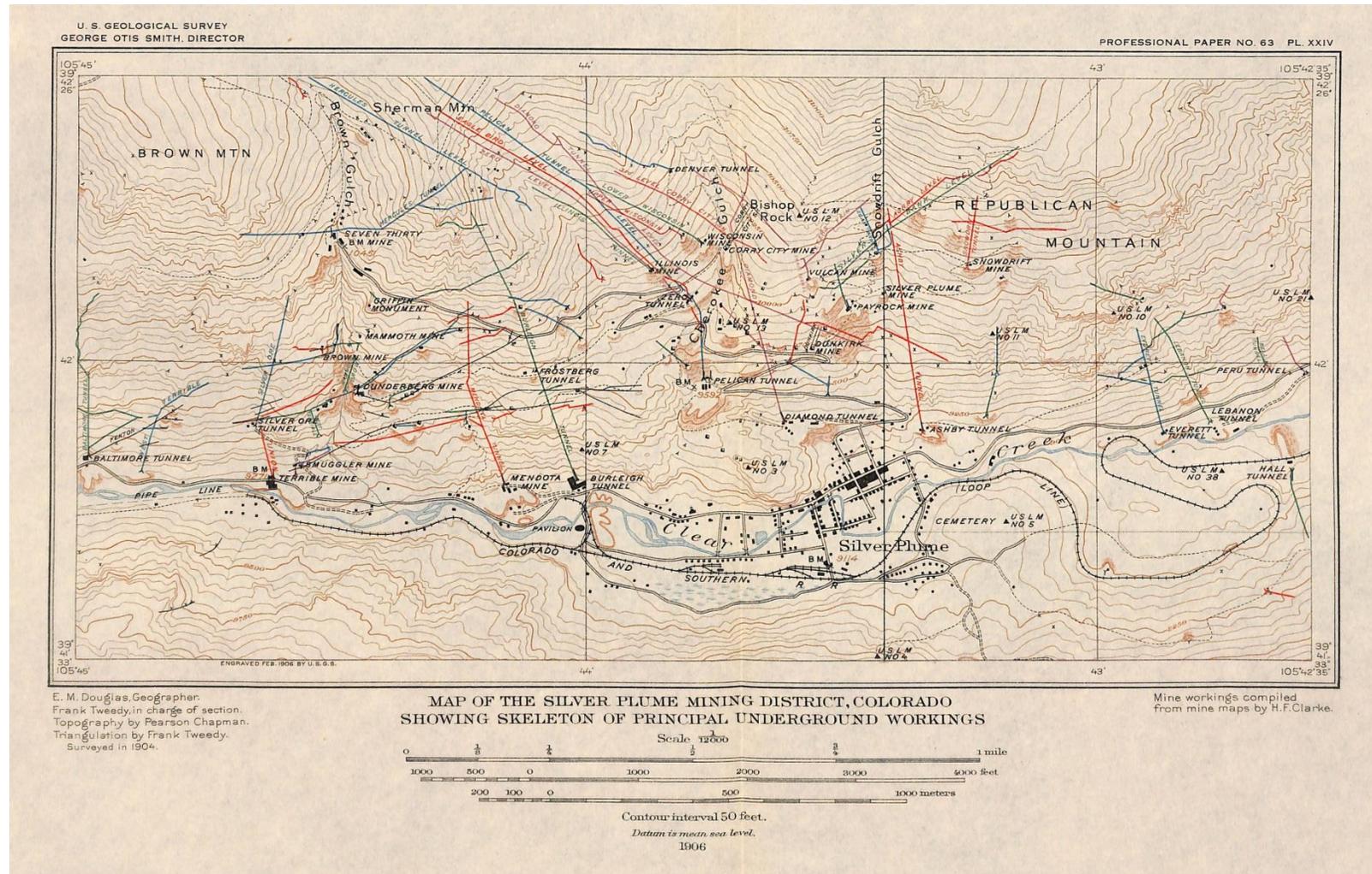


Site 2: Tunnels and Mills

As you work your way up the road to the 7:30 mine, you should get an appreciation for the need for tunnels. 5 large tunnels at or near the base of this mountain (Republican) and the mountain to the west (Sherman), allowed ore to be moved down through the mountain instead of having to haul heavy wagons full of ore down a steep road.



The Ashby tunnel is below you and to the east (looking back towards Georgetown). Major work was done in 1890, with the depth recorded at 1,610 feet by May of that year. The Diamond Tunnel is below you and to the west (back towards town, see photo below). The Nashotah mill, built in 1906, stood at the foot of the site.

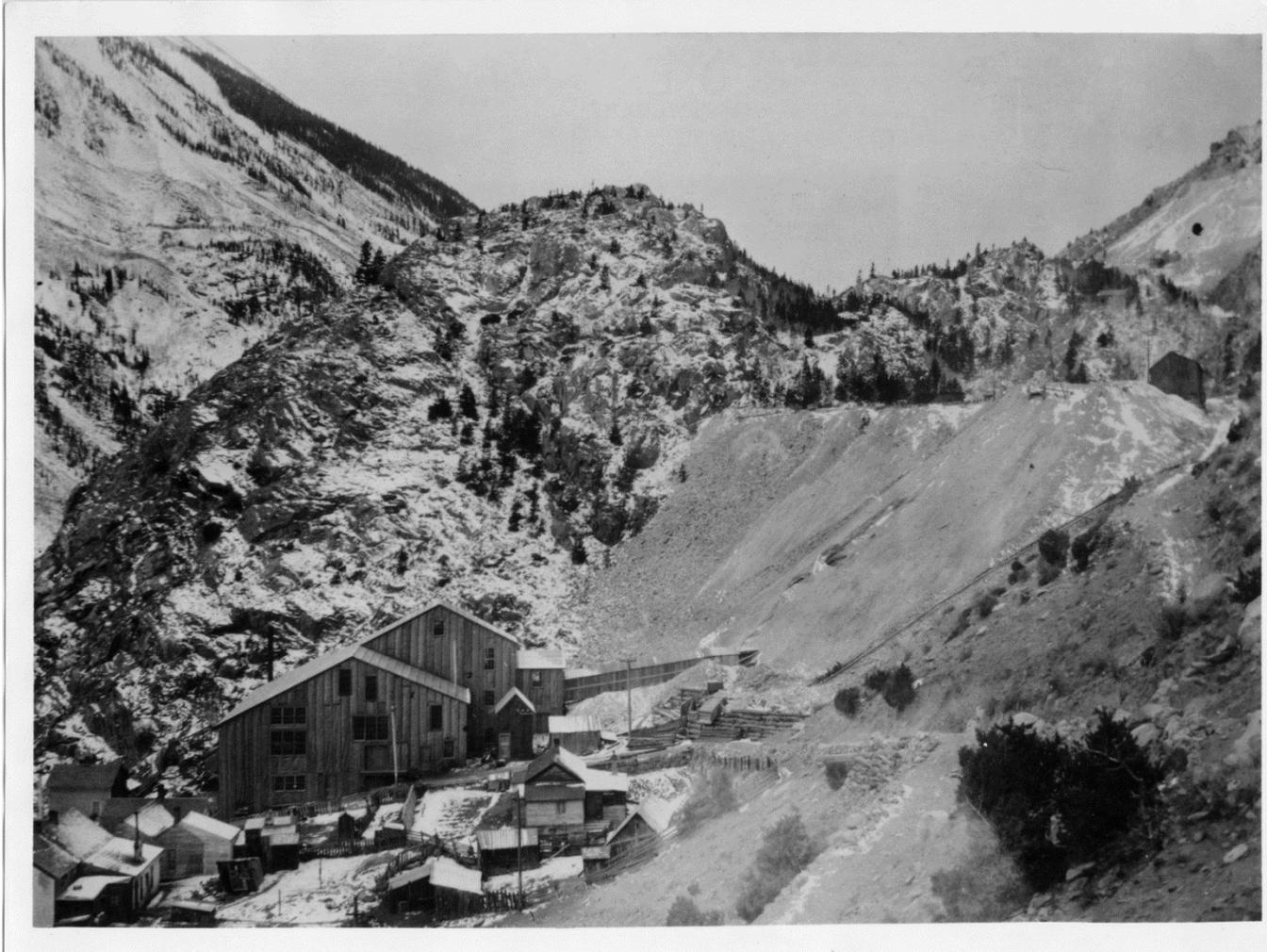


Photo of Nashotah Mill at the base of the dump rock from the excavation of the Diamond Tunnel which would be near the building in the upper right hand corner of the photo. Denver Public Library, Western History Collection, F40303

The mill shown in the photo was built in 1906. "The force of men employed in the construction of the big mill which is being erected by the Nashotah Mines company was increased this week and good progress is being made in getting the building ready for the machinery, which will soon commence to arrive. It is expected to have the mill in operation by the first of December." Silver Standard (Silver Plume), October 13, 1906

The Diamond tunnel was one of the major workhorses for the mining industry in Silver Plume. Work commenced in 1869 apparently with the use of a diamond drill, from which the property got its name. The tunnel was dug in fits and starts through the 1870s, and by the turn of the century it ran approximately 3,100 feet back to the northwest, accessing properties including the Corey City, Pelican, Dives and even some workings of the 7:30 mine over on Brown Gulch. Ownership of this property has always been held separate from the major mines above, keeping it out of the lawsuits which plagued the other properties.



Group preparing for a tour of the Diamond Tunnel around the turn of the century. Colorado College Special Collections. Abby Lansing Kernochan. Colorado Mining and Ghost Towns, 1864-1959. PP82-22a. Album #3, page 94.