NPS Form 10-900
(January 2006)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: Elkhorn-Coolidge Historic District

other name/site number: Elkhorn Mine, Boston & Montana Mill, and [town of] Coolidge; 24BE997

2. Location

street & number: Forest Service Road #2465, approximately four miles southeast of its intersection with Montana State Highway 43 — not for publication: n/a

city/town: Wise River — vicinity: X

state: Montana code: MT county: Beaverhead code: 001 zip code: 59762

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination __ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets __ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant __ nationally __ statewide X locally.

Signature of certifying official/Title — Date: 7/21/2008

Montana State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal agency or bureau

(__ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

In my opinion, the property __ meets __ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting or other official — Date: 7/24/08

USDA FS R1
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

Signature of the Keeper — Date of Action

X entered in the National Register
__ see continuation sheet — 9/12/2008

__ determined eligible for the National Register
__ see continuation sheet

__ determined not eligible for the National Register
__ see continuation sheet

__ removed from the National Register
__ see continuation sheet

__ other (explain): _____

5. Classification

Ownership of Property: Public/Federal

Category of Property: District

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: na

Name of related multiple property listing: na

Number of Resources within Property		
Contributing	Noncontributing	
22	4	building(s)
101	1	sites
15	4	structures
0	1	objects
138	10	TOTAL

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:
DOMESTIC/single dwelling
DOMESTIC/secondary structure
DOMESTIC/camp (mining camp)
INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION/extractive facility (silver mine)
INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION/processing site (mill)
TRANSPORTATION/railroad

Current Functions:
VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification:
OTHER: Rustic

Materials:
foundation: STONE; WOOD/log; WOOD/plank; CONCRETE
walls: WOOD/log; WOOD/plank
roof: WOOD/shingle; WOOD/shake; ASPHALT; METAL
other: WOOD; METAL

Narrative Description

The Elkhorn/Coolidge historic district is located about fifty miles southwest of Butte, Montana, on the west side of the East Pioneer Mountain Range in the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest. The site is situated in a north/south trending valley which forms part of the upper drainage for the Wise River. Elkhorn Creek flows through the site to the north into the Wise River which, in turn, flows northward into the Big Hole River. The terrain is mountainous and heavily forested with Tweedy and Barb Mountains (11,154 feet and 10,497 feet, respectively) located four to five miles to the east and Comet and Saddleback Mountains (10,212 feet and 10,118 feet, respectively) two miles to the south of Coolidge.

The site area consists of a historic district comprising the remains of the Elkhorn mine and mill and the townsite of the Coolidge mining camp. The mine, mill and townsite resulted from one of the area's largest mining development during the 1910s and 1920s. Although the first mine was located at the site in 1873 and produced small amounts of profitable silver ore until the early 1890s, it was during the period from the 1910s through the 1920s that large-scale development of the mining property was promoted by former Lieutenant Governor William R. Allen. A road and narrow-gauge railroad were constructed to the mine, connecting it to the towns of Wise River and Divide on the Big Hole River. Telephone and power lines were run from Divide to the mine and town site. A large ore processing mill, lumber mills, tramways and other mine structures, as well as the town of Coolidge, were constructed on the site.

The mine and mill complex is located on the bench area west of Elkhorn Creek while, on the opposite side of the creek, the town of Coolidge lies in a narrow strip of flat ground between the stream and the steeply rising hillside immediately to the east. The terrain surrounding the site has a healthy stand of lodgepole pine regeneration growing in the area that had been logged in association with the construction and operation of the mine, mill, railroad, and townsite.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria: A, B

Areas of Significance: INDUSTRY

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): n/a

Period(s) of Significance: 1911-1927

Significant Person(s): William R. Allen

Significant Dates: 1911, 1919. 1922, 1927

Cultural Affiliation: n/a

Architect/Builder: n/a

Narrative Statement of Significance

The Elkhorn/Coolidge Historic District is significant as an example of one of the few large-scale silver mining projects in Montana during the early part of the twentieth century. During this period, most mining operations in the region were small-scale operations which, for the most part, either reopened old mine workings or reworked old mine dumps. With the exception of Butte, where silver production was a by-product of the copper, zinc and manganese mines, the Elkhorn project was a rare large-scale mining development during the 1920s designed solely for silver production. Even more significantly, it is an example of how a project of this magnitude can fail even though it had large-scale investment, systematic development of the mines and processing and transportation facilities, use of the most modem equipment and techniques, and the existence of sizeable and proven ore deposits.

Even with these favorable conditions, the odds were against a successful operation. Historically in Montana, for every successful bonanza mine there have been perhaps a dozen mines that failed. The Elkhorn project serves as a case example of the fundamentally risky nature of any mining venture and the propensity for most mining ventures to ultimately fail. An element of luck, either good or bad, can often be a critical factor in the outcome of any mining operation. The 1927 Wise River flood illustrates the effects an unforeseen accidental event can have on an enterprise such as the Elkhorn project. For these reasons, the Elkhorn-Coolidge Historic District is eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion A.

William R. Allen was a businessman and politician in Montana during the first half of the twentieth century. A native Montanan, he rose through the ranks of the Anaconda Company, managing several aspects of the operation. By 1902 he entered state politics, serving in the Legislature and later Lieutenant Governor. He left his promising political career behind, however, to devote all his energies and personal fortune in the Elkhorn project. As the business headquarters of this prominent industrialist, and the location of his greatest financial and personal investment, the Elkhorn-Coolidge Historic District is eligible under Criterion B. The district gains additional significance under Criterion C for its important representations of genuinely rustic architecture associated with early twentieth century mining camps.

Beginning of the Elkhorn Mining District

The Elkhorn mining district was first located in the early 1870s. The first discovery of silver ore in the district was made by Preston Sheldon in 1872. He shipped a carload of the ore, assaying 300 ounces of silver to the ton, from a claim called the Old Elkhorn, located about one mile southwest of what would become the Coolidge townsite and Elkhorn mine. In 1874, Mike T. Steele located the Storm claim --adjacent to the west side of the Old Elkhorn claim --and shipped two carloads of ore, assaying 260 ounces of silver to the ton. Next to be discovered was the Mono lode which was located by Clark Smith in September of 1875. By 1885 D. B. Mason and Steele acquired the claim and sank a 35-foot shaft. In 1888, the Storm Mining Company sank a 90-foot shaft on the Mono vein; eventually the shaft would reach a depth of 250 feet (Winchell 1914; Sassman 1941; Geach 1972).

Other mines in the district, located on Bailey Mountain, were operated by the Magnet Company in 1887. The Dillon Examiner reported on January 27, 1 ~92, that a number of mines were producing, including the Critic, Fraction, Navajo, Good Enough, Park, Red Sky, Hamburg, Washington, Guy, Last Chance, Cleopatra, Mascott [sic], and Cleveland. A 10-stamp mill had been built at the Critic and Fraction mines. In 1895, Frank Williams shipped ore from the Simpson claim, abutting the southwest side of the Old Elkhorn claim (Sassman 1941).

9. Major Bibliographic References

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):
___ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
___ previously listed in the National Register
___ previously determined eligible by the National Register
___ designated a National Historic Landmark
___ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
___ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data:
_X_ State Historic Preservation Office
___ Other State agency
_X__ Federal agency Beaverhead-Deer Lodge
___ Local government
___ University
___ Other -- Specify Repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: approximately 105 acres

UTM References:	**Zone 12**	**Easting**	**Northing**	**(NAD 27)**
	A)	340257	5039849	
	B)	340749	5039941	
	C)	341048	5038852	
	D)	340764	5038767	
	E)	340621	5039107	
	F)	340161	5038893	
	G)	340070	5039093	
	H)	340556	5039269	

Legal Location (Township, Range & Section(s)): located generally in SE ¼ SE ¼ of Section 11, W ½ SW ¼ SW ¼ of Section 12, W ½ NW ¼ of Section 13, and the NE ¼ of Section 14, Township 4 South, Range 12 West

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the Elkhorn/Coolidge historic district is shown as a solid line delineating the district on the accompanying USGS 7.5 minute Elkhorn Hot Springs, Montana (1988) map.

Boundary Justification

The site boundaries were defined by the historic limits of mining activities and residences in the town site. Although small prospect mining operations, logging activities or other small-scale activities may have occurred outside the boundaries of the district, there is very little visible evidence of such activities in the immediate vicinity of the district. Only a few subsequent intrusive elements were added to the district since its period of significance; thus, the existing historic structural remains of the Elkhorn mine and mill and the Coolidge town site clearly delineate the extent of mining and residential activities within the historic district during the period of significance.

The cluster of mining claims to the west of the district, even though once held by William Allen, were intentionally excluded from the Elkhorn/Coolidge Historic District. Most of the claims have been patented and are held in private ownership by a number of claimants. Most of these claims were not developed in association with the Elkhorn mill during the period of significance, necessitating their exclusion from the nominated district.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Mike Ryan and Zane Fulbright
organization: Beaverhead-Deer Lodge National Forest date: May 2006
street & number: 420 Barrett St. telephone: (406) 683-3900
city or town: Dillon state: MT zip code: 59725-3572

Property Owner

name/title: Beaverhead-Deer Lodge National Forest
street & number: 420 Barrett St. telephone: (406) 683-3900
city or town: Dillon state: MT zip code: 59725-3572

RESOURCES WITHIN THE DISTRICT: [see site map]

Number 1: Site (contributing) 1914-1922 -partially collapsed ruins of a one-story rectangular shaped dugout. The dugout is twelve logs high and measures 12 feet x 17 feet 2 inches long. Log slabs are underneath rough cut lumber on the gable roof which has four purlins. The front entrance faces southeast and is 3 feet 6 inches high by 2 feet 6 inches wide and is board framed. The dugout rests on a foundation of 2 x 8 inch boards. There is no remaining chinking or daubing. A metal pipe is among the debris at the top of the collapsing roof. The logs average seven inches in diameter and are saddle-notched with sawed ends.

Number 2: Site (contributing) 1914-1922 -log cabin with a collapsed roof. The building is nine logs high, measuring 20 feet 3 inches x 16 feet 6 inches. The logs are saddle-notched with sawed ends, and have an average diameter of eight inches. A grass and mortar daubing with pole chinking is used between the logs. The approximate thirty-degree gable roof has collapsed but was constructed with rough cut lumber, covered with rolled asphalt. The top loft has screened windows at the gable ends. The front door faces southwest with one window opening. An entrance is on the northeast side and another window is on the northwest end. The building sits on a stone foundation.

Number 3: Site (contributing) 1914-1922 -collapsed remains of possibly two wood frame structures with board siding. The remains cover an area of approximately 25 feet by 45 feet with a three foot gap in the middle. A floor of 1 x 8 inch boards rest on a log foundation. Tin debris and a stovepipe are among the ruins. (counted as one site since it is uncertain if this is the remains of one or two buildings.)

Number 4: Structure (contributing) 1914-1925 -a chicken coop measuring 8 feet 4 inches wide and 10 feet 2 inches long constructed of rough-cut boards. The entrance is at the southwest side and has the remains of a wood stairway. A small window is on the northeast side.

Number 5: Building (contributing) 1914-1922 -a small wood frame cabin with board siding, measuring 10 feet 4 inches wide and 12 feet 4 inches long which rests on a log foundation. The outer walls were once covered with tar paper while the gable roof was covered with rolled asphalt. The entrance faces northwest and there are windows on the front, rear and southeast sides. Electric insulators are attached to the front gable end.

Number 6: Site (contributing) 1914-1922 -remains of a privy.

Number 7: Site (contributing) 1914-1922 -collapsed remains of a wood frame building with board siding, measuring approximately 12 x 15 feet.

Number 8: Site (contributing) 1914-1922 -13 x 15 foot log structure. The roof has collapsed and the walls have partially collapsed. The roof appears to have been a gable type. Seven logs with pole chinking and dirt daubing still stand. The logs have sawed ends and are saddle-notched and average eight inches in diameter. The entrance is on the east side and windows were on the east and south sides. The structure rests on a board foundation.

Number 9: Building (contributing) 1919-1922 -12 feet 4 inches x 20 feet 8 inches frame structure with shiplap board siding and a shed roof. The entrance is on the east side with window openings on the east, south and north sides. Windows appear to have been screened. Corrugated metal roofing once covered the roof over rough-cut lumber. The building sits on railroad ties.

Number 10: Structure (contributing) 1914-1922 -small spring house. The 3 foot 1 inch x 5 foot 4 inch frame structure has a gable roof and board siding. Diamond-pattern mesh screen is over the windows and the entrance faces west. The structure sits over a small spring which filled an interior wooden tank where food items were probably kept in the summer to keep them cool.

Number 11: Site (contributing) 1914-1922 -collapsed frame building with shiplap siding. The rear wall is partially standing. The building apparently once had a second wall one foot from the inside wall. A section of this outer wall can be seen at the rear. The entrance faced southwest. The approximate size of the building was 14 feet x 16 feet.

Number 12: Building (contributing) 1914-1922 -two-hole privy. The frame building is 8 feet 2 inches wide and 5 feet 3 inches long. It is constructed of rough cut lumber with a shed roof.

Numbers 13a and 13b: Buildings (2) (contributing) 1914-1922 -stable. The stable consists of two attached buildings. The northern section (13a) is a one-story, gable-roofed (with an approximate 45-degree pitch), wood frame building with no foundation. The roof is covered with sawed boards and the siding is log slabs. Board and batten siding is at the north gable end. A square, wooden vent is located centrally. The purlins are log. Another board roof was laid over the original roof covering with the first made of log slabs and small poles supported by log purlins with log supports. Two doors are located on the west side. Part of the north side is log which is V-notched. Cement and sand were used as daubing and small poles were used for chinking. On the east side the siding is seven logs (log slabs) high. The floor is sawed boards and the interior has been divided into four sections using logs, poles and boards.

The south section of the structure (13b) also has a gable roof with an approximate 45-degree pitch. The roof was constructed of small poles supported by log purlins. Another roof of sawed boards was built over the original sometime later. Most of the siding is gone, leaving the section open. The floor is made of small poles laid next to each other and there is no visible foundation. The dimensions of the buildings are: 17 feet 4 inches x 38 feet for the north section, and 17 feet 2 inches x 30 feet 7 inches for the southern section.

Number 14: Site (contributing) 1914-1922 -collapsed building which may have been a carpenter's shop. Part of a gable end of the roof indicated a board and batten siding was used. It appears that the building was of wood frame construction with a board floor and no foundation. The approximate dimensions are 25 x 35 feet.

Number 15: Building (contributing) 1914-1922 -rectangular, gable-roofed, wood frame, two room cabin with no foundation. The approximate 50-degree pitched roof is made of sawed boards covered with rolled asphalt. The chimney hole is on the north slope of the roof. Siding is board and batten. Two window openings and a door opening with a small wood stoop are on the west side. On the south side, the building is held off the ground by vertical square posts. Three window openings are on the south side along with sawed board skirting. A door opening is on the east and two window openings are on the north. Skirting on the north is tar paper held in place with boards. Electric insulators are on the front (west) gable. A small board-lined subsurface feature is adjacent to the north side of the house and may be the remains of a root cellar. The house measures 16 feet x 27 feet 9 inches.

Number 16: Site (contributing) 1914-1922 -collapsed wood frame building. No foundation is evident and it appears that vertical board siding was used. The approximate size of the building was 12 x 25 feet.

Number 17: Site (contributing) 1914-1922 -9 foot x 14 foot rectangular, one-story, wood frame building with a gable roof and no foundation. Most the roof boards are missing but the chimney opening can be seen on the south slope of the roof. The siding is board and batten and there is a wood floor. A door is located at the west end and a window opening is on the east. The cabin is divided into two sections.

Number 18: Site (contributing) 1914-1922 -collapsed, wood frame cabin. The cabin had no foundation. It appears to have had a gable roof, and a chimney hole can be seen in the collapsed roof. The siding was board and batten. The approximate dimensions were 9 x 12 feet.

Number 19: Site (contributing) 1914-1922 -one-story, wood frame cabin with a gable roof. There is no foundation. The roof boards are covered with tar paper and the siding is horizontal planks. The west end of the building is raised off the ground and supported by square posts. On the north side, there is part of the board and batten siding with tar paper

underneath. A wood floor is visible even though the roof has partly collapsed. A door opening and two window openings are on the east. Two more window openings are on the north and one is on the west side. Two door openings are on the south. The chimney hole is on the south slope of the roof. The cabin measures 16 feet x 24 feet 3 inches.

Number 20: Site (contributing) 1914-1922 -pump house. The frame building has shifted off its foundation and is partially in Elkhorn Creek. It measures approximately 12 x 12 feet, and has a gable roof. A square, gable-roofed cupola is on the center roof crest and was probably used to ventilate the building. Siding is board and batten and a row of insulators is located on the north side. The door is on the east side.

Number 21: Site (contributing) 1914-1922 -collapsed frame building with only part of the floor remaining. The foundation was square beams. The approximate size of the building was 22 x 22 feet.

Number 22: Site (contributing) 1914-1922 -collapsed, wood frame building. There is no foundation but the board floor remains. A partial wall on the east side has board and batten siding. The building measured approximately 25 x 25 feet.

Number 23: Site (contributing) 1914-1922 -collapsed, wood frame building with only the floor remaining intact. The building rests on wood beams and measured approximately 25 x 30 feet.

Number 24: Site (contributing) 1914-1922 -collapsed wood frame privy with vertical board siding. The privy measures 3 x 3 feet.

Number 25: Structure (noncontributing) c.1950s -wood frame pump house with a shed roof, located adjacent to Elkhorn Creek. The 7 foot 8 inch x 10 foot structure has horizontal plank siding and no foundation. A door opening is on the southeast side and a window opening is on the southwest side. The small structure appears to be of fairly recent construction and was probably used during post-World War II mining operations.

Number 26: Site (contributing) 1914-1922 -three-sectioned structure, part log and part wood frame construction. The southeast section has mostly collapsed but part of the vertical log wall at the south end still remains. The roof has collapsed but appears to have been a gable type and was made with boards. Part of a stove pipe is lying near the east end in the rubble. No foundation is visible. An entry way is still standing on the south side. This section was approximately 35 x 35 feet and was connected on the west side to a log structure adjacent to the road. The logs are square-notched, sawed on the ends, are not peeled and average 7 inches in diameter. Small poles were used for chinking. The board roof is supported by log purlins and covered by thick sod. A board fence was built around the south and west sides about one foot from the log wall. This space was then filled with soil to provide additional insulation. One window opening is on the south and two are on the west side and another opening is on the east side. The floor is made of sawed boards and no foundation was visible. The log section measures 25 x 40 feet.

The door on the north side of the log section connects to another section, which consists of a partially-collapsed wood frame addition.

The north gable end wall of the addition is still standing, although the roof has collapsed. The gable end wall has board and batten siding. Most of the vertical board siding in this section is gone. A large stovepipe is located at the north end of this section and a crumbling brick wall, probably a cooking area, is in the middle of the frame addition. A window opening is on the north and a door opening is on the east. The floor is constructed of sawed boards. No foundation is visible. A small section of a stone retaining wall is on the east side. This frame section measures approximately 25 x 35 feet. Large piles of debris are at the north and east sides of the frame addition and may have been additional structural elements. This may have been the cookhouse.

Number 27: Building (contributing) 1914-1922 -square, gable-roofed cabin of wood frame construction. The roof is covered with boards with a chimney hole located on the north slope. The cabin was sided with boards and batten; much of

the siding has been removed from the north side. A window opening is on the south and a door opening is on the west. There is no foundation under the 15 x 15 foot cabin.

Number 28: Site (contributing) 1914-1922 -toppled, two-hole, wood frame privy. The roof and sides are board and batten. The privy measures 3 feet 6 inches x 3 feet 6 inches.

Number 29: Site (contributing) 1914-1922 -partially collapsed pole and board structure which appears to have been a pig pen. A fenced area on the west is made of both poles and boards. An opening is located at the north and south ends with a log fence separating the two areas. The fences have partly collapsed. The shed roof was supported by log purlins. The 14 x 16 foot shed has no foundation.

Number 30: Building (contributing) 1914-1922 -wood frame privy with a shed roof, one-half pole siding and one- half board and batten siding.

Number 31: Site (contributing) 1914-1922 -remnants of a wood frame building which measured approximately 12 x 15 feet. Stove parts and wood debris are scattered over the area.

Number 32: Site (contributing) 1914-1922 -collapsed wood frame building. The floor is intact and measures 15 x 30 feet. Part of the board and batten north wall remains standing. The roof appears to have been a gable-type. There was no foundation.

Number 33: Site (contributing) c.1922 -collapsed, wood-frame building which may have been a company office and the town post office. The building was approximately 8 feet 6 inches x 12 feet and had no foundation. The gable roof was covered with tar paper.

Number 34: Site (contributing) 1914-1922 -partially collapsed, two-story, wood frame building, approximately 35 x 40 feet with a 10 x 15 foot addition at the rear. The roof is a gable-type and the siding is board and batten. There is a raised board porch on the front. The front door and two window openings are on the west side while an additional door is on the south side. A door at the rear (east side) opens into a partially collapsed shed roof addition which is also frame construction with horizontal board siding. No foundation was seen for the building. The building may have been a bunkhouse or boardinghouse.

Number 35: Site (contributing) 1914-1922 -toppled, two-seat privy with tar paper covered board gable roof. Siding is vertical boards. A wooden, square vent pipe is located at the back and diamond shaped windows are located at each gable end. The privy measures 5 x 6 feet.

Number 36: Site (contributing) 1914-1922 -partially collapsed, wood frame building located at the rear of Site #34. A partial stone foundation was under the west wall. The building measures approximately 15 x 25 feet. Siding on the building was board and batten. A collapsed shed- roof addition was on the south side.

Number 37: Site (contributing) 1914-1922 -collapsed, wood-frame building with only a board floor remaining. The floor on the west side is above ground level and is supported by vertical posts. Siding on a collapsed wall is corrugated tin sheeting. The building measured approximately 20 x 30 feet. Stone retaining walls approximately thirty and forty feet long on the north side of the structure appear to have formed a driveway.

Number 38: Building (contributing) c.1922 -the home of Frank Tyro who served as Coolidge's postmaster for the ten years the post office was in operation (1922-1932). The 1 1/2-story, wood frame structure was sided with board and batten. The gable roof was covered with tar paper and tin sheeting on the north side and corrugated tin on the south side. A hipped roof is at the rear. The foundation is of stone and the house measures 24 feet 5 inches x 26 feet 5 inches. A shed-roofed, open porch is located at the front (west side) of the building. The porch roof is supported by four posts and a railing

encircles the raised stoop. Another open porch with a shed roof and a board stoop is on the south side. Doors are at the west and south sides while windows were on all sides, including a diamond-shaped window opening on the front gable.

Number 39: Site (contributing) c.1922 -collapsed, wood frame building at the rear of the Tyro home. The board floor remains and half pole siding can be seen on the eastern collapsed wall. The building rested on a stone foundation.

Number 40: Building (contributing) c.1922 -gable-roofed, wood frame sauna with board and batten siding and roofing. The structure has a double wall with a one-foot space between them which was filled with sawdust for insulation. The door is on the north. There are no windows and no foundation. There is a square, wood board vent pipe on the east roof slope and a metal stove pipe on the west roof slope. A stove is inside with heating rocks on top of it. The sauna measures 12 feet, 3 inches x 14 feet, 3 inches. This building is located southeast of the Tyro house (Building #38).

Number 41: Site (contributing) 1914-1922 -may have been the Ripley home. The frame building has partially collapsed with only sections of the stud walls and the east wall still standing. The roof has collapsed onto the board floor. Vertical board skirting is on the north side of the raised floor while horizontal skirting is on the west side. There does not appear to be a foundation. Tar paper was used on the other walls. A shed-roof addition at the rear is intact and has rolled asphalt roofing. Door openings are on the south and west sides. Windows were fixed light paneless and 2- fixed light paneless with screens. The house measured 25 x 30 feet.

Number 42: Site (contributing) 1914-1922 -toppled, gable-roofed, wood frame privy with board and batten siding which measured 4 x 4 feet.

Number 43: Site (contributing) 1914-1922 -toppled, gable-roofed, wood frame privy with vertical board siding measuring 4 x 4 feet.

Number 44: Building (contributing) 1914-1922 -1 1/2-story, gable-roofed log building, set on a stone foundation. The board roof is covered with rolled asphalt roofing. Logs are sawed at the ends and tapered. There is no notching and the comers are hidden by vertical boards which form the comers. The unpeeled lodgepole pine logs average eight inches in diameter. Cement and sand daubing and sawed small board chinking were used. Horizontal boards cover the west gable end. A sliding sash window is on the west side and a window opening is in the west gable. A shed-roof, frame addition with board and batten siding is at the rear of the house. The addition has a large window opening facing east with a door at the south. A small collapsed porch was located at the front door which was at the southeast comer. The house measures 16 feet 4 inches x 30 feet. A sixty foot-long stone wall east of the house runs between it and Site Number 47.

Number 45: Site (contributing) 1914-1922 -partially collapsed, wood frame structure with no foundation. It once had a gable roof and a door opening on the south side. Both the floor and the siding consist of boards. The 12 x 17 foot building was probably a small shop or tool shed.

Number 46: Site (contributing) 1914-1922 -wood frame, two-seat privy. Vertical boards were used. The roof is missing.

Number 47: Site (contributing) 1914-1922 -collapsed, wood frame building with a gable roof. Board and batten siding can be seen at the gable ends and the raised board floor is still in place. The chimney was centrally placed on the crest of the roof. A shed-roof addition on the east has also collapsed. It was of wood frame with vertical board siding. A small bin is located on the south side of the addition with an opening into the shed. The house once measured approximately 18 x 30 feet.

Number 48: Building (contributing) 1914-1922 -6 x 6 foot, wood-frame shed with a gable roof, located behind Site #47.

Number 49: Site (contributing) 1914-1922 -collapsed, wood-frame privy with a board roof.

Number 50: Site (contributing) 1914-1922 -collapsed wood-frame building which was approximately 30 x 45 feet.

Number 51: Site (contributing) 1914-1922 -collapsed wood-frame building which measured approximately 15 x 20 feet.

Number 52: Building (contributing) 1914-1922 -gable-roofed log house measuring 16 feet 6 inches x 23 feet. There is no foundation and the board roof has partially collapsed. Small pole chinking with cement and sand daubing was used between the logs. The logs which average seven inches in diameter are sawed on the end and are not notched. The comers of the building have been boxed in with sawed boards. Two window openings are on the east, one is on the west and one is on the north side. The door was on the south side. The north gable end has board and batten siding. A low wood board fence is located on the north side about three feet from the log wall. A small wood frame shed addition is attached to the rear of the cabin.

Number 53: Site (contributing) 1914-1922 -wood frame building adjacent to Building #52. There is no foundation. The door and window openings are on the east. The roof has collapsed but the board floor remains. The 12 x 15 foot building appears to have been a small shop or tool shed.

Number 54: Site (contributing) 1914-1922 -collapsed, wood frame building. There is no foundation but parts of the board floor remain and a section of stairs can be found in the rubble. The building was probably a residence and was approximately 25 x 35 feet.

Number 55: Site (contributing) 1914-1922 -collapsed, wood frame building. Only the board floor remains intact. The approximately 25 x 30 foot building was most likely a residence.

Number 56: Site (contributing) 1914-1922 -collapsed, wood-frame privy.

Number 57: Building (contributing) 1914-1922 -wood-frame shed with a partial stone foundation on the south side. The siding is vertical board and the floor is boards. Two doors and a window opening are on the south side. Dimensions: 6 feet x 9 feet.

Number 58: Site (contributing) 1914-1922 -collapsed gable-roof, wood-frame building. The approximately 15 x 25 foot building was probably a residence. The north wall is still standing and shows that the building had a gable roof. Board and batten siding was used and the raised wood floor rests on a stone foundation. *r*

Number 59: Site (contributing) 1914-1922 -collapsed, wood-frame privy.

Number 60: Site (contributing) 1914-1922 -partially collapsed wood-frame building with a gable roof. The siding was board and batten. A raised stoop and stairs to the front door is at the west side. A shed roof addition is located on the east side. There is no foundation under the approximately 25 x 30 foot building.

Number 61: Site (contributing) 1914-1922 -collapsed, wood-frame privy.

Number 62: Building (contributing) 1914-1922 -log cabin with a gable roof. There is no foundation. The roof is boards over log purlins and the house logs are saddle-notched lodgepole pines, the diameter of which averages eight inches. Window openings are on the east, north and west sides. The door is located on the south; the floor is of boards. The chimney hole is on the east slope of the roof. Small pole chinking was used and daubing was made of cement and gravel. There is a collapsed, gable-roofed, frame addition on the south side. The addition has a stone foundation. The dimensions of the cabin are 26 feet 3 inches x 32 feet 8 inches.

Number 63: Building (contributing) 1914-1922 -partially-collapsed, wood frame residence. The house once had a gable roof which has collapsed. Window openings are on the east and north sides, plus three windows and a door are on the west side. Siding is board and batten. The wooden floor is raised off the ground. Dimensions: 13 x 22 feet.

Number 64: Site (contributing) 1914-1922 -partially-collapsed, wood frame residence with a collapsed gable roof. The front door opening is on the east side and a side door and two window openings are on the collapsed west wall. Board and batten siding was used; there was no foundation. Dimensions: 13 x 22 feet.

Number 65: Site (contributing) 1914-1922 -collapsed, wood frame privy. '

Number 66: Site (contributing) 1914-1922 -collapsed, wood frame residence with only a raised floor still intact. A frame addition on the east side has also collapsed. A collapsed root cellar is at the rear of the house. The house once measured approximately 20 x 25 feet.

Number 67: Site (contributing) 1914-1922 -partially collapsed wood frame house. There is a raised wood board floor but no foundation. Only the east wall and part of the north wall remain standing. Board and batten siding was used. The roof appears to have been a gable type. The house is divided into two sections. A shed roof addition is on the east side.

Number 68: Site (contributing) 1914-1922 -partially collapsed wood frame privy with a gable roof.

Number 69: Site (contributing) 1914-1922 – collapsed wood frame, two-seat privy.

Number 70: Site (contributing) 1914-1922 -partially collapsed wood frame privy. The structure is divided into two sections with two seats on each side.

Number 71: Site (contributing) c.1918 -remains of a somewhat larger frame building on a stone foundation which may have been the Coolidge school. The south wall and part of the west wall are all that remain standing. An entry-way porch is at the south end. Dimensions: approximately 40 x 50 feet.

Number 72: Site (contributing) 1914-1922 -partially collapsed, L-shaped, wood frame residence. Most of the board and batten siding has been removed and there is no foundation. The south wall and part of the east wall still stand. The roof was a gable type. A collapsed addition was attached to the east side. Dimensions: approximately 25 x 30 feet.

Number 73: Site (contributing) 1914-1922 -toppled wood frame privy with a gable roof.

Number 74: Site (contributing) 1914-1922 -wood frame house with a stone foundation. The roof (which was probably a gable type) has collapsed and most of the board and batten siding has been removed. Two window openings and a door are on the west side. A wood porch is located on the east side. A door on the east side leads to a shed roof addition; a second wood frame shed-roof addition is attached to the first addition. The interior is divided into two rooms at the south end. The house was approximately 25 x 30 feet. A thirty foot long stone wall is at the front of the residence.

Number 75: Site (contributing) 1914-1922 -collapsed wood frame building. There was no foundation; only a board floor remains. The building was approximately 15 x 20 feet.

Number 76: Site (contributing) 1914-1922 -collapsed wood-frame privy with a gable roof.

Number 77: Site (contributing) 1914-1922 -collapsed wood frame residence. The board floor is raised off the ground and no foundation was visible. Dimensions: 20 x 25 feet.

Number 78: Site (contributing) 1914-1922 -collapsed wood-frame two-seat privy.

Number 79: Site (contributing) 1914-1922 -collapsed wood-frame privy.

Number 80: Building (contributing) 1914-1922 -partially-collapsed log cabin. The roof has collapsed and its style is unknown although segments of it show that rolled asphalt was used to cover it. The walls are eight logs high, made of lodgepole pine averaging nine inches in diameter. The logs are tapered at the ends and the corners are enclosed by vertical boards. Bark chinking is used. The door is on the north side and a window opening is on the west side. There is no foundation. Dimensions: 16 feet 4 inches x 30 feet.

Number 81: Site (contributing) 1914-1922 -partially-collapsed log cabin measuring 23 feet x 32 feet 8 inches. The walls were twelve logs high, saddle- notched and were made from lodgepole pine. Cement and sand daubing was used between the logs which had sawed ends and an average diameter often inches. The roof has collapsed and there is no visible foundation except for a possible log foundation at the south end for an addition which no longer exists.

Number 82: Site (contributing) 1914-1922 -6 x 9 foot board pen or remains of a small shed at the rear of Site #81.

Number 83: Building (contributing) 1914-1922 -6 x 6 foot privy made of small logs with sand and cement daubing and slab chinking. The comers are crudely notched with irregular ends. The privy has a shed roof.

Number 84: Site (contributing) 1914-1922 -partially-collapsed wood frame building which measures approximately 10 x 20 feet. No foundation or roof is evident.

Number 85: Site (contributing) 1914-1922 -collapsed wood frame building, approximately 20 x 30 feet in size.

Number 86: Site (contributing) 1914-1922 -collapsed wood-frame building with only the west wall still standing. The wall has two window openings and a wooden shelf on the interior side of the wall. The building is approximately 13 x 50 feet in size. The board floor has intermittent vertical rebar which probably supported heavy machinery. A metal pipe and wood housing at the south side may have been a pump station. Cinders in the area indicate the building may have been used as a blacksmith shop.

Number 87: Site (contributing) 1914-1922 -ore bin measuring 6 x 8 feet and constructed of wood beams and boards. The bin has fallen over and may have originally been located further up the waste rock pile.

Number 88: Site (contributing) 1919-1922 -collapsed remnants of a structure built of wood beams. A concrete head gate-type feature is inside the ruins. The structure measured approximately 12 x 15 feet and appears to have been a pump station.

Number 89: Structure (noncontributing) c. 1950s -small 4 x 6 foot pump house with board and batten siding and a gable roof. The structure may have been used during the post-World War II mining operations at the lower adit.

Number 90: Site (contributing) 1922 -collapsed wood frame building just southeast of the lower mine adit

Number 91a: Structure (contributing) c. 1919 -The debris of the structure is 60 feet long and 25 feet wide. Sections of metal pipe and a few feet of tram rails are in the ruins. The photograph of the site in Wirtz and Lovell (1976:61-62) shows a number of large structures and buildings in this area which appear to be snow sheds and shop buildings for the tramway. The location of Site #90 and the pieces of rail indicate the building may have been a shop for the ore cars. A 1937 map shows a blacksmith shop in this area.

Number 91b: Structure (noncontributing) c.1950s -lower adit portal made of wood timbers with wood doors. The portal was probably constructed during post-World War II mining operations.

Number 92: Building (noncontributing) c.1980s -gable-roofed, wood frame, two-seat privy with board and batten siding. The privy was probably moved onto the waste rock pile by Timberline Minerals, Inc., during the early 1980s.

Number 93: Building (noncontributing) c.1980s -4 x 6 foot tool shed. The wood frame shack had a shed roof and is sided with boards covered with tar paper. The shed was probably built or was moved onto the waste rock pile by Timberline Minerals, Inc., during the early 1980s.

Number 94: Building (noncontributing) c.1980s -wood frame shack on two wood beam skids. The 6 x 10 foot structure's walls are made of tar paper over horizontal boards. The boards forming the gable roof extend over the door and board stoop, which is attached to the skid beams. The shed was probably built or was moved onto the waste rock pile by Timberline Minerals, Inc., during the early 1980s.

Number 95: Building (noncontributing) c.1980s -gable-roofed, wood frame, 4 x 6 foot warming shack (or "dog house" in miner's slang). The siding is board and batten. There is a door on the east side and no windows. A chimney hole is on the south slope of the roof. Benches for the miners are inside the shack. The shack was probably built or was moved onto the waste rock pile by Timberline Minerals, Inc. during the early 1980s.

Number 96: Structure (contributing) 1922 -ore bin made of wood beams, poles and boards. Two chutes are on the east side and the collapsed ruins of the tramway to the upper camp extend up the hillside from the west side of the bin. The structure is 15 x 15 feet.

Number 97: Site (contributing) 1922 -remains of a flume, adjacent to the east side of the tramway bed, which runs from the top of the waste rock pile to the mill. The remnants of the flume extend for 1400 feet. Sections of the flume, as well as the pole, board and lumber trestle supporting it, still stand. The flume is from six to ten feet above the ground. The south end of the flume abruptly ends at the northern edge of the waste rock pile. The original source of the water for the flume is unknown.

Number 98: Site (contributing) 1919-1922 -the Elkhorn, or Boston & Montana, mill. In 1990, About one-half of the original structure remained and covered an area of 100 x 250 feet. That section was torn down in 2000. The original complete mill once extended an additional 150 feet down the hillside, covering approximately two acres in its entirety. Built in three years at a cost of $900,000, the mill was originally in five sections. The walls of the mill were of wood frame construction with 15 x 18 inch Oregon fir beams used throughout in the interior construction. Large ore bins are located at the upper end of the mill and were filled by the ore cars which entered the upper section of the mill along the trestle (Structure #100) at the southwest comer and exited along the trestle at the northwest comer. Numerous large 6/6 and 8/8 double- hung windows were on the north and south sides of the mill while three large openings on the south and two on the north sides probably once held the doors which provided access for the mill's large equipment. The mill was equipped with steam heat, a sprinkler fire protection system and 52 electric motors used to run the mill's crushers, separators, dryers and other equipment for its oil flotation process. Extensive concrete footings and foundations were used to support the structure and the heavy machinery housed inside. These substantial foundations remain as a testament to the scale of the mill and operations at the mine.

Number 99: Structure (contributing) 1922 -wood beam and post platform measuring 15 x 15 feet, which once supported the mill's water tower.

Number 100: Structure (contributing) 1922 -trestle made of beams, poles and boards. The trestle supported the tramway tracks which brought the ore into the upper part of the mill.

Number 101: Site (contributing) 1922 -assay lab. The gable-roofed, wood frame structure has partially collapsed with only the north section still intact. The assay office covered an area approximately 15 x 35 feet and had a concrete foundation. The intact north addition has a gable roof covered with rolled asphalt. Novelty siding covered the thick walls, although most of the siding has been removed. The interior floor is concrete. A brick chimney inside the building was for the furnace used in the assay process. A ground-level opening at the west side was for loading coal into the lab's coal bin. The roof, the south wall and part of the east wall of the lab's main section have collapsed. Fire bricks, ashes and assay cupels are strewn on the slope below the lab.

Number 102: Site (contributing) 1922 -collapsed remnant of a well housing.

Number 103: Structure (contributing) 1919-1922 -section of trestle which supported the railway running to the west of the mill's three boilers and compressor. The trestle is built of wood beams, poles and planks. The trestle runs for one hundred feet approximately ten feet above the ground.

Number 104: Site (contributing) 1922 -two concrete footings for the mill's compressor and boilers. They are three feet high and 10 x 12 feet (south) and 10 x 15 feet (north) in size.

Number 105: Building (contributing) 1919-1922 -wood-frame, gable-roofed pump house. The building has horizontal board walls with a door at the south end and a window opening at the north end. The 10 x 12 foot building has no foundation.

Number 106: Site (contributing) 1920-1925 -gable-roofed, partially collapsed, wood frame building measuring approximately 10 x 12 feet. The building has board and batten siding, and is raised off the ground on a low wood platform.

Number 107: Site (contributing) 1919-1922 -25 x 75 foot concrete foundation. The area is filled with wood debris and pieces of rusted metal from the building which once stood on it. The purpose of the building is unknown.

Number 108: Site (contributing) c.1919 -partially collapsed, wood frame, garage-like building with a double door on the west side. The gable roof has collapsed and part of the south wall is gone. One window opening is on the east side. The walls have board and batten siding. The 12 x 20 foot building is raised off the ground by a log crib- work foundation.

Number 109: Site (contributing) 1922 -collapsed, 20 x 25 foot wood-frame pump house and the remnants of the log-crib supports for the pipe which ran from the pump house to the mill, about 400 feet to the southwest. The pump house roof has collapsed and the board and batten walls are partially collapsed. The pump house is adjacent to the head gate (Structure # 119) on the bank of the Elkhorn ditch. Five of the log-cribs and wood debris extend for 200 feet from the pump house to the tailings piles below the mill. The cribs are roughly lO x 10 feet in size and from six to twelve feet high.

Number 110: Site (contributing) 1914-1922 -lumber debris from the remains of the tramway from the lower mine portal to the upper camp. The tramway is approximately 1450 feet long and was operated on a gravity system. The loaded cars going down would pull the empty cars going up. The tramway had an unusual three-tracked system with the tracks dividing at the mid-point of the tramway so the descending and ascending ore cars could pass each other.

Number 111: Structure (contributing) 1914-1922 -ore sorting shed and ore bin at the upper terminus of the tramway.

Number 112: Site (contributing) 1914-1922 -foundation of the upper camp's bunk house. The building, which either collapsed or was removed, once measured approximately 25 x 75 feet.

Number 113: Building (contributing) 1914-1922 -remains of the upper camp's cook house. A photograph in Wirtz and Lovell (p. 95) shows the cook house as a two story, gable-roofed, wood frame structure with an outside stairway to the second story entrance above the main entrance. A small shed addition existed on one side of the structure.

Number 114: Site (contributing) 1914-1922 –collapsed unknown building.

Number 115: Site (contributing) 1914-1922 –collapsed unknown building.

Number 116: Building (contributing) 1914-1922 -Frame building with a large wooden sliding door on the northwest end. Dimensions approximately 20 x 40 feet.

Number 117: Building (contributing) 1914-1922 -Small frame building with a collapsing roof.

Number 118: Site (noncontributing) c. late 1950s -A-frame shelter.

Number 119: Structure (contributing) 1922 -concrete intake on the stream bank for the pump house (Site #109) on the opposite bank. A concrete wall fifteen feet long is along the stream bank with a 2 foot 3 inch x 2 foot 3 inch concrete tank in the middle where the mouth of the intake pipe would have been located. A ten foot long stone retaining wall extends upstream from the end of the concrete wall.

Number 120: Site (contributing) 1914-1922 -collapsed adit opening. The cut into the hillside measures approximately ten feet wide and 25 feet long and has three wooden fence-like partitions across it.

Number 121: Structure (contributing) 1914-1922 -section of corduroy road with small logs buried below the road surface to provide a solid base in muddy sections of the road. The road is a segment of the original wagon road which followed the Wise River to the mine site.

Number 122: Site (contributing) 1914-1922 -remains of a wooden wagon, three feet wide and twelve feet long.

Number 123: Structure (contributing) 1914-1922 -loading dock consisting of a twelve foot long log retaining wall with two log poles at each end.

Number 124: Site (contributing) 1914-1922 -large scatter of trash, consisting of rusted cans and pieces of glass.

Number 125: Structure (noncontributing) 1992 -location of a wood stringer bridge over the Elkhorn Ditch. The bridge decking was replaced in 1992. It is 25 feet long and twelve feet wide. The surface is formed by 1 x 10 inch boards over 4 x 6 inch post and beam construction which appears to have been built over an earlier bridge.

Number 126: Structure (contributing) 1919-1922 -13 foot long, 2 foot wide wooden raised platform, resting on wood beams. A six-foot beam with a 2 x 2 foot platform is attached to the middle of the platform. The feature appears to have been a rack for holding transformers of Coolidge's electric system.

Number 127: Site (contributing) 1914-1922 -depression, probably for a privy.

Number 128: Site (contributing) 1914-1922 -10 x 15 foot depression with a scatter of rusted cans in the center. It is probable that a building was located at this site but nothing remains of it.

Number 129: Site (contributing) 1914-1922 -small depression (most likely for a privy) with a scatter of rusted cans, Great Falls Select beer cans and clear glass fragments.

Number 130: Site (contributing) 1914-1922 -possible shaft. The circular pit is nine feet across and heavy beams which are similar to timbers used in mine workings can be seen.

Number 131: Site (contributing) 1914-1922 -remains of a wood wagon or sled. Dimensions: 3 feet x 11 feet 5 inches.

Number 132: Site (contributing) 1914-1922 -remains of a bridge across Elkhorn Creek. It would have been about twelve feet wide.

Number 133: Site (contributing) 1914-1922 -depression, most likely for a privy.

Number 134: Site (contributing) 1914-1922 -depression for a privy behind Site #66.

Number 135: Site (contributing) 1914-1922 -depression eighty feet long and about six feet wide which appears to have been an adit opening located behind Sites #67 and #72.

Number 136: Site (contributing) 1914-1922 -thirty foot long, six foot wide collapsed adit depression. A thirteen foot circular depression is at the west end of the adit depression.

Number 137: Site (contributing) 1914-1922 -wooden wagon box measuring 3 x 12 feet.

Number 138: Object (Noncontributing) c. 1950s -iron safe. The door has been removed and parts of it are scattered next to the safe. Dimensions: 2 x 3 feet.

Number 139: Structure (contributing) 1919 -the railroad grade for the Montana Southern Railway. The rail line entered the site from the north, passed through the area at the base of the mill (Building #98) and continued to the base of the tailings dump below the lower mine adit where the line terminated. The sketch map of the site in Wirtz and Lovell

(1976:80) shows a depot adjacent to the west side of the tracks near the terminus. The map also indicates there were double tracks below the mill and that there was a spur track which switched off the main track between the mill and the depot and ran up to the south side of the mill between the assay office (Site # 101) and the boilers (Site #104). All the rails for the line were pulled up and sold for scrap sometime in the 1960s or early 1970s and a road was built on the railroad bed from the mill to the south end of the site. What appear to be railroad ties below the waste rock pile are logs used as corduroy when the railroad grade was used for automobile traffic. The road was extended beyond the rail line terminus around the south end of the tailings dump to the adit portal. Although the rail line was reported to have been the last narrow-gauge railroad built in the United States, the road bed was constructed to standard-gauge width in order to facilitate a planned conversion to standard-gauge at a later date.

Number 140: Site (contributing) c.1922 -wood debris adjacent to the tramway bed at the section from the top of the tailings to the mill. The debris is the remnant of the snow shed which once covered the tramway.

Number 141: Site (contributing) c.1922 -various pieces of wood and metal debris, wood beams, two circular wood flotation tanks and two smaller wooden pieces of the mill's flotation system.

Number 142: Site (contributing) c.1922-1927 -4 x 5 foot, partially collapsed, wood structure on top of the tailings pile below the mill. The structure was probably a housing for a water pipe valve.

Number 143: Structure (contributing) 1914-1922 -2 x 3 foot wooden water tank with pipes at the bottom. The tank is partially recessed into the ground. It is located a few feet south of Site #108.

Number 144: Site (contributing) 1914-1922-waste rock pile from the lower adit at the south end of the site. This covers an area approximately 300 x 600 feet.

Number 145: Site (contributing) 1922-1925 -tailings at the base of the mill. The tailings from the mill cover an area approximately 75 x 150 feet.

Number 146: Structure (contributing) 1919-1922 -Elkhorn ditch. This ditch diverts Elkhorn Creek just north of the bridge (Site #125) which crosses the creek at the north end of Coolidge. The diversion runs north for approximately 2600 feet and then turns west and rejoins Elkhorn Creek. The ditch was "to afford room for impounding tailings" (EMJ 112 #16 October 15, 1921 :633).

Integrity:

Although many of the site's structures have collapsed, are in ruins, or have disappeared altogether, much of the original historic character of the district remains. The massive foundation of the mill still stands and over 100 structural remains are found on the site.

The district's period of significance covers most of the 1910s and 1920s and no major intrusive elements, which would detract from the site's historic character, have been added to the district since that period. The immediate setting of the district and the surrounding landscape are virtually unchanged from when the town was occupied and the mines and mill were in operation. Vegetation in and around the district has returned, restoring the forested environment in which this mining activity originated.

It appears that almost all of the structures and features within the Elkhorn/Coolidge historic district are from the period of significance. One exception in Coolidge may be the small pump house on the banks of Elkhorn Creek

The structural remains on the site have been severely impacted by weather, natural deterioration, vandalism and salvage operations. Heavy accumulations of winter snows have collapsed a majority of the roofs of the town's residences. Many of the walls of the town's frame buildings have also collapsed. A number of buildings- including: a store, "Ripley's pool hall", a railroad depot, a sawmill, an ice house and a water tower -have disappeared since the mid- 1970s. The buildings may

have been salvaged since no significant ruins or debris remains at the locations of these structures. The lower portion of the mill was destroyed by salvage operations during the late 1970s and the remaining upper half was removed in 2000. As late as 1946, the mill was still in excellent condition with the machinery in place and ready to resume production. The mines were ready to go into operation and the company's buildings were intact and usable. But when the mines did not reopen, all the mill's heavy machinery was removed and the building was allowed to deteriorate, as were the site's other structures. The tracks of the Montana Southern railroad were tom up and sold for scrap sometime during this same period. The nearby assay office has also suffered serious deterioration since 1982.

Vandalism has also impacted the site. Many of the frame-construction structures have been stripped of weathered boards and, in some cases, entire buildings were tom down for the lumber. Mining activities during the 1970s have also modified the site to an unknown extent. An unknown number of historic structures were tom down for salvage materials during exploratory mining operations in the early 1970s.

A considerable amount of trash is scattered on the surface behind the row of residences on the east edge of the site. Most of the trash consists of rusted cans. Included were numerous condensed milk, lard, sardines, Edwards and MJB coffee, Oscar Mayer Wieners, Great Falls Select beer, corned beef, and assorted fruit and vegetable cans. Scattered pieces of amethyst, brown and clear glass are also found throughout the site.

When Harry J. Evans examined the site in 1946, the town, mill and mines were still completely intact. He reported that the mill was still in excellent condition with most of the equipment still in place and ready to resume production. The mines were also completely equipped and intact, and the company's buildings in Coolidge were still in good condition and usable. Evans listed the company's surface assets as consisting of: the mill, the assay building, a two-story store, 21 dwellings, one boarding house, nine bunk houses and two pump houses in the lower camp plus three bunk houses, six log cabins, a boarding house, a blacksmith shop, a carpenter shop, the hoist, a compressor building, a small mill and snow sheds at the upper camp. Evans estimated the total value of the Elkhorn/Coolidge properties at one hundred million dollars (Evans 1946).

As late as 1975 the mill building was still intact and the lower camp sawmill, railroad depot, store, pool hall, ice house and a water tower adjacent to the mill were still standing although most of the district's buildings and structures were, at this point, showing serious deterioration (Wirtz and Lovell 1976).

An examination of the photograph showing the panoramic view of the Elkhorn mine in Wirtz and Lovell (1976:61- 62) show a number of large structures on top of the waste rock pile at the entrance to the lower adit. The photograph was taken around 1974 or 1975, indicating the structures were removed sometime during the late 1970s or early 1980s. Structure #89, and Buildings #92, 93, 94 were moved onto the waste rock dump at the main adit entrance, and the adit portal (Structure No. 91) was built during recent exploratory work at the mine by Timberline Minerals, Inc. from 1981 to 1984. No other structures appear to have been moved onto the site at a later date, although some of the existing residences may have been altered somewhat by the handful of persons who have lived on the site in more recent times.

Even though the structural remains within the Elkhorn/Coolidge historic district are, with a few exceptions, badly deteriorated, the site is perhaps the most intact and complete mine and mining camp site remaining in Montana. The fact that the mine, mill and town were kept in operating order up to the mid-1940s has meant that the processes of natural deterioration have had less effect than older abandoned mine sites. The isolated setting of the Elkhorn/Coolidge historic district and the fact that relatively little large-scale modem mining has taken place on the site has meant that few intrusive modem elements have been introduced into the historic district.

Table of Contributing and Noncontributing Resources

Resource	Category	Status	Date
1	Site	contributing	1914-1922
2	Site	contributing	1914-1922
3	Site	contributing	1914-1922
4	Structure	contributing	1914-1925
5	Building	contributing	1914-1922
6	Site	contributing	1914-1922
7	Site	contributing	1914-1922
8	Site	contributing	1914-1922
9	Building	contributing	1919-1922
10	Structure	contributing	1914-1922
11	Site	contributing	1914-1922
12	Building	contributing	1914-1922
13a	Building	contributing	1914-1922
13b	Building	contributing	1914-1922
14	Site	contributing	1914-1922
15	Building	contributing	1914-1922
16	Site	contributing	1914-1922
17	Site	contributing	1914-1922
18	Site	contributing	1914-1922
19	Site	contributing	1914-1922
20	Site	contributing	1914-1922
21	Site	contributing	1914-1922
22	Site	contributing	1914-1922
23	Site	contributing	1914-1922
24	Site	contributing	1914-1922
25	Structure	noncontributing	c.1950s
26	Site	contributing	1914-1922
27	Building	contributing	1914-1922
28	Site	contributing	1914-1922
29	Site	contributing	1914-1922
30	Building	contributing	1914-1922
31	Site	contributing	1914-1922
32	Site	contributing	1914-1922
33	Site	contributing	c.1922
34	Site	contributing	1914-1922
35	Site	contributing	1914-1922
36	Site	contributing	1914-1922
37	Site	contributing	1914-1922
38	Building	contributing	c.1922
39	Site	contributing	1914-1922
40	Building	contributing	c.1922
41	Site	contributing	1914-1922
42	Site	contributing	1914-1922
43	Site	contributing	1914-1922
44	Building	contributing	1914-1922
45	Site	contributing	1914-1922
46	Site	contributing	1914-1922
47	Site	contributing	1914-1922
48	Building	contributing	1914-1922
49	Site	contributing	1914-1922
50	Site	contributing	1914-1922
51	Site	contributing	1914-1922
52	Building	contributing	1914-1922
53	Site	contributing	1914-1922
54	Site	contributing	1914-1922
55	Site	contributing	1914-1922
56	Site	contributing	1914-1922
57	Building	contributing	1914-1922
58	Site	contributing	1914-1922
59	Site	contributing	1914-1922
60	Site	contributing	1914-1922
61	Site	contributing	1914-1922
62	Building	contributing	1914-1922
63	Building	contributing	1914-1922
64	Site	contributing	1914-1922
65	Site	contributing	1914-1922

Resource	Category	Status	Date
66	Site	contributing	1914-1922
67	Site	contributing	1914-1922
68	Site	contributing	1914-1922
69	Site	contributing	1914-1922
70	Site	contributing	1914-1922
71	Site	contributing	c.1918
72	Site	contributing	1914-1922
73	Site	contributing	1914-1922
74	Site	contributing	1914-1922
75	Site	contributing	1914-1922
76	Site	contributing	1914-1922
77	Site	contributing	1914-1922
78	Site	contributing	1914-1922
79	Site	contributing	1914-1922
80	Building	contributing	1914-1922
81	Site	contributing	1914-1922
82	Site	contributing	1914-1922
83	Building	contributing	1914-1922
84	Site	contributing	1914-1922
85	Site	contributing	1914-1922
86	Site	contributing	1914-1922
87	Site	contributing	1914-1922
88	Site	contributing	1919-1922
89	Structure	noncontributing	c. 1950s
90	Site	contributing	1922
91a	Structure	contributing	1919
91b	Structure	noncontributing	c.1950s
92	Building	noncontributing	c.1980s
93	Building	noncontributing	c.1980s
94	Building	noncontributing	c.1980s
95	Building	noncontributing	c.1980s
96	Structure	contributing	1922
97	Site	contributing	1922
98	Site	contributing	1919-1922
99	Structure	contributing	1922
100	Structure	contributing	1922
101	Site	contributing	1922
102	Site	contributing	1922
103	Structure	contributing	1919-1922
104	Site	contributing	1922
105	Building	contributing	1919-1922
106	Site	contributing	1920-1925
107	Site	contributing	1919-1922
108	Site	contributing	c.1919
109	Site	contributing	1922
110	Site	contributing	1914-1922
111	Structure	contributing	1914-1922
112	Site	contributing	1914-1922
113	Building	contributing	1914-1922
114	Site	contributing	1914-1922
115	Site	contributing	1914-1922
116	Building	contributing	1914-1922
117	Building	contributing	1914-1922
118	Site	noncontributing	c. late 1950s
119	Structure	contributing	1922
120	Site	contributing	1914-1922
121	Structure	contributing	1914-1922
122	Site	contributing	1914-1922
123	Structure	contributing	1914-1922
124	Site	contributing	1914-1922
125	Structure	noncontributing	1992
126	Structure	contributing	1919-1922
127	Site	contributing	1914-1922
128	Site	contributing	1914-1922
129	Site	contributing	1914-1922
130	Site	contributing	1914-1922
131	Site	contributing	1914-1922
132	Site	contributing	1919-1922

Resource	Category	Status	Date
133	Site	contributing	1914-1922
134	Site	contributing	1914-1922
135	Site	contributing	1914-1922
136	Site	contributing	1914-1922
137	Site	contributing	1914-1922
138	Object	noncontributing	c. 1950s
139	Structure	contributing	1919
140	Site	contributing	c.1922
141	Site	contributing	c.1922
142	Site	contributing	c.1922-1927
143	Structure	contributing	1919-1922
144	Site	contributing	1914-1922
145	Site	contributing	1922-1925
146	Structure	contributing	1919-1922

Mining operations were severely restricted by the lack of economical transportation. In order to be smelted, the ore had to be hauled by wagon to Corinne, Utah, then sent by railroad to San Francisco and from there by ship to Swansea, Wales, where the smelters were located. Only high-grade ore could be sent on this long, circuitous route to the smelters in order to be profitable. In spite of this serious handicap, a number of mines in the district did manage to operate profitably on a small scale during the 1870s. In the 1880s more mines went into operation following the completion of the Pacific Railroad to Silver Bow in 1881. In 1893, however, silver prices crashed and mining operations throughout the district, excepting a small amount of prospecting work. shut down for the next decade (Winchell 1914; Sassman 1941; Geach 1972).

Development of the Elkhorn Mines and Mill

The Elkhorn lode was located by Mike T. Steele and F. W. Pahnish on October 24, 1873. A partnership was formed with Con Bray and Judge Meade and enough money was raised to build a small mill on the site. For the next two decades, small amounts of high-grade ore were mined and shipped to Swansea for smelting. In 1893, the Elkhorn shut down, along with the district's other mines, after the disastrous drop in silver prices that year. By 1903, silver prices had recovered to a point where it seemed feasible to revive the Elkhorn mine. Tom Judge, while prospecting on the Elkhorn Ledge, found a rich vein of silver ore and some interest was generated to reopen the mine, but there was not sufficient financing to get the project underway. In 1906, Frank Felt bought a number of claims in the district and, along with M. L. McDonald and Donald B. Gillies, started a tunnel on the Idanha vein which eventually would become the major producing mine for the Elkhorn group. In 1909, the Park Mining Company developed the tunnel further, extending it to 748 feet (Sassman 1941; Wirtz and Lovell 1976).

Modern, large-scale development of the Elkhorn got underway in 1911 when William R. Allen, lieutenant governor of Montana turned mining entrepreneur, became interested in the property and devoted his efforts to developing the Elkhorn mines on a scale which dwarfed anything attempted in the area before or since. Allen would be inextricably linked with the fortunes of the Elkhorn mine for the next forty years. Although many others were involved in the development of the Elkhorn mine, Allen was the chief promoter and prime mover of the project from beginning to end. His personal career and fortune would be mirrored in the development and ultimate failure of the Elkhorn mine project.

William R. Allen

William R. Allen was born July 25, 1871, in French Gulch, southwest of Anaconda, Montana. His father, William N. Allen, travelled to Alder Gulch from Missouri as a pioneer in January 1864. In 1865, he moved to the French Gulch placer mining district. Allen's mother, Cordelia Waddell Allen, died when William was a small boy. Since winters in French Gulch were especially severe, the family acquired a ranch at Mill Creek near what later became Anaconda. They spent the winters there cattle ranching and the summers at French Gulch mining.

Young William attended Deer Lodge County schools. Initially he had intended to go East for college but decided instead to go to Helena Business College, from which he graduated with honors in 1891. After graduation, Allen returned to French Gulch to mine with his father. Allen married Elizabeth Berkin of a pioneer Boulder family. Their first child, a son named Leslie, died in early childhood in 1893. The Allens had three other children: Mildred, Esther, and Ruth.

Allen became associated with Marcus Daly, managing his Electric Light, Street Railway, and Water Works department. He also managed the Daly's lumber business, which was one of the major components of Daly's development of the Anaconda smelter complex. After his father's death in 1898, Allen began to develop his Elkhorn Mine at Brundy (later renamed Coolidge). For eight years, starting in 1903, Allen also was a timber developer. He then began branching out into other enterprises, becoming involved in real estate, fire insurance, banking, and railroads. During most of the nineteen-teens, Allen lived in Boston, Massachusetts, where he established important business connections, which he used to finance his

Montana enterprises. After Elizabeth's death in 1917, Allen remarried, to Ethel Louis deMar, in Boston. They had two daughters and one son. (Allen Papers 1903-1953; Patterson 1989).

Allen, a Republican, was elected to the Montana House of Representatives in 1902 and served in the legislature until 1908 when he was elected lieutenant governor under Governor Edwin L. Norris. Although it seemed that Allen had a promising future in politics, he resigned as lieutenant governor in 1911 in order to devote all his efforts to the Elkhorn mining project. In 1920, and again in 1924, Allen was a delegate to the Republican National Convention. He came out of political retirement in 1940 to run for Congress, but was defeated by Jeannette Rankin in the Republican primary. William R. Allen died at the age of 82 on October 31, 1953.

He demonstrated a talent for financial promotion and was able to interest financiers in London and Boston in the venture. Allen helped form the Boston-Montana Development Corporation in 1913 and became its president. The company was incorporated with fifteen million dollars in capital stock. Allen spent $474,000 of his own funds to purchase the principal mining claims, including the Elkhorn, Blue-Eyed Annie, Park, Idanha, Central, Aspen. Red Top, Mono, Boston, Grotto, Homestake, Washington, and Blue Jay, which he then sold to the new corporation. In 1918, he reported to the stockholders that exploration work in the area justified buying additional mining claims adjacent to the Elkhorn properties and soon acquired the Mono, New Year, Thomas Paine, Montreal, Mary, Humboldt, Dell, Climax, Homestake, Modoc, Black Jack, Hazel, Ajack, Atlas, Washington. Ram, Evolution, Ucon, Robert Ingersoll, Robert Ingersoll #2, Jessie, Lincoln, and Bonanza. Eventually the corporation would acquire close to eighty mining claims, covering approximately sixteen hundred acres. The company acquired all of the claims in the area as part of a deliberate policy to avoid the type of situation like that which had once existed in Butte where conflicting adjoining claims led to endless litigation (Sassman 1941; Evans 1946; Boston-Montana Development Company 1918; BLM Plat map 5828).

Allen also formed the Boston-Montana Milling and Power Company to develop the mine and mill while another subsidiary, the Butte, Wisdom and Pacific Railway Company, was incorporated in 1913 to construct a railroad line from the Oregon Short Line at the town of Divide on the Big Hole River to the mine. The railroad's name changed to the Montana Southern in 1914 (Sassman 1941; Geach 1972; Wirtz and Lovell 1976; Allen Papers 1903-1953; Patterson 1989). At that time, extensive exploration work had already been underway on the various claims held by the Boston-Montana Development Corporation. Three tunnels had been driven on the Grotto claim, a 600-foot tunnel was run on a vein at the Aspen, two shafts were sunk on the Blue-Eyed Annie and cross-cuts were driven at the 200-foot level and shafts and tunnels were found on the Park, Elkhorn, Storm, Red Sky, Homestake, Ruby, Bonanza, Mary, Montreal, and Washington claims. The Idanha had a 900-foot tunnel with a 600-foot cross-cut and a double-track tunnel was started in October 1913. The Idanha, located just above the Elkhorn mill, would become the company's greatest producer (Sassman 1941; Boston and Montana Development Co. Claim Map 1937).

Construction of the Rail Line and Mill

A wagon road had been built to the mines but it was obvious that a rail line would be needed. Preliminary work on the route was done in 1914 and heavy machinery for the mines was purchased, but the outbreak of World War I delayed financing from the English backers. Construction work on the railroad finally got underway in May of 1917. The line for the Montana Southern Railroad was run up the Big Hole River from Divide and then up the Wise River to the mines. Completed by December 1919, it was reported to have been the last narrow-gauge railway built in the United States. The railroad was equipped with three Baldwin locomotives, 28 freight cars, three passenger cars, a machine shop, an engine house and depots at a total cost of 1.5 million dollars [J. R. Pelt, director of the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology, in a letter to Mrs. Fannie Gold on August 9, 1954, put the figure considerably higher at 2.1 million dollars.] (Sassman 1941; Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology files; Wirtz and Lovell 1976).

With the completion of the railroad, heavy equipment and materials for the mill could be transported to the mine site. Work on the mill was begun immediately and the construction of a 65,000-volt power line from Divide to the mine and Coolidge was begun. About $900,000 was spent on the construction of the mill, while another $150,000 was spent on the power line. Completed in 1922, the Boston-Montana Mill was the largest mill in Montana. It was equipped with steam heat, a sprinkler system, a 2500 cubic-foot air compressor, two crushers, two ball-mills, four classifiers, sixteen concentrating tables, two settling tanks, two thickener tanks, a large filter and 52 electric motors to operate the mill's oil-flotation system designed by O. B. Hoffstrand. The system had the capacity to process 750 tons of ore per day with a recovery rate of90 to 93 percent (Sassman 1941; Evans 1946; Wirtz and Lovell 1976; Mining Record 1981).

Most of the ore processed by the mill came from the Idanha tunnel at the 300 foot level, which was located at the upper camp, 800 vertical feet above the mill. Ore from the Idanha could be lowered through the No.1 raise to the lower tunnel at the 1000 foot level where electric locomotives hauled ore cars a quarter mile to the mill. Ore from other shafts and adits at the upper camp was brought to the mill via a rail cable car system that ran down the mountain side from an ore bin at the upper camp to an ore bin a few yards north of the lower mine tunnel portal.

The tramway employed a gravity system where loaded cars going down pulled the empty cars back to the top. The tramway had an unusual three rail track; in the middle the rails divided so ascending and descending cars could pass each other. From the ore bin at the bottom, ore was transferred to the lower electric tramway, which hauled it to the mill. No forced-air ventilation system was needed for the mine workings which were adequately ventilated by natural convection currents (Sassman 1941; Evans 1946; Wirtz and Lovell 1976).

Also located at the upper camp was a sawmill, three bunk houses, boarding house, six log cabins, cook house, stables, blacksmith shop, carpenter shop, hoist, and an ore sorting house (Evans 1946).

The Town of Coolidge

Allen renamed the small mining camp of Brundy after Calvin Coolidge who had become a friend of Allen's while Coolidge was still lieutenant governor of Massachusetts. Coolidge never visited his namesake but there were reports that he had invested in the mine. The buildings, sites, and structures that remain in Coolidge were constructed after 1911. Construction of the major portion of the Coolidge mining camp was begun around 1914, at the same time the mines were first extensively developed. When work started on the mill in 1919, large number of workers and miners moved into the camp. Initially, many of the miners lived in tents over board platforms. Later, more substantial log or board and tar paper residences were built (Sassman 1941; Wirtz and Lovell 1976; Patterson 1989).

A company store sold equipment to the miners, as well as food and other necessities to the community's residents. Below the store was a boarding house where many of the miners ate. For amusement, miners and townspeople could visit the pool hall, run by Elmer Ripley. There were no saloons in town but liquid spirits were said to have been available from a still located near the town. Skiing and sledding were popular pastimes during the winter (Wirtz and Lovell 1976).

Company offices, other boarding houses and bunk houses were also part of the community. The town was equipped with electric power and telephone service; plumbing, however, was rudimentary, and few houses or boarding houses had facilities for bathing. Elizabeth Patterson, the daughter of William Allen, lived in Coolidge as a young girl. Patterson said that most everyone in town went down to the mill when they wanted to take a shower. Postmasters Frank H. Tyro and Evan L. Woolman ran the post office from 1922 to 1932 when it was closed. A school district was organized in October of 1918 to operate a school for the town's twenty or so school children. In the early 1930s the town's population declined to a point where a school could no longer be supported. Although the town had most of the amenities of other small communities, it did not have any churches. At its peak, Coolidge probably had a population of around 350. Most of the residents of Coolidge came from the local area, as well as from Butte and Dillon. Elizabeth Patterson and Gilbert Dodgson, who

worked at the site, both reported that there were no blacks, Chinese or other distinctive ethnic groups in town (Sassman 1941; Wirtz and Lovell 1976; Patterson 1989; Dodgson 1990).

The Failure of the Elkhorn Project

An estimated five million dollars was spent by the Boston-Montana Development Company in building the Elkhorn mine project. At the start of 1922 it appeared the undertaking was about to fulfill the expectations of Allen and the other investors: the mill was a modem, efficient system ready to process the ores; the mine workings were well-equipped and were being developed by experienced miners; the narrow-gauge railway was ready to haul the processed ore; and the high voltage line to power the mines and mill had been completed.

However, before the mill even went into production, serious problems began to appear. The economy had slowed down during the 1920-1921 depression and, to make matters worse, the company's bond and note issues, along with other financial obligations, came due during this same period. These debts and obligations probably could have been met if the mines and mill had been able to go into full production, but it was discovered almost as soon as the mill went into production that the veins of ore were not developed enough to supply sufficient ore to keep the mill operating at even half its capacity. A decision was then made to mine low-grade ore as well as high-grade ore, but even this move failed to produce an adequate ore supply for the mill. Although 24,000 feet of underground workings were developed by 1925, it was not enough and the depressed economy prevented raising the necessary capital for mine development. Only one section of the mill's two parallel flotation systems was ever used, and then only for three months in 1922-1923 and four months in 1925 (Sassman 1941; Evans 1946; Geach 1972; Krohn and Weist 1977).

Within a year after the mill started production, the company was placed under a stockholders receivership. In 1923 Charles S. Murphy, president of the Montana Mine Owner's Association, and I. H. Brand of New York City were appointed receivers. The company was eventually able to liquidate its debts but was forced to seriously curtail its underground development program. In spite of this limited development, by 1927 approximately 120,000 tons of ore were blocked out to be mined, the ore bins were filled with three thousand tons of ore, and six cars of concentrates were ready for shipment from the mill. Then the final blow in the series of misfortunes experienced by the company occurred in June of that year. The Montana Power Company's dam on Pattengail Creek broke, flooding the lower Wise River valley and washing out twelve miles of The Montana Southern Railroad's tracks and several of the line's bridges across the Big Hole River. The line was not feasible for the company to resume production (Sassman 1941; Evans 1946; Geach 1972; Wirtz and Lovell 1976).

The company was reorganized on May 17, 1933, as the National Boston-Montana Mines Corporation. In 1944, it reorganized yet again, this time becoming the Boston Mines Company. Even with the changes it was still unable to revive the operation. By the end of the 1940s most of the company's deeded properties were acquired by Beaverhead County in lieu of taxes. As head of the National Boston-Montana Mines Corporation, William Allen continued for the next two decades to try and revive the Elkhorn mines. Although he lost his personal fortune in the enterprise, he continued to believe that the mines were a potential bonanza until his death in 1953 at his home in the town of Wise River (Sassman 1941; Evans 1946; Geach 1972; Wirtz and Lovell 1976; Patterson 1989).

At their peak, the mine and mill employed 250 men, yet a total of only 26,000 tons of ore was mined from 1921 through 1924. Another 20,000 tons was produced in 1925 but from then on, only a few tons were mined sporadically during the years 1935-1937, 1939, 1942, 1948 and 1953. Total production from the Elkhorn mines was 52,385 tons of ore and from that, 8,900 tons of concentrates were produced for shipment to smelters at Tooele, Utah and East Helena, Montana. The concentrates yielded 851,725 pounds of lead, 4,100 pounds of zinc, 370,799 pounds of copper, 180,843 ounces of silver and 1,013 ounces of gold. In 1949 the company reported the total production of the Elkhorn mines amounted to $375,000 (Sassman 1941; Trauerman and Reyner 1950; Geach 1972; Krohn and Weist 1977).

In 1981, the Elkhorn mines were bought by Timberline Minerals, Inc. who did some exploratory prospecting work on the site for the next three years. They reported that there was good potential for silver, as well as tungsten and molybdenum, but no significant production was reported during this period (Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology files).

Elkhorn's Architectural Legacy

Though many are in a state of collapse, the buildings and structures at Elkhorn-Coolidge are significant examples of early twentieth century mining camp architecture. By and large, Coolidge was a "company town," and the Boston-Montana Development Company constructed boardinghouses and social halls for their workers. There were also individual residences, a school, and stores, but interestingly no saloons or churches.

The community of Brundy was established in the 1880s as part of the first wave of mining interest in the area, but the district does not contain any resources dating to that period. Instead, the impermanent architecture of the earliest days of occupation gave way to the buildings, sites, and structures dating to Allen's renaming and re-establishment of the town after 1911. In 1911, the Coolidge mining camp began with canvas tents set on board pallets. Though expedient, the tents were replaced with both log and wood-frame buildings and structures.

These functionally-disposed buildings, though lacking in "attributable style," are "not without aesthetic." Architectural Historian Kingston Heath defines vernacular architecture, as "composed of everyday forms, often made with readily available materials for functional application, by local, usually anonymous builders, who respond to traditionally mandated or locally adapted formulas."(Heath, xvii, xix) Heath goes on:

> Vernacular architecture is a ubiquitous form of "art." It is unlike "elite" architecture which tends to be the noticeable exception in a community and is often produced by imported talent privy to the latest innovations of style. Vernacular architecture is all around us, and the very familiarity of a log cabin, false front, school house, a laborer's four square house encourages us to take it for granted as nothing special. But what is common to a local, may be unfamiliar to an outsider; and whether desirable or not, that characteristically familiar form (as well as other manifestations of a culture) may in many instances be the most reliable record of who and what we are simply because of its nonself-conscious, all too familiar presence. What form the structures take, why those forms are there, and how they got there often hold the story of settlement, land use, the level of technology available, the regional preference of materials, the projected values of it people, and the patterns of economic growth and stagnation.(Heath, xx)

At Elkhorn-Coolidge, the pervasiveness of log and wood-frame buildings speak to the commitment of the company and residents, and their willingness to invest substantially in infrastructure. By the 1910s, improvements to mining technology at Elkhorn Mine, which created the need for the town of Coolidge, resulted in structures built by miners and merchants alike reflect the exploitation of the moment, the minerals and the environment for personal gain. By 1914, the tent town began to give way to the more permanent and labor-intensive log cabin. Allen and his company established a sawmill, necessary for mine development and the town's residential and services needs. The resultant frame buildings and structures, combined with roads, plumbing systems, and electricity resulted in well-established community.

The log buildings in Elkhorn-Coolidge Historic District are constructed of the lodgepole pine logs readily available in the area. They are generally one-story, front gabled buildings, with saddle notching or cornerboards. Like most log cabins in mining camps, they are either one or two pens, and often feature small frame additions to the rear. They are built on stone or log foundations. The frame buildings at Elkhorn were of both modest and substantial size, ranging from one-room cabins and outhouses to the massive, 2-acre mill.

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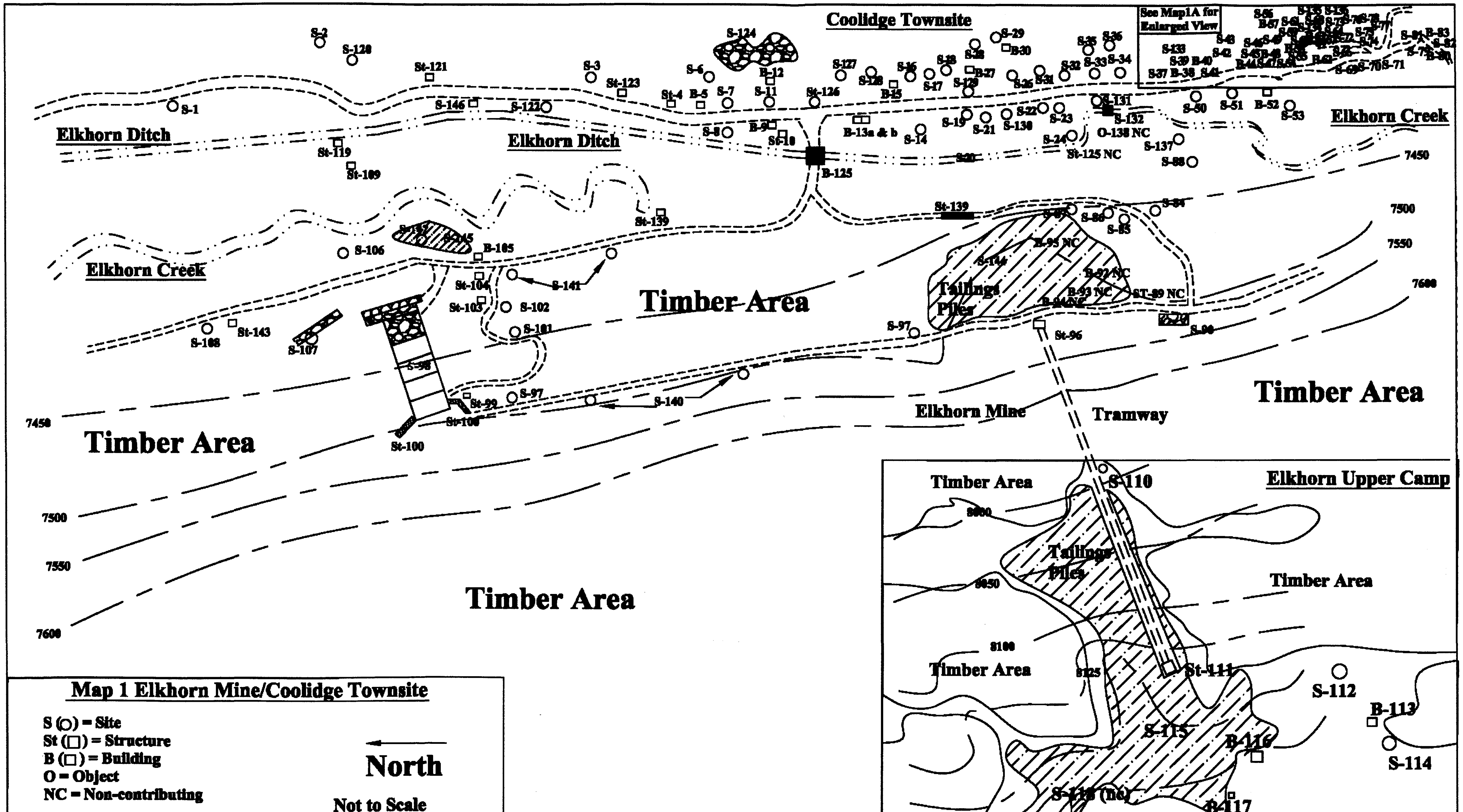
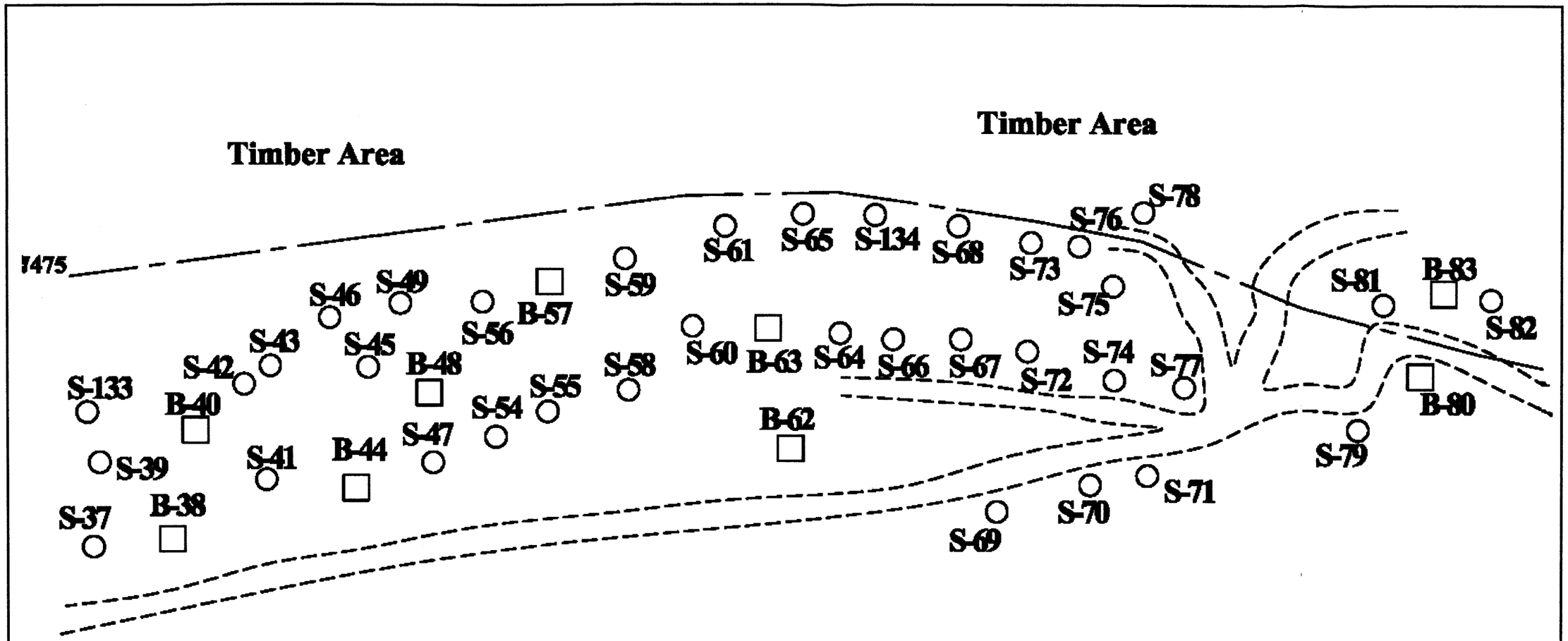

Coolidge Townsite
See Map1A for Enlarged View
Elkhorn Ditch
Elkhorn Ditch
Elkhorn Creek
Elkhorn Creek
Timber Area
Timber Area
Timber Area
Timber Area
Tailings Piles
Elkhorn Mine
Tramway
Elkhorn Upper Camp
Timber Area
Timber Area
Timber Area
Tailings Piles
7450
7500
7550
7600
Map 1 Elkhorn Mine/Coolidge Townsite
S (○) = Site
St (□) = Structure
B (□) = Building
O = Object
NC = Non-contributing
North
Not to Scale

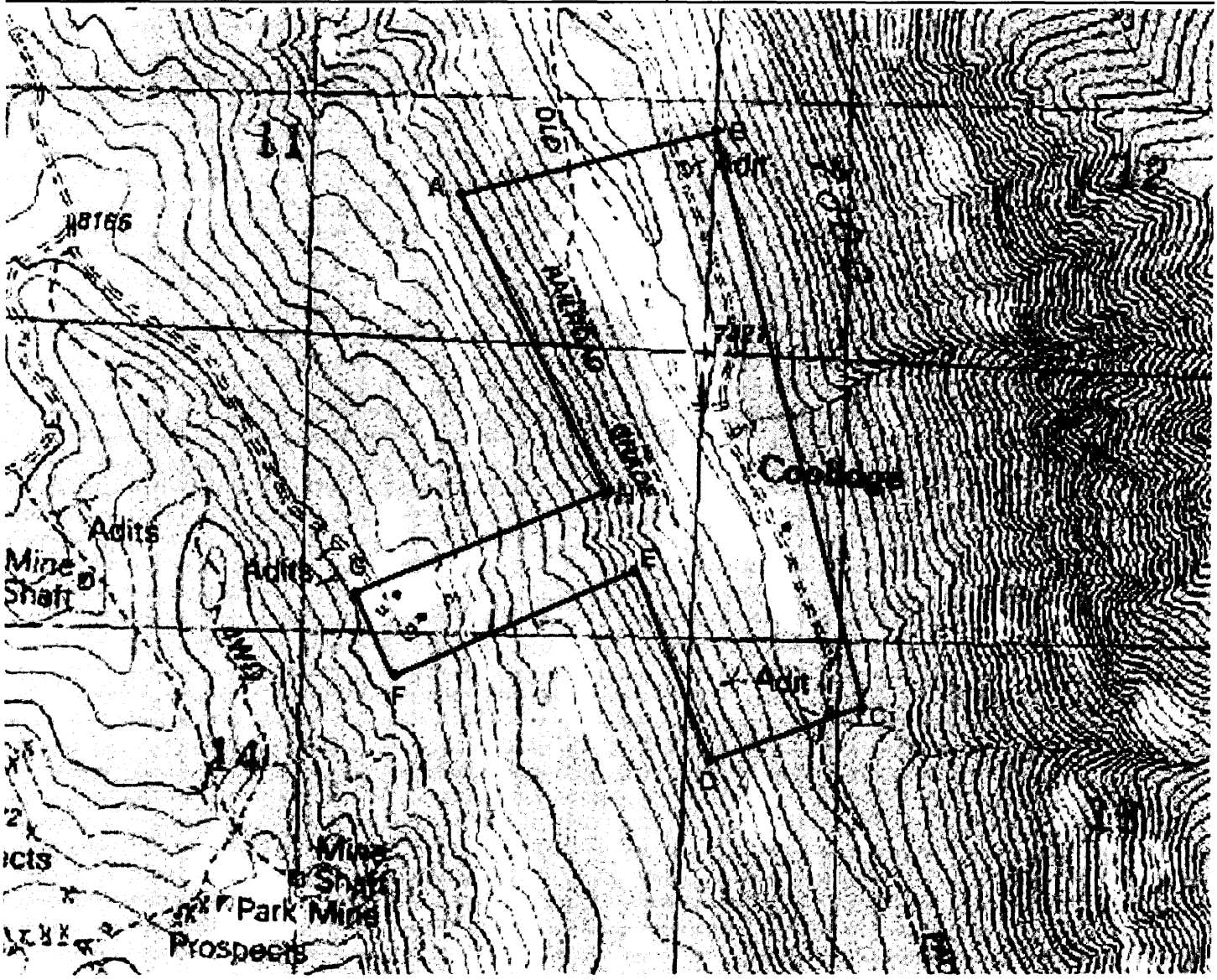


Map 1A, Coolidge Townsite Enlarged View

S (○) = Site
St (□) = Structure
B (□) = Building
O = Object
NC = Non-contributing

North

Not to Scale

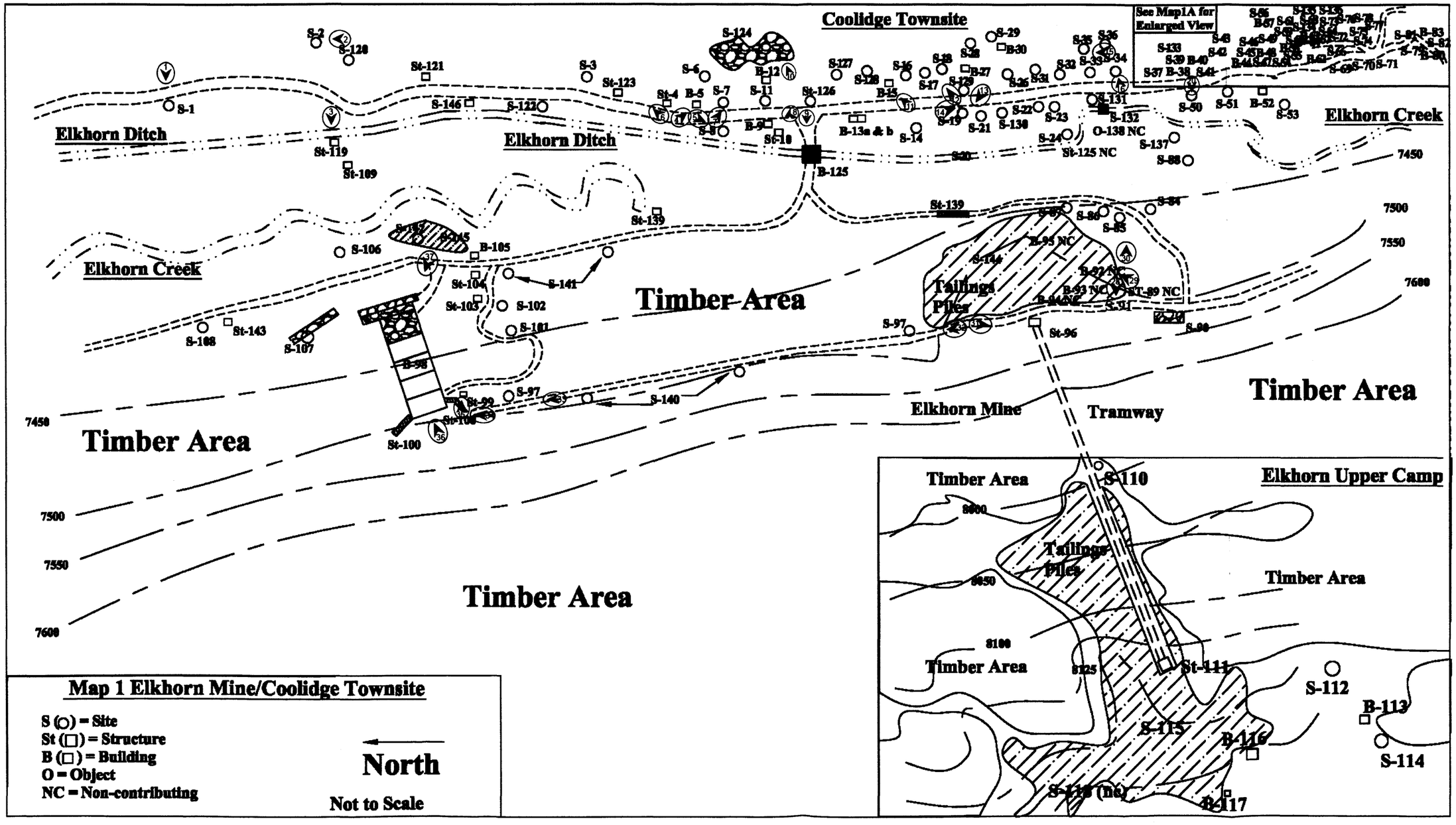


Detail of Elkhorn Hot Springs Quadrangle, showing the Elkhorn-Coolidge Historic District boundary

Photograph #s 1-35 were taken by Kate Hampton in May 2006, using Tri-X black and white film and printed on Ilford Multigrade IV RC paper. Photographs 36 and 37 were taken by Mark Sant in November 2007 using a high-resolution digital camera. In accordance with the March 2005 Photo Policy expansion, the photos are printed on HP Premium Photo Paper (glossy), using a Hewlett Packard Vivera ink 100 gray photo cartridge. This combination of paper and ink is included on the NR's list of "Acceptable Ink and Paper Combinations for Digital Images." The images are also recorded on a CD as .tiff files with a resolution at least 1200x1800 pixels, 300 dpi in "true color" 24-bit format.

Elkhorn-Coolidge Historic District Photo Log

Photo #	Description	View to
1	Site #1 partially collapsed dugout	W
2	Site #2 collapsed log cabin	N
3	Structure #119, concrete intake for pumphouse (#109)	W
4	Building #5, wood frame cabin	SE
5	Site #8 (foreground) collapsed log building, Building #9, shiplap building	SW
6	Structure #123, loading dock	NE
7	Site #7, collapsed wood-frame building	S
8	Building #9, shiplap building	NW
9	Structure #125, stringer bridge	W
10	Site #124, trash scatter	E
11	Building #15, two-room cabin	NE
12	Building #15, and site #s 16 and 17	NE
13	Site #s 19, wood-frame cabin, and 20, pumphouse,	NW
14	Site #26, collapsed 3-bay building, and Building #27, frame gabled building	SE
15	Site #35, overview of timbered area on east side of road	N
16	Site #34, collapsed 2-story frame building	E
17	Building #38, Tyro House	SE
18	Overview of Building #40 and site #s 41 and 42	NE
19	Building #44	SE
20	Site #50	W
21	Site #55	E
22	Site #s 60, 63, and 64	SE
23	Site #s 64, 66, 67, and 72	NE
24	Site #s 66, 67, and 72	SW
25	Site #71	SW
26	Site #s 79 and 80	S
27	Overview of south end of townsite	E
28	Structure #91, c. 1950s lower portal mine adit	W
29	Building #95, c. 1980s shack	NE
30	Overview of Site #s 84-87	SE
31	Site #96, tramway	SSW
32	Structure #140, road between tramway (#96) and flume (#97)	N
33	Structure #140, road, and Site #97, flume	N
34	Structure #100, trestle	N
35	Structure #99, loading area	E
36 (digital image)	Site #98, mill foundation	NE
37 (digital image)	Site #98, mill foundation	NW


Coolidge Townsite
See Map1A for Enlarged View
Elkhorn Ditch
Elkhorn Ditch
Elkhorn Creek
Elkhorn Creek
Timber Area
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Timber Area
Timber Area
Tailings Piles
Elkhorn Mine
Tramway
Elkhorn Upper Camp
7450
7500
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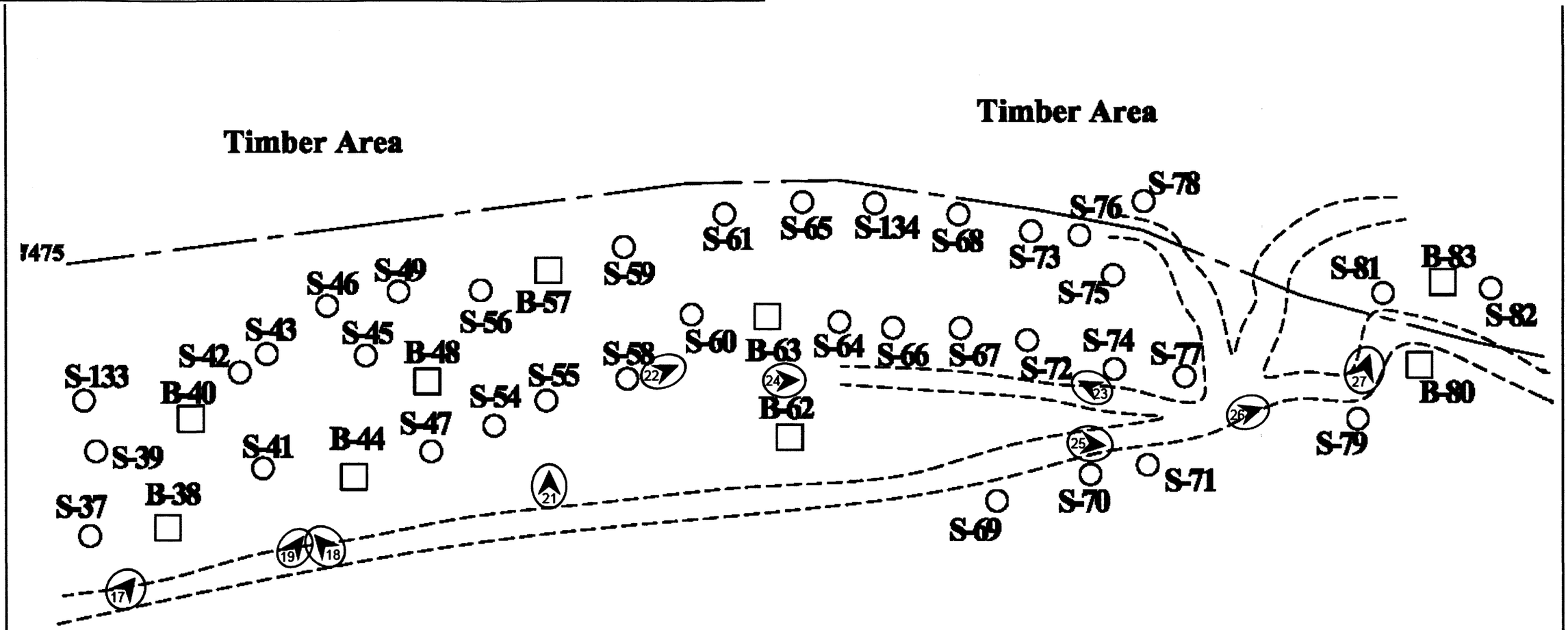
St-146
O-138 NC
B-93 NC
B-94 NC
B-95 NC
B-96 NC
ST-89 NC
Map 1 Elkhorn Mine/Coolidge Townsite
S (○) = Site
St (□) = Structure
B (□) = Building
O = Object
NC = Non-contributing
North
Not to Scale



Map 1A, Coolidge Townsite Enlarged View

S (○) = Site
St (□) = Structure
B (□) = Building
O = Object
NC = Non-contributing

North

Not to Scale

Photo #1	Site #1 partially collapsed dugout	View to W

Photo #2	Site #2 collapsed log cabin	View to N

Photo #3	Structure #119, concrete intake for pumphouse (#109)	View to W

Photo #4	Building #5, wood frame cabin	View to SE

Photo #5	Site #8 (foreground) collapsed log building, Building #9, shiplap building	View to SW

Photo #6	Structure #123, loading dock	View to NE

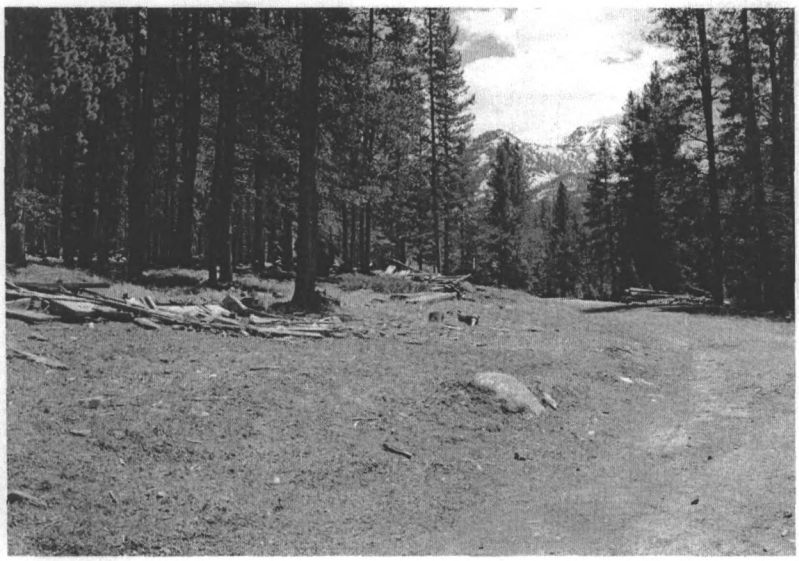


Photo #7	Site #7, collapsed wood-frame building	View to S

Photo #8	Building #9, shiplap building	View to NW

Photo #9	Structure #125, stringer bridge	View to W

Photo #10	Site #124, trash scatter	View to E

Photo #11	Building #15, two-room cabin	View to NE

Photo #12	Building #15, and site #s 16 and 17	View to NE

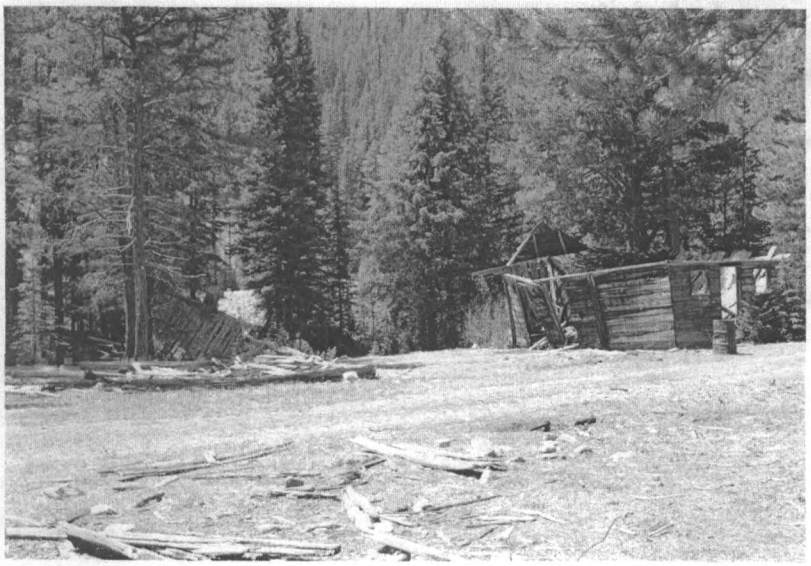


Photo #13	Site #s 19, wood-frame cabin, and 20, pumphouse,	View to NW

Photo #14	Site #26, collapsed 3-bay building, and Building #27, frame gabled building	View to SE

Photo #15	Site #35, overview of timbered area on east side of road	View to N

Photo #16	Site #34, collapsed 2-story frame building	View to E

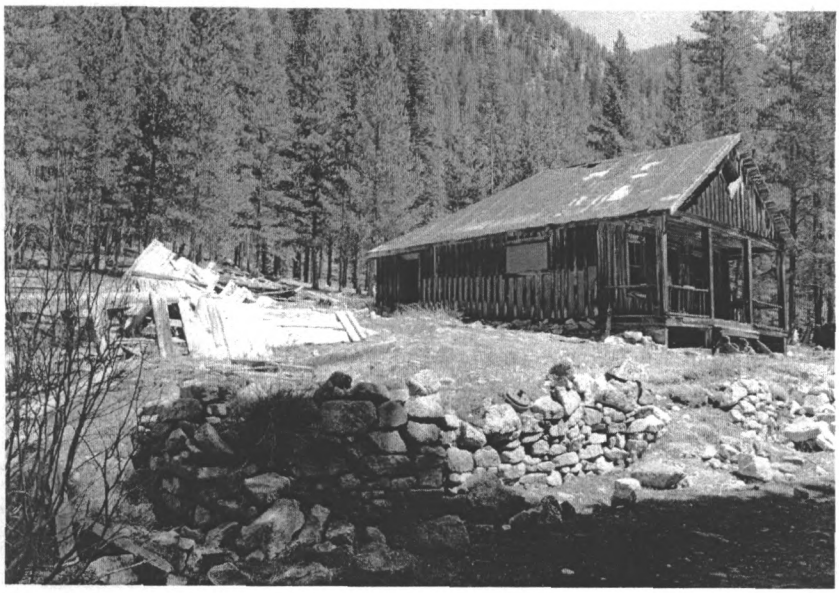


Photo #17	Building #38, Tyro House	View to SE

Photo #18	Overview of Building #40 and site #s 41 and 42	View to NE

Photo #19	Building #44	View to SE

Photo #20	Site #50	View to W

Photo #21	Site #55	View to E

Photo #22	Site #s 60, 63, and 64	View to SE

Photo #23	Site #s 64, 66, 67, and 72	View to NE

Photo #24	Site #s 66, 67, and 72	View to SW

Photo #25	Site #71	View to SW

Photo #26	Site #s 79 and 80	View to S

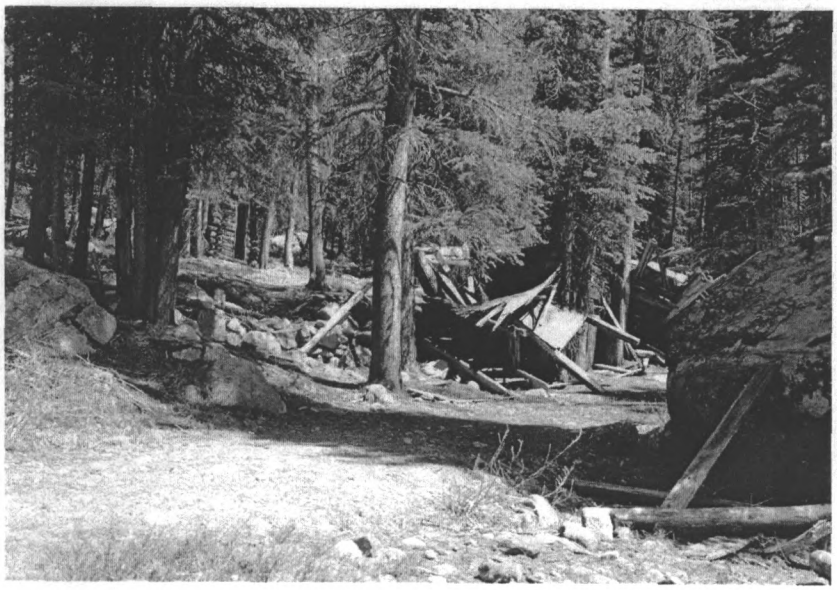


Photo #27	Overview of south end of townsite	View to E

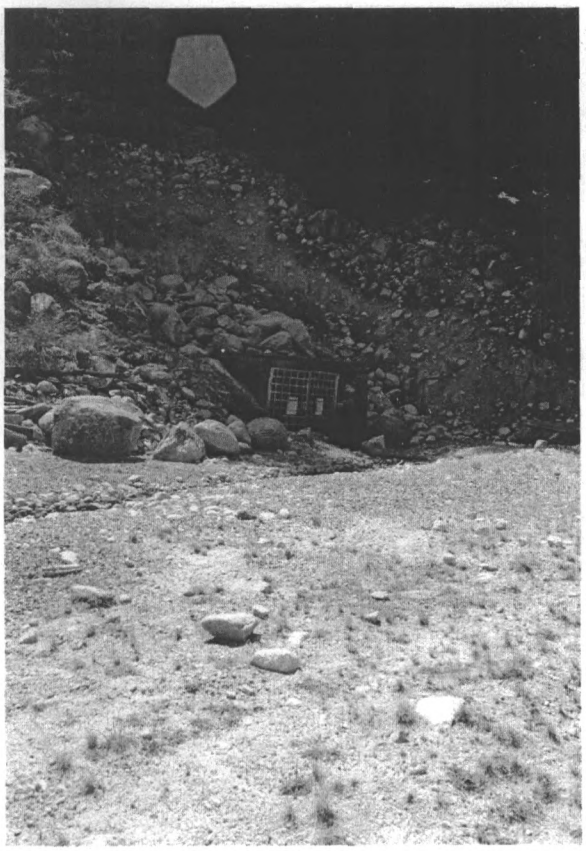


Photo #28	Structure #91, c. 1950s lower portal mine adit	View to W

Photo #29	Building #95, c. 1980s shack	View to NE

Photo #30	Overview of Site #s 84-87	View to SE

Photo #31	Site #96, tramway	View to SSW

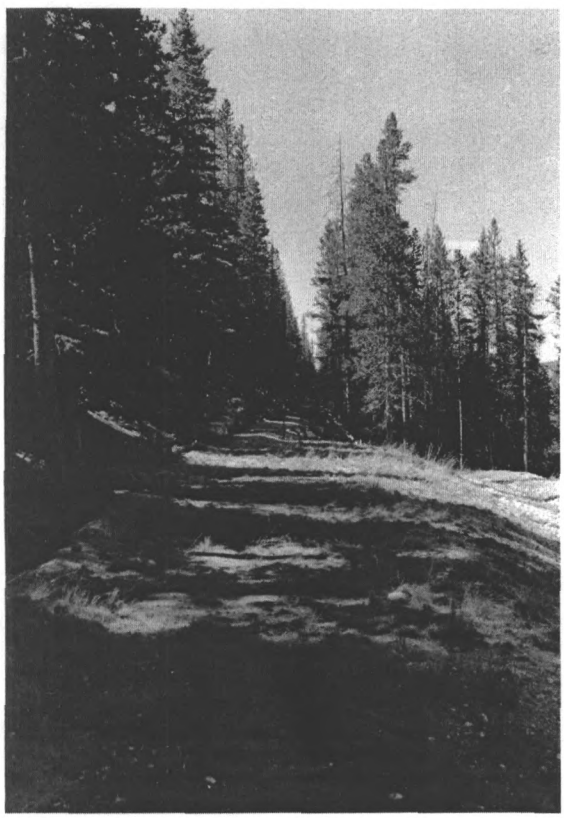


Photo #32	Structure #140, road between tramway (#96) and flume (#97)	View to N

Photo #33	Structure #140, road, and Site #97, flume	View to N

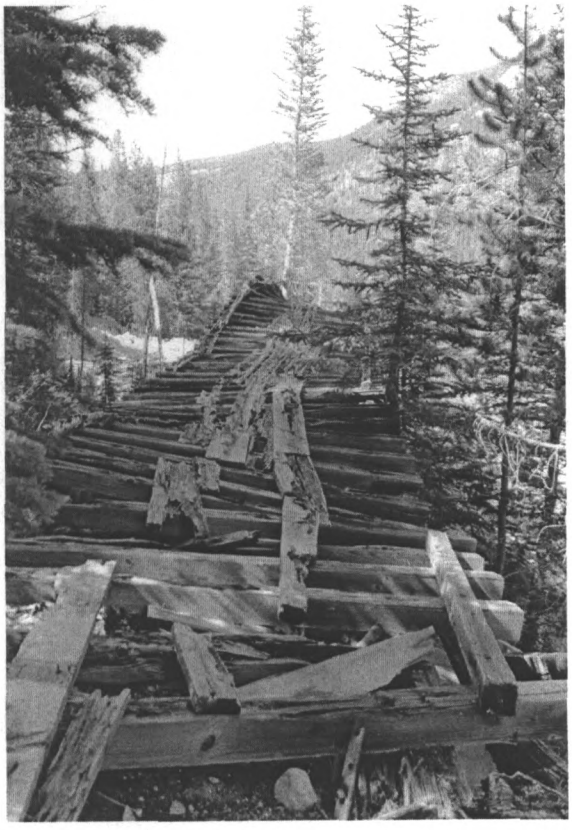


Photo #34	Structure #100, trestle	View to N

Photo #35	Structure #99, loading area	View to E

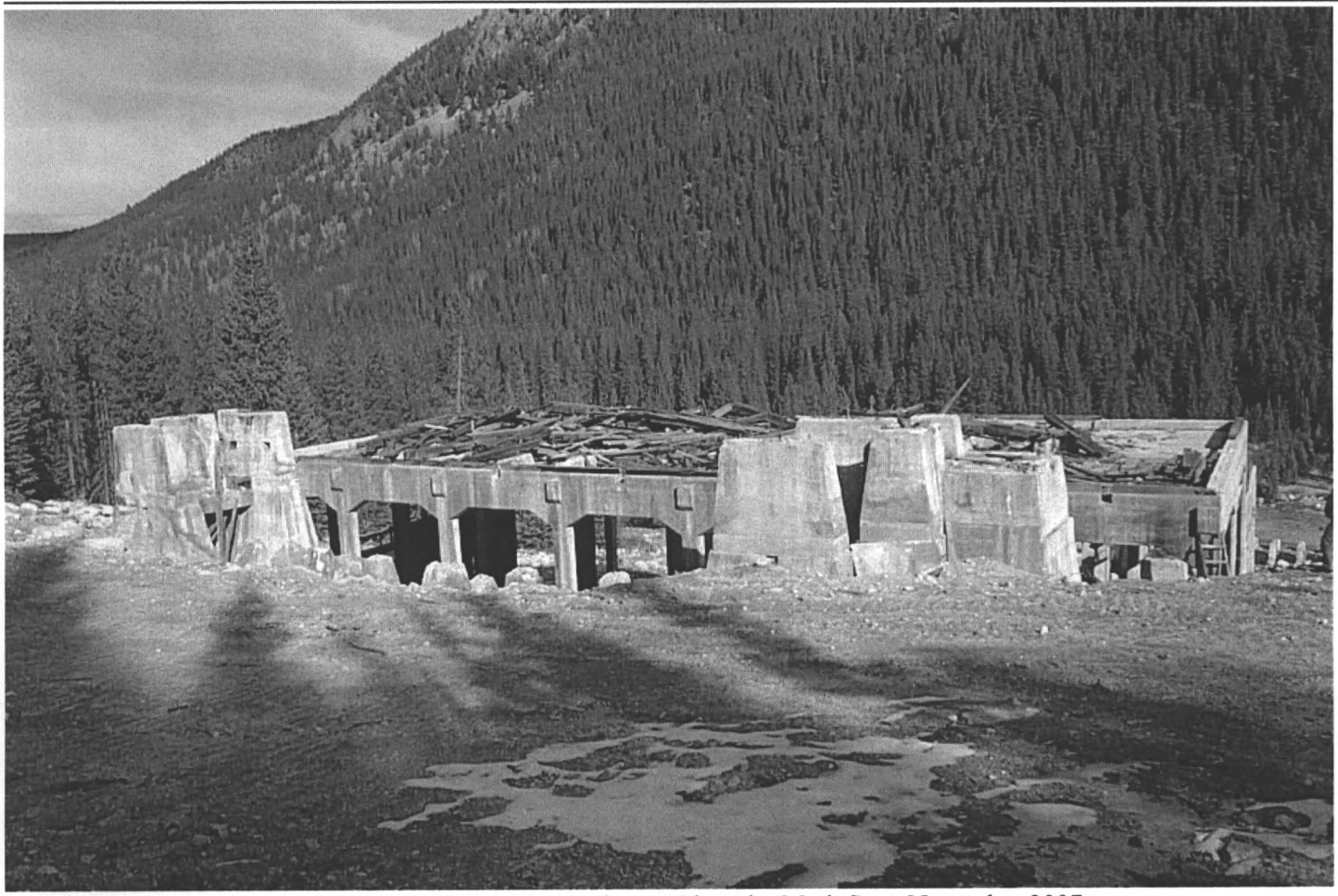


Photo #36: View of Elkhorn Mill (Site #98) to the northeast. Photo by Mark Sant, November 2007.

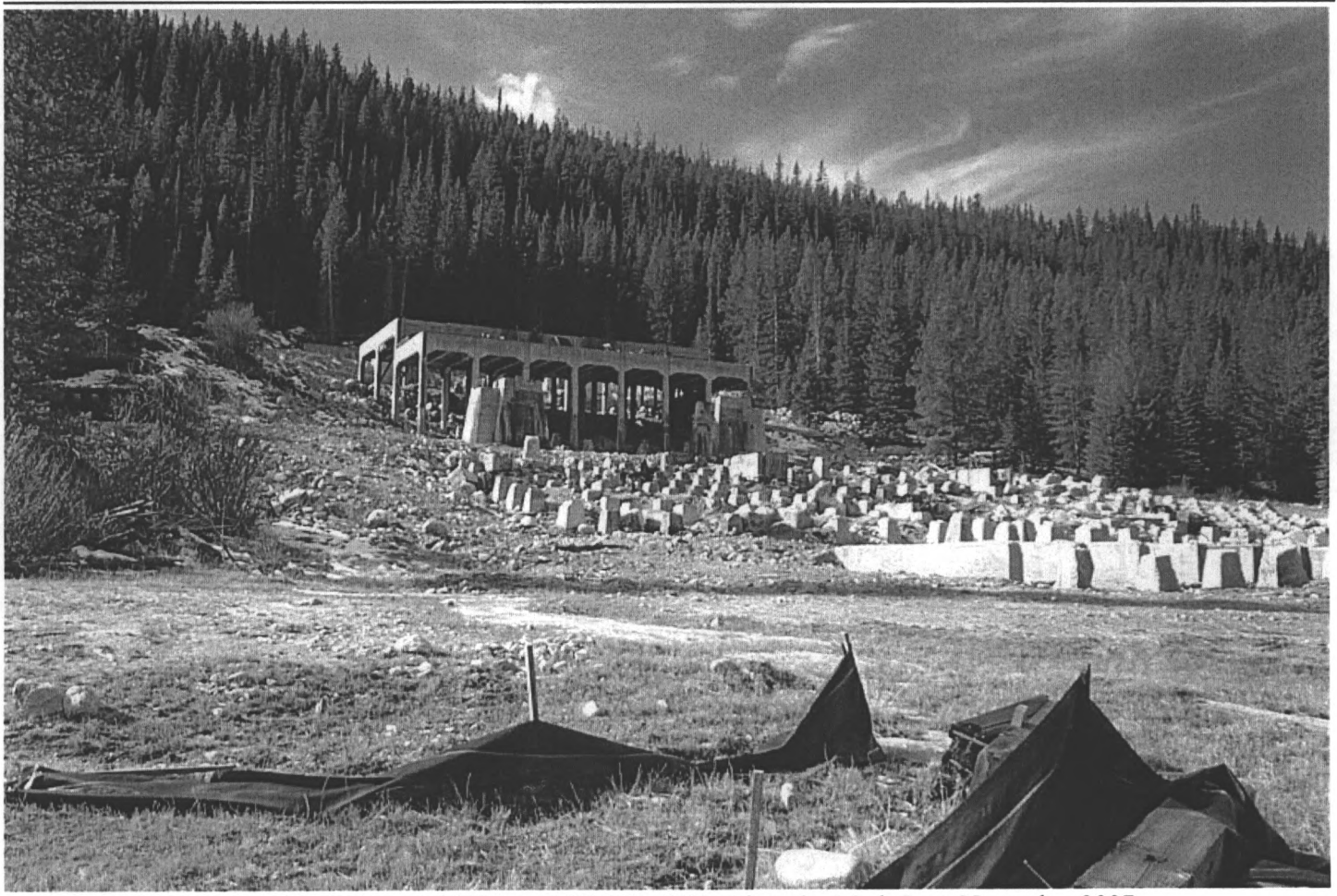


Photo #37: Overview to the northwest of Elkhorn Mill (Site #98). Photo by Mark Sant, November 2007.