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NW-30-16 Item 8
Hg

Mining District: WASHINGTON HILL MINE
(Mercury)

T. 18 N., R. 21 E.
Storey County, Nevada
USGS Virginia City 15-min. quadrangle (1950)

GENERAL BACKGROUND

The Washington Hill (Root) Mine is located in section 5, T. 18 N., R. 21 E., about 1 mile southwest of Washington Hill. This mine was discovered in the early 1940's, and a few flasks of mercury have probably been produced (1).

GEOLOGICAL AND TECHNICAL DATA

The oldest rocks in the area are andesite flows and breccias of the Kate Peak Formation. Intrusive and extrusive rhyolite occurs east and southeast of the mine. The andesites of the Kate Peak Formation have been extensively altered and bleached.

Cinnabar occurs as minute encrustations, disseminations, and in irregular veinlets along north-trending faults and fractures in the Kate Peak Formation.

POTENTIAL FOR DEVELOPMENT

The general low-grade nature of the mineralization, inaccessability, and depressed mercury market make it unlikely that this deposit will be exploited in the near future. If mercury were to reach the 1968 levels of $500-$600 per flask, interest in the property might be revived, depending of course upon the "proving-up" of adequate grades and reserves.

Past workings consist of several adits, numerous bulldozer trenches, and small open pits. If this property were to become active, the mercury ore would be mined from open pits. The recovery of the mercury would probably take place on the property by the use of retorts or furnaces.

In an idealized hydrothermal vein system, "bonanza" gold and silver ore would theoretically be deposited below the zone containing mercury. No gold and silver has been produced from the Washington Hill Mine, but the potential, however slight, for this type of mineralization does exist. Inasmuch as great thicknesses of Cenozoic volcanics overlie the basement rocks in the area, the potential for discovery and exploitation of ore deposits in the basement is almost non-existant.

COMPANIES AND CLAIMANTS ACTIVE IN AREA

Unknown.

Bennett, Dec. 1972

SELECTED REFERENCES

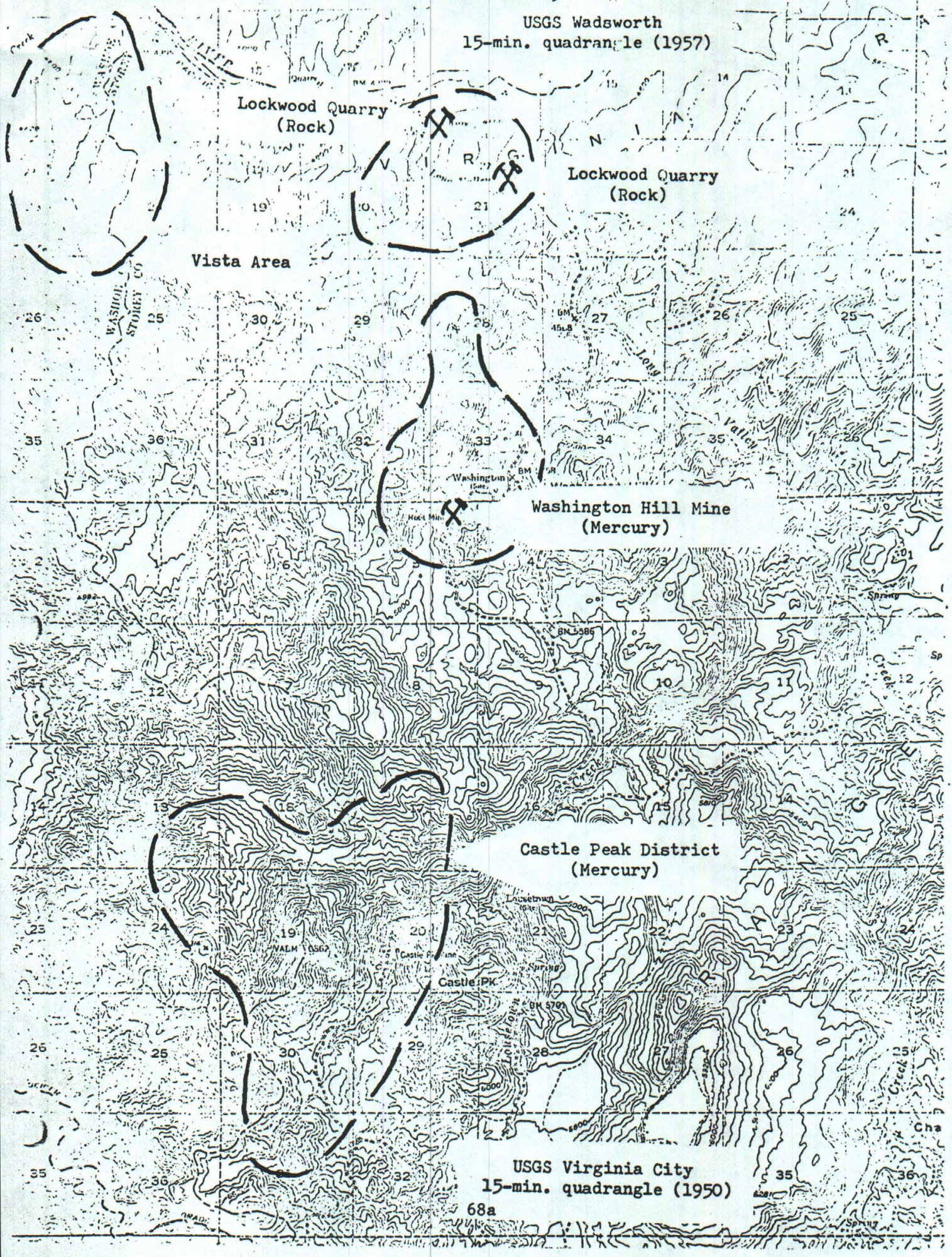
1. Bailey and Phoenix: Quicksilver Deposits in Nevada; Univ. Nev. Bull. 5, 1944.

2. Bonham and Papke: Geology and Mineral Resources in Washoe and Storey Counties, Nevada; Nev; Bur; Mines Bull. 70, 1969. (Includes Geologic Map of Resource Area)

FIELD EXAMINATION

Bennett, Nov. 1972

Bennett, Dec. 1972


USGS Wadsworth
15-min. quadrangle (1957)
Lockwood Quarry
(Rock)
Lockwood Quarry
(Rock)
Vista Area
Washington Hill Mine
(Mercury)
Castle Peak District
(Mercury)
USGS Virginia City
15-min. quadrangle (1950)
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Taken from:

Mineral Resources Inventory and Analysis

of the

Pyramid Resource Area

Carson City District
Nevada and California

by

R. E. Bennett and H. W. Mallery

1973

See Washoe County-general file for the complete introduction to this report
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