

Miner's Delight (Hamilton City)  
Two miles north and one-and-a-half miles east  
of Atlantic City  
Fremont County  
Wyoming

HABS No. WYO-59

HABS  
WYO,  
7-MINDE,  
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D. C. 20005

MINER'S DELIGHT  
(HAMILTON CITY)HABS  
WYO,  
7-MINDE,  
1-

Location: Two miles north and one-and-a-half miles east of Atlantic City, Fremont County, Wyoming.  
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: (USGS Miner's Delight Quadrangle Map) 12.690520.4708380.

Statement of Significance: One of the three major communities in the South Pass Historic Mining District.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

## A. Historical Events and Persons Connected with the Structure:

The town of Hamilton City was founded in 1868, a product of the same gold rush which one year earlier had created South Pass City and Atlantic City. Hamilton City's fortunes were tied to those of the Miner's Delight Mine. This mine was discovered on a ridge at the head of Spring Gulch in September 1867. By 1869 Miner's Delight Mine had produced between \$60,000 and \$70,000 worth of gold, and because of its prosperity Hamilton City came to be commonly known as Miner's Delight by 1872.

Miner's Delight began with the erection of approximately thirty buildings. The 1870 census of the area showed that the population was 75. Of this group, there were forty miners, one farmer, one grocer, and one "liquor dealer." As the mines in the area began to "play out" the population declined and, by the time of the 1880 census, Miner's Delight had only 45 residents. From 1882 to 1907, the mines and town of Miner's Delight were abandoned.

In 1907 Clarence Clark, Richard Adams, and Edmund J. Wells organized the Miner's Delight Mining Company. In eight months they spent about \$27,000 on improvements to the mine. Most of the structures that exist in the town today date back to the 1907 period. A single exception may be the "Bryant Cabin" believed to have been built originally at Fort Stambaugh and moved to its present location in 1877. It is also possible that a group of cabins east of Miner's Delight Mine were part of the original Hamilton City; however, there is no verification of this. The 1907 project went bankrupt within a few years.

During the early Depression years, 1932-1936, many jobless people came to the area and lived in the abandoned miner's shacks. They did some placer mining, but little gold was taken from the area.

B. Sources of Information:

1. Old views:

Photographic file, Bureau of Land Management, Lander, Wyoming.

Western Historical Research Center, Coe Library, University of Wyoming, Laramie, Wyoming.

2. Bibliography:

a. Primary and unpublished sources:

Bartlett, Albert B., former state geologist and a former member of the Wyoming Planning and Water Conservation Board; interview in Cheyenne, Wyoming on May 31, 1973.

Files on South Pass City, Wyoming State Archives and Historical Research Department; Cheyenne, Wyoming.

Trevor, Marjorie C., "History of Carter-Sweetwater County, Wyoming to 1875." Master's thesis, University of Wyoming, 1954.

b. Secondary and published sources:

Homsher, Lola M. and Pence, Mary Lou. Ghost Towns of Wyoming. New York: Hastings House, 1959.

Murphy, Robert. Miner's Delight, Investor's Despair: The Ups and Downs of a Sub-Marginal Mining Camp in Wyoming. Sheridan, Wyoming: Piney Creek Press, 1972.

Prepared by J. William Rudd  
Architect  
Project Supervisor  
National Park Service  
and John Paige  
Project Historian  
National Park Service  
Summer, 1973

PART II. PROJECT INFORMATION

These records were made during the 1973 Wyoming Project undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey in cooperation with the Wyoming Recrea-

tion Commission. During the project, records were made on twenty-eight (28) individual subjects and six (6) historic areas.

This project was under the general supervision of John Poppeliers, chief of the Historic American Buildings Survey. Project Supervisor was Professor J. William Rudd, Architect, of the University of Cincinnati. Project Historian was John Paige, Oklahoma State University. The measured drawings were prepared by John Uhlir, University of California at Berkeley, Architect; and Student Assistant Architects Richard Duflocq, University of Cincinnati, Clayton Fraser, University of Tennessee, and Richard Wyatt, California Polytechnic University at San Luis Obispo. Jack E. Boucher, HABS staff photographer, provided the photographic record. This report was edited for HABS in 1977 by Candace Ree.

**ADDENDUM TO:**  
MINER'S DELIGHT  
(Hamilton City)  
northeast of Atlantic City  
Miner's Delight  
Freemont County  
Wyoming

HABS No. WY-59

HABS  
WTO  
7-MINDE  
1-

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National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
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