NPS Form 10-900-a
(8-86)

OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 02000723 Date Listed: 6/26/2002

Gildersleeve Mine	Mineral	MT
Property Name	County	State

N/A
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Signature of the Keeper	6/26/02
	Date of Action

==========

Amended Items in Nomination:

Resource Count:

The number of total contributing resources should read: *13*
The number of contributing structures and contributing sites should each read: *2*
[There are no individual contributing objects. The revised count corresponds to the inventory list provided in the narrative text.]

U. T. M. Coordinates:

The correct U. T. M. Coordinate should read: 11 649326 *5210813*

These revisions were confirmed with the MT SHPO office.

DISTRIBUTION:
National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. Oct. 1990)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: Gildersleeve Mine

other name/site number: 24MN0184

2. Location

street & number: Lolo National Forest

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Superior

vicinity: N/A

state: Montana **code:** MT **county:** Mineral **code:** ~~069~~ 061 **zip code:** 59872

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.

Mark F. Baumler / SHPO — May 7, 2002

Signature of certifying official/Title — Date

Montana State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal agency or bureau

(__ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

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

Signature of commenting or other official — Date

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 — 6/26/02
__ see continuation sheet
__ 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: Private

Category of Property: District

Number of contributing resources previously Listed in the National Register: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

Number of Resources within Property	
Contributing	Noncontributing
9	0 building(s)
1	0 sites
1	0 structures
1	0 objects
13	0 TOTAL

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:
INDUSTRY/EXTRACTION/extractive facility
INDUSTRY/EXTRACTION/waterworks
DOMESTIC/single dwelling
DOMESTIC/secondary structure

Current Functions:
DOMESTIC/single dwelling
DOMESTIC/secondary structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification:
OTHER: vernacular

Materials:
foundation: wood
walls: wooden board & batten
roof: corrugated metal
other:

Narrative Description

The Gildersleeve mine is located approximately 13 miles southwest of Superior, MT on a steep and heavily wooded mountainside within T.15 N., R.27 W., Section 29 (N 1/2, N1/2, NE 1/4) in Mineral County, Montana. The building cluster and structures, and associated landscape are encompassed within an area of approximately five acres. The mine can be reached by taking Interstate-90 to exit # 47 at Superior, MT. Travel east on Diamond Road (south side of the interstate) one mile to Forest Service road #320 (Cedar Creek Rd). Turn south on FS road #320 and drive 13.7 miles to the junction of Forest Service road #388. Turn left on FS road #388 and travel 2.7 miles to the Gildersleeve mining camp, located on the southeast side of the road.

Present and Historical Appearance
The Gildersleeve mining site is located at an elevation of approximately 5,580 feet above sea level, surrounded by forested lands containing larch, sub-alpine fir, Englemman spruce, and lodgepole pine, along with a variety of grasses and shrubs.

The structures on this site occupy approximately five acres of a 20-acre property and consist of a main house/cook house, bunkhouse, a small house or office, combination blacksmith shop and drying room, two storage sheds, a meat house, and two outhouses. All were constructed between 1930 and 1931 and have received routine maintenance over the years. For example, as the original wooden roofing deteriorated it was replaced with corrugated metal sheets salvaged from an old schoolhouse in Pierce, Idaho around 1975. The buildings are aligned in a linear fashion from roughly north to south (McLeod and Duce, 2000:6). The first building constructed, the main/cookhouse, is located at the north end of the property.

A unique spring-fed water system supplies water to the cookhouse, bunkhouse, and office. Springs located throughout Snowshoe Gulch emerge from underground and flow into a sump approximately 355' above the main house. The sump channels water into an 18" iron pipe extending approximately 95 feet down slope through a narrow gulch consisting in part of hydraulic tailings. The 18" iron pipe is then joined and reduced to an 8" metal pipe that extends approximately 80 feet down slope. The metal pipe is then joined

to an 8" HDPC plastic pipe and buried underground. It then extends underground through the length of the camp and terminating near the mine adit. The slope of the grade and reduction in pipe size builds water pressure for the entire system in the same way water was piped downhill to power hydraulic mining systems such as the hydraulic "giant" used by the Gildersleeves in Snowshoe Gulch. The main/cookhouse, bunkhouse, and office are all plumbed for water from this system. Water from this system also fed a large compressor, since removed from the site, which supplied air pressure for pneumatic tools operated within the mine.

The Gildersleeve property also contains a mine adit, ore car, and washing plant located at the south end of the site. The washing plant was built on site from scavenged materials. It is constructed of a 15' length of 48" culvert pipe rotated atop four axle-mounted automobile tires. Rock and ore are fed into the culvert and power from an automobile engine rotates the cylinder as water washes out the rock and sand.

Starting at the entrance drive to the complex, the site's boundary follows the edge of the cut-and-fill for Forest Road #388 to a point 50 feet north of the center of Snowshoe Gulch. From this point, the boundary parallels Snowshoe Gulch east to Forest Road #388. It then follows the edge of the cut-and-fill for the Forest road south, west and north to the point of origin. The site boundaries reflect the area of historic use and enclose all site features, structures, and the water source for the mine complex (McLeod and Duce, 2000: 7).

The Gildersleeve historic mine complex is located on a man-made terrace (former tailings pile) adjacent to Snowshoe Gulch. This is a rugged, mountainous setting surrounded by a sub-alpine forest consisting of mixed conifers, including larch, Englemann spruce, and sub-alpine fir. Ground cover vegetation includes beargrass, thimbleberry, fools huckleberry, current and/or gooseberry. Snowshoe Creek, a year-round stream, is located just to the east of the site.

The mountains that harbored the mineral wealth sought by prospectors and miners lay within the northern Rocky Mountain physiographic province, which is characterized by north-northwest trending mountain ranges. This area is underlain by a series of metamorphosed Precambrian sedimentary rocks known as the Belt Supergroup. Deposition of these strata took place from about 800 to 1,500 million years ago, with up to 40,000 feet of sediment being laid down in the Kalispell and Thompson Falls areas. The rock types found within this part of the Belt Supergroup include argillite, quartzite, siliceous limestone, and argillaceous shales.

Within Snowshoe Gulch and surrounding areas can be traced igneous activity that took place throughout western Montana during the early Tertiary period approximately 20-60 million years ago. During this time geologic forces created the Idaho Batholith, and with it the mineralization that produced the rich mineral deposits found throughout this portion of western Montana. During the late Quaternary Period, Pleistocene glaciation scoured the mountains forming classical alpine features such as cirques, arêtes, and tarns. The Snowshoe Gulch parcel is underlain by rocks of the lower member of the Wallace Formation, which consist primarily of part green interlaminated dolomitic argillite and siltite that lie near the western crest of the northwest trending anticline. Mineralization in this area may be of the Coeur d'Alene type or associated with the emplacement of the Idaho Batholith in the late Cretaceous and early Tertiary periods. Known minerals include gold, silver, copper, lead and barite, as well as possible deposits of zinc (Smyers, 1996).

Description of Resources

The Gildersleeve complex includes the following contributing elements.

1 - cook / main house
2 - bunkhouse
3 - little house / office
4 - blacksmith shop and drying area
5 - outhouse #1
6 - outhouse #2
7 - meat house
8 - chicken coop
9 - wood shed
10 - mine adit
11 - water system
12 - mining equipment
13 - tailings pile

1) Cook/Main house (1 contributing building)

This building measures 48' 6" east-west by 10' 3" north-south. It is a one-story frame structure with vertical 1x12 board siding and a corrugated metal roof. Along the north elevation the fenestration includes 2 six-over-six double hung windows in the living room area, 2 three-over-three light sliding windows near the middle of the building, and one three-over-three light fixed window near the far (east) end of the building. Three log braces, each approximately 10" in diameter and 10' long, are placed at an angle from the ground to the underside of the eves along the north and south elevations to strengthen the roof and prevent collapse from snow loads during the winter. The structure sits on a wooden foundation with an unfinished basement underneath. This is the primary residence when the site is occupied and it is fully furnished and functional. Interior amenities include an antique wood-fired cook stove, antique gas stove, and beds on antique wrought iron frames. Two stovepipes extend above the roof on the south elevation.

Proceeding from left to right along the south elevation are 4 six-over-six light windows and two three-over-three light sliding windows. Each window is trimmed with rough sawn 1x4 wood trim similar to the siding material. At the west end of the south elevation is a small gabled basement entry with a single door located near the front porch.

A porch extends from the west elevation seven feet outward and sixteen feet left to right. Three stairways allow access to the porch from the west, north, and south. Two 30" high railings with square spindles are located along the front of the porch on either side of the west entrance. A single door entry is located in the center with a six-over-six light double hung window just to the right. The window is trimmed with 1x6 rough sawn lumber. A small two-over-two light hinged window is located above the porch just off center under the gable. This window is not trimmed. During the winter months the porch screens are removed and replaced with solid wood panels. If snow accumulates above these panels the small upper window is used for access to the front porch.

The east elevation contains of a single doorway with screen door and 1 six-over-six light double hung window. The window and doorway are trimmed with rough sawn 1x6 trim.

The interior of the building remains essentially unchanged from its original design and construction. It is divided into three rooms. A large living area contains a wood stove, two couches, and a bed. A second room contains the kitchen area, complete with antique wood stove, sink with running water, cupboards, and a gas refrigerator. A single door (with screen door) opens onto a narrow hallway at the back of the kitchen that leads to the back door and a small bedroom on the south side of the building. Some years ago George Gildersleeve fashioned a hot water heater by using a 20-gallon water tank with pipes plumbed through the antique wood cook stove. Water is heated as it passes through the wood stove and stored in the tank. It is then available for use in a small shower located in a bedroom directly behind the kitchen. This provides the only source of hot water within the complex.

The original ceiling consisted of rough sawn 1x12 lumber ceiling with 1x3 rough sawn strips used in a board and batten fashion. The ceiling is now covered with heavy cardboard and painted white. Linoleum covers portions of the original 1x12 rough sawn lumber flooring while other areas remain exposed.

2) Bunkhouse (1 contributing building)

This structure measures 32' 3" east-west and 16' 4" north-south. It is a one-story frame structure with rough sawn 1x12 vertical board siding and corrugated metal roofing. A 5" stovepipe extends above the south elevation of the roof.

A low, flat porch without porch rails extends from the front (west) elevation and measures 5' by 7'. A single doorway with rough sawn 1x6 trim provides entry into this building. At the opposite (east) elevation is a single three-over-three light fixed window with 1x6 rough sawn trim. The north elevation contains 2 three-over-three light windows with 1x6 rough sawn trim. Two log braces are positioned from the ground to a point just under the eve to serve as structural support during periods of heavy snow load.

The south elevation includes 3 three-over-three light fixed windows with 1x6 rough sawn trim are spaced evenly along the building. The south elevation also contains a single door entryway (with screen door) and a small, flat single-step porch. The doorway is trimmed with 1x6 rough sawn lumber.

The interior floor plan consists of two rooms. A large main room contains a sink, antique wood stove, a gas stove, and an old icebox used for storage, and a bed. A smaller back room is used for sleeping and contains 4 beds. This structure is currently used as a guesthouse.

Linoleum covers portions of the original 1x12 rough sawn flooring while other areas remain exposed. The original 1x12 rough sawn lumber ceiling is covered with heavy cardboard and painted white.

3) Little house/Office (1 contributing building)

This building measures 18' 6" east-west by 14' 6" north-south. It is a one-story frame structure with vertical 1x12 rough sawn board siding and a corrugated metal roof. A simple porch extends outward from the front (west) elevation approximately 5' with a width of approximately 14' and accessed with a single step. A single doorway with a screen door is located on the right side of the building with a single 3-over-three light fixed window on the left. The door is trimmed with a 1x4 inch strip over the top and the window with 1x6 rough sawn lumber.

The south elevation contains one three-over-three fixed window with 1x6 rough sawn square trim. The east elevation contains 1 three-over-three fixed window with 1x6 rough sawn square trim. The north elevation has no fenestration.

Delta rib siding has been used as a repair on the east (back) elevation. During the summer of 1996 repair and removal of soil creep against the back of this building eliminated the threat of wood rot caused by soil encroachment. The structure is currently used as a guesthouse and as emergency shelter for winter travelers (McLeod and Duce, 2000:10).

4) Blacksmith shop (1 contributing building)

The blacksmith shop is the largest structure on the site and clearly illustrates the working functions of the Gildersleeve mine. While other buildings served living and administrative functions, the blacksmith shop is directly associated with the day-to-day mining operation. The building measures 52' 2" north-south by 12' 3" east-west. It is a one-story frame structure with vertical board and batten siding, 1x6 rough sawn trim around the windows, and corrugated metal roofing. It is constructed in a t-shaped floor plan with a steeply pitched intersecting gable roof.

A dormer and extension protrude from the center of the building and separates the blacksmith shop from the "dry," where the miners changed into dry clothing and cleaned up. The "dry" has been converted to a guest room. This small room contains a bed and several pieces of hand-made furniture constructed of material found on site. The ceiling is original 1x12 board and batten and is the only room in camp with the ceiling not covered with painted cardboard.

From left to right the west elevation contains a three-over-three light window trimmed with 1x6 rough sawn lumber and covered with bars made from a bed frame. Immediately adjacent to the window is a 6' wide double-door entry with a one-step access. Within the extended dormer is a 1-over-2 light fixed window located in the upper portion. In the lower portion of the dormer is a doorway that is accessible only from the inside. Below and to the right of the dormer is what appears to be a square hole in the wall covered by a two-over-two framed window. Approximately 6' to the right is a six-over-six light fixed window trimmed with rough sawn 1x6 lumber. Finally, a single doorway without a screen door is located at the far right side of the west elevation. This doorway has a thin metal sheet over the outside and gives access to the dry room.

The south elevation contains 1 three-over-three light fixed window. Moving from left to right the east elevation contains 2 six-over-six light double-hung windows and 3 three-over-three light fixed windows. All of the windows in the blacksmith shop are covered with metal bars fashioned from various recycled materials, including bed frames and heavy metal mesh. These apparently served as a means of better securing tools and equipment stored in the blacksmith shop. Two large poles mounted to the north elevation give added roof support during heavy snow loads.

The blacksmith shop contains the tools and equipment needed to run a small-scale mining operation. Hanging neatly from wall-mounted racks are shovels, picks, gravel rakes, and a variety of hand tools the miners used to move dirt and rock. Many of the tools date to the 1930s and earlier. A fully functional forge sits in the north corner of the shop, complete with a hand-powered blower used to pump oxygen to a charcoal fire and increase its heat.

5) Outhouse #1 (1 contributing building)
Outhouse #1 measures 4' 8" inches square and sits 12' east and directly behind the Main house/Cook house. It is a two-hole outhouse constructed of vertical board siding and a gabled wooden roof. A small-framed window is located under the center of gable and a doorway just off center to the right. The rough sawn board and batten exterior style is similar that used on buildings throughout the complex.

6) Outhouse #2 (1 contributing building)
Outhouse #2 is situated between the bunkhouse and the little house/office. It measures 5' 8" by 5' 5". It is constructed of vertical board siding with a metal roof. A horseshoe is hung above the door and a small window cut into the wall. This outhouse contains two holes, with toilet seat, and is operational. Interior is unfinished (McLeod and Duce, 2000:15).

7) Meat house (1 contributing building)
The meat house measures 8' 2" by 9' 5" and has horizontal milled siding and a hip roof covered with corrugated metal sheets. The eves on the north and south sides extend 3' 3" inches over the walls and currently serve as covered storage for wood and metal materials. The structure has a wooden beam foundation and is currently used for storage (McLeod and Duce, 2000:16).

8) Chicken coop (1 contributing building)
The chicken coop measures 10' north-south by 8' 2" east-west. It is constructed of vertical board siding and has a flat, rear sloping shed roof (McLeod and Duce, 2000: 17). Half of the chicken coop is currently used for storage and one half recently converted to an outdoor shower, complete with a 55-gallon drum mounted on an elevated stand immediately adjacent to the chicken coop. The water tank is painted black to absorb heat and warm the water.

9) Wood shed (1 contributing building)
The woodshed serves as dry storage for equipment and firewood. The shed is constructed with 4x4 posts with 2x4 framing. Horizontal siding is used on the exterior. The flat, rear slanting roof has been covered with metal in recent years. The roof measures 9' 3" north-south by 14' 3" east-west. It measures 10' 8" inches north-south by 14' 3" east-west. The woodshed is constructed with log uprights and rafters. It is covered with rough sawn dimensional lumber of varying widths, ranging from 6 inches to 10 inches. The combined length of the structure is 20' 11" north-south (McLeod and Duce, 2000:18).

10) Mine adit (1 contributing structure)

The mine adit is a critical element of the Gildersleeve mine site and its presence so close to the living and working quarters clearly demonstrate the historic function of the property. The mine adit is a simple tunnel dug into the east hillside approximately 100 feet south of the blacksmith shop. The mouth of the adit measures 5' x 5' and is timbered with 6" log beams supported by 6" log uprights. The ceiling is formed by approximately eighteen 3" log uprights, which rest atop and at right angles to the support beams. This ceiling extends approximately 20' into the tunnel and from that point on it is unsupported. A retaining wall on the south side of the entrance stands four logs high. An ore track runs the entire length of the mine tunnel and extends approximately 20' beyond the mouth of the adit. The track rail rests on 3" logs (McLeod and Duce, 2000:13).

The main tunnel trends east approximately 150 feet, then branches in a T shape left and right. The left branch trends north, then turns 90 degrees east for a total length of approximately 200 feet. The right branch trends south approximately 50 feet and terminates.

11) Water system (1 contributing structure)

A unique water system provides fresh water under pressure to several plumbed buildings within the camp as well as several outside spigots. Water for this system comes from springs located throughout Snowshoe Gulch that emerge from a subterranean approximately 200 feet above the camp. As it emerges from underground the water is channeled into an 18" cast iron pipe. This pipe trends downhill through Snowshoe Gulch for 90 feet. The 18" pipe is reduced to an 8" metal pipe extending approximately 80 feet, where it is coupled into an 8" HDPC plastic pipe. The plastic pipe is buried and extends throughout the length of the camp providing water to the main house, bunkhouse, and office, as well as several outside spigots. By using the downhill slope and reducing the size of the pipe from 18" to 8" this system produces its own water pressure. Though the HDPC pipe segment is a modern replacement to the original piping, the overall integrity of the water system remain intact, and is an important contributing structure.

12) Mining equipment (1 contributing site)

Numerous pieces of mining-related equipment remain on site. These include a #2 hydraulic "giant," a large movable nozzle used to spray water onto a hillside and wash rock and gravel into the sluicing system. Stacks of metal water pipe ranging in size from 10" to 24" in diameter are stored near the chicken coop. These provided water to the giant from holding dams located in the upper reaches of Snowshoe Gulch. Other equipment includes a large water pump (No. 4 B.F. Sturtevant, Boston, Mass), lengths of cable, a large cast iron water control valve, large metal tanks, and 50-gallon drums cut in half used for washing gravels (hand panning).

13) Tailings pile (1 contributing site)

The Gildersleeve mining camp is built atop a large tailings waste pile. This pile was created by a "slum dam," a term miners use to describe a cribbed wall used to hold back tailings waste. Placer mining dating to the late 1800s produced the tailings that the Gildersleeve camp now sits atop. As tailings built up behind the slum dam they created a large earthen platform extending several hundred feet east-west, 500' north-south, and approximately 150' deep. The names of those who mined this area and created the "slum dam" are not known, nor the exact date range of when mining operations deposited the waste. It is likely associated with placer mining that took place in Snowshoe Gulch more than 100 years ago. The extensive area encompassed by this tailings pile, approximately 5 acres, indicates that the tailings were deposited over many years of mining activity.

Integrity

The Gildersleeve mining camp retains a high degree of physical and historical integrity. The Gildersleeve family have lived and worked here seasonally for more than 70 years and have taken good care of the camp. Because the site is frequently inhabited there are no outward signs of vandalism and degradation. The vernacular style of construction is indicative of family-run mining operations dating to the late 1920s and early 1930s. Material reuse is evident where, over the years, smaller outbuildings were torn down and the rough-hewn lumber used to construct other buildings. Parts from an antique automobile, including chrome trim and body panels, were used in the construction of furniture pieces and cutlery. Historic mining equipment, including a hydraulic giant and water pipes, a trammel (ore washer) and an ore car and track remain on site and give the property even greater historic authenticity. Outdoor thermometers dating to the 1950s are still in use on the front porch of the main/cookhouse. The unique and tangible historic

characteristics of this family owned mining operation are easily appreciated by anyone who visits this site. Currently, the Gildersleeve mining camp receives upwards of 100 visitors per summer.

The Gildersleeve mine was never patented but remained property of the USDA Forest Service subject to the rights spelled out in the Gildersleeve's mining claim. In 1994, their mining claim expired and was not renewed. At that time the Lolo National Forest took possession of the structures as property of the United States. Recognizing the unique historic and social values of the Gildersleeve mining camp the Lolo National Forest sought ways to retain the historic integrity of the camp and perpetuate the unique traditional life ways associated with the site. To accomplish these goals the Lolo National Forest proposed a land exchange to transfer approximately 20 acres of the original mining claim, including the structures, to the Gildersleeve family. In exchange, the Lolo National Forest received from the Gildersleeve family acreage of equal value located on the Seeley Lake Ranger District (McLeod and Duce, 2000:6). This land exchange was completed in January of 2001. The Gildersleeve family and their descendents will continue to live and work on the property, thus maintaining its physical integrity and traditional life ways.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria: A & C

Areas of Significance: INDUSTRY; ARCHITECTURE

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

Period(s) of Significance: 1924-1952

Significant Person(s): N/A

Significant Dates: 1931, 1932

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Ike, Charles and George Gildersleeve

Narrative Statement of Significance

Summary Statement of Significance

The Gildersleeve mining site (24MN0184) is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A & C. This site comprises the most complete depression-era mining camp remaining in western Montana (Light and Horstman, 1996: Abstract). Located within the Cedar Creek Historic Mining District, the Gildersleeve mine is the heart of a family-run hard rock mining operation established and run by the Gildersleeve family of Superior, Montana. It is a unique mining community built atop tailings from late 19th-century mining activities. It consists of a cluster of board and batten buildings, a water system, mine adit, and related mining equipment (McLeod and Duce, 2000:1). The outstanding physical condition and complete historical accounting of the Gildersleeve mining camp make it An excellent candidate for inclusion to the National Register. This site was determined eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places in a consensus determination of eligibility with the Montana State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) in 1996 for its association with the development of small and medium placer and hard rock mining in Mineral County and Western Montana. The site is also a contributing element to the Cedar-Quartz Historic Mining District (24MN0245). The Gildersleeve mine exhibits excellent integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association for a historic mining complex within the Cedar Creek mining district (Light and Horstman, 1996: 69), (McLeod and Duce, 2000: 1) . There is much to learn from this unique property from both the physical elements that exist today and the stories of those who live and continue to care for this historic property.

The Gildersleeve property also played an important role in the history of US Forest Service activities at Cedar Creek. During the 1930s, '40s, and '50s, the Gildersleeve family made their facilities available for winter use by Forest Service personnel performing snow depth measurements, wildlife counts, and other seasonal duties. To this day it serves as a wayside for winter travelers and attracts hundreds of tourists each summer (Light and Horstman, 1996: 69).

The Gildersleeve Mining Camp is eligible for listing under Criterion C. It embodies the distinctive architectural and technological characteristics of a Depression-era family-run mining operation. Each of the buildings comprising the Gildersleeve mining camp follows a similar vernacular style of construction.

Criterion A:
The Gildersleeve mining camp is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A. It is associated with historic mining carried out within the Cedar-Quartz Historic Mining District (24MN245), containing the watersheds of Cedar, Trout, Meadow, Sunshine, and Quartz Creeks, all tributaries of the Clark Fork River. There are fifty-four recorded historic sites, including the Gildersleeve property, located in the Cedar-Quartz Historic Mining District. During the boom years from 1870 to 1885, it is estimated that more than two million dollars in gold came out of Cedar Creek and surrounding drainages, as well as $500,000 from the placer mines of the Lacasse brothers, located just below the Gildersleeve property (Wolle, 1963: 274).

The Cedar-Quartz mining sprang to life in the fall of 1869. The discovery of gold on Cedar Creek triggered what became Montana's last major placer gold rush, not in the amount of minerals retrieved, but the numbers of prospectors it attracted. It began when a French-Canadian prospector named Louis A. Barrette traveling the Stateline Trail noted the densely wooded basin of the Cedar Creek drainage and returned the following year to prospect. In 1869, he and his partner, Basile Lanthier, found placer deposits on Cedar Creek. They tried to keep their discovery quiet but word soon got out. When it became known that gold had been found on Cayuse Creek, a tributary of Cedar Creek, hundreds of miners sought out the drainage and quickly staked the entire gulch off into 200 claims. Within a year an estimated 10,000 miners moved through Cedar Creek, although but only about 4,500 stayed long enough to be counted. Many of these prospectors were of French-Canadian descent from the Frenchtown area near Missoula (Light and Horstman, 1996: 12-13).

Among the French settlers who had an impact on the Cedar Creek area were the brothers Alphonse and Joseph Treffle LaCasse, who settled just below what later became the Gildersleeve mining camp. The LaCasse brothers joined with two other Cedar Creek pioneers, Louise Barrette and George Conford, to form the Cedar Creek Consolidated Mining Company.

As the number of mining claims increased the prospectors organized mining districts. The first took its name from the man who discovered it, Louis Barrett. In 1870, two more districts were organized on Cedar Creek; the Sweeney District near Lost Creek on Oregon Gulch, and the Summit district, which included Snowshoe and California Gulches at the head of Cedar Creek (Light and Horstman, 1996:14).

From 1903 to 1924, brothers I.H. "Ike," Charlie, and Lee Gildersleeve worked placer claims above Freezeout Gulch, near the head of Trout Creek. Ike Gildersleeve originally worked as a smelterman for the Anaconda Copper Mining Company. During the winter months the Gildersleeve brothers returned to Butte and Anaconda to work the mines and smelters, returning each spring to resume mining on Freezeout Gulch. In 1910, at the age of seven, Ike's son, George, joined his father and uncles in their mining activities (Light and Horstman, 1996:68).

Fourteen years later, in 1924, the Gildersleeves relocated to Snowshoe Gulch in the Cedar Creek drainage. Two small cabins were built just above the site of the present mining camp. Here, the Gildersleeves established the Snowshoe claims, also known as the Stemwinder placer. The Gildersleeves improved access to the site in 1930, using "...dynamite, a team of horses, and pick-and-shovel." (Light and Horstman,1996:29-30). During the late 1920s, George and Charlie whipsawed lumber for sluices, but later moved steam-powered sawmill equipment to the camp from California Gulch. In 1930, they built a series of structures, beginning with the main/cookhouse, followed by a bunkhouse, blacksmith shop, a cabin, and two storage sheds on top of a terrace of old mine tailings. From 1924 until 1972, George and his wife, Fern, carried out both placer and hard rock mining at the site but ceased using hydraulic mining methods in 1972 due to water quality concerns. Using methods similar to the miners of the late 1800s, the Gildersleeves pursued small-scale placer and hard rock mining into the 1990s. According to Fern Gildersleeve the mine produced "free gold;" gold that is not attached to rock or other substance. Gold from the Gildersleeve mine was packed and sent directly to the U.S. Mint in Denver, Colorado. Because mining only took place from mid-May through July, annual production often never exceeded more than 7 or 8 ounces a year. Sue McLees, daughter of George and Fern Gildersleeve, recounted how the family worked an entire season and produced about 10 ounces of gold. With gold at that time selling for $250 per ounce, their hard work netted them approximately $2500, which paid for their overhead, mining supplies and a few groceries (Sue McLee oral interview, 6 July, 2001). Because their production levels were so small the family did not submit records of their annual output.

During periods when he was unable to carry out placer mining, George Gildersleeve worked odd jobs away from the mining camp to supplement their income. With his skill as a blaster he worked periodically on construction of Interstate 90, setting dynamite charges to remove rock and earth (Fern Gildersleeve oral interview, September 11, 1995). Although hard rock mining produced lead and silver, the Gildersleeves' did not extract, produce or market these metals. Through personal interviews it is apparent that fluctuations in gold prices on a national level had little effect on the Gildersleeve mining operation. With such small annual gold production the output of the Gildersleeve mine cannot be traced to annual mining reports. Because of their hardscrabble existence, the Gildersleeve operation is an excellent example of subsistence mining.

The Gildersleeve mining operation also produced barite from an open pit mine located a mile above their camp. Barite is a common mineral that occurs as a gangue mineral in metallic veins, such as silver, lead, copper, cobalt, manganese and antimony (Hurlbut, 1961:360). It is used in floatation mud in oil and gas drilling, as a filler for paper and cloth production, and in producing barium for medical purposes (Pough, 1955: 182). The barite was hauled to the Diamond Match sawmill near Superior for weighing, then shipped to Missoula and processed (Sue McLees interview, 6 July 2001).

The mining of barite and gold by the Gildersleeve family does not appear to follow trends that affected other mines in the area such as the Depression Era, World War II, or other national events. For the George and Fern Gildersleeve, their placer and hardrock mining operation provided subsistence only. During the fall, winter, and spring, George worked a variety of odd jobs, including cutting Christmas trees and cedar fence posts, working in the Nancy Lee mine, and setting dynamite charges for construction of bridges along Interstate 90. Beginning in the 1950s, Fern worked as a cook at the school in Superior, a job that left her summers free to help work the mine and tend to her family.

The Gildersleeve mining camp played an important role in the life of the upper Cedar Creek drainage during the 1930s, 1940s, and 1950s. Its location on the upper reaches of Cedar Creek, as well as its telephone link to the outside world after 1938, made it a popular stopping place for hunters and travelers. The Gildersleeves also opened their home for many social gatherings that brought people living and working in this remote country together for parties and dances.

George and Fern Gildersleeve never patented their mine but it remained under management by the USDA Forest Service subject to the Gildersleeve's claim rights. In 1994, the Gildersleeve mining claim expired and was not renewed. At this time the Lolo National Forest took possession of the structures as property of the United States government. Through a land exchange completed in 2000, the Forest Service exchanged the mining camp for land purchased by the Gildersleeves near Seeley Lake, Montana (McLeod and Duce, 2000: 96).

Criterion C:
The Gildersleeve Mining Camp is eligible for listing under Criterion C. It embodies the distinctive architectural and technological characteristics of a Depression-era family-run mining operation. Each of the buildings comprising the Gildersleeve mining camp follows a similar vernacular style of construction. Rough-sawn lumber, generally 1x12 inch dimensional, is used in vertical board and batten style on the exterior of each building on this site. In addition, simple rough-sawn 1x3" and 1x6" trim is used around exterior fenestration. The Gildersleeve family cut the lumber themselves, using a portable steam-powered sawmill brought to the site in 1930. With the exception of the blacksmith shop/dry room, each building follows a similar design using a simple rectangular floor plan, wooden foundation, and gabled roofs. This style is typical of Depression-era mining camps that utilized simplified construction and relied on affordable, available, and often recycled construction materials. For example, a Model A Ford left on the site was salvaged for interior details such molding trim and a piece of steel that George Gildersleeve fashioned into a kitchen knife.

The expediency of using rough-sawn lumber and recycled materials, such as corrugated tin roofing from an old schoolhouse, illustrate the primary purpose of this camp -- mining, not aesthetics, and the need to make due with what was available at hand. This does not imply that workmanship was poor, only thrifty and expedient. The fact that this site retains such a high degree of integrity in such a harsh environment is testimony to its solid original construction and its on-going care over the years.

A water supply consisting of a gravity-feed system is a unique element of the Gildersleeve mining camp. Using slope and gravity in a system similar to hydraulic mining, spring water from Snowshoe Creek is piped under pressure to the main house, bunkhouse, and office, as well as outside spigots located throughout the camp.

Summary
Small-scale mining operations played an important role in Western history. The gold rushes of the late 1800s brought waves of prospectors that settled in places like the Cedar Creek drainage in western Montana. They worked hard panning and placer mining for surface gold, taking what they could and quickly moving on to other, more promising areas. In their haste they often left behind gold that took more time and effort to extract. This was the niche filled by the small-scale subsistence miners, who reworked the areas passed over by the first wave of prospectors. The Gildersleeve mining camp is an outstanding example of a family-run subsistence mining operation.

The Gildersleeve mining camp exists as an intact and still functional family-run mining operation. It provides a deeper feeling for the history of mining within the Cedar-Quartz Mining District and the unique story of the Gildersleeve family. The site location provides a feeling of isolation and self-reliance that were once an everyday aspect of the miner's life. There are few modern intrusions, such as a phone, and a portable generator provides electricity when needed. The camp has the feeling of both an industrial operation and a summer home where George and Fern Gildersleeve lived, worked and raised their two daughters. Stacks of metal water pipe stand next to the chicken coop where Fern Gildersleeve gathered fresh eggs. On the front porch of the main house homemade wind chimes spin in the breeze while a small pile of metal-bearing ore and barite rests at the bottom of the front steps. A visit to the Gildersleeve mining camp offers vivid testimony to the hard work, determination and sacrifice of small-scale mining operations found throughout the West.

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 U.S. Forest Service, Region 1
_X_ Local government
___ University
___ Other -- Specify Repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: approximately 5 acres

UTM References:	**Zone**	**Easting**	**Northing**
	11	649326	5211613

Legal Location (Township, Range & Section(s)): T15N, R27W, NE ¼ NW ¼ of NE ¼, Section 29, MPM.

Verbal Boundary Description

The Gildersleeve historic mine complex is contained within the NE ¼ NW ¼ NE ¼ of Section 29, Township 15 North, Range 27 West. The buildings and mine site are located on a man-made terrace adjacent to Snowshoe Gulch. Starting at the entrance drive to the complex, the site's boundary follows the edge of the cut-and-fill for Forest Road #388 to a point 50 feet north of the center of Snowshoe Gulch. From this point, the boundary parallels Snowshoe Gulch east to Forest Road #388. It then follows the edge of the cut-and-fill for the Forest road south, west and north to the point of origin. The site boundaries reflect the area of historic use and enclose all site features, structures, and the water source for the mine complex.

Boundary Justification

The boundary is drawn to include the building cluster, structures, and associated landscape elements that have been associated with the property throughout the period of significance, and convey the property's historic setting.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Dan Gard / Lolo NF Historian
organization: USDA Forest Service date: July 30, 2001
street & number: Bldg. 24, Ft. Missoula telephone: 406-329-1005
city or town: Missoula state: MT zip code: 59804

Property Owner

name/title: Sue & Willis McLees and Gloria & Louis Weaver
street & number: 183 Diamond Rd. telephone: 406-822-4790
city or town: Superior state: MT zip code: 59872

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Major bibliographic references:

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1987 *Gumboot Gamblers: Tales of the Cedar Creek Gold Rush.* Superior, MT: Mineral County Museum and Historical Society.

Hurlbut, Jr. Cornelius S.
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Circa 1976 *118 Years of History.*

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1955 *A Field Guide to Rocks and Minerals.* Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company.

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1963 *Montana Pay Dirt - A Guide to the Mining Camps of the Treasure State.* Athens, OH: Swallow Press.

Gildersleeve, Fern
1995 Oral interview with Mary Horstman and Tim Light, September 11.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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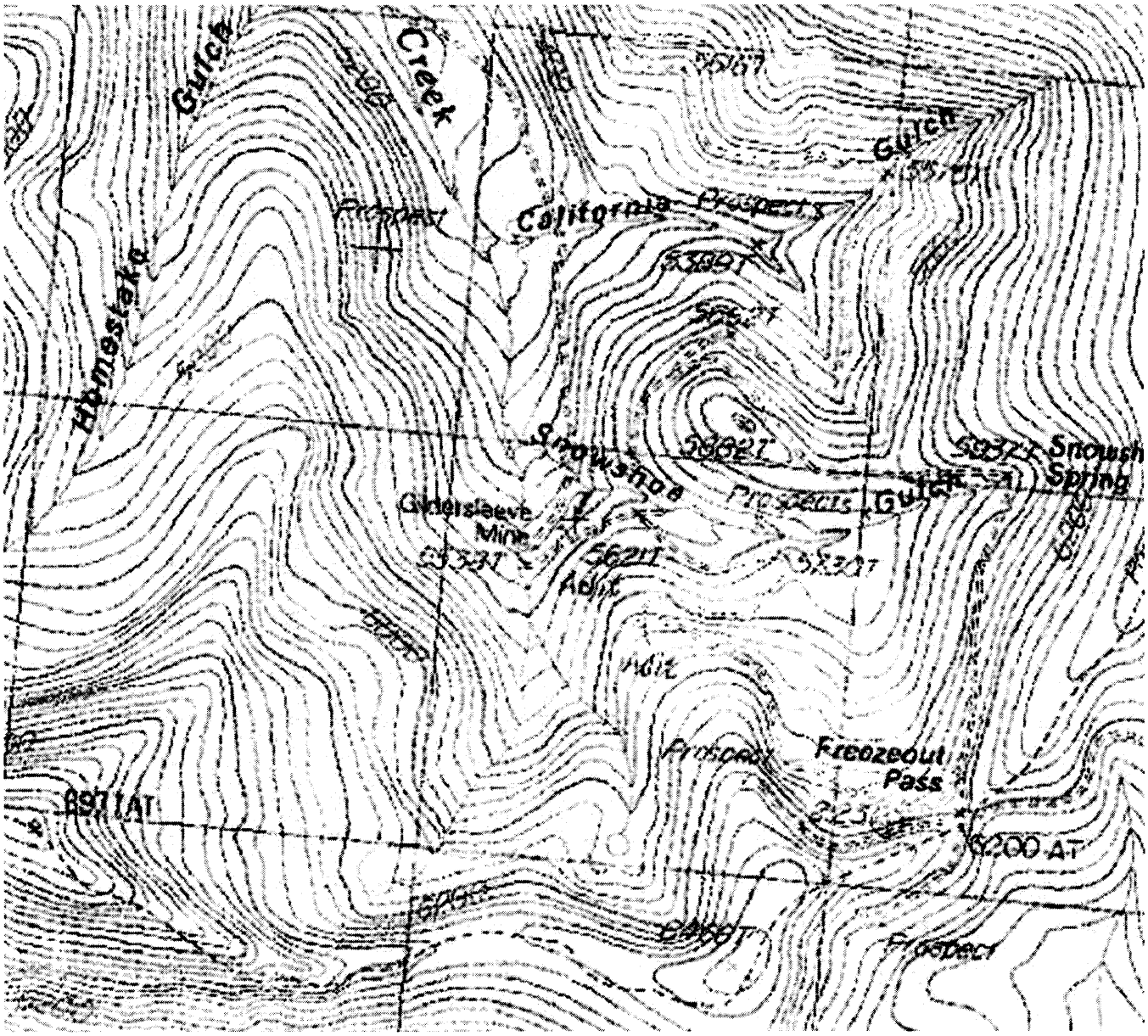
Illinois Peak 7.5 minuteTopographic Quadrangle Detail



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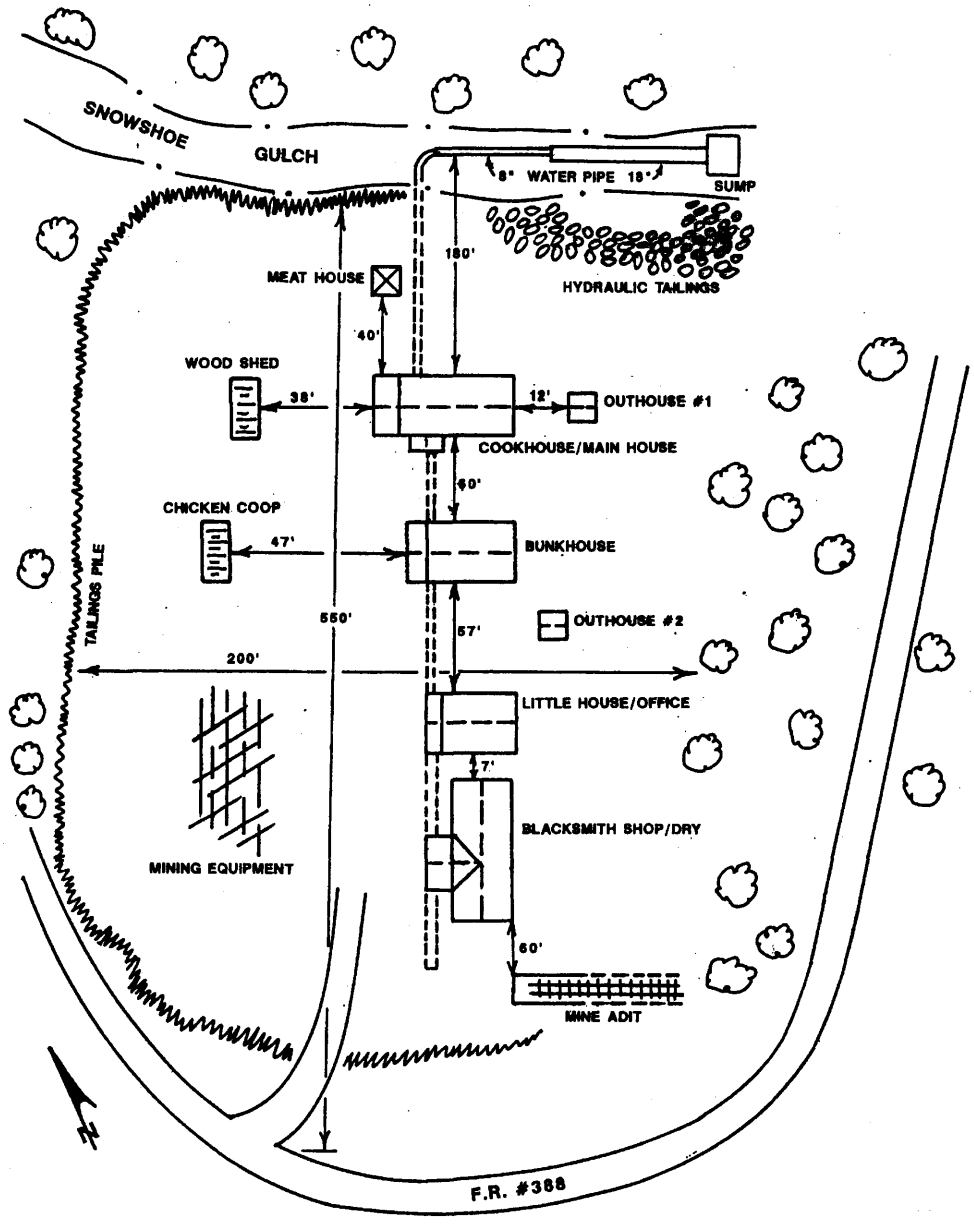
Site Map



GILDERSLEEVE MINE SITE