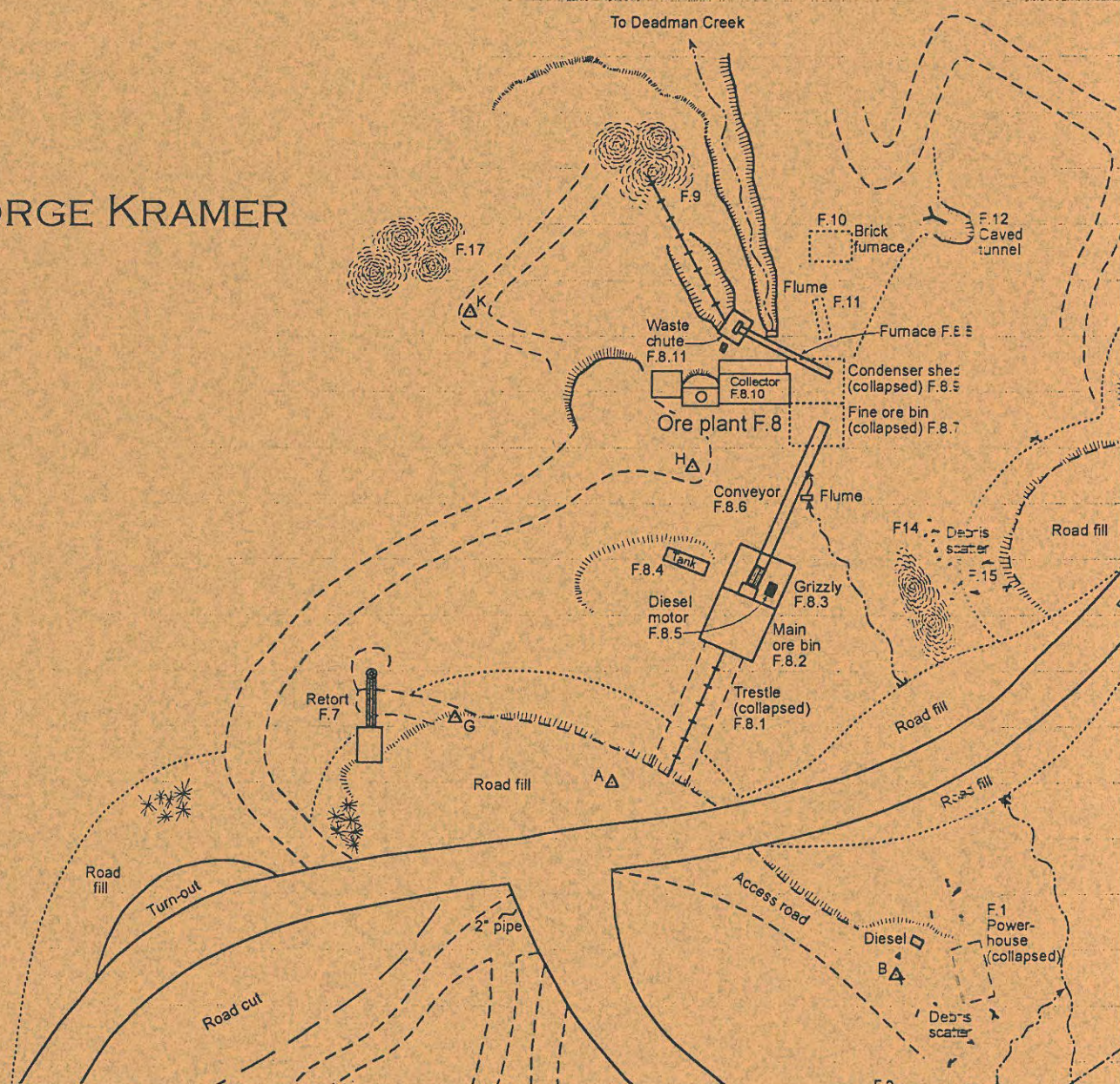


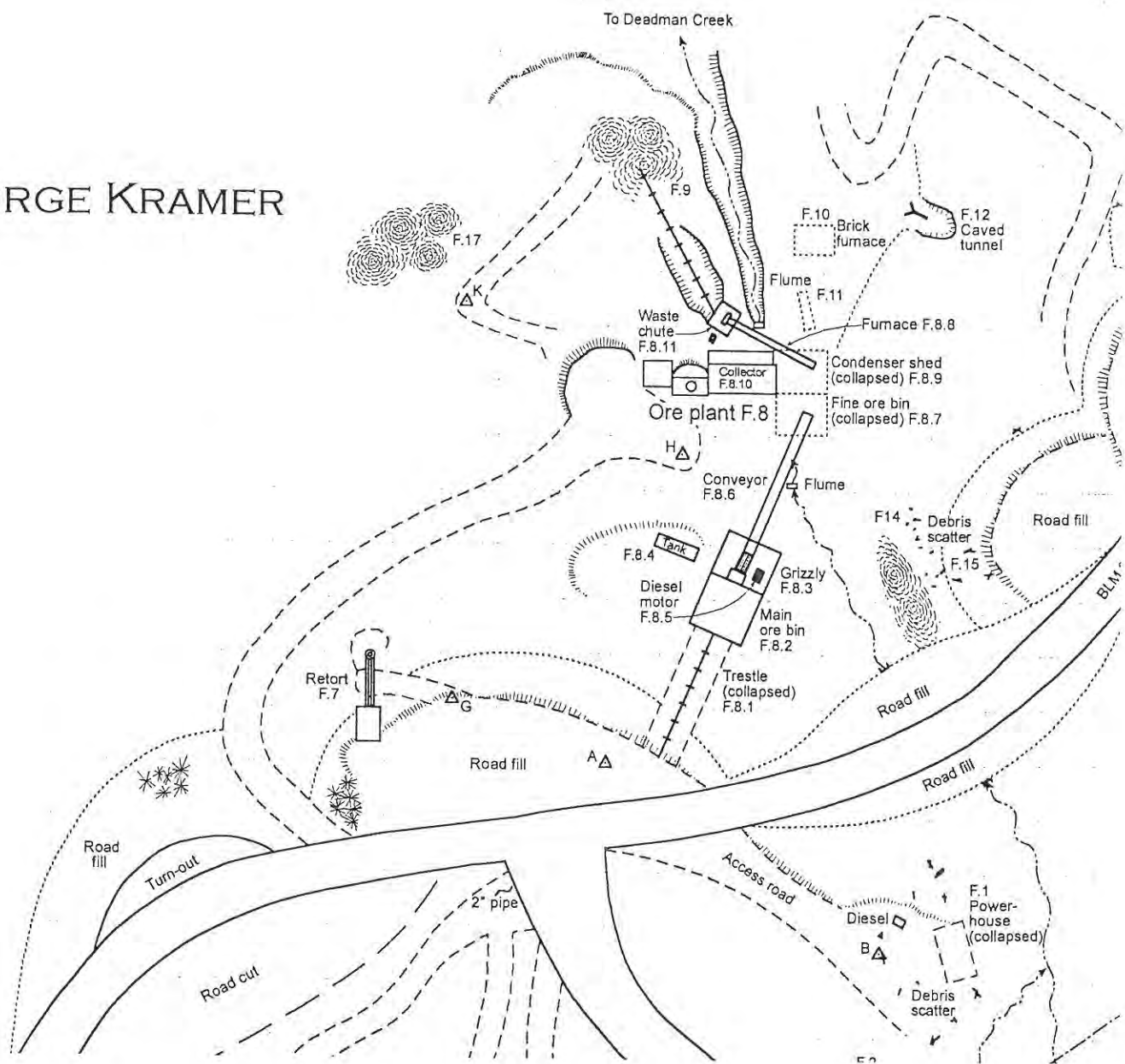
PRELIMINARY CULTURAL ASSESSMENT OF THE UMPQUA MINE, DOUGLAS COUNTY, OREGON

GEORGE KRAMER



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Preliminary Cultural Assessment of the Umpqua Mine,
Douglas County, Oregon

Prepared by

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Submitted to

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Bureau of Land Management
Roseburg, Oregon

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MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

As the result of a 1998 survey of area property boundaries by the Roseburg Lumber Company, the Roseburg District of the Bureau of Land Management was made aware of the fact that the Umpqua Mine, near Tiller and long assumed to be a patented claim, was in fact located on land managed by the Roseburg District. A fairly intact compound related to a pre-WWII mercury mining operation, the Umpqua Mine retains several standing structures as well as tailings piles, adits and other potentially attractive or hazardous nuisances. Because of concerns regarding the management issues at the mine, the District contracted with Heritage Research Associates of Eugene to research and prepare this preliminary assessment of the cultural resources present on the site.

Development of what would eventually become known as the “Buena Vista Mining District,” began sometime prior to June 1913 when the location of the “J. C. Cinnabar Claim No. 2, [Claim #19725], was filed by William S. Webb (known as Uncle Billy) and his wife, Buena Vista. In the mid-to-late 1920s, when the Umpqua Mine was largely developed, the “Buena Vista Group” apparently included some thirteen individual mineral claims clustered around the intersection of Sections 27, 33 and 34 in Township 29S, Range 2W. While the Webbs had first staked these claims in 1913 and most sources date development beginning in 1918, the majority of the standing resources and workings likely date from the 1920s-1930s. There is no known indication of any activity at the Umpqua Mine after 1949.

The Umpqua Mine was developed within a broader pattern characterizing mercury mining in the first half of the 20th century that resulted from worldwide mercury market fluctuation. The Umpqua Mine’s development history, with location in 1913 and further development during the 1920s-1930s period that represented a large upswing in the development of new mercury mines throughout Oregon, is typical of the pattern of most mercury mining operations in Oregon. Mercury mining was especially significant in Douglas County, where several operations, including the Umpqua, were developed during the pre-WWII era. In comparison to other identified mercury mining sites in the general region, the Umpqua Mine appears to retain a high degree of integrity as that term is applied to mining-related cultural resources.

As a result, despite its own limited production, the exceptional integrity and comparative completeness of its mining features serve to make the Umpqua Mine a potential exemplar of the significant development of mercury mining operations in the early-to-mid 20th century. Pending additional study the site **should be considered potentially eligible** for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion “A” for its association with the development of the mercury mining industry in the Western Cascades. In the interim, any adjacent project of the Roseburg District of the Bureau of Land Management should be undertaken only after consultation with the District’s Cultural Resource staff and designed so as to minimize impacts on the integrity of the mine site to the greatest degree feasible. The Umpqua Mine should be adequately signed with notices that it is a significant cultural resource and that any tampering, artifact collection or vandalism will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

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1. Project Description

As the result of a 1998 survey of area property boundaries by the Roseburg Lumber Company, the Roseburg District of the Bureau of Land Management was made aware of the fact that the Umpqua Mine, near Tiller and long assumed to be a patented claim, was in fact located on land managed by the Roseburg District. A fairly intact compound related to a pre-WWII mercury mining operation, the Umpqua Mine retains several standing structures as well as tailings piles, adits and other potentially attractive or hazardous nuisances. Because of concerns regarding the management issues at the mine, the District contracted with Heritage Research Associates of Eugene to research and prepare this preliminary assessment of the cultural resources present on the site. George Kramer, M.S., historic preservation consultant, served as the principal investigator.

2. Project Location

The Umpqua Mine is located in Section 34 of Township 29 South, Range 2 West of the Willamette Meridian, an area in the south central portion of the Douglas County, Oregon (Figures 1 and 2). The mine is located on both sides of BLM Road 29-2-26.0 at a point approximately 0.7 miles west of the intersection of BLM Road 30-2-3.1. Stanley Creek, a small tributary to Deadman Creek, runs through the mining complex. On the south side of the site, an established road leads to the Maud S. Mine, a patented cinnabar claim that has a somewhat related history to that of the subject property. Access to the Umpqua Mine is via Douglas County Road 46 and the site is located approximately nine miles northeast of the community of Tiller.

3. Environmental Setting

The project area lies within the western portion of the Western Cascade province, as defined by Franklin and Dyrness. “[I]n the southern and western portions of the province, soils developed on base igneous rocks are often deep and well-developed. These soils are reddish-brown in color...” (Franklin and Dyrness 1973:23-4). “The distinctive red soil of the Western Cascades led miners to a chain of quicksilver deposits running from the Black Butte Mine near Cottage Grove to the Red Cloud Mine on the far reaches of upper Cow Creek” (Beckham 1986:227).

The plant community in the general project area is classified as the *Tsuga heterophylla* (Western Hemlock) forest zone. This zone hosts a number of plants species including Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), Western red cedar (*Thuja plicata*), bigleaf maple (*Acer macrophyllum*), Oregon grape (*Berberis nervosa*) and vine maple (*Acer circinatum*) (Franklin and Dyrness 1973:72-73).

The life zone for the project area is part of the Humid Division of the Transition Zone, covering forested country in the interior valleys of western Oregon. Large mammals include black-tailed deer, Roosevelt elk, white-tailed deer, black bear, and cougar. Grizzly bear inhabited the region before their regional extinction early in this century. Smaller upland game animals found throughout the area include quail, grouse, dove, pigeon, and a variety of squirrels, mice and other small mammals. A

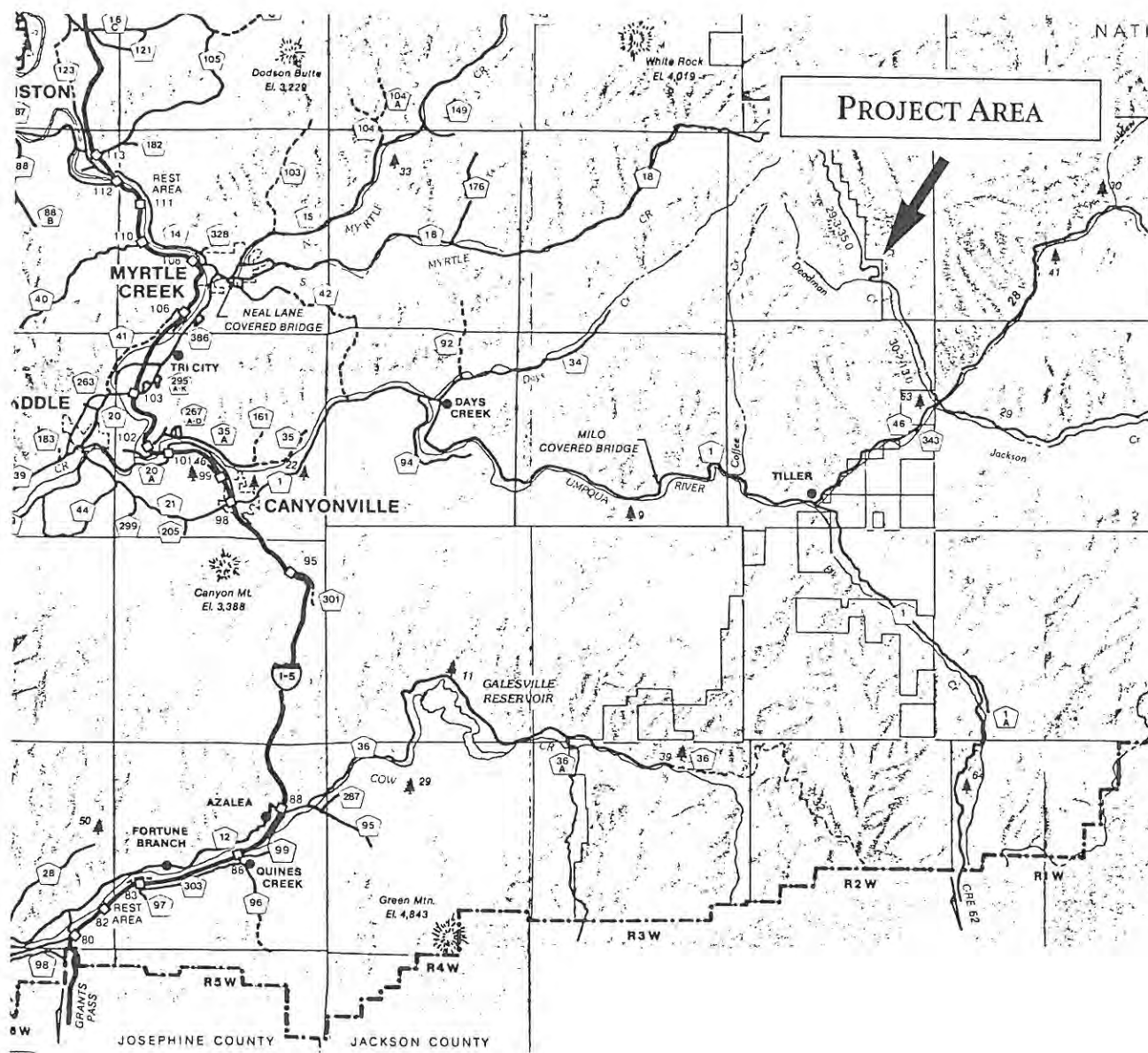


Figure 1. Official road map of Douglas County, Oregon (1975).

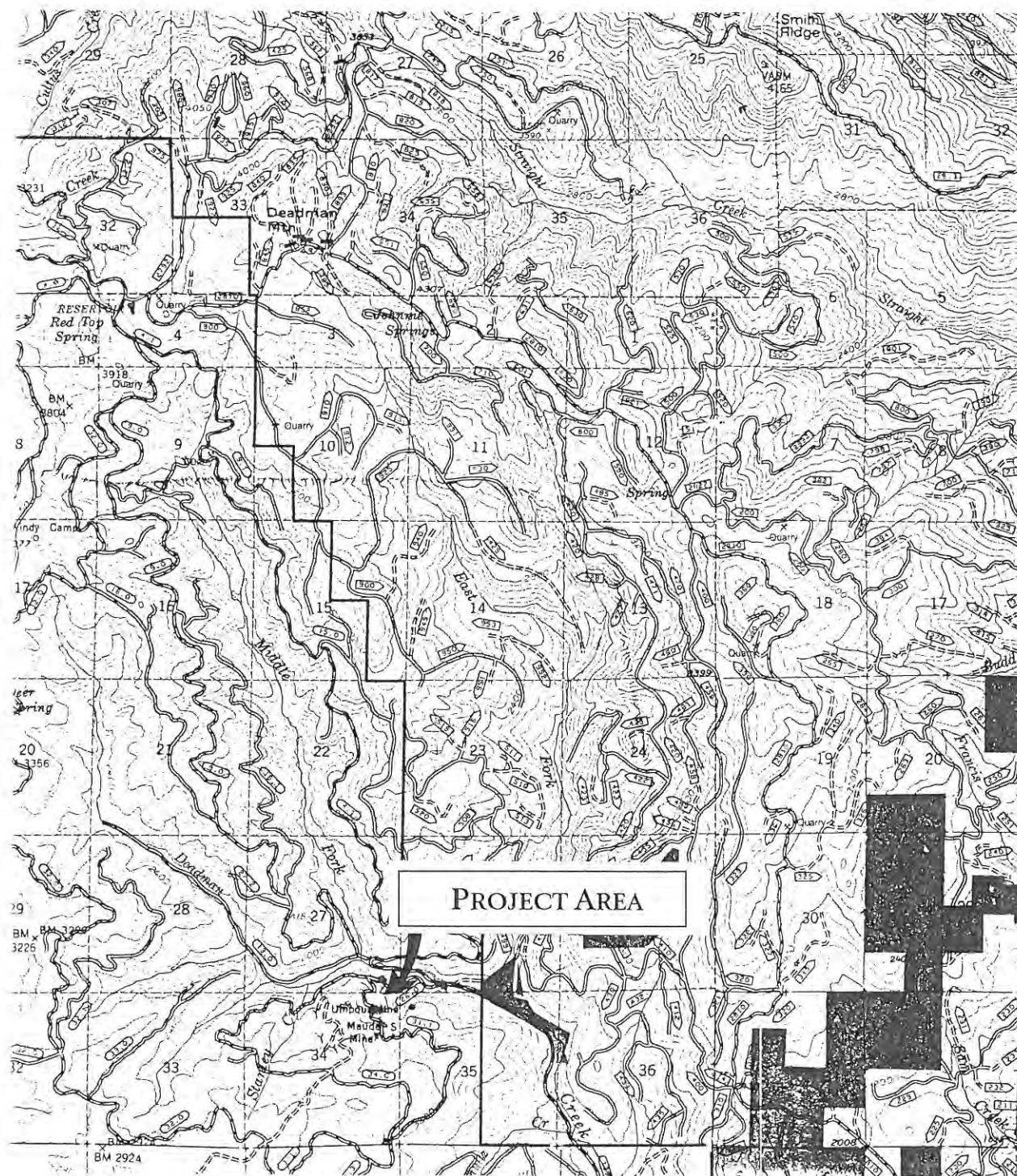


Figure 2. Umpqua and Maud S. mines (from basemap for North Umpqua Ranger District, Umpqua National Forest, Pacific Northwest Region).

range of fur-bearing species reside in the area, including beaver, river otter, skunk, raccoon, muskrat, mink, fox, bobcat, opossum, weasel, and marten. A diverse array of other small non-game birds and mammals are also found in the hills and valleys of the basin (Bailey 1936:20-21).

4. Historical Background

The first Euro-American settler in the general project area was Aaron J. Tiller, who had "...shoved far up the South Umpqua" by 1853 (Beckham 1986:76). While the mine vicinity along Deadman and Stanley creeks was likely the subject of some prospecting during the pioneer gold rush, the area remained only sparsely settled during the nineteenth century. By 1915, the population of Tiller was 25 and "stock raising" was reported as the primary industry (Chapman 1915:139).

Development of what would eventually become known as the "Buena Vista Mining District," began sometime prior to June 1913 when the location of the "J. C. Cinnabar Claim No. 2, [Claim #19725], was filed by William S. Webb (known as Uncle Billy) and his wife, Buena Vista. The J. C. Claim was reported as "...one of the Buena Vista Group of Cinnabar Mines situated on Deadman Creek."¹

...said work consists of a cross cut tunnel 55ft...I have sunk a discovery shaft upon said claim to a depth of ten feet from the lowest part of the rim of said shaft at the surface, made a cut or cross cut or tunnel which cuts the lode at a depth of ten feet, made an open cut six feet deep and four wide and ten feet in length along the lode, from the point of discovery, showing a lode or vein of mineral deposit in place (Douglas County 1913:218).

In the mid-to-late 1920s, when the Umpqua Mine was largely developed, the "Buena Vista Group" apparently included some thirteen individual mineral claims clustered around the intersection of Sections 27, 33 and 34 in Township 29S, Range 2W.² An additional seven claims, forming the "Maud S." mine may also have been included in the Buena Vista Group but their ownership, at least for the majority of the historic period, remained separate (Ramp 1972:54).

While the Webbs had first staked these claims in 1913 and most sources date development beginning in 1918, the majority of the standing resources and workings likely date from the 1920s-1930s (Ramp 1972:51). During that period Frank Hobson, a mining engineer, and Ed Perrin, were in charge of the mine, backed by a group of Portland-area investors. Hobson and Perrin, in various partnerships with Frank E. Copeland, O. G. Graham, James Pounder, W. S. Copeland, Everett Laird, and C. D. Mason filed re-location documents on most of the Buena Vista group claims in January

¹ It should be noted that all earlier accounts report mining on this location began in 1918, more than five years after cinnabar claims were first filed in the immediate vicinity.

² These claims are the Uncle Billy, Uncle Billy SW, Queen, Queen No. 2 (unsurveyed), Granada, Granada SW, Granada SW No. 2 (unsurveyed), Bonanza, Bonanza East Extension, Elsie, J. C., Lucky Strike and the Orbie. The Orbie Claim is identified as the primary location of the mill and associated built resources.

1934.³ The complex financial situation was exacerbated by dozens of shareholders, lienholders, court judgments and similar wranglings during the 1930s. By 1938 there were two factions battling for control, one led on site by Hobson and Perrin, the other by Wynn Copeland.

The mine was in litigation and two different factions were fighting for control... George Atkinson... had been appointed Trustee by Judge Dobson of a Portland Court... Atkinson had stopped in Roseburg to pick up a Sheriff who carried eviction papers to serve on a Wynn Copeland who was at the mine (Hartley 1997:4).

Laura Hartley, who lived at the Umpqua Mine and worked as the cook, had been hired by Atkinson to work at the mine as the cook, while her husband Shorty was to work as the watchman. The couple arrived in June 1938 to an operation that was largely dormant but was about to be reactivated.

As time went on we began to hear stories about our part of this hill county. So much money spent, stockholders bled of their life savings, the failure of the plant that Frank Hobson had built on this property, a fire that burnt the plant down, 850 feet of tunnel not producing the cinnabar they expected... (Hartley 1997:18).

Hartley reports that the Maud S., James R. and Pollanz cinnabar claims, all southeast of the Umpqua group, were all being worked to some degree in 1938 as Oregon's mercury production grew dramatically in response to world-wide economic issues. Historically, mercury has been mined in small quantities in Oregon, not for export, but for local use in the mining of gold.⁴ Major worldwide production had long come from Europe, principally Spain and Italy, where rich deposits allowed inexpensive production. Mercury mining in the United States had ebbed and flowed dependent upon the price per "flask" on the market.⁵ "The real development of Oregon's quicksilver industry began in 1927 under the impetus of high prices brought about by the impending establishment of the Spanish-Italian mercury cartel" (Brooks 1963:15).

Oregon, one of only ten states in the nation known to produce mercury in any quantity whatsoever, became an important source in the years between 1936 and 1944, when it ranked second nationally behind California. Douglas County, largely as the result of the Bonanza Mine in the Bonanza-Nonpareil area, has always been the single largest producing county in the state. Despite continued high prices, mercury production in Oregon fell off dramatically after World War II and has never recovered. "At present the outlook for quicksilver mining in Oregon is not bright... If and when

³ See Douglas County Mining Claims 10:509-515. Hobson and Perrin filed the Granada, and Queen SW claims jointly and then re-filed on the J. C., Uncle Billy, Granada SW No. 2, Elsie, Bonanza East Extension, Bonanza, Orbie, and Queen in various combinations with the other individuals.

⁴ Mercury was required for the amalgamation process in gold mining and reportedly was mined in Oregon as early as the 1850s (Diller 1914).

⁵ A "flask" of mercury is the standard production unit, equivalent to 76 pounds.

the economic climate becomes favorable, there is little doubt that Oregon will again produce substantial amounts of quicksilver (Brooks 1963:18).⁶

While the 1938-39 period at the Umpqua Mine represents a burst of energy, there is little evidence of any major production or activity at the mine.

The wheels of progress were turning at the Umpqua Mine. Tunnels were being cleaned out, rotten timber and overhead rigging replaced, buildings cleaned up and the cookhouse putting forth 3 bountiful meals each day (Hartley 1997:20).

Hartley reports that she and her husband Shorty, along with a Major Geise, one of the stockholders, produced a single flask of mercury under great secrecy in 1939. There was logically other, unrecorded, production, over the life of the mine (Hartley 1997:109). The Hartleys left the Umpqua Mine by Fall 1939, although the operation apparently continued sporadically. Ramp reports recorded production in 1943, with a total reported output over the life of mine as nine flasks. As Hartley's comments attest, however, there was presumably additional unreported production. There is no evidence, however, that the Umpqua Mine was ever a major factor in Oregon's, or even Douglas County's, mercury production.⁷

In 1946 P. A. Nichols, a resident of Stevens County, Washington, acquired control of both the Maud S. and Umpqua Mine group through a series of transactions. Following a Circuit Court decision, receiver George Atkinson was directed to sell the mines and Nichols obtained the Umpqua Group for a total of \$7,000.00 (Douglas County 1946:196-97). Otto Stoehr, Mineral Surveyor, recorded the combined "Umpqua and Maud S. Groups" as the claim of P. A. Nichols on Mineral Survey No. 883, filed with the BLM in Portland on February 17, 1949 (Figure 3). Reportedly Nichols sold the mine to Bernard Young and Steep Cooper in 1954. It was again sold in the mid-1960s to a Norman Wood of Montana. There is no known indication of any activity at the Umpqua Mine following Nichols' 1949 survey.⁸

⁶ Five mines have produced the vast majority of Oregon's quicksilver. These are the Bonanza (closed and dismantled in 1960), the Horse Heaven Mine (last operated in 1955 and closed in 1958), the Bretz and Black Butte mines (last operated in 1960), and the Opalite Mine, disposition uncertain. Only the Bonanza, which alone accounted for 38% of Oregon's production, was located on the western side of the Cascade Mountains (Brooks 1963).

⁷ The Bonanza Mine, located east of Sutherlin in central Douglas County, was one of the largest mercury mines in the nation during the late 1930s and total production is estimated at 39,540 flasks, most between 1938 and 1960 (Ramp 1972:51).

⁸ One source, (Bureau of Land Management 1979) incorrectly reports that Nichols acquired the mines in 1938. Legal transfers first connect him to the mine eight years later and he does not appear in Hartley's account of the 1938-1939 period of activity.

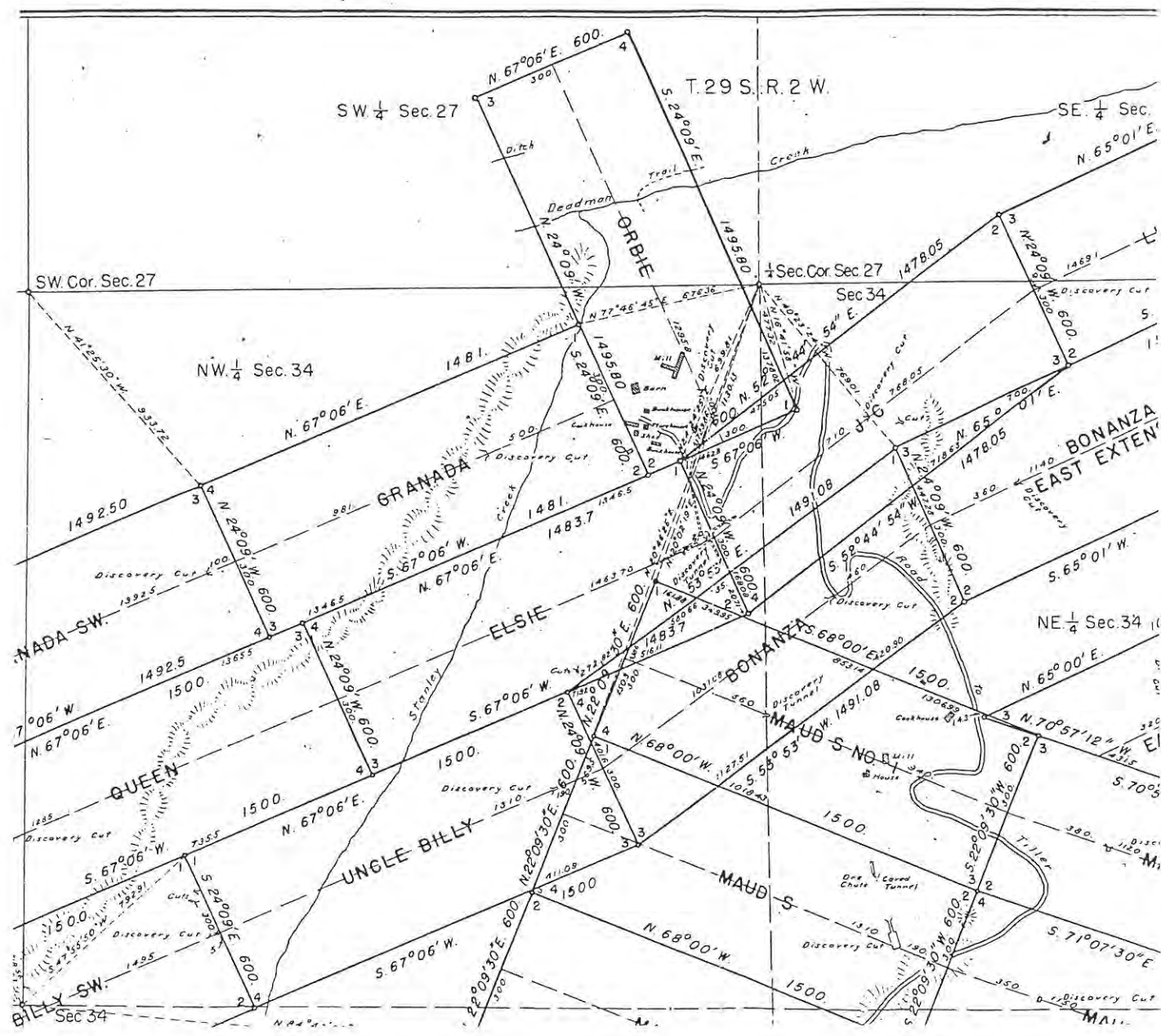


Figure 3. Mineral Survey No. 883, known as the "Umpqua and Maud S Groups," February 1949 (Douglas County Surveyor's Office, Mineral Surveys Book).

5. Records Search

The Umpqua Mine was documented by the *Douglas County Cultural and Historical Resource Inventory* in 1982 under the “Buena Vista” name, which lists Norman Wood as the property owner. The Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries [DOGAMI], as well as other government agencies, have documented mercury mining in Oregon through a series of publications. Of particular value to this assessment is C. N. Schuette’s *Quicksilver in Oregon*, published in 1938 and Howard C. Brooks update of the same title, published in 1963.

File records provided by the Roseburg District of the Bureau of Land Management included field notes, historic photographs, and various photocopied sources. Laura Hartley’s first hand account of life at the mine, *Tailings from the Old Umpqua Mine* (1997) as well as her biographical sketch printed in *Histories-Biographies-Reminiscences of Tiller Ranger District* (Hartley 1993) were provided by the Tiller Ranger District of the Umpqua National Forest.

The Mining Claims, Mining Conveyances books, as well as their indexes, at the Douglas County Courthouse in Roseburg provided specific documentation on the various transfers of title, location filings, surveys and related materials concerning the legal ownership of the Umpqua group.

Secondary archival sources on the history of mercury mining in the Douglas County region included cultural resource reports for both the Roseburg District BLM, the Umpqua National Forest (Beckham and Minor 1992), and *Land of the Umpqua* (Beckham 1986), printed by Douglas County. Understanding of the larger regional mining history was aided by *Mining in Southwestern Oregon: A Historic Context Statement*, currently in preparation by the author for the Medford District of the Bureau of Land Management, in partnership with the Rogue River and Siskiyou National Forests.

6. Field Methods

A pedestrian survey of the Umpqua Mine was performed by George Kramer, M.S., on June 6, 1999. Identified features on the site map (Figure 4) mapped by J. Goodwin in May 1998 and redrawn by Kevin McCornack of HRA were field checked and verified, beginning with the northern half of the mine site (Features 7-15) and then on the southern half (Features 1-6 and 16). Feature F.5 was not located. Corrections and annotations to the map were provided for revision and inclusion in the final attached site map. Photographs of current condition of the majority of resources were shot and structural conditions and other information noted for inclusion in this report. General access to the mine was good, with Features F.1, F.7 and the Main Ore Bin (F.8) all visible from BLM Road 29-2-26.0.

7. Survey Results

As documented on the accompanying site map, there are a number of identified historic and cultural resource features at the Umpqua Mine. Organizational structure and some descriptive comments are from “Umpqua Mine: List of Extant Structures, Ruins, and Recognizable Features,” recorded on May 12, 1998, revised October 8, 1998 and included in the Roseburg District file (BLM

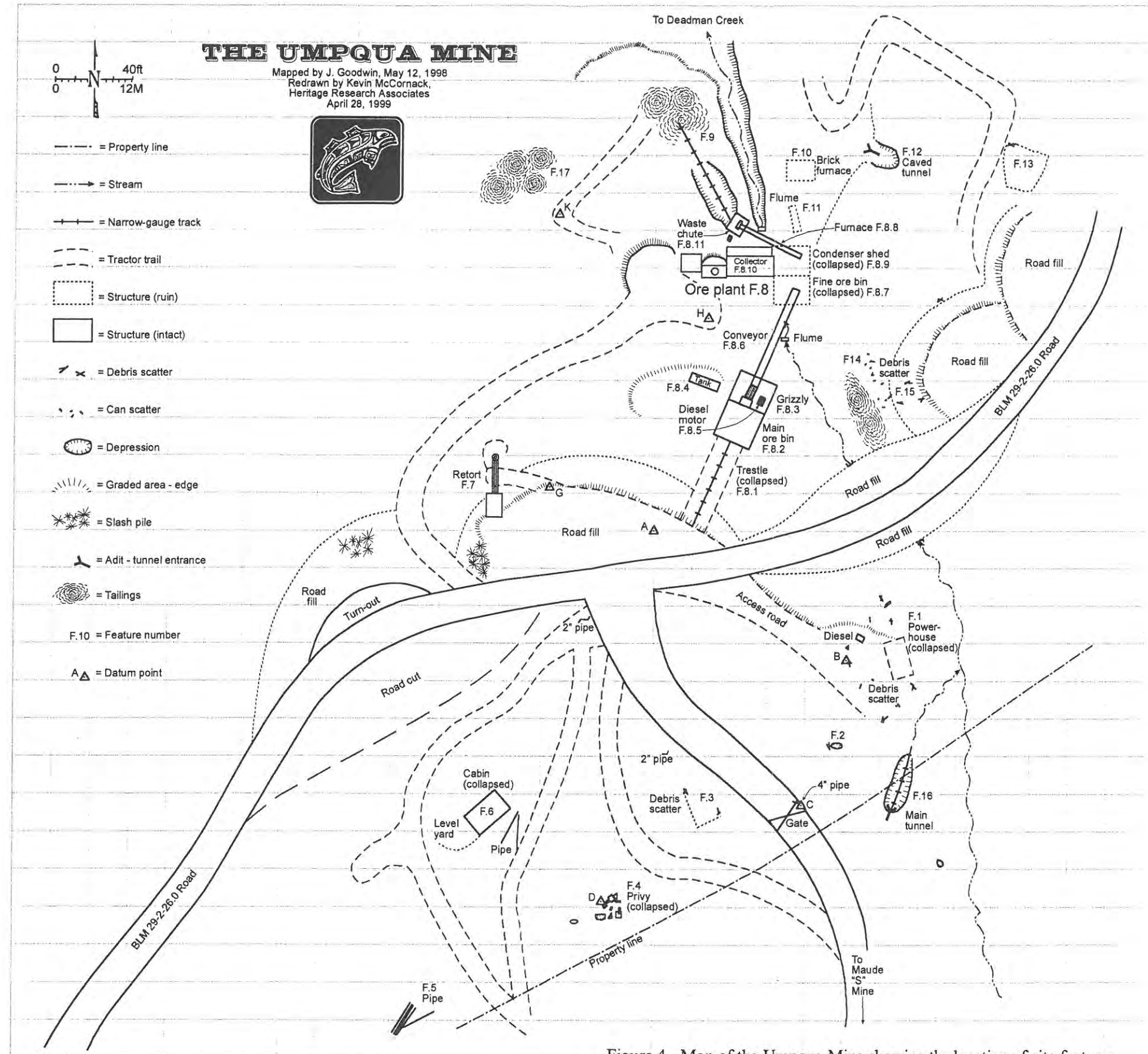


Figure 4. Map of the Umpqua Mine showing the location of site features.

Roseburg District 1998). By identification these are detailed below, along with a brief description of construction, historical accounts where appropriate, and present condition.

F.1 COLLAPSED STRUCTURE; Powerhouse and associated debris; probably location of a blacksmith shop, men's bathhouse (Hartley 1997:17-18). A wood-frame structure only partially standing, this feature includes a series of large (24" diameter) steel pulleys set on an arbor and pillow blocks. Nearby lies the partially dismantled diesel engine that powered the generator. "...[in front of the main tunnel] was another building containing the engine that ran an air compressor for starting the big Atlas Imperial Diesel engine that ran the 55,000 watt generator which supplied electricity for the plant and the entire camp" (Hartley 1997:17-18).

F.2 DEPRESSION, 2.5-3 feet deep, scattered boards; possible privy

F.3 COLLAPSED STRUCTURE; probable location of men's bunkhouse (Hartley 1997:17-18).

F.4 COLLAPSED STRUCTURE and rectangular depression, probable location of men's privy (Hartley 1997:17).

F.5 4" FLANGED STEEL PIPE, 18' long sections, nine pieces (Hartley 1997:56-57).

F.6 COLLAPSED STRUCTURE, log cabin approximately 22' x 15' (Hartley 1997:16, 21). There are two additional 4" flanged steel pipe sections located to the south. Photos of this feature taken in 1998 indicate that it was partially standing and of small notched log construction. Further decay, as evident in June 1999, leave the cabin with little standing elements and the entire debris pile is less than 36" above grade at any point. Roofing was originally green asphalt shingle with a steel ridge at the gable peak. *"From the back porch a narrow steep little trail wound its way up the hillside to a one-room log cabin. Sturdily built of peeled logs, a steep roof, 1 window that looked down on the cook shack and small front porch where you entered the front door. No one lived there"* (Hartley 1997:15).

F.7 RETORT, This large steel feature is sited on the sloped grade immediately north of the road bed. Approximately 3' tall and 5' wide with four 13" diameter chambers running the full 14' length. A 36" diameter welded steel furnace, with surviving smoke stack, is located at the bottom of the retort with connecting overhead piping of approximately 6" diameter steel remaining. An earlier report states that this retort is a "converted dump truck bed with furnace and stack." However the construction of the retort supports the historic description which states, *"Sitting right out here is a Johnson-McKay Retort with 500lb capacity..."* (Hartley 1997:107).

F.8 MAIN ORE PROCESSING PLANT AND ASSOCIATED STRUCTURES

F.8.1 *Trestle, collapsed:* a wooden structure built of pole and rough-sawn lumber with a heavy wooden decking that originally providing dump access from the road bed to the Main Ore bin. Two 12" [+/-] diameter log posts frame the entry at the north side of BLM Road 29-2-26.0.

F.8.2 *Main Ore bin,* partially collapsed: A large, multi-story gable roofed structure built of 14" diameter log pole vertical members, rough-sawn (RS) lumber and pole horizontals and 2.5" x 10" RS (rough-sawn) interior cribbing. A corrugated metal roof is partially missing and the NE corner of the structure is collapsed under the weight of ore that remained inside. Severe compression to the 12" x 12" RS sills, especially at the SE corner, indicate that this structure will soon collapse even further.

- F.8.3 *Rotary Grizzly*: A cast and welded manufactured steel piece of equipment with a 30" diameter cage comprised of forty ½" x 2" bars approximately 10-12' in length. A 3" diameter steel drive shaft was apparently powered by the diesel motor (F.8.5). The Grizzly, manufactured by the Acme Road Machinery Company of Frankfort, New York ("Patent Applied For") is generally intact. The grizzly rests on a poured concrete foundation.
- F.8.4 *Diesel Fuel Tank*: A large diameter (4') welded steel tank set on piers, located near the NW corner of the ore bin. Although showing evidence of being used as a target by vandals, the tank is generally intact.
- F.8.5 *Diesel Motor*: partially disassembled, this power source for the grizzly is located at the SE corner of the ore bin. A surviving radiator cover is marked "Buda," presumably the manufacturer.
- F.8.6 *Conveyor*: A covered wooden bridge-like structure that apparently helped move processed ore from the grizzly to the fine ore bin. This feature is partially intact, built on RS wooden trestles with a heavy 2½" thick wood decking approximately 36" wide forming a walking surface.
- F.8.7 *Fine Ore bin*, collapsed: Standing as recently as 1981-82 according to available historic images, this log and RS lumber structure, is largely collapsed.
- F.8.8 *Rotary Furnace*: Described as a "Gould-type Furnace" by Hartley (1997:140), this feature is built of heavy riveted steel plates formed into a tube approximately 36" in diameter and 30' long. Two end boxes provide support and access for ore loading and removal. A series of steel trunnions are located along the length to support the spinning furnace during operation. Heavy machined gears and other features indicate this was a specially built piece of equipment but no manufacturer's label or other identification was noted. The interior of the furnace is lined with fire-brick. "*Then Shorty heard him [Roy Hickman] ordering all new special made fire brick for the big 36" Gould-type tube about 60' long (sic)... The bricks were shipped into Riddle [and] Bill Cox picked them with his truck and hauled them up to Salt Creek where the mine crew transferred them to Carl Hill's trailer and Carl brought them into the mine*" (Hartley 1997:140).
- F.8.9 *Condenser Shed*: A fairly large, approximately 12' x 25' open structure, the condenser shed is built of heavy 4" x 6" and larger RS timbers with cross-bracing of smaller stock. Essentially a gable-roofed volume, there is no roof sheathing present and it is uncertain whether or not there ever was. On the west side of the structure a series of eight and a half undulating 12" diameter steel tubes are connected to a similar series of nine chimney-type features built of sections of glazed terra cotta piping, also approximately 12" in diameter. The terra cotta pipes are marked, from south-to-north, with hand-painted numbers. Elements of the Condenser Shed are identified as the product of the "Independent Foundry, Portland, Ore." Some of the terra cotta elements are broken but the condenser shed is generally intact. According to Hartley, the condenser pre-dates 1938 (Hartley 1997:137).
- F.8.10 *Collector*: At the northern end of the condenser shed, a half-height steel tube leads to a "dust collector" or blower of some unknown function. Constructed similarly to the other elements, this feature is approximately 6' high and remains substantially intact. The South Umpqua URA reports that "...Gases from the dust

collector go to a baffle box, then to iron pipe condensers 12" in diameter and 20 feet long, then to another baffle box, and finally to tile pipe condenser and stacks" (Bureau of Land Management 1979).

- F.8.11 *Waste chute*: Beginning from a cast concrete pier that supports the northern end of the rotary furnace, the waste chute is a partially steel-lined drop point that leads back into the Stanley Creek flume.
- F.9 **TAILINGS, NARROW GAUGE RAIL GRADE WITH TRACK**: Exiting the waste chute, this tailings pile of debris was created after processing at the Main Plant.
- F.10 **BRICK FURNACE**, partially collapsed: Stoutly constructed of multi-wythe mortared brick, the exact nature and date of this 10' x 10' [+/-] structure is uncertain. (A wythe is a brick unit referring to one layer of brick.)
- F.11 **SLIGHT DEPRESSION**: reportedly remains of older processing, ties, bolts, possible narrow gauge track.
- F.12 **ADIT**, collapsed at entrance: This adit and tunnel of unknown depth are entirely collapsed, remaining as a depression in the slope just east of F.10.
- F.13 **COLLAPSED STRUCTURE**: There are two possible references in Hartley that may relate to this structure, located at the extreme NE of the mine compound area. These include either "Uncle Billy's Cabin," a very early one-room dwelling used by William S. Webb during the mine's earliest development period (Hartley 1997:24) although it was supposed to be "across Deadman's Creek," and the cabin that was "up on the hill" according to Hartley and reserved for use by stockholders and other "elite" (Hartley 1997:114).
- F.14 **LINEAR MOUND**, possible tailings pile.
- F.15 **DEBRIS SCATTER**, possible wood structure, can dump (displaced by recent road construction)
- F.16 **OPEN CUT/MAIN ADIT**, with narrow gauge track. This is the large opening to the main tunnel and shaft system of the Umpqua Mine. The approximately 8' high opening remains intact for a depth of 15-20' where the first tier of wood-post shoring remains visible. "The main adit contains about 480 feet of crosscuts and 350 of drifts. It is connected by raises and stopes to intermediate and upper levels which contain 60 feet and 100 feet of drifts respectively" (Ramp 1972:51).
- F.17 **TAILINGS PILE**: These waste mounds are located at the extreme NW corner of the mining compound, north of the BLM road.

According to both Mineral Survey No. 883 and numerous references in Hartley, there were likely a number of other structures built in connection with the Umpqua Mine operation that either no longer survive in any recognizable fashion or remain undiscovered. The 1949 Mineral Survey documents two "bunkhouses", a storehouse, a barn and the cookhouse in addition to the main "mill" facility all located on the "Orbie" claim. Structures on the Umpqua Mine, extant in 1938 according to Hartley, cannot be conclusively connected to remaining structures or debris piles. These structures include "... a small square building at the end of the walk," the cook-shack (mentioned repeatedly as Hartley was the mine's cook) a 60' long bunkhouse and the men's outhouse (probably F.3 and F.4), another one-room shack "...large enough for two bunks and stove," and the blacksmith shop/assay office/men's shower room, at least portions of which are probably identified as F.1. (Hartley 1997:15-18).

8. Preliminary Site Evaluation

The Umpqua Mine was developed within a broader pattern characterizing mercury mining in the first half of the 20th century that resulted from worldwide mercury market fluctuation. This was especially true following the creation of a European mercury cartel and the disruption of the two World Wars. The Umpqua Mine's development history, with location in 1913 and further development during the 1920s-1930s period that represented a large upswing in the development of new mercury mines throughout Oregon, is typical of the pattern of most mercury mining operations in Oregon. Mercury mining was especially significant in Douglas County, where several operations, including the Umpqua, were developed during the pre-WWII era.

The mining and processing of mercury generated jobs, drew in outside investment and, for a time, in the 1930s and the 1940s, played an important role in the economy of Douglas County (Beckham 1986:228).

In comparison to other identified mercury mining sites in the general region, the Umpqua Mine appears to retain a high degree of integrity as that term is applied to mining-related cultural resources.⁹ As a result, despite its own limited production, the exceptional integrity and comparative completeness of its mining features serve to make the Umpqua Mine a potential exemplar of the significant development of mercury mining operations in the early-to-mid 20th century. Pending additional study the site **should be considered potentially eligible** for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion "A" for its association with the development of the mercury mining industry in the Western Cascades.

9. Recommendations

The Umpqua Mine site retains sufficient integrity and potentially significant association with the development and history of the mercury mining industry in Douglas County to merit additional research and study, possibly leading to a formal Determination of Eligibility to the National Register of Historic Places. Additional work required to make such a determination includes further review of the history of the Umpqua Mine's specific development and operation, more detailed interviews with Shorty and Laura Hartley to gain increased understanding of the relationships between the surviving resources, and a further analysis of the relationship between the Umpqua Mine and the adjacent, patented, Maud S. group. Perhaps most important is a comparative review of other, larger, mercury mining sites, most notably those in the Bonanza-Nonpareil area, to help establish whether or not the

⁹ See NR Bulletin 42 for standard integrity assessment as it pertains to mining resources. Limited review of other identified mercury mining sites in southern Oregon for this project included the "Red Cloud Mine," located on the Tiller Ranger District [32S-3W-20 and 21], which was reported by Umpqua National Forest personnel as retaining a "...few foundations and pipes" but little else. The Chisholm Mine, located in Jackson County on the Medford District of the BLM [34S-2W-20] has been documented as Cultural Resource Site 35HS11-92. According to the site form, "the remains include three cinnabar retorts...most of the structures are either collapsed or in a state of disrepair..." (Winthrop 1991). The site description reports a fairly intact site, although of less complexity and scale than the Umpqua Mine. For example, the retorts are of native rock or brick rather than manufacturer steel, and there is nothing comparable to the grizzly and condenser system of the subject property.

Umpqua Mine does indeed remain the best surviving exemplar of the mercury mining era in the region. If the Umpqua Mine does prove to be National Register eligible, a complete physical assessment and management strategy should be developed to guide its continued use and preserve its features for the public.

In light of the above, specific recommendations for historic documentation and management planning needed for the Umpqua Mine include the following:

1. Historical Assessment & Documentation:

Tasks:

- a) Additional archival review of ownership and development history,
- b) Oral history interviews with Shorty and Laura Hartley, possible location of other individuals familiar with the mine including P. A. Nichols and Norman Wood,
- c) Additional field work to locate and document any additional resources sites,
- d) Comparative analysis with other mercury mines, most especially in the Bonanza-Nonpareil area vicinity,
- e) Clarification of the relationship between the Maud S. and Umpqua mines; clarification of whether or not any built resources remain on the former site,
- f) Prepare, finalize and submit a formal request for a Determination of Eligibility to the District for ultimate review by the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office.

2. Management Planning:

Tasks:

- a) Physical inspection of the site by professionals with expertise in structural; engineering and stabilization, hazardous materials abatement (if required), wildlife protection (if required), timber management, fire suppression, preservation and historic interpretation,
- b) A management plan for extant resources determining best practice from a public safety, resource management and cultural resource standpoint should be developed.
- c) Funding opportunities for interpretation potential at the Umpqua Mine site, possibly in conjunction with the Maud S. Mine, should be explored and, if appropriate, interpretive materials prepared.

10. Summary

The Umpqua Mine appears to have a strong potential eligibility for listing on the National Register of Historic Places and, pending a final determination, should be managed in recognition of that potential. In the interim, any adjacent project of the Roseburg District of the Bureau of Land Management should be undertaken only after consultation with the District's Cultural Resource staff and designed so as to minimize impacts on the integrity of the mine site to the greatest degree feasible. The Umpqua Mine should be adequately signed with notices that it is a significant cultural resource and that any tampering, artifact collection or vandalism will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

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Figure 5. Collapsed structure, probable powerhouse [Feature F.1], Umpqua Mine, looking east (note diesel engine at left), June 1999.



Figure 6. Collapsed structure, probable location of Men's' Bunkhouse [Feature F.3], Umpqua Mine, looking NE, June 1999.



Figure 7. Collapsed “one room log cabin,” [Feature F.6], Umpqua Mine, looking east, June 1999.



Figure 8. Johnson-Kay Retort [Feature F.7]], Umpqua Mine, looking north, June 1999.



Figure 9. Retort Furnace, [Feature F.6], Umpqua Mine, looking northwest, June 1999.

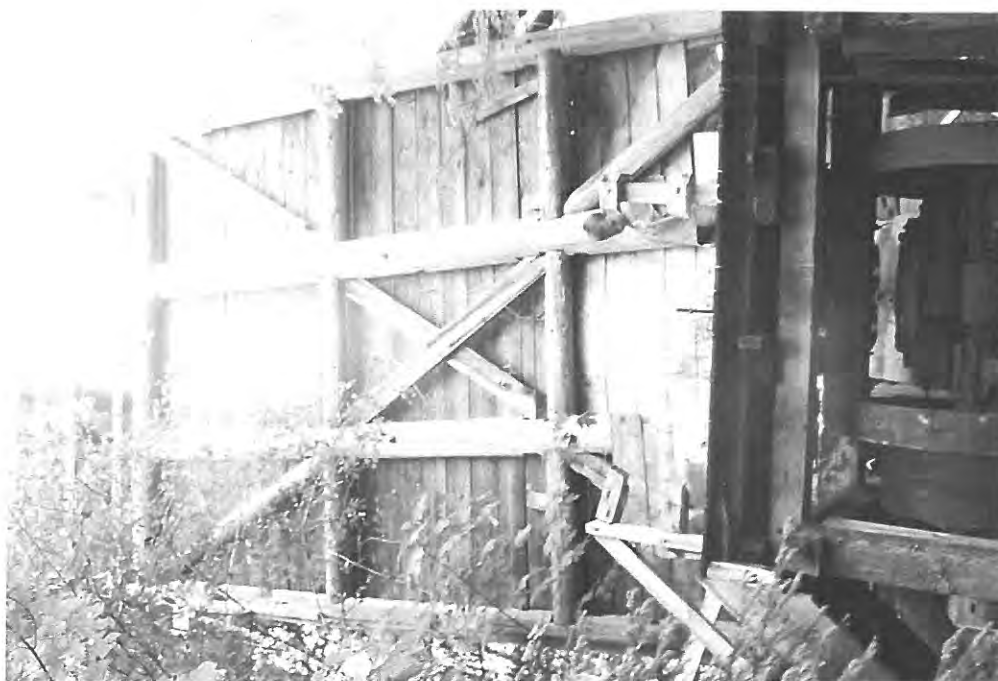


Figure 10. Main Ore Processing Plant [Feature F.8.2] Umpqua Mine, looking west, June 1999.



Figure 11. Main Ore Processing Plant detail [Feature F.8.2; note structural compression], Umpqua Mine, looking SW, June 1999.

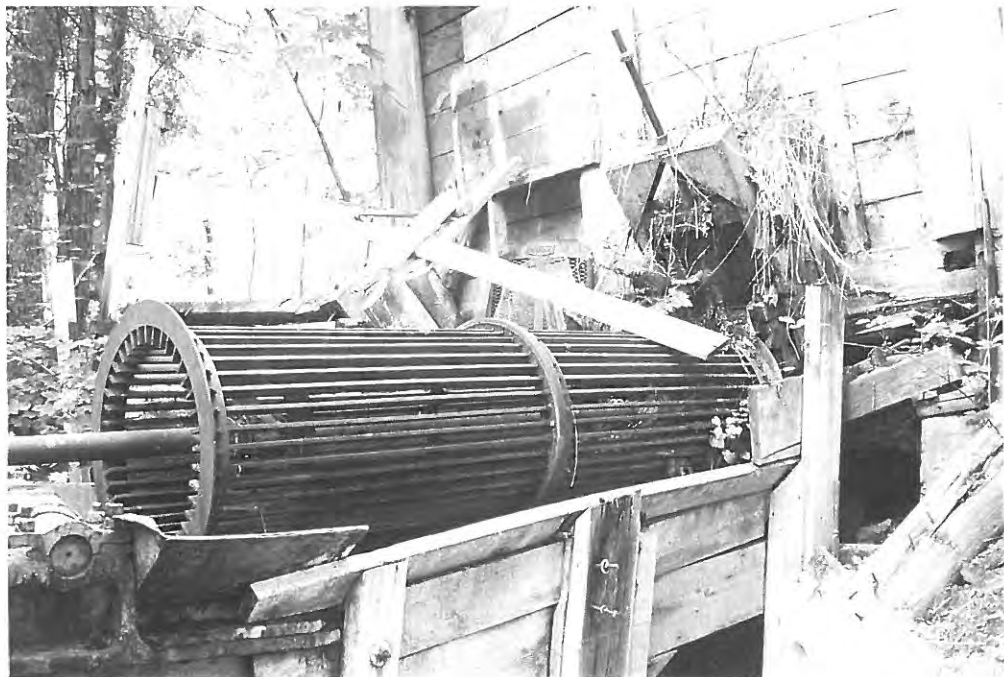


Figure 12. Rotary Grizzly [Feature F.8.3.], Umpqua Mine, looking SW, June 1999.

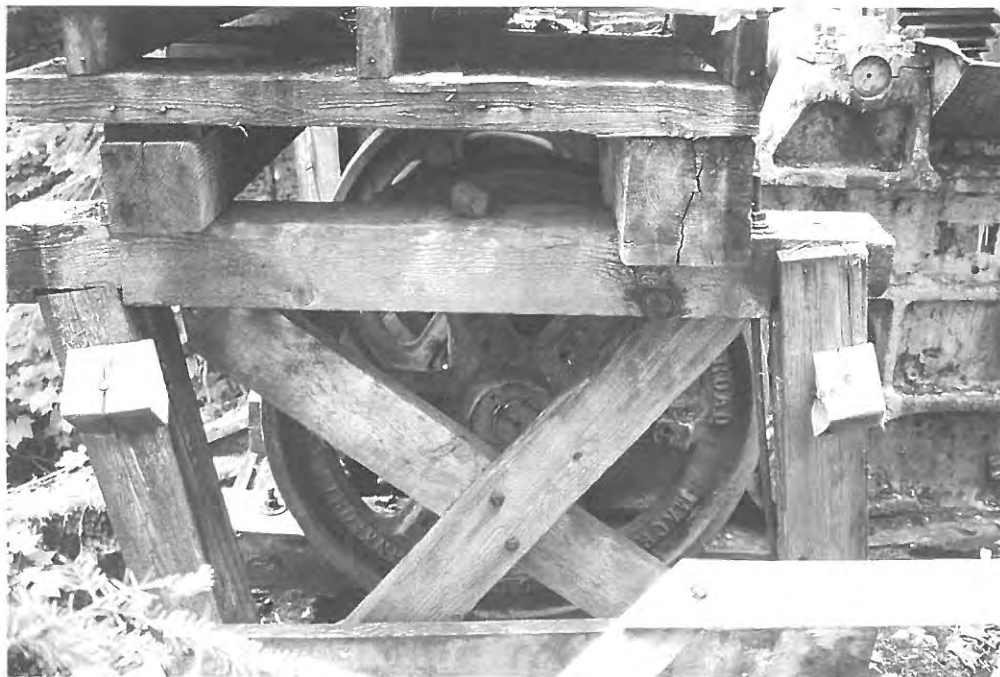


Figure 13. Detail of Rotary Grizzly [Feature F.8.3], Umpqua Mine, looking south, June 1999.



Figure 14. Diesel Motor [Feature F.8.5], Umpqua Mine, looking north, June 1999.



Figure 15. Rotary Furnace, "hopper," [Feature F.8.8], Umpqua Mine, looking north, June 1999.



Figure 16. Rotary Furnace, [Feature F.8.8], Umpqua Mine, looking north, June 1999.



Figure 17. Condenser Shed [Feature F.8.9], Umpqua Mine, looking SE, June 1999.

Figure 18. Condenser Shed, Terra Cotta detail, [Feature F.8.9], Umpqua Mine, looking west, June 1999.





Figure 19. Brick Furnace, portion [Feature F.10], Umpqua Mine, looking NE, June 1999.



Figure 20. Main Adit [Feature F.12], Umpqua Mine, looking north, June 1999.