

Pitkin County

Ashcroft District

The Ashcroft District was recognized by Vanderwilt (1947) on Castle Creek in the Elk Mountains. The terrain is severe, with the Montezuma Mine standing at 13,000 feet. A large quartz diorite stock intrudes into Paleozoic sediments in the area. There was a lot of interest in magnetite ores in the district, and the Ashcroft is adjacent to the Taylor Peak District of Gunnison County (Harder, 1909). Some gold was found with exploration into lead-silver occurrences, but the district was not much of a producer.

The town of Ashcroft was founded about the same time as Aspen and outpaced its rival for a while (Eberhart, 1969). The Railroad - and richer ore - provided the impetus to make Aspen the more successful town.

References:

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

Harder, E.C. 1909. The Taylor Peak and Whitepine Iron-Ore Deposits, Colorado. U.S. Geological Survey Bulletin 380, pp. 188-198.

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