

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Nevada
COUNTY: Clark
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE NOV 13 1974

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Potosi

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Potosi Mining District

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: S of Las Vegas off I 15 near Potosi Pass

CITY OR TOWN: Off Interstate 15, 17 miles via EAS 528 and 4 mi. W. FAS 528

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Nevada

STATE: Nevada Las Vegas vicinity CODE: 32 COUNTY: Clark CODE: 003

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) Mining

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
International Smelting Co. and public domain

STREET AND NUMBER:  
R.F.D.

CITY OR TOWN: Tooele STATE: Utah CODE: 43

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Clark County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:  
200 East Carson Street

CITY OR TOWN: Las Vegas STATE: Nevada CODE: 32

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Nevada Historical Sites

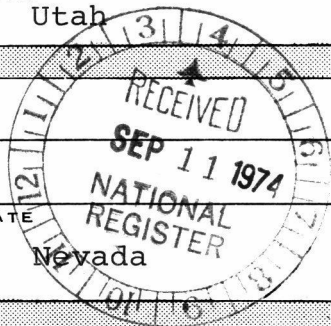
DATE OF SURVEY: 1968  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: University of Nevada, Desert Research Institute, Center for Western Studies

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Stead Facility

CITY OR TOWN: Reno STATE: Nevada CODE: 32

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
COUNTY: \_\_\_\_\_  
ENTRY NUMBER: NOV 13 1974  
DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
FOR NPS USE ONLY

**7. DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION	(Check One)				
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ruins
	(Check One)			(Check One)	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Potosi is a camp and a mine. The mine is high on a juniper and pinion covered hill and its portal is on the west face of an almost perpendicular cliff 150 feet high, near the summit of Potosi Mountain. The camp is at Potosi Spring, a half-mile north and 700 feet in elevation below the mine.

A large wooden structure containing various types of mining machinery stands at the entrance to the horizontal shaft. Around part of the hill are the remains of the mining-gauge railway installed at a later date to carry the ore to a point opposite the shaft side of the hill, where it was loaded into buckets and lowered by cable to the bottom. The hoisting equipment is difficult to reach, as it is located at the top of an 800 foot hill.

A half-mile north of the mine and 700 feet below it is the camp at Potosi Spring. Only foundations remain of this small camp.

The area is characterized by scenic yellow sandstone formations, pinion-juniper and Joshua tree plant life. Petroglyphs, mescal pits, and rock shelters are in evidence in the area.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |  |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |  |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal          | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry    | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | <u>Mining</u>                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture         | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | <u>Colonization</u>                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture        | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications      | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation        |   |  | _____                                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Potosi lead-silver mine is probably the oldest lode mine in Nevada. The desire of the Mormon settlements for economic self-sufficiency led to prospecting by missionaries for lead. In April 1856, Nathaniel V. Jones was sent by Mormon leader, Brigham Young, to recover ore from the "mountain of lead" 30 road miles southwest of the church's mission at Las Vegas Springs.

Wood was plentiful and running water was 12 miles away. A spring for camp purposes was located within 1½ miles. On August 21, 1856, Jones started his lead mining operation. By the 10th of September a furnace had been built and smelting started. It was soon found that the material from which the furnace was constructed could not stand the blast. Jones, with the first wagon load of ore, set out to obtain supplies in Salt Lake City. He returned to the mine on December 9 and, beginning on Christmas Day, the new furnace began smelting ore.

Mining difficulties, however, beset them. The richer ore was soon gone and the poor grade, too flaky and brittle, was hard to process. Fuel was fast becoming scarce, as it was then necessary to haul wood a distance of seven miles to keep the furnace going. A shortage of provisions both for men and animals was a constant problem and supplies had to be hauled 230 miles from Parowan and Cedar City, Utah.

Not more than a dozen loads of lead, or about 9,000 pounds, were recovered before processing difficulties forced the remote mining camp to be abandoned in January 1857. Potosi thus became the first abandoned mine in Nevada.

Briefly reopened from 1861-1863 as a source of silver, more extensive operations were made possible in 1905 by construction nearby of the Los Angeles, San Pedro and Salt Lake Railroad (now the Union Pacific).

Between the years 1913-1917 Potosi was Nevada's largest zinc producer and during World War I it was an important source of this product.

Activity by lessors in later years helped push Potosi production to an estimated \$41.5 million. The mine at Potosi supplied lead, silver, zinc, and other valuable ores over more than a century of development.

Historical marker number 115 marks the site of Potosi.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Paher, Stanley, Nevada Ghost Towns & Mining Camps, Howell-North, Berkeley, 1970.  
 Nevada Historical Sites, Mordy & McCaughey, University of Nevada 1968.  
 Influence of the Mormon People in the Settlement of Clark County, Francis Leavitt, Master's thesis.  
 History - Lower Colorado Region, Nevada, October, 1970 by Victor Goodwin, Forester, River Basin Planning Staff. U.S. Department of Agriculture.

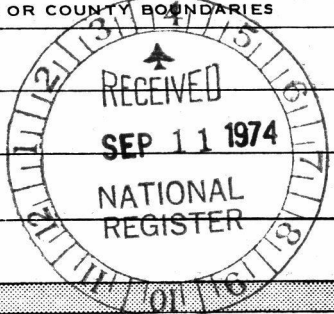
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
NW	Degrees Minutes Seconds 35° 58' 41"	Degrees Minutes Seconds 115° 33' 10"		Degrees Minutes Seconds ° ' "	Degrees Minutes Seconds ° ' "	
NE	35° 58' 41"	115° 32' 04"				
SE	35° 57' 20"	115° 32' 04"				
SW	35° 57' 20"	115° 33' 10"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **960**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
N.A.			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



No  
CD

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
**W. E. Wieprecht, Historic Preservation Specialist**

ORGANIZATION: **Nevada State Park System**      DATE: **Jan. 1972**  
 resubmitted **July 1974**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**201 South Fall Street      Nye Building, Room 221**

CITY OR TOWN: **Carson City**      STATE: **Nevada**      CODE: **32**

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name *Eric White*  
 Title Administrator and State Historic Preservation Officer

Date July 30, 1974

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

*A. B. Mortensen*  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 11/13/74

ATTEST:  
*Charles Adams*  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 11.7.74

PROPERTY

*Patosi*

STATE

*Nevada*

WORKING NUMBER

*9.11.74, 1388*

Clark

TECH REVIEW

PHOTOS

*2*

MAPS

*1*

*74001144*

CONTROL REVIEW

*cm*

*9.11.*

*74*

*OK*

HISTORIAN

*Name should include mine. → Need more info on type of machinery remaining, new photo of lift etc*

*Return W.R. Luce 9/12/74*

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

**TO HAER**

*Concur w/ Ray Luce. With grid coordinates impossible to obtain from this quad.*

*Return Judy 9/6*

*9/16/74*

ARCHEOLOGIST

*Looke okay.*

*Accept 12 Sep 74 M. Barnes*

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

**ACCEPT Cole 10/17/74**

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

*Accept Hunt for Muntz 11.7.74*

National Register Write-up

*3/5/75*

Send-back

Federal Register entry

*2/75*

Re-submit

Entered

**NOV 13 1974**

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM WHEN THE PROPERTY IS RESUBMITTED. DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
NAME OF PROPERTY Potosi

The attached National Register Inventory-Nomination form is being returned to your office for clarification of the information indicated below.

- 1. Name. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. Location. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. Classification. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. Owner of Property. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. Location of Legal Description. \_\_\_\_\_
- 6. Representation in Existing Surveys. \_\_\_\_\_
- 7. Description. \_\_\_\_\_
- 8. Statement of Significance. \_\_\_\_\_
- 9. Bibliography. \_\_\_\_\_
- 10. Geographical Data.
  - a. Longitude and Latitude Coordinates. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Acreage \_\_\_\_\_
- 11. Form Prepared By. \_\_\_\_\_
- 12. Certification. \_\_\_\_\_

**Photographic Coverage.** Please send photos of wooden structure at entrance of shaft and any remaining hoisting equipment, if any.

**Map Coverage.** Please use a map bearing an identified system of coordinates, preferably an original USGS, which allows us to check latitude-longitude.

**Other.** \_\_\_\_\_

Clarification or correction of the above items must be made prior to the initiation of our professional review. Correction of these technical errors does not necessarily insure that the nomination will then satisfy the National Register criteria in full.

Thank you for your attention to the above items checked.

*Thanks*

SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE Nevada	
COUNTY Clark	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER NOV 13 1974	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Potosi

AND/OR HISTORIC: Potosi Mining District

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

Nevada

CODE

32

COUNTY:

Clark

CODE

003

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Wilbur Wieprecht

DATE OF PHOTO: January 1972

NEGATIVE FILED AT:

Nevada State Park System

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

View to the Northeast of the last remnants - townsite of Potosi, Nevada.

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



# 1082



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE	
Nevada	
COUNTY	
Clark	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
NOV 13 1974	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Potosi

AND/OR HISTORIC: Potosi Mining District

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

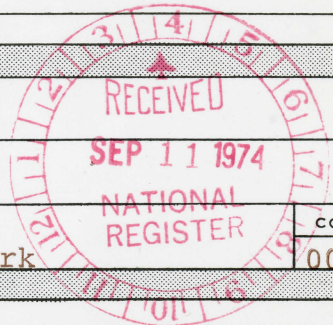
CITY OR TOWN:

10

STATE: Nevada

CODE COUNTY: Clark

32 003



3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Wilbur Wieprecht

DATE OF PHOTO: January 1972

NEGATIVE FILED AT:

Nevada State Park System

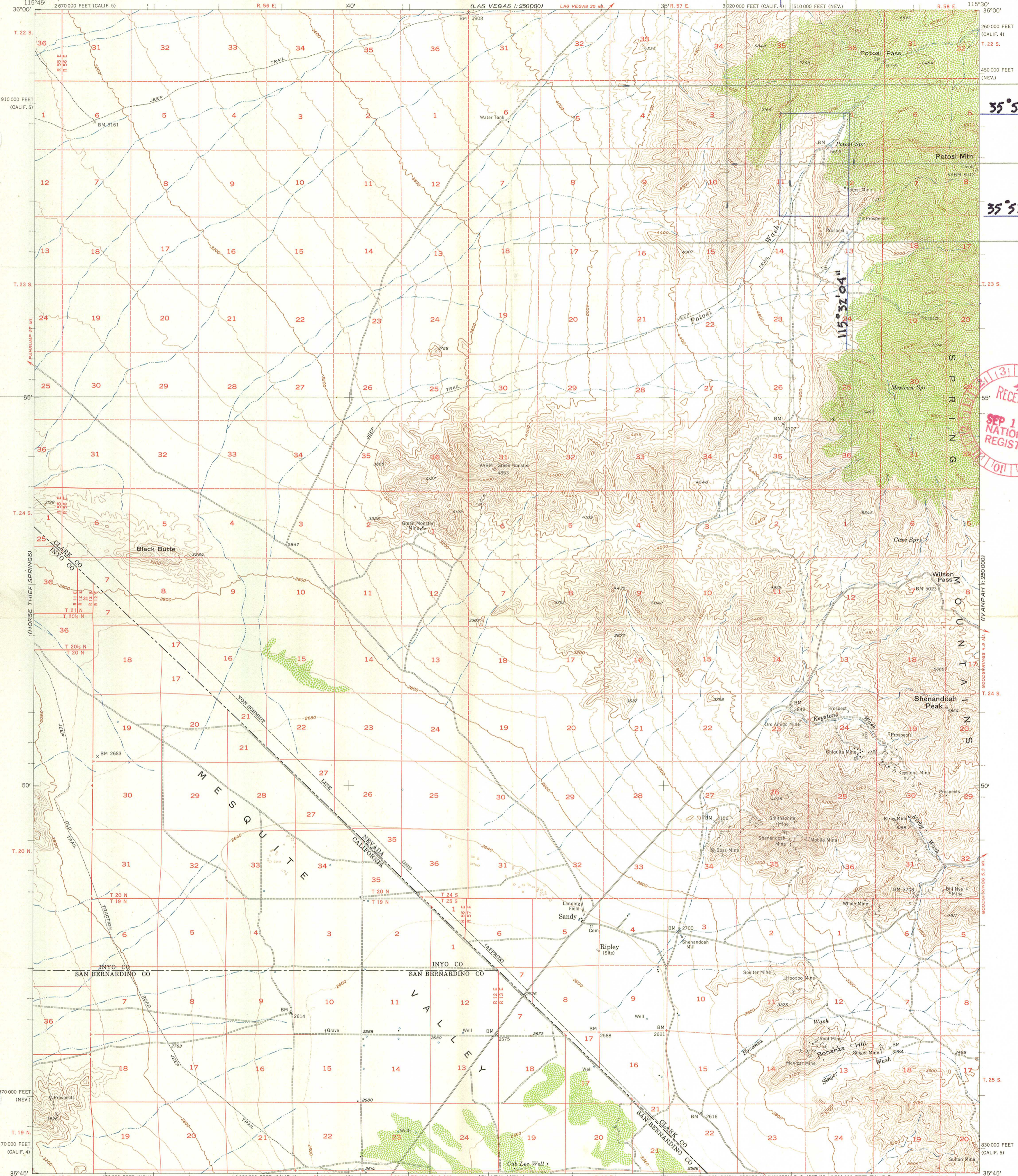
4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

View to the SSE of the mine trailings - Potosi lead-silver mine - 1 mile south of Potosi townsite.

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

#2 of 2

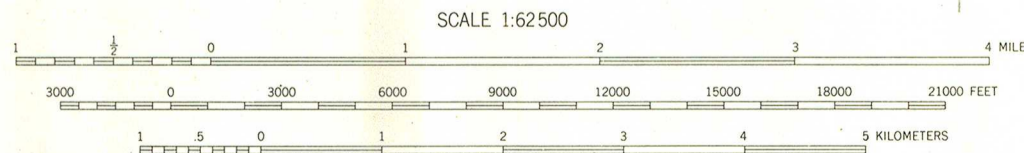
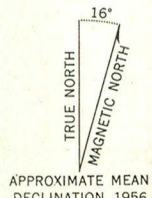


35°58'41"

35°57'20"



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS & USC&GS  
Topography from aerial photographs by multiplex methods and by  
planetable surveys 1956. Aerial photographs taken 1953 and 1954  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grids based on Nevada coordinate system, east zone  
and California coordinate system, zones 5 and 4  
Dashed land lines indicate approximate locations  
Unchecked elevations are shown in brown



SCALE 1:62500  
CONTOUR INTERVAL 80 FEET  
DASHED LINES REPRESENT 40-FOOT CONTOURS  
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

POTOSI HIST. DIST.  
ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Light-duty ————— Unimproved dirt - - - - -



SHENANDOAH PEAK, NEV.—CALIF.  
N3545—W11530/15

1956

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER 2, COLORADO OR WASHINGTON 25, D. C.  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

*(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)*

STATE	
Nevada	
COUNTY	
Clark	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
NOV 13 1974	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**1. NAME**

COMMON: Potosi  
AND/OR HISTORIC: Potosi Mining District

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Off Interstate 15, 17 miles via FAS 528 and 4 miles West.  
CITY OR TOWN:  
FAS 528

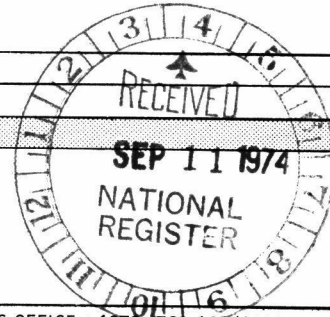
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Nevada	32	Clark	003

**3. MAP REFERENCE**

SOURCE:  
USGS  
SCALE: 1:62500  
DATE: 1956

**4. REQUIREMENTS**

- TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS
1. Property boundaries where required.
  2. North arrow.
  3. Latitude and longitude reference.



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE NEVADA

Date Entered NOV 13 1974

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
<b>Potosi</b>	<i>Las Vegas vicinity</i> <b>Clark County</b>

Also Notified

Hon. Alan Bible  
Hon. Howard W. Cannon  
Hon. David G. Towell  
Regional Director, Western Region

State Historic Preservation Officer  
Mr. Eric R. Cronkite  
Administrator  
Division of State Parks  
201 South Fall Street  
Carson City, Nevada 89701

PR

MMott/row

11/20/74