

Ouray County

Poughkeepsie District

Another of the several historical districts grouped together around the Silverton Caldera is the Poughkeepsie (or **Poughkeepsie Gulch**) District. The Poughkeepsie District spans the county line and actually much of its area is in San Juan County. Mindat.org (2015) lists the Poughkeepsie Gulch District as being in the Red Mountain District in San Juan County.

Henderson (1926) does not mention the district in his list, but describes development in Poughkeepsie Gulch in his narrative. Vanderwilt (1947) includes the district in a descriptive section by Burbank and appears to account the district in San Juan County. Therein, Burbank describes the district as adjoining the **Mineral Point** and **Upper Uncompahgre District** at the headwaters of the Uncompahgre and Animas Rivers, thus surrounding the main stem of the Uncompahgre River, extending into San Juan County nearly to Hurricane Peak.

Moore (2004) describes the extent of the district from the confluence of the Uncompahgre River with Red Mountain Creek, up the main branch of Poughkeepsie Gulch south to Hurricane Peak in San Juan County to include the area around Lake Como.

The geology of the area is characterized by a basement of tightly-folded Precambrian quartzite and slate seen in the canyon of the Uncompahgre River. West of the river some Paleozoic and Mesozoic sedimentary rocks occur between the Precambrian and the overlying Tertiary volcanics. In Poughkeepsie Gulch most of those volcanics are latite and rhyolite flows, tuffs and breccias of the Silverton volcanic series underlain with varying thicknesses of the San Juan tuff.

Mineralization occurs in swarms of veins extending out of the Silverton Caldera. Burbank (1947) describes three types of deposits: fissure and cavity fillings, breccia chimneys and dikes, and replacement deposits. Most of the productive veins are in rocks of the Silverton series, although some occur in the San Juan Tuff and the Precambrian quartzite beneath.

Output described by Vanderwilt and Burbank (1947) and Hazen (1949) occurring from 1874 to 1941 is estimated at \$2M of silver, gold, lead, copper and zinc. Most of that came before 1900 and from 12-15 of the largest mines. Of note is the Old Lout Mine, described in some detail by Burbank and Luedke (1969). Most of the mines went inactive after 1900. The exception is the Mountain Monarch which continued producing as late as 1946. All the authors feel that much ore remains. Because of the difficult mining conditions, most activity ceased after the high-grade material was depleted.

Eberhart (1969) talks of the town of Poughkeepsie, 76 miles south of Ouray and twelve miles up Cement Creek from Silverton. At one time, the town boasted 250 residents (summer residents, at least) along with stores, restaurants, saloons and a post office. Henderson (Ibid) describes the completion of a road up Cement Creek from Silverton in 1879 to the head of the Poughkeepsie Gulch. Activity was already on-going in the Gulch at claims including the Old Lout, the Poughkeepsie, Alabama, Red Roger, Saxon, Alaska, Bonanza, and others.

Mines listed in the district (Burbank and Luedke, 1969; Eberhart, 1969; Kelley, 1946; mindat.org; Moore, 2004; Ransome, 1901) include:

- [Acapulco \(Acapulca\) occurrence](#)¹
- [Alabama Mine](#)^{2, 5}
- [Alaska Mine](#)^{2, 5}
- [Adelpha Mine](#)⁴
- [Alpha Mine](#)⁴
- [Amador Mine](#)^{2, 5}
- [Bonanza Mine](#)^{2, 5}
- [Brazillian Mine](#)²
- [Brooklyn](#)¹
- [Forest Mine \(Forrest Mine?\)](#)^{1, 5}
- [Forest Queen Mine](#)¹
- [Gladiator Mine](#)¹
- [Grand View Mine \(Grandview\)](#)²
- [Guadeloupe Mine](#)²
- [Lucky Twenty tunnel](#)²
- [Maid of the Mist Mine](#)^{2, 5}
- [Mickey Breen Mine](#)²
- [Mountain Monarch Mine](#)²
- [Old Lout Mine](#)^{1, 3, 5}
- [Picket Mine](#)²
- [Poughkeepsie](#)^{2, 5}
- [Red Roger Mine](#)^{2, 5}
- [Republican Tunnel](#)²
- [Rollo Mine](#)²
- [Saxon Mine](#)^{1, 5}
- [Seven Thirty Mine](#)²
- [Silver Chord Mine](#)
- [Sunset Mine](#)²
- [Tempest Mine](#)²
- [Upper Benack Mine](#)²
- [Vermillion Mine](#)²
- [Victory](#)²
- [Wewissa Mine](#)²
- [White Crow](#)²
- [Yankee Girl Mine](#)¹

Notes: ¹ Details on mindat.org.

² From Moore (2004); Kelley (1946).

³ Discussed in Burbank and Luedke (1969).

⁴ Named only in Eberhart (1969).

⁵ Discussed in Ransome (1901).

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

Aikinite	Dyscrasite	Proustite
'Alaskaite'	Enargite	Pyrite
Baryte	Freibergite	Quartz
'Beegerite'	Galena	Rhodochrosite
Benjaminite	Gustavite	'Schirmerite'
Bismuthinite	Kaolinite	Sphalerite
Bismutite	Marcasite	Stephanite
Bornite	Matildite	Stromeyerite
Bournonite	Miargyrite	Tennantite
Chalcocite	Mummeite	Tetrahedrite
Chalcopyrite	Muscovite var: Sericite	Wittichenite
Cosalite	Ourayite (TL)	
Covellite	Pavonite	

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www.mindat.org, accessed October 2015.