

## Pitkin County

### Independence District

The Independence District is a minor district of large extent in the area of Independence Pass south of Aspen. Mindat.org includes the Independence District with the **Columbia District**, which seems quite a stretch. Including the headwaters of the Roaring Fork River, the district produced some very rich gold ore. Vanderwilt (1947) quotes stopes yielding 2.3 ounces per ton of gold in 1932, but production diminishing to 2 tons in 1940. In fact Dunn (2003) indicates that most of Pitkin County's gold production probably came from this district. Silver was also present.

Mindat.org lists several other mines in the area of Independence Pass. One is the Grotto Pegmatite Mine; another is the Pitkin Mine, apparently a producer of iron ore. The Independence Mine - included by Dunn (2003) in the Independence District and by mindat.org in the **Lincoln District**, contained chalcopyrite, gold, and silver.

The town of Independence was the first settlement in the Aspen area, lying below the summit of the pass on the west side. It was also known, from time to time, as Chipeta, Sparkill, or Farwell (Eberhart, 1969).

The Independence District now lies largely within the Collegiate Peaks and the Hunter-Frying Pan Wilderness Areas.

Mines in the district (Dunn, 2003; mindat.org) include:

- Independence Mine
- Farwell Mine
- [Pitkin Mine](#)
- [Tin Cup Mine](#)

Mineral listed in this district (mindat.org) include:

Allanite - Ce	Cuprite	Polycrase-(Y)
Baryte	'Garnet'	Pyrite
'Biotite'	Goethite	Quartz var: Amethyst
Calcite	Hematite	Siderite
Cerussite	'Limonite'	Uraninite
Chalcopyrite	Magnetite	Uranopolycrase
Chlorargyrite	Microcline	Zircon var: Cyrtolite
'Chlorite Group'	Monazite-(Ce)	

References:

Dunn, Lisa. 2003. *Colorado Mining Districts: A Reference*. Colorado School of Mines, Golden, Colorado.

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

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

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