

## Gunnison County

### Gothic District

One of numerous small districts within the **Elk Mountain District** of northern Gunnison County, the Gothic was placed by Henderson (1926) and Dunn (2003) in sections 13, 14, 23 and 24 of T14S, R85W. Streufert (1999) also includes the area of the Gothic District within his description of the Elk Mountain District. Mindat.org does not list the Gothic District, but does list the Elk Mountain District.

Information on the Sylvanite Mine (Silver Knight?) in Gaskill et al. (1991) provides some insight into the mineralization in the district. Near-vertical fissure veins cut metasedimentary rocks and granodiorite. The veins contain native (wire) silver, ruby silver (proustite/pyrargyite), argentiferous tetrahedrite, chalcopyrite, arsenopyrite, barite, massive sulfides, minor gold, and galena. They quote the estimated production of 100,000 to 300,000 ounces of silver.

Eberhart (1969) provides a significant description of the town of Gothic and its history. The biggest and most famous town in the district and area was Gothic. Rich gold and silver strikes at Gothic Mountain in June 1879 gave rise to a town that reached a population of 8,000 citizens at its peak. Eberhart (Ibid) describes the most significant mine in the Gothic area as the Silver Night Mine on Copper Creek, where rich pockets of silver (native and wire) assayed as much as 6,000 to 15,000 ounces per ton silver. The largest producer in the area of Gothic was the Sylvanite Mine, described by Gaskill et al. (Ibid) as containing 2,200 feet of tunnels, 1200 feet of vertical workings and extensively stoped areas.

Mines listed in the district (Dunn, 2003; Eberhart, 1969) include:

- Buckeye (also listed in Gaskill et al., 1991)
- East Wing (also listed in Gaskill et al., 1991)
- Eureka
- Ho
- Hoyt
- Independent
- Jenny Ling
- Keno
- Native Silver (also listed in Gaskill et al., 1991)
- Rensselaer
- Silver Night
- Silver Spruce (in mindat.org)
- Sylvanite (aka "Silver Knight", Gaskill et al., 1991.... could be "Silver Night"?)
- Terror
- Triumph
- Vermont
- Wolverine

Notes: Gaskill et al. (1991) contains an extensive list of mines and claims in the larger Gothic Quadrangle. These have not all been included in our list.

An additional reference for the Sylvanite Mine is *Engineering and Mining Journal* (1888).

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.

Engineering and Mining Journal. 1888. The Sylvanite Mine, Colorado, Vol. 46, p. 499-500.

Gaskill, D.L., Mutschler, F.E., Kramer, J.H., Thomas, J.A. and Zahony, S.G. 1991. Geologic Map of the Gothic Quadrangle, Gunnison County, Colorado. U.S. Geological Survey Geologic Quadrangle Map 1689. Map Scale 1:24,000.

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

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

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