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Item 6

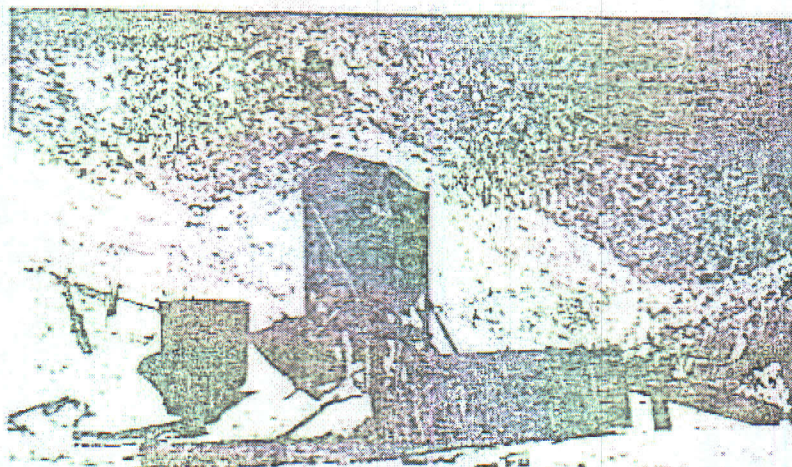
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Location Number: ES 022

Location: Cuprite
Coordinates: 37°33' / 117°11' T53 R43E S32
Elevation: 5040'
Map Sources: USGS Goldfield Quadrangle; Clason 1906
References: Paher; Carlson; Myrick; Ball; URS/Blume Files; Personal Communication with Roche; Site Investigation 7/11/77
Photographs: Plus-X-JMC#1: OA-0
Status: Potential National Register Site

Cuprite is a mile-wide mining district that stretches northward for seven miles along the western edge of Stonewall Flat from a point just above the bed of a dry lake. To the southeast, Stonewall Mountain rises more than 8,000 feet above sea level. Stonewall Springs, about 17 miles away, is the nearest natural source of water. Chert and chalcedony quarries associated with early Indian mining are found in the area. White chert is visible among the low vegetation of the district's scarred hillsides.

The town of Cuprite began when copper ore was first found in the early 1900s. After the Bullfrog mines began to be developed, an inn at Cuprite became a stopping place for travelers. By 1907, the town had become a station on the recently completed Bullfrog Goldfield Railroad. It flourished as the shipping point for several mining camps until about 1908, when the camps declined. The town has disappeared; a few structures at one of the mining camps remain.



The principal structure at the site is a wooden hopper 12' x 6' x 25 feet high. Adjacent to the hopper is a cylindrical metal structure, 25 feet long and 5 feet in diameter, that was used to pulverize the ore. The cylinder is lined with smooth cut stones of chalcedony.

Inside are limestone balls that have the appearance of being stream-washed stones. These crushed the ore as the cylinder was rotated. (Conventional crusher mills used iron or steel balls.) Pieces of machinery and metal lie nearby. Structures associated with the mill are two privies that are in disrepair and a water tank about 6-1/2 feet high and 3 feet in diameter, which rests on the ground. A nearby ore-loading chute appears to be of more recent construction than other structures at the site. The area is littered with historic debris from the mines and from households. Fallen remnants of wood buildings are also present.