

Royal Basin Mine and Mill Site  
Maxville vicinity  
Granite County  
Montana

HAER No. MT-47

HAER  
MONT,  
20-MAX.V,  
3-

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

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

HAER  
MONT,  
20-MAX.V  
3-

Royal Basin Mine and Mill Site

HAER No. MT-47

Location: Sec. 21, T8N, R13W  
Maxville vicinity, Granite County, Montana

UTM: 12.328850.5144000 (A)  
12.328950.5143720 (B)  
12.328715.5143560 (C)  
12.328440.5143730 (D)

Quad: Maxville

Date of Construction: ca. 1906-1920s

Present Owner: Charles Lane  
U. S. Forest Service  
Deerlodge National Forest  
Maxville, Montana

Original Use: Mine and mill

Present Use: Abandoned mining claim

Significance: The Royal Basin was one of the larger outfits in a region noted for numerous and varied mining operations. The intensive development and large-scale investment in the mine made an important contribution to the prosperity of the Maxville area, particularly in the 1910s. Furthermore, it was one of the most significant attempts in the entire Flint Creek valley to develop the copper industry, although this effort failed in the long run.

Researcher s: Craig Holstein and Glen Lindeman, AHS, Eastern Washington University, 1983

Transmitted by: Jean P. Yearby, HAER, 1985

The partially demolished remains of the Royal Basin Copper Mine and Mill are situated immediately west of Forest Service Road 679, at a point 2.5 miles south of Maxville in Wyman Gulch. About 20 structures once stood in the mining settlement immediately north of the Royal Basin Mine and Mill. Most of these features now are no more than piles of boards and timbers, or rectangular depressions in the ground. Several cabins are partially standing, but the roofs have fallen in. Mining claims were first staked at this location on August 10-11, 1906. Intensive development continued after the Royal Basin Mining and Milling Company acquired the mine about 1910. Despite these vigorous efforts, the mine never did become a successful long-term producer of copper. The Royal Basin Mine was abandoned by the early 1930s or before.

References:

Quartz Record, Book 12, Granite County Clerk and Recorder's Office, Philipsburg, pp. 215-216.

F. C. Calkins and W. H. Emmons, USGS Geological Atlas, Philipsburg folio (No. 196), 1915, p. 2; and William Harvey Emmons and Frank Cathcart Calkins, Geology and Ore Deposits of the Philipsburg Quadrangle, Montana, U. S. Geological Survey Professional Paper 78, 1913, pp. 259, 262.

Report of State Inspector of Mines for the Years 1911-1912, Independent Publishing Helena, 1912, pp. 62-63, 65.