

HISTORIC SITE FORM -- HISTORIC SITE INVENTORY

PARK CITY MUNICIPAL CORPORATION (06-09)

1 IDENTIFICATION

Name of Property: Silver King Aerial Tramway Towers

Address: Multiple addresses

AKA:

City, County: Park City, Summit County, Utah

Tax Number: PCA-S-98-PCMR

Current Owner Name: United Park City Mines

Parent Parcel(s): S-98

Current Owner Address: Post Office Box 1450, Park City, Utah 84060

Legal Description (include acreage): 2,538.33 acres; See Summit County Recorder for description.

2 STATUS/USE

Property Category

- building(s), main
- building(s), attached
- building(s), detached
- building(s), public
- building(s), accessory
- structure(s)

Evaluation*

- Landmark Site
- Significant Site
- Not Historic

Reconstruction

- Date:
Permit #:
 Full Partial

Use

- Original Use: Industrial
Current Use: None

- *National Register of Historic Places: ineligible eligible
 listed (date:)

3 DOCUMENTATION

Photos: Dates

- tax photo:
- prints: 1999 and 2009
- historic: date unknown

Drawings and Plans

- measured floor plans
- site sketch map
- Historic American Bldg. Survey
- original plans:
- other: HAER

Research Sources (check all sources consulted, whether useful or not)

- abstract of title
- tax card
- original building permit
- sewer permit
- Sanborn Maps
- obituary index
- city directories/gazetteers
- census records
- biographical encyclopedias
- newspapers
- city/county histories
- personal interviews
- Utah Hist. Research Center
- USHS Preservation Files
- USHS Architects File
- LDS Family History Library
- Park City Hist. Soc/Museum
- university library(ies):
- other:

Bibliographical References (books, articles, interviews, etc.)

- A. Leschen & Sons Rope Company. Half a Century of Rope Making: 1857-1907. St. Louis: Leschen & Sons Co., 1907. Page 14-15. Internet Archive. 31 July 2009. The Sloan Foundation and the Library of Congress. 23 Oct. 2009 <<http://www.archive.org/details/halfcenturyofrop00lesc>>
- "Death of David Keith." Park Record [Park City] 19 Apr. 1918: 1. Utah Digital Newspapers: Creating Citizen Historians. J. Willard Marriott Library. 6 Oct. 2009 <<http://digitalnewspapers.org>>
- Hampshire, David and Hal Compton. "Park City." From the Ground Up: The History of Mining in Utah. Ed. Colleen Whitley. Logan: Utah State University Press, 2006. 318-41.
- "King Sampler." Park Record [Park City] 25 May 1901: 3. Utah Digital Newspapers: Creating Citizen Historians. J. Willard Marriott Library. 22 Oct. 2009 <<http://digitalnewspapers.org>>
- Larsen, Ken Shelton. "The Life of Thomas Kearns." MA thesis. University of Utah, 1964
- "Mining Matters." Park Record [Park City] 28 Jan. 1905: 3. Utah Digital Newspapers: Creating Citizen Historians. J. Willard Marriott Library. 22 Oct. 2009 <<http://digitalnewspapers.org>>
- Morrison, Sandra. 1999-2000 Reconnaissance Level Survey: Unincorporated Areas of Summit County (North Summit County, Snyderville Basin & Park City). Summit County: Summit County Historical Society, 2000.
- Murphy, Miriam B. Thomas Kearns. Ed. Kent Allan Powell. Utah History Encyclopedia. Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press, 1994. Utah History Encyclopedia. Media Solutions. March 2004. University of Utah. 12 Mar. 2009. <historytogo.utah.edu/people/thomas_kearns.html>
- Noble, Bruce J. and Robert Spude. Guidelines for Identifying, Evaluating, and Registering Historic Mining Properties. Rev. ed. United States. Department of the Interior. National Park Service. National Register of Historic Places Bulletin 42. Washington: GPO, 1997.

Researcher/Organization: Preservation Solutions/Park City Municipal Corporation Date: February 2010

Park City, Utah. Aerial photograph from Google Earth. March 5, 2006. Google, 2009.

Sanborn, D.A. "Sheet 15, Park City, Utah, 1907." Map. Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps. New York: Sanborn Map Co., 1907. J. Willard Marriott Library. 10 Oct. 2009. <<http://www.lib.utah.edu/digital/sanborn/>>

Silver King Aerial Tramway. N.d. *Bea Kummer Collection. Hal Compton Research Library*. Park City Historical Society & Museum. 10 Oct. 2009 Photo #1990.31.21. Electronic.

"Silver King Aerial Tramway Moves, Brings Back Memories." Park Record [Park City] 21 Mar. 1963: 1. *Utah Digital Newspapers: Creating Citizen Historians*. J. Willard Marriott Library. 22 Oct. 2009 <<http://digitalnewspapers.org>>

Steele, James H. "A Model Tramway and Sampler." Transactions of The Institution of Mining Engineers. Vol. XXVI, 1903-04: 661-62. Ed. M Walton Brown. Newcastle-Upon-Tyne: Institution of Mining Engineers, 1905. Google Books. Nd. 23 Oct. 2009 <<http://books.google.com>>

Thompson, George A. and Fraser Buck. Treasure Mountain Home: Park City Revisited. 1968. Salt Lake City: Dream Garden Press, 1993.

"Tram and Sampler." Park Record [Park City] 4 Aug. 1900: 3. *Utah Digital Newspapers: Creating Citizen Historians*. J. Willard Marriott Library. 22 Oct. 2009 <<http://digitalnewspapers.org>>

Utah. State Historic Preservation Office. Architectural Survey Data for Park City. Salt Lake City: SHPO, 2006. Electronic.

4 ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION & INTEGRITY

Building Type and/or Style: Tram Tower /None

No. Stories: N/A

Additions: none minor major (describe below) Alterations: none minor major (describe below)

Number of associated outbuildings and/or structures: accessory building(s), # _____; structure(s), # _____.

General Condition of Exterior Materials:

Good (Well maintained with no serious problems apparent.)

Fair (Some problems are apparent. Describe the problems.): General rusting and some deterioration of the foundations.

Poor (Major problems are apparent and constitute an imminent threat. Describe the problems.):

Uninhabitable/Ruin

Materials (The physical elements that were combined or deposited during a particular period of time in a particular pattern or configuration. Describe the materials.):

Site: Multiple sites - towers run parallel to the Town Lift line.

Foundation: Concrete for a few of the towers, stone for most.

Walls: N/A

Roof: N/A

Windows/Doors: N/A

Essential Historical Form: Retains Does Not Retain, due to:

Location: Original Location Moved (date _____) Original Location:

Design (The combination of physical elements that create the form, plan, space, structure, and style. Describe additions and/or alterations from the original design, including dates--known or estimated--when alterations were made): Thirty-five towers remain, although one of the towers has collapsed. The towers are steel structures that range in size from 16 to approximately 65 feet in height and have either concrete or stone foundations. The towers follow the current Town Lift line from the city up and over Treasure Hill to the location of the Silver King Mine Site. The A. Leschen & Sons Rope Company of St. Louis Missouri supplied the towers in 1900. The tramway was completed and operating by May 1901. None of the cables or buckets remain.

Setting (The physical environment--natural or manmade--of a historic site. Describe the setting and how it has changed over time.): The physical environment is remote and steep in areas. The setting has not significantly changed over time, though the mountain is now crossed with ski runs and a modern ski lift runs parallel with the former tramway line.

This article also states the tramway ceased working in 1952.

2. **Persons** (Describe how the site is associated with the lives of persons who were of historic importance to the community or those who were significant in the history of the state, region, or nation): The tramway is most commonly associated Thomas Kearns and David Keith.

David Keith (1847-1918) was born in Nova Scotia and came to Park City in 1883. Having considerable experience in mines in Nevada, he joined the Ontario Mine as the foreman. He left the Ontario in 1885 to join the Anchor Mining Company--later the Judge Mine Company--as the mine manager. He and John Judge were responsible for the Alliance Tunnel and eventually joined with Thomas Kearns, E.P. Ferry, and Albion Emery in the Mayflower claims; these claims became the Silver King Coalition Mines Company. At the time of his death, Mr. Keith was president of the company (*The Park Record*, April 19, 1918).

Thomas Kearns (1862-1918) was born in Ontario, Canada in 1862. His family moved to Nebraska when he was a young boy and at age twenty-one, he was drawn to Park City by the mining activity. He married Jennie Judge, the niece of his business partner John Judge, and became an alderman in Park City. He and several other investors including David Keith, Thomas Kearns, Albion B. Emery, and John Judge purchased the Silver King property the summer of 1892 for \$65,000. In 1901, he was elected as a U.S. Senator and along with his partner, David Keith, purchased the Salt Lake Tribune the same year. Kearns died from a stroke in 1918 after having been struck by a car near his home in Salt Lake City (Murphy & Larsen).

3. **Architecture** (Describe how the site exemplifies noteworthy methods of construction, materials or craftsmanship used during the historic period or is the work of a master craftsman or notable architect):

6 PHOTOS

Digital photographs are on file with the Planning Department, Park City Municipal Corp.

Photo No. 1: Tram Tower 1.

Photo No. 2: Tram Tower 2.

Photo No. 3: Tram Tower 3.

Photo No. 4: Tram Tower 4.

Photo No. 5: Tram Tower 5.

Photo No. 6: Tram Tower 6.

Photo No. 7: Tram Tower 7.

Photo No. 8: Tram Tower 9.

Photo No. 9: Tram Tower 11.

Photo No. 10: Tram Tower 28.

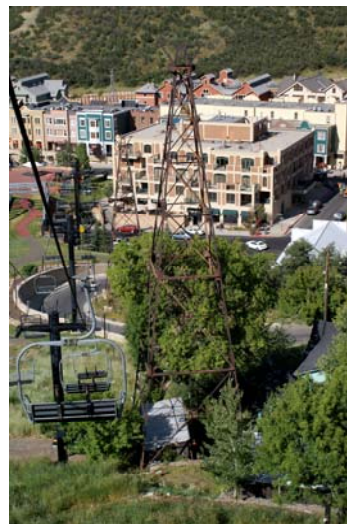
Photo No. 11: Tram Tower 35.

Photo No. 12: Tram Tower 36.

Silver King Mine Aerial Tramway Site - Towers shown are those visible from the Town Lift



Tram Tower 1



Tram Tower 2



Tram Tower 3



Tram Tower 4



Tram Tower 5

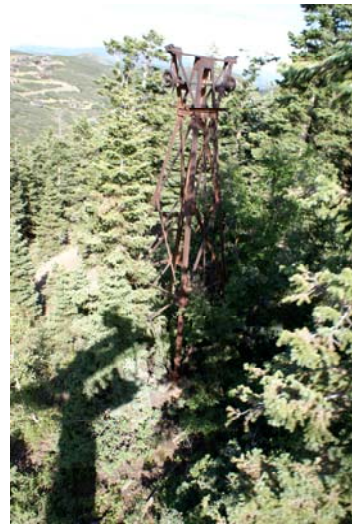


Tram Tower 6

Silver King Mine Aerial Tramway Site - Towers shown are those visible from the Town Lift



Tram Tower 7



Tram Tower 9



Tram Tower 11



Tram Tower 28



Tram Tower 35



Tram Tower 36

Silver King Mine Aerial Tramway



Silver King Aerial Tramway. N.d. *Bea Kummer Collection*. *Hal Compton Research Library*. Park City Historical Society & Museum. 10 Oct. 2009 Photo #1990.31.21. Electronic.



Tramway Towers 1999 RLS