

# Chaffee County

## Mount Antero District

The Mount Antero District is high and rugged with difficult access on the slopes of Mount Antero , roughly ten miles southwest of Buena Vista and ten miles northwest of Poncha Springs. While no commercial production has been done by mining companies, the area has long produced mineral specimens prized by collectors, including the Colorado State gemstone - aquamarine, the clear, sky-blue form of the mineral beryl.

Switzer (1939), Adams (1953), Dings and Robinson (1957), Del Rio (1960) and Sharp (1976) have described the geology and mineralogy of the Mount Antero deposits. The minerals occur in pegmatites within the Mount Antero Granite, the youngest of the igneous bodies on Mount Antero. The specimen minerals occur in pegmatites and mirialitic cavities that cut mainly the Mount Antero Granite itself. The granite is a very light to white granite of mainly quartz and feldspar with very minor biotite and accessories of apatite, zircon, sphene and sparse beryl. The pegmatites have a very thin gradational contact and are zones. The pegmatites are zoned, with cores of smoky quartz, microcline perthite, muscovite, albite , and fluorite with beryl, phenacite and bertrandite. Dings and Robinson (1957) associate the miaralitic cavities with beryl, phenacite fluorite and topaz. They report other minerals recognized as calcite, garnet, rutile, ilmenorutile, columbite and cyrtolite (zircon). Sharp (1976) noted the additional minerals pyrite, spessartine (whereas Dings and Robinson did not specify the species of garnet), and monazite. He discussed greisenized veins at the California Mine as containing quartz, muscovite, beryl, molybdenite with accessories bismuthinite, tourmaline, ferberite, brannerite and pyrite. He describes massive jarosite filling some cavities and ferrimolybdate as another secondary mineral.

Voynick (1994) relates some excellent stories about mineral collecting on Mount Antero.

### References:

[Mineral Resource Data System \(MRDS\) - Online Spatial Data - Mount Antero Claims](#)

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Dings, McClelland G. and Robinson, Charles S., 1957, Geology and Ore Deposits of the Garfield Quadrangle, CO; U.S. Geological Survey Professional Paper 289.

Sharp, William N., 1976, Geologic Map and Details of Beryllium and Molybdenum Occurrences, Mount Antero, Chaffee County, CO; US Geological Survey Map MF-810.

Switzer, George, 1939, Granite Pegmatites of the Mount Antero Region, Colorado; American Mineralogist, vol. 24, pp. 791-809.

Voynick, Stephen M., 1994, Colorado Rockhounding; Mountain Press Publishing, Missoula MT.