THE KENNEDY MINE
A NONPROFIT FOUNDATION
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KENNEDY GOLD MINE
SOUVENIR
SELF GUIDED TOUR

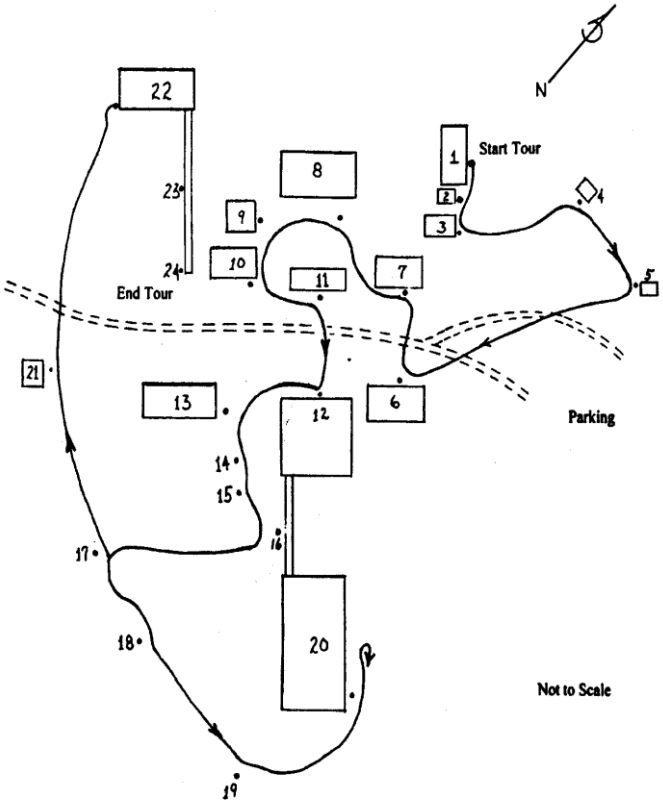
The Kennedy Gold Mine is owned and operated by the Kennedy Mine Foundation, a 501©(3) Organization. Your support is appreciated.

Please stay on the tour route trail. No Smoking is allowed on the property.
Be advised, this is poison oak and rattlesnake country.
Please do not climb on equipment. The Foundation is not liable for accidental injury.

THIS PROPERTY AND THE ONGOING PRESERVATION IS DEDICATED TO ALL THOSE WHO LABORED HERE AND TO THE HISTORY OF CALIFORNIA GOLD.

Visit the Kennedy Mine! The Mine is open every Saturday, Sunday and Holiday, March through October. Admission is $10.00 for ages 13 to adult, $6.00 for youngsters 6 through 12, and free to those under 6. Group tours are available, by reservation, all year.

Map and Key for the Self Guided Tour



1. Change House
2. First Aid Station
3. Broiler Building
4. Outhouse
5. Oil Building
6. Blacksmith & Machine Shop
7. Air Compressor Building
8. Hoists
9. Surface Foreman's Office
10. Underground Foreman's Office
11. Auxiliary Hoist
12. Head Frame
13. Timber Mill
14. Equipment Skips
15. Water Skips
16. Trestle to Stamp Mill
17. North & South Shafts
18. The Argonaut Mine
19. Kennedy Mine Tailing Wheels
20. Stamp Mill
21. Electric Power Building
22. Kennedy Mine Office
23. City of Jackson
24. End of Tour

HISTORY

The Kennedy Gold Mine is named for Andrew Kennedy, an Irish immigrant, who reportedly discovered a quartz outcropping in the late 1850's near what is now Highway 49. The Kennedy Mining Company was formed in 1860 when he and three partners began digging shafts near today's mine property entrance.

The mine operated sporadically until it closed in 1878. In 1886 fifteen people invested $97,600 to reopen the mine under the corporate entity of the Kennedy Mining and Milling Company. In 1898 the company began sinking a new shaft 1950 feet east of the original shafts. This East Shaft would eventually reach a vertical depth of 5912 feet, the deepest vertical depth gold mine in North America at the time. In 1928 a surface fire burned all the structures except the Mine Office and the Stamp Mill. All other buildings and foundations were built after 1928. The Company operated the mine until 1942 when the U.S. Government closed gold mines as not essential to the war effort.

At the time of its closing, (according to the CA Department of Conservation, bureau of Mines and Geology), the mine had produced some 34.3 million dollars when gold was valued at $20.67 and $35.00 per ounce. The company paid its stockholders $5.8 million between 1886 and 1937. Over 95% of these dividends were paid at $20.67 per ounce. The Jackson-Plymouth mining district was the most productive of the Mother Lode with a total output estimated at $180 million.

TOUR

Description of buildings and equipment in the order shown on map; page 2.

1. **CHANGE HOUSE:** When the miner came to work he would change from street clothes to work clothes. After work he was required to take a shower and would be inspected during the shower routine. He could then dress back into street clothes and go home. This ritual was supposed to prevent "high grading" (stealing gold).

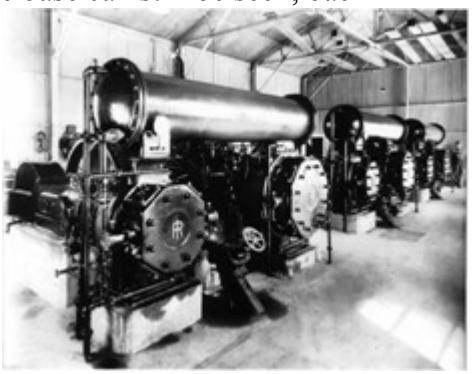
2. **FIRST AID STATION:** All injuries would first be attended to in this building.The first county hospital was built in Jackson in the late 1800s.

3. **BOILER BUILDING:** Until 1926 the mine was powered by steam fueled by oil. The oil was brought to Martell by rail tankers and transferred to the mine via pipeline. After 1928 the mine was powered by electricity and the steam from this remaining boiler was used for hot water and heat.

4. **OUTHOUSE:** The miners used pit toilets (restrooms without plumbing).

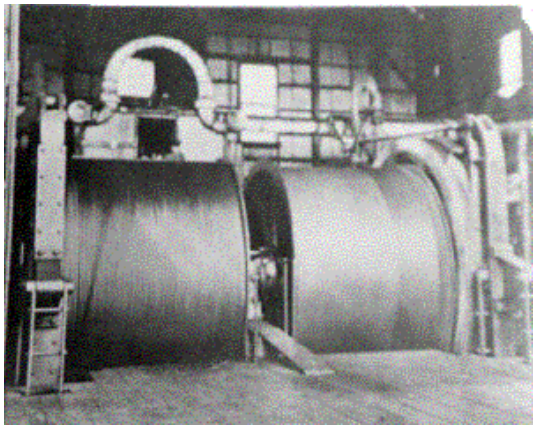
5. **OIL BUILDING:** This building was used to store lubricating materials for the various machines, The architecture is a mystery.

6. **BLACKSMITH AND MACHINE SHOP:** Many pieces of equipment were manufactured or repaired in this building. The forge base can still be seen, back center. The Foundation is already collecting machinery to someday display in this building.



7. **AIR COMPRESSOR BUILDING:** Three largeIngersoll Rand compressors were in this buildingand we have virtually the same units to eventually go on display. Many tools were air powered including the drills making holes for blasting charges underground. The large metal stack was an air intake for the compressors.

8. **HOISTS:** The Allis Chalmers 2 drum hoist sat on this foundation. The cables raised and lowered the 'skips' into the mine, one coming up while the other was going down. When steam powered, the hoist could drop the skips at speeds up to 2200 ft per minute. 1600 feet per minute with electricity.



9. **OFFICE OF THE SURFACE FOREMAN:** All mining operations above ground were directed from this building. It currently serves as the Foundation office.

10. **OFFICE OF THE UNDERGROUND FOREMAN:** All mining activity within the mine was conducted from this building. When miners came on duty they would report here and pick up the "brass" which identified them as on duty. At the end of the shift, when the miner came from below he dropped his "brass" into the square slot in the brick wall to the right of the door.

11. **AUXILIARY HOIST:** This is a smaller version of the main hoist which was used for changing cable, etc. A 5500 ft spool of 1 1/4 cable used on the main hoist can still be seen here.

12. **HEADFRAME:** This 125 foot steel headframe was built in 1928 replacing the original wooden one. Two large wheels at the top fed cables to the skips which lowered and raised everything going in and out of the mine including bringing up about 70,000 gallons of water each day. Viewing the headframe from the west side, you see the two triangular hoppers where the skips dumped their loads. The bottom hopper was used to store the waste rock until it could be removed and dumped out of the way. The upper hopper was used to receive the gold bearing quartz (ore) rock. The smaller rock would fall through a "grizzly" into the ore bin. The larger rock would go into a crushing machine housed in the room at the second level of the headframe. When it was crushed to the proper size, (about the size of a tennis ball), it would fall into the ore bin to be stored until it could be transported to the stamp mill.

13. **TIMBER MILL:** All timber for the mine was milled here. Twenty five foot stacks of logs were always on hand.

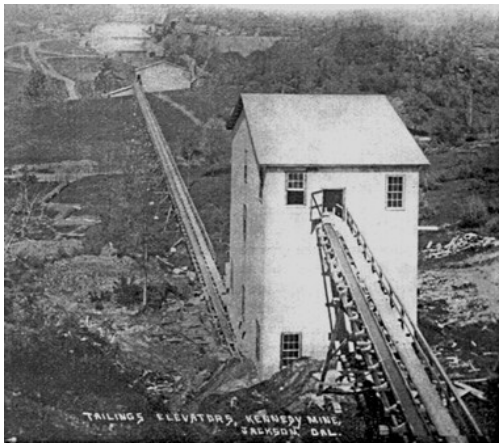
14. **EQUIPMENT SKIPS:** These skips would be used to transport equipment like lumber and mules into the mine. Mules were used to move ore carts in the tunnels.

15. **WATER SKIPS:** Here you also see the water skips which were used on the midnight to eight shift to 'dewater' the mine. The shaft is currently full of water.

16. **TRESTLE TO STAMP MILL:** After the ore was crushed, it was moved in four ton carts along a trestle to the stamp mill for further processing.

17. **NORTH AND SOUTH SHAFTS:** Off to the west in area 17 on your map is where the original North and South shafts were located. This is where it all began.

18. **THE ARGONAUT MINE:** Also to the west about area 18 on your map you will see the remains of the Argonaut mine best known for a disaster in 1922 when an underground fire trapped and killed 47 men. The Argonaut and Kennedy were seldom friendly neighbors.



The famous Kennedy wheels were originally covered and protected.

19. **KENNEDY MINE TAILING WHEELS:** The famous Kennedy Wheels (page 5, bottom), seen across the valley on the hill, moved tailings from the stamp mill to the tailing pond. Originally covered and protected with buildings, there are only two wheels left standing out of the original four. Built in 1912, the wheels were 68 feet in diameter, equipped with 176 buckets each, and connected by 2000 feet of flume to carry the waste tailings to a holding pond. Also in view, is a flat area where the tons of tailings from the mine were deposited and retained behind a large dam.

20. **STAMP MILL:** This is where the gold was extracted from the quartz rock. To free the gold from the ore, stamps crushed it into a fine "sand" which was then washed over mercury coated plates. The mercury captured the gold particles forming an amalgam. This amalgam was then taken to the mine office to be separated (retorted). Various methods of recovery were used over the years as new equipment was developed which accounts for the variety seen in the current ruins.

21. **ELECTRIC POWER BUILDING:** In 1926 the mine was fully electrified and this building was the center for distributing power.

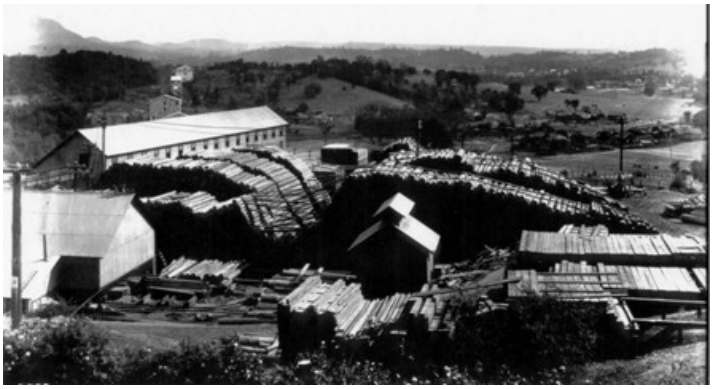
22. **KENNEDY MINING AND MILLING OFFICE:** Built in 1907, this three story concrete building was the business center for the mine. The west room on the first floor was the retort room where amalgam was transformed into solid gold ingots. The east room on the first floor was the assay office where the richness of core samples was tested to see if a vein was worth pursuing. One ton of ore should produce about 1/4 ounce of gold and each day about 400 tons of ore could be mined. The west room on the second floor was a general office, probably that of the General Manager. That area is now used as the Foundation's archive center. The east room on the second floor was the payroll office and general accounting office. It contains the huge walk-in safe where records were kept along with gold awaiting shipment to San Francisco. The third floor has four small guest bedrooms. These rooms accommodated visiting VIPs doing business with the mine. The Mother Lode Questors have decorated two of these rooms to reflect the period. One is a bedroom and the other a sitting room.

23. **CITY OF JACKSON:** From the mine office you have a wonderful view of the town of Jackson, Amador County-seat. Also in view, the flat area just in back of Jackson, is where the tons of tailings from the Kennedy were retained behind a large dam by the tailing-elevator wheels. The wheels can be seen from Jackson Gate Rd.

24. **END OF TOUR**

Miners at the hot and dirty work of drilling in the tunnels.


100 Stamp mill in foreground and head frame


Mine lumber mill with 100 stamp rock crushing mill at upper left.

Tailing wheel.

Older wood head frame and air intake stacks for the compressors.


Kennedy Mine Office today.

Thanks to the generosity of many individual and corporate donors, the Kennedy Mine is continuing to make improvements, add to the displays and preserve California's Gold Rush heritage. If you would like to volunteer or contribute to this worthy cause, please contact the non-profit Kennedy Mine Foundation. Phone (209) 223-9542 or email info@kennedygoldmine.com. Thank you for your support!