

Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve

THE ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORY OF THE EASTERN SECTOR OF
GATES OF THE ARCTIC NATIONAL PARK AND PRESERVE:

A REPORT OF PHASE II OF A CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY AND INVENTORY.

DRAFT

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This document is a draft report and therefore, has not been reviewed for conformity with National Park Service scientific report format or editorial standards.

December 1985

PREFACE

Phase II of a five phase Cultural Resources Inventory within Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve was carried out during the summer of 1984. This project supports General Management Planning mandated by the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (PL-96-487) and complies with requirements of Executive Order 11593 and the National Historic Preservation Act.

Archeological work was carried out by a team of 4 to 5 National Park Service archeologists and a North Slope Borough ethnohistorian/archeologist during the months of June, July, and August. Archeologists on the crew included:

Pat Anderson	-	University of Washington
Mike Kunz	-	Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve
Pete Phippen	-	University of Alaska, Fairbanks
Rick Reahier	-	University of Washington
Mark Standley	-	University of Alaska, Fairbanks
Grant Spearman	-	Anaktuvuk Pass/North Slope Borough

The fieldwork was carried out in the drainages of the North Fork of the Koyukuk and Itkillik Rivers.

Historical work was carried out by a team of 5 to 7 National Park Service and Bureau of Land Management historians between June 25 and August 18. Historians and historical architects included:

Bill Brown	-	National Park Service, ARO
Russ Sackett	-	Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve
Kim Hoagland	-	National Park Service, WASO
Jim Creech	-	Georgia Institute of Technology
Mark Schara	-	University of Virginia
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Historical fieldwork was conducted along the mid-portion of the Glacier River and in the Wiseman-Nolan-Coldfoot area.

The purpose of this fieldwork was to locate, identify, define, enumerate, and document historic and prehistoric cultural sites within the described area.

The archeological work was accomplished through a reconnaissance level, pedestrian, surface survey. This type of survey is non-destructive in the sense that no formal excavation of sites is undertaken. All sites were marked with a site tag and assigned State of Alaska Heritage Resource Survey numbers.

Historical work centered on known, extant, site complexes although some survey work was undertaken. Photographic and structural documentation was carried out at selected, representative structures.

The History Team documented 36 historic sites and structures or structural complexes, 25 within the park; 11 outside of the park. In aggregate, these sites constitute a representative sampling of cabins, mines and mining technology, hunting camps, and trapper shelters to illustrate the historic themes of Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve and its bordering region.

This Historic American Buildings Survey Team provided detailed drawings and photos of 13 outstanding structures and complexes, 3 within the park in the Glacier River drainage, and 10 in the Middle fork area bordering the park, particularly in Wiseman. A special joint site-and-structure documentation at Linda Creek, an east-limit tributary of the Middle Fork accomplished full documentation of a typical Arctic-region drift mining operation at the climax of the historic period.

The Archeological Team located, recorded, documented, and gathered data from 106 prehistoric sites in the drainage of the North Fork Koyukuk River, between the mouth of Bombardment Creek and the mouth of the Glacier River and 74 prehistoric sites in the valley of the Itkillik River between the Oolah Pass and the mouth of the Itikmalak River. These sites appear to cover a range of time from ca. 10,000 years ago to 50 years ago.

The success of the 1984 field season was greatly enhanced by cooperative agreements between the National Park Service, and the Bureau of Land Management, and the North Slope Borough. BLM provided the services of an historian/archeologist for the period of one month to assist the NPS history/HABS teams in their work in the Wiseman-Coldfoot-Nolan area. The North Slope Borough provided the services of an ethnohistorian/archeologist for a period of 2 1/2 months to assist the archeological team during their fieldwork. Several VIPs with local and regional expertise also aided the project fieldwork.

RESEARCH DESIGN

For

PHASE II

Basic Inventory and Evaluation of Cultural Resources

In

Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve

Statement of Justification and Project Necessity:

Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve was established on December 2, 1980, by the passage of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA), PL 96-487.

Section 1301 of the act requires the preparation of General Management Plans for all Conservation Units created by the Act by December 2, 1985. This project will provide some of the basic data concerning cultural resources for that management plan.

This inventory is also required in order to initiate compliance with Executive Order 11593 and with provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act, as codified in NPS-28.

One of the management objectives in the Statement for Management for Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve is to "...development and implement a Cultural Resources Management Plan which assures the identification, study, and preservation of all known historic and prehistoric sites and structures". This project is a necessary step in achieving that objective.

Project Orientation - Constraints and Objectives:

Prehistoric

For the purposes of investigation, as outlined in the Task Directive, the park has been divided into specific geographic sections. The area contained in these sections and the order or sequence of their examination is based primarily upon logistics concerns and an orderly progression of the project toward completion. However, this is not meant to imply that the work to be undertaken is not scientifically structured or problem oriented. A number of regional/areal problems can and will be addressed by this fieldwork as follows:

1. Within this geographic section were there preferences by prehistoric peoples for site location based on geomorphology?
2. Is seasonal occupation reflected in site location? This may be difficult to determine through data obtained by a reconnaissance level survey.
3. Are there varying levels of population density through time in the area? Reconnaissance level survey data could be used to determine this only on a general level through artifact typology and/or cultural affiliation; however, useful insights may be gained.
4. The geographic section of the park to be investigated, in part, traverses an area of common exploitation by both Indians and Eskimos (Gubser, 1965; A. Clark, 1974; Hall, 1974; Kunz, 1976; and others). Use of the area by, or at least distinction between, Eskimo and Indian sites may be possible from data collected through this fieldwork; again this information would be applicable only on a general level. Travel routes between the two cultural areas may also be elucidated by this fieldwork.
5. Basic information concerning area site density and population distribution will be obtained.
6. Is past regional subsistence potential, through time, indicated by site density? This may be determined on a general level by the types (function) of sites located in specific ecological zones.

The region to be examined is a remote wilderness area containing two Wild Rivers; the North Fork of the Koyukuk and the Tinayguk. The designation of these rivers as "Wild" has precipitated an increase in area recreational use and therefore a possible increased impact on area cultural resources. Additionally, the region will be impacted due to increased access potential from the Dalton Highway (North Slope Haul Road).

Obviously, the entire 3000 square miles of this section of the park cannot be examined given reasonable time and budget limitations. Therefore, the primary locales to be examined within this section of the park will be those where past experience in the region has shown archeological sites are most likely to occur. In other words, large low-lying wet areas or exceedingly steep or rugged terrain, will not be of primary interest to this survey. Areas possessing the proper "investigation criteria" will be determined through the use of topographic maps and aerial photographs as well as pre-fieldwork aerial reconnaissance and information from previous archeological, anthropological, historical, and exploration activities in the general region. However, as time allows, geomorphic features which do not usually have more than low archeological potential will be examined. In this way most land forms in the area will receive some investigation.

Because this survey is based on sound investigative procedures the boundaries of the park will not be considered absolute. This is, in part, due to the fact that past cultural events occurred prior to the establishment of and without concern for modern-day land ownership boundaries. An overview of past human activities within the park cannot be obtained without investigating lands adjacent to the park boundaries. This is especially true of historic period activities as the focus of much of this type of activity is centered in the area abutting the park's eastern boundary. In addition, if particular geomorphic features, such as ridge lines of river valleys, are being examined and these features transcend park boundaries, where practical, those portions of the features lying outside the boundaries will also be examined.

Historic

It is highly unlikely that any major historic sites will be found other than those that are already known to exist. HABS level documentation will follow the same general investigative procedures as the prehistoric fieldwork; actual on-the-ground survey. This survey will operate in areas within and ancillary to the major historic complexes and will attempt to locate and record unknown and/or isolated historic sites. Discovery of heretofore unknown historic sites will add new information to the existing data base for the region and may help to clarify the function of and/or use aspects of these sites which are satellites of the more densely populated localities.

Area of Investigation

The area to be investigated is located in the eastern one quarter of the park. The primary prehistoric reconnaissance area generally lies between and includes the North Fork of the Koyukuk and Itkillik Rivers on the east and the Tinayguk and Anaktuvuk Rivers on the west. The study area also includes a portion of the Middle Fork of the Koyukuk River, Clear River, Glacier River, Hammond River, North Fork of the Chandalar River, Allen River, Ernie Creek, Kuyukutuvuk Creek, Ernie Pass, Delay Pass, Oolah Pass, and Itkillik Lake.

Primary historic reconnaissance areas lie within the Glacier River, Wiseman, Nolan, Coldfoot, and Chandalar mining districts. These areas include the Hammond River, the Middle Fork of the Koyukuk River and virtually all of it's tributary streams from the Dietrich Pipeline Camp south to the Cathedral Mountain area, as well as Big Lake, Twin Lakes, Chandalar Lake, Wild Lake, and the North Fork of the Chandalar River.

The majority of the area to be examined lies south of the Continental Divide. The basic regional geomorphology for this area is comprised of hills and mountains to elevations of 7500 feet which, for the most part, are separated into distinct units by creek and river drainages. River and creek valleys are relatively constricted in the northern portion of the area but become broader and contain numerous small lakes and ponds in the south. Ground cover below 2500 feet of elevation is predominately spruce (some birch and poplar) forest with typical attendant plant communities.

Those areas which lie north of the Continental Divide support no forest vegetation, ground cover being typified by alpine tundra, wet tundra, and wet sedge meadow communities. The majority of the study area has been glaciated in the recent past and stagnant ice glacial features, such as kames, kame terraces, moraines, eskers, and kettle lakes are common.

Methodology

Prehistoric

A reconnaissance level survey is "....a sample oriented field inventory designed to locate and record, from surface and exposed profile indications, all cultural resource sites within a portion of a defined area in a manner which will allow an objective estimate of the nature and distribution of cultural resources in the entire defined area" (BLM, 1978).

This reconnaissance level survey will implement logistic methods (pedestrian, raft, and fixed and rotor wing aircraft) proven to be efficient in primitive and remote areas of Alaska and will be carried out by qualified (NPS standards) archeological personnel. A team of four to six archeologists will spend approximately thirteen weeks in the field during the course of this survey.

As is always the case, time and budget constraints may place some limitations on specific aspects of this project, but will not affect the basic research design or operational plan.

The primary objective of this survey is to locate and record as many prehistoric sites as possible in the study area. Therefore, judgemental sampling will be the strategy employed to locate archeological sites.

Archeological sites will be sought in locations where past work in similar physiographic locales have shown the majority of sites to occur. Area archeological expertise and judgment are the backbone of this type of sampling strategy. Sampling of this type will not examine the entire spectrum of land forms in the study area equally. Much more time will be spent surveying in areas of high archeological potential than in areas of low archeological potential. This means that the sites which occur in areas of low archeological potential are, statistically, less likely to be found.

Given this sampling bias (recognizing the bias and taking it into consideration) the information obtained from the survey will be useful from a general management and planning point of view. A general pattern of site density and distribution in the more easily traversed and ecologically attractive portions of the study area will be generated. These areas are of primary concern in terms of management and planning for the park as they are the locations most likely to be impacted through recreational use. Additionally, the surveyed areas should generate sufficient data to make some reasonable assumptions concerning prehistoric inhabitants of the region.

Due to the fact that much of the study area is forested and supports relatively dense ground cover, much of the actual surveying will be of an opportunistic nature. In other words, areas which are free or relatively free of vegetative cover will receive the majority of attention. Fortunately, areas of this type, located on a wide range of geomorphological features, are not uncommon as they exist for a variety of environmental reasons.

Investigation of several geomorphological/ecological zones will be the basis for stratification of the sampling universe. Zones of this type often contain criteria of varying levels of importance in relation to the number and type of site occurrences. Criteria of this type would include land forms such as terraces, glacial (stagnant ice) features, drainage confluences, knolls, ridges, and hills. More general criteria would include local drainage conditions, elevation, exposure, view would have appeared similarly inviting to people during the last eight or nine millennia. Sites such as Onion Portage, Mosquito Lake, and the Gallagher Flint Station tend to support this assumption (Anderson, 1968; Kunz, 1977; Dixon, 1971).

A site for the purposes of this survey, will be considered any location of past human activity which is represented by the remains of their material culture (Davis et al, 1981). Essentially this means that the location of a single flake, cairn, or tent peg can and will be considered a site and undergo the same documentation procedures as would a larger more complex manifestation.

Additionally, criteria had to be set up to determine the boundaries of a site, i.e. where a given site begins and ends. A arbitrary distance of 100 meters was chosen. In other words, if 100 meters or more of culturally sterile ground separated two surface lithic scatters, then they were considered separate sites. Less than 100 meters separation and the lithic scatters were considered localities of the same site. The rule can be obviated if lithic scatters are less than 100 meters apart but are separated by an abrupt change in the topography such as a creek, river, gully, or glacial feature. Such a decision is judgemental on the part of the investigator.

The methodology for the actual survey work will vary with the local conditions. For example, in forested areas or areas of dense ground cover, on the ground survey methods will vary from those used in less vegetated or barren locations. Each crew member will carry air photos and maps applicable to the area being worked so they can easily locate themselves and any sites they find. In open areas where vision is not hampered, orientation is not a problem, and pedestrian travel unimpeded more latitude (wandering) in the survey work will be possible and as a result more ground will be covered. No specific method for locating sites will be employed (such as walking fixed-interval transects, etc.). The survey methods employed will vary with the terrain and the archeologists best judgment of the situation.

The survey, by definition, is a surface survey, however, some subsurface testing will be carried out. Subsurface testing in the form of small (approximately 15cm²) test pits will be used, as the situation warrants, to determine site limits or to determine, in likely locations, if a site is present. Where warranted, small test excavations will be a judiciously employed methodological tool and will be kept to a minimum.

Artifacts, unless excavated, will not be collected. Formal artifacts when encountered on surface will be photographed or drawn, measured, described in the field notes, and otherwise recorded. Artifacts will be located on site either by means of triangulation from a baseline extended in a cardinal direction from a datum point, or by direction in degrees and distance from a datum point. The datum point will be designated by a ten inch spike driven into the ground on the site. A metal identification tag bearing the site number, date of discovery, land ownership status, and other information will be affixed to the spike. The site numbers will be obtained from the State of Alaska's Heritage Resource Survey. All sites will be located on USGS topographic maps (largest scale available) and 1:65,000 false color infrared aerial photographs. Formal cataloging of excavated artifacts and preparation of a final report will be undertaken immediately upon returning from the field.

A preliminary or general overview report dealing with the field season's activities and accomplishments, including a general review of the gathered data will be completed by September 30, 1984. The final report for Phase II will be completed by April 1, 1985. The final report will contain: maps and photographs of the areas surveyed showing site locations; individual site reports of a descriptive and analytical nature; artifact photographs, drawings, and descriptions; and discussion of the sampling strategy if it differs to a great degree from that outlined in the research design; an assessment and discussion of the degree to which the research problems or aims were addressed/answered by the field work; and general recommendations for the management of the identified cultural resources.

At the end of each site report is a very brief statement of site significance. This statement is made for the benefit of the land manager so that judgments concerning the necessity of mitigative action regarding an impacted archeological site can be made. This statement of significance should not be considered acceptable for use in submitting nominations for the National Register of Historic Places as in no case has sufficient site data necessary for nomination been obtained.

Historic

Two teams of historians will be fielded during the Phase II (summer 1984) fieldwork period.

Team #1 will be a HABS team, comprised of a historian and two historical architects, which will be engaged in HABS level documentation of major historic complexes and sites in the Glacier River and Wiseman-Nolan-Coldfoot areas. The operations of this team may be extended to the east

of the Dalton Highway (North Slope Haul Road) if such action is deemed appropriate. The work of this team will be centered in the above described area as it contains the greatest concentration of historic structural remains in the park and preserve.

Team #2 will be comprised of the project historian, a historical architect, and a Bureau of Land Management archeologist/historian (proposed). This team will operate in the same general area as team #1 but will be engaged in less than HABS level documentation of encountered historic structures and will be operating further afield from the core areas. Team #2 will also be engaged on on-the-ground survey in an effort to locate previously unknown historic structures. Site data collected by team #2 will be recorded in a standardized format to facilitate meeting criteria for the Historic Resource Study, the List of Classified Structures, and National Register nominations. The HABS team participation will obviate the need for return visits to the principal sites.

Prior to the onset of the Phase II fieldwork, the project historian will perform research and data collection (November, 1983 through February, 1984) in key repositories in Alaska, Washington D.C., Denver, Menlo Park, and Seattle to assemble background data concerning historic time period events/activities in the study area. This archival research will also address the needs of the archeological (prehistoric) component of the project as specified by the project archeologist. As a result of this research, by late March, 1984, a preliminary, thematic narrative for the general GAAR region and a preliminary Phase II study area historic sites guide will be available which will aid in a more concise definition of fieldwork objectives for the summer of 1984.

The fieldwork division of labor between the two historical research teams, as concerns known sites, will be defined functionally and geographically (site specific) in advance of the actual fieldwork using the previously mentioned historic sites guide.

History team #2 will be on-call to visit any additional, significant historic sites discovered by the archeological team in their area of operations. Minor historic remains located by the archeological team will be recorded by the archeologists according to a standardized historic sites recordation format. Similarly, the archeological capabilities of the history team will be used to record any minor archeological sites they may encounter and alert the archeological team to any significant archeological sites discovered during the historical team's field activities. Periodic communication and intersection between the two historical teams will assure coverage of any other discovery sites of historical value.

A preliminary schedule of field operations is attached to this document. This schedule is subject to major sequential (not substantive) changes prior to fieldwork initiation due to final formulation of other GAAR field programs yet to be developed.

The result of the historical team's fieldwork and archival research will be a definitive study area report including narrative, site recordations (including selective HABS level documentation), and Emergency Stabilization Reports and other treatment recommendations as appropriate. List of Classified Structures determinations and site specific reports will be prepared as a part of this report to provide immediate management and planning data for GAAR.

All Phase II study area data will, during Phase III of the overall inventory, be incorporated in the final Historic Resources Study, to be completed after the 1985 field season. The final study (report [s]) will meet all Historic Resources Study criteria as set forth in NPS-28 (pp. 3-17, 18 and appendix E).

DRAFT

INTRODUCTION

The Study Area

Physiography

The study area includes approximately the eastern one quarter of Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve. More specifically, the area surveyed lies between 151°10' and 150°15' west longitude and 67°20' and 68°30' north latitude. All of this area lies north of the Arctic Circle. The Itkillik drainage lies north of the Continental Divide while the Koyukuk drainages lie on the southern side.

The Itkillik River heads in the Endicott Mountains on the western slopes of the 5000 foot Oolah Pass and flows 220 miles north, west-joining the Colville River 25 miles southwest of Harrison Bay, Beaufort Sea. After flowing 12 miles west through the narrow Uutagiak Valley the Itkillik enters the broad Oolah Valley which trends northeast for 25 miles before opening onto the rolling northern foothills of the Brooks Range. On the east and west as far north as Itkillik Lake, the river is bounded by mountain peaks, some of which exceed 7500 feet and contain cirque glaciers. The river enters the Oolah Valley at an altitude of 3000 feet and has descended 800 feet over a distance of 35 miles by the time it departs the study area.

The North Fork Koyukuk River heads on northern slope of 6905 foot Als Mountain and flows south 90 miles where it joins the Middle Fork Koyukuk River. The river enters the study area at an altitude of 2000 feet bounded by peaks in excess of 6500 feet and flows south 42 miles to its confluence with the Glacier River where it departs the study area at an altitude of 1000 feet.

The Middle Fork Koyukuk heads at the junction of the Dietrich and Bettles Rivers at an altitude of 1400 feet and flows southwest 62 miles where it joins the North Fork Koyukuk at an altitude of 800 feet, to form the Koyukuk River. The mountains bordering the Middle Fork are more subdued than those to the west, the peaks ranging between 3000 and 4500 feet.

Climate

The study area is divided by the crest of the Brooks Range, which is also the line of division of two major climatic zones, Interior Basin or Continental on the south, and Arctic on the north. As such the study area may be said to be in a transition zone. In general, the study area endures long bitterly cold winters where temperatures may reach -70° F and short, brilliant summers where temperatures may reach 90° F. Winds can be variably strong depending upon terrain and precipitation is generally light averaging about 15 inches annually, most of which falls as rain during the summer.

Geology: Bedrock

The Brooks Range is the northernmost extension of the Rocky Mountains. Lithologically it consists of a complex series of east-west trending belts of metamorphic, sedimentary, and igneous rocks. The sedimentary rocks of Paleozoic and Mesozoic age are folded, faulted, and locally metamorphosed. Limestone, graywacke, chert, shale, and schist are common rock types. Dark intrusive rocks of the Jurassic-Cretaceous period as well as other intrusive bodies of granite and diorite exist in the range (Black, 1969). Most of these lithologies are found in or near the survey area, and contribute to the complex substrate that has conditioned the present physiography and surficial geology.

Geology: Glacial

The surficial geology of the survey area is dominated by glacial deposits of Pleistocene age. Hamilton (1982) has recently revised the chronology and nomenclature of the glacial record of the South-central Brooks Range based on detailed stratigraphic work supported by radiocarbon dates. The oldest mappable glacial drift in the region is that of the Kobuk Glaciation, named by Fernald (1964; Hamilton and Porter, 1975), its distribution and age are poorly known. Drift limits of the Kobuk Glaciation extend well beyond the southern edge of the survey area (Hamilton, 1982, written communication, 1984), and are not yet mapped in detail in this vicinity. The Kobuk Drift typically consists of older and younger subunits thought to be respectively correlative with the Sagavanirktok and Anaktuvuk glaciations of the northern side of the Brooks Range (Hamilton and Porter, 1975), the older of which (Anaktuvuk) is now thought to possibly be early pleistocene in age (Hamilton and Hopkins, 1982).

The Itkillik glaciation (Hamilton, 1982) formed extensive piedmont lobes in the survey area which were fed by ice streams flowing down the major stream valleys including the North and Middle Fork of the Koyukuk and the Itkillik. The age of the Itkillik glaciation is beyond the range of conventional radiocarbon dating (>50,000 years), but is believed to correlate with early Wisconsin glaciation (Hamilton and Hopkins, 1982).

The Walker Lake glaciation (Hamilton, 1982) is best represented in the survey area by morainal topography in the vicinity of Delay Pass and Squaw Rapids in the North Fork Koyukuk Valley. These glaciers also formed piedmont lobes that splayed out onto the lowlands at the valley mouths, but were much less extensive than those of the Itkillik glaciation, stopping just at the range front. The Walker Lake glaciation is now well dated in the South-central Brooks Range (Hamilton, 1982). A period of rapid alluviation in an outwash train traceable to the outer Walker Lake moraine at Walker Lake indicates a time of maximum ice advance between perhaps 24,500 and 22,500 years ago (Hamilton 1982: fig. 3). Subsequent downcutting was followed by construction of a lower outwash train associated with the inner Walker Lake moraine. This moraine is not

directly dated, but dated deposits downriver indicate alluviation continued until sometime after 17,700 years ago (Hamilton, 1982, Schweger, 1976). A basal radiocarbon date from Ruppert Lake, a kettle lake at the contact between the inner and outer Walker Lake moraines, indicates the area was ice-free by 13,200 years ago (Brubaker et al, 1983: Table 2). Thus the Walker Lake glaciation spans a period between about 24,500 and 17,500 years ago, during which there were at least two ice advances. Holocene glaciation has been confined to high altitude cirques that support modern glaciers in the northern portion of the study area.

These three major Pleistocene glaciations have left extensive drift sheets in the survey area, and have formed numerous topographic features that have archeological resources associated with them. These features are generally well-drained and their topography offers unique vantage points from which to survey the surrounding terrain. Archeological sites are also associated with well-drained alluvial terraces and with ancient beach deposits surrounding many of the glacially formed lakes.

DRAFT
SOILS

The soils of the survey area have not been mapped in any detail, only reconnaissance level information is available (Rieger et al. 1979). Due to the young age of most of the surfaces in the study area, and the cold climate and low precipitation, most of the soils are poorly developed and belong to the Inceptisol order. An important division between these soils is their internal drainage. Ice-rich permafrost is common in the area and poorly drained hydromorphic soils occur where drainage is impeded by the permafrost table. Soils typical of these conditions are Histic Pergelic Cryaquepts and Pergelic Cryaquepts on rolling upland areas with sedge tussock and dwarf heath vegetation. In very poorly drained muskegs, organic soils such as Pergelic Cryofibrists are found. Well-drained soils are found on glacial morine systems, especially those of the most recent glaciations, and on ridge tops, south facing slopes, and other similar features. Typical well-drained soils of the region are typic Cryochrepts or Dystric Cryochrepts, some displaying an albic (A2) horizon indicative of podzolization. Where podzolization had been sufficiently intense, for example, in well-drained spruce forests, typic Cryorthods may be found. However, recent soil genesis studies at Walker Lake have shown that bleached albic horizons typical of podzolization came from under lichen and dwarf heath cover in the absence of spruce trees (Ugolini et al., 1981). Where well-drained soils are either young or unstable, Entisols such as Pergelic Cryorthents, may be found.

VEGETATION

The southern portion of the survey area is near the northern limit of the boreal forest. Treeline lies at an altitude of about 2000 feet and latitudinally at about 68° north. In the southern portion of the study area white spruce (*Picea glauca*) dominates the forest on well-drained sites on mountain slopes and along river terraces, accompanied by white birch (*Betula papyrifera*) and aspen (*Populus tremuloides*).

Black spruce (*P. mariana*) dominates the poorly drained areas at low altitudes, together with white birch and aspen (Brubaker et al. 1983). Understory plants common to both white and black spruce forests include resin birch shrubs (*B. glandulosa*), ericaceous species such as blueberry (*Vaccinium uliginosum*), Labrador tea (*Ledum decumbens* ssp. *groenlandicum*) and (*L. decumbens* ssp. *palustre*), crowberry (*Empetrum nigrum*), mountain-cranberry (*V. vitis-idaea*), as well as lichens (*Cladonia* sp. and *Cetraria* sp.) Alder (*Alnus crispa*) and willow (*Salix* sp) are common along stream courses and in draws above treeline. (Brubaker et al. 1983).

In addition to the forest understory plants, the alpine tundra above tree-line and north of 68° latitude is characterized by grasses, sedges (*Carex* sp), *Cassiope tetragona*, *Artemisia arctica*, *Leuseleuri procumbens*, *Spirea beauverdiana*, and *Anemone parviflora*. Lowland shrub tussock tundra consists of cottongrass (*Eriophorum vaginatum*) and sedge (*Carex* sp) tussocks with shrubs of resin birch, Labrador tea, and other ericaceous plants, (Brubaker et al., 1983).

Recently, a detailed study of pollen cores from lakes in the Upper Kobuk and Alatna River Valleys has provided a detailed late Pleistocene and early Holocene vegetation history applicable to the southern portion of the survey area (Brubaker et al. 1983). Three pollen zones, the Herb zone, *Betula* zone, and *Alnus* zone, have been identified that characterize the vegetation changes. The Herb zone at Ruppert Lake, a small kettle lake on the terminal moraine complex at Walker Lake, is found in the lowest portion of the core and ends at about 12,500 years ago. This zone shows high pollen percentages for sedges, grasses, willows, *Artemisia*, and several other herbaceous taxa (Brubaker et al., 1983). No exact modern analogues of this pollen zone are known. Brubaker et al. (1983) interpret this zone to represent large meadows or tussock tundra in the low lying areas near Ruppert Lake at this time. Other cores from higher lakes indicate *Artemisia* species were important components of mountain slope vegetation.

The *Betula* zone at Ruppert Lake lasts from about 12,500 to 7000 years ago. It is dominated by dwarf birch pollen. *Populus balsamifera* pollen shows a marked peak between 10,000 and 11,000 years ago. The authors interpret this as a response to warmer climate that allowed expansion of local cottonwood populations, probably on alluvial terraces. Explanations for the decrease in *Populus* pollen at 10,000 years ago include regional development of organic soils unfavorable to *Populus* and stabilization of flood plains in the Kobuk drainage. There is a brief peak in *Picea* pollen between 8,500 and 8,000 years ago, most of which is white spruce pollen. This may either indicate scattered spruce trees present in the *Alnus* zone lasts from about 7000 years ago until the present. It is characterized by a sharp rise in alder pollen that remains high until the present. Presumably this marks the establishment of *Alnus* shrubs in the Upper Kobuk Valley. Increases in white and black spruce pollen and birch pollen assigned to white birch between 6000 and 5000 years ago marks the establishment of the modern boreal forest in the survey area. Since this time treeline has moved slowly to its latitudinal limit in the Alatna River Valley (Brubaker et al., 1983) and to its modern altitudinal limit at Walker Lake (Reanier and Ugolini, 1983).

Based upon an extensive study of existing Beringian pollen records, and mapping of pollen percentages through time, Anderson (1982) concluded that spruce expanded westward into the Kotzebue drainage between 7000 and 5000 years ago, and reached its modern limit on the Kobuk River in late Holocene time (5000-1000 years ago). In contrast, alder evidently expanded eastward from the Kotzebue drainage (Anderson, 1982) reaching the eastern margin of the survey area by 7000 years ago (Brubaker et al., 1983). These contrasting Holocene vegetation changes have important implications for interpretation of the archeological record, but more detailed data is needed before variations within the survey area can be detected.

FAUNA

A wide variety of fauna exists in the survey area ranging from frogs to grizzly bears. There is little reason to describe each species, therefore, the fauna will be presented as a list.

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MAMMALS

black bear	<i>Ursus americanus</i>
grizzly bear	<i>Ursus arctos</i>
coyote	<i>Canis latrans</i>
wolf	<i>Canis lupus</i>
red fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>
marten	<i>Martes americana</i>
short-tailed weasel	<i>Mustela erminea</i>
least weasel	<i>Mustela nivalis</i>
mink	<i>Mustela vison</i>
wolverine	<i>Gulo gulo</i>
river otter	<i>Lutra canadensis</i>
lynx	<i>Felis lynx</i>
moose	<i>Alces alces</i>
barren ground caribou	<i>Rangifer tarandus</i>
Dall sheep	<i>Ovis dalli</i>
snowshoe hare	<i>Lepus americanus</i>
hoary marmot	<i>Marmota caligata</i>
Arctic ground squirrel	<i>Spermophilus parryi</i>
red squirrel	<i>Tamiasciurus hudsonicus</i>
northern flying squirrel	<i>Glaucomys sabrinus</i>
muskrat	<i>Ondatra zibethicus</i>
beaver	<i>Castor canadensis</i>
red backed vole	<i>Clethrionomus rutilus</i>
meadow mouse	<i>Microtus species</i>
brown lemming	<i>Lemmus sibiricus</i>
northern bog lemming	<i>Synaptomys borealis</i>
porcupine	<i>Erethizon dorsatum</i>
masked shrew	<i>Sorex cinereus</i>
Arctic shrew	<i>Sorex arcticus</i>
little brown bat	<i>Myotis lucifugus</i>

BIRDS

Arctic loon
red-throated loon
whistling swan
Canada Goose
white fronted goose
snow goose
mallard
pintail
green-winged teal
northern shoveler
American wigeon
greater scaup
lesser scaup
bufflehead
oldsquaw
harlequin duck
white-winged scoter
surf scoter
common merganser
red-breasted merganser
rough-legged hawk
golden eagle
bald eagle
marsh hawk
osprey
gryfalcon
peregrine falcon
merlin
American kestrel
spruce grouse
ruffed grouse
willow ptarmigan
rock ptarmigan
sandhill crane
semipalmated plover
whimbrel
upland sandpiper
lesser yellowlegs
spotted sandpiper
northern phalarope
red phalarope
common snipe
long-billed dowitcher
semipalmated sandpiper
long-toed stint
baird's sandpiper
pectoral sandpiper
glaucous gull
mew gull
Arctic tern

Gavia arctica
Gavia stellata
Olor columbianus
Branta canadensis
Anser albifrons
Chen caerulescens
Anas platyrhynchos
Anas acuta
Anas crecca
Anas clypeata
Anas americana
Authya marila
Aythya affinis
Bucephala albeola
Clangula hyemalis
Historionyx histronicus
Melanitta deglandi
Melanitta perspicillata
Mergus merganser
Mergus serrator
Buteo lagopus
Aquila chrysaetos
Haliaeetus leucocephalus
Circus cyaneus
Pandion haliaetus
Falco rusticolus
Falco peregrinus
Falco columbarius
Falco sparverius
Canachites canadensis
Bonasa umbellus
Lagopus lagopus
Lagopus mutus
Grus canadensis
Pluvialis dominica
Numenius phaeopus
Bartramia longicuda
Tringa flavipes
Actitis macularia
Phalaropus lobatus
Phalaropus fulicarius
Gallinago gallinago
Limnodromus scolopaceus
Calidris pusilla
Calidris subminuta
Calidris bairdii
Calidris melanotos
Larus hyperboreus
Larus canus
Sterna paradisaea

great horned owl
 hawk owl
 short-eared owl
 boreal owl
 belted kingfisher
 common flicker
 hair woodpecker
 downy woodpecker
 alder flycatcher
 horned lark
 bank swallow
 cliff swallow
 gray jay
 common raven
 black-capped chickadee
 boreal chickadee
 American robin
 varied thrush
 hermit thrush
 gray-cheeked thrush
 wheatear
 Arctic warbler
 yellow wagtail
 water pipit
 Bohemian waxwing
 northern shrike
 yellow warbler
 yellow-rumped warbler
 northern waterthrush
 wilson's warbler
 rusty blackbird
 pine grosbeak
 gray-crowned rosy finch
 hoary redpoll
 common redpoll
 savana sparrow
 dark-eyed junco
 tree sparrow
 white-crowned sparrow
 golden-crowned sparrow
 fox sparrow
 Lincoln's sparrow
 lapland longspur
 snow bunting

Bubo virginianus
 Surnia ulula
 Asio flammeus
 Aegolius funereus
 Megascops alcyon
 Colaptes auratus
 Picoides villosus
 Picoides pubescens
 Empidonax alnorum
 Eremophila alpestris
 Riparia riparia
 Petrochelidon pyrrhonota
 Perisoreus canadensis
 Corvus corax
 Parus atricapillus
 Parus hudsonicus
 Turdus migratorius
 Loxoreus naevius
 Catharus guttatus
 Catharus minimus
 Oenanthe oenanthe
 Phylloscopus borealis
 Motacilla flava
 Anthus spinoletta
 Bonbycilla garrulus
 Lanius excubitor
 Dendroica petechia
 Dendroica striata
 Seiurus noveboracensis
 Wilsonia pusilla
 Euphagus carolinus
 Pinicola enucleator
 Leucosticte tephrocotis
 Carduelis hornemanni
 Carduelis flammea
 Passerculus sandwichensis
 Junco hyemalis
 Spizella arborea
 Zonotrichia leucophrys
 Zonotrichia atricapilla
 Passerella iliaca
 Melospiza lincolni
 Calcarius lapponicus
 Plectrophenax nivalis

FISH

chum salmon	Oncorhynchus kisutch
sheefish	Stenodus leucichthys
humpback whitefish	Coregonus pidschian
broad whitefish	Coregonus nasus
least cisco	Coregonus sardinella
round whitefish	Prosopium cylindraceum
Arctic grayling	Thymallus arcticus
Arctic char	Salvelinus alpinus
lake trout	Salvelinus namaycush
northern pike	Esox lucius
Alaska blackfish	Dallia pectoralis
longnosed sucker	Catostomus catostomus
burbot	Lota lata

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Previous Archeological, Anthropological, Historical, and Exploration Work Conducted in the Phase II Study Area

Archeology

Past archeological work in the area has been slight and limited to very specific areas. The earliest work was done by Ralph Solecki in 1949 in association with U.S. Government oil exploration activities on Alaska's North Slope (Solecki, 1950). Solecki located a modern Nunamiut campsite comprised of twenty to thirty house remains on the east shore of Itkillik Lake.

During the late 1950's and through the 1960's John Campbell studied the area between Itkillik Lake and Chandler Lake concentrating in the Anaktuvuk Pass area. Through his work, Campbell created a data base which still serves as a generalized "yardstick" for regional prehistoric study. Campbell's work indicated that human occupation on the north-central Brooks Range extended back to a least 8000 years ago and that both Eskimos and Indians had inhabited the area (Campbell 1962).

In 1966 and 1967 Herbert Alexander conducted an archeological reconnaissance in the Atigun River Valley which lies only a few miles to the east of the park's northeastern boundary. Alexander located more than sixty archeological sites, the great majority of which were Eskimo and were represented by 4000-2000 year old occupations. He also located a large Kavik (Indian) site near the confluence of the Galbraith Lake outlet and the Atigun River (Alexander, 1967, 1968). Subsequent work at this site (Atigun Site) by Alexander in 1972 and Ian Wilson in 1974 established the site's age at 300 years before present (Wilson, 1978).

Between 1970 and 1976 Michael Kunz conducted archeological reconnaissance in the Itkillik Lake area. This sporadic work was culminated by a two month reconnaissance survey in 1976 which led to the discovery of over fifty archeological sites. The sites ranged from recent Nunamiut Eskimo camps to sites containing Akmak-like blade cores which may be as old as 10,000 B.P. The Bateman Site, located during the reconnaissance, on the western shore of Itkillik Lake, is one of the few deeply buried and stratified sites in the region. A carbon 14 date from this Ipiutak (Eskimo) site indicates occupation about 1250 years ago (Kunz, 1976).

From 1969 through 1976 archeologists from the University of Alaska, Fairbanks conducted reconnaissance survey, and excavation of archeological sites along the route of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline. That portion of the Pipeline Corridor which borders the eastern boundary of the park contained over 100 archeological and historic sites (Cook, 1970, 1971, 1977). Several of these sites were quite large and their excavation contributed important data necessary to the basic unraveling of area prehistory. The Mosquito Lake Site near Galbraith Lake is primarily a Denbigh Flint Complex (Eskimo) manifestation which shows recurrent use between 3800 and 1500 years ago (Kunz, 1977). Two of the oldest dated sites in Alaska, the Gallagher Flint Station (Dixon, 1971) and the Putu Site (Alexander, 1973) lie only a few miles north and east of the park boundary. This work along the Pipeline Corridor indicated the great majority of the archeological sites which lie north of the 67° latitude are Eskimo, while those which lie south of 67° River are primarily Indian.

Archeologists from the University of Alaska again worked in the Pipeline Corridor 1980 and 1981 conducting an archeological survey for the Northwest Alaskan Pipeline Company along the proposed route of the Alaska Natural Gas Transportation System. This work added additional information to an already extensive cultural resources data base for the Pipeline Corridor (Aigner and Gannon, 1980, 1981).

Between 1978 and 1983 Michael Kunz conducted a number of short-term, impromptu archeological surveys along the North Fork of the Chandalar River above Chandalar Lake. A number of historic sites were located as a result of this work, but few prehistoric sites have been found (Kunz, field notes).

To the west and south of the study area archeological work has been less intense than to the north and east. In the late 1930's and early 1940's J.L. Giddings conducted archeological and ethnohistorical work along the upper Kobuk River. This was the first anthropological work done in the area and was responsible for the discovery of the Onion Portage site, probably the most important western Arctic archeological site yet discovered (Giddings, 1952). The significance of the Onion Portage site was later determined by the work of Douglas Anderson in the early 1960's (Anderson, 1978). The excavation of the Onion Portage site revealed sequential occupation by different cultural groups at a single location over a period of approximately 10,000 years.

More extensive work was done in this area during Phase I of Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve's Cultural Resources Inventory carried out during the summer of 1983. National Park Service archeologists located over 250 prehistoric and historic sites during the course of their field work. The majority of the archeological sites located during this survey appear to be Indian rather than Eskimo and are probably short-term hunting camps. Several sites at Selby Lake may have been long-term habitation sites, possibly over-wintering locales. Carbon-14 dates from one of these sites indicates use of the locality over a period of time from 3000 to 1500 years ago (Kunz, 1983).

As can be seen from this summary, in terms of the size of the area involved, only limited archeological investigation has been undertaken. In terms of it's geographic size the Phase II study area is basically unknown archeologically.

Exploration/Ethnohistory/Cultural Anthropology

The earliest recorded information dealing with the native peoples of the general region is found in the journals of John Cantwell and Henry Allen. In 1885 Cantwell made a complete ascent of the Kobuk River from Kotzebue Sound to Walker Lake; a journey of government exploration. Cantwell notes the location of a native fishing village at the mouth of the Selby River. No villages were located further up the Kobuk than this. Cantwell and Stoney were probably the first and last white men to see this type of a traditional, seasonally oriented native village prior to the on-set of strong non-native cultural influences (Cantwell, 1889).

In 1885 G. Stoney made an overland winter trip up the Kobuk River from Fort Cosmos to the Alatna River, then north to Chandler Lake and back to Fort Cosmos. However, Stoney's journal became lost prior to the publication of the account of his explorations and the published document was written from memory fourteen years after the fact. As a result the information contained in the report is somewhat questionable (Stoney, 1899).

In 1885 Henry Allen conducted an exploration of the upper Koyukuk River. Allen traveled up the river about as far as the confluence of the John River. Allen's journal contains numerous notes regarding the aboriginal inhabitants of interior northern Alaska while these people were still living a life style basically uninfluenced by the modern technology of the day (Allen, 1887). The explorations of Stoney, Cantwell, and Allen occurred in areas to the south and west of the Phase II study area.

F. C. Schrader of the USGS was the first white man to conduct a reconnaissance within the Phase II study area. In 1899 Schrader conducted field work along the north Fork of the Chandalar River, Bettles River, Dietrich River, and the Middle Fork of the Koyukuk River. While Schrader was basically concerned with the mineral potential of the region he did make numerous notations in his journals concerning the habitat and native peoples of the areas through which he traveled (Schrader, 1900).

In 1901 W. C. Mendenhall conducted a USGS geologic reconnaissance from the mouth of the Alatna River to Kotzebue via the Alatna Portage and the Kobuk River. The Kobuk River portion of his trip paralleled in reverse Cantwell's route of 1885. It is interesting to note the changes which had occurred in the life style of the natives along the river in sixteen years which had elapsed between the two reconnaissances (Mendenhall, 1902).

At the same time that Mendenhall was engaged in his field work F. C. Schrader was engaged in a similar reconnaissance ascending the John River through the Brooks Range and descending the Anaktuvuk and Colville Rivers to the Arctic coast. Schrader encountered numerous native groups along his route and made many notations in his journals regarding these encounters (Schrader, 1904).

In 1911, P. S. Smith, a USGS geologist, conducted a geologic reconnaissance of the Alatna and Noatak Rivers. In the published account of the expedition Smith states that they encountered none of the native villages on the upper Noatak that McLeneghan reports existed in 1885 (Smith, 1913).

It was not until the late 1930's that formal anthropological work was carried out within what is now Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve. The earliest work was done by J. L. Giddings along the Kobuk and Noatak Rivers. Giddings' work resulted in the publication of several articles and monographs which dealt primarily with the Kobuk or Woodland Eskimo (Giddings, 1952, 1961).

During the 1960's, A. Clark carried out six years of anthropological field work along the Koyukuk River primarily in the area of Alatna, Allakaket, and Evansville. While this area lies just to the south of the Phase II study area, the people exploiting it are the same. As a result, the data generated by Clark's work is generally applicable to the southern portion of the Phase II study area (A. Clark, 1974).

In the northern portion of the Phase II study area anthropological/ethnohistorical work has been carried on since the early 1950's in the Anaktuvuk Pass area by numerous investigators such as R. Spencer, H. Larsen, H. Ingstad, N. Gubser, L. Binford, E. Burch, and G. Spearman to name some. Most of this work has dealt with human occupation and exploitation of the upper John and Anaktuvuk River drainages. As a result, a large body of data is available. This data is applicable in more than a general sense to the entire northern portion of the Phase II study area (Spencer, 1959; Larsen, 1956; Ingstad, 1954; Gubser, 1965; Binford, 1978, 1980; Burch, 1975, 1976, 1980; Spearman, 1982).

History

There has not been a great deal of formal historical work undertaken in the Phase II study area. There have been some Alaskan mining histories written that have dealt with the Phase II study area in a general sense but little work has been done using the region as a focal point. The earliest work which can be considered to be of an historical nature was that done by Robert Marshall in the late 1920's. Marshall's book,

Arctic Village, which deals specifically with the village of Wiseman, traces the history of the white man's arrival in the drainage of the Middle Fork of the Koyukuk River up to 1930 (Marshall, 1933). The only other comprehensive historical work that has been done in the area is the data compiled by Susan Will, Bureau of Land Management archeologist, in two reports dealing with the villages of Wiseman and Coldfoot. These two reports trace the development of Coldfoot and Wiseman and give some insights into the economic and social structures of these communities as well as a description of the physical conditions of the extant buildings (Will, 1983, nd).

Aboriginal Use of the Phase II Study Area

Three aboriginal cultural groups, to a greater or lesser degree, occupied and exploited the Phase II study area. All of these groups were marginal in terms of survivability. In other words their existence was pretty much hand-to-mouth most of the time. In this regard A. Clark states, "... there were few times through the year when a sufficiently large surplus could be accumulated that the food quest was not paramount. Their lives were not those of settled village people, and as the seasons changed, so did their places of habitation, as well as their methods and types of hunting and fishing" (A. Clark, 1974).

Of the three groups which utilized the Phase II study area the Nunamiut Eskimo are paramount as the majority of this area lies within what is historically considered to be their territory. The Koyukuk Indians were the primary users of the southernmost portion of the area, while the Kobuk Eskimos were probably only peripheral users along the southwestern edge.

A fair amount of data has been collected through the work of modern-day anthropologists and from the accounts of the early explorers regarding the annual cyclical movements of the natives of this area at or about the time of white contact. How far back in time such annual cycles of movement can be applied is, however, debatable. The following is a general outline of the annual movements of the Koyukuk Indians and the Nunamiut Eskimos who were the primary users of the area.

From June through August, the Koyukuk Indians lived on the major rivers at the confluence of streams or sloughs. This can be somewhat substantiated by the accounts of Stoney, Cantwell, Mendenhall, and others during explorations along the Kobuk, Koyukuk, and Alatna Rivers between 1884 and 1901. During this season the men left camp, off and on, for periods of a few days to hunt birds and other game. Additionally, berries, meat, and fish were collected and dried for winter use. As fall began, the people moved into the hill country, fishing the lakes and building semi-subterranean houses for winter use, and hunting caribou, sheep, bear, and small game. About March the Indians left their winter dwellings and moved to spring muskrat camps nearer the main rivers. Just before break-up, the families moved to their spring fish-camps on the creeks between the lakes and rivers. By June they were back at their summer camps (A. Clark, 1974).

The Nunamiut Eskimo, at least in late prehistoric times, maintained no permanent base of operations, generally moving with the caribou. In April and May, and in August and September, the Nunamiut hunted the major passes of the Brooks Range. From October to January they broke into smaller groups and hunted the caribou remaining in the mountains near the treeline (south side of the range). February and March, as well as June and July, were often periods of near famine. At these times, they hunted small game, fished, and gathered berries (Campbell, 1962).

Movement other than the annual treks from camp to camp also occurred; travel for the purposes of trading or visiting being most common. Movement from camp to camp was on a relatively small scale and varied somewhat from family group to family group. Because of its small scale and diversity, this type of travel route is difficult to trace and even more difficult to recognize in an archeological context. Trade routes, on the other hand, were major travel routes (travel for visiting often followed these routes also) used successively by larger groups and should, therefore, be more easily traced and recognized in an archeological context. Reasonable data regarding trade routes in the Phase II study area is available (A. Clark, 1974; Burch, 1975, 1976; Spearman, 1982, 1983; Cantwell, 1889; Stoney, 1899; Mandenhall, 1902; Schrader, 1900, 1904). While this data reflects travel in late prehistoric and early historic times, it is probably generally valid for earlier time periods (at least until about 4000 years ago) as travel routes from area to area within a region are largely determined by the geomorphology.

Known or suspected travel routes in the Phase II study area are as follows:

Routes through the Brooks Range, north to south/south to north.

1. Anaktuvuk River/Ernie Pass/Ernie Creek/North Fork of the Koyukuk River.
2. Itkillik River/North Fork of the Koyukuk River.
3. Itkillik River/Oolah Pass/Kuyuktuvuk Creek/Dietrich River/Middle Fork of the Koyukuk River.
4. Itkillik River/Oolah Pass/Koyuktuvuk Creek/Dietrich River/North Fork of the Chandalar River/Chandalar Lake.

Routes on the south side of the Brooks Range between drainages.

1. Middle Fork of the Koyukuk River/Dietrich River/Bettles River/Big Lake/South Fork of the Koyukuk River/Twin Lakes/Woodland Echo Pass-Creek/North Fork of the Chandalar River/Chandalar Lake.
2. North Fork of the Koyukuk River/Glacier River/Glacier Pass/Wiseman Creek/Middle Fork of the Koyukuk River.

The preceding identified routes will be investigated at varying levels of

intensity during the Phase II field season. The level of investigation will be dependent upon time and logistical considerations.

The preceding several pages dealing with previous cultural investigations and activities in the Phase II study area has been compiled as the result of a less than exhaustive search of the readily available literature. Considerable additional information is available in numerous archival repositories in Alaska and the lower 48 states. Additional, in depth, archival research was conducted by the project historian at selected repositories during the months of December, January, and February. This research will result in the generation of an in depth report dealing with the culture history of Phase II study area.

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PRELIMINARY HISTORY PROJECT REPORT

GATES OF THE ARCTIC NP&P

CULTURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY

Being a Compilation of

Writings, Site Reports,

Maps, Drawings, and Selected

Photos Summarizing the Results
of Field Work During the Summer
of 1984 in the Upper Koyukuk
Country Both Inside the Park
and Bordering it on the East

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The Folks and Miners of Wiseman
and the Creeks

And the Support Project Director
Mike Kunz and his Staff

All Operating under the General
Purview of Superintendent Dick Ring, GAAR,
and Chief of Cultural Resources, ARO,
Leslie Hart and my Immediate Supervisor,
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Upper Koyukuk History

by

William E. Brown

Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve Project Historian

This report summarizes the history of the east sector of the Gates of the Arctic region (North Fork and Middle Fork of the Koyukuk). Its objective is to provide an immediately available historical context for the sites visited and recorded during summer 1984 field work.

The flow of human events fused inextricably the geography and history of the Koyukuk with that of the larger region. The upper Koyukuk, particularly, served as geographic and cultural threshold, encouraging movement through and beyond, from many starting points. Portages, passes, and trails brought together here people from the radiating rivers that drained the mountains and provided access into them.

For this reason, it is impossible to neatly isolate upper Koyukuk history from happenings in the Kobuk Valley to the west, or in the Chandalar and trans-Brooks Range areas to east and north or, for that matter, from trunkline transportation systems that fed into the Yukon River by ocean and sea from points as distant as Seattle, Skagway, and St. Michael. The dilemma of trying to write a sector history is obvious: the entire history of the region, including its far-reaching tentacles of trade and supply, is context for Koyukuk history. But the larger history comes later and we must know something now about the Koyukuk.

All this is caveat for the rapid survey of themes and events that follows. Secondary sources and brevity will be the main tools and approach at this time, with enrichment of original sources, detail, and interrelationships to be provided in the forthcoming regional history, of which this is prelude and looming.

Proceeding north by tributaries and portages from the Yukon River, Army Lt. Henry T. Allen touched the fringe of the upper Koyukuk country in 1885. He termed it "terra incognita" (Cole: 26). Russian and American traders and explorers had probed the lower and middle reaches of the Koyukuk before that date, but Allen was the first explorer to ascend so far as the foothills proper of the Brooks Range, to the place where the John River joins the Koyukuk (Clark: 79-83).

Both coming into the country from the south and leaving it southwesterly down the Koyukuk, Allen met Koyukon Indians, people of Athapaskan stock

whose various bands occupied the river's 425-mile course from the foothills to the Yukon. Even before Allen's traverse, these Indians possessed " . . . fire arms, trade beads, and white man's staple foods," testimony to intertribal and interregional trade patterns that laced the country from coastal entrepôts on the west to the British possessions on the east. As early as the 17th Century, Chuckchi and Eskimo traders of northeastern Siberia were exchanging Russian goods for the furs of Alaskan Eskimos, who passed European products to the Interior via the river valleys and their Athapascan trading partners. Thus the earliest Koyukuk traders and explorers " . . . found a people who had already been introduced to attributes of western material culture long before white men arrived in their territory" (Clark: 78, 79).

While Allen breached the unknown on the Koyukuk, U.S. Navy and Revenue Marine (now U.S. Coast Guard) expeditions ascended the Kobuk and Noatak Rivers. One party crossed the Arctic Divide to the Colville River and pressed on to the Arctic Coast. Another reached Chandler Lake, just west of present day Anaktuvuk Pass. A third, in the depths of the 1885-86 winter, portaged from the Kobuk to the Koyukuk, striking that river at mid-course, then proceeding downstream to the Yukon and St. Michael, as had Allen the previous summer (Stoney: 802-808; Sherwood: 125-131).

Thus, with the aid of Native guides and informants, did the military expeditions of the mid-1880s reveal the mountain core of northern Alaska, heretofore the object of Anglo-European ignorance and speculation. Bounding rivers and the Native trade routes linking them across the mountain passes outlined a forbidding geography that would remain only partly understood until the advent of the airplane. Completion of regional mapping by the military services and the U.S. Geological Survey awaited the urgencies of World War II and ensuing Cold War strategies based on transpolar flight (FitzGerald: 22, 23).

Even as the first explorers assembled their field notes and sketch maps, prospectors from the Yukon gold fields extended their quest into the central Brooks Range (Cole: 29). Among them was John Bremner, who had accompanied Lieutenant Allen from the Copper River to the Yukon. He followed the explorer's tracks to the Koyukuk in 1887, but was killed the next year by Indians--a rare occurrence in Koyukuk annals. Bremner is remembered by the naming of the John River, where he prospected just before his death (Bettles: 119-122). Various authorities, some of them, like Gordon C. Bettles, participants in contemporary mining and trading ventures, trace the history of prospecting and mining in the upper Koyukuk during the decade through the mid-1890s. Single prospectors and scattered mining partners tested the streams and bars of the main Koyukuk and its South and Middle forks. Probably the first gold in paying quantities was discovered by Johnnie Folger at Tramway Bar on the Middle Fork in 1893 (Marshall: 30). One historian claims that N.V. Hendricks that same year went up the Koyukuk in a small steamer and mined considerable gold (Hully: 228).

The men of this period were mainly old hands. Veterans of Sierras and Rockies, they formed a hard core at the early placers on the upper Yukon, which antedated the Klondike Rush by 20 years. These rugged scouts, in ceaseless search of gold, scoured the far places and in time found paystreaks that spurred inexperienced hopefuls to actual or rumored fields of gold (Berton: 6-8).

The first sizable influx of prospectors and miners to the Koyukuk arrived in 1898. Most had overflowed down the Yukon from the crowded Klondike. They were the hopefuls, too late for claims in the welter that was Dawson, ill-equipped for the slim pickings and Arctic rigors of the Koyukuk. Perhaps a thousand men ascended the river that summer. A few hundred of these crossed the Arctic Circle to stake claims on the South Fork, Middle Fork, and Alatna rivers. Most of them spent horrible winters marked by cold, hunger, and scurvy. A few of them died. Ruins of their crude log shacks can still be found as depressions and moss-covered sill logs at the sites of transient camps that lasted the winter, then were abandoned by the utterly discouraged survivors. Retreat down the Koyukuk to the Yukon, then the frantic press for passage home, took on the nature of a route (Cole: 29033; Marshall: 30, 31).

But a few stayed on--maybe a hundred old timers and stubborn newcomers--and they were joined that summer of 1899 by others of their breed. They found enough gold to convert them into permanent settlers. That same year a store was opened just below the mouth of John River by Gordon Bettles. The tiny supply and transportation center, at the uppermost head of small steamboat navigation, took the trader's name (Marshall: 31-37; Will: 12-17).

These early years produced more suffering than gold. But more important, they opened up the country. Trails and terrain were now known, at least in the more accessible places, as were patterns of practical geology and the expectations of experienced miners. Steamboat transport, pioneered earlier and perfected in 1898-99, broke the barriers of overland travel. Traders could now order the cargos of supplies and equipment that allowed permanent camps and the quick development of winter mining. Within a few years, heavy boilers for steam-thawing of frozen ground unlocked the rich gold of deep channels, the relic streambeds of ancient times. From now on the Koyukuk district would get down to serious business (Maddren: 76; Cole: 33, 34; Cobb: 155-159).

From information derived from old-timers, coupled with Government records at Fairbanks and data from the U.S. Geological Survey, explorer and author Robert Marshall identified three mining booms (or rather, boomlets) in the upper Koyukuk. The first occurred from 1900 to 1903 when there were seccessive stampedes at Gold Bench on the South Fork and at Myrtle, Emma, and Slate creeks on the Middle Fork. During this period gold production totalled \$800,000 and the white population peaked at 350. This gave rise to the village of Coldfoot at the mouth of Slate Creek, with a prosperity index of two stores, seven saloons, and ten prostitutes. (There were never any churches of record in the Koyukuk region north of the Episcopal Mission at Allakaket on the Arctic Circle.)

In 1905 a spurious bonanza on the John River brought in some 400 transients, but a strike on Chandalar River in 1906 nearly emptied the Koyukuk of population. The third and biggest "gold rush" was during the period 1908-1914, when genuine strikes were made at bedrock on Nolan Creek and Hammond River, tributaries of Middle Fork. Gold production exceeded \$2,500,000. Food, clothing, machinery, and whiskey were unloaded for both of these diggings at Wrights' roadhouse at the mouth of Wiseman Creek. In 1911 the town of Wrights (later called Wiseman) sprang up at this point. At the climax of its prosperity, in 1915, it achieved a record population of 300 whites and 75 natives, whose mode of life can best be imagined from two vital statistics for that year -- 60 tons of whiskey and 14 fulltime prostitutes.

After 1916 things went progressively downhill. The mines faltered, high wages generated by World War I attracted the miners to more civilized parts, and, worst of all, Prohibition went into effect.

An abortive effort to launch big-time corporate mining in the 1920s at Hammond River and Nolan Creek, foiled in part by low-water that forbade river transport of heavy equipment, ended the bonanza phase of Koyukuk mining (Alaska Weekly: various issues 1926-1927).

From the beginning, the U.S. Geological Survey had paced the prospectors and miners, sending major expeditions into the Koyukuk and Brooks Range from 1899 through the mid-1920s. These explorations--and the later ones of pioneer biologists and anthropologists--from an epic chapter in the history of northern Alaska exploration and science (Brooks: 286-289, Olaus Murie notes; e.g., Ingstad).

There was one last historic phase in the Koyukuk, that is, before the conservation and economic developments of recent years. Between 1929 and 1938 the noted outdoorsman and conservationist Bob Marshall, on his own initiative, visited the Upper Koyukuk intermittently and in two books revealed to the world two of its long-hidden yet fascinating aspects. One of these was the village of Wiseman itself, which then still had a mixed population of about 100 whites and Eskimos. Marshall's in-depth sociological study of an isolated village in a supposedly uninhabitable part of the world (Arctic Village) was a Literary Guild selection in 1933, and is a classic heart-warming study of human behavior and mutual acculturation in a hostile environment. It is rendered poignant by the fact that in 1968 a NPS study team found that Wiseman was a semi-ghost town, with a total population of ten old sourdoughs. (The post office was discontinued in 1956.)

Marshall's second book, Arctic Wilderness, is the story of his adventures in the realm of geographical discovery. Marshall claims, and there seems little reason to doubt, that the headwaters of the North Fork and Middle Fork had been seldom visited by white men, that in fact he was the first to actually set foot on much of that terrain which is dominated by an assemblage of spectacular mountain peaks. This seems borne out by the fact that much of this country was new to Marshall's companion, Ernie Johnson, long-time resident of Wiseman and the North Fork, who had a

reputation as the most experienced frontiersman in the Koyukuk. On several expeditions, at different seasons, by sled, boat, and on foot with pack horses, Marshall explored and mapped the country straddling the Arctic Divide and dominated by Mount Doonerak. He likewise ascended the Alatna to its headwaters, a region roughly equivalent in size to the State of Connecticut, which in 1931, Marshall asserted, was "almost as unknown as the geography of the moon." His glowing descriptions of this ruggedly beautiful mountain wilderness, and the exhilaration with which he made his discoveries, add an intriguing chapter to the literature of exploration. It derives importance also from the consideration that this may well have been the last sizable corner of the North American continent to be so explored and mapped (immediately above paragraphs adapted from Mattes, et al.: 9-11).

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In the long view, the failure of corporate mining in the 1920s confirmed established historical patterns of the upper Koyukuk country. Despite two interludes of excitement--the first when shallow-placers were cleaned up around 1900; the second when deep-channel drifting on Nolan Creek and Hammond River made big money in the 'teens--this was a small-scale mining district.

Outside capital was unknown until the Detroit Mining Company, largely British financed, scattered its equipment and hopes along the bars and beaches of the shallow Middle Fork in the 'twenties. And this failed experiment never revived. The still-simmering Wiseman that Bob Marshall knew cooled down in ensuing years until only a handful of subsisting sourdoughs were left to follow the all but deserted trails and creeks. A few families in Wiseman and a scattering of lone or partnered miners combined small yields of gold with furs, game, and gardens to hold on. They salvaged buildings and boilers and laboriously hauled them from claim to claim, hoping for another strike. Self-sufficiency tempered by mutual support in emergency, along with a tough durability that shrugged off weather, darkness, boredom, and hard work, marked the community of the upper Koyukuk.

Natural barriers of distance, terrain, and climate, plus the marginal economic attractions of the country blocked development of a road from the Yukon. The dearth of dollars had reduced river traffic to one small steamer from the Yukon, and horse-drawn scows above Bettles. These conditions held the land in trust and apart, its larger reaches as vacant of human signs as they had been in the eons of prehistory. The airplane eased isolation somewhat beginning in 1925, but the few primitive airstrips were hardly crowded--who could afford the \$125 fare to Fairbanks? Not until the 1968 discovery of oil at Prudhoe Bay and subsequent haul-road and pipeline construction did the upper Koyukuk face four-square the modern world, and even then some of its more reclusive inhabitants did not venture forth.

Road access opened up a new surge of mining. Heave-duty machinery ('cats and loaders) that removed overburden now became the norm rather than the exception. (only a few holdouts continued the old-style drift mining, cranking up the old boilers and hoists to thaw and tunnel through the frozen ground.) But even today, mining in the Koyukuk is mainly a family venture, confined in most places to reworking the old claims discovered by earlier generations. Historical continuity of place and attitude remains largely intact amongst the old and the young, miners and otherwise, who live there year 'round. And who greet--usually pleasantly if ambivalently--the modern transients who visit or pass through.

This summary's concentration on mining and corollary themes reflects the force that drove history in this part of the Gates region. In the other seven-eighths of the study region, mining was less important or (over most of it) nonexistent; the facts of economic geology and even greater remoteness, as on the upper Noatak, determined these graduations. Within the parkland proper, except along sections of the North Fork and its tributary Glacier River and some of the creeks that flow into in (most of them surveyed in summer 1984), the norm for historic standing structural remains, equipment, and artifacts is extreme rarity--phasing out to total absence in vast swaths of country. Prehistorically and historically, nomad or scientist, wandering from one temporary camp to another defined the dominant pattern of human activity in the Brooks Range, as it still does today. A few trappers' line cabins--most in ruins--may be seen along the south flank of the range in forested areas, along with a few postwar hunting cabins and camps lost amidst the expanse of valleys and mountains.

For conventional field history, then, the kind that leaves discernable sites on the landscape, the mining history on North Fork is about all we've got. At least 95 percent of the parkland's historical fabric is centered in the restricted area delineated on the accompanying historical base map, and almost all of that fabric relates to mining. Thus the concentration on the mining theme in this summary, which is designed as context from the individual site write-ups that follow. Other important themes relevant to both this sector and the larger region, here touched upon only lightly or implicitly, will be developed and integrated in the basic narrative. Many of these themes concern intangibles--cultural and social matters, geographic and scientific exploration, frontier community and institution building, the harvest of material and spiritual sustenance from a remote part of the earth. Given the physical character of the Gates region and the congressional charge to maintain it, these themes are central, though (in fact, because) they have left hardly a mark on the landscape. In this perspective, marginal mining in one small sector of the park, despite its dominant weight of physical remains, is a subordinate part of the park's history.

COLDFOOT
An Historic Mining Community
on the
Middle Fork of the Koyukuk River, Alaska

DRAFT

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1982

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Abstract

Coldfoot, Alaska, was the center of the northernmost gold mining activity in the United States during 1902, after gold was discovered near the Middle Fork of the Koyukuk River. A short-lived community, it is an example of the small-scale gold rush town which existed in Alaska at the turn of the century. Deserted shortly after 1906 due to a strike made approximately 15 miles to the north near Wiseman, the locale once boasted a populace of miners, prostitutes, lawyers, judges, native families, and assorted characters, which made it a true community. Although only two structures remain at the site today, Coldfoot once had saloons, restaurants, cabins, a jail, houses of ill-repute, stores, a post office, and barns.

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INTRODUCTION

Coldfoot is located on the southern flanks of the Brooks Range along the Middle Fork of the Koyukuk River (Fig. 1). It is within the Utility Corridor, a strip of land withdrawn and designated as a utility and transportation corridor by Public Land Order 5150 in 1971 (BLM 1980:14). The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is responsible for management and protection of this site and other cultural resources in the Corridor.

During the spring of 1970, the Department of Anthropology at the University of Alaska completed a literature survey of archeological sites along the pipeline route (Alexander et al. 1970). However, this report did not include any mention of historical sites along the route.

Although the University was contracted to do archeological work along the pipeline right-of-way as early as 1969, the Coldfoot construction camp, the access road to the camp, and the airstrip adjacent to the site were built prior to the arrival of the first full-time archeologist in the area. Alyeska archeologist Bob Gal arrived on the site in May of 1974 and made the following notes (GL 1976:45-46):

Walked out... to the area between the airstrip and the river. This area is the old townsite of Coldfoot. It is in the vicinity of the only standing cabin. There are at least 8 cabin foundations removed (probably burned) by the last inhabitants of the site. There are a number of dump areas and also some depressions which may be house foundations but might also be areas from which sod for banking and roofing was cut. In one of the dump areas someone had been digging bottles-- a few unbroken ones were left there but there were quite a few broken ones. There is no real danger to the site yet as the ground is frozen solid just below the moss-- but someone had been digging little by little.

A chance conversation with Roy Hartmen, who worked as a laborer during construction of the Coldfoot camp access road in 1972 revealed the following information. He had been working with a crew on the road when the bulldozer went over a "peculiar mound". Although nothing was found in it the crew's curiosity resulted in a search of the surrounding area. The search led to a discovery of five or six more grave-shaped mounds to the north of the dozed area, some of which appeared to have weathered wooden crosses near them. No other mounds were found to the south nor along the remainder of the road (Hartmen, personal communication, 1981)

Charlie Breck, a resident of Wiseman, informed BLM archeologists that he had cleaned up the old Coldfoot graveyard and constructed a spruce pole

fence around it some years prior to pipeline activity (Breck, Personal communication, 1981)

Mike Miscovich, a miner at Coldfoot, claimed that he had constructed the existing birch fence around the cemetery and that Alyeska personnel erected a sign over the gate (Miscovich, personal communication, 1981).

The existing birch fence is now falling down, as is the Alyeska-erected sign. There are a few spruce poles lying around on the ground about the cemetery; these were originally thought by BLM archeologists to be the remains of clearing done during construction of the access road. However, they are probably remains of the fence erected by Charlie Breck.

In 1975, research into cultural resources along the proposed Alaskan Natural Gas Routes by Iroquois Research resulted in publication of the following commonly held opinion (Humphrey et al. 1976: 63-46):

This region of Alaska has a vast history. Coldfoot and Wiseman for example are prime examples of gold mining towns that sprung up during booms... Coldfoot is reported to have been completely overrun by Alyeska construction camp.

A Bureau of Outdoor Recreation publication on historic trails also states (1977:155): "A pipeline construction camp is located on the site of Coldfoot and no historic buildings remain."

After completion of the pipeline, the Haul Road (since renamed the Dalton Highway), which was built to Alaska State Department of Transportation (DOT/PF) standards by Alyeska, was turned over to state management. As a result of public pressure, the Dalton Highway -- formerly closed to all but mining and industrial access north of the Yukon River -- was, in 1980, opened to the public as far north as the Dietrich River during the summer months. In 1979, BLM began planning for the establishment of public service areas along the road. As part of this planning process, BLM archeologists began to inventory the known cultural resources in the proposed public service areas. This inventory was followed by a survey of previously unexamined areas together with a field check of suspected discrepancies in the existing data base. This research provided the basis for management recommendations for protection of cultural resources in the Corridor. The historic Coldfoot site lies on the edge of the proposed public service area designated at Coldfoot and was included in the BLM fieldwork undertaken during the summer of 1980 (Fig.2).

ENVIRONMENTAL BACKGROUND

Location

Coldfoot is located in the SE1/4 NE1/4 of Sec. 16, T. 28N., R. 12W., Fairbanks Meridian. The site is situated on the south bank of the

confluence of Slate Creek and the Middle Fork of the Koyukuk River (Fig.2). Access to the site is provided by the Koyukuk River, the Dalton Highway, an airstrip built by Alyeska to supply the construction camp, and the remnants of an old winter trail built in 1900 by the Alaska Road Commission from Coldfoot to Chandalar (BOR 1977:142). Coldfoot lies at an elevation of 1,286 feet above sea level.

Climate

The climate of the region is typically subarctic continental with long, dark winters which begin with freeze-up in October and end when the river ice begins breaking up in May. Winter temperatures range for extended periods of -60 degrees F. to -40 Degrees F. and to a high of 18 degrees F. Temperatures as low as -80 degrees F. have been recorded several times in the last few years. There is no direct sunlight from the first week in December until the first week in January. The summer frostfree season may extend from the first of June until the end of August with temperature ranges from 26 degrees F. up into the 70's and occasionally as high as 89 degrees F. Average precipitation is about 11 inches, which includes as much as 83 inches of snow. Continuous daylight in the summer extends from mid-May to the beginning of August (BOR 1977:144; Selkregg n.d.:21-22).

Flora and Fauna

The vegetation in the area is predominantly an Upland-Spruce Hardwood Forest (Selkregg n.d.:191). This is a fairly dense forest of white spruce, birch, aspen, and balsam poplar with black spruce replacing white in poorly drained areas and on north facing slopes. Typical undergrowth consists of mosses, grasses, willow, alder, ferns, roses, high bush cranberry, lingonberry, raspberry, blueberry, currant, Labrador tea, and horsetail. Localized areas vary from closed coniferous forests to open mixed woodlands (Selkregg n.d.:191; Viereck and Dyrness 1980:5).

Fauna in the Coldfoot area is typical for the interior and south flanks of the Brooks Range. Large game includes caribou, which migrate through the area, moose, grizzly bear and black bear. Furbearers include marten, otter, fox, beaver, muskrat, mink, wolf, and wolverine. Numerous bird species are present, including seasonal songbirds, ptarmigan, spruce grouse, ruffed grouse, raven, and birds of prey. Snowshoe hare, squirrel, vole and other small rodents inhabit the region. The Koyukuk River is a spawning ground for chum and king salmon and also contains burbot, Dolly Varden, grayling, and other species.

Geology

The bedrock in the area is comprised primarily of Paleozoic limestone, shale, quartzite, slate and schist (Wahrhaftig 1965A22). The surficial deposits in the Coldfoot region consist of undifferentiated alluvium, fan deposits from Slate Creek and Clara Creek, outwash from the Itkillik Phase I Glaciation (24,000 B.P. to 17,000 B.P.), and Itkillik Phase II drift probably close to (14,000 B.P.) (Porter and Hamilton 1975). According to the geologic map prepared by Hamilton (1979, the historic community of Coldfoot, as well as the Mining Site, are located on fan deposits along Slate Creek. Several small mining pits were found south of the Coldfoot-Venetie Trail on an inner moraine of Itkillik I drift (Hamilton 1979)

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PREHISTORY

It is impossible to make any but the most general statements about man's prehistoric use of the Coldfoot area. Some specific information has come from study of the archeological sites found along the Middle Fork of the Koyukuk, but the majority of our cultural-historical data comes from the ethnographic literature.

Neither of the two sites nearest to Coldfoot (WIS-013, five miles south, and WIS 014, five miles north) are more than surface finds with no known cultural affiliations and no datable material. (Cook 1977:310-326). Fetter (Fetter and Shinkwin 1978:24-43) analyzed the collection from WIS-006, approximately eight miles south of Coldfoot near Cathedral Mountain. Although there are no radio carbon dates from this site, several of the artifacts found may relate typologically to materials from other sites such as the Kayak assemblage at Anaktuvuk Pass (Fetter and Shinkwin 1978:30; cf. Campbell 1959) and materials from Onion Portage (Anderson 1968).

Based on the literature, the argument for a Kutchin and probably a Dihai Kutchin occupation of the Middle Fork of the Koyukuk is strong. Hall (1969) argues for a Kutchin occupation of the eastern and central Brooks Range. This viewpoint is based on oral history and data from archeological, linguistic, and ethnological sources. According to Gubser (1969:44):

... the first accounts concerning the Kutchin refer to a village of a hundred persons or more between the heads of the Kobuk and Noatak rivers around Walker Lake, or perhaps a few miles north. According to the Eskimos, some of whom knew the Indian languages, the uyagamiut spoke a language different from that of the Koyukon Indians.

Gubser (1969:440) goes on to say the "The Chandalar or Kutchin are called uyagimiut (literally, inhabitants or rocks) by the Nunamiut because they often lived in stone houses." And they referred to the Koyukon Prehistoric inhabitants of the Koyukuk River] as "tagagavik (travel by canoe)".

McKenna, who did ethnographic fieldwork among the Chandalar Kutchin at Arctic Village to the east, states the following:

The term Dihai Kutchin may be freely translated as "Those who dwell farthest away," or more accurately, "Those who dwell farthest away in a downriver direction:...The emphasis, however, should be on "farthest away: rather than on "downriver", for the Dihai Kutchin, like the Chandalar were distinctly mountain people and not riverine (1965:23).

The only actual references to the prehistoric occupation of the Coldfoot area also came from McKennan (1965:23-24) and lead to the conclusion that the Dihai Kutchin were in fact the earliest known inhabitants of the area:

Their territory included the Middle and North forks of the Chandalar River and the Headwaters of the Koyukuk River. Like the Chandalar Kutchin and Dihai were in contact with the Eskimos, who gradually enroached upon the Dihai Kutchin, and forced the surviving Indians to take refuge in the Chandalar Kutchin territory, where they intermarried with the latter people. The Eskimo settlements of "Little Squaw" on the North Fork of the Chandalar and at Coldfoot on the Middle Fork of the Koyukuk River. are said to be in the heart of territory formerly inhabited by the Dihai Kutchin. Native tradition has it that the Dihai Kutchin originally came from the Tanana River, whence they made their way down the Yukon River, establishing themselves on its headwaters.

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HISTORY

The earliest information concerning the presence of white men on the upper reaches of the Koyukuk comes from Allen's (1885:417) account of his journey in 1885:

The engineer of the steamboat Yukon, a Canadian, informed me that he had been to the Koyukuk in winter via the trail from Nuklukyet. I afterwards learned that not only he but Mr. Mayo, a fur trader, had been to the small village on the Konootena, a tributary of the Koyukuk, but no further. It is hardly probable that any white man has, prior to our journey, seen that portion of the Koyukuk above the abandoned trading stations.

Mr. Mayo was undoubtedly Alfred Mayo, a partner with Arthur Harper and Jack McQuesten in trading on the Yukon River. Hulley (1970:228) has an additional reference of interest:

In the middle years of the 1880's natives from the Koyukuk Basin had shown Harper small gold nuggets obtained along the tributaries of the Koyukuk River.

Allen and Fickett left the Yukon and traveled overland to the Koyukuk and up it as far as the "Ascheeshna" or John River in the summer of 1885 (Allen 1885:455-460).

In February of 1886, Lt. George Stoney explored the headwaters of the Kobuk (Stoney 1900:573):

After reaching the headwaters of the Putnam [Kobuk] I crossed to the northward over a pass of gradual ascent for two miles, then down a halfmile to a branch of the Al-lash-ook [Alatna] River, a tributary of the Koyukuk or Tug-ga-rag-a-wick, rising at the foot of the pass.

According to Archdeacon Hudson Stuck (1919:324-325):

Allen in 1885 deemed himself the first white man that had ever been on this part of the Koyukuk, a matter in which explorers sometimes delude themselves, but the pioneer prospector was before him, if a tradition among the oldtime white men be true, and Hughes Bar in this vicinity is the site of the first gold-working on the river and was named for a man, who it is said, came up a year before Allen. In this Indian River Camp behind Hughes City the miners say they found signs of earlier working, quite forgotten even of miners' tradition.

Although Hughes was founded in 1910 as a steamboat landing and the Northern terminus of a sled trail from Tanana (Heiner 1977:265), there is another tradition of mining in the area according to Henry Beatus, Sr. (Madison and Yarber 1980:13):

The boom town in Hughes was in the 20s. That's when the gold mining first started. Utopia Creek is the place where they found gold first. After they mined that out, they moved further on up the creek to a branch named Indian Creek. Where Alfred Issac discovered gold. He was an Indian so I guess that's how it got its name.

Orth (1971:454) states that Indian Creek had been a local name reported in 1913 by H.M. Eakin of the U.S.G.S.

Hudson Stuck again provides useful information on the early history of the Koyukuk (1917:350-351):

When Lieutenant Allen started on his exploring journey in 1885 he picked up an old Scotchman named John Bremner at the mouth of the Copper River. This man became a member of his party and accompanied him to the Tanana and Koyukuk Rivers, leaving the party only when its work of exploration was done and the expedition was returned to the Yukon on its way home. Bremner had been impressed by the upper Koyukuk country as prospecting ground and remained on the Yukon that he might visit it again. This he did in company with a partner named Johnson in the summer of 1886 and again in the summer of 1887, going to the site of Bettles and ascending the stream that is confluent with Koyukuk near that point, which Allen called the "Fickett" River, after one of his military commands.

On returning from this third visit to the upper Koyukuk, as he was rowing his boat to the bank at Kolmikaket, a native village a little below the cut-off, now abandoned, Bremner was shot and killed by an Indian and his boat and possessions were stolen.

Stuck goes on to relate that the New Racket and the Prospector, under the command of a group of miners Ted by Hank Wright, ascended the Koyukuk to Dolmikaket in the Summer or fall of 1888 in order to hang the murderer (1917:351).

Allen, whom I would suspect to be a more knowledgeable source on Bremner's activities, has a different version (1885:454):

Fickett was the only member of the original party to accompany me. John Bremner and Peder Johnson chose to remain on the Yukon to continue prospecting during the remainder of the summer. They contemplated leaving the country the following year....

Bremner and Johnson did not leave, however, but prospected on the upper Koyukuk during the succeeding summer. "Bremner encountered some Indians

on the Hog River who murdered him in 1891" (Marshall 1933:30). Regardless of the date or location of Bremner's death, it is possible that he found gold on the Hogatza River where mining operations have continued to this day.

According to George Bettles (Carlson 1973:2) a trader who established the trading post and community of Bettles [Old Bettles], gold was first discovered at Tramway Bar [on the Middle Fork of the Koyukuk], Evans Bar and at Hughes Bar in 1890 (Fig. 1).

In that year [1891] Johnnie Folger made his first journey to the Koyukuk, and for four years with a series of different partners he mined the placers on the South Fork, Chapman Creek, and Tramway Bar. The first gold in paying quantities was discovered at the latter place in 1893 (Marshall 1933:330).

George Bettles, author of the article "News from the Koyukuk River" in Vol. 1, No. 1, Jan. 1, 1893 of the Yukon Press wrote that "There are at present twenty-two miners on the Koyukuk..." (Wickersham 1938:145-146). It was also in 1893 that N.V. Hendricks went up the Koyukuk with a small steamer and considerable gold was mined (Hulley 1970:228).

Stuck (1917:352) claims that "Chapman, of Rampart" was the discoverer of coarse gold in the Koyukuk at Tramway Bar. Chapman Creek, which flows into the Middle Fork of the Koyukuk bears the name reported by G.H. Wonson, master of the steamer Dorothy, on his manuscript map of the Koyukuk, published in 1899 (Orth 1971:200).

After the 1898 stampede to the Klondike, the Koyukuk received an over-flow of roughly 1,000 individuals. They rapidly established a series of transient communities along the river when they found themselves caught in the winter freeze-up. After break-up, probably fewer than 100 individuals remained (Marshall 1933:31).

These temporary communities included such places as Peavy, Arctic, and Bettles, and latter which undoubtedly remained due to the presence of Bettles' trading post.

In 1899, Knute Ellingson made a strike on Myrtle Creek, a tributary of Slate Creek. Further discoveries of gold on Emma and Gold Creek resulted in a small rush to the Slate Creek Mining district, located some 70 miles upstream from the store at Bettles (Marshall 1933:39).

A miners' meeting record from the Tramway Bar, in the possession of Harry Leonard of Wiseman (personal communication, 1981), lists claims staked throughout the Middle Fork Country in 1899. Numerous claims are recorded at "Slate Creek or Slate River" which is interchangeably called "Big Joe Creek or Big Joe River".

Rumors of strikes ran rampant over the country and resulted in gold-seekers coming and going with each piece of news. Word has reached Judge Wickersham at Circle City that there was need of his services at Coldfoot. In the winter of 1900-1901 he was preparing for the journey to Koyukuk when the following incident occurred (Wickersham 1938:166):

Harry St. George and a dozen other Koyukukers had arrived and advised the judge that in the next two weeks Coldfoot and Chandalar, like Ft. Yukon and Circle, would go to the Tanana strike, over the snow trails. The very litigants who were so insistent a few weeks ago upon holding a term of court in the Koyukuk, had now quite their claims there, and in company with the "jumpers" were en route to the Tanana diggings. All urged the abandonment of the trip to the more northern camp and suggested that we go together over the mountain trail to the new strike --- and it was so ordered. Coldfoot and the Chandalar were neglected --- Duty had changed her call to the Tanana.

And so the course of history was changed. But apparently news of the Tanana strike did not interest everyone on the Koyukuk, perhaps only those who could not find ground to stake or wages to earn. Activity at Coldfoot was just beginning.

Among published sources, Robert Marshall appears to be the established reference on the naming of Coldfoot (1933:39):

As early as 1899 the town of Slate Creek was started at the mouth of the creek which bears that name. In the summer of 1900 one of the waves of green stampedeers got as far up the Koyukuk at this point, got cold feet, turned around, and departed. This incident was enough to change the first unromantic appellation, Slate Creek, to the settlement of Coldfoot.

However, George Hill, whose father Arthur Hill once owned property at Coldfoot (State of Alaska 1:485-98) and later ran the roadhouse at Wiseman, presented a different version of Coldfoot's naming (Zwingleberg 1973):

His father was one of the original settlers to cross the Chilkoot Pass. He came to Alaska on 1897. Hill and his mother joined him in Bettles [sic]. Later they moved to Coldfoot, an area his father named. "He named it that because his feet were COLD!" Hill laughed.

The aforementioned miners' meeting record (Leonard, personal communication, 1981) listed several entries of claims at the mouth of Slate Creek as early as 1900. One of those bore the name "Calhoun". Leonard also has in his possession a diary kept by Calhoun and his son, miners who came to the Koyukuk from the Klondike, but apparently the entries quit after they arrived at Coldfoot (Leonard, personal communication, 1981).

An entry in the Koyukuk Recorder's Book lists a "Calhoun" as owner of a lot in the townsite of Coldfoot (State of Alaska 1:315).

James E. Mitchell filed a plat for the townsite of Coldfoot, Alaska (State of Alaska 22:13) with the Koyukuk District Recorder on May 31, 1901 (Fig. 3). Although the record for an application by Mitchell for a trade and manufacturing site was not found, there are a considerable number of entries involving land transactions by him beginning in January of 1902 (State of Alaska 22:414-416). In February of 1902 Mitchell sold "An undivided 1/4 interest in and to the town plot of Coldfoot containing 160 acres of land located by James E. Mitchell, under the lawn governing the sale of U.S. lands for trade and manufacturing purposes," to one Harry Hamburger for \$300.00 (State of Alaska 22:460).

Interest in the upper Koyukuk picked up during the winter of 1901-1902. Kitchener (1954:156-159) made the following observations:

... nearly 400 miners left Dawson by dog team for the Koyukuk. They traveled by ice up the Chandalar River which empties into the Yukon below Fort Yukon, bound for the Slate Creek diggings. Newcomers and their needs aggravated supply problems. Customarily the Company [Northern Commercial Company] delivered to such creeks as could be reached, but the miners also came to the town Bettles, once a year, staying about a month as they readied for the open-cut work carried on in the summer.

Things were obviously becoming confusing for those with an interest in the country. On February 21, 1902, F.G. Pickarts, G.C. Bettles, and C.A. Pickarts, of the illustrious Bettles' store fame, also made an application for a trade and manufacuring site at Coldfoot. Although this application was recorded on February 26, 1903, (State of Alaska 22:493-494) apparently the locators did not make much of a legal attempt to establish their claim, perhaps because they couldn't.

The following record of a Miners' Meeting is quoted almost in its entirety since it clearly demonstrates some of the major problems and potential solutions confronting Coldfoot residents at the time (State of Alaska 22:527-529).

In response to a call issued in the usual way about seventy-five miners gathered at Plummer's Bunkhouse' Coldfoot, Alaska, on Feb. 22nd 1902....A.B. Brewster was elected Chairman and Jas. Adamson secy of the meeting...

The following resolution (No. 1) was proposed and carried: Whereas, the books kept by the local Recorders have been called in by the Commissioner and have been placed in a state of disuse, and Whereas, no substitue has been provided for these books, but a running record of all transactions, including deeds, bills of sale, proof of labor,

notices of location, marriage contracts and in short, every instrument presented for record, has been kept in a single journal with a single index, and Whereas, under these conditions it is next to impossible to obtain any information regarding mining ground located; Therefore, be it resolved that this Convention petition, and it does by the passage of this resolution so petition his Honor, the Judge of the Third Judicial District of Alaska, that; First, Provision be made for the copying of the records of the several local mining districts into the proper books before any new records be entered therein. Second, Provision be also made for copying all entries made in the book at the present being used by the Commissioner before the current records be entered in the respective books to be provided for the purpose. Third, That these books be so indexed that reference may be made to any mining claim by number of claim and name of Creek, Bar, or Bench. Be it further resolved that it is the sense of this Convention that the interest of this Mining District can best be served by a salaried Recorder instead of one whose income is dependent on fees collected by him...

The following resolution (No. 3) was proposed and carried: Whereas it is of the first importance that food furnished to prospectors and miners, who have to transport it, by their own efforts, great distances, under the most trying circumstances and climatic conditions, be pure and wholesome, and Whereas, food of the worst kind, in all stages of decay, and which could not be sold elsewhere, has been shipped into this region by unscrupulous corporations and private individuals, and Whereas, our experience has been that a conviction under the present law is almost impossible; Therefore, be it resolved that this Convention petition, and it does by the passage of this resolution the United States Pure Food Commission or the Attorney General of the United States to use their influence in having the law so amended, First: It shall be unlawful to expose for sale unwholesome or impure food with or without the consent of the Purchaser. Also that a Food Inspector be appointed for Koyukuk Precinct, Third Judicial District of Alaska.

The following resolution (No.4) was proposed and carried: Whereas the interests of the Koyukuk Mining District demand more frequent communication with the outside world, and Whereas, there is no reason why the mail may not be transported at any time of the year, by sled in the winter and pack animal in summer, between Coldfoot and the Yukon River. Therefore, Be it resolved that this Convention petition the Postmaster General of the United States to provide for a monthly mail service, or oftener, of 1st and 2nd class matter between the Yukon River and Coldfoot....

The impact of the miners' petitions can only be gauged in an indirect fashion. Although no Recorder's Books were found for the Koyukuk with entries prior to 1902, by the looks of the following ones and the difficulty of extracting information from them, it appears that the first part of resolution (No. 1) had no effect at all. Land transactions, mechanic's liens, marriage and divorce contracts, and mining claims are well-mixed.

However, Resolution (no. 4) and the subsequent petition for mail service apparently met with some success. Coldfoot's first postmistress, Jane Durie, was appointed on April 28, 1902, followed by Agnes E. Hammer, F.E. Howard, Jessie Howard, and Brundenell E. Plummer. The post office at Coldfoot was discontinued and the mail was sent on to Nolan on May 31, 1912 (Ricks 1965:14).

It is difficult to find fault in the miners' complaint concerning the problems surrounding "food of the worst kind". Exactly who the "unscrupulous corporations and private individuals" perpetuating such conditions were, will perhaps remain unknown. Whether a result of the petition and humanitarian reasons or for purely commercial gain, the Northern Commercial Company decided it was about time to move upriver. In an account by Kitchener (1954:159-160) the Company is given much credit for founding Coldfoot:

In the summer of 1902, Richmond got permission from St. Michael to establish a small branch store at Coldfoot, handy the the mines 75 miles upriver. R.D. Menzies, one of the ex-Dawson miners, was put in charge. Merchandise was laboriously forwarded on two small boats pulling flat scows, arrangements soon improved upon by one of the boatmen, Billy Glen. Saving the time-consuming journey from the mines into Bettles, the Coldfoot store was an immediate success. A small town began to spring up beneath the Northern Commercial flag and a tremendous strike the first summer looked good indeed for Coldfoot.

Although this was a very noble account it was undoubtedly a bit exaggerated. Unfortunately, the presence of the N.C. Company did not totally solve the food problem, as an entry from the Bettles' log for August 29th, 1902 indicates:

Tom Carson (Carpenter) who left for Dawson via the Chandalar Route was poisoned (it is supposed by some canned meats) and died from its effects, the remains were taken to Fort Yukon by his companions and buried there, Carson left Coldfoot 3 weeks ago.

In addition to the Koyukuk District Recorder's Books much of the information on activities in the Coldfoot area was gleaned from a logbook that recorded comings and goings from Bettles and the upper river which is in the possession of Tishu Ulen, a former resident of Wiseman. In more than one instance, the combination of information from both sources helped piece together a fairly clear account of life at Coldfoot in 1902.

The townsite plat for Coldfoot proper was not the only one for the area which was found in the Koyukuk District Records. A plat for the "Hotfoot Addition to Coldfoot" (Fig. 4) was "Surveyed and Platted by J.A. Cleveland and Joe Egler for and in behalf of Lot Owners May 1902" (State of Alaska 25:144-145). Cleveland, a somewhat prominent figure in the history of Coldfoot, also appears to have made his mark elsewhere in Alaska. He was on the scene in Skagway as early as September of 1897 and was co-owner of the Northern Trading and Transportation Company which specialized in freighting goods between Dyea and Skagway (Snow and Spude 1980:2-4).

J.A. "Doc" Cleveland and his partner, C.W. Young, had their pack trains at Skagway when the first stampeders landed July 27, 1898. Cleveland gained unfortunate notoriety when he charged \$14.00 to haul the corpse of a stamper into the tent town--men angered already at high prices held a mass meeting and ordered Cleveland out of camp. He and Young moved to Dyea, helped lay out that town, and prospered as freighters, operators of Archie Burn's Summit hoist, and as scowmen. Their Dyea & Yukon Transportation Company dominated the early freight contracts. Cleveland also owned the Mascot Saloon which he claimed on September 13, 1897. He later became praised by the Skagway press and earned local applause for helping place the driftwood facade on the A B Hall. Cleveland continued to carry on the freighting business until competition from the White Pass and Yukon Route closed his operation. Last mention of him by the Skagway press is his departure down the Yukon with a fleet of scows in 1900 (Snow and Spude 1980:2-3).

Cleveland's "departure down the Yukon" in 1900 gave him plenty of time to arrive in Coldfoot by 1902. This experience in laying out Dyea must have stood him in good stead for providing a similar service at Coldfoot.

Whether Judson A. "Doc" Cleveland was a medical doctor or not will probably remain unknown but he certainly acquired some medical experience, perhaps from such incidents as that recorded in the Bettles' log for May 20, 1902: "Coldfoot News--W.D. (Red) Daily stabbed Wm. Carroll across the breast, Red is in Jail, Carroll is getting along nicely--Dr. Cleveland put in 21 stitches."

He seems to have been around when things were happening and gave an "Eye Witness statement" of the sad happening on July 1, 1902 for the Bettles' log:

Dr. Cleveland and others left here this morning about 8 o'clock for Coldfoot, with a scow loaded with freight. Burt (Bartou) was driving, one of the mules, in crossing the mouth of the John River, Burt was swimming across with the lines in hand, in some unaccountable manner he lost his hold, perhaps he was frightened, (?) the

Mule being swept under the water, and as Burt was trying to gain the shore, he suddenly disappeared under the water, and never was seen again...

It appears that Cleveland moved to Wiseman between 1902 and 1903 as that is his residence given on a land transaction at Coldfoot at the time (State of Alaska 4:121). A "F.A. Cleveland", "J.A. Cleveland" and "Dad Cleveland" are mentioned in references from the Iditarod Pioneer from 1910 through 1912 (Spude, written communication, 1981). The Cleveland name appears here in relation to activities involving road building, construction and the Clark Lumber Co. If, indeed, these are all the same man, the entry from March 27, 1914, was the last for "Doc" Cleveland (Spude, written communication 1981):

Frank A Cleveland, formerly with Clark Lumber Co. died at Portland February 26, of stomach cancer. Married Mrs. Annie Clifton of Iditarod recently.

J.A. Cleveland was not Coldfoot's only character. In fact, in the course of recorded events surrounding the community it is sometimes very difficult to determine which of the citizenry is "respectable" and which constitute the less esteemed element. The following account of events leads one to suspect that perhaps only the native inhabitants of the Koyukuk District contributed to the former class, at least if judged by the lack of information on them in the Bettles log. On March 1st, 1902, "Argo Bill [William Henderson] made a demand from Richmond for meat he left at the Warehouse [at Coldfoot], which was refused him, henceforce Gun Play by Argo Bill, Bill got the Meat." Over a month later Argo Bill was arrested and charged with assault with a deadly weapon upon Richmond of the N.C. Company. A week after the arrest, on April 20th, Argo Bill was on his way to Coldfoot from Bettles so he was apparently not incarcerated at that time. In the meantime, the crime must have set off some ripples in Coldfoot:

Judge D.A. McKenzie and attorney Salsberry had a fistic contest today at Coldfoot in which his honor was knocked out in one round, this set to was caused over a controversy between the principals in the Argo Bill Case, the attorney was arrested and put in Jail, for 2 hours when the Judge ruseled Bond for the Prisoner, Bond \$500.00.

Attorney Salisbury was acquitted in a jury trail on the following day. It appears that Richmond has also gone to Bettles for the duration for the log notes that he returned to Bettles on the 25th, being unable to reach Coldfoot due to overflows on the river. Judge McKenzie discharged Argo Bill the next day since "Prosecuting Witness Richmond" failed to appear at trail. One is lead to believe that Justice definitely ran in favor of Argo Bill when the last entry concerning the case is revealed on May 4, 1902:

Richmond reports that Judge McKenzie assessed him \$5.00 and costs for contempt of Court for not appearing in the Argo Bill Case, also charged him with Costs in the same case, the total amounting to \$318.00, Richmond appealed the case.

One wonders what the results of the appeal were although it does sound as if Argo Bill triumphed. If nothing else, he "got the Meat". It is also understandable that Attorney Salisbury was possibly justified in his feeling for choosing to express his dissatisfaction with court procedure outside of the legal system.

Apparently Argo Bill's reputation with firearms long preceded this particular incident. Carl Frank, a long-time resident of the Koyukuk offered the following reminiscence from his earlier days on the river (Marshall 1933:32):

I got tangled up with Argo Bill as a partner. I had a hell of a time with him. He was a tough fellow. He always want to shoot the gun. He growl: "You do what I say or I blow out your brains." I don't understand much English in them days, but I understand that.

Later Argo Bill live at Beaver. Schneider (1976:274) states:

Many of the Whites who settled in Beaver were disillusioned miners who came to live in the village either permanently, or long enough to earn money to finance more prospecting.

Schneider goes on to state (1976:374):

John Barker, Brown, Argo Bill, Lynn Shrt, and Manual Mellow were also living in the area [in 1910]. These White men were involved in a combination of trapping, woodcutting and prospecting.

Judging by the entries in the Bettles' log, the non-law abiding element of Coldfoot provide the most news, as is true in Alaska even today. Coldfoot's U.S. Deputy Marshal Johnson was kept busy during 1902.

All of the following information comes from the Bettles' log. On April 12, "Marshal Johnson went to Bergman to get James Duke who escaped out of prison several days ago." It appears that Marshal Johnson got his man, at least temporarily, but on the 16th Duke escaped from the Marshal before they reached Coldfoot. Johnson finally left for Coldfoot on the 22nd with the recaptured prisoner. During the week of May 22, 1902 two crimes occurred: "Gowens [McGowan?] stole a poke form Vern Casley containing 87.00 dollars, Gowens was arrested and lodged in Jail", and, at the same time the previously mentioned incident occurred in which W.J. "Red" Daily stabbed William Carroll, which landed Dailey in jail. The three must have found the summer in Coldfoot's new jail tiresome for

on August 29, 1902 the "Prisoners broke Jail at Coldfoot this evening, McGowan has been recaptured--Duke and Red are still at liberty..." No further mention was made of the escape although a "Gowans" is mentioned as being employed on the Steam Launch Nina on June 1, 1903.

Some of the illegal activities did not result in such satisfactory endings. On September 28, 1902 "Barber Andrews was arrested for being implicated in stealing a Poke worth \$300.00 from Rooney at Coldfoot." Is this what made Andrews take such drastic measures on Oct. 2? "Andrews the barber committed suicide the 30th Sept. by tying to rock around his neck and jumping into the Koyukuk River in front of Coldfoot. Cause unknown at present sitting."

Perhaps Andrews was buried in the Coldfoot cemetery. According to Mita Lord, a resident of Coldfoot from 1915 to 1928 when she was a child (personal communication, 1981), two prospectors who drowned in the Koyukuk, as well as Susie McNeil, were buried there. The number of graves in the Coldfoot Cemetery is not easy to determine from surface examinations due to the indefinite outlines of the individual mounds and the unevenness of the ground.

There were several women at Coldfoot during the course of its existence although few have left a historical record of their presence with the exception of Maude West who purchased a lot and presumably a cabin together with Annie Buden on the banks of the river in September of 1902. Although it may not be fair to prejudge the possible source of Maude's livelihood in Coldfoot, the following series of events does look suspicious. There are two entries in the Bettles' log for May 20, 1902. The first states that "Billy Devine broke Jim Graham's jaw in a fight, Devine was arrested and fined \$20.00 and costs," and the second says "Jim Graham presented Maude with a pair of black eyes." One is lead to question the reason for the fight and then wonder why both incidents occurred on the same day and are mentioned together in the log. The following week both Maude and Billy Devine were in Bettles. Devine went to work as a deckhand on the Steamboat Dietrich, down from Bergman, and, on July 20th "Billy Devine left for Nome." In August the Crocker Brothers' gasoline boat, The Chief, arrived in Bettles from Whitehorse. Maude's interest in respectability may have arrived on the Koyukuk at the same time (if one can make assumptions with no basis) for the only marriage record found for Coldfoot states that Ulysses S. Crocker married Maud Wilson on October 24, 1902. On the same date Anne Buden sold her 1/2 interest in the property to Maud West for \$200.00 (State of Alaska 1:76). The question concerning whether or not "Maud Wilson" is "Maud West" is answered in the Nov. 4, 1902 Bettles' log entry, "Maud West and Crocker were married about 10 days ago at Coldfoot."

However, a postscript provided by a conversation Marshall recorded later at Wiseman (1922:63), substantially alters the view on Maud's respectability:

Poss--When Dirty Maude married that Crocker it didn't make any more difference to her than if she'd blown her nose.

Verne--She didn't marry him. He had four or five barrels of whiskey, and that's what she married.

Poss (smiling in hazy reminiscence)--She was a tough one all right. I've seen every hooker come into the Koyukuk for thirty years, but she beat them all.

Verne--Well, one thing you got to say for her anyway. She was the only woman I ever knew could stand flatfooted and spit over her head.

The conversation perhaps indicates how biased the historical record can actually be with only a limited number of sources.

Marshall provides an additional incident concerning one of the prostitutes at Coldfoot (1933:39-40):

Fred Swift, one of the worst dare-devils, tried one night to enter a house of Lydia, fairest of all the prostitutes. Lydia was having a brief spasm of living steadily with another miner at the time, and she did not want to let Swift in. She locked the door, and Swift tried to break it down. He employed such energy that she became frightened and blazed away with her revolver, right through the door. The shot missed its mark, and Swift said in an ordinary conversational voice: "A little more to the right, Lydia." Then he jumped to the left. Lydia fired according to his new direction and Swift said calmly: "A little more to the left, Lydia," and jumped to the right. After repeating this several times he tired of it, and built a bonfire on her front porch. Finally, in frantic desperation at the thought of losing her house, Lydia allowed him to enter.

No other record was found concerning a woman by the name of "Lydia" at Coldfoot although perhaps Marshall had changed the name. But Fred Swift stayed on the Middle Fork of the Koyukuk and was later encountered in 1924 by Margaret Murie and her husband, Olaus (1979:160):

.....There appeared in the doorway of one of the cabins a tall white haired man. He called down to us:

"Come on up!"

This was Fred Swift.....he confessed to us that had he known there was a white woman coming up the bank he would have run and hidden because he "wasn't dressed up for ladies." Being from Vermont, he showed no astonishment but talked along in a steady, quiet way while he got us some dinner.....This man was a famous hunter, and he and Olaus were soon off on a long discussion of the ways of animals.

.....While we ate, our host sat on the chest and regaled us with tales of the fortunes he had made and lost since the early days; how he had gone home on a visit once,

and lost fifteen thousand dollars in a speculation, and so had come back to the Koyukuk. But not to stay! "No sir, life's too short: we work harder here for our money than anywhere, and the season is so short. Yes, I'll be hitting out pretty soon. Oh, just take a tent and a stove and the dogs, and live around like a siwash. It's awful, the way a man gets used to living up here. Look at me." I pictured the orderly New England home this adventurer had come from; he still had its mark. "you get so you don't care; there's nobody to care if you do care; you get in an awful rut, and after a while the life up here gets hold of you so you can't fit anywhere else."

There is even a record for the divorce of a Donald A. McKenzie and Marion L. McKenzie on April 24, 1902 which was witnessed by Frank Gowans and R.D. Menzie.

Marshall (1933:39-40) offers this summary of Coldfoot during 1902:

At the same time the other essential concomitants of a frontier civilization had commenced to function, so that when the peak was reached in 1902, Coldfoot boasted one gambling hole, two roadhouses, two stores, seven saloons, and ten prostitutes. But there were no churches, an indeed to this day no house of worship has ever appeared north of Allakaket...

Entries in the Bettles' log continue into 1905 but the comings and goings become more cursory and there are very few news items. Records of land transactions are also available for Coldfoot beyond that time but the emphasis and volume of recording activity shifts to Wiseman. A quote from Wickersham (1938:168) indicates that Coldfoot's peak of activity was over: "April 2, 1903...The blank recorder's books intended for Coldfoot are in our luggage and will serve Fairbanks instead."

The white man was not the only immigrant to the area. As indicated previously, the Middle Fork of the Koyukuk may have been occupied by the Dihai Kutchin and perhaps by Arctic Slope Eskimo who came over Oolah Pass to utilize the caribou and sheep resources of the valley. But there is no historical evidence that Koyukon, Kutchin, or Eskimo people were living there when the prospectors explored the Middle Fork

Schneider (1976) provides an excellent description of movement by Arctic Eskimos into the Interior bases initially on trading networks between the Indians and Eskimos. Although previous interaction and familiarity with whites (as a result of trading and whaling on the coast) undoubtedly encouraged the Eskimos to take part in mining and freighting activities, that is probably not the entire reason for the initial movement inland.

Oscar Nictune of Alatna describes movement by his people from the Kobuk at the turn of the century (Madison and Yarber 1980:14):

My grandparents, they're the ones that move over first from Kobuk. They come from the Kobuk River. They come with lots of older people, Dinuk and Duvak [Tobuk]. They want easier living, more game to hunt. Too many people in Kobuk. Nobody here in Alatna. Athabascans they're all over the Arctic City, South Fork and Big Lake. That's all. Lots of room here.

....But them old people find easy living. Lots of rabbits. Lots of fish. That's why the younger people come over.

My parents follow them down, 1898. They hear them old people find good life. All they don't have is seal oil and their things to make mukluks. They got bear and sheep. Plenty of it. All these hills. You could just go out and spot bear quick.

Nictune also offers an "insiders" view of the coming of miners into the country (Madison and Yarber 1980:17):

I can tell you why I happen to know my exact birthdate. By the time I was born, White men started coming to this country. They struck gold up Bettles and Wiseman [Coldfoot?] that year. Lots of people were traveling in that direction. My Auntie from Kobuk had a man from Outside. They came here to visit one summer. They were on their way to where gold was. I was born four days before they visit our camp. My Auntie record my birth as July 8th, 1901.

The first thing I remember is being tied to Mama's back. She was packing me around Gold Creek mining camp, thirty miles out of Wiseman. I saw those miners working. They work and never stop, no matter how hot the sun. They don't think about mosquitoes, nothing. They just want that gold and get it, too.

According to Schneider (1976:265) one group of Arctic Coast Eskimos which included the family of Tarak Newman, were associated with Frank Yasuda, a Japanese trader at Barrow:

The trader supported a certain number of families during the year in exchange for services by the family, the principal one was whaling, but, also important, was making summer trading trips along the coast.

...Frank Yasuda's crew were not successful whalers, and when his partner, a man named Carter, suggested that Yasuda get involved in the search for gold, Yasuda left the coast, taking the families that worked for him....while the search for gold was unusual for Coastal Eskimos, the ties of Eskimo families with a trader was not and this latter point appears to have been their primary reasons for leaving the coast.

Turak Newman describes his experiences as a young boy in the Chandalar country where his parents hunted for Yasuda in 1906 (Newman 1978:9):

There is a lot of game there, so we wintered on the Timberline. We build an igloo, and off and on Frank Yasuda came up. We had a lot more game than we needed. Frank generally took, oh, a couple sled loads down to the miners at Wiseman and Coldfoot. There were a few people there at that time. He traded it off for flour, sugar, rice and tea. That is the way he kept us in supplies.

The following year, after a hard summer on the west fork of the Chandalar Newman (1978:10) says:

My father and my mother left for supplies. They went to Coldfoot, about three hundred miles one way. That was in 1907. Tulakano's father and my mother's mother stayed with me. Talakano was over in the Koyukuk [a Kobuk Eskimo]. (At the time, Molly, Turak's mother, made the fur clothing and traded it to the miners for a little rice, tea and sugar. The lights was very poor for sewing so when she could get candles, "Oh boy, that was light in the evening.")...

Well, in 1908 during the summer, Big Jim and Peter Nectune [Oscar Nictune's father, Nikdoon] came over and by June told by father, "It's easier to live over in Koyukuk, I'm working on the scows for the Genn brothers. I can work there all summer; wife can go to Allakaket and fish."

Many of the Eskimo and Koyukon men were respected for their ability on the rivers and were hired for freighting on the Koyukuk. Big Jim, Peter Nictune, Frank Tobuk, Walter Koyukuk, Pooto [Podu], and Sammy Hope were among them.

Later Turak mined with Bob Winer on the Chandalar (1973:31):

Bob Winer had learned prospecting from a man named Charlie Winer who was working around Coldfoot. Charlie was a white man who liked Bob but had trouble pronouncing his Eskimo name so gave him his own name, "Winer". Bob's Eskimo name was "Nashok".

In 1917, Turak and Bob Winer decided to make a trip from the Chandalar country to Barrow to visit relatives (1978:31-32):

When we left Beaver, we had a lot of supplies at the head of Big Creek, plenty of grub, plenty of dogs. So we just took enough to get up to Coldfoot. We figured that we would buy our stuff there we went light....

Jim Sibley had a store at Coldfoot, that's on the North Fork of the Koyukuk. They had a store adjoining the roadhouse. His wife was a good cook. She's from Kobuk and he is a white guy, oh pretty well in years. Her name is Kitty. They had a pretty good-sized store there....

"Jim Sibley" was apparently William L. Siverly who purchased the store, roadhouse and barn from Joseph McNeil in 1916 (State of Alaska 3:333). Siverly's wife, Kitty was the daughter of Peter Nictune [Nikdoon] and Dic'ajok, Kobuk Eskimos who lived on the Koyukuk (Madison and Yarber 1980:1).

Marshall (1933:40-41) describes the situation between the Whites and the Natives on the Koyukuk:

It is truly remarkable that in this period there was almost no trouble between the white people and the natives. It must have required an amazing amount of tolerance and consideration to bring about that happy state of affairs. The first contact had not been so propitious, for the whites had been very careless with their fires as well as their sexual activities, and the Indians had grounds to be incensed....

The Eskimos, who commenced to migrate to the Koyukuk from the north at the same time that the big stampede of 1898 populated the country from the south, never had any difficulty at all. There is not a single instance, in the thirty-four year history of contact between these two races, of any serious physical injury being administered by a member of one race to a member of the other.

But the mining obviously drew others, as Stuck found in the winter of 1905-1906 (1914:51):

Here at Coldfoot we came first into contact with that interesting tribe of wandering inland Esquimaux known as the Kobuks, from their occupation of the river of that name. The Koyukuk has its own Indian people, but the enterprising Kobuks have pushed their way farther and farther from salt water into what used to be exclusive Indian territory. Representatives of both races were at Coldfoot, and as we lay weatherbound for a couple of days, I was enabled to renew last year's acquaintances with them, through without a good interpreter not much progress was made.

By 1905, the U.S. Commissioner at Coldfoot, Frank E. Howard, reported that 130 men were working 28 mines in the area and the year's production was \$200,000 (Borke 1906:127). But with freight at \$90 a ton and wages averaging \$8.00 to \$10.00 per day, the mining operations were expensive and activity in the Coldfoot district began to decline.

In the autumn of 1907, John Olson, Louis Olson, and John Anderson made a strike on a narrow strip of land near Nolan Creek. The three Swedes took out \$100,000 the first winter and in three years recovered over a quarter of a million dollars worth of gold. By the spring of 1908 over two hundred men had rushed to the upper Koyukuk. In 1911, Verne Watts finally located the "deep channel on the Hammond River". There, at the site of the old roadhouse at the mouth of Wiseman Creek, (first named Wright's, then Nolan, and finally Wiseman), Wiseman came into existence (Marshall 1933:41-42).

When Stuck visited the Koyukuk in 1906 he found Coldfoot almost abandoned:

...The center of interest shifted to Nolan Creek, fifteen miles farther up the river, which is a tributary of Wiseman Creek, and the town of Wiseman sprang up at the mouth of the creek. The post office, the commissioner's office, and the saloon, the stores and roadhouses, migrated to the new spot, and Coldfoot was abandoned (1914:47-49).

By 1911, Wiseman had two stores, as the Northern Commercial Company, Plummer's General Merchandise, and other former Coldfoot ventures which moved nearer to the richer creeks. During the period of 1910-1920, many buildings from Coldfoot were moved to Wiseman, including some of the cabins and the schoolhouse. The latter was dismantled, the logs were numbered and the building was reconstructed at Wiseman. Mrs. Jonas' cabin was also moved to Wiseman at this time (Thompson 1974:12).

In 1914, James Minano, a Japanese trader, his Eskimo wife from Barrow, and their children moved to Coldfoot (Schneider 1976:447):

There, Jim Mannano raised a garden and sold vegetables to the miners. Edith (his daughter) recalls that the children had to pull the plow because they didn't have any horses. One time when she was with the family she made a suggestion: "Finally one day the kids get tired and I say, 'What we feed those dogs in the doghouse for?. 'Well', he said, 'get them'. From then on, that is the way he did it, [plowed]."

According to Mita Lord, her father, James Minano, married Sucklarlalook, a Kobuk Eskimo woman, and they lived at Coldfoot from 1914 to 1929. They had four children, Mita, Walter, Henry and Edith was once married to Jack White, who freighted on the Koyukuk (Mita Lord, personal communication, 1981). Henry, who was adopted by Sammy and Ludie Hope, left his name carved on a log cabin at Coldfoot where the family lived.

When Margaret and Olaf Murie traveled up the Koyukuk River in 1924 they made a stop at Coldfoot (Murie 1979:163-164):

About three o'clock we sighted a cluster of cabins and a single plume of smoke. That meant Coldfoot...

It was a relief, however, a few moments later, to climb up a cleft in the high cut bank and trot over solid ground, between two rows of deserted cabins which had once been the busy mining camp of Coldfoot.

One family still lived there, Minano the Japanese, his Kobuk wife, and their numerous children. The oldest came out to greet us and to unlock the big log cabin, once the roadhouse and saloon, now used by the few travelers. A bar still stood along the wall in the front room; in the back room a huge French range occupied one end....

Minano told us, as he drank a cup of tea with us, of his coming across from Manchuria "many years away," of his years on the arctic coast with the whalers, of coming over the mountains into the Koyukuk in "99" when gold was struck here....

Murie (1979:134-135) describes a fishing party on the Koyukuk with some of the local residents that sheds light on the character of Ludie Hope who lived at Coldfoot and Wiseman with her husband, Sammy:

Two days after we settled into the cabin at Bettles, I went on a fishing expedition with Otto, Frank, Mary, and Ludie, a friend of Mary's....

Frank and Otto handed out lengths of fishline with hooks on the ends baited with bits of bacon.

I sat there pulling my line up and down as Frank had instructed, but mostly I was watching Ludie. Ludie was huge and round-faced and happy. She was Indian, married to Pooto's brother Sammy Hope, and they had adopted a baby. Like all native women, Ludie carried her baby in the hood of her parka. At this time of year the women were still wearing their "summer parkas" of blue or brown denim, and the baby was laid on his mother's back, his head bobbing over her shoulder inside the hood, which was pushed back from her head. He was held there by a wide knitted woolen sash tied about Ludie's waist.

Ludie sat in the stern, a great hulk, juggling her line energetically and singing lustily: "ah-yah, hotches; ay-yah hotches!" The baby, named Henry, called "Henly," bobbed owl-eyed. Frank laughed. "That's the stuff, Ludie, you call em," and said to me: "That means in Indian: 'Come on, fish, and get hooked!'"

Mary quietly caught a nice grayling. Ludie sang louder and her whole body swayed in eagerness. From her parka hood came a whimper, then a howl, then more howls, "Ah-yah, hotches!" sang Ludie, and reaching her free hand around, juggled Henly up and down in rythm with the fishing. "She hola", she informed me, laughing, "She" continued to "holla" while Ludie flopped a big fish into the boat, re-baited, and went at it again. Singing and howling went on together until Ludie paused long enough to reach into her bosom and draw out a baby's nursing bottle. This she passed back over her shoulder into Henly's mouth, just opened for another "holla". Quiet seemed to descend on the Koyukuk. I had forgotten all about my fishline.

What do do feed your baby?" I asked Ludie.

"Oh, Eagle Billik: (Eagle Brand condensed milk) was the reply, and she began with more vigor than ever: "Ay-yah, hotches!"

Oscar Nictune, Sr. of Alatna, Kitty Siverly's brother, describes the following incident concerning Sammy Hope (Madison and Yarber 1980:38):

Sam Hope was one of the working man. He say the best channel they use but they still get stuck. Little Sammy strong. He happen to have bottle of booze I guess. He tell the pilot, "I'll get us

out. If I don't make it, throw the rope," He jump in river above the scows and he get down under water. Start to jump it. Push on the bottom with his back. Everytime he done that they jump ahead how many feet. When he get'm loose he catch the side and pull himself up. Father tell him you stronger than the horse. Sammy can get under two-ton horse, lift him off the floor.

Sammy and Ludie Hope maintained a subsistence lifestyle at Coldfoot off and on until the 1950's. They spent some time in Wiseman but considered Coldfoot to be home. Jim Murphy lived in Coldfoot later, too, and he and the Hope family found the remaining cabins at Coldfoot to be useful for firewood and burned them (Thompson 1974:12). Sammy's old poling scow still remains at Wiseman (Charlie Breck, personal communication, 1981)

The Hopes, Argo Bill, Marshal Johnson, Maud West and the other early day residents of Coldfoot have long since departed but the old townsite still remains. Coldfoot again witnessed a "gold rush" during construction of the Trans-Alaska pipeline when another transient, primarily male population flocked to the Middle Fork country in search of high wages. Although the times had changed, the problems with alcohol, gambling, the shortage of female company, close living quarters, the battle against the harsh environment and work pressures resulted in an intensity of life which was undoubtedly similar. But those times, too, are past.

Limited gold-mining still occurs on the creeks but heavy equipment now takes the place of a majority of the backbreaking labor.

The establishment of a public service facility in the Coldfoot area has resulted in a modern roadhouse and a revival of dogmushing in the valley. In addition, the plans for a new DOT/PF facility will see a few families and, in time, perhaps a school in place again. Trapping, hunting, and fishing whether from a few recently arrived residents or on the part of seasonal visitors using the Dalton Highway, will increase, and, although the Middle Fork of the Koyukuk will still serve as a transportation route to other parts of the valley, the Dalton Highway is now the primary route for freight traffic.

THE WISEMAN HISTORICAL DISTRICT
A Report on Cultural Resources

DRAFT

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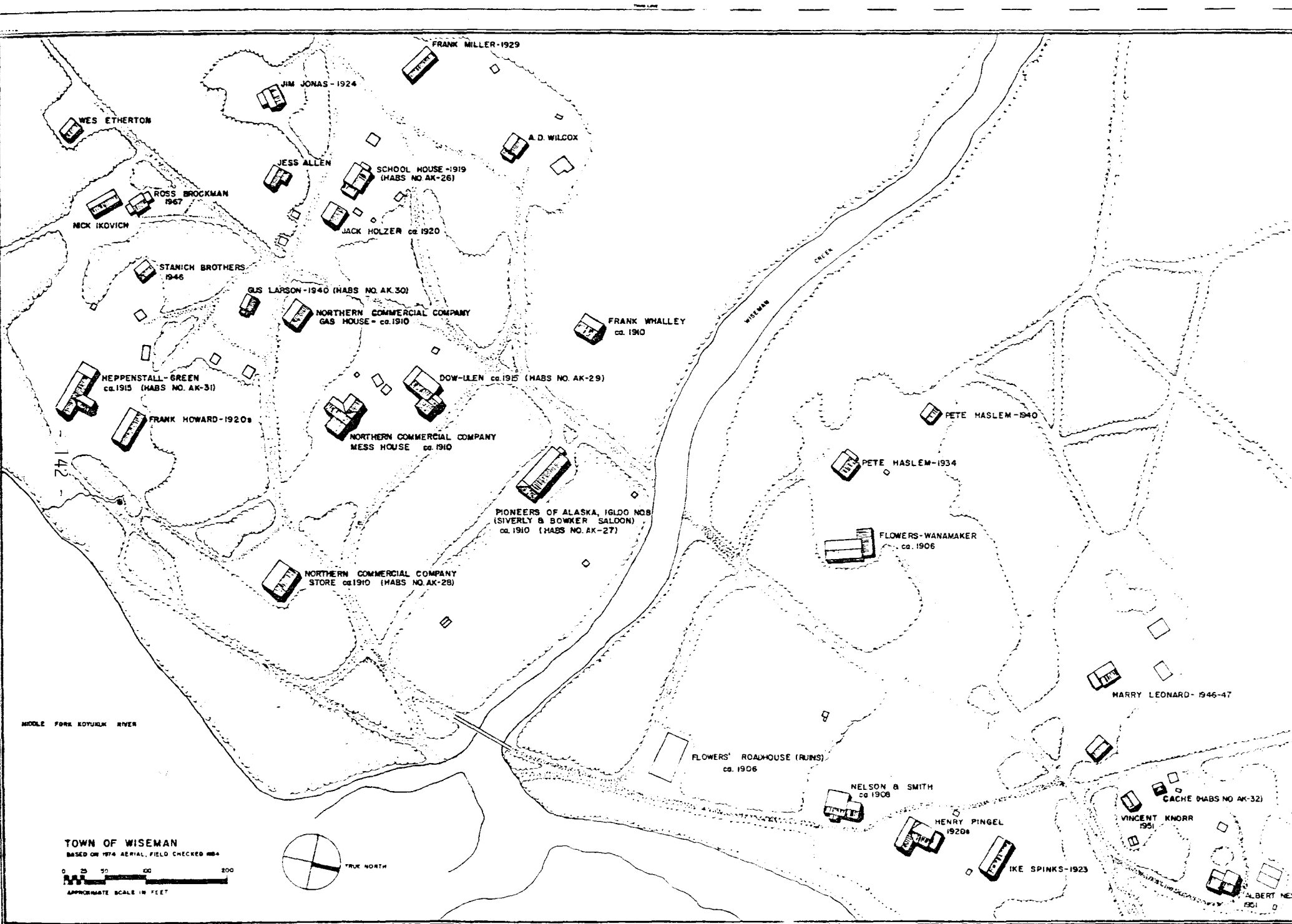
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I. INTRODUCTION

Wiseman is a small mining community located on the west bank of the Middle Fork of Koyukuk River at the mouth of Wiseman Creek (Fig. 1 and 2). It lies within the W1/2 W1/2, of Section 19, T. 30 N., R. 11 W., and the E1/2 of Section 24, T. 30 N., R. 12 W., Fairbanks Meridian.

Following a gold strike made on the Hammond River in 1911, the community of Wiseman developed around Wright's Roadhouse at the mouth of Wiseman Creek, reaching its peak of activity in 1914.

Until 1969, the residents and owners of the 39 standing cabins at Wiseman had an opportunity to file for land under either the Homestead Act or the Trustee Townsite Act. However, PLO 4582 (which withdrew all Alaskan lands pending settlement of the Native claims issue) and PLO 5150 (which created the Utility Corridor) withdrew these lands from appropriation by public land law.



II. ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION

A. Climate

The climate of the Wiseman area is typically subarctic continental with long, dark winters which begin with freeze-up in October and end when the river begins breaking up in May. Winter temperatures range from extended periods of minus 60° F. to minus 40° F. and to a high of 18° F. Temperatures as low as minus 80° F. have been recorded several times in the last few years. There is no direct sunlight from the first week in December until the first week in January. The summer frost-free season may extend from the first of June until the end of August with temperature ranges from 36° F. up into the 70's and occasionally as high as 89° F. Average precipitation is about 11 inches, which includes as much as 83 inches of snowfall. Continuous daylight in the summer extends from mid-May to the beginning of August (BOR 1977:144; Selkregg n.d.: 21-22).

B. Flora and Fauna

The vegetation in the area is predominantly an Upland-Spruce Hardwood Forest (Selkregg n.d.:191). This is a fairly dense forest of white spruce, birch, aspen, and balsam poplar with black spruce replacing white in poorly drained areas and on north facing slopes. Typical undergrowth consists of mosses, grasses, willow, alder, ferns, roses, high bush cranberry, lingonberry, raspberry, blueberry, currant, Labrador tea, and horsetail. Localized areas vary from closed mixed forests to open mixed forests (Selkregg n.d.:191; Viereck, Dyrness, and Batten 1983:28-29).

Much of the readily available firewood in the immediate Wiseman area has been used, resulting in the need to move farther and farther from the community for fuel and building materials. In addition, many areas have been cleared for gardens and such features as the airstrip.

Fauna in the Koyukuk Valley is typical for the Interior and south flanks of the Brooks Range. Large game includes caribou, which have migrated through the area, moose, grizzly and black bear. Furbearers include marten, otter, fox, beaver, muskrat, mink, wolf, and wolverine. Numerous bird species are present, including songbirds, ptarmigan, spruce and ruffed grouse, raven and birds of prey. Snowshoe hare, squirrel, vole, and other small rodents inhabit the region.

Chum salmon have been seen as far up the Middle Fork as Wiseman. The river also contains burbot, grayling, and other fish (Durtsche, personal communication, 1982). The State of Alaska (1977: map 135-1) shows king salmon as far up as the Hammond River, north of Wiseman.

C. Geology

The bedrock in the area is comprised primarily of Paleozoic limestone, shale, quartzite, slate, and schist (Wahrhaftig 1965:22). According to Brooks (1916:69), the gold deposits in the Koyukuk-Chandalar Region occur in a belt of mica schists which skirts the southern foot of the Endicott Mountains. Placer gold derives from areas intruded by granite and diorites.

Wiseman itself is located on an undifferentiated fan deposit at the mouth of Wiseman Creek. The surficial deposits on the valley floor are primarily undifferentiated alluvium with a band of Late Itkillik age outwash running along the eastern edge and drift of Itkillik Phase II till and stratified ice contact deposits beyond this on both sides. Till from Late Itkillik Glaciation age is also found at the mouths of Wiseman Creek and Minnie Creek (Hamilton 1979).

Gold production for the Koyukuk District is outlined in Fig. 3. Other minerals located in the immediate Wiseman area include antimony and copper (Cobb 1972). There are no known reserves of coal or oil. Gravel deposits along the Koyukuk provide an important source of material for construction pads and fill in this permafrost rich country.

<u>Year</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>		
	<u>Chandalar</u>	<u>Koyukuk</u>	<u>Indian River Hughes</u>
1889 .....	.....	.....	.....
1899 .....	.....	.....	.....
1900 .....	.....	107,000	.....
1901 .....	.....	173,500	.....
1902 .....	.....	200,000	.....
1903 .....	.....	301,000	.....
1904 .....	.....	200,000	.....
1905 .....	.....	165,000	.....
1906 .....	.....	165,000	.....
1907	28,000	100,000	.....
1908	25,000	220,000	.....
1909	5,000	420,000	.....
1910	3,500	160,000	.....
1911	1,000	130,000	10,000
1912	1,000	215,000	24,500
1913	2,000	368,000	32,000
1914	6,000	260,000	25,000
1915	5,000	290,000	15,000
1916	9,000	310,000	10,000
1917	15,000	250,000	5,000
1918	13,000	150,000	3,000
1919	10,000	110,000	4,000
1920	18,000	90,000	1,000
1921	30,000	78,000	.....
1922	83,000	132,000	.....
1923	42,000	37,000	.....
1924	17,900	54,000	.....
1925	8,000	49,800	.....
1926	5,000	68,000	.....
1927	8,000	78,000	.....
1928	8,700	46,200	.....
1929	6,000	32,000	.....
1930	6,300	11,500	.....
Estimated additions.....	.....	.....	.....
for omissions (a)....	.....	.....	.....
Estimated deductions....	.....	.....	.....
for excesses (b).....	.....	.....	.....
	356,400	4,971,500	129,500

Fig. 3 Gold production in the Koyukuk District 1900 - 1930 (Smith 1933:96).

III. PREHISTORY

Only general statements can be made about man's prehistoric use of the Wiseman area. Some specific information has come from studies of the archeological sites found along the Middle Fork of the Koyukuk by the Alyeska Archaeology Project during construction of the Trans-Alaskan pipeline (Dekin in Cook 1977:305-463), but the majority of our early cultural data comes from the ethnographic literature.

A. Archeology

Seventeen sites were located across the river from Wiseman along the TAPS route by University of Alaska archeologists and eleven of these were excavated (Dekin in Cook 1977:305).

The topography opposite the town of Wiseman along the pipeline alignment is characterized by two large areas of glacial till, interpreted to be ground moraines....

Two concentrations of archaeological sites have been found on these moraines... The critical variables influencing site location seem to be: 1) visibility, usually in a particular direction; and 2) presence of a physical impediment to the movement of migratory animals.... (Dekin in Cook 1977:329).

Despite the number of sites found, most of them were surficial in nature with little stratigraphy and no datable material. The artifacts found included flakes, microblades, cores, spalls, bifaces, endblades, end scrapers, and side scrapers made of material ranging from chert to basalt and obsidian. However, none of the artifacts found lead to a definite cultural association for the people who utilized these tools.

The number of sites discovered within the limited area examined indicates that the Wiseman area was definitely important to man in the past, probably due to the presence of migratory caribou.

B. Ethnography

Based on the literature, the argument for a Kutchin and probably a Dihai Kutchin occupation of the Middle Fork of the Koyukuk is strong. Hall (1969) argues for a Dihai Kutchin occupation of the Koyukuk River headwaters, including the Wiseman area, during the period from 1850-1880, on the basis of oral history, archeological, linguistic, and ethnological data.

According to Gubser (1969:44):

... the first accounts concerning the Kutchin refer to a village of a hundred persons or more between the heads of the Kobuk and Noatak Rivers around Walker Lake, or perhaps a few miles north. According to the Eskimos, some of whom knew the Indian languages, these yuagamiut spoke a language different from that of the Koyukon Indians.

Gubser goes to say that "The Chandalar or Kutchin are called yuagamiut (literally, inhabitants of rocks) by the Nunamiut because they often lived in stone houses." They referred to the Koyukon [historic inhabitants of the Koyukuk River] as "tagagavik (travel by canoe)" (Gubser 1969:440).

Robert McKennan, who did field work among the Chandalar Kutchin at Arctic Village (1965:23) to the east, feels that:

The term Dihai Kutchin may be freely translated as "Those who dwell farthest away," or more accurately, "Those who dwell farthest away in a downriver direction"... The emphasis, however, should be on "farthest away" rather than on "downriver", for the Dihai Kutchin, like the Chandalar, were distinctly mountain people and not riverine.

The only actual references to protohistoric occupation in the Middle Fork Valley also came from McKennan (1965:23-25) and lead to the conclusion that the Dihai Kutchin may have been the earliest known inhabitants:

Their territory included the Middle and North Forks of the Chandalar River and the headwaters of the Koyukuk River. Like the Chandalar Kutchin the Dihai were in contact with the Eskimos, who gradually encroached upon the Dihai Kutchin, and forced the surviving Indians to take refuge in the Chandalar Kutchin territory, where they intermarried with the latter people. The Eskimo settlements of "Little Squaw" on the North Fork of the Chandalar and at Coldfoot on the Middle Fork of the Koyukuk River are said to be in the heart of territory formerly inhabited by the Dihai Kutchin. Native tradition has it that the Dihai Kutchin originally came from the Tanana River, whence they made their way down the Yukon River as far as Nulato and thence up the Koyukuk River, establishing themselves on its headwaters.

Along with the influx of white prospectors to the Middle Fork country at the turn of the century came several Kobuk Eskimo, Nunamiut Eskimo, and Koyukon Athabaskan families. Although the Nunamiut traditionally made trips to the headwaters of the Koyukuk they had no need to travel as far south as Wiseman until the presence of a store and other goldrush related benefits made it worthwhile (Spearman, personal communications, 1983). It appears that the few Kobuk and Koyukon families that moved into the area did so for similar reasons.

IV. History

A. Exploration

Lt. Henry Allen and Pvt. Fred Fickett are generally credited as the first white men to have explored the Koyukuk River. They traveled overland from Nuklukyet, near present day Tanana, on the Yukon across the headwaters of the Melozitna and Tozitna Rivers to the Kanuti, then down it to the Koyukuk (Fig. 1). From there they traveled by canoe up the Koyukuk to the mouth of the John River in 1885 (Allen 1885:455-460).

In 1887, John Bremner and Peder Johnson, who had accompanied Allen from the Copper River to Nuklukyet in 1885, prospected on the Koyukuk and discovered gold (Marshall 1933:30). According to Marshall (Ibid.):

Johnnie Folger made his first journey to the Koyukuk [in 1891] and for four years with a series of different partners mined placers on the South Fork, Chapman Creek, and Tramway Bar. The first gold in paying quantities was discovered at the latter place in 1893.

Hulley (1970:228) claims that John Folger made a prospecting trip into the Koyukuk region in 1881 and that in 1893 N.V. Hendricks went up the Koyukuk with a small steamer and mined considerable gold.

According to George Bettles, a trader who established the trading post and community of Bettles, gold was first discovered at Tramway Bar, Evans Bar, and Hughes Bar in 1890 (Carlson 1973:2). Regardless of exactly who first discovered what where, Marshall (1933:30) estimates that between 1887 and 1897 there were approximately eighteen to twenty different prospectors in the Upper Koyukuk.

In 1898, the Koyukuk received an overflow of roughly 1,000 individuals from the Klondike. They rapidly established a series of transient communities along the river when they found themselves caught in the winter freeze-up. After break-up, probably fewer than 100 of these remained (Marshall 1933:31). In 1899, Knute Ellington made a strike on Myrtle Creek, a tributary of Slate Creek. Further discoveries of gold on Emma and Gold Creek resulted in a small rush on the Slate Creek Mining district, located some 70 miles upstream from the store at Bettles. Coldfoot sprang up at the mouth of Slate Creek as a result of this activity.

B. Early Days

The mention of the name Wiseman is recorded in Orth (1971:1055) where the name is shown as assigned to the creek "on an 1899 fieldsheet by T.S.

Gerdine, USGS". According to Balcolm (1965:2) and Thompson (1974:12), the name "Wiseman" came from a transient European prospector by the name of Peter Weisman or Wiseman.

Although prospecting was undoubtedly occurring in the Wiseman area by or before 1899, Marshall (1933:41-42) describes the first significant activity as occurring in 1907:

In the autumn of 1907, three Swedes, John and Louis Olson and John Anderson, were given a strip of ground 300 feet wide on Nolan Creek. They were supposed to prospect this ground and find if there was any gold deep down below the surface. If there was gold in paying quantities in this narrow sample then it would be worth the owner's while to mine the adjacent claims. Actually there was almost unbelievable fortune. The three Swedes took out \$100,000 the first winter. In three years they recovered over a quarter of a million dollars from their narrow strip. No piece of ground in the whole country ever yielded so richly. The news of fortune, even with the slow communication of those days, speedily traveled all over Alaska. By the spring of 1908 there were over a hundred new men rushing into the Koyukuk, and half of them stayed. The lonesome valley of Nolan Creek throbbed with activity. Fifteen or twenty different outfits were sinking holes and a dozen boilers chugged away, day and night. Responding promptly to the stimulus of gold, half a dozen prostitutes had arrived before the end of the summer. A new boom was on in earnest.

More gold was taken from Nolan Creek and its tributaries in four years than had been taken from the entire Koyukuk in all the years before that. Then, just as the riches of Nolan Creek commenced to wane, Verne Watts finally located the deep channel of Hammond River in the spring of 1911. During the next five years over a million dollars came out of this valley. Food, clothing, machinery, and whiskey were unloaded for both of these diggings at the site of Wright's old roadhouse at the mouth of Wiseman Creek....

There is some confusion over the name of the community. The early name "Wright's" undoubtedly referred to the roadhouse located on the Wright's homestead at the mouth of Wiseman Creek (State of Alaska 1902-1915). The cabins and diggings located up Nolan Creek are now called "Nolan" although the post office located in the community at the mouth of Wiseman Creek was listed as "Nolan" from 1909 through 1923 when the name was changed to "Wiseman". The individuals listed as postmasters were all Wiseman residents (Ricks 1965:46 and 71). These included William A. Wood, Agnes E. Plummer, Elizabeth S. Flower, C.E. Danforth, George W. Huey, and Daniel Webster. After the name was changed to Wiseman in 1909 the office was served by George W. Huey, Elmer J. Ulen, Harry B. Leonard, Oliver L. Chappel, and Fred Terrel. The post office at Wiseman was discontinued in 1956.

It appears that the name "Nolan" came about at Wiseman since goods and mail were probably off-loaded from poling boats or winter dogteam traffic along the river at Wright's roadhouse from whence they were destined for the diggings up Nolan Creek.

C. Mining

The first production records for gold in the Wiseman area (Fig. 4) are listed from Hammond Creek in 1900 (Maddren 1910:292). The amount given is \$2,000. Paul Metz, a mining geologist, provided the information that the price of gold remained at \$20 an ounce until 1934 and also that the USGS reports concerning gold production were frequently inaccurate due to a reluctance in the part of miners to reveal their true take as well as the fact that many of them were illiterate and could not provide correct figures (1980, personal communication). With this in mind, the true figures can be estimated as being higher than given.

In a 1913 USGS report Maddren (1913:70-72) states that the average value of gold from the Koyukuk region varied in value from \$18 to \$19 an ounce. He goes on to say that hand shoveling, ground sluicing and hydraulic mining were the most common means used to obtain gold up to that time. Hand shoveling, sometimes combined with ground sluicing, was used in shallow unfrozen streams and bench gravels less than six feet deep. Below that the deposits could not be mined profitably by hand so these shallow placer deposits were the most commonly sought because they provided the largest yield in return for the least investment of time and capital. Due to the excessive transportation costs, steam boilers and hoists were limited to only the most productive deep deposits such as those on Nolan Creek, Vermont Creek, and Hammond Creek (Maddren 1913:72). At Hammond Creek, Brooks (1913:45) gives a depth of 60 feet to 130 feet for the diggings. Brooks (1905:30) lists freight at \$90 a ton and wages at \$8 to \$10 a day which concurs with Maddren's later comments (1913:73) that, prior to the beginning of underground work, men were paid a dollar an hour.

In 1907, gold production decreased. This was undoubtedly due to low water which affected the actual mining operations and made it difficult for the steamboats to get upriver. In addition, discoveries of gold on the Chandalar moved activity into that country (Brooks 1908:45). A similar decrease occurred in 1914 as a result of low water in combination with the fact that two deep mines on Hammond Creek had produced an abnormal high yield the previous year (Brooks 1915:58).

Population estimates for the Koyukuk region were 823 in 1910 (Maddren 1913:29). In 1914, Brooks (1915:58) states that 30 mines were worked with 130 men being employed. A single 137 ounce nugget came out of Hammond Creek that year and Nolan Creek dropped to the second largest producing area. By 1918, 20 mines were in operation with 150 men working during the summer and three mines with 10 men working during the winter (Martin 1920:47). Although the number of mining operations remained at 20 during the summer of 1921, the number of employees dropped to 55 men with 5 winter operations employing only 15 men

(Brooks 1921:59). At this time one of the few successful hydraulic plants was operating on Nolan Creek.

D. Transportation

After 1899, the most common means of transportation for the, mining operations up the Koyukuk was by sternwheeler steamboat as far as Bergman, and later Bettles (Maddren 1913:31). Murie offers a description of one of these vessels (1978:98) which was still in use in 1924.

The Teddy H. was one of the remnants of the stampede days, when small sternwheel steamers were nailed together for every new "strike". The ship was white, and neat, and was shaped like an oblong box. She was tall enough to be divided into two "stories" - the engine room, the wood storage room, the freight room, and the crew's quarters below, with the open bow protruding in from the "second story" consisting of four staterooms fore and the galley aft with a fairly large open space behind that running all the way to the stern; and on top of all this, the little pilot house.

Passengers and freight were off-loaded t Bettles and transferred to horse drawn scows or poling boats for the remainder of the trip to Wiseman.

The poling boat was a long, shallow draft craft sometimes exceeding 30 feet in length. It had a relatively narrow flat bow curved gently upward. Construction was of whipsawed spruce planks usually made locally by the builder.

These early plank boats were moved upstream by poling or lining with dogs and/or men. Where the river had long flat gravel bars, huskies were often used to pull the boat upstream. Three or four harnessed huskies, trained for this work, walked along the water's edge pulling the boat. A man sat at the stern of the boat steering with a paddle. At the end of each bar the dogs were loaded into the boat and ferried to the next bar, usually just across the river. When encountering stretches of river without open bars the man pushed the boat along with long, slender spruce poles. Poles were also used to help guide the boat in shallow water (Nelson, Mautner, and Bane 1979:125-126).

For the heavier freighting larger boats were used which employed two to four horses to line the scows upriver.

In addition to the river traffic, overland trails existed which were used primarily in winter, for dogteam use. F.C. Schrader of the USGS describes the conditions of these routes in 1899 (1900:453):

Localities	1900	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909	Total
Middle Fork....	\$ 5,000	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	\$....300	.....	\$ 8,000
Twelvemile											
Creek.....	1,000	\$ 1,500	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5,000
Porcupine Creek	500	1,000	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2,000
Slate Creek....	1,000	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3,000
Myrtle Creek...	40,000	7,000	\$50,000	\$30,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	5,000	\$ 10,000	182,000
Clara Gulch....	1,000	2,000	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3,000
Kelly Gulch....	.....	500	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	500
Marion Creek...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,000
Emma Creek.....	27,500	40,000	13,000	15,000	10,000	15,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	160,000
Nolan Creek....	.....	.....	.....	.....	14,000	40,000	90,000	125,000	208,000	288,000	765,000
Smith Gulch....	.....	.....	.....	25,000	30,000	50,000	10,000	5,000	5,000	83,000	208,000
Archibald Gulch	.....	.....	.....	.....	2,000	2,000	.....	.....	.....	.....	6,000
Fay Gulch.....	.....	.....	.....	3,000	20,000	.....	3,000	.....	.....	2,500	30,000
Minnie Creek...	.....	.....	.....	.....	500	.....	400	.....	.....	.....	1,000
Union Gulch....	.....	1,500	30,000	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2,000	35,000
Hammond Creek..	2,000	2,000	10,000	2,000	2,000	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	20,000
Goldbottom											
Gulch.....	.....	.....	6,000	2,000	2,000	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	10,000
Swift Gulch....	.....	.....	3,000	2,000	1,000	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,200	7,200
Buckeye Gulch..	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,000	...200	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,200
Vermont Creek..	.....	5,000	30,000	25,000	22,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	10,000	20,000	172,000
Sheep Creek....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	500	1,000	500	2,000
Gold Creek.....	2,000	50,000	30,000	70,000	45,000	24,000	3,000	3,000	2,200	3,000	232,000
Linda Creek....	.....	.....	8,000	10,000	.....	.....	.....	400	300	.....	20,000

Fig. 4 Gold production in the Middle Fork Country (Maddred 1910:292)

The Chandalar [sic] and Koyukuk regions form no exception to the rule of Alaska travel.... The term "trail" as used in Alaska, refers more particularly to the passable condition of the country than to any foot-beaten path or well-worn line of travel. This is especially true of the Chandlar [sic] and Koyukuk region.

Prior to 1906 the winter overland route for mail ran from Fort Yukon to the Chandalar and across to Coldfoot (BOR 1977:151). After this, the major route was the winter trail which ran down the Koyukuk River from Wiseman to Bergman, then across the Kanuti River Valley to the upper Melozitna River Valley and across the low divide on the upper Tozitna River, down to Tanana and thence to Fairbanks on the Tanana-Fairbanks Trail (Maddren 1913:31). The Fort Gibbon Koyukuk Trail ran 273 miles from Tanana to Wiseman (Bor 1977:144).

In 1910, the Alaska Road Commission "constructed" a trail from Beaver, on the Yukon, northwest 80 miles to the divide between the Hadweenzic River and over the Chandalar divide to Caro. At this point the trail forked with one section crossing the South Fork of the Koyukuk and down Slate Creek to Coldfoot (Maddren 1913:131). The trail was supposedly passable by dogteam in winter and pack horse in summer but the latter use was infrequent due to the trail's condition. In 1923 the ARC upgraded this trail to make it usable by dogs in winter and foot in summer (BOR 1977:151).

The result of this nebulous transportation system was the high cost of freight sent to the mines. Brooks gives the following costs (1915:59). Freight was \$90 a ton from Koyukuk to Bettles (by riverboat), \$140 a ton from Bettles to Wiseman (by poling boat or scow), \$100 a ton from Wiseman to the Hammond (by poling boat) and \$40 a ton by dogteam in the winter. It cost an average of \$300 to get a load of freight to the mines. Hay and oats for horses ran \$150 a ton, wood cost \$12 to \$16 a cord, and coal was \$350 a ton. No wonder the worthwhile gold deposits had to be rich and easily obtainable!

E. The People

By 1911, Wiseman had two stores, as the Northern Commercial Company, Plummer's General Merchandise, and other former coldfoot ventures moved nearer to the richer creeks. During the period of 1910-1920, many buildings from Coldfoot were moved to Wiseman, including some of the cabins and the schoolhouse. The latter was dismantled, the logs were numbered, and the building was reconstructed at Wiseman. Mrs. Jonas' cabin was also moved to Wiseman at this time (Thompson 1974:12).

One interesting incident related to Wiseman emerges from this time period. Oscar Nictune (Madison and Yarber 1980:34-35), as a young boy, ran errands for the prostitutes at Bettles and mentions the following:

One woman they called Dutch Louise. She got scared. She was going to stay the winter, but she break the men, lots of them, before winter come. She got all their money.

Then she got scared so she got to go back Outside. Man by the name of Captain Hayes, Captain of steamboat, happen to have dogteam. She hire that one for thousand dollars. That's pretty nearly dollar or two dollar a mile from Coldfoot to Beaver. That's where she want to get, see.

The Marshall find out and he go out and he go catch 'em up. The Captain say he wasn't going to charge that much it was just gossip. But that woman say she was going to pay how much he ask just to get away from Wiseman. Louise her name but she must have been Dutchman. They call her Dutch Louise. Them man that know her say she was nice looking.

Stuck (1917:316) relates another incident concerning a prostitute:

It was in one of these lonely reaches of the lower Koyukuk in the fall of 1912 that the "Blueberry Kid" is thought to have murdered "Fiddler John (the discoverer of gold on the Hammond River) and "Dutch Marie," a notorious woman from Nolan, both going outside with "home stakes" from their respective occupations, and Frank Adams, whose death was necessary to the robbery and murder of the others. The last steamboat was gone from Bettles, and the Blueberry Kid took them as passengers for Nulato on his launch, the miner and the prostitute both drunk when they embarked. He alone reached Nulato, took a steamboat to St. Michael and so "outside", and in Seattle it is said cashed thousands of dollars' worth of gold dust at the mint, and again in San Francisco. The launch was found two years later, swamped in a backwater but still tied to a tree- The Blueberry Kid having arrived at Nulato in a collapsable canvas boat he carried on the launch. Two years later somebody found a little heap of calcined bones at an old camp site near the submerged launch, but I do not think that any effort was made to determine if they were human remains or not, and the Blueberry Kid is still at large.

And, finally, a third reference from the Koyukuk District Recorders Book (State of Alaska 1902-1915: No. 81015) adds even more to the mystery:

This is to certify that on or about September 15, 1912,
I paid to Thomas Johnson, commonly known as "Blueberry Tommy,"
the sum of \$940 in gold dust, for services rendered on the scow,

(Signed) Jas. C. Stephenson

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 1st day of June, 1914

Frank E. Howard
Commissioner and Ex-Officio
Notary Public

Many questions arise. The three incidents seem related, at least in time and in the similarity of the distinctive names. Were "Blueberry

Tommy" and the "Blueberry Kid" the same person? The same can be asked for the prostitutes named "Dutch Louise" and "Dutch Marie."

Why was the payment made to "Blueberry Tommy" recorded and why wasn't it recorded until two years after the fact? Did "Blueberry Tommy" cash his own gold dust Outside (almost a thousand dollars worth) or was there more? Was he really a murderer and, if so why? If "Dutch Marie" was the same person and "Dutch Louise" had she "earned" money from Tommy the same as she apparently had done from others on the Koyukuk? Although these questions can probably never be answered they certainly add an interesting note to events from the Middle Fork gold rush days.

Although the prostitutes were probably not all that numerous in the country they definitely had an impact. Marshall (1933:43) adds to the picture:

Some of the veterans of those days estimate that at least half of the money taken out of the ground went for booze and prostitutes.... John Bowman once squandered between \$10,000 in two weeks around Wiseman, most of it on a single prostitute. Half a dozen men must have lavished at least \$25,000 on the prostitutes... One fellow "gave a hooker \$2,500 to get an education, and she knew too much for him already."

Authur Hill, whose parents owned the roadhouse at Wiseman from 1912 to 1926 (State of Alaska n.d.) said that "...there were four 'respectable' women and about eight others prior to 1914 ...But in times of need, all social barriers were dropped and we utilized whatever was available to help anyone who needed help, ..." (Swingleberg 1973:11).

Several of the prostitutes eventually gave up their trade. According to Marshall (1933:44) "The last prostitute left in 1919, and none has ever returned for more than a few weeks."

When Margaret Murie visited Wiseman in 1924, Judge Huey told her "...there are seven white women here, but they are nearly all up at Nolan Creek now, at the mines" (1979:170).

Marshall's (1933) description of incidents and individuals from Wiseman provides one of the best pictures of the community but Murie adds several views from her trip to Wiseman in 1924. Among those is a description of Sam Dubin (1979:99):

When we returned from our trapline in the afternoon we met the Teddy H.'s owner, Sam Dubin, the principal trader of the Koyukuk River country and one of the northland's famous characters. As he came up the gangway to the store, I thought of a black bear. His short stout body was clad in a huge turtleneck sweater of black wool and black breeches of some blanket-like material laced below the knee; he had thick lips and heavy jowls, and he was smoking a big black pipe. But he was very kind. He told in a rumbling heavy voice with a Russian kind of accent of the hard trip they had

had and of the many delays, and trouble with the motorboats they used at the head of the river. He hated "gez boats," but they got some "geeze" and would we come aboard for dinner? We certainly would.

Whites were not the only residents at Wiseman. Marshall gives the following statistics for 1929 - 1930 (1933:73).

Eskimo	34	Eskimo-Japanese	2
Indian	6	Eskimo-White	4
Eskimo-Indian	1	Eskimo-Japanese-White	3

He also relates the following incident about Mrs. Oscar Jonas [Florence Nictune], the sister of Oscar Nictune, from Alatna, and Kitty Siverly, wife of William Siverly who owned property in Wiseman and Coldfoot (Marshall 1933:85):

She is the most powerful woman I have ever known. When the store burned down four years ago, and all the people around carried out everything they could in the few minutes before they were driven out, Kalhabuk emerged several times with a hundred pound sack of flour on her shoulder and a fifty pound sack under one arm. I am sure she could beat three out of four men in Wiseman in a fight. But the test could never come off, because she is the most placid of mortals, and takes everything as it comes along in the greatest good humor,...

Mrs. Jonas had arrived there from Anaktuvuk in 1924 so her children; could attend school, and was still living in Wiseman in 1974 (Thompson 1979:22).

Murie also describes individuals such as Frank Smith, who had owned the saloon and dance hall in Wiseman during its early days; Frank's native wife, Mary; David Tobuk; Ludie Hope; Jack Hood and one of his horses; Martin Slisco; Jack Hoilzer, Hans Cristianson; and numerous other individuals.

F. After the Goldrush

Marshall (1933:43) relates that 1916 was the beginning of Wiseman's decline. In that year the richest claims on Nolan Creek and the Hammond were almost exhausted, men were attracted Outside by the high wages offered by the war, and Prohibition went into effect. He lists the country's "permanent white population at 350 in 1902, 200 in 1917, and 71 in 1931 (1933:38).

The following quote by Albert Ness, a long-time Wiseman resident, sums up the individuals who remained in the country although it perhaps falls short in describing the strength of their character (Marshall 1933:47):

Always, after any stampede, it's not the successes who build up the country. They go home with the stakes they made. It's the failures who stay on, decade after decade, and established homes.

Wiseman acquired its first telephone in 1912; this only ran between Nolan, Wiseman, and the Hammond River and offered little in the way of increased "civilization" (Marshall 1933:131). The year 1925 was a significant one for the community. In May of that year, Noel Wien flew the first plane in. Tishu Ulen, who witnessed the event, described it thus (Marshall 1933:132-133):

They had wired the plane was coming in here, and we were all sitting out in front of the old store waiting for it.... Suddently Martin Slisco, [the roadhouse proprietor] jumped like he was crazy, and he shouted 'I see it! I see it!... After awhile we saw something way down the river, looked like a mosquito hawk....

Everybody was running, old men, old women, little children. Seemed like they were all crazy...

Jimmy Tobuk and I were the first to reach the plane, but everybody else was right behind, never nobody stopped... Some of the old natives, they just shook their head, didn't seem to know what to make of it.

The wireless station, which the government installed earlier the same year, was the real connecting link to civilization, particularly for getting medical advice, as well as being essential to making the airplane practical (Marshall 1933:135). Joe Crosson established a route from Fairbanks to Barrow in 1927 with Wiseman as the stop-over but traffic was irregular (Thompson 1974:17)

Due to the facts that gold remained at \$20.67 a pure ounce, that no outside capital was invested in the region at the time, and that the fur cycle was at a biological low, the Great Depression had little additional impact on Wiseman (Marshall 1933:113). In 1937, a total of 150 airplanes had stopped in Wiseman throughout the year (Thompson; 1974:17). This necessitated the building of a newer and safer airstrip in 1941 through the efforts of the the Wiseman residents, the Department of Aviation and the Alaska Road Commission.

The U.S.'s entry into World War II in 1941 brought Wiseman in to an economic depression. Many young men left for the war. The resulting lack of mining activity collapsed the economic base and sent others to Fairbanks in search of jobs. Construction; jobs on the Alcan drew others. By 1944 both the store and the school closed. There were 21 people living in the Wiseman area in 1952 and two decades later the population was down to nine.

V. CULTURAL RESOURCES

A. Historic Structures

Since there are no known prehistoric archaeological sites in the immediate Wiseman area, we must next consider the historical values. At Wiseman, as any historical site, the question arises as to where the actual history lies. Is it the people, the place, the time, or the activities which occurred in the past? At Wiseman, the history undoubtedly rests with all of the above. The three factors which made Wiseman significant as a historical district are (1) the northernmost gold rush in the United States occurred there in 1915, (2) Robert Marshall wrote a book about the community in 1933 which remains a classic today, and (3) it is one of the few communities where structures are still standing that attest to and illustrate the early days of Alaskan history.

In all cases, the location of the historic community makes it important, and this element still remains significant today. The activities which made the community significant are a bit more difficult to analyze. Wiseman is no longer the site of a gold rush and, although active mining in the area still goes on, fluctuating with the rise and fall of gold prices, it will probably never see the level of activity with related economic support systems that it saw in 1915. Two other activities have brought more people into the area, though. The first was the construction of the Trans-Alaskan pipeline system and preparation for construction of the Alaskan Northwest Natural Gas Transportation System. The second was opening the Dalton Highway to the public and designation of Gates of the Arctic as a National Park. The latter has resulted in a small but increasing flow of visitors into the area.

Robert Marshall spent time in Wiseman during 1930-31, after the community's peak, and identifies the primary economic activities of the community as being mining, hunting and fishing, and freighting. With the exception of the few people who are employed by the State Department of Transportation or Northwest, most of the present day Wiseman residents mine, hunt, trap, fish, garden, and cut wood.

As for the time element of significance, well, it is impossible to step back into the past but one sometimes gets that feeling in Wiseman, at least more so than in most remote communities in the United States. Airplanes, trucks, three-wheelers, generators, and radios are evidence of the present but the cabins, water obtained from the community spring, the talk of weather and gardens, and the endless preparation for winter are as much a part of the past as the present. The isolation, climate, population and lifestyle are more significant in maintaining Wiseman's historical integrity than the inroads of modern technology.

However, things have changed and the people who inhabit Wiseman today are not those who lived there sixty-seven or even fifty-two years ago. Although some of the old timers are still alive, they no longer live on the Koyukuk. The only tangible evidence of the past is the buildings.

There are a total of 38 standing structures in Wiseman today and several small outbuildings. The following pages provide a summary of these features.

It does not appear that any single structure would qualify for eligibility to the National Register of Historic Places but the area, as a whole, may qualify as a Historic District.

DRAFT

Structure No.	Year Constructed	Historical Description
1	1951	Cabin built by A. Ness, when in his 80's.
2,3	1951	Cabin built by V. Knorr.
4	1923	Cabin built by Ike Sprinks or Hughie Boyle.
5-8	1930's	Harry Leonard homesite.
9	prior to 1944	Harry and Lousia Pingle residence.
10	1908 or 1919	Was possibly the Smith/Nelson Saloon, Jim Kelly store, Carl Frank store.
11	prior to 1940	Possibly the J.H. Flowers home.
12	1934	Cabin built by Pete Haslem.
13	1940	Cabin built by Pete Haslem.
14	prior to 1912	Flowers Roadhouse, Wiseman Roadhouse Slisco Roadhouse.
15	prior to 1913	Siverly & Bowker Saloon, Pioneer Igloo #8.
16	prior to 1925	Signal Corps building.
17	1910	Two-story building was N.C. Co. store Wiseman Trading Co. Store.
18	1910	N.C. Co. mess house.
19,20	prior to 1928	Mary Williams' residence.
21-24	prior to 1940	Possibly home of Ase Wiscox.
25	1910	N.C. Co. gashouse, Wiseman Trading Co.
26	1940	Cabin built by Gus Larson.
27	prior to 1926	Jack Jolzer cabin, used as schoolteachers' residence.
28,29	prior to 1915	Schoolhouse moved from Coldfoot in 1915.
30	1929	Frank Miller Native allotment.
31	prior to 1932	N.C. Co. caterpillar storage house.
32	prior to 1930	Jess Allen cabin

Structure No.	Year Constructed	Historical Description
33	1924	Florence Jonas Native allotment.
34	prior to 1930	Marshal V.O. Greene's residence, V. Neck's residence.
35	prior to 1930	Stanich brother's residence.
36	1967	Built by Ross Brockman.
37	prior to 1940	Built by Nick Ikovich.
38	prior to 1940	Cabin built be Wes Etherington.

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HISTORICAL STRUCTURES SUMMARY

GLACIER AND MIDDLE FORK KOYUKUK RIVER DRAINAGES

Russell H. Sackett, Historical Architect

National Park Service

SITE INDEX

SITE NUMBER	TYPE	LOCATION
GAAR-84-001	Trapper's Cabin	Ernie Creek
GAAR-84-002	Ernie Johnson's Site	N. Fork Koyukuk River
GAAR-84-003	Cache	Ernie Creek
GAAR-84-004	Drift Miner's Cabin	Glacier River
GAAR-84-005	Cabin Remains	Glacier River
GAAR-84-006	Miner's Cabin	Mascot Creek
GAAR-84-007	Miner's Cabin-N. Ikonich	Mascot Creek
GAAR-84-008	Miner's Cabin-V. Knorr	Mascot Creek
GAAR-84-009	Miner's Cabin	Glacier River
GAAR-84-010	Drift Miner's Cabin	Glacier River
GAAR-84-011	Drift Miner's Cabin-C. Yale	Glacier River
GAAR-84-012	Drift Miner's Cabin	Glacier River
GAAR-84-013	Drift Miner's Cabin	Bluecloud Creek
GAAR-84-014	Depression	Glacier River
GAAR-84-015	Woodchopper's Cabin	Glacier River
GAAR-84-016	Cabin Remains	Glacier River
GAAR-84-017	Hunting Cabin-V. Knorr	Glacier River
GAAR-84-018	Trapper's Cabin	Glacier River
GAAR-84-019	Miner's Cabin	Washington Creek
GAAR-84-020	Miner's Cabin	Washington Creek
GAAR-84-021	Drift Miner's Cabin-A. Ness	Glacier River
GAAR-84-022	Trapper's Cabin	Glacier Pass
	Miner's Cabin-F. Miller	Sawyer Creek
WIS-050	Drift Mine Complex	Minnie Creek
	Drift Mine Complex-V. Watts	Hammond River
	Detroit Mining Company	Hammond River
CHN-015	Sod House-Arctic John	Nugget Creek
	Shelter Cabin-F. Jonas	Sheep Creek
CHN-007	Shelter Cabin-ARC	Gold Creek
	Drift Miner's Cabin	Gold Creek
	Miner's Cabin	Gold Creek
	Miner's Cabin-E. Sutherland	Linda Creek
	Drift Mine Complex-A. Wilcox	Linda Creek
	Cemetery	Wiseman

HISTORIC STRUCTURES SUMMARY -- SUMMER 1984

During the period from June 2 through August 2, 1984 a total of thirty-three historic sites were surveyed within the eastern sector of the Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve and adjacent area to the east along the Dalton Highway. Of these thirty-three sites, five were associated with trapping/hunting activities; eleven were associated with drift mining; ten were miner's cabins; three were shelter cabins; one was a woodchoppers cabin; and the remaining three were miscellaneous sites. The following is a brief summary and some generalities that can be made concerning these categories of sites.

TRAPPING/HUNTING SITES:

Of the five sites surveyed associated with trapping/hunting activities, three had cabin remains present, one had only tent structures remaining (although it did have a cabin at one time which was washed away by the river) and the other remaining one only had a hearth present.

In general, the cabin remains were relatively small, ranging in size from 8'6" x 8'6" to 8'6" x 11'6". They all were of unpeeled logs chinked with moss with saddle notched corners. None were complete enough to determine roof style but may have had shallow gabled roofs that were covered with sod. Sites with cabin remains on them were relatively clean of cultural debris. The one site that had only remains of tent structures (GAAR-84-002) was a guide camp which contained a relatively large quantity of cultural and animal (bone and horn) debris.

All of these sites were located within the park boundary. One is located within Glacier Pass; two are located on Glacier River south of Conglomerate Creek (only type of site found south of this point); and two are located on the North Fork Koyukuk River north of Ernie Creek.

DRIFT MINING SITES:

The majority of sites surveyed were associated with mining activities of which eleven are directly associated with drift mining activities. These fall within an area on Glacier River (six sites) from just south of Bluecloud Creek north to Glacier Pass, along Hammond River (two very large complexes), one on Gold Creek, one on Linda Creek, and one on Minnie Creek.

Unlike other sites, drift mine sites are relatively easier to define through their structural remains, associated features, and cultural debris. Of the boiler cabins surveyed (18 boiler cabins total for the 11 sites), their sizes ranged from a small of 11' x 11' to a large of 20' x 25' with an average size of 15'8" x 17'2". These boiler cabins were primarily

two man operations with the larger boiler cabins located on Hammond River and the smaller ones located on Glacier River. Structurally these for the most part were constructed from unpeeled logs chinked with moss and had saddle notched corners. All had gabled roofs covered with sod. Window openings, if any, tended to be larger than those found in other types of cabins, dutch doors tended to be larger than those found in other types of cabins, dutch doors tended to be used more than solid doors on the larger cabins, and cable slots and pulley belt openings are cut through walls facing where the drift mine shafts/tailings are located.

All of the boiler cabins were in association with at least one drift mine shaft and associated tailing pile on Glacier River and at least two shafts in areas outside the Park. In all cases, the drift mine was within 50 feet of the River/Creek with the boiler cabins within 150 feet of the shaft (within 30 feet of the shaft if you discount the Hammond River Mining Complex site).

In the Glacier River drift mine sites, all equipment with the exception of a few items at A.P. Ness's drift mine (GAAR-84-021) and the site directly south of Bluecloud Creek (GAAR-84-012), all mining equipment was removed and the sites are relatively clean of cultural debris. Outside of the park, drift mine sites tend to contain a fair amount of mining equipment and have the appearance of more intensive use.

MINER'S CABINS:

This category places within it those sites associated with mining activities but lack boiler cabins and drift mine shafts. In many cases, these may have been associated with drift mining where boiler cabins were not used (Mascot Creek) but there are no present signs of such activities in close association.

Of the ten sites that fall under this category, three are located on Mascot Creek, two on Glacier River, two on Washington Creek, and one each on Sawyer Creek, Gold Creek, and Linda Creek.

In general these were constructed from unpeeled logs chinked with moss and have saddle notched corners. They range in size from 9' x 9' to 15' x 17' with an average size of 12'-1" x 13'-1", falling in size between the trapper cabin size and that of the boiler cabins. All of these cabins contained a relatively large collection of cultural debris reflecting residential use with a few mining related items such as old gold pans and shovels.

SHELTER CABINS:

Only three sites fall within this category, all located outside of the park. Although Yale's cabin was later used as a shelter cabin, it is not placed under this category but included under drift mining sites since that was its original use.

No generalities can be made about this category except maybe that they are as unique as their makers. Arctic John's sod house reflects a traditional Native construction, and Jonas's shelter between Sheep and Gold Creeks is just plain unique as far as cabin styles surveyed. That leaves the ARC shelter cabin in Gold Creek which in size and style reflects those also found in the Wrangell/St. Elias National Park and Preserve surveyed in 1983. This, however, should not be too suprising since it is basically an institutional structure and based on a 1924 report by Joseph Ulmer ("Report of Reconnaissance Survey Fort Gibbon to Kobuk and Koyukuk River") it appears that ARC attempted in later years to use a standard cabin form for all their cabins although each could have its little identities in craftsmanship.

WOODCHOPPER CABIN:

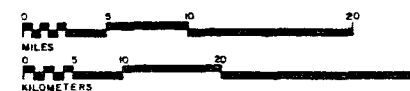
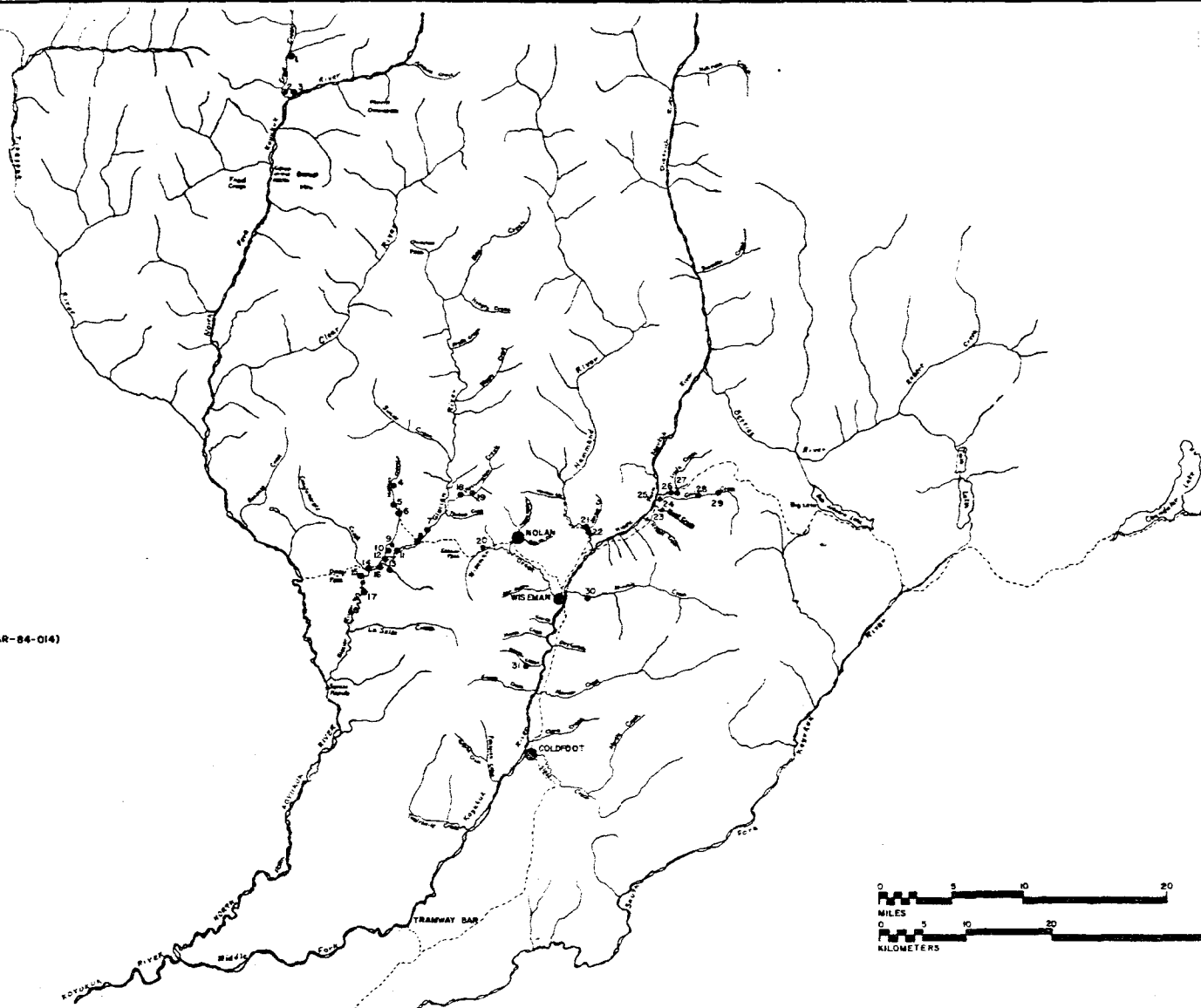
Only one cabin was surveyed that fits this category so any generalities concerning it can only be done site specific and not as a general consideration for all woodchopper's cabins.

There were only a few features that distinguished this cabin from that of a miner's cabin. First and foremost is its location. Located in Glacier Pass the site does not conform to an expected mining site. Secondly, although it falls within the size range for a miner's cabin (10'4" x 10'8") it has a shed roof, the only one found on a structure larger than an outhouse. And thirdly, the area around the site was heavily timbered and contained a number of stacked logs. Its difference from a trapper's line cabin surveyed is in its larger size.

MISCELLANEOUS SITES

The remaining three sites surveyed do not fall into any of the categories discussed. These sites are the Wiseman Cemetery, a depression of unknown purpose (GAAR-84-014) and a site composed of only cultural debri (GAAR-84-003).

- KEY:
- 1 CACHE (GAAR-84-003)
 - 2 TRAPPER'S CAMP (GAAR-84-001)
 - 3 ERNIE JOHNSON'S SITE (GAAR-84-002)
 - 4 IKOVICH'S MINING CABIN (GAAR-84-007)
 - 5 KNORR'S MINING CABIN (GAAR-84-008)
 - 6 MINING CABIN REMAINS (GAAR-84-006)
 - 7 NESS'S DRIFT MINE (GAAR-84-021)
 - 8 YALE'S CABIN & DRIFT MINE (GAAR-84-011)
 - 9 CABIN REMAINS (GAAR-84-009) & DEPRESSION (GAAR-84-014)
 - 10 CABIN REMAINS (GAAR-84-005)
 - 11 DRIFT MINE (GAAR-84-010)
 - 12 DRIFT MINE (GAAR-84-004)
 - 13 DRIFT MINE (GAAR-84-013)
 - 14 CABIN REMAINS (GAAR-84-016)
 - 15 TRAPPER'S CABIN (GAAR-84-018)
 - 16 DRIFT MINE (GAAR-84-012)
 - 17 KNORR'S SHEEP HUNTING CABIN (GAAR-84-017)
 - 18 MINER'S CABIN (GAAR-84-020)
 - 19 MINER'S CABIN (GAAR-84-019)
 - 20 WOODCHOOPE'S CABIN (GAAR-84-015)
 - 21 WATT'S DRIFT MINE
 - 22 DETROIT MINING COMPANY
 - 23 ETALOOK'S SOD HOUSE (CHN-015)
 - 24 JONAS'S SHELTER
 - 25 ARC SHELTER CABIN (CHN-007)
 - 26 SUTHERLAND'S MINING CABIN
 - 27 WILCOX DRIFT MINE
 - 28 DRIFT MINE
 - 29 MINER'S CABIN
 - 30 DRIFT MINE (WIS-050)
 - 31 MILLER'S MINING CABIN
- WINTER TRAIL



HISTORIC BASE MAP
EASTERN SECTOR GATES OF THE ARCTIC NATIONAL PARK AND PRESERVE
AND ADJACENT AREAS

SITE TYPE: TRAPPER'S CAMP

SITE NUMBER: GAAR-84-001

LOCATION: The site is located at the confluence of Ernie Creek and the North Fork Koyukuk River.

USGS QUAD; Wiseman D-2 (1:63360)

SECTION, TOWNSHIP, RANGE: NW1/4 of SE1/4 of Section 25,
T 36N., R.15W.

UTMS: 7535200N, 590150 E. Zone 5

DATE SURVEYED: June 7, 1984

SURVEYORS: William Brown, Russell Sackett

SITE DESCRIPTION:

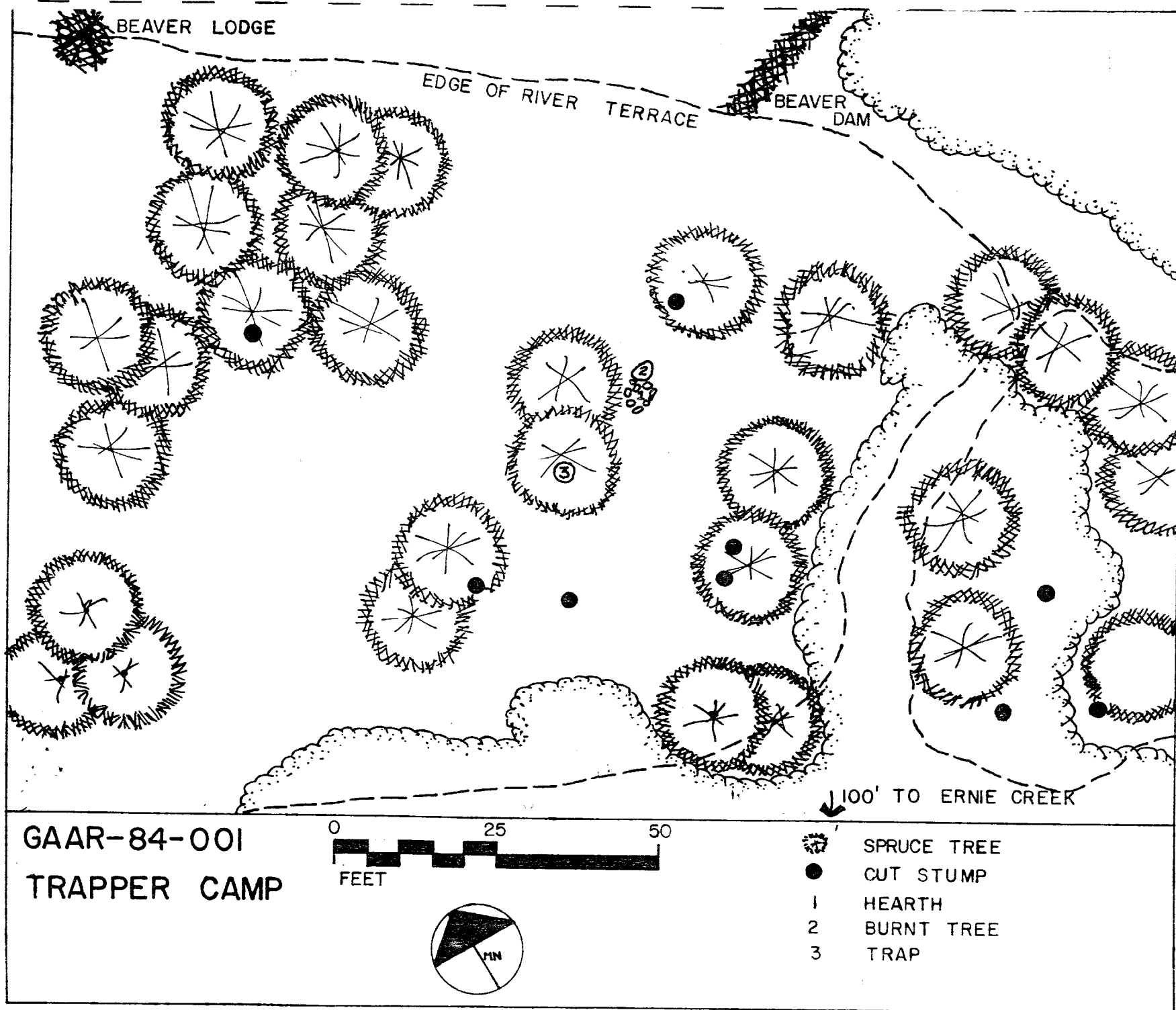
The site is situated on the northern point formed by the confluence of Ernie Creek and the North Fork Koyukuk River within a small stand of spruce. Directly fringing the northern side of the site is an abandoned beaver lodge and dam which has created a large pond to the northwest. Along the river and creek banks there are thickets of willow and medium stands of spruce. Beyond the river bank the vegetation becomes one of moist tundra.

The site consists of a hearth denoted by a ring of stones and a fire scorched tree, a trap, and numerous cut stumps. Tabs from pop top refreshment cans are in association with the hearth which would suggest that it dates from the 1960's. The tree stumps are of the diameter one would expect would be used as tent poles. The trap that was located on top of a tree stump and is a "Oneida Victor #3, Animal Trap Co., Oneida, PA., Pat. 8-26-11". See following site map.

SIGNIFICANCE:

Not enough is known about the history of the site to determine historic significance. The site represents a type site (trapper/hunter) within the eastern half of the park that denotes historic use of the region and is little represented by other similar sites within the region surveyed in 1984.

PREVIOUS SURVEYS: None.



SITE TYPE: ERNIE JOHNSON'S CABIN SITE/HUNTING CAMP

SITE NUMBER: GAAR-84-002

LOCATION: Located on west bank of the North Fork Koyukuk River approximately 1/2 mile upstream from Ernie Creek.

USGS QUAD: Wiseman D-2 (1:63360)

TOWNSHIP, RANGE, SECTION: T.36N., R.15W., SE1/4 of NE1/4
Section 25

UTMS: 7535600 N. 590800 E Zone 5

DATE SURVEYED: June 8, 1984

FIELD SURVEYORS: William Brown, Russell Sackett

SITE DESCRIPTION:

The site is located on the west bank of the North Fork Koyukuk River approximately 1/2 mile up stream from Ernie Creek. The site is denoted by a cleared and willowed area cut out of the dense stand of mature spruce which covers the area. This is the location of Ernie Johnson's cabin site, however, his cabin has been totally washed away by the river which is actively eroding the site's western edge. The site is heavily dotted by cut stumps, some of which probably reflects Johnson's use of the site. Historical trash is scattered throughout the site. Cultural features found on the site are as follows:

Feature 1:

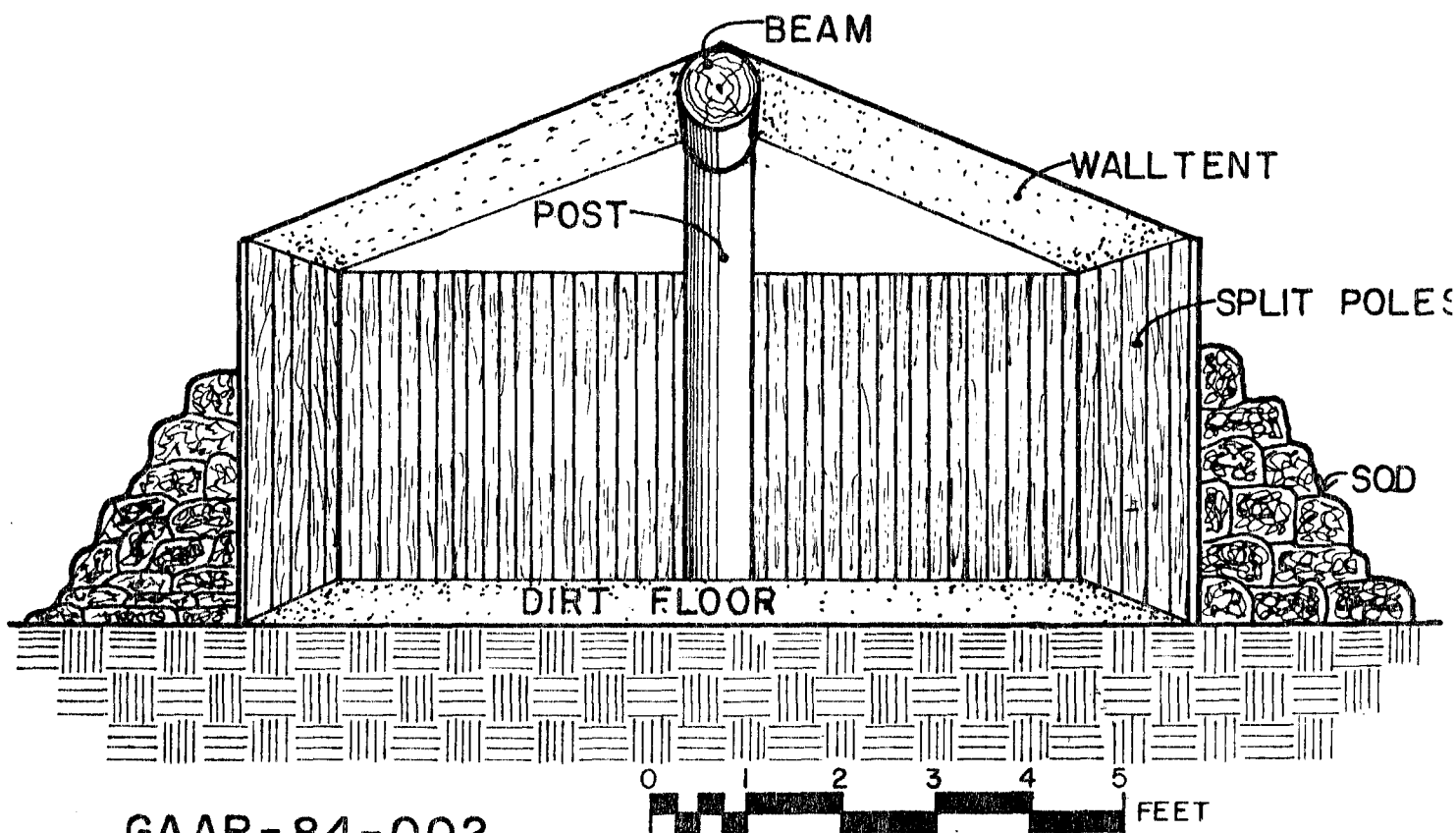
Remnants of a 5" diameter pole with three rocks placed around its base.

Feature 2:

This is a stump approximately 2'6" high with the top squared to 8" x 8" size. It appears that while the tree was still standing it was formed into an 8" x 8" piece of timber and then cut with a saw leaving the stump.

Feature 3:

This feature is marked by a 10" diameter tree cut to form a 'V' 6'1" above grade. This pole is situated on the center line of northern edge of a 8' x 10' rectangle formed by a sod berm. These remains represent a wall tent structure dating from when the site was used as a hunting camp. See drawing of reconstructed wall tent structure.



GAAR-84-002

RECONSTRUCTED WALL TENT STRUCTURE

A detailed map of the study area. The North Fork Koyukuk River flows from the bottom left towards the right. The area is divided into several zones: 'MATURE SPRUCE' forest, indicated by circular symbols with internal radial lines, and 'WILLOW' thickets, indicated by wavy, scalloped lines. A large, irregularly shaped area with diagonal hatching is located on the right side of the map. Numbered sampling points are marked as follows: point 1 is a small square near the river; point 2 is a circle in the central area; point 3 is a diamond in the upper central area; point 4 is a diamond in the central area; point 5 is a square in the lower right area; and point 6 is a circle in the upper right area. An arrow at the bottom points left, labeled 'NORTH FORK KOYUKUK RIVER'. The map is identified by the code 'GAAR-84-002' in the bottom left corner.

A detailed map of the study area. The North Fork Koyukuk River flows from the bottom left towards the right. The area is divided into several zones: 'MATURE SPRUCE' forest, indicated by circular symbols containing needle-like patterns, and 'WILLOW' thickets, indicated by irregular, cloud-like outlines. A large, shaded, irregular polygon represents a rocky area. Numbered sampling points are marked: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6. Points 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 are enclosed in small squares, while point 6 is enclosed in a circle. Point 1 is located near the riverbank, while points 2 through 6 are distributed across the spruce and willow areas. A north arrow is located at the bottom center, pointing towards the left. The map is labeled with 'MATURE SPRUCE' in two locations and 'WILLOW' in the central area. The river is labeled 'NORTH FORK KOYUKUK RIVER' at the bottom.

A detailed map of the study area. The North Fork Koyukuk River flows from the bottom left towards the right. The area is divided into several zones: 'MATURE SPRUCE' forest, indicated by circular symbols containing needle-like patterns, and 'WILLOW' thickets, indicated by irregular, cloud-like outlines. A large, shaded, irregular polygon represents a rock or boulder. Numbered sampling points are marked: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6. Point 1 is near the riverbank with small square symbols. Point 2 is in the open area. Points 3 and 4 are in diamond-shaped boxes within the spruce forest. Point 5 is in a rectangular box near the river. Point 6 is marked in several locations along the right edge of the map. A north arrow points towards the top left. The map is labeled with 'MATURE SPRUCE', 'WILLOW', and 'NORTH FORK KOYUKUK RIVER'.

A detailed map of the study area. The North Fork Koyukuk River flows from the bottom left towards the right. The area is divided into several zones: 'MATURE SPRUCE' forest, indicated by circular symbols containing needle-like patterns, and 'WILLOW' thickets, indicated by irregular, cloud-like outlines. A large, shaded, irregular polygon represents a rocky area. Numbered sampling points are marked: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6. Points 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 are enclosed in small squares, while point 6 is enclosed in a circle. A north arrow points towards the top left. The map is labeled with 'MATURE SPRUCE', 'WILLOW', and 'NORTH FORK KOYUKUK RIVER'.

HUNTING CAMP / ERNIE JOHNSON'S CABIN SITE

- 1 STONE CIRCLE WITH POLE
- 2 SQUARED STUMP
- 3-5 WALL TENT STRUCTURES
- 6 ROUGHEDOUT SLEDGE RUNNERS
-  SOD BURROW AREAS

Feature 4:

This feature is the same as feature 2 with the exception that it measured 10' x 10'6" and 4' long split poles were found placed vertically outlining the feature. Cultural material associated with the feature included various historic food cans and a series of batteries from an old transmitter.

Feature 5:

This feature is the same as previous two, with the exception that it measures 10'6" x 12'. This feature is in danger of eroding away due to active river erosion.

Feature 6:

Feature 6 is the collection of eight roughed-out sledge runners located from 50' to 300' north and west of feature 5. These runners are roughed out of spruce felled in such a way as to expose its roots. The straight part of the runners are adzed/axed out of the trunk with the upturned portion of runner formed from a main root branching from the tree. In all cases, none of the runners were completed and are still part of the whole tree with them remaining where the tree was felled. In the area of these runners, there is one tree that was felled in the same manner with the first 10' feet gone. This is assumed to represent a runner that was completed and removed.

In addition to these features there are a number of areas where sod was removed from the ground. The area around feature 1 is assumed to be sod removed for roofing of Ernie Johnson's cabin. The other major area probably represents sod removed for berming the hunting camp's wall tent structures.

Throughout the site are horns from sheep representing activity that occurred on the site while it was used as a hunting camp. A short piece of cowling from a "Bombardier" all-terrain vehicle was also located on the northern fringes of the site.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The site was the location of Ernie Johnson's cabin when Robert Marshal visited the area. Ernie Johnson was one of the earliest of the limited number of non-Natives to enter the North Fork Koyukuk River region and to become established there as a trapper.

The features associated with the hunting camp represent probably a 'guide operation' dating in the 50s to late 1960s and as such represent a type site for this type of activity.

The site has archeological significance in that the use pattern and cultural remains found in the site can provide information important to research centered on hunting camps. Although Johnson's cabin no longer exists, archeological research may provide information important to reconstructing his early activities on the site.

PREVIOUS SURVEYS: None

SITE TYPE: Cache (?)

SITE NUMBER: GAAR-84-003

LOCATION: Situated on a 130 foot high knoll east of Ernie Creek.

USGS QUAD: Wiseman D-2 (1:63360)

TOWNSHIP, RANGE, SECTION: T.36N., R.15W., NW1/2 of SE1/4 of Section 12

UTMS: 7530100 N. 590350 E. Zone 5

DATE SURVEYED: June 9, 1984

SURVEYOR: Russell Sackett

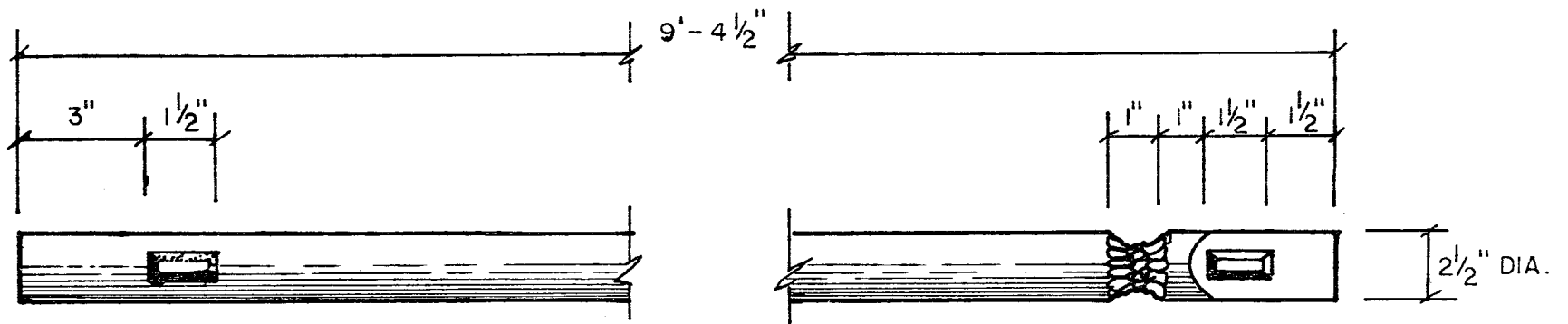
SITE DESCRIPTION:

The site sits on top of a 1300 foot high knoll just east of Ernie Creek providing a panoramic view of the Ernie Creek drainage. The top of the knoll is sparsely vegetated by small diameter spruce with the surrounding terrain composed of moist tundra. Cultural material found on the site consisted of a few scattered coffee and lard cans, five cut stumps and a dog sled G pole which was 9'4 1/2" long.

SIGNIFICANCE:

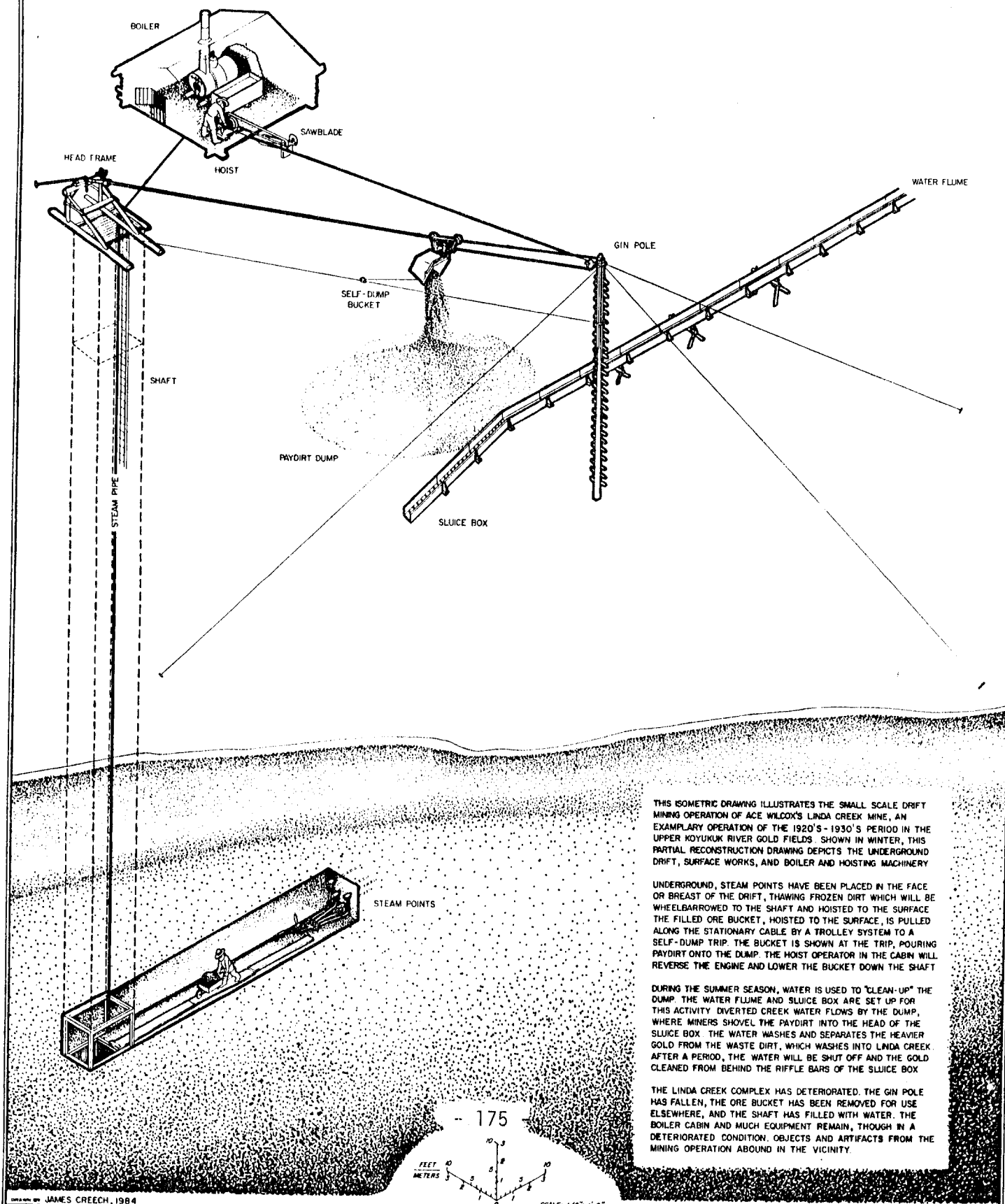
Not enough is known about the history of the site to determine its historical significance. It probably represents a short period stopping place for individuals traveling by dog sled along Ernie Creek.

PREVIOUS SURVEYS: None



GAAR-84-003 : 'G' POLE

DRIFT MINING 1920 - 1930

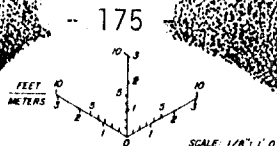


THIS ISOMETRIC DRAWING ILLUSTRATES THE SMALL SCALE DRIFT MINING OPERATION OF ACE WILCOX'S LINDA CREEK MINE, AN EXEMPLARY OPERATION OF THE 1920'S-1930'S PERIOD IN THE UPPER KOYUKUK RIVER GOLD FIELDS. SHOWN IN WINTER, THIS PARTIAL RECONSTRUCTION DRAWING DEPICTS THE UNDERGROUND DRIFT, SURFACE WORKS, AND BOILER AND HOISTING MACHINERY

UNDERGROUND, STEAM POINTS HAVE BEEN PLACED IN THE FACE OR BREAST OF THE DRIFT, THAWING FROZEN DIRT WHICH WILL BE WHEELBARROWED TO THE SHAFT AND HOISTED TO THE SURFACE. THE FILLED ORE BUCKET, HOISTED TO THE SURFACE, IS PULLED ALONG THE STATIONARY CABLE BY A TROLLEY SYSTEM TO A SELF-DUMP TRIP. THE BUCKET IS SHOWN AT THE TRIP, POURING PAYDIRT ONTO THE DUMP. THE HOIST OPERATOR IN THE CABIN WILL REVERSE THE ENGINE AND LOWER THE BUCKET DOWN THE SHAFT

DURING THE SUMMER SEASON, WATER IS USED TO "CLEAN-UP" THE DUMP. THE WATER FLUME AND SLUICE BOX ARE SET UP FOR THIS ACTIVITY. DIVERTED CREEK WATER FLOWS BY THE DUMP, WHERE MINERS SHOVEL THE PAYDIRT INTO THE HEAD OF THE SLUICE BOX. THE WATER WASHES AND SEPARATES THE HEAVIER GOLD FROM THE WASTE DIRT, WHICH WASHES INTO LINDA CREEK. AFTER A PERIOD, THE WATER WILL BE SHUT OFF AND THE GOLD CLEANED FROM BEHIND THE RIFFLE BARS OF THE SLUICE BOX

THE LINDA CREEK COMPLEX HAS DETERIORATED. THE GIN POLE HAS FALLEN, THE ORE BUCKET HAS BEEN REMOVED FOR USE ELSEWHERE, AND THE SHAFT HAS FILLED WITH WATER. THE BOILER CABIN AND MUCH EQUIPMENT REMAIN, THOUGH IN A DETERIORATED CONDITION. OBJECTS AND ARTIFACTS FROM THE MINING OPERATION ABOUND IN THE VICINITY.



DRAWN BY JAMES CREECH, 1984

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

GAAR

NAME AND LOCATION OF STRUCTURE
A.D. WILCOX COMPLEX
LINDA CREEK, WISEMAN VICINITY

SURVEY NO.
AK-7

HISTORIC AMERICAN
ENGINEERING RECORD
SHEET 5 OF 5 SHEETS

ALASKA

SITE TYPE: DRIFT MINER'S CABIN

SITE NUMBER: GAAR-84-004

LOCATION: The site is located approximately 300' east of
Glacier River, 1/10 of a mile south of Mascot
Creek's confluence with the river.

USGE QUAD: Wiseman B-2 (1:63360)

TOWNSHIP, RANGE, SECTION: T.30N., R.14W., NW1/4 of SE1/4
of Section 1

UTMS: 7482620 N. 602950 E. Zone 5

DATE SURVEYED: June 22, 1984

SURVEYOR: Russell Sackett

SITE DESCRIPTION:

This site is located approximately 300 feet east of Glacier River and 1/10 of a mile south of the confluence of Mascot Creek. The site represents early drift mining operations with the drift mine shaft, tailings, cabin and a few associated artifacts remaining. Unlike other drift mining sites on the Glacier River, this site is unique in it is so far off the river bank and has two cabins placed under a single gabled roof to form a covered breezeway between the two. One cabin (north portion) represents the boiler cabin with the other a residential one. Description of the features follows:

Feature 1: Cabin

The cabin is actually two placed facing each other under a single gabled roof to form a 9'6" wide breezeway between the two. The roof of the structure is completely gone leaving only the structure's walls standing. A ridge pole and two purlins at one time supported the gabled roof and lie askew on the remaining walls. Unpeeled round logs were used in construction of these wall having moss chinking and saddled notched corners. The function of the two cabins were different in that one was used as a boiler cabin and the other as a residential cabin.

Boiler Cabin--

The boiler cabin measures 14'6" x 16'. Its west wall stands 5'11" high and is composed of eight log courses. A 11" x 11" window opening is placed 3'5" north from the wall's south end with its sill placed 2'3" above grade. A second window opening 2'2" x 3'3" is located in this elevation 1'1" south of the wall's north end with its sill 2'3" above grade.

The north wall of the boiler cabin stands 6' high and is composed of ten log courses. The gabled portion of this wall is totally

collapsed. A 4" x 18" slot is cut through the wall 2'3" east of the wall's west end and 1'8" above grade. Right below this slot is an opening 10" x 14" which begins at grade and extends 14" up. The slot is a 'cable slot' from which the cable would extend from the steam hoist located inside the cabin to the mast which would have been located northeast of the tailing pile. This cable should have operated the ore bucket. The opening below the cable slot was probably used for a belt operated off the same hoist to drive a circular saw outside the cabin for cutting up firewood used in fueling the boiler. The window opening on the north end of the west elevation was placed to allow the steam hoist operator to keep visual contact with the drift mine shaft and the mast while operating the ore bucket.

The boiler cabin's east wall stands 5'10" high and is composed of nine log courses. In the center of the wall, 1'4" above grade, is a 7" x 10" window opening.

The structure's south wall forms the breezeway's north wall between it and the residential cabin. This wall is 5'11" high and is composed of eight log courses with the gabled portion collapsed. A door opening 3'4" x 5'4" is located 3'9" east of the wall's west end.

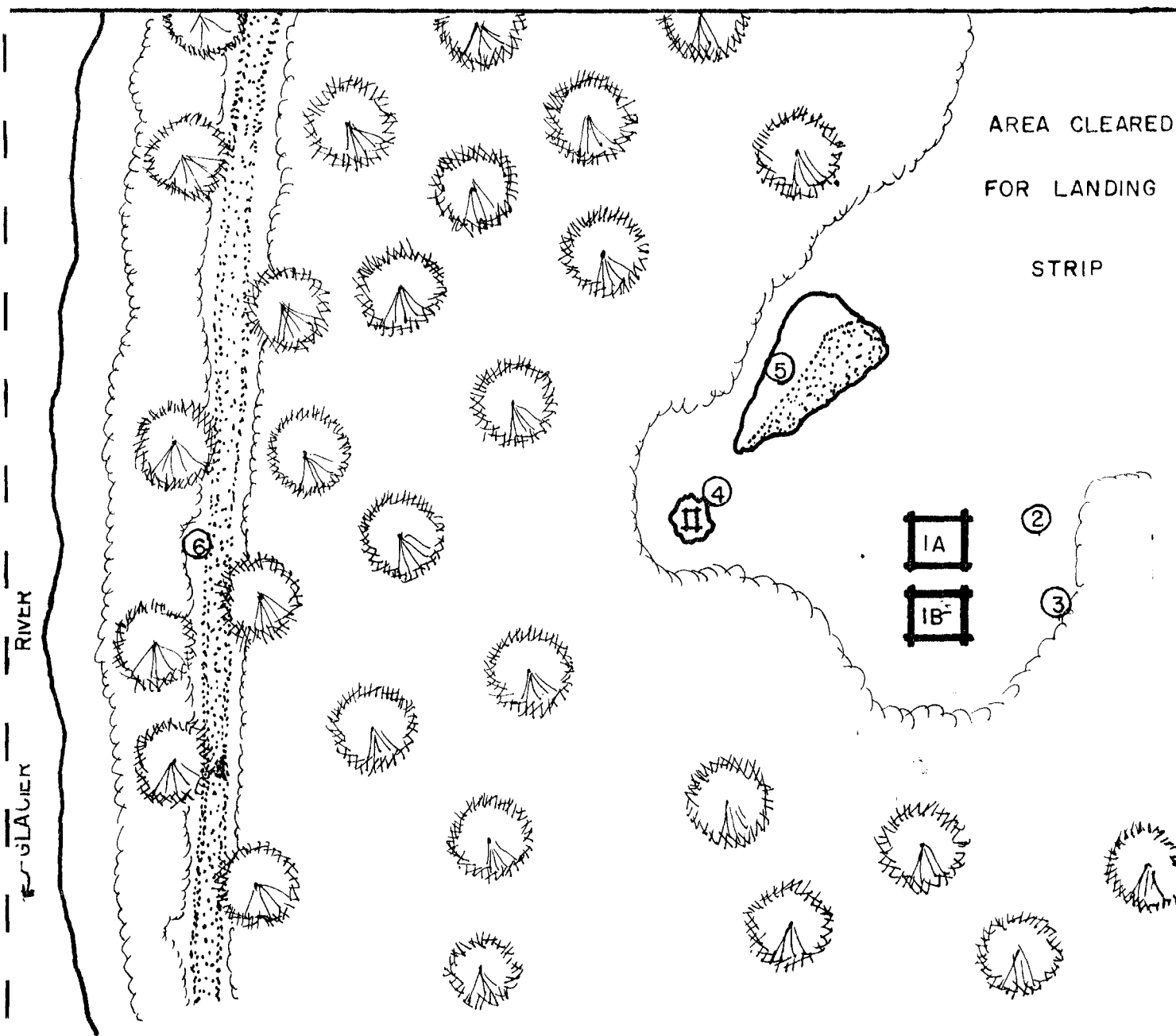
Visually, the interior of the boiler cabin is clean of cultural material. However, cultural material may be buried beneath the collapsed roof. All of the mining equipment, i.e. boiler, hoist, water tank, etc. has been removed.

Residential Cabin -

The residential cabin in floor plan has the same measurements and type of construction as with the boiler cabin. This cabin is situated in line with and 9'6" south of the boiler cabin. The residential cabin's east wall is 5'6" high and composed of nine log courses. Placed in the center of the wall, 2'4" off grade is a 1'1" x 1'3" window opening framed in milled lumber. The sash for this window is missing.

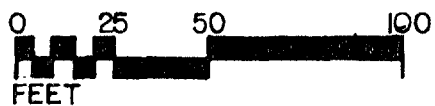
The structure's south wall stands 6'-7" high and is composed of ten log courses with the gabled portion of the wall collapsed. In the center of the wall, 2'4" above grade is a 2'3" x 3'0" window opening framed in milled lumber. There are remains of a shutter that once was hinged on the top frame of the window along with remains of a table resting beneath the window. Also associated with these remains is either a rack or bench made from poles that extend the entire length of the wall and 4' wide.

The west wall is 6'2" tall and composed of ten log courses. Placed in the center of the wall, 2'10" above grade, is a 1'1" x 1'3" window opening framed in milled lumber.



GAAR-84-004

DRIFT MINER'S CABIN



- 1A BOILER CABIN
- 1B RESIDENTIAL CABIN
- 2 SLEDGE
- 3 SLEDGE
- 4 DRIFT MINE SHAFT
- 5 TAILINGS
- 6 WINTER TRAIL

Forming the south wall of the breezeway, the structure's north wall stands 6' high, and is composed of nine log courses with its gabled portion completely collapsed. A 2'7" x 4'5" door opening framed in milled lumber is located 3' east of the wall's west end.

Interior of the residential cabin contains more cultural material than that found in the boiler cabin. By the structure's door opening is the remains of the door which was made from milled lumber covered interiorly with canvas. Adjacent to the door on the interior north wall is a small 4" x 8" shelf made from milled lumber. At one time, the wood stove was placed along the north wall. The stove is no longer in the cabin but a chimney sleeve through the north wall marks where it would have been located. Along the interior of the cabin's east wall are two shelves placed atop one another and made of eleven 2" diameter poles. A table is placed beneath the east window, and the remains of a bed lie in the southeast corner. A table is placed beneath the cabin's window located in the south wall. On top of the table sits an old 'Log Cabin' syrup can. Below the west wall's window are two pole shelves. Other material visible within the cabin are two square 5 gallon blazo cans and a lard bucket. More cultural material probably exists beneath the collapsed roof.

Within the area defined by the breezeway is a homemade chair and one square 5 gallon blazo can.

Feature 2: Sledge

Feature 2 is the remains of a horse drawn sledge 24 feet east of the boiler cabin's northeast corner. The sledge appears to be complete although in poor condition.

Feature 3: Sledge

Feature 3 is the remains of a portion of a horse drawn sledge located 30 feet east of the center of the residential cabin. It is in poor condition with only the runners visible.

Feature 4: Drift Mine Shaft

Feature 4 is the drift mine's shaft located 71 feet west of the boiler cabin's northwest corner. The shaft is now slumped in forming a depression approximately 10 feet in diameter and 3 feet deep and is filled with water. Some remains of the shaft's log cribbing are visible and measures approximately 4' x 7'. What appears to be the remains of the shaft's headframe lies near the shaft.

Feature 5: Tailings

Feature 5 is the tailing pile representing overburden removed from the excavation of the shaft. This feature is located 20 feet northeast of the shaft and measures 59 feet long and 29

feet wide. The pile begins at grade level closest to the shaft and builds to a height of 15 feet at its furthest point from the shaft.

In addition to the features found on the site, a number of food cans and bottle fragments are located to the west of the cabin.

HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE:

The site has significance in the documentation and understanding of turn of the century drift mining operations in the Glacier River area. Archeologically, the cabin presents a unique floor plan to the region.

PREVIOUS SURVEYS:

Susan Steinacker performed a brief survey of the site September 17, 1981 as a seasonal ranger for the National Park Service. Her survey is on file at the Gates of the Arctic headquarters in Fairbanks under Cabin Inventory No. HC-03.

Historic American Building Survey team members visited the site in July of 1984 and prepared a measured site and floor plan. Drawings have been given the HABS No. AK-21 designation and are on file at the National Park Service's Regional Office in Anchorage.

SITE TYPE: CABIN REMAINS

SITE NUMBER: GAAR-84-005

LOCATION: This cabin is located on the west bank of the Glacier River approximately 1/10 mile north of Mascot Creek's confluence with the river.

USGS QUAD: Wiseman B-2 (1: 63360)

TOWNSHIP, RANGE, SECTION: T.30N., R.14W., SE1/4 of NE1/4 of Section 1

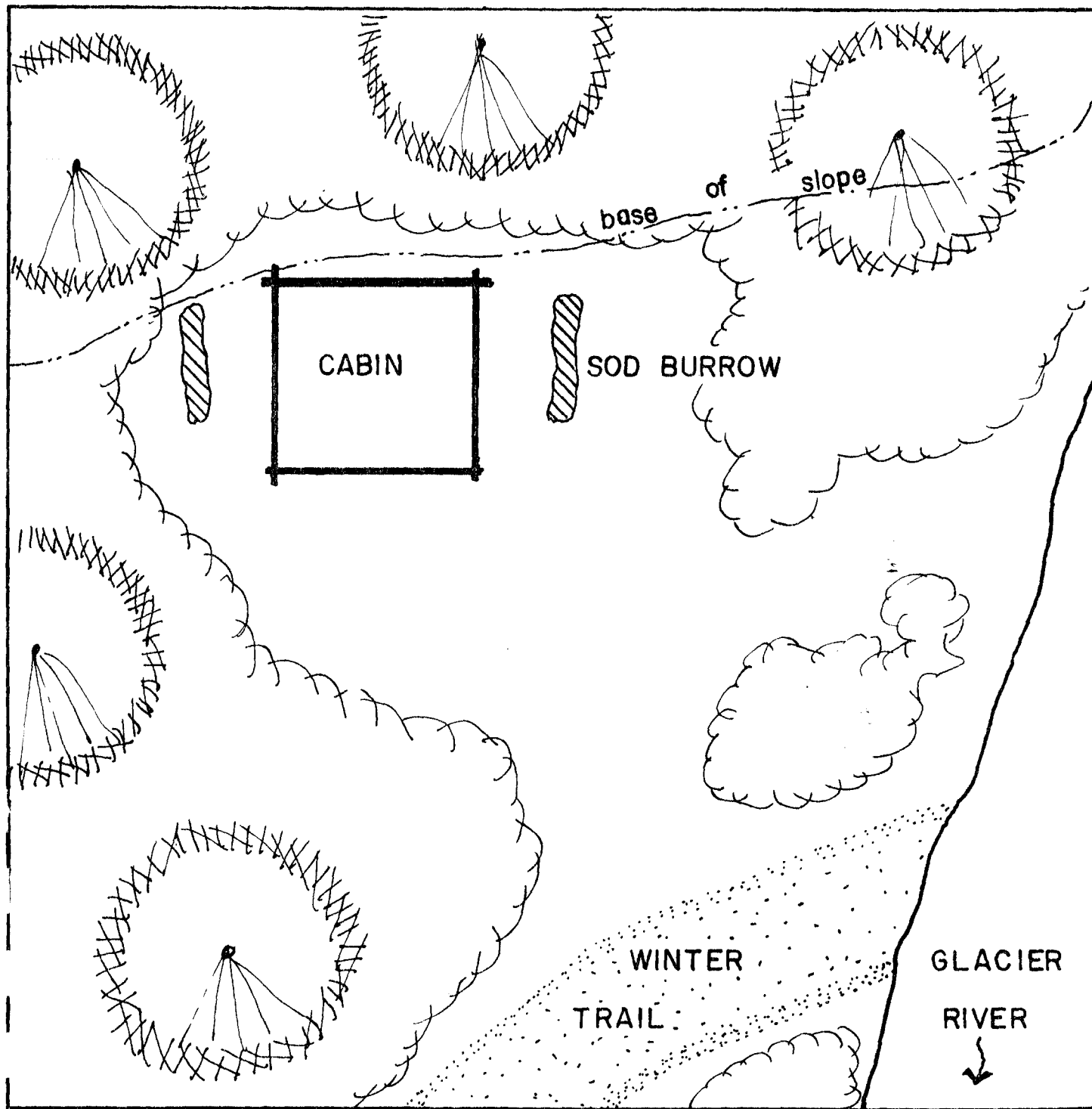
UTMS: 7483020 N. 603350 E. Zone 5

DATE FIELD SURVEYED: June 23, 1984

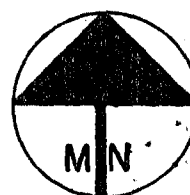
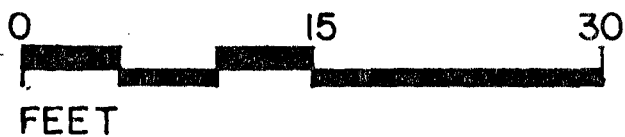
SURVEYOR: Russell Sackett

SITE DESCRIPTION:

This site is located on the west bank of the Glacier River approximately 500 feet north of Mascot Creek. This site is composed of the remains of a totally ruined log cabin 40 feet west of the river bank. The cabin was constructed of unpeeled logs that were chinked with moss and had saddle notched corners.



GAAR- 84 - 005
CABIN REMAINS



The south wall is entirely gone and only 2-3 log courses remain of the north, east, and west walls. It appears that the cabin was torn apart and the logs left scattered about. This cabin measured 13' x 13' and there are no visible remains to suggest what type of roof, other than sod covered, it may have had. It does appear, however, that the door would have been on the south wall and that the cabin did not contain any windows.

There are no visible cultural material in association with the structure. Remains, however, may possibly be buried beneath the sod layer, which represents the collapsed roof debris, within the cabin. On the east and west sides of the cabin are shallow trenches approximately 2'8" x 7' within 7 feet of the cabin. These trenches represent areas where sod was obtained for covering the roof.

Just to the south of the cabin and parallel to the river is a winter trail. Terrain immediately north of the cabin rises abruptly.

HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE:

Not enough is known about the structure to place any significance. There are no signs of drift mining around the structure but it probably dates from the first decades of the 1900's and associated with mining/prospecting activities on Mascot Creek. Archeologically, the site appears to be of little significance.

SITE TYPE: MINER'S CABIN

SITE NUMBER: GAAR-84-006

LOCATION: The site is located on the east bank of Mascot Creek approximately 2.4 miles north of the creek's confluence with Glacier River.

USGS QUAD: Wiseman B-2 (1:63360)

TOWNSHIP, RANGE, SECTION: T.31N., R.13W., NW1/4 of SE1/4 of Section 30

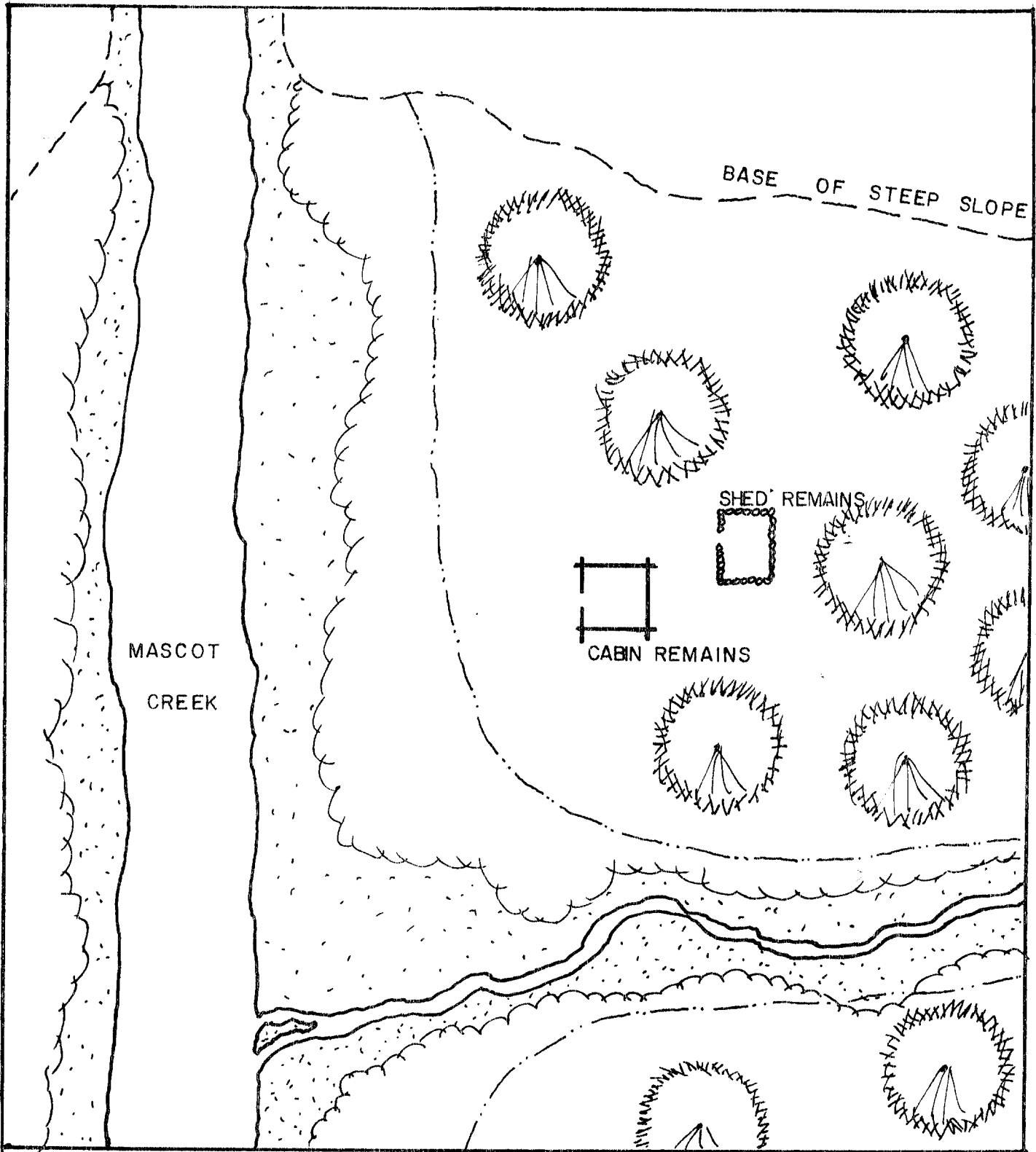
UTMS: 7485860 N. 604350 E. Zone 5

DATE FIELD SURVEYED: June 17, 1984

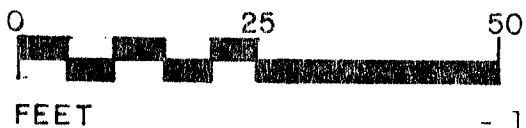
SURVEYORS: Russell Sackett and Mark Standly

SITE DESCRIPTION:

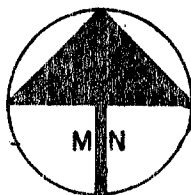
The site is located on the east bank of Mascot Creek approximately 2.4 miles north of the creek's confluence with Glacier River and



GAAR-84-006
MINER'S CABIN



- 183



at the beginning of the creek's narrows. The site is composed of a cabin which is in total ruin.

The cabin is located 48 feet east of Mascot creek and measures 9' x 9'. It was constructed of unpeeled logs that were moss chinked and had saddle notched corners. Only the sill logs and one log course remain. Originally the cabin's door was on the west side facing the creek. Not enough of the cabin remains to determine floor style or whether there were any windows. No cultural material was visible inside, however, there may be some buried beneath the collapsed roof debris.

Ten feet directly east of the cabin are the remains of a shed that measures 7' x 9'. The walls of this structure were originally constructed by placing 3"-4" diameter poles vertically. The shed had a shed roof.

Scattered about in association with the cabin are a number of unidentified machinery parts, miscellaneous tools, and food cans.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:

This cabin may be that built and lived in by Austin Duffy. According to Harry Leonard (personal communication July 20, 1984) Austin Duffy was first on Mascot Creek followed by Nick Ikovich and then Vincent Knorr. According to Reed's 1938 report, Austin Duffy owned claims 1, 2, 3, and 4 above discovery claim. According to Maddren's 1909 field notes, Austin Duffy was not on the creek but that John McKenry owned claim 1 above discovery, Ditchworth owned claim 2 above discovery, Dean Rathburn owned claim 3 above discovery, and Frank (?) owned claim 4 above discovery.

Regardless, the site has significance in the early mining activities on Mascot Creek and has archeological potential for obtaining information on understanding early mining activities and life in the region.

PREVIOUS SURVEYS: None

SITE TYPE: MINER'S CABIN (NICK IKOVICH'S CABIN)

SITE NUMBER: GAAR-84-007

LOCATION: This cabin is located on the east bank of Mascot Creek approximately 5.6 miles north of the creek's confluence with Glacier River.

USGS QUAD: Wiseman C-2 (1:63360)

TOWNSHIP, RANGE, SECTION: T.31N., R.14W., SW1/4 of SW1/4 of Section 7

UTMS: 7500600 N. 603650 E. Zone 5

DATE FIELD SURVEYED: June 17, 1984

SURVEYORS: Russell Sackett, Mark Standley

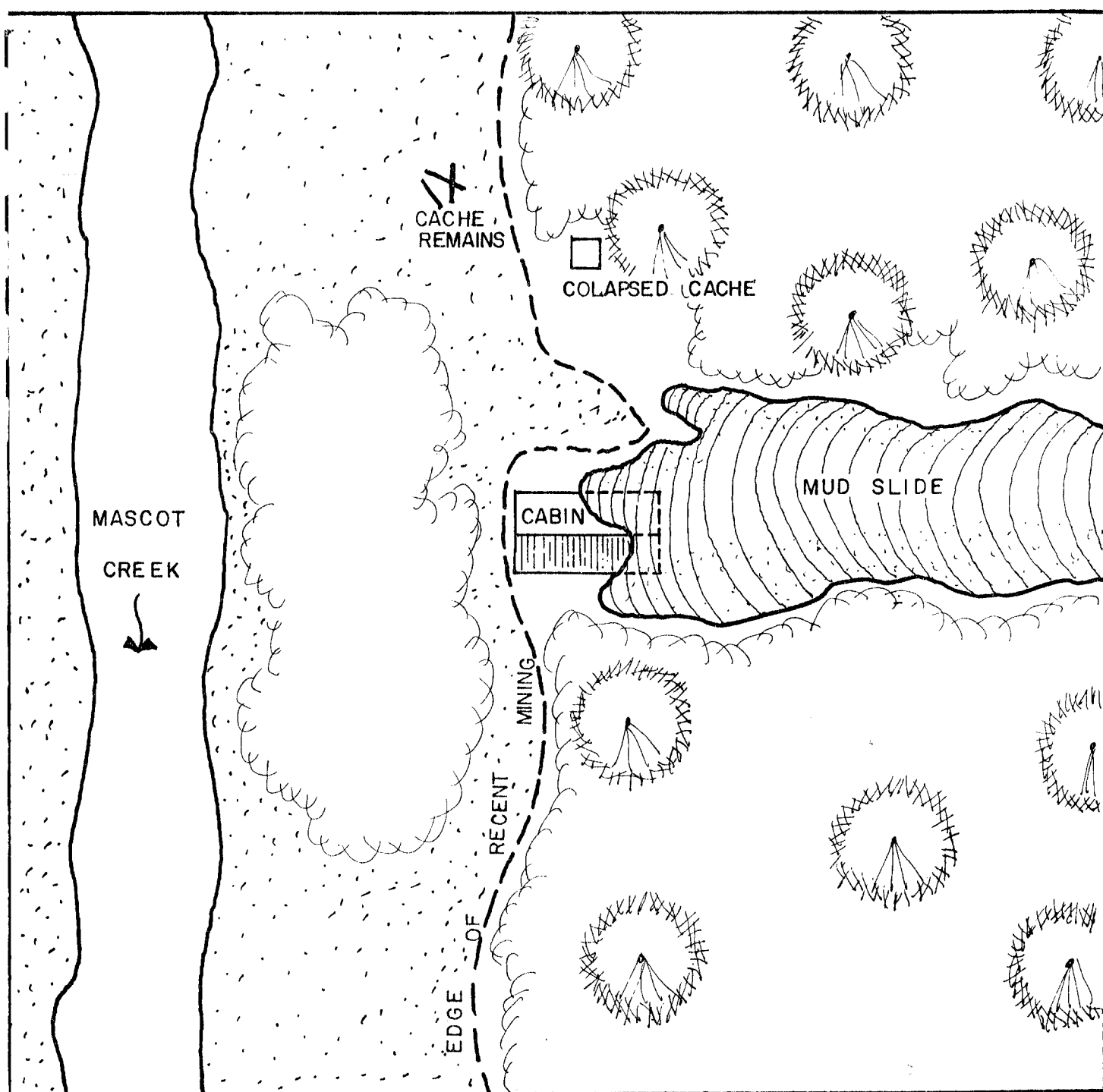
SITE DESCRIPTION:

This site is located on the east bank of Mascot Creek approximately 5.6 miles north of the creek's confluence with Glacier River. It is composed of a log cabin and remains of two caches approximately 40 feet east of the creek and 12 feet above the creek bed. Recent mining activity along Mascot Creek has caused the area to become unstable resulting in a mud slide burying portions of the cabin.

The cabin is constructed from peeled logs chinked with moss and has saddle notched corners. On the east end of the cabin, facing the creek is an arctic entry constructed of vertical logs. The cabin itself measures 11' x 14' with the entry measuring 6' x 11'. A gabled roof supported by a ridge pole covers the cabin and extends out over the arctic entry. This roof is constructed of split poles covered with flattened blazo cans and canvas which in turn is covered with sod.

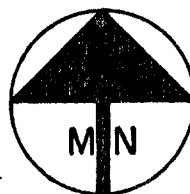
The north and south sides of the cabin are covered by the recent mud slide. The north side of the arctic entry contains a door with the arctic entry's west wall containing a 2'3" x 3'2" six light window placed in its center. The south wall of the cabin also contains the same type window placed in its center. The side wall of the structure stands 5 feet high with the gabled ends reaching a height of 8 feet.

It appears that the cabin was left with the intent for the user to come back at a later date. The interior of the cabin contains a stack of firewood along the north wall in the northwest corner and a handsome homemade bed with grass matting lies along the south wall in the southeast corner. Below the window in the south wall is a table and shelving along the west wall in the southeast corner rounds off the furniture. The cabin and arctic entry both have milled lumber floors. Within the arctic entry



GAAR-84-007

NICK IKOVICH'S CABIN



are shelves made from blazo can boxes in both the northeast corner and along the south wall. The entry is strewn with cultural material composed of Hills, Brother's coffee cans, Yukon stove, gallon size glass jars, rubber boot parts, pots, pans and a square 5 gallon blazo can adapted as a dog dish.

Thirty feet north of the cabin is the remains of the cache that has completely collapsed. This cache originally rested on 12 foot high poles (4 poles) and was 4'9" x 4'9" in measurement and in the style of an 'A' frame. There are fragments of a ladder, portions of a bellows, and a wood wash tub in association.

A second cache at one time existed in association with the site. This, however, is in total ruin and lying within the creek bed washed out by destabilization caused by the mining activities. Original location of this cache is not known.

HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE:

It is generally considered by the local people that Nick Ikovich built the cabin and it is referred to as the Nick Ikovich cabin. According to Reed's 1938 report, Nick Ikovich had a cabin on claim no. 7 above discovery and that he also owned claims 6 and 8 above discovery claim. According to Maddren's 1909 field notes, there were no claims above claim no. 4 above discovery claim when he visited the area.

The site has significance in the history of early mining on Mascot Creek and provides an important site in the quantity of cultural material found in the study of the early period.

PREVIOUS SURVEY: None

SITE TYPE: MINER'S CABIN ---- VINCENT KNORR'S CABIN

SITE NUMBER: GAAR-84-008

LOCATION: This site is located on the west bank of Mascot Creek approximately 3 miles north of the creek's confluence with Glacier River.

USGS QUAD: Wiseman B-2 (1:63360)

TOWNSHIP, RANGE, SECTION: T.31N., R.13.W., SW1/4 of SW1/4 of Section 19

UTMS: 7487170 N. 604560 E. Zone 5

No inventory was done on this site because the Historic American Building Survey's 1984 team prepared detail architectural drawings and description on the site. See their drawings, HABS No. AK-19.

HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE:

Maddrens's 1909 field notes state:

Johnson & Johnson own discovery claim
Levie Ruke owns claim 1 below discovery
Frisbie owns claim 2 below discovery
Bill Oneal owns claim 3 below discovery

Reed's 1938 report states:

Vincent Knorr owns claims 1, 2, and 3 below discovery,
discovery claim, and claim 5 above discovery.

Saunders's 1955 report states:

A & S Mining Company owned by Andy Schwaesdall,
T. Ackerson, and Joe Bayless is leasing all of
Vincent Knorr's Mascot Creek claims.

SITE TYPE: MINER'S CABIN

SITE NUMBER: GAAR-84-009

LOCATION: This site is located on the west bank of the Glacier
River approximately 4/5 of a mile north of Mascot
Creek.

USGS QUAD: Wiseman B-2 (1:63360)

TOWNSHIP, RANGE, SECTION: T.30N., R.12W., SW1/4 of NW1/4
of Section 6

UTMS: 7483280 N. 603960 E. Zone 5

DATE SURVEYED: June 18, 1984

SURVEYOR: Russell Sackett

SITE DESCRIPTION:

This site is composed of the remains of a cabin located on the west bank of the Glacier River approximately 4/5 of a mile north of Mascot Creek. The cabin is placed at the base of a steep rise marking the edge of Glacier River's flood plain. Fifteen feet to the east of the cabin is the old winter trail which follows along the bank of the river.

The cabin measures 9' x 10'8" and is made out of unpeeled logs chinked with moss and has saddle notched corners. Only portions

of the walls still remain with the entire roof collapsed. All indications point to the cabin having a shed roof at one time.

The east wall of the cabin, which faces the winter trail and river, is 6'8" high, having twelve log courses and appears to be complete. A 2' x 4'2" door opening is located slightly to the right of the wall's center. There are no remains of the door but the opening is framed in split logs pegged to the wall logs.

The north wall of the structure stands 6'8" high on the east end and 6' on the west end, composed of ten log courses. The western half of this wall begins to go into the steep slope that rises to the west of the cabin. A small 1'3" x 2' window opening is located in the center of the wall.

The west wall is placed within the slope with an interior height of 6'; 2'6" of which extends above exterior grade. There are no openings in this wall.

The south wall is identical in height as that of the north wall and does not have any window or other openings.

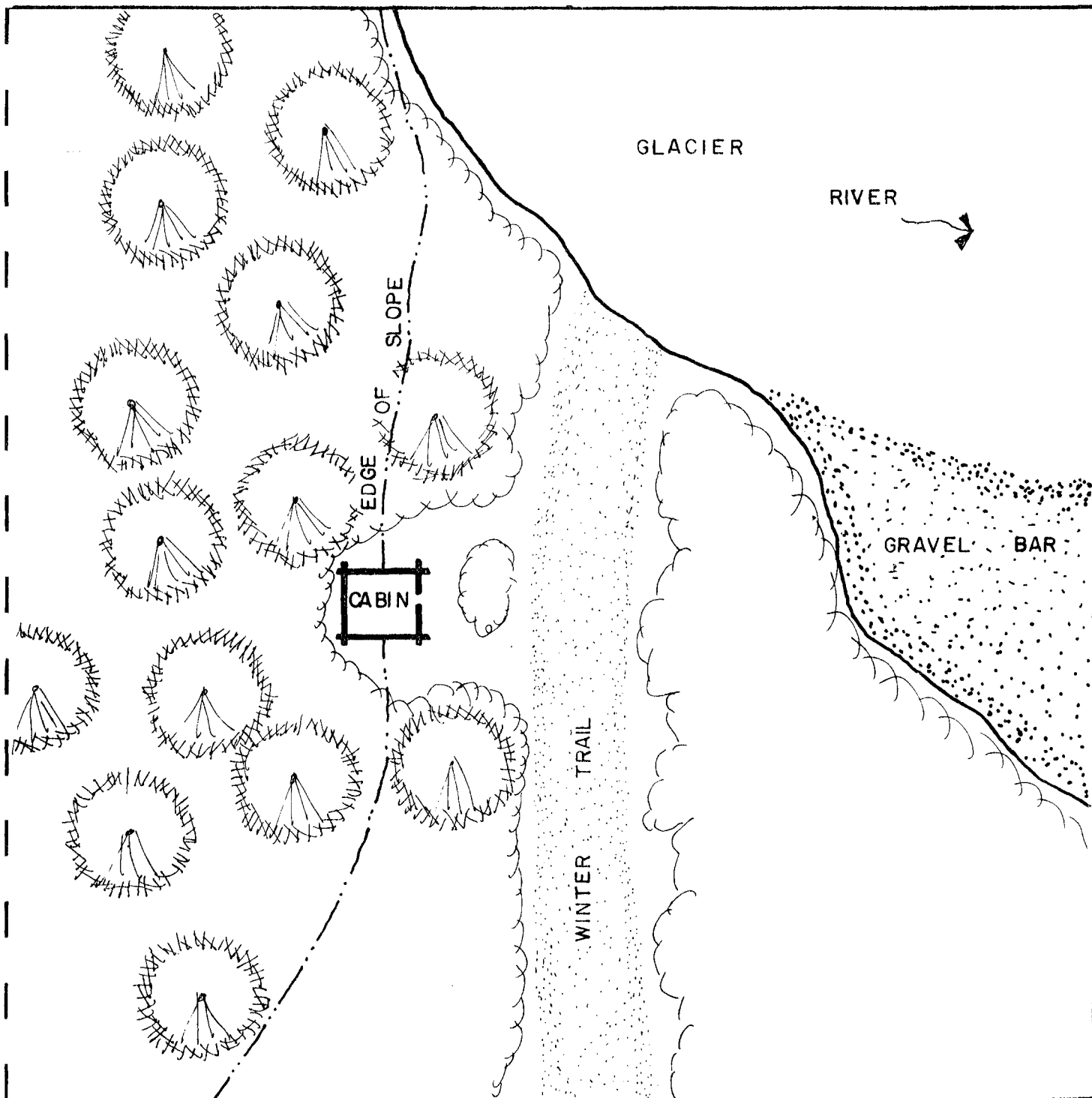
Interior of the cabin, as well as the entire site, is clean of cultural refuse. Cultural material may, however, lie beneath the collapsed roof.

HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE:

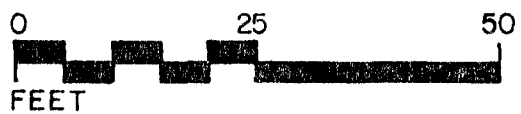
Not enough is known concerning the structure's history at this time to place significance. The cabin is constructed much the same way as that of the woodchopper cabin found in Glacier Pass (GAAR-84-015) and possibly may reflect this type of activity. There are cut logs southeast of the cabin which probably dates from the period the cabin was used.

Because this cabin is across the river from a drift mine operation (GAAR-84-010), it may relate to that activity in some way. It is felt that the cabin is not a boiler cabin and that it was a residential cabin. Whether it was the residential cabin for GAAR-84-010 is that this time doubtful because it is assumed they would not place such a structure in an area further than 50 feet from operations and necessitating having to constantly cross the river.

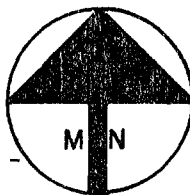
PREVIOUS SURVEY: None



GAAR-84-009
MINER'S CABIN



190



SITE TYPE: DRIFT MINER'S CABIN

SITE NUMBER: GAAR-84-010

LOCATION: The site is located in the center of a meander on the east bank of Glacier River approximately 9/10 of a mile north of Mascot Creek.

USGS QUAD: Wiseman B-2 (1:63360)

TOWNSHIP, RANGE, SECTION: T.30N., R.13W., SE1/4 of NW1/4 of Section 6

UTMS: 7483310 N. 604100 E. Zone 5

DATE SURVEYED: June 20, 1984

SURVEYOR: Russell Sackett

SITE DESCRIPTION:

This drift mine site is located in the center of a meander, east bank of Glacier River approximately 9/10 of a mile north of Mascot Creek. It is also across the river from GAAR-B4-009.

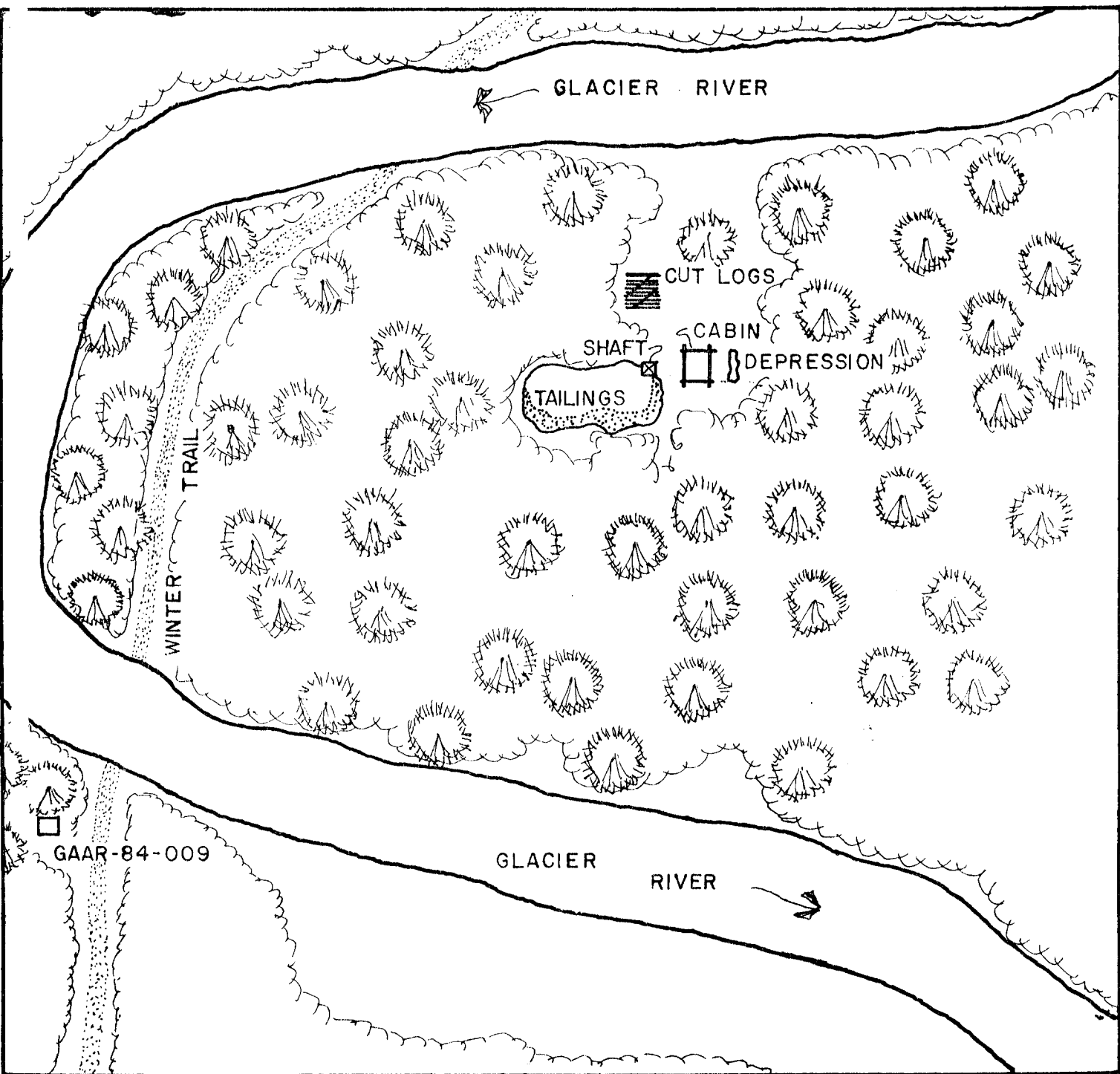
The site consists of a boiler cabin, tailing pile, the drift mine shaft, and a pile of logs.

Only the walls remain of the unpeeled log cabin that is chinked with moss and has saddle notched corners. The cabin measures 11' x 11' and at one time had a gabled roof.

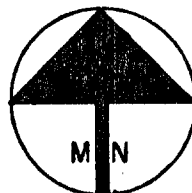
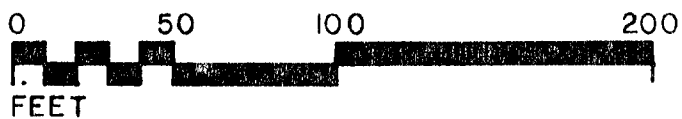
The cabin's north wall stands 6 feet high, and is composed of ten log courses. There are no openings through the wall but there are two 2" diameter holes drilled 2'5" off grade and 6'8" apart. Twelve inch pegs extend out from these holes and were probably used as racks for steam points/hoses.

The east wall of the structure is also plain. This wall stands 6' tall and composed of ten log courses.

The west wall of the cabin stands 6 feet high and is composed of 10 log courses. The gable portion of the wall has totally collapsed as is the east wall's gable. A 2'10" x 4'9" door opening framed in rough milled lumber is located at the north end of the west wall. A small opening 10" x 10" is located 1'-3" south of the door beginning 1'-2" off grade. This opening marks the place where the steam hoist would have been located and where cables ran from it out to operate the ore bucket.



GAAR-84-010
DRIFT MINER'S CABIN



Within the interior of the cabin there are tin can fragments, parts of a ladder and portions of a homemade bed in the northeast corner. In addition there are a series of wooden pegs in the north and east walls. There may be additional cultural debris beneath the cabin's collapsed roof.

Although the cabin has been called a boiler cabin, the boiler and other related equipment has been removed. In addition, with the remains of the bed in the northeast corner, the cabin doubled as a residential cabin. Because the cabin is small and had the two functions, the boiler used was probably on the line of a 'dog house' boiler which is smaller and easily handled by two men.

The drift mine shaft is located 9'7" west of the cabin and aligns with the 10" x 10" opening in the cabin's west elevation. The collar of the shaft is marked the log cribbing which measures 3'7" x 6'9". The shaft has slumped in, filling within 10" grade.

Tailings from the shaft begins at the southeast edge of the shaft and extends 58 feet to the west and has a width of 21 feet having a fairly uniform height of five feet.

Twenty feet to the north of the shaft is a pile of decayed logs cut 13 feet in length covering an area 16 feet wide.

The last feature on the site is a depression that measures 5' x 7'6" approximately 7 feet east of the cabin. This depression is 2'4" deep and of unknown function.

HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE:

Specific history of the site is unknown at this time. The site is important in the mining history during the beginning of this century in the Glacier River region. The remains illustrate the intensive hand labor involved in drift mining operations.

PREVIOUS SURVEYS:

Historic American Building Survey prepared detailed site/floor plans in 1984; HABS No. AK-22

SITE TYPE: DRIFT MINER'S CABIN
(CHARLES YALE CABIN SITE)

SITE NUMBER: GAAR-84-011

LOCATION: This site is located on the west bank of Glacier River at the point where the winter trail that runs from Nolan across Glacier Pass drops down to the river.

USGS QUAD: Wiseman B-1 (1;63360)

TOWNSHIP, RANGE, SECTION: T.31N., R.13W., NE1/4 of SE1/4
of Section 32

UTMS: 7487450 N. 607450 E. Zone 5

DATE SURVEYED: June 18, 1984

SURVEYOR: Russell Sackett

SITE DESCRIPTION:

The site is located on the west bank of the Glacier River at the point where the Glacier Pass's winter trail dips to the river. The site is composed of two standing cabins, pipe rack, and drift mine shaft with associated tailing pile. Description of these features are as follows:

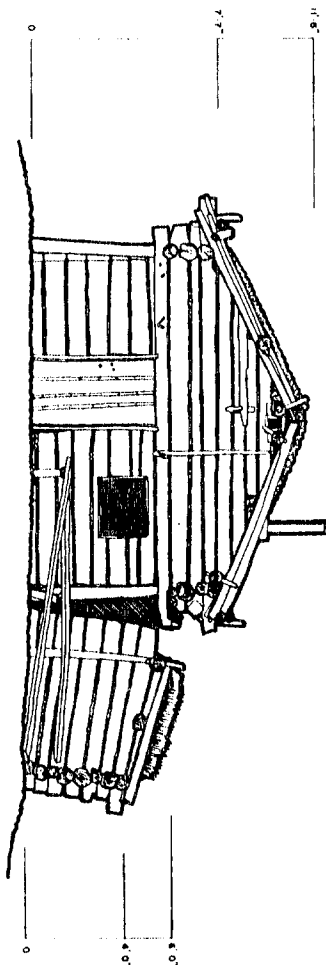
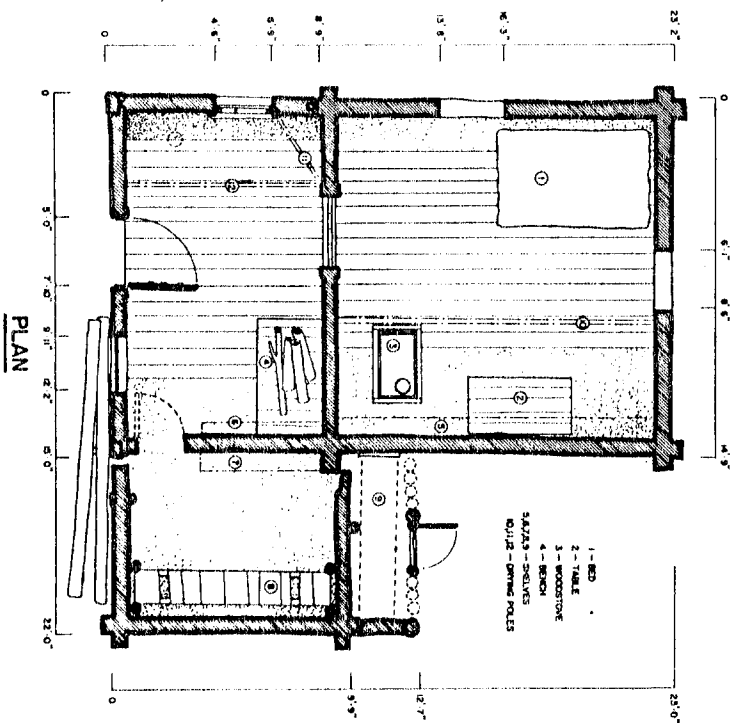
Feature 1: Yale's Cabin

This cabin is constructed of unpeeled logs chinked with moss and has squarish saddle notched corners. The cabin has a primary room with an arctic entry and a shed which was added at a later date. The primary room and entry are covered by a single gabled roof which is supported by a ridge pole and four purlins. Placed on top of these supports, the main roof members are split poles with sod covering. Later, a flattened blazo can roof was lain over the sod roof.

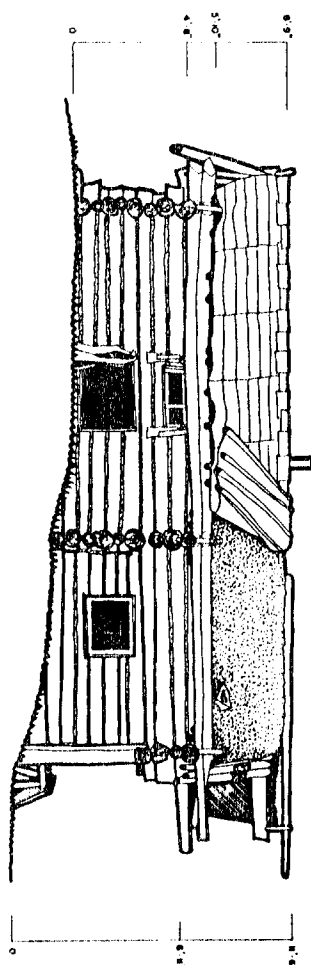
The primary room of the cabin measures 14' x 14'. Its north wall has a height of 6 feet and is composed of ten log courses. There are no openings in this elevation. The west elevation reaches a height of 9 feet at the gable's peak. An 8" x 16" vent is cut through at the gable peak. A 2'3" x 3' six light sash window is placed in the center of the wall. This window is partially smashed out and now covered with visqueen and canvas.

The south wall of the primary room stands 6 feet tall and has a 2'3" x 3' six light sash window placed in the center of it. This window has been smashed out and is now covered with plywood. A 1' x 2'9" vent covered with screening is located above this window.

MATERIAL NOTES:
 WALLS - 7"-9" AVERAGE LOG SIZE WITH SADDLE NOTCHED CORNERS. LOGS ARE CHINKED WITH MOSS.
 FLOOR - MAIN CABIN HAS BOARD PLANKING OF VARIABLE SIZES RANGING FROM 4 1/2"-9" IN WIDTH. SHED ADDITION HAS AN EARTHEN FLOOR.
 ROOF - LOG POLES COVERED WITH SOD/MOSS. ADDITIONAL LAYER OF FLATTENED BLAZO CANS ATTACHED TO POLES ADDED AT A LATER DATE.
 SASH - MULLIONS AND GLASS MISSING; FIRWOOD, MANUFACTURED UNIT.



SOUTH ELEVATION



WEST ELEVATION

Forming the interior wall separating the primary room and entry, the east elevation stands 9 feet at the gabled peak. A 2'10" x 4'4" door is located to the left of the wall's center. This door is of milled lumber and covered with canvas.

Interior of the primary room has a milled lumber floor. A homemade bed with mattress is found in the cabin's southwest corner, an old table is in the northwest corner, a cast iron stove is in the northeast corner, and various old and new wooden boxes are found throughout the cabin.

The arctic entry measures 8' x 14' and extends out from the east wall of the primary room. Wall heights of the entry coincide with those of the primary room's walls.

The south wall of the arctic entry contains a broken 2'3" x 3' six light sash window placed in the center of the elevation. A 2'10" x 5'9" door is placed to the left portion of the east wall. A 2'3" x 3' six light sash window is placed just right of the east elevation's center. At this elevation's gabled peak is a 5" screen covered vent.

The west wall of the arctic entry is the common wall between the entry and primary room. The north wall was originally plain but with the addition of a shed at a later date, a rough 1'10" x 4'9" door opening was cut in its east end.

The interior of the entry way is floored with milled lumber. A table sits in the room's northwest corner and at one time a Yukon stove was placed in the southeast corner. This stove is now resting outside of the cabin.

Just to the north and abutting the arctic entry is a 8' x 6' shed which is pulling away from the cabin. Where the shed attaches to the cabin the walls stand 5 feet tall and slope away to a height of 4'6". The shed is constructed of unpeeled logs and has a shed roof formed by split poles supported by two beams and covered with sod.

The only exterior opening in the shed is a 4" x 10" vent on the north wall. A large quantity of historic cans, bottles, and jars are scattered within the shed.

Feature 2: Cabin

Feature 2 is a smaller cabin 47 feet south of Yales' cabin. This cabin measures 12' x 10'5" and has a 6' x 12' arctic entry attached on its east side. The main room of the cabin is constructed of moss chinked unpeeled logs having squarish saddle notched corners. The entire structure is topped by a gabled roof supported by six purlins and made of split poles covered with sod.

The south and north elevations of the cabin stand 6'8" high, and are composed of eleven log courses. Neither wall has any openings. The cabin's west elevation reaches a height of 10 feet at the gabled peak. A broken out 2'3" x 3' six light sash window is placed in the center of this wall. The gabled roof line extends 3 feet out from the west elevation plain. The cabin's east wall, which forms a common wall between the cabin and the arctic entry, contains a milled lumber framed door opening 3' x 5'-2". There are wood pegged hinges on the door frame but the door is missing.

The interior of this cabin contains a large quantity of debris, both modern and historic. A lot of debris has been thrown out of the west window and forms an exterior pile.

This cabin shows signs that there once was a fire on the south wall. The southwest corner is being undermined by erosion from the winter trail that goes west beginning behind the cabin.

The arctic entry measures 6' x 12' and extends out from the cabin's east wall. This entry is constructed of split logs placed vertically beneath the gabled roof. Only a few of the vertical members remain in place and wall openings are indeterminate. The gabled portion of the east wall is composed of 6 log courses of unpeeled logs lain horizontally on top of the wall's vertical members. A homemade log debarker, portion of a sledge, and yukon stove are placed within the entry.

Feature 3: Pipe Rack

Feature 3 is located approximately 50 feet northeast of Feature 1 and is a pipe rack. This pipe rack is composed of three frames 9'-10" wide and 10" high made from three 2 1/2" diameter poles set vertically with 1 inch diameter poles placed horizontally every 12 inches. The three frames are held upright and spaced apart by two 5 inch diameter logs on grade and three 2 1/2" diameter poles at the top so the structure's length is 19 feet. The function of the structure was probably to store steam pipe when not in use.

Feature 4: Antena Pole

Feature 4 is a 45 foot high pole 4" in diameter at base placed approximately 15 feet north of feature 1. This was used as a radio antenna.

Feature 5: Drift Mine Shaft

Feature 5 is the drift mine shaft located approximately 250 feet southeast of feature 2. This shaft is marked by a 10 foot diameter depression with remnants of log cribbing which measures 5' x 5'. Portions of a hand winch lies adjacent to the shaft.

Feature 6: Tailing Pile

Feature 6 lies 15 feet southeast of the shaft (Feature 5) and is the tailing pile representing the overburden removed from the shaft. The pile is approximately 35 feet in diameter and 10 feet high.

Throughout the site is scattered a large quantity of both historic and modern trash. The site is still used today as a shelter cabin and is being radomly collected and disturbed. Over time, the valuable historic material found on the site will probably be removed by people visiting the site.

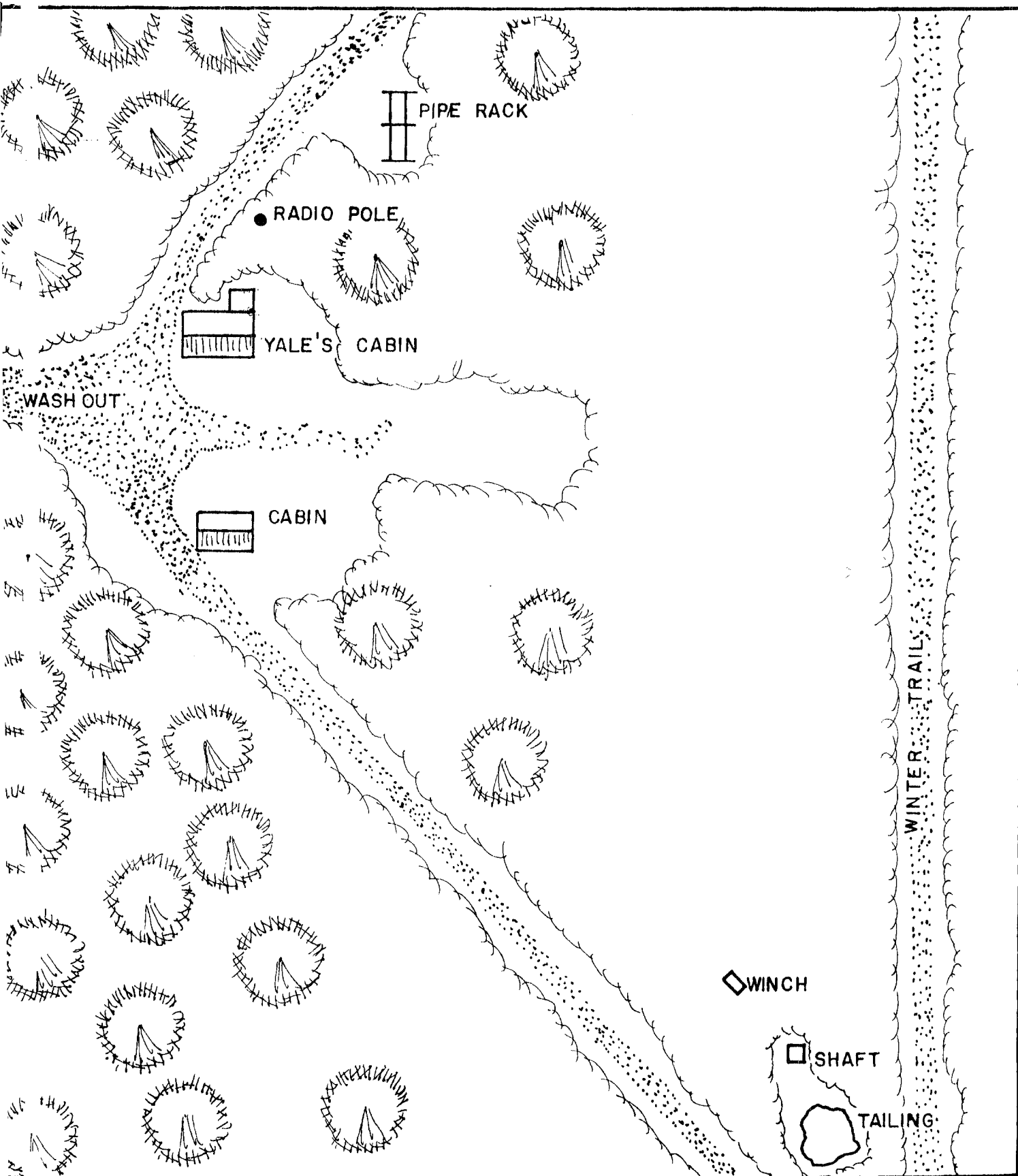
HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE:

Charles Yale is reported to have built the larger of the two cabins and lived here for ten years in the first decades of the 1900's drift mining. In Reed's 1938 report he states that Yale in early days sank a shaft 168 feet at this location. Robert Marshall in his book mentions that the cabin belonged to Yale but had been abandoned for a number of years by the time he saw it at the end of the 20s. During the time of Marshall's visit, the cabin was being used as a shelter cabin by people traveling over Glacier Pass. According to Harry Leonard (personal communication, July 20, 1984) Vincent Knorr used the site after it was abandoned by Yale and that the smaller cabin was used more as a barn. Newspapers dating from 1910 were found in the smaller cabin which is the younger of the two.

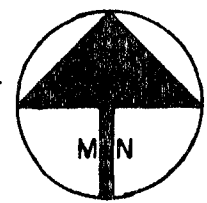
Archeologically, the cabin and its site are significant for the information that is available through the quantity of historic trash located on the site.

PREVIOUS SURVEYS:

Historic American Building Survey visited the site in 1984 and prepared detailed architectural drawings of the cabins and features. See HABS No. AK-20.



GAAR-84-011
[RIFT MINER'S CABIN
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FEET



SITE TYPE: DRIFT MINER'S CABIN

SITE NUMBER: GAAR-84-012

LOCATION: This site is located on the east bank of Glacier River approximately 550 feet south of Bluecloud Creek.

USGS QUAD: Wiseman B-2 (1:63360)

TOWNSHIP, RANGE, SECTION: T.30N., R.14W., SE1/4 of SW1/4 of Section 1

UTMS: 7482400 N. 602520 E. Zone 5

DATE SURVEYED: June 20, 1984

SURVEYOR: Russell Sackett

SITE DESCRIPTION:

The site is situated on the east bank of Glacier River approximately 550 feet south of Bluecloud Creek. A cabin, mine shaft, piles of logs, and associated cultural debris compose the site.

Feature 1: Cabin Remains

The cabin is constructed of moss chinked unpeeled logs that have saddle notched corners. Only the walls are left standing, to their original height. The structure at one time had a gabled roof supported by a ridge pole and two purlins. The cabin measures 15' x 15'-8" and sits 45 feet east of the river's edge.

The cabin's east elevation stands 6 feet high and is composed of ten log courses. The gable portion of the wall has collapsed. A 2'3" x 2'10" window opening framed in milled lumber is placed in the center of the wall providing a view to Bluecloud Mountain.

The south elevation stands intact at 6 feet and is of eleven log courses. There are no openings in it.

The west elevation faces Glacier River and stands 6 feet in height, composed of 10 log courses. The gabled portion of the wall has collapsed. A 3'2" x 4'5" door opening framed in milled lumber is located to the right of the wall's center line. Two 4" x 11" slots are cut through the wall, one atop the other, 2'3" from the wall's north end with one 3'9" above grade and the other 11" off grade. These two slots align with the drift mine shaft and marks where steam lines and cables would have run out of the cabin into the shaft.

The north wall is beginning to fall inwards. It stands 6 feet high, is composed of eleven log courses, and is plain with no openings.

The interior of the cabin is covered by the collapsed roof. A few Lipton Tea cans, 5 gallon square blazo cans, and wooden boxes are visible. Because there are the slots in the northwest corner of the west wall, a steam hoist would have been located in this corner at one time. All mining equipment has been removed from the cabin. There are wooden pegs and rows of nails exist in the north wall and probably represent where steam points, steam hoses and other mining equipment were hung.

Feature 2: Drift Mine Shaft

The drift mine shaft is located 23 feet west of the cabin between the cabin and the river. This shaft is silted in and marked by log cribbing measuring 4' x 7'. There are no signs of tailing piles on the site, they were probably placed in the river bed and consequently washed away.

Feature 3: Depression

A 6' x 6' depression 12" deep lies 7 feet south of the cabin. This depression probably represents where sod was obtained for covering the cabin roof.

Feature 4: Log Cribbing

Log cribbing above grade is located 21 feet south of the cabin's southwest corner. The cribbing measures 4' x 4' and stands 2 feet tall. Purpose of the cribbing is unknown but may only be firewood.

Feature 5: Stack of Firewood

A stack of cut wood 4 feet in lengths and 6 feet wide sits 22 feet south of the cabin's southeast corner.

Feature 6: Boiler Core

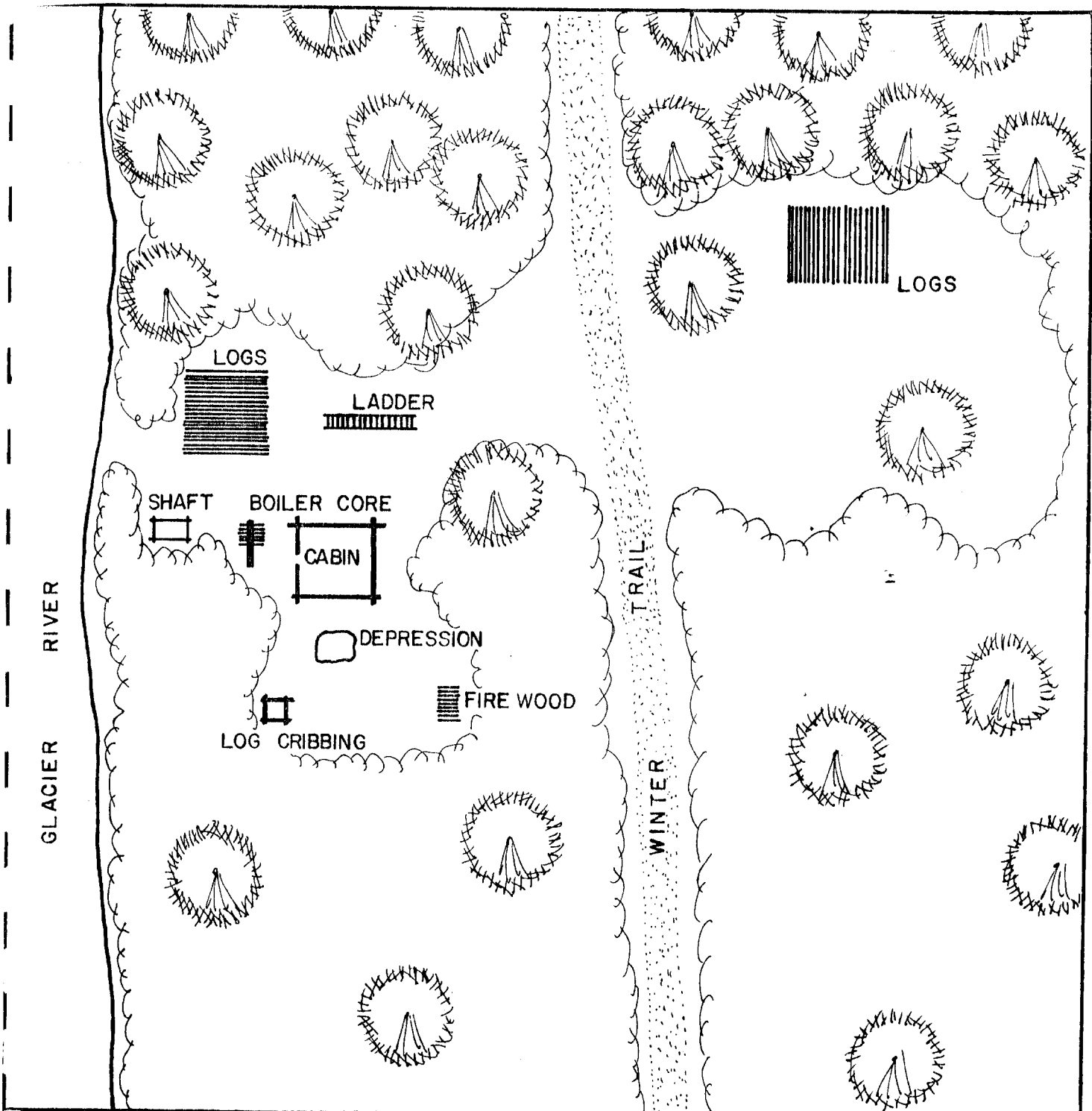
The remains of the interior piping of a two man boiler sits between the cabin and the drift mine shaft. This is a 6" diameter pipe 6'4" long that has numerous 1" x 19" piping radiating like spokes from it.

Feature 7: Pile of Logs

A stack of decaying logs cut in 16 foot lengths lies 15 feet north of the cabin's northwest corner.

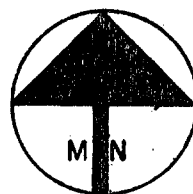
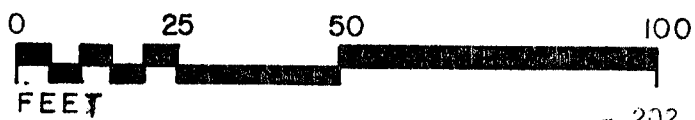
Feature 8: Ladder

The remains of a decaying ladder are located 20 feet north of the cabin. This ladder is homemade, 16 feet long and 19 inches wide.



GAAR-84-012

DRIFT MINER'S CABIN



Feature 9: Log Pile

A second pile of logs cut in 16 foot lengths lies 100 feet northeast of the cabin's northeast corner. This pile covers a 20 foot wide area.

In addition to the above features, a large quantity of historic material (mostly food cans) is located to the south of the drift mine shaft forming a rubbish pile.

HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE:

These remains represent a typical drift mining operation which occurred during the early decades of the twentieth century in the upper Koyukuk region. Because of low yield, the Glacier River area was abandoned early in the years of mining activities. Parts and equipment were removed for re-use elsewhere, a common practice in this region of high freight costs and scarce goods. The location of the boiler cabin, drift mine shaft and wood piles are typical, illustrating intensive hand labor drift mining operations on a small scale.

Archeologically, the site has potential for providing information important in reconstructing and understanding early mining activities within the Glacier River.

PREVIOUS SURVEY:

The site was previously surveyed and briefly described by Susan Steinacker for the National Park Service, September 17, 1981. See Cabin Inventory No. HC-05.

Historic American Building Survey visited the site in 1984 and prepared site/floor plans. See HABS No. AK-22

SITE TYPE: DRIFT MINER'S CABIN

SITE NUMBER: GAAR-84-013

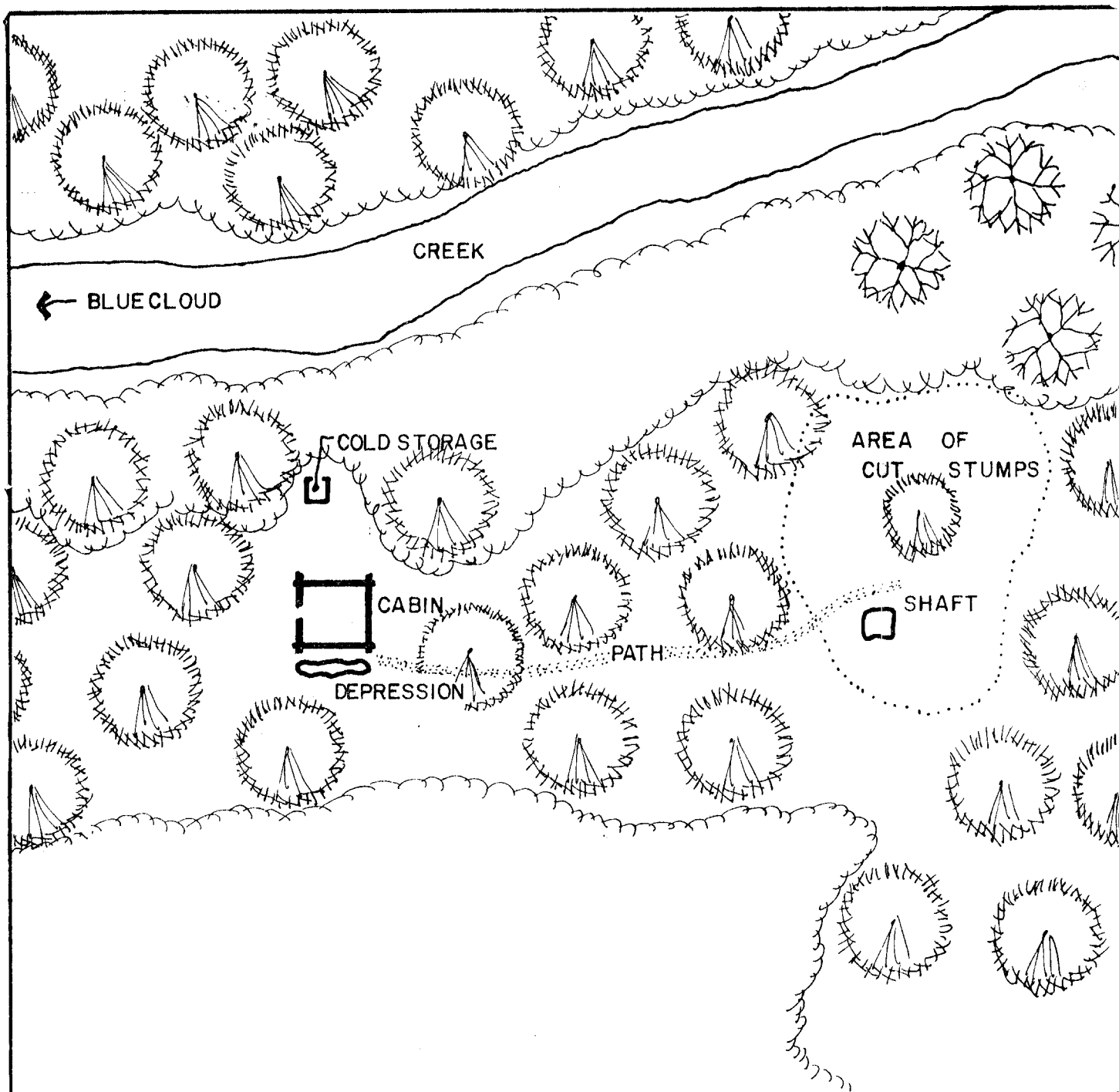
LOCATION: This site is located on the south bank of Bluecloud Creek approximately 1/2 mile east of the creek's confluence with Glacier River.

USGS QUAD: Wiseman B-2 (1:63360)

TOWNSHIP, RANGE, SECTION: T.30N., R.14W., SW1/4 of SE1/4 of Section 1

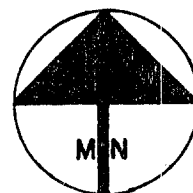
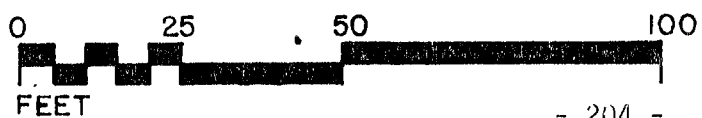
UTMS: 7482150 N. 603350 E. Zone 5

DATE SURVEYED: June 20, 1984



GAAR-84-013

DRIFT MINER'S CABIN



SURVEYOR: Russell Sackett

SITE DESCRIPTION:

This cabin site is located 20 feet south of Bluecloud Creek approximately 1/2 mile from the creek's confluence with Glacier River. The actual use of the cabin is not certain, but indications around the immediate area suggest that it is related to mining activities. The features found on the site are as follows:

Feature 1: Cabin Remains

The cabin remains consist of approximately 75% of the wall height remaining. This cabin was constructed of unpeeled logs chinked with moss and has saddle notched corners. The roof is totally gone but indications are that it was a gabled roof. The cabin measures 12'9" x 14'4".

The west elevation, as in all elevations, only reaches a height of 4'10" and is composed of eight log courses. The wall was originally higher but the upper log courses no longer exist. In the center of the elevation is a door opening measuring 2'10" x 4'10" with the door header and gabled portion of the wall gone. The door itself lies within the cabin and is constructed of milled lumber.

The north and east elevations of the structure do not have any openings. The north wall is composed of seven log courses and the east elevation has nine log courses.

The south elevation, composed of eight log courses, has an 8" x 2'11" window opening cut in the center of the wall 3 feet off grade.

The interior of the cabin is relatively clean of visible debri but fairly buried by the collapsed roof. Visible are the remains of a homemade bed frame made out of milled lumber in the cabin's southwest corner, remains of a pole bed in the northeast corner, a wooden blazo box tacked to the east wall as shelving, and a "Lucky Strike" tobacco can nailed to the wall by the door. A stove once stood in the cabin's northwest corner. All indications point to the cabin being used as a living structure.

Feature 2: Drift Mine Shaft

Feature 2 is a depression 6' x 6' and 2' deep (filled with water) sitting approximately 100 feet east of the cabin. The immediate area around the depression contains a number of cut stumps. Although there are no signs of tailings in association with the site, it is assumed that this depression, being similar in size to other known shafts in the region, is a drift mine shaft and associated with the cabin.

Feature 3: Small Log Structure

Feature 3 is located 15 feet north of the cabin on the edge of Bluecloud Creek. It is a small 4' x 4' log structure 1'3" high and is open on the creek side (north). Purpose of the feature is uncertain but may have been used for cold storage.

Feature 4: Depression

Feature 4 is a depression measuring 3' wide and 10" deep extending the entire length of the cabin three feet to the south of the cabin. This depression represents where sod was obtained for covering the cabin's roof.

In addition to the features is a large quantity of food cans scattered in front (west side) of the cabin. Among these was found a 'hole-in-top' can. This type of can became prevalent in the food canning industry in the 1860's and was not completely replaced by modern type cans until 1922 although the modern type was introduced in 1902. With this type of can present on the site, it suggests a date for the cabin around 1920.

HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE:

The site represents early 1900s mining activities within Glacier River area. Archeologically the site offers the potential for research in respect to early days of non-Native use in the region.

PREVIOUS SURVEY:

Susan Steinacker briefly surveyed the site in 1981 for the National Park Service. See Cabin Inventory No. HC-04.

SITE TYPE: DEPRESSION

SITE NUMBER: GAAR-84-014

LOCATION: Located on the edge of a slope overlooking the west bank of Glacier River approximately 3/5 of a mile north of Mascot Creek.

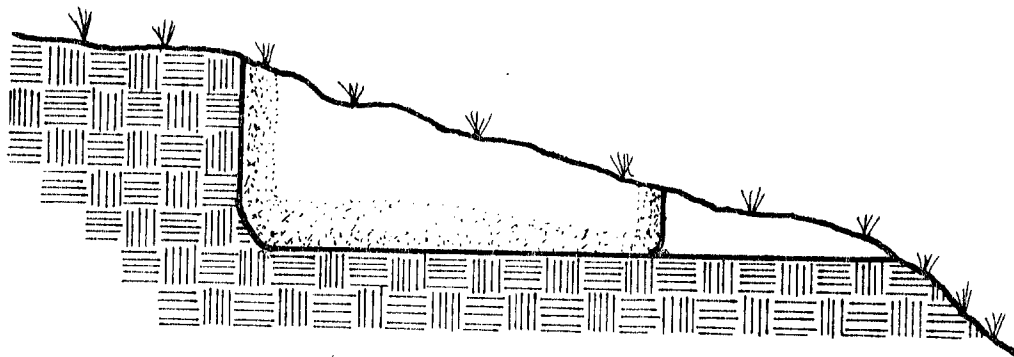
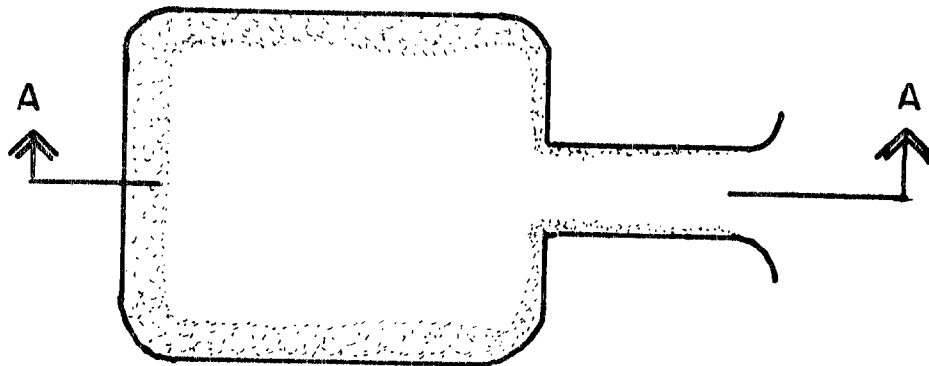
USGS QUAD: Wiseman B-2 (1:63360)

TOWNSHIP, RANGE, SECTION: T.30N., R.13W., SW1/4 of NW1/4 of Section 6

UTMS: 7483280 N. 603750 E. Zone 5

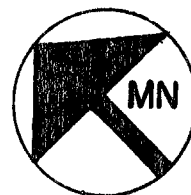
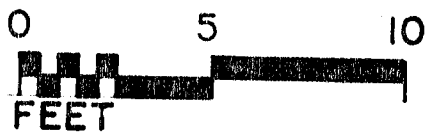
DATE SURVEYED: June 23, 1984

SURVEYORS: Russell Sackett, Mark Standley



SECTION A-A

GAAR-84-014
DEPRESSION



SITE DESCRIPTION:

This site is located on the edge of a slope overlooking the west bank of the Glacier River approximately 3/5 of a mile north of Mascot Creek. It is approximately 400 feet southwest of the GAAR-84-009 site.

The only feature contained on the site is a depression 9'11" in size and 4' deep. On the eastern edge of the depression is a trench 2'4" side extending out from the depression 6' to the side of the slope. The gravel removed from the depression lies along its northside.

The area was completely clean of any artifact material and purpose of depression is unknown. A 1 1/2" spruce is growing in the center of the depression. It may be associated with GAAR-84-009.

HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE: Unknown

PREVIOUS SURVEY: None

DRAFT

SITE TYPE: WOODCHOPPER'S CABIN

SITE NUMBER: GAAR-84-015

LOCATION: This site is located on the north side of Glacier Pass's winter trail approximately 2 miles west of the community of Nolan.

USGS QUAD: Wiseman B-1 (1:63360)

TOWNSHIP, RANGE, SECTION: T.31N., R.12W., SE1/4 of SE1/4

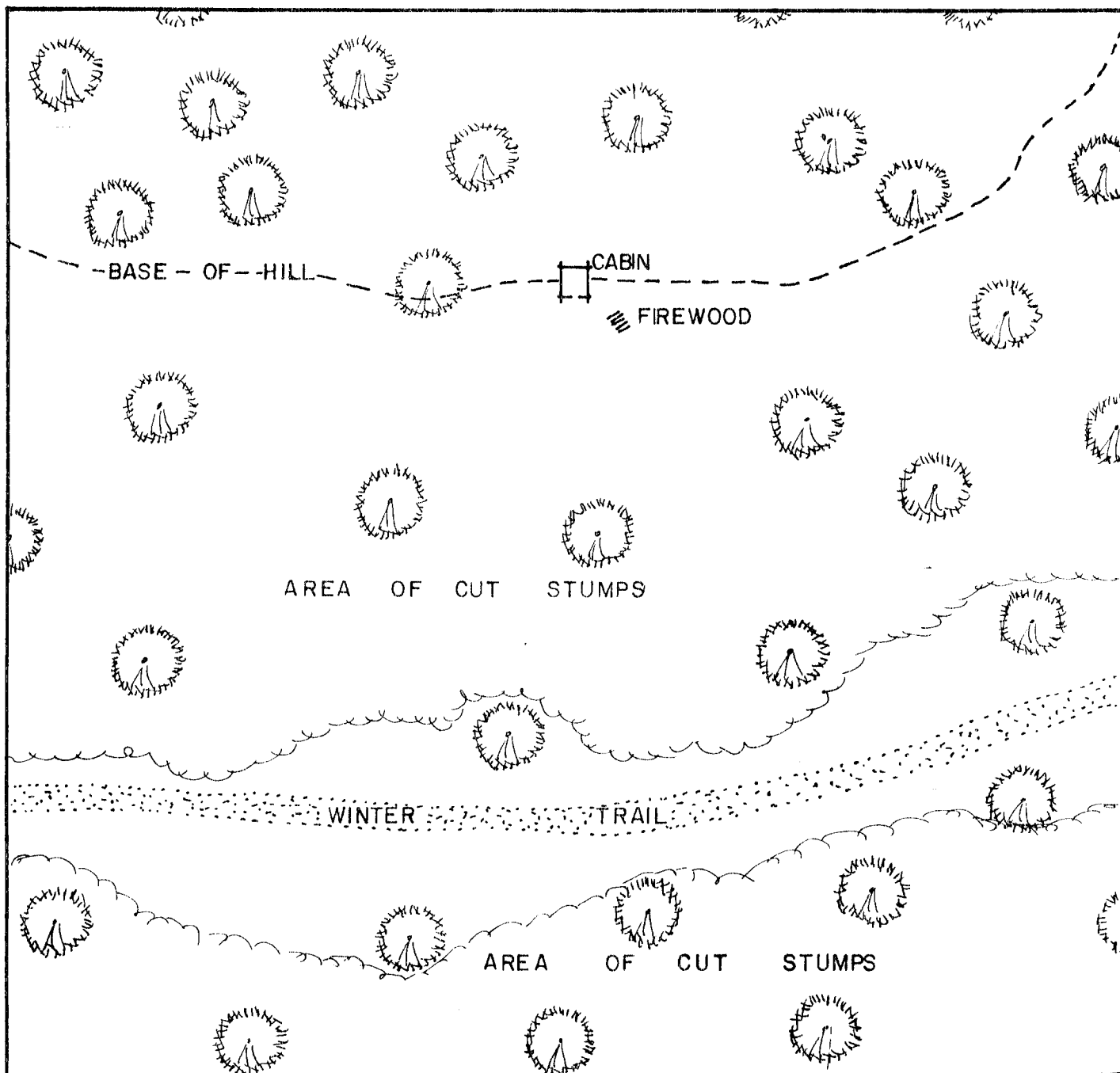
UTMS: 7487100 N. 614750 E. Zone 5

DATE SURVEYED: July 25, 1984

SURVEYOR: Russell Sackett

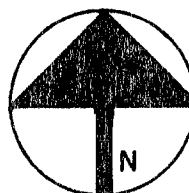
SITE DESCRIPTION:

This site is located 200 feet north of the winter trail in Glacier Pass approximately 2 miles west of Nolan. The entire area around the site on both sides of the winter trail contains a large quantity of cut stumps from the activities of the woodchopper who used the cabin. The only feature found on the site is the remains of the cabin. This cabin measures 10'8" x 10'4" and is constructed of unpeeled logs chinked with moss and has saddle notched corners. Only the walls remain standing with the roof collapsed. Roof remains indicate that the cabin had a shed roof.



GAAR-84-015

WOODCHOPPER'S CABIN



The south elevation of the cabin stands 5'9" tall and is composed of eleven log courses. In the center of this wall is a 2'3" x 5'9" door opening. The east and west elevations are both 5'9" tall having twelve log courses and neither has any windows. In both cases, the north half of the walls are placed within the side of a hill rising to the north of the cabin. The north elevation has collapsed leaving only 3 feet of the wall left standing. This wall is placed within the hillside.

The interior of the cabin is filled with remains of the collapsed roof. Visible through the debris, along the north wall is the remains of a pole bed in the northeast corner, a wooden table along the west wall, a wooden blazo box in the southeast corner used for shelving, a Yukon stove (out of place) made from two square 5 gallon blazo cans, an old fry pan, and five square 5 gallon blazo cans and a number of coffee and lard cans.

The only material found outside of the cabin is a no. 3 shovel and blazo can in front (south side) of the cabin. A small decaying stack of firewood is located 15 feet southeast of the cabin. All along the winter trail and north of it, stacks of cut logs are visible from the air. It is assumed that these relate to the activities for which the cabin was built and from the same period.

HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE:

This cabin is the only one found during the survey that is associated with a woodchopper. As such, it has significance in its type and for the activities/services it provided in support of the mining operations in Nolan during the early decades of the 1900s. Archeologically, the site has the potential for providing information important in understanding the early days in the region.

PREVIOUS SURVEYS: None

SITE TYPE: CABIN REMAINS

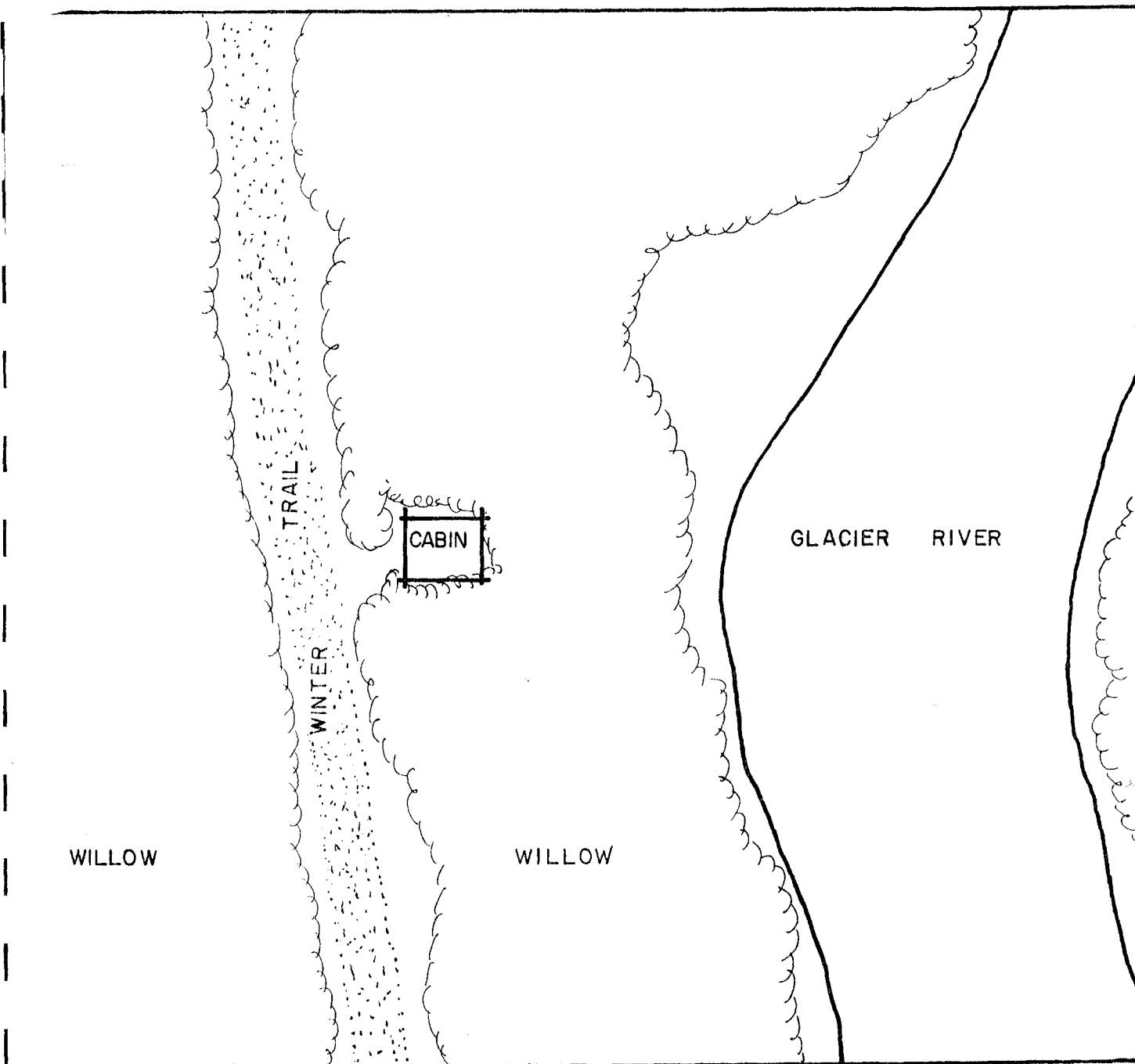
SITE NUMBER: GAAR-84-016

LOCATION: This site is located on the west bank of Glacier River approximately 1/2 mile north of Conglomerate Creek.

USGS QUAD: Wiseman B-2 (1:63360)

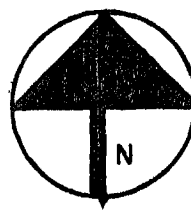
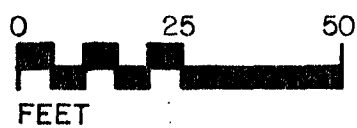
TOWNSHIP, RANGE, SECTION: T.30N., R.14W., SW1/4 of NE1/4 of Section 11

UTMS: 7481360 N. 601250 E. Zone 5



GAAR-84-016

CABIN REMAINS



DATE SURVEYED: June 24, 1984

SURVEYOR: Russell Sackett

SITE DESCRIPTION:

This site is located on the active flood plain, on the west bank of the Glacier River approximately 1/2 mile north of Conglomerate Creek. The entire area is thickly vegetated by waist high willow.

The site is composed of a totally ruined cabin that measures 12'3" x 15'. The walls that remain stand 3 feet high and are composed of eight courses of small diameter unpeeled logs with saddle notched corners. There are not enough remains to determine what type of roof or what openings that cabin may have had.

The site has been actively flooded seasonally by the Glacier River, washing any remains that may have been present away.

HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE:

None known.

Site is on the southern fringe of mining activities for the region.

PREVIOUS SURVEYS: None

SITE TYPE: HUNTING CABIN

SITE NUMBER: GAAR-84-017

LOCATION: The site is located on the east bank of the Glacier River approximately 1.2 miles directly south of Conglomerate Creek.

USGS QUAD: Wiseman B-2 (1:63360)

TOWNSHIP, RANGE, SECTION: T.30N., R.14W., NW1/4 of NW1/4 of Section 14

UTMS: 7478750 N. 600540 E. Zone 5

DATE SURVEYED: June 28, 1984

SURVEYORS: William Brown, Russell Sackett

SITE DESCRIPTION:

The site is located on a ridge on the east bank of Glacier River approximately 1.2 miles directly south of Conglomerate Creek. From the site a sweeping view of Delay Pass to the northwest is

available. Although this site has been given one site number, it is actually two different sites within close proximity and represents three separate uses. The first site, the most northerly one, represents a base camp reportedly used by the State of Alaska Fish and Game during sheep studies in the area in the 1970's. The main feature on this portion of the site is the foundation remains for a framed canvas structure which consists of 8 x 8's placed in a rectangular form approximately 12' x 15'. Approximately 20 feet northeast of this is a small 'outhouse' constructed by placing a 2 x 4 from two trees as a seat and placing some poles to form a roofed area which at one time appears to have had canvas/visqueen placed around it. Approximately 40 feet northwest of the foundation is a large stack of 10 foot long poles presumably for firewood. A cache of poles are located approximately 300 feet northeast of the site. The area between it and the foundations is wet tundra but the area where the poles are is a dry knoll containing a large number of cut stumps. More stacks of firewood lie just to the south of the foundation with a hearth in association. A platform cache is located approximately 200 feet southwest of the foundation on the edge of the ridge overlooking Glacier River. The cache is 12 feet above grade placed between three trees and in good condition. Segments of a metal chimney and a number of 5 gallon aviation fuel cans are placed on the cache with access by way of a ladder propped in a nearby tree.

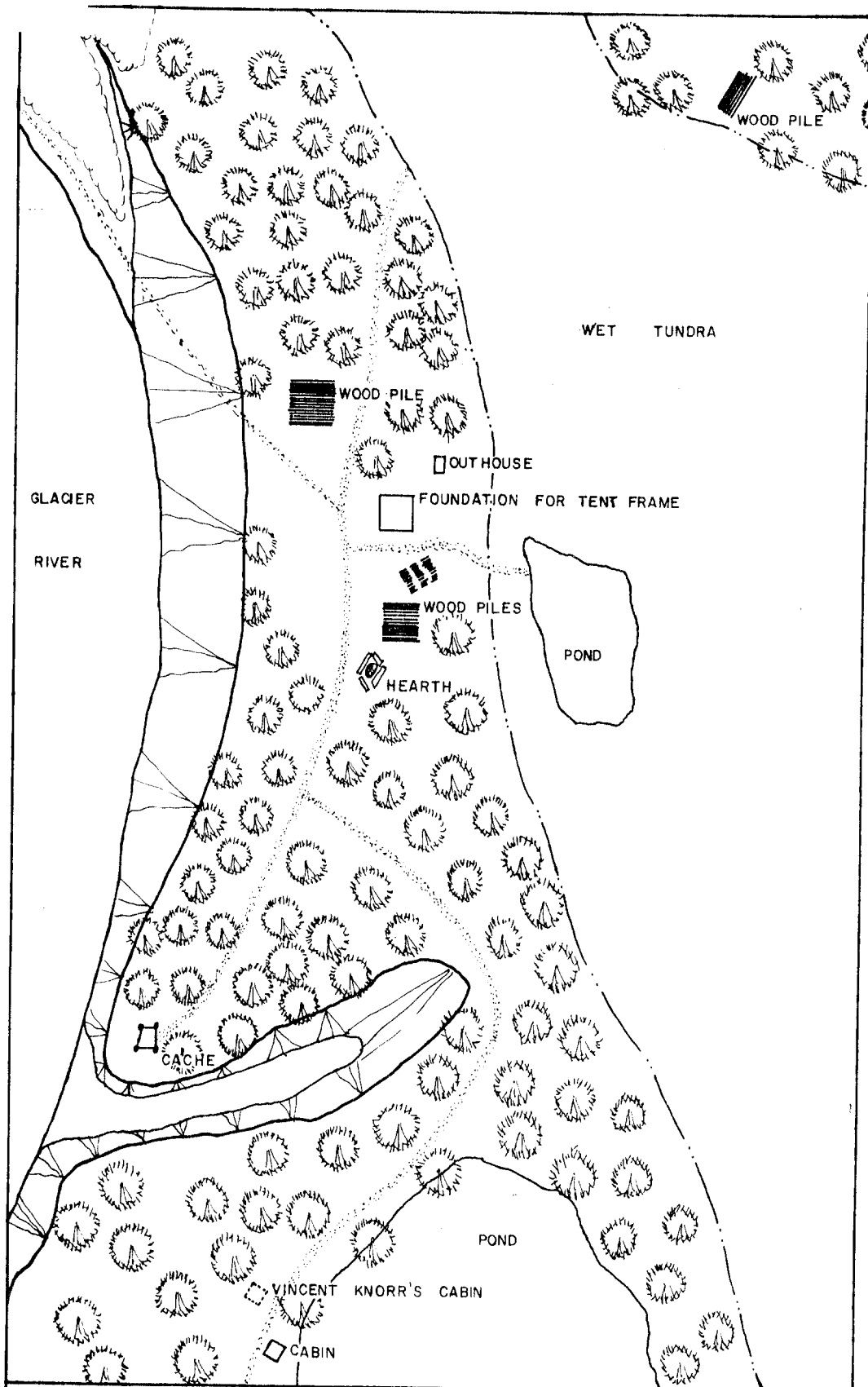
The entire area around this portion of the site is fairly cluttered with modern trash.

The second site is located approximately 450 feet south of the above site and consists of a completely ruined log cabin and a modern standing cabin. The cabin remains consist of only the sill logs and first log course. It measured 8'6" x 9'6" and indications are that it had a door on the east side. A combination 'V'/saddle notch was used in its construction. Not enough remains to indicate what type of roof it had or whether there were any windows. It is reported that this cabin was built by Vincent Knorr, who also had a mining cabin on Mascot Creek, as use as a sheep hunting cabin.

Approximately 25 feet southeast of the cabin remains, is a standing cabin that measures 8' x 9'-4". This cabin has been constructed within the last 25 years and is not historic. Across the top of the door is written in pencil "1964, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1974, Property of Ross Henry, Wiseman, AK 99726". It is assumed that this cabin is a trapline shelter.

HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE:

The remains of Vincent Knorr's sheep hunting cabin is the only historic portion of the two sites. The remainder of the sites represent more recent uses.



GAAR-84-017

VINCENT KNORR'S SHEEP HUNTING CABIN

0 25 50 100 200
FEET (approximate)

- 214



PREVIOUS SURVEY:

The site was previously surveyed by Susan Steinacker, Seasonal Ranger, in 1981. Her brief description is on file at Gates of the Arctic Fairbanks Office under Cabin Inventory No. PS-03.

SITE TYPE: TRAPPER'S CABIN

SITE NUMBER: GAAR-84-018

LOCATION: This site is located on the west bank of Glacier River approximately 1.3 miles south of Conglomerate Creek.

USGS QUAD: Wiseman B-2 (1:63360)
TOWNSHIP, RANGE, SECTION: T.30N., R.14 W., NE1/4 of NE1/4 of Section 15.
UTMS: 7480160 N. 600270 E. Zone 5
DATE SURVEYED: June 28, 1984

SURVEYORS: William Brown, Russell Sackett

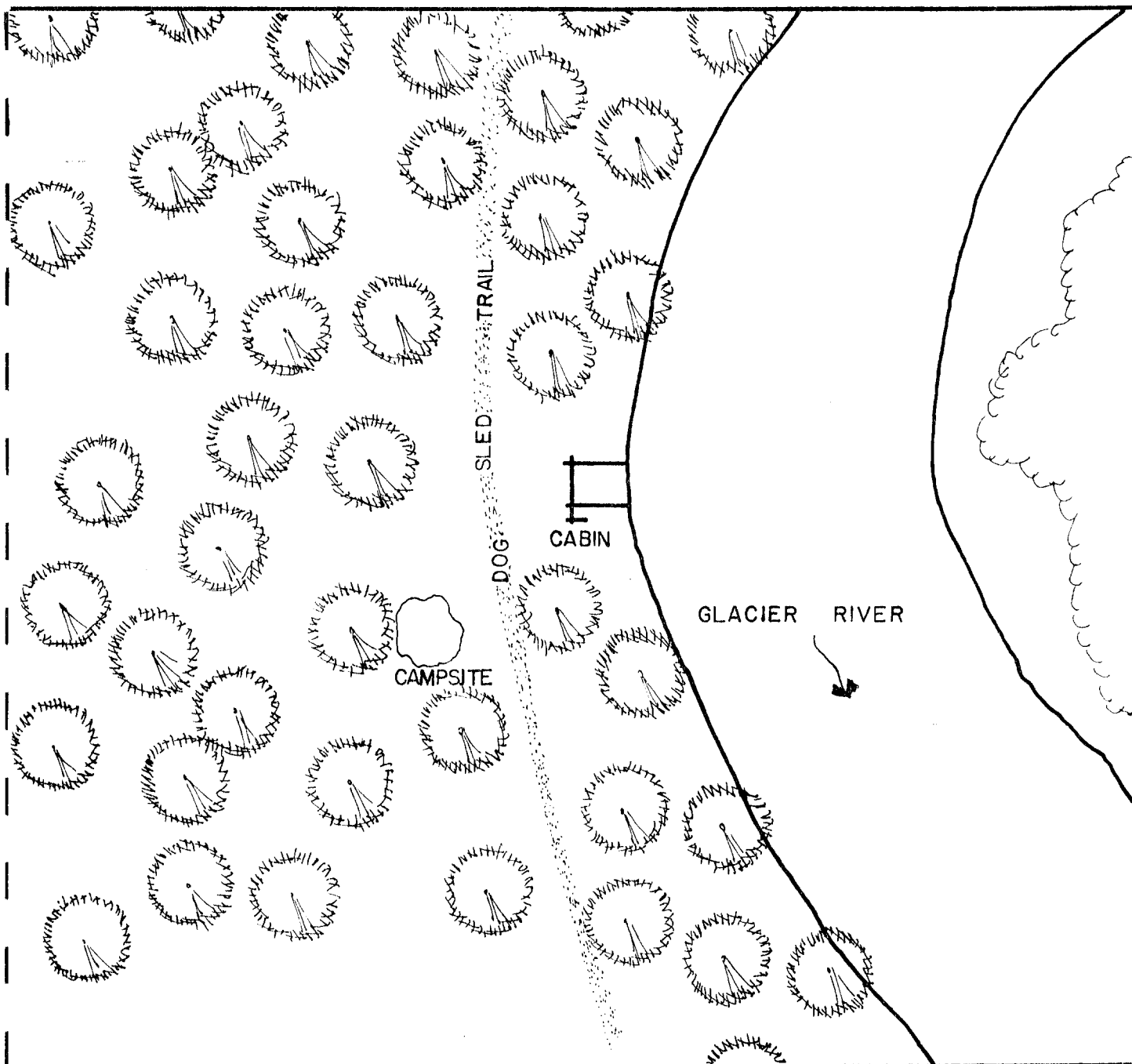
SITE DESCRIPTION:

This site is located on the west bank of the Glacier River approximately 1.3 miles south of conglomerate Creek. The site is composed of the total ruins of a cabin which is being undermined by the river. These remains will probably be entirely eroded away by the Glacier River within the next two seasons.

The cabin measures 8'6" x 11' with only 4 feet of the original wall height remaining composed of eight courses of small diameter logs. These are chinked with moss, unpeeled and have saddle notched corners. The east wall is completely gone, remnants of which lie within the river. North and west elevations are plain with no openings. A door 2'8" x 4'4" (measurements taken from a split log door lying near by) has once been located towards the southeast corner of the south wall.

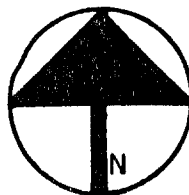
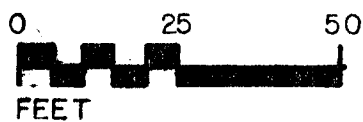
A log storage shed 3' x 3' extends out from the south wall at its west end. This shed only remains standing 2'6" high. The roof of the structure is completely gone and there are no indications of what type of roof the cabin may have had. Some remains, however, indicated that it probably had rip-sawn board covering.

The interior of the cabin is clean of artifactual material, containing only debris of the collapsed cabin.



GAAR-84-018

TRAPPER'S CABIN



In addition to the cabin remains, there is a modern camp located approximately 30 feet southwest of the cabin. This campsite is composed of a hearth, some cut firewood, and contemporary trash. This material probably is associated with the 1984 Coldfoot Classic, the trail for which was established just to the west of the cabin, between it and the campsite.

HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE: None Known.

The site represents a specific use, that of trapping, of the region. This site will be claimed by the river in the near future.

PREVIOUS SURVEY: None

SITE TYPE: MINER'S CABIN
SITE NUMBER: GAAR-84-019
LOCATION: This site is located on the north bank of Washington Creek approximately 2 1/2 miles east of the creek's confluence with Glacier River.

USGS QUAD: Wiseman C-1 (1:63360)

TOWNSHIP, RANGE, SECTION: T.31N., R.12W., SW1/4 of SW1/4 of Section 7

UTMS: 7492350 N. 613250 E. Zone 5

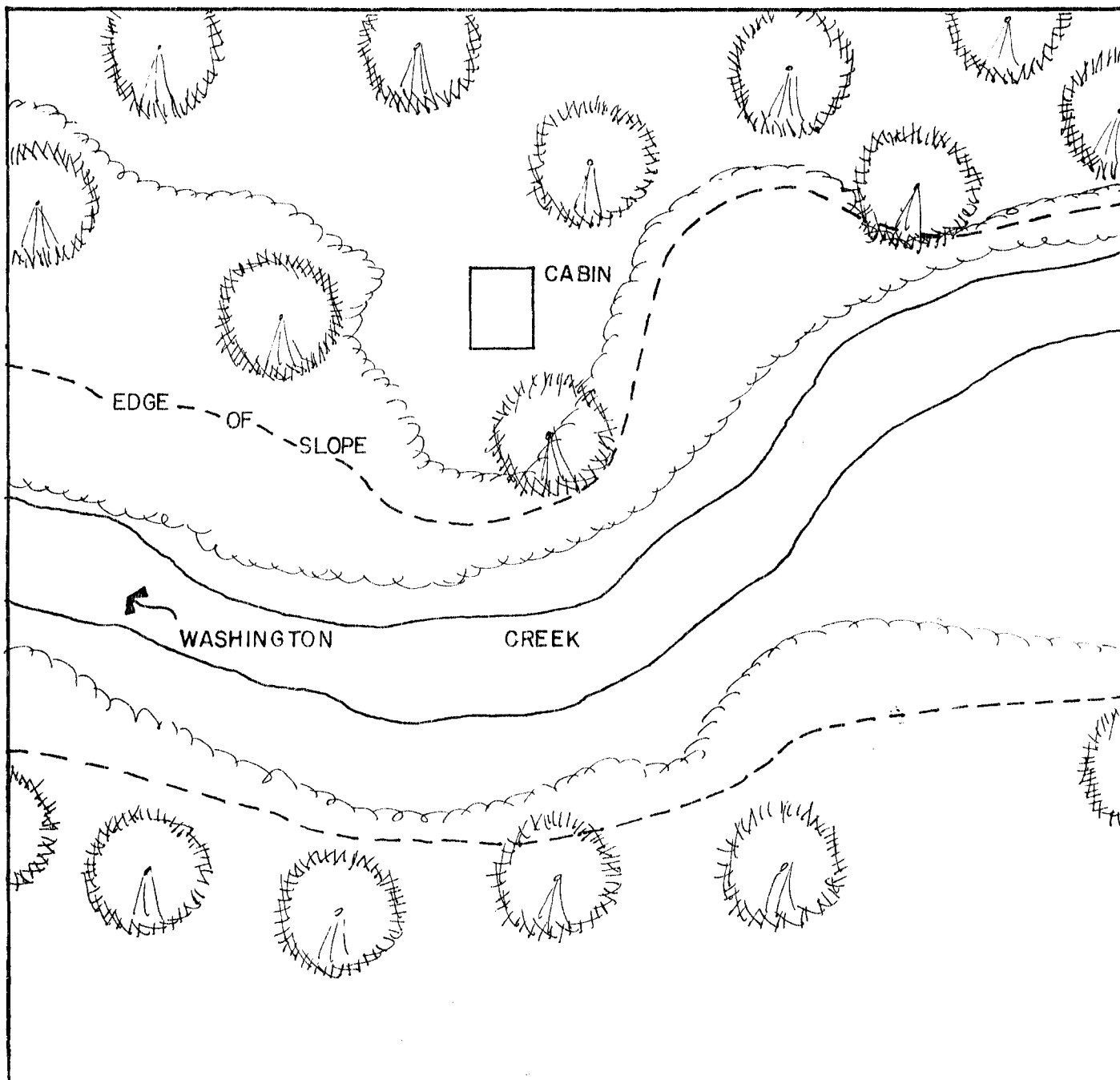
DATE SURVEYED: July 25, 1984

SURVEYOR: Russell Sackett

SITE DESCRIPTION:

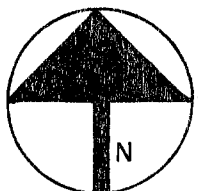
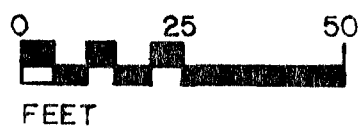
This site rests on a bench overlooking the north bank of Washington Creek approximately 2 1/2 miles east of the creek's confluence with Glacier River. Because of the cabin's ruined state, it is not visible from the creek bed.

The cabin is in total ruin. Only three log courses are in place with the collapsed roof burying the remains. This cabin measures 12' x 16' and was constructed of unpeeled logs chinked with moss and had saddle notched corners. The roof was gabled and made of split poles covered with sod supported by a ridge pole. There are indications that a window had once been located in the west wall and that the door was located in the south wall facing Washington Creek.



GAAR-84-019

MINER'S CABIN



In front of the cabin (south side) there is a large quantity of cans and cookware forming a garbage pile and scattered about the site.

HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE:

It is reported that boomer dams were used on Washington Creek by early miners. During the survey, no remains of such were found. Present day miners working on Mascot Creek stated that last year when they went up Washington Creek to assess their claim, they had to remove some dam remains in order to get up the creek with their equipment.

Archeologically, the site has significance in the quantity of material remaining undisturbed for the documentation and reconstructing both activities and life style of early miners within the region. The site offers a unique opportunity to look at the material aspect of early days.

PREVIOUS SURVEY: None

SITE TYPE: MINER'S CABIN

SITE NUMBER: GAAR-84-020

LOCATION: This site is located on the north bank of Washington Creek approximately 1.7 miles east of the creek's confluence with Glacier River.

USGS QUAD: Wiseman C-1 (1:63360)

TOWNSHIP, RANGE, SECTION: T.31N., R.13W., NE1/4 of NW1/4 of Section 13.

UTMS: 7491860 N. 612050 E. Zone 5

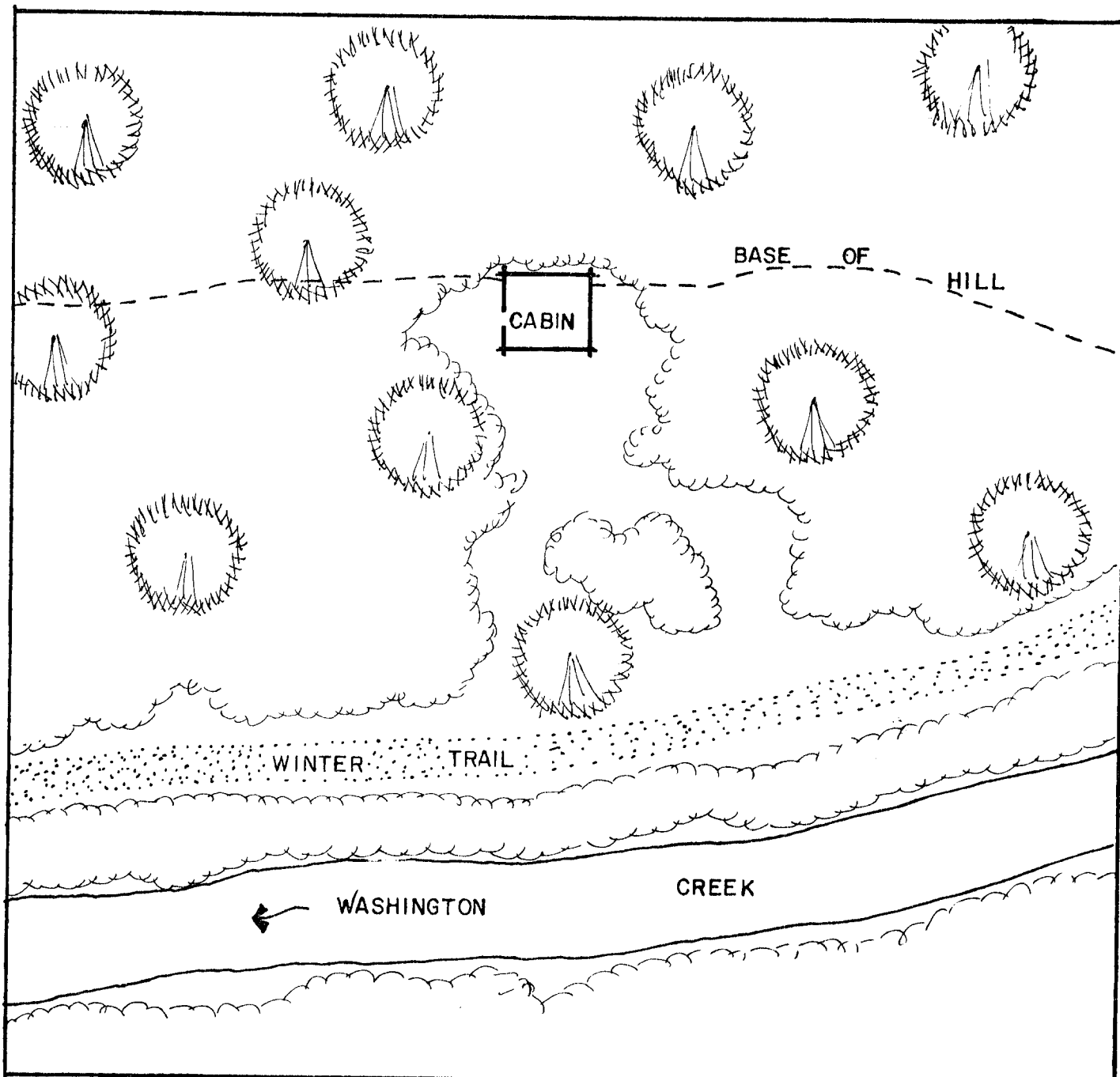
DATE SURVEYED: July 25, 1984

SURVEYOR: Russell Sackett

SITE DESCRIPTION:

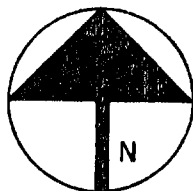
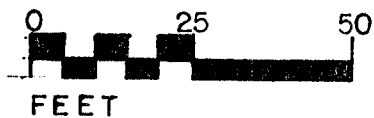
This site is located on the north bank and within the flood plain of Washington Creek approximately 1.7 miles east of the creek's confluence with Glacier River.

The site is composed of the remains of a ruined cabin which measured 15' x 17'. This cabin has only portions of its walls still standing at its roof entirely gone. The walls only stand to a height of 4 feet at tallest point composed of seven courses of unpeeled logs chinked with moss and has saddle notched corners.



GAAR-84-020

MINER'S CABIN



The interior of the walls are squared off. Only signs of openings are a window on the south wall facing Washington Creek and a door on the west side. Roof remains have been completely removed and there are no indications of what type it may have been.

With the exception of the remains of a pole bed along the north wall, a few tin cans, a blazo can, and a wooden blazo can box, the interior of the cabin as well as the entire site is relatively clean.

The site has the appearance of a short period of habitation with the cabin being dismantled when abandoned.

HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE:

The significance of the site rests in its documenting the use pattern by miners within the region as a whole. It is felt that the site has no significance on its own merits but is important in reconstructing early use of the region on the broader scope.

SITE TYPE: ~~DRIFT MINER'S CABIN (A. P. NESS)~~

SITE NUMBER: GAAR-84-021

LOCATION: This site is located on the east bank of Glacier River approximately 1/2 mile north of where the winter trail in Glacier Pass crosses the river.

USGS QUAD: Wiseman B-1 (1:63360)

TOWNSHIP, RANGE, SECTION: T.31N., R.13W., NE1/4 of NW1/4 of Section 33

UTMS: 7488190 N. 608100 E. Zone 5

DATE SURVEYED: July 25, 1984

SURVEYOR: Russell Sackett

SITE DESCRIPTION:

This site is located on the east bank of the Glacier River approximately 1/2 mile north of Yale's Cabin (GAAR-84-011). Beginning right on the edge of the bank, the site slopes moderately to a high point of 300 feet above river elevation approximately 100 feet to the east. Situated within an area up to 200 feet east of the river, the site is composed of cabin ruins and associated drift mining features.

Feature 1: Drift Mine Shaft

Feature 1 is located five feet east of the river bank and is a drift mine shaft. This shaft is log cribbed and measures 5'-4" x 5'-4".

Feature 2: Tailing Pile

Feature 2 is located on the bank of the river 20 feet north of feature 1 and is a tailing pile reflecting the overburden removed from the shaft. The pile measures 50 feet in diameter and approximately 6 feet in height.

Feature 3: Cabin Remains

Located 100 feet east and up slope from feature 1 are the remains of a cabin in total ruin. The walls of the cabin remain standing only to a height of 3'6" and are composed of six log courses. These walls are constructed of unpeeled logs chinked with moss and have saddle notched corners. There are no remains of the roof nor indications of what type it may have been. Upper log courses of the walls have collapsed. The cabin measures 12' x 12'. The west and north elevations of the cabin are plain, having no openings. A 3'2" x 5' door opening with door made from split logs is located in the cabin's south wall. The east elevation contains a milled wood framed window opening 2'4" x 2'10" towards the wall's north end.

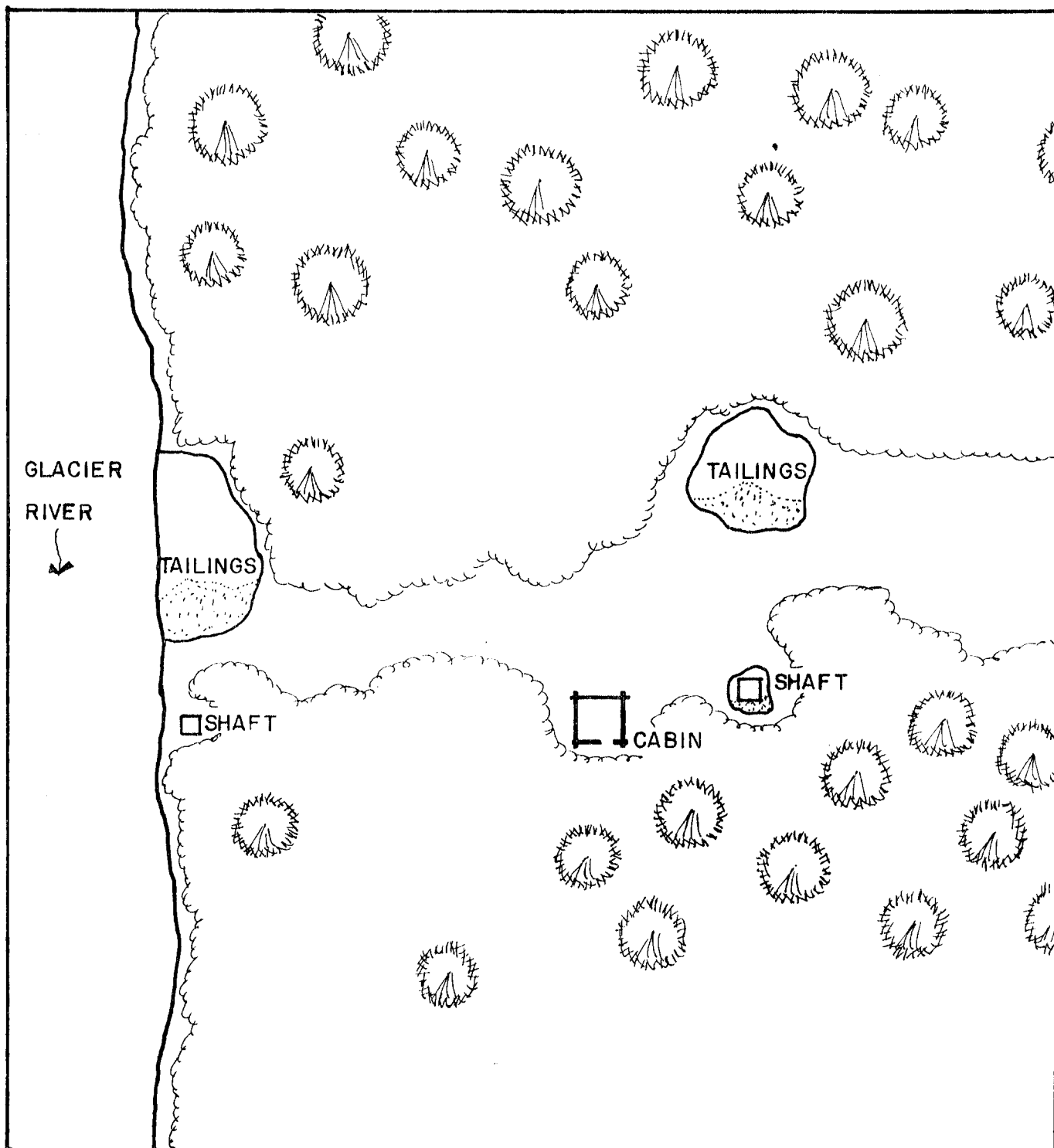
Within the interior of the cabin are found a few machine parts, fragments of wooden boxes, steam pipes, and a Yukon stove constructed from two square 5 gallon blazo cans. On the east and south sides of the cabin are located two square wooden ore buckets, one 3 foot diameter wooden ore bucket, remains of a whiskey barrel, syrup cans and other tin cans, fragments of a ladder, and numerous cookware items.

Feature 4: Drift Mine Shaft

Feature 4 is located 30 feet east and up slope from the cabin remains and is a drift mine shaft. This shaft is located within a dug depression 12 feet in diameter and 4'6" deep. At the bottom of this depression, the shaft measures 6' x 6' and is log cribbed. A handmade ladder descends into the shaft. The shaft had been capped with logs and sod after its final use. This cap is in a decayed condition.

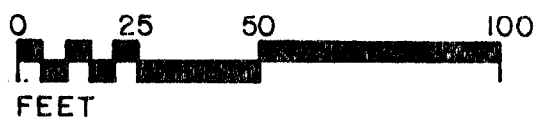
Feature 5: Tailing Pile

Forty feet to the north of the shaft (feature 4) is the remains of a tailing pile representing the overburden removed from the shaft. This tailing pile is 30 feet in diameter and approximately 10 feet in height.

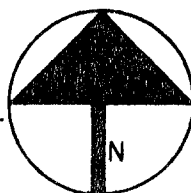


GAAR - 84 - 021

DRIFT MINER'S CABIN -- A. P. NESS



-- 223 --



HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE:

According to the 1938 Reed report, "A.P. Ness sank three shafts in early days about 1/2 mile above Yehl (Yale) cabin to bedrock on the deep channel. The deepest of these was 258 feet." (Only two of the three shafts were found during the 1984 survey).

The site has significance in its documentation of early drift mining on the Glacier River. It illustrates through its remains a type site for kind type of activity. Archeologically, the site offers the potential for providing material information concerning conditions and activities at a drift mine during the early decades of the 1900s.

PREVIOUS SURVEY: None.

SITE TYPE: TRAPPER'S SHELTER CABIN

SITE NUMBER: GAAR-84-022

LOCATION: This site is located within Glacier Pass approximately four miles west of Nolan.

USGS QUAD: Wiseman B-1(1:63360)

TOWNSHIP, RANGE, SECTION: T.31N., R.13W., SE1/4 of NW1/4 of Section 35

UTMS: 748750 N. 611320 E. Zone 5

DATE SURVEYED: June 20, 1984

SURVEYOR: Mark Standley

SITE DESCRIPTION:

This site is located within Glacier Pass approximately 4 miles west of Nolan and was found while surveying the Pass for archeological sites but not visited by the Historic Survey members. The site is composed of the ruins of a small trapper's line cabin resting on the south slope of a dry knoll. In total ruin, the cabin was made from unpeeled logs with saddle notched corners and had an approximate measurement of 8' x 9'. It appears that it may have had a gabled roof at one time. Nearby is a homemade sledge made out of flattened blazo cans and has bottom reinforced by a wood frame.

HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE:

No information is known about the history of the site. It represents a specific activity that occurred within the region and probably dates from the early half of the 1900's.

PREVIOUS SURVEY: None

SITE TYPE: MINER'S CABIN -- FRANK J. MILLER

SITE NUMBER: None

LOCATION: This site is located on the south bank of Sawyer Creek approximately 1 mile west of the creek's confluence with Middle Fork Koyukuk River.

USGS QUAD: Wiseman B-1 (1:63360)

TOWNSHIP, RANGE, SECTION: T.29N., R.12W., SW1/4 of SW1/4 Section 10

UTMS: 7472920 N. 621050 E. Zone 5

DATE SURVEYED: July 6, 1984

SURVEYORS: William Brown, Russell Sackett

SITE DESCRIPTION:

This site is located on the south bank of Sawyer Creek approximately 1 mile west of the creek's confluence with Middle Fork Koyukuk River. The site is composed of the remains of a cabin which lies 150 feet from the active creek bed and 200 feet from (east) the beginning of the creek's gorge.

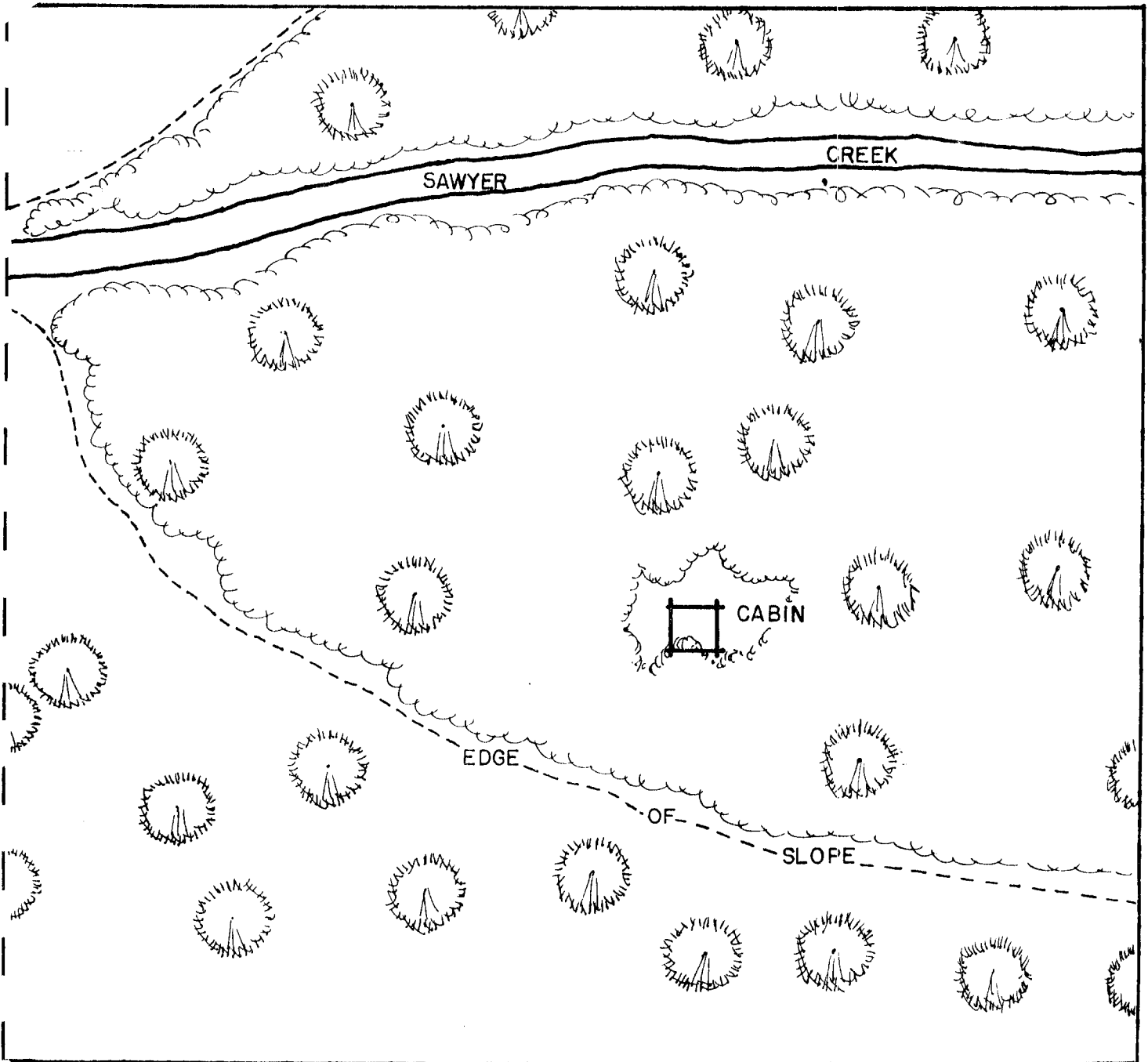
In total ruin, the cabin measures 15' x 15' with only two feet of the walls remaining. Wall portions that remain are composed of unpeeled logs chinked with moss and have saddle notched corners. There are a few indications that suggest the cabin had windows on the south and north elevations and a door on the east elevation. The west elevation appears to have been plain.

There are no indications of what type roof the cabin may have had.

The immediate area around as well as within the cabin contains a number of old tin cans, square 5 gallon blazo cans, and fragments of a chimney.

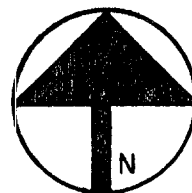
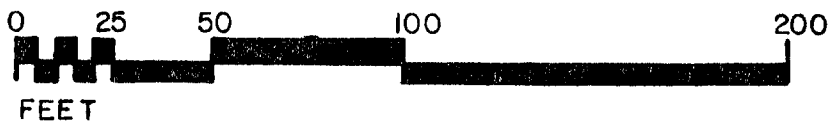
HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE:

According to Reed's 1938 report, A.D. Wilcox and Frank J. Miller were prospecting on Sawyer Creek during the summer of 1936.



MINER'S CABIN, SAWYER CREEK

FRANK MILLER



According to Harry Leonard (personal communications July 20, 1984) Frank Miller built and stayed in this cabin but that there were others on the creek before him. He did not know who the others were.

PREVIOUS SURVEYS: None

SITE TYPE: DRIFT MINE COMPLEX

SITE NUMBER: WIS-050 (Alaska State Site No.)

LOCATION: This site is located on the south bank of Minnie Creek approximately 1 mile east of the creek's confluence with Middle Fork Koyukuk River.

USGS QUAD: Wiseman B-1 (1:63360)

TOWNSHIP, RANGE, SECTION: T.30N., R.11W., NW1/4 of NE1/4 of Section 20

UTMS: 7480530 N. 626560 E. Zone 5

DATE SURVEYED: July 24, 1984

SURVEYOR: Russell Sackett

SITE DESCRIPTION:

This site is situated 110 feet south of Minnie Creek one mile east of the creek's confluence with Middle Fork Koyukuk River. The site is made up of four drift mine shafts and remains of four structures. Description of these features are as follows:

Feature 1: Boiler Cabin Remains

Feature 1, located 110 feet south of the creek, is the remains of a boiler cabin. Only the sill logs of this structure remain, indicating that the structure had measured 13' x 16'. The cabin was constructed of unpeeled logs with saddle notched corners. The area around the immediate area contains a two man boiler, fragments of wooden boxes, bottles, Lipton tea and Hills Brothers Coffee cans, rope, galvanized buckets, strap iron, fragments of boots, and a buckhorse.

Feature 2: Outhouse Remains

The remains of an outhouse are located 44 feet north of feature 1. This outhouse, which was constructed from pole framing covered with canvas, is totally collapsed. The outhouse measured 3'6" x 4' with a height of 6'4". It had a shed roof and no visible artifacts.

Feature 3: Residential Cabin Remains

Forty feet west of feature 1 is the location of what was a residential cabin. Only sill logs mark where this cabin once stood measuring 10' x 12'. The sill logs were unpeeled with saddle notched corners. In association with this feature are bottles, empty calcium carbide cans, Hills Brothers Coffee cans and other tin cans. A two man boiler sits 10 feet to the south of the cabin.

Feature 4: Machine Shop Cabin Remains

The remains of a machine shop/storage cabin is located 48 feet southwest of feature 3. These remains are marked only by sill logs that measure 11' x 15'. The sill logs are unpeeled with saddle notched corners. In association with the remains are lengths of various diameter pipe, steam hoses, galvanized wash buckets, two whiskey barrels, and the core of a boiler.

Feature 5: Drift Mine Shaft

A log cribbed drift mine shaft is located 20 feet west of feature 1. This shaft measures 5' x 7' and is surrounded by overburden tailings.

Feature 6: Drift Mine Shaft

Forty feet south of feature 4 is located a second log cribbed drift mine shaft. This shaft also measures 5' x 7' and is surrounded by tailings. Portion of the hand winch rests along the side of the shaft.

Feature 7: Drift Mine Shaft

A third drift mine shaft is located 15 feet southwest of feature 4. This shaft has slumped in, forming a depression roughly 12 feet in diameter filled with water.

Feature 8: Drift Mine Shaft

The fourth drift mine shaft is located 30 feet west of feature 4. This shaft is log cribbed measuring 5' x 7' and filled with water.

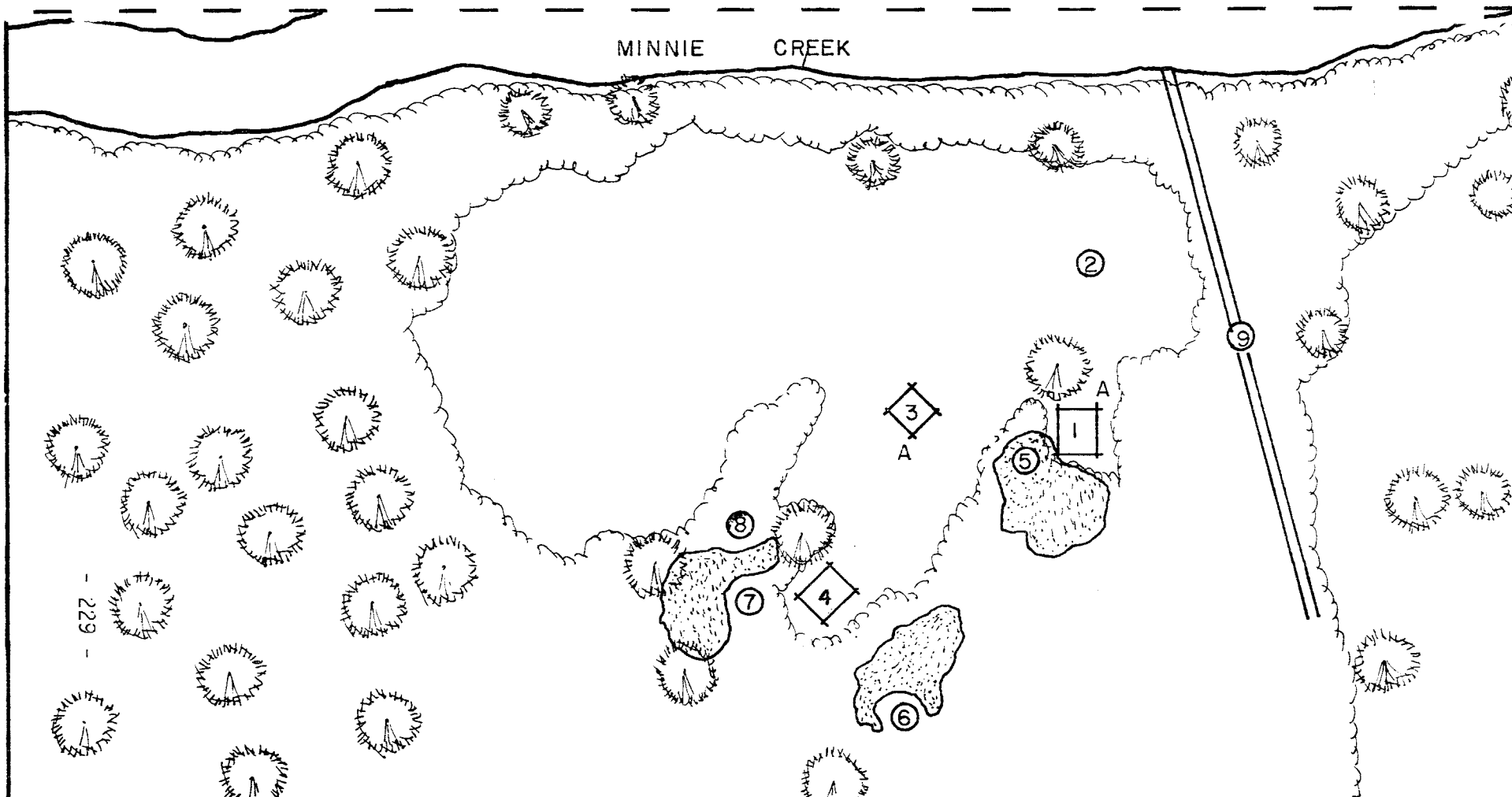
Feature 9: Ditch

A two foot wide ditch lies approximately 45 feet east of feature 1. This 10" deep ditch runs from just south of the site to Minnie Creek.

HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE:

According to Maddren's 1909 field notes, the first hole sunk to bedrock on Minnie Creek was done in 1904 but water drove them out. 1905 saw the greatest amount (pre-1909) of work on the creek. In 1906 Buckhart and Luie Truxel were working the creek.

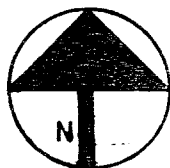
According to Harry Leonard (personal communication, July 20, 1984) Wes Ellington at one time worked the creek. According to



MINNIE CREEK

DRIFT MINE COMPLEX

0 25 50 100
FEET



- | | | | |
|---|------------------|---|------------------|
| A | TWO MAN BOILER | 7 | DRIFT MINE SHAFT |
| 1 | BOILER CABIN | 8 | DRIFT MINE SHAFT |
| 2 | OUTHOUSE | 9 | DITCH |
| 3 | CABIN | | TAILINGS |
| 4 | MACHINE SHOP | | |
| 5 | DRIFT MINE SHAFT | | |
| 6 | DRIFT MINE SHAFT | | |

Reed's 1938 report (pp. 59-60) "A great deal of prospecting was done on Minnie Creek in early days and also a small amount of drift mining, all in the deep channel..... L.C. Lawson worked for several years attempting to mine the deep channel by ground sluicing.....Herman "Slim" Bassi and Fred Milan attempted to sink a shaft to the deep channel of Minnie Creek in the spring of 1937 below the old drift mining area."

PREVIOUS SURVEYS:

The site was surveyed in 1980 and reported in "Final Report on the 1980 Archeological Survey Along the Northwest Alaskan Pipeline Company Natural Gas Pipeline Corridor From Prudhoe Bay to Delta Junction, With Additional Work to the South" submitted to Flour Northwest, Inc. by Jean Aigner and Brian Gannon, Anthropology Program, University of Alaska Fairbanks.

DRAFT

SITE TYPE: MINING COMPLEX (DETROIT MINING COMPANY)

SITE NUMBER: None

LOCATION: The site is located on the south bank of Hammond River approximately 1.5 miles west of the river's confluence with Middle Fork Koyukuk River.

USGS QUAD: Wiseman B-2 (1:63360)

TOWNSHIP, RANGE, SECTION: T.31N., R.11W., NE1/4 of SE1/4 of Section 29

UTMS: 7489000 N. 626500 E. Zone 5

DATE SURVEYED: July 16, 1984

SURVEYORS: Russell Sackett, Sue Will (BLM)

SITE DESCRIPTION:

The site is located on the south bank of Hammond River approximately 1.5 miles west of the river's confluence with the Middle Fork Koyukuk River. A dirt road divides the site in half and marks where the old winter trail is located. The area is vegetated by spruce with some cottonwood closer to the river. The site is within the river's active flood plain. A total of seven features were located during the survey.

Feature 1: Cabin Depression

A 15' x 29' depression marking where a structure once stood is located at the western edge of the site. There was no structural or cultural remains in association.

Feature 2: Drift Mine Shaft

Approximately 8 feet north of feature 1 is a depression approximately 9 feet in diameter. This depression marks a slumped in drift mine shaft.

Feature 3: Drift Mine Shaft

A second depression 10 feet in diameter marking a slumped in drift mine shaft is located 20 feet east of feature 1.

Feature 4: Cabin Ruins

Approximately 210 feet east of feature 1 is the remains of a large log structure that measures 17' x 43'. This structure was constructed from peeled logs chinked with moss and has square notched corners. The roof was gabled supported by a ridge pole and four purlins. Roof construction was round poles covered with sod. The structure has completely collapsed in place. The north elevation is gabled with height undetermined because of the collapsed condition. In the center of this elevation was a 2'4" x 5'5" door opening. To the left of the door was a 2'10" x 4'9" window opening framed in milled wood for a six over six double hung sash window, which is no longer present.

The east and west walls are identical, neither indicating having any had any openings. Due to the length (43 feet) of the walls, at the center of each wall is a vertical log member for splicing the wall logs together.

The south wall is the main facade of the structure. This wall was gabled but because of collapsed condition, height of wall was not determined. In the center of the wall was a 2'4" x 5'5" door opening. On each side of the door was a 2'10" x 4'9" six over six double hung sash window which were painted white.

Interior of the structure contains a large quantity of artifacts that appear to still be in their original arrangements when the structure was in use. Along the southern half of the west wall is a grand milled lumber bar in fair condition. A number of bottles and tins are in association with the bar. The area to the east of the bar contains broken chairs, empty wood crates, and a barrel stove. The rear (north) half of the structure contains crates (unopened) of pipe insulation along the west wall and stacks of pipe and fittings along the east wall. An old metal bed sted is in between. Because of the collapsed nature of the structure, a complete inventory was not possible. The ceiling of the structure was originally finished in pressed tin ceiling panels.

Feature 5: Cabin Remains

Feature 5 is located approximately 60 feet southeast of feature 4 and on the south side of the road. This feature is the remains of a cabin defined by square notched sill logs. Measuring 21' x 26', the structure appears to have had an entry measuring 8' x 9' on the east side. There are two bed frames within the cabin area along with a stamped metal wood stove. A large quantity of both modern and historic trash is in association with the structure as well as to the east. This debris ranges from food tins, articles of foot wear to machinery and construction material.

Feature 6: Outhouse

An outhouse is located approximately 50 feet southeast of feature 5. This outhouse is constructed of pole frames and measures 4' x 5' and 6' high. Pressed tin ceiling panels recovered from feature 4 were used as siding and roofing material for the flat roof.

Feature 7: Cabin Remains

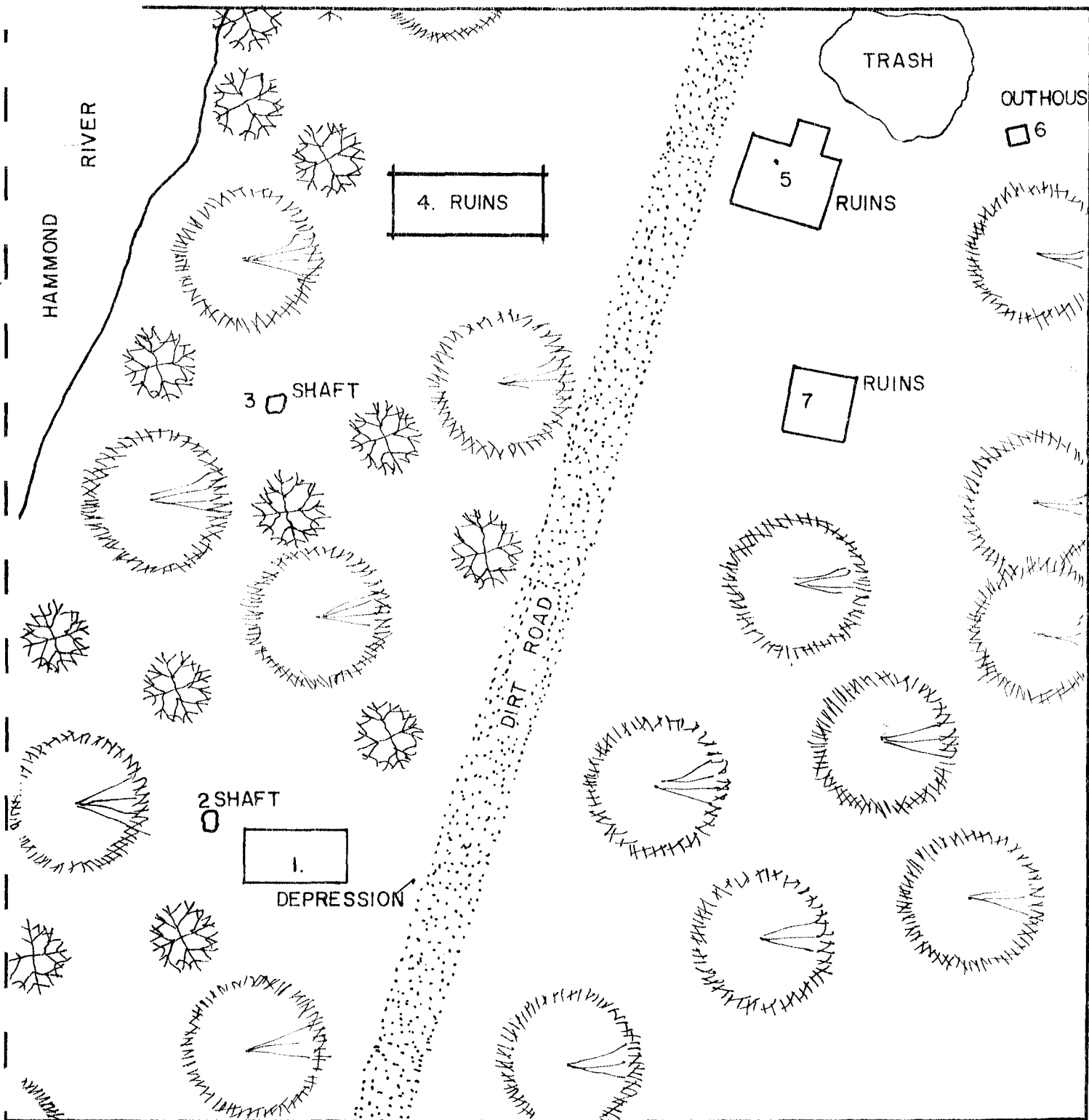
Approximately 40 feet west of feature 5 lie the remains of another cabin. This cabin is marked only by square notched sill logs and a slumped in cold cellar. The cabin had measured 18' x 18' and has only a few tin cans in association.

HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE:

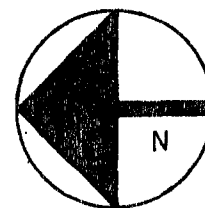
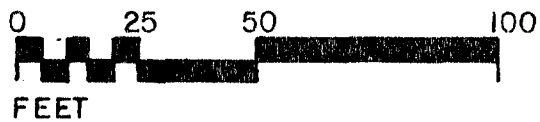
This site is reported to represent the Detroit Mining Company's short activities on the Hammond River during the 1930s. It is believed by the local people that the company was flooded out their first year and went bankrupt, abandoning the site with all its equipment.

The site has significance in its relationship to an organized mining company in the early decades of the 1900's rather than the small scale operations generally found in the region. With the large quantity of material still found on the site, the site offers a unique look at the material side of this time period.

PREVIOUS SURVEY: None



HAMMOND RIVER
DETROIT MINING COMPANY



SITE TYPE: HAMMOND RIVER MINING COMPLEX

SITE NUMBER: None

LOCATION: This complex of mining sites is located on the south bank of the Hammond River from approximately 1.5 miles to 2.2 miles west of the river's confluence with the Middle Fork Koyukuk River.

USGS QUAD: Wiseman B-1 (1:63360)

TOWNSHIP, RANGE, SECTION: T.31N., R.11W., SW1/4 of NE1/4
and NW1/4 of SE1/4 of Section 29.

UTMS: 7489000 to 7489300 N. 626200 to 626420 E.
Zone 5

DATE SURVEYED: July 4, 15, and 16, 1984

SURVEYORS: William Brown, Kim Hoagland (HABS), Russell Sackett

SITE DESCRIPTION:

This complex of mining sites is located on the south bank of Hammond River approximately 1.5 miles west of the river's confluence with the Middle Fork Koyukuk River. Stretching along the south bank for approximately 3/4 of a mile, the complex probably represents a number of separate claims worked during different periods of time in the early decades of the 1900s. Because of the extensive area of the complex, it has been broken down into six areas for ease of description. These areas were attempted to be divided around centers of activity and are as follows:

AREA 1

This area is located at the northwest edge of the total complex and is the location of Vern Watt's discovery claim with its features corresponding to those seen in the Marshall photograph collection. The area immediately to the north and east of this area is presently being mined by Sam Munjar who owns the claims that the entire complex sits on. Directly south of Area 1 is Area 2. The features found within this area are as follows:

Feature 1: Drift Mine Shaft

Feature 1 is a depression marking where a drift mine shaft had once existed. The shaft has been partially filled in by tailings through reconstructing the road that follows the south bank of Hammond River up to Vermont Creek.

Feature 2: Horse Drawn Sledge

The remains of a horse drawn sledge lie in the willow fringes approximately 50 feet south of Feature 1. The sledge appears to be complete and in fair condition.

Feature 3: Boiler Cabin Remains

Approximately 30 feet south of Feature 1 are the remains of a boiler cabin. Only the sill logs remain of the cabin which measured 20' x 25'. Within the area defined by the sill logs is a 2'4" x 3' x 8' galvanized metal water tank in the northwest corner. Painted on the side of the tank is "Bill 2, August Olson, Nolan, Alaska St. Michael"; a "Champion Blower & Forge Co., Lancaster, PA., USA." forged in the east center; and two "The Little Giant Hoist" steam hoists are in the southwest corner. Along with these pieces of equipment the cabin area contains pipe, pipe fittings, steam line hoses, valves, Lipton tea cans, wood crate fragments, and Union Carbide bauxite cans.

Feature 4: Gin Pole

A 43 foot long collapsed gin pole lies approximately 30 feet southeast of Feature 3. It appears that this gin pole may be out of place, having been moved to its present location. Portions of guy cables are still attached to its top and it has lumber nailed across its entire length to form rungs of a ladder.

Feature 5: Cribbed Drift Mine Shaft

Approximately 50 feet north of the boiler cabin remains (Feature 3) is a log cribbed drift mine shaft. This shaft measures 10' x 10'.

Feature 6: Cabin Remains

Three feet to the southeast of the cribbed drift mine shaft are the remains of a 14' x 14' cabin, defined only by sill logs. Because it is so close to the drift mine shaft, it may represent a boiler cabin location.

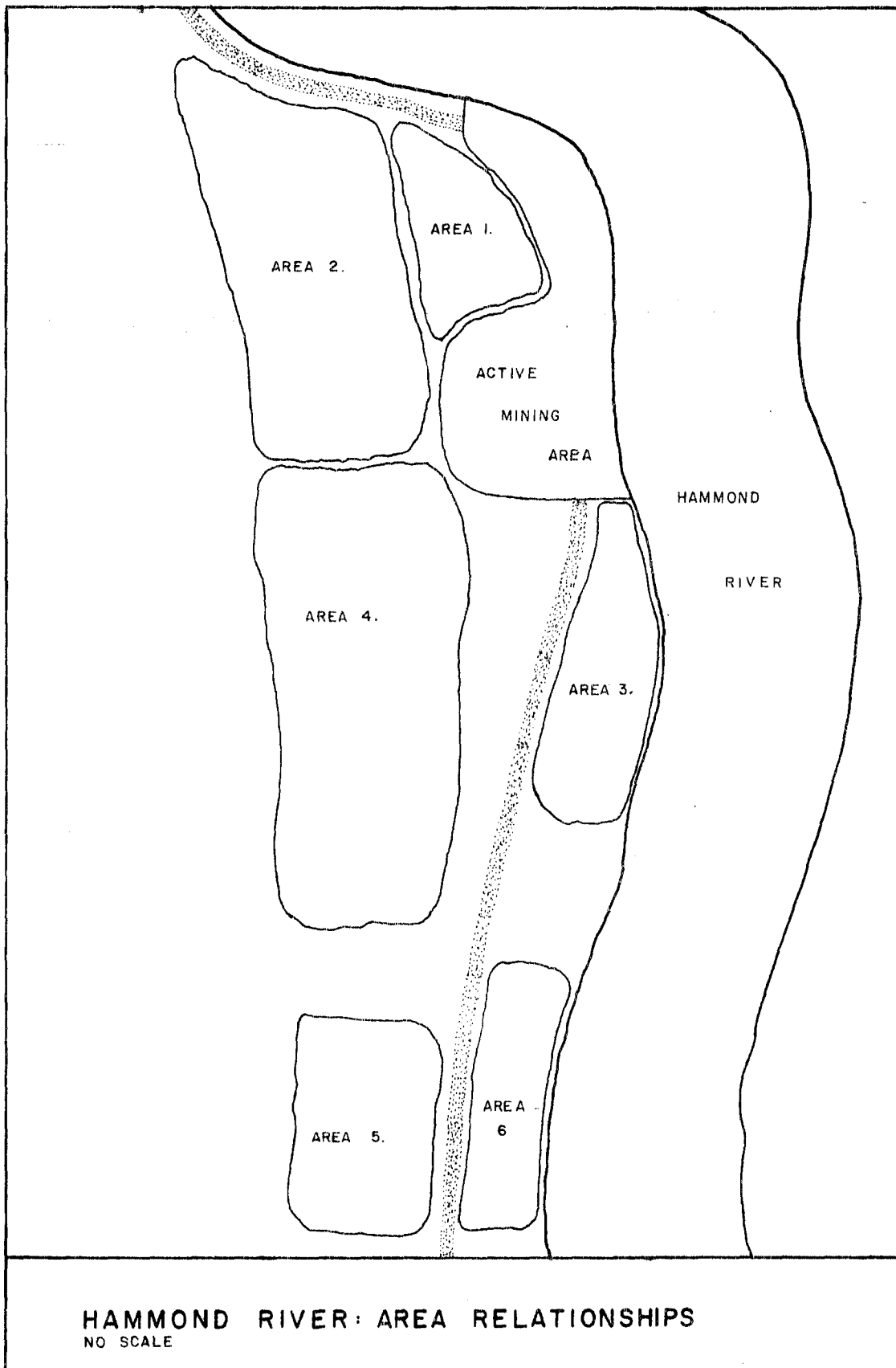
Feature 7: Ditch

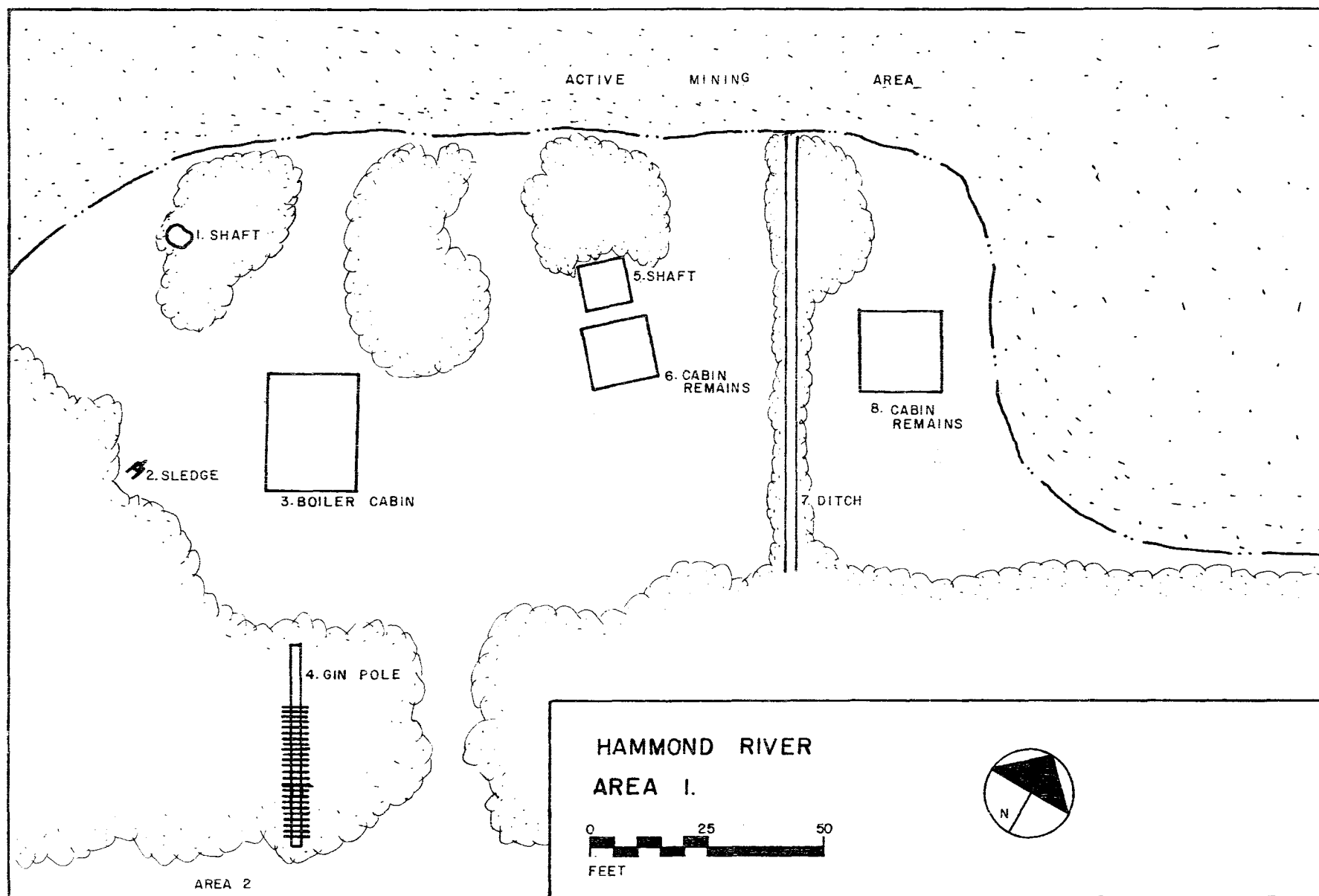
Approximately 26 feet east of Feature 6 is a ditch primarily defined by a row of willows. Where the ditch is still visible, it is 2 feet wide and approximately 8 inches deep.

Feature 8: Cabin remains

Approximately 12 feet east of the ditch are the remains of a third cabin, defined only by sill logs. This cabin measured 18' x 18'.

In addition to the features found within the area, a wide variety of historic mining equipment, ranging from wheelbarrows to a small two man boiler, are scattered about. Because of the size of the cabin remains, their close proximity to the area where mine shafts were sunk, and because of the lack of household artifacts, it is assumed that all three cabin remains represent boiler cabins and not residential cabins, with Feature 3 being the last boiler cabin used in Area 1.





AREA 2

This area is adjacent and to the south of Area 1. Area 4 lies directly to its east. Covering an area approximately 240 feet wide (north/south) and 540 feet long (east/west), this portion of the complex is centered on the standing boiler cabin.

The boiler cabin is constructed of peeled logs chinked with moss and has 'V' notched corners. Measuring 20'6" x 26'6", the cabin has a gabled roof supported by a ridge pole and four purlins. Most of the roofing is gone, showing signs of burning. The roofing that still exists, consist of split poles covered with sod.

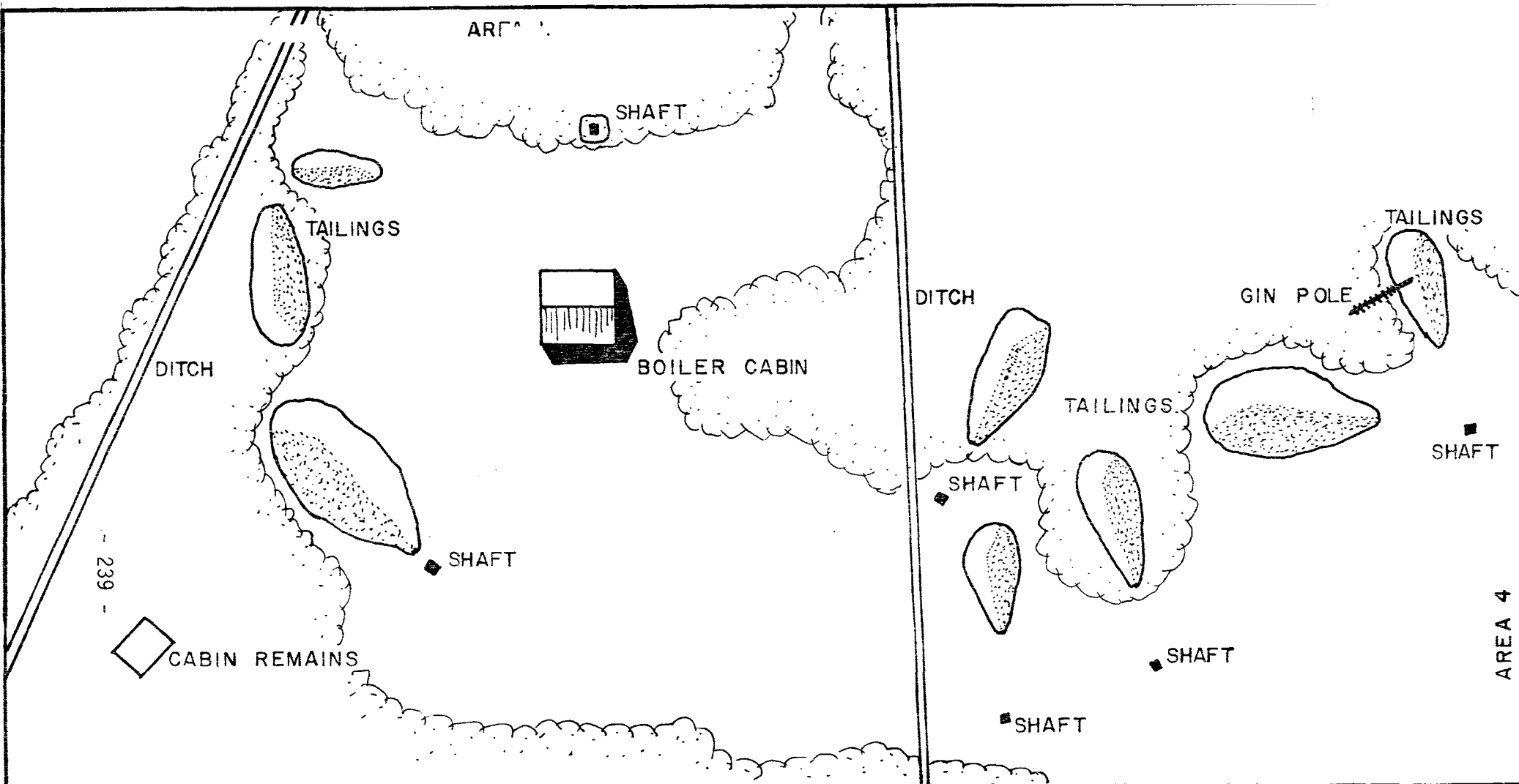
The boiler cabin's north elevation stands 7' high and consists of ten log courses. The gabled portion of this wall has collapsed. Towards the east end of the wall is a 1" x 18" cable slot. A cable was attached to a steam hoist on the inside of the cabin to run an ore bucket outside. A 2'10" x 6'3" door opening is located just east of the wall's center. The opening was at one time 8 feet wide to allow a boiler to be moved into the cabin, after which vertical logs were used to close off all but 2'10" of the door. At the west end of the north elevation is a 2'3" x 3' six light sash window. Right below this window is a 1' x 2' opening for a belt. The belt was run off a steam driven pulley on the inside of the cabin, and was probably used to drive a circular saw located outside.

The west elevation stands nine log courses high, containing a shuttered 2' x 2'5" window opening towards the wall's north end. This window was probably used to bring firewood into the cabin. A 1' x 2' window opening is located towards that wall's south end. This window is partially closed in by logs that were cut to fit it.

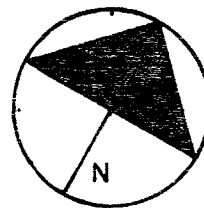
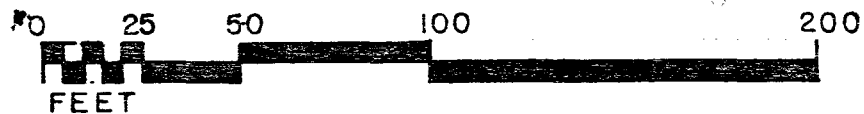
The south elevation is 9'3" to the gabled peak, and consists of fifteen log courses. At each end of this wall are 2'3" x 3' window openings. The west end window, however, has been closed in by logs. For added support, vertical logs have been placed under the ridge pole and purlins placed against the wall.

The boiler cabin's east elevation is 7 feet high, and is composed of ten log courses. In the center of this wall is a 2'3" x 3' window opening and a 1' x 1'6" window opening is placed at the wall's south end.

The interior of the boiler cabin remains much as it did when it was in operation. In the northwest corner there is a "Seattle Machine Works" steam driven belt pulley. A steam hoist marked "The Caldwell Brothers Company, Machinery Merchants, Seattle/Tacoma" is located in the cabin's northeast corner. Along the south end of the east wall is a work bench containing a number of tools and



HAMMOND RIVER: AREA 2



fittings. The south wall has a number of pegs from which lengths of steam hose hang and steam points are leaned up in the southwest corner. A 2'4" x 3' x 8' galvanized metal water tank rests along the center portion of the west wall. Finally, a boiler sits in the center left of the cabin. Nordeen plans to remove the boiler from the cabin sometime during the fall of 1984. Unfortunately, the cabin will probably have to be dismantled in order to remove the boiler from it.

The second feature found in Area 2 is the remains of a cabin approximately 160 feet south of the boiler cabin. Measuring 13' x 17', only sill logs define where this structure once stood along with a large quantity of household artifacts consisting of: a table, cookware, food cans, and a cast iron stove. Because of the latter, it is assumed this represents a residential cabin.

A collapsed gin pole, 40 feet long, lies approximately 240 feet east of the boiler cabin. As with the gin pole found in Area 1, this pole has lumber attached to it to form a ladder up its entire length. It appears this gin pole collapsed in place. There are guy cables running from its top off into the willows where several deadmen are located.

Along with these features are eight tailing piles and six drift mine shafts as located on the site map. None of these shafts are cribbed, and are marked primarily by depressions that have been filled with water as a result of the shafts slumping in.

AREA 3

Area 3 is located along the south bank of the Hammond River and north of the dirt road, which goes from the Dalton Highway to Vermont Creek, approximately 350 feet east of Area 1. The features found in Area 3 are as follows:

Feature 1: Cabin Remains

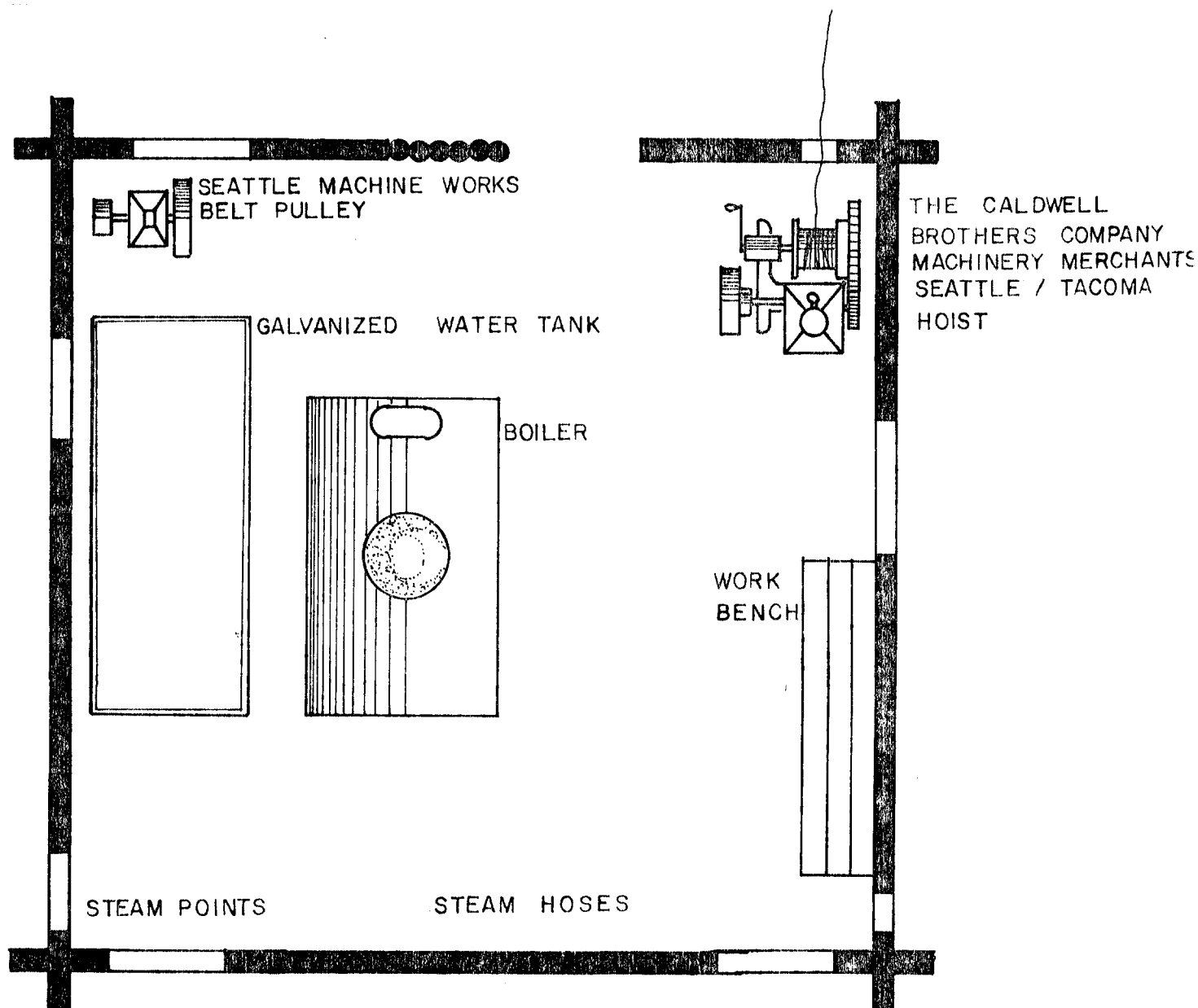
Feature 1 is found in the western fringe of the area and is the remains of a cabin which measures 13' x 15'. The cabin is composed of unpeeled logs chinked with moss and has saddle notched corners. Only four courses of 4" diameter logs remain, with the interior of the logs squared. A depression in the center of the cabin marks where a cold cellar has slumped in, suggesting that this was a residential cabin.

Feature 2: Ditch

Approximately 100 feet east of Feature 1 is the remnants of a ditch. This ditch is approximately 2 feet wide and 10 inches deep.

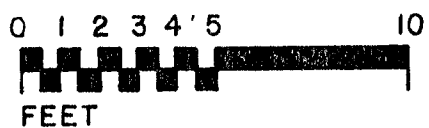
Feature 3: Cabin Remains

Twenty feet east of the ditch are sill logs marking where a cabin once stood. This cabin measured 12' x 15'.



HAMMOND RIVER

AREA 2: BOILER CABIN FLOOR PLAN



Feature 4: Cabin Remains

One foot south of Feature 3 are the remains of a second cabin. The close proximity of the two cabins suggest that they both were under a single roof. Only two log sources remain of Feature 4, suggesting that the cabin may have burned. This cabin measured 12' x 15' and a large quantity of household material is in association.

Feature 5: Ditch

Approximately 75 feet east of Feature 3 is a 10 foot wide, 2 1/2 foot deep ditch begins at a drift mine shaft (feature 6) and empties into the Hammond River.

Feature 6: Drift Mine Shaft

At the southern end of Feature 5 is a depression approximately 20 feet in diameter and filled with modern trash.

Feature 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11: Drift Mine Shafts.

Scattered about the center of Area 3 are various drift mine shafts as located on the site map. Features 8 and 9 are log cribbed shafts with the remainder marked only by depressions, representing shafts that have slumped in.

Feature 12: Cabin Remains

This feature is located approximately 170 feet east of Feature 5 and is a depression from where a cabin once stood. No structural remains are present, but the depression measures 11' x 17'. A depression within the cabin outline represents where a cold cellar has slumped in. Scattered about the depression is both modern and historic trash.

Feature 13: Cabin Remains

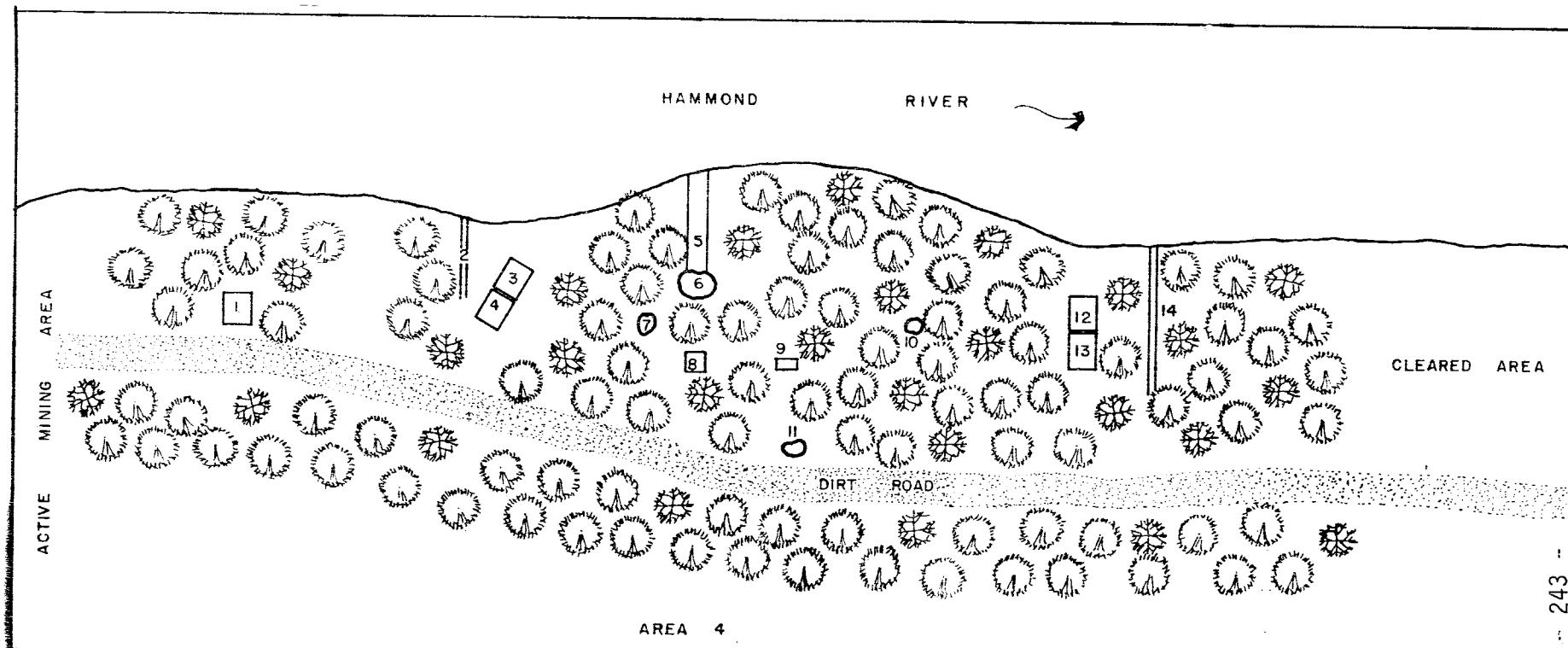
Abutting the south edge of Feature 12 is another depression marking where a second cabin had stood. There are no structural elements left of the cabin and its outline measures 11' x 13'. Because of its close location and alignment to Feature 12, the two cabins were probably placed under a single roof.

AREA 4

Area 4 is adjacent to the east edge of Area 2 and on the south side of the dirt road which forms a division between Areas 4 and 3. Covering an area approximately 380 feet wide (north/south) and 960 feet long (east/west), Area 4 sits on an old river terrace, accented by tailing deposits from the mining that has occurred. Features within Area 4 are as follows:

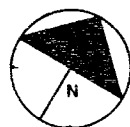
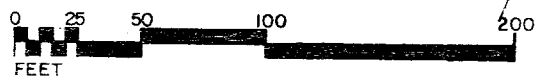
Feature 1: Boiler Cabin Remains

Feature 1 is the remains of a boiler cabin marked by sill logs only, measuring 15' x 17' in size. A small two man boiler, a 2'10" x 2'10" x 8' galvanized metal water tank, a forge, and miscellaneous pipe and pipe fittings are in association with it.



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HAMMOND RIVER AREA 3



1. CABIN DEPRESSION
2. DITCH
3. CABIN DEPRESSION
4. CABIN DEPRESSION
5. DITCH
6. DRIFT MINE SHAFT
7. DRIFT MINE SHAFT

8. DRIFT MINE SHAFT
9. DRIFT MINE SHAFT
10. DRIFT MINE SHAFT
11. DRIFT MINE SHAFT
12. CABIN DEPRESSION
13. CABIN DEPRESSION
14. DITCH

Two 5' x 5' log cribbed drift mine shafts with their associated tailings lie 20 feet to the west and 670 feet to the south of the boiler cabin. Along with the shafts, two stacks of cut logs are located 40 feet south and 70 feet west of Feature 1 as well as a gin pole by a ditch 100 feet to the northwest.

The gin pole is collapsed, measuring 42 feet in length with lumber nailed its entire length forming a ladder. Guy cables run from its top to several deadmen, suggesting that it remains collapsed in its original location.

The ditch runs north/south and is approximately 2 1/2 feet wide and in areas up to 3 feet deep. Gravel that was removed from digging the ditch rests along its west bank.

Feature 2: Cabin Remains

Feature 2 is located approximately 480 feet east of Feature 1 and is the remains of a cabin. Measuring 16' x 18', the cabin location is defined by only sill logs and with the exception of two whiskey barrels 30 feet to the north, there is no cultural material in association.

Feature 3: Cabin Remains

Approximately 80 feet northwest of Feature 2 is another cabin remains. This cabin measures 23' x 23' and is in total ruin. Made from unpeeled logs with saddle notched corners, the remains represent a boiler cabin and has various small machinery parts, pipes, and pipe fittings in association.

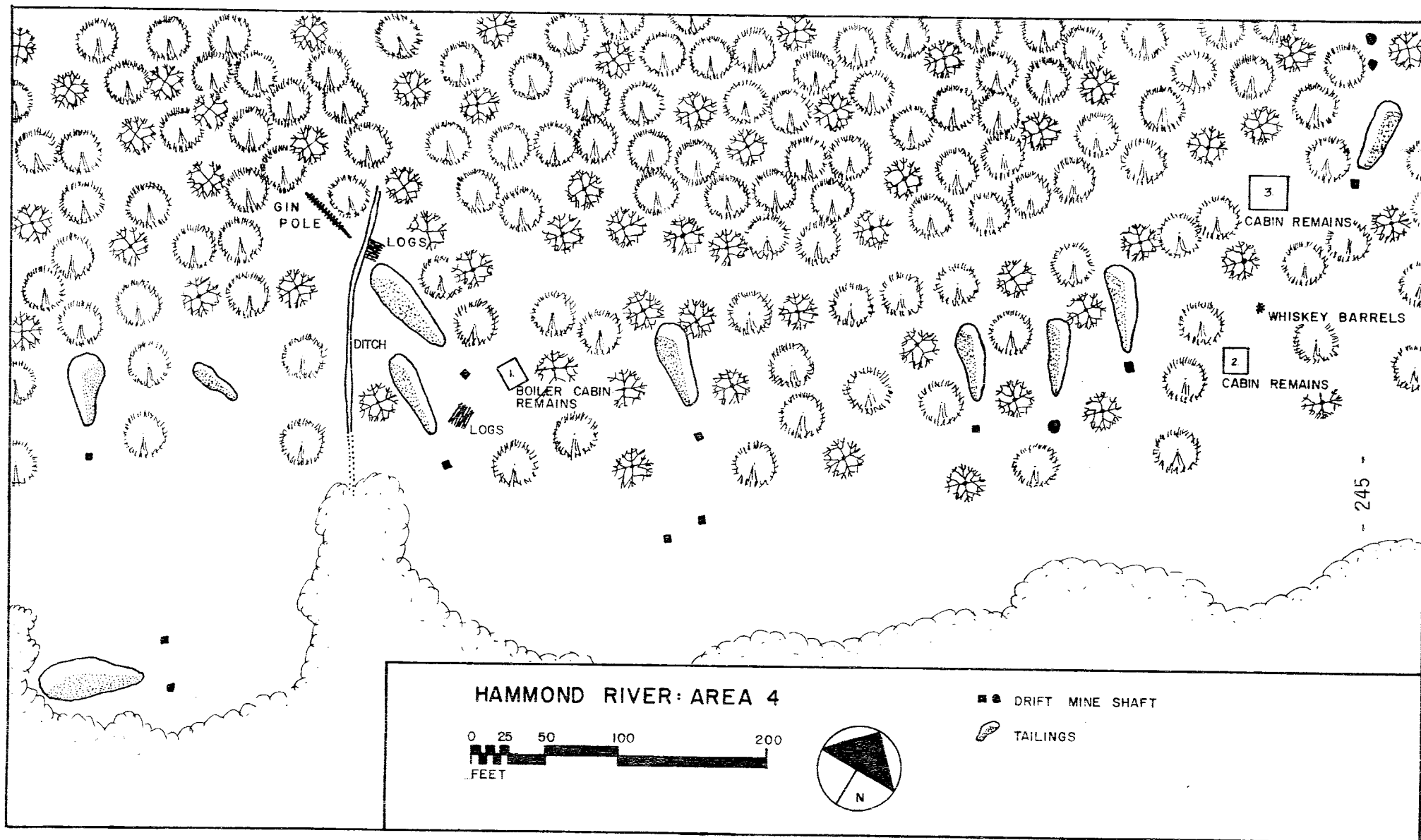
Along with these three major features, Area 4 contains 14 drift mine shafts (two of which, mentioned under Feature 1, are log cribbed) and 10 distinctive tailing piles scattered about as located on the site map. The entire area between Feature 1 and Feature 3 sits on tailing deposits that have been leveled out.

AREA 5

Area 5 is located along the south side of the dirt road. The western edge of this area is approximately 300 feet northeast of Area 4 and 89 feet southeast of Area 6. Features found within Area 5 are as follows:

Features 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, and 7: Mining Equipment

These features are various pieces of mining equipment placed along the south edge of the dirt road. William Brown and Kim Hoagland have provided photographs and detailed descriptions of these. Feature 1 is a steam hoist; Features 2 and 3 are steam pumps; Feature 4 is a drag; and Features 6 and 7 are ship's steam boilers. All of this equipment appears to have never been used, placed here with the intent of moving them to active areas at a later date.



Feature 5: Drift Mine Shaft

Feature 5 is a depression approximately 6 feet in diameter representing a slumped in drift mine shaft. It is located approximately 25 feet south of the road and 10 feet south from the equipment.

Feature 8: Chimney Stack

Feature 8, located approximately 27 feet east of the boilers and 8 feet south of the road, lies a 23 foot length of 2 foot diameter chimney stack which has a flew damper within one end.

Feature 9: Cabin Remains

Approximately 60 feet east of Feature 8 and along the south edge of the road are the remains of a cabin. No structural members are extant. The location is marked by a depression measuring 20' x 37'. The remnant outline suggests that the remains may have been two cabins placed end to end under a single roof. In association with the cabin depression are stamped tin ceiling sheets, gray speckled enamelware, a small two man boiler, old rubber boot fragments, horse collar, and a wooden door. Artifact remains suggest that the structures were used both as a boiler cabin and as a residential cabin.

Feature 10: Cabin Depression

Approximately 115 feet southeast of the dirt road and 100 feet southeast of the boilers is the depression of where two cabins where placed end to end. These depressions measure 16' x 18' and 18' x 18'. There is no visible cultural material in association.

Feature 11: Outhouse Depression

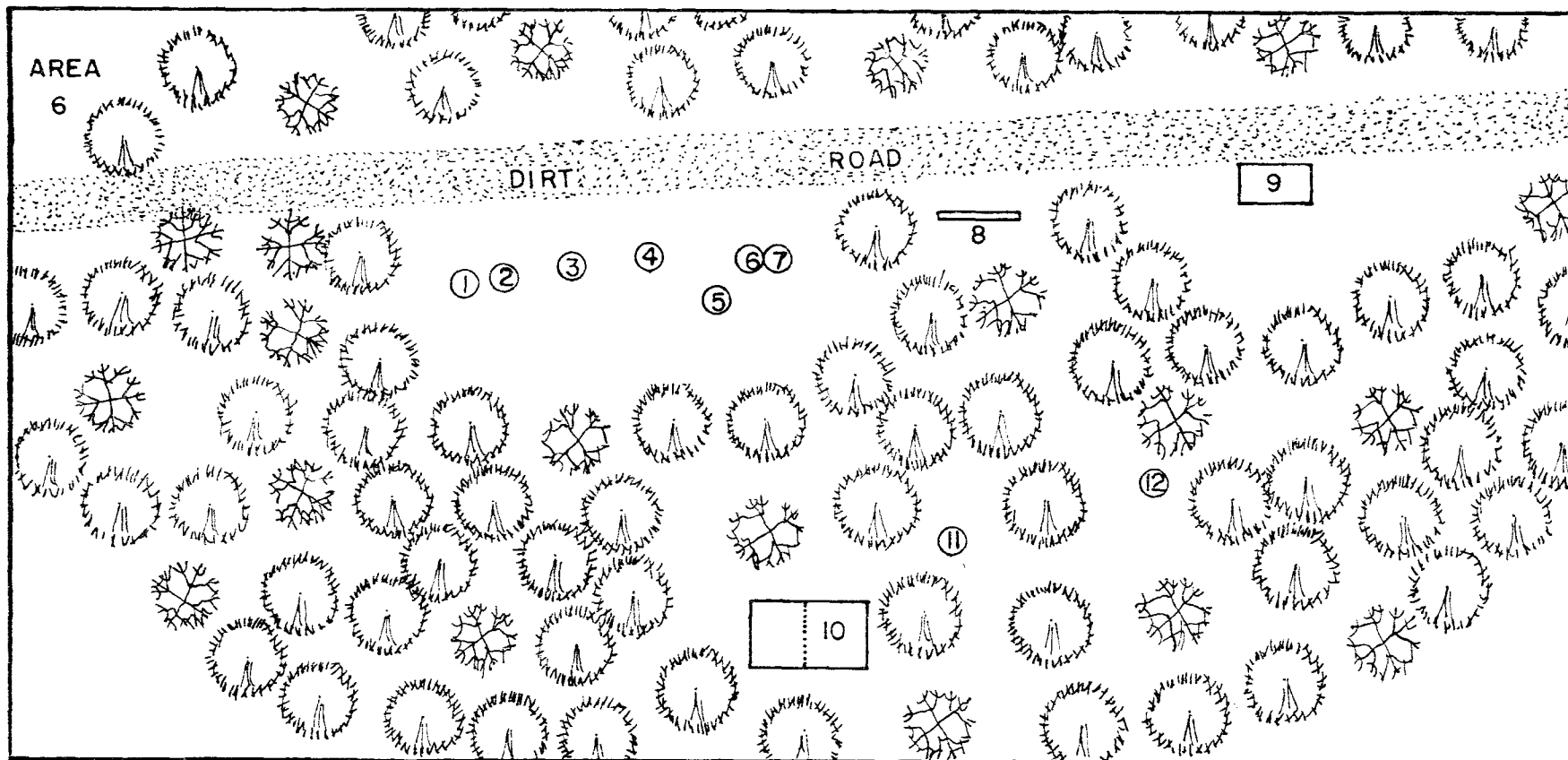
Approximately 25 feet north of feature 10 is the depression where an outhouse once stood. There are no structural remains but some wood and cans are in association.

Feature 12: Outhouse Remains

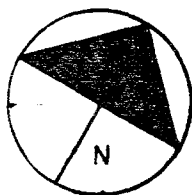
Approximately 36 feet northeast of Feature 10 is the remains of a second and probably later outhouse. This outhouse is in total ruin, constructed from 1 1/2" diameter poles to form structural framing. It measures 4'4" x 6' with an undetermined height.

AREA 6

Area 6 is located along the south bank of the Hammond River and on the north side of the dirt road. The western edge is approximately 550 feet east of Area 3 and approximately 300 feet northeast of Area 4. The eastern edge of the area is approximately 89 feet northwest of Area 5. Features located within Area 6 are as follows:



HAMMOND RIVER: AREA 5



1. STEAM HOIST
2. STEAM PUMP
3. STEAM PUMP
4. DRAG SCRAPER
5. DRIFT MINE SHAFT
6. STEAM BOILER
7. STEAM BOILER
8. 2 FOOT DIAMETER PIPE
9. CABIN REMAINS
10. CABIN DEPRESSION
11. OUTHOUSE DEPRESSION
12. OUTHOUSE REMAINS

Feature 1, 3, 6, 8, 9, 11, 12, 14, and 16: Drift Mine Shafts
These nine features are depressions representing drift mine shafts that have slumped in. They are scattered throughout the area as located on the site map.

Feature 2: Boiler Cabin Remains

Feature 2 marks the eastern edge of the site, located approximately 35 feet south of the river and 190 feet north of the dirt road. Only sill logs remain to indicate where this 19' x 24' boiler cabin once stood. Still in place within the sill log area is a boiler, steam hoist, and two steam driven pulleys.

Feature 4: Tailing Pile

Approximately 80 feet southwest of Feature 2 are the remains of a tailing pile. Measuring 10' x 20' x 5' high, it appears that most of the tailings have been washed away by the river.

Feature 5: Log Cribbed Drift Mine Shaft

Placed against the river's edge approximately 120 feet southwest of Feature 2 is a 6'-7" x 7'-6" log cribbed drift mine shaft. The river side of the shaft has been washed away and a homemade ladder and steam line descends into the shaft. A wood hand winch is in association.

Feature 7: Work Bench

An out of place work bench along with freight boxes that have been adapted for storage bins are located approximately 80 feet south of Feature 5.

Feature 10: Cabin Depression

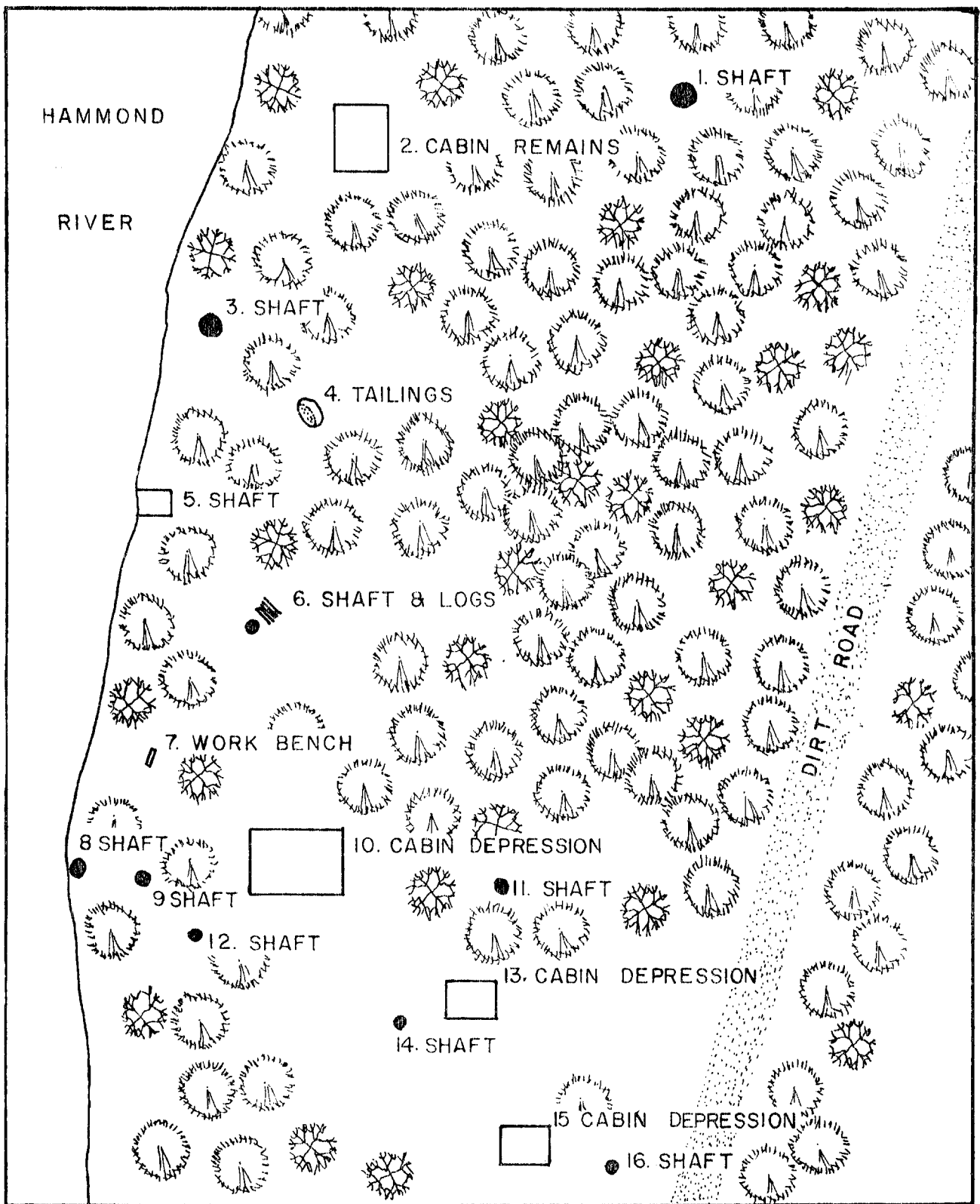
Located approximately 40 feet south of Feature 7 is a depression outlining where a cabin once stood. The depression measures 21' x 32' and may represent two cabins that had been built end to end. A 2' x 4' cribbed depression, that may be a small cold cellar, is located within the cabin outline.

Feature 13: Cabin Depression

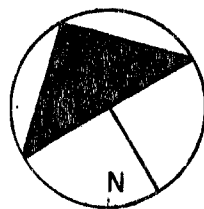
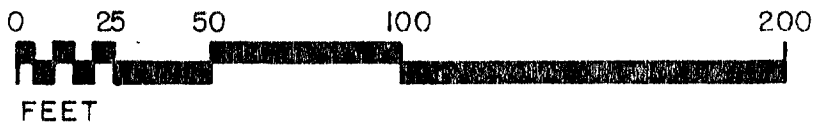
Approximately 50 feet southeast of Feature 10 is another depression outlining where a cabin once stood. The outline measures 13' x 17' and there was no visible cultural material in association.

Feature 15: Outhouse Remains

Feature 15 is the remains of a one hole outhouse constructed from 1/12" diameter poles and rough sawn lumber. It measures 3'-7" x 3'-9" x 6'-0" in height and has a shed roof.



HAMMOND RIVER: AREA 6



HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE:

The Hammond River has played an important part in the Upper Koyukuk region's mining history. From early beginnings of mining at the turn of the century to the present the river has witnessed steady mining, having had a high number of men for the region working its placer gold first through drift mining techniques and later through mechanical methods. The Hammond River Mining Complex as described above represents the early labor intensive drift mine form of placer mining with Area 1 being the location of Vern Watt's Discovery Claim where it all began. The complex not only has significance in its history, but also significance in its relatively undisturbed character and in what it contains archeologically in interpreting early drift mine activities, methods, life style, and equipment.

PREVIOUS SURVEY: None

DRAFT

SITE TYPE: SOD HOUSE/CABIN REMAINS

SITE NUMBER: CHN-015

LOCATION: This site is located on the north bank of Nugget Creek approximately 1/10 mile east of the creek's confluence with Middle Fork Koyukuk River.

USGS QUAD: Chandalar B-6 (1:63360)

TOWNSHIP, RANGE, SECTION: T.31N., R.11W., SW1/4 of SW1/4 of Section 19

UTMS: 7489100 N. 376350 E. Zone 6

DATE SURVEYED: July 8, 1984

SURVEYORS: William Brown, Russell Sackett

SITE DESCRIPTION:

This site is located on the north bank of Nugget Creek approximately 1/10 mile east of the creek's confluence with Middle Fork Koyukuk River. The site is directly bordered by the Dalton Highway on the east and by the Alyeska Pipeline to the west. Found on the site are the remains of a pole cache, sod house, and two cabin remains; description of which follows:

Feature 1: Pole Cache

The remains of a pole cache exist 22 feet west of the Dalton Highway and 50 feet north of Nugget Creek. Only the pole supports remain, indicating where the cache had once been located. These poles are 11 feet high with cross beams that would support the cache's platform 6 feet above grade.

Feature 2: Sod House Remains

Remains of a sod house belonging to John "Arctic John" Etalook is located 43 feet west of the pole cache and 50 feet north of the creek. These remains measure 12' x 12' and constructed of 1" to 3" diameter poles placed vertically to form the walls. The exterior of these vertical pole walls were then lined with canvas with sod piled against it. The interior of the walls were covered with canvas or cardboard.

The walls of the cabin stand 5 feet high and on the south and north sides reach a height of 5'5" at the gable peak. The east and north walls are plain with no openings. The south elevation contains a 1'10" x 4' door opening in its center flanked on either side by 2'6" x 2'5" window openings. The west wall has completely collapsed inward.

The roof system is a shallow gable constructed from 1" to 3" diameter poles supported by a ridge pole. Sod was lain directly over the pole roof. A portion of the roof (southwest corner) has some metal sheeting to allow a chimney for a yukon stove to go through. The ridge pole extends out from the south elevation by 8'9".

The area between the structure and Nugget Creek contains historic debris reflecting use of the site; blazo cans, glassware, stove pipes, tin cans, and a 55 gallon oil drum.

Feature 3: Sod House

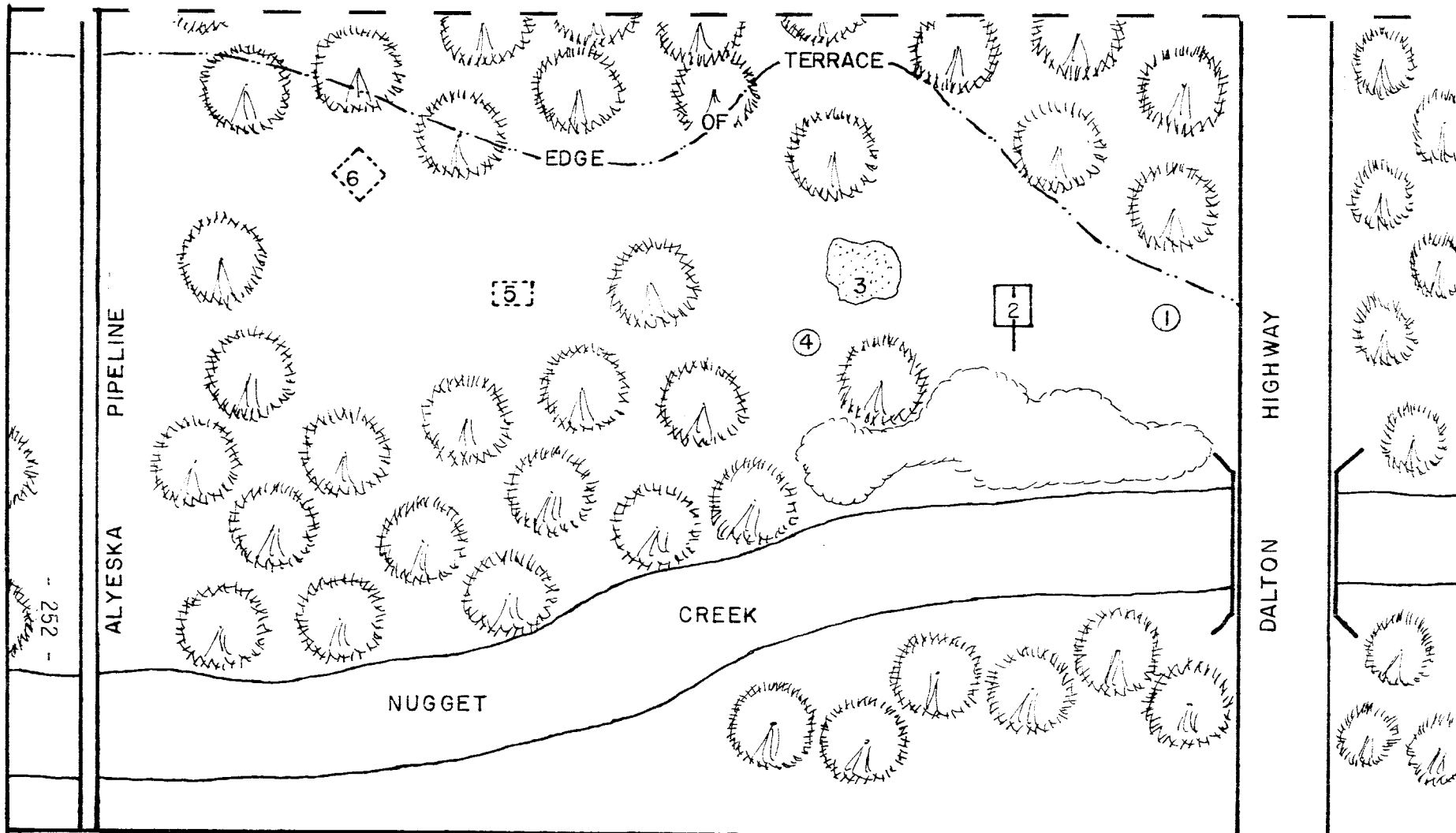
Forty feet west of the sod house remains, a 20' diameter area indicates where sod was obtained for covering the structure.

Feature 4: Dog House

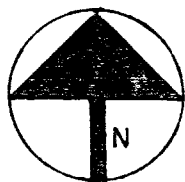
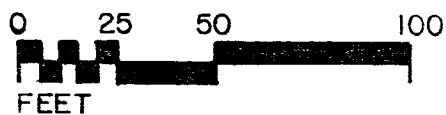
The remains of a small shelter constructed from logs are located 60 feet west of the sod house. These remains are assumed to represent a dog shelter.

Feature 5: Cabin Remains

Approximately 150 feet west of the sod house is a depression marking where a cabin once stood. This depression measures 1'x 12' and burnt sill logs suggest that the cabin burned down. There are a few old tin cans scattered about the depression.



NUGGET CREEK SOD HOUSE & CABIN REMAINS



1. POLE CACHE
2. SOD HOUSE
3. SOD BORROW
4. DOG HOUSE
5. CABIN DEPRESSION
6. CABIN DEPRESSION

Feature 6: Cabin Remains

Approximately 50 feet northwest of Feature 5 and 75 feet east of the pipeline are the remains of another cabin. This cabin is marked by sill logs that measure 12' x 12' and show signs that the cabin had burned. A large quantity of tin cans, some of which have been readapted for other uses, and butchered bone form trash piles to the west and east of the remains.

HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE:

The site is on John Etalook's Native Allotment. The sod house was built and used by John Etalook. The cabin remains found on the site are reported associated with Etalook's father's use of the site.

The significance of the site rests in its association with John "Arctic John" Etalook, an historic figure, and in the traditional Native style of construction of the sod house.

PREVIOUS SURVEYS:

The sod house portion of the site was surveyed in 1980 and described in "Final Report on the 1980 Archaeological Survey Along the Northwest Alaskan Pipeline Company Natural Gas Pipeline Corridor from Prudhoe Bay to Delta Junction, with Additional Work to the South" submitted to Flour Northwest, Inc, by Jean Aigner and Brian Gannon, Anthropology Program, University of Alaska, Fairbanks.

SITE TYPE: SHELTER CABIN

SITE NUMBER: None

LOCATION: The site is located 35 feet east of the Dalton Highway and approximately 1/3 of a mile north of Sheep Creek.

USGS QUAD: Chandalar C-6 (1:63360)

TOWNSHIP, RANGE, SECTION: T.31N., R.10W., NE1/4 of NE1/4 of Section 19

UTMS: 4789540 N. 378290 E. Zone 6

DATE SURVEYED: July 9, 1984

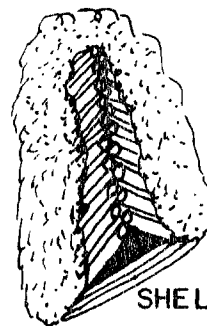
SURVEYORS: William Brown, Russell Sackett

SITE DESCRIPTION:

The site is located 35 feet east of the Dalton Highway and approximately 1/3 of a mile north of Sheep Creek. A small shelter cabin and associated firewood compose the site.

DALTON

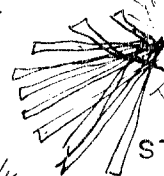
HIGHWAY



SHELTER

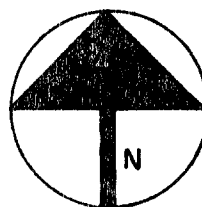


FIREWOOD



STACKED POLES

JONAS'S SHELTER



This shelter is composed of unpeeled logs placed vertically side by side in two rows coming together at the top to form a crude 'A' frame type structure. The logs are saddle notched at their tops to form the connection with entire structure covered with sod. The structure measures 5' x 12'. There is only one opening located on the south side to form the entry. This entry was probably closed off by a blanket or animal skin.

The interior is simple and cramped. Although the logs forming the walls/roof are 10'10" long, with their slant to meet at the structure's eve, only 5'4" ceiling clearance is achieved in the structure's center. A 2'11" x 6'4" bunk is placed in the rear of the shelter having grass matting. A stove made from a 55 gallon oil drum is placed by the entry.

Approximately 6 feet south of the structure is a small stack of cut firewood and 16 feet further south are poles leaned against a tree. To the west of the structure are areas where sod was obtained to cover the shelter. Both historic and modern tin cans are scattered about the site.

HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE:

Not enough is known about the site to determine historic significance. It is reported that the shelter was Florence Jonas' who used it when traveling between Wiseman and Linda Creek.

The structure is unique in the region representing the only one of its kind found during the 1984 survey with no known reports of others.

PREVIOUS SURVEY: None

SITE TYPE: ARC SHELTER CABIN

SITE NUMBER: CHN-007

LOCATION: This cabin is located on the north bank of Gold Creek adjacent to the west side of Dalton Highway.

USGS QUAD: Chandalar C-6 (1:63360)

TOWNSHIP, RANGE, SECTION: T.31N., R.10W., SE1/4 of NE1/4 of Section 18

UTMS: 7480500 N. 378400 E. Zone 6

DATE SURVEYED: July 9, 1984

SURVEYORS: William Brown, Russell Sackett

SITE DESCRIPTION:

This Alaska Road Commission (ARC) Shelter Cabin site 25 feet west of the Dalton Highway and 50 feet north of Gold Creek. The cabin is constructed of unpeeled logs chinked with moss and has saddle notched corners. Measuring 11'5" x 13'8", the cabin stands complete with the exception of a 2 foot wide gap in the roof along the entire eve length.

The south elevation (facing Gold Creek) stands 6'7" to gabled peak and is made up of twelve log courses. A milled lumber door 2'6" x 4'5" is located in the center of the wall. The east and west elevations are 4'2" tall and composed of nine log courses and are plain with no openings. North elevation stands 6'7" and is composed of 12 log courses. A 2'3" x 3' three over three single hung sash window is placed in the center of this wall. The entire cabin has sunk approximately 1 1/2 feet into the ground.

The gabled roof of the structure is made of round poles supported by two purlins and covered with sod. The two roof halves miss connecting to form an eve by 3 feet. Reason for this is unknown. The gable roof extends 3'3" out from the north and south elevations.

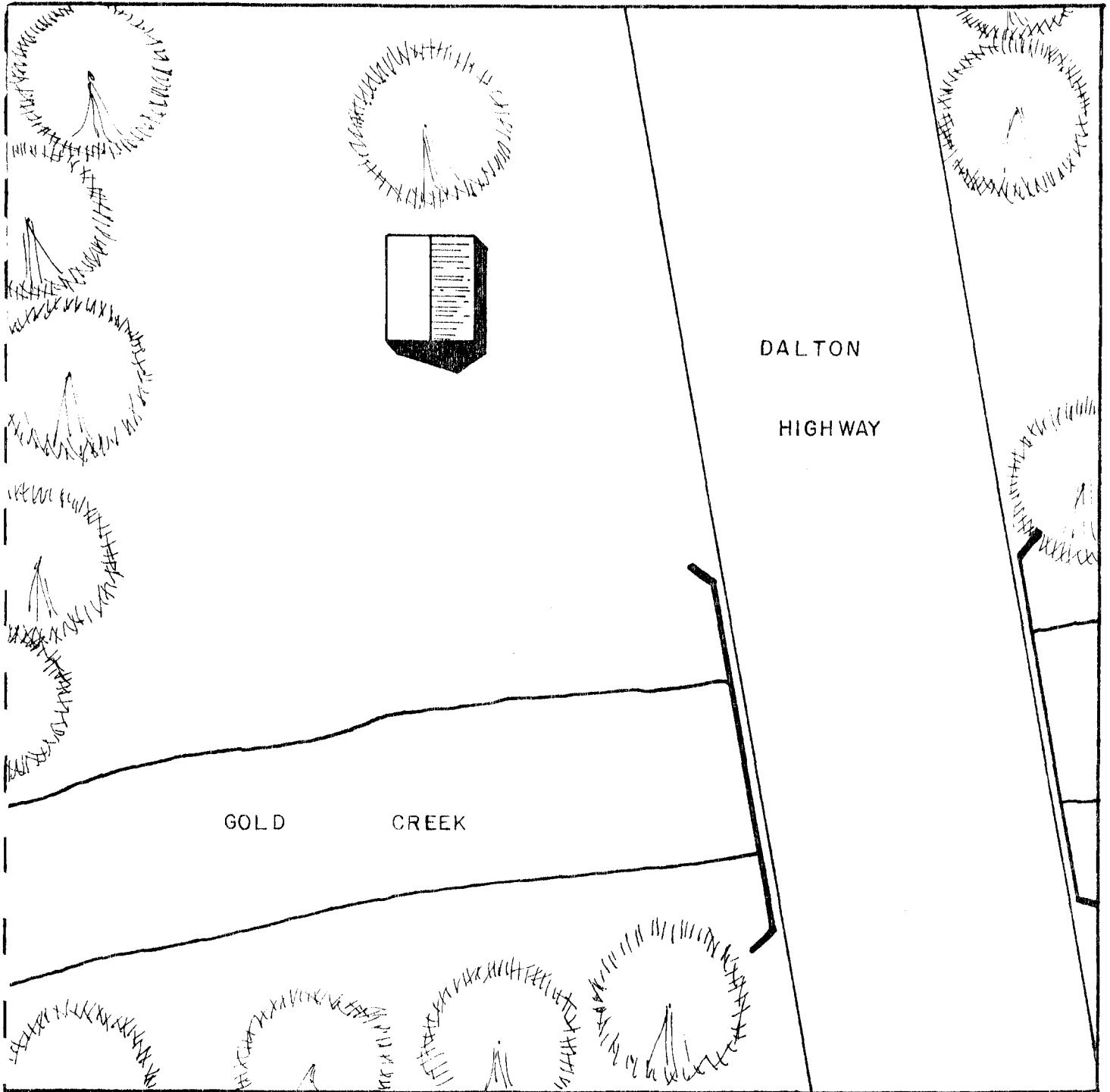
The interior of the cabin is clean of historic material and contains only a little modern trash. This is also true of the area around the site.

HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE:

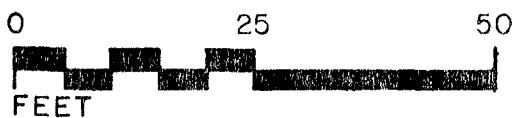
The cabin represents the activities of the early days of Alaska Road Commission's establishment and maintenance of winter trails, important in the development of the region.

PREVIOUS SURVEY:

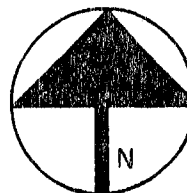
The cabin was surveyed in 1980 and described in "Final Report on the 1980 Archaeological Survey Along the Northwest Alaskan Pipeline Company Natural Gas Pipeline Corridor from Prudhoe Bay to Delta Junction; with Additional Work to the South" submitted to Flour Northwest, Inc., by Jean Aigner and Brian Gannon, Anthropology Program, University of Alaska, Fairbanks.



GOLD CREEK
ARC SHELTER CABIN



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SITE TYPE: DRIFT MINER'S CABIN

SITE NUMBER: None

LOCATION: This site is located on the north bank of Gold Creek approximately 3 miles east of the creek's confluence with Middle Fork Koyukuk River.

USGS QUAD: Chandalar C-6 (1:63360)

TOWNSHIP, RANGE, SECTION: T.31N., R.10W., SW1/4 of NE1/4 of Section 15

UTMS: 7490550 N. 38260 E. Zone 6

DATE SURVEYED: July 8, 1984

SURVEYORS: William Brown, Russell Sackett

SITE DESCRIPTION:

The site is located on the north bank of Gold Creek approximately 3 miles east of the creek's confluence with Middle Fork Koyukuk River. The site is defined by the remains of a cabin on a bench approximately 65 feet north of the creek and by a depression 15 feet north of the creek marking a drift mine shaft.

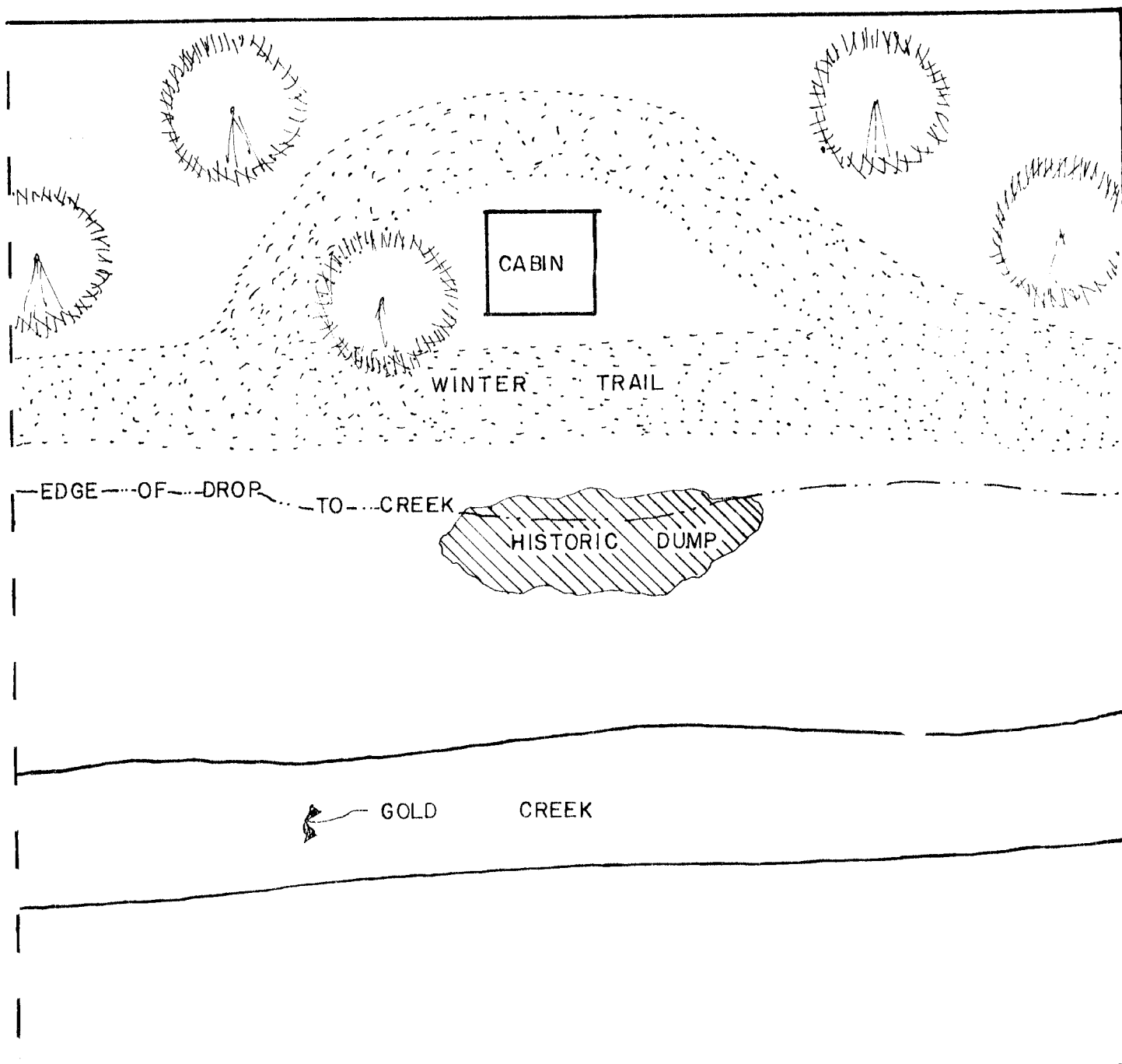
The cabin is constructed from unpeeled logs chinked with moss and has saddle notched corners. The roof has collapsed but originally constructed as a gabled roof with split poles supported by a ridge pole and two purlins covered with sod. The cabin measures 10'-6" x 13'-8".

The east and north elevations are plain with no openings and only stands four log courses high. The remainder of the walls are collapsed. The west elevation stands six log courses high and has a 2'3" x 3' window opening placed in the center. The south elevation, which faces the creek, stands 4 feet high and is composed of eight log courses with the gabled portion collapsed. A 2 x 4' door opening is placed in the wall's center. On the west end of this elevation is a 3' x 4' vertical pole shed which had been constructed under the extended gable roof.

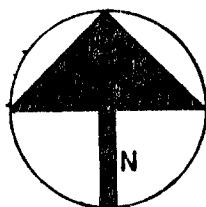
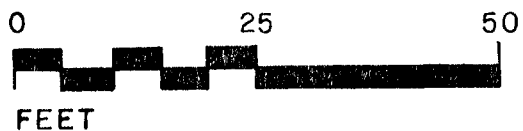
The interior of the cabin is buried in the collapsed roof debris. Remains of a pole bunk is visible in the northwest corner along with a cracker tin and a #3 shovel.

Historic trash to the south of the cabin includes pre 1930s bottles, tin cans (hole-in-top dating from the turn of 1900s), old gold pans, and fragments of boots.

Approximately 50 feet south of the cabin and within 15 feet of the creek is a depression. This depression measures 10' x 10' and represents an old drift mine shaft.



GOLD CREEK
MINER'S CABIN



HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE:

Specific history of the site is not known. Evidence on the site suggests that it dates from the first decade of 1900s.

Gold Creek is important in the turn of this century in the region's mining history.

SITE TYPE: MINER'S CABIN

SITE NUMBER: None

LOCATION: This site is located on the north bank of Gold Creek approximately 4 miles east of the creek's confluence with Middle Fork Koyukuk River.

USGS QUAD: Chandalar C-6 (1:63360)

TOWNSHIP, RANGE, SECTION: T.31N., R.10W., NE1/4 of NW1/4 of Section 14

UTMS: 7491000 N. 384160 E. Zone 6

DATE SURVEYED: July 8, 1984

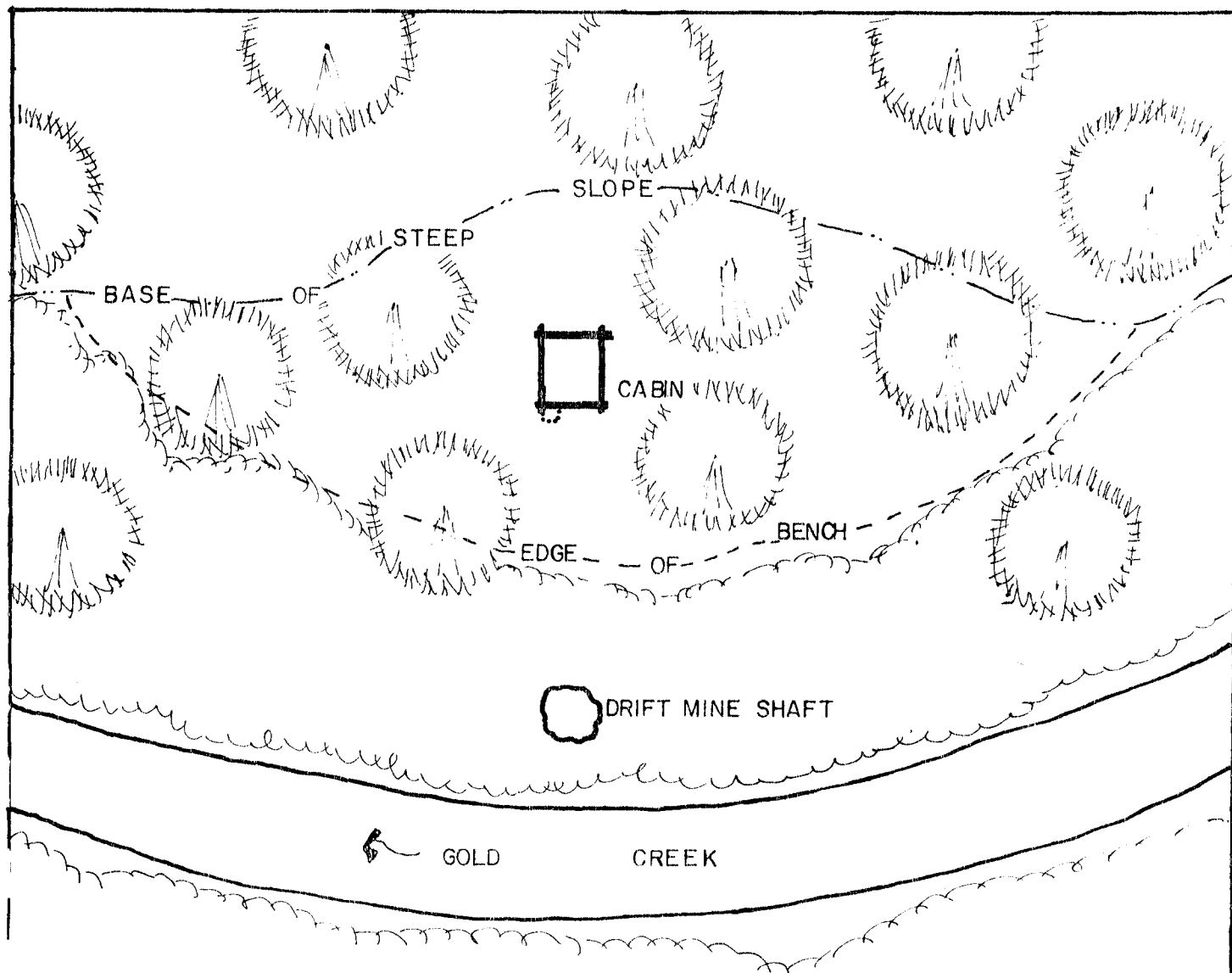
SURVEYORS: William Brown, Russell Sackett

SITE DESCRIPTION:

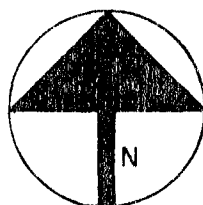
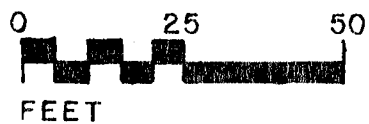
This site is located on the north bank of Gold Creek approximately 100 feet above the creek bed elevation, the site is composed of the remains of a cabin. This cabin is constructed of unpeeled logs chinked with moss with saddle notched corners and measures 14' x 14'.

The gabled roof of the cabin has fallen. The construction was 3" diameter poles supported by a ridge pole and two purlins covered with sod.

The south elevation (facing the creek) stands 6 feet and is made up of ten log courses. Gabled portion of the wall has collapsed. A 3' x 5'5" milled lumber door is located to the left of the wall's center. The west elevation is plain standing ten log courses high. A small vent at one time was placed in the north elevation's leaving only 6 feet of the wall height standing. In the center of the east elevation there is a 2'3" x 3' three over three single hung sash window. This wall stands complete at 6 feet tall and is composed of ten log courses.



GOLD CREEK
DRIFT MINER'S CABIN



The interior of the cabin has a milled wood floor. It has been cleaned out of cultural material containing only a square 5 gallon blazo can.

On the south and west sides of the cabin there are a number of tin cans, wood box fragments, and old gold pans. Along the edge of the creek embankment to the south is a major dump of historic material.

HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE:

Specific site history is not known. Gold Creek is important in regional mining history during the first decades of the 1900s.

PREVIOUS SURVEYS: None

SITE TYPE:

MINER'S CABIN

SITE NUMBER:

NONE

LOCATION:

Located on the south bank of Linda Creek approximately 1/2 mile east of Dalton Highway.

USGS QUAD: Chandalar C-6 (1:63360)

TOWNSHIP, RANGE, SECTION: T.31N., R10W., NW1/4 of NE1/4 of Section 17

UTMS: 7491000 N. 379400 E Zone 6

DATE SURVEYED: July 22, 1984

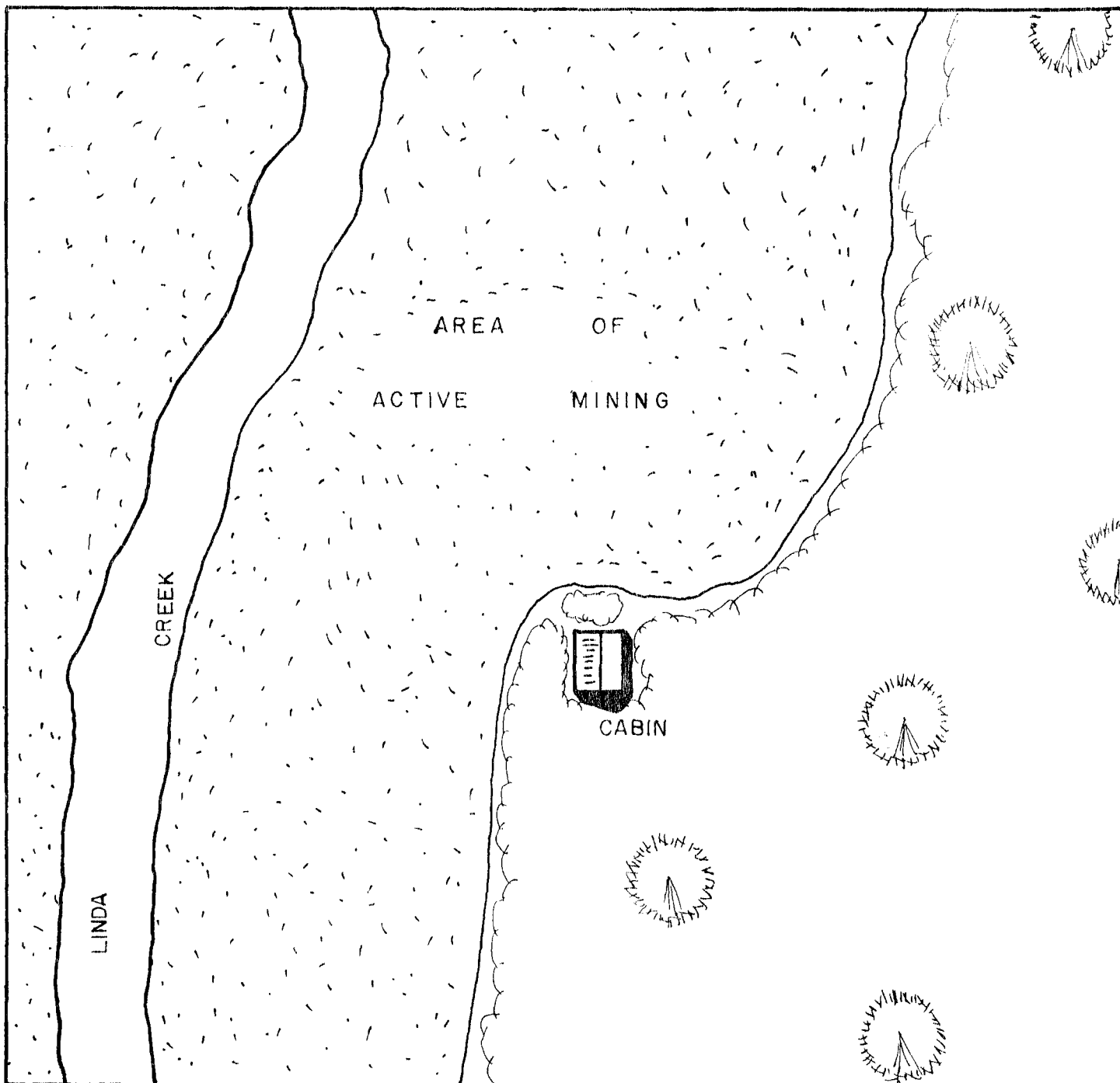
SURVEYOR: Russell Sackett

SITE DESCRIPTION:

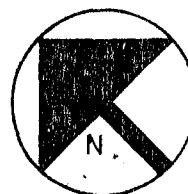
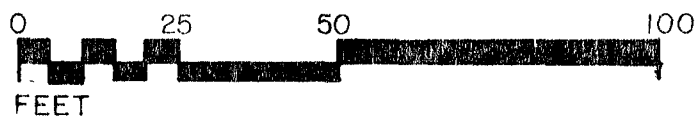
This site is located on the south bank of Linda Creek approximately 1/2 mile east of the Dalton Highway. The areas directly to the east and north are part of an active gold claim which has impacted the site.

The cabin found on the site measures 9'9" x 11'6" and is constructed of peeled logs chinked with moss with saddle notched corners. The cabin has a gabled roof constructed of round poles supported by a ridge pole, covered with sod and flattened water piping.

The west and south elevations are plain with no openings and are 4'5" tall and composed of eight log courses. The east elevation has a 2'3" x 3' window opening placed in its center. A 2'4" x 4'5" door opening is located to the right of the north elevation's center. The entire cabin has sunk into the ground approximately one foot.



LINDA CREEK
ED SUTHERLAND'S CABIN



Interior of the cabin has a milled lumber floor. The walls are covered with cardboard and canvas. Lying on the floor is a 1929 "Fairbanks Community Calendar Directory" and there is an old hand made pole bed frame that makes up the historic collection within the cabin. The cabin is presently being used to store sluice boxes in.

HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE:

The cabin is reported to have belonged to Ed Sutherland who mined the area in the 1920-30's. His wife is buried on the ridge marking the northern edge of the active mining area.

PREVIOUS SURVEY: None

SITE TYPE: DRIFT MINE COMPLEX (A.D. WILCOX)

SITE NUMBER: NONE

LOCATION: This site is located on the east bank of Linda Creek approximately 4/5 of a mile east of Dalton Highway.

USGS QUAD: Chandalar C-6 (1:63360)

TOWNSHIP, RANGE, SECTION: T.31N., R.10W., NE1/4 of NE1/4 of Section 17

UTMS: 7491000 N. 379800 E. Zone 6

DATE SURVEYED: July 22 & 26, 1984

SURVEYORS: William Brown, Russell Sackett

SITE DESCRIPTION:

This drift mine complex is located approximately 1/4 mile east of Linda Creek and 4/5 of a mile east of Dalton Highway. A residential cabin, boiler cabin, drift mine shafts and associated remains compose the site.

Feature 1: Residential Cabin

On the western edge of the site is located a cabin which represents the living quarters for the complex. This cabin is constructed of unpeeled logs that are chinked with moss and has saddle notched corners, and measures 14'9" x 16'. A gabled roof is constructed of split poles supported by four purlins covered with sod overlain by milled lumber. The north wall of the cabin stands 4 feet high and consists of nine log courses. This wall is plain with no openings. The

east wall is gabled reaching a peaked height of 8 feet and consists of seventeen log courses. This wall is also plain. The south wall of the cabin consists of eleven log courses standing 5'7" tall. Placed in the center of this wall are two six light windows side by side each measuring 2'6" x 2'10". The west wall is gable reaching a peak height of 8 feet and consists of sixteen log courses. This wall forms a common wall between the cabin and an arctic entry placed on the cabin's west end. A 2'3" x 4'5" door opening is placed in the center of this wall with blankets hung to close it off.

The arctic entry on the west end of the cabin measures 9' x 14'. The north and south walls of this entry are constructed of vertically placed unpeeled logs. The south elevation contains a 2'6" x 5'1" milled lumber door as the entrance to the cabin.

The entry's west wall is constructed with log posts having milled lumber siding. The roof on the entry is of the shed type constructed of milled lumber covered with flattened blazo cans. Rain gutters for the roof are formed from Hills Brother's Coffee cans.

This cabin is still being occupied seasonally and is in good condition. Both the entry and cabin have milled lumber flooring. The cabin portion contains an army metal framed bed, two tables, homemade stools, blazo box shelving, and a wood stove. Calendars on the walls date from the late 1950s. The entry area contains both historic and modern material.

Feature 2: Radio Antenna

Twenty five feet northwest of the cabin is located a pole approximately 30 feet tall. A wire used as a radio antenna runs from the pole to the cabin.

Feature 3: Boiler Cabin

Feature 3 consists of a boiler cabin 15 feet east of the residential cabin. This cabin measures 16'8" x 18' and is constructed from peeled logs chinked with moss and has square corner notching. A gabled roof supported by a ridge pole and four purlins covers the structure. This roof consists of round roof poles covered with rocks and sod. The south wall of the cabin is gabled reaching a peak of 9'7" and consists of sixteen log courses. Just left of center is a 2'9" x 4'9" door opening which at one time contained a milled lumber dutch door, portion of which rests nearby. The west wall is plain and made up of nine log courses reaching a height of 5'4". Remains of a pipe rack are along the entire length of the wall. The north elevation is gabled reaching a peak height of 9'7" and consists of fifteen log courses. A 1'8" x 2'-2" shuttered opening is located 4'7" from the wall's west end and 1'5" above grade. This opening has

metal sheeting on its sill and was used for bringing firewood into the cabin. The east elevation consists of nine log courses reaching a height of 5'4". A 2'10" six light window is placed in the south end of the wall. Approximately 6 feet north of the wall's south end is an 8" x 24" opening starting at grade level and extending up 2 feet. This opening was for a steam hoist driven belt to run a circular saw. The frame for the saw extends out from the building. A 1" x 15" cable slot opening is located 3'7" from the south end of the wall and 2 feet above grade. This slot was used for the cable to run from the steam hoist inside the cabin to the gin pole to operate the ore bucket. The window was placed where it is so that the hoist operator had visual contact with the ore bucket.

The interior of the boiler cabin remains much as it existed when it was in operation. Along the west wall are pegs from which steam points hang. A small work bench containing fittings is in the southwest corner. A 3'-4" x 6'-9" boiler made in Oil City, Pa. sits in the northwest corner. A small forge and work bench occupy the northeast corner. In the southeast corner is located a "Little Giant" steam hoist centered on the east wall's openings. The water tank is the only major piece of equipment that is missing from the boiler cabin.

The boiler cabin is in fair condition. The major problems that it is suffering from is that its east wall is beginning to rot, bowing between the purlins from the weight of the roof sod.

Feature 4: Drift Mine Shaft and Headframe

Approximately 16 feet south of the boiler cabin is a drift mine shaft surmounted by a headframe. The shaft measures 6' x 8' and is log cribbed. A handmade ladder descends into the shaft with a steam line adjacent to it. The headframe is constructed of logs and is 6'5" wide and 5'4" high. Approximately 30 feet southwest of the shaft is a deadman which anchored the stationary trolley cable which ran from the headframe to the gin pole.

Feature 5: Gin Pole

The stump of the gin pole is located approximately 105 feet northeast of the shaft. The gin pole has snapped off at grade and lies in a southerly direction. The pole is 41 feet long with 1 x 4s nailed across it the entire length to form a ladder. At the top of the pole is a 12" diameter pulley on which the ore bucket cable ran. The upper third of the gin pole is reinforced by 3" diameter poles strapped around it. Three guy cables are attached to the top that were anchored to deadmen approximately 50 feet north, 84 feet south, and 75 feet northeast of the gin pole stump.

Feature 6: Tailings

A tailing pile lies between the shaft and gin pole stump. This pile is approximately 70 feet long and 45 feet wide reaching a height of 12 feet at its furthest point from the shaft. These tailings represent the overburden removed from the shaft.

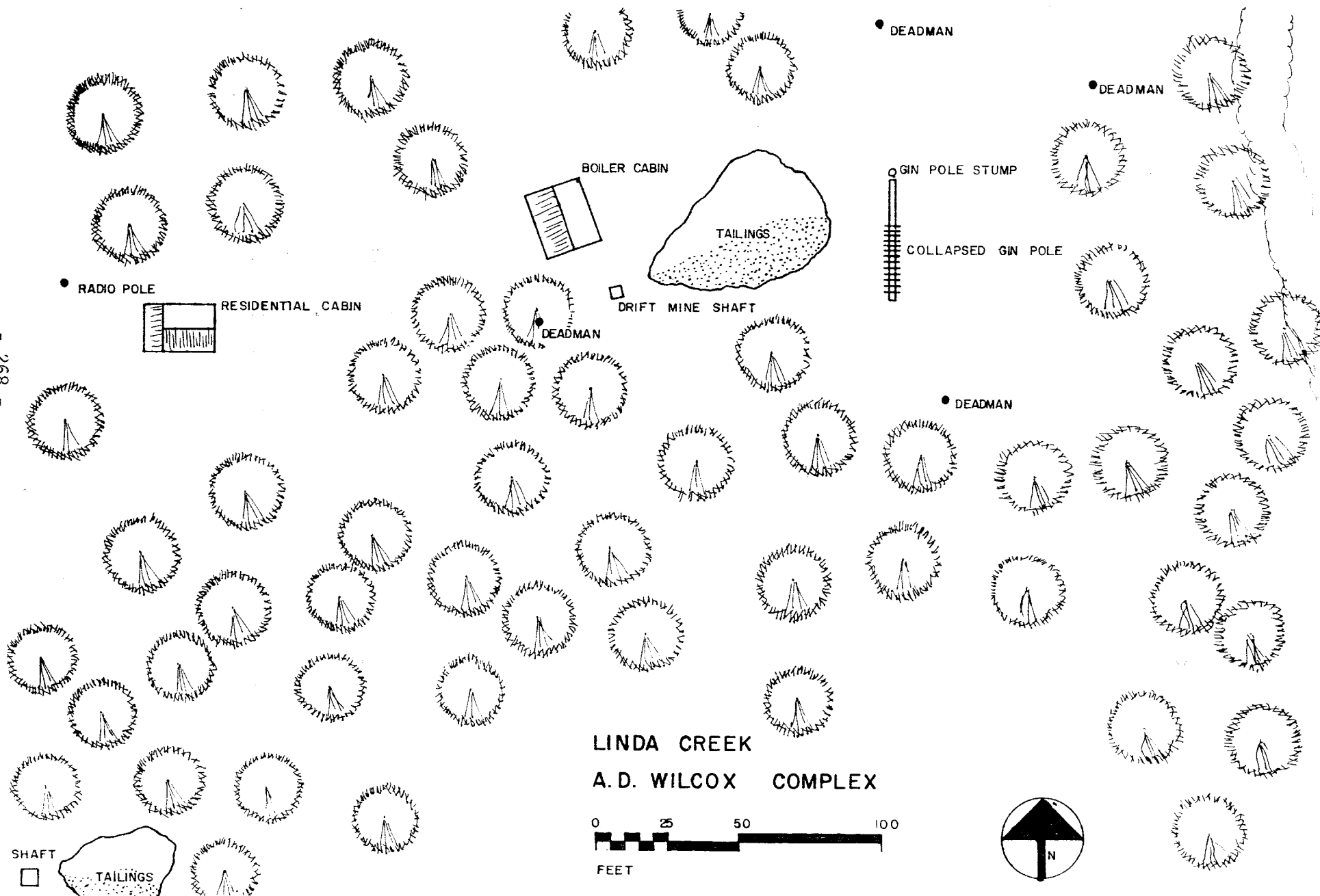
Feature 7: Drift Mine Shaft

A second drift mine shaft and associated tailing pile is located approximately 190 feet southwest of the residential cabin. This shaft measures 5'6" x 5'6" and is log cribbed. The shaft represents earlier workings on the site.

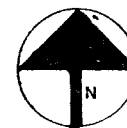
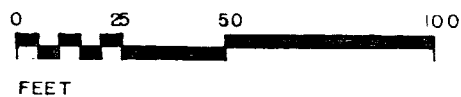
HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE:

This complex was built in the early 1920s by A.D. "ACE" Wilcox and his partner Frank Miller, who together driftmined the Gold Creek deep channel until ca. 1938. Jacob Jonas acquired the complex towards the end of the 30s from Wilcox and continued driftmining with his son-in-law Albert Strand during the 1940s. After the war, Jonas abandoned drifting and reverted to sniping the claim until 1962, when the claim was acquired by Earl and Mamie Bosse. Living in the complex's residential cabin, the Bosses worked the claim until Earl Bosse's death in 1977 when John Hall acquired partial interest. Neither the shaft nor the boiler cabin has been used since the 1940s, although mining activities continue down on the creek and the residential cabin continues to be used seasonally. As a total complex, this site is unique to the region for its completeness in terms of mining structures and machinery as well as in the unbroken continuation of mining activities occurring in the claim. The boiler cabin retains, in their original positions, the boiler, hoist, several hoses and pieces of machinery; the shaft is still surmounted by the headframe; and the gin pole remains where it fell.

PREVIOUS SURVEY: None



LINDA CREEK
A.D. WILCOX COMPLEX



SITE TYPE: WISEMAN CEMETERY

SITE NUMBER: None

LOCATION: The cemetery is located approximately 1/5 mile northwest of the community of Wiseman.

USGS QUAD: Wiseman B-1 (1:63360)

TOWNSHIP, RANGE, SECTION: T.30N., R.12W., SE1/4 of NE1/4 of Section 24

UTMS: 7480450 N. 624460 E. Zone 5

DATE SURVEYOR: Russell Sackett

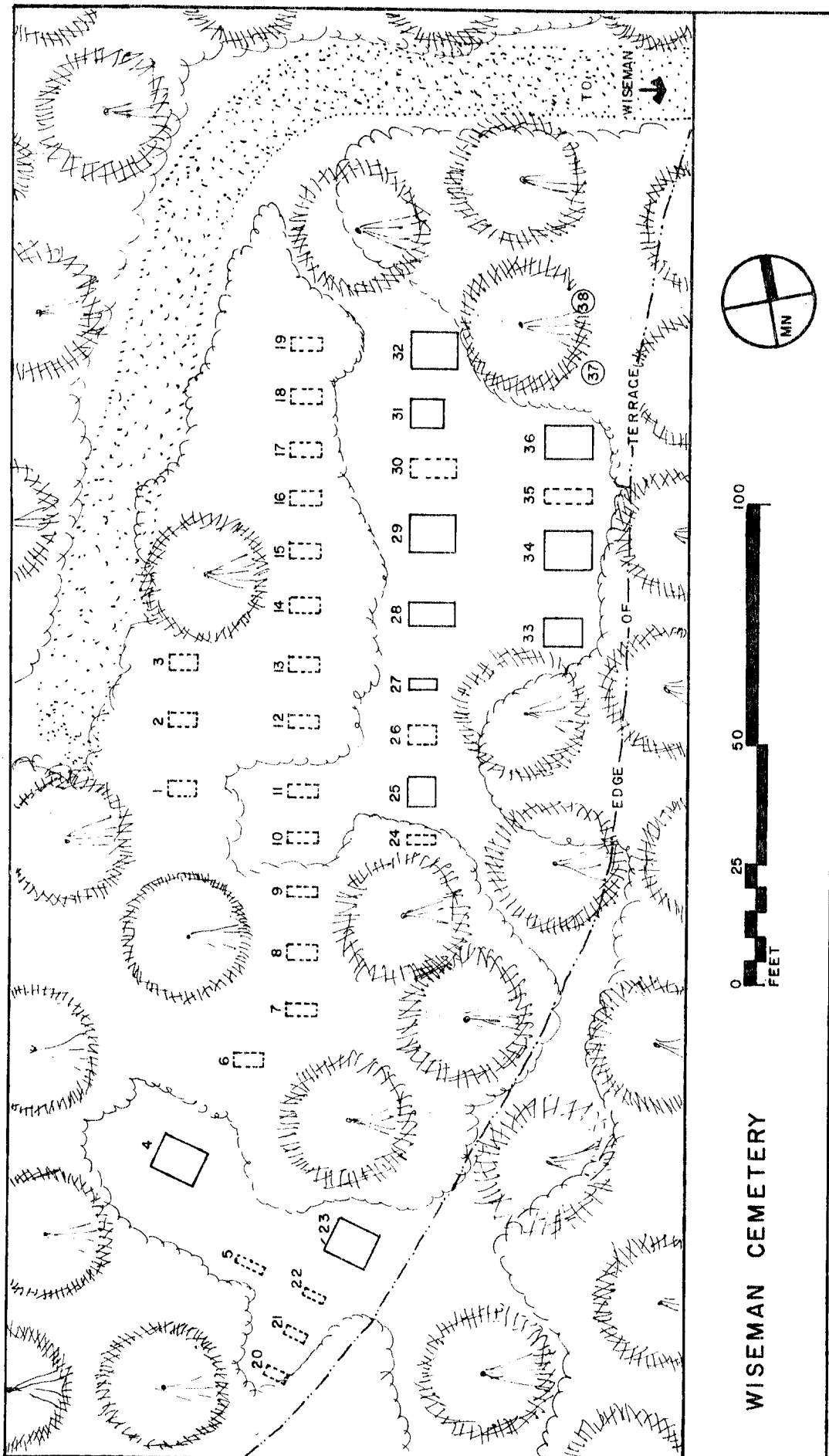
SITE DESCRIPTION:

The cemetery is situated on the edge of an old river terrace overlooking Wiseman to the southeast approximately 1/5 of a mile. The cemetery is overgrown with spruce and willow with the graves in poor condition. During the survey, 38 graves were located and there are probably more that were missed. Some of the graves are marked by balustrade enclosures, others by markers but a number are unmarked, distinguishable only by their outlines. The graves located are described in the following with grave numbers referring to the number appearing on the field map.

- Grave 1: This grave is marked by a wood cross that is inscribed "Oct. 7, 1880, Geo. Terrel, May 7, 1940"
- Grave 2: unmarked
- Grave 3: unmarked
- Grave 4: Marked by a balustrade 5'5" x 9'5" and 3'2" high. Within the balustrade is a white wood cross inscribed "Ross Harry, March 11, 1939, Sept. 28, 1975"
- Grave 5: Marked by a wood cross inscribed "Age 88, WSM 1924, Jacob Jonas Jan. 16, 1968"
- Grave 6: Marked by a wood cross inscribed "1889, Victor Neck, 1951"
- Grave 7: Marked by wood cross (may be out of place) inscribed "Hugh Boyle"
- Grave 8: unmarked

- Grave 9: unmarked
- Grave 10: Marked by wood cross lying on grave,
inscribed "J. Rafferty, Died Jan. 18, 1929"
- Grave 11: unmarked
- Grave 12: unmarked
- Grave 13: Marked by a broken wood cross inscribed
"Dan Aston, died, Feb. 1930"
- Grave 14: unmarked
- Grave 15: unmarked
- Grave 16: unmarked
- Grave 17: unmarked
- Grave 18: Marked by a white wood cross inscribed
"George W. Huey, Died Nov. 8, 1936, Age
81 years"
- Grave 19 unmarked
- Grave 20: Marked by collapsed bird house painted blue.
Reported to be the grave of one of John Etalook's dogs.
- Grave 21: Marked by a white wood cross inscribed
"1931, Mike, 1949". A One of Harry Leonards's
dogs.
- Grave 22: Marked by wood cross inscribed "1949, Socks,
1964". One of Harry Leonard's dogs.
- Grave 23: Marked by a balustrade 8' x 8'9" and
4' high. A white cross is enclosed but
unidentified.
- Grave 24: Marked by a wood cross inscribed "One. L.
Hjelvik"
- Grave 25: Marked by a balustrade 6'5" x 7'10" and
3'4" high. A wood cross is enclosed
inscribed "1524, Charles A. Youngberg"
- Grave 26: unmarked

- Grave 27: This grave is outlined in milled lumber measuring 2' x 6'. A bronze cross marks the grave inscribed "Daniel Webster, 1863, 1922, His life is a monument of much good, loved and honored by Native and Pioneer"
- Grave 28: Marked by remnants of a pole fence 5' x 8'6" with a wood tomb stone inscribed "Dr. C.E. C--fourth, Died April 5, 1919, Aged -- Years."
- Grave 29: Marked by collapsed pole fence 6' x 9'3" and wood cross inscribed "Charles B. Jork, died Dec. 26, 1918, Age 45 Years"
- Grave 30: Marked by wood cross having galvanized sheeting wrapped around it inscribed "Richard Jones, Died April 4, 1917, Age --"
- Grave 31: Marked by balustrade 6' x 6'10" and 3'2" high. Wood cross enclosed inscribed "Thomas Thornton Wright (dates obscured)"
- Grave 32: Marked by a balustrade 7' x 9'10" and 3'2" high. Wood cross enclosed inscribed "Joseph Coxy Brown, Born on Kobuk, Oct. 1886, Died April 13, 1921"
- Grave 33: Marked by balustrade 6' x 8' and 3' high. Wood cross enclosed inscribed "Kitty Strong, Age 27 Years, Died, July 16, 1919"
- Grave 34: Marked by balustrade 6'3" x 9'7" and 3'4" high. Wood Cross enclosed inscribed "Jane, Wife of, Intyre, Native of Ireland, Died Jan. 1, 1916, Age 46.
- Grave 35: unmarked
- Grave 36: Marked by collapsed pole fence 6'10" x 9'6". Wood cross enclosed inscribed "John Jenson, Died Feb. 18, 1913"
- Grave 37: Marked by a wooden tomb stone inscribed "Igloo No. 8 P.O.F.A., John C. Coope, Native of Germany, Borne Bremr, 1885, Died May 6, 1915, Rest in Peace"
- Grave 38: Wood cross out of place inscribed "W.B. Connell, Died June 6, 1915"



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