

PRODUCT GOLD (PLACER) PRODUIT	PROVINCE OR TERRITORY PROVINCE OU TERRITOIRE	British Columbia	N.T.S. AREA 93 N/11 RÉGION DU S.N.R.C.	REF. AU 2 RÉF.
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NAME OF PROPERTY
NOM DE LA PROPRIÉTÉ

VITAL CREEK

OBJECT LOCATED
OBJET LOCALISÉ

UNCERTAINTY
FACTEUR D'INCERTITUDE

Lat. 55°42'	Long. 125°29'
Lat.	Long.
Mining Division Division minière	District District
Omineca	Cassiar
County Comté	Township or Parish Canton ou paroisse
Lot	Concession or Range Concession ou rang
Lot	
Sec	Tp. R.
Sect.	Ct. R.

OWNER OR OPERATOR/PROPRIÉTAIRE OU EXPLOITANT

DESCRIPTION OF DEPOSIT/DESCRIPTION DU GISEMENT

The creek traverses, nearly at right angles, a belt of steeply dipping, interbedded Cache Creek argillites, cherts, schists, and greenstones. At a point about 2 miles above its mouth the creek drops over a falls about 80 feet high. Much of the first gold recovered came from the present day channel below the falls. This gold was probably concentrated in post-Glacial time as a result of erosion of the pre-Glacial channel. More recent workings commence just below the falls and continue upstream following a pre-Glacial bedrock channel. This old channel, which emerges into the present channel just below the falls, lies to the north and 80 feet below the present channel, and is buried beneath 200 feet of compact boulder clay and glacial gravel. The gravels on bedrock are free from large boulders. The gold recovered was in the form of extremely coarse, well-worn flakes, and almost all of it lay either on bedrock or in crevices in the rock; in some of the sections worked about 4 feet in depth of the soft, shattered, schistose bedrock was removed. Of the overlying gravel only the bottom foot carried gold in paying quantities. The pay streak was only a few feet wide. Arquerite, a native amalgam of silver and mercury, is fairly abundant in the gold-bearing gravels along Vital Creek.

Associated minerals or products
Minéraux ou produits associés

HISTORY OF EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT
HISTORIQUE DE L'EXPLORATION ET DE LA MISE EN VALEUR

Vital Creek flows northeasterly into Silver Creek from its source in the Vital Mountains, some 24 miles northeast of Takla Landing.

Placer gold was discovered on Vital Creek in 1869 and the creek was worked for some years by the old-timers by means of ground sluicing and drift diggings. In later years the creek was worked intermittently by several companies. The Caledonia General Mining Association, Limited Liability, incorporated in Victoria in 1897, held leases on Vital Creek for a number of years. The Vital Creek (B.C.) Mining Syndicate, Limited, of London, England, held leases on the creek in the early 1900's. Little work was reported by either company.

Omineca Gold Mines, Limited, which was incorporated in 1913, held leases on Vital and Quartz creeks and operated for a year or so; the company charter was surrendered in 1921. Individuals and groups of Chinese worked the creek for many years, by both ground sluicing and underground diggings. The largest of these operations was by Lee Tong & associates, between 1922 and 1934. Their initial operations were by ground sluicing but in later years they developed the property successfully by means of underground operations, following the old pre-Glacial channel by driving a tunnel along bedrock for 935 feet.

The Juneau Vital Creek Mining Company, Limited, held a number of leases on the creek in 1934 but no work was reported. Northern Ventures, Ltd., a subsidiary of Ventures Exploration Company (East Africa), Limited, was incorporated in 1935 to acquire 5 claims and 12 leases on the creek. A hydraulic operation was tried but was abandoned in the summer of 1936. An underground operation was begun and a shaft was sunk 90 feet to bedrock. Work ceased in 1937.