

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Nevada
COUNTY: Clark
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE NOV 13 1974

1. NAME

COMMON: Potosi
AND/OR HISTORIC: Potosi Mining District

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: S of Las Vegas off I 15 near Potosi Pass			
CITY OR TOWN: Off Interstate 15, 17 miles via FAS 528 and 4 mi. W. FAS 528		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Nevada	
STATE Nevada	CODE 32	COUNTY: Clark	CODE 003

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) Mining

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: International Smelting Co. and public domain		
STREET AND NUMBER: R.F.D.		
CITY OR TOWN: Tooele	STATE: Utah	CODE: 43

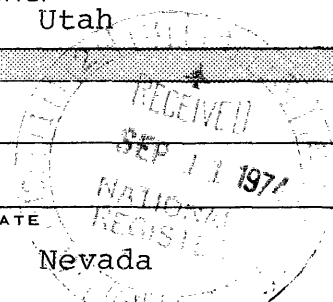
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Clark County Courthouse		
STREET AND NUMBER: 200 East Carson Street		
CITY OR TOWN: Las Vegas	STATE: Nevada	CODE: 32

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Nevada Historical Sites			
DATE OF SURVEY: 1968	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> State	<input type="checkbox"/> County
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: University of Nevada, Desert Research Institute, Center for Western Studies			
STREET AND NUMBER: Stead Facility			
CITY OR TOWN: Reno	STATE: Nevada	CODE: 32	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Potosi is a camp and a mine. The mine is high on a juniper and pinion covered hill and its portal is on the west face of an almost perpendicular cliff 150 feet high, near the summit of Potosi Mountain. The camp is at Potosi Spring, a half-mile north and 700 feet in elevation below the mine.

A large wooden structure containing various types of mining machinery stands at the entrance to the horizontal shaft. Around part of the hill are the remains of the mining-gauge railway installed at a later date to carry the ore to a point opposite the shaft side of the hill, where it was loaded into buckets and lowered by cable to the bottom. The hoisting equipment is difficult to reach, as it is located at the top of an 800 foot hill.

A half-mile north of the mine and 700 feet below it is the camp at Potosi Spring. Only foundations remain of this small camp.

The area is characterized by scenic yellow sandstone formations, pinion-juniper and Joshua tree plant life. Petroglyphs, mescal pits, and rock shelters are in evidence in the area.



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SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	<u>Mining</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	<u>Colonization</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Potosi lead-silver mine is probably the oldest lode mine in Nevada. The desire of the Mormon settlements for economic self-sufficiency led to prospecting by missionaries for lead. In April 1856, Nathaniel V. Jones was sent by Mormon leader, Brigham Young, to recover ore from the "mountain of lead" 30 road miles southwest of the church's mission at Las Vegas Springs.

Wood was plentiful and running water was 12 miles away. A spring for camp purposes was located within 1½ miles. On August 21, 1856, Jones started his lead mining operation. By the 10th of September a furnace had been built and smelting started. It was soon found that the material from which the furnace was constructed could not stand the blast. Jones, with the first wagon load of ore, set out to obtain supplies in Salt Lake City. He returned to the mine on December 9 and, beginning on Christmas Day, the new furnace began smelting ore.

Mining difficulties, however, beset them. The richer ore was soon gone and the poor grade, too flaky and brittle, was hard to process. Fuel was fast becoming scarce, as it was then necessary to haul wood a distance of seven miles to keep the furnace going. A shortage of provisions both for men and animals was a constant problem and supplies had to be hauled 230 miles from Parowan and Cedar City, Utah.

Not more than a dozen loads of lead, or about 9,000 pounds, were recovered before processing difficulties forced the remote mining camp to be abandoned in January 1857. Potosi thus became the first abandoned mine in Nevada.

Briefly reopened from 1861-1863 as a source of silver, more extensive operations were made possible in 1905 by construction nearby of the Los Angeles, San Pedro and Salt Lake Railroad (now the Union Pacific).

Between the years 1913-1917 Potosi was Nevada's largest zinc producer and during World War I it was an important source of this product.

Activity by lessors in later years helped push Potosi production to an estimated \$41.5 million. The mine at Potosi supplied lead, silver, zinc, and other valuable ores over more than a century of development.

Historical marker number 115 marks the site of Potosi.

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9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Paher, Stanley, Nevada Ghost Towns & Mining Camps, Howell-North, Berkeley, 1970.
 Nevada Historical Sites, Mordy & McCaughey, University of Nevada 1968.
 Influence of the Mormon People in the Settlement of Clark County, Francis Leavitt, Master's thesis.
 History - Lower Colorado Region, Nevada, October, 1970 by Victor Goodwin, Forester, River Basin Planning Staff. U.S. Department of Agriculture.

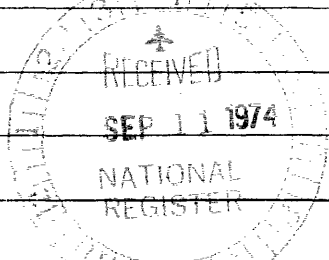
10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	35° 58' 41"	115° 33' 10"		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	35° 58' 41"	115° 32' 04"				
SE	35° 57' 20"	115° 32' 04"				
SW	35° 57' 20"	115° 33' 10"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **960**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
N.A.			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
W. E. Wieprecht, Historic Preservation Specialist

ORGANIZATION: **Nevada State Park System** DATE: **Jan. 1972**
 resubmitted **July 1974**

STREET AND NUMBER:
201 South Fall Street Nye Building, Room 221

CITY OR TOWN: **Carson City** STATE: **Nevada** CODE: **32**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

National State Local

Name *E. C. White*
 Administrator and State Historic Preservation Officer

Date July 30, 1974

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

A. B. Wooten
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

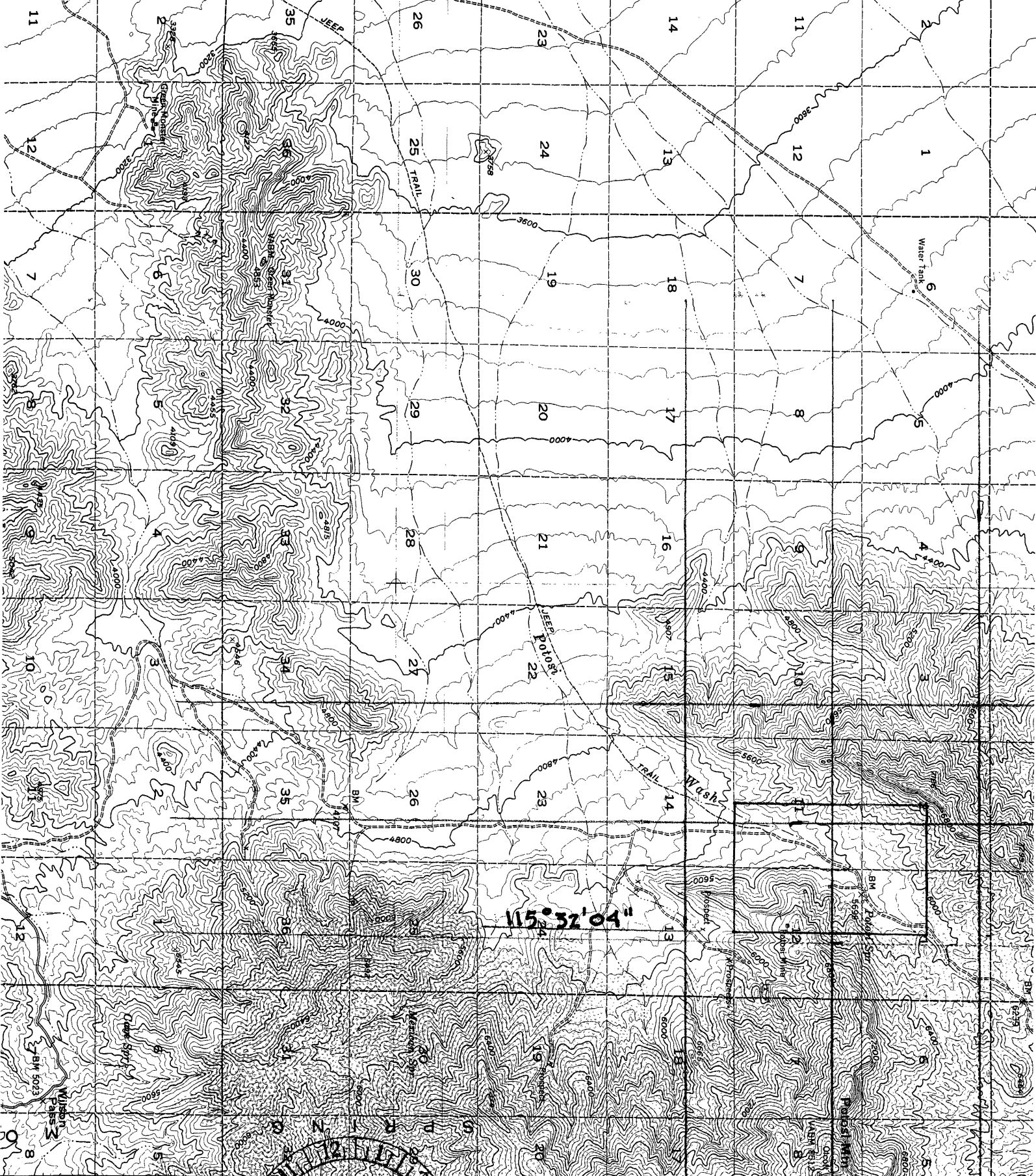
Date 11/13/74

ATTEST:

Charles A. Bennett
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 11.2.74

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

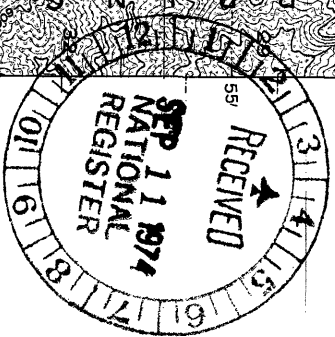


450 000 FEET
(NEV)

35° 58' 41"

35° 57' 20"

T. 23 S.



NPAH 1: 250 000