

Gunnison County

Dorchester District (aka Taylor River District; aka Taylor Peak District)

The Dorchester District lies in northern Gunnison County near the Pitkin (and Chaffee) County lines (Dunn, 2003). Vanderwilt (1947) discussed the district, but considered it to be synonymous with the Taylor River District (and the **Tincup District**.) Henderson (1926) did not recognize the Dorchester District, but did list the Taylor River District, which he considered synonymous with the Tincup, **Taylor Park** and **Forest Hill Districts**, further complicating the nomenclature and location of all these districts. Streufert (1999) referred to it as the Taylor Park District. Harder (1908) discussed iron ore deposits in the Taylor Peak District, which appears to cover the same territory as the Taylor River District. The Taylor Peak District is also enumerated on the website www.mindat.org. It appears to be largely placer mines. Eberhart (1969), discussing the early mining camps, considered this area a part of the Forest Hill District. The reader must recognize the confusion accompanying their location and nomenclature.

Regarding Dorchester, Dunn (Ibid) recounts that mining went on early, but not much is known other than that deserted cabins were found already in 1873, obviously indicating earlier habitation. Some significant deposits appear to have been part of this polymetallic mineralized district, including the Clara, the Ender, the Bull Domingo, the Hope, and the Star.

Geologically, Paleozoic sediments overlie Precambrian granitic rocks, which are intruded by the Middle Tertiary White Rock Pluton, a tonalite body (Streufert, 1999). Not much geologic detail is known about this area.

Mines listed in the district (mindat.org; Eberhart, 1969; Dunn, 2003) include:

- Black Warrior Occurrence (Silver Lake; Bull Domingo; Falls)
- Bull Domingo Shaft
- Cement Creek
- Clara L. Occurrence
- Climax Mine (Climax Mines No. 1 2 3)
- Colorado Mine
- Creek Camp
- Ender
- Good Hope; Iron Mt. Occurrence
- Hope Shaft Occurrence
- Independent Shaft
- Last Hope Mine
- Missouri Hill
- Mt. Tilton Occurrence
- Mt. Vernon; Silver Tip; Charles H.; Climax; Mascot Occurrence
- North Cement Creek
- Sylvanite
- Taylor Park
 - Italian Mountain
 - Blue Wrinkle Mine (Anderson claim)
 - Star Mine
 - Stewart Mine
 - Truebe Prospect
 - North Italian Mountain
 - Star Mine Lambertson
- Taylor Peak
 - Star Claim Group
 - Twenty Percent Creek Occurrence
- Taylor Peak Occurrence (Taylor River)
- Tunnel Proposition

Minerals listed in the district (mindat.org) include:

Acanthite	Dolomite	Piemontite
Actinolite	Dravite	Prehnite
Alabandite	Edenite	Proustite
Albite	Epidote	Pyrargyrite
'Allanite'	Fluorapatite	Pyrite
Amphibole Supergroup	Fluorite	Pyrrhotite
Analcime	Forsterite	Quartz
Andradite	Galena	Sanidine
Anglesite	Glauconite	Saponite
Anhydrite	Graphite	'Scapolite'
Ankerite	Grossular	Schorl
Anorthite	Halite	Scolecite
Anthophyllite	Haüyne var: Lazurite	Siderite
'Apophyllite'	Hematite	Silver
Azurite	Hemimorphite	Smithsonite
Barite	'Heulandite'	Sphalerite
'Biotite'	Hisingerite	Spinel
Brucite	'Hornblende'	'Stilbite'
Calcite	Hydrozincite	Sylvite
Cerussite	'K Feldspar var: Adularia'	Talc
'Chabazite'	Laumontite	Tetrahedrite
'Chlorite Group'	Magnetite	'Thomsonite'
Clinocllore	Malachite	Titanite
var: Pennine	Massicot	Tremolite
Clinozoisite	'Mica Group'	'Uvite'
Cordierite	Monticellite	Vesuvianite
Cyanotrichite	Orthoclase	
Diopside	Phlogopite	

References:

Dunn, Lisa. 2003. Colorado Mining Districts: A Reference. Colorado School of Mines, Golden, Colorado.

Eberhart, Perry. 1969. *Guide to Colorado Ghost Towns and Mining Camps*. Fourth, revised edition. Swallow Press, Athens, Ohio.

Harder, E.C. 1908. The Taylor Peak and Whitepine Iron-Ore Deposits, Colorado. U.S. Geological Survey Bulletin 380-E.

Henderson, C.W. 1926. Mining in Colorado, a history of discovery, development and production. U.S. Geological Survey Professional Paper 138.

Streufert, Randall K. 1999. Geology and Mineral Resources of Gunnison County, Colorado. Colorado Geological Survey Resource Series 37.

Vanderwilt, J.W. 1947. Mineral Resources of Colorado. Colorado Mineral Resources Board, Denver, Colorado.

www.mindat.org, accessed August 2015.