

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
FEB 29 1980
 RECEIVED JUN 4 1980
 DATE ENTERED

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

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Hamilton City or Miner's Delight
 AND/OR COMMON
Miner's Delight

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
SE 1/4 NE 1/4 Section 32 T30N R99W
 CITY, TOWN Atlantic City VICINITY OF Atlantic City First
 STATE Wyoming CODE 56 COUNTY Fremont CODE 013

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY (SEE ADDENDUM)

NAME
United States Government; administered by Bureau of Land Management
 STREET & NUMBER
2120 Capitol Avenue
 CITY, TOWN Cheyenne VICINITY OF STATE Wyoming

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Fremont County Courthouse
 STREET & NUMBER
Courthouse Building
 CITY, TOWN Lander STATE Wyoming

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Wyoming Recreation Commission, Survey of Historic Sites, Markers & Monuments
 DATE
1967 (revised 1973) FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
Wyoming Recreation Commission
 CITY, TOWN Cheyenne STATE Wyoming

7 DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The South Pass gold mining region is located in west-central Wyoming near the end of the Wind River Range, a 100-mile long, northwest to southeast link in the Rocky Mountain chain. The mining region, about six miles wide by twelve miles long, lies midway between the Sweetwater Valley to the east and the angular peaks of the Wind River range to the west. The topography of the mining region is not one of sharp relief, although there are some deeply-carved canyons. Slopes are generally gradual, and once provided a convenient place for Oregon Trail emigrants in covered wagons to cross the Continental Divide, enroute to Oregon Country. The elevation of the region decreases from 10,000 feet in the north to 7000 feet in the south, and at Miner's Delight townsite the elevation is 8250 feet above sea level.

The mining region is wholly within the Atlantic watershed. About a mile east of Miner's Delight is Beaver Creek, a tributary of the Popo Agie River. The Popo Agie joins the Wind River near Riverton and the Wind River, flowing north, cuts through the Wind River Canyon to emerge as the Big Horn River. The Big Horn continues north, flowing through the Big Horn Basin, and joins the Yellowstone River in south-central Montana. In turn, the Yellowstone joins the Missouri, a major tributary of the Mississippi River. Over a divide and a couple of miles southwest of Miner's Delight is a branch of Rock Creek, a stream within the Sweetwater River-North Platte River drainage and also a part of the Mississippi River system. About fifteen miles west of Miner's Delight is the Continental Divide, where the Atlantic watershed is separated from the Colorado River drainage system of the Pacific watershed.

In the high-altitude environment of the South Pass mining region prospectors and miners scoured the landscape, working both placers and lodes for gold. They met obstacles in the form of long, cold winters accompanied by deep snows, and spring thaws that spawned floods to choke characteristically dry washes with water and debris. Warm summers then often dried up some of those intermittent creeks, leaving trickles that were insufficient for placer work. Mining supplies and equipment were undoubtedly expensive, because they had to be hauled 100 miles north to the goldfields from railheads on the westward-building transcontinental railroad. In the heady days of the 1867 South Pass rush, also, miners came under Indian attack by members of the Shoshone, Arapahoe and Cheyenne tribes.

Fuel and building materials could be procured on the slopes of nearby mountains, or locally from pockets of pine and aspen on hillsides and along creek beds and dry gulches. Trout fishing and game hunting no doubt supplemented diets, and fresh drinking water was available. Although Indians were a treat, Fort Stambaugh, a military post, was soon erected

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1867-1936

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Following the California gold rush of 1849, when gold mining moved into the state in which capital was required to turn a profit, prospectors and placer miners began moving out to other mining localities of the Far Western Mining Frontier. One such area was located in Wyoming, near the southern end of the Wind River Range. The diggings there collectively have been called the South Pass, or Sweetwater Mines.

It is said that gold was first discovered in the South Pass area as early as 1842, by a Georgian traveling with the American Fur Company. From that time until 1867, when lode claims were first filed there, South Pass was visited periodically by other goldseekers. In the latter year the rush began, the King Solomon and Carrissa claims were located, and that September the Miner's Delight lode was discovered. In the March 11, 1868 edition of the newspaper, The Cheyenne Leader, it was estimated that between 700 and 1000 men were in the South Pass mining region. Most of them probably lived in South Pass City, Atlantic City, and Hamilton City or Miner's Delight, camps that were erected mainly upon speculation rather than concrete evidence of wealth.

In the mid-summer of 1868 newspaperman James Chisholm visited the mining region and reported fifty or sixty inhabitants at the first camp, about sixty log cabins but few people at the second, and at Miner's Delight a small population, some activity, but little production. "The miners here," he wrote in his diary,

are a quite industrious class of men, mostly old Californians - very intelligent, and affording more practical information on mining matters than one can derive from mere book students and theorists. There are no idlers in the camp - in fact a professional bummer would very quickly perceive that there was no show for him here. In the evenings when the day's labors are over, the men engage in a quiet game among themselves, more for amusement apparently than gain.

Chisholm found quite a contrast between "the quiet life of this mountain camp", as he describes Miner's Delight, and the roaring hells which were

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

SEE ADDENDUM

UTM NOT VERIFIED

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 215 acres

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

QUADRANGLE NAME Miners Delight

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	2	6	9	1	0	6	5	4	7	1	1	8	6	0
ZONE	EASTING			NORTHING										

B

1	2	6	9	1	0	8	0	4	7	1	1	0	7	0
ZONE	EASTING			NORTHING										

C

1	2	6	9	0	5	3	0	4	7	1	1	0	6	5
ZONE	EASTING			NORTHING										

D

1	2	6	8	9	9	7	0	4	7	1	0	8	8	0
ZONE	EASTING			NORTHING										

E

1	2	6	8	9	7	7	5	4	7	1	0	8	7	0
ZONE	EASTING			NORTHING										

F

1	2	6	8	9	7	6	0	4	7	1	1	2	6	0
ZONE	EASTING			NORTHING										

G

1	2	6	9	0	6	7	0	4	7	1	1	8	7	5
ZONE	EASTING			NORTHING										

H

ZONE	EASTING			NORTHING										

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

Mark G. Junge, Historian and Clayton Fraser, Historical Architect

ORGANIZATION

Wyoming Recreation Commission

DATE

February 2, 1979

STREET & NUMBER

604 East 25th Street

TELEPHONE

(307)-777-7695

CITY OR TOWN

Cheyenne

STATE

Wyoming

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

Jan L. Wilson

Berrick E. Hunter
BUREAU LIAISON - BLM
5/12/80

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE February 25, 1980

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

6/4/80

ATTEST:

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE

5.29.80

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CONTINUATION SHEET ADDENDUM ITEM NUMBER 4 PAGE 1

OWNER OF PROPERTY

Mr. Robert Henderson
P.O. Box 227
Ogden, Utah

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on a sage-covered flat not far from the mining camps, for the protection of the gold-seeking interlopers. Finally, three camps in the South Pass mining region offered a social life, where basic elements of civilization were obtainable in one form or another.

One of the camps, addressed in this nomination, is Hamilton City, or Miner's Delight as it is more commonly known. Within the nominated area are three visually separated sites: the Miner's Delight townsite - a loosely organized amalgamation of structures - the Miner's Delight Mine site southwest of the town and the cemetery southeast of the townsite.

The townsite is situated in a grove of pine and aspen trees on the north-east flank of Peabody Ridge, about a mile west of a steep rock rim rising from the east bank of Beaver Creek. Within it are fifteen buildings, a ruin of a shop or barn and a small corral, the structures forming four small groupings informally following an east-west axis. Archival and physical evidence suggests that, with one exception - the Bryant Cabin - all of the existing buildings have been erected subsequent to 1907. The Bryant Cabin probably predates 1885 and may have been moved onto the site from nearby Fort Stambaugh.

The buildings share certain characteristics that tend to unify the appearance of the settlement and typify them as components of a frontier gold camp. For the most part they are rather small, single-pen structures, roughly constructed and devoid of ornamentation. The buildings are all unpainted wood structures - either log or frame - made of native softwoods, and are basically rectangular without projections form porches or added-on wings. The roofs are all simple gables, with no dormers or other projections; they are covered with a variety of materials including wood shingles, corrugated iron sheets, boards-on-boards, and building paper. Following is a description of fifteen structures located within the townsite, the numbers of the structures corresponding to those shown on the attached site plan.

Structure #1 Longtine Privy

The Longtine Privy is a five-foot-square frame structure, facing west, which is topped by a steeply pitched gable roof. The walls are covered by vertical boards with puncheon battens, the floor by wood planks, and the roof by corrugated iron sheets.

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Structure #2 Longtine Cabin

The Longtine Cabin is a 13'0" x 15' 3" single-pen cabin constructed of planked logs-in-panels. The cabin's one doorway, containing an inswinging four-panel door and a screen door, is centered on the south wall, and a four-lite casement window is situated on each of the cabin's east and west walls. The roof is a moderately pitched gable covered with battened composition sheet roofing; the gables are sheathed with vertical planks. To the east of the Longtine complex sits a circular corral enclosed by a buck-and-pole fence.

Structure #3 Longtine Cellar

The Longtine Cellar (7'11" x 9'3") is a gabled-roofed dugout constructed of logs joined with hewn V-notches. The doorway and descending stairs are located on the north wall, and a small window is on the south.

Structure #4 Saloon Privy

The Saloon Privy (5'3" x 6'7") is a gable-roofed frame structure, facing south, with board-on-board walls and a wood-shingled roof.

Structure #5 Saloon

The Saloon, an 18'0" x 24'7" single-pen building is currently braced on the east and west walls by diagonal poles. The walls are made up of horizontally laid V-notches logs, hewn on the front (south) wall and undressed on the others. A doorway with a small concrete stoop is centered on the south wall, flanked on the east by a single window; windows are situated on the east and west walls, and a door, now boarded up, is located on the north. The roof is a moderately pitched gable running north-south, covered with corrugated iron sheets over wood shingles and penetrated by a single iron stove flue. The floor consists of wood planks laid over log stringers.

Structure #6 Bryant Cabin

Located near the center of the townsite, the Bryant Cabin is both the largest and most significant of the remaining structures. It is a 22'1" x 40'4" log building, facing south, with a moderately

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pitched gable roof running east-west. The logs have been planked by hewing and laid up in panels, with center-joins on the north and south walls; vertically placed boards-on-boards sheathe the gables. Fenestration on the south wall follows a door-window-door pattern, the doors being four-panel and the windows six-over-six double hung. A four panel door and six-over-six double hung window are situated on the west wall, a door (now boarded up) and two windows on the east, and a door and window on the north. The roof is penetrated by two interior stove chimneys, one a plain brick chimney supported by a knee brace on an interior wall, the other a more contemporary metal flue. Running the length of the east wall stands a twelve-foot-wide drive-through shed - another more contemporary addition to the cabin. The interior is presently divided into three rooms, identified by the Bureau of Land Management as a kitchen, bedroom and storage room; the floor is made up of wood planks.

Structure #7 The Meat House

The Meat House (8'7" x 10' 1") is a gable roofed structure built using dressed logs laid up in panels. The structure's only door is centered on the north wall, with windows centered on the east and west walls.

Structure #8 Bryant Privy

The Bryant Privy, a five-foot-square frame structure which faces north, has board-on-board roof and walls.

Structure #9 Cabin

This cabin is a double-pen log building, 16'7" x 24'11", with the front entrance in the south gable end. The logs have been peeled of their bark and left undressed, joined at the corners and at the center log dividing wall with hewn square notches. One door each is located on the south and west walls, and a window is on the east. The roof is supported by rib poles and consists of boards-on-boards covered with corrugated iron sheets.

Structure #10 Cabin

In ruinous condition, this cabin measures approximately 13'3" x

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14'7" and faces north. It is constructed of small-diameter logs joined at the corners with sawn square notches. The roof and two walls no longer remain.

Structure #11 Cabin

This east-facing single-pen cabin (16'10" x 19'0") is constructed of stripped, horizontally-laid logs, joined with square notches. The cabin has no windows and only one large door on the east wall, a vertical plank door with an X brace. Like Structure #9, the roof is supported by rib poles, and it is covered with corrugated iron sheets over wood shingles. The floor consists of wood planks laid over hewn stringers.

Structure #12 Cabin

This cabin is a 9'10" x 11'6" frame building, sided with horizontal boards and asphalt building paper. A door and window are located on the east face, a window on the west. The cabin has a wood roof, supported by sawn rafters and covered with corrugated iron sheets.

Structure #13 Cabin

Built of hewn saddle-notched logs, this 13'3" x 14'10" cabin displays one door and one window on the east face; the other walls have no openings. The moderately pitched board-on-board roof is supported by rib poles. The ruins of a log barn or shop are located adjacent to the cabin on the southwest.

Structure #14 Pantry

The Pantry is a six-foot-square frame structure raised above the ground on wood piers and covered with a corrugated iron-clad gabled roof. The walls are sheathed with vertical plank siding, windows are situated on the north, west and south faces, and a door is on the east.

Structure #15 Shaft House

The Shaft House is a 15'4" x 30'7" log structure in ruinous condition. The roof and most of the walls have collapsed.

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The Miner's Delight mine site is situated further up Peabody Ridge a half mile southwest of the townsite. Located on the south side of the ridge in an extended wash, the mine shaft lies in a sagebrush clearing among the groves. The most notable feature of the site is the massive gallows hoist stationed over the shaft. The hoist is constructed of heavy timbers, mortised and bolted, and two of the original three iron-and-wood pulleys remain in place at its head. Extending from the east end of the hoist is a short length of track and wood trestle for the ore carts.

Located on the same ridge and southeast of the townsite is the cemetery, a 70 ft. x 100 ft. area enclosed by a pole-and-rail fence. Within the cemetery grounds are two marked graves, one with a headstone, incised: "Anna Anderton 1837-1875", and the other with a deteriorating wood picket fence.

The conditions of the structures range from fair to ruinous. The cabins, never intended to be more than temporary shelters, have deteriorated considerably due to the combined effects of weathering and vandalism. A portion of the townsite has been enclosed by a buck-and-pole fence to exclude livestock and the structures have been coated with a fire-retardant chemical, but otherwise very little stabilization work has been done. Perhaps this nomination will provide the base upon which the Bureau of Land Management can formulate a preservation plan.

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the railroad towns - Cheyenne, Laramie, Benton, Green River and Bear River City - which were then appearing to the south, along the route of the westward-building Union Pacific. "The very mention of the names," wrote Chisholm, "calls up a crowd of reminiscences which on the whole are anything but refreshing." Refreshing to Chisholm, rather, was the atmosphere of Miner's Delight:

Were this a prosperous crowded mining camp, I suppose all these disreputables would not be long in penetrating here too. But at present we are far removed from them. Compared with that we are living in a kind of Arcadia - an Arcadia with a little whiskey to now and then sweeten it. As I said there are no such superfluties as "bummers" here. Every man is occupied, and every man knows what his neighbor is. They are all friendly, neighborly, hospitable, honest. You might leave your purse in any cabin and be sure that not a man would touch it. This diary of mine - they see me scribbling in it every day, and it would hardly be human nature to suppose that they are not just a little curious to know what I'm saying. Yet I leave it laying around everywhere, and I know that without permission asked and granted, not a leaf has ever been turned. No doors are barred by day or night, and no pistols are disposed under the pillows when they lay down to rest. The little cabins are mostly deserted during the day - except with those who are blessed with the better half (or its equivalent)- in the evening the men come dropping in with their picks and shovels on their shoulders, and then from every chimney rises a little blue cloud of smoke, while the men are preparing their supper of Elk or Antelope. Then the roaring logs are piled on, and round the spacious ingle they form a cheerful circle and chat or read or think or play the evening away till bedtime.

Only a year previous to this entry in the Chisholm diary the camp was established. Excitement reigned for a time as adventurers from both the East and West crowded there for the season and then left, leaving only a few of the original inhabitants. Among the latter were those who that summer organized themselves into the California Mining District: Frank McGovern, Jonathan Pugh, Major P.A. Gallagher and Jack Holbrook. The first newspaper report of work at the Miner's Delight dates to March 21, 1868 and three months later is newspaper evidence that the town of Hamilton City was in existence. In July 1868 the town acquired its first store, built and stocked by Frank McGovern. That summer most of the work done

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in the vicinity of the Miner's Delight was of the placer variety. But by the mid-summer of 1869, according to a United States Geological Survey report on the South Pass mining region, a ten-stamp mill that was erected in January, 1869 had extracted an estimated \$60,000 to \$70,000 worth of gold from the ore of the Miner's Delight lode. The following year, 1870, was a active one for those who developed placers and lode mines in the South Pass area, while the lode at Miner's Delight was pushed from a single, 85-foot shaft to one of 50, one of 100, and one of 65 feet, and considerable drifting was also done. However, even at the peak of the season during this peak year, the 1870 census counted but seventy-five inhabitants at Hamilton City, forty of which were miners.

Financial difficulties at Miner's Delight were demonstrated in late 1870 when the partnership of Frank McGovern, Jack Holbrook and Mrs. John Walsh, owners of the ten-stamp mill, sued Gallagher, Pugh and Associates for non-payment of an account of \$22,500 for milling ore. Through late 1870 and early 1871 court records display a number of other lawsuits and liens at Miner's Delight, but in 1872 improvements were made in the mines. One report asserted that Miner's Delight was in a more prosperous condition than nearby camps, and that no diminution of its population was discernable. In the summer of 1877 Dr. F.M. Endlich, a member of Ferdinand V. Hayden's United State Geological Survey team, after several visits to the South Pass region, wrote that comparatively little vein-mining was carried there and that the Miner's Delight Mine was the only one being worked at the time.

In 1880 the population of Miner's Delight was forty-five, nineteen of which were miners. In that year investors from New York, Boston, and Ogden, Utah bought the Miner's Delight Mine, organizing themselves as the Hub Gold Mining Company. However, problems associated with working the mine efficiently and the lack of productive ore, ended a chapter in Miner's Delight history. From March, 1882 until after the turn of the century the Miner's Delight Mine was not worked. Then in 1907 the property was again sold and the Miner's Delight Mining Company organized. Although the sum of \$27,000 was expended directly upon the mine, it was a fruitless venture. The last attempt to work the diggings there came during the years 1932-1936, during the Great Depression. During that period a lack of jobs and the high price of gold attracted some hopefuls who squatted in abandoned cabins and panned some gold.

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It is reasonable to assume that the fate of the Miner's Delight townsite was dependent upon the work at adjacent mines and placers. The whole group of mines there were abandoned from 1882 to 1907, and the place was found to be in ruins when inspected in the latter year. Consequently, suggests historian Robert Murray, it is doubtful if any of the mining structures date earlier than 1907. The same may be true concerning the present townsite, except for perhaps one cabin. Over the years the cluster of structures there has come into federal ownership and is today administered by the Bureau of Land Management. They are among the last physical structures representing historic mining efforts undertaken in the South Pass region; although that region was relatively insignificant in terms of returns in gold, its development was significant in the history of the settlement and growth of Wyoming Territory. A statement concerning the relative significance of the South Pass mining region, made as early as 1870 by Rossiter Raymond in a United States House of Representatives Executive Document, is interesting in this regard.

The gross amount of bullion extracted in the Sweetwater mining district during the year from July 1, 1868 to July 1, 1869 is estimated according to the best information obtainable, to be \$155,000 in coin. This sum total is certainly small in comparison with the amounts of bullion produced by the neighboring Territories of Montana, Idaho and Colorado; but it becomes large when we consider that it is the opening industry of a country which but two years ago was an unknown and unexplored desert, remote from the civilized world, and practically inaccessible. The fact that a small number of poor miners have brought this gold to light by their own nerve and preserving energy, unassisted by capital, suffering from want of supplies and accommodations, and facing the most terrible Indian atrocities, speaks well for the value of the mineral resources of the district. Indeed, the pioneers of Sweetwater may be proud of the result of their labors, and the whole country may rejoice and thank them for having reclaimed such a valuable portion of the vast wilderness of the great West to civilization and industry. In return, it becomes the duty of the government to protect these men in the future against further Indian outrages, and to extend freely such general aid to them as is consistent with the institution and laws of a democratic republic.

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National Register status can provide a lever for Bureau of Land Management officials in the management of the Miner's Delight complex as a resource of the South Pass region. Through effective planning and management of this resource the federal government can preserve some of the history of the South Pass region. However, further study of the Miner's Delight townsite, in relation to the entire mining district, including an inventory of historic and non-historic property, would be advisable. Boundary lines could then be drawn, providing the basis for the enrollment in the National Register of other individual sites, or perhaps a district containing widely scattered historic resources.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The three separate sites described in this nomination lie, mainly within a large expanse of Federally owned land, and boundaries are based upon topographical and visual considerations. Running in straight lines along the ridges which bound the sites to the north and south, the two knolls to the west and the beginning of a steep decline to Beaver Creek on the east, the boundaries circumscribe an area which constitutes a topographical entity unto itself.