Form 10-900

OMB No. 10024-0018

**United States Department of the Interior** 1088
**National Park Service**

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determination for individual properties and districts. See instruction in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

## 1. Name of Property

historic name Matchless Mine

other names/site number Matchless Lode Mining Claim, U.S. Mineral Survey No.470; 5LK.57

## 2. Location

street & number East 7th Road [N/A] not for publication

city or town Leadville [N/A] vicinity

state Colorado code CO county Lake code 065 zip code 80461-0981

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this [X] nomination [ ] request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property [X] meets [ ] does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant [ ] nationally [X] statewide [X] locally. ( [ ] See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title — State Historic Preservation Officer — Date 10/20/2010

Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, Colorado Historical Society
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property [ ] meets [ ] does not meet the National Register criteria.
( [ ] See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title — Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

## 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is :

[✓] entered in the National Register
[ ] See continuation sheet.
[ ] determined eligible for the National Register
[ ] See continuation sheet.
[ ] determined not eligible for the National Register.
[ ] removed from the National Register
[ ] other, explain
[ ] See continuation sheet.

Signature of the Keeper — Date of Action 12.29.10

Matchless Mine
Name of Property

Lake County / Colorado
County/State

## 5. Classification

**Ownership of Property**
(Check as many boxes as apply)

[X] private
[ ] public-local
[ ] public-State
[ ] public-Federal

**Category of Property**
(Check only one box)

[ ] building(s)
[X] district
[ ] site
[ ] structure
[ ] object

**Number of Resources within Property**
(Do not count previously listed resources.)

| Contributing | Noncontributing | |
|---|---|---|
| 3 | 5 | buildings |
| 1 | 0 | sites |
| 3 | 0 | structures |
| 0 | 0 | objects |
| 7 | 5 | Total |

**Name of related multiple property listing.**
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Mining Industry in Colorado MPDF

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register.**

0

## 6. Function or Use

**Historic Function**
(Enter categories from instructions)

INDUSTRY/extractive facility
DOMESTIC/single dwelling

**Current Functions**
(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE

## 7. Description

**Architectural Classification**
(Enter categories from instructions)

NO STYLE

**Materials**
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE
walls WOOD
roof METAL/tin
other WOOD, METAL/steel, iron

**Narrative Description**
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Matchless Mine
Name of Property

Lake County / Colorado
County/State

## 8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

[X] **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

[X] **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

[X] **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

[X] **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

### Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

[ ] **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

[ ] **B** removed from its original location.

[ ] **C** a birthplace or grave.

[ ] **D** a cemetery.

[ ] **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

[ ] **F** a commemorative property.

[ ] **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

### Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHAEOLOGY/Historic-Non-Aboriginal
ARCHITECTURE, ENGINEERING
INDUSTRY, SOCIAL HISTORY

### Periods of Significance

Criterion A – 1878-1954
Criterion B – 1879-1899, 1901-1935
Criterion C – 1888-1954
Criterion D – 1878-1954

### Significant Dates

1930
1935
1954

### Significant Person(s)
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above).

Tabor, Horace Austin Warner
Tabor, Elizabeth Bonduel McCourt

### Cultural Affiliation

N/A

### Architect/Builder

N/A

### Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

### Bibliography
(Cite the books, articles and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

### Previous documentation on file (NPS):

[ ] preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
[ ] previously listed in the National Register
[ ] previously determined eligible by the National Register
[ ] designated a National Historic Landmark
[ ] recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey
#
[ ] recorded by Historic American Engineering Record
#

### Primary location of additional data:

[X] State Historic Preservation Office
[ ] Other State Agency
[ ] Federal Agency
[ ] Local Government
[ ] University
[X] Other

Name of repository:
Colorado Historical Society, Denver, CO
NMHF&M, Leadville, CO
Denver Public Library, Denver, CO

Matchless Mine
Name of Property

Lake County / Colorado
County/State

## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property** 4.43

**UTM References**
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.) (NAD 27)

| | Zone | Easting | Northing |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | 13 | 390372 | 4345746 |
| 2. | | | |
| 3. | | | |
| 4. | | | |

The UTMS were derived by OAHP from heads up digitization on Digital Raster Graphic (DRG) maps provided to OAHP by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management

[ ] See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Fay Golson, Historic Preservation Consultant; Katherine Neilson, National Mining Hall of Fame and Museum Curator (for property owner)

organization _____ date June 7, 2010

street & number 304 East 2nd Street telephone 719-539-2213

city or town Salida state CO zip code 81201

## Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**
A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**
Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

**Additional Items**
(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

## Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name The National Mining Hall of Fame and Museum (contact: Katherine Neilson)

street & number 120 West Ninth Street/P.O. Box 981 telephone 719-486-1229

city or town Leadville state CO zip code 80461-0981

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC

## DESCRIPTION

The Matchless Mine is located in the Leadville Mining District of Lake County, Colorado. The District is located between the Mosquito mountain range on the east and the Saguache mountain range on the west. The City of Leadville is located on the west side of the district at an altitude of 10,200'. The north boundary of the mining district is the East Fork of the Arkansas River and Illinois Gulch bounds it to the south. It is drained by several creeks, all tributaries to the headwaters of the Arkansas River. According to geologist Fred Mark, "The district is divided into several areas named for topographic features: Carbonate Hill, Iron Hill, Breece Hill, Yankee Hill, Ball Mountain, and Fryer Hill. The Matchless Mine Historic District is at an elevation of 10,480' in the north-western part of the district on Fryer Hill" (see map M2a).[1] The Matchless Mine performed the function of extraction of silver, lead and zinc.

The Matchless Mine is a prime example of vernacular mining construction in the Leadville Mining District during the major production years of the district (1860-1926) and provides the public with a wealth of information about early western mining practices and influential figures who impacted the character of the American West. It is one of the few resources remaining in the district with buildings and structures intact (see photographs 1 and H1). The Matchless Historic District retains its setting, feeling, association, and location making it an invaluable resource. The National Mining Hall of Fame & Museum owns and now operates the mine as an educational facility and museum with guided tours running throughout the summer months.

The complex consists of the following ***contributing*** resources: Buildings (3) – the outhouse (feature 1), the hoist house-blacksmith shop (feature 2), superintendent's cabin (feature 3); Structures (3) – the powder house (feature 4), the headframe (feature 5), and railroad track (feature 6); Site (1) with contributing features (9) - waste rock dump (feature 7), waste rock dump (feature 8), a linear waste rock dump (feature 9), a discarded smokestack (feature 10), a water storage tank (feature 11), a scattered brick pile (feature 12), a collection of waste rock dumps (feature 13) and two additional collections of waste rock dumps (features 14 & 15). The ***non-contributing*** resources include: the gift shop, two portable toilets (in the summer months), the caretakers trailer, and the ticket/guardhouse (see plan P2).

The Matchless mining claim, patent survey number 470, mineral entry 282 which Horace Austin Warner Tabor patented on June 30, 1880, is here represented as a portion consisting of 4.43 acres. The southern half is oriented north 23 degrees west while the northern half is oriented 31 degrees west. The southern half of the claim has been developed more intensely than the northern half and is covered with waste rock dumps and surface collapse features (see photograph 2). There are six known shafts that once existed on the claim as shown on Plate 45 of USGS Professional Paper 148 (see map M3). Currently, only the headframe of Shaft No. 6 is visible above ground (see map M3, shaft 49). The extant buildings and structures are located near the center of the claim and border the last shaft to be operated, the No. 6. Due to surface disturbance related to mining, logging, and smelter emissions during the active mining and smelting period, the claim was sparsely vegetated and had little standing timber remaining in the early 1900s (see photograph H2). The site is now irregularly wooded with a re-growth of conifers, primarily lodge pole pines, as well as indigenous aspen trees and sub-alpine grasses and shrubs such as sagebrush and cinquefoil.

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[1] Fred Mark, geologist and historian, interview by author, Leadville, CO, 12-19-09. U.S.G.S. 10 meter digital elevation model, Lake County.

Access to the Matchless Mine is from Lake County Road No. 3 where a driveway crosses the adjacent Robert E. Lee claim and enters the property at midpoint on the east boundary. This driveway opens into a parking area on the south façade of the superintendent's cabin. Other than County Road No. 3 and the mine access road, no road system is now evident. However, evidence of former railroad activity and access is still visible (see photograph 3). According to Fred Mark, the Colorado and Southern Carbonate Hill branch provided rail service that ran immediately east of the claim, a western spur serving the Dunkin Mine was located north of the claim, and a spur serving the Little Pittsburg Mine is located on the southern portion of the claim (see map M3).[2] All rights of way are abandoned though the rail beds are still visible. The Carbonate Hill branch has been converted into a public recreational way, the Mineral Belt Bicycle Trail. The Trail was an effort begun in 1994 and accomplished as a community effort to mitigate impacts to the natural and historic resources in the mining district due to the cleanup of the California Gulch Superfund Site. A number of local, state, and federal agencies as well as civic and historic organizations, educational programs, private companies and landowners contributed to the design process. Grants, cash and in-kind contributions, and land endowments provided funding for Lake County to complete the project, opened to the public in 2000.

Relics of the Matchless' mining history are still found on the claim site today. The south end of the claim, covered with rock dumps, exhibits an area of assay crucible remnants. The rail track (two rails with ties, originally 10" x 10" x 8'-long, spaced approximately 2' on center) runs along the southern boundary of the claim. At the north end, near and to the east of Shaft No. 6, is an ore car short rail that extends towards two rock dumps (see features 7 & 8 on plan P1). A wooden cover once protected this short rail (see photograph H18, lower right corner). The rail led to an ore house, which is also no longer in existence. A waste rock dump (feature 7) near Shaft No. 6 consists of iron oxide waste rock of ½" to 3" in diameter. Another (feature 8) consists of breecia body fragments of 1" to 2 ½" in diameter.[3] To the north of Shaft No. 6, where the assay office once stood, a holding pond also existed. Water was essential in the operations of the steam hoist, compressors, and blacksmith shops of the mining surface plant.[4] This area, although now void of water, remains boggy (see photograph H4). Running parallel and to the west of the pond is a linear waste dump (feature 9) 200'-long, 36'-wide at the base and approximately 20'-high (see photographs 4 and H5). This waste dump, as seen on the USGS aerial map (see map M9), appears to have extended onto the Dunkin claim. Various mining artifacts are located to the east and north of Shaft No. 6. The only machinery still in place, although not original, is a hoist installed in 1938. The brick forge (original) and bellows (not original) remain in the Blacksmith Shop. The bellows was donated for display at the Matchless Mine in the late 1960s.[5]

The following **contributing resources** are noted: (see plans P1 & P2)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Outhouse | (feature 1) | ca. 1888 | (photographs for |
| Hoist House | (feature 2) | ca. 1888 | features 1-5 |
| Superintendents Cabin | (feature 3) | ca. 1888 | noted in below |
| Powder House | (feature 4) | ca. 1888 | description) |
| Headframe | (feature 5) | ca. 1888 | |
| Railroad | (feature 6) | ca. 1881 | (photograph 19) |

[2] Fred Mark, geologist and historian, interview by author, Leadville, CO, 12-19-09. S.F. Emmons, J.D. Irving and G.F. Loughlin, *Professional Paper 148: Geology and Ore Deposits of the Leadville Mining District, Colorado* (Washington, DC: United States Geological Survey, 1927), plate 45.

[3] Richard Knostman, geologist, interview by author, Salida, CO, 11-14-09.

[4] Eric Twitty, *Rust to Riches, A Guide to Mining in the Old West* (Montrose, CO: Western Reflections Publishing Company, 2005), 55, 84,164.

[5] Margaret Doyle Wagner, previous owner of the Matchless, telephone interview by the author, 6-5-10.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Waste Rock Dump | (feature 7) | ca. 1888 | (photograph 20) |
| Waste Rock Dump | (feature 8) | ca. 1888 | (photograph 21) |
| Linear Rock Dump | (feature 9) | ca. 1888 | (photograph 4) |
| Smokestack | (feature 10) | ca. 1888 | (photograph 22) |
| Water Tank | (feature 11) | ca. 1888 | (photograph 23) |
| Brick Pile | (feature 12) | ca. 1888 | (photograph 24) |
| Waste Rock Dump | (feature 13) | ca. 1878 | (photograph 25) |
| Waste Rock Dumps | (features 14&15) | ca. 1878 | (photograph 26) |

**The Outhouse** (contributing building, feature 1), ca. 1888
The one-story, square, wood-frame, one-hole outhouse is surfaced with 1" x 8" unpainted, vertical board siding and has a corrugated metal shed roof supported by three wooden brackets on the south façade. The building has no foundation and plywood flooring. North, east, and west façades have no openings. The south façade has a varying width vertical board door with a metal hasp in a 1" x 4" wooden frame. This building is 4'-wide by 4'-deep. It sits 70' northwest of the hoist house in an area surrounded by numerous pine trees (see photograph 5 & plan P5).

**The Hoist House and Blacksmith Shop** (contributing building, feature 2), ca. 1888
The one story, rectangular, wood frame building is surfaced with 1" x 8" unpainted, vertical board siding and has a corrugated metal gable roof with a rough wooden ridge cap. Wooden 1" x 6" boards trim the gable edge of the roof both north and south. A rough wooden fascia board extends the perimeter of the overhanging roof. A corrugated metal shed roof covers the adjoining blacksmith shop, which is built into a berm on the south façade. There is no foundation and no interior flooring. The building, inclusive of the hoist house and blacksmith shop, is 48'-wide and 18'-deep.

*The north façade* has a 7'-wide by 8'-high access opening used to install the Matchless Mine model displayed in the interior. It is now covered with vertical boards. To the right is a 3'-wide x 5'-high window opening which has been boarded, but exposed on the interior. At a height of 8'-6" and to the left of the access opening is a 10" x 7" vent covered by a wire screen (see photograph 6).

*The east façade* includes the main entrance into the hoist house. Centered on this façade is a 3'-wide, vertical board door hung on three metal strap hinges. There is a metal door handle, security bar and padlock. The hoist cable is visible above the door and runs eastward to the headframe (see photograph 7).

*The south façade* is bermed and exposes 2'-6" of the vertical board siding. There is a fascia board at the edge of the slightly overhanging shed roof. Asphalt roofing serves as flashing where the hoist house adjoins the blacksmith shop. A chimney extends only slightly from the roof of the blacksmith shop and is covered by a sheet metal cap (see photograph 8).

*The west façade* is partially covered by a berm, which slopes down from south to north. Rafter ends are exposed at the roofline. There is evidence in the vertical wood siding that a window on the right end of the façade once existed, but has been boarded. This façade was once covered by the boiler house, which no longer exists. The siding was replaced during a 1953 mitigation effort (see photograph 9).

*The interior* consists of the hoist room and the blacksmith shop with a storage room. Near the center of the room, the hoist rests on the concrete slab which is inscribed "T. Palmer June 11, 1938." At the south end of the room are an iron wood stove, a brick and terra-cotta assay kiln, and a collection of

mining-related items used as an educational resource for the public tour. A door at the south end of the hoist room leads to the blacksmith shop. This room houses a brick forge, bellows, a sheet metal hood and various blacksmith tools (see photograph 10 & plan P3).

**Headframe and Shaft No. 6** (contributing structure, feature 5), ca. 1888
This timbered, two-post, gallows frame straddles the two compartment shaft, one a production class shaft and the other a manway shaft used in the event that the hoist became inoperable so the men could "monkey pole" up the ladder to exit (see photograph H6).[6] It has a sheave wheel and ore bucket, neither of which are original, and wire cable leading to the hoist house. Electrical wiring is attached to a lower platform of the headframe. The main uprights of the headframe are two 10" x 10" timbers connected at the top by two rough sawn timbers and stabilized by a large timber brace. Two additional 10" x 10" brace timbers angle down from the top. A wooden deck surrounds the shaft and a wooden hood and steel safety grate now cover the shaft opening. Two non-original ore cars sit to the northeast of the headframe on the remaining portion of the ore cart short rail. The footprint of the headframe is 12'-wide x 22'-deep (see photograph 11 & plan P1). In June 1970, the collar around the shaft had cave-in damage and the Leadville Assembly contracted for work to proceed on repairs. Three men (Tex Sullivan, Stan Connor and J. Clayton) re-timbered the shaft to a depth of 50'. Four years earlier four 90-pound rails, 45'-long, stabilized the headframe.[7]

**Superintendent's Cabin** (contributing building, feature 3), ca. 1888
The one story, ell-shaped, wood frame building is surfaced with unpainted, vertical board siding of various widths and has a corrugated metal gable roof with a metal ridge cap. A wooden trim board runs the perimeter of the building at roofline. There are no rafter tails exposed and roof overhang is minimal. A metal stovepipe is placed at the right end of the north façade roof. Attached on the gable end of the west façade is a shed roof entry room that covers 10' of the west façade, leaving the cabin exposed for 5' at the right end. The corrugated metal shed roof overlays the wooden siding of the gable end to form a weather seal. The overhang is minimal. This entry presently serves as the only entrance into the cabin. A wooden deck serves as a stoop into the entry. There is no foundation. This building, inclusive of the cabin and entry, is 26'-6"-wide and 15'-deep. This cabin was home to Mrs. Elizabeth Tabor from 1901 until her death in 1935 (see plan P4). It was vandalized shortly after her death and interior and exterior mitigation was performed in 1953 (see photograph H8). The site of the existing buildings and headframe was opened for tourist visitation in 1954.

*The north façade* has a wood-frame, six-light, fixed, corner awning window at the left end. Below the wooden sill is an applied horizontal board of approximately the same length as the sill. A 2" x 6" wooden baseboard is applied to the vertical board siding (see photograph 12).

*The east façade* has a wood-frame, six-light, fixed, corner awning window at the left end. A metal security shutter, hinged at the top, covers the window opening. Below the wooden sill is an applied horizontal board slightly longer than the sill (see photograph 13).

*The south façade* has two wood frame windows. The awning window to the left end is single light and the corner awning window on the right end is six-light. A metal security shutter, hinged at the top, covers each window. There are no lower trim boards at the lower window edge. The set-back entry at the left end of the façade has a horizontal plank door set in a wood frame with a horseshoe hung

[6] Joe Nachtrieb, geologist/mining specialist, interv iew by author, Leadville, CO, 02-26-09.
[7] Margaret Doyle Wagner Scrapbook, National Mining Hall of Frame & Museum, Leadville, CO.

above. It is hung with two metal butt hinges and has an iron knob and horizontal security bar with padlock. A metal name plaque is attached to the left of the door (see photograph 14).

*The west façade* is slightly bermed, sloping down from north to south. There is one wood frame six-light, fixed window placed in the center of the west wall. A metal security shutter covers it. The shed roof 2" x 4" rafter tails are exposed. The entry set back exposes a six-light window on the right end of the façade and in the main building wall. This is a wood frame six-light window with an applied board slightly longer than the window. A metal security shutter, hinged at the top, covers the window (see photograph 15).

*Interior* A ceiling covers the interior of the main building with plywood sheets attached to older material. Lighting consist of a bare incandescent bulb in a porcelain fixture, one fluorescent fixture, and one adjustable incandescent spotlight fixture. The walls are covered with vintage newspapers applied more recently to cardboard, which act as the wall surface. Photographs taken of the cabin immediately after Elizabeth Tabor's death show the wall was cardboard. The newspaper wall-covering now existing was added after her death (see photograph H17). In 1996, Dr. Harold Magoum of Denver donated several newspapers from his father's collection. These added to those already applied to the walls.[8] The floor is covered by 5"-wide tongue-and-groove pine flooring with a 10' x 12' linoleum section covering the east end flooring of the room. A rough 1" x 4" baseboard runs the perimeter of the room. A wooden door with five horizontal panels allows access from the entry room. The door has an iron knob with a mortised lockset, a mortised deadbolt, and two bronze half-mortise hinges with ball-finial pins. This door was an exterior entrance door and moved in 1944 to the south façade (see photograph H7). The door was returned to its original position in the 1950s mitigation effort. Wooden shelves line the west wall and a small metal, non-original box stove stands near the northwest corner of the room. The entry walls and ceiling are exposed vertical wallboards and roof sheathing. A reproduction wall sconce and a fluorescent ceiling fixture provide lighting (see photograph 16).

**The Powder House** (contributing structure, feature 4)
The one-story, rectangular, wood-frame structure sits 150' southwest of the superintendent's cabin. It is bermed into the hill on its east façade. The flat wooden roof consists of two layers of plank overlaid crosswise. Several wall timbers and planks have deteriorated.

*The east façade* is the only fully visible façade; the others are nestled into the hill. Horizontal planks make up the front façade. The vertical plank door has the words "Powder Magazine" painted on it in white lettering. The powder house is 7'-wide and 8'-6"-deep (see photograph 17 & plan P1).[9]

The buildings and structures of the Matchless Mine are in good condition but are in need of stabilization and certain areas need a drainage system. Total Environments, LLC, Silverthorne, Colorado, has completed a recent Historic Structure Assessment stating recommended treatment for each contributing building and structure. At this time, the headframe is of utmost concern as well as drainage along the west façade of the hoist house and superintendent's cabin.

> Future investigation of Shaft No. 6 will involve a video examination of both compartments of the shaft and will be conducted to the maximum depth accessible to the video equipment. The investigation will reveal the condition of the shaft and, depending on condition the depth, the

[8] Margaret Doyle Wagner files, March 2, 2000, letter from Harold Magoun to Lynda La Rocca, National Mining Hall of Fame & Museum, Leadville, CO.
[9] Steve Harris, Historic Preservation Consultant, Cloud City Builders, LLC, interview by author, 2009

condition of drifts driven from the shaft. This procedure will be conducted remotely from the surface and will not require human entry of the shaft.[10]

**Mining Site**[11]

The landscape of the Matchless Mine property contains several defining features, including several waste rock dumps, remnants of shafts, and several objects. In the far northeast corner of the property is a depression and ventilation pipe, which is the remains of Shaft No. 5. Immediately north of the hoisthouse is a linear waste rock dump with remnants of the ore rail that once ran across the top. In the depression east of this dump are scatters of common brick from the former boiler house on that location. A large quantity of window glass and wire nails are scattered throughout the depression and are all that remains of the assay house. Also in the depression is a riveted sheet metal smoke stack, a metal water tank, wire rope, milled lumber fragments, and common and fire brick. Coal cinders have been disposed of to the north and northeast. Other artifacts in the area, such as sanitary cans and purple glass suggest that the feature was in use between 1905 and 1918. Northeast of the hoisthouse is a 28' x 55' scatter of fired brick. The bricks have various markings, including "Denver Fire Clay Co./Champa," "DFC/17A," and "Wedge."

East of the headframe is a waste rock dump and a 16'-diameter, 10'-deep mine shaft pit. About 14' southwest of the pit is an 8-inch-square valve box that projects 4' above the ground and it contains an iron valve rod. Southwest of the headframe is a waste rock dump, at the base of which is another mine shaft pit. Southeast of the shaft are two wood frame plank foxes, constructed with wire nails, set into the ground. The boxes are 2' apart and measure 3' x 4' each, and one box contains an iron valve.

In the southwestern portion of the site is a 20'-diameter, 12'-deep mine shaft with a machinery area on the northeast side. The machinery area is marked by two upright iron bolts, a considerable amount of coal cinders, gauge glass from a steam boiler, a few common bricks, milled lumber fragments, and a large piece of sheet metal. Also present are square and wire nails and window glass suggested that the machinery area was housed in a wood frame structure constructed prior to 1900. There are also two large waste rock dumps.

**Integrity of the District**

Backlund Land Survey, Frisco, Colorado, completed a land survey in January 2010 showing the locations of the existing buildings and structures as well as features 1-5 (see map M11).

Potential future additions to the site may include access easements along the abandoned railroad grade and at discovery site. This would allow the incorporation of the discovery site into the story of the Matchless (see map M3).[12] The discovery of Little Pittsburg mine was the beginning of Tabor fortune that had its end at the Matchless. The Little Pittsburg mine discovery site is located about 1/3 mile west of the Matchless site. The discovery is immediately south of the abandoned railroad grade that crosses the south end of the Matchless claim.

The Matchless Mine retains its aspects of integrity, allowing for rich interpretation of the mining operation on the claim. The present condition of the claim makes apparent the flow of ore from Shaft

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[10] Total Environments, LLC, "Historic Structures Assessment for the Matchless Mine, Leadville, Lake County, Colorado," State Historical Fund #2009-HA-021, History Colorado, Denver, CO.

[11] Description of the site derived primarily from previous investigation by historical archaeologist, Jon Horn. Jon Horn, "Matchless Mine," Colorado Cultural Resource Survey Management Data Form, 1996.

[12] Fred Mark, geologist and historian, interview by the author, Leadville, CO, 05-21-10.

No. 6 eastward to the missing ore house. The ore was then loaded into railroad cars along the rail track running parallel to the claim (no longer extant) for transportation to the smelter. The Matchless Mine Historic District remains surrounded by the numerous claims, all with their own remaining relics, which were active in the mining district in the last half of the nineteenth century as seen on the Assessor's Map (see map M6). The repairs to the hoist house, superintendent's cabin, and headframe completed in 1953 made use of wood materials sympathetic to the original materials. Without these repairs it is doubtful the remaining buildings and structures would be extant today. These buildings and structures of the Matchless Mine give a glimpse into the industry of hard rock mining during the silver-lead production period and establish its importance in the history of western mining to the United States.

## SIGNIFICANCE

The Matchless Mine is eligible to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its contribution to Industry and Social History at the state level of significance from 1878 to 1954, reflecting the years that the site functioned as a working mine. The property is also eligible at the state level of significance under Criterion B for its association with Horace Austin Warner Tabor from 1879 to 1899, and with Elizabeth "Baby Doe" Bonduel McCourt Tabor from 1901 to 1935. Additionally, the surface plant (features 1-5) of Shaft No. 6 located on the property is eligible under Criterion C in the areas of Architecture and Engineering at the local level of significance from 1888 to 1930, reflecting the first year of construction until its last recorded working. Finally, the mine and its shafts are eligible at the local level of significance from 1878 to 1954 under Criterion D for its Historic Archaeological and Engineering information potential. The site has the potential to answer questions both about the above-ground working and living environment and of the underground workings of a mine typical of the Leadville silver boom.

### Impact of Leadville: Mining and Colorado's Silver Kings and Queens

Mining in the Leadville Mining District began in 1859 and continued to 1999. During this time the Leadville District produced approximately 28.9 million tons of ore containing 3.3 million ounces of gold, 2,654 million ounces of silver, 2.4 billion pounds of lead, 1.9 billions pounds of zinc, and 110 million pounds of copper. In addition, the district produced nearly 6 million tons of manganese ores with grades up to 45 percent manganese, a small amount of bismuth ore grading from 5 to 16 percent bismuth, and significant amounts of pyrite ore that was roasted to produce sulfuric acid. The value of this production using 2009 metal prices is over 14 billion dollars.[13] "The sensational rise of Leadville had a powerful impact on mining in Colorado, in the West, and globally. In terms of production, the district's combined output in 1878 and 1879 exceeded Colorado's entire production for the previous two decades."[14] This fact added impetus to a statewide boom that lasted fifteen years until 1893. From the year of discovery in 1878 until 1883 the Matchless Mine added $1,900,000 to the wealth of the district and was Horace Tabor's pride as well as his primary resource for his entrepreneurial and philanthropic endeavors.[15] In 1935, it was estimated that the Matchless, just one of Horace Tabor's many investments, earned $7.5 million before and including the years of his marriage to Elizabeth Tabor.[16]

Many geologic events created the mineral rich Leadville mining district inclusive of Fryer Hill where the Matchless Mine is located (see photograph H3).[17] About 350 million years ago, when a warm shallow sea covered the Matchless Claim, as well as the entire district and the state of Colorado, calcium and magnesium carbonate crystallized due to the temperature and chemistry of the waters. This crystallization accumulated on the sea floor forming blue or Leadville limestone. The blue limestone is the host of the majority of the mineralization in the district and all of that on Fryer Hill and on the Matchless. The limestone was raised and exposed to weathering. Acidic meteoric (rain) water

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[13] "Wall Street Journal," cash prices, http://w ww.wsj.com, accessed December 19, 2009.

[14] James E. Fell and Eric Twitty, *The Mining Industry in Colorado,* National Register of Historic Places M ultiple Property Document Form, History Colorado, Denver, CO, 2006, revised 2009, E19.

[14] Fred Mark, geologist and historian, interv iew by author, Leadville, CO, 12-19-09.

[15] Robert A. Correegan and David F. Lingane, editors, *Colorado Mining Directory 1883* (Denver, CO: The Colorado Mining Directory Co., 1883), 486.

[16] Walden E. Sweet, *The Denver Post*, March 8, 1935

[17] Fred Mark, geologist and historian, interv iew by author, Leadville, CO, 12-19-09.

dissolved the limestone and soil, creating caverns and sinkholes. The weathered surface was buried by thousands of Pennsylvanian sediments known as the Beldon and Minturn Formations.

The next significant development in the district occurred about 70 million years ago, during the Late Cretaceous time, when the movement of the Farralon plate resulted in compression and shortening of the North American Plate. In the Leadville area, the shortening was taken up by development of the Saguache anticline (a fold that is convex up and is accompanied by intrusion of igneous rock); this includes the present Saguache and Mosquito mountain ranges. The karst surface on top of the blue limestone was a zone of weakness followed by the white porphyry. The mineralizing fluids that would replace the Blue Limestone with precious and base metal sulfide minerals would later follow these paths of weakness.

Deposition of these precious and base metal sulfide minerals in the Leadville district, including Fryer Hill, began about 30 million years ago in the Oligocene-Miocene time with the intrusions of Breece Hill stock. Due to the emplacement, the stock solutions moved along zones of higher permeability, such as the karst surface at the top of the blue limestone or along faults. Where pressure, temperature and chemical conditions were right, sulfide minerals precipitated forming the mineralization of the Leadville Mining District. Faults, related to the Rio Grande Rift, active from about 15 million years ago to as recently as a few thousand years ago, occurred in the Arkansas Valley and the Leadville area resulting in the lowering of the water table and exposure of sulfide mineralization, particularly in the Fryer Hill area. When oxygen-bearing water reached the sulfide minerals, carbonate ore formed. This chemical formation of the carbonate ore resulted in spectacular enrichment of the concentration of silver in the Fryer Hill area and accounts for the bonanza silver ore discovered there in May of 1878.

The final event affecting the District was a series of glaciations, which covered the District with glacial debris (see map M5). This debris, consisting of clay, silt, sand and rocks ranging from small stones to boulders, covers much of the District, and all of Fryer Hill, obscuring bedrock with thickness ranging from 27' to hundreds of feet. Discovery of the bonanza mineralization on Fryer Hill was delayed due to the difficulties involved in prospecting by sinking a shaft through this debris.

Resulting from its geological composition, the Leadville Mining District is characterized as a poly-metallic district, meaning that one mineral or metal did not dominate production of the District. As a result of depletion, increased understanding of mineralogy, metallurgy and development of diverse markets for metals, different metals dominated the District's production over time. District production can be divided into three major periods: gold (1850 to 1876), silver-lead (1876 to 1902) and zinc (1902 to 1999).

It was during the silver-lead period, in the summer of 1877, that prospector/miners flocked to three low hills named Fryer, Iron and Carbonate (see map M2b). Following the discovery of silver, the mining camp of Slabtown, formed in 1876, was renamed Leadville in January 1878. HORACE Tabor, a new resident of Leadville, and the Matchless Mine were on the brink of becoming-widely known names associated with the mining industry.

In 1878, the first ore bodies of Fryer Hill were discovered. Opened by George H. Fryer and John Borden with the New Discovery Mine, Fryer Hill became the most profitable property in the area. The New Discovery Mine two assays showed sixty-four and sixty-seven ounces of silver to the ton in an ore

body 16'-thick. "Fryer's find revealed a vast northern extension of the carbonate belt."[18] In April of that same year, Horace Tabor grubstaked two prospectors with the promise of receiving one third of what was found by their efforts. On May 15, 1878, the two prospectors, August Rische, born in Minden, Prussia, and George Hook, born in Baden, Germany, struck carbonate ore at a depth of 27' that yielded 200 ounces of silver to the ton. The Little Pittsburg, as it was to be named, continued to produce at a remarkable rate and became the foundation for Horace Tabor's future wealth. The Little Pittsburg Mine, a neighbor to the west of the Matchless Mine, remained productive and profitable for many years to come.

A few months after the discovery of the Little Pittsburg in July 1878, Peter Hughes and six other prospectors discovered an ore body on what was to become the Matchless claim, named after a chewing tobacco. The following year, September 1879, HORACE Tabor purchased controlling interest in the Matchless Mine from Tim Foley, A.P. Moore, and T.B. Wilgas. Soon after, he purchased the remaining interest and the Matchless became the only mine of which he was ever to be sole owner.

In order to discuss the location of shafts on Matchless claim at the time of Mr. Tabor's purchase, the reader should refer to map M3 (after Emmons, 1927, plate 13), and the Matchless Plat map M4. The various numbers, name designations and locations of the shafts on the Matchless differ by source and the following discussion will summarize the locations described in O.L Baskin's *History of the Arkansas Valley, Colorado* and relate the locations shown on map M4 to locations shown on map M3. Map M3 is used as a reference because it is the most recent detailed map of the area and shows the locations of the two shafts on the property that can be definitely located as the Matchless 5 and 6 (#47 and #49 respectively). The two digit number designations used in this discussion are the reference numbers used on Emmons plate 13 and are shown on map M3. O.L. Baskin stated in the *History of the Arkansas Valley, Colorado*, "At the time of Mr. Tabor's purchase there were three shafts on the claim, 150', 140' and 200'-deep respectively, the No. 1 shaft near the center of the claim, being the only one that promised anything for the future."[19] The No.1 shaft referred to here is thought to be the #71 shaft on map M3 (Main shaft on Emmons plate 67). Of the remaining two shafts mentioned at the time of the Tabor purchase, one is thought to be the discovery shaft #72a. The location of the other cannot be reconciled with shafts shown on M3. To summarize, the three shafts on the claim at the time of the Tabor purchase were the #71 (No.1 or Main shaft) and the #72a (the discovery shaft), as shown on map M4.

After the purchase in the 1880s, the Leonard Shaft, thought to be #72, was sunk, followed later in the 1890s by the Bohn or Matchless 5 (shaft #47) and Matchless 6 (shaft #49). The Mined Lands Reclamation Board capped Matchless 5 during construction of the Mineral Belt Trail. The Matchless 6 is presently surrounded by the buildings and structures described in this nomination.

Of the three original shafts sunk at the south end of the claim, only the #70 or Main shaft showed any amount of ore. Tabor, with high hopes, installed a new engine and machinery for the shaft's development.[20] The shaft was sunk to a depth of 250' and soon filled with water at the lower workings, temporarily suspending further work. Pay ore of this shaft was first found where the ore body traverses the Dunkin and Matchless claims. This ore body was reported to be about 40'-wide x 8' to 16'-thick.

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[18] Don L. Griswold and Jean Harvey, *History of Leadville and Lake County, Colorado: From Mountain Solitude to Metropolis, Volume I* (Denver: University Press of Colorado, 1996), 157.

[19] O.L. Baskin and Nelson Millet, *History of the Arkansas Valley, Colorado* (Chicago, IL: O.L. Baskin & Co., Historical Publishers, 1881), 290.

[20] Baskin, *History of the Arkansas Valley,* 290.

This ore, as described by Emmons Monograph 12, 1886, was a reddish clay mass of sand carbonate yielding large amounts of lead and silver. While Emmons does not report the grade of Matchless ore, Dunkin sand ore typically assayed 1 to 13 percent lead and from 50 to 100 ounces silver per ton at Billing and Eilers' Smelter. This is probably representative of the ore produced from eastward extension of the Dunkin ore body on the Matchless Claim. With this discovery, the Matchless Mine became a dividend paying mine.

After Tabor bought sole interest in the Matchless Mine, he began to devise plans for his new mining claim. In July 1880, he appointed Lou Leonard manager of the mine with Thomas Smithem as superintendent. Baskin wrote, "In September, 1880, Mr. Tabor decided to more fully develop this property, and accordingly a new shaft was started near the south end of the claim... This shaft was named the Leonard shaft, after Manager Leonard, under whose supervision the work was prosecuted. A large and complete shaft-house and machinery was at once placed over this shaft" (see illustration I-1).[21] This building, as well as all headframes and buildings on the south end of the claim, no longer exist. The westward projection of the Robert E. Lee ore body was struck when the Leonard shaft was sunk to a depth of 135'. Emmons reported "extremely rich" silver occurring as fine particles of films of chlorobromide disseminated through an ocherous, sandy mass. The ore was described as unique to Fryer Hill, because it contained no lead and only small amounts of manganese. Ore from the Robert E. Lee, which most likely was similar to ore produced from the Matchless, contained no lead and from 146.5 to 185 ounces silver per ton.[22] The Leonard shaft on the Matchless Claim produced and shipped bonanza ore with grades of reputedly over 200 ounces per ton during the early silver-lead period 1880 to 1884.

As reported by the *Leadville Democrat* in 1881, there was a dispute regarding the southern boundary line of the Matchless involving two of the adjoining mines, the Hibernia and Big Pittsburg. "The contested 10' are a portion of the Big Pittsburg mine, from which some of the richest ore has been taken, but as the original survey was made by responsible parties, and accepted by the three companies as accurate, it is unlikely that the Big Pittsburg will be deprived of the ground unless the underground workings should be found at variance with the surface line."[23] It was reported six days later, "Subsequent measurements and surveys showed that the point of the Big Pittsburg, designated to be eleven and a half from the line of the Matchless, was only two and consequently the trespass on the adjoining ground."[24] It was decided that the disputed 10', which was then determined to be 11'-6", did indeed belong to the Matchless claim.

The Matchless Mine's success not only depended on the quality of ore extracted, but was also due to the many technological advances occurring in the mining industry during this time period. Previously, from the 1830s to the 1850s, the pick, shovel, illumination, and explosives were basic equipment. Black powder was the only explosive used until nitroglycerine was introduced in the 1860s. In the 1870s with the introduction of dynamite and the mechanical rockdrill, mining operations became more efficient. This allowed the miners at the Matchless Mine to extract larger quantities of ore to be shipped off site to be processed.

New discoveries in the reduction processing of ore in the first half of the 1870s also contributed to the success of the Leadville Mining District, including the Matchless Mine. Nathaniel P. Hill, a professor

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[21] Baskin, *History of the Arkansas Valley*, 290.
[22] S.F. Emmons, *Geology and Mining Industry of Leadville, Colo.: U.S. Geol. Survey, Mon. 12*, 1886, p. 621-623.
[23] *Leadville Democrat*, Lake County, May 1, 1881.
[24] *Leadville Democrat*, Lake County, May 7, 1881

from Brown University, in conjunction with Hermann Beeger and Richard Pearce, metallurgists, made progress in more efficiently refining ore. These advancements made it possible to extract minerals more easily and thoroughly as well as process the declining grades of known deposits at a lesser cost. The Boston and Colorado Smelter in Black Hawk, owned by Hill and eastern investors, paved the way in Colorado for the adaptation of the Welsh process used in the Swansea; Wales smelters.

The smelters of the 1880s treated mainly silver and industrial metals. Leadville had approximately fifteen smelters, the Grant Smelter being the largest, in operation at that time. Constructed by James Benton Grant in 1878 with funds supplied by his uncle, Judge James Grant (Davenport, Iowa), the Grant Smelter operated successfully until 1902 (see illustration I-3). The preferred fuel source was charcoal, as the virtually treeless terrain of Leadville confirmed, and by 1885 coke, made from coal, came into use. The Timber and Stone Act of 1878 made it illegal to cut timber on government land, but as it did not apply to public land, and deforestation continued. Prior to being destroyed by fire in 1883, the Tabor Stamp Mill, on nearby Carbonate Hill, milled a portion of the ore from the Matchless (see photograph H15). The mill was equipped with Blake crushers, stamps, Bruckner cylinders, and pans for amalgamation. It was one of the finest mills in Colorado and equal to any in the country.[25] After the fire, the Arkansas Valley Smelter and the Taylor & Brunton Stamp Mill in Leadville processed the ore of the Matchless. Often, smelters outside the area were used for beneficiation, "the upgrading of ore to increase its value" which was accomplished in a processing plant.[26] In January 1884, Tabor was shipping ore from the Matchless Mine to Pueblo.[27] For further refining, much of the bullion of the mining district was then shipped to Omaha (see Illustration I-4), Chicago, the eastern states, and as far away as Europe. Although Leadville did have a few refineries, the mine owners usually shipped the bullion out of the area.

With the introduction of the railroad, the smelters of Denver and Pueblo became more accessible and economically practical for the Matchless and the surrounding area. This offered damaging competition for the Leadville smelters for it created a tougher market due to cheaper transportation costs. The railroad system, which served the Matchless Mine and other claims on Fryer Hill, was of utmost importance to their operations. The introduction of the railroad reduced overall mining costs and increased production of the Leadville Mining District. Heavy machinery and mining equipment, as well as coal, ore and lumber, became less costly to move to and from the district. Eventually, a system of rail lines covering the mining area connected mines to one another, to smelters, and to the regional railroads.

In 1879, the right to build track from Buena Vista to Leadville, Colorado was given to the Denver & Rio Grande Railway Company (D&RG). The Denver, South Park & Pacific Railway Company rented and also utilized the track after its completion in 1880. To reach several mines and mills on Fryer Hill, D&RG added two miles of narrow gauge in 1881. Although not linked directly to the Matchless Mine, the rail proximity would have helped ease transportation cost for Horace Tabor and several other mine owners. It piqued his investment interest but speculation in several railroad companies proved unprofitable for him. On one day alone, December 5, 1881, the D&RG Railroad transported 5,181,708 pounds of freight to Leadville.[28] This is a good indication of the extensive supplies required by the population and mining industry of Leadville. By 1882 the D&RG was transporting 85-90 percent of

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[25] *Leadville Daily Herald*, Lake County, December 4, 1880.

[26] Bruce J. Noble and Robert Spude, *National Register Bulletin, Guidelines for Identifying, Evaluating and Registering Historic Mining Properties*, U.S Department of Interior, National Park Service, Washington, DC, 1997, 11.

[27] Griswold, *History of Leadville and Lake County, Colorado*, *Volume II*, 1315.

[28] Griswold, *History of Leadville and Lake County, Colorado*, *Volume I*, 881.

Leadville's traffic. In 1898, the Leadville Mineral Belt Railway Company built 2.9 miles of additional track to service mines on Fryer Hill and Graham Park. The Denver, Leadville & Gunnison Railway (DL&G) controlled the project and built a dual gauge route with side branches and spurs to the famous mines of the area. After organization in 1898, the Colorado & Southern Railway (C&S) Company gained control of the DL&G in 1899. In 1900, the C&S expanded the 2.9 miles of narrow gauge track, later converted to dual gauge, to include the Robert E. Lee and several other mines (see map M10).

These technological advancements enabled the Matchless to produce more with greater profit, but nature would take its course; within a few years due to extensive extraction, the depletion of bonanza ore in the Leonard Shaft occurred. In June of 1885, Horace Tabor announced that working of the north end of the claim would commence:

> I have got an abundance of low grade ore that will enable me to consummate quite an interesting, not to say elaborate programme in the way of prospecting this season, and I am confident that the ground will justify whatever expenditures there may be made. For years we have been operating upon old bodies, and I am satisfied that future discoveries will be made that will equal them in importance.[29]

Due to increased interest in the district resulting from bonanza gold discoveries on Breece Hill at the Ibex (Little Jonny Mine), it was possible for Tabor to sell stock and raise capital for prospecting on the Matchless Claim. By 1888, Horace Tabor was working the north end of the claim exclusively, while he was leasing the south end. It was developed with two additional shafts: No. 5 and No. 6 (see map M8).[30] No ore was produced from Shaft No. 5, but drifting to the south from Shaft No.5, the eastern extension of an ore shoot developed by the Dunkin was explored by Shaft No. 6.

In an unsigned document dated October 1, 1925, Denver, Colorado, the following statement relates to Shaft No.6:

> Mr. Tabor paid $147,000.00 for the Matchless Mine before one dollar was ever taken out of Fryer Hill. Before Mr. Tabor sunk Number Six shaft, he put down six Diamond Drill core holes to see what he could find. The first thing he found from under the wash was a body of ore 150'-thick, all different kinds of ore in immense large bodies: and in one body he took out $250,000.00 in two and one-half days in lead and silver carbon. Then the drill holes went through this large deposit of ore which spread over the whole mine and formed the first contact.[31]

The drilling proceeded to a depth of 318' and encountered a deposit of sulphides. The cores were assayed and showed 770 ounces of silver. The balance was gold, copper and lead.

Shaft No. 6 received the hoist from Shaft No. 5, and a smaller hoist was installed at Shaft No. 5. Shaft No. 6 showed more promise than No.5 and this recycling of equipment proved practical in later operations at the mine. The working of Shaft No. 5 and No. 6 were then connected underground.[32] At this point, in 1888, the Matchless workings were connected underground from the extreme south end

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[29] Griswold, *History of Leadville and Lake County, Colorado*, *Volume II,* 1581.

[30] Shaft No. 5 was named the Bohn shaft, after Colonel A.V. Bohn, a Civil War veteran and the new mine manager after the death of Mr. Leonard in 1884.

[31] M. Doyle Wagner files, Statement, 1925, National Mining Hall of Fame & Museum, Leadville, CO.

[32] Griswold, *History of Leadville and Lake County, Colorado*, *Volume II,* page 1977.

to the extreme north end by drifts. The north end was producing 600 tons of ore and iron per month.[33] The ore from Shaft No. 6, however, was low grade, containing less than one-tenth the amount of silver in bonanza ore of the original southern shafts during the early 1880s and would not support continued large-scale operations. The Matchless' richest ore had been located on the southern portion ofthe claim (specifically found in the Leonard Shaft, #72) with the north end producing lower grade ore. In the late 1880s the property was turned over to lessees. In 1889 with his need for cash growing stronger, Horace sold stock in the Matchless Mining Company for the first time (see illustration I-5).[34]

The Matchless Mine continued to limp along under the management of lessees. With the crash of the Sliver Market in 1893, due to the Panic of 1893 and the repeal of the Sherman Silver Purchase Act, the Tabor's fortune was gone and the family struggled until HORACE Tabor's death in 1899. His second wife, Elizabeth Bonduel McCourt Tabor, and two children, returned to the mine in 1901. Elizabeth spent her remaining thirty-five years on the property searching for avenues to re-open the Matchless Mine.

Organized in 1902, the Fryer Hill Mines Company controlled 150 acres of property on or adjacent to Fryers Hill, including the Little Pittsburg, Chrysolite, Matchless, Robert E. Lee and New Discovery mines. Harry Lee stated that the section had been "idle for a number of years," though W.F. Page managed the Matchless Mine for several years before Tabor's death and until 1909. The company installed a sizable pumping plant, which removed water and allowed greater depths to be explored in the section.[35]

The 1903 *City and Mining Leadville Directory* listed: "Matchless Mine – Fryer Hill; Mrs. H.A. Tabor, owner; produced over $3,000,000 in silver and lead from first contact; mine shaft 420'; blue lime 200'; now producing siliceous iron carrying silver; operated by J.O. Collerette."[36] The newspaper, *The Herald Democrat*, asked Colonel A.V. Bohn what he thought the mine had to offer. He responded that if the water were controlled and the unexplored depths reached, it would take $50,000 to make "a significant test" to determine the answer.[37]

Meanwhile, the Leadville Mining District was well into the zinc period. According to Emmons' Chronologic Summary, "August 14, 1909, first recognized body of zinc carbonate ore opened in the Robert E. Lee mine."[38] The miners were working for W.S. Jones, a lessee at the time. The zinc ore proved to be low grade and unprofitable. The discovery did, however, attract the attention of Leadville's mining men. The discovery did not lead to greater production totals in the district immediately but would eventually open large-scale development of the bonanza zinc carbonate mineralization in the district.[39] T.M. Ramsey became manager of the Matchless Mine in 1910 with G.W. Casey listed as the lessee of the mine from 1913 to 1917. It was in 1915 that plans were made to unwater the mines of Fryer Hill and this effort was completed in 1916. Zinc carbonate and iron

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[33] Griswold, *History of Leadville and Lake County, Colorado, Volume II,* page 1977.
[34] Duane A. Smith, *Horace Tabor: His Life and the Legends* (Boulder: Colorado Associated University Press, 1973), 271.
[35] Jon Horne and Nathan Fleming, Colorado Cultural Resource Survey Management Data Form, State Site #5LK.57, 1996, 3.
[36] Griswold, *History of Leadville and Lake County, Colorado, Volume II,* 2223.
[37] Griswold, *History of Leadville and Lake County, Colorado, Volume II,* 2223.
[38] Emmons, *Professional Paper 148: Geology and Ore Deposits of the Leadville Mining District, Colorado,* 136.
[39] Emmons, *Professional Paper 148: Geology and Ore Deposits of the Leadville Mining District, Colorado,* 124; Griswold, *History of Leadville and Lake County, Colorado, Volume II,* 2217.

sulfide ores were shipped during the year.[40] The returns on the Matchless Mine operation were reported to be small, producing low-grade ore at the time.

The first recorded production of zinc was in 1885. By 1902 the output of zinc surpassed that of lead and in 1903 the value of its output topped that of silver.[41] The future of the district would be riding on a variety of metals, not silver alone. "In 1905, Leadville's total mine production was $11,000,000 from five metals. Gold accounted for 10% of the production, copper for 6 %, lead and silver 22% each, and zinc, now the leading district money maker, accounting for 40%."[42] In 1902, silver had reached its lowest value in the history of the silver production, 49 and 1/8 cents per ounce. Even so, the mining industry of the state during that year was in "prosperous condition." This was partially due to the production of zinc, which in 1902 exceeded the value of any other individual metal. Copper production, although a minor product of the ores of Leadville, began in 1884 but was not of importance until 1890. Industrial demands, created in part by World War I, generated more advanced mining technology and expanded manufacturing capabilities. By 1915, the demand for molybdenum became responsible for the increased demand for base metals. Copper, lead and zinc prices increased to an all time high. More valued than any other base metal, zinc production alone in the district totaled $10,000,000. Due partially to this fact, the Fryer Hill mines attracted the attention of the Leadville Mining Development Company. In 1921, the company drove a 4,000' long tunnel, the Canterbury Tunnel, from Prospect Mountain to Carbonate Hill. This tunnel was successful in draining a number of marginal mines on Fryer Hill and parts of Iron and Carbonate hills, although in the late 1920s the company abandoned the project.[43]

There were no managers or lessees on record for the years 1909, 1911, 1912 or 1918.[44] After World War I, the market declined and the Matchless was idle most of the time, though it was listed as producing zinc during the 1920s (see map M7).[45] Leadville's mining industry had its worst year on record in 1921. Henry C. Butler, editor of the *Herald Democrat*, estimated that Elizabeth Tabor had leased the mine to more than a dozen leasing companies during the first quarter of the twentieth century. The mine yielded mostly low-grade ore during that period. The *Herald Democrat* wrote that the last known recorded workings of the Matchless Mine, then owned by the Shorego Mining Company, were on August 27, 1930.[46] There is evidence of other lease work, either within the Matchless shafts or using the buildings on that claim, due to maintenance on the buildings and replacement of some equipment through the site becoming a tourist site in 1954.

***State comparables for the Matchless Mine***

The silver boom in Leadville marked a radical shift in the economics of Colorado. In the late nineteenth century, Leadville and Butte, Montana, were the two leading mining centers of the American West. The quality and quantity of ore led to such a concentration of activity that Leadville became preeminent in mining innovations in practices, setting the pace for Western mines. As such, most of the comparable mines in the state are located in Leadville. Only in the 1890s did Aspen surpass Leadville as the state's primary silver producer, but due to the crash of the silver market in 1893, its lead was

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[40] Emmons, *Professional Paper 148: Geology and Ore Deposits of the Leadville Mining District, Colorado,* 137.
[41] Emmons, *Professional Paper 148: Geology and Ore Deposits of the Leadville Mining District, Colorado*, 121.
[42] Stephen M. Voynick, *Leadville: A Miner's Epic* (Missoula, MT: Mountain Press Publishing Company, 1984), 89.
[43] Voynick, *Leadville: A Miner's Epic*,105.
[44] Griswold, *History of Leadville and Lake County, Colorado: From Mountain Solitude to Metropolis, Volume II,* 2224.
[45] Emmons, *Professional Paper 148: Geology and Ore Deposits of the Leadville Mining District, Colorado*, 121
[46] Griswold, *History of Leadville and Lake County, Colorado: From Mountain Solitude to Metropolis, Volume II,* 2224.

short lived.[47] Of all of the mines operating in Leadville, while some may have produced more silver or generated more revenue, none of them created the longstanding name recognition of the Matchless.

The Wolftone Mine and Mill, (5LK.441) Leadville Mining District, Leadville, Colorado, Lake County.

The Wolftone Mine (see photograph H10), situated on the northeast portion of Carbonate Hill, compares to the Matchless Mine by its similarities in extraction trends, common problems, and contribution to our understanding of Western mining and the success of the Leadville Mining District. Opened in 1878, the Wolftone Mine, named for an Irish revolutionary leader, had two functions: extraction and benefaction. The first shaft was sunk to a depth of 700'.[48] Originally known as the Wolftone shaft on the Agassiz Claim, its prospects as a paying mine were not positive early on. Similar to the Matchless, a high water table caused serious problems for extracting ore. The Wolftone shaft flooded, causing mining operations to halt as plans were made for a large pumping plant. Soon after completing the plant, carbonate ore was found making the whole endeavor worthwhile. According to a description in the *Herald*, H.A. Ford, mine manager, made an important discovery at the Wolftone in 1882; it was the most significant find made in several months and added promise for the surrounding mines on Carbonate Hill. Colonel Bohn, the future manager of the Matchless Mine, visited the Wolftone and was quoted as saying, "The development of the last few days had added a million dollars to the Agassiz Mine." Under the direction of H.H. Stotesbury, president of the Agassiz Mine, the average shipment of ore from the mine was 20 tons per day with the ore being 10 to 20 percent lead. Comparatively, the ore from the Matchless Mine during the same period contained approximately 140 percent more silver, although the Wolftone was extracting almost twice as much ore each month.

Flooding continued to be a problem in 1886, when the pumping plant was then enlarged to handle the flow of water into the mine. This, as well as a concentration mill in place at this time, allowed the Wolftone mine to continue to be an impressive producer of silver, lead and some copper. When the Matchless' future was bleak and its silver production coming to an end, the Wolftone Mine continued to grow. Unlike the Matchless Mine, the Wolftone had adequate financing to provide a means of dispersing water from its lower workings, allowing production to continue well into the zinc period. In 1888, the Agassiz Consolidate owned 22 acres of ground.[49] The Guggenheim family interests in the late 1890s further developed the mine. In 1910, the Wolftone became part of the A.M.W. Company of which S.D. Nicholson was president. The year before he had hosted an elaborate underground banquet in the Wolftone in celebration of the rich ores of the district. Leased by the Iron Silver Mining Company in 1925, the mine became one of the district's leading producers of zinc. Like the Matchless, but to a greater extent, the Wolftone experienced another brief boom during the zinc period. The success was short lived and the mine was closed in 1931.[50]

Clear Grit Mine, (5LK.691) Leadville Mining District, Leadville, Colorado, Lake County.

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[47] Fell and Twitty, *Mining in Colorado,* 16-22.
[48] Griswold, *History of Leadville and Lake County, Colorado*, *Volume II,* 1718
[49] Griswold, *History of Leadville and Lake County, Colorado*, *Volume II,* 1976.
[50] George and Ruth Gilfillan, *Among the Tailings: A Guide to Leadville Mines* (Leadville, CO: The Herald Democrat, 1964), 82.

The Clear Grit Mine (see photograph 18), located just south of California Gulch at Iowa Gulch, was active from 1884 to 1930. Similar to size and function of the Matchless Mine, the Clear Grit performed extraction on 5 acres. The Original owner was Charles J. Moore, a respected mining engineer with a European civil and mechanical engineering education. Many of his mining articles appeared in the *Herald Democrat* in the1890s. The average silver output was 12 ounces of silver per ton with a total production value in 1884 of $14,000. The Clear Grit, alongside the Matchless Mine, is one of the finest intact examples of mining architecture in the Leadville Mining District with four buildings and one structure still standing.[51]

Robert E. Lee, (5LK.988) Leadville Mining District, Leadville, Colorado, Lake County.

The Robert E. Lee Mine paralleled the Matchless Mine, its next-door neighbor, in silver production years, development, and influence on the Leadville Mining District. The Robert E. Lee Mine (see photograph H11) performed the function of extraction. Similar to the Matchless Mine, its early ownership passed through a tumultuous period. After two individuals, George W. Belt and Robert E. Lee, discovered the first silver-rich ore in 1879, litigation soon ensued. Irving Howbert, cashier of the First National Bank of Colorado, and Henry and E.O. Wolcott, J.H. Shelford, and Eddy & James - an ore buying firm, soon invested in the mine. Howbert and the Wolcotts sold interests in the property to several other men. On May 15, 1879, after two visits to Leadville, L.D. Roudelbush, a New Yorker, came to an agreement with Howbert and the Wolcotts. Roudelbush paid Howbert $130,000 and the Wolcotts $115,000 for interest in the property. In late July of that same year, Roudebush, Pennock (of the New York Stock Exchange), Sigafus, Howbert, Crowell, Humphrey, and Marshall became owners of the property.[52]

The Robert E. Lee proved to be extremely profitable. A single shaft sunk to 275' exposed a bonanza vein for 115' through lateral level drifts. The ore from this vein averaged 20,000 ounces of silver per ton. In January 1880, the net value of the ore sold was $300,000 assaying at 11,000 ounces of silver per ton. This mine was one of the biggest producers of silver in the district in 1880. One year later, the Matchless Mine produced similar silver results though not as great a quantity. After an examination of the drifts all running in ore, and seeing the small quantity taken out compared to that remaining, it was thought the Robert E. Lee was the treasure vault of Fryer Hill. Jerome B. Chaffee, David H. Moffat, Senator J.P. Jones of Nevada, congressman S.B. Elkins of New Mexico, and the Delmonicos of New York were listed as owners during these profitable times.[53] Horace Tabor became a stockholder in 1881, but too late to make a big return on his investment as the mine brought in declining amounts of silver ore.[54]

By 1898, the Robert E. Lee was still operating profitably with iron production by lessees. The Matchless was also operated by lessees, but not with the same success. The Robert E. Lee, only slightly larger in size (4.77 acres) than the Matchless, remains a historic mining landscape (see Illustration I-2).

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[51] Gilfillan, *Among the Tailings: A Guide to Leadville Mines*, 16.

[52] Griswold, *History of Leadville and Lake County, Colorado, Volume I*, 356.

[53] Davis S. Digerness, *The Mineral Belt: An Illustrated History, Featuring Denver, South Park & Pacific Railroad, and the Gold-and-Silver Mining Industry of the Fabulous Mineral Belt of Colorado*, *Volume I* (Silverton, CO: Sundance Books, 1977), 239.

[54] Baskin, *History of the Arkansas Valley, Colorado*, 293.

Smuggler Mine, (5PT.479) Aspen Mining District, Aspen, Colorado, Pitkin County

After Charles Bennett discovered the Smuggler claim in 1879, he sold it to Charles Hallam and David Hyman in 1880. Together they formed the Smuggler Mining Company in 1881 and began development of mining operations at the site. As one of the top two silver producing mines in the Aspen area, the Smuggler's greatest claim to fame is that it successfully survived the 1893 silver crash and produced the largest silver nugget in history, weighing 2,060 lbs at 93 percent silver, in 1894. Gradually mining operations dwindled and the mine stopped production in 1918. Over the course of the next two decades no one worked the mine and much of the surface plant was dismantled and used at other locations. After World War II there was another mining boom and leaseholders reopened the mine for a period of time. They constructed new buildings on the property, and replaced the timbering and rails within the mine tunnels.[55]

The Smuggler Mine differs from the Matchless in that most of its built environment, both inside and outside of the mine proper, dates to the 1950s with only the mine tunnel openings dating from the late nineteenth century. In addition to retaining its historic surface plant, the Matchless also retains the historic workings within its shafts and tunnels. While the Smuggler was a hardrock tunnel mine and the Matchless a hardrock shaft mine, their contemporary nature and the fact that they were competing silver mines using similar technology make them apt comparables.

**The Tabors Make their Mark on Early Colorado**

The origins of western placer methods are believed to have come from the State of Georgia; Cornwall, England; and Mexico. As early as 1540, a few Spanish adventurers traveled north into the future United States. Metropolitan Mexico was the location of rich new ore shoots and many of these adventurers returned to take advantage of these discoveries at home. A few remained and small business ventures in mining occurred. These groups returned to Mexico after depleting the surface deposits. In the mid-1700s, independent French adventurers had reached the eastern base of the Rocky Mountains. Their major interests were fur trapping and Indian trade, however, they were aware of the presence of minerals. As early as 1803 or before, James Purcell became one of the first Euro-Americans to enter the region of Colorado. While pursuing his fur trapping activities, he collected a number of gold nuggets near the source of the South Platte River. Purcell's discovery was not-widely known until 1807, when in Santa Fe, Purcell related the gold find to Zebulon Pike who then recorded the information.[56]

The 1848 discovery of gold in California attracted hoards of hopeful people consumed by gold fever. By 1858, the gold rush had run its course in California and these hopefuls were in search of a new area to prospect. In the spring of that year, gold was discovered on Cherry Creek, which quickly became the site of Denver. In 1859, the Pikes Peak region gold rush brought the California "forty-niners" pouring into Colorado. It also caught the attention of many gold seekers on the eastern side of the Continental Divide, Horace Tabor being one of these.[57]

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[55] Barbara Norgren, *Smuggler Mine*, National Register Nomination, Colorado Historical Society , Denver, CO, 18 May 1987.
[56] Voynick, *Leadville: A Miner's Epic*, 8.
[57] Smith, *Horace Tabor: His Life and the Legends*, 9.

Horace Tabor (1830-1899) was born November 26, 1830 near Holland, Vermont to Cornelius D. and Sarah Terrin Tabor. Horace learned the stonecutter's trade and found work in Maine where he met his future wife, Louisa Augusta Pierce (see photograph H13). They were engaged for two years while Horace prepared a place for them in Zeandale, Kansas. Kansas, still a territory at the time, was rumored to be a veritable Garden of Eden. Its rich soil and healthfulness of climate attracted settlers.[58] On January 15, 1856, a Free Soil Legislature and state officers were elected in Topeka, Kansas. Tabor concurrently joined the abolitionists in their fight along the border between Kansas and Missouri. Years later he stated, "My politics were free soil. I have always been against slavery."[59] In 1857, he was elected one of three representatives of what was then known as the Fifth District, later the Sixth, in Kansas. In January 1857, Horace and Augusta were married in Augusta, Maine. For the next twenty years, the couple moved from one location to another, Augusta being an invaluable partner during those difficult years.

In 1859, Horace Tabor became motivated by new finds in the mountains and, accompanied by Augusta, their young son Maxcy (one and a half years old), and their friends, S.P. Kellogg and Nathanial Maxcy, crossed the plains to Denver. Resting there for a week, they pushed on to Golden where Horace left his family to prospect in the area. He returned to Golden to retrieve his family and headed back to Payne's Bar only to discover that his claim had been jumped.

The Tabors moved back to Denver for a short period before moving on to Colorado City, a budding town near the site of Colorado Springs. After a brief stay, they were on the move again heading west through South Park with their partners, S.P. Kellogg and Nathaniel Maxey. They traveled over Trout Creek Pass and to an area on the banks of the Arkansas River, now the town of Buena Vista. They continued upriver to Cache Creek, near the present day town of Granite, where they settled to prospect with some success. After a month, news arrived of the first promising gold discovery in the area, found April 1860 at California Gulch, slightly southeast of present day Leadville. Word of the gold finds traveled quickly instigating the Tabors to move again. They arrived at Oro City, the new mining community in California Gulch, in early May 1880. By June, the gulch had attracted 4,000 men who staked 400 mineral claims all active placer operations. Augusta later recalled that upon their arrival in California Gulch "the men all stopped work and built her a cabin."[60]

Horace became a moderately successful placer miner. By the end of September 1860, he had accumulated 300 ounces of placer gold worth $5,000.[61] Their income was supplemented by the mercantile store that he and Augusta owned and operated. Discovery and exploitation of very rich placer-gold deposits occurred at a rapid pace. In 1862, believing California Gulch to be worked out, they moved their store to Buckskin Joe, just west of the present town of Alma. They remained there for the next six years before returning to New Oro City, further up California Gulch. The Tabors opened their store and Horace was appointed Postmaster.

By 1865 California Gulch was nearly abandoned, although some placer and load activity continued through 1875. Peak gold production in Colorado occurred in 1864 and 1865 with the production of gold and other metal being $4.5 million per year before declining steadily for the next three years. The boom discoveries at Cherry Creek in 1858 had peaked out and Colorado's first mineral boom was concluded

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[58] Lewis Cass Gandy, *The Tabors: A Footnote of Western History* (New York: The Press of the Pioneers, 1934), 12.
[59] Gandy, *A Footnote of Western History*, 4.
[60] Edward Blair, *Leadville: Colorado's Magic City* (Boulder, CO: Fred Pruett Books, 1980), 10.
[61] Voynick, *Leadville: A Miner's Epic*, 19.

by 1868.[62] As the Oro City postmaster and a storeowner, Tabor continued to capitalize on the district by providing goods and mail service. Horace and Augusta "could boast a net worth of $25,000."[63] In July of 1877, with an accumulated wealth of approximately $35,000, the Tabors moved two and one half miles down the gulch and slightly northward to the soon-to-be incorporated town of Leadville. Horace and Augusta moved their stores from Oro City and Malta and joined the ranks of the budding city's business owners, including Charles Mater, owner and operator of a mercantile store, who had moved his store in June from Granite to Leadville. Horace was not destined to stay a shopkeeper for long as his attention was soon drawn back to mining.

Through means provided by the mercantile store and inspired by his generous nature, Tabor was known to grubstake hopeful prospectors. Hooke and Rische were no exceptions; they showed little experience and promised large returns on what they found. The discovery of the Little Pittsburg was little less than a miracle. The exact point where Hook and Rische decided to dig turned out to be the location where the ore body was closest to the surface.[64] Due to the glacial debris deposited on Fryer Hill, the ore was commonly buried tens to hundreds of feet below the surface. This stroke of luck proved to be the beginning of fabulous wealth for the Tabors. In its first five months of operation, the Little Pittsburg produced approximately $375,000 for its partners.[65] Encouraged by his success and with an enormous sum to invest, Tabor began searching for his next big strike. Tabor was listed as one of several patentees of the Colorado Chief, Little Eva, Carboniferous and Crysolite Mine, all in the Leadville Mining District.

By 1879, Tabor had acquired a working knowledge of the Leadville Mining District and the cutthroat mining business. His successful mining ventures translated into diverse building projects in Denver and Leadville, and a political career in which he briefly served as the Lt. Governor and briefly as a U.S. Senator. Tabor was drawn to the Matchless Mine, not because of its production, but because of its potential.[66] Located a few hundred yards from the wildly successful Little Pittsburg, the Matchless potentially contained bonanza ore. His hunch proved correct when bonanza ore was struck at shaft #70. In less than two years, the Matchless Mine produced a profit of $25,000 or more per month.[67] Tabor took great pride and personal interest in the Matchless Mine. He was prudent not to employ the "California management" style, that of seeking large output for the purpose of reaping large profits. The *Leadville Daily Herald* reported, "This mine [the Matchless Mine] is Governor Tabor's pet, and he does not choose to overwork it."[68] By practicing conservative management skills, the mine was producing a healthy return.

Throughout the early 1880s, the Matchless produced at a steady rate. Up until January of 1882, it had produced about $1,500,000 in income for Tabor.[69] It was this same year the Oscar Wilde, the English playwright, visited Leadville and delivered a lecture at the Tabor Opera House. After the lecture he, accompanied by Lou Leonard, toured the Matchless Mine. He later described his visit to Leadville in his book *Oscar Wilde's Impressions of America.*[70] In May of 1883, the *Chronicle* stated, "The Matchless

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[62] Fell and Twitty, *Mining in Colorado,* 12.
[63] David Fridtjof Halaas, "Horace A.W. Tabor: Rags to Riches to Rags," *Colorado History NOW* (1998):3-4.
[64] Smith, *Horace Tabor: His Life and Legend*, 72.
[65] Smith, *Horace Tabor: His Life and Legend*, 75.
[66] Smith, *Horace Tabor: His Life and Legend*, 122.
[67] Smith, *Horace Tabor: His Life and Legend*, 180.
[68] Smith, *Horace Tabor: His Life and Legend*, 180.
[69] Smith, *Horace Tabor: His Life and Legend*, 181.
[70] Griswold, *History of Leadville and Lake County, Colorado: From Mountain Solitude to Metropolis, Volume I,* 957.

mine, on Fryer Hill, continues to be a source of income to Senator Tabor. The mine has almost ever since Senator Tabor bought it been a constant shipper. There are now about forty men employed on it, and about thirty tons of ore are produced a day."[71] In May 1884, the Matchless and the Robert E. Lee were reported to be regular producers of siliceous ores, often high in silver, with the Matchless being the higher of the two.[72]

Through the generous profits from his mining investments, and particularly from the Matchless Mine, Tabor was enabled to diversify his investments and indulge his altruistic tendencies. In 1859, even before the accumulation of his wealth, he attempted to found a settlement near Pike's Peak, believing that this would be an ideal location for the capital of the Territory. He built a log cabin but failed in his efforts to find investors in Denver.[73] Devoted to the success of Leadville, Tabor invested large amounts of time and money to fund efforts for the improvement of the city. Leadville benefited greatly from his investments in the telephone company, gas company, stock exchange, fire company, bank, and several newspapers. He financed the impressive Tabor Opera House in Leadville, which opened in November 1879. Other philanthropic efforts and cultural contributions included the Tabor Grande Opera House (Denver), the site for the Denver Customs House, and the Tabor Block (Denver). It was during this period that his mining interest grew outside the limits of Leadville's Mining District. He acquired Colorado mines in Gunnison, Breckenridge, Decatur and the San Juan mining region.

Leadville was coming into its own as a city and suffered with concerns such as overpopulation, illness, starvation, crime and sanitation issues. Word of the 1877 Leadville boom motivated those seeking relief from the dire financial conditions of the post-Civil War depression to migrate to the town in great numbers, erupting a population of 500 in the spring of 1878 into an estimated 30,000 in a little more than a year.[74] In Colorado, Leadville was second only to Denver in size. Three stage lines routed over Weston Pass provided service. In 1881 Leadville was on the ballot for consideration as state capital. Receiving only 374 votes, Leadville lost to Denver by 2,776 votes. "By the early 1880s Leadville was the foremost silver producing center in the United States and for a time the largest lead producer as well."[75] Even into the early 1890s, with the gradual exhaustion of carbonates, Leadville still lead Colorado's mineral production. This all had a direct bearing on the commerce of the state and contributed to its development.

HORACE Tabor's entrepreneurial accomplishments were not limited to the mining industry or the boundaries of Leadville. In Denver, the Tabor Block was completed in 1880, as was the Tabor Grande Opera House. The *Rocky Mountain News* reported, "A noble monument of enterprise, faith and pluck...massive, yet elegant in design containing the most modern conveniences that safety permits and experience approved."[76] The Tabor Block and the Tabor Grande Opera House proved to be sound investments. It was during this period that Tabor's investment extended to other parts of the country. Marshall Field and other Chicagoans met Tabor while contemplating investments in Leadville's mining district. Tabor purchased property in south Chicago with his largest speculative investment made in the Calumet and Chicago Canal and Dock Company. Plans were to promote real estate sales and build a new harbor and industrial complex. Although the investment proved unprofitable, Tabor

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[71] Griswold, *History of Leadville and Lake County, Colorado: From Mountain Solitude to Metropolis, Volume I,* 178.
[72] Griswold, *History of Leadville and Lake County, Colorado: From Mountain Solitude to Metropolis, Volume II,* 1332.
[73] Gandy, *The Tabors: A Footnote of Western History,* 115.
[74] Glenn R. Scott, *Historic Trail Map of Leadville, 1x2 Quadrangle, Central Colorado, Freighting Business in the Leadville Quadrangle,* U.S. Department of the Interior, 2004.
[75] Fell and Twitty, *Mining in Colorado,*18.
[76] Smith, *Horace Tabor: His Life and Legend,* 150.

held his shares hoping for a turn around. Stock purchases in various mines included the Comstock, Sierra Nevada, Union Consolidated, and various Mexican mines. Tabor also invested in corn, wheat, and pork futures through his connections in New York and Chicago. Generally, these investments showed little or no profits.

In 1882, Tabor's fortune, according to the list of assets provided by Augusta at the time of their divorce, included: the Matchless, Hibernia, Maid of Erwin, Waterloo, Crysolite, Breece-Iron, Glass-Pendery, Polite and Group mines, interest in the Bull Domingo near Silver Cliff and Robinson, Smuggler, Lead Chief, and Denver City mines. Investments in other mines included Tam O'Shanter near Ashcroft, Wheel of Fortune in Summit County and several others in the San Juan Mountains. The list, inclusive of his holdings in companies, real estate, and personal property totaled $7,195,000 in value.[77]

Tabor's large fortune funded more than just philanthropic efforts and further mining interests; it also enabled him to pursue his other passion: politics. Tabor's previous interest in politics had not diminished during his wanderings. From his days in Kansas, he gained basic political experience, and never lost his enthusiasm for involvement. His amicable and generous qualities were assets in his personal life and both proved invaluable in his political career. "In Kansas, when he was but a youth, he could give to those less fortunate only his time and his strength. His neighbors at Deep Creek in later years recalled how willing he was to serve them in any way he could. And in the border ruffian days in that Territory – it took courage to play the part Tabor did to stem the tide of slavery. His fellow legislators have testified to his bravery and his wisdom."[78] Tabor's personal traits and moral fiber proved a means to garner favor and friends for a successful early career in politics.

Tabor's first elected position in Colorado occurred in 1860 before the federal government provided Colorado with territorial status. The frontier nature of the individuals in the region impelled them to move forward with the creation of an extralegal territory complete with legislative districts. Tabor was elected as a legislative member from the upper district of California Gulch. From 1876 to 1880, he served as treasurer of Lake County. During this period, he had established himself as a prominent merchant and wealthiest citizen of Oro City; he was considered part of the pioneer aristocracy of the territory according to English poet and author, Charles Kingsley.[79] In 1878, Tabor was elected mayor of Leadville running on a nonpartisan platform. Ordinances directed at urban problems were passed. The issues of water, sanitation, firefighting, and public drunkenness were addressed under his leadership. The Leadville Improvement Company of which he was president established Harrison Avenue as the main thoroughfare. The city grew and prospered. Tabor was loyal to the Republican Party and his principles followed that of the party. Duane Smith relates the following regarding Tabor's own evaluation of his role in politics; "I always took an interest in politics: always will probably, either to help somebody that I want to help or oppose somebody that I want to pound down."[80]

In the fall of 1878, his nomination for Lieutenant Governor of Colorado won on the second ballot and his achievements allowed him to act as Governor for a few weeks when the Governor was out of state. The political office to which many wealthy mining magnets aspired was the U.S. Senate, and Tabor was no exception. In 1882, Colorado's Senator Henry Teller was moved to the position of Secretary of the Interior, leaving his Senate seat open. Tabor had hopes of filling the vacancy. The state legislature appointed Thomas Bowen for the six-year term and a disappointed Tabor served the remaining thirty

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[77] Griswold, *History of Leadville and Lake County, Colorado: From Mountain Solitude to Metropolis, Volume I*, 957.
[78] Gandy, *The Tabors: A Footnote of Western History*, 275.
[79] Smith, *Horace Tabor: His Life and Legend*, 47.
[80] Smith, *Horace Tabor: His Life and Legend*, 91.

days of Teller's term. He referred to this as "the baby term," but undertook his short-term responsibilities in a diligent manner.[81]

Ever mindful of his fortune's origins, Tabor was an avid spokesman for maintaining the silver standard. In 1873, Congress passed a law that eliminated the silver dollar, putting the country on the gold standard. The U.S. government was no longer purchasing in the silver market, causing the value of silver coinage to be at the mercy of the world market. The price of silver continued to decline into the 1890s. In 1885, Tabor was a delegate to the National Silver Convention that met at the Tabor Grand in Denver. In a speech Tabor urged the attendees to support free and unlimited coinage of silver with a bill to this effect. Silver priced at a sixteen-to-one ratio in relation to gold would provide a vigorous stimulation to the market. He received a standing ovation at the meeting conclusion. The bill failed to pass Congress in 1886. The next year at the Colorado Silver Association, he visited President-elect, Benjamin Harrison, in an effort to promote a "silver man" as treasury secretary. This did not materialize. He remained an advocate of Free Coinage.

Despite his success, there was also trouble brewing for HORACE Tabor. Augusta remained a loyal and hard working partner through all their endeavors. However, there were personality differences causing friction in their domestic relations, exacerbated by the sudden increase in their fortune.[82] According to Augusta's testimony in divorce court, Horace and Augusta separated in July 1880.[83] In the beginning both settled for separation, however, Horace's attitude changed after Elizabeth "Baby Doe" Bonduel McCourt entered his life.

"Baby Doe," a pet name given her by her first husband, Harvey Doe, was christened Elizabeth Nellis McCourt on September 27, 1854. She later changed her middle name to Bonduel, the last name of the local priest.[84] Peter McCourt, Elizabeth's father, immigrated to Canada from Ireland and after a brief stay, came to the United States in 1855. He resided in Utica, Buffalo and Milwaukee before settling in Oshkosh. He and his wife, Nellis, had fourteen children, eleven surviving, Elizabeth being the fourth. Peter was a tailor by trade and earned a reputation as an industrious man. He provided the family with a fine house on Division Street, which burned in 1874.[85] As Elizabeth matured she became known as the belle of Oshkosh. Her flirtatious manner and unconventional behavior provoked distrust with the ladies of the town. This unpopularity with the female gender followed her throughout her life.

In June 1877, Elizabeth married William Harvey Doe (known as Harvey), the son of W.H. Doe, a prosperous Oshkosh lumberman. The senior Mr. Doe had mining interests in Colorado and the newlywed couple made their way to the Central City area to manage the Fourth of July Mine near Blackhawk. The marriage was failing and after Harvey left her to fend for herself in Central City, Elizabeth gave birth to a stillborn son in July 1878. Harvey returned in January of 1880 to reconcile and the pair moved to Denver. On March 19, 1880, they divorced. A year prior, Elizabeth visited Leadville, at the invitation of a friend, and stayed a brief time at the Clarendon Hotel. The town of Leadville and possibly the reputation of Horace Tabor had made a favorable impression on her. She returned to Central City for a short time, and in 1881 departed once again for Leadville where reports

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[81] Smith, *Horace Tabor: His Life and Legend*, 224.
[82] Smith, *Horace Tabor: His Life and Legend*, 152.
[83] Smith, *Horace Tabor: His Life and Legend*, 152.
[84] Caroline Bancroft, *The Fabulous Story of Baby Doe Tabor* (Boulder, CO: Johnson Publishing Company, 1971), 8.
[85] John Burke, *The Legend of Baby Doe: The Life and Times of the Silver Queen of the West* (University of Nebraska Press, 1989),10.

of her beauty and flirtatious manner had preceded her.[86] Harvey drifted around various Colorado mining camps for the next four years after the divorce. In 1884 he returned to Oshkosh, held a variety of jobs and eventually remarried.[87]

There are many accounts of when and where Horace and Elizabeth met. These accounts are inconclusive though.[88] After Horace's separation from Augusta, prior to the divorce, there were rumors that he was often seen in the company of Elizabeth. The newspapers across the country enthusiastically reported the account of the Tabor scandal, usually grossly exaggerated. Within a short time, Horace desired a divorce from Augusta, in order to marry Elizabeth. Horace attempted a clandestine divorce in Durango on March 24, 1882, though it later proved to be invalid. Consequently, his marriage to Elizabeth McCourt in St. Louis in September 1882 was not legal.[89] Finally, on January 2, 1883, Augusta and Horace were divorced. She received a generous settlement, moved to California and died in Pasadena in February 1895.

On March 1, 1883, Horace Tabor (age 52) and Elizabeth McCourt Doe (age 29) were married in an extravagant and elegant ceremony at the Willard Hotel in Washington, D.C. (see photograph H16). Tabor was in the country's capital serving his thirty-day Senate term. Newspapers throughout the country reported the details of the lavish wedding. Elizabeth wore a $75,000 white gown, which the newspapers described in detail. Horace presented Elizabeth with a $75,000 diamond necklace as a wedding gift. President Arthur and numerous politicians attended. None of their wives were present. Due to his association with Elizabeth Tabor's popularity diminished, especially among the married women of Colorado. It was reported: "Nearly every wife, it now seemed, demanded of her husband that he use all his influence to prevent Tabor from gaining a political office. Even afterwards, Tabor was defeated for every elective position he sought, despite the money he spent and the efforts he put forth"[90] The hotel and other expenses of the couple during their time at the capital amounted to $10,000 per day.[91]

The Tabors' first Denver home was at 1647 Welton (no longer extant). In 1886 they moved into a more prestigious home at 1260 Sherman Street on Capital Hill bounded by 13th Avenue, Sherman and Grant Avenue. This stately house was demolished in 1919. Two daughters, Elizabeth Bonduel Lillie, born 1884, and Rose Echo Silver Dollar, born 1889, were the pride and joy of their devoted parents. Employees of the Matchless Mine sent gifts for Lillie's birth while the mine continued to produce at a rate as high as $80,000 a month.[92] A son was born in 1888 but lived just a few hours. The loss had a lasting effect on Elizabeth, as evidenced in her writing during her later isolation at the Matchless Mine. Horace continued to shower his wife with expensive gifts, including a diamond said to have been one of the Spanish crown jewels as well as a gold belt worth $5,000.[93]

For ten years, the life of the Tabor family proceeded smoothly. The couple enjoyed their wealth. Their extravagances were duly noted in newspapers in Denver and Leadville. Extravagant parties, travel, and other luxuries were routine. Elizabeth's gowns, jewelry, horses, carriages, and the lavish manner

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[86] Burke, *The Legend of Baby Doe: The Life and Times of the Silver Queen of the West*, 38.
[87] Judy Nolte Temple, *Baby Doe Tabor: The Madwoman in the Cabin* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2007), 11.
[88] Temple, *Baby Doe Tabor: The Madwoman in the Cabin*, 13.
[89] Smith, *Horace Tabor: His Life and the Legends*, 230.
[90] Gandy, *The Tabors: A Footnote of Western History,* 242.
[91] "Old Mine's Story Has New Chapter," *New York Times*, April 21, 1929.
[92] Bancroft, *The Fabulous Story of Baby Doe Tabor,* 58.
[93] "Old Mine's Story Has New Chapter," *New York Times*, April 21, 1929.

in which she dressed her daughter Lillie were the envy of many women in Denver.[94] At Lillie's birth Horace had gold medallions struck bearing the name "Baby Tabor" and sent them to 100 of Denver's finest families. Lillie's christening lace gown was embroidered with miniature jewels and her diapers sported diamond pins.[95] Early in the relationship, Elizabeth struggled for acceptance and equality with the upper echelons of society. Though Leadville society was more accepting, Denver society never embraced the couple, despite Elizabeth's efforts. Mainly due to the divorce scandal, Elizabeth was viewed as morally inadequate and because of the Tabors' quick rise to financial bliss, were considered "new money"; both good reasons in high society to snub the couple. However, this view proved to be hypocritical of Denver's upper classes, because many of the ultra wealthy gained prominence through similar means as the Tabors.

John Burke, in *The Legend of Baby Doe*, faulted Horace for his misjudgment of the moral climate in Denver as dominated by the female population. Burke states that Horace did not adjust to differences in morals between mining camps and more settled communities. Author Judy Temple proposes that "the transgression that infuriated Denver was not the assault on its moral standards but the one of social class."[96] She writes that Elizabeth had "the nerve to stay in place and embody the social mobility of a divorced woman who regained the privileges of marriage – albeit without its social acceptability. With her ostentatious carriage, her brazen appearances at the Tabor Opera House, her displays of her daughters, she held her ground in Denver – just as she would hold it later at the Matchless mine."[97] Elizabeth continued to be a ostracized for the rest of her life, personal pride proving more valuable to her then acceptance.

Towards the late 1880s the Tabor Empire began to crumble. In the early 1890s, the Tabor's lifestyle changed dramatically. Investments were failing to show profits, lawsuits were prevalent, and his wealth was dwindling at a steady pace by the end of the decade. Tabor's extravagant spending practices plus the repeal of the Sherman Silver Purchase Act in 1893 dealt the final blow. After the 1893 silver crash, Tabor endured debts totaling millions of dollars. Panic struck Leadville and all of Colorado's silver camps with the repeal of the Sherman Silver Purchase Act. The price of silver rapidly declined, adding to the country's economic depression. The average price of silver in July 1893 was 70 cents an ounce and the Associated Press stated that 90 percent of the country's silver mines were shut down leaving 15,000 miners without work. While gold camps such as Cripple Creek and Victor received an economic boost, the effects were disastrous for the owners of the silver mines and for those whose wealth was based on the value of silver. Leadville mines increased production of base metals. Copper and zinc, were taking economic precedence and many of the Leadville mines had already considered silver secondary.

An attempt was made in 1895 to keep the Matchless Mine functioning but by 1898 the mine was leased. Tabor received only one-eighth of the royalties. As a last resort Horace borrowed money on the Matchless Mine, after organizing Tabor Mines and Mills Company. The Ransom Leasing Company assumed the debt and a portion of the royalties were to be used to satisfy payment. The mine was not producing up to expectations, although the Lake County tax records indicate that Tabor paid the taxes on the Matchless Mine until the year of his death.

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[94] Gandy, *The Tabors: A Footnote of Western History,* 259.
[95] Temple, *Baby Doe Tabor: The Madwoman in the Cabin*, 24.
[96] Temple, *Baby Doe Tabor: The Madwoman in the Cabin*, 98.
[97] Temple, *Baby Doe Tabor: The Madwoman in the Cabin*, 98.

Tabor's life came full circle financially, placing him back where he started. To his credit, in 1897, at the age of 67, Horace made an attempt to support his family with pick and shovel. He found work in the Eclipse Mine near Ward, Colorado. During his last years his friends, as acknowledgment of his prior generosity, secured an appointment for him as Postmaster in Denver. On April 4, 1899, Horace became ill and was diagnosed as having appendicitis. HORACE Tabor died virtually penniless on April 10. In 1934, it was written; "It was perhaps well that Tabor passed from the stage when he did. He would have been as much out of place in Colorado after 1900 as a horse and buggy would be on the streets of Denver today. He belonged to, and reached full stature in, the ox-team era."[98] At the end of the 1890s, Leadville and the legendary Horace Tabor had declined concurrently. His death was emblematic of the end of the silver era just as his life permanently marked the history of Western mining.

Mrs. Elizabeth Tabor remained in Denver for two years after his death before retreating to Leadville and the Matchless Mine. She was left virtually penniless and unable to pay the expense of her husband's funeral. Upon hearing this fact, Mrs. McGovern, wife of the undertaker, had friends introduce a bill into the Colorado House of Representative and one to the Senate, allowing the State to pay these expenses. Mrs. Tabor went to the State House and requested that the bills be withdrawn, insisting she would find a way to pay. She settled the debt on April 1, 1901.[99] This same year the Matchless was put up for auction. Claudia McCourt, Elizabeth's loyal sister, secured the mine although its ownership was contested for a number of years to come. A brief article in *The Denver Times* dated July 30, 1901, states that Herman Powell had loaned Senator Tabor $25,000 in 1893 to purchase machinery for operating Mexican mining property and Powell secured a judgment for that amount against the Matchless Mine. Page and Newell, mining experts of Leadville, already held a $15,000 mortgage on the mine.[100] Peter McCourt often paid Elizabeth's debts directly to the businesses of Leadville that she frequented. Some years before he had supported Lillie, the eldest daughter, in her effort to leave her mother and Elizabeth would not accept his financial aid.[101]

Mrs. Tabor spent the rest of her life in seclusion, living in the superintendent's cabin at the Matchless Mine with at first two, then one of her daughters, before she was left on her own.

> To all the rules and regulations laid down by old women since Adam and Eve were in their dotage, the marriage of Tabor to 'Baby' Doe should have failed. First predictions were that it would not last a year... When ten years had elapsed and two children had been born, when the financial crash came and Mrs. Tabor did not desert the sinking ship, those who had so often prophesied disaster had to admit that their predictions were wrong.[102]

The affection that she held for her daughters and late husband never faltered. After Horace's death, although still considered a vibrant woman, she remained a widow until her death in 1935.

The Tabor family dominated contemporary Colorado history through the influence they had on shaping economics, politics, and mining practices. Their meteoric rise to wealth and influence, the scandal of the love affair between Horace and Elizabeth, and followed by their precipitous fall into poverty made

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[98] Gandy, *The Tabors: A Footnote of Western History*, 267.
[99] Griswold, *History of Leadville and Lake County, Colorado: From Mountain Solitude to Metropolis, Volume II*, 222.
[100] Matchless Scrapbook II, National Mining Hall of Fame & Museum, Leadville, CO.
[101] Griswold, *History of Leadville and Lake County, Colorado: From Mountain Solitude to Metropolis, Volume II*, 2224.
[102] Gandy, *The Tabors: A Footnote of Western History*, 252.

both Tabors into fixtures of popular memory. Elizabeth Tabor's ongoing struggle to revive the Matchless Mine in the early twentieth century garnered regular national media attention.

**The Tabors and Development of the Matchless Mine**

The Matchless Mine is significant at the state level under Criterion B for its association with Horace Austin Warner Tabor, a key figure in Colorado mining history. The period of significance is 1879 through 1899; the year he purchased the mine until his death. The mine is also significant at the state level under Criterion B for its association with Elizabeth Bonduel McCourt Tabor, for her role in the history of Colorado's rise of social classes and the nation-wide media sensation she created during her efforts to revive the Matchless Mine and her tragic death. The period of significance is 1901 through 1935, spanning from the year she moved to the Matchless Mine until her death in the mine's cabin. The Matchless Mine, and Horace and Elizabeth Tabor are nationally recognized names, which play prominently in the early history of Colorado hardrock mining.

Of the properties associated with both of these individuals, the property that most strongly tells their story is the Matchless Mine. Horace owned a great deal of property and lived in numerous locations during his life, but the one property that was a mainstay through both the rise and decline of his career was the Matchless. Additionally, the mine property most accurately portrays the type of work that typified his productive life. Within Leadville the Tabor Grand Hotel (5LK.40.13), Tabor Opera House (5LK.40.19), and his home with Augusta (5LK.40.69) are all currently listed as contributing properties to the Leadville National Historic Landmark District. Both the hotel and the opera house are byproducts of his wealth and do not speak to the aspects of his life that defined his contribution to the history of Colorado. His home with Augusta became her property in the divorce settlement and as it is the best property associated with Augusta, the Matchless more accurately defines Horace's life. In Denver Horace and Augusta also owned a house at 18th Avenue and Broadway. This house also became the property of Augusta in the divorce, and was demolished in 1903. To start his new life with Elizabeth, Horace purchased another home at 1260 Sherman, but they lost the house in bankruptcy proceedings and ultimately the home was razed in 1919. That house was the only other viable property to tell the story of Elizabeth Tabor, but as her name became synonymous with the Matchless during the last thirty years of her life, the Matchless has the strongest association with Elizabeth. Of the two remaining properties in Denver associated with Horace, the Tabor Grand Opera House was demolished in 1964 and the Tabor Block has undergone various redevelopment and none of the original buildings remain.

Horace Austin Warner Tabor

The Matchless Mine was the focus of a great deal of Horace Tabor's attention and effort. He was a fifty-niner who found his place in history through mining, real estate investments, philanthropic efforts and politics, not only in Leadville and Denver, but also in other U.S. cities. The 1880s were a period of expansion and development for the western United States. Horace Tabor possessed the frontier spirit and benefited from the monetary rewards the West had to offer.

The Matchless Mine made a major contribution to his wealth, which, in turn, advanced his social status and notorious personal life and raised him to level of Silver King (see photograph H12). During the 1880s:

> With the Matchless as a backlog, Tabor did not deposit in banks or tie up in low-yield securities that part of his income he did not spend. All the surplus was used to purchase other mines, to

develop mines he already owned, or was invested in other enterprises that gave promise of yielding great profits.[103]

Although Horace's mining investments were extensive, he always took great pride in being the sole owner of the Matchless Mine. This mine is the prime example of his foresight and knowledge of the industry during this time. The Matchless Mine's steady production during the early 1880s and its yield of $1,500,000 in income for Tabor through 1882 can be directly attributed to his watchful eye. He personally monitored progress and production and can be given credit profitable exploration between 1878 and 1893. The mine provided him with income when many of his other investments were in decline.[104]

His belief in the Matchless Mine never faltered, even until his death. After his fortune was depleted, he continued to hold out hope for regaining what had been lost through this property. In 1895 he no longer had investments in any other mines and he attempted to lease the Matchless Mine. He borrowed $18,000 from William Harp and two others who held the lease under the agreement that the amount would be repaid in eighteen months. His creditors were patient. He received an extension in 1898 but ultimately was unable to repay the note. At this time he received only a fraction of the royalties from the mine.[105] Upon his death, the Matchless passed to Elizabeth. Tabor's benevolent nature would, even after his death, prove beneficial to the mine and his wife. During the prosperous years, Horace advanced money to Winfield S. Stratton, a struggling miner. Stratton repaid that debt when he redeemed the Matchless Mine for Elizabeth in 1901.[106]

Elizabeth Bonduel McCourt Tabor

Elizabeth Bonduel McCourt, "Baby Doe," married Horace on March 1, 1883. Little more than half his age, Elizabeth was celebrated as one of Colorado's most beautiful women despite her somewhat scandalous behavior. The Tabor's lifestyle during their early marriage was lavish, followed by a final period of poverty, but they remained a devoted couple. Their story and that of their youngest daughter has been the subject of numerous novels, biographies, movies, and the musical *The Ballad of Baby Doe* is in continuous production. Specialty Restaurants Corporation, incorporated by Cecilia and John D. Tallichet in 1972, operates more than twenty themed restaurants in more than a dozen states; including "Baby Doe's Matchless Mine."[107] Elizabeth Tabor's legend has had an iconic effect on American culture.

After the death of Horace, Elizabeth's main motivation became to reopen of the Matchless Mine, shown through her unending determination. In one of her dream journals, which she kept during her seclusion at the mine, she recorded: "Aug 3 1925 I dreamed all night that Tony started after sulphites 2 dreams about starting No 6."[108] She remained vigilant in the defense of what she believed to be the only hope of regaining financial security. "As the years passed, Mrs. Tabor's belief the Matchless contained rich ores and her fear someone would steal the ore or take the mine from her became an obsession."[109] She made efforts to pay debts but failed to prove the Matchless Mine a worthwhile investment.

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[103] Gandy, *The Tabors: A Footnote of Western History,* 261.
[104] "Old Mine's Story Has New Chapter," *The New York Times*, April 21, 1929.
[105] Smith, *Horace Tabor: His Life and the Legends*, 301-302.
[106] "Tabor Mine Saved To Widow," *The New York Times*, June 11, 1901.
[107] "Specialty Restaurants Corporation Company Profile," http://biz.yahoo.com, accessed 27 April 2010.
[108] Temple, *Baby Doe Tabor: The Madwoman in the Cabin*, 226.
[109] Griswold, *History of Leadville and Lake County, Colorado: From Mountain Solitude to Metropolis, Volume II*, 2224.

Elizabeth refused financial assistance for her own needs but had no qualm in regards to approaching investors on behalf of the Matchless. In 1926 the property was $14,000 in debt. Elizabeth visited the home of banker J.K. Mullen to ask for assistance. Mullen agreed to do so in exchange for title to the Matchless property. She agreed, but never released the title to Mullen. He foreclosed on the property and allowed Elizabeth to remain in the cabin under the illusion that she maintained ownership.[110]

Although Elizabeth's name was given as owner of the Matchless Mine, due to sundry liens, she could not be considered outright owner. After her numerous attempts to reopen the Matchless, the mine was sold in April 1927 to satisfy the mortgage that had been placed on it. The purchaser, the Shorego Mining Company, made no attempt to work the mine or evict Elizabeth.[111] In 1929, she hired seven miners convincing them that the flooded mine still held promise of silver and optimistically planned for a new shaft. The men labored for a month before demanding their wages. Elizabeth offered them promissory notes in lieu of cash. The miners soon filed suit but with little success. Elizabeth barricaded herself in her cabin and refused to be served with the papers. The deputies finally gave up the effort.[112]

In August 1930, Shaft No. 6 received a new boiler. According to the *Cloud City Chronicle*:

> Mrs. Tabor Installs Boiler to Drain the Matchless Shaft
>
> There are signs of activity at the Matchless mine of Fryer Hill. The old boiler which has done duty so long at the Matchless shaft until it has become blistered and useless, is being removed and another one, formerly at the Doty shaft on Poverty flat, is being installed in its place by a force of men in charge of James Caulfield...It is evident, however, that the boiler is being installed for the purpose of operating a pump to drain the shaft, for the water must be removed before any decisions can be arrived at regarding further exploration work.[113]

Although Shorego Mining Company owned the mine at the time of the boiler installation, the newspaper gave Mrs. Tabor recognition for implementing the equipment upgrade. It is evident that she remained committed to the end of her life to the Matchless Mine, never giving up hope that it would produce again.

On February 20, 1935, Mrs. Tabor went into Leadville for supplies. An employee of the mercantile store in town, Elmer Kutzleb, was given the errand of driving her home. She thanked him and requested he return again on April 10, as she believed her supplies were sufficient to last until then. He was the last to see her alive. In March, Elizabeth Tabor died in her cabin. A neighbor, Sue Bonnie, and a prospector, Tom French, found the body after she had been dead for several days.[114] Shortly after her death, vandals attacked the cabin (see photograph H17). The property was fenced to prevent further damage and trespassing. Fortunately, the Leadville Historical Association preserved a number of books, documents, and furnishings found in the cabin. In 1953, a non-profit organization, the Leadville Assembly, Inc., gathered a group of volunteers to repair the cabin, hoist house and headframe.

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[110] Temple, *Baby Doe Tabor: The Madwoman in the Cabin*, 123.
[111] Gandy, *The Tabors: A Footnote of Western History*, 270.
[112] Burke, *The Legend of Baby Doe: The Life and Times of the Silver Queen of the West*, 220.
[113] The *Cloud City Chronicle*, taken from the *Herald Democrat*, August 25, 1930.
[114] Clyde Byers, *The Denver Post*, March 8, 1935, 1.

Elizabeth's life was emboldened by her strength of character and determination to remain true to her self and maintain a sense of dignity. "Elizabeth 'Baby Doe' Tabor made her mark on Colorado History as the bold girl from Oshkosh who ignored conventional Victorian attitude of feminine modesty. How Baby Doe made her dreams come true may have irked Denver's high society, but today she is celebrated for being an individualist – a dreamer of the great American Dream."[115] She, along with many other Western women, is to be appreciated for her spirit, which played a definitive role in the development of the American West.

***Comparables for Horace Austin Warner Tabor***

Winfield Scott Stratton and the Independence Mine and Mill, (5TL.340, National Register listed 1993) Cripple Creek/Victor Mining District, Colorado

The life of Horace Tabor parallels that of another western mining mogul, Winfield Scott Stratton, owner of the Independence Mine and Mill in the Cripple Creek/Victor mining district. During Horace's last years, Stratton loaned Horace $30,000 to develop a group of mines in the Cripple Creek district. This proved unprofitable, as ore was not found.[116] The West drew both men, although Stratton took the river route and headed out via the Ohio River for the territory of Colorado. He headed for the Pikes Peak region and arrived in the newly formed town of Colorado Springs in 1872 while Horace and Augusta were still settled in Oro City. Stratton found ample employment as a carpenter building homes in the expanding area. By 1874, he owned a carpentry business and had made several investments in the real estate of Colorado Springs. This was at the time Horace and Augusta were accumulating their $35,000 nest egg from the operation of the Oro City and Malta stores. This same year, Stratton moved on to invest in a mining claim in the San Juan Mountains. The venture soon failed, as did the early Payne's Bar mining attempt by Tabor, and Stratton returned to Colorado Springs to marry Zeurah Stewart in 1878. The marriage soon failed and she left for her family home in Illinois to give birth to a son in 1879. They divorced that same year.

Stratton spent the next seventeen years working in Colorado Springs in the winter and gold prospecting in the summers. Unlike Tabor, whose mining education was composed of on-job training, Stratton did receive formal education in metallurgy. After his father's death in 1885, he acquired a small inheritance, which allowed him to attend classes in metallurgy at the School of Mines in Golden, Colorado. He then began prospecting in the Cripple Creek/Victor area and it was here in 1891 that he discovered the first major gold strike. He staked two claims, the Independence and the Washington. The first was to grow into the Stratton Independence Mine and Mill. He was soon to become the first millionaire miner of the district. With the repeal of the Silver Sherman Purchase Act, Cripple Creek became the mining center for gold. Tabor was sole owner of the Matchless Mine as was Stratton of the Independence Mine until 1899, the year of Tabor's death. That same year Stratton transferred the Independence Mine to the British Company and traded his interest, through the Independence Limited and Venture Corporation, for $10,000,000 in stock. In 1899, Stratton began purchasing over 100 claims in the area for $7,000,000 and spent $1,000,000 per year for their development. He bought real estate in Denver and Colorado Springs, donated millions to charitable organizations as well as land for a City Hall and Mining Exchange in Colorado Springs. It can be said that both Stratton and Tabor were

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[115] Brooke Cleary, "Baby Doe Tabor: Colorado's Silver Queen," Colorado Historical Society, 2001; David Fridtjof Halaas, "Horace A.W. Tabor: Rags to Riches to Rags," *Colorado History NOW* (1998):3-4.

[116] Gandy, *The Tabors: A Footnote of Western History*, 265.

generous in their donations to the towns, which helped establish their success. Stratton died September 14, 1902. The Independence, the third most profitable mine in the district at the time, had produced $28,000,000 in gold and silver. [117]

> According to Stratton's biographer, Frank Waters, Stratton firmly held to the belief that any man who derived his wealth from natural resources should reinvest it to develop the home region. Tabor demonstrated a corresponding idea, carrying it out at a breakneck speed, to the detriment of his personal fortune. Much of his reinvestment helped further develop Colorado in the various phases of its economic growth after 1878...Both of these men provided investment sources which helped Colorado break away from the bounds of financial colonialism that had so long guided its destiny. Tabor and Stratton, whose careers intersected occasionally, together epitomized Colorado mining.[118]

Harry Day and The Hercules Mine and Mill, Coeur d'Alene District, Idaho, Kootenai County.

The Hercules Mine (see photograph H9) compares to the Matchless Mine with its place in western mining history. Harry Day, like Horace Tabor, was a fortunate individual who rose to the level of mining magnate during the late 1800s and early 1900s. Without great wealth from which to draw, he and later the Day family resisted the lure of immediate returns through selling the Hercules Mine interest. He saw the Hercules through good and bad times from start to finish. He was president and treasurer of the Hercules Mining Company at the time of his death.

After Harry Day and Fred Harper staked their Hercules and Firefly claims they proceed with their workings. However, the lack of resources, regional labor troubles and a recession in 1893-1894, slowed their efforts. In 1911, the Hercules was the third most profitable mine in the Coeur d'Alene district and by 1916 was the most profitable with dividends at $3,800,000. Similar to an approach use by Horace Tabor, Harry Day gradually acquired surrounding claims, some producing and others valuable only for their strategic location. They proved to be valuable investments for Harry and his family from the time the ore at the Hercules was exhausted in 1925 up to the present time. In 1923 the Hercules partnership was dissolved. The Hercules Mining Company was incorporated in Delaware. Harry Day became the first director of the company. He spent his last years in comfort in his Las Palmas home near Santa Barbara, California. [119]

***Comparables for Elizabeth McCourt Tabor***

Margaret Tobin Brown, (Molly Brown House, 5DV.178, National Register Listed 1971) Denver, Colorado

The life of Elizabeth Tabor has much in common with that of Margaret Tobin Brown. Margaret's parents were Irish immigrant with fragile finances. She was never called "Molly" but was known as Maggie. When Margaret was thirteen she found herself working in a tobacco factory and later as a waitress in a Hannibal hotel. In 1886, she joined her half sister, Mary Ann Landrigan, living in Leadville. Margaret found employment in a dry goods store on Harrison Avenue. She was known in

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[117] Darcy Mazel, "Winfield Scott Stratton," http://w ww.d11.org/bristol/Bristol_W all/1880/front_1880_stratton.htm, 12 September 2009.
[118] Smith, *Horace Tabor: His Life and Legend*, 322.
[119] Williams, Clay and Judith Nielsen, University of Idaho, Harry Loren Day, 1865-1942, Manuscript Group 317

Leadville as intelligent, personable and attractive. She soon met and married James J. (J.J.) Brown in 1886 and by 1889 they had two children. In 1892 he had a seat on the board of the Ibex Mining Company. The 1893 silver crash had little effect on the financial situation of the Browns. The Little Jonny silver mine, one of the Ibex properties, struck high-grade copper and gold. James was mine supervisor with substantial mining experience and the family prospered. Much like Horace Tabor, luck rapidly propelled him into the position of millionaire. In the midst of disastrous times for the Tabors, the Browns found themselves very wealthy.

In 1893, Margaret and J.J. moved to their new home in Denver at 1340 Pennsylvania Street in the Capital Hill neighborhood, also home to many mining moguls. At the same time, the Tabors were three years away from loosing their Capital Hill home to creditors. Margaret began her pursuit of what she deemed proper social status among Denver's social elite, just as Elizabeth Tabor had done. However, Elizabeth had attempted such a move by displaying the wealth of her husband in order to achieve acceptance. Margaret took a different tact by studying languages, literature, music and drama to advance her cause. This produced the desired outcome when she and her husband were entered into the city's social directory. The Denver Women's Club and the Denver Woman's Press Club accepted her into their memberships.

Unlike Elizabeth, Margaret has been remembered for more than her negative attributes. Margaret's most well known achievement was the heroic action she took during the Titanic disaster in 1912. She would not board Lifeboat Six until all children and women were on board. Not only did she evoke a sense of order among the passengers while the ship was sinking, her linguistic skills enabled her to speak to the immigrant passengers in order to list survivors and notify their families. With her help, $10,000 was raised for the victims of the disaster. Returning to Denver she found this display of bravery and a capacity to take charge during crisis had earned her the respect she was seeking.

Margaret turned to politics and became active in numerous organizations and patriotic activities during and after World War I. She was an avid advocate for the woman's suffragist movement. The suffrage movement in Colorado achieved success in 1893 when women gained the right to vote and these women continued their fight for nationwide suffrage. In 1893, Elizabeth, less active than Margaret, but a supporter, had donated a room at the Tabor Opera House building in Leadville for the offices of the National American Suffrage Association but it is unknown if she ever attended any of the functions.[120] In 1927, Margaret offered financial assistance to Elizabeth during a visit to the Matchless Mine. Her offer was refused. It seems pride remained of utmost importance. As Margaret grew older, her eccentric behavior alienated her children and friends. Elizabeth Tabor also came to this fate during her later years. J.J. died in 1922 and Margaret on October 26, 1932. Denver newspapers made note of her fearless personality and her determination to achieve her goals.

The lives of Elizabeth Tabor and Margaret Brown give us a view into the social structure and customs of the late 1880s and early 1900s. Their individualistic determination and outward personalities, this task was made extraordinarily difficult. Slandered by their peers and the newspapers, these women had to overcome many obstacles due to the fascination of the public. Kristen Inversen wrote:

> In the case of 'Molly' Brown and other legendary Colorado women such as 'Baby Doe' Tabor or 'Sliver Heels,' a type had been established. Women who lived relatively independent public lives – and stood for the cause of suffrage, as both Margaret Tobin Brown and Elizabeth

[120] Inversen, *Molly Brown, Unraveling the Myth,* 98.

McCourt Tabor did – were cast as aggressive, flamboyant, unnatural women whose physical characteristics were described as overtly masculine or excessively erotic.[121]

For both of these women, unfortunately, legend has altered or buried the facts. Tabor's legacy has been littered with stories of love scandals and promiscuity and Brown's with crassness and obstreperousness. "The life of Molly Brown has been turned into a stereotype that denies, and continues to deny, the historical significance of women in the west."[122] These two icons of the American West are imprinted into the American psyche and represent two independent individuals who made significant marks during their time and into the legendary West. The genuine history of these ladies is far more fascinating and inspiring in their own right through their own actions empowering these woman and others with independent thought and actions.

Caroline Morehouse Mallen, Buena Vista, Colorado

Caroline Mallen was born in 1829 in Ohio. After a two-year marriage, which produced two children, she became widowed. She was considered an odd woman and became notorious throughout Colorado for her strange manner of living. Caroline soon moved into a cabin she built, situated on the summit of Gold Hill near Buena Vista at an elevation of 10,000'. She not only built the cabin but also the furnishings it housed. After accumulating a few dollars from jobs in town, she retreated to the cabin to prospect for minerals and located fifteen promising claims. She drilled, blasted, and hauled the ore without assistance. "She carries water a mile for cooking and provisions from town, often carrying a sack of flour up the steep hill for three or four miles, where others can scarcely follow empty handed."[123] As with Elizabeth Tabor, the spirits spoke to Caroline and gave her valuable information regarding where to dig for ore. After two years in the cabin her wealth accumulated, allowing her to purchase a home in Buena Vista. She died there in 1902.[124] Mrs. Mallen and Mrs. Tabor had the fortitude and independent nature to move onward during the lean times and find their place in life and history.

**Architecture and Engineering**

The Matchless Mine is eligible to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for its contribution to Architecture and Engineering. It is significant at the state level for the period 1888 to 1930. The Matchless Mine remains an intact example of a small mine surface plant active during this period. It embodies the distinctive characteristics of the vernacular mining type that produced large amounts of ore to be shipped elsewhere for beneficiation. Under the *Mining Industry in Colorado* MPDF, this mine is classified as a hardrock shaft mine.

The usual evolution of a mining property in Colorado exhibited a small shaft sunk by the original prospector. A mining engineer then examined and attempted to evaluate the mineral body below ground. If it proved to contain valuable ore, plans were made for a surface plant to be constructed, usually a temporary facility. When Horace Tabor purchased the Matchless Claim, some of this work had been performed on the southern end of the claim. The #70, #72a, and #73 shafts had already

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[121] Inversen, *Molly Brown, Unraveling the Myth,* 54.
[122] Inversen, *Molly Brown, Unraveling the Myth,* xvi.
[123] Colorado Mountain History Collection, Lake County Public Library, Leadville, Colorado, *Home of the Woman Prospector.*
[124] Sherie Schmauder, "Woman Prospector," www.myhero.com/myhero/heroprint.asp?hero=women_west, accessed 5 April 2010.

been sunk. It is unknown what buildings and structures existed on the south end at that time. Most mining organizations minimized their building and equipment expenses until ore reserves had been proven. This fact holds true for Fryer Hill and the Matchless Mine. The reuse of building materials was cost effective.

Between 1870 and 1900, mining buildings of wood frame construction utilized dimensional lumber. By the 1890s corrugated sheet iron became available and probably covered the roofs of the Matchless buildings at one time. As the claim was developed to the north, Shaft No. 6 became a moderate producer of ore. The existing buildings and structures are what is pertinent to Criterion C. The original surface plant included a shaft house, assay building and ore house, no longer extant. The shaft house was described in the *Herald Democrat* in 1888:

> A neat and well constructed building, decidedly better than the large balloon shaft houses so common about Leadville. The collar and main floor of the Matchless shaft house No.6 are raised about 15 feet above the surface of the ground, thus giving ample height for the pumps and the ore bins, which are built along the eastern side of the building. Below the main floor are a store room and a drying room to be heated by steam for the men. The shaft house is built so as to cover the large gallows frame only.[125]

In addition, the article described the hoist house as: "about 30 feet behind it a large boiler and engine house, is now being put up."[126] This account confirms the construction date of the headframe hoist house.

The hoisting system included the hoist, a cable, power source, headframe, cart, and a means of communication between the hoist operator and the miners working below. "After the mining engineers had the hoist and boiler installed, the headframe erected, a road graded to the site, and a water pipeline laid, the last step he undertook to ready the plant for deep prospecting was to enclose the hoist and boiler in a building."[127] For small operations like the Matchless Shaft No. 6, a hoist house of simple frame construction was typical. Set directly on the ground and enclosing the hoist operations and a blacksmith shop, it was necessary for maintaining and fabricating equipment, tools and hardware. The boiler house encompassing the east side of the existing hoist house is visible in photograph H4 from the 1950s, however in subsequent photographs the building appears to be collapsing and then missing entirely. Also visible in the 1950s photograph is the assay office east of the hoist house. A small storage building stood just north of the present head frame.

September 6, 1888, the enlargement of an old winze expedited the sinking of Shaft No.6. This shaft was a 4' x 8', two compartment shaft with sawed cribbing.[128] The headfame, which served the Matchless Mine hoist, has a single sheave wheel for lifting the ore bucket from the shaft. The ore bucket was then emptied into the ore car set on tracks that led to the ore house where the ore stayed until it was loaded into the rail cars, and sent off to the smelter.

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[125] The *Leadville Democrat,* March, 1888, as found in Griswold, *History of Leadville and Lake County, Colorado*, *Volume II*, 1977.
[126] The *Leadville Democrat,* March, 1888, as found in Griswold, *History of Leadville and Lake County, Colorado*, *Volume II*, 1977.
[127] Twitty, *Rust to Riches: A Guide to Mining in the Old West*, 185-186.
[128] Griswold, *History of Leadville and Lake County, Colorado*, *Volume II*, 1977.

The superintendent's cabin, "Baby Doe's Cabin" in later years, served to store supplies during the foremost operational years. The powder house sheltered the supply of explosives. Frame powder houses featured walls filled with sand and covered with sheet iron. The corner studs are 9"x 9" timbers which could have held exterior and interior sheathing filled with sand (see plan P5). The powder house is set into the elevated bank, which would have provided temperature control for the explosives, and a sheet of iron covers the door. The outhouse that now exists on the site is a simple building that provided the necessary privacy and convenience.

"Mines underwent an evolutionary process in which the discovery of ore, the driving of the prospect shaft or audit, installation of a temporary plant, upgrade to a production plant, and eventually abandonment of the property all were points along a spectrum."[129] The site was active until 1935. Lessees worked it sporadically after that time and performed rudimentary maintenance. The mitigation effort completed in 1953 and the opening to the public as a tour site in 1954 prevented further deterioration from neglect. The buildings and structures of the Matchless Mine continue to facilitate the ability to educate the nation to the workings and construction of hardrock mines in Colorado during the late 1880s.

**Information Potential of the Matchless Mine**

The Matchless Mine is eligible under Criterion D for the information this site can provide in the areas of Historic Archaeology and Engineering. While the Matchless Mine has operated as a tourist facility since 1954, much of the landscape remains as it was when it was a fully operational mine. The privy site and other residential areas have never undergone excavation. On the landscape there is the potential to learn about the daily lives of the miners at different periods of activity at the mine. Additionally, although the shafts are not currently physically accessible to individuals, there is enough access to allow for researchers to lower cameras down into the shafts. Within the shafts, there is the potential to learn about the different technologies that miners used both for drilling and structural support, and how they evolved over time. Because there are few formal studies of underground workings, this site has the potential to reveal a great deal of information regarding the underground work environment, engineering, equipment, and practices of drilling, blasting, and rock removal during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Research questions that the site has the potential to answer are:

- Did the material culture at this site change over time, and is there a difference between this site and other mining sites on Fryer Hill?
- What are the marked difference in material culture and mining techniques from when the mine was a predominantly male location for work and habitation in the nineteenth century to when Elizabeth Tabor occupied and managed the site in the early twentieth century?
- How did the mining technology differ from when the mine was at its height to when lessees operated the mine under Elizabeth Tabor's observation?
- Is there a particular Leadville style of underground workings?

**Conclusion**

The Matchless Mine's importance is evident in the value of its rich ore production during the country's prime mining years. O.L Baskin in *History of the Arkansas Valley, Colorado*, 1881, wrote:

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[129] Fell, *National Register of Historic Places, Multiple Property Document Form*, E87.

> No mine in Leadville ever had the showing that the Matchless has today... The croakers who said that the Matchless was 'Tabor's mistake' were disappointed to know that the purchase price and all expenses had been wiped out long ago, and that for several months Manager Leonard, with a force of twenty five men, has been paying Mr. Tabor a net profit of over $2,000 per day, with the entire expenses less than $4,000 per month.[130]

In 1881, the Matchless Mine was shipping 350 tons of ore per month, yielding 10,000 ounces of silver to the ton. There were only approximately 2,000' of drifts, shafts, stopes, and winzes working the claim, an amount viewed as small when considering the quantity of ore produced. The richness of the ore bodies offered great promise for Tabor during that period. By 1886, the Matchless Mine yielded profits from $10,000 to $15,000 a month.[131] This was a significant drop from the roughly $54,000 a month the Matchless was making in 1881. Yet the Matchless Mine, even in decline, remained a source of optimism for its owner.

The significance of the property is reflected in the coverage the mine received, due partially to its association with Horace and Elizabeth Tabor, in national, state, and local newspapers. The Matchless Mine and the Tabors have made their mark on the American psyche. The feeling of place, surrounded by other historically significant mining claims, is apparent when standing on the grounds of the Matchless Mine. Headframes of some of these other mining claims still tower in the distance. Cribbing, visible along the Mineral Belt Bicycle Trail, adds prominence to the workings of this mining district. The Matchless Mine takes on a life of its own when the current visitors enter its boundaries, stimulating their minds and often touching their sentiments with its evidence of a past era.

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[130] Baskin, *History of the Arkansas Valley*, 290.
[131] Griswold, *History of Leadville and Lake County, Colorado: From Mountain Solitude to Metropolis, Volume II*, 1720.

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## GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

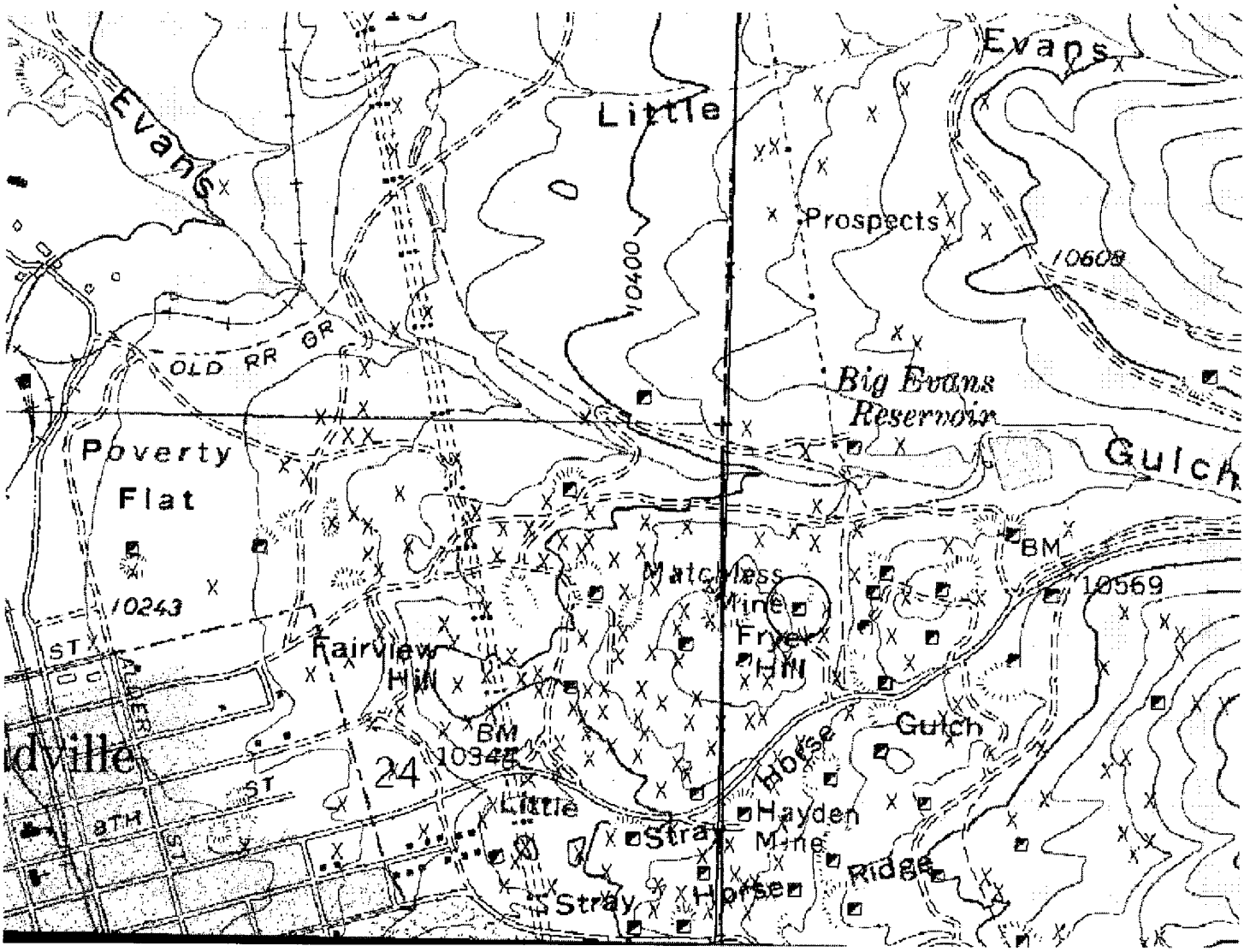
The Matchless Lode Mining Claim, U.S. Survey no. 470, containing 4.43 acres, more or less, and located in Section 19, Township 9, Range 79 west of the 6th. P.M., County of Lake, and State of Colorado. Subject to that certain Right of Way recorded March 22, 1944 under reception No. 199272, in Book 284 at Page 154 of the records of the Lake County Clerk and Recorder, insofar as the provisions of said Right of Way remain in force and effect. Together with all improvements, buildings, structures, and headframe thereon and all mineral rights and incorporeal hereditaments thereunto appertaining, also known as 'The Matchless Mine'.

### BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nominated parcel includes all buildings, structures and archaeological features historically pertinent to the Matchless Mine Historic District.

**USGS TOPOGRAPHIC MAP**
Leadville North Quadrangle, Colorado
7.5 Minute Series

UTM: Zone 13 / 390372 E / 4345746 N
PLSS: 6th PM, 9S TN, 79 RW, Unsectioned
Elevation: 10476'



## PHOTOGRAPH LOG

The following information pertains to photograph numbers 1-26:

Photographer: William Scherer: 1-9, 11-15, 17, 22-23, 25-26; Fay Golson: 10, 16, 18-21, 24
Date of Photographs: 09-17-2009
Digital files: National Mining Museum and Hall of Fame

| Photo No. | Photographic Information |
|---|---|
| 0001 | Site, looking west. |
| 0002 | Claim – South End Rock Dumps, looking north. |
| 0003 | Entrance Road, looking northwest. |
| 0004 | Feature 9 – Linear Rock Dump, looking southeast. |
| 0005 | Feature 1 – Outhouse, east façade looking west. |
| 0006 | Feature 2 – Hoist House, north façade looking south. |
| 0007 | Feature 2 – Hoist House, east façade looking west. |
| 0008 | Feature 2 – Hoist House, southwest façade looking northwest. |
| 0009 | Feature 2 – Hoist House, northwest façade looking southeast. |
| 0010 | Feature 2 – Hoist House Interior |
| 0011 | Feature 5 – Headframe Shaft #6, south façade looking north |
| 0012 | Feature 3 – Superintendent's Cabin, northeast façade looking southwest. |
| 0013 | Feature 3 – Superintendent's Cabin, east façade looking west. |
| 0014 | Feature 3 – Superintendent's Cabin, south façade looking north. |
| 0015 | Feature 3 – Superintendent's Cabin, northwest façade looking southeast. |
| 0016 | Feature 3 – Superintendent's Cabin Interior |
| 0017 | Feature 4 – Powder House, east façade looking west. |
| 0018 | Clear Grit Mine |
| 0019 | Feature 6 – Railroad |
| 0020 | Feature 7 – Waste Rock Dump |
| 0021 | Feature 8 – Waste Rock Dump |
| 0022 | Feature 10 – Smokestack |
| 0023 | Feature 11 – Water Tank |
| 0024 | Feature 12 – Fire Brick |
| 0025 | Feature 13 – Waste Rock Dumps |
| 0026 | Features 14 & 15 – Various Waste Rock Dumps |

## PHOTOGRAPH LOG - HISTORIC

These photographs may not be included in Internet posted documents and other publishing venues due to copyright restrictions.

| Photo No. | Photographic Information |
|---|---|
| H1 | Matchless Mine, Denver Public Library, X-22029, May 1928, source: Field Collection |
| H2 | Matchless Mine, Matchless Digerness, *The Mineral Belt,* page 299, 1915? |
| H3 | Fryer Hill, Colorado Historical Society, CHS.J385, 1882 to 1900, creator: Jackson, William Henry |

| | |
|---|---|
| H4 | Matchless Mine, Denver Public Library, X-61241,1950? source: E.W.Milligan |
| H5 | Matchless Mine, Denver Public Library, X-61250, between 1940 and 1960 |
| H6 | Matchless Mine, Denver Public Library, X-61255, June 1941, source: A.L.Clark, Great Falls, Mont. |
| H7 | Matchless Mine, National Mining Hall of Fame & Museum, "Baby Doe's Cabin" Scrapbook, 1944 |
| H8 | Matchless Mine, Denver Public Library, X-61242, 1953, source: C.Bancroft |
| H9 | Hercules Mine and Mill, PG 8-X00160, University of Idaho Digital Collection, 1910 |
| H10 | Wolftone Mine, USGS Photographic Library ID. Irving, J.D. 33, 1908 |
| H11 | Robert E. Lee Mine, Denver Public Library, X-60960, July 1928, creator: Soderstrom |
| H12 | HORACE Tabor, Denver Public Library, Z-229, between 1883 and 1890 |
| H13 | Augusta Tabor, Denver Public Library, X-21986, between 1870 and 1880 |
| H14 | Matchless Mine, Denver Public Library, X-61246, 1950? Source: C.Bancroft |
| H15 | Tabor Mill, Denver Public Library, X-61225, 1880, source: Nolie Mumey, MSS Collection |
| H16 | Elizabeth Tabor, Denver Public Library, X-21980, between 1885 and 1895, source: Forbes Parkhill |
| H17 | Cabin Interior, Denver Public Library, X-61265, 1935, source: C.Bancroft |
| H18 | Matchless Mine, Denver Public Library, X-61251, between 1930 and 1940 |

**MAP LOG**

| Map No. | Map Information |
|---|---|
| M1 | Matchless Photograph ID Map, F.G., 2009 |
| M2 | Leadville Mining District – Maps A & B, Fred Mark, 2009 |
| M3 | Matchless Claim with Selected Shafts, Emmons P.P. 148, 1927 |
| M4 | Plat of the Claim of HORACE Tabor, 1880 |
| M5 | Emmons Monograph 12 – Glacial Debris, P.P. 148, 1927 |
| M6 | Assessors Map # 2631-192, Lake County, Driscoll & Co., 1981 |
| M7 | Ore Production Leadville District – 1877 to 1917, Emmons P.P. 148, 1927 |
| M8 | Matchless Shafts 5 & 6, Emmons P.P. 148, 1927 |
| M9 | Arial Map of Matchless Mine, Emmons P.P. 148, 1927 |
| M10 | The Leadville Mining District, compiled by Chas. F. Saunders, January 1901 |
| M11 | Matchless Lode Location Survey, Backlund Land Survey, January 2010 |

**PLAN LOG**

| Plan No. | Plan Information |
|---|---|
| P1 | Site Plan, F.G., 2009 |
| P2 | Site Plan/feature Plan, F.G. 2010 |
| P3 | Hoist House, F.G., 2009 |
| P4 | Superintendents Cabin, F.G., 2009 |
| P5 | Powder House, Outhouse, F.G., 2009 |

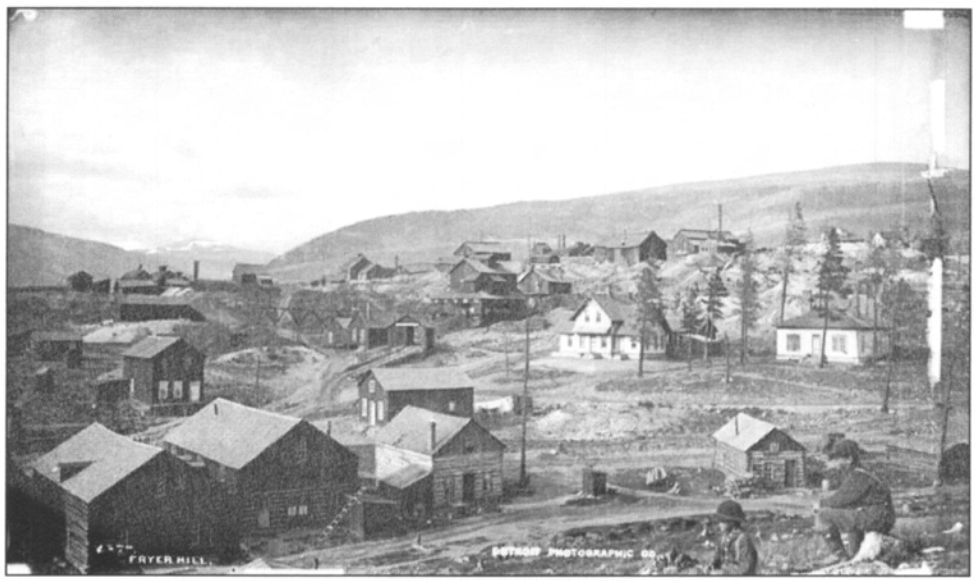
## ILLUSTRATIONS LOG

| Illustr. No. | Illustrations Information |
|---|---|
| I-1 | Leonard Shaft House, *History of the Arkansas Valley*, O.L. Baskin, p. 23, 1881 |
| I-2 | Robert E. Lee Mine, *History of the Arkansas Valley*, O.L. Baskin, p. 520, 1881 |
| I-3 | Grant Smelting Works, *History of the Arkansas Valley*, O.L. Baskin, p. 301, 1881 |
| I-4 | Omaha Smelter and Refinery, postcard, dated May 31, 1909 in possession of FG |
| I-5 | Matchless Mining Company Stock Certificate, in possession of NMHF&M, R. Hartzell |

**Historic Photographs**

H1

H2

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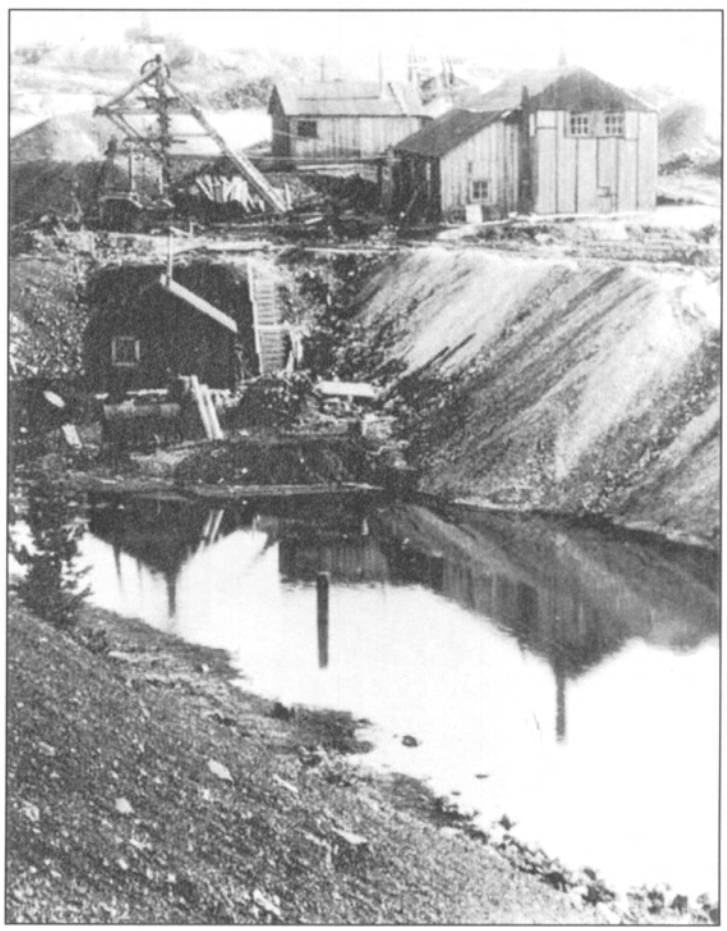

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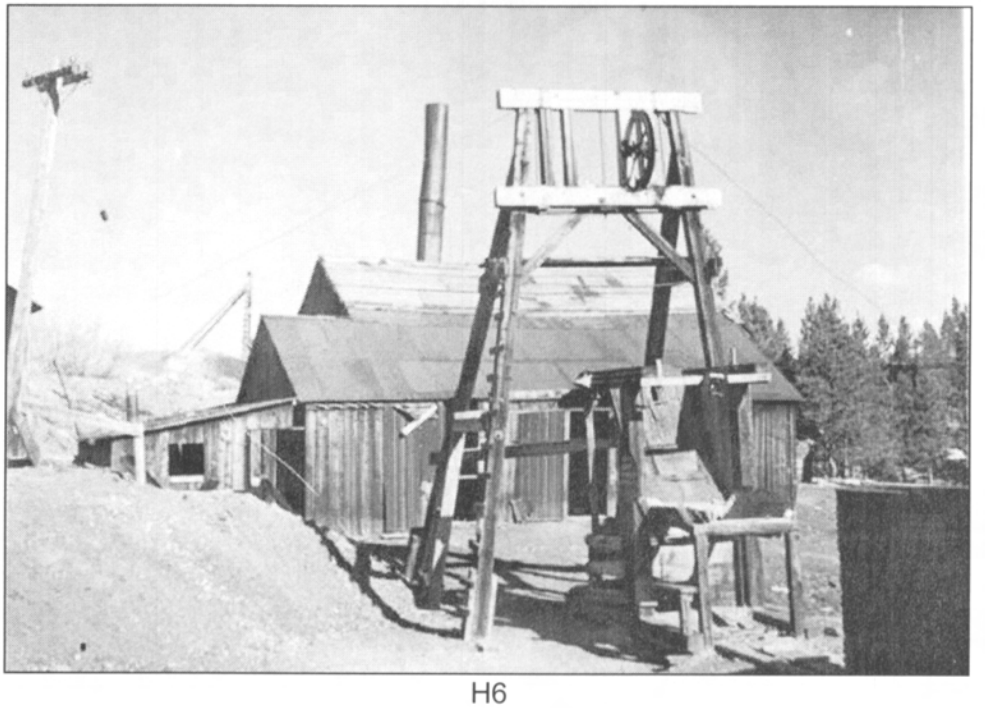

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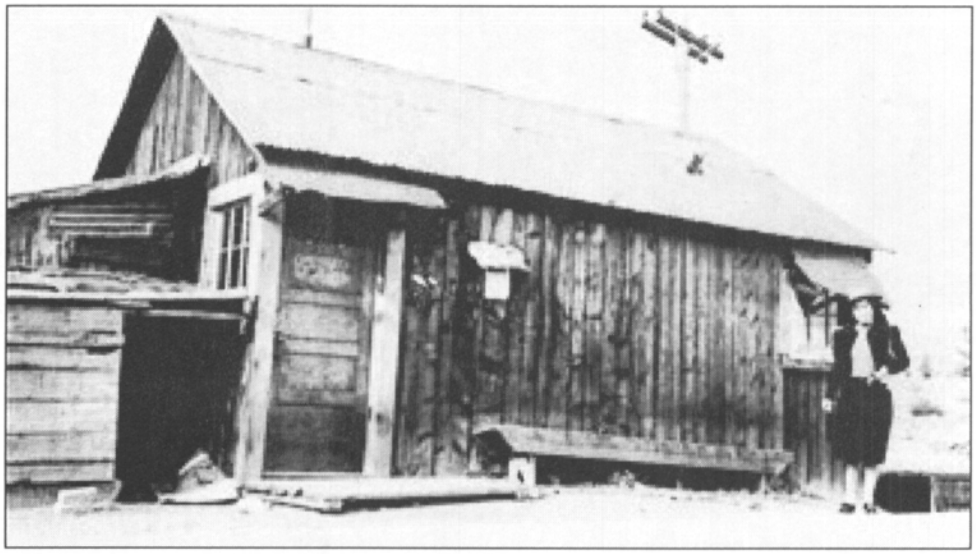

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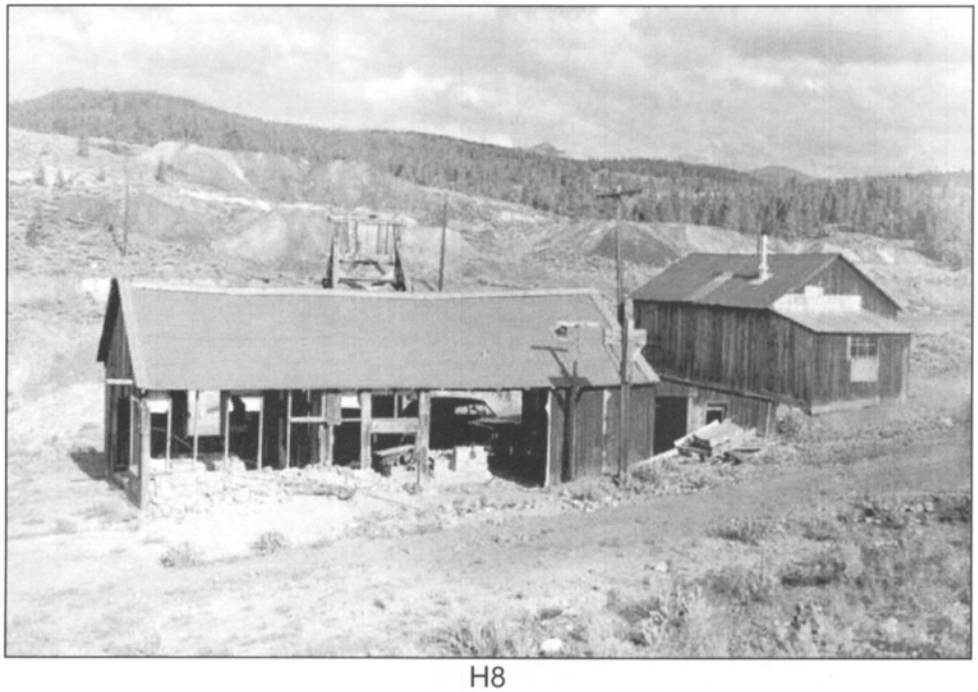

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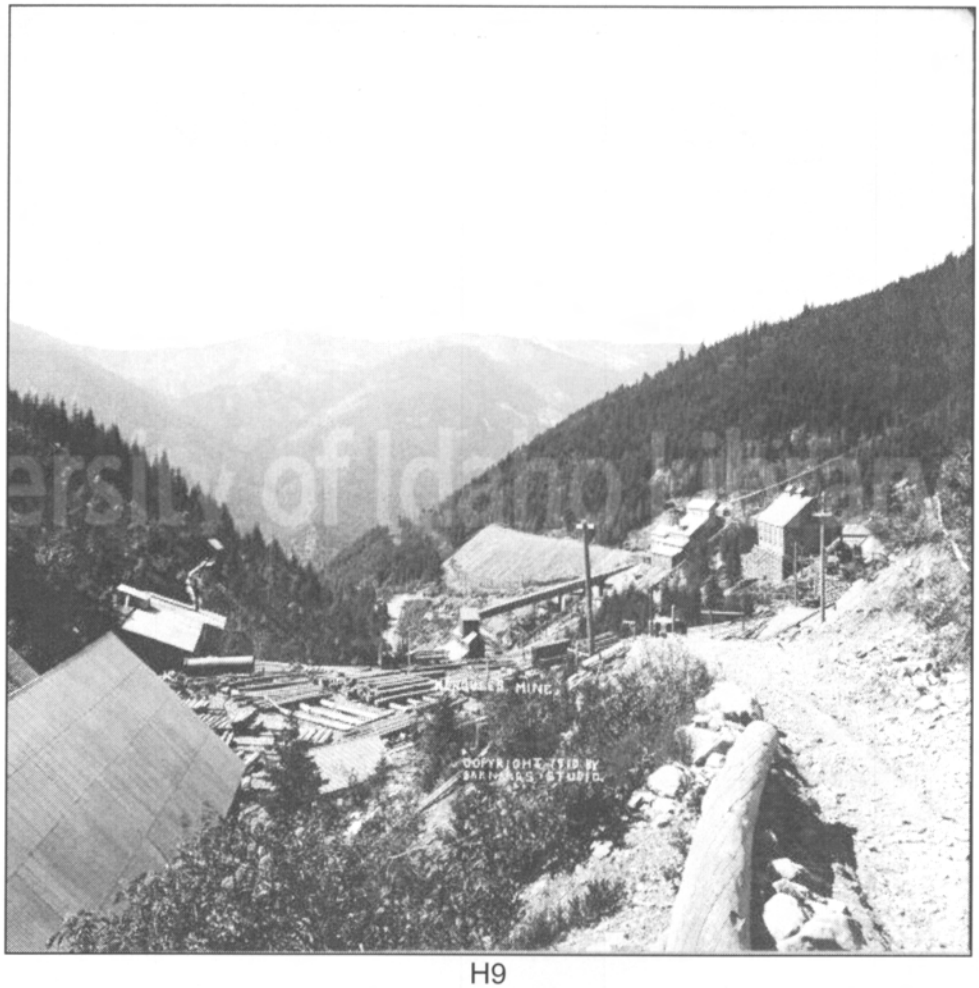


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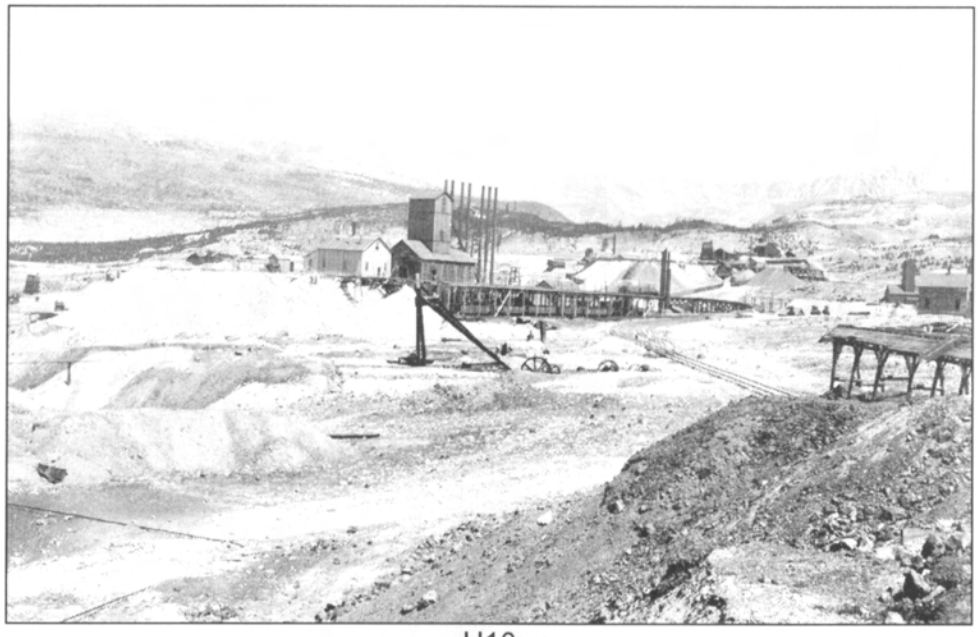

H10

H11

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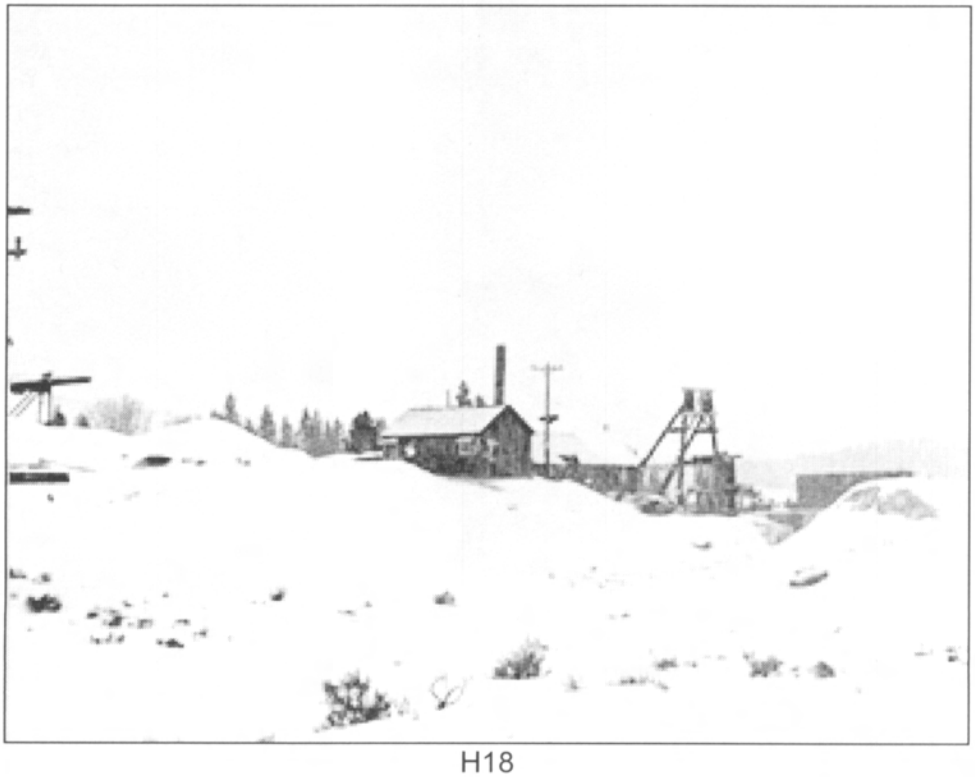
H15

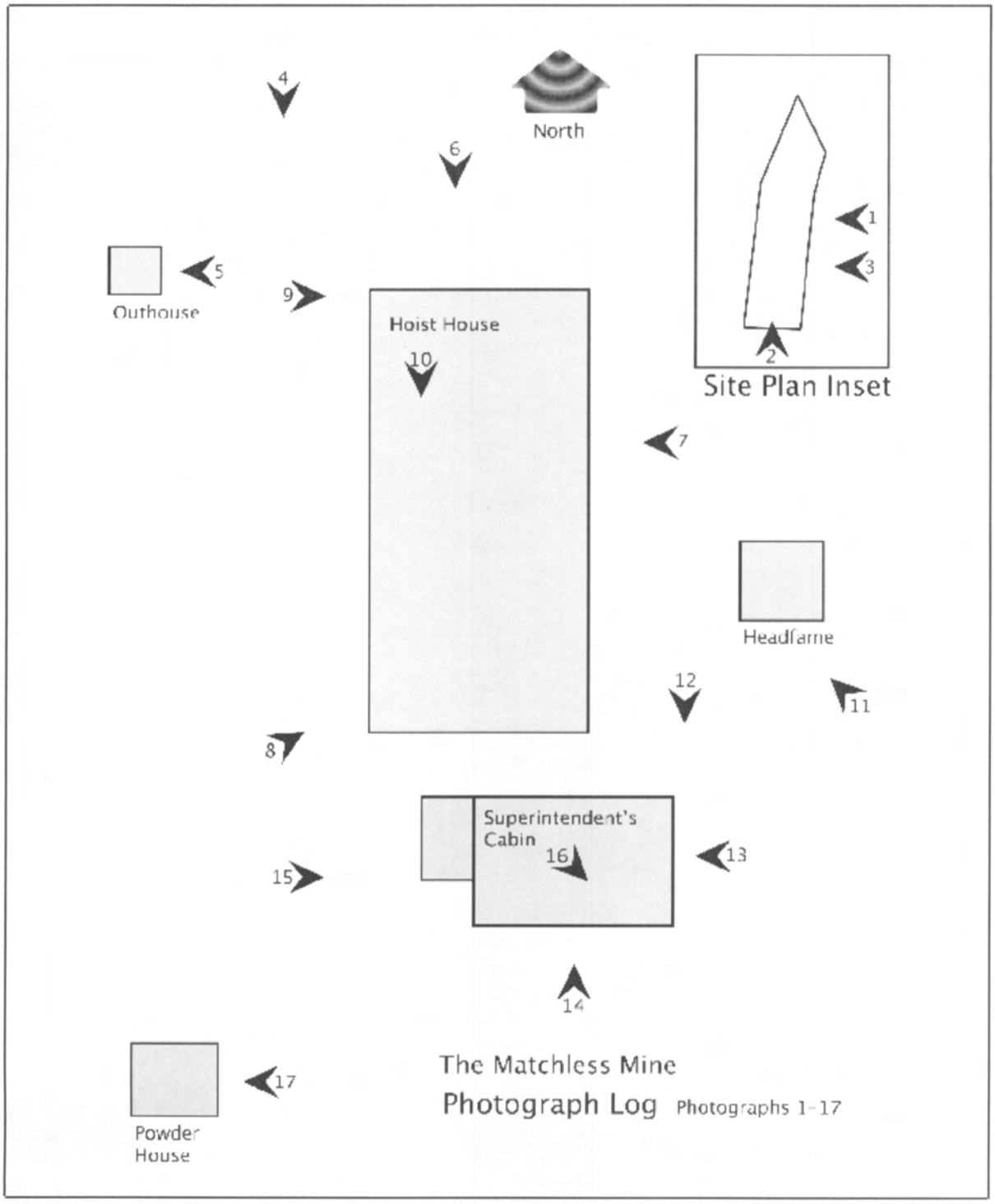
H16

H17

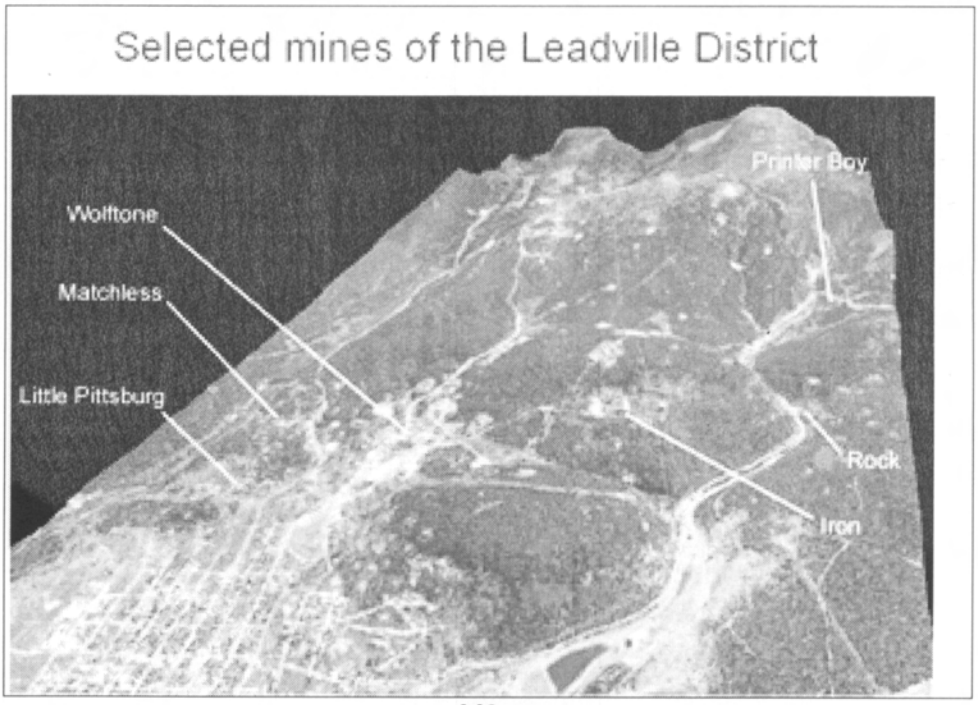


H18

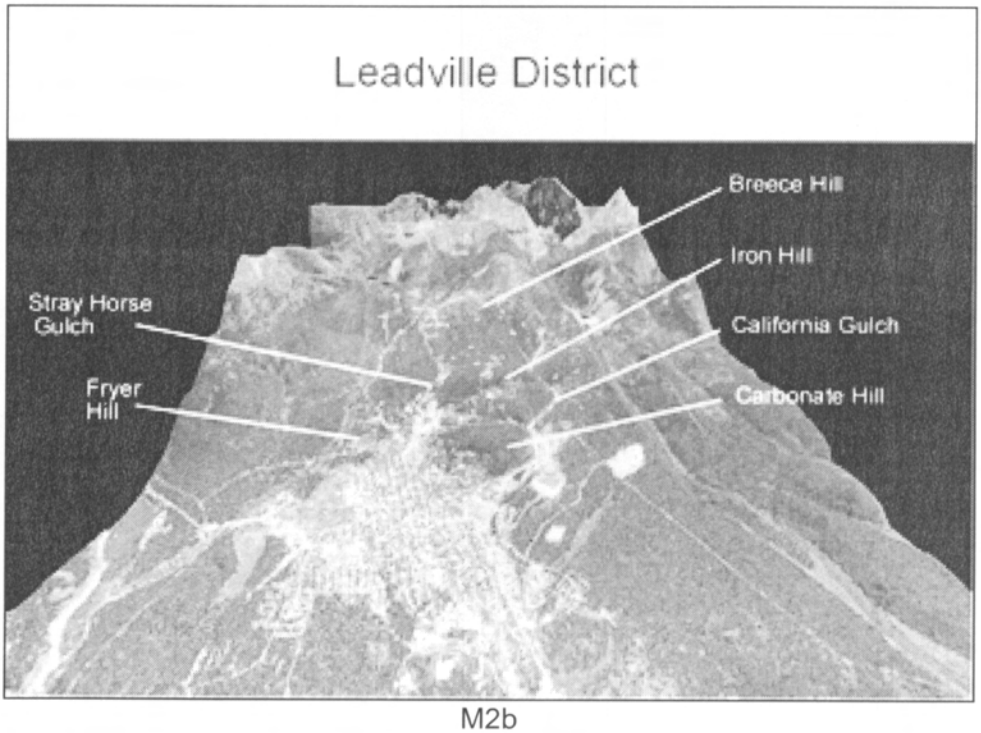
**Maps**


4
North
6
1
3
5
Outhouse
9
Hoist House
10
2
Site Plan Inset
7
Headframe
12
11
8
Superintendent's Cabin
16
13
15
14
17
Powder House
The Matchless Mine
Photograph Log Photographs 1-17

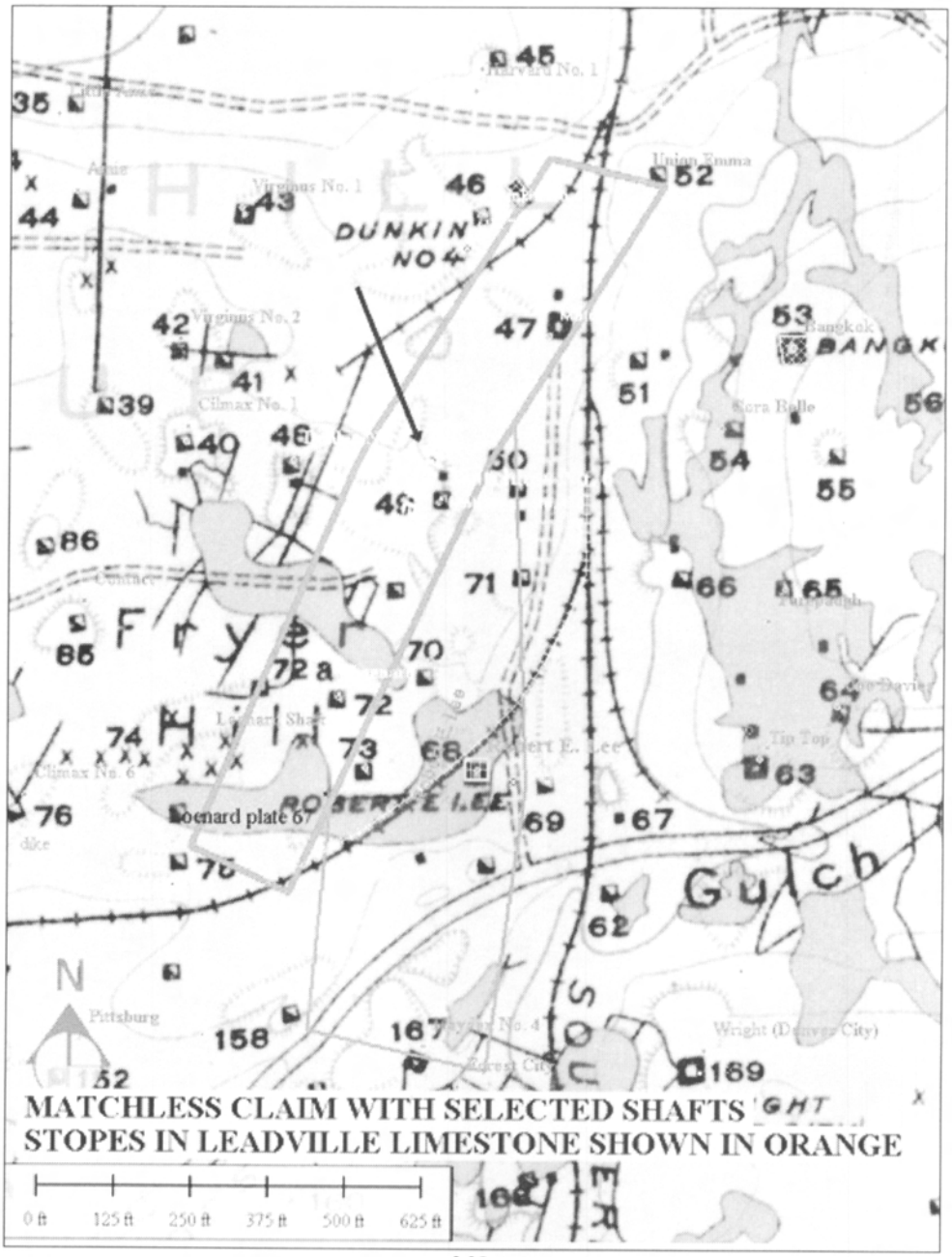
M1


Selected mines of the Leadville District
Printer Boy
Wolftone
Matchless
Little Pittsburg
Rock
Iron

M2a

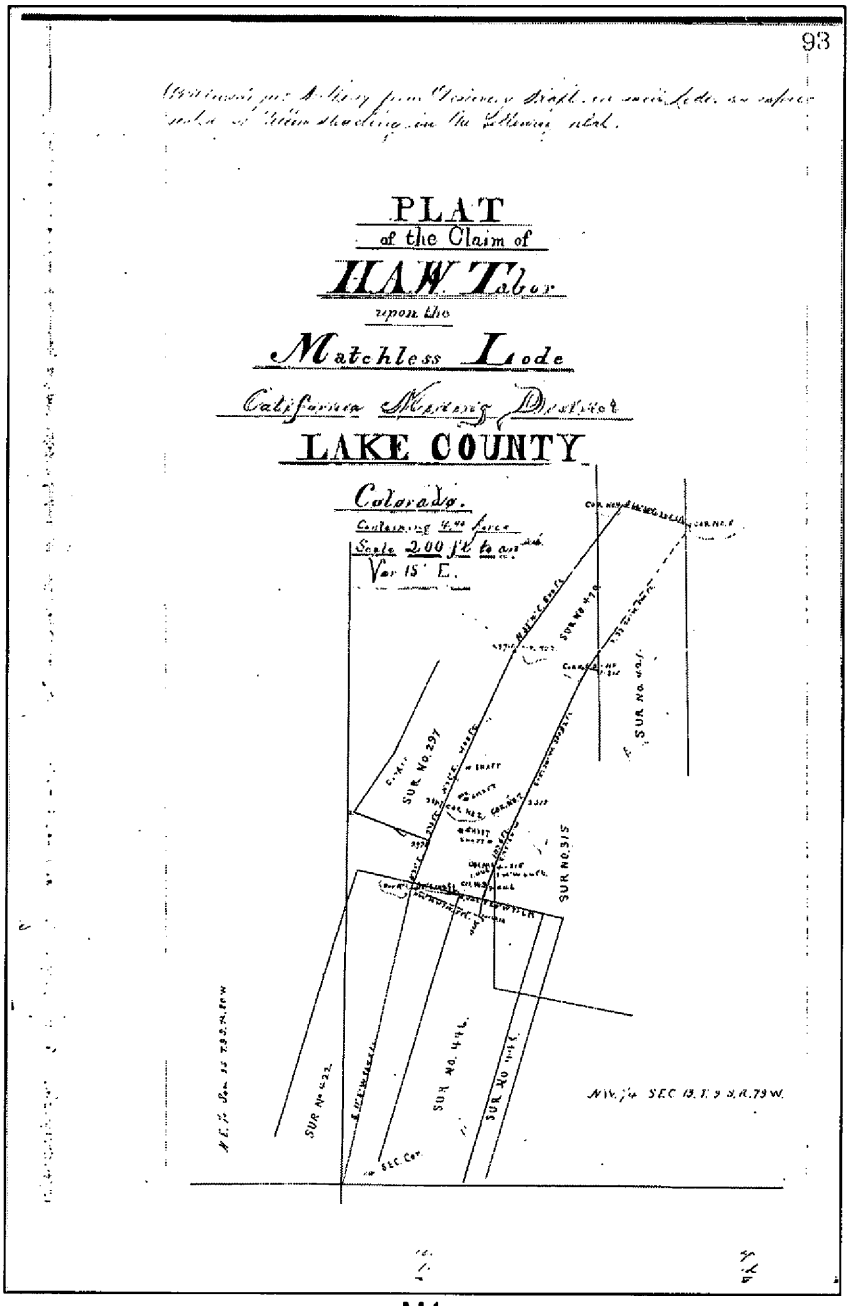

Leadville District
Breece Hill
Iron Hill
Stray Horse Gulch
California Gulch
Fryer Hill
Carbonate Hill

M2b

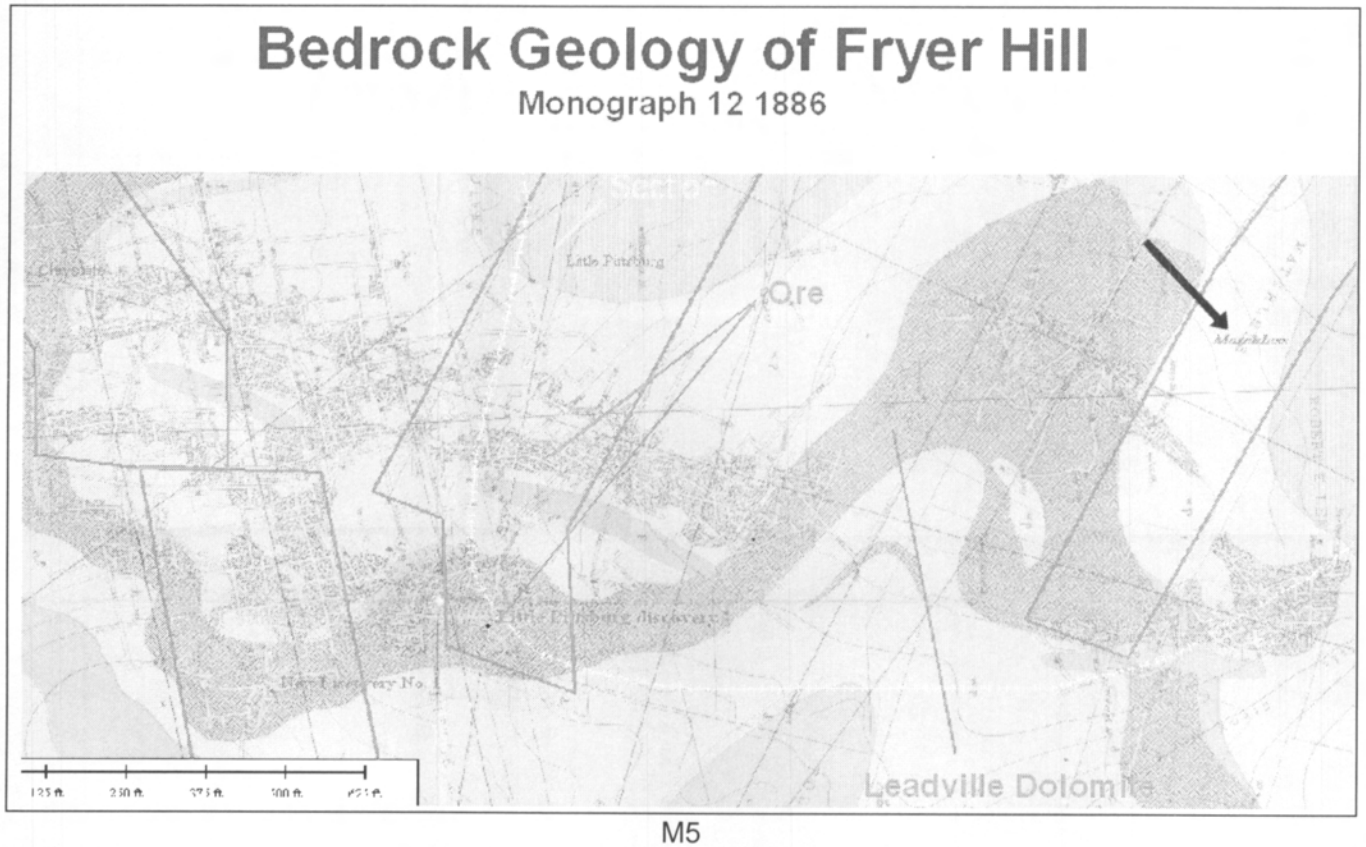



MATCHLESS CLAIM WITH SELECTED SHAFTS
STOPES IN LEADVILLE LIMESTONE SHOWN IN ORANGE

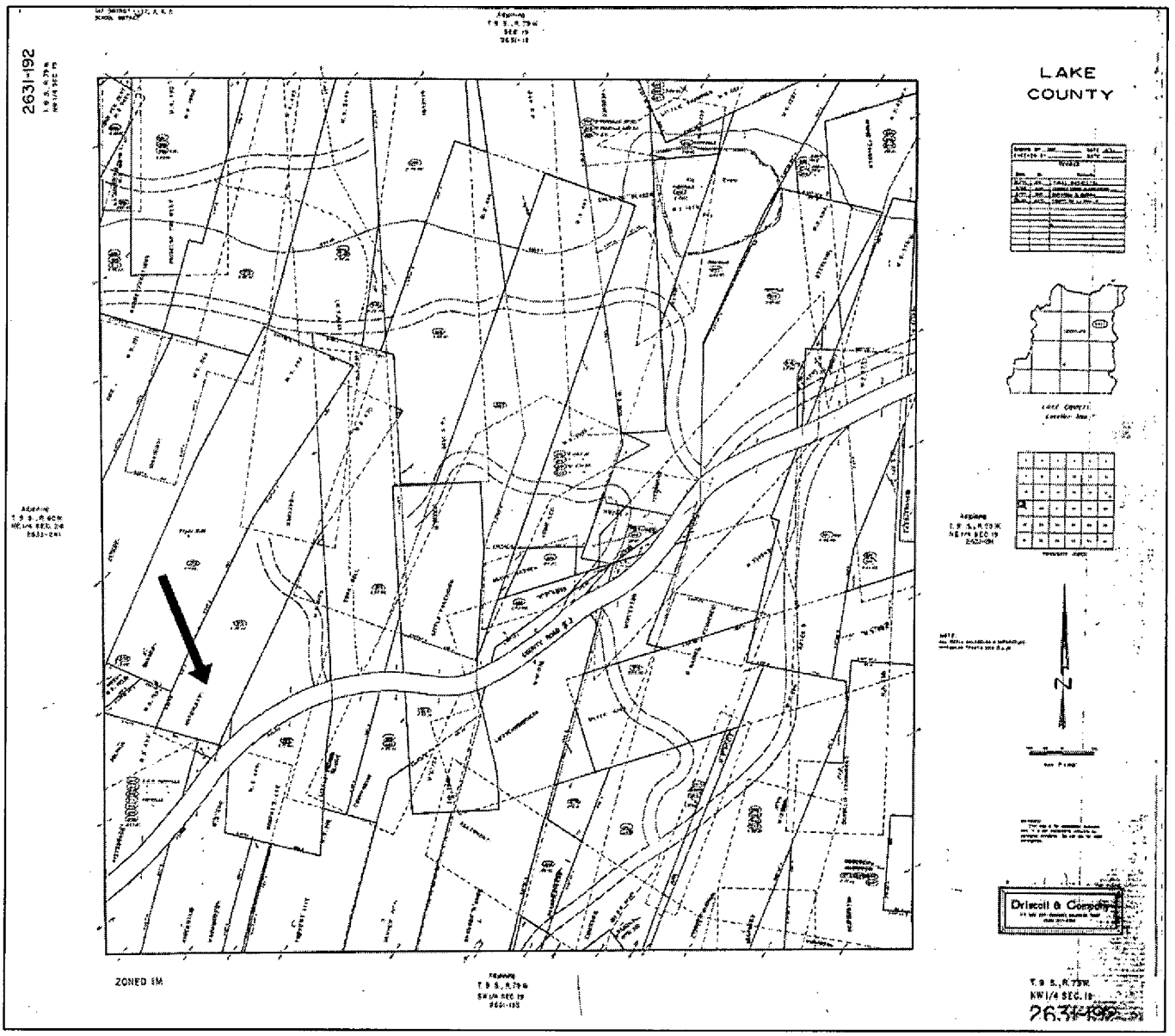
M3


93
PLAT
of the Claim of
HAW Tabor
upon the
Matchless Lode
California Mining District
LAKE COUNTY
Colorado.
Scale 200 ft to an inch
Var 15° E.
SUR NO. 297
SUR NO. 315
SUR NO. 422
SUR NO. 446
SUR NO. 445
SUR NO. 421
SEC. Cor.
NW. 1/4 SEC 13. T. 9 S. R. 79 W.

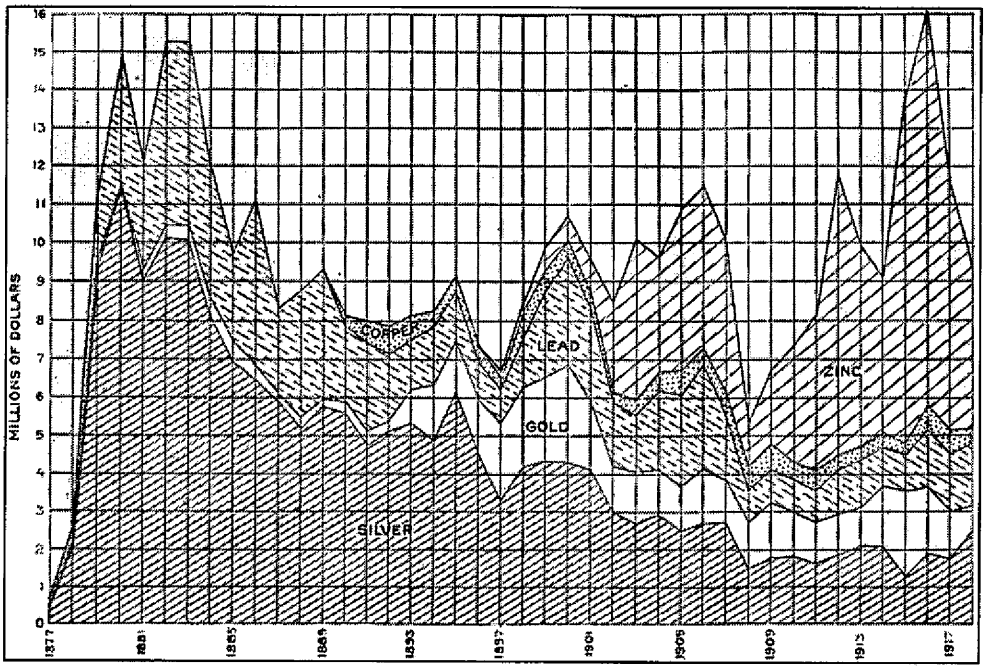
M4


Bedrock Geology of Fryer Hill
Monograph 12 1886
Ore
Leadville Dolomite

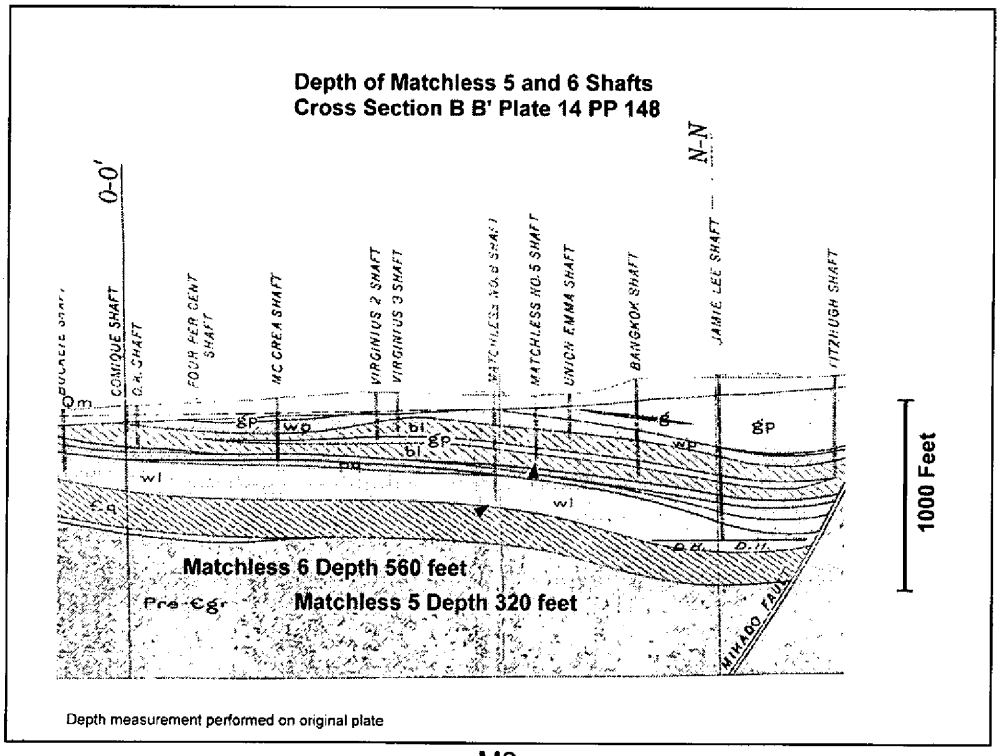
M5



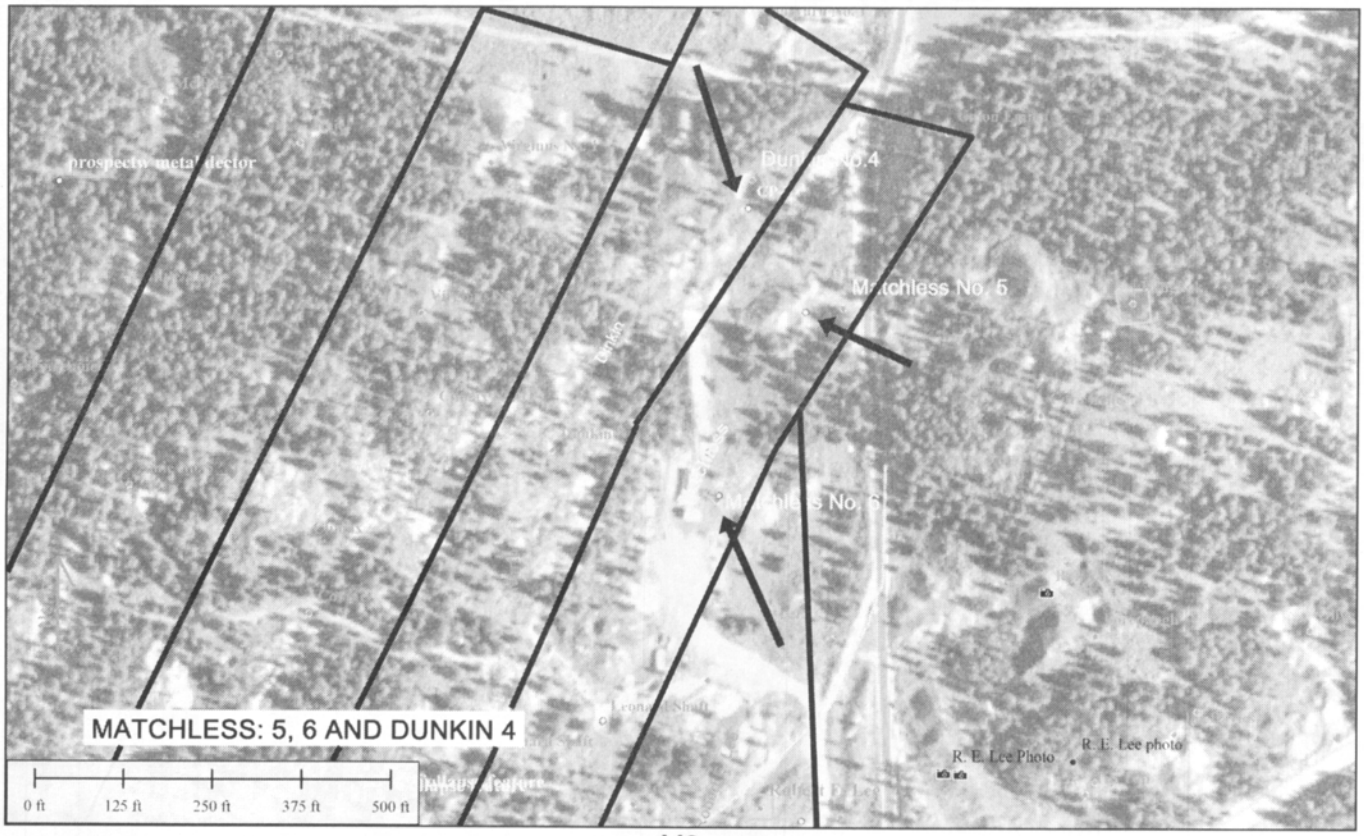

M6



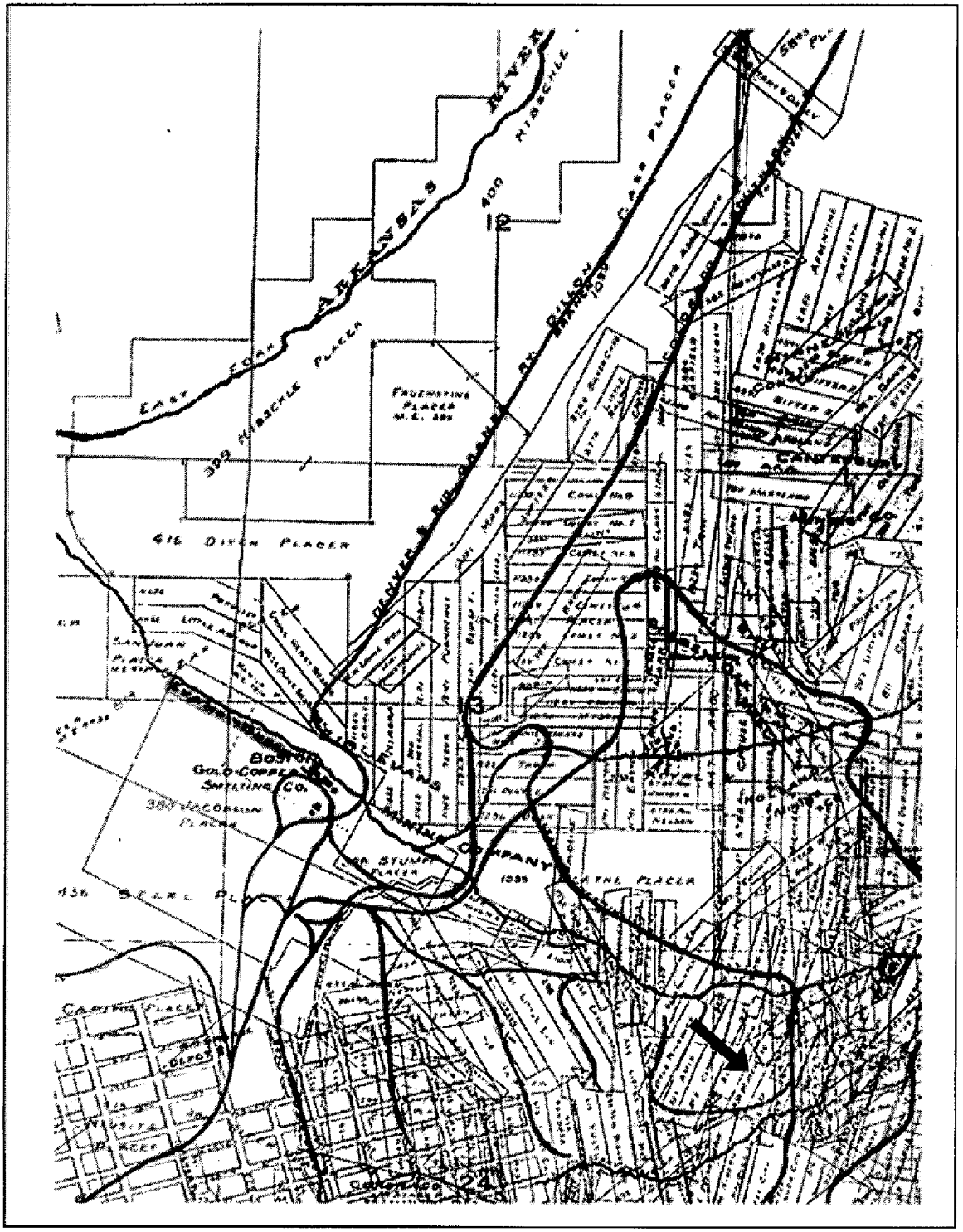

M7
Ore Production Leadville District – 1877 to 1917



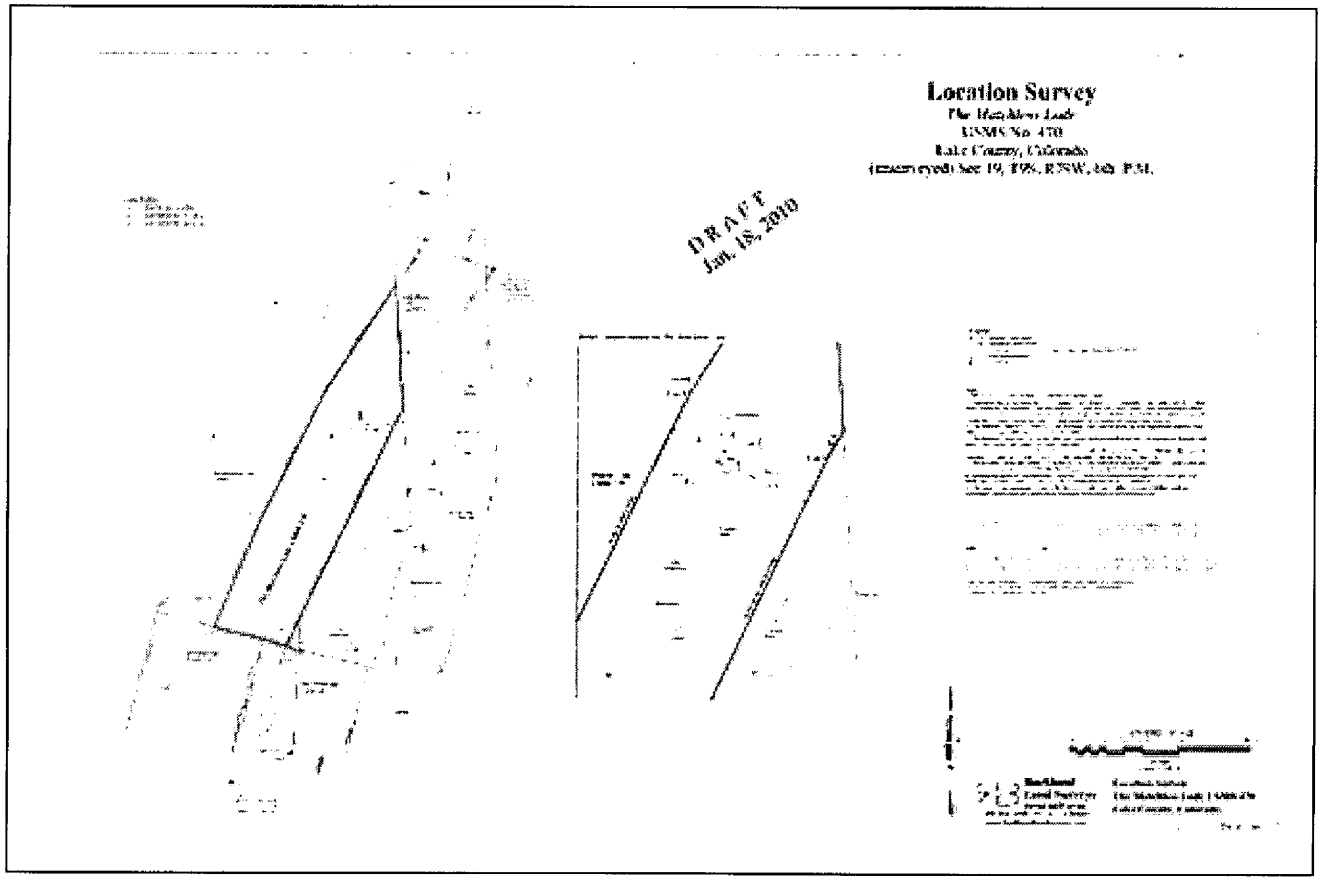

M8


prospecty metal detector
Matchless No. 5
MATCHLESS: 5, 6 AND DUNKIN 4
0 ft
125 ft
250 ft
375 ft
500 ft
R. E. Lee Photo
R. E. Lee photo

M9

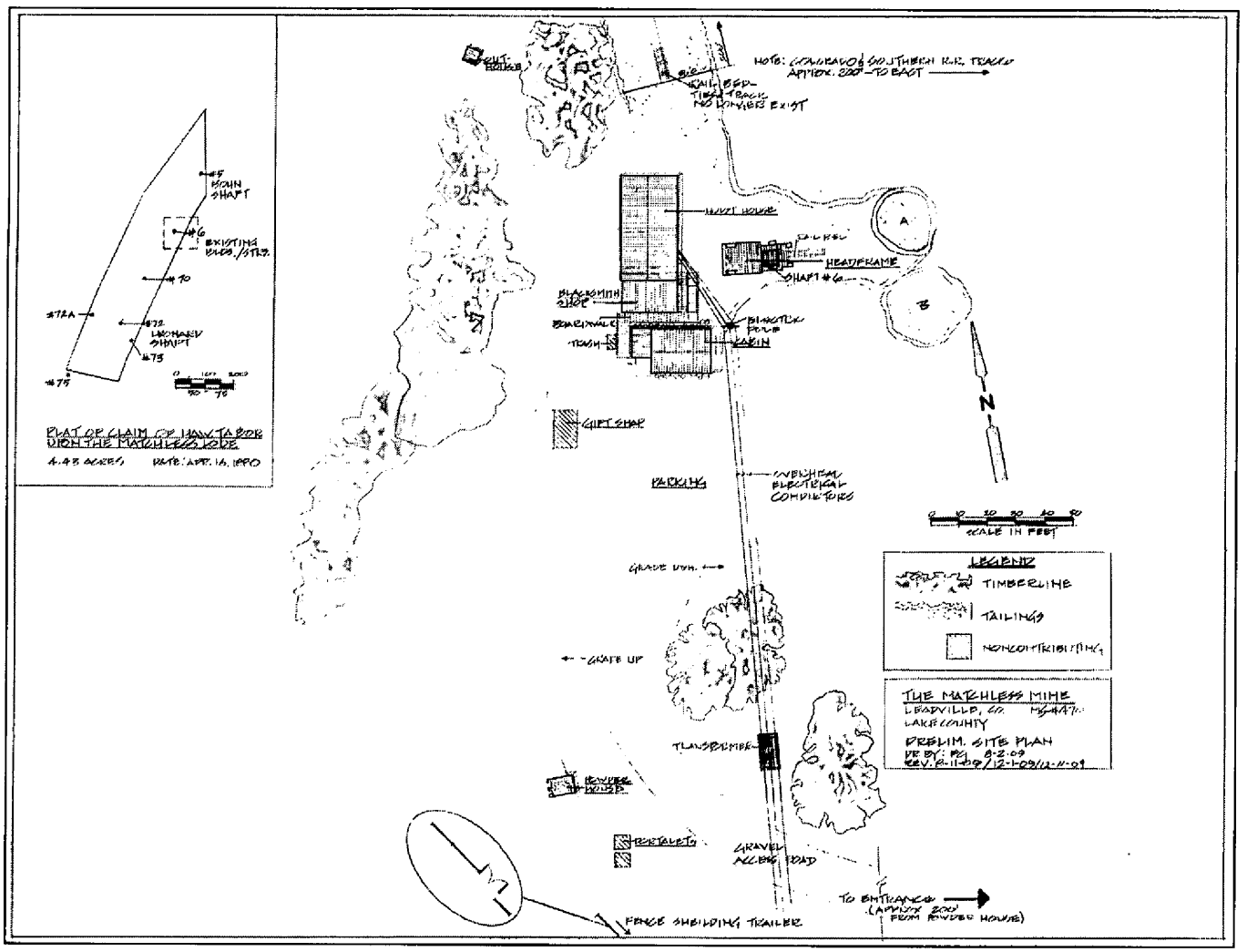



M10
Leadville Rail System Map 1901

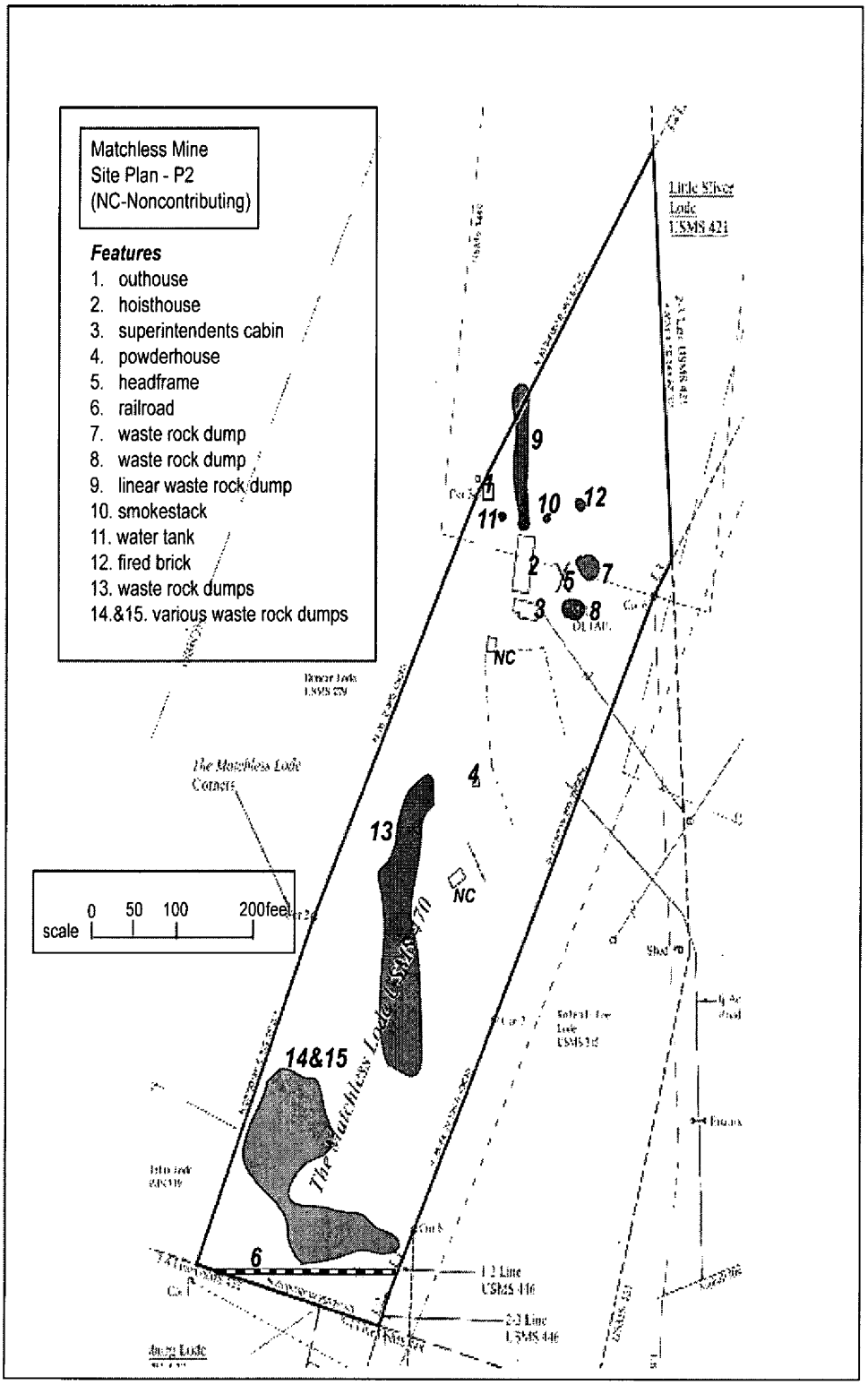



M11

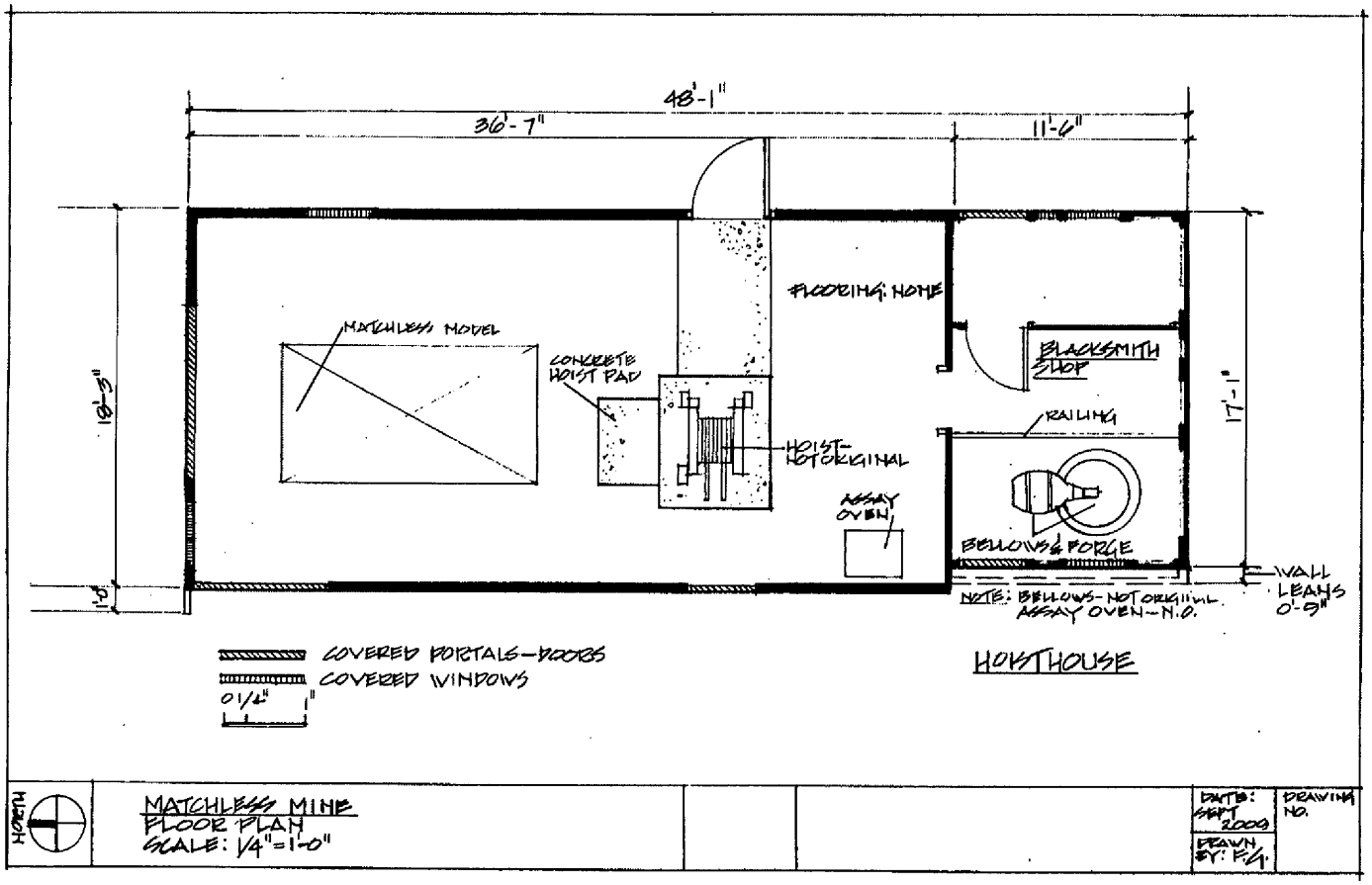
**Plans**



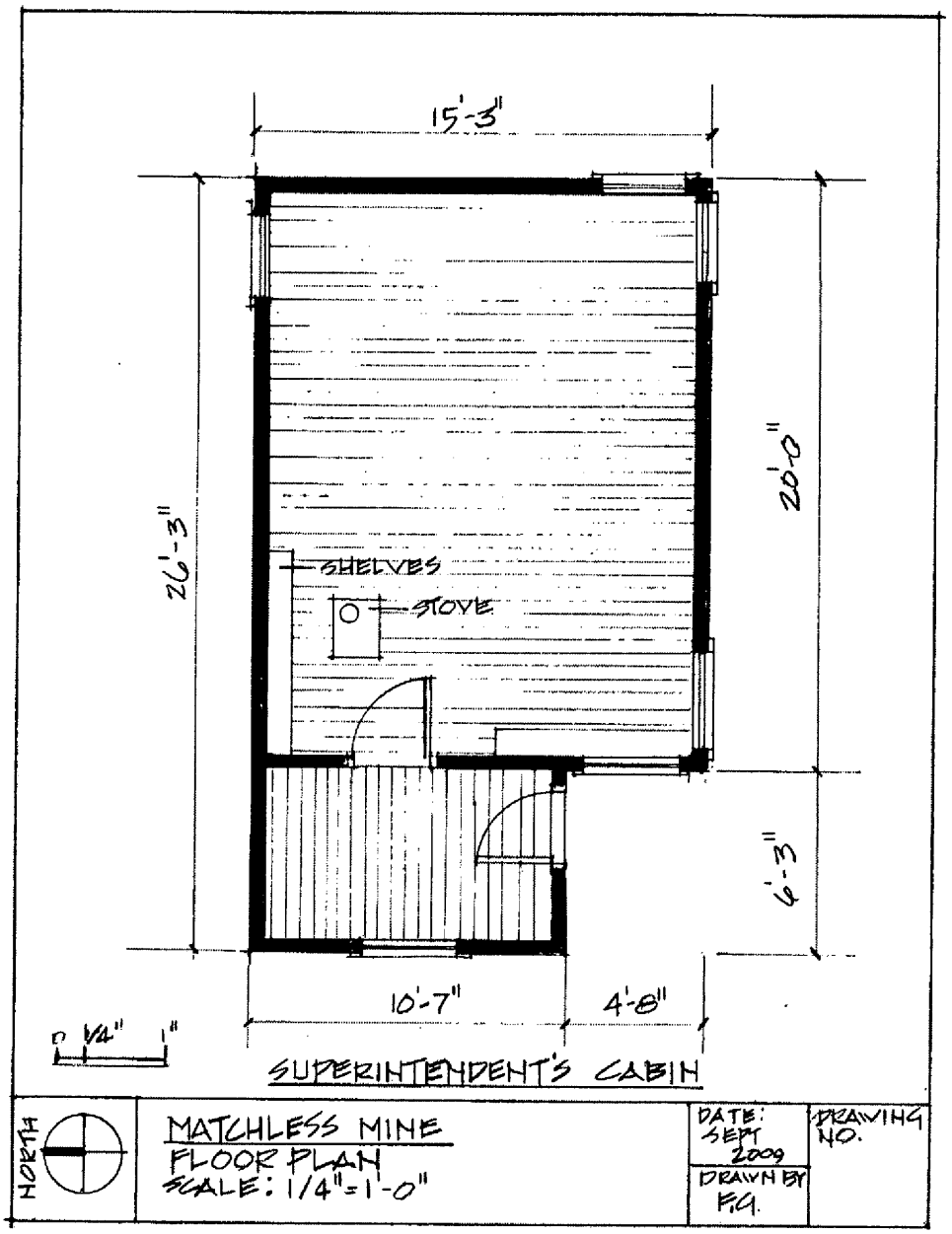

P1
Site Plan



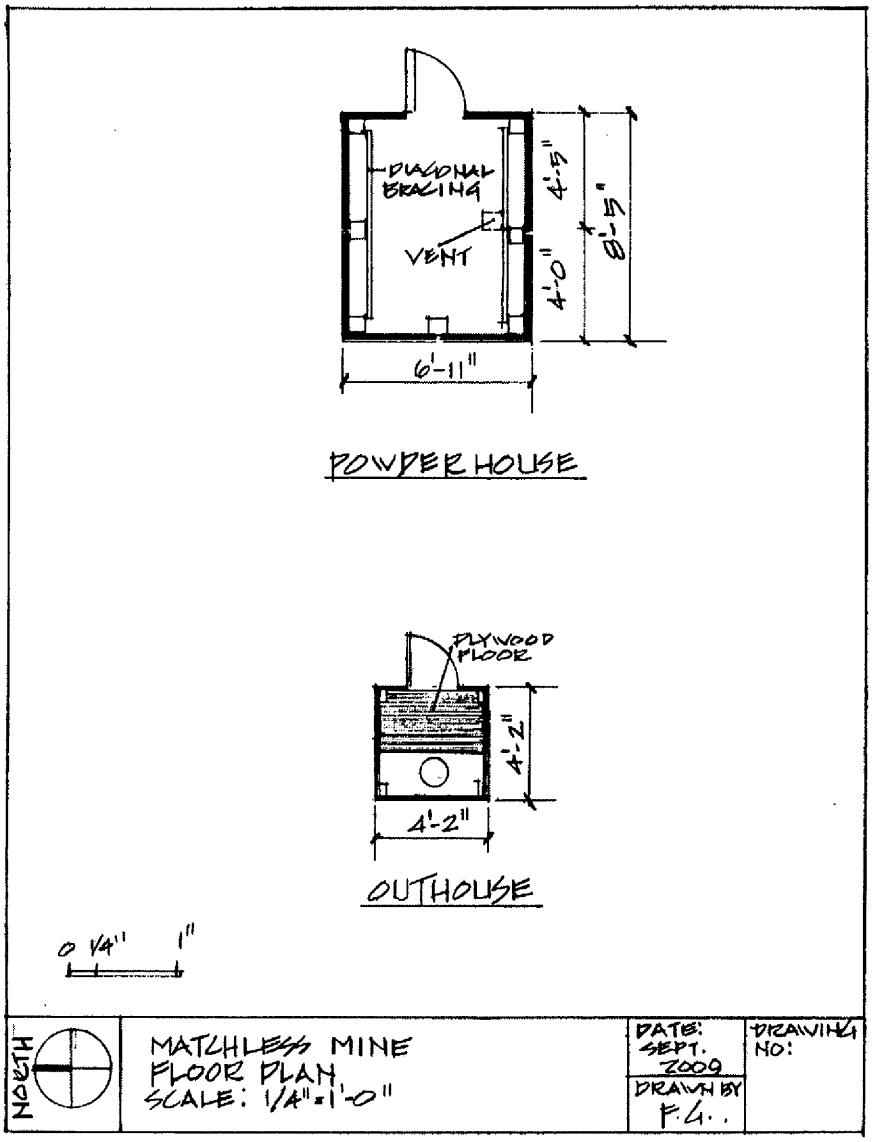

P2
Site/feature Plan




P3
Hoist House



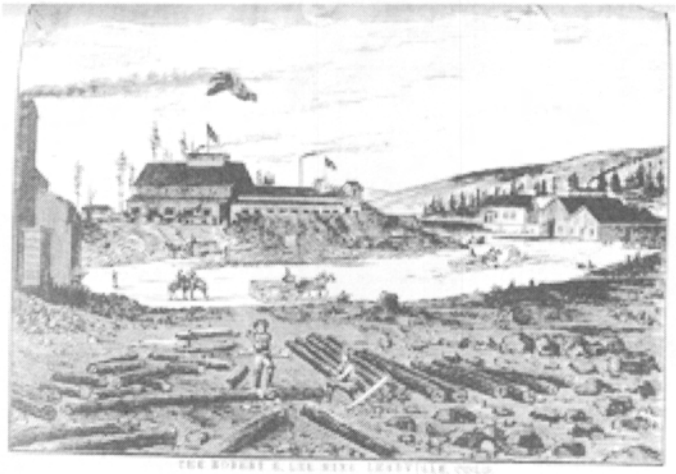

P4
Superintendent's Cabin



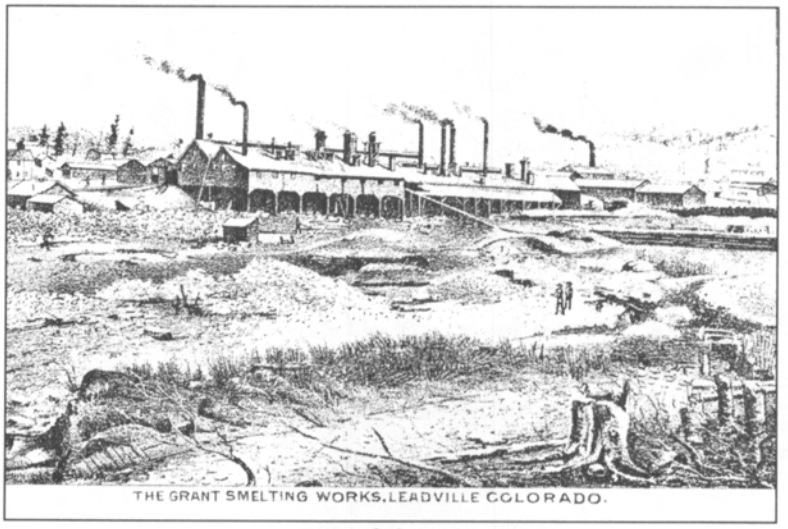

P5
Powder House & Outhouse

**Illustrations**

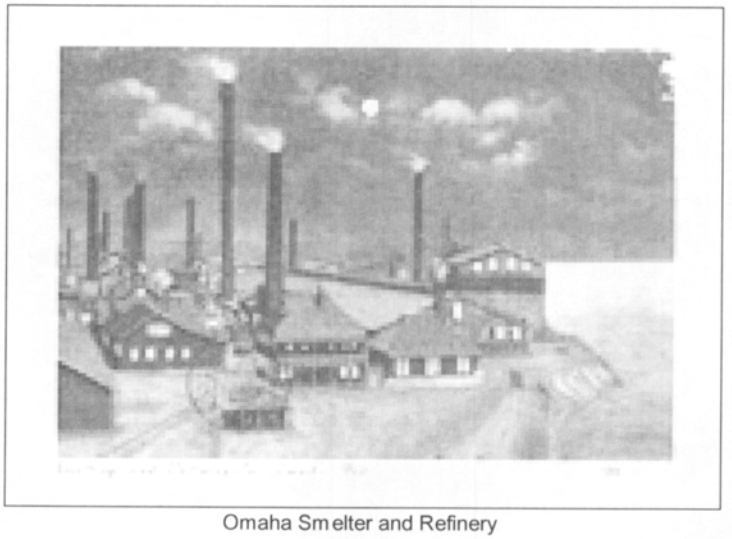
I-1



I-2




I-3



Omaha Smelter and Refinery

I-4

Matchless Mining Company Stock Certificate
I-5

NEW BATTING CHAMPIONS CROWNED IN MAJORS
Boats & Water Sports
Antique Cars

POWER
HOUSE