

VANADIUM CORPORATION OF AMERICA

HAER No. CO-81-K

(VCA) NATURITA MILL, MECHANIC SHED

approximately three miles northwest of Naturita,
between Colorado State Highway and
the San Miguel River

Vicinity of Naturita

Montrose County

Colorado

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Denver, Colorado 80225-0287

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

VANADIUM CORPORATION OF AMERICA (VCA) NATURITA MILL,
MECHANIC SHED

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- Location:** In northwest quadrant of mill complex, northwest of Brick Skinner Salt Roaster, approximately three miles northwest of Naturita, between Colorado State Highway 141 to the southwest and the San Miguel River to the northeast; in the NW1/4 of the SW1/4 of Section 14, Township 46 North, Range 16 West
- Date of Construction:** 1960-61
- Designer:** VCA Naturita Mill, Mines Department
- Builder:** Built by VCA employees working under the direction of Troy Newland, master mechanic, Tom Kelly, assistant master mechanic, and Bob Newland, mill supervisor
- Present Owner:** Cyprus-Amax Minerals Corporation, 9100 E. Mineral Circle, Englewood, CO, 80112
- Present Use:** Vacant / Not in Use
- Significance:** Built in 1960-61, the Mechanic's Shed was used by the VCA as a supply facility where miners could obtain mining equipment. VCA ordered mining equipment from supply houses in Grand Junction and Salt Lake City, and sold it here for ten percent over their cost. At that margin, VCA did not profit from these sales. By offering mining equipment at slightly over wholesale prices, however, the company did encourage mining activity, and thereby benefit in the long run.
- General Description:** The mill Mechanic Shed was a single-story, simple rectangular building, constructed of a rigid steel post (i.e. pipe columns) and beam framework, in twelve foot bays, on a concrete foundation. Metal pipe sections were also used for cross bracing. The roof structure, forming a moderately sloped, asymmetrical gable, consisted of steel trusses fabricated from 2-1/2 inch diameter pipes and an "I" section bottom chord. Wall and roof sheathing was unpainted, corrugated sheet metal.
- The building's two exterior access doors, sheathed with corrugated metal as well, were located diagonally opposite each other: one on the southeast side in the northeast corner and the other on the northwest side in the southwest corner of the building. Four large (12x12 foot) coiling metal overhead doors were ganged together on the southwest (front) side, and another similar door was located at the northwest end

of the northeast side. There were no windows.

The building interior was open, with a built in workbench running along the northeast wall.