

4420 0006

(250)  
Item 6

Location Number: NY 052

Location: Silverbow  
Coordinates: 37°54' / 116°30' T1N R49E S33  
Elevation: 6680'  
Map Sources: USGS Kawich Peak Quadrangle; Erickson County Map; Clason 1906  
References: Ball; Mordy; Paher; Carlson; Personal Communication with Cecil Lang; Site Investigation 6/21/77  
Photographs: KR64-CK#11: 18; PlusX-JMC#2: 24-33; PlusX-JMC#3: 0  
Status: Potential National Register Site

Silverbow is located on the western flank of the Kawich Range. Silverbow is at the confluence of three stream-cut canyons, of which Breen Creek Canyon is dominant. The canyon walls are relatively narrow and have dictated how a few of the structures would be built. Several areas have been leveled with rock retaining walls and fill to make level building pads. Some rock structures have been dug and built into the hillsides. It is reported that one structure has a natural rock chimney, i.e., a vent hole through a rock formation. 12

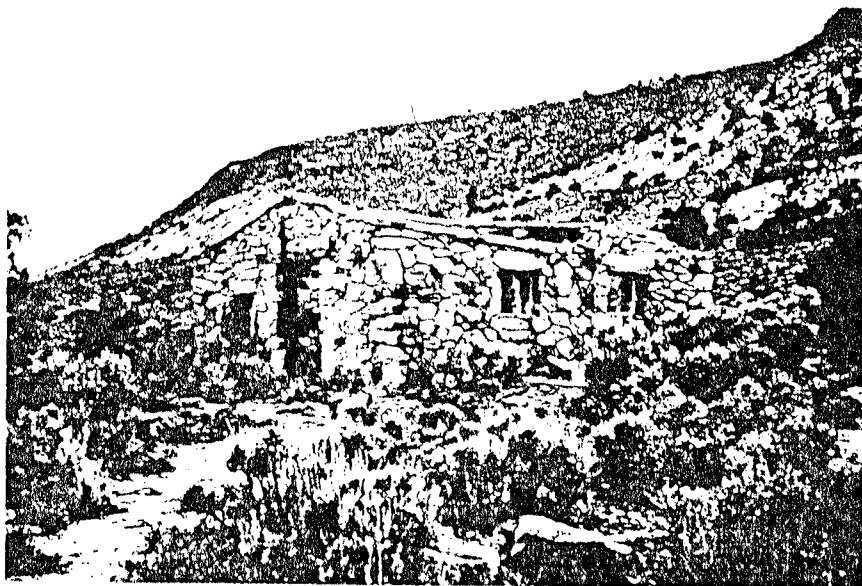
Silver was discovered in 1904. The principal prospects were within three miles to the east, northeast, and northwest, and Silverbow became the supply center for the nearby camps. The area was worked until 1942 even though the town was long dead. Now the town site is marked by five wooden and two stone buildings, as well as debris.

One wood-frame structure is a one-story house approximately 15' x 15' x 12 feet high with an attached 10' x 10' lean-to. The medium-pitched roof has 2" x 4" framing and is covered with composition material. The walls are of horizontal board and batten with tar paper and corrugated metal siding. The house is in fair condition.

Associated with the house is a one-story structure 11 feet high, which actually is two nearly identical structures that have been joined. It is 27' x 9' in plan. The 2" x 4" framed structure is covered with corrugated metal. For the most part, the structure is in poor condition.

There are two wood-frame privies in fair condition.

The principal rock structure has no roof. It is a one-room house 20'-5" x 15' x 9 feet high and is in fair condition. It is built of angular rock of varying sizes and is mud chinked on the interior and exterior walls. The long axis of the low-pitched gabled structure is east-west. Its walls are 2 feet thick. The north and south elevations rise 7 feet to a peeled-log ridge-pole, which supports



log rafters. These rafters are held in place by notches cut into the rock walls. The west elevation has no openings; the north and south elevations have 10% and 15% openings, respectively; the east elevation holds a door and two windows and has 25% fenestration. The door and windows are framed with milled 1" x 6" lumber. The doorway has two hand-hewn 8" x 8" log lintels, which extend 18 inches into the walls on either side of the door. These lintels are shimmed into place with wooden wedges. Each window lintel is one shaped rock that spans the opening. It extends into either side of the wall about 6 inches. The floor of this structure is dirt, which is part of the 2:1 slope that the structure is keyed into.

An adjacent structure is 42' x 30' and has 4-foot-high unmortared rock walls 2 feet thick. Apparently construction stopped at this point.

The site also has the concrete foundations, leveling slabs, and framework of a contemporary mill site. There are also miscellaneous concrete foundations and associated lumber. At a grave site is a granite headstone approximately 1 foot wide by 3-1/2 inches thick by 18 inches high. Core sample trays, rusted cans, colored glass, nails, and charcoal indicate the locations of burned structures.