

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

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Name: Historic: Dorn Gold Mine [REDACTED]

Common: Dorn Gold Mine Classification: Site

Owner: [REDACTED]

Representation in Existing Surveys: South Carolina Inventory of Historic Places

Description: The Dorn Mine is an area of 19th century mining operations located [REDACTED]. The site is partially overgrown with pine trees and surface vegetation, but much of the mining area is clearly visible. The mine area consists of horizontal shafts, vertical pits and a large trench which extends approximately 200 feet. There are no above surface remains of mill buildings which stood at the site. The area has not been greatly disturbed since the late 19th century, and the integrity of the site is well preserved.

Significance: The Dorn Mine is one of the most important gold mine sites in South Carolina. The mine was struck in 1852 by William Dorn, who excavated nearly one million dollars in gold before the vein was exhausted in the late 1850s (23). Dorn used slaves to excavate the dirt and employed several different types of mills to process the gold. Dorn became a wealthy man but lost much of his fortune after the Civil War. The mine was sold in 1869 to inventor Cyrus McCormick, who spent over \$200,000 in a futile search for another rich strike (24). In 1882 McCormick ceased his search for gold and began selling his land which would become the town of McCormick. Most of the late 19th and 20th century mining took place northeast of the Dorn mine, thus preserving the integrity of the original site. The mine has not been significantly altered.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Other Information: The Dorn Mine site is used annually during "Gold Rush Days" for exhibits on gold mining. There is a great deal of interest by citizens of McCormick to use this site as a state or town park because of its substantial interpretive value and history.