

# Retention and Classification Report

**Agency:** Clifton Mining District (Utah). Recorder (3136)

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## Records Officer

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**AGENCY:** Clifton Mining District (Utah). Recorder

**SERIES:** 24333

4

**TITLE:** File books

**DATES:** 1869-1896.

**ARRANGEMENT:** Chronological by filing date.

**DESCRIPTION:**

Early Clifton Mining District recorders kept file books in which they summarized and referenced location notices they recorded. The original file book is in table format and includes the name of the mine, date of location, date of filing, name of locating company or individual, number of feet claimed, page number where recorded, and a notation about work done. In 1884 the format was simplified to include only the name of the mine, the names of locators, the date located, and the book and page number where a notice of location was recorded. Entries made after 1889 include only the mine name, the date, and reference information.

**RETENTION AND DISPOSITION AUTHORIZATION:**

These records are in Archives' permanent custody.

**FORMAT MANAGEMENT:**

Microfilm master: Retain in State Archives permanently with authority to weed.

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Paper: Retain in Office permanently.

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**APPRAISAL:**

These records have historical value(s).

File books for the Clifton Mining District provide summary information about claims filed in this district in western Tooele County during the territorial period.

**AGENCY:** Clifton Mining District (Utah). Recorder

**SERIES:** 24333

**TITLE:** File books

(continued)

**PRIMARY DESIGNATION:**

Public

**AGENCY:** Clifton Mining District (Utah). Recorder

**SERIES:** 24334

4

**TITLE:** Intent to hold claim notices

**DATES:** 1893-1894.

**ARRANGEMENT:** Chronological by date filed.

**DESCRIPTION:**

Federal mining law, enacted in 1872, confirmed that individuals had the right to claim mineral wealth in the public domain. However, the law required miners to annually work the ground and perform at least \$100 worth of labor on their claims in order to maintain them (Statutes at Large, Treaties, and Proclamations, of the United States of America, 1872, vol. 17, chap. 152). During the years 1893 and 1894 Congress passed joint resolutions temporarily suspending the requirement of annual assessment work. In order to obtain the benefit of this exception, Congress required claim holders to file notices of their intention to hold their claims. Each document in this book is a notice of intent to hold a claim, and all were filed between December 1893 and December 1894. Each notice names a claim, declares the miner's intent to hold that claim, and cites the book and page number where a notice of location was originally recorded. Some notices also provide a legal description of the claim involved. Each notice includes the date filed and is signed by the district recorder.

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**APPRAISAL:**

These records have historical value(s).

This book documents Congress's temporary suspension of the the annual labor requirement for holding mining claims. The claims involved were in western Tooele County (Utah).

**AGENCY:** Clifton Mining District (Utah). Recorder

**SERIES:** 24334

**TITLE:** Intent to hold claim notices

(continued)

**PRIMARY DESIGNATION:**

Public

**AGENCY:** Clifton Mining District (Utah). Recorder

**SERIES:** 24331

4

**TITLE:** Location notices

**DATES:** 1869-1938.

**ARRANGEMENT:** Roughly chronological

**DESCRIPTION:**

The Clifton Mining District, organized in October 1869 in the Deep Creek Mountains of western Tooele County, included the mining camps, Clifton and Gold Hill. Travelers and prospectors found an abundance of mineral deposits in the Deep Creek Mountains, so when Patrick Connor constructed a mill and smelter in Stockton, 125 miles to the east, mining activity in this area soon followed. The Clifton District was organized before Congress passed a general mining law in 1872. The district was founded on the assumed rights of individuals to explore and claim mineral wealth in the public domain and the tradition of organizing mining districts to manage mining operations and keep records of claims. Congress validated these rights (Statutes at Large, Treaties, and Proclamations, of the United States of America, vol. 17, 1872, chap. 152). Location notices in the Clifton District affirm compliance with district regulations and/or federal law. They give the name of the claim, its dimensions and location, and the names of locators. In case several locators made a single claim, as was frequently the case in early records, notices identify how many feet were allowed to each individual. Notices of location provide the date of location and the date filed and were signed by the mining district or county recorder.

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**AGENCY:** Clifton Mining District (Utah). Recorder

**SERIES:** 24331

**TITLE:** Location notices

(continued)

**APPRAISAL:**

These records have historical value(s).

This series provides historical information about mining activity in western Tooele County including the mining towns, Clifton and Gold Hill.

**PRIMARY DESIGNATION:**

Public

**AGENCY:** Clifton Mining District (Utah). Recorder

**SERIES:** 24464

4

**TITLE:** Location notices indexes

**DATES:** 1898-1938.

**ARRANGEMENT:** Alphabetical groups, thereunder chronological.

**DESCRIPTION:**

Location notices indexes provide reference to notices of location (mining claims) and other records kept by the Clifton Mining District recorder. In 1894 district recorders began creating indexes referencing multiple books instead of indexing each book separately. These indexes provide only the name of a claim and the book and page number where a document was recorded. Notes about claims filed in 1911-1912 appear underneath the entries for Book N and O.

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**APPRAISAL:**

These records have historical value(s).

These indexes provide access to mining records in the Clifton Mining District of western Tooele County.

**PRIMARY DESIGNATION:**

Public

**AGENCY:** Clifton Mining District (Utah). Recorder

**SERIES:** 24163

4

**TITLE:** Miners meeting minutes

**DATES:** 1869-1932.

**ARRANGEMENT:** Chronological by meeting date

**DESCRIPTION:**

The Clifton Mining District, organized in October 1869 in the Deep Creek Mountains of western Tooele County (Utah), included the mining camps, Clifton and Gold Hill. Travelers and prospectors found an abundance of mineral deposits in the Deep Creek Mountains, and according to established precedent, mineral deposits in the public domain were free and open to exploration, and locators of the same had exclusive right of possession. In local areas miners organized mining districts and elected district recorders to oversee mining operations and keep records of claims. Congress validated these precedents by passing a federal mining law in 1872 (See Statutes at Large, Treaties, and Proclamations, of the United States of America, 1872, vol. 17, 1872, chap. 152). Beginning with a meeting to organize a district, claim holders in Clifton and Gold Hill gathered at annual and special meetings to elect recorders for the district, to establish or review district by-laws, and to address other concerns. By-laws books contain the minutes of miners' meetings and copies of district by-laws as they were adopted and revised. Of particular interest, Clifton District miners' meeting minutes contain details of a controversy over the recordership of George W. Brown (1874, 1883). Miners in the district questioned and investigated his competence and integrity.

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**AGENCY:** Clifton Mining District (Utah). Recorder

**SERIES:** 24163

**TITLE:** Miners meeting minutes

(continued)

**APPRAISAL:**

These records have historical value(s).

The minutes of miners' meetings contain valuable historical information about the activities and problems of miners in the Clifton Mining District in western Tooele County (Utah).

**PRIMARY DESIGNATION:**

Public

**AGENCY:** Clifton Mining District (Utah). Recorder

**SERIES:** 24463

4

**TITLE:** Proof of labor index

**DATES:** 1906-1915.

**ARRANGEMENT:** Alphabetically grouped and thereunder chronological.

**DESCRIPTION:**

Clifton Mining District recorders created an index to proof of labor documents filed in Books A, B, and C. The index provides the name of the claim, sometimes the year, and the book and page number where the document was recorded.

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**APPRAISAL:**

These records have historical value(s).

This index provides reference to proof of labor documents kept by the Clifton Mining District recorder.

**PRIMARY DESIGNATION:**

Public

**AGENCY:** Clifton Mining District (Utah). Recorder

**SERIES:** 24332

4

**TITLE:** Proof of labor record books

**DATES:** 1874-1939.

**ARRANGEMENT:** Roughly chronological with early records arranged by mine, thereunder chronological.

**DESCRIPTION:**

The original by-laws of the Clifton Mining District required that miners do one days work on a claim within sixty days of discovery and two more days work within the first year in order to hold the claim free from forfeiture. When Congress passed a general mining law in 1872, it imposed a federal requirement of 100 dollars worth of work annually (Statutes at Large, Treaties, and Proclamations, of the United States of America, 1872, vol. 17, chap. 152). When work had been completed, the district recorder visited the claim to confirm that work had been done satisfactorily and to certify the same in his record. Book P contains statements signed by Clifton District recorders certifying that they had inspected various claims. In 1897 the Utah State Legislature defined the manner in which work done on mining claims should be recorded (Laws of Utah, 1897, chapter 36). Utah law required the filing of affidavits sworn by claim owners. These affidavits were to describe in detail the work completed, including the amount of earth moved, who actually did the work, and the actual cost. Most proof of labor documents filed in Clifton District after statehood were affidavits complying with these guidelines.

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**AGENCY:** Clifton Mining District (Utah). Recorder

**SERIES:** 24332

**TITLE:** Proof of labor record books

(continued)

**APPRAISAL:**

These records have historical value(s).

Records in this series document work done on mining claims in the Clifton District, which is in the west part of Tooele County (Utah).

**PRIMARY DESIGNATION:**

Public