

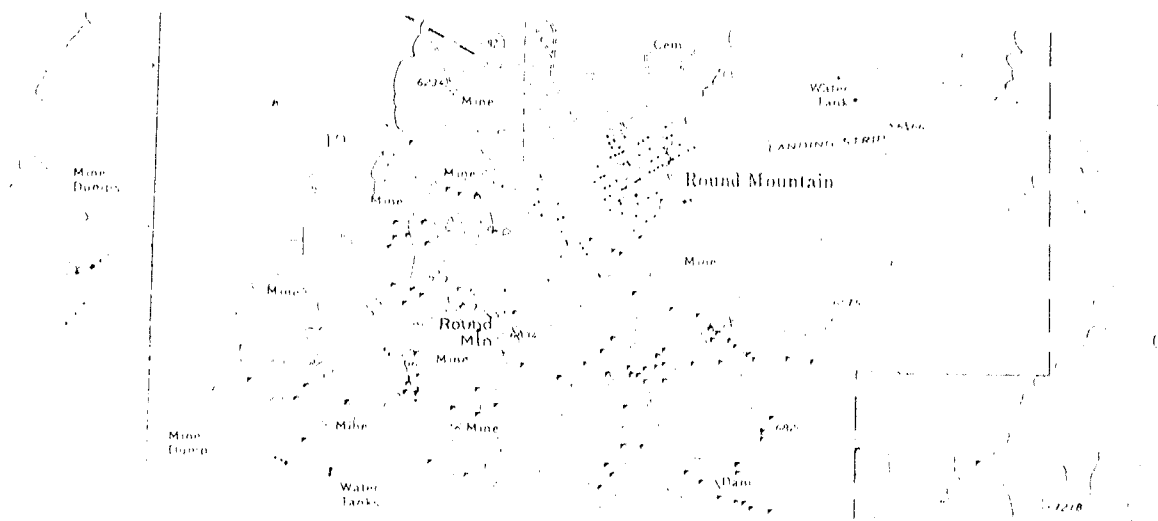
4020 0013

247
Item 25

Location Number: NY 016

Location: Round Mountain
Coordinates: 38°43' / 117°04' T10N R44E S19,20,30,31
Elevation: 6400'
Map Sources: USGS Round Mountain Quadrangle; Erickson County Map; Clason 1906; Toiyabe National Forest Map; Nevada Map Atlas
References: URS/Blume Files; Paher; Carlson; Mordy; Historic Markers; Site Investigation 7/28/77
Photographs: KR64-JMC#2: 26-27; PlusX-JW#6: 17-31
Status: Potential National Register Site

Round Mountain is on the west slope of a low, round-top mountain near the base of the Toiyabe Range. The town sits high on an alluvial apron created by ephemeral streams that flow westerly into Big Smoky Valley.



Gold was discovered in 1905, and camps grew rapidly. The town site was platted on a gradual slope north of the mine workings, and a number of wood-frame buildings from other camps were moved there. The lodes were worked for a year before the discovery of extensive placer veins. The latter were first mined with hand tools, but by 1907 a 5-mile-long pipeline and hydraulic equipment had been installed to work the open-pit placers on a large scale. The lode mines were worked simultaneously and produced about two-and-one-half times as much as the placers, feeding two mills. By 1909, there were seven more mills in operation.

During the 1920s, with production now at a level that could be handled by one mill, all claims were consolidated into the Nevada Porphyry Gold Mines. By 1935, underground mining had ceased, but dredging operations continued on the surface for five years longer. After a revival of activity in the early 1950s, the mines were shut down, having produced \$8 million of the \$16 million in gold brought in by the entire district. Round Mountain now has a population of less than 100, who support a store, a post office, and two gasoline stations. There is still some current ore mining activity near Round Mountain.

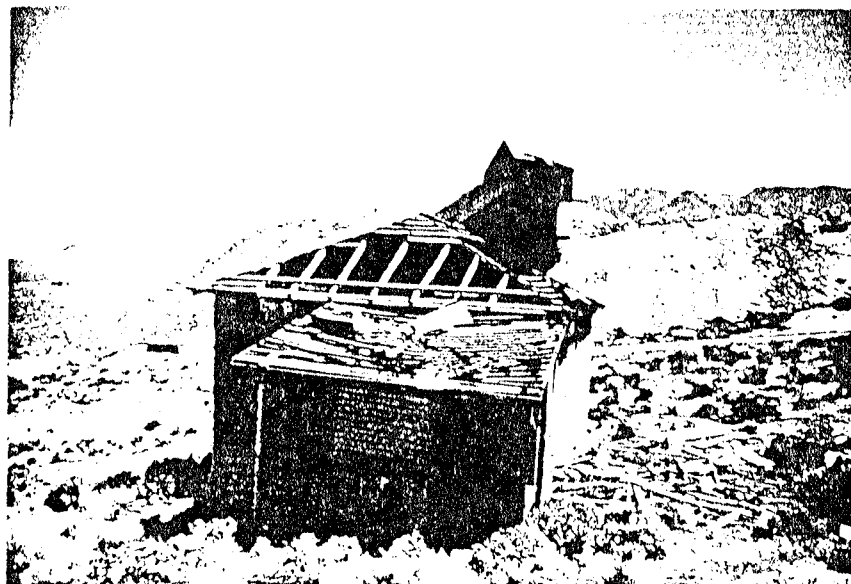
About 65 structures were built over the alluvial deposits of gravelly sand. Nearly two-thirds are one-story wood-frame residential buildings; several are of rubble rock and adobe. There are about a dozen commercial buildings. Nearly all were built before 1957, and at least two-thirds are more than 40 years old.

The dominant structure at the town site is the one-story schoolhouse, about 70' x 44'. Its exterior walls are plaster over wood framing; on the interior, the 2" x 4" studs are finished with lath and plaster. The wood shingles of the double-hipped roof have been covered with asphalt shingling. The brick chimney is apparently in good condition. There are obvious cracks in the exterior elevation of the concrete foundation, which extends about 40 inches above grade, and there is some indication of mortar cracking at the juncture of the foundation and the exterior stucco at the foundation sill line.

At the south end of the commercial district, near a recent building, a bottle cellar about 50' x 12' extends about 7 feet above ground surface. It has a sloping entrance that reveals stacked bottles held by mud mortar. The structure is covered with galvanized sheet-metal panels. There are about a dozen mobile homes near the town site, apparently brought in by people now working prospects around the hillsides.

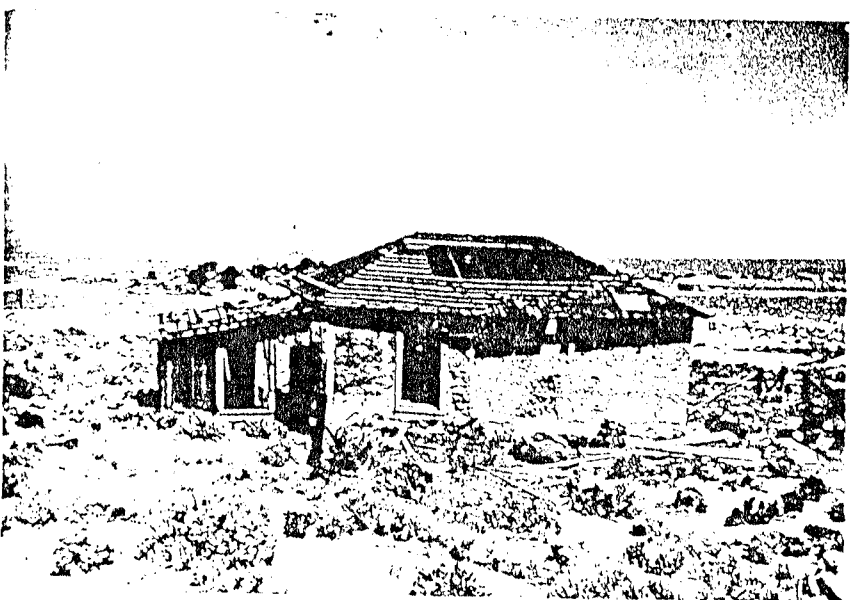
Structures associated with lode mining are for the most part founded on hard rock immediately to the east and south of the town site. A short distance to the west, an open pit has been excavated in the alluvium. Some evidence of shaft and drift mining similar to that carried out in Manhattan (which see) about 20 miles to the south is found in isolated locations.

Approximately one-quarter of a mile southwest of the town, by a tailing pile, is a 5-story wood-frame building whose sides and roof are covered with rusted



metal sheathing. It appears to be one of the oldest structures at the site and was probably part of a mill.

It is similar in construction to many of the buildings in the town. A rubble-rock ruin, 12' x 8', its walls averaging a height of 4 feet, stands about 60 feet south.



Near these structures is a structure about 26' x 16' of adobe over rubble rock. Its long axis runs northeast-southwest. It is about 13 feet high to a medium-pitched, hipped roof that sags and has lost most of its wood shingles, revealing 2" x 4" slotted joists. A

pipe chimney flue 10 inches in diameter extends to the height of the roof. There is 2% fenestration in the east and west elevation; 5% in the north and south. A door about 3' x 7' is set in the north elevation. Windows are about 3' x 4-1/2'. The floor has 2" x 6" joists with 1" x 8" sheathing. A wood-frame lean-to addition on the south elevation is made of 1" x 12" vertical boards with 1" x 3-1/2" battens. The ceiling of this structure is lined with the sides of wooden crates. The interior walls are sheetrock. Both these structures are in fair condition.

Farther south, down the hillside, old wood-frame and dugout structures overlook the town.