

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

PH0282316 8:31  
FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED SEP 9 1975

JAN 17 1976

DATE ENTERED

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

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Desert Queen Mine

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

Not applicable

CITY, TOWN

Joshua Tree National Monument  VICINITY OF Twenty-nine Palms Forty-third

STATE

California

CODE

06

COUNTY

Riverside

CODE

065

**2 CLASSIFICATION**

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

**4 AGENCY**

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

National Park Service, Western Region Office

STREET & NUMBER

450 Golden Gate Avenue

CITY, TOWN

San Francisco

VICINITY OF

STATE

California

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Riverside County Recorder's Office

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 751

CITY, TOWN

Riverside

STATE

California (92502)

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

## 7 DESCRIPTION

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

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Desert Queen Mine consisted of a number of tunnels and inclined and vertical shafts. There remain four large vertical shafts which historical data indicates were in the range of 65 to 75 feet in depth, five inclined shafts of about 35 to 45 degree slope, and ten adits to horizontal tunnels, five of which have suffered considerable decay, three being nearly entirely sealed off. Tailing piles adjacent to these workings are generally small, indicating removal of little ore, except for the tailings from the main adit which constitute a mound 65 feet high spilling into the wash below. One-half mile northwest of the main mining site six additional tailings piles indicate additional workings.

The mine area is littered with historic debris, including timbers, scrap metal and rusted pipe. There are approximately 39 feet of 16-inch pipe, 48 feet of two-inch pipe, and over 145 feet of one inch pipe, with more buried throughout the main tailings dump. Additional scrap equipment includes: two cyanide tanks, one in poor condition; one cyanide tank lid in the wash; cable; an undetermined length of mine tramway track (rail spiked down on ties) in the main tunnel; railroad ties with rail removed; a twelve-foot piece of tramway track in the wash; metal screen; concrete debris; two concrete pads, each  $3\frac{1}{2}$  by 6 feet; two concrete pads 5 by 6 feet; one concrete pad four feet square and three feet high; one wooden adit door still in place; one rusted oil drum in the wash; one air pump and reservoir, mounted on two large ten-foot wooden beams, labeled "Chicago Pneumatic", but missing its engine; an iron container, one by one by four feet; an iron container on four legs,  $4\frac{1}{2}$  feet tall; an iron wheel, perhaps a flywheel,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  feet in diameter, mounted on a shaft on wooden beams anchored in rock.

Some of these remains pertained to an aerial tramway which carried ore across the gully in buckets for loading into wagons or trucks. Most of the sheet metal, timbers and other debris is located within a few hundred feet north of the main adit and tailings pile, and many timbers have been thrown down the steep slope.

On the opposite hillside is a winch with some cable, and the remains of a stone house, one of whose walls is  $7\frac{1}{2}$  feet high, the remainder being about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  feet high, and the north and west walls being almost entirely gone.

Safety of visitors may require sealing of the mine shafts and tunnels.

# 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/HUMANITARIAN		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Mining		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES 1894 - 1961

BUILDER/ARCHITECT A. James, J. McHaney, W.F. Keys

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Desert Queen Mine is of local historical significance under the category of Industry and the subcategory of mining, being one of the more successful and longer-lived mines of high desert country of Southern California in Joshua Tree National Monument. Its history was all too typical of southwestern desert frontier mines. It brought death rather than fortune to its discoverer, and its subsequent owner lost it to a financial institution. Its operation was sporadic, but it occasionally offered up a pocket of gold ore sufficiently rich to maintain interest in intermittent operation for nearly three quarters of a century. It was associated with a notorious local outlaw. Its tunnels, inclined shafts and shafts represent three basic types of mine approach which were typical of southwestern desert mines, but the Desert Queen Mine was more productive and far longer-lived than most of its contemporaries.

The above statement of significance is derived from the following sketchy and inadequate historical data:

A. James discovered the outcropping of gold ore which he developed as the Desert Queen Mine during the early 1890s; although one source claims that the discovery was made in 1894, another cites 1893 as the year of James' death. The ore processed initially was apparently quite rich, and a local cattle rustler named Jim McHaney decided to take over the mine. He sent two cronies, Charley Martin and a man named Myers, to force James to sign over the mine. James refused, so Martin borrowed a gun from Myers and forced James to sign, then shot him. Martin was tried for murder, claimed self defense, and was acquitted.

McHaney's first ore shipments reportedly netted him \$27,000, but he spent it quickly and then borrowed from a local bank against future production. When subsequent ore shipments proved unable to keep up with his borrowing, the mine passed into ownership of the bank. It was later owned by several individuals, passing into the hands of William F. Keys possibly in 1917. Keys operated the mine intermittently until 1961.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Ronald Dean Miller, Mines of the High Desert. Glendale: La Siesta Press, 1968; p. 47.  
 Fact File, Joshua Tree National Monument Library  
 Perkins Papers, Joshua Tree National Monument Library  
 Benjamin Levy, Lost Horse Mine, Historic Structures Report, Part I, Historical Data. Washington D.C.: National Park Service, 1969, pp. 17-18.

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 80

UTM REFERENCES

A	<u>11</u>	<u>58,615.0</u>	<u>3,76,524.5</u>	B	<u>11</u>	<u>58,615.0</u>	<u>3,76,476.5</u>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	<u>11</u>	<u>58,575.0</u>	<u>3,76,476.5</u>	D	<u>11</u>	<u>58,575.0</u>	<u>3,76,524.5</u>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary is approximately a square containing approximately 80 acres, with the corners as indicated by the four UTM references cited above.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Gordon Chappell, Regional Historian (revision of form by F. Ross Holland, 1971)

ORGANIZATION

National Park Service, Western Region Office

DATE

June 10, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

450 Golden Gate Avenue Box 36063

TELEPHONE

(916) 556-4165

CITY OR TOWN

San Francisco

STATE

California

**12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION**

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES

NO

NONE

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Herbert Rhodes*

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

*Douglas E. Cline*

TITLE Deputy Assistant Secretary

DATE SEP 5 1975

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

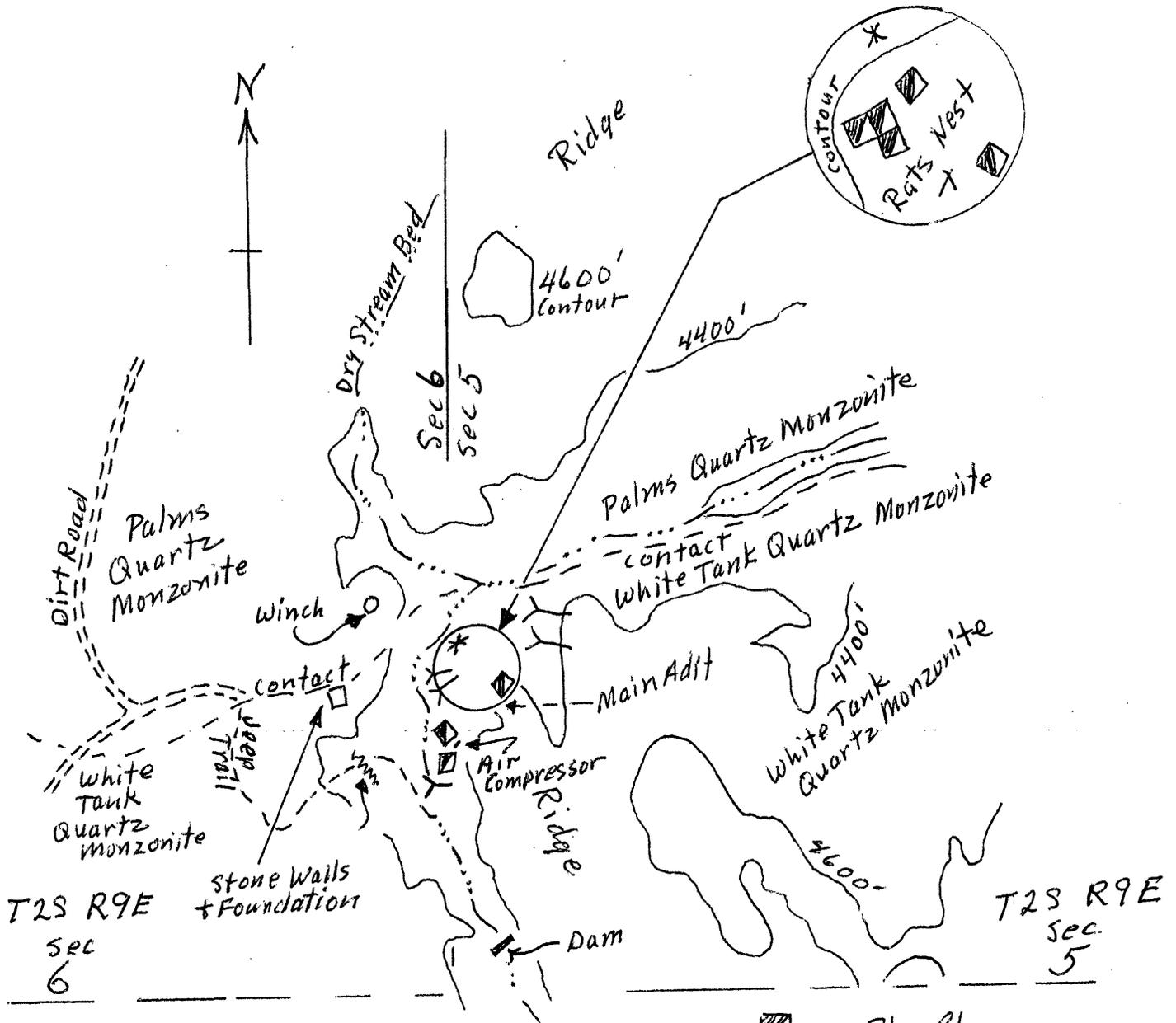
DATE 1/19/96

ATTEST:

*Charles A. Bennett*  
*acting*

DATE 1-12-76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



Scale  
0' 1000' 2000'

Desert Queen Mine Area  
T2S R9E Sec 5+6  
Joshua Tree Nat'l Mon.  
10-15-1975  
DMB etc.

- ▣ Shaft
- Y Adit
- 5▣ Shafts closely spaced
- X Prospect Pit
- ⊖ Open Cut
- \* Stamp Mill Foundation