent property owner.

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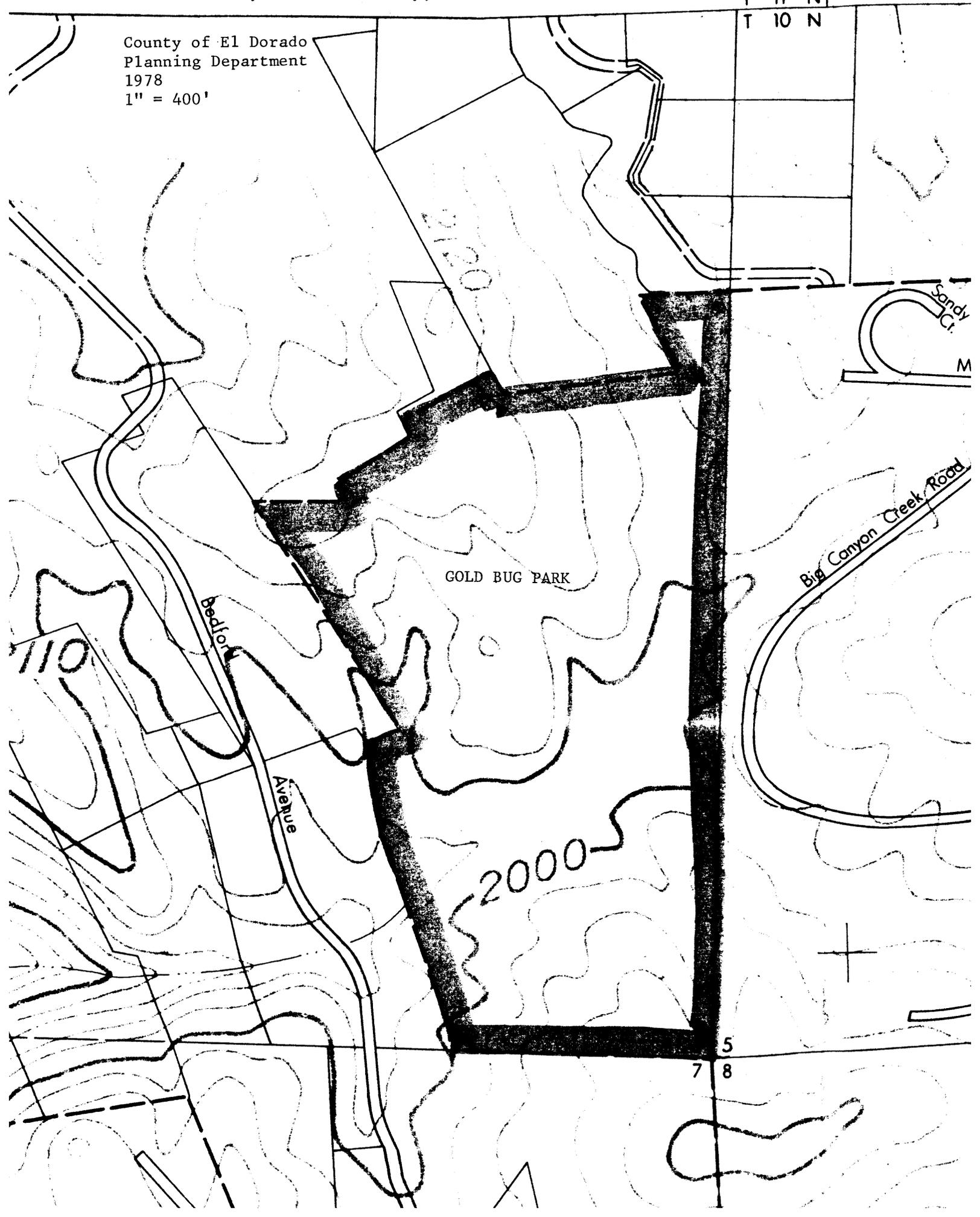
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Boundaries are drawn on property lines which encompass the four contiguous mining claims which form the last remnant of the Poverty Ridge Mining District. Boundaries are shown on the attached district map; dimensions are approximate, being conversions of chain measurements recorded in the 1981 cadastral survey of the property. A full discussion of the boundary justification is included in the text of section 8. The city of Placerville has designated the entire historic area as "Gold Bug Park".

Hattie (Gold Bug), Priest & Silver Pine Mines and Stampmill
Placerville, El Dorado County, California

T 11 N
T 10 N

County of El Dorado
Planning Department
1978
1" = 400'



GOLD BUG PARK

Bedford Avenue

Big Canyon Creek Road

Sandy Ct.
M

110

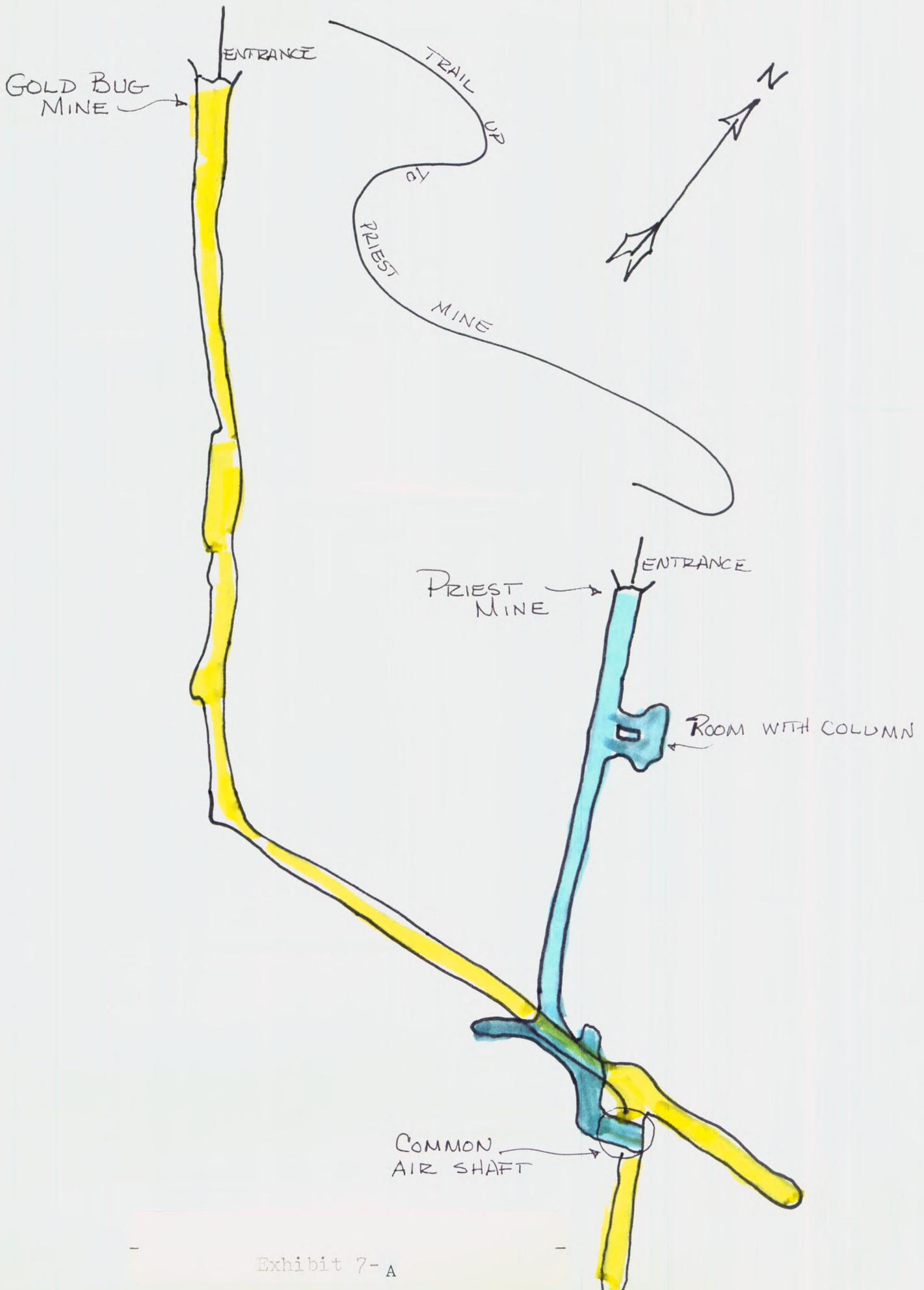
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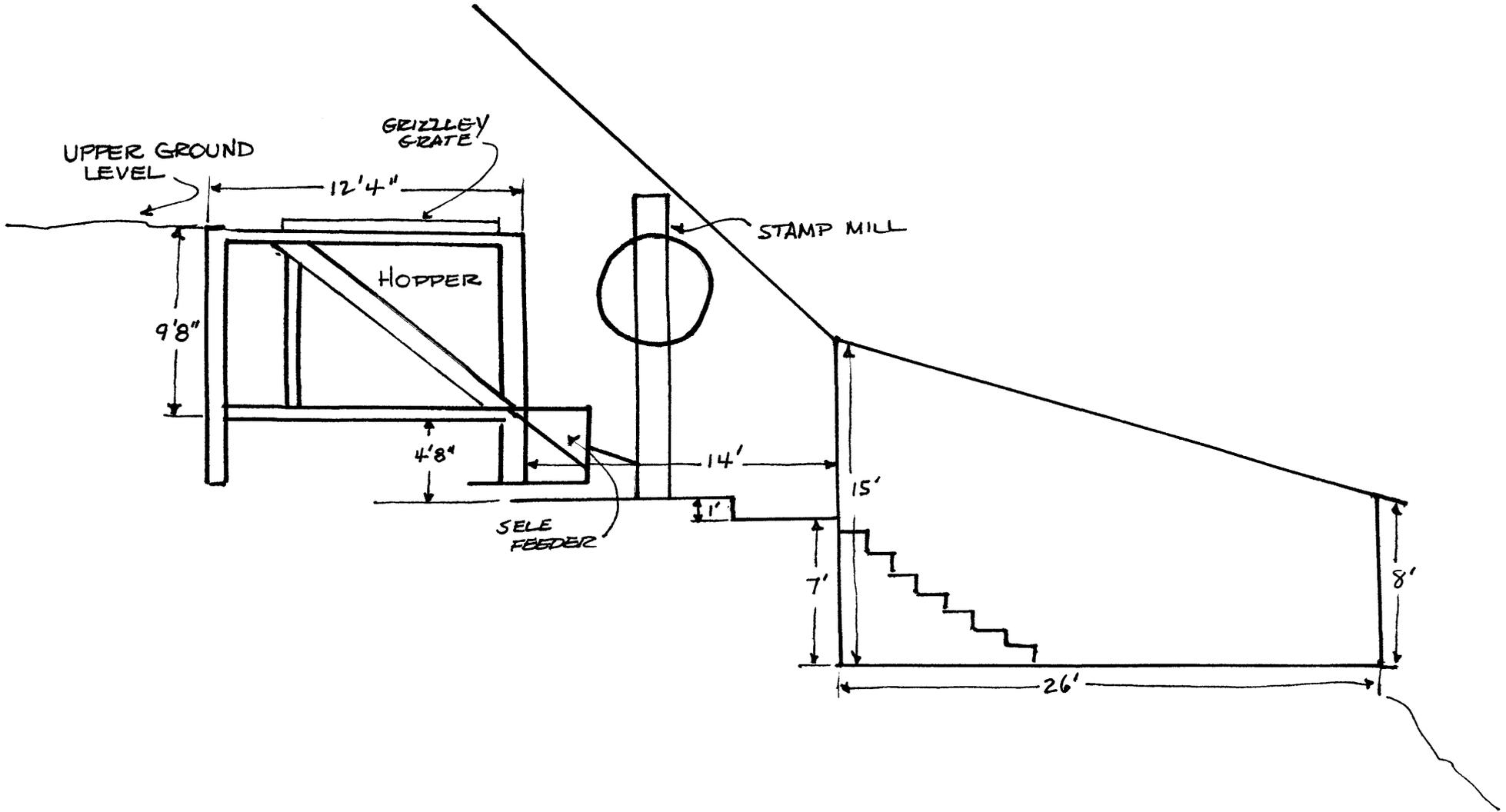
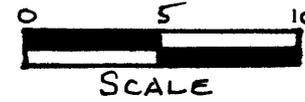
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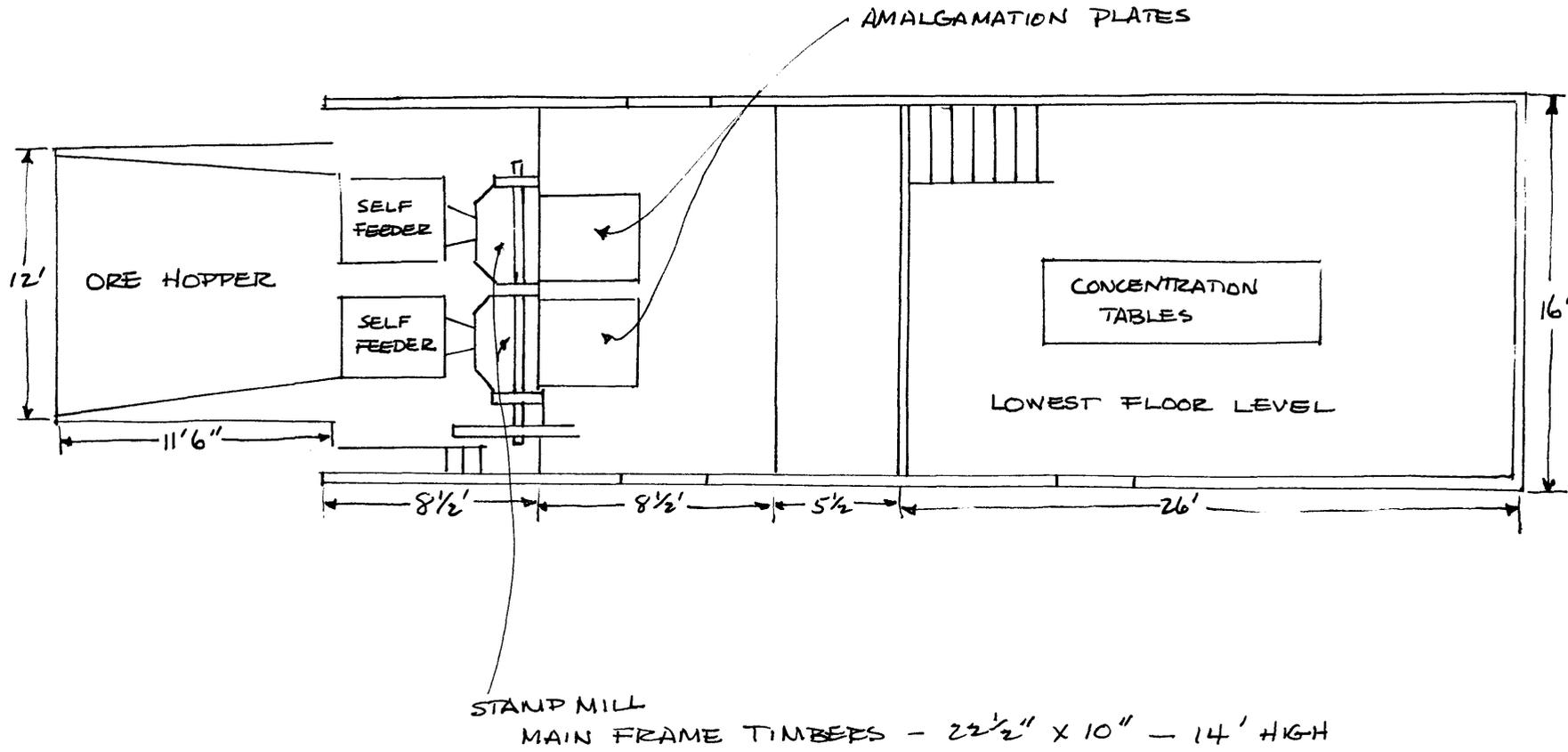
DIAGRAM OF MINES



8-STAMP STAMP MILL General Elevation

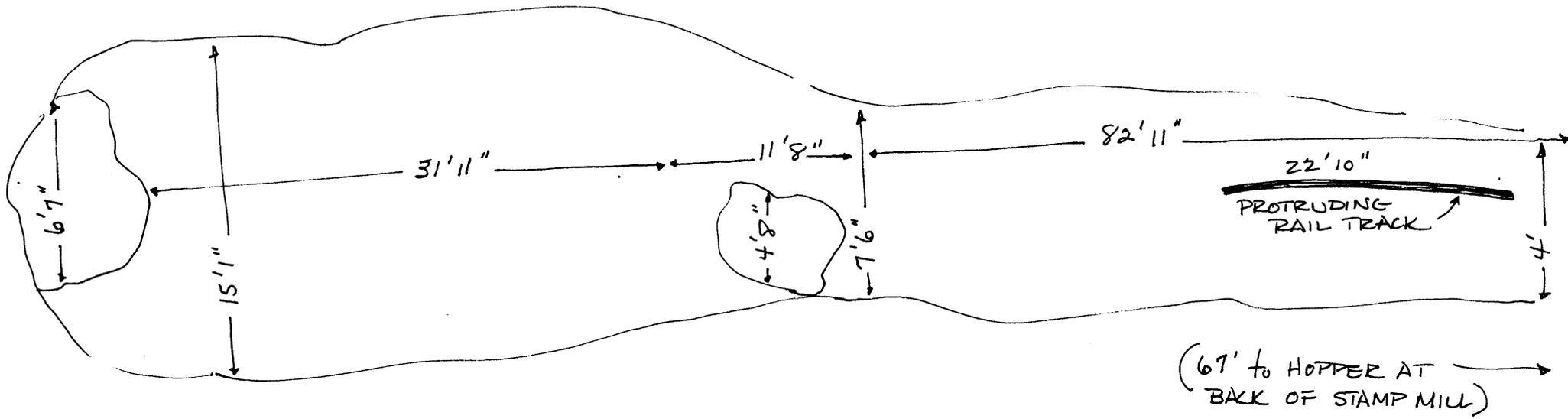
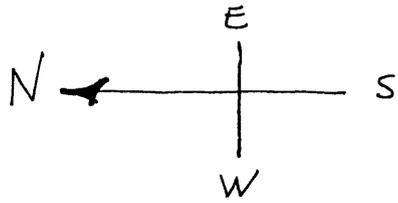


8-STAMP STAMP MILL Floor Plan



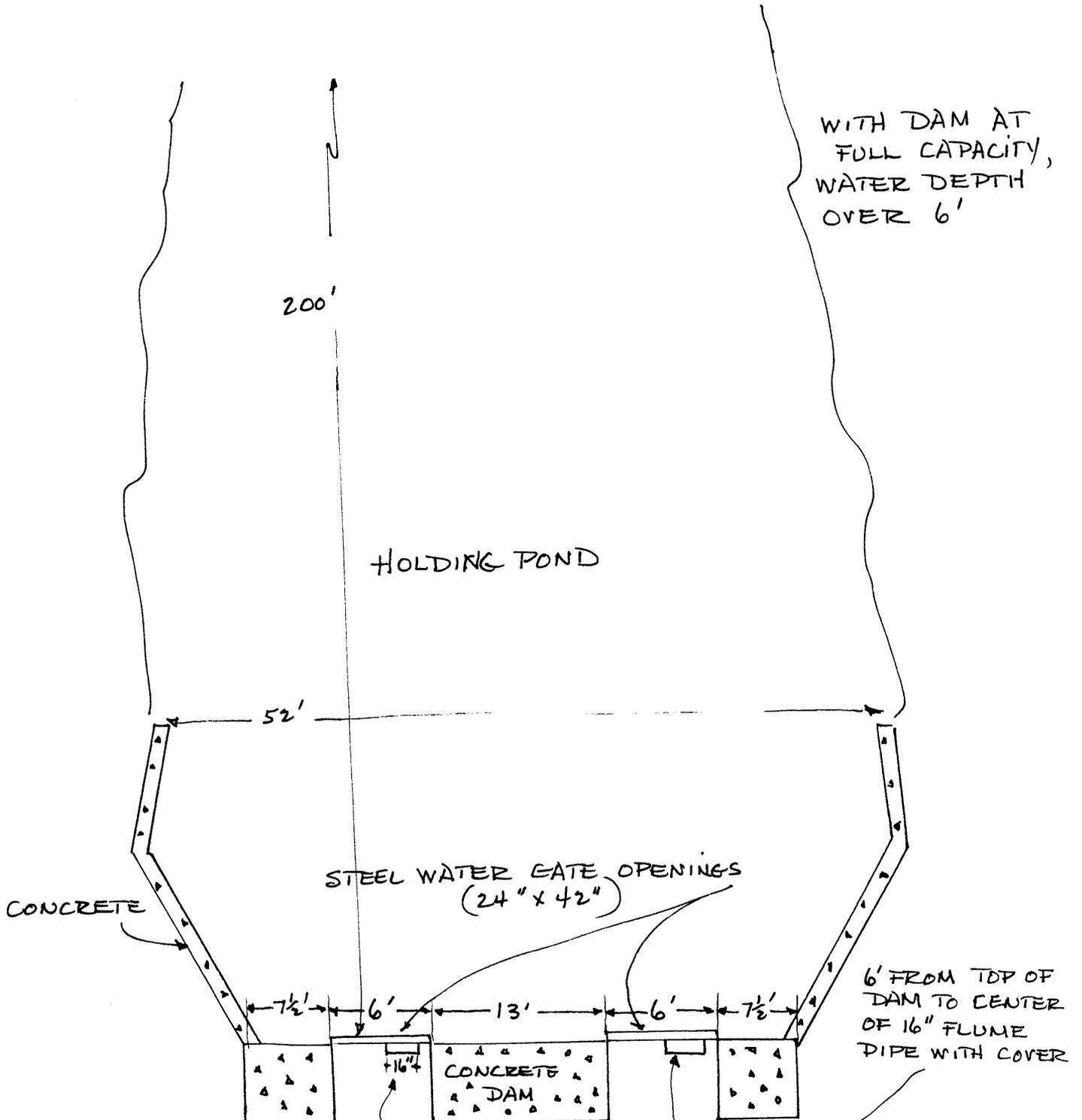
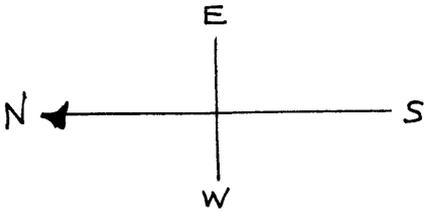
SILVER PINE MINE EXCAVATION

BEHIND 8-STAMP STAMP MILL
(OVERHEAD ELEVATION)



SCALE 3/32

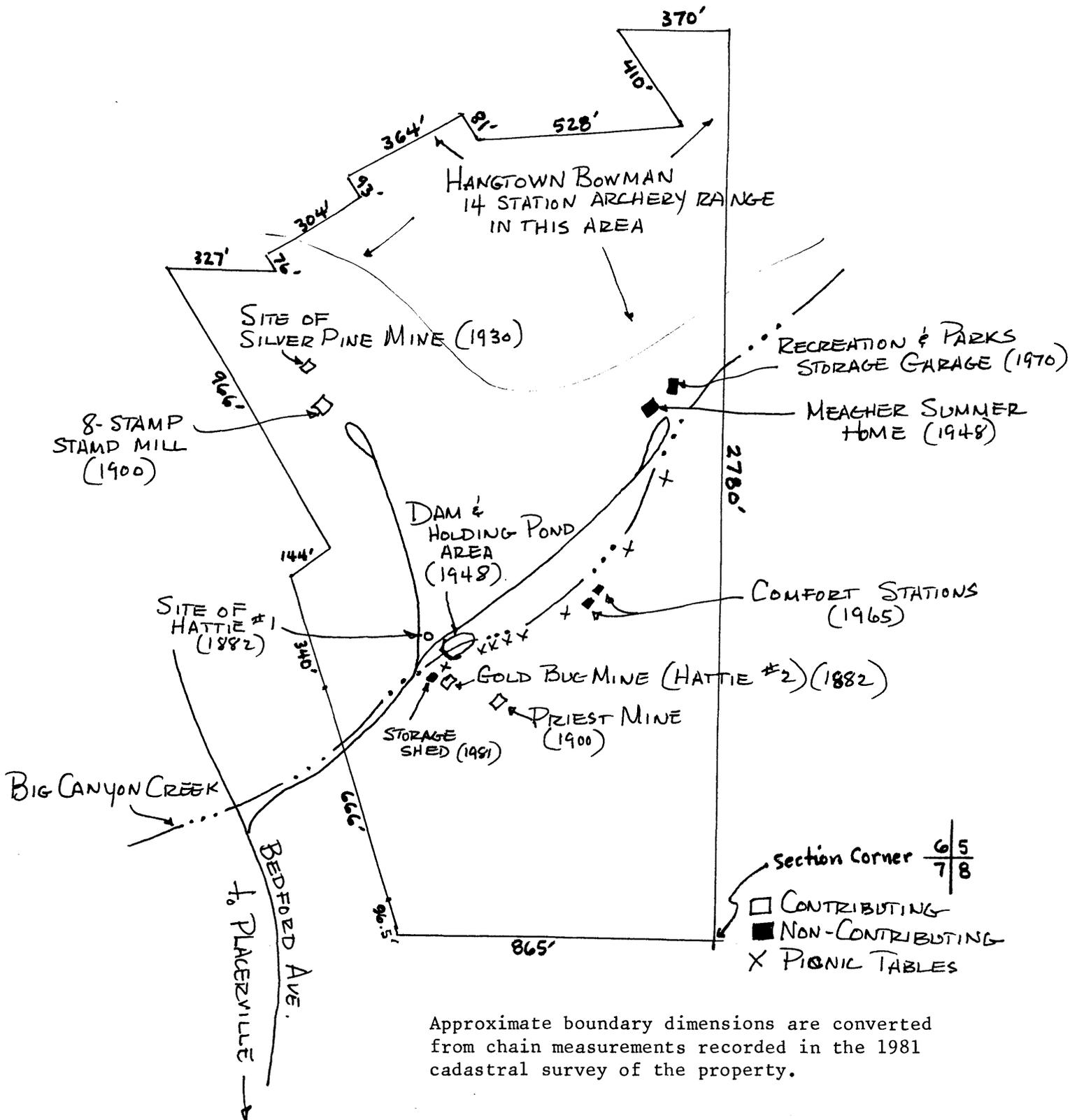
DAM & HOLDING POND



DISTRICT MAP

INDICATING CONTRIBUTING & NON-CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES

HANGTOWN'S GOLD BUG PARK —



Approximate boundary dimensions are converted from chain measurements recorded in the 1981 cadastral survey of the property.

OLD WHITE HOUSE (Meagher "summer home")

