

## Gunnison County

### Spring Creek District (aka Spring Gulch District)

Henderson recognized the Spring Creek District in his 1926 compilation and placed it in sections 23-26 of T14S, R83W. Vanderwilt (1947) notes it occurs in a narrow canyon adjoining the Taylor River. Eberhart (1969) mentions Petersburg, the main town in the Spring Creek District. Streufert (1999) describes the area as being characterized by highly-faulted Paleozoic sedimentary rocks (most important of which are the carbonates) and Proterozoic granitic rocks. Mineralization is deeply-oxidized replacement deposits in the Mississippian Leadville limestone.

Heyl (1964) describes the Doctor Mine as the only significant mine in the district. The Doctor consisted of extensive underground workings, beginning in 1881. He estimated production (from records and personal communication with the owner) as 12,025,262 lb zinc from 1914 to 1920 and 1937 to 1938. Later sampling showed 0-10 oz/ton Ag, 0.5 to 6% Pb and 0 - 20% Zn. He reports that "large quantities of oxidized lead-zinc ore still exists in the district." The Doctor Mine is a well-known site for mineral collectors, particularly for smithsonite.

Eberhart (Ibid) briefly discusses Petersburg, the town that serviced the Spring Creek District. More detailed geologic information is available in a 1954 Colorado School of Mines thesis by Meissner.

Mines listed in the district (mindat.org) include:

- Barium - Maggie Mn.
- Beason Occurrence
- Big Deer; Winnebec; Scooper Occurrence
- Boiler Shaft
- Doctor
- Doctor Mine
- Jack Shaft
- Nash Shaft
- Nash Tunnel
- Old Shaft
- Springtime; Boston No. 4; Scooper; Commonwealth Occurrence
- Whip Shaft

Minerals listed in the district (mindat.org) include:

Anglesite

Aurichalcite

Azurite

Calcite

Cerussite

Chalcocite

'Clay'

Dolomite

Galena

Goethite

Hemimorphite

Jarosite

'Limonite'

Malachite

*Massicot?*

Plumbojarosite

'Psilomelane'

Pyrolusite

Quartz var: Jasper

Silver

Smithsonite

References:

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Eberhart, Perry. 1969. *Guide to Colorado Ghost Towns and Mining Camps*. Fourth, revised edition. Swallow Press, Athens, Ohio.

Henderson, C.W. 1926. Mining in Colorado, a history of discovery, development and production. U.S. Geological Survey Professional Paper 138.

Heyl, A.V. 1964. Oxidized Zinc Deposits of the United States - Part 3, Colorado. U.S. Geological Survey Bulletin 1135-C.

Meissner, Fred F. 1954. The geology of Spring Creek Park, Gunnison County, Colorado. Colorado School of Mines, Department of Geology, Thesis T-797.

Streufert, Randall K. 1999. Geology and Mineral Resources of Gunnison County, Colorado. Colorado Geological Survey Resource Series 37.

Vanderwilt, John W. 1947. Mineral Resources of Colorado. Colorado Mineral Resources Board, Denver, Colorado.

[www.mindat.org](http://www.mindat.org), accessed September 2015.