

ATTACHMENT G

DESCRIPTION OF LEBANON MINE AND MILL COMPLEX

Lebanon Mine

The Lebanon Silver-Lead Mining Company was organized in 1869 in New York to purchase and develop a group of silver lodes discovered in Republican Mountain in 1865. Founders and trustees included New Yorkers J. Warren Brown, Charles Maynard, Theodore Pohle, and Pohle's brother Julius. In 1870 the company was reorganized as the Lebanon mining Company. Julius Pohle was sent to Colorado to examine and later manage the company's mining operations.

Digging on the tunnel proper began in 1871 to tap the Hise Lode. The tunnel, approximately 7 feet high, was intended to run 500 to 1,000 feet into the mountain. At the end of two years, it had progressed to 580 feet and intersected several mine lodes. The Panic of 1873, however, temporarily interrupted development of these lodes.

Needing capital to continue, Pohle suggested that the company lease to other operators the rights to veins that had already been intersected. In doing so, the company received substantial royalties and was obligated to fewer operating costs. By the end of 1876, nineteen lodes were under development and by 1877 the tunnel extended 800 feet.

Led by Pohle's careful planning, the mine site developed into a small mining complex. A blacksmith shop and change room were added to the mine office and tool shed. The crushing mill just downhill from the mine had stood since 1871.

In 1881 the company finally struck the Hise lode 1,100 feet from the portal. The cut revealed three clearly defined veins of silver each two to four inches wide. By 1883 output was increasing significantly. The company installed a compressor near the mouth of the tunnel to operate new pneumatic drilling equipment. Mining stayed profitable until 1886, with the mine reaching 1,200 feet in length, but in that year the price of Silver dropped drastically and by the end of the decade the mine was silent.

Lebanon Mill

The Lebanon Mining Company had proposed a concentrating and sampling mill at the mine site soon after work on the tunnel began. By the spring of 1871, machinery was en route and construction of the wooden structure was under way, directed by mine supervisor Julius Pohle. The machinery, including a jaw crusher and harz jigs, was soon installed and powered through a turbine using water from adjacent Clear Creek. At the end of 1872 Pohle installed a boiler and engine for year-round operation.

The mill was designed as a small operation to dress and concentrate ores from the mine. Such activity was necessary before 1874, as mills refused to purchase ore without a minimum metal content of forty ounces of silver per ton. The first year of operation was the best: the company shipped eighty-five tons of gold and silver ore valued at \$47,000. During the next two years Pohle continued to process ores from the Lebanon Mine and purchase ores for concentrating, the majority of which included surface ores that were easily reduced. In 1874, however, the practice of requiring forty ounces of silver was discontinued. Ore prices dropped dramatically, and the company ceased mill operations.

The mill and equipment were leased to Dr. D.E. Melliss in 1877, but he soon abandoned the project. A second lease in 1878 was also short lived. The mill remained intact but not operational until 1945, when the equipment was removed.

The mine buildings at the Lebanon complex were located during several archaeological excavations on the site during the 1970s. The exterior appearance of the buildings was confirmed through period photographs of the mine area. All four buildings were reconstructed on their original sites by 1978.