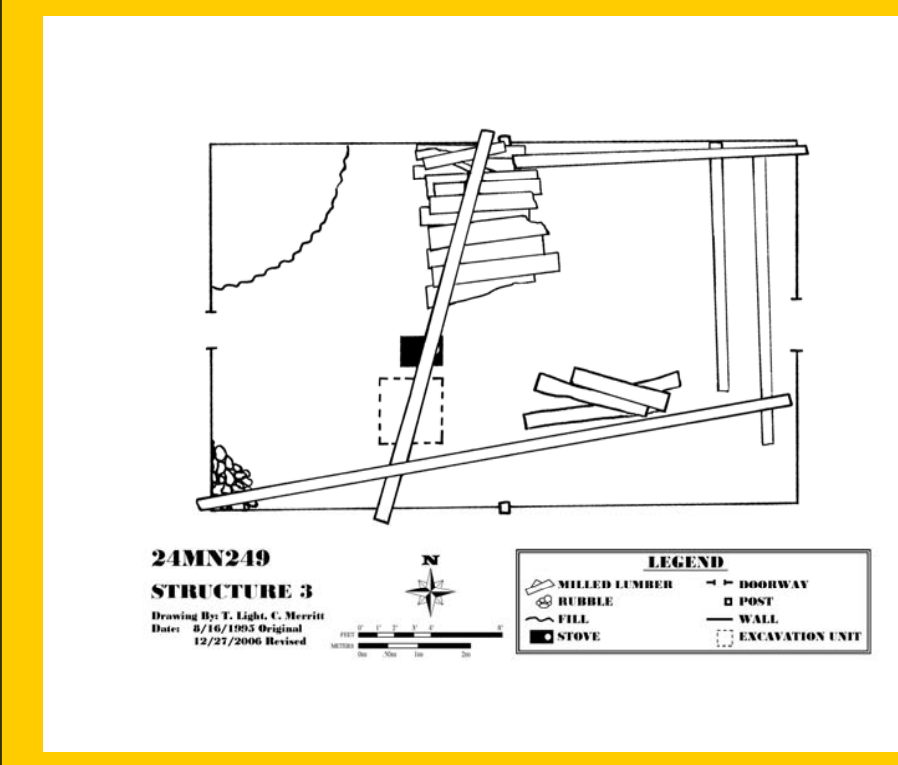


# A Chinese Presence in Cedar Creek

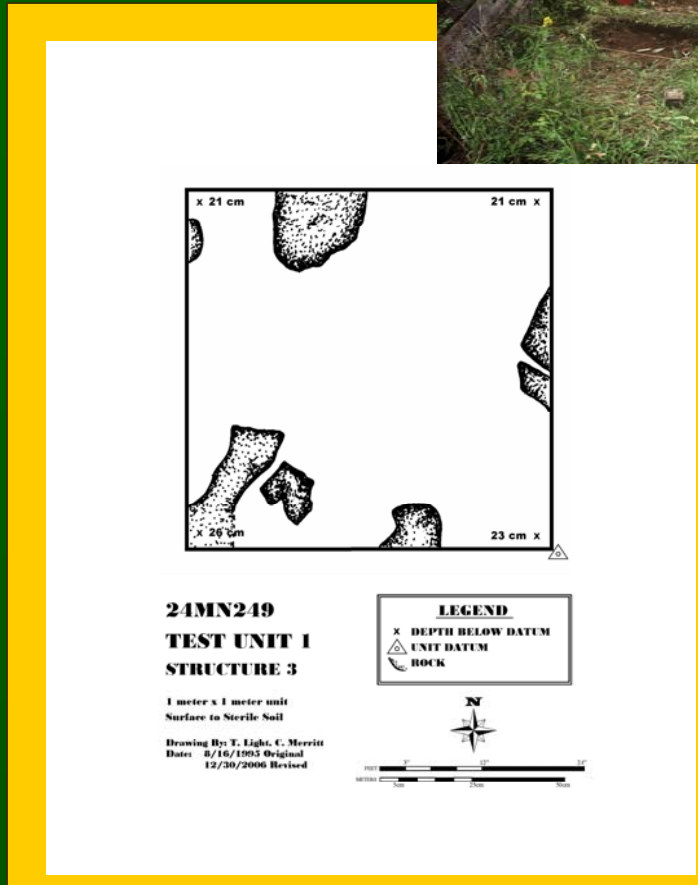
Presented By: Kassandra French, University of Montana, Department of Anthropology

## LOUISEVILLE/CINKERS

### Structure 3, Unit 1

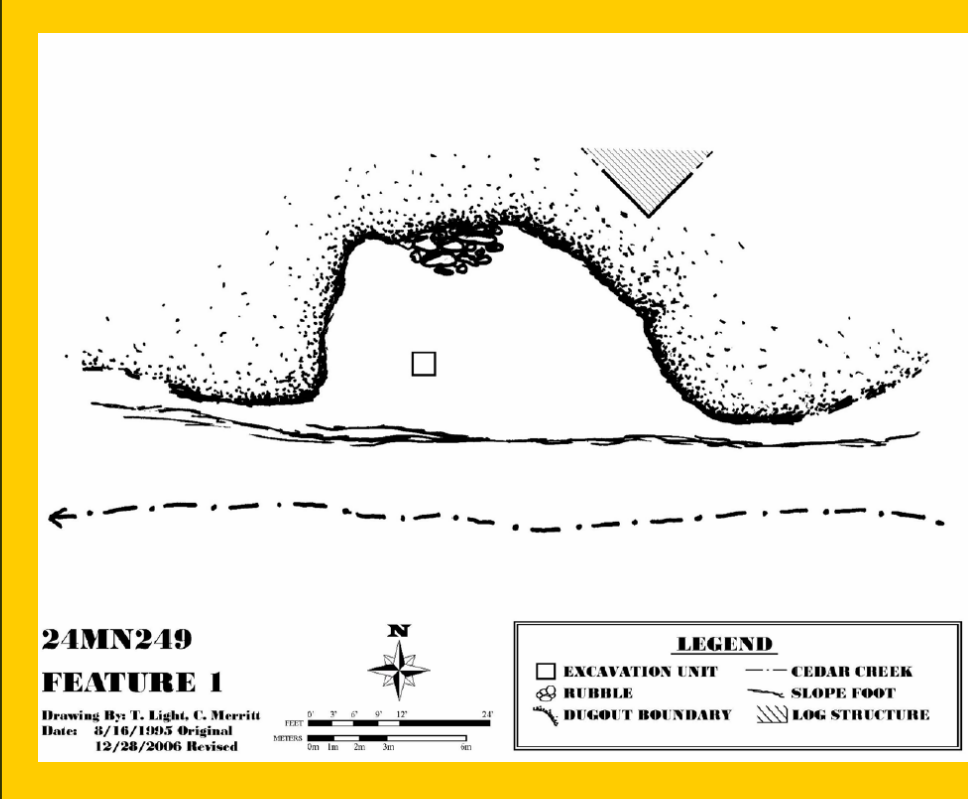


Unit 1 was placed in a structure believed to have been a log saloon or hotel.



Unit 1 recovered relatively few artifacts (33 total)

### Feature 1, Unit 2



Small celadon Chinese "rice bowl" fragments.



Dark glazed earthenware sherd likely from a Chinese Spouted jar.

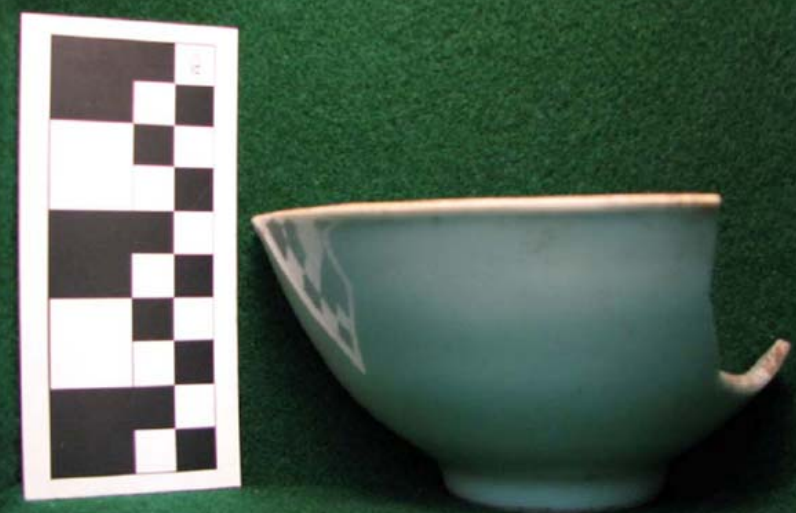


Three spent rimfire cartridges and two unfired, dating to 1860-1910.

### Chinese Tableware Surface Collections



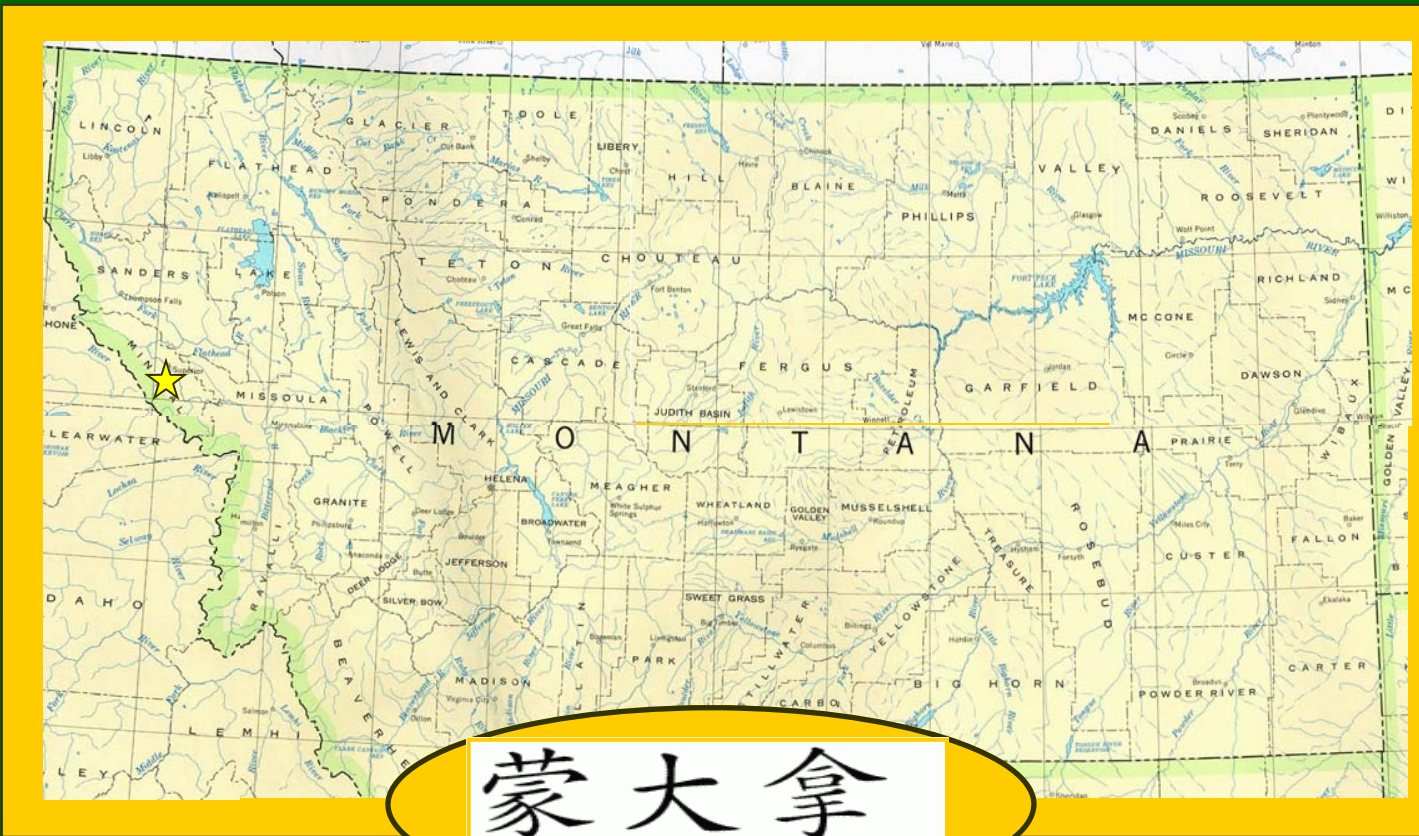
Chinese "celadon" rice bowl with cobalt blue Chinese marking on base



Chinese celadon rice bowl



Chinese "bamboo" pattern rice bowl

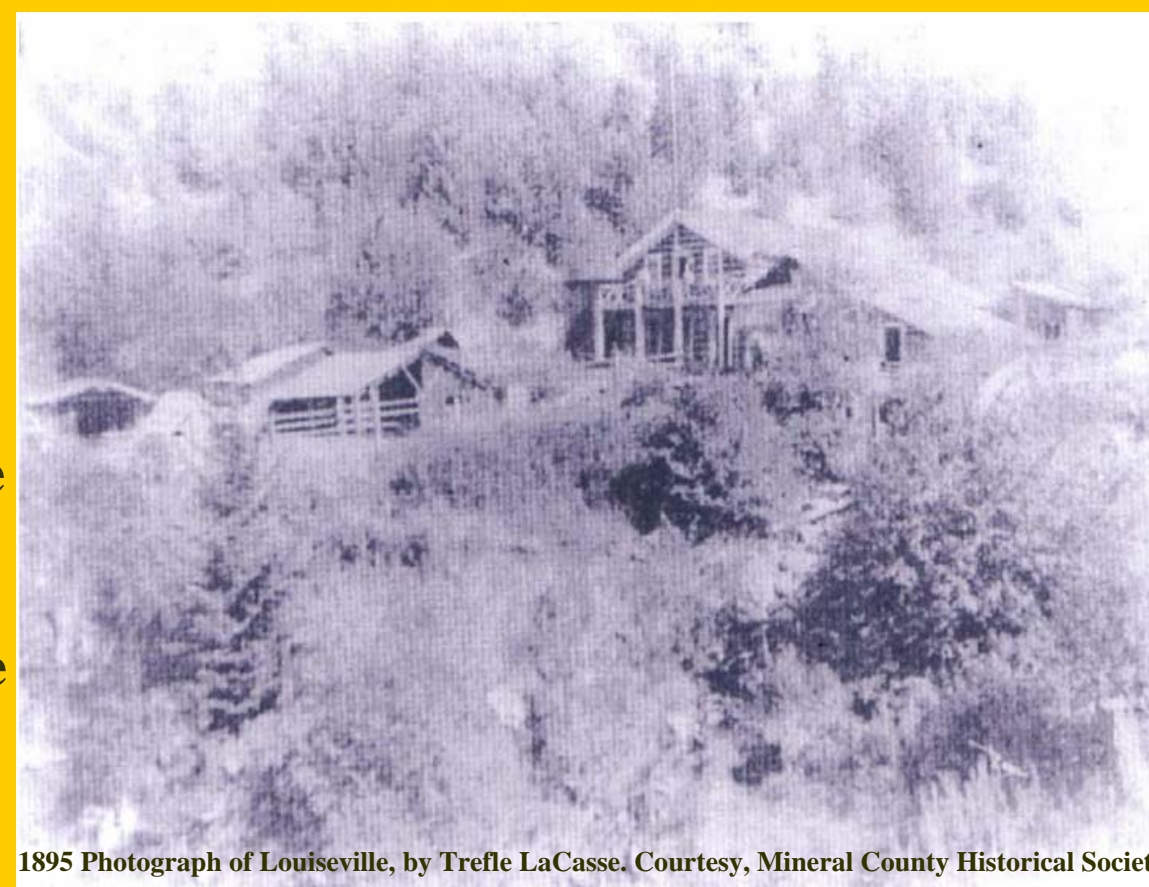


\*Star indicates location of sites Louiseville and China Gulch\*

### BACKGROUND

In the Cedar Creek drainage of Superior, Montana are the historic mining sites of Louiseville (known today as Cinkers) and China Gulch. Gold was struck at Louiseville in October of 1869 by Frenchman, Louis Barrette who named the town after his wife Louise. By June 1870, Louiseville was a booming, bustling mining city, but this success did not last long. Late summer found Louiseville quiet with most miners seeking gold strikes and milder weather elsewhere. By September 1874, less than three years after the initial rush, Louiseville was described as being abandoned with nothing more than "3 souls and a ghost" (*Weekly Missoulian* 1874). Chinese, mostly from the Moose Creek Mining District of Idaho, moved into the areas abandoned by white miners. This began the slow takeover of Cedar Creek by the Chinese. By 1880 there were more Chinese in the mining district than Euroamericans. One hundred yards east of Louiseville in the drainage of China Gulch are eight u-shaped rock hearths indicative of Chinese occupation.

The town site of Louiseville and a hearth in China Gulch were excavated by the US Forest Service in 1995. Initial analysis did not determine the full extent of the Chinese artifact assemblage. In the Spring of 2007 these materials were reanalyzed by archaeologists from the University of Montana.

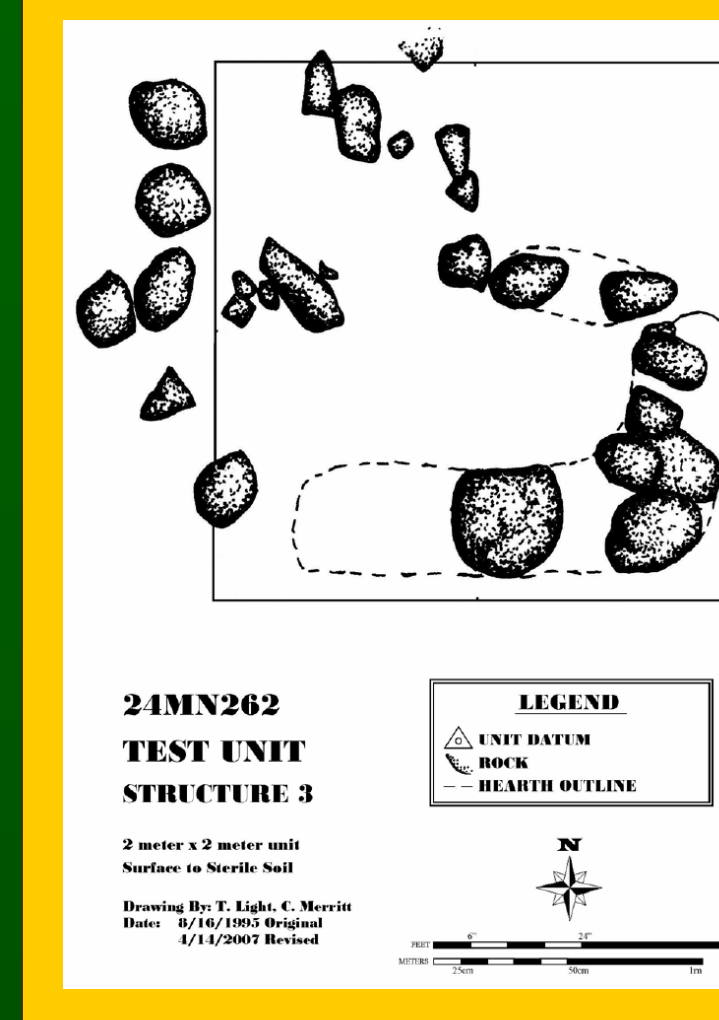


1895 Photograph of Louiseville, by Trefle LaCasse, Courtesy, Mineral County Historical Society.

Acknowledgments: Milo Mcleod- Lolo National Forest Archaeologist, Chris Merritt- University of Montana, Mineral County Historical Society, Superior Ranger District- Lolo National Forest, Tim Light and Mary H. Williams- US Forest Service, Priscilla Wegars- University of Idaho

## CHINA GULCH

### Structure 3, Unit 1



T. Light Aug. 1995



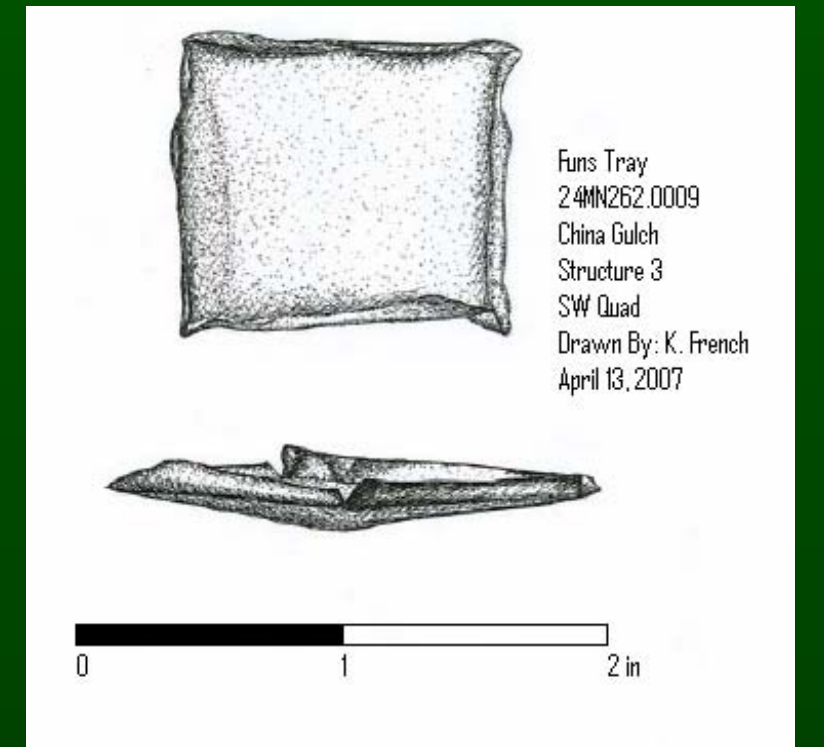
T. Light Aug. 1995

East of Louiseville about 100 yards up China Gulch, seven to eight u-shaped hearths were identified and mapped by the USFS. These hearths are similar in structure to Chinese hearths found elsewhere in the United States. One hearth in China Gulch, "Structure 3", was excavated.



Plantation Bitters Bottle  
24MN262.0056  
Drawn By: Kassy French  
Date: April 13th, 2007

Drake's Plantation Bitters Bottle ca. 1860. This glass bottle was recovered in 58 different amber colored fragments but is nearly complete after being mended. This elixir contained a mixture of alcohol (rum) and herbs and was proclaimed to cure many ailments.



Funs Tray  
24MN262.0009  
China Gulch  
Structure 3  
SW Quad  
Drawn By: K. French  
April 13, 2007

Small squares of modified opium can or 'paktong' (meaning white copper in Chinese) were found in both China Gulch and Louiseville. This material was commonly cut into squares and bent into 'funs trays'. These trays held a serving of opium for resale. 'Funs trays' are generally considered quite rare in the US. (AACC 1986; Wegars 1993)



Square or "cut" nails of various sizes were popular from about 1820-1910 and were found during this excavation.

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