Docket

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF MINERALS EXPLORATION
So. 157 Howard Street
Spokane, Washington 99204
February 20, 1964

Memorandum

To: Chief, Division of Field Operations

From: Acting Field Officer, Region I

Subject: Examination report
OME-6313 (Gold-Platinum)
E. D. Westwood and F. W. Winkfield
Gold Plate #1 and #2 Claims
Jackson County, Oregon

The Gold Plate Claims were visited October 11, 1963, accompanied by Kenneth Westwood, one of the partners applying for OME assistance. About 8½ hours were spent on the property mapping Tunnels 1, 2, and 3 and running about 2,000 feet of Brunton and tape line to tie in the tunnels and survey an old mine road.

The property is reached by following Interstate Highway 5 for 19 miles westerly from the Travelodge Motel in Medford, Oregon, to the Rogue River exit; cross railroad track and turn left following E. Evans Creek road for 8 miles to Wimer. About 3 miles past Wimer the blacktop ends; take next turn right and follow increasingly poor gravel to dirt road for 2 miles to the end line of Gold Plate No. 1 Claim. From this point proceed on foot along an old and badly weatherworn dirt road to the workings. The old road is on a grade of about 22 percent between Tunnels No. 1 and 2.

The geology of the area is described rather briefly by J. S. Diller and G. F. Kay in Mineral resources of the Grants Pass quadrangle and bordering districts, Oregon: U. S. Geol. Survey Bull. 380 (Hayes and Lindgren), p. 48-59 (1909), and in Description of the Riddle quadrangle [Oregon]: U. S. Geol. Survey Geol. Atlas, Folio 101 (1924). Their statements regarding the regional geology and occurrence of gold are freely summarized or quoted in this report.

Gold-bearing quartz is found in small veins, veinlets, and stringers in greenstone and in metamorphosed sediments usually within a short distance of dikes or irregular areas of greenstone. A few prospects

See Map B

but no mines have been opened in serpentine. Many of the gold-bearing veins in the greenstone are near serpentine, but as a rule are cut off at the greenstone-serpentine contact. Quartz veinlets have also been found in granediorite, but within the Riddle area no mines have yet been developed in this rock. In many of the veins the quartz has crystals with perfect outlines indicating that the deposition took place in open fissures. Frequently, calcite and less frequently subordinate amounts of pyrite, arsenopyrite, chalcopyrite and galena are also present. A study of the vein fillings in different kinds of rocks suggests that the country rock has not influenced the contents of the fissures. Gold occurs free in the quartz and also is associated with the sulfides. Few valuable deposits have been found in country rock adjacent to the veins. In some places the wall rock is only slightly altered; in others, it has been chloritized, and in still others products of alteration are carbonates, albite, quartz, and pyrite.

The gold-producing veins range in width from thin seams to veins more than 4 feet wide, but the average width of all the veins examined (by Dillar and Kay) was less than 1 foot. In many places there are brecciated zones in which occur several veinlets and stringers, as a rule parallel to one another but locally irregular and running in various directions. In general, individual veins and veinlets are continuous for only short distances and in many localities the continuity of veins has been further interrupted by considerable faulting along planes at various angles to one another. The most productive veins tend to strike easterly and most of them dip steeply though dips range from nearly horizontal to vertical. Many of the veins and veinlets did not contain large bodies of ore but only pockets. Some of the pockets, although filling but small spaces, were remarkably rich, much of the gold being coarse. In general, most of the gold obtained from these pockets has been taken from depths of less than 25 feet from the surface.

The applicants' claims are in an area of highly metamorphosed sedimentary rocks consisting chiefly of mica schist and micaceous slate. To the west, about 2 or more miles from the claims are intrusive rocks comprising quartz diorite, greenstone gabbro, and related rocks. The cut side of the old road is deeply weathered and much of it is overgrown with dense brush, but cobble size pieces of rock and small boulders along the road were for the most part mica schist and possibly some micaceous slate. The only rock seen in place was in Tunnels 1, 2, and 3. The portal of a fourth unnamed tunnel was visited, but it was caved and could not be entered. Subsequent to the examination, Westwood reported that he had opened this tunnel and had taken eight samples across unstated widths; the sample locations and assays are indicated on plate 1.

Tunnel 3 comprises an adit crosscut 75 feet long and 2 drifts. The first drift, 15 feet from the adit portal, was driven S. 50° E. for at least 50 feet but is impassable beyond 25 feet where stoping was started. As nearly as could be determined, the stope is about 4 feet wide, 25 feet long, and extends from 8 to 10 feet above the level to 10 to 15 feet below. No vein was identified in the crosscut, but as the stope was approached some shearing and slight silicification of the slatey wall rock was noted. Westwood had no information regarding the amount and grade of the stoped rock or when it had been mined.

The second drift at the end of the crosscut was driven at least 40 feet bearing N. 45° W. and 40 feet S. 35° E. from the crosscut. A stope about 4 feet wide below the level, full of water but said to be 20 feet deep, extends from the northwesterly side of the crosscut for about 25 to 30 feet southeasterly. A sample taken from this stope by Winkfield is said to have assayed $80.00 per ton over a width of 18 inches, but the assay certificate has been lost. This would be equivalent to $30.00 per ton over the 4-foot stope width. There were no stulls or lagging over the stope so only the northwesterly drift could be entered. Above the stope bands of quartz and silicified slate in a zone about 5 feet wide could be seen, but the quartz bands died out a few feet northwest of the stope. For the next 25 or 30 feet northwesterly there was a thin band of clay along the southwest wall and beyond this a few narrow quartz stringers reappeared. At 40 feet the drift was caved completely. Southeast of the crosscut just beyond the end of the underhand stope evidence of some stoping above the level could be seen. The height of this stope could not be determined, but it appeared to be only about 15 feet long.

According to Winkfield, as quoted by Westwood in a letter dated November 14, 1963, the caved end of the northwest drift is the beginning of a stope that "extended some 80 feet horizontally and vertically clear to the grass roots." He does not give the width of the stope, but he mentions a 40-pound sample taken by "a mining engineer" for AS&R who later sent to a Mr. Hughes, Winkfield's one-time partner, a copy of an assay return showing a value of $240.00 per ton. The assay certificate was lost after Hughes' death. He then quotes Winkfield as saying that after the sample was taken the drift caved.

Tunnel 2, about 100 feet below Tunnel 3, comprises an adit crosscut 175 feet long from the end of which drifts have been run 20 feet southeasterly and 120 feet northwesterly. At the end of the northwesterly drift is a muck-filled and inaccessible raise. As the portal of this tunnel is at the edge of the road, it is possible that the raise was driven for an ore pass from Tunnel 3; Westwood

could only say that some ore was mined through the raise. The southeasterly drift and the first 20 to 30 feet of the northwesterly drift are in a hard-sheeted dark-colored rock, probably a slate, with no apparent vein. From 30 feet northwest to the face there are bands of quartz gradually widening up to an inch or so thick between sheets of siliceous slate. A sample was taken at the face across a 1-foot zone of sheeted quartz and slate; it assayed only a trace each of gold and silver. The crosscut passed below the first drift in Tunnel 3, but no evidence of the structure that was stoped from the higher level was found.

After surveying Tunnels 2 and 3 and tying in their portals a line was run down the old road a distance of 1,150 feet to a point where the road branched. Near this point a caved area on the southeasterly side of the road was said to be all that remains of an inclined shaft. According to Westwood, an unknown amount of ore was taken from this shaft, but there is no known record of the depth of the shaft, what workings, if any, may have been seen from it, or the grade of the ore that may have been taken.

The branch road was followed for about 100 feet to the edge of a second caved area or open cut below which is a segment of another old road. The slopes of the cave or open cut are so weathered that no evidence of any vein remains; the same is true of the slope from the cave to the road segment below and the other cave alongside the surveyed road above. The road segment below the lower cave is notably wider than a road would normally be and it is possible that it is the dump of a presently hidden tunnel passing beneath the two caves. However, this is pure speculation as Westwood has no information other than that the upper cave is supposedly the top of an inclined shaft.

Below the road segment is the portal of an unnamed tunnel which was caved and inaccessible. Subsequent to the examination, Westwood returned to this portal, opened it up and took eight samples. Except for 2 assays, gold values ranged from 0.005 to 0.010 ounce per ton and silver values ranged from nil to 2.2 ounces per ton. The exceptions were at the end of the tunnel where the silver content of Sample 1 was found to be 156.4 ounces per ton, and 9 feet back from the face where the gold content of Sample 3 was found to be 0.115 ounce per ton. Westwood does not give the widths of the various samples. He also traced the "vein structure" from the cave above the unnamed tunnel to the "high ridge directly above the caved in stope of tunnel number 3" and found "a number of prospect holes along the entire structure that allowed a line to be run from one to another" and therefore is "decidedly of the opinion that it is all the same vein from #3 to the unnamed tunnel." Westwood took 1 sample designated "#9 High ride" which assayed 0.010 ounce gold and 0.2 ounce silver per ton across an undesignated width.

Presumably, this is from the cave above the stope at the northwesterly end of the Tunnel 3 drift. At the time of the examination Westwood said he thought there were a few old pits along the vein but was not sure where they were and believed they were caved and obscured by the dense underbrush. Therefore, since the map which accompanied the application was obviously in error, it was decided that it would be better to tie in the known workings rather than waste considerable time looking for caved pits that might not be found and that, if found, probably would give little information other than that they existed.

The survey was continued from the road branch to Tunnel 1. This tunnel, driven 190 feet on a bearing of about S. 73° E., is in soft mica schist and is more or less parallel to the plane of schistosity. No strong mineralized structure was noted. However, Westwood on his subsequent visit to the property took a sample of what he calls a vein about 90 feet from the tunnel portal; it assayed 0.005 ounce gold and 0.3 ounce silver per ton. Thus, it may be that there are narrow stringers or seams of gold- and silver-bearing material along the schistosity planes. The purpose of this tunnel was to cut the ore said to have been found in the inclined shaft after further work from the shaft was prevented by flooding. In summary, all that could be demonstrated in the field was that there are 4 tunnels, 1 of which is not on any definite structure, and 1 of which was inaccessible, 1 small caved area or open cut said to represent an inclined shaft, and another slightly larger caved area or open pit. Several other old pits which one of the applicants visited after the examination could doubtless be shown now, but judging from the two that were seen, it is doubtful if anything would be gained by visiting them. In Tunnel 2 a sample of veinlike material taken by the examiner assayed only a trace each of gold and silver, and one of the structures on which was a small stope in Tunnel 3 was not found. In Tunnel 3 there are two veins each apparently short or at least discontinuous, and on each of which there has been some stoping, but the stopes are inaccessible for sampling.

The size of a caved stope at the northwesterly end of the second vein in Tunnel 3 is based solely on hearsay as is the reported value of a sample from the stoped area. There is also hearsay suggesting that the northwest end of the drift caved or was blasted down just after the sample was taken. The value of a sample taken from the stope at the end of Tunnel 3 crosscut cannot be supported, nor can the claim that the total production from property was worth approximately $250,000. Assays of samples taken by Westwood after the examination are, with the exception of one indicating 156.4 ounces silver per ton, not encouraging and only show that there are detectable values in gold and silver on the property.

There may be small rich pockets along the line of trenches, but no evidence has been presented to indicate where or how large they might be. Until such time as the old pits are cleaned out so that any vein therein will be exposed for study and sampling, it can only be concluded that the chance of making a significant discovery is less than fair. It is therefore recommended that the application be denied without prejudice.

D. R. MacLaren

Enclosure
Distribution:
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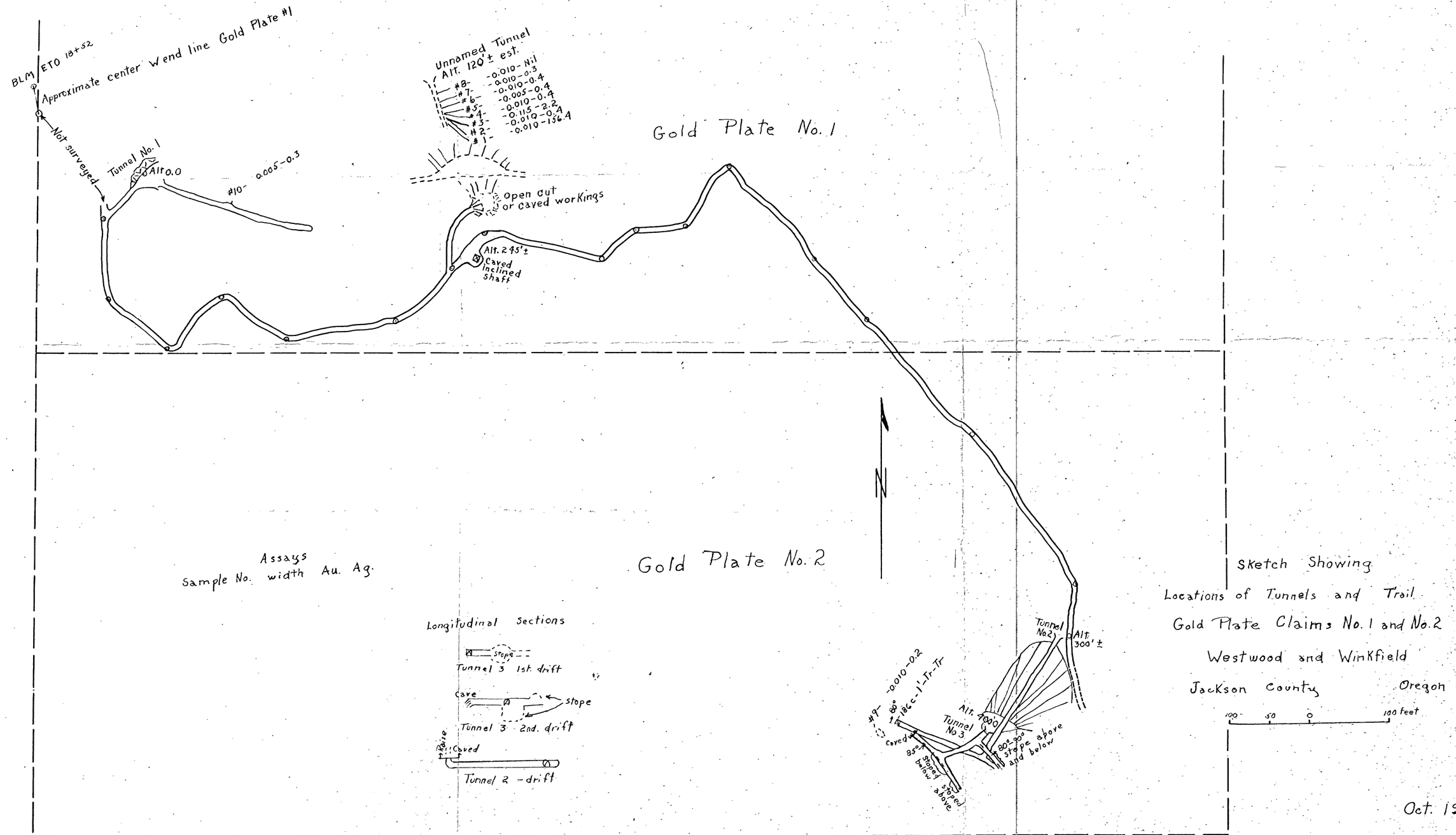
USGS(SRO)
Docket
MacLaren

U.S. Department of the Interior

Office of Minerals Exploration
Examination Report

OME-6313



Oct. 1963

Plate 1
Map B