

Rio Grande County

Jasper District (aka Decatur Northeast District)

The prospects and mines are about one-half mile west of Jasper generally in the vicinity of the Animas River and its tributaries. The general geology is the same as the **Platoro** (aka **Lake Fork**) **District** and the **Stunner** (aka **Decatur**) **District** (Vanderwilt, 1947). The district did not produce significant amounts of gold or silver.

The geology of the area is predominately igneous in origin. This district lies in the eastern part of the San Juan volcanic field and the late Oligocene-aged Platoro and nested Summitville calderas constitute a composite collapse structure of about 20 kilometers in diameter (Steven & Lipman, 1976). Ore was found in mineralized epithermal quartz-latitude veins that extended over long distances. Gold, silver-lead and lead-zinc ores are reported (Dunn, 2003).

The town of Jasper died before it learned that the ore sent to Denver was good, because the smelter in Denver burned before the 10 tons of ore sent there in 1887 could be assayed (Eberhart, 1969). The town of Jasper was originally called Cornwall for John Cornwall, the first postmaster (Eberhart, *Ibid*). The site is now a haven for fisherman and tourists.

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

- [Guadaloupe Mine \(Patented Claim: Guadaloupe; Guadaloupe Crosscut\)](#)
- [Jasper Occurrence](#)
- [Miser Mine \(Plutarch; Ballantine; Clara\)](#)
- [Perry Mine \(Patented Claim: Perry\)](#)
- [Pumice Deposit \(MRDS - 10167798\)](#)
- [Sanger¹](#)

Note: ¹Listed in Eberhart (1969).

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

Galena	Pyrite	Silver
Gold	Quartz	Sphalerite

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.

Steven, T.A. and Lipman, P.W. 1976. Calderas of the San Juan Volcanic Field, Southwestern Colorado. U.S. Geological Survey Professional Paper 958.

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

www.mindat.org, accessed August 2015.