



United States  
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Service

Willamette  
National  
Forest



## Little North Santiam Mining District

## Cultural Resource Inventory Report





LITTLE NORTH SANTIAM

MINING DISTRICT

CULTURAL RESOURCE

INVENTORY REPORT

Prepared by

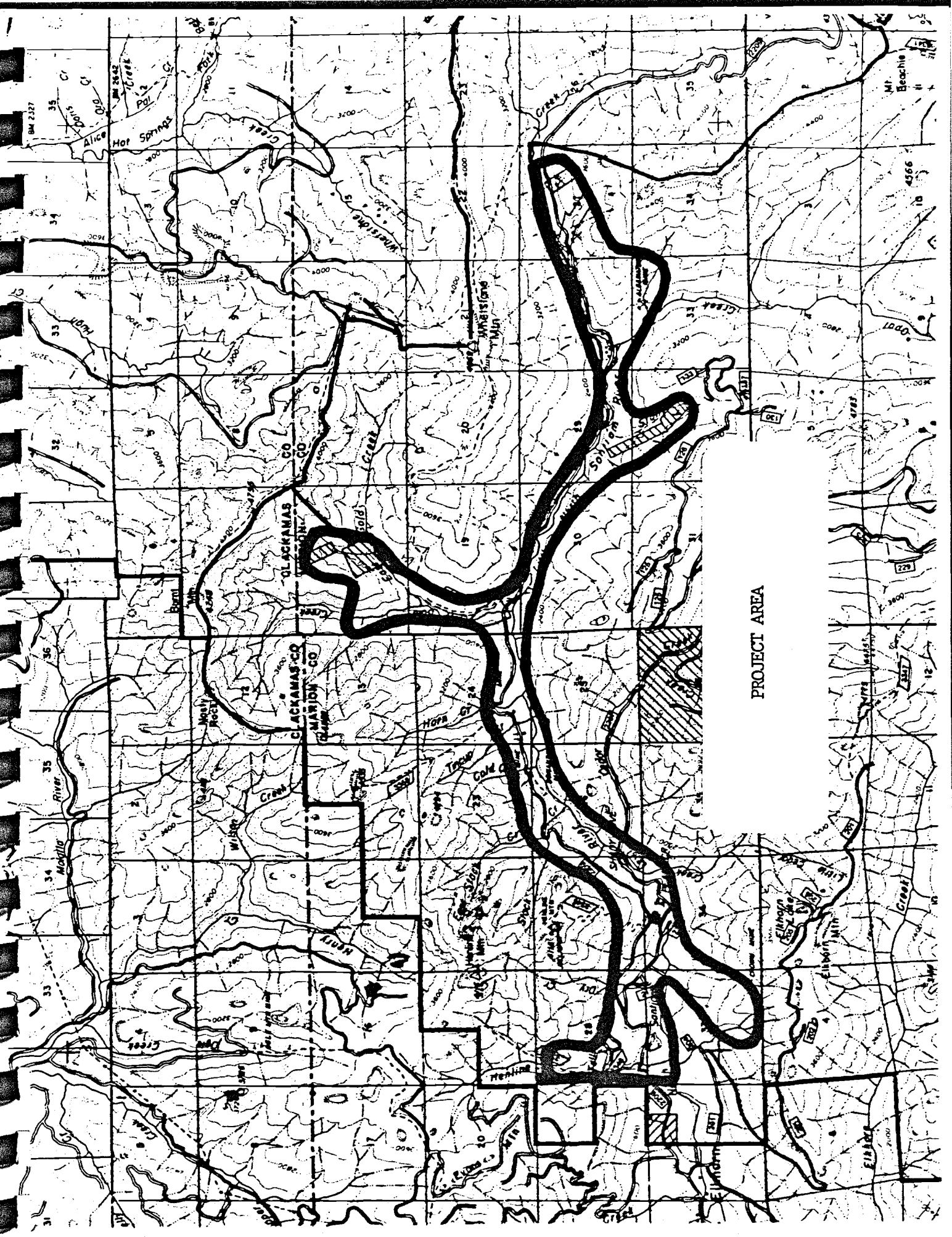
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## Objectives and Procedures

This project was undertaken to accomplish the following goals:

1. To comply with Public Law 96-515 Sec. 206, 36 CFR 800, and other Federal laws.
2. To identify, locate, and determine the present condition of a representative sample of cultural resources in the area.
3. To provide a framework for evaluating cultural resources encountered in the area at a later date.

In order to accomplish these goals, the following procedures were employed:

1. Review of the published historical and geological literature about the North Santiam Mining District.
2. Review of mining claim entries for Marion County.
3. Review of previous cultural resource inventories in the area.
4. Interviews with knowledgeable persons who knew the resources and history of the area.
5. On ground inspection of identified cultural resources.

Review of the available literature consistently pointed to a number of major cultural resource properties in the area. All of these properties that are located on the Willamette National Forest were inspected. In addition, many unreported properties were identified. This inventory was not intended to identify one hundred percent of the cultural resources in the area.

All distances and dimensions are approximations, based on pacing, on-site estimates, or measurements on maps.

All locational information based on township and range is in reference to the Willamette Meridian.

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## Introduction

The North Santiam Mining District is located in the western Cascades of Oregon, 50 miles east of Salem. Most of the area is drained by the Little North Santiam River and is under the stewardship of the Detroit Ranger District of the Willamette National Forest.

This area is characterized by deep-cut, steep-walled drainages. Elevations range from 1,500 to 5,000 feet. Rock outcrops are common and often spectacular. Dense timber covers most of the area, the only known logging having been done by mining interests.

The only vehicular access to the area is from the west via Forest Service road 2209. This road is open to public use up to a gate just west of Gold Creek in Section 19, T. 8 S., R. 5 E. East of this point, public access is limited to nonvehicular modes of transportation with only the mining interests and government employees on official business authorized to drive the road.

Part of the district was included in the Bull-of-the-Woods Wilderness Area created in 1984. The exact boundaries of the wilderness are yet to be finalized, but that part of the mining district included is east of Gold Creek and north of the Little North Santiam River and Battle Axe Creek.

Seven privately-owned, patented mining claims are located within the district. Four claims are near the east fork of Gold Creek. The other three are west of Stony Creek.

The mineralization in this area was being explored by 1860 when a number of claims were filed with the Marion County Clerk's Office. Most of the available accounts speak of the tremendous potential of the area. This potential has never been realized. Investment in mineral development in this area runs into the millions of dollars, but reported production between 1880 and 1947 totalled \$25,000 (Anon., 1951). Ten thousand dollars of the reported production can be attributed to the Ogle Mountain Mine. This mine is located on private land, off of the Willamette National Forest, and was not included in this inventory. It is reported that the Ogle Mountain Mine area was logged several years ago and the mining location was badly disturbed (George Atiyeh, personal communication).

Mining in the area was undertaken by many individuals and companies. Records, where available, show that most of the major mines were operated by more than one entity. Currently, claim holdings in the area can be divided into two groups. East of the gate near Gold Creek are over 170 claims held by Shiny Rock Mining Corporation (George, 1984). Included in this company's holdings are mineral rights to the seven patented claims cited above, the Minnie E. Vein, the Ruth and Morning Star Mines, and the structures at Jawbone Flats.

West of the gate, the holdings are smaller, with each group or individual owning only a few claims.



## Geology and Mineral Deposits

The following is quoted from the Oregon Metal Mines Handbook (1951):

"Unlike other Cascade areas, lavas, particularly light-colored andesites and rhyolites, predominate over fragmental rocks. The lavas probably belong to the Oligocene-Miocene Sardine series of Thayer (1939:8-9) and are intruded by small dacite-porphyry dikes and plugs. One quartz-diorite body occurs at the Crown mine, and larger unexposed intrusions are indicated both by the large areas of contact metamorphic hornfels and by the zoning of the mineralization. This areal zoning is better developed in the North Santiam district than elsewhere in the Cascade Range. The chalcopyrite veins along the river from the Crown mine to the Santiam form the central group. This is succeeded in the section up Gold Creek by the pyrite veins; and that in turn by the complex sulphide veins in the Blende Oro and, farther east, in the Ruth mines. The complex sulphide veins carry sphalerite, with variable amounts of galena and chalcopyrite. Outer limits of mineralization are represented by the calcite vein on Elkhorn Creek and the Ogle Mountain mine."

## CROWN MINE

### Location

Section 33, T. 8 S., R. 4 E. The properties associated with this claim are located on the steep, northern slope of the ridge between Elkhorn Creek and the Little North Santiam River along an unnamed creek.

### History

In 1916, the Crown Mining and Milling Company owned seven claims in this area (Parks and Swartley, 1916). By 1938, this same company had increased its holdings to ten claims which it maintained at least until 1951 (Callaghan and Buddington, 1938; Anonymous, 1951).

### Development Activities

In 1916, the Crown Mining and Milling Company was in the process of driving what was to become the main tunnel below its discovery cut. At about this same time it had also driven a 90-foot development tunnel on another claim about 2,000 feet to the west (Parks and Swartley, 1916). By 1938, the main tunnel had a total of 1,000 feet of development work in crosscut and drift, and there were also some short tunnels and cuts on the surface. Most of this work had been done in the 4 years before 1927.

### Trails

A short spur road left the main miner's road near the section corner common to Sections 27 and 33 and ran to the north bank of the Little North Santiam River. Opposite the end of the spur road, on the south bank, a trail led to the Crown Mine. The earliest firm record of the trail is in the 1938 report by Callaghan and Buddington. The trail is also shown on the USGS Mill City Quad that was surveyed in 1925-26. However, this map was not printed until 1941 and it is unknown whether the trail was located as part of the original survey or was added later. It does seem likely that the trail could date to the mid-1920's since that was the period of major development at the Crown Mine.

### Structures

Callaghan and Buddington (1938) reported a cabin as being located 400 feet below the main adit in 1938. A cabin symbol is on the 1941 Mill City Quad along the access trail at about 400 vertical feet below the Crown Mine in roughly the same location as the structure remains located in 1984. As with the access trail, because of the 15 year span between when the area was surveyed and the time the map was printed, it is difficult to assign a date to this structure with any degree of certainty.

### Current Conditions

This property was inspected on September 20 and 24, and October 1, 1984. On those visits the following properties were identified.

## Crown Mine

The main adit was located and found to be open and in good condition although a small creek was flowing from the portal. A pair of wooden rails was visible running into the adit. Metal strips measuring 1 inch x  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch x 4 feet were originally nailed to the rails.

## Other Cuts and Tunnels

The original discovery cut referred to in Parks and Swartley (1916) was visible above the portal to the Crown Mine. Four more adits were located above the Crown Mine along the unnamed creek. Two of these adits are located 100 feet above the Crown Mine on either side of the creek. The one on the west side was at water level, and the one on the east was 25 feet above the creek. Another cut is located just above and south of the east adit. The other two adits are on the east side of the creek spaced 100 feet apart. The adit furthest south was determined to be 25 feet deep. The depth of the other three could not be determined. Another adit is located 250 feet below the Crown Mine on the east side of the creek. This adit is 15 feet deep. Another cut is located 100 feet below the main adit.

The adit reported to be 2,000 feet to the west was searched for but was not located.

## Trails

The trail to the mine is in good condition and easy to follow from where it leaves the south bank of the Little North Santiam River. The grade is moderate to steep with the upper 1/3 a bench cut into the hillside. The tread on this upper section is 2 to 3 feet wide. A spur trail, also bench cut, leaves the main trail at the second switchback below the Crown Mine and runs 200 feet to the southeast where it meets the creek 300 feet below the Crown Mine.

## Structures

All of the structural remains identified were along the trail  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile, by trail, below the Crown Mine.

The remains of a building measuring 18 x 40 feet are located on a leveled area 50 feet west of the trail. The building is almost totally collapsed, but enough of the southwest corner remains to determine that it was at least partially constructed of logs. The roof was cedar shakes supported by 2- x 6-inch rafters. An excavated area measuring 3 x 5 feet and 3 feet deep is located near the northwest corner of the building. This may have been a root cellar.

Fifteen feet north of the northwest corner of the above structure is a hole with associated remains of a small board structure. This appears to have been the privy.

Another leveled area lies 25 feet southwest of the main structure. This measures 10 feet square. No structural remains are evident.



One hundred fifty feet south of the main structure, along the contour line and across the trail, is another small flattened area. This measures 10 x 10 feet and holds some badly deteriorated logs and boards.

Trash is scattered along the bank north and west of the main structure. This includes tin cans of both the hole-in-the-top and sanitary seal type, broken dishes, old dry cell batteries, a zinc mason jar lid, clear glass, automatic machine made bottles, and Prince Albert tobacco cans.

Over 100 stumps, most 10 to 12 inches in diameter, are located in the area south and above the structure remains.

### Miscellaneous

There are a number of pieces of mining related equipment in the area of the Crown Mine. Part of a steam engine and a small boiler are located just below the trail 150 feet northwest of the mine. A number of sections of crushed 8-inch galvanized pipe are stacked to the left of the portal. One hundred feet below the portal in the creek bed are a transmission, an engine block, and a boiler approximately 8 feet long and 2½ feet in diameter. Three hundred feet below the adit, where the spur trail meets the creek, are a large metal bucket and two sections of 1 3/8 inch pipe.



Crown Mine portal showing wooden rails

## CAPITAL MINE

### Location

T. 8 S., R 4 E., Sections 28 and 33. The properties associated with this claim are located between Forest Service Road 2209 and the Little North Santiam River along Henline Creek.

### History

The earliest information available on this group is contained in the records of the U.S. Surveyor General for the State of Oregon. From July 1 to 3, 1890, two adjacent claims were surveyed. These were the Governor Chadwick Lode which was located September 29, 1888, and the King Lode which was located June 9, 1890. Together, these two claims were known as the Capital Consolidated Gold and Silver Mine. Identified during that survey were a 310-foot adit, a 40-foot deep shaft, a two-room log house, and a blacksmith shop. These are located on an accompanying map dated April 23, 1892.

When T. 8 S., R. 4 E., was surveyed in September 1893, the resulting map showed these two claims as being patented.

The next reference to this claim is in Callaghan and Buddington (1938). This report gives the length of the adit at 400 feet. Apparently, little work was done between 1890 and 1938, as the adit was only advanced 90 feet in that length of time.

### Trails

Several trails are shown in the area of this claim on the 1893 township map. One is identified as a "Miners and Settlers Trail" and "Trail from Gold Creek Mines to Willamette Valley." Another trail is a spur that leaves the main trail near the west edge of the patented claims, passes by the house and blacksmith shop, crosses Henline Creek and rejoins the main trail east of the claims. A third trail is shown leaving the spur trail near the house and running south along Henline Creek several hundred feet and swings east paralleling the Little North Santiam River, which is shown stopping at the corner of Sections 27 and 33.

### Current Conditions

This property was surveyed on August 22, 1984. At that time, the main adit was located just above creek level with the portal accessible, but had standing water in it. A leveled area northwest of the adit and adjacent to Forest Service Road 2209 was located in the vicinity of the buildings shown on the 1890 plat. No structure remains were identified.

The trails shown on the early maps were searched for, but only short sections of what could be trails were identified.

## SILVER KING MINES

### Location

Section 28, T. 8 S., R. 4 E. The Silver King Mines are located along Henline Creek in the vicinity of Henline Falls.

### History

The first claims filed along Henline Creek were in 1864. In 1888 the Capitol Mining Company filed water rights and mill site claims on Henline Creek at the falls.

By 1916, the Silver King Mining Company held 12 claims. At this time the major development work was on the Queen of the West vein located about 600 feet above Henline Falls. This consisted of two tunnels on Henline Creek. The east adit was 70 feet long and the west adit was 65 feet long. A crosscut intended to intersect the Queen of the West vein was being driven at the base of Henline Falls. This crosscut was 100 feet long at this time. There was also an 80-foot deep shaft.

The property was reached by a spur road off of the Little North Santiam Wagon Road.

An article that appeared in the Salem Oregon Statesman on June 7, 1923, gave a description of the current development. At that time, the property had blacksmith and machine shops, bunk and cookhouses sufficient to accommodate 15 men, and several smaller buildings. The crosscut at the base of Henline Falls was being advanced by a crew of four men using power drills and had reached a length of 300 feet. It was also reported that a water powered generator, air compressor, and machine drills had been installed at Henline Falls the previous year.

Callaghan and Buddington (1938) observed "several good buildings and a water-power plant and compressor at the portal to the main crosscut" when they visited the property. The crosscut was inaccessible but reported to be 1,600 feet long.

### Power Generation

Power for the Silver King Mine was created through the use of a pelton water wheel. This was located near the base of Henline Falls and was driven by water from a wire-wrapped, wood-staved penstock fed from the top of the falls.

A considerable amount of work was done at the top of Henline Falls as part of the power generation project. A rubble dam was built 100 feet above the falls. From the dam, water was directed through a diversion channel to a concrete headgate dam. The water then ran through an opening in the bottom of the headgate dam and into the penstock. The penstock laid along the bottom of a 22-foot long channel blasted 6½ feet into bed rock. From there it dropped over the cliff near Henline Falls to the pelton water wheel.



A second, smaller diversion channel was cut from the bedrock on the west side of the creek. This runs 30 feet in a northwesterly direction and measures 2 feet wide and 1½ feet deep. It was presumably intended to divert the falls away from the adit below.

### Current Conditions

#### Mines and Cuts

Four major developments are identified in the literature. The shaft was the only property not located during the field work on which this report is based.

Both adits on the Queen of the West vein are open. Access to the east adit is hindered only by brush covering the portal. Access to the west adit is prevented by a locked gate.

The crosscut located at the base of Henline Falls is in excellent condition, largely because it was blasted through solid rock. The track for ore carts had been removed. The outlines of ties were still visible, and a section of rail was located in the brush a short distance from the portal.

A quarter of a mile east of the crosscut is an open cut. This runs north into a steep hillside. It measures 30 feet long, 10 feet wide at the top, and 10 feet deep. The hillside on either side of the cut had been cut away with the excavated material leveled, creating a bench. This is 40 feet wide at its widest point and over 200 feet long.

#### Power Generation

At the top of the falls, both the rubble dam and the diversion channel running to the headgate dam are mostly covered by a log jam. The rubble dam is 2 x 2 feet and 10 feet long. It is made of local material fused together with concrete. A foot square opening in the dam appears to have been part of the original construction.

Near the headgate dam, along the course of the diversion channel, are five 3/4-inch iron rods. These extend 2 to 3 feet out of the ground. The ground surface dips here, and the iron rods were probably part of some type of flume.

The headgate dam is in good condition. It is 5 feet high, 4 feet long, 6 inches wide at the top, and about twice as wide at the base. There is a round hole through the bottom of the dam. It is 12 inches in diameter. Water flowed through this hole and into the penstock.

The wooden part of the penstock is gone. All that remains is a section of wire wrapping running through the excavated channel from the headgate dam to the edge of the cliff. Several large iron eyebolts can be seen down the face of the cliff. These were probably used to anchor the penstock.

The only part of the generating facility left at the bottom of the falls is two concrete footings. Both have large bolts imbedded in them for securing machinery.

## Structures

The literature shows that there were several buildings associated with this property. When this area was inspected in 1984, only a leveled area 10 feet square and a small amount of trash were identified. These were located below the open cut and adjacent to the access road.

## Roads and Trails

Access to this site is by a short, very poor quality road that leaves Forest Service Road 2209-301 at the Ogle Mountain trailhead. Callaghan and Buddington (1938) reported that this road reached the crosscut at Henline Falls, but it now ends several hundred feet east of there. A trail now extends from the end of the road to the base of the falls.

About 200 feet beyond the end of the road, along the above trail, is a spur trail that provides access to the top of the falls. This trail is very steep, going almost directly up the hillside. When it reaches the elevation of the top of the falls, it runs west along the top of the rock outcrop over which the falls cascade.

The two adits on the Queen of the West vein are reached by a spur trail 1/3 of a mile up the Ogle Mountain trail. It is likely that the Ogle Mountain trail was originally developed by miners as the grade is much steeper than that used on developed recreation trails.

Another trail runs from the Ogle Mountain trailhead west to the leveled area by the open cut. This is overgrown, but still visible. The trail extends west from the leveled area toward the falls, but could only be followed 100 feet before it was lost.

## WOLZ MINE

### Location

Section 26, T. 8 S., R 4 E. This claim is located on the north side of the Little North Santiam River. Access is by trail, which leaves the old wagon road just west of where it crosses Cold Creek.

### History

This property was included in Callaghan and Buddington's 1938 report. At that time, development consisted of "an open cut in the bank of the river, a drift 20 feet long above this, and a drift 80 feet long above the short drift." The access trail also existed at this time.

### Current Conditions

#### Mine

The cut and adits described in Callaghan and Buddington (1938) were identified when this property was visited in November 1984. The upper adit was collapsed. The lower adit was considerably deeper than described above and showed signs of recent activity (fresh cut logs and nylon rope).

A second cut was located 200 feet east at about the same elevation. This ran 50 feet in a northerly direction and was 8 to 10 feet deep and roughly the same width. There was a small, flat area at the south end of the cut which appears to be leveled tailings.

#### Trail

The trail leaves the old road near Cold Creek and runs southwest for 1/3 of a mile, dropping to the river. The first several hundred feet are 3 to 4 feet wide. After it crosses a small drainage, it drops to about 2 feet wide. Where the steepness of the hillside dictates, it is bench cut. The condition of the trail is good, although somewhat overgrown, except where a rock slide covers a portion near the mine.

#### Buildings

While no buildings are described for this site in the literature, two possible building sites were identified in the field. The leveled area at the eastern cut is large enough to have held a small structure. Another leveled area was located by the trail 30 feet below the old road. This measures 20 x 30 feet. No structure remains were located at either place.



## SILVER STAR MINE

### Location

Section 23, T. 8 S., R. 4 E. This mine is located just below Forest Service Road 2209. In the literature, this property is always discussed along with the Helvetia claim.

### History

According to Callaghan and Buddington (1938), this property was being actively prospected by its owner in 1931. When they visited the area the main tunnel was 65 feet long.

### Current Conditions

Access to the Silver Star Mine is currently through a 6-foot metal culvert, 15 feet long. The necessity for the culvert was brought about by the reconstruction of Road 2209 in the late 1960's. At that time, the road alignment was moved to just above the portal. The culvert was needed to maintain access to the mine through the road fill. A short access road was also built to the portal from Road 2209 at this time.

About 70 feet south of the portal are the remains of a pole cabin. This structure was 15 feet square with the walls constructed of poles 4 to 5 inches in diameter. The walls still standing show that the spaces between the poles were chinked with moss then covered with small poles 1 to 2 inches in diameter and nailed into place.

The roof has caved in. All of the walls are now 2 feet tall, except for the northwest corner which is 6 feet high.

A portion of the old road runs between the cabin remains and the mine. It disappears under the fill for the present road 100 feet east and 250 feet west of the cabin site. A short spur runs to the mine.

## BLACK EAGLE MINE

### Location

Section 24, T. 8 S., R. 5 E. The main adit is located on the west side of Horn Creek 200 feet northwest of Road 2209. Several hundred feet southwest of the mine along the road is a terrace. On the terrace are the remains of at least one structure and possibly another.

### History

In 1916, this property was owned by the Black Eagle Mining and Milling Company. At that time, development was reported to consist of 1,000 feet of tunnel. Also present were a sawmill, power plant, bunkhouses, and a small concentrating mill (Parks and Swartley). The wagon road from Mahama had been extended to the Black Eagle by 1916.

Callaghan and Buddington reported in 1938 that the development work still totaled 1,000 feet. This indicates that the mine had been relatively inactive since 1916. A compressor house with a few pieces of machinery was reported standing at the main portal and a cabin was located on the terrace to the south.

### Current Conditions

The portal of the main adit, which is untimbered and in consolidated glacial moraine, is open and in good condition. Two shallow adits are located across Horn Creek.

A section of the old wagon road loops north from Road 2209 past the Black Eagle, where it crosses Horn Creek and runs below the shallow adits on the east side of the creek and back to Road 2209. This is a total of about 800 feet. The crossing at Horn Creek has been washed out and all that remains are a few logs imbedded in the creek bank.

Another short section of road is located near the terrace to the southwest. This 200-foot section is northwest of the structure site and currently provides access to the Nasty Rock Trail.

The structure site north and west of 2209 now consists of leveled ground and a few timbers. According to a local informant, four cabins stood on this property in 1972 (George Atiyeh, personal communication).

Mr. Atiyeh also stated that structural remains were once visible on a flat area south of 2209. When surveyed in 1984, this area appeared to be used as a dispersed recreation area and no sign of buildings was observed.

## SANTIAM GROUP

### Location

Sections 18, 19, and 30, T. 8 S., R. 5 E. The claims in this group are located along the main branch of Gold Creek and on the Little North Santiam on both sides of its confluence with Gold Creek.

### History

The earliest record of attempts to exploit the mineral resources of this group of claims dates to November of 1860, when Robert McAlpin recorded a claim 150 yards below the mouth of Gold Creek. The claim entry records that McAlpin had already "performed considerable labor by blasting" (Marion County Mining Record, Book 1, 1860-1888).

The main workings on these claims are on the Minnie E. vein. Surface indications of this vein can be seen in the bed of the Little North Santiam  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile above Gold Creek. Tunnels enter the steep ridges just above the water line on both sides of the river.

The Minnie E. was first worked around 1900. Since that time, development has continued under numerous companies. Among these are:

- Freeland Consolidated (dissolved 1914)
- Electric Mining and Smelting Co. (dissolved 1914)
- Consolidated Copper Mining and Power Co. (1914-1925)
- Lotz and Larson Mine (1916-1925)
- Northwest Copper Co. (1926-1930)
- Rainbow Mine (Lessees, 1941)

(Grant, 1983)

The property had 300 feet of tunnel and an 84-foot vertical shaft in 1903 and was then controlled by Freeland Consolidated (Stafford, 1903).

By 1916,  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile of drifts and crosscuts are reported. Work at that time was being performed on the south drift on the Minnie E. This drift was 210 feet long. The property was then controlled by Consolidated Copper, but the majority of its stock was under option to Lutz and Larson (Parks and Swartley, 1916).

Apparently, Lotz and Larson exercised their option on Consolidated Copper's stock. By 1924 they controlled 32 claims in the area and were actively working the adits on the Minnie E. The south adit had reached a length of 1,200 feet and the north adit was 100 feet long. They had also built several cabins, installed an electric generating plant on Gold Creek, built a 50-ton per day flotation mill above the north adit on the Minnie E., and a 100-foot long tramway to carry ore from the south adit to the mill (Oregon Statesman, August 7, 1924).

During the years 1923 to 1925, 138 tons of ore and some concentrates were shipped. In 1928, 3 tons of sorted ore were shipped.

When Callaghan and Buddington reported on this property in 1938, they gave the length of the southern Minnie E. tunnel as 925 feet, based on a compass and pace traverse. The north adit was 300 feet long. They stated that there were "several cabins in a fair state of preservation and a small mill at the mouth of Gold Creek." The mill reference is uncertain. It was reported that Lotz and Larson planned to build a sawmill. It could also refer to an ore mill, either the one constructed by Lotz and Larson or another constructed closer to Gold Creek.

Several other mines located along Gold Creek were described by Callaghan and Buddington (1938). The May Day (Santiam No. 8) tunnel was 100 feet in length and located on the west side of Gold Creek  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile above the camp. The Josephine was 65 feet long and was located just south of the forks on Gold Creek. The Shilo (Santiam No. 10) was located 300 feet up the west branch of Gold Creek and reached a length of 215 feet. The Lower Granger (Santiam No. 11) was just upstream from the Shilo and ran 265 feet. A quarter of a mile up the west fork of Gold Creek was the Five Spot (also identified as the Santiam No. 11). This tunnel was 325 feet in length.

Also reported are several open cuts and a short drift on the Little North Santiam west of the mouth of Gold Creek.

### Current Conditions

#### Mines

Most of the major mining properties were located during this inventory. Both adits on the Minnie E. vein were in good condition. The portal of the northern adit was covered by a door.

The portal of the May Day was open and in good shape. The presence of ties indicated that ore carts were once used in the development of this mine. An oval slack-line insulator is attached to a tree near the portal of this mine.

The Shilo was found to be partially collapsed. A leveled area 6 to 10 feet wide and 30 feet long runs along the hillside at the portal. Several metal strips, similar to those associated with the wooden ore cart rails at the Crown Mine, were found on the leveled area. A trail running north from the Shilo was followed for 150 feet, but was lost in heavy brush. It is believed that this trail led to the Lower Granger, but that property could not be located.

The Five Spot and a small pile of tailings were found  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a mile above the Shilo on west Gold Creek. The adit is located adjacent to a small stream which has partially filled the portal with silt and standing water. Another adit 20 feet deep is located just up Gold Creek from the Shilo.

A disturbed area was found in approximately the location given by Callaghan and Buddington for the Josephine, but could not be definitely identified as a mine.

## Structures

The remains of a cabin were located on a terrace in the flood plain of the west fork of Gold Creek just upstream from its confluence with the east fork. This is locally known as the Frenchman's Cabin. It was constructed of boards, using split rails for floor joists. Its structure was deteriorated, but appeared to have been roughly 14 x 18 feet square. All nails observed were round. Several pieces of a cast iron woodstove rested in and around the ruins.

Thirty feet south along the terrace was a small dump that appeared to have been disturbed. This contained more stove parts, a sole from a rubber boot, solder-top tin cans, and a Planter's mixed nut can (which said the nuts were a good snack while watching T.V.).

The Lotz and Larson mill above the northern adit on the Minnie E. now consists of a pile of boards, concrete foundation, and a few pieces of metal. None of the milling equipment remains at the site.

A shed stands at the portal of the northern adit on the Minnie E. This is frame construction with horizontal board and bat siding and a rolled tin roof. Its age is unknown.

A considerable amount of activity took place in the area around the mouth of Gold Creek. This site was recorded in 1981 by Detroit Ranger District cultural resource specialists. That report is included here with the following additions:

1. The standing cabin identified is now collapsed (feature 4 in site report).
2. The channel (feature 19) was excavated, but its purpose is unknown.
3. The shaft (feature 23) was a concrete cistern, probably associated with power generating along with the machinery parts (feature 24).
4. The old road crosses Gold Creek at its mouth and switchbacks up to Road 2209 east of the Gold Creek bridge.
5. The remains of an old structure can be seen near the old road on the east side of Gold Creek. Very little remains of this building. It is locally believed that this may be the cabin owned by Hugh Freeland, who was the first to develop the Minnie E. vein. No data has been found that would substantiate this claim.

## EAST GOLD CREEK

Location Sections 18 and 19, T. 8 S., R. 5, E.

Several of the major mines in the Little North Santiam area are located along East Gold Creek and the North Fork of East Gold Creek. These are the Blende Oro, Bimetallic and Goldbug, and Gold Creek M and M tunnel.

### History

#### Blende Oro

This property was located by the Hart brothers around 1900 (Brooks and Ramp, 1968). Callaghan and Buddington (1938) reported development on the main tunnel to have reached a length of 215 feet. They also reported a second tunnel 40 feet in length and an associated cabin.

#### Gold Creek Mining and Milling Company

This company developed a number of tunnels near the East Fork of Gold Creek. Most of these are associated with the Wall Street vein.

By 1903 they held 13 claims and had developed 400 feet of workings. They had also installed an overshot water wheel with a 15 kilowatt generator used to power an electric drill (Stafford 1903). It is likely that at least some of the development work reported at this time was in the Bimetallic and/or Goldbug tunnels on the Wall Street vein.

The holdings of this company had increased to 17 claims in 1916. In the period since Stafford's report, most of the development work had centered on driving a crosscut tunnel intended to intersect the Wall Street vein some 600 feet below its discovery point in the Bimetallic and Goldbug tunnels. At this time the crosscut was 1,500 feet long, and it was estimated that another 500 feet needed to be excavated to reach the vein (Parks and Swartley, 1916).

Callaghan and Buddington (1938) reported that the Bimetallic followed the Wall Street vein for 290 feet on the west side of the creek. The Goldbug tunnel followed the same vein for 170 feet on the east side of the creek. Apparently, little work had been done on the long crosscut since 1916 as they report its length as 1,300 feet, some 200 feet shorter than reported by Stafford.

Two more tunnels were reported by Callaghan and Buddington as entering the south back of East Gold Creek. The first was 250 feet upstream from the portal of the long crosscut and 280 feet long. The second was 500 feet above the crosscut. The portal of this tunnel was collapsed.

In the early 1950's, all of the properties on East Gold Creek came under the control of Santiam Copper Mines. Patent was applied for on 21 claims in 1953 and, as part of the patent process, a notarized statement was filed. This stated that the major tunnels, including the Bimetallic, Goldbug, Blende Oro, and Gold Creek Mining and Milling crosscut, all had their caved portals reopened (Hewitt, 1953).



Four claims were eventually approved for patent. These are the claims which the Blende Oro and Goldbug tunnels are on and two claims worked by the Gold Creek M and M tunnel.

In 1950 a spur road was built along the east side of Gold Creek and a short distance up the east fork. This replaced the trail that was previously used to access the claims in the area. A four-log, stringer bridge was built across East Gold Creek below the Gold Creek M and M tunnel, and an attempt was made to push the road through to the upper Blende Oro mine. The nature of the terrain prevented this from being successful.

### Current Conditions

#### Blende Oro

When inspected in 1984, the portal of this mine was collapsed. A pair of ore cart rails ran from the collapsed portal to the edge of the creek. A stack of timbers and a few pieces of corrugated sheet metal were on the tailings pile to the left of the portal.

Above the portal was a leveled area 10 x 25 feet square. A 10-foot long, 4- x 6-inch beam and a small piece of window glass indicated that this was probably a structure site. Two smaller leveled areas were located 30 to 100 feet west along the contour line. These also probably contained structures as there was lumber, split timbers, stove parts, and broken window and bottle glass associated with them.

#### Gold Creek Mining and Milling Company

The portals of both the Bimetallic and Goldbug were collapsed when surveyed for this report. An ore cart sits on track outside the Bimetallic portal. Timbers were stacked outside both adits. A good deal of debris was located west of the Bimetallic portal on the tailings pile. This included a wheelbarrow, stove parts, pipe, rail, corrugated sheet metal, sanitary seal tin cans, and a barrel stove.

The portal of the Gold Creek M and M crosscut tunnel was also collapsed. That ore carts were also utilized at this mine was evidenced by ties running from the collapsed portal to the edge of the creek bank. The rails were no longer in place, but the ties had marks showing where they had once been attached.

The track originally ran between two buildings. To the west is an 8- x 12-foot frame construction shack resting on a log foundation. To the east is a collapsed structure. This was also frame construction, using poles for framing, sawn boards for siding, and a corrugated metal roof.

On the west side of the extant structure is a pile of miscellaneous metal equipment and parts.

A leveled strip 10 feet wide runs east from the portal to the confluence of the north fork of East Gold Creek and East Gold Creek. This is a distance of about 150 feet. Along this strip are a number of sections of 8-inch metal pipe.

A triple-notched log is in East Gold Creek 15 feet below the above mentioned confluence. The bark had been removed before the log was placed in the stream.

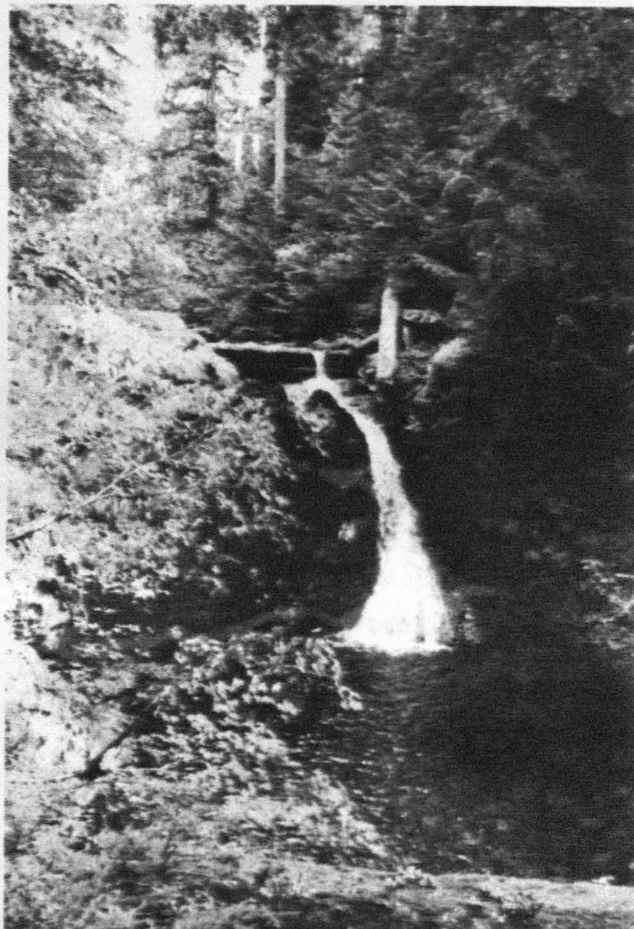
Two hundred feet above the confluence, at the top of a 15-foot waterfall, is a two-log dam. The top log is notched. This dam is identified by George (1984) as the source of water for the power generation plant.

Between the falls and confluence, on the north side of East Gold Creek, are the remains of a structure. These remains consist of 4 or 5 logs, 18 inches in diameter and 30 feet long, that have a number of large bolts and iron pins driven in them. There is also a lot of rotten boards nearby. Presumably this, at one time, held some type of heavy machinery.

There are a number of other shallow adits in the East Gold Creek area, but their age and association with early mining activities could not be determined.



Small cabin at the entrance to Gold Creek M and M tunnel.  
Collapsed pole building is in right foreground.



Log dam and falls on Gold Creek above the Gold Creek M and M tunnel.

## MERTEN SAWMILL

### Location

Section 29, T. 8 S., R. 5 E.

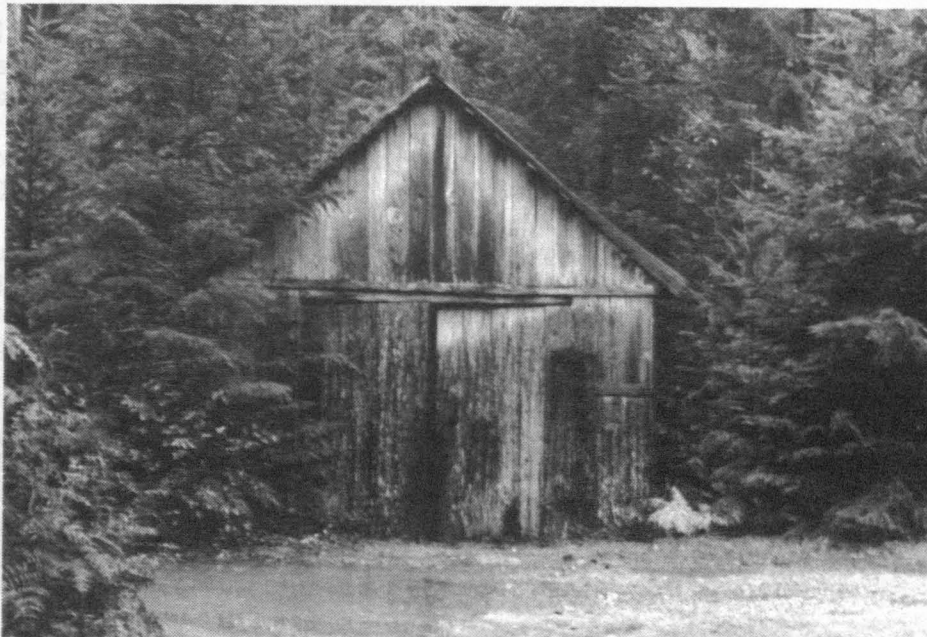
### History

This mill was built in 1943. An area around the mill of about 30 acres was clearcut at this time.

### Current Conditions

The structural portion of the sawmill now exists as two piles of boards and timbers. The only standing structure appears to be a storage shed or garage. This is wood frame and board construction measuring 15 x 18 feet. The original roof has been replaced by rolled tin roofing.

There is quite a lot of metal equipment that was presumably used in the sawmill operation. Among these are two steam-driven capstans that are reported to be from the Battleship Oregon. This could not be confirmed, but is possible since the Oregon was demolished the same year that the mill was constructed.



Shed at the Merten Sawmill

## JAWBONE FLAT CAMP

### Location

SW $\frac{1}{4}$  Section 28, T. 8 S., R. 5 E. This camp is located at the confluence of Battle Axe and Opal Creeks which join to form the Little North Santiam River.

### History

Construction of this facility was begun in 1932 (Atiyeh, 1980) by the Amalgamated Mining Company. A 1934 map of Amalgamated property shows over 30 structures associated with this camp. These include a commissary, oil house, paymaster's office, mine office, several bunkhouses, a cookhouse, an ore mill, and a sawmill. Also shown on this map are a flume line, water tanks, and several adits.

### Current Conditions

In 1984 approximately 1/2 of the structures shown on the 1934 map were gone. The ore mill had been crushed by snow in 1949. Most of the equipment had been removed, and the wood remains burned (George Atiyeh, personal communication).

The sawmill site is now occupied by the current ore mill. This ore mill was constructed in 1976, utilizing equipment from the original Amalgamated mill and the Lotz and Larson Mill near Gold Creek.

The mine office, which was also the superintendent's residence, burned in the early 1970's and was replaced by a new lodge.

Other structures no longer extant include three identified as bunkhouses between the sawmill and ore mill and two by the Little North Santiam at the west end of the camp. A bunkhouse near the cookhouse and another behind the commissary are also gone.

The flume line identified on the map was found to be collapsed. It was constructed of rough sawn lumber supported by rough sawn timbers. It ran for about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile from a log dam on Flume Creek, a tributary of Opal Creek, to a water tank above the Amalgamated ore mill. From the water tank it dropped through an 18-inch steel penstock to the mill. The log dam was 8 feet high and 30 feet long. Rock and silt have filled in behind the dam, and the creek runs through an eroded channel under the south end.

The water tank, which was circular and about 15 feet in diameter, is in poor condition. Part of the sides still stand, but only because it had been lined with plywood sometime in the past.

The remainder of the structures shown on the 1934 map were found to be generally in a good state of preservation. The original buildings, including cookhouse, commissary, paymaster's office, and a number of bunkhouses, were of frame construction with gabled roofs. With the exception of two shake cabins, all of these buildings have vertical board and bat siding. The original shake roofs were all covered with brown rolled tin roofing in the 1970's.



Five of the six cabins on the west end of the camp had their originally gabled porch roofs replaced in the 1970's with shed roofs. At this time, new wood sheds were also attached to these cabins.

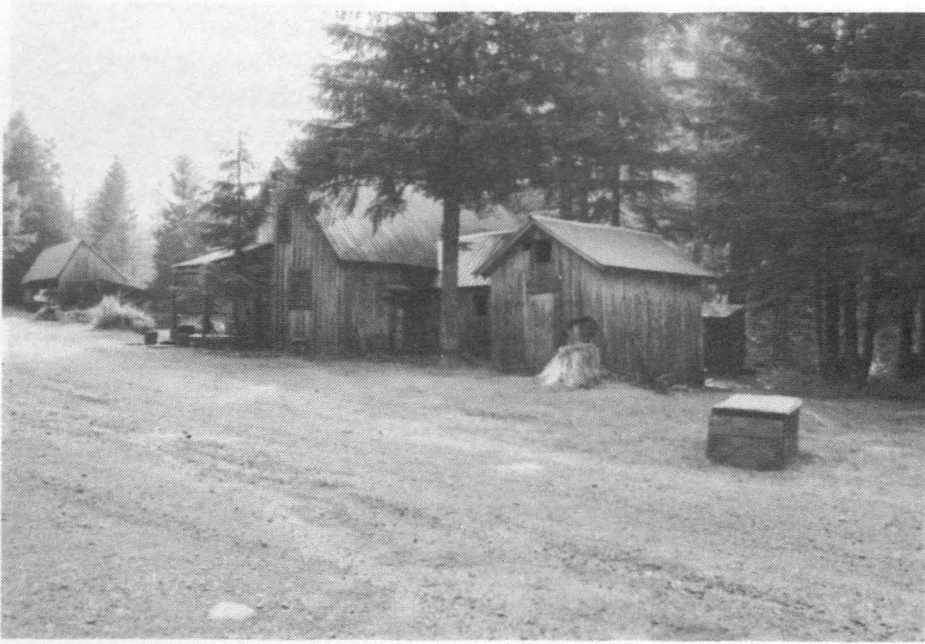
The remains of a multi-roomed, frame construction building stand just east of the Amalgamated mill site. This building appears to be included on the 1934 map. It had a shake covered gabled roof, now collapsed. The siding was the same rough sawn board and bat exhibited on the other structures at this site. The south and west walls have collapsed.

Other newer structures include a pelton shed and an equipment shed near the cookhouse and a garage and lumber shed between the new lodge and the river. These buildings and the lodge are all of frame construction and use rough sawn board and bat siding reflective of the style of the earlier buildings.



Cabin No. 12





Cabin 4.



Cabin 5.



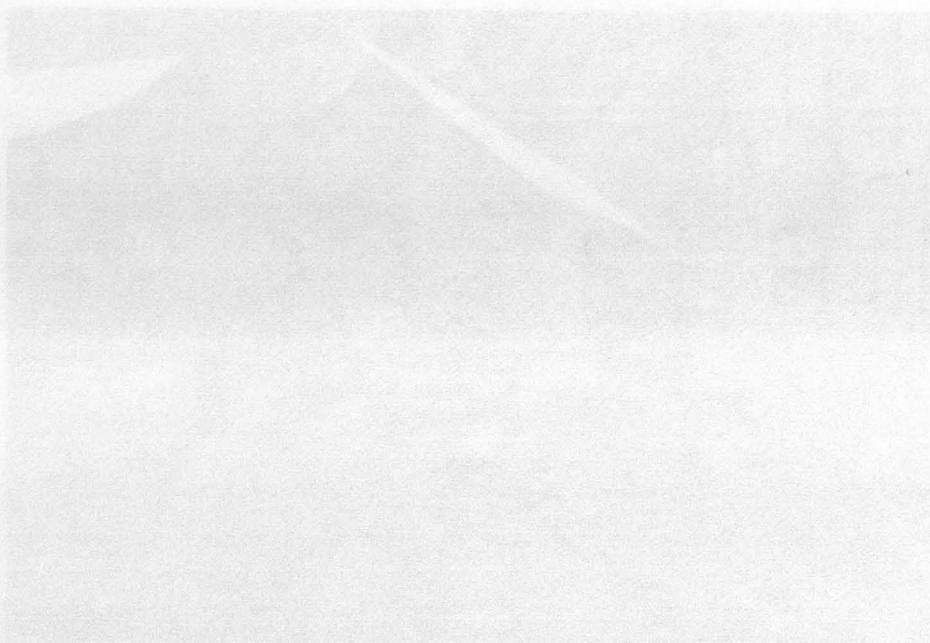
Cabin 6.



Cabin 7.



Cabins 8 (left) and 9.



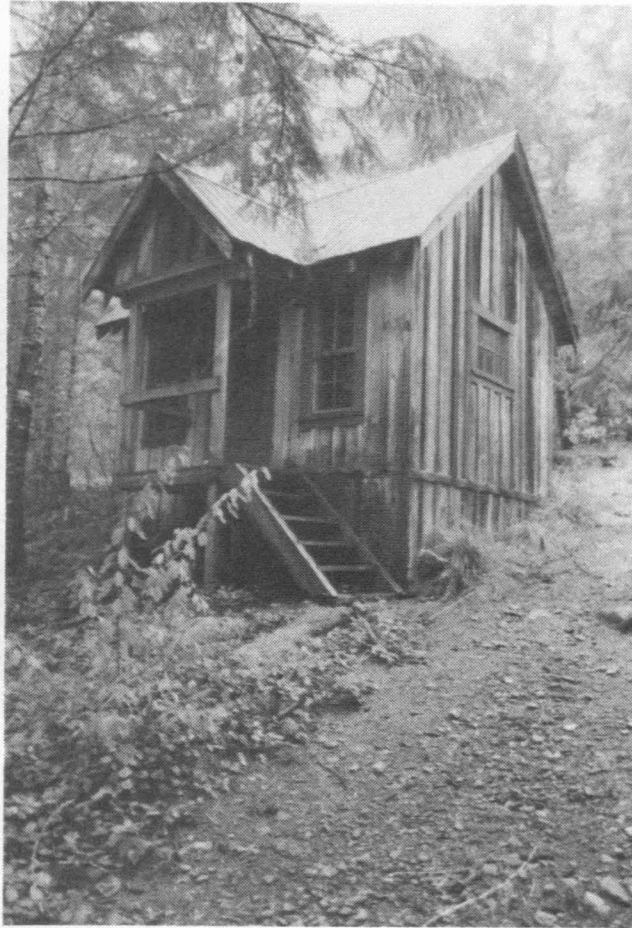




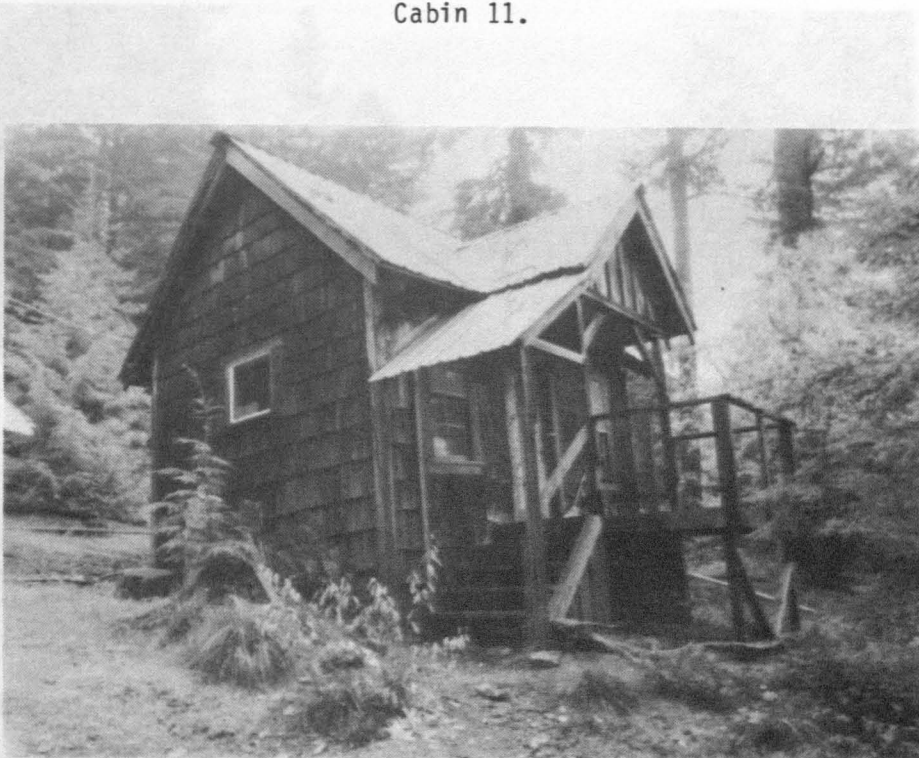
Commissary.



Garage east of commissary (building G-2).



Cabin 11.



Cabin 13.



New "big house."



Recent lumber and equipment sheds behind the new "big house."

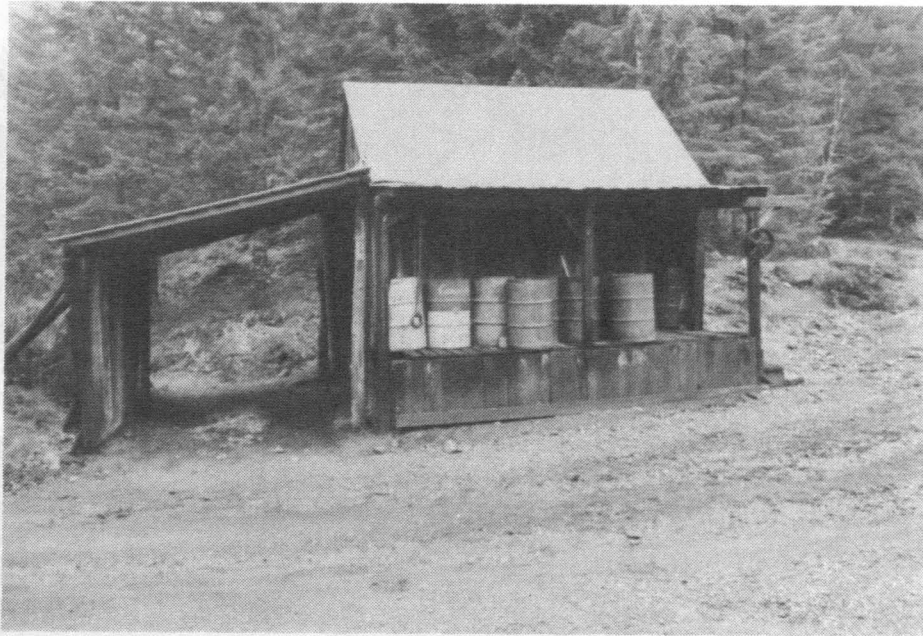




Woodshed behind new "big house."



Office.



Shed across road from machine shop (building G-1).



Machine shop.



Pelton shed and core sample shed.



Recent equipment shed (building G-3).





Cookhouse.



Modern ore mill.



Remains of water Amalgamated ore mill site.



Remains of structure east of Amalgamated ore mill site.



Remains of water tank above the Amalgamated ore mill.



Remains of water tank with collapsed flume in right foreground.