

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet
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Figure E 4.9: This easterly overview shows how large and complex United States Vanadium's Uravan Mill was during World War II. The mill recovered vanadium from crude ore for armor and weapons, and, under secrecy, uranium for the Manhattan Project. Source: Denver Public Library, CHS.X6203.

The MRC acknowledged that VCA, USV, and North Continent were the region's principal ore producers. The MRC also understood that the small mining outfits were almost as important because they had the potential to produce significant tonnages of ore on a collective basis. Yet, these small outfits suffered from a lack of capital and had few of the resources that the large companies possessed. To empower the small outfits, the MRC provided direct support in the forms of financial assistance, equipment, and supplies. The MRC also established ore buying stations at Grand Junction, Dove Creek, and Durango in Colorado and at Thompson, Moab, and Monticello in Utah. Independent miners dropped off ore, which contractors then trucked to the mills. All this was done under the auspices of vanadium, while the ore's uranium content was in actuality more important.¹⁰⁵

¹⁰⁵ "Vanadium for Victory" 1943.