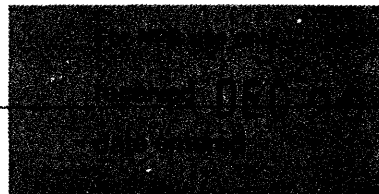


United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



1982

See instructions in How to Complete National Register Forms Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Moore Gulch Chinese Mining Site, (10-CW-159)

and/or common None

2. Location

street & number N/A

X not for publication

city, town Pierce vicinity X vicinity of congressional district

state Idaho code 16 county Clearwater code 035

3. Classification

Table with 4 columns: Category, Ownership, Status, Present Use. Includes options like district, building(s), site, public/private/both, occupied/unoccupied/work in progress, agriculture/commercial/educational/entertainment/government/industrial/military, museum/park/private residence/religious/scientific/transportation/other.

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple ownership (see continuation sheet)

street & number N/A

city, town N/A N/Avicinity of state N/A

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Clearwater County Courthouse

street & number Main Street

city, town Orofino state Idaho 83544

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Idaho State Archaeological and title Historical Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes X no

date 1972 federal X state county local

depository for survey records Idaho State Historical Society

city, town Boise state Idaho

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date <u>N/A</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Environment:

The land parcel can be characterized as a grand fir/pachistima habitat type. According to records, during the 1870's and 1880's the area was cut and burned for mining operations. Today, the parcel is densely covered with huckleberry, cedar, white pine, Douglas fir, and grand fir. Local fauna includes rabbits, deer, and elk.

[REDACTED]

The site consists largely of a dark brown ash cap and alluvial soils. Because of extensive tree cover, there is little exposure to the sun. However, some areas are open and exposed to sun and prevailing winds.

Context:

A preliminary inspection and evaluation of site 10-CW-159 was made in June 1979 by the Pierce District archaeologist. The survey was in response to a GSA recommendation to classify 73 acres of federal land as surplus and dispose of it. The investigation consisted of a review of the archaeological/historical site records with the University of Idaho and the State of Idaho (in addition to other sources), an examination of aerial photographs of the area, and an on-the-ground inspection of the entire 73-acre parcel. Numerous other archaeological/historical surveys have been conducted [REDACTED] archaeologists in response to federal projects. The archaeologists have found that there are numerous historically significant cultural features within this parcel of land. Most of these features are remnants of the early mining activity (ca. 1860 to 1880) in the Pierce area.

In June 1980, five Clearwater Forest archaeologists visited the site and conducted an intensive inspection and mapping program. Additional surveys by Forest Service and University of Idaho archaeologists took place in 1981, and additional site features were recorded.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below					
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> science		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	humanitarian		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation		
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)		

Specific dates 1860-1900 **Builder/Architect** N/A

Statement of Significance (In one paragraph)

The site is significant because it represents a complete mining complex containing living quarters, a trash dump, mine tailings, ditches, and the like relative to a Chinese mining community existing from 1870 to 1900. Chinese mining methods, a specialized system of mineral production can be studied here. It also contributes information important to the history of Chinese consumption of American-made goods, their assimilation into the American economy, and their reliance upon the China trade for goods desired but not available on the American market. In addition, site 10-CW-159 is significant because the artifacts themselves contribute to more detailed technical as well as practical analyses. The cultural resources within the site and refuse in the trash dump itself present opportunities in the historic archaeology of northern Idaho. These materials are the economic refuse of the Chinese miners deposited during a limited period of time between 1880 and 1890. Since the dump area contains both Chinese and Euroamerican materials, a measure of how the Chinese were integrated into the American economy should be provided. Nearly all sources indicate that the Chinese were isolated, ignored, and harrassed and were generally treated as outcasts in American society. Yet they had to interact economically in some measure, for they could not depend on the Chinese trade for all necessary goods and services. The material in the trash dump will indicate the relative kinds and quantities of economic goods acquired through an economic network extending through local, regional, national, and international levels; thus, it will show how the Chinese miners of Pierce were dependent upon and therefore integrated with the American economy. This approach follows that of Adams (1976), who used trash from a rural American community (Silcott, Washington) to determine the economic links between the community and the nation. The process involves identifying the material and determining its place of origin and the transportation route which brought it from its place of manufacture to its place of consumption. Pierce's Chinese mining community of 100 years ago supported itself and socially and economically interacted with the outside world. The illumination of those activities would have significant statements to make about other ethnic groups in other regions and other periods as well as statements about the Pierce Chinese themselves.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property [REDACTED]

Quadrangle name [REDACTED]

Quadrangle scale 7.5 minute

UMT References

A [REDACTED]
Zone Easting Northing

B [REDACTED]
Zone Easting Northing

C [REDACTED]

D [REDACTED]

E [REDACTED]

F [REDACTED]

G [REDACTED]

H [REDACTED]

Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheet

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Thomas J. Green, State Archaeologist AND Belinda Henry Davis

organization Idaho State Historical Society

date April 28, 1982

street & number 610 North Julia Davis Drive

telephone (208) 334-3847

city or town Boise

state Idaho 83702

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Mule Wells

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 6 December 1972

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

of Historic Places

located in the

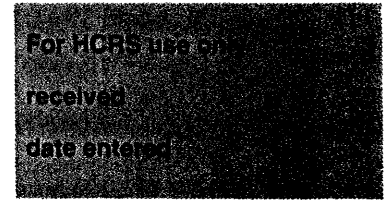
State of Idaho

Atlas

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
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Moore Gulch Chinese Mining Site

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OWNERS:

U.S. Forest Service
Pierce District
Clearwater National Forest
Route 4
Orofino, ID 83544

Potlatch Corporation
One Maritime Plaza
San Francisco, CA 94111

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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Internal Composition:

To date, sixteen features have been identified and recorded during survey excursions within site 10-CW-159. In addition, an abundance of mining-related artifacts have been recorded. All the artifacts recorded thus far within the site are materials collected from the surface, as no excavation has occurred. The majority of cultural resources identified with the site represents the remains of historic mining activity of Chinese miners.

Cultural features include numerous water diversion ditches, ground sluices, earthen dams, tailings and channels, and a timber "corduroy" for an old wagon trail. Almost every drainage on the site contains abundant evidence of early gold mining activity, probably left by the Chinese miners. No buildings exist on the site.

One major feature (Feature 12), a Chinese refuse dumping area and possible habitation area, appears to be very rich, with a number of Chinese artifacts. They include a metal flume, iron pipes, shovels, a metal bucket, and various types of cans and bottles. Brass can fragments are identified as Chinese opium cans. Ceramics, stoneware, porcelain, and glass bottle fragments characterize eating and food-storage implements found at the site. One porcelain bowl fragment is recognized as a "Four Seasons" rice service bowl, a pattern of bowl common during the second half of the nineteenth century. The bowl is believed to have been made as early as the 1860's. Many other artifacts are indicative of Chinese habitation in the Pierce Mining District. Based on an identification of the artifacts, the site dates between 1870 and 1895.

Disturbance:

Some of the Chinese refuse dumping area located at 10-CW-159 has been disturbed, probably by "pot hunting" activity, and such activity is increasing. This disturbance may account for the numerous Chinese artifacts found directly on the surface. In addition, some of the area surrounding the dump has been destroyed by subsequent mining activity.

excess real property and has recommended its disposal. Several state and private entities may attempt to acquire the land--including Potlatch Corporation, whose land completely surrounds the Forest Service land which contains site 10-CW-159.

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Archaeological Activities:

Archaeological activities at the site have thus far been restricted to extensive archaeological surveys from 1979 to 1981 and the collection and recording of surface artifacts. No archaeological excavations have taken place. However, the University of Idaho (Moscow, Idaho) is currently seeking grant monies from NEH to conduct archaeological testing at the site beginning in May 1982. Three six-week field seasons would be devoted to excavation. The plan submitted by the University of Idaho calls for a detailed mapping and surface collection followed by non-random test pits to be excavated by cultural and natural stratigraphic levels. In the refuse dumping area it will be necessary to excavate by 10-cm levels to determine the vertical and horizontal extent of the dump area as well as to establish the areas and extent of prior disturbance.

Historical Context:

Site 10-CW-159 represents the historic mining activities of a small community of Chinese miners in the Pierce Mining District. The Pierce Mining District was pioneered by E. D. Pierce, an itinerant trader with the Nez Perce Indians. In addition, Pierce was secretly prospecting for gold. Following Pierce's initial discovery of gold September 30, 1860, the great North Idaho gold rush began. Thousands of miners came to the area, and boom towns grew up overnight. Soon thereafter, however, many miners moved on to Elk City, Florence, and Warrens, Idaho, where more profitable gold discoveries had been made. Following the white miners came the Chinese miners, who worked low-paying claims that whites would not bother with; the Chinese had the reputation of being much more thorough in their mining practices. Oriental miners usually met resistance in gold rush camps; in a formal resolution adopted at a meeting April 9, 1861, Pierce's miners gave notice that they "do hereby forbid, under any consideration or pretence, the entrance of Chinese or the Asiatic race in these mines." But early in 1864, some Pierce miners arranged to import 200 Chinese, and within a year, a considerable Chinese influx reached Pierce. In 1870, Pierce had 136 white and Hawaiian natives, 461 Chinese, and one Black. By 1880, 708 Chinese miners and merchants constituted most of Shoshone county's population of 879. Then the Pierce Chinese massacre of September 18, 1885, occurred, stemming from mercantile rivalry during an era of deteriorated regional race relations. Emperor Kuang-hsu of China expressed his displeasure upon being informed of indignities inflicted upon his loyal subjects by foreign devils at Pierce, and a diplomatic investigation ensued in 1886. In 1890, Pierce had 238 people--a level that persisted for half a century. With the opening of timber claims and a decline in mining, new residents replaced Pierce's Chinese population.

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Cultural Features

- Feature 1: Ditch. 30 cm wide, 10 cm deep, 3° to 5° slope. [REDACTED].
- Feature 2: Ditch. 30 cm wide, 45 cm deep toward top, 10 cm deep toward bottom. 5° slope. [REDACTED].
- Feature 3: [Deleted.]
- Feature 4: Ground sluices, numerous tailing piles, and several small ditches.
- Feature 5: Dam. Earthen dam. 10 m long, 2 m high at center, [REDACTED].
- Feature 6: Ditch. Drains into ground sluice [REDACTED].
- Feature 7: Ditch. [REDACTED] and may be part of a dam.
- Feature 8: Tailings and channels. Area of washed rock tailings piled in rows, 2 to 3 m high, with channels in between. Two fragments of sheet iron with perforations around edges, possibly hydraulic pipe.
- Feature 9: Ditch. Possibly the same ditch as Feature 14.
- Feature 10: Dam. Forest Service concrete dam. Believed to have been built by the CCC. 1.3 m long. Reinforced concrete; fenced with chicken wire, split wood posts, and 1" diameter piping.
- Feature 11: Ditches. Two about 8 m apart. 1 m wide and 30 cm deep. Approximately 4° slope going north.
- Feature 12: Chinese dump and possible area of habitation. Approximately 10 m east to west, 6 m north to south. Many artifacts lying directly on surface. [REDACTED] against slope.
- Feature 13: Dam. Approximately 1.5 m wide, [REDACTED].
- Feature 14: Ditch. 1 m wide and 20 cm deep.
- Feature 15: Wagon road. Approximately 2 m wide. Still visible; [REDACTED].
- Feature 16: Corduroy for wagon trail.
- Feature 17: Ditch. Approximately 1 m wide and 10 to 20 cm deep.

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In addition, a measure of the process of acculturation as reflected through tableware usage may be detected. For example, the traditional rice bowl was possibly gradually replaced by adaptive reuse of a footed oyster bowl (a Euro-american substitute) and then possibly replaced by a plate. Thus, the process of acculturation would be complete. It should be possible to document archaeologically how far this process had progressed at Pierce.

A technical analysis of the Chinese ceramics from the site would yield important information. Chinese ceramics are notoriously difficult to date mainly because of a "continuity of style and manufacture" (Olsen 1978:36) extending over a long period of time. However, techniques in microscopic examination have been developed to differentiate modern Chinese ceramics from earlier ones, based upon differences in glaze characteristics. Additionally, x-ray fluorescence and optical emission spectroscopy have been used to analyze the mineral composition of glazes used during various Chinese dynasties (Beal and Steele 1981:16-21). It is possible that such analysis could be performed on the artifacts where appropriate in order to establish whether any of the Chinese ceramics recovered could be classed as "heirlooms" by those who brought them over.

Also, the recovery of earthenware and stoneware opium pipes will be significant in that this artifact category has so far been the subject of very little study. As was done for the Chinese opium pipes from sites in Montrose, Colorado (Wegars 1981:4-5), Boise (Idaho) Chinatown (Jones n.d.), and Lovelock, Nevada (Praetzellis and Praetzellis 1979:158-159), the pipes found at the Chinese community of Pierce could yield further subdivisions of types which would benefit subsequent research on Chinese communities.

Although some history of the area is known, the cultural features and resources available at site 10-CW-159 appear to have high interpretive and research value and thus could significantly add to that history. The 73-acre parcel does contain some of the earliest remnants of the Pierce Gold Rush era and could be an invaluable source of information.

The information provided by the historic Chinese mining community not only will be of great value archaeologically; it will be of value as well to historians of the area and of the Chinese in the Pacific Northwest. It will also benefit the Northwest's Chinese-American population.

As outlined, the site provides adequate potential for new contributions to scientific knowledge pertaining to mining technology and Chinese material culture in North Idaho. In addition, there is great potential for an interpretive area for the public. The preservation of this site, along with the construction of a few trails and signs, could give the public a very interesting and educational experience of this significant period of Idaho history.

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- Praetzellis, Adrian, and Mary Praetzellis. "The Lovelock Ceramics." In Eugene M. Hattori, Mark K. Rusco, and Donald Tuohy, editors. Archaeological and Historical Studies at Ninth and Amherst, Lovelock, Nevada. Carson City: Nevada State Museum, 1979. PP. 179-198.
- Wegars, Priscilla. "The Chinese Ceramics from the Vanoli Site (5-OR-30), Colorado." Letter Report 81-4, Laboratory of Anthropology. Moscow: University of Idaho, 1981.



1. Moore Gulch Chinese Mining Site (10 CW 159)
2. Vicinity of Pierce, Idaho
3. Karl Roenke - Clearwater National Forest
Archaeologist
4. July 15, 1981
5. U.S. Forest Service; Pierce District; Clearwater National Forest; Route 4; Orofino, Idaho
6. Surface artifacts (including Chinese ceramics) found at site. Scale is in inches and points to north and south.
7. Frame #9 (PHOTOGRAPH 1 OF 4)



1. Moore Gulch Chinese Mining Site (10 CW 159)
2. Vicinity of Pierce, Idaho
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Archaeologist
4. July 15, 1981
5. U.S. Forest Service; Pierce District; Clearwater National Forest; Route 4; Orofino, Idaho
6. General site area of Chinese dump - looking east.
7. Frame #7 (PHOTOGRAPH 2 of 4)



1. Moore Gulch Chinese Mining Site (10 CW 159)
2. Vicinity of Pierce, Idaho
3. Karl Roenke - Clearwater National Forest
Archaeologist
4. July 15, 1981
5. U.S. Forest Service; Pierce District; Clear-
water National Forest; Route 4; Orofino,
Idaho
6. Surface artifacts (including Chinese soy sauce
jar fragments) found at Chinese dump area.
Scale is in inches and points to north and
south.
7. Frame #13 (PHOTOGRAPH 3 OF 4)



1. Moore Gulch Chinese Mining Site (10 CW 159)
2. Vicinity of Pierce, Idaho
3. Karl Roenke - Clearwater National Forest
Archaeologist
4. July 15, 1981
5. U.S. Forest Service; Pierce District; Clear-
water National Forest; Route 4; Orofino,
Idaho
6. Water diversion ditch -- mining feature -
looking northeast.
7. Frame #20 (PHOTOGRAPH 4 OF 4)