

San Juan County

Mineral Point District

The Mineral Point District is named for a mineralized knob of rock near the Bill Young Mine (Moore, 2004). It lies in a heavily-mineralized area of abundant mines where several named districts meet (or overlap). The boundaries of the district were defined by Kelly (1946) as Poughkeepsie Gulch on the west, Engineer Mountain on the north, the California Gulch divide on the southeast and the Canadian Lake Basin on the southwest. This constitutes about 3 1/2 square miles of relatively flat terrain - glacial moors of lakes, ponds, swamps and meadows between 11,500 and 12,500 feet in elevation (Moore, Ibid). In fact Moore shows the district as lying almost entirely in San Juan County, extending slightly north across the Ouray County boundary adjacent to the Engineer Mountain District.

Burbank described the area in Vanderwilt (1947) as containing vein swarms extending out from the Silverton Caldera, with more than 100 miles of vein outcrops mapped. To the east, these veins are a part of the Eureka District. The dominant rock is porphyritic andesite of the Burns member of the Silverton volcanics. Deposits were of three types: fissure and cavity fillings, breccia chimney and dike deposits, and replacement deposits (Burbank, 1947). The principal mines were shafts, mostly less than 300 feet deep (Burbank and Luedke, 1969).

Burbank describes the veins as mostly quartz with pyrite, sphalerite, galena, chalcopyrite, rhodochrosite and barite. (Note that Burbank includes several separate districts in his single description.) Precious metal mineralization is distinct from the base metals, with gray quartz with argentiferous tetrahedrite, some ruby and brittle silver (stephanite, proustite/pyrargyrite) and some native gold. More detailed descriptions can be found in papers by Hazen (1949), Hon et al. (1986), Kelley (1946), King and Allsman (1950), and Yager and Bove (2002).

The town of Mineral Point was a bustling center for a short while, serving mines in the Mineral Point, Engineer Mountain and Poughkeepsie Gulch districts (Eberhart, 1969). Nearby was American Flats (later called Engineer City). Histories of these two towns can also be found in Eberhart (Ibid).

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

- [Annie Crooke Occurrence](#)²
- [Annie Wood](#)^{1, 2}
- Ben Butler Mine¹
- Bill Young^{1, 2}
- [British Queen Occurrence](#)²
- [Engineer Mountain](#)²
- [Grand View Occurrence](#)²
- Little Fraud¹
- London¹
- [Lucky Jack Occurrence](#)²
- [Mammoth](#)^{1, 2}
- Oyama¹
- Palmetto¹
- Palmyra¹
- Polar Star¹
- Red Cloud Mine¹
- Siegel¹
- [San Juan Chief](#)^{1, 2}
- [Syracuse Pride](#)²
- Uncompahgre Chief Claim¹

Notes: ¹ Details found in Ransome (1901) under section "Lodes of Mineral Point".

² Details found at mindat.org.

Minerals listed in the district include:

Acanthite	Galena	Silver
Baryte	Gold	Sphalerite
Chalcopyrite	Pyrite	Stephanite
Enargite	Quartz	Tetrahedrite
Fluorite	'Ruby Silver Ore'	
Freibergite	(Proustite/Pyrrargyrite)	

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