

**OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION**

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August 23, 2004

Dr. Stephanie Toothman
National Park Service
Pacific West Region
909 First Street
Seattle, Washington 98104-4159

Dear Dr. Toothman:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the National Register Multiple Property nomination for Yosemite National Park. I concur that the properties identified and evaluated in the nomination do constitute a coherent group of geographically dispersed resources that are eligible for listing in the National Register. The nomination does an excellent job of defining separate, but related contexts that make clear the significance of the individual resources, as well as the reasons that they collectively constitute a multiple property. The inclusion of a number of the park's less elaborate, high altitude resources is particularly noteworthy. The context statements synthesize a large amount of historic documentation in a clear and concise manner and the descriptive material that is provided for the individual resources or resource groupings is excellent.

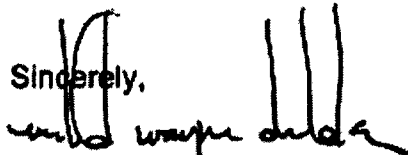
We concur in all of your findings regarding the resources enumerated in the multiple property nomination. We agree that the following properties are eligible for the National Register as a part of a multiple property.

Lake Vernon Cabin Building #2450
May Lake High Sierra Camp Historic District
Hetch Hetchy Comfort Station Building #2104
Henness Ridge Fire Lookout Building #5300
The Golden Crown Mine
Glen Aulin Sierra Camp Historic District
Chinquapin Historic District
Buck Creek Cabin Building #4800
Snow Flat Cabin Building #3501
Snow Creek Cabin Building #3450
Sachse Springs Cabin Building #2452
Ostrander Ski Hut Building #5110
Old Big Oak Flat Road
New Big Oak Flat Road
Merced Lake Ranger Station Building #3400
Merced Lake High Sierra Camp Historic District

Wawona Tunnel
Vogelsang High Sierra Camp Historic District
Tuolumne Meadows High Sierra Camp Historic District

I have signed the application as commenting authority. If you have any questions, please call
Gene Itogawa of my staff (916) 653-8936.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Milford Wayne Donaldson", written over a series of vertical lines.

Milford Wayne Donaldson
State Historic Preservation Officer

Cc: Kimball Koch

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of
Property

historic name The Golden Crown Mine

other names/site number

2.
Location

street & number N/A not for publication

city or town Yosemite National Park (YOSE) vicinity

state California code CA county Tuolumne code 109 zip code

3. State /Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:
entered in the National Register
See continuation sheet.
determined eligible for the
National Register
See continuation sheet.
determined not eligible for the
National Register

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

The Golden Crown Mine
Name of Property
removed from the National Register
other (explain):

Tuolumne, CA
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one)	Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count)	
☐ private	☒ building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
☐ public-local	☐ district		
☐ public-State	☒ site		
☒ public-Federal	☐ structure		
	☐ object		
		5	
		5	0
			Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)
Historic Resources of Yosemite National Park, California

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register
0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)	Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)
INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/ EXTRACTION/Extractive Facility	VACANT/not in use

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)	Materials (Enter categories from instructions)
Other: Vernacular	foundation
Vernacular Wood Frame	walls wood: log
	roof wood (where extant)
	other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- ☒ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☐ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Industry

Exploration/Settlement

Period of Significance

1874-1899

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or a grave.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property.
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Significant Dates

1879

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Orlando Fuller

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register

Primary location of additional data

- ☐ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University

The Golden Crown Mine

Name of Property

Tuolumne, CA

County and State

☐ designated a National Historic Landmark

☒ Other

☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

Name of repository:

Yosemite National Park, California

☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering

Record # _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than 10 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	<u>11</u>	<u>305000</u>	<u>4191375</u>	3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2				4			
							See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

The boundary for the mine includes the 4 cabins and the mine itself. The mine is located on the site of Mt. Gibbs at Mono pass on the easternmost boundary of Yosemite National Park at an elevation of approximately 11,000 feet with typical alpine vegetation of the region.

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

The boundary includes all National Register eligible nominations and the immediate surroundings.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Andy Kirk, Richard Coop, Charles Palmer

organization UNLV Public History date 3/8/04

street & number 4505 Maryland Parkway Box 455020 telephone (702)895-3544

city or town Las Vegas state NV zip code 89135-5020

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

The Golden Crown Mine

Name of Property

Tuolumne, CA

County and State

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

The Golden Crown Mine

name of property

Tuolumne, California

county and State

Historic Resources of Yosemite

National Park, California

name of multiple property listing

Section 7

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Summary
Silver mining operations took place in the Tioga Mining District during the late 1800s, producing the short-lived settlements of Dana and Bennettville. Although the period of active mining in the areas of Tioga Pass and Mono Pass was brief, there are prominent ruins and a few good examples of mining structures remaining, particularly in the areas developed as the Golden Crown Mine and Dana Village. These are wooden or stone structures in various stages of collapse, including cabins, a blacksmith shop, a powder house, and a lift house.

General Description
The Golden Crown Mine is located at Mono Pass, just off the trail at the head of Bloody Canyon on the boundary of Yosemite National Park. The elevation is c. 11000 ft.

Today the remains of this mine consist of five log structures: a shaft house, and a row of four cabins.

The shaft house is a one-story, one-room log structure measuring c. 10'x12'. It is made of peeled round logs, joined with a V-notch joint; the roof is collapsed. The building surrounds/a mine shaft which is lined with vertical logs.

About 100' south of the shaft house is a row of four log cabins, evidently built for habitation. Cabin No. 1, on the east end of the row, and Cabin No. 4 on the west end, are similar in size and construction. Each cabin measures c. 10' square and is a one-story, one-room building. Each cabin has a door and window opening on the north side. The cabins consist of peeled round logs laid on alternating tiers and joined with a V-notch joint. Both cabins are in ruins, but are stable and not deteriorating at a rapid rate. Cabin No. 2 is a one-story, two-room cabin, measuring c. 25'x 12'. It consists of peeled round logs laid on alternating tiers and joined with a V-notch joint. This cabin is also roofless.

Cabin No. 3 is a one-story, one-room log structure measuring c. 10' square. The cabin is made of logs both round and hand-hewn; the hewn logs are used primarily on the north side; The logs are laid on alternating tiers and the corners are joined with a half lap joint, and the spaces between the logs are chinked with split log wedges. The cabin has a door opening and a contiguous window opening on the north side. The cabin has a gable roof, with its roof poles in place.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Section 8
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Significance

Property Type: Resources Associated with Settlement and Industry (1851-1951)
 Subtype: Exploration, Settlement, and Resource Exploitation
Period of Significance: 1874-1899

The significance of properties relating to settlement and resource exploitation is derived from the themes of economic development in the western United States and the resulting transformation of the environment, as well as attitudes towards the environment. These themes demonstrate the processes by which the Yosemite region became tied to the local, regional, and national economies through industry and transportation. The demand for minerals and lumber was driven by needs originating far beyond Yosemite’s immediate environs, and could be driven by developments in financial markets a continent away. The presence of extractive industries in the Sierra was symptomatic of the growing population in California and the greater Western region, and points to the far-reaching effects of urbanization. The golden Crown Mine is illustrative of the high altitude mining camps that once straddled the main crest of the Sierra Nevada. The mine complex is unusually intact, and the best preserved of the mining sites in Yosemite.

Context

The mining camp was established in 1879 by Orlando Fuller. There were actually three contiguous claims: the Ella Bloss, Ella Bloss #2, and Golden Crown. The names were used interchangeably in mining reports although referring essentially to this one site. There are a few brief references to the Golden Crown in the *Mammoth City Herald* of August and September, 1879, predicting the great wealth to be obtained from the mine however, the reports proved false. The last recorded assessment for the mine was in 1890 with promising results but no recorded returns.

The setting of the Golden Crown is historic of and by itself. Located at Mono Pass, at the head of Bloody Canyon, it is just off the traditional trade route of the Mono Indians, and is also the route used by Lt. Tredwell Moore when pursuing the fleeing Yosemite Indians in 1852. Moore noted several mineral deposits on his return to Yosemite Valley via the same route.

It is a strenuous hike from the Dana meadows side of Mt. Gibbs to Mono Pass, and even more difficult to follow the route up Bloody Canyon to the mine. For those who can make the journey the mine complex is a valuable interpretive tool for explaining both prehistoric and historic aspects of Yosemite's past.

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National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Bibliography

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DeDecker, Mary. *Mines of the Eastern Sierra* (Glendale, CA., La Siesta Press, 1966).

Finley, Michael V., Superintendent, Yosemite National Park to Regional Director, Western Region "Review of National Register forms for factual data," September 7, 1989.

Hubbard, Douglass. *Ghost Mines of Yosemite*. (Fresno, Avani Press, 1958).

Hubbard, Douglass. "The Precarious State of Yosemite's Pioneer Cabins." unpublished manuscript.

Russell, Carl P. *100 Years in Yosemite*. (Berkeley, Univ. of Calif. Press, 1947).

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