

Bobcat

THE MOST PRODUCTIVE OF NEW ALMADEN'S "OUTSIDE MINES"

Cinnabar was first found in the Senador Mine area before 1863. Systematic development recovered more than 20,000 flasks (1,500,000 pounds) between 1909 and 1926.

Under the direction of John Drew, development started by trenching the outcrops of silica-carbonate rock at the ridge-top. A modern reduction plant was built in 1915. It included the first Herreshoff furnace and electrolytic dust collectors ever used in the recovery of quicksilver. Two years later a Scott furnace was added. Prior to 1915, Senador ore was roasted at the Hacienda furnace site in New Almaden.

In 1919 a wooden ore bin caught fire at the Senador's Scott furnace and destroyed the entire reduction plant. It was quickly rebuilt and mining continued until March 11, 1926.

Scrub Jay



SANTA CLARA COUNTY PARKS

EL SENADOR MINE



The two concrete towers are dust bins from the old 90-ton-per-day Scott Furnace Plant.



El Senador Mine circa 1924, looking west towards the Senador Trail. The Furnace plant is barely visible behind the dump of waste rock (right), burnt ore (middle) and furnace dust (left).



Senador Shop circa 1916. The mule was used to haul ore, timber and equipment in and out of the mine. The mine's heyday was 1915 to 1926 although it was worked on and off from 1863. The barn was dismantled in 1940 and moved to the English Camp site at the New Almaden Mine and is still there today.



Looking east to Almaden Valley from the Senador Trail Area, circa 1916

