

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	FEB 29 1980
DATE ENTERED	MAY 15 1980

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Hanging Flume

AND/OR COMMON

Hanging Flume

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

5.7 Miles Northwest of Uravan, ^{on CO} Colorado Hwy. 141

CITY, TOWN

Uravan, Colorado

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
3rd

STATE

Colorado

CODE
08

COUNTY
Montrose

CODE
085

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: None

4 AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

Bureau of Land Management, Montrose District Office

STREET & NUMBER

Highway 550 South

CITY, TOWN

Montrose

VICINITY OF

STATE

Colorado 81401

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Bureau of Land Management, Colorado State Office

STREET & NUMBER

1600 Broadway, Room 700

CITY, TOWN

Denver

STATE

Colorado

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Colorado Inventory of Historic Sites

DATE

Ongoing

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Colorado Historical Society

1300 Broadway

CITY, TOWN

Denver

STATE

Colorado 80203

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Located 5.7 miles west of Uravan, Colorado, on Highway 141, the Hanging Flume is a three-sided, wooden structure attached to the walls of the Dolores and San Miguel Canyons. It is located 150 to 400 feet above the Dolores and San Miguel Rivers. The Flume is six feet wide, four feet deep, and is supported by brackets anchored to the canyon walls by iron pins, 1/4 inches in diameter, driven by hand eighteen inches into sandstone. The structure is six miles long (?) and originally ran from the terminus of a diversion ditch (not included in the nomination) to a point several miles from the Lone Tree Placer Mine. Today, the Flume is in deteriorated condition as a few sections have collapsed and fallen into the river, but the basic integrity of the structure remains intact.

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 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 type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Mining
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1889-1890

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Erected in 1889 and 1890 to bring water to the Lone Tree Placer Mine, the Hanging Flume represents a notable engineering achievement associated with the development of Colorado's mining industry during the late nineteenth century. The Flume embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type of structure often essential in placering and is one of few such structures remaining from that era. Future study of the Flume may reveal additional information about bygone techniques of mining and engineering.

Like most such structures the Hanging Flume had a brief career. In the late 1880's the owners of the Lone Tree Placer Mine found they could not obtain adequate supplies of water essential in placering because the mineral-bearing ground lay above the Dolores River. Thus someone--perhaps an owner, employee, or engineer--conceived the idea of suspending a flume from the walls of Dolores and San Miguel Canyons. The proponents of the concept then planned a six-mile-long structure which they thought could be build for \$75,000. Construction began in 1889. The builders erected rock shelter huts in the river valley to house workmen, had iron pins made at a local blacksmith shop, and floated pine timbers down the Dolores River to the construction area. The builders also laid out a service road along the canyon rim, used a derrick to hoist heavy materials up the sheer walls, and employed bosun's chairs suspended on lines from the canyon rim to hoist workers to precarious construction areas. Surmounting a host of difficulties, the builders completed the Flume in 1890 at a cost of \$173,000, more than double the original estimate. Despite this achievement the Flume operated for only a brief time owing in part to the economic depression which befell the United States during the 1890's. The structure was finally abandoned about 1900.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Wilson Rockwell, Uncompahgre Country, (Sage Books, Denver, 1945)
 Point of Interest, (Colorado State Historical Society, Denver, Colo, p. 70)
 "Flume Work of the Montrose Placer Mining Company", Engineering and Mining Journal,
 (Vol. 49, May 17, 1890, pp. 563-565).
 Anon, "The Hanging Flume of Dolores Canyon". Colorado Magazine, (Vol.40, No. 3,
 pp. 237-239, 1963).

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

UTM NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 4.36

UTM REFERENCES

694207 4250832		694207 4250634	
A [1,2] [6,4,3,5,6,0]E [1,0,6,0,9,5,0] N	B [1,2] [6,4,3,6,7,5]E [1,0,6,0,95,0] N		
ZONE EASTING NORTHING	ZONE EASTING NORTHING		
C [1,2] [6,5,5,9,00]E [1,0,4,7,2,9,0] N	D [1,2] [6,5,5,9,0,0]E [1,0,4,6,82,0] N		
ZONE EASTING NORTHING	ZONE EASTING NORTHING		

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Corrected 5/81 by Waisley
 689844 4254490
 The Flume extends from about 2.5 miles to 6.0 miles west of Uravan, Colorado along the cliffs of the Dolores and San Miguel River canyons from A and B to C and D as indicated on the USGS Red Canyon, Colorado Quadrangle map enclosed with the nomination.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
None			
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
None			

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Dr. Douglas Scott, District Archaeologist

September 12, 1977

ORGANIZATION

Bureau of Land Management, Montrose District Office

DATE

FTS 322-6255/

STREET & NUMBER

Highway 550 South

TELEPHONE

(303) 249-7791

CITY OR TOWN

Montrose

STATE

249-3491

Colorado

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES

NO

NONE

William C. Hammond
 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

Denick E. Hamlin

TITLE

BLM CULTURAL RESOURCE PROGRAM LIAISON (BUREAU LIAISON)

DATE

3/3/80

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

W. Ray Luce

DATE

5/15/80

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

William H. Brannan

5.6.80