

Kennecott Mines National Historic Landmark Kennecott, Alaska

Located in Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve, the Kennecott Mines were once among the nation's largest, and contained the last of the great high-grade copper ore deposits discovered in the American West. By designing the world's first ammonia-leaching plant at the remote site, the Kennecott Copper Corporation was able to extract higher concentrates of ore from the low-grade ores which were once disregarded. The site includes the mill town with its dominating fourteen-story wood frame mill building, system of tramways, and camps at the Bonanza, Glacier, Jumbo, and Erie mines. Mining operations occurred between 1901 and 1938, after which many of the buildings, structures and artifacts were abandoned in situ. The National Park Service acquired many of the significant buildings and lands of the historic mining town in 1998 and have since worked to preserve the historic integrity of the mill town for future generations.