

Gunnison County

Gold Brick District

Henderson (1926) recognized the Gold Brick District in his compilation of Colorado mining districts. Hill (1908) had visited the district twenty years earlier and listed also the district in his 1912 compilation. Vanderwilt (1947) described the district as being characterized by small, but rich, veins that result in small tonnages of relatively rich ore. Most of the deposits are shallow. Zech (1988) possibly provided an explanation for the shallow deposits when he interpreted the district as sitting on a thrust plate transported from the east.

Streufert (1999) described the district as sitting along Gold Creek north of the confluence of Quartz Creek at Ohio City. He summarizes the numerous earlier works, providing a good description of the geology of the area. Most of the deposits occur in veins in Proterozoic rocks - both metavolcanics and granitic rocks. Some contact metamorphic deposits of iron and iron-sulfide occur.

The northwest part of the district has somewhat of a different geology. Fossil Ridge contains a sequence of Paleozoic sediments. There are some smaller replacement type deposits in Paleozoic carbonates. Heyl (1964) found oxidized zinc deposits in the northwest part of the district. Also, Worcester (1919) describes a number of molybdenum prospects in the area of Lamphier Lakes, on the edge of the district to the north. DeWitt et al. (1985) summarize the more recent geologic studies and interpretations in their study of the mineral resource potential of the proposed Fossil Ridge Wilderness Area, which now includes the northern end of the Gold Brick District. They point out that there are areas in and around the Gold Brick District that have high potential for gold and silver in veins and shear zones.

Crawford and Worcester (1916) and Parker (1974) have brief mention of gold placers in the Gold Brick District including Jones Gulch, Dutch Flats, and Spring Gulch.

Eberhart (1969), in his description of the town of Ohio City, relates that gold was first discovered in the 1860s but the area didn't grow until silver was discovered in the 1880s (1879 by Dunn, 2003) The Carter and the Raymond were the biggest mines in the district, while the Calumet, the Eagle, and the Roller were right within the "city."

The district became inactive by 1900, but produced again in the period 1934-42. Vanderwilt (Ibid) reported the following production in those years of 16,395 oz. gold; 45,650 oz. silver; 219,000 lb. lead, and 2,350 lb. copper.

Mines listed in the district (Crawford and Worcester, 1916; Eberhart, 1969; Hill, 1909; mindat.org) include:

- [Bassick](#)¹
- [Belzora Basic Occurrence](#)²
- [Bertha](#)¹
- [Bornite Occurrence](#)¹
- [Boulder Creek](#)
- [Boulder Lake](#)
- [Buckeye Chief Mine](#)¹
- [Calumet](#)¹

- Carbonate King¹
- Carter - Raymond Mines (Carter Mine; Chloride Mine)^{1,2}
- Chicago¹
- Chloride Mine¹
- Chronicle¹
- Climax¹
- Cortland Mine¹
- Dodson¹
- Double Header¹
- Dutch Flat Gulch
- Dutch Flats; Jones Gulch
- Eagle¹
- Gold Links (Gold Link Mine)^{1,2}
- Gold Monument¹
- Golden Currie¹
- Golden Eagle¹
- Golden Fleece¹
- Golden Islet Mine¹
- Grand Prize Mine¹
- Granite Mt.¹
- Gray Eagle¹
- Hilltop¹
- Ida May¹
- Idoline¹
- Jones Gulch; Dutch Flat; Spring Gulch Placers
- Kansas City¹
- Lamphier Lakes
- Last Delusion¹
- Leona¹
- Lillie Dell¹
- Little Dora¹
- Lookout Mountain
- Lucille Mine¹
- Maggie Mitchell¹
- Manitou¹
- Montreal¹
- Ohio City
- Ontario¹
- Raymond claims^{1,2}
- Revenue¹
- Roller
- Roosevelt Occurrence¹
- Sacramento¹
- Sandy Hook Occurrence^{1,2}
- Sequin
- Seventy-Six Mine
- Sheol¹
- Siver Islet¹
- Soft Snap¹
- Teller¹
- Tidal Wave¹
- Toronto¹
- Tucson
- Upper Dome
- Volunteer Mine
- Wall Street¹
- West Point¹
- Whig¹

Notes: ¹ Mines discussed in detail or listed in Crawford and Worcester (1916).

² Mines discussed in detail or listed in Hill (1908).

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

Acanthite	Arsenopyrite	'Chlorite Group'
'Albite-Anorthite Series'	Augite	Chrysocolla
Almandine	Azurite	Cordierite
Amphibole Supergroup	'Biotite'	Cumingtonite
Andalusite	Bornite	Epidote
Andradite	'Calamine'	Ferrimolybdite
Ankerite	Calcite	Fluorite
Anthophyllite	Cerussite	Gahnite
'Apatite'	Chalcopyrite	Galena

'Garnet'	'Mica Group'	Quartz
Gedrite	Microcline	Silver
Gold	Molybdenite	Sphalerite
Hemimorphite	Muscovite	Staurolite
Ilmenite	Proustite	Stephanite
'Limonite'	Pyrrargyrite	Tetrahedrite
Magnetite	Pyrite	
Malachite	Pyromorphite	

References:

Crawford, R.D. and Worcester, P.G. 1916. *Geology and Ore Deposits of the Gold Brick District, Colorado*. Colorado Geological Survey Bulletin 10.

DeWitt, Ed., Stoneman, R.J., Clark, J.R., and Kluender S.E. 1985. *Mineral Resource Potential Map of the Fossil Ridge Wilderness Study Area, Gunnison County, Colorado*. U.S. Geological Survey Miscellaneous Field Studies Map MF-1629-A.

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.

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

Heyl, A.V. 1964. *Oxidized Zinc Deposits of the United States - Part 3, Colorado*. U.S. Geological Survey Bulletin 1135-C.

Hill, J.M. 1909. *Notes on the Economic Geology of Southeastern Gunnison County, Colorado* in Hayes, C.W. and Lindgren, W. 1909. *Contributions to Economic Geology, 1908: Part I - Metals and Nonmetals, except fuels*. U.S. Geological Survey Bulletin 380, pp. 21-40.

Hill, J.M. 1912. *The Mining Districts of the Western United States*. U.S. Geological Survey Bulletin 507.

Parker, Ben H. Jr. 1974. *Gold Placers of Colorado*. Colorado School of Mines Quarterly, 69 (4), p. 122.

Streufert, R.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.

Worcester, P.G. 1919. Molybdenum Deposits of Colorado with General Notes on the Molybdenum Industry. Colorado Geological Survey Bulletin 14.

www.mindat.org, accessed August 2015.

Zech, R.S. 1988. Geologic Map of the Fossil Ridge Area, Gunnison County, Colorado. U.S. Geological Survey Miscellaneous Investigations Series Map I-1883. Map Scale 1:24,000.