

1995 REVIEW OF MINING ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Donald L. Hardesty
University of Nevada, Reno

As was the case last year, most of the mining archaeology and historic preservation projects taking place in 1994 originated to comply with historic preservation laws and regulations. Many of the studies are in the unpublished "gray literature," and several are reported only in oral presentations at conferences. The Society for Historical Archaeology's 1994 Conference on Historical and Underwater Archaeology in Vancouver, for example, included one session that focused on the archaeology of mining in western North America. Participants presented papers on the Russian mining frontier, Martin Frobisher's C1 ore, Alaskan placer mining camps, the charcoal industry, and non-company towns in Nevada's copper mining industry, among others.

Several U.S. federal government publications reported on mining archaeology projects. The summer 1994 issue of *Federal Archaeology*, for example, focuses on industrial archaeology and includes an article describing the Hardrock Mining Initiative of the Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) and its recent project in California's Joshua Tree National Monument. Similarly, the newsletter *CRM* reports a statewide effort by the BLM in Colorado to locate and record historic uranium mining sites ranging from a 1916 radium camp to 1970s uranium mines, mostly

using photography and mapping methods. Finally, the preservation community published articles on mining archaeology. The March/April issue of *Historic Preservation Forum*, for example, focused on the role of archaeology in historic preservation and included an article on public archaeology in the Virginia City National Historic Landmark.

As was true of last year, most of the mining archaeology projects in 1994 took place in North America and especially in the American West. In the American Northeast, Southeast, and Gulf regions, the National Park Service reports ongoing progress on cultural landscape studies of the Pahaquarry copper mine in the Delaware Water Gap Recreation Area and the Saugus Iron Works National Historic Site. Southeastern Archeological Services reports the recording and excavation of a one-mile long section of the Hand Ditch, constructed between 1859 and 1861 to deliver water to a gold mining operation, in Lumpkin County, Georgia. The Ozark-St. Francis National Forest recorded the ruins of a 1940s manganese mill in the West-Central Arkansas Manganese District. In the Gulf region, the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory at the University of Texas, Austin published a report on archaeological studies at the Calvert Mine in

Robertson County, Texas. In addition, the National Park Service reports an article in progress by Tom Des Jean on niter mining in the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.

In the Great Lakes region, Michigan Technological University conducted a field school at the site of Swedetown, a copper mining company housing cluster established for Scandinavian workers in 1863, in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. In addition, Michigan Tech and the Ottawa National Forest continued archaeological research into copper mining in the Keweenaw Peninsula at the site of the Norwich Mine, focusing on a late 1840s and 1850s component known as the Ohio Trap Rock Mine. In the Northwest region, Mariah Associates completed a report on the archaeology and architecture of several sites in the Leesburg mining district, a gold mining camp in the Salmon River Mountains of eastern Idaho. The University of Idaho and the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest conducted excavations at the site of a settlement of Chinese miners near Granite in north-eastern Oregon .

In the Great Basin, the Office of Public Archaeology at Brigham Young University and the Fishlake National Forest collaborated on an archaeological study of the gold and silver mining camp of Bullion in the Tushar Mountains of Utah. The University of Nevada, Reno, and the Nevada State Historic Preservation Office conducted a field school at Virginia City, Nevada, the heart of the Comstock Lode, with the purpose of making the local community more aware of the value of archaeological remains. In 1994, the school excavated a large part of what was the Hibernia Brewery and Liquors building, an Irish-operated establishment, of 1880. Western Cultural Resources Management completed archaeological studies of Rawhide, Riepetown, and Tenabo. Resource Concepts and Archaeological Research Services completed an overview of the Battle Mountain Mining District in central Nevada. Finally, Archaeological Research Services completed an extensive archaeological study of charcoal manufacturing in the Robert's Mountains of central Nevada, an area that fueled the silver

industry smelters in Eureka, Nevada, in the 1870s and 1880s.

In the Rocky Mountain and Alaskan regions, Alpine Archaeological Consultants conducted fieldwork at and prepared an archaeological master plan for the site of the late 19th century Holden Lixiviation Works in Aspen, Colorado. The same company also conducted archaeological studies of a gold mining camp on the Pike National Forest near Colorado Springs, placer mining and vanadium mining sites along the San Miguel River, and sites associated with the Matterhorn Mining and Milling Company gold mining operation in San Miguel County, Colorado. Western Cultural Resources Management conducted archaeological studies of numerous sites in Colorado's Cripple Creek Mining District. The studies include extensive excavations at the townsites of Elkton, Cameron, and Areqa as well as surface inventories of several mines, mills, and other sites in the district. In addition, the Northern Region of the Forest Service published an archaeological study titled "In Search of the Motherlode: Archaeological Investigations at Sylvanite, Montana." In Alaska, finally, the National Park Service carried out excavations at the Moore House, site of the earliest Euroamerican settlement in Skagway and associated with the Goldrush period. In addition, the NPS continued its archaeological survey and recording of the Chilkoot Trail.

Activities in mining archaeology outside North America are examined in *Antiquity*. During 1994, the journal published articles on tin sources for prehistoric bronze production in Ireland, Pharonic quarrying and mining settlements in Egypt, and new studies of stone quarrying in the Mons Claudianus, an important source of Roman monumental stone in the Eastern Desert of Egypt. Elsewhere during the year, the Forestry Commission of Tasmania recorded late-nineteenth century tin mining sites as part of the Blue Tier Mining Heritage Study, and Oxford University Press published a book by Ian Jack and Aedeon Cremin on *Australia's Age of Iron: History and Archaeology*.