

NBME OFR 83-11
See also 83-12 for
geochemical results.

4660 0005

STONEWALL DISTRICT

(252)
Item 6

The Stonewall mining district is located on the north slope of Stonewall Mountain, a prominent geographical landmark in the northwest quarter of T5S, R44E, about 15 miles south of Goldfield in Nye County, Nevada. The mountain is due east of Lida Junction, where Nevada Highway 3 ends at U. S. Highway 95. Access to the district is east from the highway along good dirt roads.

According to Ball (1907) and Lincoln (1923), the district was prospected around 1904 with minor gold discoveries made by 1907. Small shipments of gold-silver ore were reported in 1911 and 1915. The Yellow Tiger Cons. M. Co. of Goldfield conducted development work in 1923. In the winter of 1951, Pius Kaelin mined ore from the Gold Crater district, now on the Nevada Test Site, which he stockpiled at Stonewall Spring and milled during the summer in a two-stamp mill (Kral, 1951). There has been no other recorded activity in the district up to the present. The Stonewall district is currently not producing however, the Stonewall Mountain Silver Mine area on the northwest side of the mountain had been drilled and staked by the E.W. Lewis, Co., of Reno in the spring of 1982, and the Sterlog claim had been staked in March, 1982. Ball (1907) suggests that the mountain was named after Stonewall Jackson, but others have suggested that the name came from the precipitous, wall-like northern face of the mountain.

Stonewall Mountain is underlain mainly by masses of Pliocene rhyolite welded tuffs with local flow breccias which are intruded by Pliocene quartz latite plugs. In the vicinity of the workings, the tuffs strike north and dip 60-70° west. Outcropping on the northern side of the mountain are blocks of the Precambrian Wyman Formation, a phyllitic siltstone with limestone interbeds, which are overlain conformably by the Precambrian Reed Dolomite, a massive, coarsely crystalline dolomite (Cornwall, 1972). The sediments are cut by fine, randomly oriented calcite veins and along the intrusive contact the carbonaceous units are

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metamorphosed to epidote-rich marble. The sediments are horizontal to steeply south dipping with broad folds and local closed folds. East of the mountain are Pliocene flat-lying ash fall tuffs, non-welded ash flow tuffs, and Miocene rhyolite flows and masses. The Stonewall Mountain is thought to be a small, localized volcanic caldera between 6 and 17 million years old (Stewart and Carlson, 1976).

The most prominent structure in the Stonewall district is the fault scarp formed on the north side of the mountain by the northeast-trending, north steeply dipping Stonewall Spring Fault. The downdropped block on the north side is now covered with Quaternary alluvium. Faulting and sheeting are generally parallel to the main fault and extends up to a half mile south. The main fault and associated shear zone cuts across minor north-trending faults and all rocks types on the mountain, implying that tectonic movement occurred after the Tertiary volcanic (caldera ?) activity. Stonewall Mountain lies along or southwest of the structural disruption described as the Walker Lane Mobile Belt (Locke, et al, 1940).

Gold and silver values at Stonewall are carried in quartz veins which fill fractures and joints and cement fault breccia associated with the Stonewall Spring Fault. Secondary silica flooding coats the quartz veins and host rocks with drusy quartz and chalcedony and hyalite are deposited in open spaces and vugs. Later tectonic activity crushed and displaced the quartz veins. The quartz veins carry gold and silver-bearing sulfides which are locally oxidized to limonite and azurite. Silver values of the ore are reported to increase with depth.

Selected References:

- Ball, S. H. (1907) Geologic reconnaissance of southwestern Nevada and eastern California: USGS Bulletin 308.
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Locke, A., et al (1940) Sierra Nevada tectonic patterns: GSA Bulletin, v. 51, no. 4, p. 513-540.

Stewart, J. H., and Carlson, J. E. (1976) Cenozoic rocks of Nevada: NBMG Map 52.