

Gilpin County

Perigo District (aka Independent District aka Independence District)

The Perigo District is located within the **North Gilpin District**, which is described in Bastin and Hill (1917) and Lovering and Goddard (1950) as a large area (approximately 35 square miles) stretching from North Clear Creek to the Boulder County line, east from Mammoth Gulch and Kingston Peak to the Eastern border of the Central City Quadrangle. The North Gilpin District is composed of a number of smaller mining districts that grew out of the 19th century gold boom. It is made up of the significant gold-producing districts of **Pine-Kingston-Apex** and Perigo, along with areas that have been called the **Illinois, Gamble Gulch, Union** (or **Gold Dirt**), **South Boulder** and the **Rollinsville Placers**. The **Wisconsin, Phoenix** and **Kansas Districts** are contiguous with the other North Gilpin districts and display the same geologic characteristics.

Using the Perigo and Smuggler Mines as an example, the district was characterized by multiple heavily mineralized east to northeast-trending veins. Commodities produced were lead, zinc, copper, silver (Lovering and Goddard, Ibid). Production was reported until 1945.

The Independent District was created on May 19, 1860 (Marshall, 1920). It was surrounded by the **Union, Central, Hawk Eye, Silver Lake** and **Pine Districts**, as shown on a map in Marshall (1920). The town of Perigo which was settled in about 1860 by prospectors at Gamble Gulch (Dunn, 2003) and was a thriving place, boasting a 30-stamp mill and an opera.

Additional references are Eberhart (1969), Henderson (1926) and Vanderwilt (1947).

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

- [Big Moon](#)
- [Blue Grouse](#)
- [Copper King Occurrence](#)
- [Dew Drop²](#)
- [Diamond Bill Group Occurrence¹](#)
- [E.H.P. Lode](#)
- [Ellis Lode](#)
- [Fairheaven](#)
- [Free Gold; Mareau¹](#)
- [Gettysberg/Gettysburgh¹](#)
- [Gold Basin](#)
- [Gold Dirt^{1,2}](#)
- [Gold Dust](#)
- [Golden Cycle Mine](#)
- [Golden Sun](#)
- [Grace](#)
- [Grand Union](#)
- [Iowa Girl Lode](#)
- [Johnson Prospect](#)
- [Julia Lode Occurrence](#)
- [Kelleher](#)
- [Kerry Cheif](#)
- [Mareau¹](#)
- [Moon Gulch Occurrence](#)
- [Mountain Chief¹](#)
- [Mountain Monarch¹](#)
- [Newport \(Iowa Bird\)](#)
- [Penobscot¹](#)
- [Penobscot Tunnel¹](#)
- [Perigo; Golden Flint^{1,2}](#)
- [Petunia](#)
- [Philadelphia](#)

- Pine Cone
- Quaker
- Quindaro & Claims¹
- Smuggler; Bonanza^{1,2}
- Swiss Tunnel; Officer & Sea Bird Occurrence (Amanda; Garden)¹
- Tip Top
- Twin Sisters
- Victoria¹
- War Eagle^{1,2}
- Wolfstone

Notes: ¹ Denotes mine with a detailed discussion in Bastian and Hill (1917).

² Denotes mine mentioned specifically in Lovering and Goddard (1950).

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

Chalcopyrite	Gold	Siderite
'Chert'	Hematite var: Specularite	Silver
Copper	Pyrite	Tetrahedrite
Galena	Quartz	

References:

Bastin, E.S. and Hill, J.M. 1917. Economic Geology of Gilpin County and Adjacent Parts of Clear Creek and Boulder Counties, Colorado. U.S. Geological Survey Professional Paper 94.

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.

Lovering, T.S. and Goddard, E.N. 1950. Geology and ore deposits of the Front Range, Colorado. U.S. Geological Survey Professional Paper 223.

Marshall, Thomas H. (ed.). 1920. *Early Records of Gilpin County, Colorado, 1859 - 1861*. W. F. Robinson Printing Company, Denver, Colorado. 313 p. in J.F. Willard (ed.) The University of Colorado Historical Collections Volume II, Boulder, Colorado.

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

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