

# Cranberry Iron Mine

## Minerals:

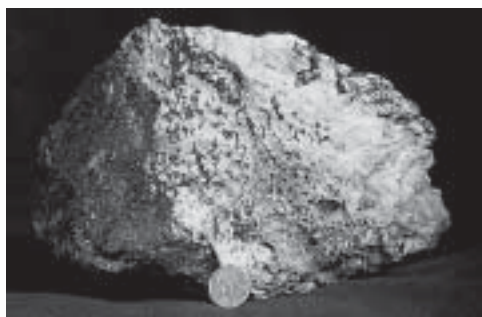
magnetite, epidote, calcite, pyrite, hedenbergite, garnet, pink orthoclase

**T**he history of the Cranberry Iron Mine can be traced back to 1780 when one Reuben White took out a 110-acre land grant. In 1820 production at the mine began, with ore reduced in a Catalan forge. In 1876, the mine was acquired by



*Above: Magnetite, calcite, pyrite, and hedenbergite*

*Below: Magnetite-epidote-feldspar rock*



The building foundations are all that remain of the mill operations. Cavernous mine workings extend approximately 2,500 lateral ft. into the mountainside. Multiple levels with huge rooms are connected to the main adit by ramps and passageways. Veins containing the magnetite ore are made up of banded mixtures of pink and white pegmatite, emerald green epidote gneisses, dark green hornblende, and charcoal gray magnetite. This banded rock is a renowned lapidary material for making unique and striking cabochons. Small pockets containing pyrite and/or white calcite can be found by breaking larger rocks with calcite and pyrite veining. All the rock types and minerals can also be found outside in the mine tailings, so venturing into mine is not mandatory for successful collecting at this location.

Great care should be taken by anyone entering this mine, as a person could easily become disoriented and get lost or even killed. Along with hammers and chisels, a reliable, high-powered flashlight with at least one backup and extra batteries is a must.

the Cranberry Iron and Coal Company, which operated systematic mining there until 1927. A narrow-gauge railroad was constructed in 1882 to carry ore between the mine and the Cranberry Iron Works in Johnson City, Tennessee (Stuckey 1965). The building foundations are all that remain of the mill operations. Cavernous mine workings extend approximately 2,500 lateral ft. into the mountainside. Multiple levels with huge rooms are connected to the main adit by ramps and passageways. Veins containing the magnetite ore are made up of banded mixtures of pink and white pegmatite, emerald green epidote

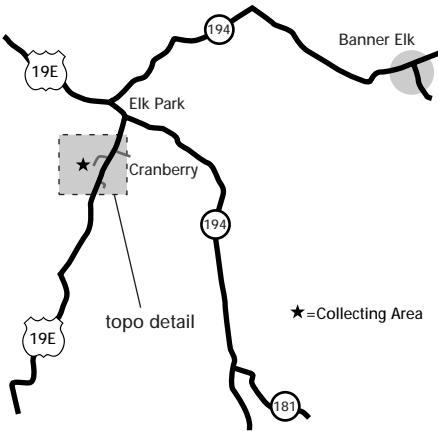
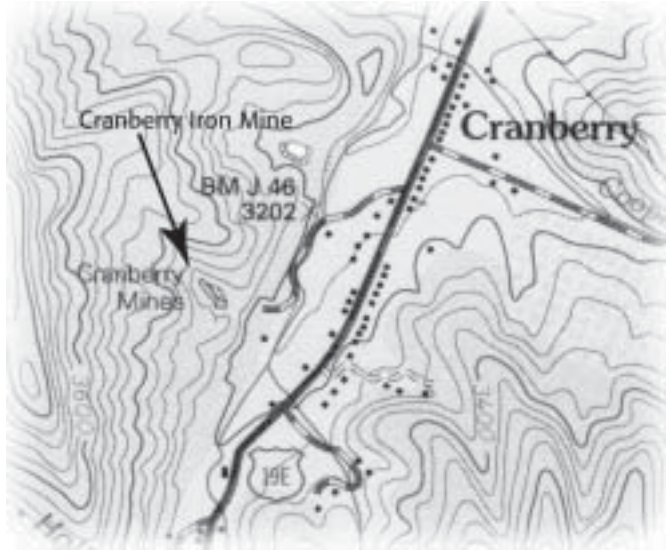
**Latitude & Longitude:**

36° -08' -22.84" N  
81° -58' -19.76" W

**Elevation:**

3,249 ft

(from Elk Park  
Quadrangle)



**Directions:**

From the intersection of Hwy. 19E and Hwy. 194 at Elk Park, drive 0.8 mile south on Hwy. 19E. Turn right (west) on a dirt road and drive 0.25 mile to old building foundations. The mine adits are located about 300 ft. west of these ruins.



**Equipment & Tools:**

crack hammer, gad point, flat chisels, scratching tools, lantern, flashlight with backup and extra batteries