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Spokane 4, Washington

February 12, 1953

Memorandum

To: DMEA Field Team, Region II

From: J. J. Quinlan and A. B. Campbell, Geologists
U. S. Geological Survey

Subject: Review of available information on Coeur d' Alene Antimony Property, DMEA Docket 2813 (Antimony), Idaho Antimony Company, Kellogg, Idaho (Shoshone County).

INTRODUCTION

This memorandum has been prepared following a review of information available to the Spokane Office of the Defense Minerals Exploration Administration on the Coeur d'Alene Antimony property and to evaluate the Idaho Antimony Company's application for exploration assistance to explore that property.

The property was examined in June 1951 by Mr. H. C. Rainey and Mr. A. B. Campbell of the U. S. Geological Survey, relative to a DMA exploration loan application (DMA Docket 1595x) submitted by Mr. C. C. Dunkle of Kellogg, Idaho, which was subsequently withdrawn by the applicant. No work has been done at the property since this examination was made; however, additional information has been called to our attention which indicates the lack of suitable exploration targets and which makes DMEA participation in the proposed exploration program unfeasible.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Idaho Antimony Company's application for exploration aid to explore the Coeur d'Alene Antimony property be denied.

Evidence indicates that the mine has been worked out and that no reasonable exploration targets exist.

APPLICANT

The applicant is the Idaho Antimony Company, 322 Main Street, Kellogg, Idaho.

The officers of the Idaho Antimony Company are Mr. Fred Albinola, President; Mr. John George, Vice President; and Mr. C. C. Dunkle, Secretary. These men have been associated with small mining ventures in the Coeur d'Alene district for many years.

Exploration is to be under the direction of Mr. C. C. Dunkle and is to be supervised by the engineering firm of Preston and Reynolds of Kellogg, Idaho.

Mr. C. C. Dunkle submitted an exploration loan application to explore the Coeur d'Alene Antimony property on May 29, 1951 (DMA Docket 159x). This application requested funds for rehabilitation of the inclined shaft and 250-foot level, and funds for 200 feet of drifting on the 250-foot level. On the basis of known information, the Field Team recommended approval of this program with slight modifications. The applicant, however, withdrew his application with the intent of submitting another application to diamond drill the deposit.

It is unfortunate that when the original application was received the Field Team did not know the inclined shaft and 250-foot level had been rehabilitated and examined in 1947 or 1948, and that mineralization exposed in the mine workings was so discouraging that further exploration plans had been abandoned. Had this information been available when the original application was received, the Field Team would have recommended its denial.

LOCATION AND ACCESS

The property is on the west side of Pine Creek valley, about three-fourths of a mile west of Pinehurst, Idaho. It is one mile south of U. S. Highway 10 and is readily accessible. The property is in Sec. 6, T. 48 N., R. 1 E., B. M., Yreka Mining District, Shoshone County, Idaho. 2E

HISTORY AND PAST PRODUCTION

The Coeur d'Alene Antimony property was located in 1885 and has been operated intermittently since that date; the most active periods of exploitation being about 1893 to 1896 and 1915 to 1918. Production to 1918 is reported as 2,000 tons of ore containing 125 tons of metallic antimony 1/.

The property was idle from 1918 to 1939 when it was restaked by Mr. Sinnamaki and Mr. Hill of Pinehurst, Idaho 2/.

1/ Ferguson, H. G., Antimony, Mineral Resources of the United States 1918, Part I, p. 41, USGS 1921.
2/ White, D. E., Antimony in the Coeur d'Alene District, Idaho, U. S. Geological Survey unpublished report pp. 7-8, 1942.

In 1940, 44 tons of 16 percent antimony ore were produced; this ore is believed to have come from mine dumps.

Mr. James Doyle of Kellogg, Idaho, leased the property in 1942 and did some surface work, rehabilitated a portion of the workings, and then relinquished his lease.

In 1947 or 1948, the property was leased to Mr. Claude Nugent of Kellogg, Idaho. The inclined shaft and the 250-foot level were rehabilitated and the workings examined. Mr. Nugent was contacted by telephone on January 12, 1952, and he reported that the vein structure did not contain ore on the 250-foot level and was of such a nature that further exploration was not considered. Mr. Nugent further reported that approximately 100 gallons of water per minute had to be pumped from the mine workings after rehabilitation. Following his examination of the workings, Mr. Nugent relinquished his lease on the property.

OWNERSHIP OF THE PROPERTY

The Coeur d'Alene Antimony Company is represented in the application as owner of the property. The application infers that the Coeur d'Alene Antimony Company's rights to the Pine and Big 3 unpatented claims are held by right of location. The location states that the Pine lode claim was located in 1885 and the Big 3 lode claim was located in 1913. These claims are reported to be recorded in Book C on page 312, and the Big 3 lode claim recorded in Book 12 on page 364.

Mr. D. E. White 3/ reports the property was restaked by Mr. Sinnamaki and Mr. Hill in 1939. If this is true, it is quite possible that locations of 1885 and 1913 are no longer valid. If a contract is let on the property, this point should be clarified.

MINE WORKINGS

The vein has been explored by pits, trenches, shafts, and adits. The underground workings are inaccessible (January 1953) and their exact extent is not known. The principal workings are reported to be a 300-foot incline shaft on the vein with auxiliary workings therefrom. A map submitted by the applicant shows that the bottom level off the shaft, known as the 250-foot level, extends 340 feet southwest of the shaft.

3/ White, D. E., op. cit.

GEOLOGY

The Coeur d'Alene Antimony property has been described by F. A. Thompson 4/, E. L. Jones, Jr. 5/, J. B. Umpleby and E. L. Jones, Jr. 6/ and D. E. White7/. Because of the inaccessibility of underground workings, it has been necessary to rely heavily on these reports for much of the information contained in this memorandum.

The area is underlain by black shales and argillites of the Prichard formation (Algonkian Age). The vein occupies a fault or shear zone which strikes N. 30° E. and dips 25° to 45° NW. The bedding in the footwall of this fault is for the most part parallel to the fault; however, the hanging wall beds are tightly folded and highly contorted.

The vein consists of quartz, stibnite, and pyrite, and ranges from less than one foot to five feet in width. Post mineral movement along the fault fissure has crushed the quartz, and much of the stibnite is ground to a slickensided black fine-grained aggregate.

Minable ore is reported to be lensy in nature. It is believed that most of the ore mined has come from a definite shoot which contains lens-like bodies. This shoot is reported to be about 100 feet in length and rakes to the southwest. A verbal report by Mr. Claude Nugent indicates that this ore shoot does not extend to the 250-foot level.

Two geologic maps accompany this memorandum. The first is a surface geologic map prepared by Mr. Rainey and Mr. Campbell during their examination in June 1951. The second map was prepared for the applicant by the engineering firm of Preston and Reynolds and shows the surface geology as well as a portion of the underground workings. Mr. Reynolds reports that the shaft and auxiliary workings were inaccessible when he examined the property and that the geology of the 250-level is after Mr. Claude Nugent; the report of "good ore" is by Mr. C. C. Dunkle.

EVALUATION OF PROPOSAL

To explore the vein the applicant proposes to drill five diamond drill holes having an aggregate length of 2,100 feet. If

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4/ Thompson, F. A., Antimony, University of Idaho School of Mines, Bull. 2, pp. 52-53, 1919.

5/ Jones, E. L., Jr., A Reconnaissance of the Pine Creek district, Idaho, U. S. Geol. Survey Bull. 710, pp. 32-33, 1920.

6/ Umpleby, J. B., and Jones, E. L., Jr., Geology and Ore Deposits of Shoshone County, Idaho, U. S. Geol. Survey Bull. 732, pp. 121-122, 1923.

7/ White, D. E., op. cit.

this drilling is successful, a number of additional holes, having an aggregate length of 1,900 feet, will be drilled.

The applicant hopes by this drilling to locate antimony ore bodies within the vein structure. The lens-like nature of the ore even within the definite ore shoot indicates that it would be happenstance if a drill hole cut an ore lens. Furthermore, only one definite shoot has been established and this shoot is reported to bottom above the 250-foot level. Because of the lensy character of the ore shoot, it is doubtful that diamond drilling would be successful in finding more ore. Furthermore, all available information suggests that the ore lens found to date are small.

CONCLUSIONS

The major portion of the mine's production was made prior to 1918. Since that date, attempts to bring the mine back into production have met with failure. Rehabilitation of mine workings by Mr. James Doyle in 1942 and by Mr. Claude Nugent in 1947 or 1948 indicates the mine has been worked out. It is believed that the drilling program proposed by the applicant is unfeasible. Moreover, the lenticular nature of the ore pods indicates that further exploration of any type would be largely non-productive.

Enclosures
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DMEA- Orig. & 3
USBM (3)
USGS (SRO)
Docket
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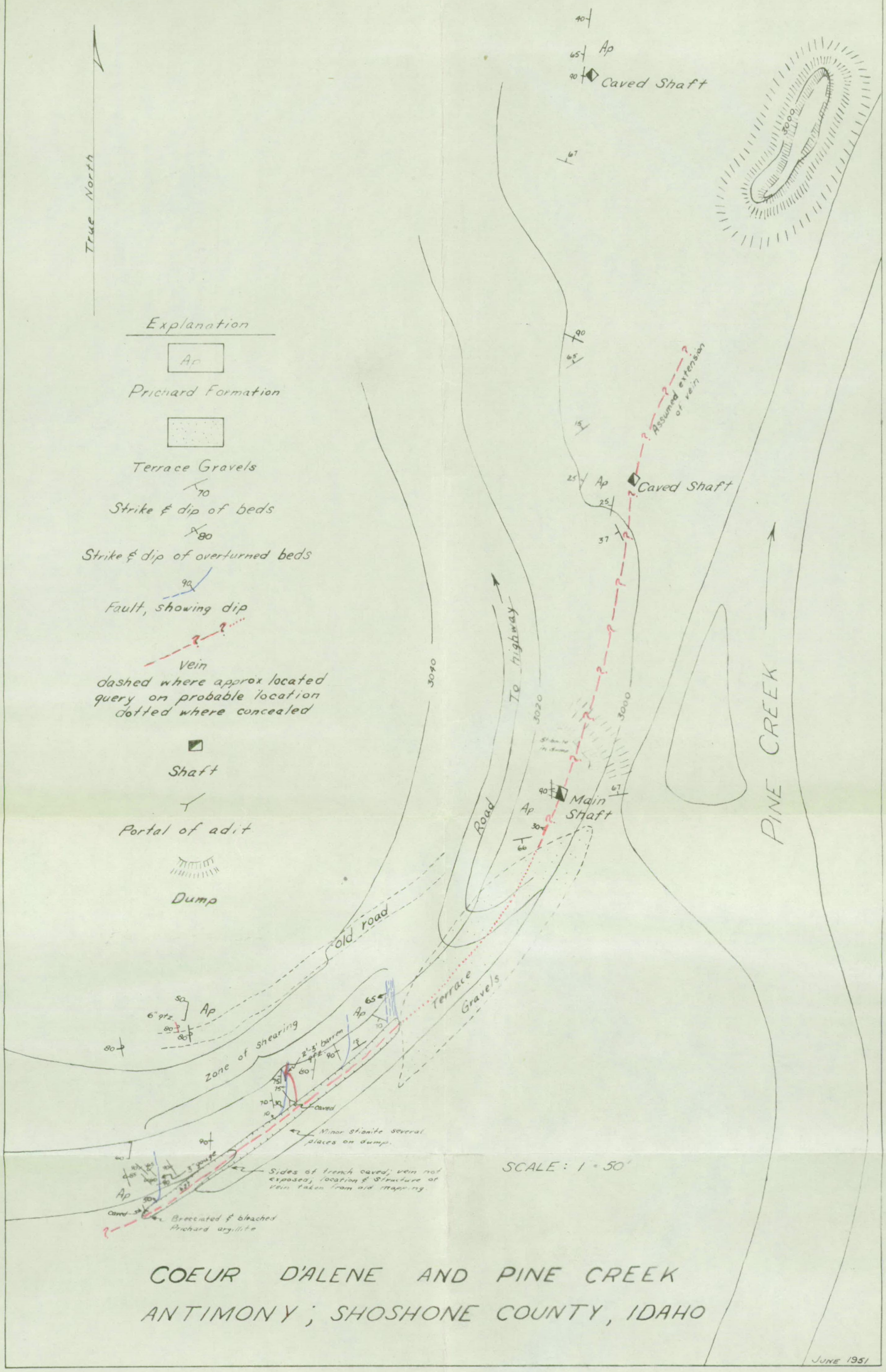
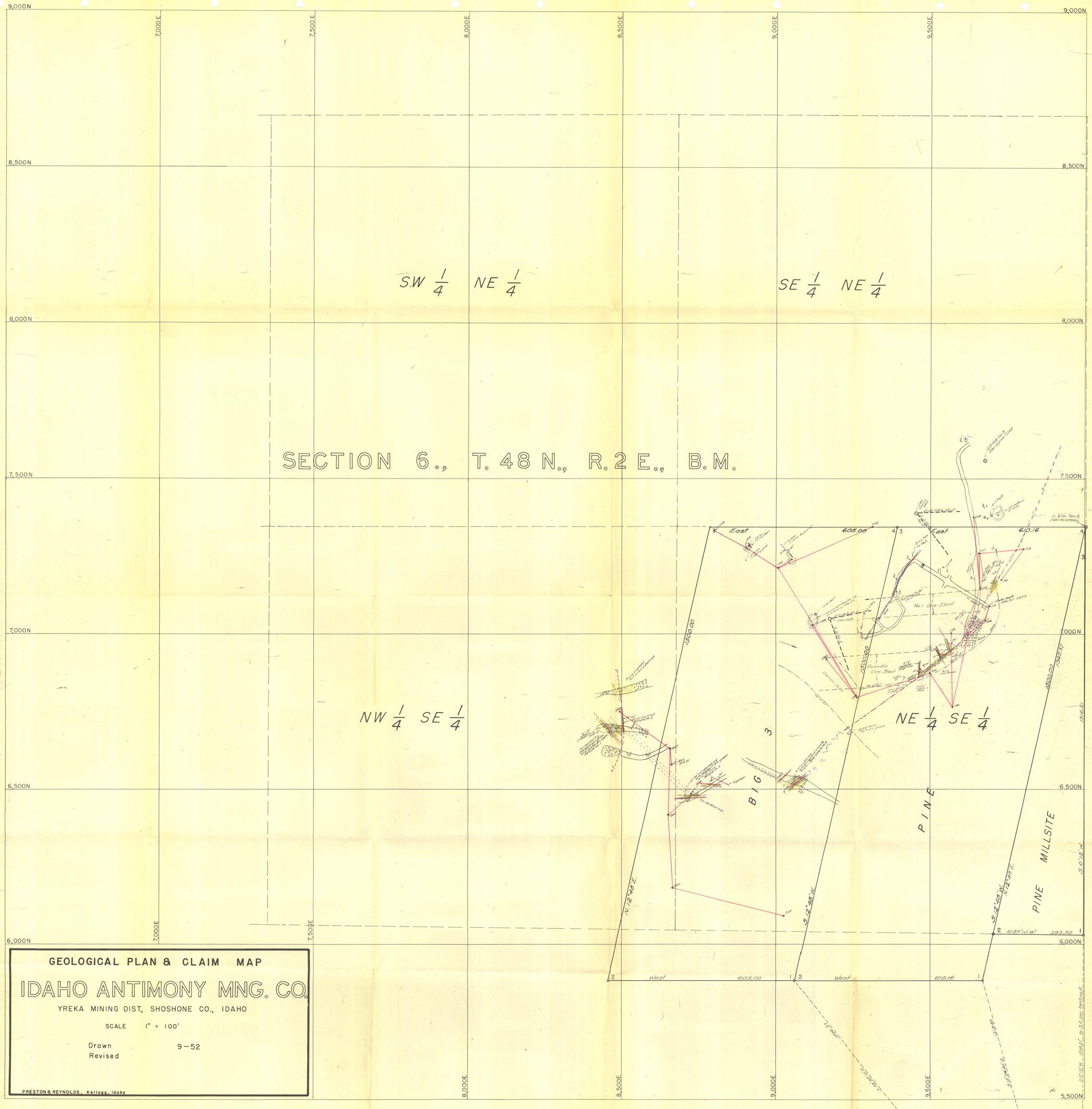


COEUR D'ALENE AND PINE CREEK ANTIMONY; SHOSHONE COUNTY, IDAHO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SE 1/4 NE 1/4
SECTION 6., T. 48 N., R. 2 E., B.M.
NW 1/4 SE 1/4
NE 1/4 SE 1/4
BIG 3 PINE
PINE MILLSITE
East 605.00
East 610.16
West 605.00
West 610.16
1500.00
1500.00
1500.00
1342.37
1916.21
N.12°48'E.
S.12°48'W.
N.12°48'E.
S.12°48'W.
S.0°12'W.
N.89°10'W. 293.50
No.1 Ore Shoot
Possible Ore Shoot
Charcoal Shed
Ex. S Cor. Sec. 6 (obliterated)
Old Hole No. 3 Elev. approx. 2245
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GEOLOGICAL PLAN & CLAIM MAP
IDAHO ANTIMONY MNG. CO.
YREKA MINING DIST., SHOSHONE CO., IDAHO
SCALE 1" = 100'
Drawn 9-52
Revised
PRESTON & REYNOLDS, Kellogg, Idaho