

NAME OF PROPERTY

HERON (GROUSE CREEK)

LOCATION

Lat. 53°02'10" Long. 121°26'40"

Mining Division	Cariboo	District	Cariboo
County		Township or Parish	
Lot		Concession or Range	
Sec.	Tp.	R.	

OWNER OR OPERATOR AND ADDRESS

Grouse Creek Mines Ltd.,
501 - 615 West Pender,
Vancouver 2, B.C.

DESCRIPTION OF DEPOSIT

The formation consists of Palaeozoic rocks of the Cariboo group, including micaceous quartzite of the Snowshoe formation and quartzose phyllite of the underlying Midas formation. Minor acidic dykes and sills of the Prosperine intrusions outcrop in the area. The creek heads on Bald Mtn, follows a northerly trending fault through a canyon between Prosperine and Antler Mountains, and then bends to the north-east. The highly productive part of the creek extended upstream from the Heron ground for about a mile. The old gold-bearing channel near its upper end is about 40 feet above the level of the present creek; it crosses over and forms a rock-bench on the west side at the bend and again crosses to the east side below the bend, on which side it continues as a rock-bench downstream to a short distance above the Heron ground, where its level coincides with the present creek. In the Heron ground it is below the creek level and under the high bank on the east side. Thus the gradient of the old channel is greater than that of the present. One section of the Heron channel was reported to be so narrow and steep sided that the 8 foot timbers being used reached from one rim to the other. In places the gold occurred on a "hard-pan" layer about 18 inches above bedrock. Near the lower end of the Heron ground the gradient of the old channel steepens and irregular depressions or undulations in the bedrock indicate that the old channel has been partially removed by glacial erosion in this section.

Associated minerals or products of value

HISTORY OF EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Grouse Creek in its upper reaches flows north through a narrow canyon; below the canyon the creek bends between elevations of 4,600 and 4,500 feet and flows northeasterly, passing over a 6 foot high falls at about the 4,300 foot elevation. On the southeast or right side of the creek, extending for about a mile between the bend and a point about 800 feet downstream from the falls, a number of early properties were located in the following order in the downstream direction: Discovery claim; Full Rig claim; Black Hawk claim; the Heron Company's nine 100-foot claims, extending down to the falls; the Hard-up Company's property, extending 800 feet downstream from the falls to join the Waverly Company's ground.

Grouse Creek was mined to a limited extent in 1861-62 and then abandoned until 1864 when the Heron claims were located on it. The claims yielded about \$300,000 and were then sold for \$4,000, under the supposition that the ground was worked out; on cutting an outlet 18 inches deeper the claim continued to yield from 80 to 100 ounces a week throughout the ensuing season. The creek was again abandoned until 1866 when the lead was rediscovered; the Heron, Discovery, and other claims yielded from \$15,000 to \$20,000 to the share. The Heron Co., in March 1867, paid a dividend of \$800 per share and the Full Rig Co. a dividend of \$200 for a week's work. These companies worked out the lead for 1,000 feet on the channel; at a point 96 feet above the Hard-up line the gradient of the channel steepened, the ground became difficult to mine and finally had to be abandoned because of the presence of water and slum.

The early workings, including the Heron incline, numerous tunnels and shafts, were made in mining or searching for the extension of the Heron channel. In 1889 Messrs. Jarvis, McAlinden and Co. drove a tunnel in the vicinity of the Discovery claim and found what was believed to be the upstream extension of the Heron lead but it turned out to be a depression in bedrock about 30 by 24 feet; this yielded about \$4,000 in gold.

Work since that time has been directed towards finding the continuation of the "Heron lead" in the drift covered flats in the lower part of the creek, the principal work being done on the Hard-up claims. In 1902 Messrs. Lasell and Wendle began extending an old tunnel on the Hard-up property. The United Mining Co. was subsequently formed; the company owned the Hard-up property and obtained a lease on the Heron ground. About 600 feet of tunnel was driven in two adits but the workings had to be abandoned on account of flooding; the company ceased operations in 1905. Diamond drilling was done in 1922 in a depression leading from Grouse Creek eastward towards the meadows at the head of Quartz Gulch. A cross-section of 6 holes found an old channel but there was no gold in it.

Grouse Creek Barkerville Gold Ltd., a private company holding four leases, sank two shafts in 1962 but failed to find the old channel. The company was succeeded by Grouse Creek Mines Ltd. in 1963, the new company holding 5 placer mining leases and 16 claims. A hammer

~~No records of production have been found; the only indication of the production is as given under History of Exploration and Development.~~

From about 1875 to about 1945 recorded production was 14,435 ounces

Johnson, W.A. and Uglow, W.L.; Placer and Vein Gold Deposits of Barkerville, Cariboo District, B.C.; Memoir 149, pp. 80-89, Geol. Surv. of Canada, 1926.

Annual Reports, Dept. of Mines, B.C.; 1878, p. 372; 1889, p. 274; 1904, p. 46; 1905, p. 55; 1962, p. 139; 1963, p. 133.

Mineral Resources Division; Corporation File: "Grouse Creek Mines Ltd."

Holland, J. W.; Placer Gold Production of B.C.; Bulletin No. 28, p. 26, B.C. Dept. of Mines, 1950.

Shipping point

Distance from mine

Material shipped

Carrier

Destination

MAP REFERENCES

- Geological Map of Antler Creek Area, B.C., Sc. 1": $\frac{1}{2}$ mile - Accomp. Bulletin No. 38, Dept. of Mines, B.C.
- Map 2046, Barkerville Area, B.C., (Geol.), Sc. 1":1 mile - Accomp. Mem. 149.
- Map 93 H/3 W, Spectacle Lakes, B.C., (Topo.), Sc. 1:50,000.

MAY 1965

REMARKS

HISTORY OF EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT (continued)

refraction seismic survey was carried out, starting in the area immediately adjacent to the old Heron channel. The survey gave an indication of a channel trending N 80° E from the end of the Heron workings. Subsequently 11 churn-drill holes were put down to delineate the profile with more precision. At a point 735 feet from the presumed end of the Heron workings drill holes indicated a deep channel 112 feet to bedrock. A 114 foot long drainage tunnel was completed and shaft sinking was begun to explore the channel by underground drifting.