GRIBBLE ANTIMONY MINE

Other names . . . . . Winnie Quartz Mine, Gribble Quartz Mine, McKinnon Antimony Mine, Star Metal Mine.
Location . . . . . Sec. 29, T. 45 N., R. 56 E.
Ownership . . . . . Charles Gribble, of Elko (1957).
Discovery . . . . . 1925 by Jack Mink.
Production . . . . . 11 tons of antimony (metal)
Geologic type . . . . .

Elko

The Gribble Antimony mine is located in the Island Mountain mining district on the southwest slope of Tennessee Mountain (see U. S. Geological Survey, Rowland quadrangle map), ¼-mile northeast of the road along Big Bend Creek and 1½ miles northwest of the Gold Creek Ranger Station.

The Gribble Antimony mine was located by Jack Mink in 1925, and in the late thirties, was relocated by N. L. McKinnon. He leased the mine to S. W. Harris and Seth Dunham who shipped 15 tons of ore containing 41 percent antimony to Laredo, Texas in 1941-42. The deposit was relocated by Fred and Charles Gribble in 1946(?) as the Star Antimony mine. In 1951, the mine was operated by Antimony, Ltd. The mine is now held by Charles Gribble, of Elko.

The mine was developed by a 35-foot inclined shaft with a 45-foot crosscut at the bottom. Later extensive trenching and bulldozing have covered the underground workings. An ore bin and some mill equipment are on the property. No antimony ore is in sight in the mine; there is less than a ton of ore in the dump.

The mine is in thinbedded limestone and interbedded phyllites of the Tennessee Mountain formation of Middle Pennsylvanian age (Bushnell, 1955). At the large trench these rocks strike N. 75° E. and dip 50-55° NW.

The antimony-tungsten mineralization occurs in a wide, N. 60° E.-striking, steeply north-dipping shear zone, along a bedding plane fault striking N. 70° E. and dipping 55° N. The 6- to 18-inch brecciated fault zone contains stringers and pods of stibnite and quartz, and stringers of calcite and scheelite.

Yellow and white antimony oxides stain the stibnite-bearing stringers. Scheelite also occurs at the mine in three other faults along the same shear zone, and along the same shear zone several hundred feet to the southwest on the next adjoining claim. The scheelite is more abundant in the more calcareous shale beds.

White (1942) states that a stibnite vein, containing up to 4 inches of high-grade ore, was exposed in the inclined shaft, but could not be traced laterally. Small lenses of stibnite, rarely more than 2 inches thick, occur in the shales for two feet or more on both sides of the vein. The vein is 1 to 2 inches wide and contains approximately 15 percent antimony where it crosses the trench near the old shaft.

Up to 2 percent lead and smaller amounts of zinc have been reported with the antimony.

Scheelite occurs as small white to tan grains, completely surrounded by stibnite, forming pods of tungsten ore. One 1 by 2 by 6 inch pod contained almost 85 percent scheelite. Closely connected pods form ore shoots several feet long. To the southwest, scheelite occurs alone, without any associated stibnite. The stibnite apparently was deposited at the same time, or later than, the scheelite.

The stibnite has been rather thoroughly oxidized. Small amounts of the red oxysulfide (kermesite?) is present, and white, yellow, green, gray and brown oxides of antimony are common.

The wall rock along the various veins has been sericitized and argillized.

The scheelite appears to be both genetically and spatially associated with the stibnite. However, the textures noted also could have resulted if the antimony was deposited later than the tungsten. Unfortunately the paragenitic relationships could not be determined with any certainty from the textural relationships.

TABLE__. Assays from the Gribble Antimony Mine

No.	Location	Description	Sb. %	WO_3 %	Au oz.	Ag oz.
1*	Shaft at 10 ft.	Kidney of ore.	44			
2*	Shaft at 35 ft.	Kidney of ore.	55			
3*	Crosscut, at 40 ft. from shaft.	Grab sample, vein material.	4.2	0.38		
4*	Crosscut, at 45 ft. from shaft.	Grab sample, vein material.	6.4	0.52		
38	Dump.	Grab sample, vein material.	6.12			

*From assay map of the Gribble Quartz mine, on open file at the Mackay School of Mines Library.