
Historic Broken Handle (Grays Peak) Mining Claim Overview

17 Acre Lode Claim - Argentine District – Clear Creek County, CO

Despite its high elevation, this area is highly trafficked due to the trail head for Gray's Peak directly in the area. Even though the trail head gets a lot of traffic, the mine itself does not. Most pass by the mine as is evidenced by the lack of any trails or paths from Gray's Peak trail to the mine. There is good 4WD access to the mine from the main road and it is possible to drive across the stream and up the tailings to the mine flat.

The mine appears to be naturally collapsed, but this is unverified. The portal appears stable at the hard rock but would need to be dug out to be safely accessible. There are some good samples of free-milling (native) gold in the waste dumps. This is likely due to runoff disturbing and turning over the ground each and every year. There is a good amount of heavy gauge rail coming out of the mine and based off the waste dump and other variables, surveyors estimate the mine to be 800-1000' in total workings.

The claim does encroach on a small portion of patent (private land) that is not accessible for mining. The claim has roughly 17 workable acres. The MRDS reports that this claim was mined primarily for gold, with silver as its secondary commodity.

With plenty of water and a historical gold producer this is an excellent property for a small miner or beginning miner. The location is ideal for resources and access. Because of the limited area available for mining this will likely never be a large, commercial site.

History of the Mines

Historically known as the "Broken Handle," this claim resides on the base of Kelso Mountain. This mountain was named after Kelso, who prospected in this area in the spring of 1865.^[1] The Baker Mine, less than a mile from this claim, is one of the early lode discoveries on the slope of this mountain.

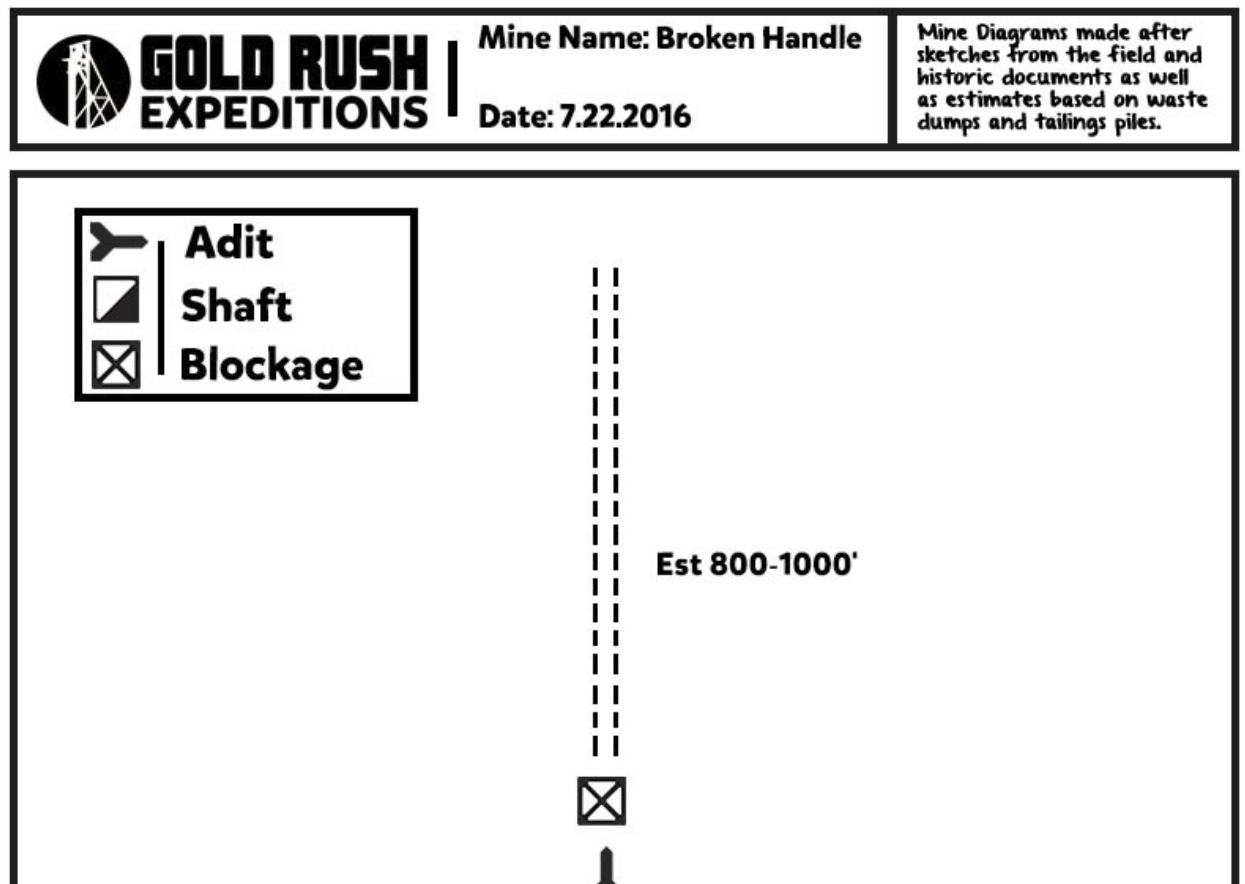
The Broken handle is a small producer and actual recovery and production was never recorded. It was worked solely for gold and is estimated to be 800-1000' in underground workings based on the waste rock and other variables. Native gold is visible on waste rock indicating that the gold was quite rich if these were discarded. Gold assays from area mines circa 1931 ranged from 1.4 ounces to a stunning 25 ounces per ton just up the hill from this site.

This is further supported by the Baker Mine less than 1.5 air miles away. *"By 1870, the production of Baker Mine was abundant enough to sustain a Dodge crusher, two ball pulverizers, three Bruckner cylinders, and six amalgamating barrels."* The exact production number is unknown as the workings of Baker Mine was lost in a fire.

Ore from this area of the Argentine district was difficult to market, because of the distance from Georgetown. Transportation of ore cost nine dollars (\$9) per ton. quite a lot for the time when gold was only \$20 per ounce.^[2]



Mine Entrance

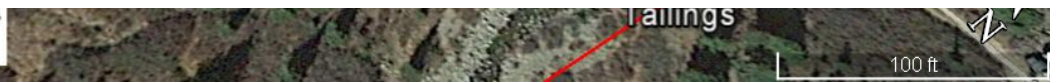


Mine Diagram

Mine Details:

Access to the Mine	You can drive to the mine entrance, up the tailings in a high clearance vehicle. When surveyed, the water was high in the river and we were unable to drive across the river. We accessed the adit by walking across bridge of the Grqy's Peak Trail and then walking about 100 feet to the entrance.
Tailings Present	10,000-49,999 tons. The tailings pile is mostly waste rock. We did see good gold ores lying around.
Entrance	It appears the adit entrance is collapsed, however there is still snow covering the adit entrance, so when the snow melts you may be able an access point into the mine.
Mine Cut	Adit
Depth / Length	Est 800-1000'
Minerals in the Mine	This area was mined for gold and silver in the past, so it's safe to assume you can expect more inside the mine.
Foot Traffic in the Mine	None
Last Worked	Unknown





Aerial view of claim and boundaries.

Number of Mines	One Adit
Nearest city with amenities	Georgetown, Colorado is approximately 12 miles from the claim.
Access to the Claim	The road to the claim is a dirt road that is not recommended for 2WD clearance cars, however there is a hiking trailhead directly near the claim and multiple people were up there in Hondas. The dirt road is just about 1.5 miles to the trailhead parking. This 2WD road gets you 99.8% of the way to the claim. A short high clearance 4WD road breaks off just before the trailhead and leads over the river and to the claim.
Parking and Staging on the claim	Ample parking and staging at the trailhead near the claim.
Resources	Year round water, some trees and brush.
Structures on claim	None
Relics on the claim	Some old rail
Elevation	11,247 feet

Reference:

1. *History of Clear Creek and Boulder Valleys, Colorado: Containing a Brief History of the State of Colorado ... an Account of the Ute Trouble: A History of Gilpin, Clear Creek, Boulder, and Jefferson Counties, and Biographical Sketches.* Chicago: O.L. Baskin, 1880.
2. Cushman, Samuel. *The Mines of Clear Creek County, Colorado.* Denver, Col.: Times Steam Printing House, 1876.

Photo Gallery



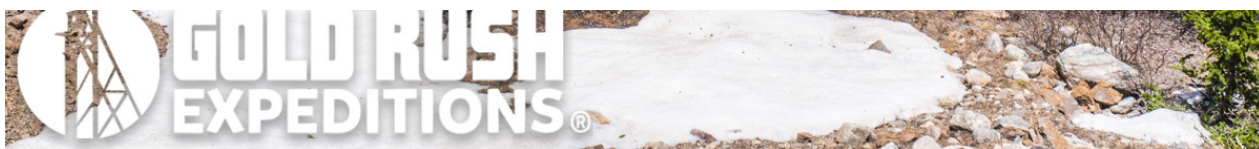


The old mine site.



Tailings show gold processing and some likely silver and lead.





A little snow still hanging around in May.



Heavy Gauge track out of the mine tells the size of the cars and the workings.





Visible gold flakes in a piece of ore.



Typical rock around the mine entrance.





A lonely piece of rail for scale and size.



Year round running water.





Footpath to Grays Peak trail.





Some digging and snow removal will be required to re-open the underground workings.



Access road to the claim.

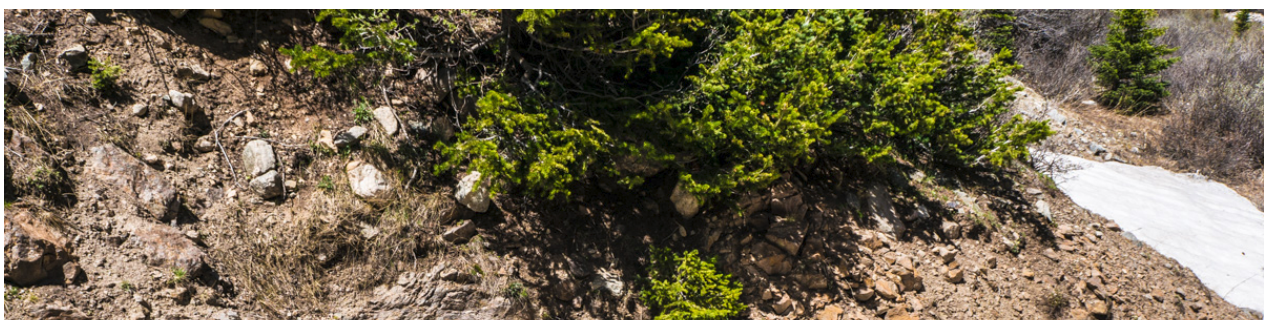




A distance shot to show the magnitude of the entrance.



What bends rail like this?

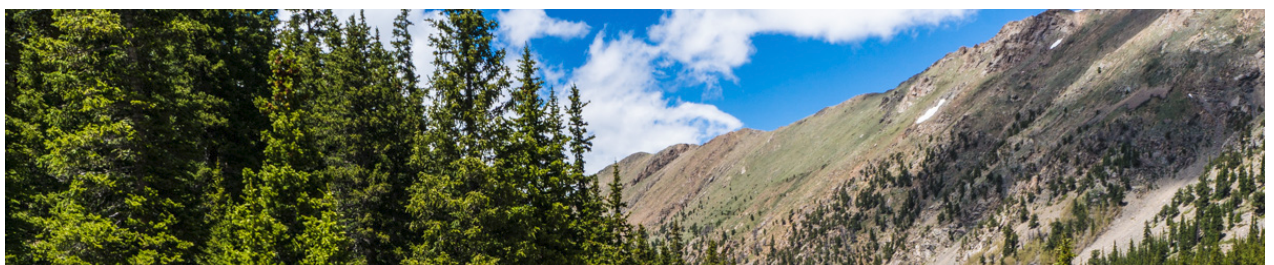




Snow will crush out minerals every year and deposit them in the creek.



Looking down the canyon.





Tailings drop into the river.





Visible flake gold, iron and some mica.









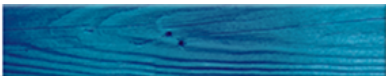
Gold and some likely molybdenum.



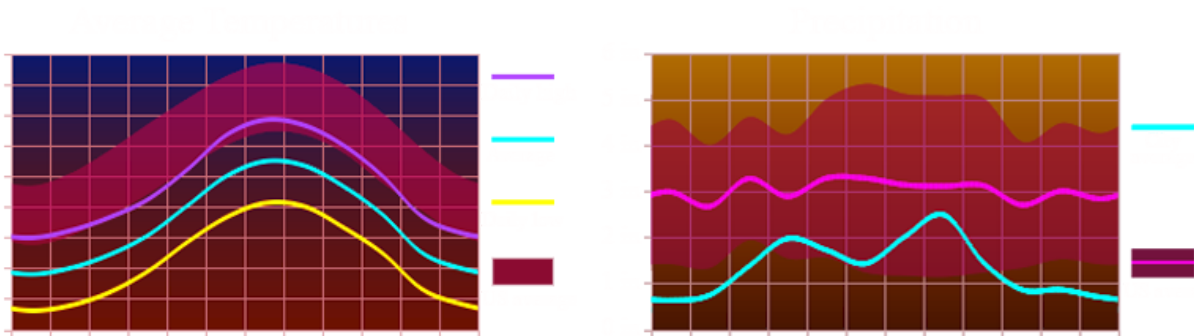
The sign of a quality claim. Watch for these on a claim near you!

More Info

Claim Rating

Total Workings	2 
Historical Value	2 
Accessibility and Location	5 
Mineral Value	4 
Resources	3 

Weather



Weather data from nearby city - Georgetown

USGS Information

Commodities:

- Gold - Primary
- Silver - Tertiary

- Silver - tertiary

Geological Information

Granitic rocks of 1400 m.y. age group

References:

USGS Database - 10117626(Broken Handle Mine)

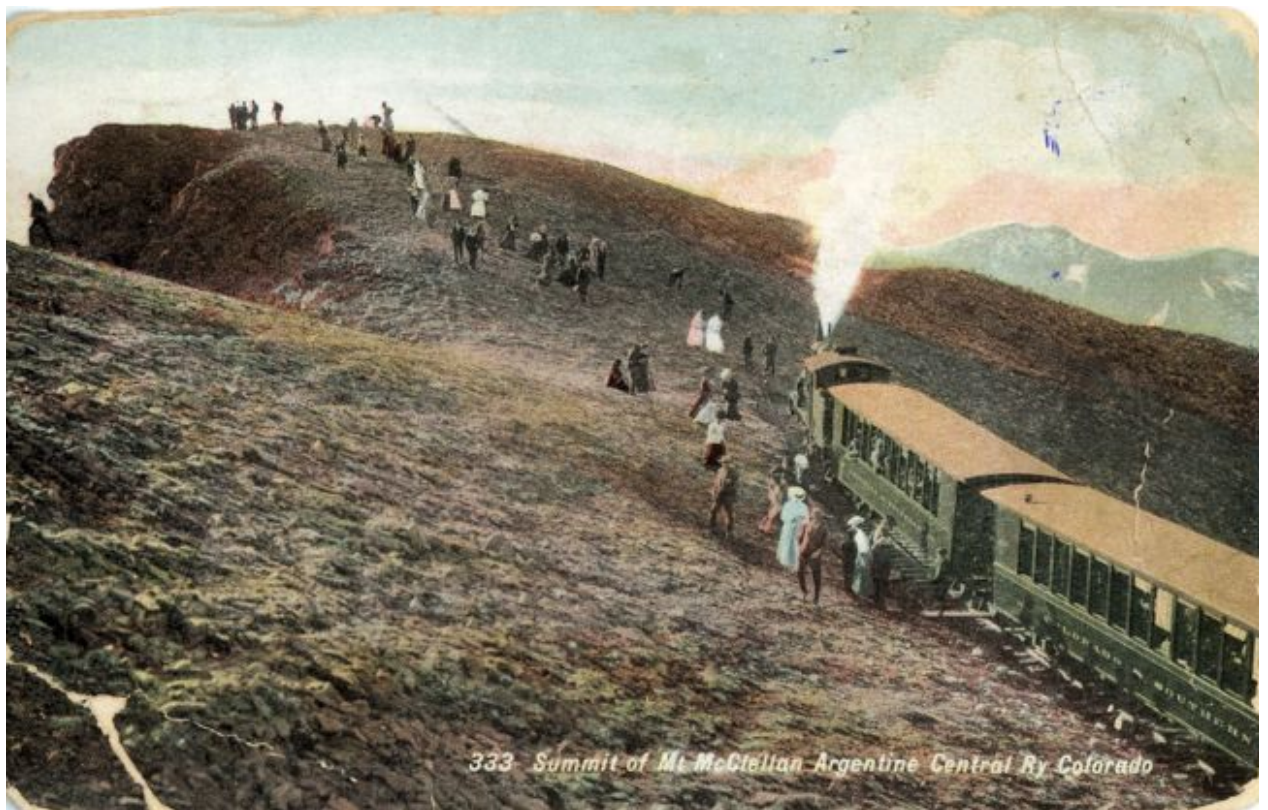
District Overview

Argentine District Information

History:

Originally the Decatur, this district was founded by mine promoter Stephen Decatur Bross. He wasn't a character with a lot of as he skipped out on his family from Illinois just to travel west to pursue riches. Even his brother, who's a Lieutenant Governor of Illinois, tracked him down, but denied their relationship.

The altitude and the harsh winters made it difficult to mine; It's said that many of the miners didn't work as hard, but went through food faster because of this. In the early years, they couldn't mine at the fullest because of the poor transport facilities. They used burros to transport equipment.



The Decatur eventually declined until it was revived as the Rathbone in 1890, but was wiped out by an avalanche in 1899. The district was rebuilt for a third and final time as the Argentine. In 1905, Reverend Edward J Wilcox established the Argentine Central Railway, that greatly helped facilitate the transportation of miners and equipment, but also attracted a number of tourists.^[1] In the Colorado Central Mining Company created a 500-ton flotation mill. The district is also home to the Santiago Consolidated Mining, Milling and Tunnel Company mines, as well as The Kitty Ousley mine.^[2]

Geology:

The Argentine district, located at the heads of Leavenworth and Stevens Creeks in southwestern Clear Creek County, is 6 to 10 miles southwest of Georgetown and Silver Plume, just east of the Continental Divide. The mineralized area is on Kelso and McClellan Mountains and also included in the district an area in Summit County at the head of Peru Creek on the west side of the Continental Divide, but this area has produced insufficient gold to be considered in this report.

Production records for the Argentine district are fragmentary. According to incomplete mine production figures, the district had a minimum gold output through 1928 of 21,990 ounces. From 1932 through 1957 the district had a recorded production of 3,370 ounces of gold, or a total minimum of 25,400 ounces, all of which was a byproduct of silver ores.

The Argentine district is underlain by schist and gneiss of the Idaho Springs Formation into which were intruded masses of Silver Plume Granite, of Precambrian age. Dikes and plugs of Tertiary quartz monzonite porphyry and rhyolite and dacite porphyry cut the Precambrian rocks. The ore bodies are in veins that trend north-northeast and contain galena, pyrite, sphalerite, chalcopyrite, and sulfantimonides, and gold. Quartz, carbonates, and locally occurring fluorite are the most common gangue minerals.^[3]

References:

1. Dallas, Sandra. *Colorado Ghost Towns and Mining Camps*. Norman: U of Oklahoma, 1988.
2. Colorado. Bureau of Mines, and Colorado. Division of Mines. *A Summary of Mineral Industry Activity in Colorado*. N.p.: Bureau, 1919.
3. Clear Creek County Colorado Gold Production

District Overview:	
District Aliases	Decatur, Rathbone
Discovered/ Organized	1860s
Noted Commodities	Gold, Silver

SALES INFORMATION

LEGAL REPRESENTATION



**All Of Our Mining Claims Include
No-Cost Legal Representation!**

Liberty and Justice For All

*Some exclusions apply.
Exclusions may include but are not limited to appeals, court costs, filing fees, documentation, discovery, process and processing.

All Gold Rush Expeditions Clients receive our signature “No-Cost” Legal Aide. We take your mining rights seriously. Unfortunately, some Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service Employees do not. Gold Rush Expeditions, Inc.’s clients can rest assured that we will fight to protect your mining rights.

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