

IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

REFERENCE SERIES

STIBNITE

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Surpassed only by the Coeur d'Alene, Boise Basin, and Wood River mining regions, this camp finally assumed some of the importance that originally had been anticipated for nearby Thunder Mountain. Discovered during the Thunder Mountain rush, Stibnite developed slowly because of its isolation. Gold and antimony claims were recorded there in 1914, and a mercury excitement (encouraged by a wartime shortage) occurred in 1918. (Another wartime mercury shortage helped to make the Stibnite area the second largest producer in the United States in 1943.) After F. W. Bradley acquired the mines in 1927, full-scale development got underway, and the production of gold and antimony began in 1932. Important tungsten deposits came into production in 1944, and during the war Stibnite was the leading tungsten producer in the United States. Total yields for the active period, 1932-1952, amounted to \$24 million in antimony, \$21 million in tungsten, \$4 million in gold, \$3 million in mercury, and \$1 million in silver.

Improved gold and silver prices induced Canadian Superior to install a pilot plant at Stibnite to test ore in 1978. By 1980, \$10 million has been invested in developing a major new operation that only required the completion of an environmental impact statement in order to get clearance for production.

(This information has not been edited.)

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