

Master Placer Mining Camp
Goldcreek Vicinity
Granite County
Montana

HAER No. MT-39

HAER
MONT,
20-GOCRE.V,
1-

PHOTOGRAPH

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record
National Park Service
Rocky Mountain Regional Office
Department of the Interior
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, Colorado 80225

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

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Master Placer Mining Camp

HAER No. MT-39

Location: Sec. 12, T8N, R12W
Goldcreek vicinity, Granite County, Montana

UTM: (A) 12.342320.5147780
(B) 12.342490.5147770
(C) 12.342480.5147620
(D) 12.342320.5147580

Quad: Pikes Peak

Date of Construction: Late 1930s - early 1940s

Present owner: Unknown

Original Use: Mining camp

Present Use: Mining camp

Significance: Since its establishment in 1939-1940, the Master Mine has been one of the few large-scale gold placer mining outfits to have operated successfully, not only in the Pioneer/Goldcreek District, but in Montana. Even today, the property is considered a proven producer, and leaseholders work the placer deposits each summer. In the last four decades, the Master operation has been the most important mine in the entire Goldcreek drainage.

Researchers: Craig Holstine and Glen Lindeman, AHS, Eastern Washington University, 1983

Transmitted by: Jean P. Yearby, HAER, 1985

The Master Camp is located along upper Goldcreek in the north part of the Flint Creek Range. The small settlement sits in a forest between the creek and U. S. Forest Service road 636 at a point 10 miles southwest of the town of Goldcreek, Montana. Located here are twenty structures, nearly all of which are in excellent condition and remain serviceable. The camp dates from the late 1930s and early 1940s, when the Master Mining Company began large-scale placer mining operations in the vicinity. An extensive area, washed out by sluicing, is situated 0.25 miles to the northeast. Standing here are shops, an office, garages, miners' cabins, a manager's house, and subsidiary structures, such as woodsheds and outhouses. Most of the buildings are of board-and-batten construction, but there are also several board frame structures, a sheet metal-sided building, a log cabin, and a tarpaper-sided shed. Majority of the structures are painted red; the others are unpainted. A portion of the facility is being used seasonally by leaseholders working the gravels downstream.

References: Index of Mining Districts, Powell County, Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology Memoir No. 20, pp. 93-94.