

PH 0065196

Form 10-306
(Oct. 1972)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM
FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	California
COUNTY:	Inyo
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	APR 16 1974

8130

1. NAME

COMMON: Skidoo

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Death Valley National Monument, Wildrose District

CITY OR TOWN: Death Valley CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 33

STATE: California CODE: 06 COUNTY: Inyo CODE: 027

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input 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 type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input checked="" 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) _____ _____ _____
Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No			

4. AGENCY

National Park Service, (land only) (mining claim)

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable) Western Region

CITY OR TOWN: San Francisco

STREET AND NUMBER: Box 450 Golden Gate Ave., 36063

STATE: California CODE: 06

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Death Valley National Monument

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Death Valley STATE: California CODE: 06

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

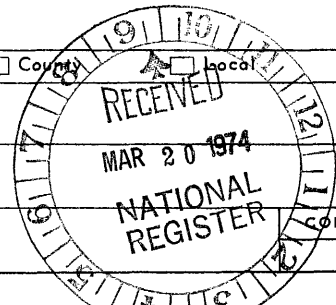
TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:



STATE: California

COUNTY: San Francisco

ENTRY NUMBER: APR 16 1974

DATE:

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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

Preservation recommended

Skidoo was a typical frontier-type mining town. The townsite itself was located on a flat area, and it contained the usual: stores, dwellings, a saloon or two, stables, etc., all simple wooden box-like structures. Most of the buildings clustered along the sides of the main street and telephone poles lined each side of the street. The remainder of the town spread out the equivalent of a couple of blocks on each side of the main street, but the buildings there were relatively few and scattered. Surrounding the town were the "diggings," and they ranged from the one-man operation to the more complex company operation. Above the town a 15-stamp mill spread down one of the hills, and small wood and sheet metal office type structures dotted the area at the top of the mill.

Today it is difficult to envision the bustling town of Skidoo with what remains. Nothing is left of the buildings of the town, but a sign today marks the site of the town. Today the stamp mill, a corrugated metal structure spreading down the hillside, is in very poor condition. Some of the stamps are still in and some of the metal sheets flap in the breeze with a good portion of them missing. Water vats are scattered about the mill. A loading chute, made of heavy wood timbers, is perched above the stamp mill. Concrete pads mark where once mining shacks and offices stood. Mine shafts and test pits scattered over the surrounding countryside are the most numerous reminders of the activity of the town, and a few new and reworked shafts testify to the continued lure of the area down to today.

Boundary: In order to provide an adequate buffer zone for the historic district, to protect the approach to the site, to protect the surface workings, and to provide visual integrity for interpretation, the following boundary is needed for the Site.

From a point on the ground at latitude 36° 25' 16" and longitude 117° 05' 01" proceed due north approximately one and one-half miles, then due west approximately two miles, then due north one-half mile, then due west approximately two miles to a point on the ground at latitude 36° 27' 00" and longitude 117° 10' 13". From this latter point proceed due south about one and one-half miles, then due east about one mile, thence due south approximately one-half mile, and then due west about three miles to the point of beginning.

Preliminary Cost Estimate: mining claim; estimate \$30,000 for restoration

Class VI land: 4,160 acres



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

B. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1906-1930s

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) <u>Mining</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <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 | _____ |
| <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

3rd Order

With the discovery of gold in the general vicinity, the town of Skidoo flourished and in time boasted a population of over 500. The town had the usual stores, a saloon or two, a newspaper, and a telephone system that connected it with Beatty, Nevada. The principal source of wealth was the Tucki and Del Norte mines.

As summarized in the California State Mining Bureau's "Report of State Mineralogist," 1915-16, Report XV:

The Skidoo Mine is located 65 miles north of Trona, California, at 6500 ft. elevation. The property was established in 1906; the mill erected in 1907. The mill burned and was reconstructed in 1913. Owner: Skidoo Mines Co., Skidoo, CA. C. W. Cross, president, and Orynski, superintendent.

Two systems of quartz veins occur in a pegmatite granite. The main vein system strikes NW-SE and the other E-W. The veins average from 18" to 2' in width, with a maximum of 4'.

The ore is free milling and values average about \$15.00 per ton. Ore is hauled to the mill through tunnels. The mill equipment consists of: ten 850-lb. stamps, five 1150-lb. stamps and amalgamation tables. Table tailings run to the cyanide plant and precipitated in zinc boxes.

The mill is operated by watter conveyed in an 8" pipeline 21 miles from Telescope Peak. The pipe was installed at a cost of over \$200,000; 35 men were employed at the mine mill. Total production to date over \$1,500,000.

In 1926 the property was reported being re-opened. In time the town faded, but in the 1930's there was another rush in the area, and Skidoo revived for a brief period.

The 1937-38 Mineralogist report states:

"The property was operated by Gray and Worcester Mining Co., from 1935-37. The ore mined was hauled by truck to Journigan Mining and Milling Co. (at Emigrant Springs) for treatment. In January 1937,

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

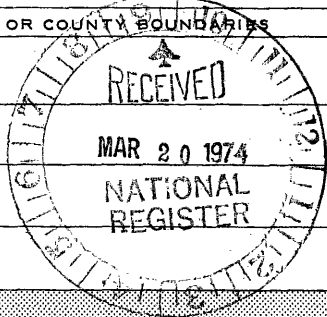
Benjamin Levy, "Death Valley National Monument: Historical Background Study," April 15, 1969, Division of History, National Park Service

Stanley W. Paher, "Death Valley Ghost Town," Las Vegas, Nevada, Publications 1973.

California State Mining Bureau, Report of State Mineralogist, 1915-16, Report XV (pg. 83-84); Vol. XXII, 1929; XXXIV, 1937-38; XXXVI, 1939-40 (pg. 10); and Vol. 47, 1951 (pg. 327-8).

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		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
NW	Degrees Minutes Seconds 36° 27' 00"	Degrees Minutes Seconds 117° 10' 13"		Degrees Minutes Seconds ° ' "	Degrees Minutes Seconds ° ' "	
NE	36° 27' 00"	117° 05' 01"				
SE	36° 25' 16"	117° 05' 01"				
SW	36° 25' 16"	117° 10' 13"				
APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 4,160						
LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES						
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE			
California	06	Inyo	027			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE			



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: F. Ross Holland, Jr., Historian		DATE: 3-14-73
BUSINESS ADDRESS: Denver Service Center, National Park Service		
STREET AND NUMBER: 7200 W. Alameda		PHONE:
CITY OR TOWN: Denver	STATE: Colorado	CODE: 08

12. CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

State Liaison Officer recommendation:

- Yes
- No
- None

[Signature]
State Liaison Officer Signature

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Liaison Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The recommended level of significance is National State Local.

[Signature] 2/11/74
Federal Representative Signature Date

Acting Regional ^{Trust} Director, Western Region

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

[Signature]
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 4/10/74

ATTEST:
[Signature]
Keeper of The National Register

Date: April 10, 1974

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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(Continuation Sheet)

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#8. Significance (cont.)

Roy Journigan secured a lease on the property and at present 5 men are employed getting out ore from old stopes on the property, also hauling dump material to Journigan Mill for treatment. The Mill is situated in Emigrant Canyon, being an amalgamation and cyanide plant with a capacity of 25 tons."

"...comprises 12 claims...owner Judge W. Gray, Las Vegas, under lease to Journigan Mining & Milling Co., Roy Journigan, president and manager, Trona, California...values \$15-20 per ton in gold."

There was a renewal of mining activity in 1939-40 with ore continuing to be treated at the mill at Emigrant Springs. In 1951 some activity at the Skidoo mines, but no gold production was reported.

The remains of the Skidoo mining operation, stand today as a visual example of gold mining within Death Vally. Skidoo is also representative of the last gold mining boom which occurred in the early part of this century and which gave rise to other towns, including Rhyolite and Goldfield.

Skidoo is an outstanding example of the development and mining of narrow veins containing gold ore, in the period 1875 to 1930, and is one of the few sites illustrating the uncommon, large scale mining of narrow ore veins. The results of the gold mining are easily accessible for viewing and possess great potential for interpretation of the mining methods and processing of ore in the historical period.

The surface mill structures are representative of the type used in the historical period and are an example of a gravity feed system in which the gold was seperated from the ore. The surface area also contains examples where the ore veins have been mined to the surface, and the mine workings along these veins can be viewed from the surface. The underground area contains drifts along the veins, crosscuts between veins, ore shutes and stopes or holes to the surface.

With additional historical research in the future on Skidoo, mining operations and the historic period may result in a higher level of significance.

