

Moonlight Mining Camp  
Sec. 30, T8N, R12W, Princeton Gulch  
Maxville vicinity  
Granite County  
Montana

HAER No. MT-46

HAER  
MONT,  
20 - MAX.V,  
2-

PHOTOGRAPH

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record  
National Park Service  
Rocky Mountain Regional Office  
Department of the Interior  
P.O. Box 25287  
Denver, Colorado 80225

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UTM: 12.335290.5143320 (A)  
12.335720.5143460 (B)  
12.335710.5143440 (C)  
12.335285.5143230 (D)

Quad: Maxville

Date of Construction: ca. 1930s

Present Owner: Deerlodge National Forest  
U. S. Forest Service

Original Use: Mining camp

Present Use: Seasonal residences

Significance: Few mining camps in Montana are as complete, intact,  
and unaltered as the Moonlight Mining camp. It is an  
excellent example of the distinctive characteristics  
of the type, period, and method of construction  
inherent in historic twentieth century lode mining  
operations.

Researchers: Craig Holstine and Glen Lindeman, AHS, Eastern  
Washington University, 1983

Transmitted by: Jean P. Yearby, HAER, 1985

The Moonlight Mining Company was incorporated in Montana on August 24, 1936. Thirty unpatented claims in the Boulder Creek Mining District were acquired by the firm, which intended to mine for silver, lead, copper, and gold ores. A 4,000-foot tunnel and 250-foot shaft were opened at the Moonlight Mine as of 1930, while a crew of 12 men did both development and shipping work. The mine apparently shut down during World War II.

The mining camp is located in Princeton Gulch at a point 1.25 miles northeast of the town of Princeton. The small settlement sits in a forested area on the south side of Princeton Creek. A Forest Service road in Princeton Gulch passes through the camp.

Located here are eight structures, including three intact cabins, a deteriorated metal building, an abandoned root cellar, a deteriorated ore chute, and two cabins with collapsed roofs. In addition, there are several privies, a large tailings pile and other mining remains, and evidence of a half-dozen razed or burned structures.

All of the cabins are composed of peeled logs, sawn at the corners and saddle notched. The roofs of two cabins have fallen in, and sheet metal has been nailed to the board roofs of the structures. Two of the cabins are well maintained and remain in excellent condition. They appear to be occupied seasonally as recreational cabins

References: Articles of Incorporation, Moonlight Mining Company, August 24, 1936, Granite County Clerk and Recorder's Office, Philipsburg.

Index of Mining Districts, Granite County, Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology Memoir No. 20, 1940, p. 31.

Directory of Mining Enterprises for 1970, Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology Bulletin No. 82, 1971, p. 8.

Directory of Mining Enterprises for 1974, Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology Bulletin No. 94, p. 9.