

3860 0072

Esmeralda County *Between 83+101*

Item 11

Location Number: ES 015

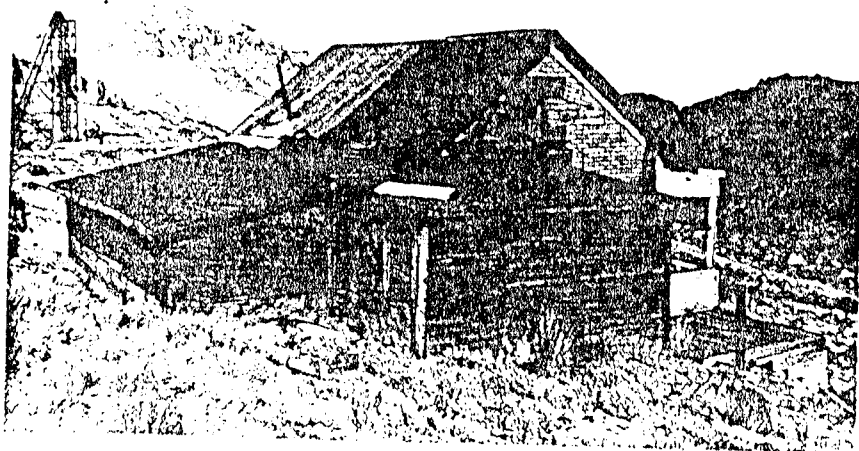
Location: Nivloc
Coordinates: 37°43' / 117°46' T2S R38E S33
Elevation: 6160'
Map Sources: USGS Piper Peak Quadrangle; Erickson County Map
References: Carlson; Paher; Site Investigation 8/11/77
Photographs: PlusX-JMC#5: 31-35; KR64-GWK#1: 22; PlusX-JMC#6: 3-15a
Status: Potential National Register Site

Nivloc is high on the east face of the Silver Peak Range, southwest of the town of Silver Peak. The steep, rocky slopes are covered with sagebrush.

The discovery of gold at Nivloc in 1907 initiated a short-lived mining operation. The mines were active again in the 1930s and 1940s, and it appears that an effort is currently being made to maintain some of the structures at the site, which suggests recent or planned mining activity.

The site contains a wood-frame house and three prefabricated corrugated-metal sheds, a steel headframe built over a nearly 800-foot-deep vertical shaft, and the ruins of a mill. A timber trestle spans a small gorge. The site is littered with a considerable amount of debris: a heavy timber ladder, bed springs, pipes, cans, barrels, and various pieces of mining machinery.

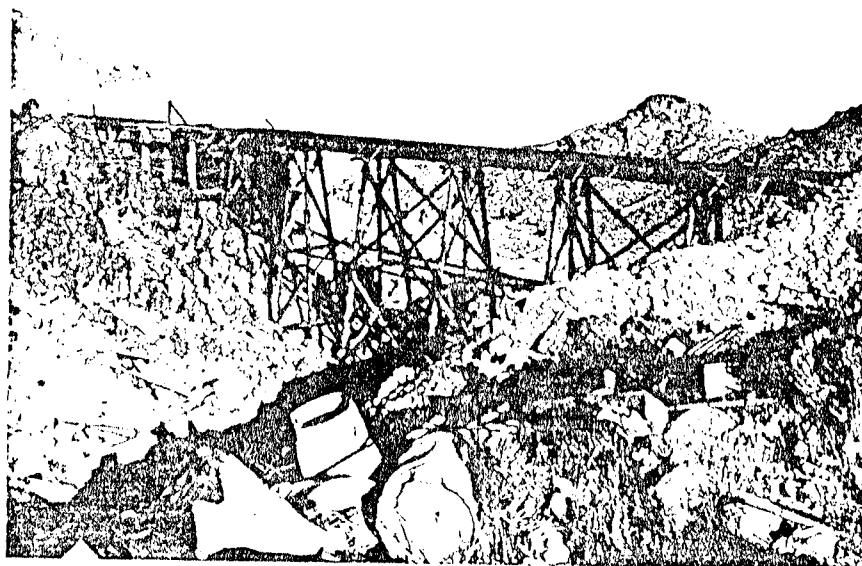
The wood-frame house of several rooms is set on a south-facing slope southwest of the mine, its long axis running east-west. The structure is about 26' x 24' and 19 feet high and has a mud-sill foundation. The exte-



rior is wood shiplap that is faced on the east elevation and on parts of the south and west elevations with asphalt brick. A medium-pitched gabled roof sheathed with wood covers most of the structure. Rolled asphalt roofing and corrugated metal cover the 1" x 12" wood sheathing of the roof. Over a section at the west end of the building that appears to have been added after the structure was built, there is a wooden shed roof. The interior walls and ceiling are finished with sheetrock, and the flooring is tongue-and-groove hardwood. A chimney rises approximately 10 feet above the mud sill on the east elevation. Fenestration in this elevation is 15%; in the north, south, and west elevations, there is 50%, 10% and 2% fenestration, respectively. The windows and doors have wood casings. A porch approximately 16' x 5' extends across the south elevation and part of the west elevation. Beyond the porch is a 7-foot-high rubble-rock retaining wall.

The three corrugated-metal buildings are near the mine. One is 12' x 8' and 15 feet high. Its rusted exterior indicates that it is the oldest of the three buildings. Another, 30' x 12' and 12 feet high, contains a generator. A third, the hoist house, is 25' x 18 and about 15 feet high. On its south-east elevation is a gabled dormer window from which a cable runs to the 48-foot-high headframe of the mine, about 50 feet away.

The headframe is constructed of various sizes of iron. Channel iron members are placed vertically, and lateral bracing is made by double-angled members. In addition to the diagonal bracing, an attached A-frame has been constructed



toward the hoist house to take the lateral load.

The headframe was constructed in eight sections, each 6 feet high. A metal ladder gives access to the platform at the top of the headframe.

A 100-foot-long, wood-frame trestle spans a 50-foot-deep gorge that is between the mine and the mill site. This trestle supports rails for ore cars. The 8" x 8" milled timbers provide adequate vertical and lateral support. Nearby is an empty cyanide tank made of riveted metal. It is 20 feet in diameter and 20 feet high.

The ruins of the stamp mill are remnants of concrete foundations that stair step up the hillside on five terraced levels. The foundation walls vary from 6 inches to 18 inches in thickness. Within the walls are concrete piers that vary from 3' x 5' to 2-1/2' x 3'. The reinforced concrete walls vary in height, but none is more than 8 feet high.

There are several structures scattered throughout the Nivloc area. Because of the generally steep terrain, structures were built on areas that were leveled into terraces. Rubble-rock retaining walls hold many of the leveled sites in place. Structures are still found on some of these terrace sites, but for the most part only the retaining walls remain. These walls vary from 18 inches to 4 feet in thickness, and some are as much as 7 feet high; most of them are set as dry rubble walls without the use of mortar.

In a canyon three-quarters of a mile southwest of Nivloc, there is a deserted wood-frame structure near a spring. It is approximately 16' x 13' and is 12 feet high to the ridgepole of a gabled roof. It rests on a rubble-rock mud-sill foundation with its long axis running north-south. A 4-inch-diameter stovepipe extends approximately 5 feet above the roofline. The canyon contains debris, retaining walls, and indentations of structures that formerly occupied the site. On the hillside to the west is evidence of many mines and diggings.