

A mineral claim is a rectangular piece of ground not exceeding 1,500 feet square. The angles must all be right angles unless the boundaries, or one of them, are the same as those of a previously surveyed claim.

A mineral claim is located by erecting three legal posts, which are stakes having a height of not less than four feet above ground and squared for four inches at least on each face for not less than a foot from the top. A tree stump so cut and squared also constitutes a legal post.

The 'discovery post' is placed at the point where mineral in place is discovered.

Nos. 1 and 2 posts are placed as near as possible on the line of the ledge or vein, shown by the discovery post, and mark the boundaries of the claim. Upon each of these three posts must be written the name of the claim, the name of the locator and the date of location. On No. 1 post, in addition, the following must be written:—'Initial post. Direction of post No. 2 (*giving approximate compass bearing*); ——— feet of this claim lie on the right, and ——— feet on the left of the line from No. 1 to No. 2 posts.'

The location line, between Nos. 1 and 2 posts, must be distinctly marked—in a timbered locality by blazing trees and cutting underbrush, and in bare country by monuments of earth or rock not less than two feet in diameter at the base, and at least two feet high—so that the line can be distinctly seen.

Mineral claims must be recorded in the Mining Recorder's Office for the mining division in which they are situated within fifteen days from the date of location, one day extra being allowed for each ten miles of distance from the recording office after the first ten miles. If a claim is not recorded in time it is deemed abandoned and open for re-location, but if the original locator wishes to re-locate he can only do so by permission of the Gold Commissioner of the district and upon payment of a fee of \$10. This applies also to a claim abandoned for any reason whatever.

Mineral claims are, until the Crown grant is issued, held practically on a yearly lease, the condition of which is that assessment work be performed on the same during each year to the value of at least \$100, or payment of such sum be made to the Mining Recorder. Such assessments must be recorded before the expiration of the year or the claim is deemed abandoned. If, however, such record is omitted, a free miner may, before the expiration of thirty days thereafter, record such assessment upon payment of a fee of \$10. This, however, will not hold the claim if it has been re-located by another free miner in the meantime. The actual cost of the survey of a mineral claim, to an amount not exceeding \$100, may also be recorded as assessment work. If, during any year, work is done to a greater extent than the required \$100, any further sums of \$100—but not less—may be recorded and counted as further assessments. As soon as assessment work to the extent of \$500 is recorded, the owner of a mineral claim is entitled to a Crown grant on payment of a fee of \$25, and giving the necessary notices required by the Act. Liberal provisions are also made in the Act for obtaining mill sites and other facilities in the way of tunnels and drains for the better working of claims.

Placer Claims.

Placer mining is governed by the 'Placer Mining Act,' and by the interpretation clause its scope is defined as 'the mining of any natural stratum