

PH0076589

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: California	
COUNTY: Shasta	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAR 24 1972

1. NAME

COMMON:
French Gulch Historic District

AND/OR HISTORIC:
French Gulch

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
French Gulch

STATE: California CODE: 06 COUNTY: Shasta CODE: 089

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Varied

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Shasta County Courthouse, Roller Map No. 1, filed March 1, 1893

STREET AND NUMBER:
1500 Court St.

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: California CODE: 06

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
California Historical Landmarks No. 166

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Department of Parks and Recreation

STREET AND NUMBER:
P.O. Box 2390

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: California CODE: 06

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: CALIFORNIA
COUNTY: SHASTA
ENTRY NUMBER: MAR 24 1972
DATE: _____
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7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

A town of 250_± inhabitants in a narrow canyon between a hill and Clear Creek. Almost all the buildings face a single main street. Improvements include a hotel, a Post Office, a public school, a Catholic Church, two cemeteries, two stores, an IOOF Hall, a Playhouse or legitimate theater (in the former school building) and several dozen dwellings mostly of considerable age. There are large yards, numerous trees, white picket fences, an irrigation ditch of fresh water alongside the main street for part of its length, and a pleasant trout stream in a rocky bed behind the town. Above and below the town are the scars of placer gold mining operations. The town is reached by a two-lane paved road running some 5½ miles to connect with State Highway 299 West.

Beginning at a point about 750' southwesterly of the intersection of the French Gulch (Clear Creek) Road with the Deadwood (French Gulch) Road, then north about 4,000', east about 1,750', south about 4,000', west about 1,750' to the point of beginning.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

3. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	<u>Mining</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<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	<u>Historical</u>
<input 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

- 1849 Area prospected for gold, placer mines opened. Settlement 1 mile west called Morrowville.
- 1851 First quartz mine in Shasta County on hill to west.
- 1852 Town founded, named French Gulch after French miners. (probably ex-Hudson Bay trappers)
- 1853 A poor road to Shasta opened.
- 1854 Franck Store founded, still operated by grandson of founder.
- 1856 Gartland cabin built, oldest building still standing.
- 1858 IOOF Lodge founded
- 1859 Road extended through to Yreka.
- 1867 Present Franck store built of stone, still in use.
- 1887 Feeny Hotel built, still in use.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Boggs, Mae Helene, My Playhouse was a Concord Coach, 1942
 Oakland, Howell-North Press

Southern, May H., Our Storied Landmarks, 1942, San Francisco,
 P. Balakshin Printing Co.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES			
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE			
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		
NW	122	38'	24"	40	42	30	"	
NE	122	38	00"	40	42	30	"	
SE	122	38	00"	40	41	18	"	
SW	122	38	24"	40	41	18	"	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 180 M/L

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Norman A. Wagoner Eaton

ORGANIZATION: Norman A. Wagoner, Chairman DATE
Shasta County Board of Supervisors July 6, 1970

STREET AND NUMBER:
P.O. Box 880

CITY OR TOWN: Redding STATE California CODE 06

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: [Signature]

Title: State Liaison Officer

Date: August 3, 1970

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

[Signature]
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

MAR 24 1972

Date: _____

ATTEST:

[Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register

MAR 14 1972

Date: _____

NW 10/520 430/1
 4504 200
 02/4054/4504 200
 02/4054/4504 200
 SW 10/520 450/4504 900
 SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
California	
COUNTY	
Shasta	
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(Number all entries)

~~#~~ 7 DESCRIPTION

Principal buildings included in the French Gulch Historic Zone,
Shasta County, California:

1. Franck's Store, founded 1854. Existing stone building constructed in 1867. One story. Still operated (1970) by descendants of the founder. Main Street, east side opposite French Gulch Hotel. Condition fair.
2. Old Commercial Buildings, dating to circa 1880's. One story. Wood frame construction, false fronts. Main Street, east side. Condition fair.
3. Franck Residence, circa 1860's. One story. Wood frame, metal roof. Main Street, west side.
4. Saint Anne's Catholic Church, circa 1900. Wood frame. Single story with bell tower-steeple. Main Street, east side.
5. I.O.O.F. Hall, founded 1858. Building dates circa 1860's. Two story, wood frame, metal roof. Main Street, west side.
6. Feeny Hotel, 1887. Two story with one story annex. Wood frame covered portico with turned wood columns. Metal roof. Still in operation (1970) under name French Gulch Hotel.
7. Gartland Cabin, circa 1856. Oldest remaining building in French Gulch.

FRENCH GULCH, CALIFORNIA

French Gulch is a historic mining town founded by French-Canadian miners in 1849. Located about 18 miles west of Redding, the town was a major stop on the stage coach route from Sacramento to Portland, Oregon between 1859 and 1868. The present main street was at one time the Shasta and Yreka Turnpike Road.

The town was the center of vast mining activities. Among the more famous were the Franklin and Milkmaid Mines, the Washington Mine, and the Niagara Mine, which in 1880 was sold to a local miner for \$10 and a gallon of Whiskey. The miner worked the claim and took out over \$2 million worth of gold. The Brown Bear Mine was discovered in the late 1850's by a bear hunter and it produced \$11 million.

The first white child in Shasta County, C. F. Montgomery, was born here April 24, 1851.

Near the town is the Camden House and the site of the Tower House, two historic private homes which served as stage coach stops. The Camden orchard, which still exists, at one time boasted the largest orchard north of Marysville. The trees were brought around the horn by ship. The first two marriages in Shasta County were performed at the Tower House in 1852. The Camden House was recently purchased by the Park Service, which plans to restore it to its former glory.

↑
PARK
SERVICE

Picture #1

ST. ROSE CHURCH

This picturesque country church is one of the oldest in Shasta County. It was built about 1900 by residents of the town. An earlier church was located on the hillside across the creek and was the second Catholic Church in the County. St. Rose is administered by the Catholic Church in Redding, but is no longer used. Furnishings remained inside the building.

Picture #2

EAST SIDE OF MAIN STREET
FRANCK STORE

In 1854 Frederick Franck, a German immigrant, opened the Franck Store across the street from the French Gulch Hotel. The store has remained in the hands of Franck's descendants and is the oldest store in continuous ownership in Shasta County. The iron shutters on the windows and doors were added for fire protection after the original building burned in an 1856 fire. It is one of the few grocery-bars in the country. The front of the store handles groceries and needed items, while the back of the building is a saloon. A trap door is located near the bar where male residents entered the cellar during prohibition to do some serious drinking. A ring remains in the ceiling of the saloon to lower whiskey barrels to the basement.

Picture #3

FRENCH GULCH HOTEL

Originally called the Feeney Hotel, the present structure began as a bar in 1855, but later enlarged to provide dining and sleeping facilities in 1888. It is the only remaining public accommodations in the town which once boasted four hotels. The full length bar in the building was shipped around the horn to French Gulch.

Picture #4

I.O.O.F. HALL

In 1903 a fire, which swept the community, destroyed the original Independent Order of Odd Fellows Hall built in 1858. The present structure dates from 1913 and houses a branch of the Shasta County Library on its ground floor. The French Gulch lodge celebrated its 100th anniversary in 1958. The original charter was lost in an 1864 fire and a new charter was issued the following year.

Picture #5

WASHINGTON MINE

Located west of French Gulch, the mine was one of the first to begin operation when gold was discovered in the area. It produced over two million dollars worth of ore. The mill machinery remains in the building and the operation is guarded by a watchman to protect it from vandals.

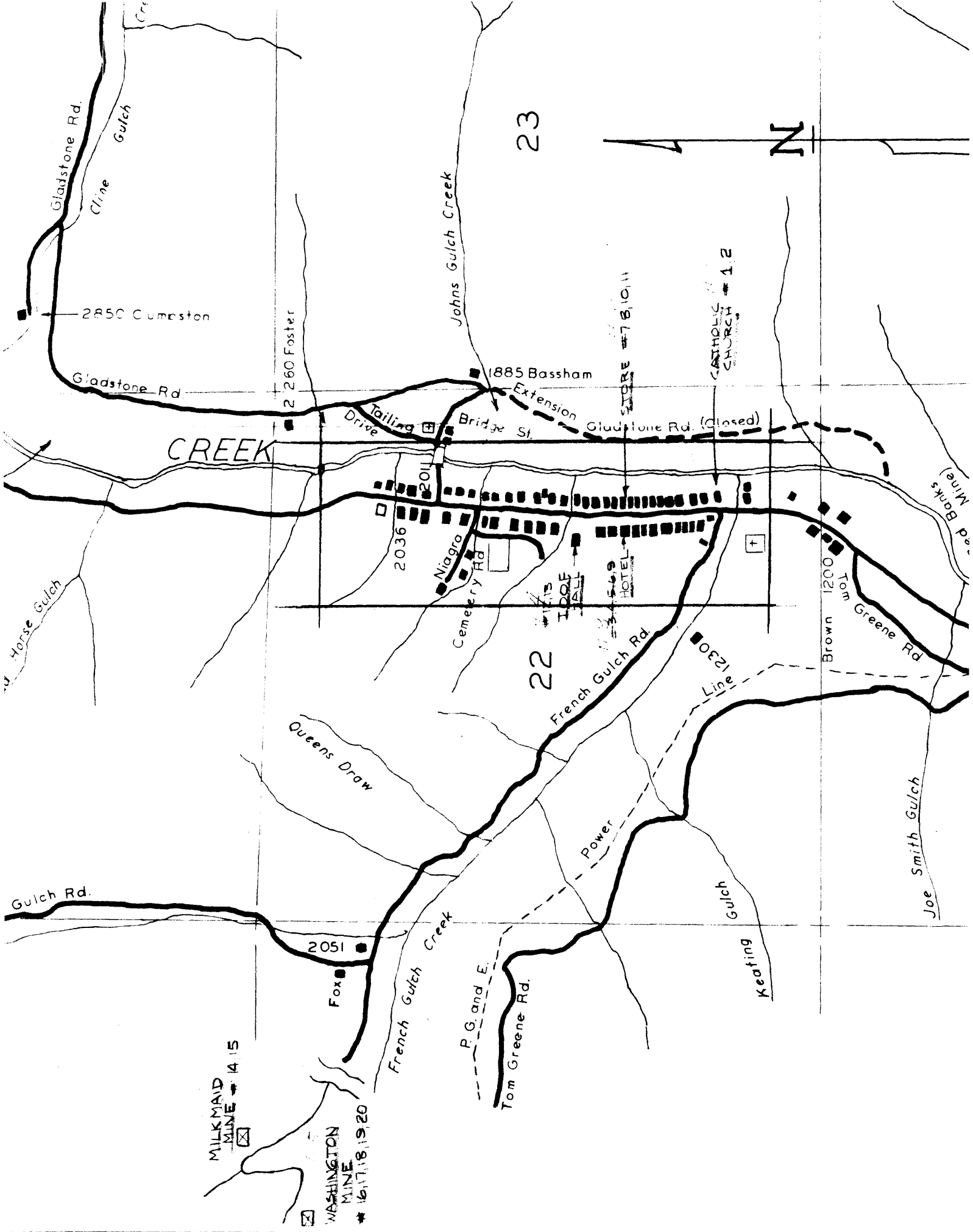
Picture #6

MILKMAID MINE

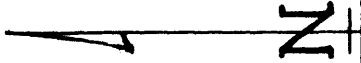
Discovered in the late 1890's by William McGuire and William Espy, the Milkmaid Mine lay idle for some time pending a lawsuit filed against its owners, who eventually lost the claim.

The mine and its 10 stamp mill with 1,150 pound stamps was acquired in 1908 by miner Ed Lewis who, with his partners, began to work the claim and an adjacent mine, the Franklin Mine. The Franklin Mine was the first mine in Shasta County and the second quartz mill in the State. Records show that several hundred thousand dollars were taken out of the claims in just a few months.

After the Milkmaid's vein gave out, the subsequent owners of the claim gave the mill to the Shasta Historical Society. The mill still contains the original stamps and the Society is hoping a spot can be found for the mill where it will be easily accessible to the public and free from vandalism.



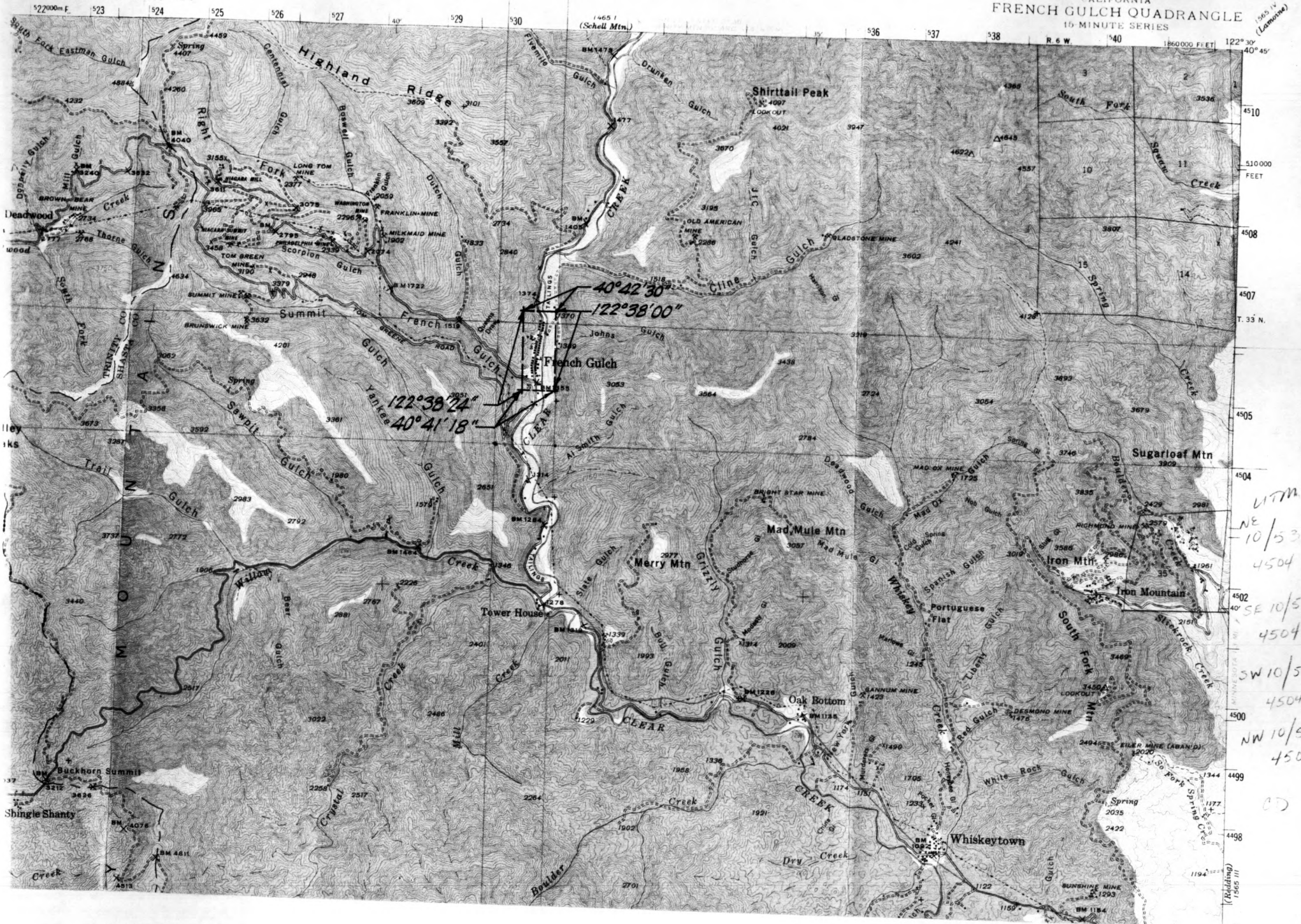
23



CREEK

22

Gladstone Rd.
 Cline Gulch
 2850 Cumston
 260 Foster
 1885 Bassham
 Extension
 Gladstone Rd. (Closed)
 Tailing Drive
 Bridge St.
 STORE #78,1011
 CATHOLIC CHURCH #12
 Horseshoe Gulch
 2036
 2011
 Niagra
 Cemetery Rd
 IDOE
 HOTEL
 French Gulch Rd
 1200
 Tom Greene Rd
 Browns
 (ad Mine)
 Joe Smith Gulch
 Keating
 Power
 Line
 1230
 Queens Draw
 French Gulch Creek
 Fox
 2051
 P. G. and E.
 Tom Greene Rd.
 Milkmaid Mine #1415
 Washington Mine #1617, 18, 19, 20



UTM
NE 10/530
4504 2
SE 10/53
4504 9
SW 10/53
4504 8
NW 10/53
4504
00

(Building)
1565 11