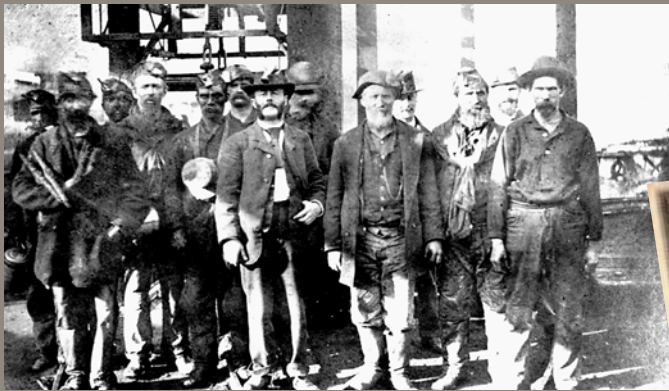


Black Diamond Shaft

These are the remains of the Black Diamond Shaft hoisting works. The depression in the ground near the base of the foundation marks the location of the 750-foot sealed shaft.

The Black Diamond was the largest mine on the Mt. Diablo Coal Field. Production exceeded 1.5 million tons between the early 1860s and 1885 when the company moved to Washington Territory to work a better quality coal.

Mining of near-surface deposits continued on a very small scale until World War I. Major work was done in the 1920s to reopen the mine to power an electrical generating plant. The project was stopped when the first natural gas pipeline arrived in the Bay Area from the Central Valley, providing a more economical source of power.



Miners at the Black Diamond Shaft, Nortonville (no date)

Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve, EBRPD, Louis Stein Collection



Black Diamond Coal Mining
Company Stock Certificate
Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve,
EBRPD Collection

Background: Black Diamond Shaft Nortonville
Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve, EBRPD, George Vivian Collection