Project

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF MINERALS EXPLORATION
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
So. 157 Howard Street
Spokane, Washington 99204
October 21, 1965

MEMORANDUM

To: Chief, Office of Minerals Exploration

From: Field Officer, Region I

Subject: Application Examination
OME-6461 (Silver-Gold)
Pedro Mountain Mining Company
Silver Queen Prospect
Baker County, Oregon

INTRODUCTION

Pedro Mountain Mining Company applied for OME aid to explore the Silver Queen prospect in Baker County, Oregon. The applicant proposed to reopen and timber an old shaft estimated to be 55 feet deep, measured on the incline; to sink the shaft an additional 45 feet on the incline; to install a shaft station 10 feet above the shaft sump; and to drift 250 feet northwesterly and 50 feet southeasterly. If the results of this work should be favorable, the applicant proposed to sink the shaft an additional 70 feet and drift as proposed for the first level. The applicant's estimated cost for the entire project is $31,794.

The property was visited August 23, 1965, in the company of Wilford W. Sirrine, President, and Earmon Roop who has been working for the applicant. All accessible workings on the Silver Queen claim were visited during the approximate 6 hours spent on the property. Since preparing the application, the applicant has found and opened up an old crosscut and drift about 30 feet vertically below the known tunnel. These workings were mapped and tied to the old tunnel and the shaft collar shown on the maps accompanying the application.

PROPERTY, LOCATION, AND ACCESSIBILITY

The property, situated in the Rye Valley Mining District, comprises three end-to-end claims lying along a northwesterly line. From northwest to southeast they are: Silver Queen No. 1, Silver Queen, and Silver Queen No. 2. The claims are held by right of location, but the Silver Queen is said to coincide with a claim known as the Green Discovery, located in 1869. From old records, cited in a

report by Louis W. Cramer accompanying the application, it is possible that Silver Queen No. 1 more or less coincides with a claim once known as the Monumental also located in 1869.

A title search included in Cramer's report apparently places the Green Discovery and Monumental claims in the SW¼ sec. 1, NE¼NW¼ sec. 12, NW¼NE¼ sec. 12, and NE¼ sec. 12, all in T. 13 S., R. 42 E. Since the inspection, I have acquired an advance sheet of the Caviness 1 NE. Oreg. quadrangle (unedited). A bearing from the Silver Queen Disc. post to the top of Pedro Mountain was found in the field to be due west. Altitudes given in Cramer's report and plotted along the east-west line through the top of Pedro Mountain indicate that most of the Silver Queen and Silver Queen No. 2 claims lie within the SW¼ sec. 1 and SW¼SE¼ sec. 1, T. 13 S., R. 42 E., but most of Silver Queen No. 1 is in the SW¼NW¼ sec. 1 which is not included in the land covered by the title search. Refinement in survey methods since the 1870's could possibly account for these differences.

To reach the property from Baker, Oregon, proceed southeasterly 38.5 miles on U. S. Highway 30 and turn right on the Rye Valley road. Follow a good gravel surfaced county road to a fork at 9.5 miles. Follow the right fork for 1 mile to a ranch house, turn left up Rattlesnake Gulch on a poor road and proceed for 0.6 mile to a second ranch house. A jeep trail bears left and is followed 4.0 miles to the mine. At the first ranch house the gravel road turns right and is the end of a shorter route which leaves U. S. Highway 30 about 4 miles east of Durkee or 31 miles from Baker. Heavy rains frequently make the shorter route temporarily impassible due to flooding; before using the shorter route, its probable condition can be determined at the main store in Durkee.

GEOLOGY AND WORKINGS

Other than the references cited in Cramer's report, the only reference to this property I have been able to find is:

> Lindgren, Waldemar, 1901, The gold belt of the Blue Mountains of Oregon: U. S. Geol. Survey 22nd Ann. Rept. 1900-1901, Pt. II, Ore Deposits, p. 769-770.

The claims are in an area of granitic rocks that comprise Pedro Mountain and the surrounding hills. Lindgren (1901) says in part:

> "A number of quartz veins containing silver have been found on Pedro Mountain and attracted great attention between 1870 and 1880. The Monumental, Green Discovery, Washington, and Rising Sun veins were known in 1872; all of these were very rich in wire silver, chloride, and silver glance, besides containing a

little gold. In 1875, a 5-stamp mill was erected on the Lafayette, a gold-silver vein, and a similar pan-amalgamation plant on the Green Discovery.

"In 1880, the New England and Oregon Mining Company erected a large pan-amalgamation mill, spending $50,000 on the property, evidently with unfavorable results. All these veins are situated high up on Pedro Mountain. Green Discovery is said to strike northwest and dip 70° SW."

No mention is made by Lindgren as to production from either the Monumental or Green Discovery.

A quartz vein ranging from about 6 inches to 24 inches wide that strikes about N. 45° W. and dips 30° SW. was seen in 2 drifts and in 4 open cuts southeasterly from the upper drift portal. Three other cuts to the southeast and two to the northwest were visited, but debris covered the vein; its presence is inferred from quartz on the respective dumps. Referring to the applicant's map, scale 1" = 40', chip and grab samples were taken from the first, third, and fifth pits southwesterly from the Silver Queen location post; respectively, they assayed Tr gold and Tr silver per ton, Tr gold and 0.2 ounce silver per ton, and Tr gold and 0.2 ounce silver per ton. Applicant's samples from the third and fifth pits, respectively, assayed Tr gold and 0.3 ounce silver per ton, and 0.02 ounce gold and 7.2 ounces silver per ton.

Underground workings consist of an upper and a lower adit about 30 feet apart vertically or 50 feet apart measured in the plane of the vein. The presence of the lower adit was not known at the time the application was prepared. A winze, which the applicant proposes to deepen, is collared just inside the original portal of the upper adit and bottoms at a drift run from the lower adit (Fig. 1).

The upper adit follows a sheared zone from 2 to 3 feet wide for 62 feet at which point it is completely closed by caving. Within the shear zone a quartz vein ranging in width from 10 to 15 inches strikes N. 43° W. and dips 30° SW. Although there was considerable limonite stain on much of the quartz particularly in thin fracture seams, no evidence of gold, silver or any sulfide minerals was seen. Four samples taken by the applicant assayed:

Sample No.	Location (ft. from portal)	Width (inches)	Au (ounces per ton)	Ag
14	10	12	0.04	6.15
13	25	14	0.03	2.00
12	35	12	0.04	7.75
11	45	14	0.01	0.10

A few feet from the present portal of the upper adit a winze, mostly choked by debris at a depth of about 30 feet, follows the vein down but was not entered as debris could be seen to cover the vein.

The portal of the lower adit is about 120 feet N. 8° E. of the portal of the upper adit and is about 30 feet lower in altitude. A crosscut bearing S. 48° W. (average) is tightly timbered and lagged. At about 135 feet the crosscut drove through a vein which was followed northwesterly and southeasterly by drifts. Both drifts are tightly lagged from as far as one can see to the northwest, estimated to be 35 to 40 feet, to about 25 feet southeasterly of the crosscut. Apparently, the northwest drift has caved and moderate-to-heavy water flows through the years have washed loose material southeasterly, making the drift gradually more inaccessible for about 15 to 20 feet beyond which the opening is no more than 3 feet high and decreasing. From the amount of quartz in the transported debris it is probable that some stoping may have been done in that direction.

To the southeast, sides are lagged much less tightly from 25 feet to the face at about 105 feet. About 38 to 60 feet from the crosscut the northeast side of the drift is caved and from a 2-foot wide opening at the northerly end, the caved material may represent a small stope about 8 or 10 feet high. At the southeasterly end of the stope(?) a small nearby circular opening connects with the winze mentioned above. The opening connecting with the winze strikes about due east and joins the winze about 10 feet up the vein from the level. The winze does not go through the level and it may be that the stope(?) represents a short drift from the bottom of the winze which pre-dates the present lower level. It is estimated that these workings could be 80 years old, based on the round timbers and lagging as well as on the meager or lacking records since the 1880's.

About 93 feet from the crosscut the floor of the southeast drift dips slightly to the south and is flooded. Probing near the face, with a long pole, indicated a hole of some sort that could be either a winze or a small underhand stope; neither its size nor depth could be determined. Two chip samples of the vein were taken from the

lower level southeasterly drift, one at 25 feet, the other at 75 feet from the crosscut; respectively, they assayed 0.07 ounces gold and 18.3 ounces silver per ton and 0.05 ounce gold and 15.6 ounces silver per ton. These indicate a marked improvement in grade below the samples from the upper level adit and the first trench northwest of the adits which were taken by the applicant. Recent heavy rains had washed material into the latter trench completely obscuring the vein. Some scratching about with a hand pick failed to uncover it.

Seventy feet or so northeasterly from the lower adit portal is a flat area said by the applicant to be the site of the mill mentioned in the old accounts of the Green Discovery. However, because of the caves closing the upper level drift to the southeast and the lower level drift to the northwest as well as what workings might be obscured by the water at the end of the lower level south drift, there is some question as to which level may have been the reported 500 foot of drift from which production came. The old mill is simply said to be "located about 150 feet from the mouth of the Green Discovery tunnel. . ."

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Much of the applicant's case to justify exploration on his claims hinges on old records relative to the Monumental and Green Discovery claims with which his claims are said to coincide. After reviewing early statements of the United States Commissioner of Mining Statistics cited at the end of Cramer's report, it is concluded that presently known workings do not seem to fit the description.

If indeed the applicant's claims do coincide with the Monumental and Green Discovery, the areas mined in the late 1800's are blocked from access by caves so that the location and size of the old stopes cannot be determined. It is therefore concluded that the work proposed by the applicant may, in fact, have already been done. Finally, it is concluded that the most promising area for exploration is below and northwest of the lower level crosscut.

It is recommended that the application be denied until the existing caved workings are opened up for inspection so that it can be determined just how extensive they are.

D. R. MacLaren

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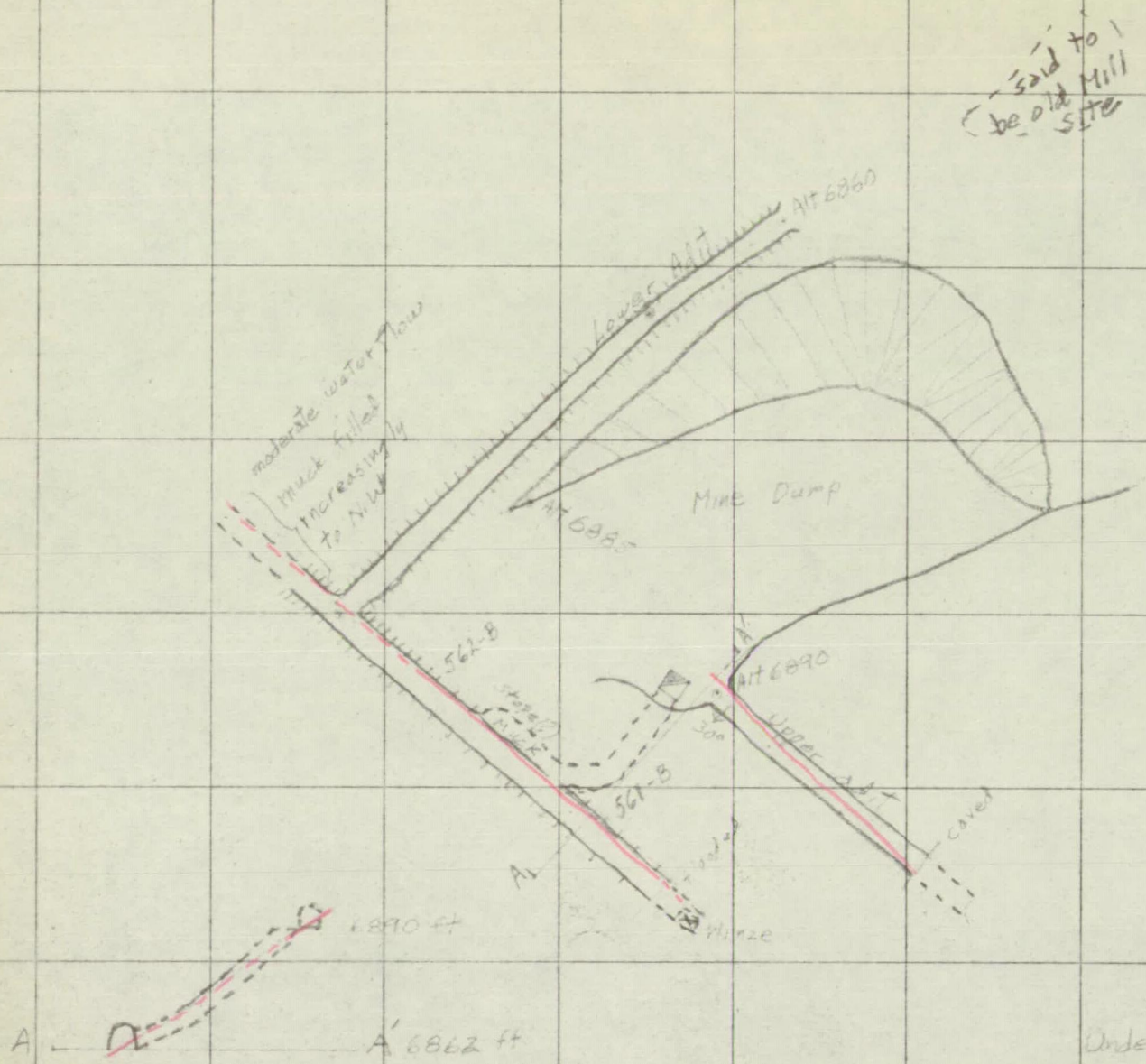
Enclosure
Distribution:
OMR(2) Docket
USGS(SRO) MacLaren

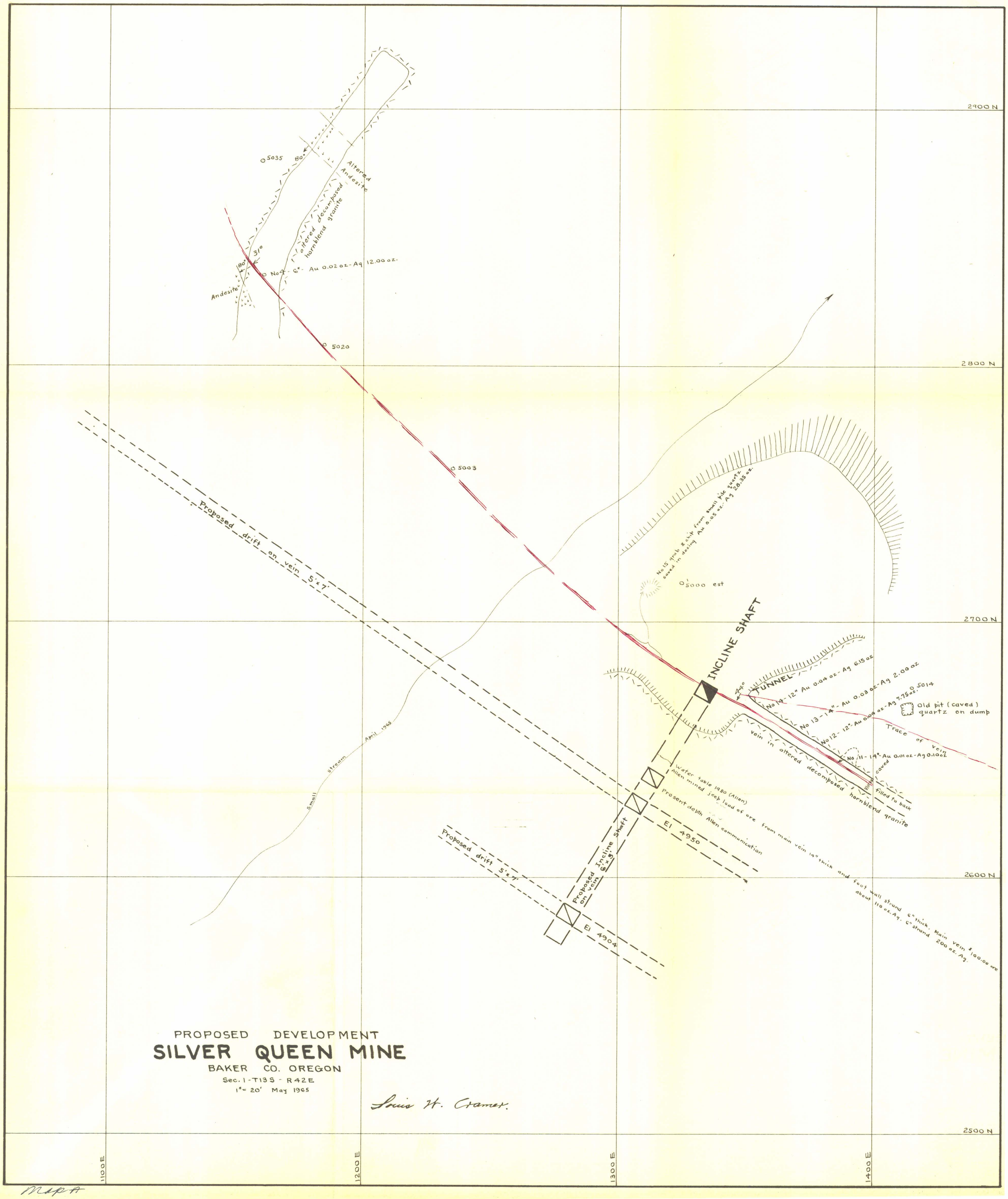
OME-6461



Composite Plan
Underground Workings and Geology
Silver Queen Prospect
Pedro Mountain Mining Company
Baker County Oregon
40 20 0 40 feet

fig 1

J. A. Gendron Co., Spokane



PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

SILVER QUEEN MINE

BAKER CO. OREGON

Sec. 1 - T13S - R42E

1" = 20' May 1965

Louis H. Cramer.

Map A