

Location, Geologic setting, and Probable Extent and Conditions of the Rudisill and St. Catherine Gold Mines, Charlotte, N. C. and Gold Mining on the Rudisill Lode and the Growth of Charlotte, N. C.

2. City Engineering Department Recommendations

Geological Resources, Inc. concurs in most of the recommendations made in August, 1976 by the Engineering Division of Charlotte's Public Works Department and has included them in this report.

a. Erect Commemorative Markers

Permanent markers should be erected at or near known positions of the main shafts of the Rudisill and St. Catherine mines. Additional markers could be placed at the site of Bissel's Mill, Count Rivafinali's residence and the Mecklenburg Iron Works location off West Trade Street since all were strongly tied to gold mining in Charlotte and especially to mining on the Rudisill lode.

b. Change Street Names

Change the names of Summit Avenue between Mint and South Tryon Streets and Wickford Place back to Gold Street and Rudisill Road respectively.

c. Construct a Surface Park

A surface park in the immediate vicinity (i.e., to be over at least some of the underground workings) of either the Rudisill or St. Catherine Mine. The park could be named for the mine and would present some interpretation of the site. Such park sites are already available within the West Morehead Community Development Target Area.

d. Housed Interpretive Displays

Erect a building of suitable architectural style in the Gold Mine Surface Park to house an interpretative and educational display.

Such a building could be a replica of a 19th century wooden shaft house complete with old machinery, perhaps a small assay office attached and a pile of gold ore, in addition to old tools, photos, maps, etc.

3. Determine Site for Underground Workings Restoration

Nothing would "drive home" the realization that underground gold mining actually existed under the present city of Charlotte better than to be able to walk through some underground tunnels and be told that "this is where it happened, Count Rivafinali himself most likely walked these same passages." A successful historical appreciation can best be accomplished by the average citizen if he can, in some way, experience its atmosphere himself. It is, therefore, recommended that a restored underground site be the central theme around which other commemorative efforts be pivoted.

There is, unfortunately, presently insufficient information on the mines to make a statement as to the cost or feasibility of restoring a portion of the old workings. Mine tunnels and shafts are sealed off preventing entrance for examination. Old reports describe, in general terms only, underground workings that are probably suitable for restoration but do not give maps of them nor do they accurately describe their locations. Our public appeal for information has not helped in this regard. Something is known about workings below the 60 foot level in both mines, but at that depth requirements for continual pumping to keep them dry may make restoration prohibitive.

In order to open a portion of the underground workings, additional investigations would have to be performed. These investigations would be designed to:

1. Locate relatively shallow (up to 60 feet deep) workings. Deeper workings would require greater pumping and restoration costs and