

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	DEC 19 1977
DATE ENTERED	MAY 24 1978

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Great Sierra Mine (Dana Village) Historic Site

AND/OR COMMON

Great Sierra Mine

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Not applicable (Yosemite National Park) NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Not applicable

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

California

CODE

06

COUNTY

Tuolumne

CODE

109

2 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

4 AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

National Park Service Western Regional Office

STREET & NUMBER

450 Golden Gate Avenue

Box 36063

CITY, TOWN

San Francisco

VICINITY OF

STATE

California

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

National Park Service, Yosemite National Park headquarters

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 577

CITY, TOWN

Yosemite National Park

STATE

California 95389

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historic Buildings Inventory

DATE

1961

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Yosemite National Park files

CITY, TOWN

Yosemite National Park

STATE

California

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE 1960s*

*Mining equipment moved to Pioneer History Center, Wawona

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Great Sierra Mining Company established Dana Village as the support facility for the operations of the Sheepherder Lode. The village is located above Gaylor Lake on Tioga Hill.

The remains of 5 stone cabins, a wooden blacksmith shop, and a small stone powder house can be seen today. The equipment originally in this mine was removed by the Park for reasons of preservation, and is displayed at the History Center (Wawona).

The walls of the cabins and powder house are well defined, but portions are toppled over and in ruins. The blacksmith shop was destroyed in an explosion during the last months of operation, and those timbers are scattered about the site. The shaft openings are caved in, and filled with rubble.

One cabin is relatively intact with only its roof removed. The cabin is a one-story, one-room masonry structure measuring c. 25' x 18'.

The walls are very thick, c. 4' at the base and 3' at the top, consisting of small jagged slabs of metamorphic rock (schist or slate) and stacked on a rubble bond completely without mortar. There is one window on the south wall and one door on the east wall, both framed with hand-hewn lumber, weathered and bleached. The cabin had a gable roof which was removed; the gable ends were stone masonry. The plates for the roof structure and 4 beams are intact.

The cabin has evidently been rebuilt and repaired several times, but the nature of the dry-masonry construction requires this type of maintenance. The cabin therefore does not violate the criteria concerning reconstruction.

To prevent further collapse of masonry, the roof should be restored. A new gable on the south end will have to be built and debris should be removed from inside the building. The building has potential as an interpretive tool in relating the story of the silver miners and the opening of the Tioga Pass region. Maintenance of the cabin is adequate preservation for this resource.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW					
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)			
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION					

SPECIFIC DATES 1881-1884

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Great Sierra Consolidated Silver Co.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Mining activity on the crest and eastern slope of the central Sierra Nevada is closely interwoven with events leading to the formation of Yosemite National Park. The Great Sierra Mine (Dana Village) was the site of the most intensive, albeit unprofitable, silver mining effort within the present park boundary and is of local significance in industry. The cabin is of local significance architecturally; its type of masonry construction is very rare, and it exhibits a high level of handcraftsmanship. The Great Sierra Mine, originally called the "High Rock" or "Mt. Dana", was one of several claims located along a ledge atop Tioga Hill and about 800 feet south of the fabled Shepherd Lode, reputed to be a fabulously rich silver vein. The Lode was discovered in 1860 and rediscovered in 1874 by a young shepherd, Thomas Brusky, Jr. Brusky and others staked claims along the Shepherd and the adjacent ledge, and the ensuing seven years produced a confusing litany of title changes, counterclaims, etc. In 1881 the Great Sierra Consolidated Silver Mining Company purchased all claims in the immediate vicinity of Tioga Hill. The company established the mountaintop community of Dana, including a post office branch, that same year, intending to work the mining operation year-round. Living conditions at c. 11,000 feet were difficult and the miners soon relocated at "Bennettville" near the northern base of Tioga Hill.

Originally the company sank two shafts at the Great Sierra Mine, going down 100 feet before summit work was abandoned in favor of a tunnel through the side of the hill that would intersect both silver ledges. Driving a tunnel into extremely hard rock required special drilling machinery. It took more than two months to haul eight tons of equipment the nine miles from the foot of Bloody Canyon to the Great Sierra Mine tunnel. The equipment was transported on 6 heavy sleds by 10 to 12 men and 2 mules. One section required an almost vertical climb of 2,160 feet.

In 1884 the tunnel had been driven 1,784 feet and more than \$300,000 expended when the Great Sierra Consolidated Silver Mining Company collapsed and closed down operations. The claim changed hands several times and in 1933 work was resumed with modern equipment. The tunnel was driven several hundred feet further without striking the Shepherd Lode and the second ill-fated operation ended. Today the National Park Service controls access to the mine tunnel.

The mining activity on Tioga Hill attracted hundreds of men and women to Yosemite's high Sierra region. Conservationists, already lobbying to establish a federal reserve that would abolish grazing in Tuolumne Meadows and the indiscriminate cutting of trees in the sugar pine tracts, agitated anew over the potential destruction of spectacular scenery caused by mining. It is difficult to assess whether Tioga Hill and its environs would have been included in the boundaries delineating Yosemite National Park in 1890 if the Shepherd Lode had proven to contain factual, instead of legendary, wealth.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

pioneer Yosemite History Center, Interpretive Prospectus, Yosemite NP Library
 Ute, Robert F., "Yosemite's Pioneer Cabins", Yosemite Nature Notes, V. 35:10 (Oct.1956)
Report of the State Mineralogist, No. 8, 1888. Bureau of Mines. Sacramento, Calif.
Report of the State Mineralogist, No. 36, 1940. Bureau of Mines, Sacramento, Calif.
Mining and Scientific Press, V. 78: 239, 1899. San Francisco, Calif.
 Hubbard, Douglass, Ghost Mines of Yosemite. (Fresno: Awani Press, 1958)
 Russell, Carl P. 100 Years in Yosemite, rev. ed. (Yosemite Natural Hist. Assn., 1957)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than 10 acres on summit
 UTM REFERENCES

A	1 1	3 0 0 6 5 0	4 2 00 0 0 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

A complete delineation of the boundaries of the Great Sierra Mine could probably be ascertained from the title patent to the mine. The prime resources on the site are the drywall masonry cabin and the ruins of the other structures on the summit of Tioga Hill

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Leslie Starr Hart, Historian
Merrill Ann Wilson, Historical Architect
 ORGANIZATION National Park Service, Denver Service Center DATE August 1976
 STREET & NUMBER 655 Parfet Street, P.O. Box 25287 TELEPHONE (303) 234-4509 (Hart)
(303) 234-5545 (Wilson)
 CITY OR TOWN Denver STATE Colorado 80225

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION **SEP 22 1977**
 YES NO NONE

William E. Egan
 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is National State Local
 FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE [Signature] **DEC 9 1977**

TITLE Deputy Assistant Secretary DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION [Signature] DATE 5/24/78
 ATTEST: William LeBouch DATE 22 May 1978
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER