UNlTEDSTAThS DhPARTMtNT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM
FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

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, Colorado Hwy. 141
CITY, TOWN
Uravan, Colorado
STATE
Colorado

3 CLASSIFICATION
CATEGORY
—DISTRICT
—BUILDING(S)
X STRUCTURE
—OBJECT
OWNERSHIP
X PUBLIC
PRIVATE
BOTH
PUBLIC ACQUISITION
IN PROCESS
BEING CONSIDERED
STATUS
X OCCUPIED
UNOCCUPIED
WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
YES: RESTRICTED
YES: UNRESTRICTED
NO
PRESENT USE
AGRICULTURE
COMMERCIAL
EDUCATIONAL
ENTERTAINMENT
GOVERNMENT
INDUSTRIAL
MILITARY
X OTHER: None

AGENCY
REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS (if applicable)
Bureau of Land Management, Montrose District Office
STREET & NUMBER
Highway 550 South
CITY, TOWN
Montrose
STATE
Colorado

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

REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
TITLE
Colorado Inventory of Historic Sites
DATE
ONGOING
FEDERAL
X STATE
COUNTY
LOCAL
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
Colorado Historical Society
1300 Broadway
CITY, TOWN
Denver
STATE
Colorado
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\% 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 section have collapsed and fallen into the river, but the basic integrity of the structure remains intact.
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.
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).

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 4.36

UTM NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

UTM REFERENCES

ZONE EASTING NORTHING ZONE EASTING NORTHING
A 1 69,4207 4,250,832 B 1 69,4207 4,250,634
C 1 69,8944 4,254,490

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE
Dr. Douglas Scott, District Archaeologist September 12, 1977

ORGANIZATION
Bureau of Land Management, Montrose District Office

STREET & NUMBER
Highway 550 South

CITY OR TOWN
Montrose Colorado

CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES \ NO

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

DATE 3/3/80

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTRY

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTRY