

MINING OPERATIONS



VICTORIA SHAFT (photo right)

Named after Queen Victoria, the Victoria Shaft was sunk near the powderhouse in 1890 to prospect the existing Randol workings of the New Almaden Mine.

POWDERHOUSE (photo far right)

The powderhouse was built in 1866 to house black powder used in blasting tunnels. In 1875 alone, over 68,000 pounds of powder were used in the mines. In later years, the small brick building housed dynamite.

The powderhouse was damaged by the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake. It was restored in 1993 through an historical grant.



Powderhouse c. 1895



Powderhouse 1977



ST. GEORGE SHAFT & APRIL TRESTLE (photo at right)

Ore was carried by trestle out of the April Tunnel and dumped into carts bound for furnaces at the Hacienda.

The St. George Shaft was started in 1887, fifty feet below the April Tunnel, and descended to the 1,200-foot level.

The surrounding area, with its miners' cottages, was known as Kempville.



April Trestle

St. George Shaft



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