Building 20 - Federal Center
Denver 25, Colorado

September 26, 1962

Memorandum

To: George C. Selfridge, Chief
Division of Field Operations, OME
Washington 25, D. C

From: Acting Field Officer, OME, Region III

Subject: OME-6254 (Gold-Silver)
Warren E. Lyen
(Gold Run (Billings) Project)
Montezuma County, Colorado

Enclosed are the original and two copies of the Report of Examination by T. M. Romslo on the subject property.

Mr. Romslo recommends, and I concur, that this application for OME aid be denied.

Original signed by

Hugh M. Connors

Attachments
HMC/lm
cc Chief, Division of Field Operations
OME 6254
Chron
Mineral Resources

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF MINERALS EXPLORATION
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

OME
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OCT 15 1962
REGION III
DENVER, COLORADO

OCT 10 1962

Mr. Warren E. Lyen
Box 63
Mancos, Colorado

Re: OME-6254 (Gold and Silver)
Warren E. Lyen
Gold Run (Billings) Prospect
Montezuma County, Colorado

Dear Mr. Lyen:

Your application for financial assistance in exploring the Gold Run (Billings) Prospect in Montezuma County, Colorado, and other information available to us have been reviewed.

Careful study of all this information indicates that the probability of disclosing significant ore reserves on your property is not sufficiently promising to justify Government participation in the proposed exploration. We regret to advise you that, under these circumstances, your application for exploration assistance is denied.

As you requested, we return the following:

1. Report, dated April 1, 1956, by Harry E. Coppin, one typed original.

2. Map, titled "Mine Survey of Billings Prospect for Warren E. Lyen, Rex R. Reed - Engineer, Cortez, Colorado, P.E. & L.S. Reg. No. 1820, 9-11-52," one blue-line print.

Sincerely yours,

George Fumich, Jr.

Director

Enclosures

SPHolt/gla
10-9-62
cc to: Director's Reading File
Review Committee
Region III (2)
Docket Code 500

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
STEWART L. UDALL, SECRETARY

OFFICE OF MINERALS EXPLORATION

REPORT OF EXAMINATION
REGION III

OME-6254

WARREN F. LYNN

Gold Rose (Millings) Prospect

MONTEZUMA COUNTY, COLORADO

Gold and Silver

Examination Report

by

T. M. Romslo, Mining Engineer, Bureau of Mines

September 1962

(RE-625)
WARREN E. LYEN
Gold Run (Billings) Prospect
Montezuma County, Colorado

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OME-6254

WARREN E. LYEN
Gold Run (Billings) Prospect
Montezuma County, Colorado

INTRODUCTION, SUMMARY, AND CONCLUSIONS

Mr. Warren E. Lyen, applied for Governmental aid in exploration for gold and silver on the Gold Run (Billings) Prospect, Montezuma County, Colorado. The application was received and assigned Docket Number OME-6254 by the Office of Minerals Exploration May 31, 1962. The application, as received, was incomplete. Maps, cost data, and other information requested in the application form were later obtained from Mr. Lyen, and the application was then referred to Region III for field investigations and recommendations.

The proposed exploration consists of a 50-foot raise to be driven on a vein exposed in an existing adit, a 200-foot extension of the existing adit, and 175 feet of advance in a new adit. The exploration project would cost an estimated total $12,475.00.

The writer examined the property in the Applicant's presence August 28, 1962. During the examination, which was confined to the area of proposed exploration, the Applicant requested that the 175-foot new adit be excluded from the Application.

Gold was reportedly first discovered on the surface of the Gold Run property in 1926. It reportedly was associated with the sand filling of fractured sandstone. Since 1926, the property has been extensively explored by surface and underground workings in an unsuccessful effort to locate the source of the gold. The only gold reportedly found was a "color."

The proposed exploration would not be expected to result in a significant gold discovery. The proposed raise would explore a zone that has been thoroughly tested with negative results. Also, the unfavorable conditions in the extensively explored area can be expected to prevail in the zone of the proposed adit-extension.

Denial of the Application is recommended.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Acknowledgment is made to the U. S. Forestry Service for furnishing the claim map of this report and the results of their investigation of the property.

LOCATION, ACCESSIBILITY, PHYSICAL FEATURES, AND CLIMATE

The Gold Run Prospect is about eight miles northeast of Mancos, a village approximately 27 miles west of Durango, Colorado, via U. S. Highway No. 160. It is situated in Sec. 18, T. 36 N., R. 11 W., and Sec. 13, T. 36 N., R. 12 W., NMPM, La Plata Mining District, Montezuma County, Colorado (fig.1).

To reach the Gold Run Prospect from Mancos, travel easterly 5.5 miles on U. S. Highway No. 160, and thence northerly 8.5 miles on a graded dirt road that terminates at the upper mine workings.

The Gold Run property is at an average altitude of about 10,900 feet on the steep western slope of Maiden Peak. Maiden Peak, altitude 11,980 feet, is one of the highest points in the La Plata Mountains. Bear Sign Creek heads near the property and drains westward to the East Mancos River.

The property is heavily timbered. Pine, fir, and spruce trees are the most abundant species.

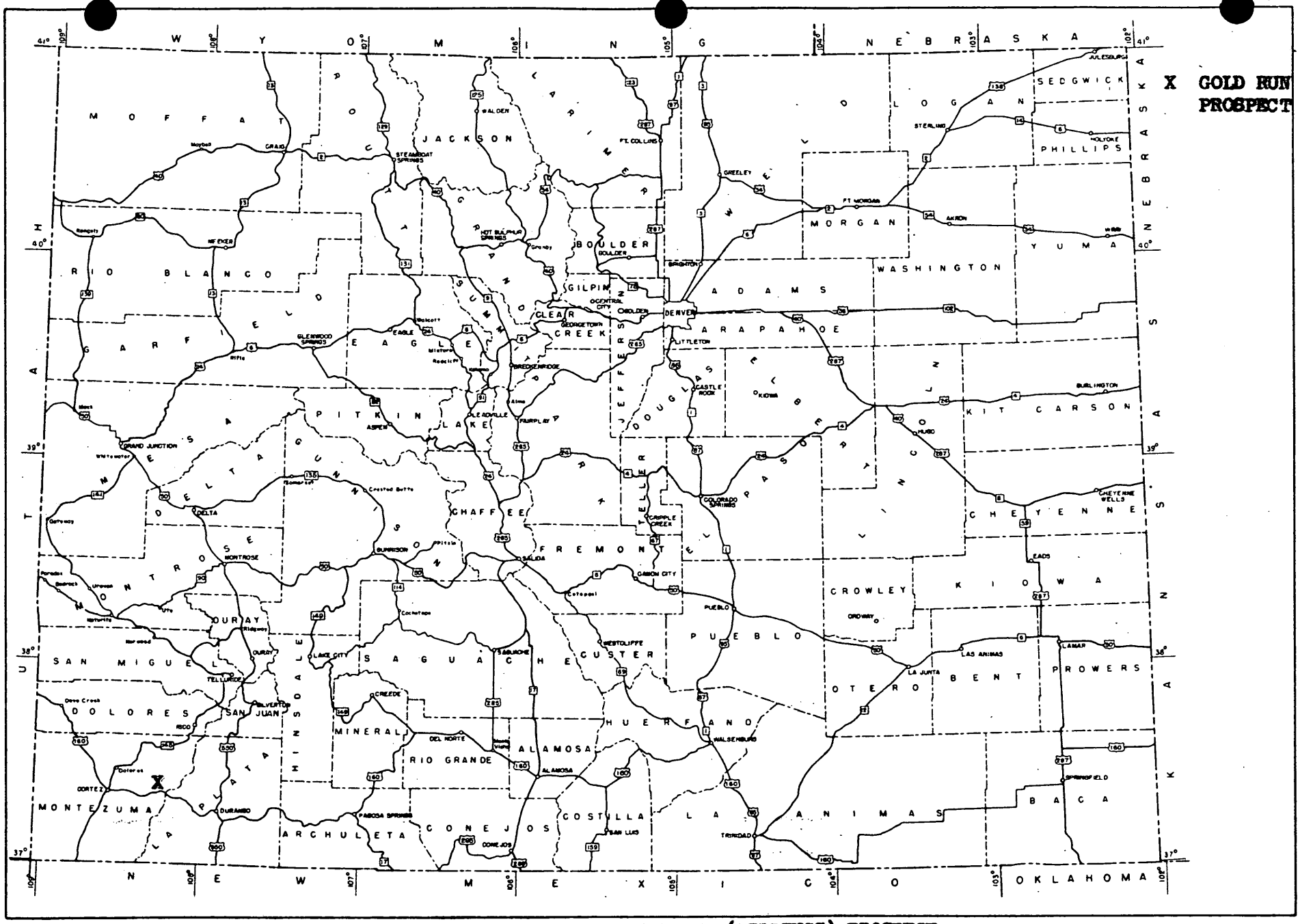

FIG. 1, LOCATION MAP, WARREN E. LYEN, GOLD RUN (BILLINGS) PROSPECT, MONTEZUMA COUNTY, COLORADO OME-6254 (GOLD-SILVER)

The winters are long and generally characterized by heavy snows. In the summers, days are pleasant, nights are cool, and thundershowers are common.

HISTORY AND PRODUCTION

The Gold Run claims were first located by the Billings brothers, Robert and Harvey, in 1886 shortly after they reportedly found placer gold on the property. In an effort to find the source of the gold, they drove three short adits in the area of the present upper mine workings, and drove about 400 feet of the present lower adit. No additional gold had been found to 1933 when exploratory work was terminated. The property then was inactive to 1945 when it was acquired by Mr. Warren E. Lyon, the Applicant.

Mr. Lyon started to extend the lower adit in 1946 and completed it in 1951. No gold was found. From 1951 to 1958 activity was confined to assessment work in the form of access roads and exploratory trenches. The property was last active in 1959 and 1960 when Mr. Lyon completed the presently accessible upper adit. Gold found in this adit was confined to a "color" associated with sand that filled a small crevice.

EXTENT AND OWNERSHIP OF THE PROPERTY

The property consists of a group of four unpatented lode mining claims, Gold Run No. 1, 2, 3, and 4, and is reportedly owned by the Applicant, Mr. Warren E. Lyon, Box 63, Mancos, Colorado (fig. 2).

PRESENT STATUS

Exploratory workings on the property consist of three inaccessible short adits, the accessible lower adit and upper adit, and several

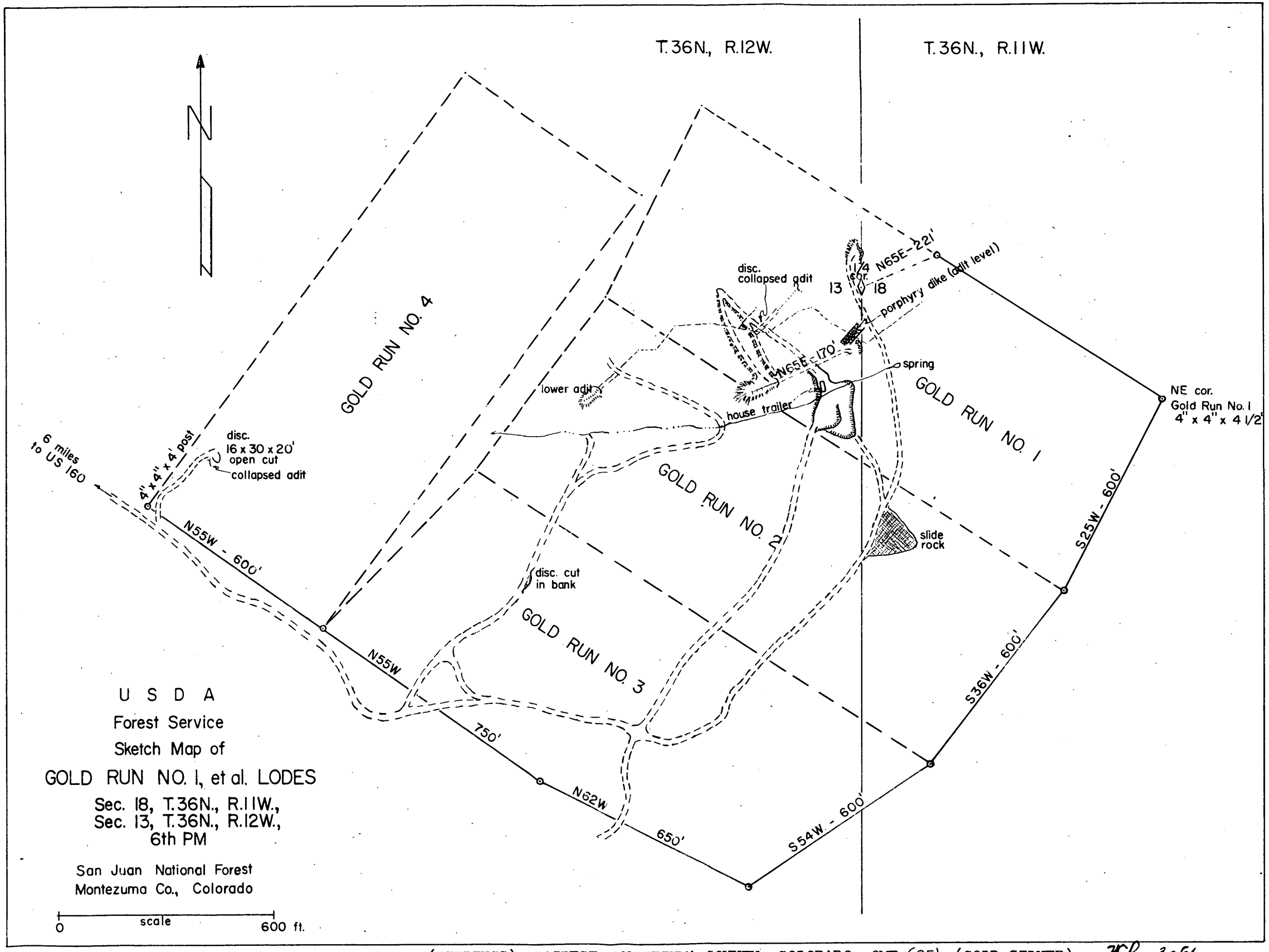

FIG. 2, CLAIM MAP, WARREN E. LYEN, GOLD RUN (BILLINGS) PROSPECT, MONTEZUMA COUNTY, COLORADO OME-6254 (GOLD-SILVER) JCR 3-61

small pits and trenches. Track and an air pipeline are installed in the upper adit. Buildings on the property consist of two cabins, both of which are located near the portal of the lower adit. Other equipment on the property consists of two mine cars.

GEOLOGY AND ORE DEPOSITS

The geology of the La Plata District and the Applicant's property is described by Mr. Edwin B. Eckel. 1/

The La Plata Mountains were carved from a domal uplift of sedimentary rocks intruded by numerous stocks, dikes, and sills of igneous rocks. They are an excellent example of the laccolithic type of mountain group.

The sedimentary rocks exposed in the district consist of limestones, sandstones, and shales ranging in age from Upper Cretaceous to Pennsylvanian. The igneous rocks are all of Upper Cretaceous and Tertiary age and all are intrusive. They consist of two general types--porphyritic and nonporphyritic.

The most pronounced structural feature in the district is a domal uplift of the sedimentary rocks which is partly outlined by a steep, horseshoe-shaped hinge fold. Within the hinge fold, that nearly encircles the central part of the mountains, the rocks are strongly silicified and faulted.

The district is best known for its veins and replacement deposits of gold-bearing and silver-bearing telluride ores. Faults formed during and after emplacement of the nonporphyritic stocks are the loci of many of the ore deposits.

1/ Eckel, Edwin B., and others, Geology and Ore Deposits of the La Plata District, Colorado, USGS Professional Paper 219, 1949.

Concerning the Billings prospect, Eckel reported that all the workings are in the Junction Creek sandstone and on the south side of the Parrot fault (fig. 3). Four weak fracture zones from one foot to three feet wide, characterized by pyrite, were cut by the lower adit. The sandstone near the surface reportedly contained some free gold that could be recovered by panning, but further underground the rock was essentially barren. He suggested that, "the gold was derived from some nearby undiscovered vein and was washed into crevices of the sandstone by meteric waters."

The lower adit was extended and the upper adit was driven subsequent to Eckel's examination of the prospect. The Applicant reported that the lower adit extension penetrated a porphyry dike and a few weak fracture zones in sandstone, and explored a fault zone along a sandstone-shale contact. No gold was found. These findings were verified by Mr. Warren C. Roberts, minerals examiner, U. S. Forestry Service, who examined the property July 19, 20, 21, 1960. Mr. Roberts concluded, "That no discovery of valuable mineral sufficient to support a mining location has been made upon or within the limits of said claim."

The upper adit and a short drift near the face of the adit are in Junction Creek sandstone. The drift follows a nearly vertical fractured zone averaging about 2 inches in width, and cuts through a a probably vertical, 4-foot wide porphyry dike near the site of the proposed raise. The only gold found, according to the Applicant, was a color that occurred with grains of the sand filling a fissure zone about 2 inches wide and 12 inches long. The zone is almost vertically

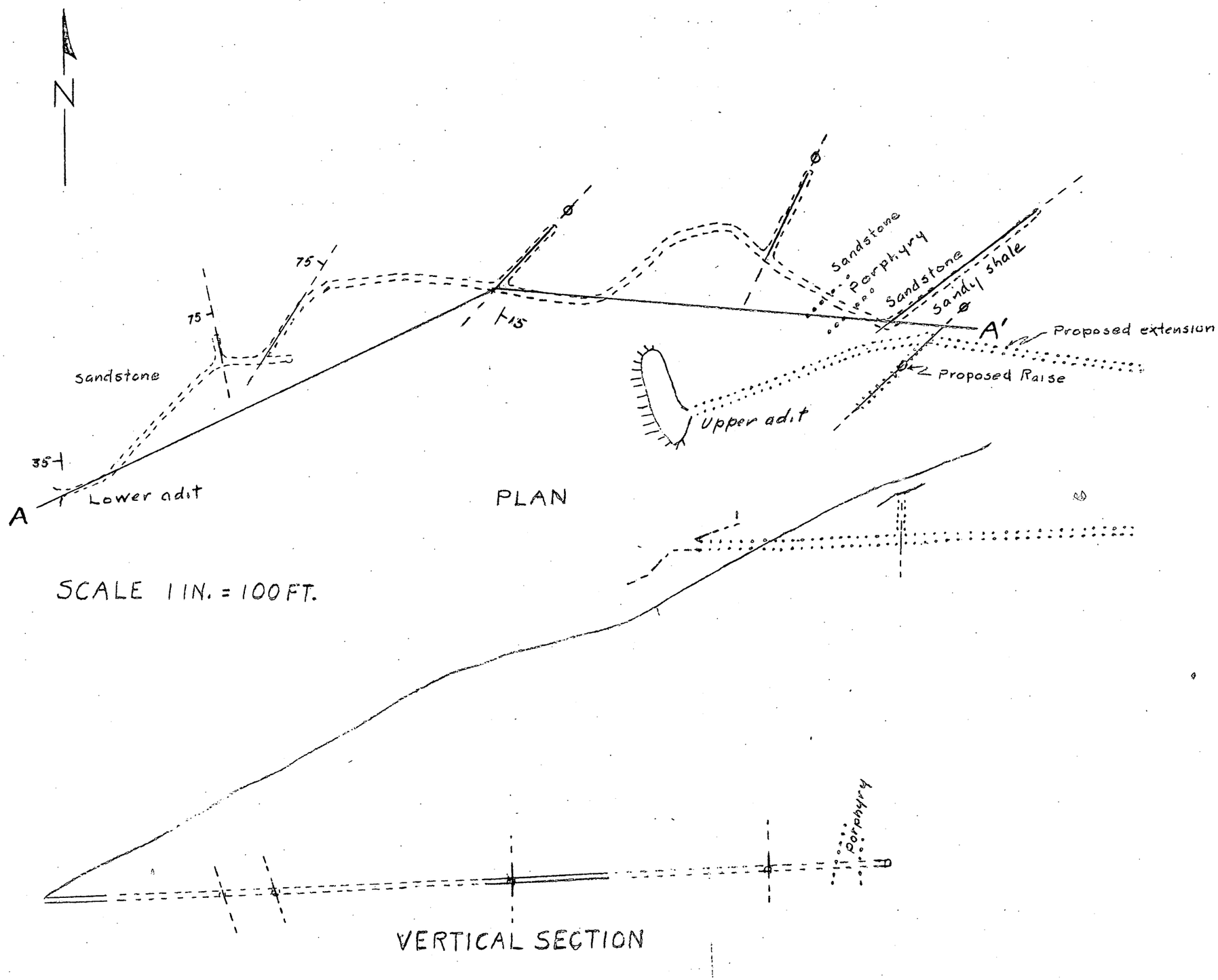

FIGURE 3.-GEOLOGICAL MAP, WARREN E. LYEN, GOLD RUN (BILLINGS) PROSPECT, MOTEZUMA COUNTY, COLORADO. OME-6254 (GOLD-SILVER)

below the small surface-drainage area in which gold was first discovered on the property. Mr. Robert's sample from the zone contained no gold.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATION

The chances that additional exploration of the Gold Run prospect would result in a significant gold discovery are very poor. Therefore, it is recommended that the application be denied.