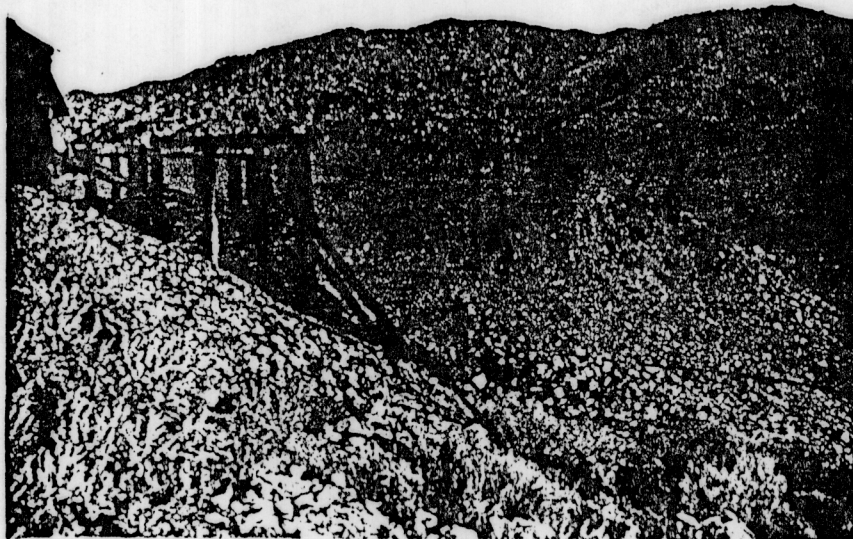


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Item 7

Location Number: LN 015

Location: Helene and Cemetery  
Coordinates: 37°28' / 114°47' T5S R64E S35  
Elevation: 5680'  
Map Sources: USGS Delamar Quadrangle  
References: Paher; Carlson; Personal Communication with Rolf; Site Investigation 9/13/77  
Photographs: PlusX-ECA#2: 10-16 and 27-29  
Status: Potential National Register Site



The ruins of the Magnolia Mine and the associated town of Helene are found on a south-facing slope at the southwest entrance to Helene Wash, an area of sagebrush, thistle, Joshua trees, and several varieties of cactus. The Helene cemetery

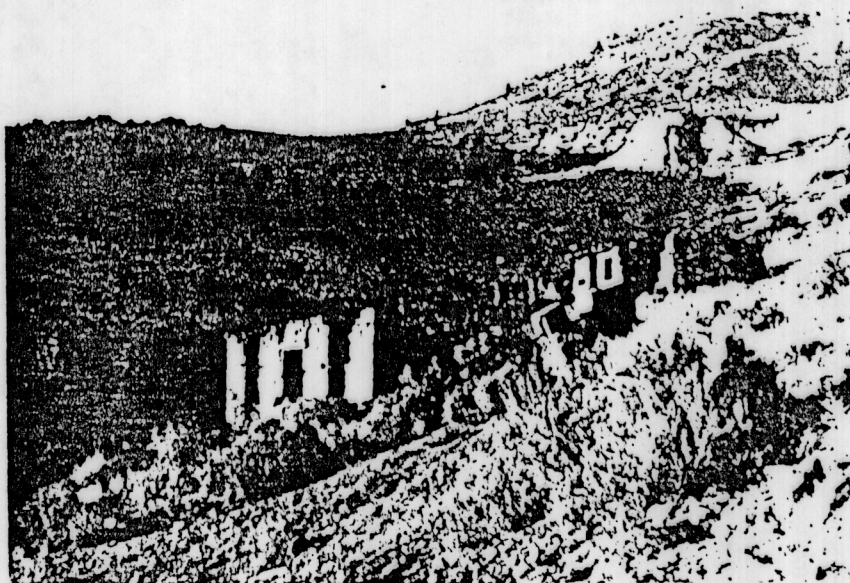
is located about 1/2 mile southwest of the town. Mountains to the south overlook the town of Delamar.

Helene, one of the early towns of the Ferguson mining district, first developed as a tent city, but a sawmill a few miles away was soon called upon to provide lumber for wood-frame structures. A newspaper, the *Ferguson Lode*, was published in Helene, and a post office served the community from June 1892 until the end of 1894, when the town was eclipsed by Delamar, which had become the principal town in the district. (For geographic and historical details, see Delamar.)

The ruins at Helene are associated with the Magnolia Mine. A wood-frame hoist house approximately 15' x 8' x 12 feet high leans markedly to the west. A trestle for ore cars extends approximately 70 feet from the hoist house to

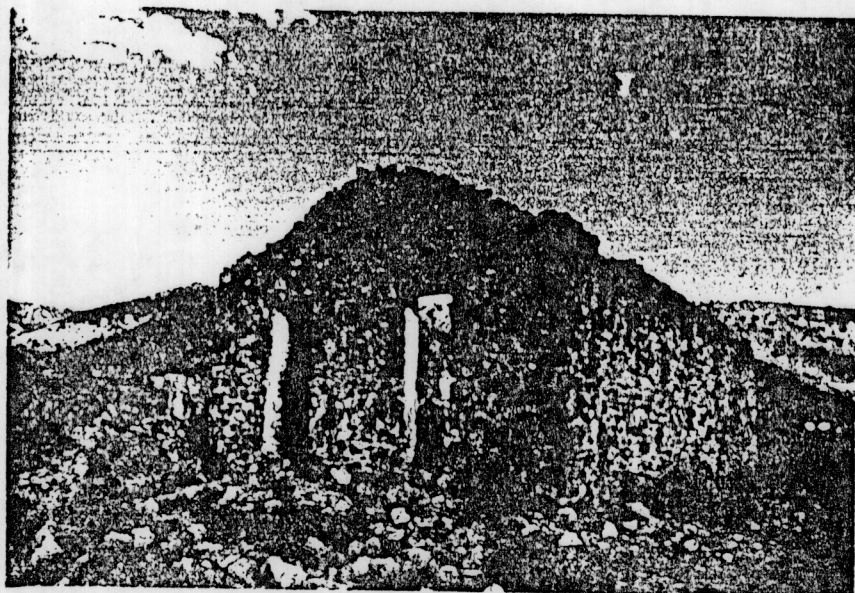
mercial and residential structures. During the next five years, while mining activity was negligible in other parts of Nevada, the Delamar district produced more than half of the state's ore. Two cyanide mills were required for processing the district's output. Because water could not be obtained locally, two pipelines were constructed from Meadow Valley Wash, 12 miles away. Lumber was obtained from nearby sources, but supplies had to be hauled over the mountains by mule team from the railroad depot at Milford, Utah. Ore was shipped out by the same means. In the spring of 1906, most of the town was destroyed by fire, but it was quickly rebuilt. As late as 1906, Delamar was producing more ore than boom towns such as Bullfrog and Manhattan and was surpassed only by Goldfield and Tonopah, but by 1909 the mines had been depleted. Today only the ruins of rubble-rock structures, the mill ruins, and the headframes of some of the mines remain.

The ruins at Delamar stretch up the mountainside toward the original glory hole, which is easily defined by the scar left by the diggings. The mill site consisted of three main levels that were benched into the slope. Mortared stone retaining



walls at these benched areas vary in length (40, 75, and 85 feet) and are from 8 to 14 feet high. The mill was wood framed. Size was estimated from the ruins. One structure at the mill was approximately 45' x 35' x 19 feet high. Milled 8" x 8" posts and 12" x 12" and 14" x 14" timbers litter the site. Also present are remnants of a hopper, concrete poles, foundations with concrete ribs, and a brick furnace with 18-inch-thick walls. Associated with the ruins of the furnace are large cone-shaped metal hoods.

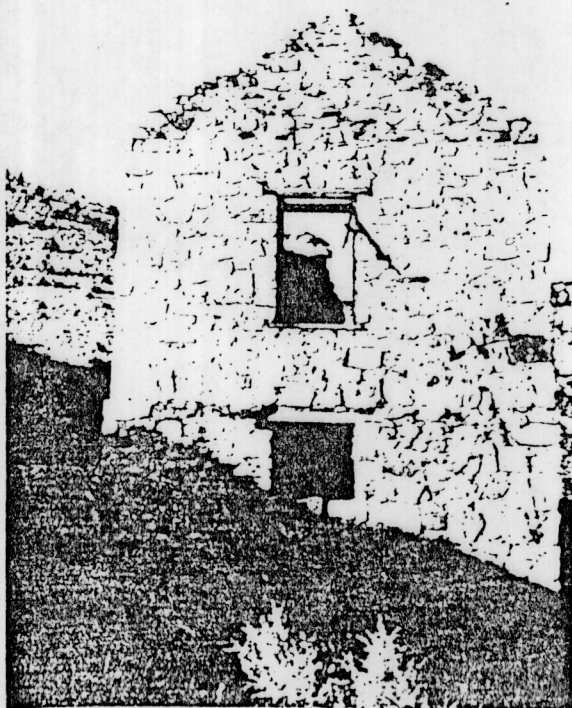




It was estimated that there are approximately 300 building sites at Delamar. These sites are marked by leveled or benched areas and building ruins. The ruins display various construction materials and construction practices. Many of

the ruins are of mortared angular stone that was plastered on the interior; some have corrugated metal roofs. One structure with 24-inch-thick rock walls measured 38' x 15' x 12 feet high. Many structures in one area measured 14' x 14'; none have roofs. They now appear as free-standing walls about

5 or 6 feet high. Other structures of stone measured approximately 65' x 16' and 75' x 65' and have no roofs.



One 2-story angular rock structure measured 50'-6" x 17'-6" x 20 feet high. The 20-inch-thick walls are mortared; the interior is plastered. The ground floor is concrete, and the second floor is of wood construction. The medium-rise gable no longer supports a roof; some loose rock was observed where the roof would have made contact. The long axis trends north-south, and the east-facing elevation has 50% fenestration. The west elevation

has no openings; the north and south elevations have 5% and 10% fenestration, respectively. These window and door openings are cased with 1" x 14" and 1" x 6" milled wood. The window and door lintels are 4" x 6".

Roads and pathways section off the ruins. The area is strewn with litter. There is much rock and brick, various pieces of milled wood, a narrow-gauge track, mine shafts, piping, and pieces of machinery.

Delamar is one of the most extensive historic sites in the study area. Because of its easy access, the area has been vandalized.