



Mining Claims

Introduction

The National Park Service manages over 140 mine sites within the Saguaro National Park (SNP); the majority of them in the Tucson Mountain District (TMD). These sites are associated with two mining Districts: Amole, at Tucson Mountain District (TMD), and Rincon at Rincon Mountain District (RMD). The Amole Mining District and the individual mine sites at TMD have been evaluated for the National Register of Historic Places. The Amole Mining District has been determined not eligible, but five historic mine sites at TMD have been determined to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.¹

Very little attention was paid to the Rincon Mining District, a portion of which covered the Rincon Mountain District of SNP. It proved to be the least of the Pima County districts with no known production. The best known of the RMD mines is the Loma Verde Mine. The mining claim was filed by Martin Waer and his partners in 1897 and later sold the mine to the Loma Verde Copper Company of Los Angeles in 1901. It was operated until sometime prior to 1907. The best known mines at TMD are the Old Yuma Mine, Gould Mine and the Mile-wide Mine.

Types of Mining Claims²

There are two types of mining claims, lode and placer. All of the mines at SNP are lode.

Lode Claim. Deposits subject to lode claims include classic veins or lodes having well-defined boundaries. They also include other rock in-place bearing valuable minerals and may be broad zones of mineralized rock. Examples include quartz or other veins bearing gold or other metallic minerals and large volume but low-grade disseminated metallic deposits. Lode claims are usually described as parallelograms with the longer side lines parallel to the vein or lode. Descriptions are by metes and bounds surveys (giving length and direction of each boundary line). Federal statute limits their size to a maximum of 1,500 feet in length along the vein or lode. Their width is a maximum of 600 feet, 300 feet on either side of the centerline of the vein or lode. Wood posts or stone monuments are established along the boundary of



Mining claim monument: rock cairn with post.

the claim. The end lines of the lode claim must be parallel to qualify for underground extralateral rights (see figure a page 2 for Template of Lode Claim). Extralateral rights involve the rights to minerals that extend at depth beyond the vertical boundaries of the claim.

Placer Claim. Mineral deposits subject to placer claims include all those deposits not subject to lode claims. Originally, these included only deposits of unconsolidated materials, such as sand and gravel, containing free gold or other minerals. Placer claims, where practicable, are located by legal subdivision of land (for example: the E 1/2 NE 1/3 NE 1/4, Section 2, Township 10 South, Range 21 East, Mount Diablo Meridian). The maximum size of a placer claim is 20 acres per locator.²

Patented vs. Unpatented Mining Claims

Patented mining claim: A patented mining claim is one for which the Federal Government has passed its title to the claimant, making it private land. A person may mine and remove minerals from a mining claim without a mineral patent. However, a mineral patent gives the owner exclusive title to the locatable minerals. It also gives the owner title to the surface and other resources. This means: You own the Land as well as the minerals.

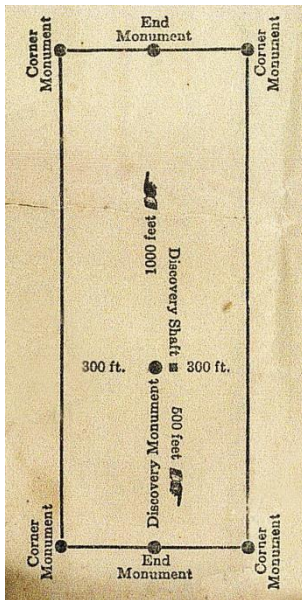
Unpatented mining claim. An Unpatented mining claim is a particular parcel of Federal land, valuable for a specific

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mineral deposit or deposits. It is a parcel for which an individual has asserted a right of possession. The right is restricted to the extraction and development of a mineral deposit. The rights granted by a mining claim are valid against a challenge by the United States and other claimants only after the discovery of a valuable mineral deposit. This means: You are leasing, from the government, the right to extract minerals. No land ownership is conveyed.

Visiting the Mines

Remember, for both Districts there is no off trail hiking below 4500 feet! This means visiting mine sites is prohibited except at Gould Mine (TMD) where visitors can view mine tailings, rock retaining walls, and the rock-walled out-building and at Loma Verde Mine (RMD). Artifacts and features are protected and should not be removed or damaged. Visiting mine sites can be very dangerous. Many mines are on steep slopes with loose rock which means just traveling to mine sites can be dangerous. The park has made efforts to close-off open mine shafts but the area within the mine sites can still be fraught with loose rocks, open prospect pits, rusty metal, and broken glass.



Template for Load Claim description. Found on the back of each mining claim.

Notice of Mining Location
LODE CLAIM

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

This Mining Claim, the name of which is the Excellence Mining Claim, situate on lands belonging to the United States of America, and in which there are valuable mineral deposits, was entered upon and located for the purpose of exploration and purchase by Edward J. Pappas and Louis P. Ramirez (Locator must insert either: "a citizen of the United States" or "who has declared his intention of becoming a citizen of the United States.")

the undersigned, on the 6th day of March, 1947

The length of this claim is 1500 feet long, 600 wide, feet, and act claim 750 feet eastward and 750 feet, in a westward and eastward direction and 300 feet in a northerly and southerly direction from the center of the discovery shaft, at which this notice is posted, lengthwise of the claim, together with 1500 feet in width of the surface grounds, on each side of the center of said claim. The general course of the lode deposit and premises is from the nor to the southward.

The claim is situated and located in the Rincon Mining District, in Pima County, in the State of Arizona, about 2 miles northerly in a northerly direction from San Bernardino.

The surface boundaries of the claim are marked upon the ground as follows: Beginning at _____

at a point in a _____ direction _____ feet from the discovery shaft (at which this notice is posted), being in the center of the _____ end line of said claim; thence _____ feet to a _____, being the _____ corner of said claim; thence _____ feet to a _____ at the center of the _____ end of said claim; thence _____ feet to a _____, being at the _____ corner of said claim; thence _____ feet to a _____ at the _____ corner of said claim; thence _____ feet to the place of beginning.

Dated and posted on the ground this 6th day of March, 1947

witness
C.S. Pope
Edward J. Pappas
Louis P. Ramirez

Mining claim found in the Rincon District of SNP. This claim was made in 1947 and was an illegal claim that the park was forced to shut down.

¹National Park Service. Determinations of Eligibility, Mining Features within the Amole Mining District, Saguaro National Park, Arizona: 2010

² <http://www.1881.com/minedef.htm>

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