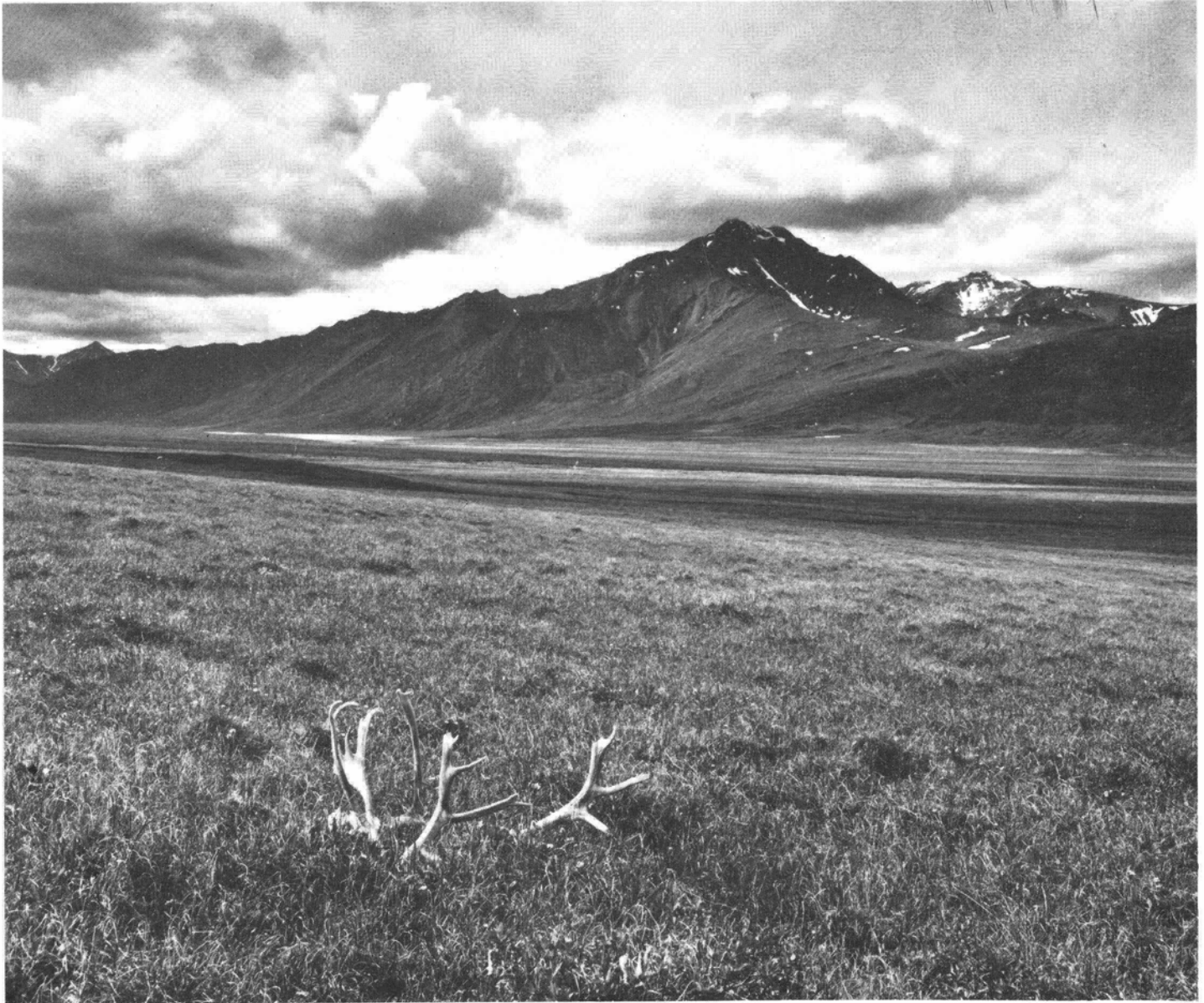


# Gaunt Beauty...

D-20

# Tenuous Life

Vol. 2 of 2



Historic Resources Study for

**GATES OF THE ARCTIC NATIONAL PARK & PRESERVE**

National Park Service, Alaska 1988

GAUNT BEAUTY . . .

TENUOUS LIFE

Historic Resources Study

GATES OF THE ARCTIC NATIONAL PARK AND PRESERVE

National Park Service, Alaska

January, 1988

by William E. Brown, Historian  
with site descriptions by Russell Sackett, Historical Architect

Volume II -- Site Descriptions



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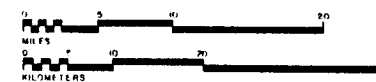
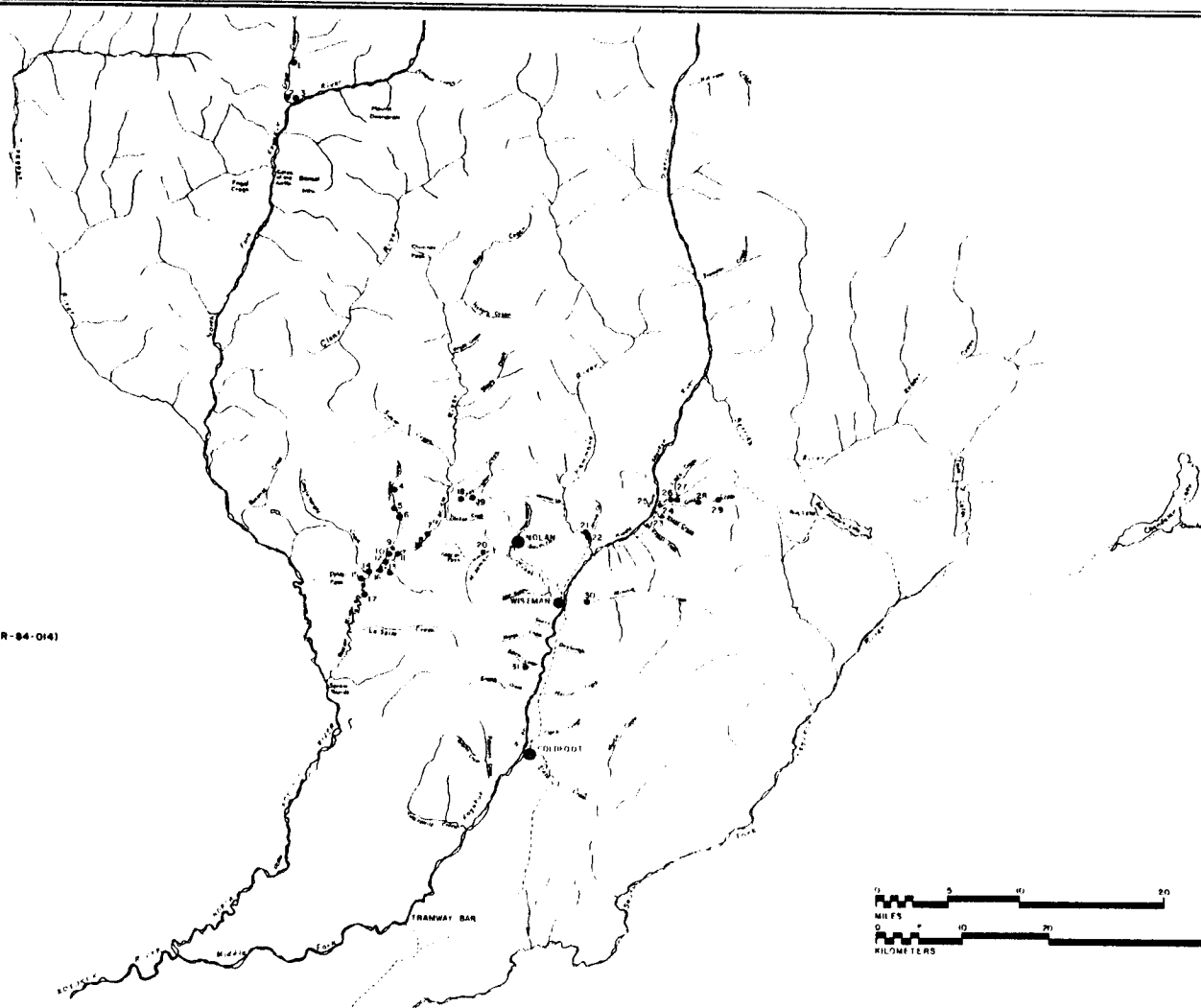
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- 4 IKOVICH'S MINING CABIN (GAAR-84-007)
- 5 KNORR'S MINING CABIN (GAAR-84-008)
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HISTORIC BASE MAP  
EASTERN SECTOR GATES OF THE ARCTIC NATIONAL PARK AND PRESERVE  
AND ADJACENT AREAS

ON MICROFILM

## HISTORIC SITES AND STRUCTURES IN AND NEAR GATES OF THE ARCTIC NATIONAL PARK AND PRESERVE

As documented in the narrative history, natural barriers of distance, terrain, and climate--abetted by marginal economic attractions--blocked the progress of civilization in the central Brooks Range. Only in recent decades did the airplane and North Slope oil logistics break the region's prevailing isolation. But even this modern, high-tech access can be viewed as a variation on the earlier transience of Native hunters, explorers, miners, scientists, and wilderness seekers. Excepting the permanent residents of small settlements on the fringes and the Anaktuvuk Pass villagers at the Arctic Divide, human use within the Gates of the Arctic parkland is still transient and seasonal.

Historic mining produced most of the conventional historic resources in the parkland. These sites are concentrated in the Koyukuk's North Fork drainage, particularly along its Glacier River tributary. Bordering this limited area within the park's southeast corner were the historic communities and mines of the Middle Fork drainage--most important of the upper Koyukuk--and the marginal mining sites of the Wild and John river drainages. Because these zones are still actively mined, they have been excluded from the park. Yet, for contextual reasons, many historic sites in these neighboring zones were recorded and are presented in this study. Also covered briefly in the out-of-park descriptions are the Old Bettles and Chandalar sites. All of these neighboring sites complement the history of mining and its

society within the park. Moreover, this study--with particular regard to the neighboring zones--was designed as a cooperative venture between the National Park Service and the Bureau of Land Management. The regional historical treatment has benefitted both agencies in providing information to aid historic-site evaluations in their respective jurisdictions. Finally, the author has included an essay treatment of anthropologically significant sites visited in the Anaktuvuk Pass vicinity, most of them spanning the prehistoric and historic periods. These sites have been recorded previously in archeological literature. They are included here to enhance this study's cultural-history of the Anaktuvuk Pass people.

\*\*\*\*\*

Over most of the parkland proper (i.e., 95 percent of it) the norm for historic-period standing structural remains or accumulations of artifacts is extreme rarity, phasing out to total absence in vast swaths of country. Isolation and prevailing patterns of nomadic, transient traverse saw to that. 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, lakes, and mountains. As to visible human signs (not counting the hundreds of obscure prehistoric sites) the country has held itself in trust.

For conventional field history, then, the kind that leaves discernable sites on the landscape, the mining history on North Fork-Glacier rivers is about all we have got.

\*\*\*\*\*

Other important historical themes of the parkland are represented by intangible associations with geographic features. These are the landmarks of Native cultural history, of geographic and scientific discovery, of the harvest of material and spiritual sustenance from a remote part of the earth. These values are commemorated in the preservation of the parkland itself, and in the oral and written histories of those who experienced this environment in both dawn and more recent times. Indeed, the parkland's preservation gives each new generation opportunity to find its own places of cultural meaning, discovery, and harvest.

Given the wildlands character of the Gates region and the congressional charge to maintain it so, such places of association and the themes they represent are central, though (should it be because?) they have left hardly a mark on the landscape. In this perspective, marginal mining in one small corner of the park, despite its dominant weight of physical remains, is a subordinate part of the park's history.

HISTORIC 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(HABS AK-21)	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. Ikovich	Mascot Creek
GAAR-84-008(HABS AK-19)	Miner's Cabin- V. Knorr	Mascot Creek
GAAR-84-009	Miner's Cabin	Glacier River
GAAR-84-010(HABS AK-22)	Drift Miner's Cabin	Glacier River
GAAR-84-011(HABS AK-20)	Drift Miner's Cabin- C. Yale	Glacier River
GAAR-84-012(HABS AK-22)	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
GAAR-85-023	Trapper's Cabin- E. Johnson	Ernie Lake
	Miner's Cabin- F. Miller	Sawyer Creek
WIS-050	Drift Mine Complex	Minnie Creek
	Detroit Mining Company	Hammond River
	Drift Mine Complex- V. Watts	Hammond River
CHN-015	Sod House- Arctic John	Nugget Creek
	Shelter Cabin- F. Jonas	Sheep Creek



SITE NUMBER	TYPE	LOCATION
CHN-007	Shelter Cabin-ARC	Gold Creek
	Drift Miner's Cabin	Gold Creek
	Miner's Cabin	Gold Creek
	Miner's Cabin-	Linda Creek
	E. Sutherland	
(HAER AK-7)	Drift Mine Complex-	Linda Creek
	A. Wilcox	
	Cemetery	Wiseman

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\*Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) and Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) site numbers also included. Three-letter prefix sites are State of Alaska Historical Resource Survey numbers.

## HABS/HAER

### PROJECT INFORMATION

Documentation of sites in the eastern section of Gates of the Arctic National Park and bordering areas was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record (HABS/HAER), a division of the National Park Service. The project was executed under the general direction of Robert J. Kapsch, Chief, HABS/HAER, and Roger Contor, Alaska Regional Director, National Park Service. Recording was carried out during the summer of 1984 by William E. Brown, Project Historian; Alison K. Hoagland, Historian; Russell Sackett, James Creech, and Mark Schara, Historical Architects; and Jet Lowe, Photographer, with the support of the Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve staff.

## 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, 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.

#### MINERS' CABINS:

This category includes those sites associated with mining activities but lacking 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 on 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 surprising 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 debris (GAAR-84-003).

\*\*\*\*\*

In the summer of 1985, one in-park site was visited and added to the park's historic site inventory, GAAR-85-023, Ernie Johnson's line cabin on Ernie Lake.

Sites within the Park Boundary in the North Fork and Glacier  
River Drainages

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: 7535200 N. 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.

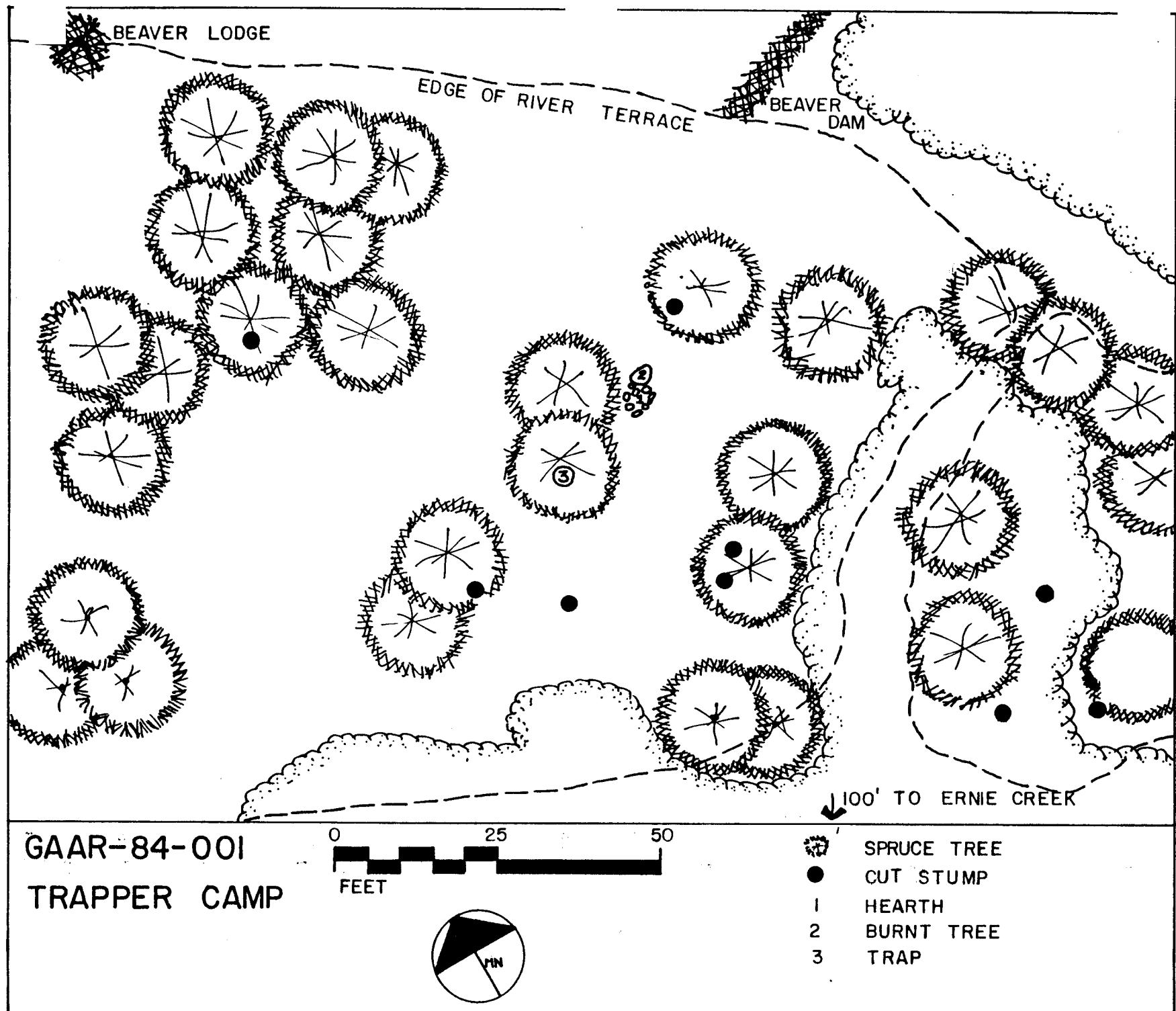
The site consists of a hearth denoted by a ring of stones and a fire scorched tree, a trap, and numerous cut stumps. Tabs from pop top refreshment cans are in association with the hearth which would suggest that it dates from the 1960s. The tree stumps are of the diameter one would expect would be used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

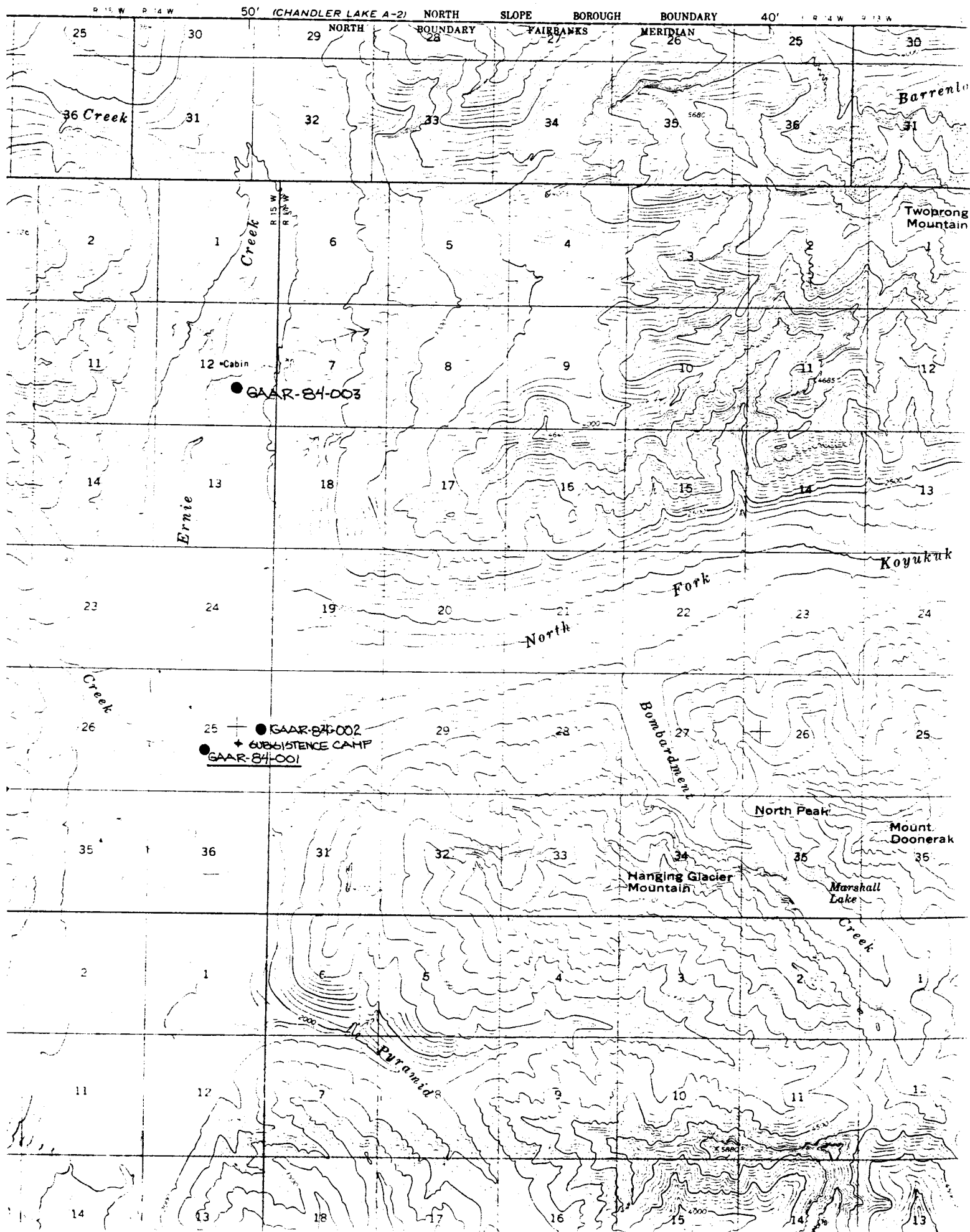
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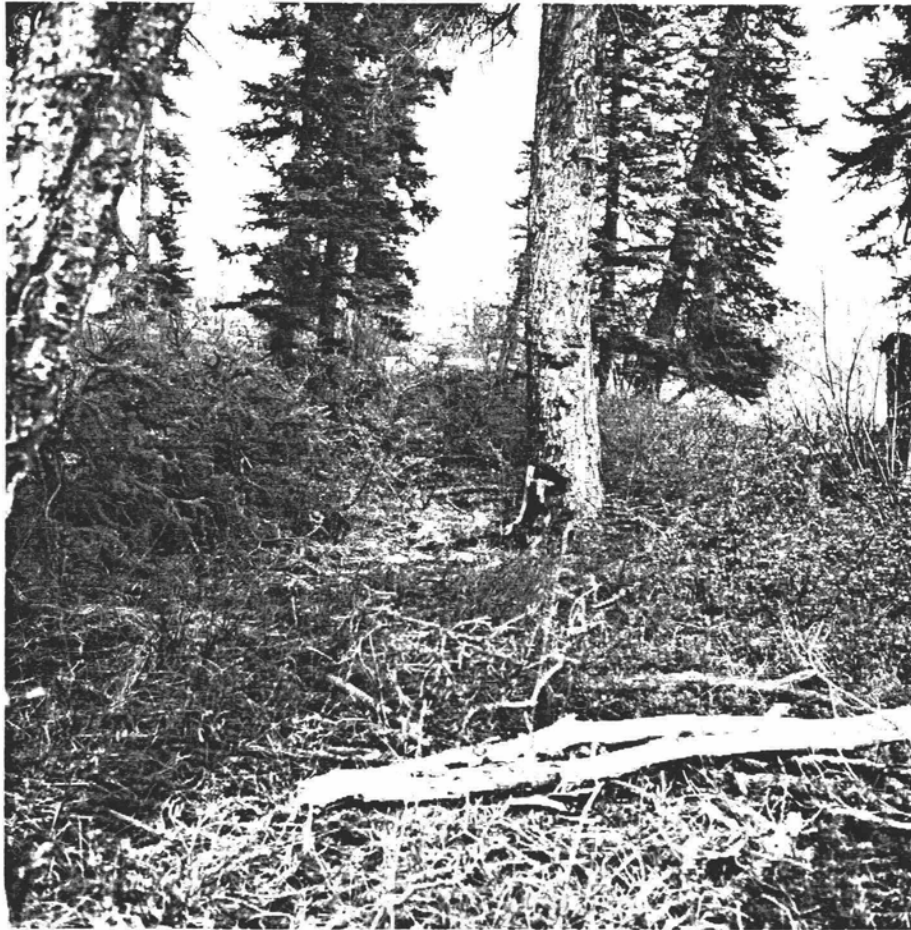
Not enough is known about the history of the site to determine historic significance. The site represents a type site (trapper/ hunter) within the eastern half of the park that denotes historic use of the region and is little represented by other similar sites within the region surveyed in 1984.

PREVIOUS SURVEYS: None









Trapper's Camp (GAAR-84-001) showing hearth and burnt tree.  
W. Brown photo.



GAAR-84-001, showing trap on stump. W. Brown photo.

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 eastern edge. The site is heavily dotted by cut stumps, some of which probably reflect 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.

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 the 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.

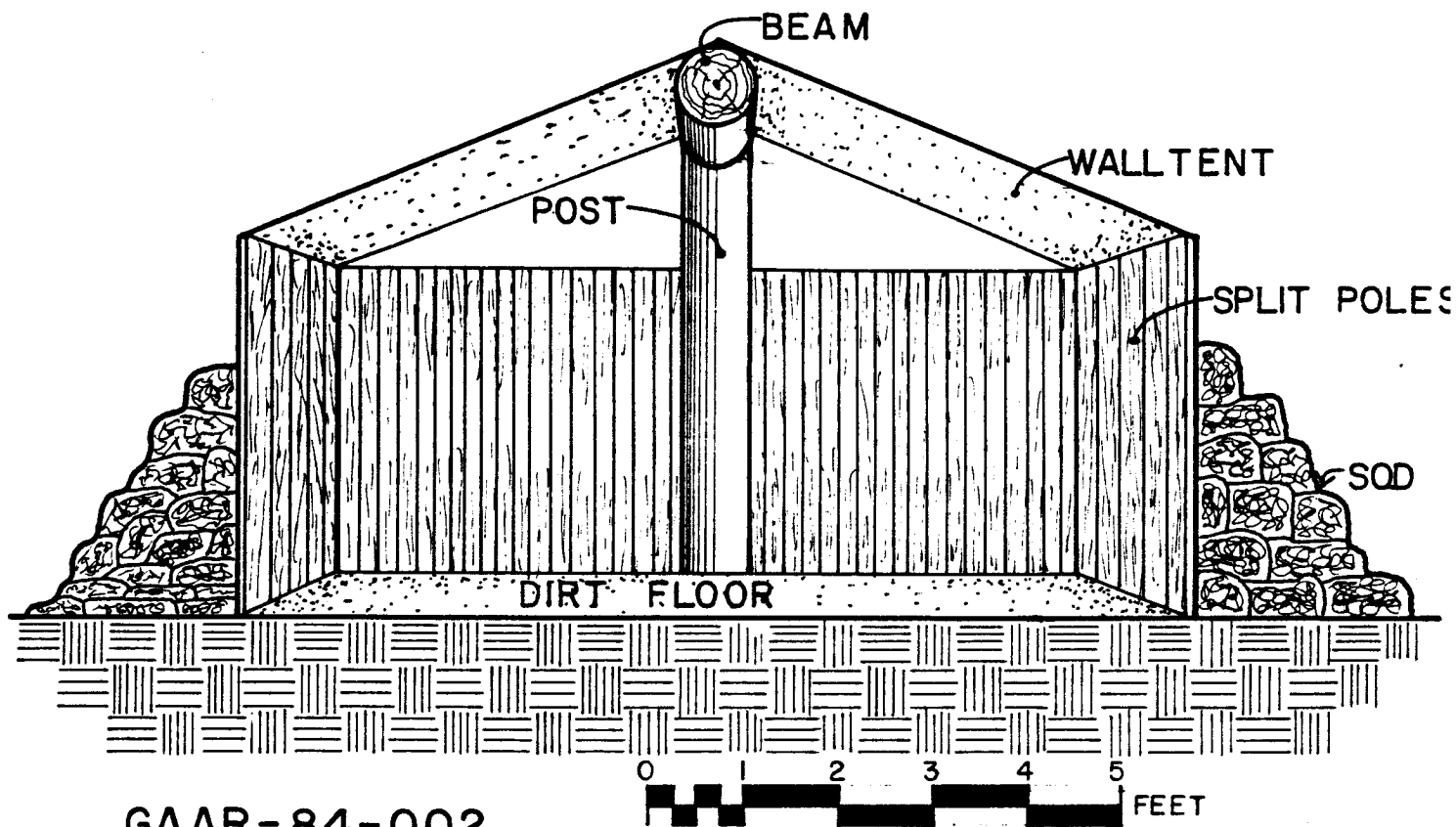
The features associated with the hunting camp represent probably a 'guide operation' dating in the 50s to late 1960s and as such represent a type site for this type of activity.

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



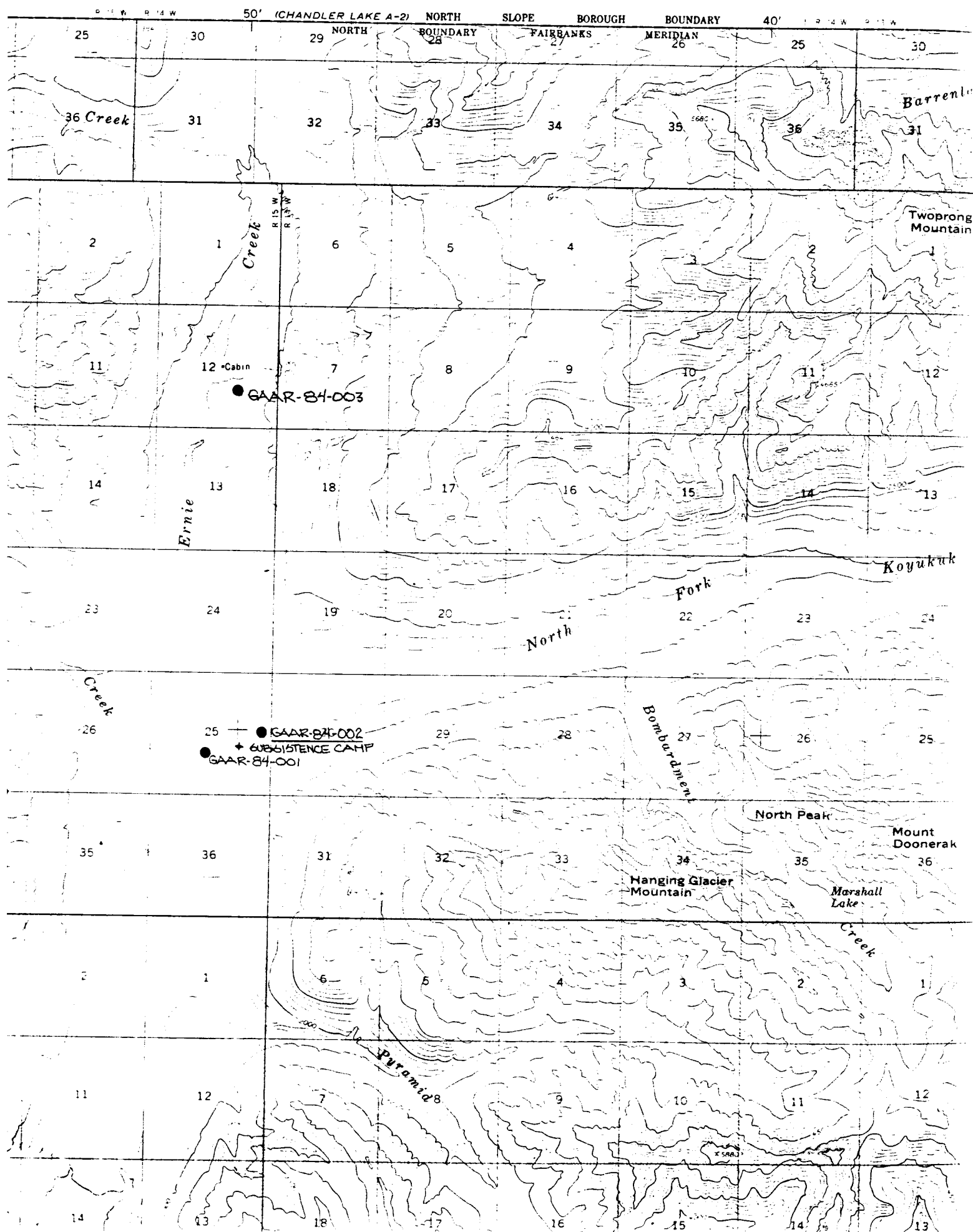


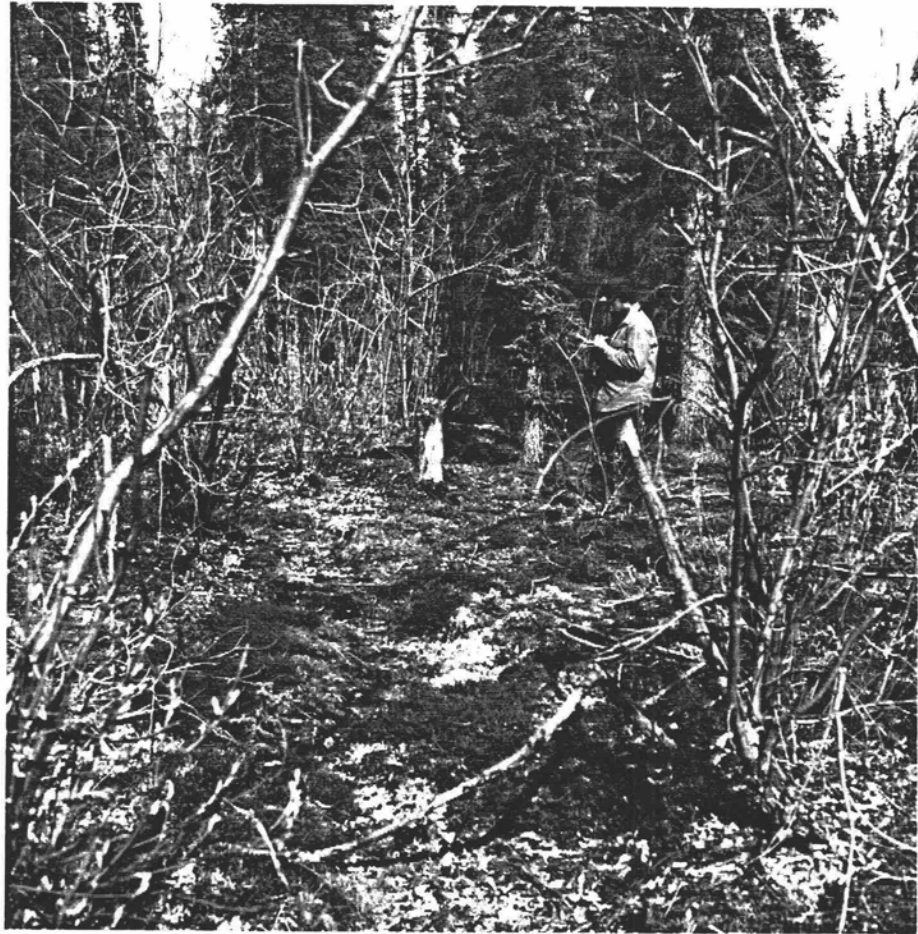


GAAR-84-002

RECONSTRUCTED WALL TENT STRUCTURE

Wiseman D-2





Ernie Johnson's Cabin Site (GAAR-84-002) on North Fork, Koyukuk River.  
Feature 3 (wall-tent site) with Russ Sackett recording. Sod  
borrow pit in foreground. W. Brown photo.



Feature 4 (wall-tent site) with notched post and sheep horn (GAAR-84-002).  
W. Brown photo.



Sledge runner form from tree trunk and root, discarded, at  
GAAR-84-002. W. Brown photo.



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

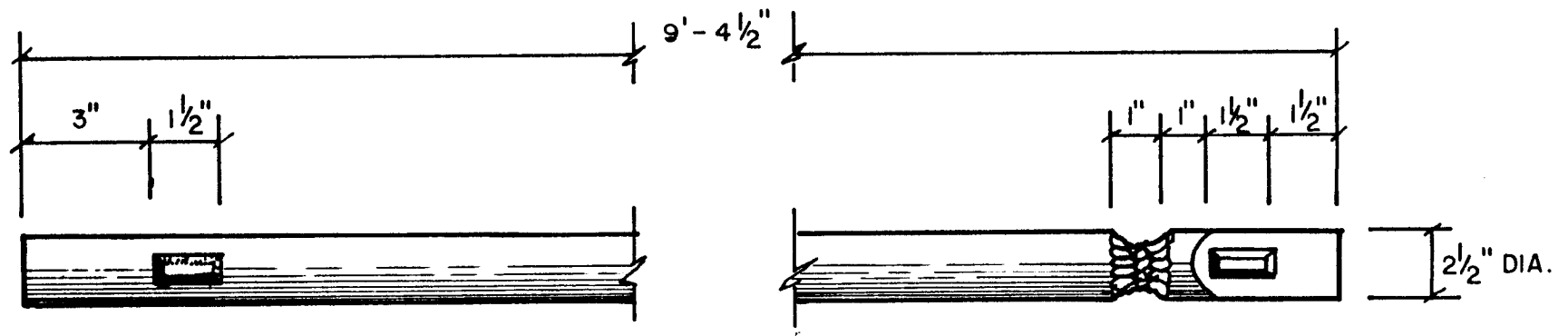
SITE DESCRIPTION:

The site sits on top of a 130 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 comprised 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:

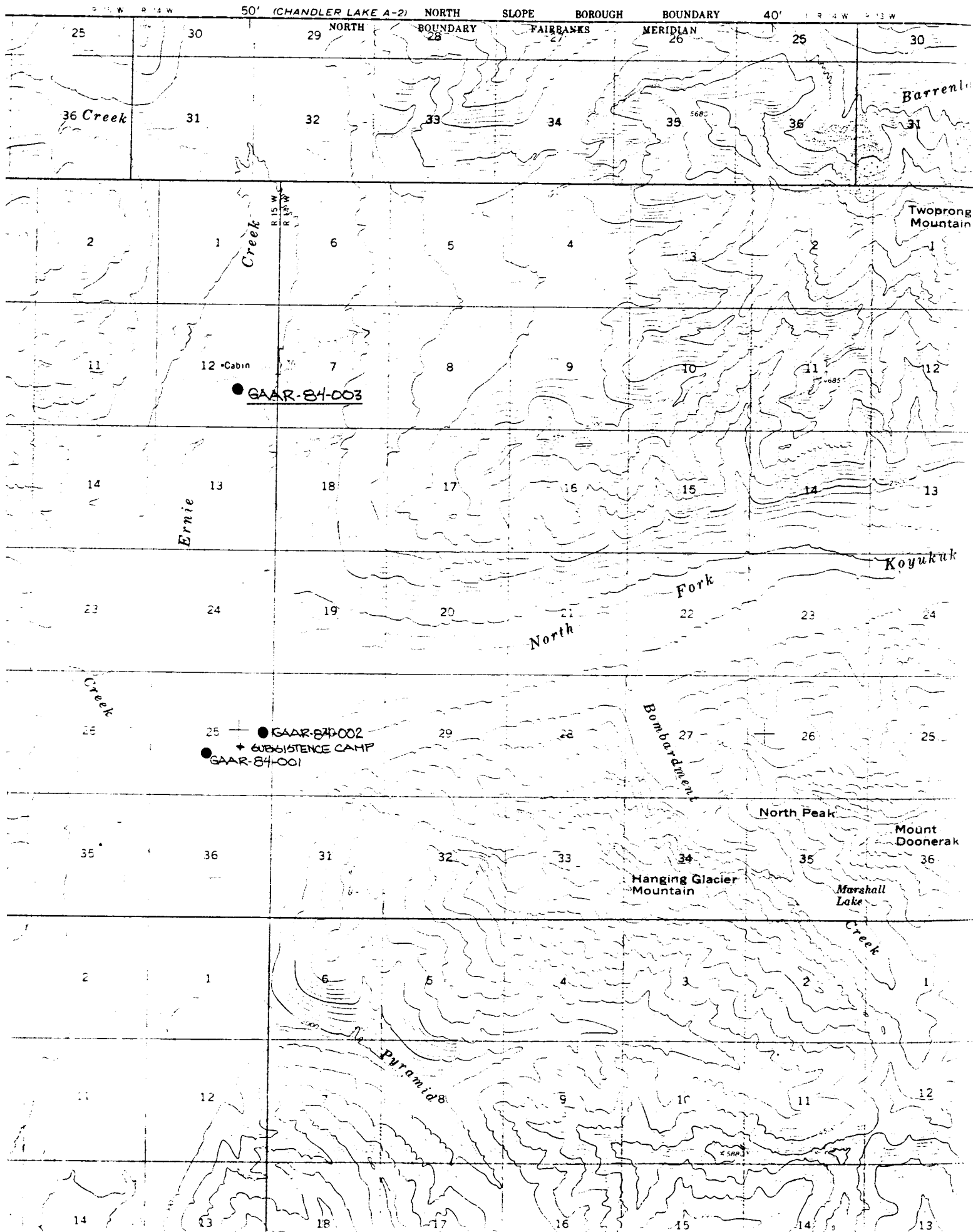
Not enough is known about the history of the site to determine its historical significance. It probably represents a short period stopping place for individuals traveling by dog sled along Ernie Creek.

PREVIOUS SURVEYS: None



GAAR-84-003 : 'G' POLE

OR



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.  
USGS 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. On the Glacier River, this site is unique in that 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 walls having moss chinking and saddle 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. 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 are 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 appear to be the remains of the shaft's headframe lie 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.

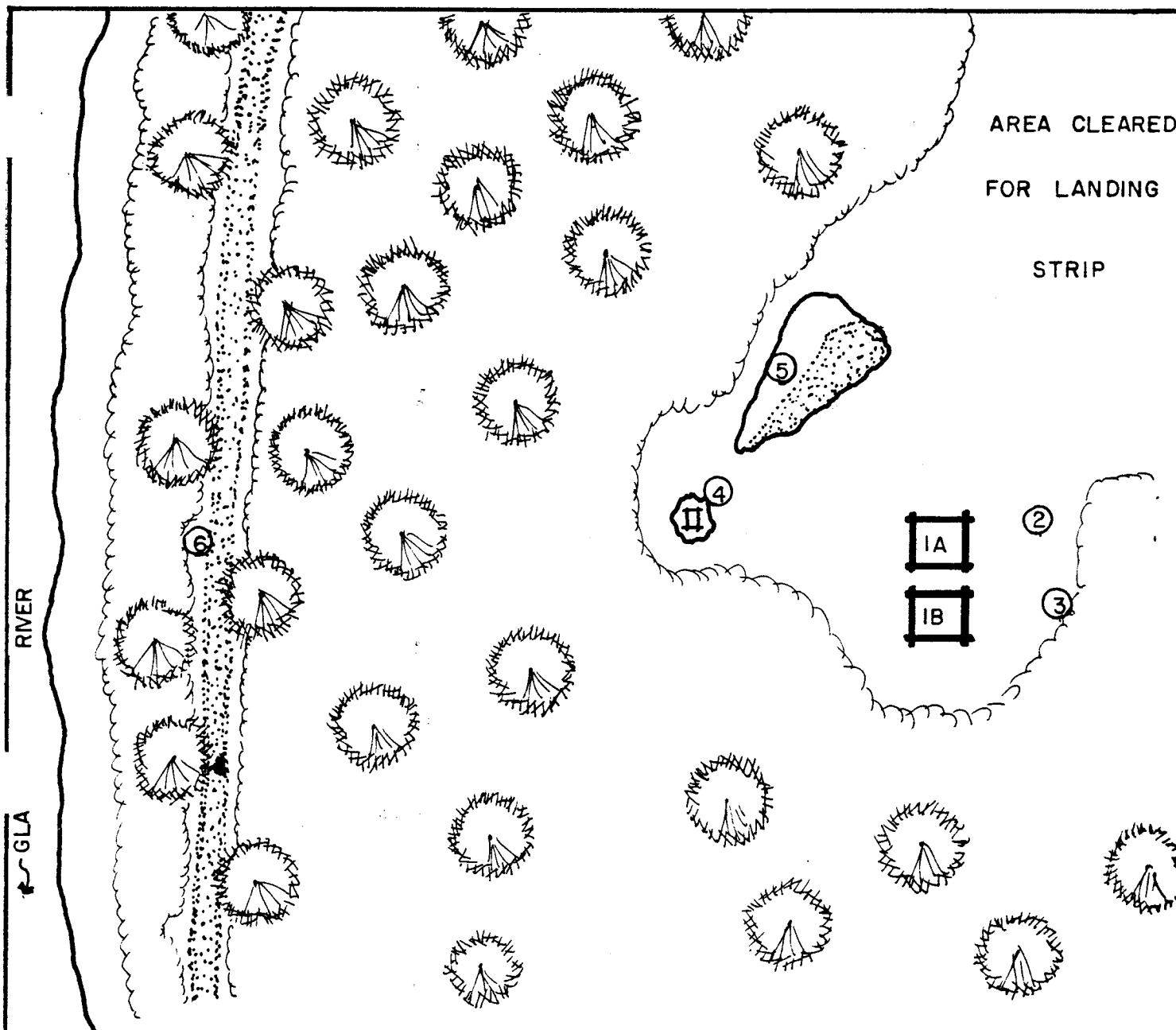
**HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE:**

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:**

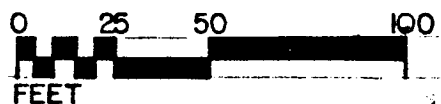
Susan Steinacker performed a brief survey of the site September 17, 1981 as a seasonal ranger for the National Park Service. Her survey is on file at the Gates of the Arctic headquarters in Fairbanks under Cabin Inventory No. HC-03.

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.



GAAR-84-004

## DRIFT MINER'S CABIN



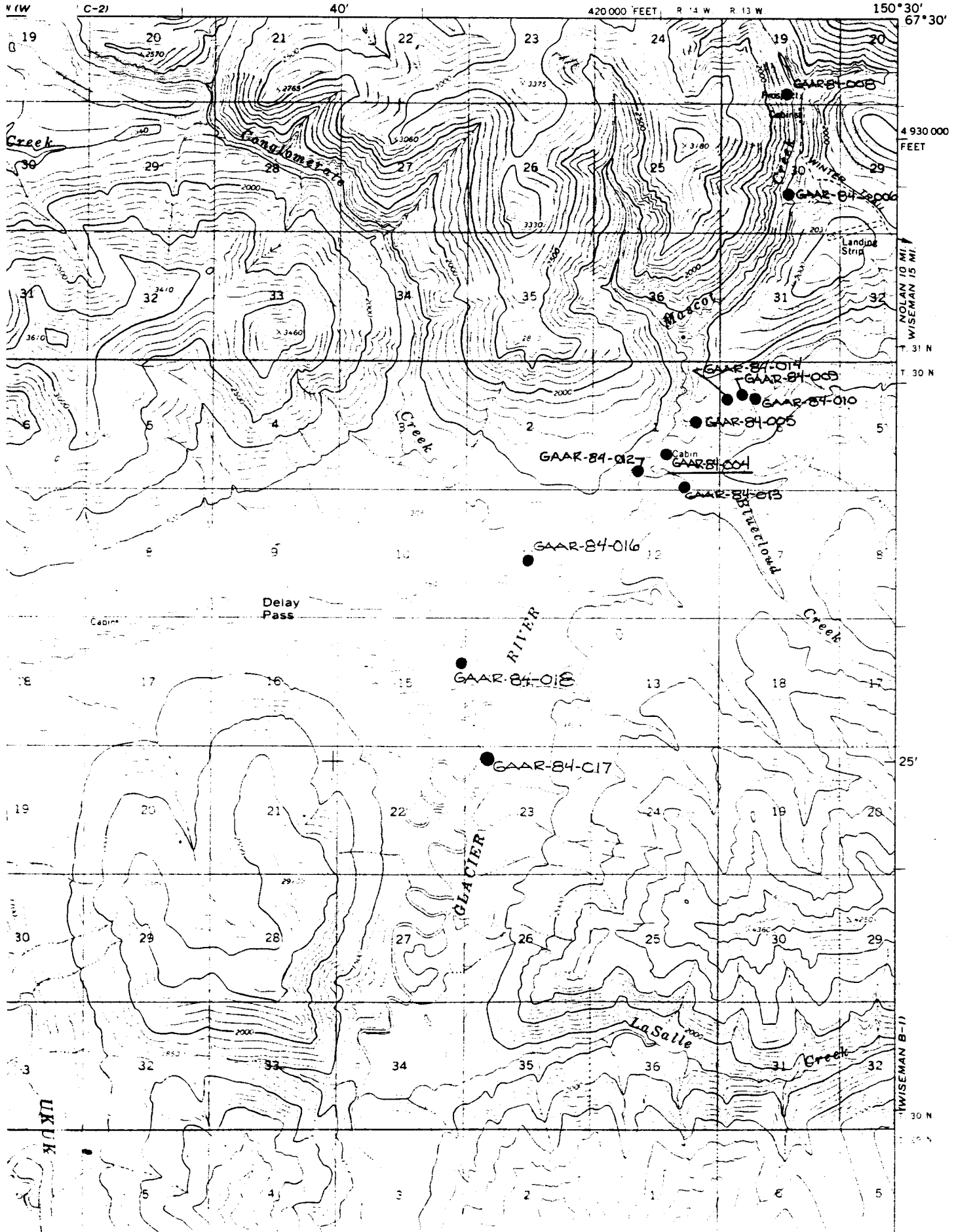
- 1A BOILER CABIN
- 1B RESIDENTIAL CABIN
- 2 SLEDGE
- 3 SLEDGE
- 4 DRIFT MINE SHAFT
- 5 TAILINGS
- 6 WINTER TRAIL

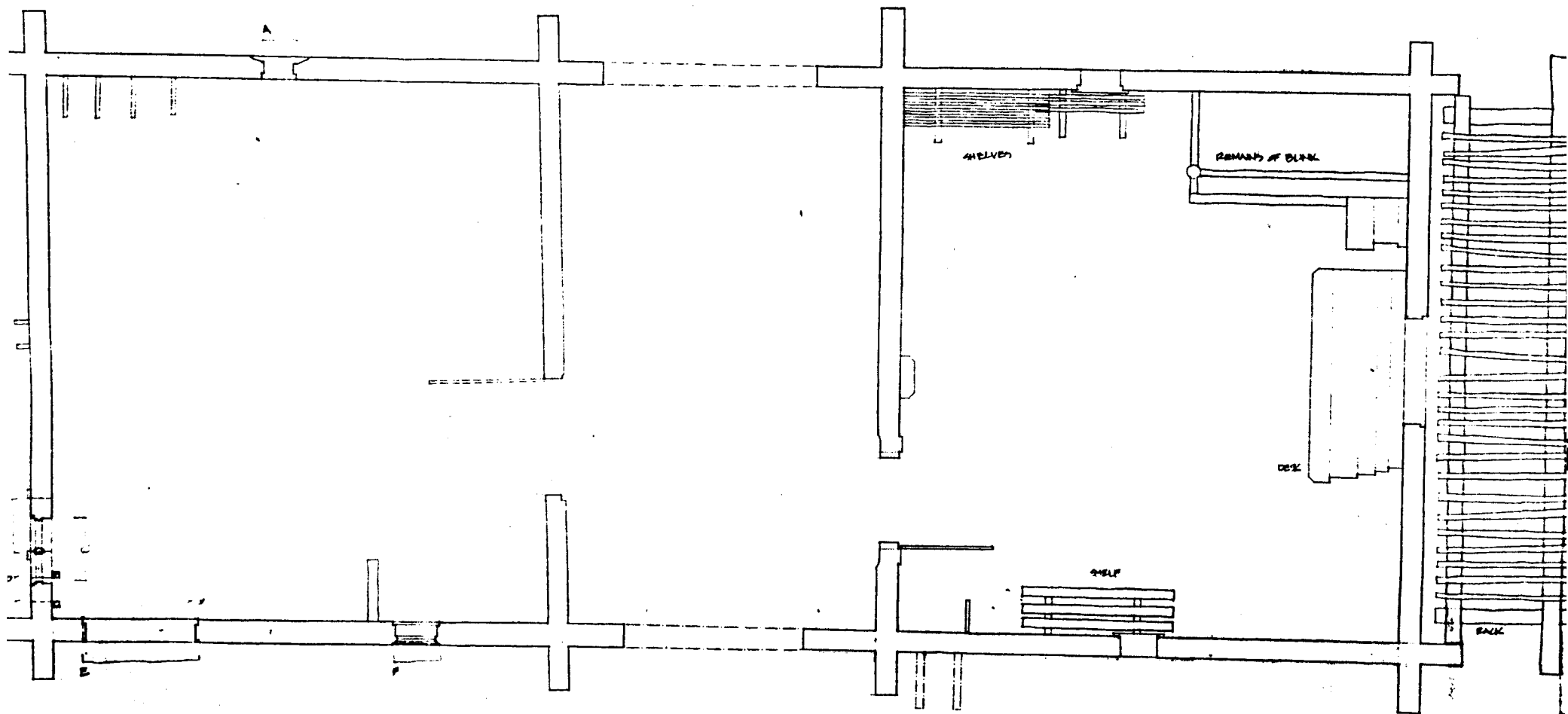


WISEMAN (B-2) QUADRANGLE  
ALASKA

1:63 360 SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

(WISEMAN C-11)

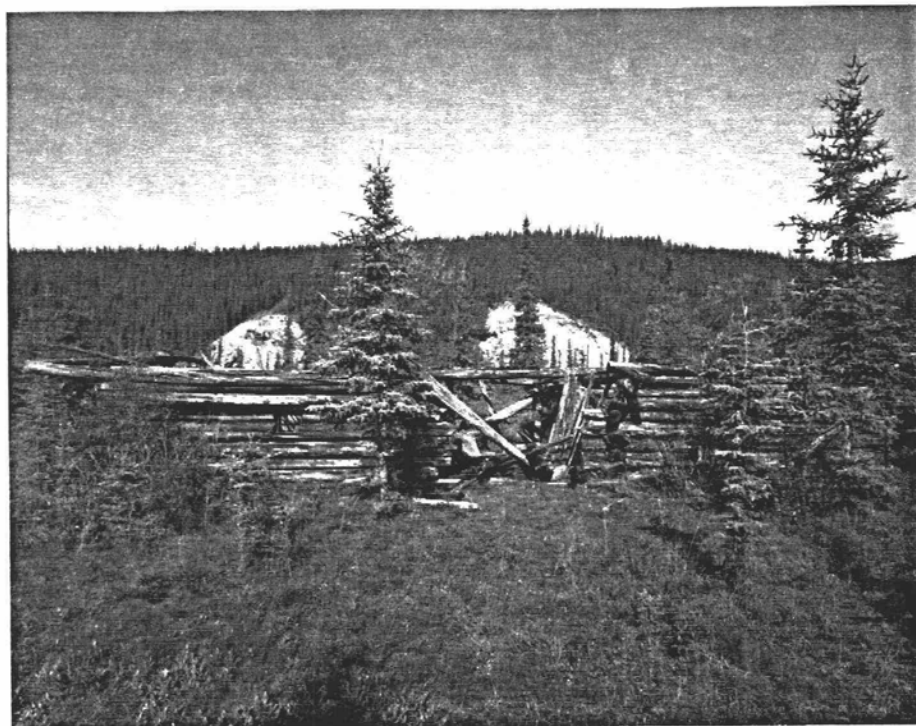




BLUECLOUD CABIN  
70'-10'

- A 6 1/2" OPENING, 1'4" ABOVE GRADE
- B 5" OPENING, 1'6" ABOVE GRADE
- C 12" OPENING, 3'6" ABOVE GRADE
- D 1'1" OPENING, AT GRADE
- E 2'7 1/4" OPENING, 2'0" ABOVE GRADE
- F 1'0 1/2" OPENING, 2'0 1/2" ABOVE GRADE

DESIGN BY MARK SCHARA



Dog-run cabin on Glacier River (GAAR-84-004). Jet Lowe, HABS photo.

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.

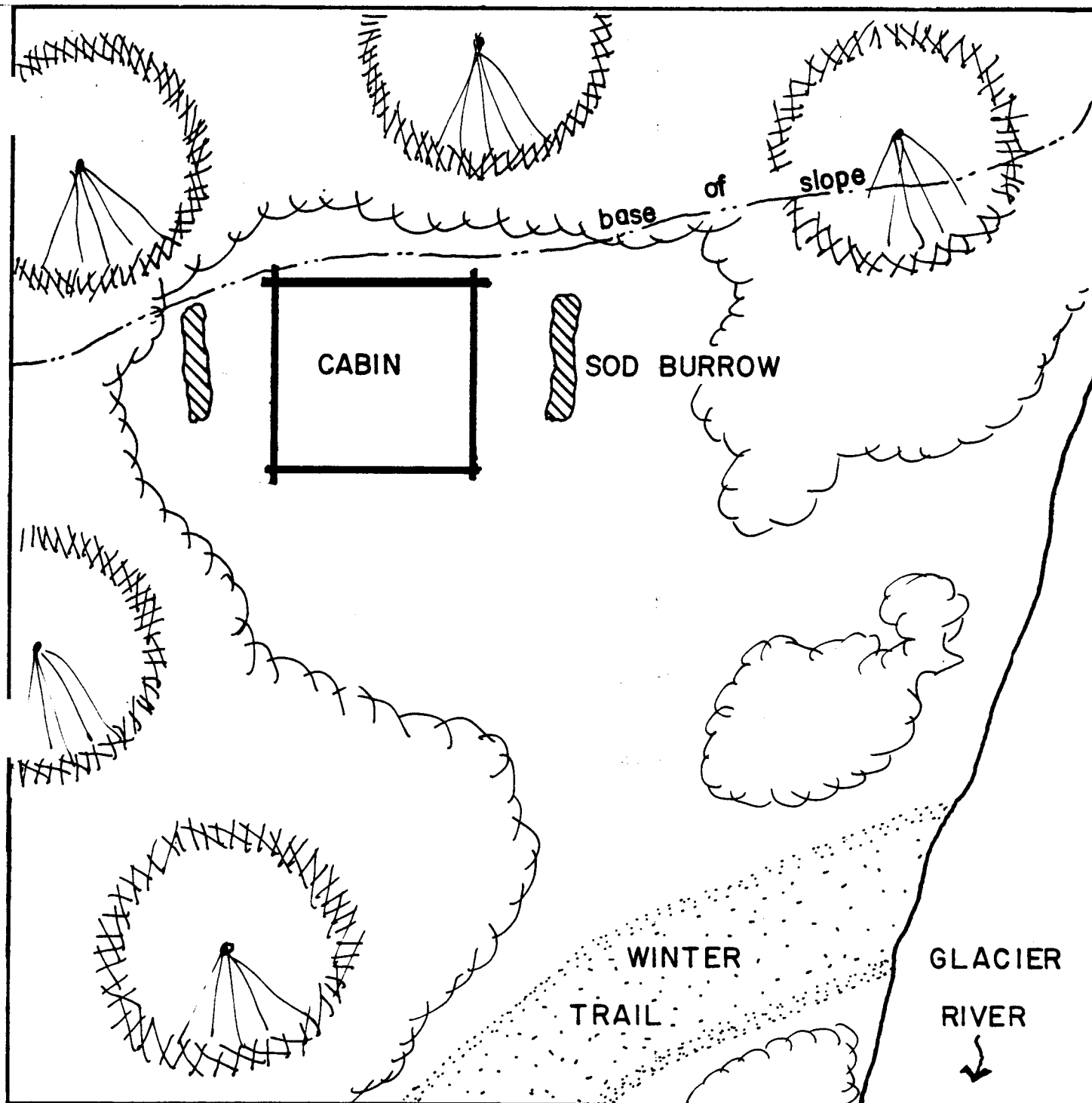
The south wall is entirely gone and only 2-3 log courses remain of the north, east, and west walls. It appears that the cabin was torn apart and the logs left scattered about. This cabin measured 13' x 13' and there are no visible remains to suggest what type of roof, other than sod covered, it may have 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 materials 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.

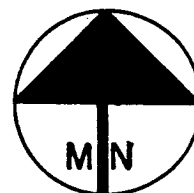
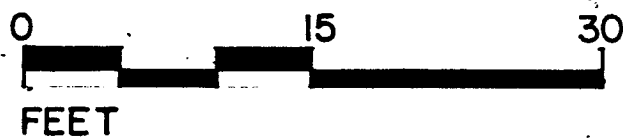
Just to the south of the cabin and parallel to the river is a winter trail. Terrain immediately north of the cabin rises abruptly.

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 1900s and was associated with mining/prospecting activities on Mascot Creek. Archeologically, the site appears to be of little significance.



GAAR- 84 - 005  
CABIN REMAINS

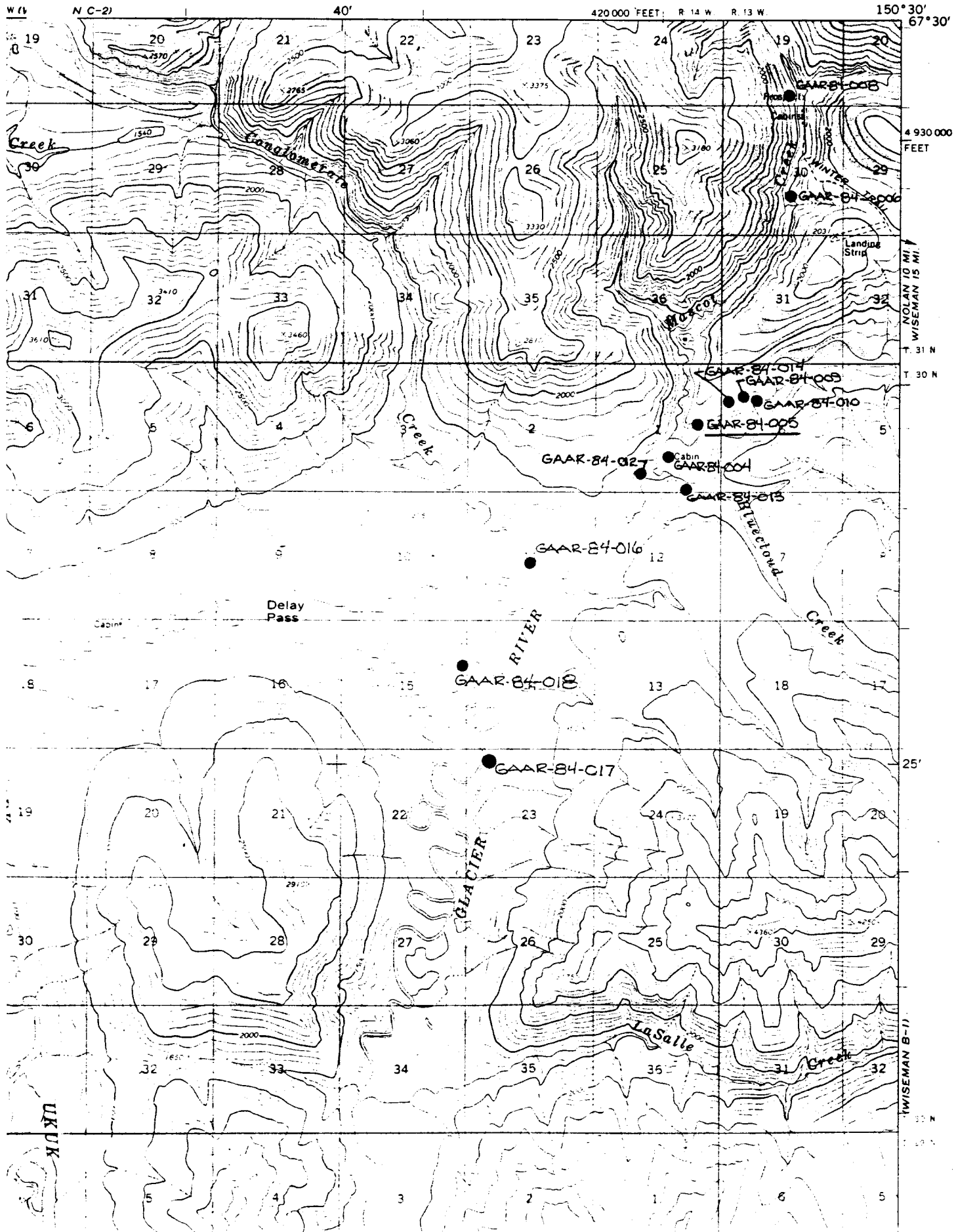


# WISEMAN (B-2) QUADRANGLE

ALASKA

1:63 360 SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

(WISEMAN C-11)





Cabin remains, Glacier River (GAAR-84-005). Russ Sackett photo.

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

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:

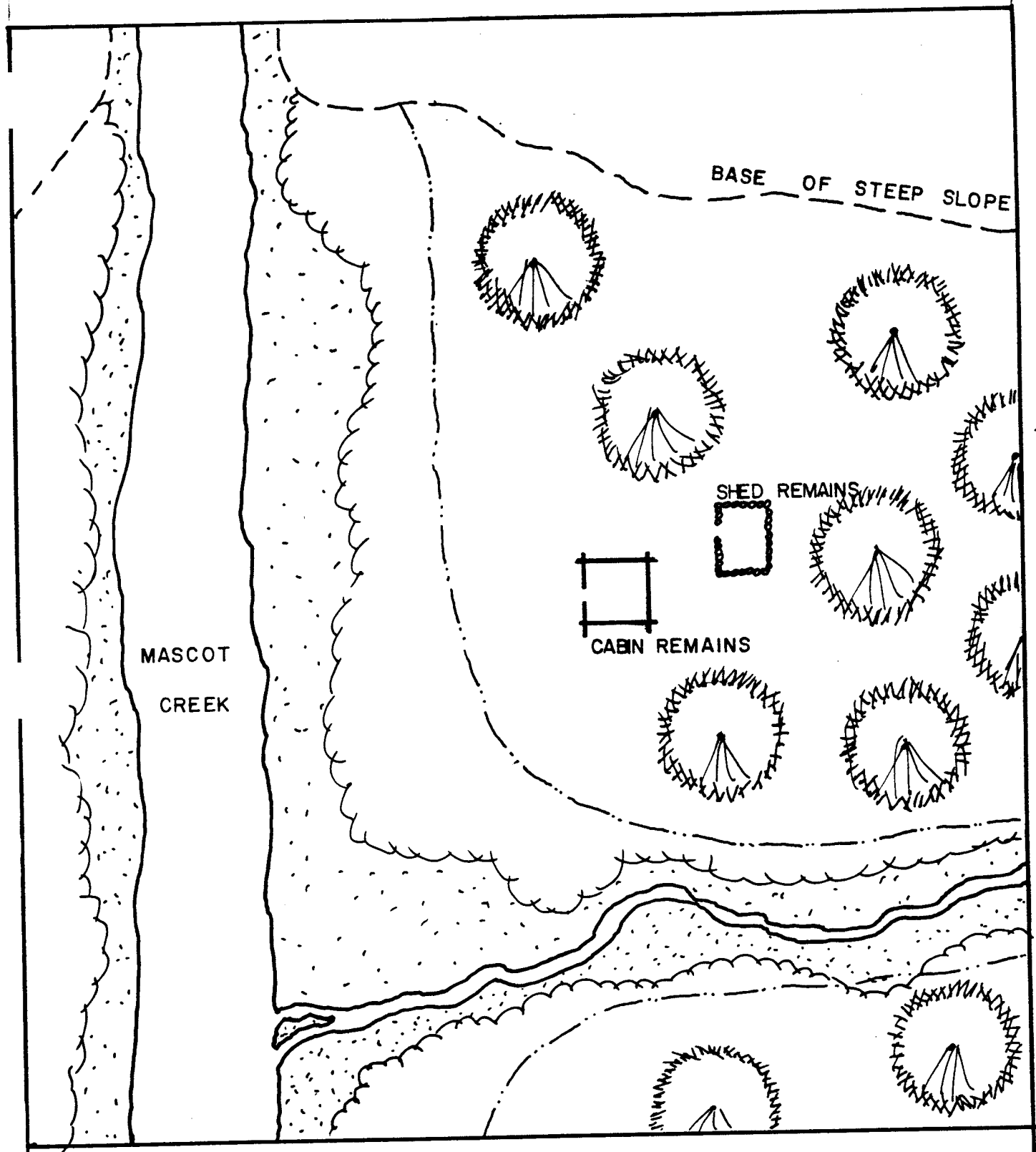
This cabin may be that built and lived in by Austin Duffy. According to Harry Leonard (personal communication July 20, 1984) Austin Duffy was first on Mascot Creek followed by Nick Ikovich and then Vincent Knorr. According to Reed's 1938 report, Austin Duffy owned claims 1, 2, 3, and 4 above discovery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



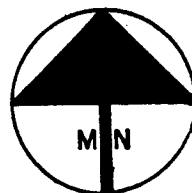
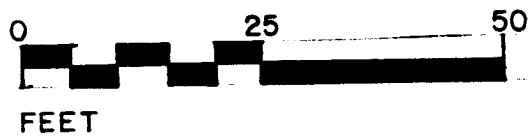
owned claim 2 above discovery, Dean Rathburn owned claim 3 above discovery, and Frank (?) owned claim 4 above discovery.

The site illustrates 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



GAAR-84-006  
MINER'S CABIN

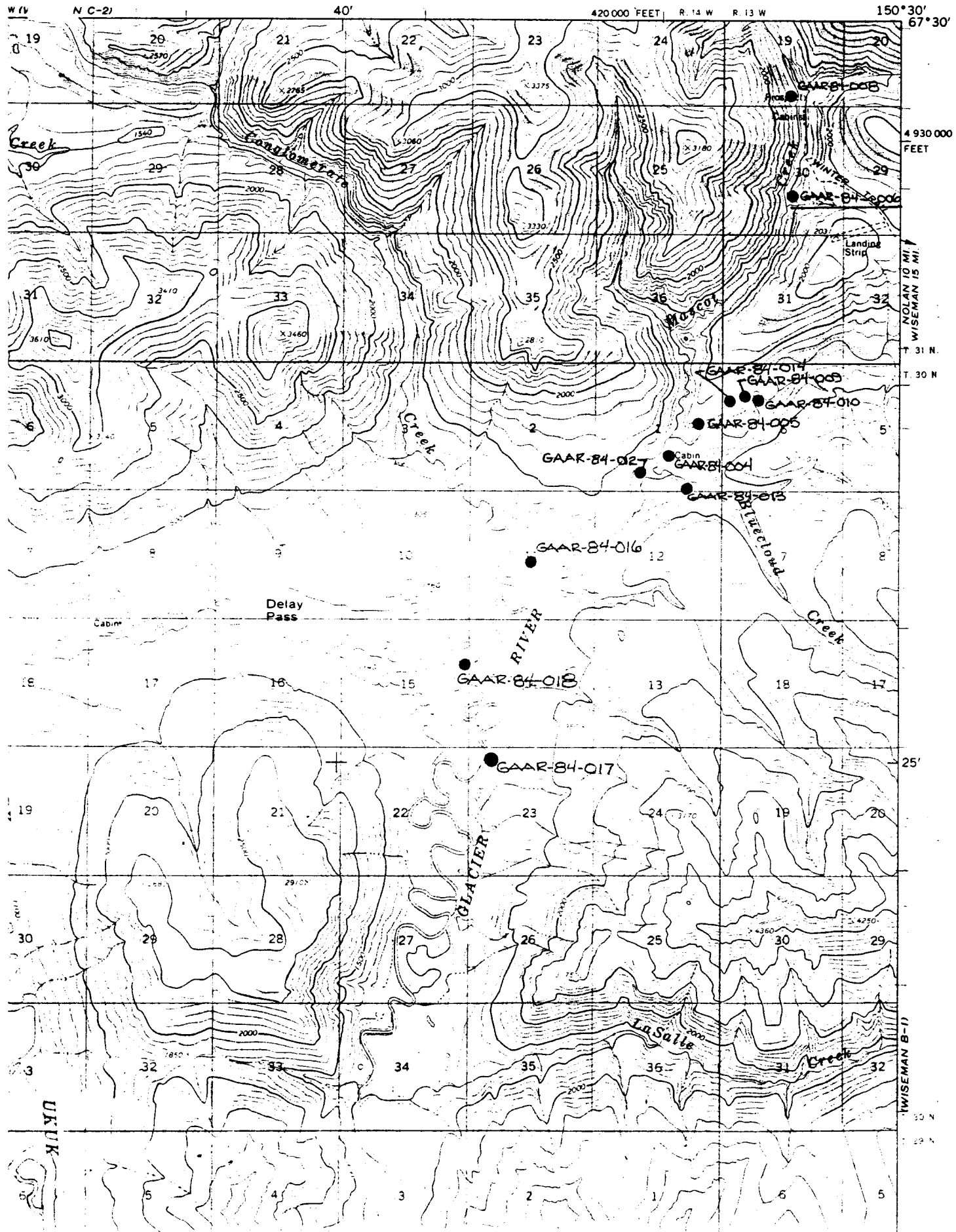


# WISEMAN (B-2) QUADRANGLE

ALASKA

1:63 360 SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

(WISEMAN C-1)





Miner's Cabin remains (GAAR-84-006) on Mascot Creek,  
Russ Sackett recording. Mark Standley photo.

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 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.

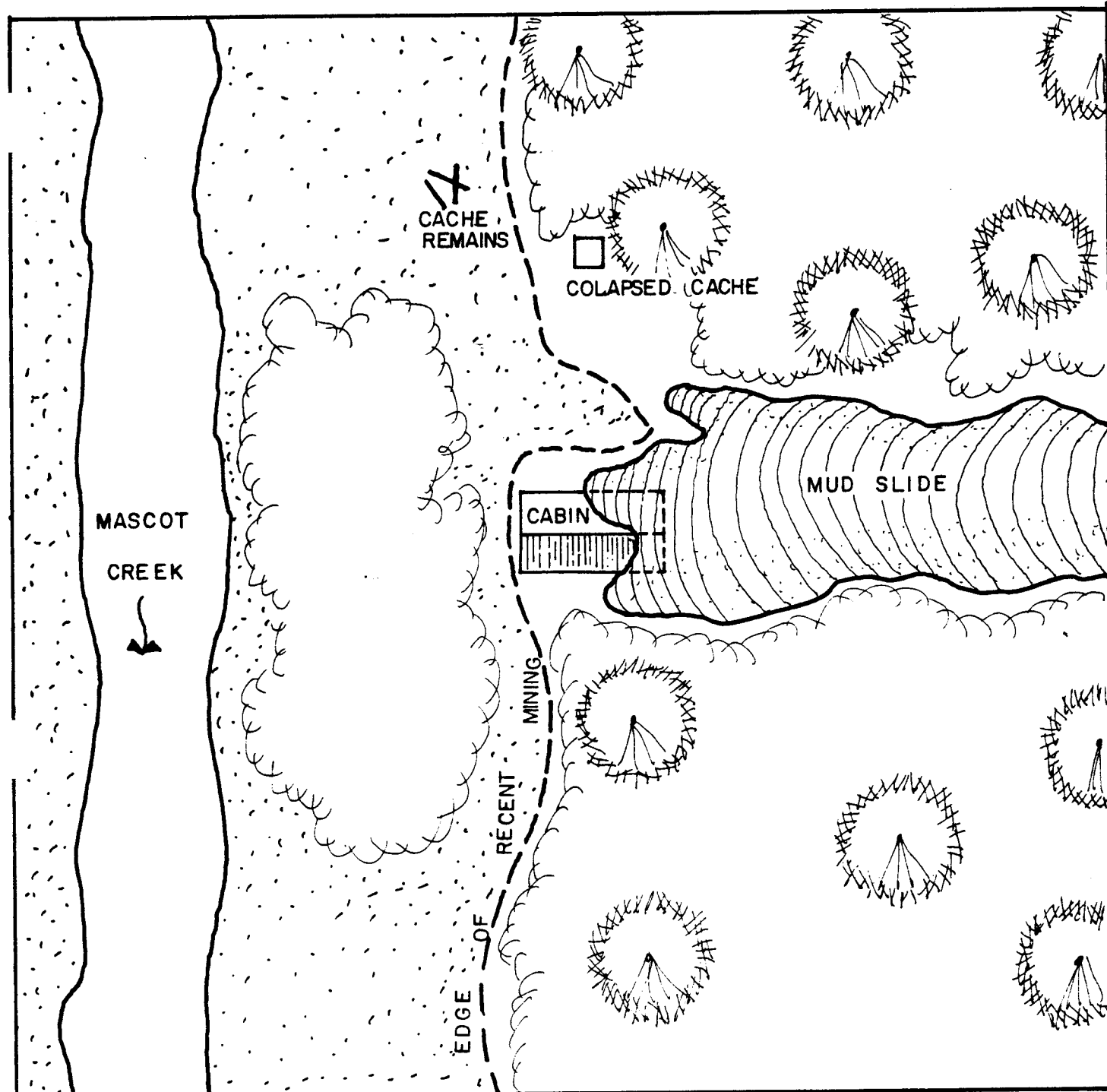
A second cache at one time existed in association with the site. This, however, is in total ruin and lying within the creek bed washed out by destabilization caused by the mining activities. Original location of this cache is not known.

#### 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 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.

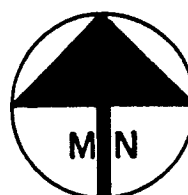
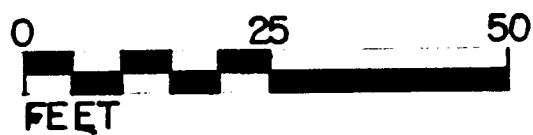
The site illustrates the history of early mining on Mascot Creek and provides an important site in the quantity of cultural material found in the study of the early period.

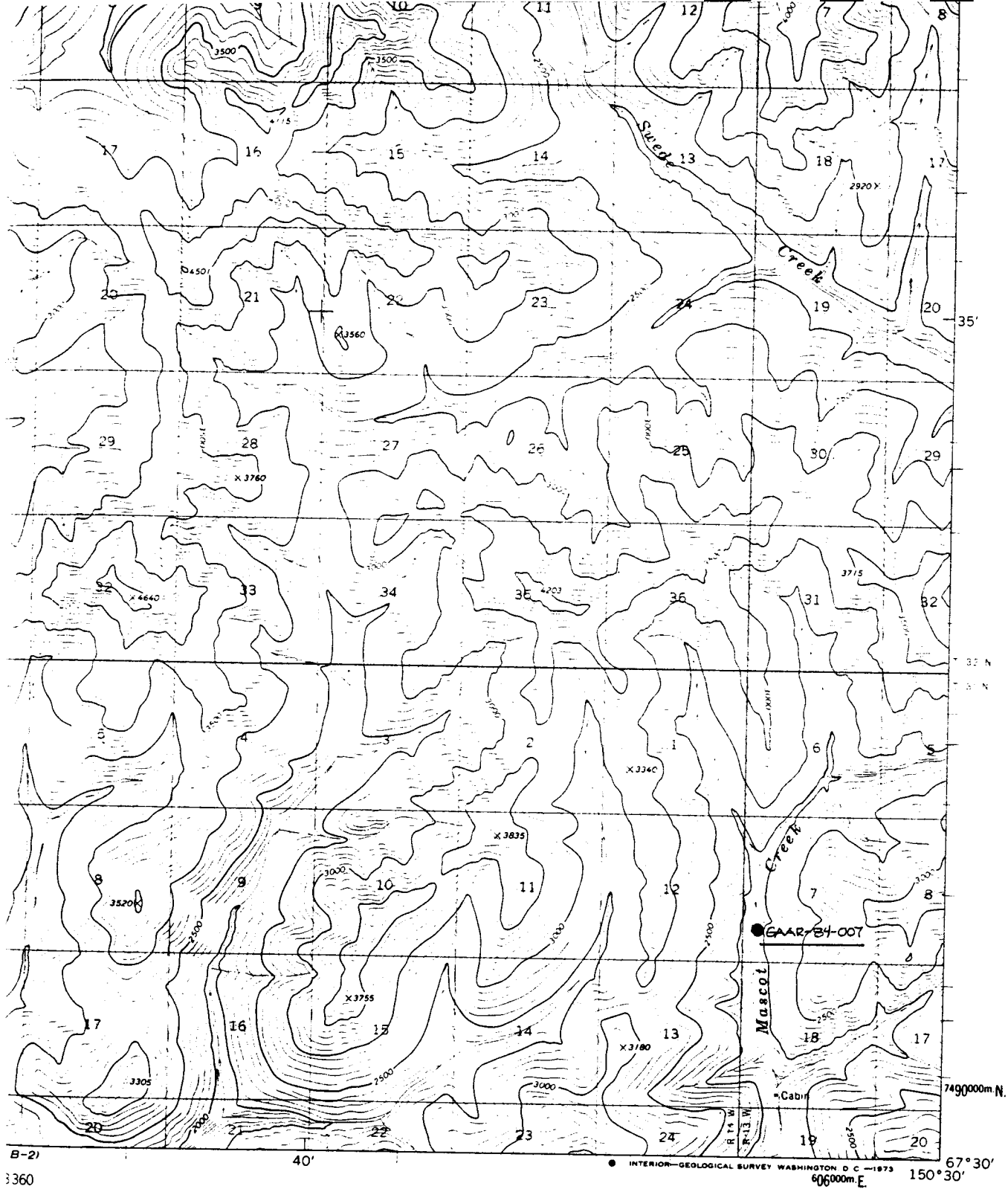
PREVIOUS SURVEY: None



GAAR-84-007

NICK IKOVICH'S CABIN





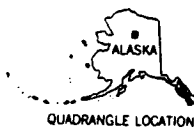
B-2)

3360



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EA LEVEL

LOGI IRVEY  
O 8 R WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242  
D SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

INTERIOR—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY WASHINGTON D. C. —1973  
606000m E 150°30' 67°30' N

ROAD CLASSIFICATION  
No roads or trails in this area

WISEMAN (C-2), ALASKA  
N6730—W15030/15 X 30

1971

(WISEMAN B-1)





Nick Ikovich Cabin (GAAR-84-007), before mud slide.  
Dennis Schramm photo, 1981.



Nick Ikovich Cabin (GAAR-84-007), after mud slide.  
Russ Sackett photo, 1984.

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

DATE SURVEYED: various, June and July 1984

FIELD SURVEYORS: William Brown, HABS Team

SITE DESCRIPTION:  
See HABS AK-19 documentation following this site report.

HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE:

The first strike on Mascot Creek occurred in September 1902, according to the Bettles Log. Geologist Maddren of the USGS recorded in his 1909 field notes that five miners were working claims on the creek. Irving McK. Reed's 1937 investigation notes that Nick Ikovich (on the upper Mascot) and Vincent Knorr are working their respective claims. Knorr owns discovery claim, 5 above, and 1, 2, and 3 below, with his cabin on discovery. A territorial mine inspection report of 1955 states that Knorr's claims are being worked under lease by A&S Mining Company. According to all reports, Mascot Creek was the best and most continuous placer mining producer within the boundaries of what is now Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve.

The Vincent Knorr Cabin was professionally evaluated and recorded in June and July 1984 by historians and architects of the Cultural Resources Inventory and HABS teams. The site was judged locally significant and eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Its significance was further testified by its recordation by HABS drawings and photographs.

Currently available documentation indicates that this cabin was built by Vincent Knorr--a well known miner of the Upper Koyukuk Region--sometime before the mid-1930s. By 1937, when Irving McK. Reed surveyed the Koyukuk mining district for the Territorial Department of Mines, Knorr owned five claims on Mascot Creek. His cabin, standing at the time of Reed's survey, is distinguished by careful construction, small size, and excellent condition, making it a fine example of an early miner's residential cabin built on his claim. Based on results of the

1984 and subsequent 1985 field work in Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve, this is the only cabin associated with a long-term paying mining claim to survive intact from the historic period to the present within the park boundaries. Associated with the cabin are remains of a collapsed cache, a privy, and a rich assortment of historic tools and objects. This premier and unique site, illustrating a rare successful mining history within the park, should be preserved.

#### SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

The Knorr Cabin is located on a valid mining claim and in recent years has been used legitimately and legally as a mining-related appurtenance, specifically as an assay office/lab. So long as the claim is valid, such use encourages preservation of the cabin, by simple occupancy and warming-up/drying-out, and as a functional resource of the miners. Should the claim be abandoned or invalidated (for example, because mineralization is exhausted, which is quite possible in the near future), then Doyon, Ltd., the Native regional corporation, would have first option on acquiring the land previously encumbered by the mining claim, which lies within a 3-township tract of Doyon-selected land, which is in process of final conveyance to that corporation.

The Alaska Regional Office and the park have agreed to seek a Determination of Eligibility for the National Register for the Knorr Cabin, as an aid to preservation of the cabin and protection of the public interest in it. Pending resolution of the above-cited ownership imponderables, the National Park Service will require appropriate use and preservation of the cabin via stipulations in any mining plan of operations presented by the current claim holders.

Other options would include: (1) donation of the cabin and its near environs to the National Park Service by either the current claim holders, or in the eventuality of conveyance to Doyon, by Doyon; or (2) an agreement between NPS and the eventual owner that would enable NPS to provide technical preservation assistance. (From a park management viewpoint, the donation of the cabin alone presents many difficulties, for the cabin and its immediate site comprise a narrow peninsula descending off a hillside into a mining camp and mine workings on three sides.)

Establishing National Register eligibility is a transitional mode that will lend weight and authority to our preservation efforts, pending resolution of the difficult matters of ownership, both present and potential.

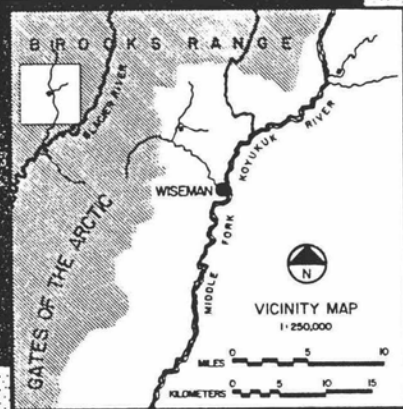
#### PREVIOUS SUMMARY:

Noted under park cabin survey, 1981.

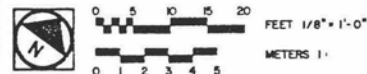
MAP 19-1001



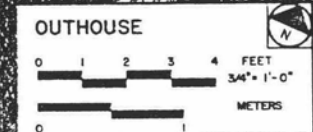
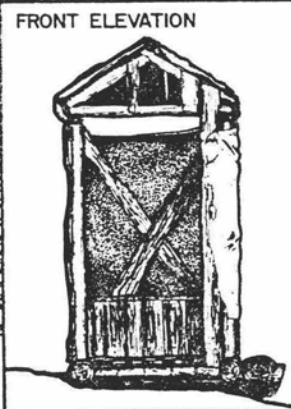
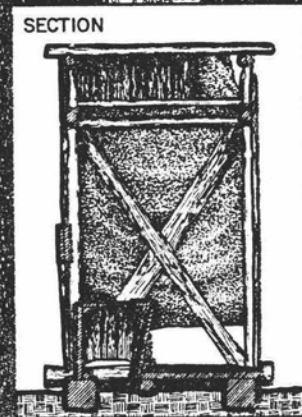
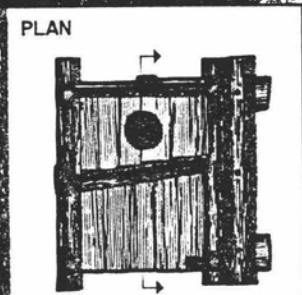
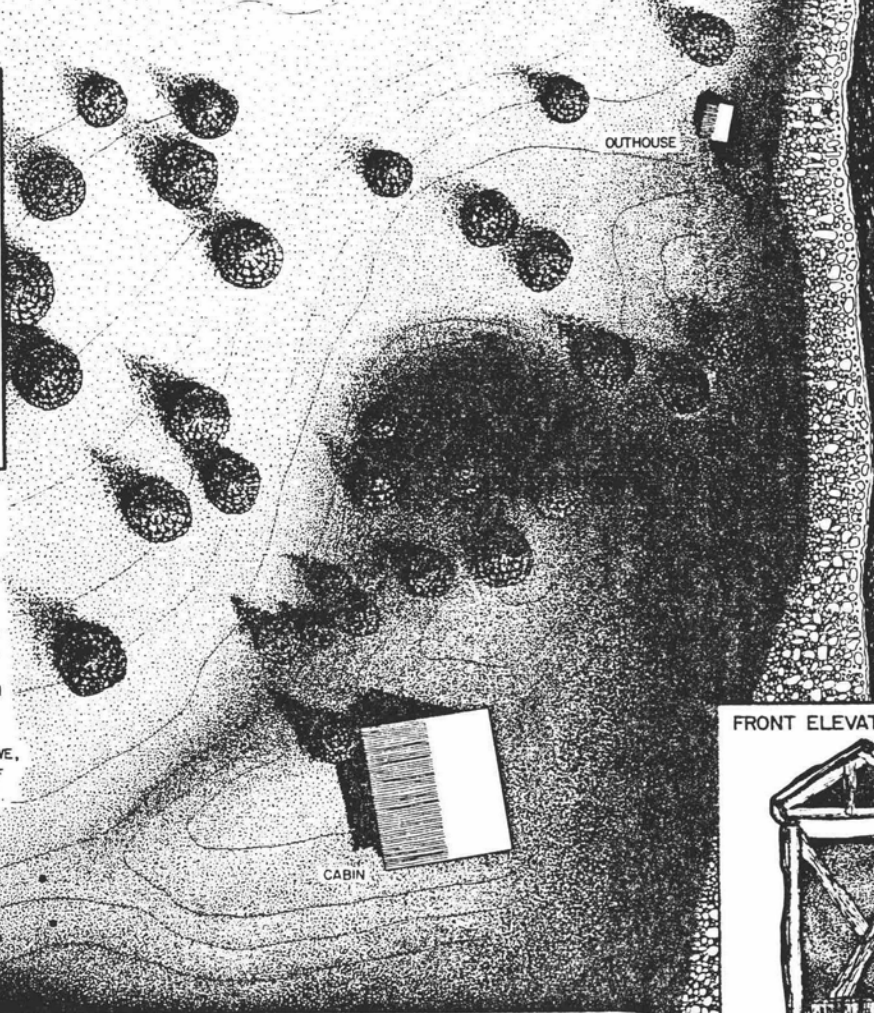
# VINCENT KNORR CABIN



DOCUMENTATION OF SITES IN THE EASTERN SECTION OF GATES OF THE ARCTIC NATIONAL PARK AND BORDERING AREAS WAS UNDERTAKEN BY THE HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY / HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD (HABS/HAER), A DIVISION OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE. THE PROJECT WAS EXECUTED UNDER THE GENERAL DIRECTION OF ROBERT J. KAPSCH, CHIEF, HABS/HAER, AND ROGER CONTOR, ALASKA REGIONAL DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE. RECORDING WAS CARRIED OUT DURING THE SUMMER OF 1984 BY WILLIAM E. BROWN, PROJECT HISTORIAN; ALISON K. HOAGLAND, HISTORIAN; JAMES CREECH, RUSSELL SACKETT, AND MARK SCHARA, HISTORICAL ARCHITECTS; AND JET LOWE, PHOTOGRAPHER; WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE STAFF OF GATES OF THE ARCTIC NATIONAL PARK AND PRESERVE.



THIS LOG CABIN WAS CONSTRUCTED BY VINCENT KNORR IN THE MID-1930'S. KNORR HAD COME TO THE KOYUKUK REGION IN 1927 AND BY 1938 OWNED EIGHT CLAIMS ON MASCOT CREEK. THE CAREFUL CONSTRUCTION, SMALL SIZE, AND EXCELLENT CONDITION OF THIS CABIN MAKE IT A PARTICULARLY FINE EXAMPLE OF AN EARLY MINER'S RESIDENTIAL CABIN BUILT ON HIS CLAIM.



HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY / HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD  
ALASKA  
VINCENT KNORR CABIN  
MASCOT CREEK  
GATES OF THE ARCTIC  
GATES OF THE ARCTIC PROJECT  
JAMES CREECH, 1985  
UNIVERSITY MICROFILMS INTERNATIONAL

ON MICROFILM 184/25003  
1 of 2



**MATERIAL NOTES:**

WALLS — WHITE SPRUCE LOGS, 7"-10" AVERAGE DIAMETER WITH SADDLE NOTCHED CORNERS. LOGS ARE CHINKED WITH MOSS.

FLOOR — BOARD PLANKING OF VARIABLE SIZES RANGING FROM 5"-9" IN WIDTH.

ROOF — LOG POLES COVERED WITH SOOT/MOSS.

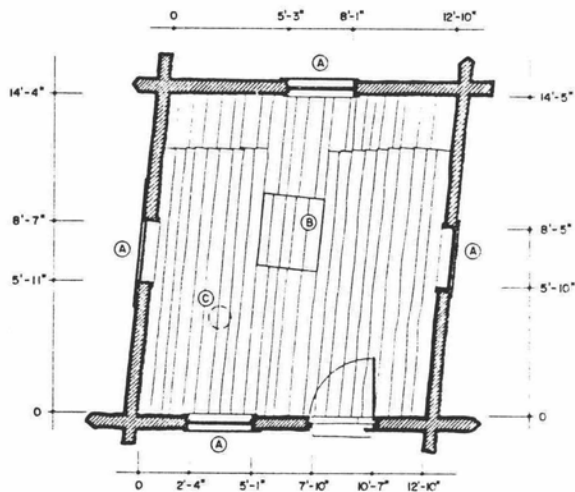
SASH — FIRWOOD, MANUFACTURED UNIT.

**NOTE:**

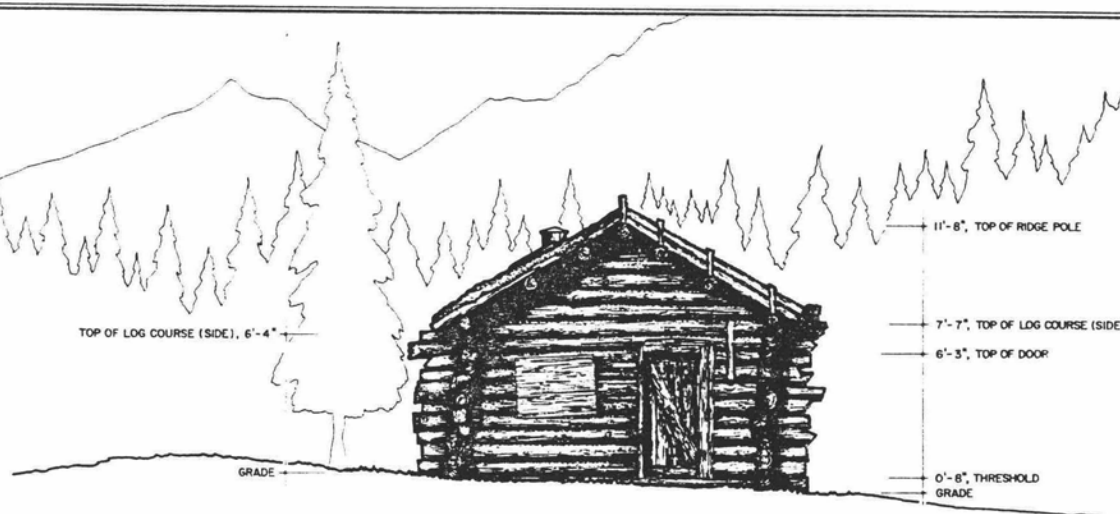
RECENT PLYWOOD SHED ADDITION ON NORTHWEST WALL, NOT SHOWN.  
RECENT TOOLRACK AND TOOLS ON NORTHEAST WALL, NOT SHOWN.

**LEGEND:**

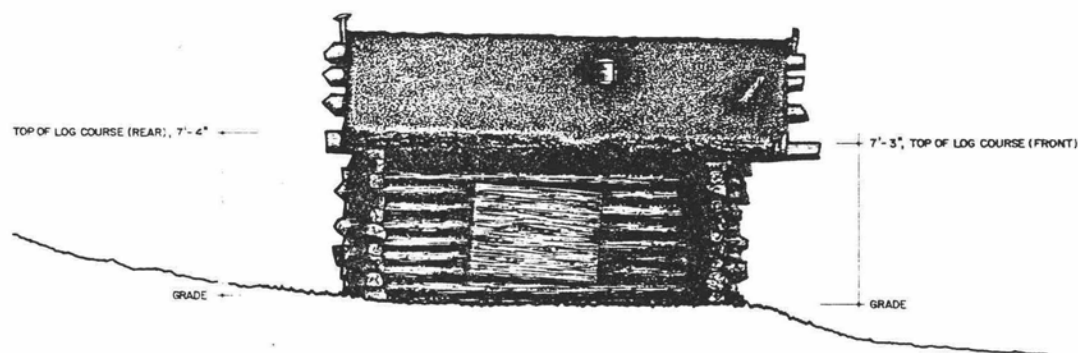
- (A) WINDOWS BOARDED UP c.1980.
- (B) TRAP DOOR FOR ROOT CELLAR.
- (C) STOVEPIPE SLEEVE IN ROOF.



**PLAN**



**SOUTHEAST ELEVATION**



**SOUTHWEST ELEVATION**

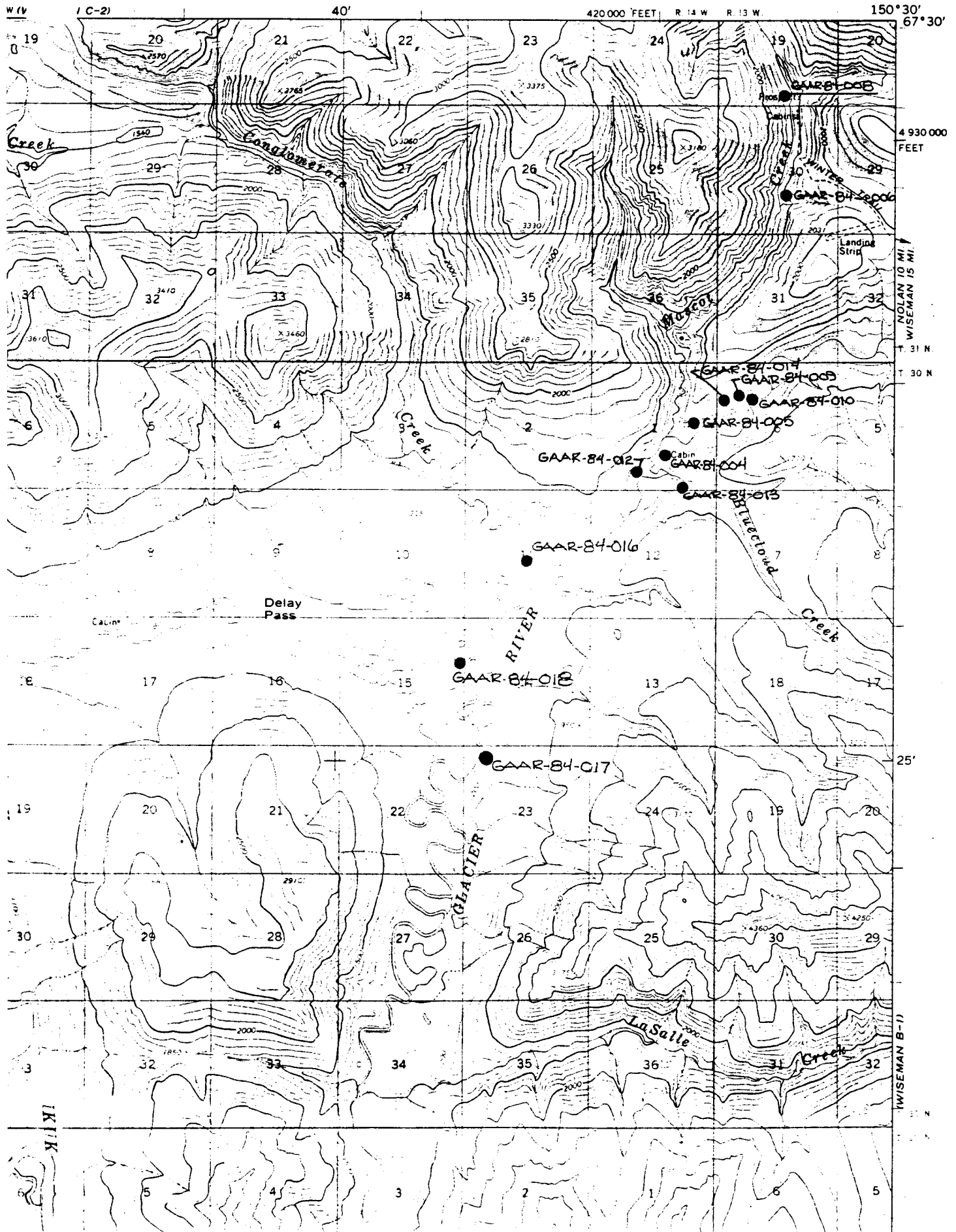


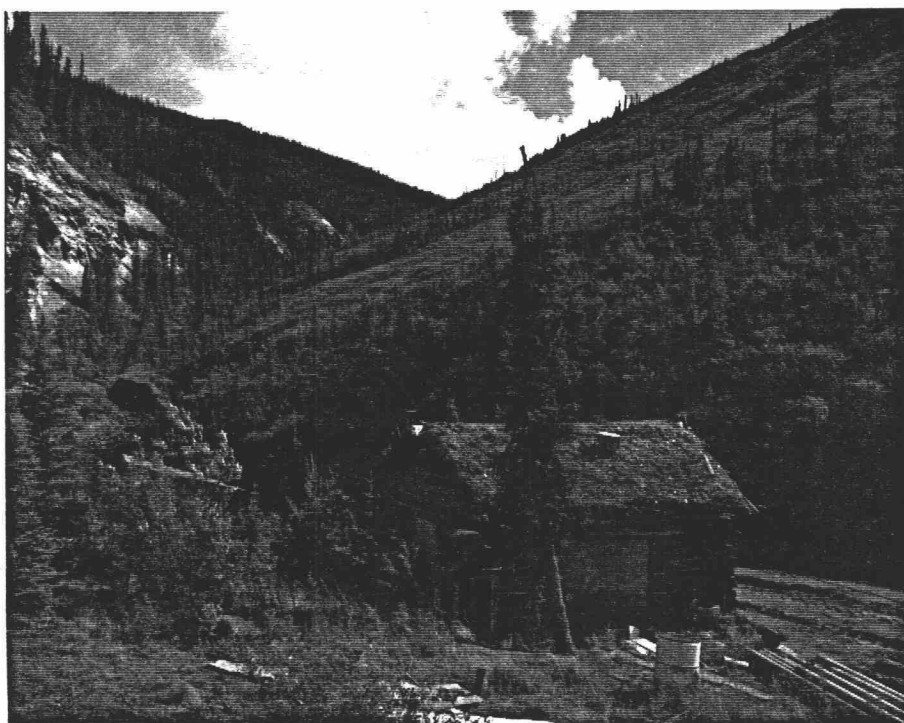
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7  
FEET 3/8" = 1'-0"  
0 1 2  
METERS 1 : 32

WISEMAN (B-2) QUADRANGLE  
ALASKA

1:63 360 SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

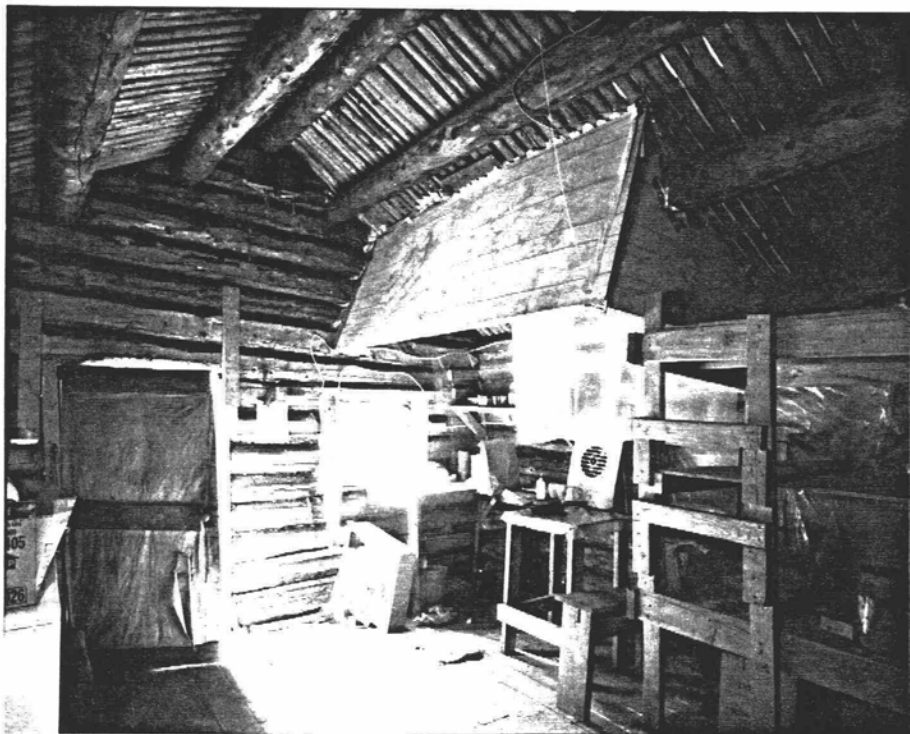
(WISEMAN C-1)



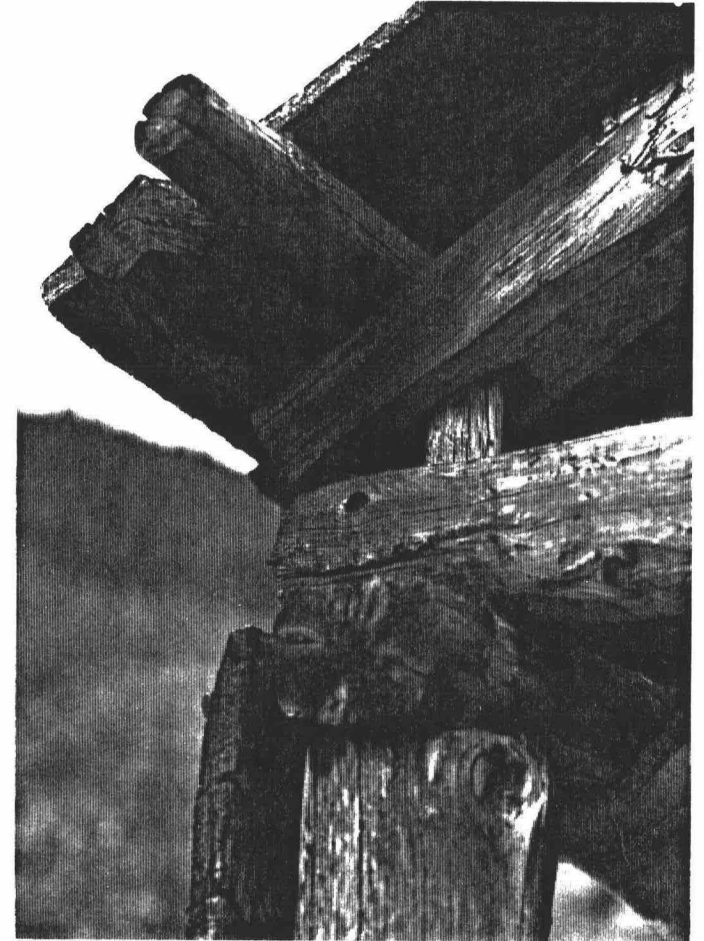
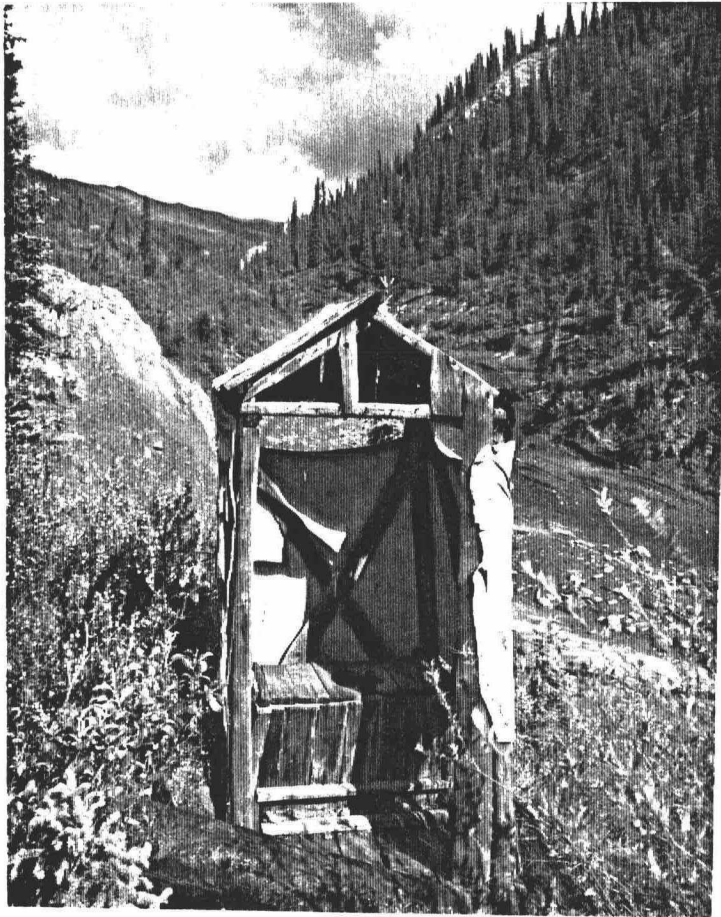


Vincent Knorr Cabin (GAAR-84-008): front elevation and site context. Jet Lowe, HABS photos.





Vincent Knorr Cabin: roof detail and interior.  
Jet Lowe, HABS photos.



Vincent Knorr Cabin: out house and outhouse corner detail. Left, Jet Lowe, HABS photo; right, Jim Creech photo.

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.

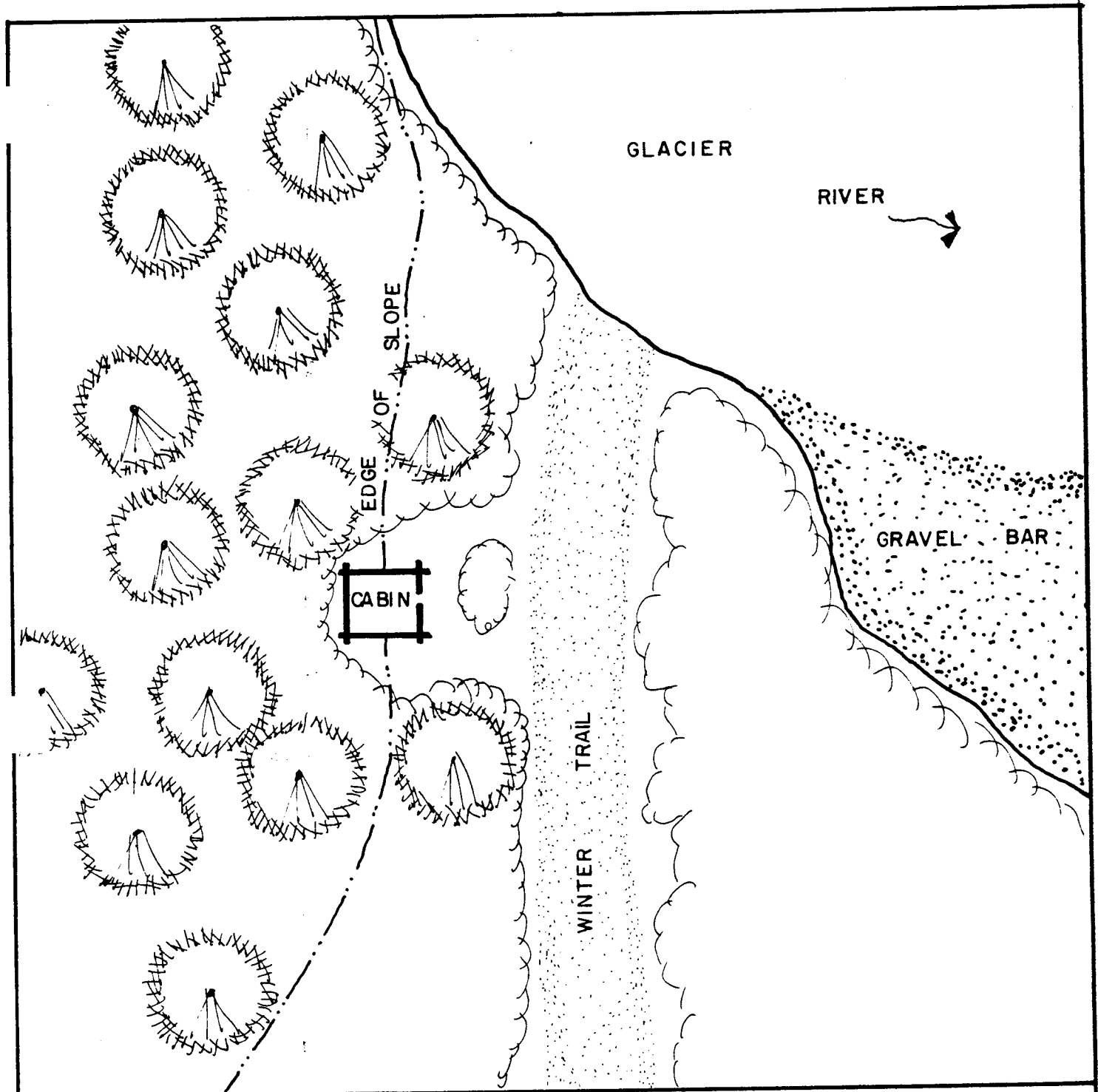
Interior of the cabin, as well as the entire site, is clean of cultural refuse. Cultural material may, however, lie beneath the collapsed roof.

HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE:

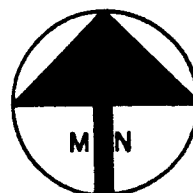
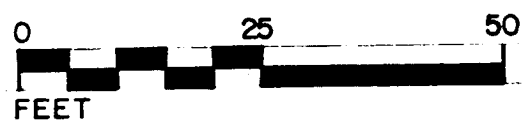
Not enough is known concerning the structure's history at this time to place significance. The cabin is constructed much the same way as that of the woodchopper cabin found in Glacier Pass (GAAR-84-015) and possibly may reflect this type of activity. There are cut logs southeast of the cabin which probably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

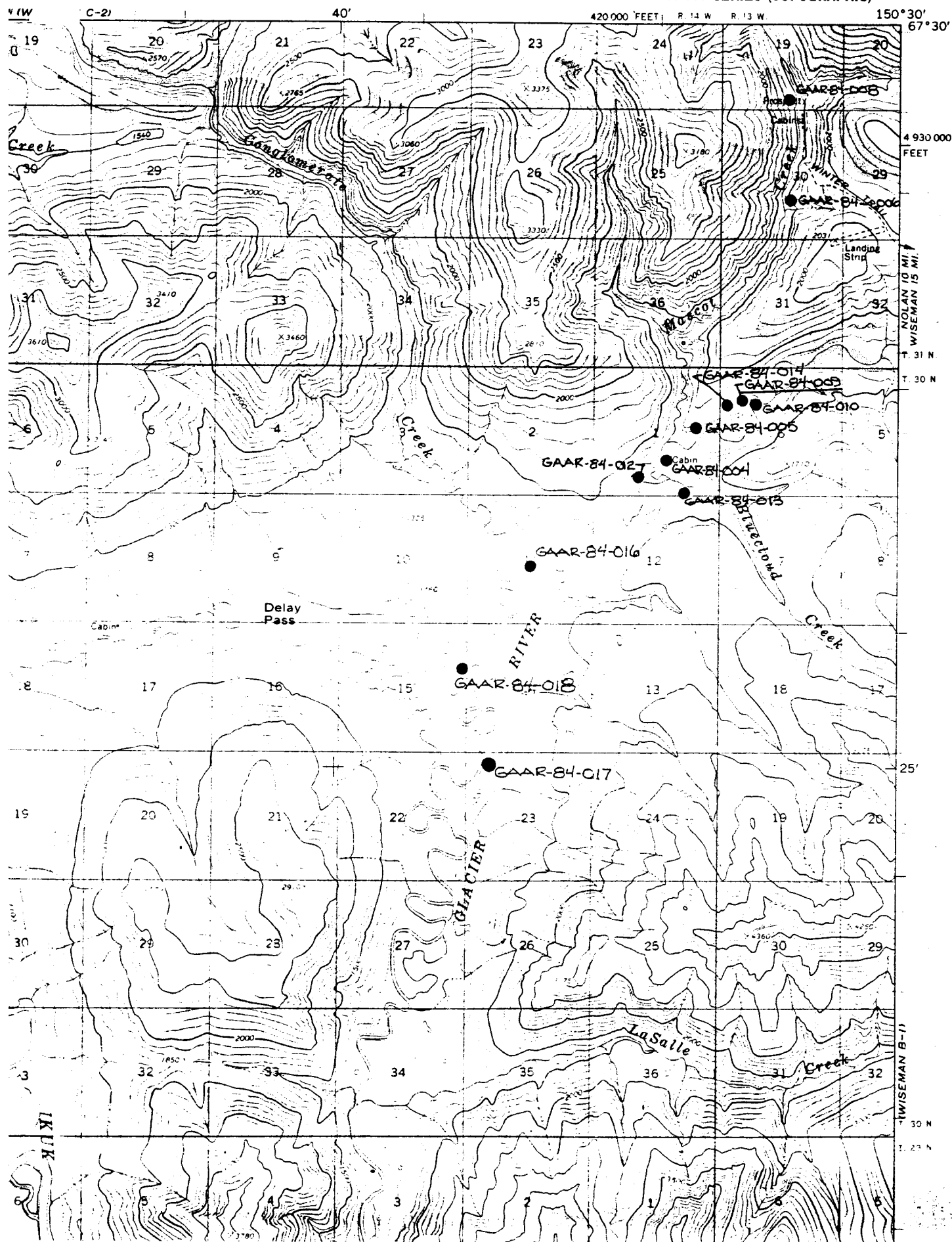


GAAR-84-009  
MINER'S CABIN



(WISEMAN C-1)

7°30'





Miner's Cabin on Glacier River (GAAR-84-009).  
Russ Sackett photo.

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-84-009.

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 is 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.

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 with log cribbing which measures 3'7" x 6'9". The shaft has slumped in, filling within 10" of grade.

Tailings pile 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.

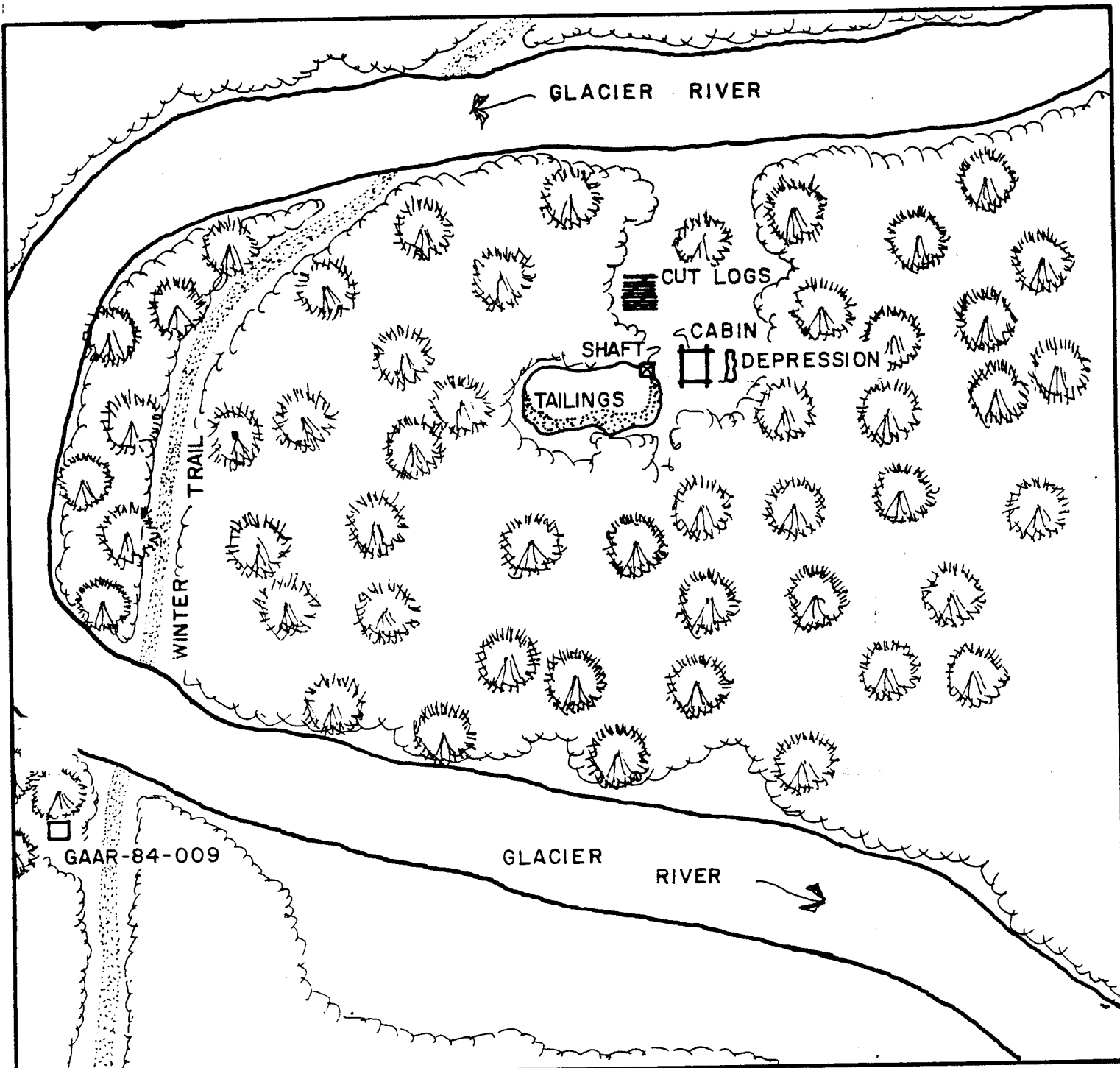
The last feature on the site is a depression that measures 5' x 7'6" approximately 7 feet east of the cabin. This depression is 2'4" deep and of unknown function.

#### HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE:

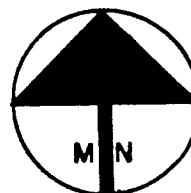
Specific history of the site is unknown at this time. The site is important in the mining history during the beginning of this century in the Glacier River region. The remains illustrate the intensive hand labor involved in drift mining operations.

#### PREVIOUS SURVEYS:

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



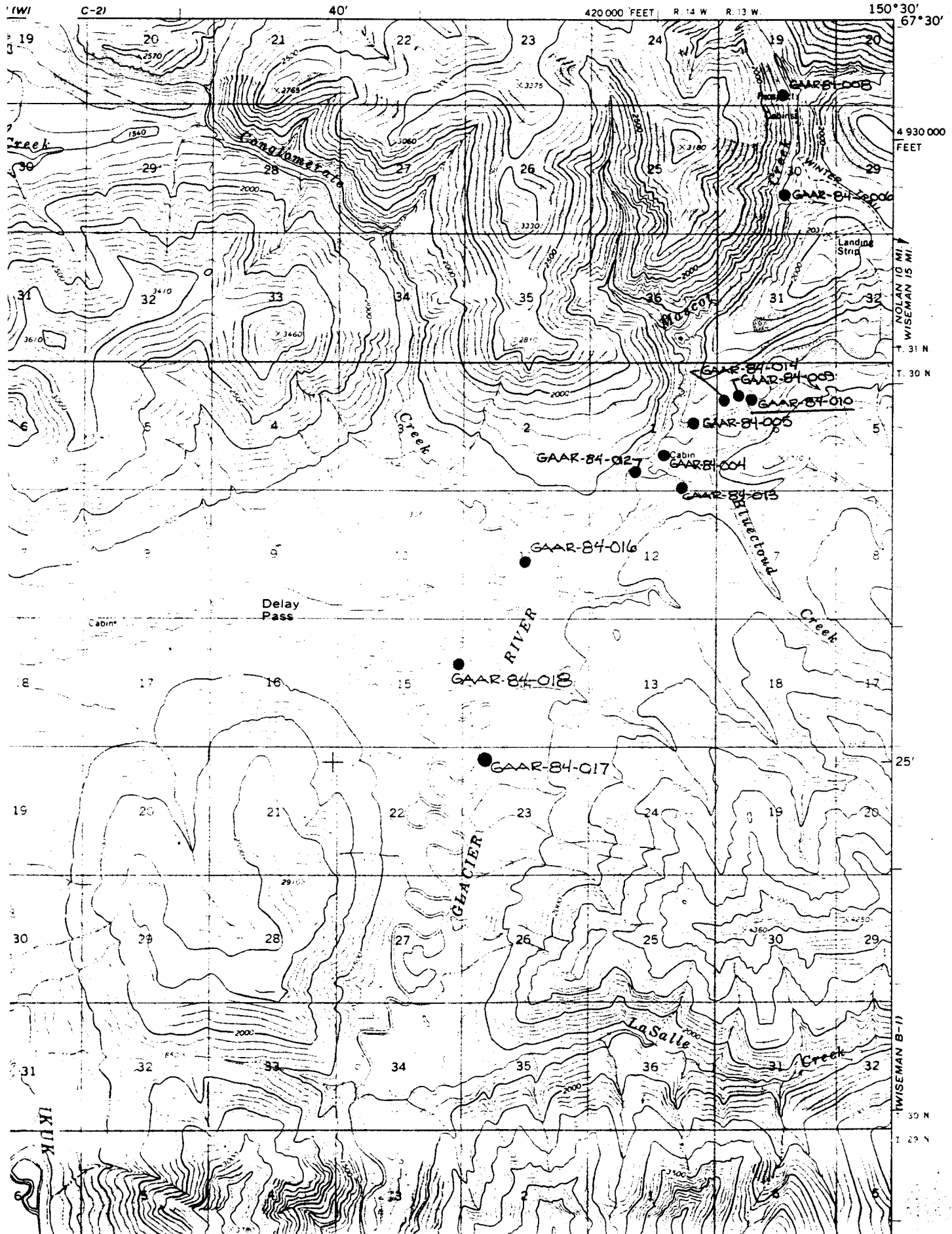
**GAAR-84-010**  
**DRIFT MINER'S CABIN**

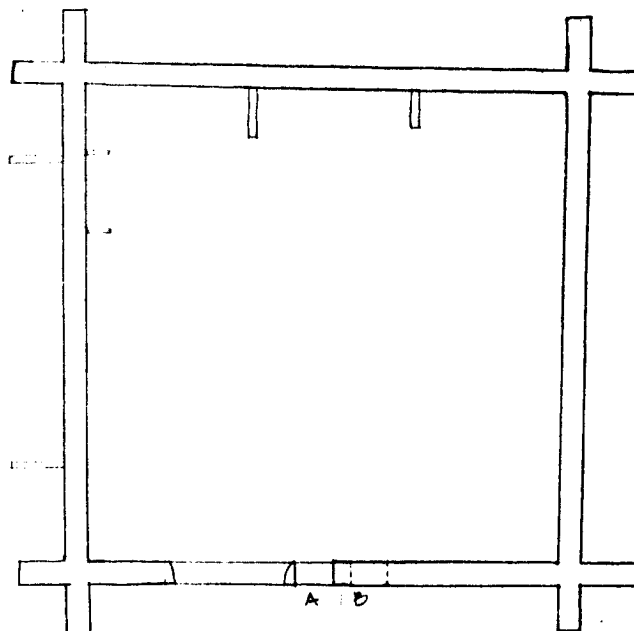
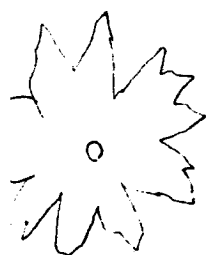
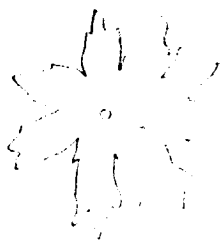
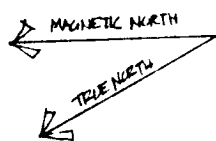


WISEMAN (B-2) QUADRANGLE  
ALASKA

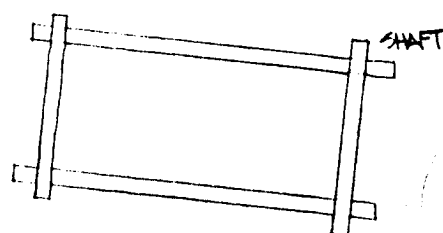
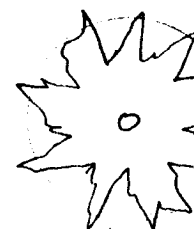
1:63 360 SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

(WISEMAN C-1)





CABIN



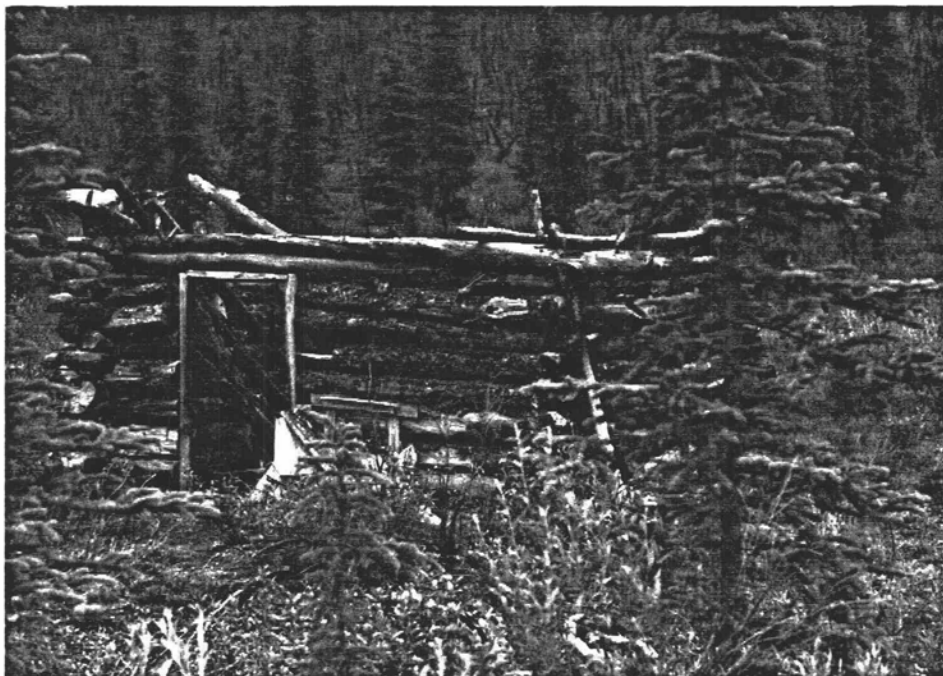
TAILINGS

GAAR-84-010; HABS AK-22

$\frac{1}{2}'' = 1'-0''$

A - 5-3/4" opening, 3'-3 and 3/4" above grade  
B - 5" opening, 1'-4" above grade

Drawn by Mark Schara, HABS



Drift Miner's Cabin (GAAR-84-010): west elevation.  
Jim Creech photo.

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.

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 Yale's 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 plane. 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 indeterminable. 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: Antenna 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 lie 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 randomly collected and disturbed. Over time, the valuable historic material found on the site will probably be removed by people visiting the site.

#### HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE:

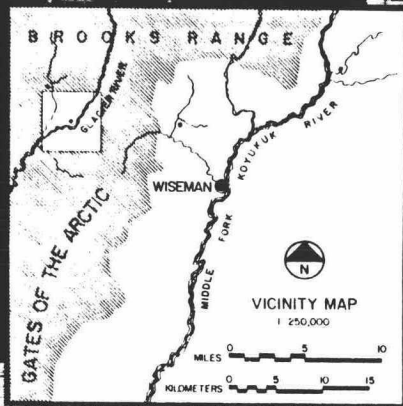
Charles Yale is reported to have built the larger of the two cabins and lived here for ten years in the first decades of the 1900s drift mining. In Reed's 1938 report he states that Yale in early days sank a shaft 168 feet at this location. Robert Marshall in his book mentions that the cabin belonged to Yale but had been abandoned for a number of years by the time he saw it at the end of the 1920s. 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 the smaller cabin was used 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.

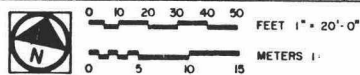
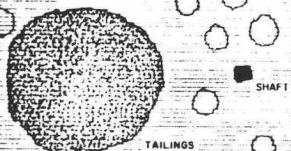
#### PREVIOUS SURVEYS:

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

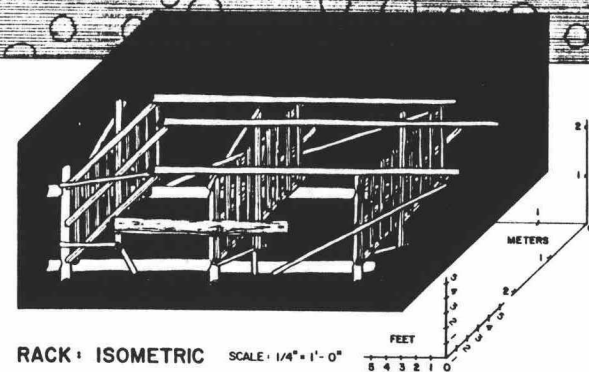
Note: The Yale Cabin stands on land recently conveyed to Doyon, Ltd. Because of the site's significance as a representative early mining site with a rich assortment of artifacts, its later communal use and maintenance as an overnight shelter on the Glacier River trail, and its association with many local historic figures and with Bob Marshall, the National Park Service prepared a National Register nomination for this site. The nomination has been transferred to Doyon, Ltd., with a recommendation that Doyon follow through on the nomination process. Recent discussions with Doyon officials indicate a willingness to pursue the nomination. The NPS has indicated that it would be willing to work out an agreement with Doyon to provide technical assistance for preservation of the Yale Cabin. The nomination is included in this study.

[illegible]

DOCUMENTATION OF SITES IN THE EASTERN SECTION OF GATES OF THE ARCTIC NATIONAL PARK AND BORDERING AREAS WAS UNDERTAKEN BY THE HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY / HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD (HABS/HAER), A DIVISION OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE. THE PROJECT WAS EXECUTED UNDER THE GENERAL DIRECTION OF ROBERT J KAPSCHE, CHIEF, HABS/HAER, AND ROGER CONTOR, ALASKA REGIONAL DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE. RECORDING WAS CARRIED OUT DURING THE SUMMER OF 1984 BY WILLIAM E. BROWN, PROJECT HISTORIAN; ALISON K. HOAGLAND, HISTORIAN; JAMES CREECH, RUSSELL SACKETT, AND MARK SCHARA, HISTORICAL ARCHITECTS; AND JET LOWE, PHOTOGRAPHER, WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE STAFF OF GATES OF THE ARCTIC NATIONAL PARK AND PRESERVE



CHARLES "CHARLIE" YALE CONSTRUCTED THIS LOG CABIN DURING THE FIRST DECADE OF THE 1900'S. YALE, A HERMIT PROSPECTOR, DUG A 168-FOOT SHAFT AND DRIFTED FROM IT IN THE DEEP CHANNEL OF THE GLACIER RIVER SINCE THE VALUES RECOVERED BY YALE WERE TOO LOW TO MAKE THE MINING PROFITABLE, HE ABANDONED THE CABIN, WHICH THEN BECAME A STOPOVER POINT FOR PEOPLE HEADING WEST OVER THE GLACIER PASS FROM NOLAN, 8 MILES EAST OF THE CABIN. STILL ON THE WINTER TRAIL, IT CONTINUES TO SERVE AS A SHELTER CABIN.



**RACK: ISOMETRIC**      **SCALE: 1/4" = 1' - 0"**

ON MICROFILM

$$185 \overline{) 25004}$$

1 of 2

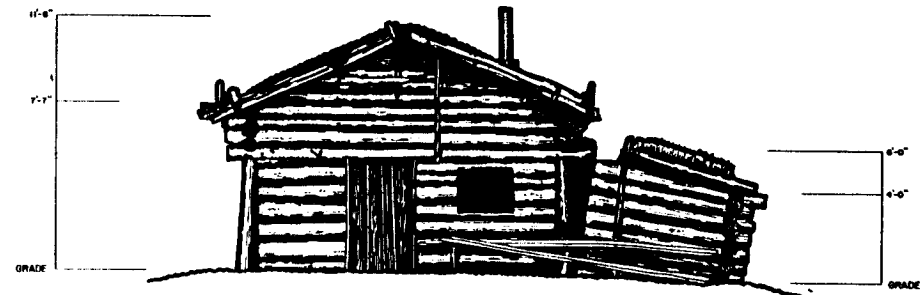
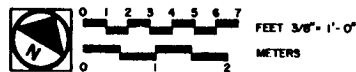
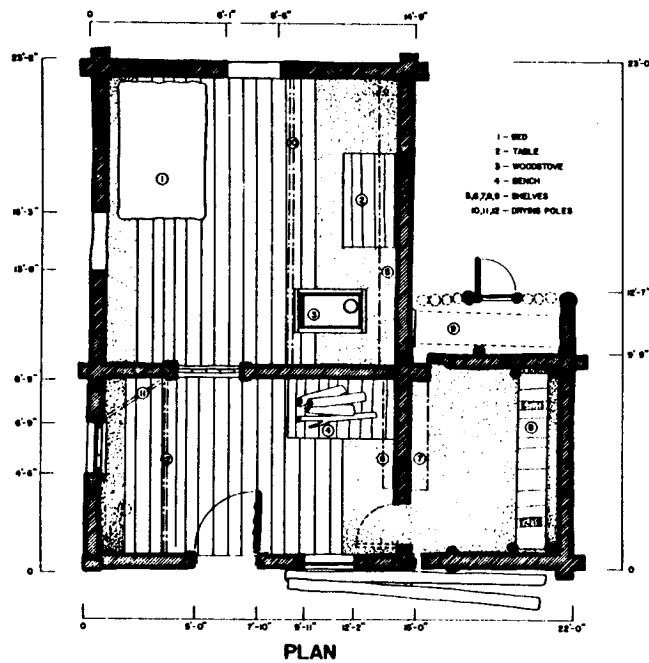
**MATERIAL NOTES:**

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 SOG/MOSS. ADDITIONAL LAYER OF FLATTENED BLAZO CANS ATTACHED TO POLES ADDED AT A LATER DATE.

SASH - MULLIONS AND GLASS MISSING, FIRWOOD, MANUFACTURED UNIT.



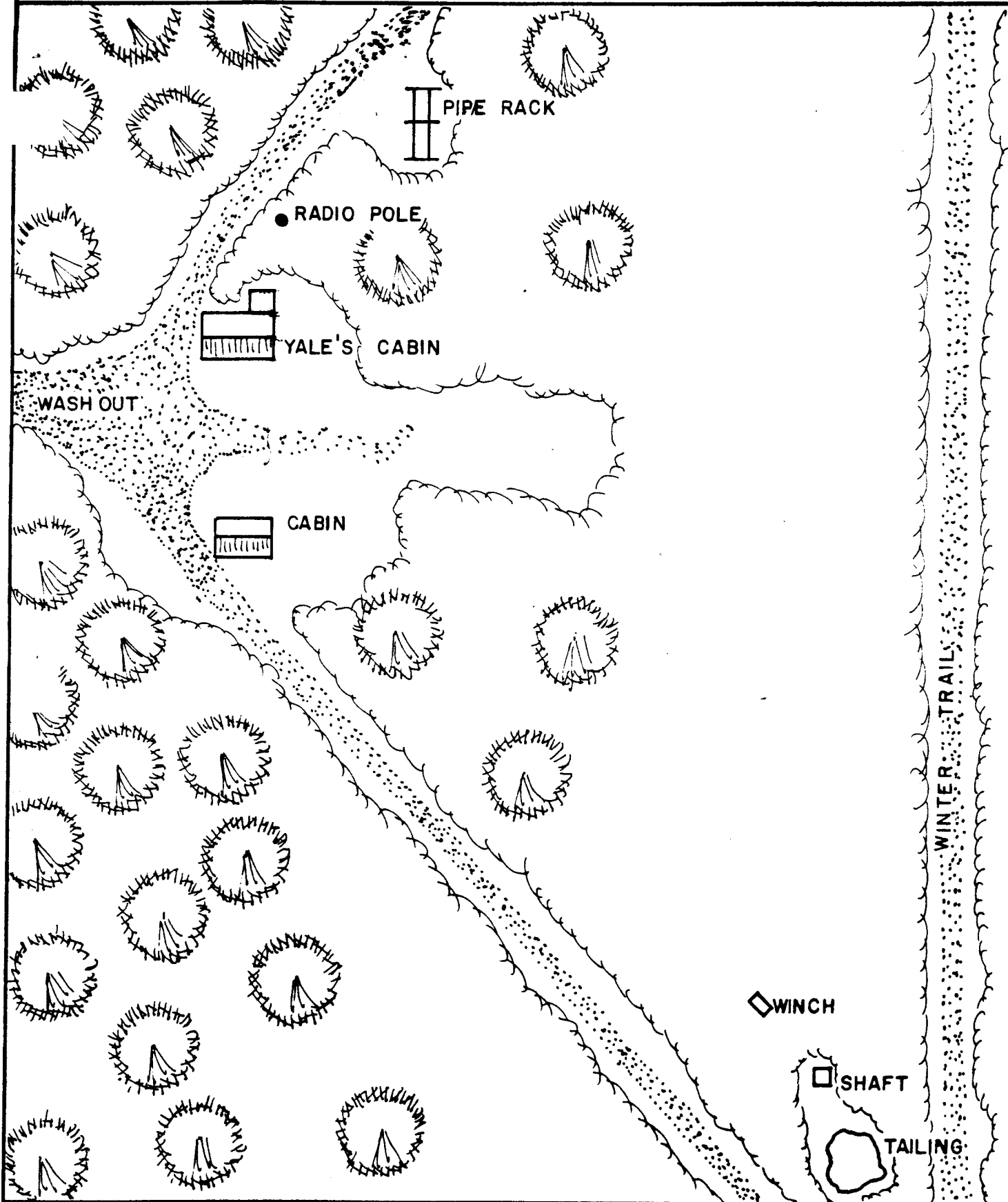
**SOUTH ELEVATION**



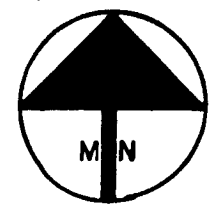
**WEST ELEVATION**

ON MICROFILM

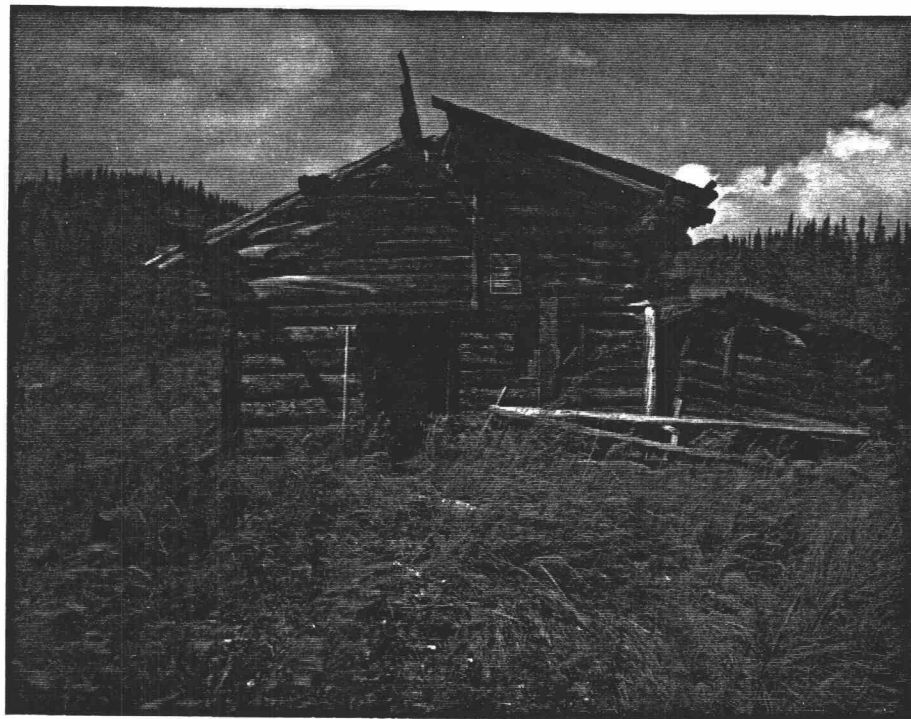
185/25004  
2 of 2



AR-84-OII  
NET MINER'S CABIN  
0 50 100  
FEET

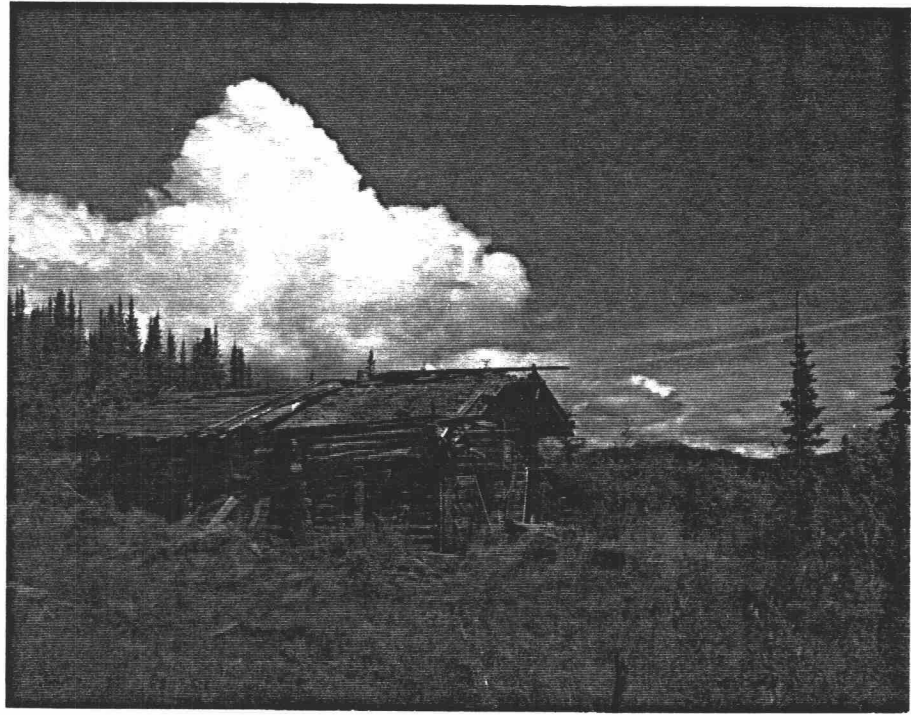




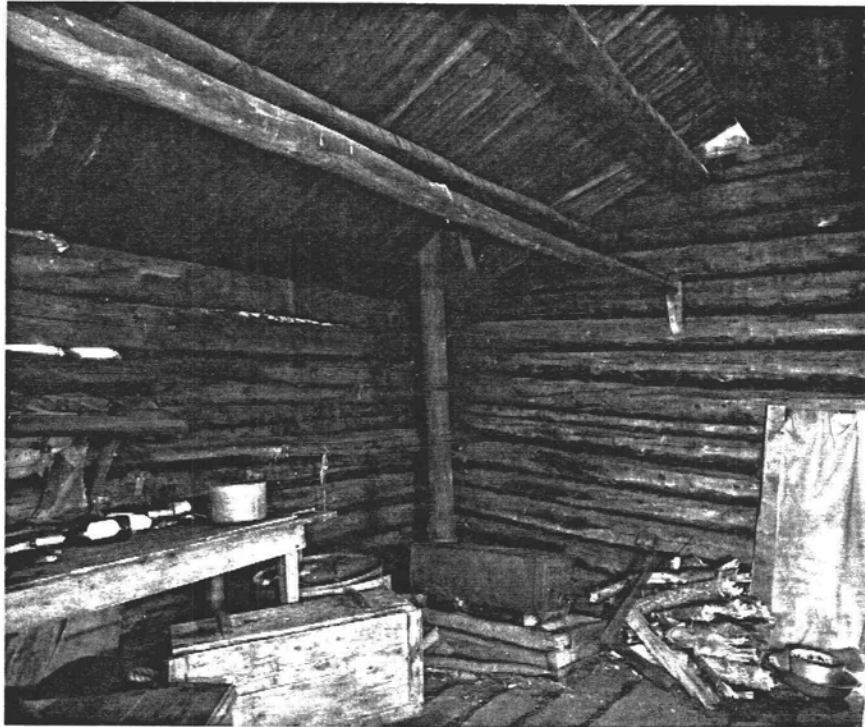


Charles Yale Cabin and Site (GAAR-84-011): front of cabin;  
rear of cabin showing site context and second cabin.  
Jet Lowe, HABS photos.





Yale Cabin: quartering view; detail of shed. Jet Lowe, HABS photos.



Yale site cabins: interior main cabin; second cabin.  
Jet Lowe, HABS photos.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**  
FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC CHARLES YALE CABIN SITE

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**STREET & NUMBER  
Glacier River

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Nolan

☒ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

000

STATE

Alaska

CODE

02

COUNTY

290

CODE

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: Shelter

**4 AGENCY**REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)  
Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve

STREET &amp; NUMBER

P.O. Box 7468, 209 1st Ave.

CITY, TOWN

Fairbanks

VICINITY OF

STATE

AK 99707

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Recorders Office, State of Alaska

STREET &amp; NUMBER

602 Barnette St.

CITY, TOWN

Fairbanks, AK 99701

STATE

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Historic American Building Survey

DATE

1984

☒ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN

Washington

STATE

District of Columbia

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

---

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Charles Yale Cabin Site is situated on the west bank of the Glacier River at the point where the Glacier Pass winter trail crosses the river, approximately eight miles west of the community of Nolan. This site is comprised of two cabins and a pipe rack placed on an old river terrace approximately three hundred feet west of the river. In addition to these three features, a drift mine shaft and its related tailings are associated with the site. The following is a description of the site's structures:

#### Yale's Cabin:

The cabin is constructed of unpeeled logs chinked with moss and has squared saddle notched corners. The cabin has a primary room with an arctic entrance 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 laid over the sod roof.

The primary room of the cabin measures 14' x 14'. Its north wall has a height of 6' and is composed of ten log courses. No openings exist in this elevation. The west elevation reaches a height of 9' at 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 partially broken out and now covered with plastic and canvas.

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

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

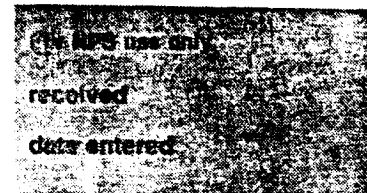
The interior of the primary room has a milled lumber floor. A homemade bed with mattress is found in the cabin's southwest corner, an old table in the northwest corner, a cast iron stove in the northeast corner, and various old and new wooden boxes are found throughout the cabin.

The arctic entry measures 8' x 14' extending 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

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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 gable peak is a 5" x 10" 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 an 8' x 6' shed which is pulling away from the cabin. Where the shed attaches to the cabin the walls stand 5' 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 its north wall. A large quantity of historic cans, bottles, and jars is scattered within the shed.

Cabin:

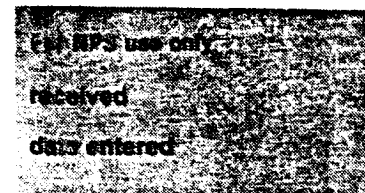
A smaller cabin is forty-seven feet south of Yale's cabin. This cabin measures 12' x 10'5" and has a 6' x 12' arctic entry on its side. The main room of the cabin is constructed of moss chinked unpeeled logs having squarish saddle notched corners. The entire structure is topped by a gabled roof supported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

The south and north elevations of the cabin stand 6'8" high, composed of eleven log courses. Neither wall has any openings. The cabin's west elevation reaches a height of 10' 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' out from the west elevation plane. 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 objects both modern and historic. Some of the objects have been thrown out of the structure's west window and form a pile.

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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 indeterminable. The gabled portion of the east wall is comprised of six log courses of unpeeled logs lain horizontally on top of the wall's vertical members. A homemade log debarker, a portion of a sled, and a Yukon stove are placed within the entry.

**Pipe Rack:**

The pipe rack is located approximately fifty feet northeast of Yale's cabin. 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 one inch diameter poles placed horizontally every foot. The three frames are held upright and spaced apart by two 5" diameter logs on grade and three 2 1/2" diameter poles at the top so the structure's length is 19' long. The function of the structure was probably to store steam pipe when not in use.

**Antenna Pole:**

A pole for a radio antenna, forty-five feet high, is placed about fifteen feet north of Yale's cabin.

**Drift Mine Shaft:**

A drift mine shaft is located approximately 250 feet southeast of the smaller cabin. This shaft is marked by a ten foot diameter depression with remnants of log cribbing, 5' x 5', in evidence.

**Tailing Pile:**

Southeast of the shaft is a tailing pile representing the over-burden removed from the shaft. The pile is approximately 35 feet in diameter and ten feet high.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES c. 1900

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Charles Yale

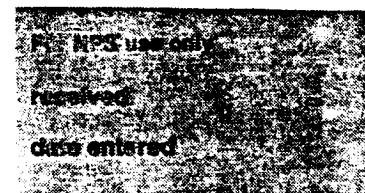
## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

### YALE CABIN:

The Charles Yale cabin and drift mining site dates from the first quarter of the twentieth century. Its early history is related to mining, but the cabin's significance is its role in the communication network and its representation of the wilderness life-style of the region. The wilderness life-style is characterized by the cooperation of individuals to assist each other and to protect valuable resources. Yale's cabin became important as a stop-over shelter on the Glacier River trail. Its location provided necessary shelter to travelers in transit between the supply center of Nolan and the back-country mining and hunting camps. In winter, when travelling is easiest over frozen grounds and streams, Yale's cabin was used frequently making it vital to the area's communication network. Many prominent persons, of local and regional significance overnighted at the cabin. The cabin has been well-maintained as the communal life-style so dictates. There are few remaining buildings of this nature in the region.

Charles Yale built his cabin during Alaska's historic mining period. Seeking gold, Yale drifted a shaft near the cabin. According to Robert Marshall, Charlie Yale ". . . an old hermit prospector had lived alone in this cabin, eight miles over the hill from his nearest neighbor on Nolan Creek. For ten winters, every night his lonely light shone out on the snow with never a soul around to see it. I have camped more than a hundred miles from the nearest person, but this never seemed to me to be half so lonely as this cabin, where a human being sacrificed ten years of social intercourse for the sake of a fortune he never attained."<sup>1</sup> Irving McK. Reed writing in a 1938 report for the Territorial Department of mines noted the work that had been done at the mine site: ". . . About 400 ft. downstream from the . . . cabin, on the right limit, at an elevation of 1335 ft., a shaft was sunk in early days by Charles Yehle (sic), 168 ft. to bedrock in the deep channel. Some drifting was done in this shaft and an attempt made to mine it. However, the values were too low to make mining profitable. About 1/2 mile above this shaft, A. P. Ness sank three shafts in early days to bedrock on the deep channel. The deepest of these 258 ft. . . . No ground on the Seattle (sic) River, except at the Yehle shaft showed enough values to warrant further prospecting . . . even at the present price of gold."<sup>2</sup>

Yale's construction and use of the building represents prospecting and mining in the region. Its subsequent use as a shelter and way-station

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illustrates wilderness lifestyle. Communal upkeep has preserved the building, and assured its importance as a link in the communication and transportation network from Nolan to the outback camps of the North Fork country and Wild River. References tie the Yale Cabin into the travel and transportation network that linked North Fork drainage mining sites, particularly Mascot Creek and Wild Lake Farther west, with the Middle Fork-Wiseman supply center.<sup>3</sup> Reed, in his Territorial mines report stated that the Wiseman Pass-Seattle (Glacier) River route provided a feasible winter tractor route to the mines on Mascot Creek, a Glacier River tributary two miles west of the Yale cabin. Reed explained that ". . . About 500 feet from the trail crossing on the right limit of the (Glacier) river, at an elevation of 1355 ft., a large cabin was built by the miners in early days. This cabin is now used as a rest cabin for people travelling through the country to Mascot Creek and beyond . . ." <sup>4</sup> And, Wiseman old-timer, Harry Leonard, said that Vincent Knorr, a local figure in mining-trapping, and hunting, used the cabin after its abandonment by Yale.<sup>5</sup>

The Yale cabin provides an accessible in-park display of mining and communication in the region. The attempt at mining proved less than adequate, but its significance as a communication link is well-established. The cabin's continual use and communal upkeep, after Yale, illustrates wilderness life-style and cooperation. Throughout its existence the cabin has been used by local personages such as hunter-trappers Ernie Johnson and Vincent Knorr. Ernie Johnson is significant as a trapper, and was one of the earliest non-natives to enter the North Fork area. Vincent Knorr was a well-known miner who did his work in the 1930'. Regional and national personages also found need to use the cabin. Author Robert Marshall and U.S. Geological Survey parties overnighted on several occasions at the site.

The cabins connection on the communication network, its use by significant persons, and its continual upkeep makes it a site unique in Gates of the Arctic National Park.

FOOTNOTES

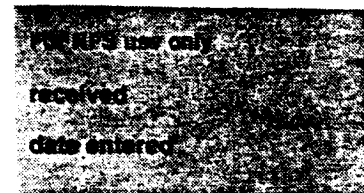
<sup>1</sup>Marshall, 1970, p.8.

<sup>2</sup>Reed, 1938, pp. 80,81. Early Wiseman store records also use the "Yehle" spelling. "Yale" spelling may be an anglicization of 'Yehle.' Yale is used here as the locally accepted place name (Walter Johnson, Wiseman Store Records. Loaned to Historian William Brown).

<sup>3</sup>Maddren, 1913, pp. 108, 109; personal communications from Charles Breck and Walter Johnson, Summer 1984; Saunders, 1955, p. 2.

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Item number 8

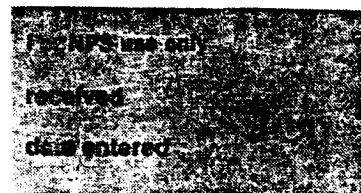
Page 3

<sup>4</sup>Reed, pp.80, 81.

<sup>5</sup>Harry Leonard. Personal communication. July 20, 1984.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

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Continuation sheet

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Page

Bibliography:

Maddren, A. G. The Koyukuk-Chandalar Region, Alaska. USGS Bulletin 532.  
Washington: GPO, 1913.

Marshall, Robert. Alaska Wilderness. Berkeley: University of California Press,  
1970.

Reed, Irving McK. Upper Koyukuk Region, Alaska. Dept. of Mines, Territory of  
Alaska, typescript report, 1938.

Saunders, Robert H. Koyukuk District. Dept. of Mines, Territory of Alaska,  
typescript report, 1955.



## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See Continuation Sheet, Item 9.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 5.5 Acres

UTM REFERENCES

A 0 5 6 1 5 0 0 0 7 4 8 6 5 0  
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B                              
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C                            

D                            

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at a point 240 feet northeast of Yale's Cabin's northeast corner, thence 60 feet due west, thence 110 feet southwest, thence 70 feet southeast, thence 40 feet southeast, thence northeast 210 feet back to the point of beginning encompassing all historic resources.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

## FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE John W. Jenkins, Historian,

William E. Brown, Historian and Russell Sackett, Architect

ORGANIZATION

National Park Service, Alaska Regional Office

DATE

8/15/85

STREET & NUMBER

2525 Gambell Street

TELEPHONE

907/261-2622

CITY OR TOWN

Anchorage

STATE

Alaska 99503

## 12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES\_\_\_ NO\_\_\_ NONE\_\_\_

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is \_\_\_ National \_\_\_ State \_\_\_ Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
EST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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 comprise 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 mark 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.

#### 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:

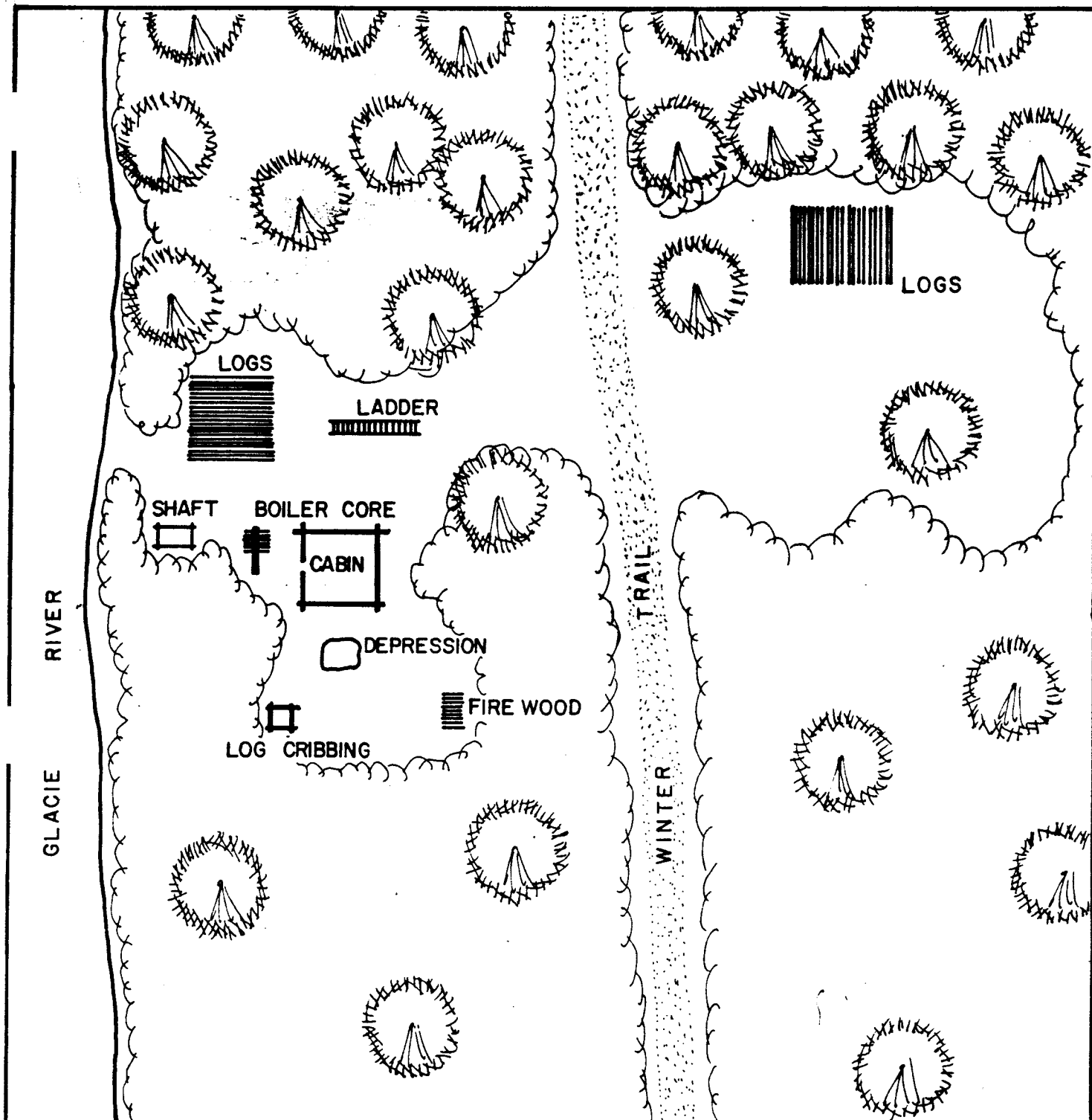
These remains represent a typical drift mining operation which occurred during the early decades of the twentieth century in the upper Koyukuk region. Because of low yield, the Glacier River area was abandoned early in the years of mining activities. Parts and equipment were removed for re-use elsewhere, 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:

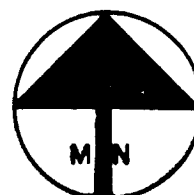
The site was previously surveyed and briefly described by Susan Steinacker for the National Park Service, September 17, 1981. See Cabin Inventory No. HC-05.

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



GAAR-84-012

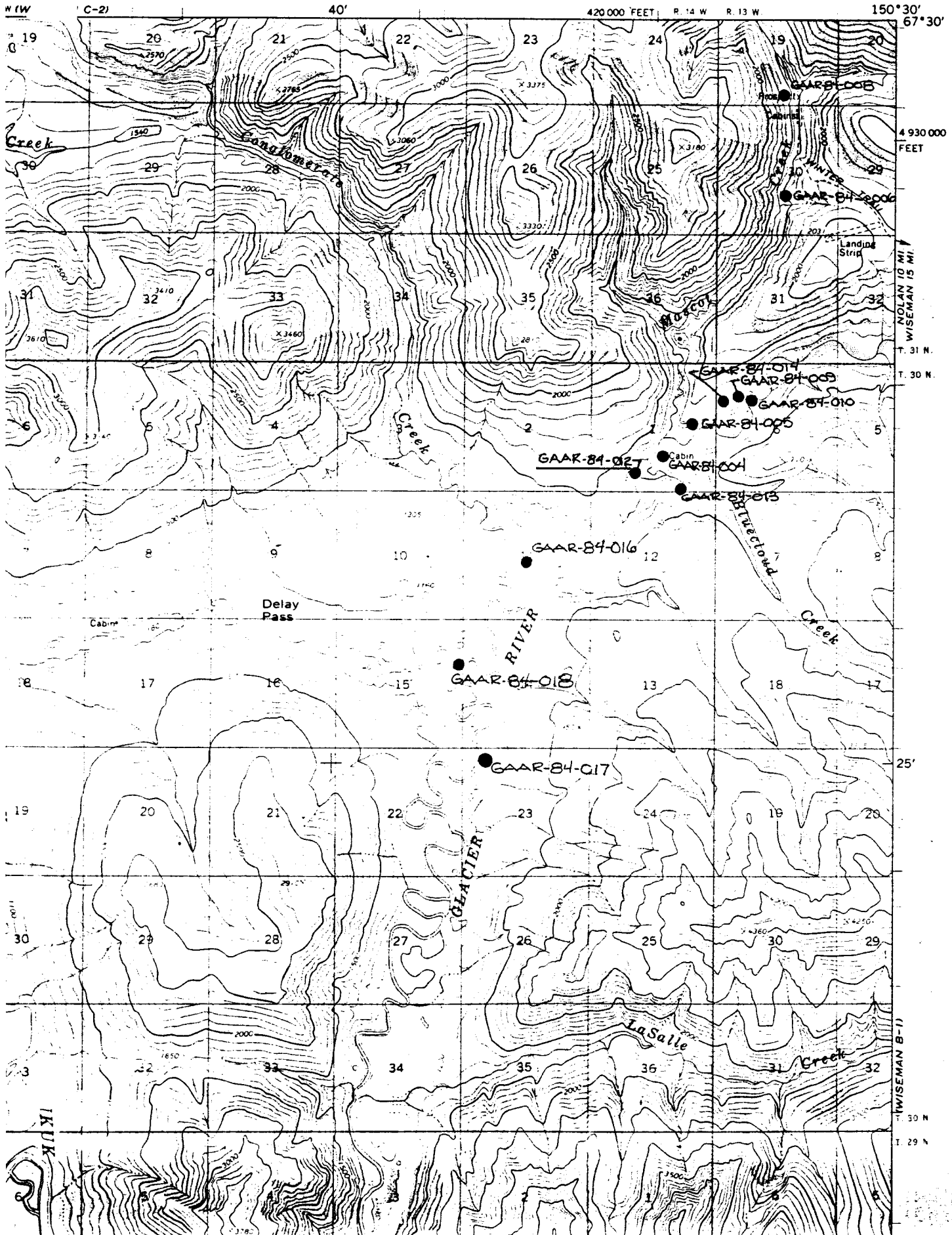
DRIFT MINER'S CABIN

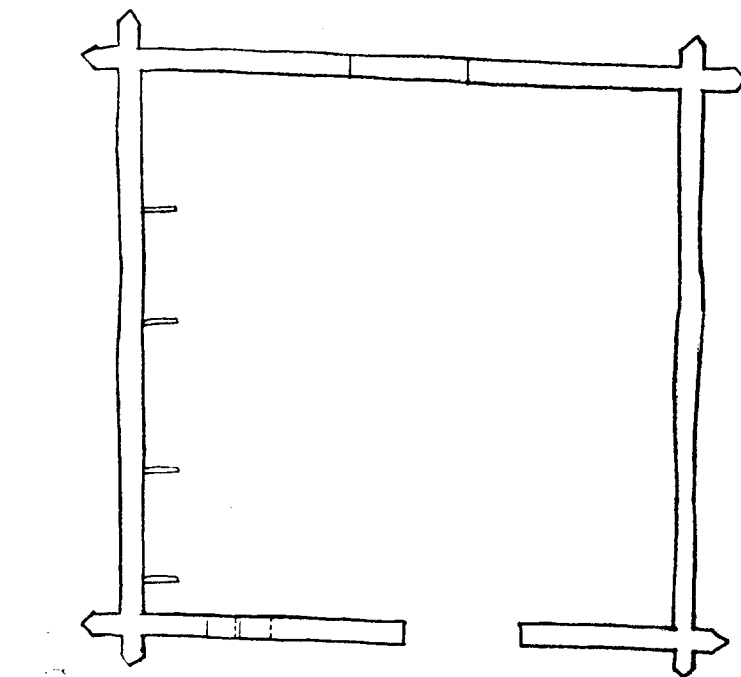


WISEMAN (B-2) QUADRANGLE  
ALASKA

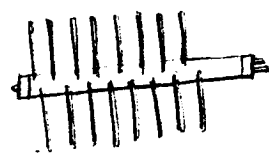
1:63 360 SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

WISEMAN C-11

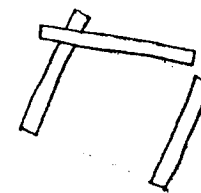
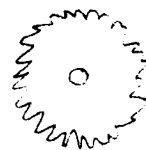




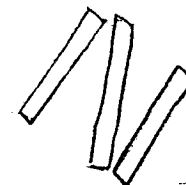
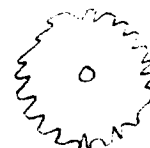
CABIN



BOILER REMAINS



COLLAPSED STRUCTURE



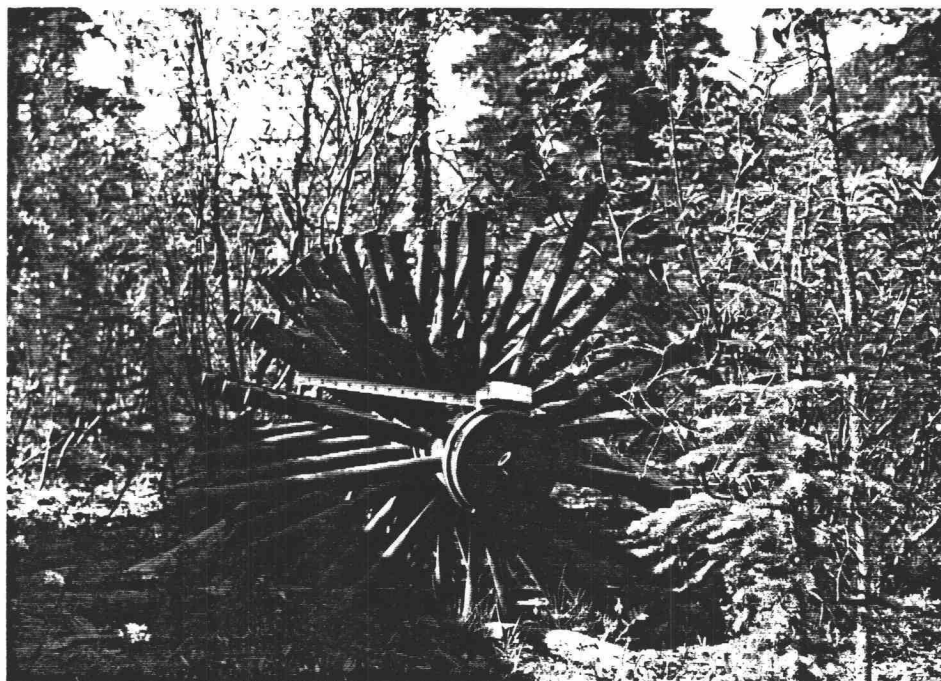
COLLAPSED STRUCTURE



GAAR-84-012; HABS AK-22

$\frac{1}{4}'' = 1'-0''$

Drawn by Jim Creech, HABS



Drift Miner's Cabin (GAAR-84-012): cabin remains; boiler core.  
Jim Creech photos.



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

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 debris 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.

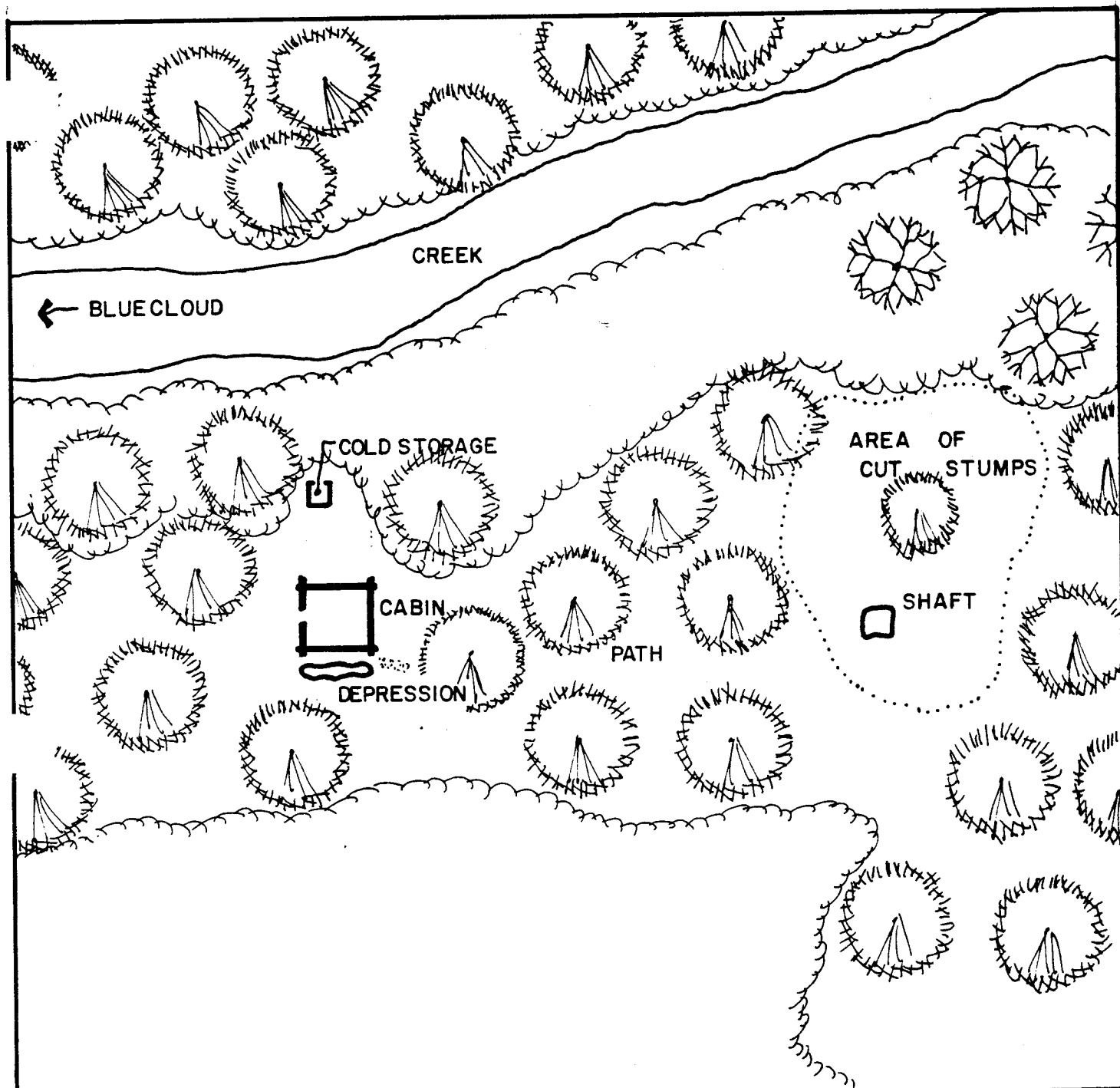
In addition to the features is a large quantity of food cans scattered in front (west side) of the cabin. Among these was found a 'hole-in-top' can. This type of can became prevalent in the food canning industry in the 1860s and was not completely replaced by modern type cans until 1922 although the 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.

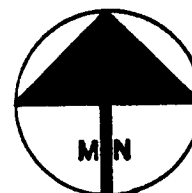
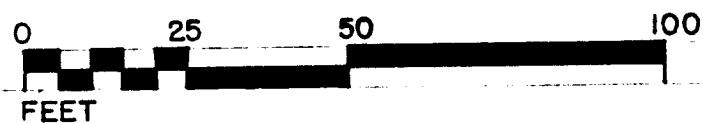
#### PREVIOUS SURVEY:

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



GAAR-84-013

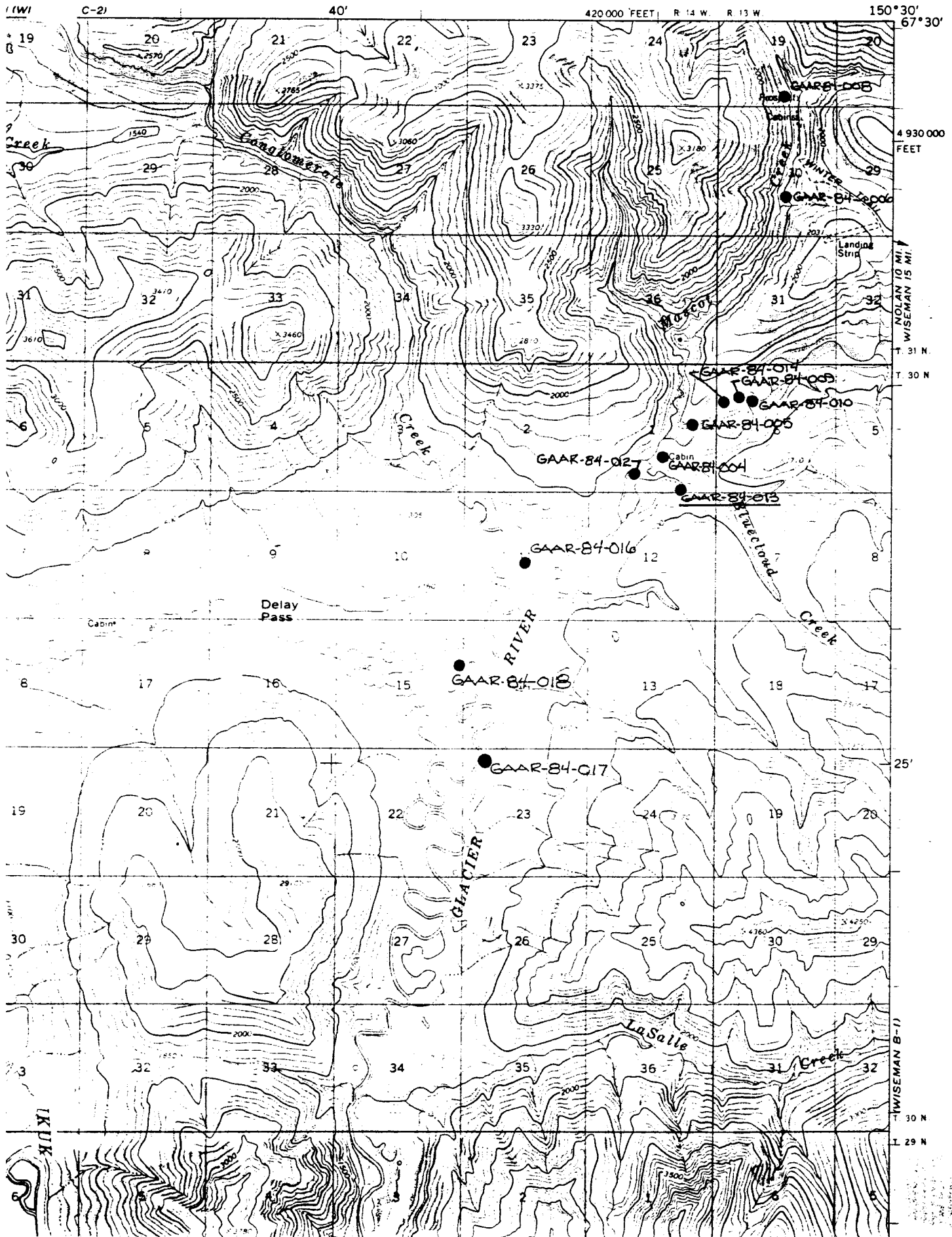
DRIFT MINER'S CABIN

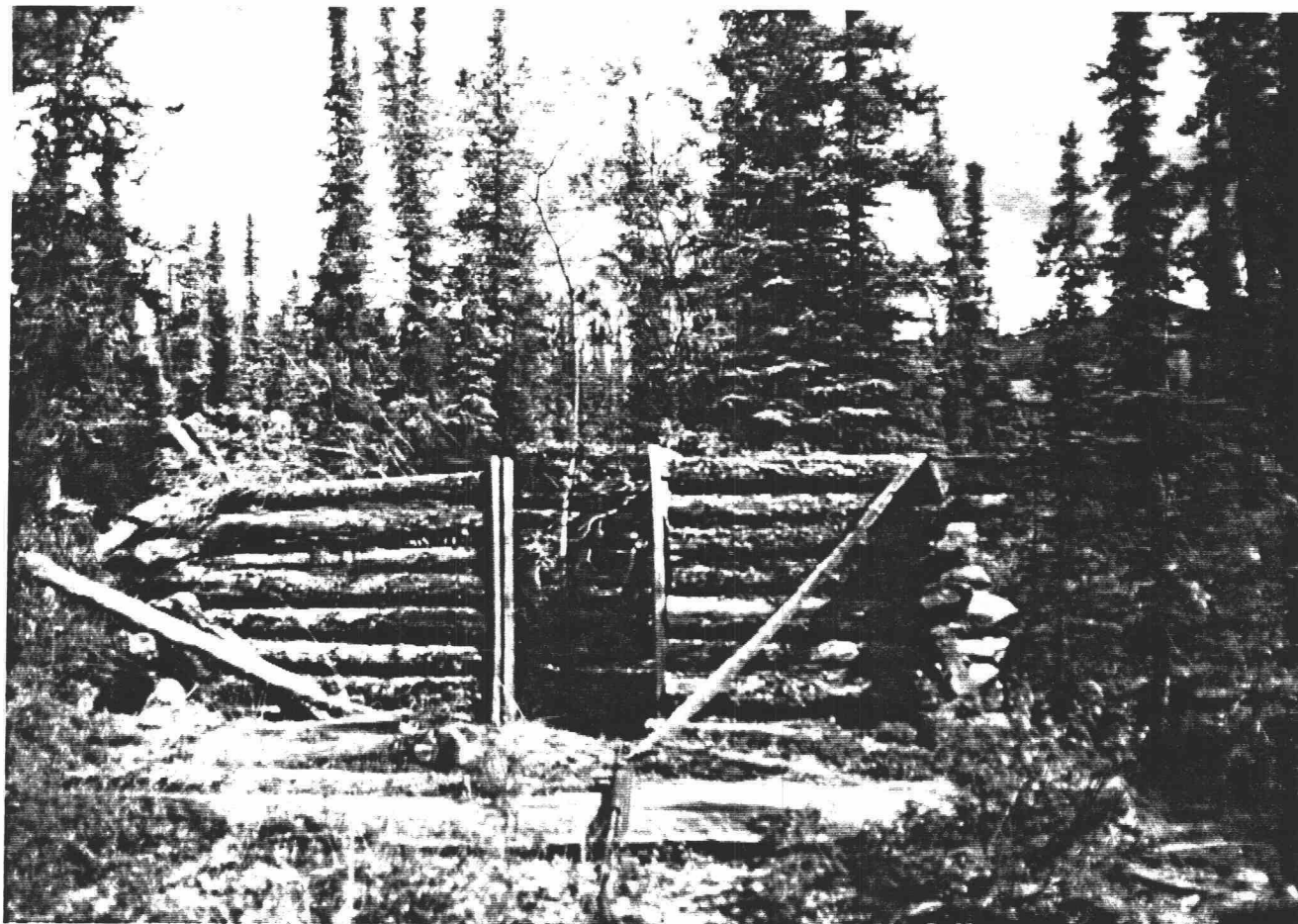


WISEMAN (B-2) QUADRANGLE  
ALASKA

1:63 360 SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

WISEMAN C-11





Drift Miner's Cabin on Bluecloud Creek (GAAR-84-013).  
Russ Sackett photo.

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

SITE DESCRIPTION:

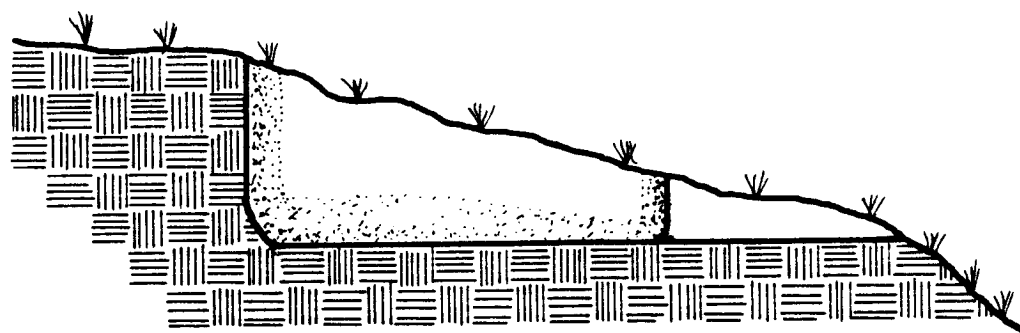
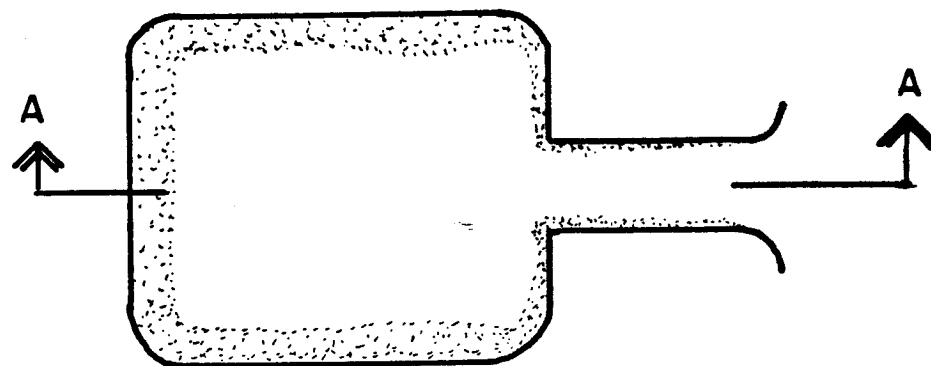
This site is located on the edge of a slope overlooking the west bank of the Glacier River approximately 3/5 of a mile north of Mascot Creek. It is approximately 400 feet southwest of the GAAR-84-009 site.

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.

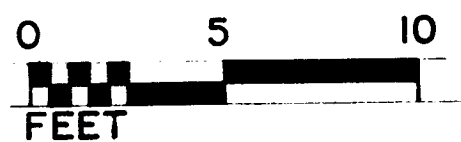
HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE: Unknown

PREVIOUS SURVEY: None



SECTION A-A

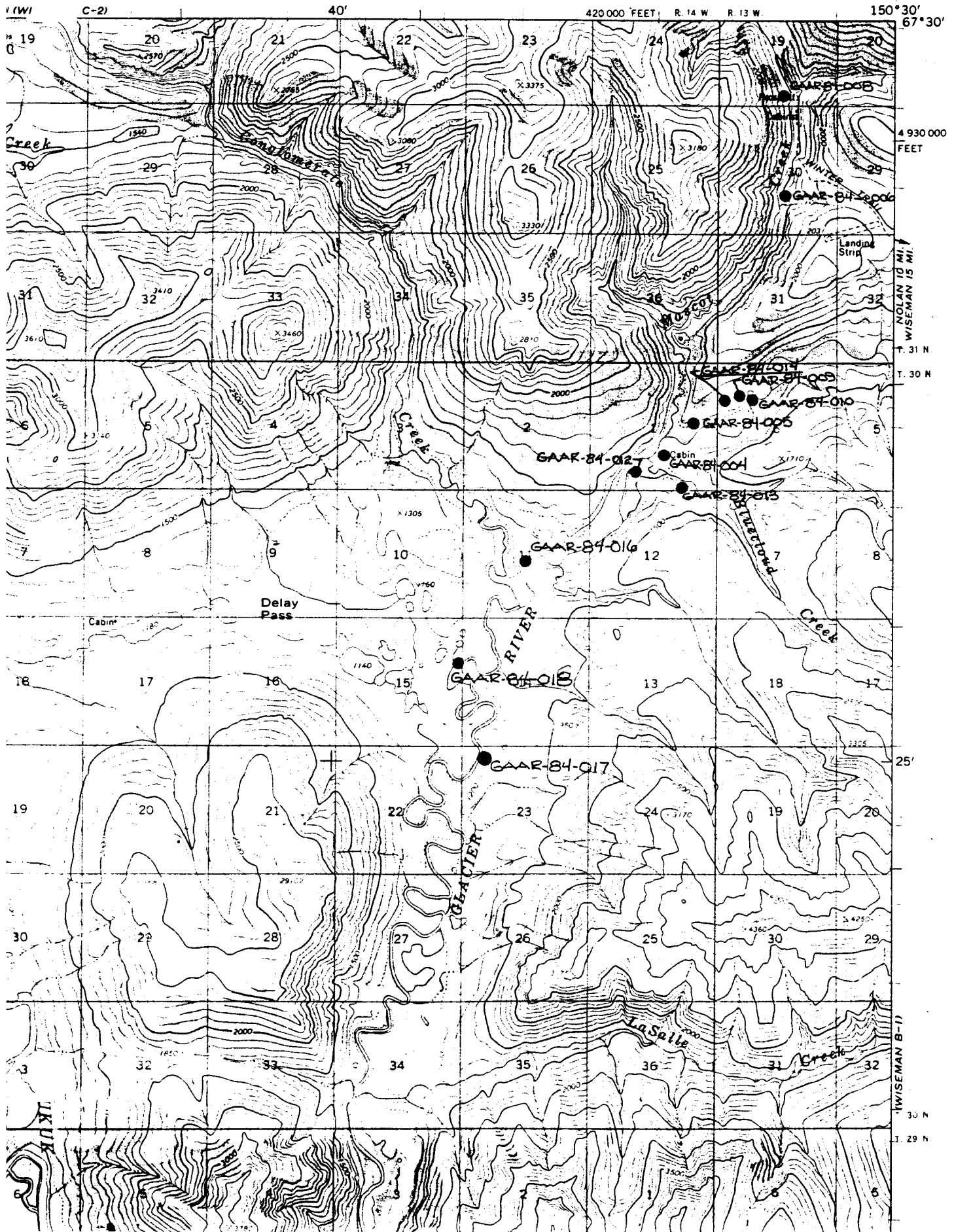
GAAR-84-014  
DEPRESSION



WISEMAN (B-2) QUADRANGLE  
ALASKA

1:63 360 SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

WISEMAN C-11





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.

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.

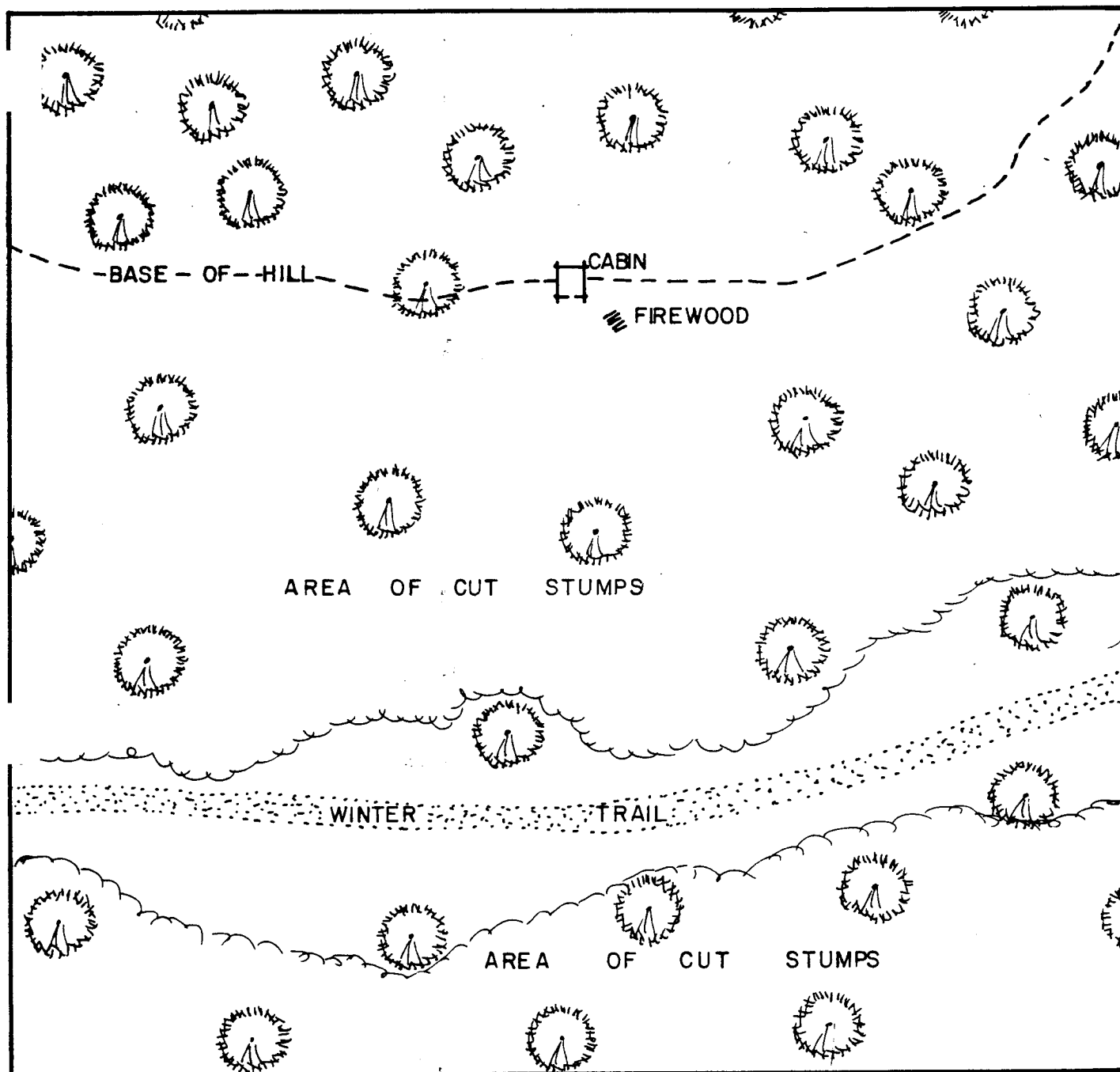
The interior of the cabin is filled with remains of the collapsed roof. Visible through the debris, along the north wall is the remains of a pole bed in the northeast corner, a wooden table along the west wall, a wooden blazo box in the southeast corner used for shelving, a Yukon stove (out of place) 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:**

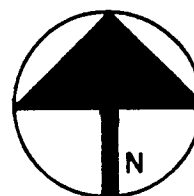
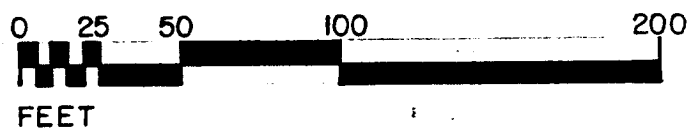
This cabin is the only one found during the survey that is associated with a woodchopper. As such, it has significance in its type and for the activities/services it provided in support of the mining operations in Nolan during the early decades of the 1900s. Archeologically, the site has the potential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

**PREVIOUS SURVEYS:** None



GAAR-84-015

WOODCHOPPER'S CABIN







Woodchopper's Cabin, Glacier River (GAAR-84-015). Russ  
Sackett photo.

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  
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.

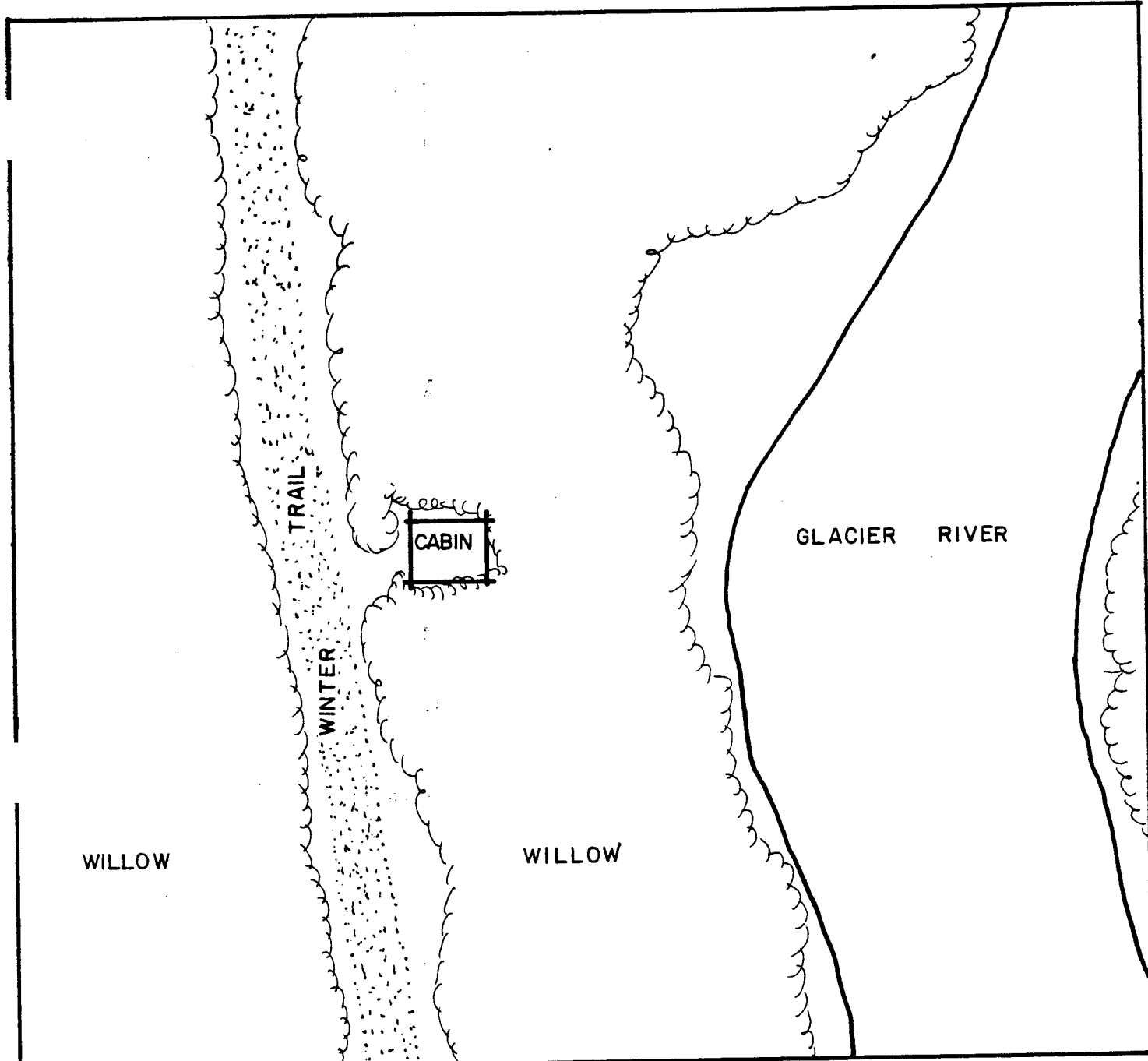
The site is composed of a totally ruined cabin that measures 12'3" x 15'. The walls that remain stand 3 feet high and are composed of eight courses of small diameter unpeeled logs with saddle notched corners. There are not enough remains to determine what type of roof or what openings that cabin may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

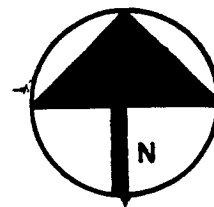
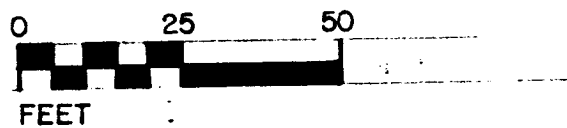
Site is on the southern fringe of mining activities for the region.

PREVIOUS SURVEYS: None



GAAR-84-016

CABIN REMAINS

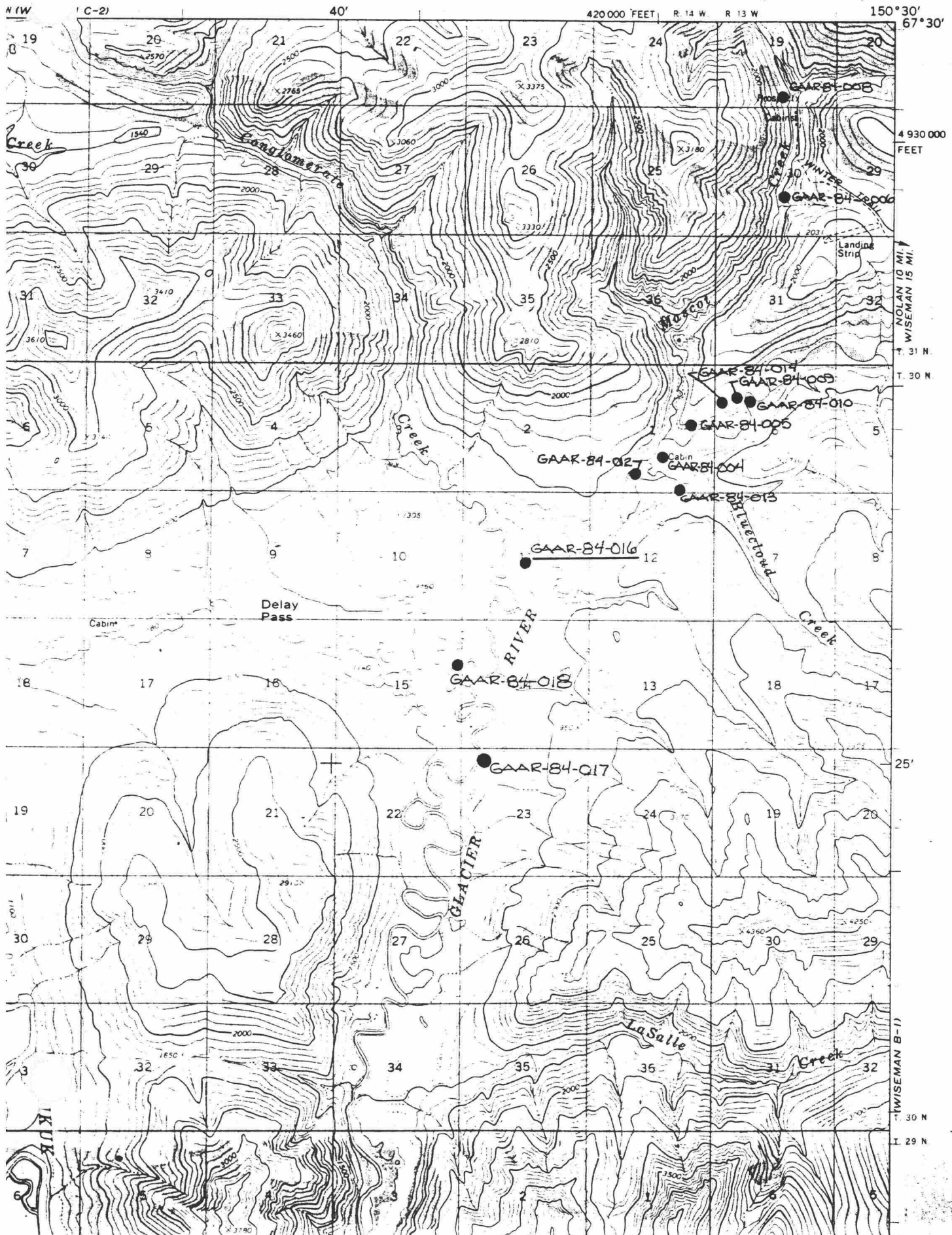




WISEMAN (B-2) QUADRANGLE  
ALASKA

1:63 360 SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

WISEMAN C-1)







Cabin remains, Glacier River (GAAR-84-016). Russ Sackett photo.

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 1970s. 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 is 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, for use as a sheep hunting cabin.

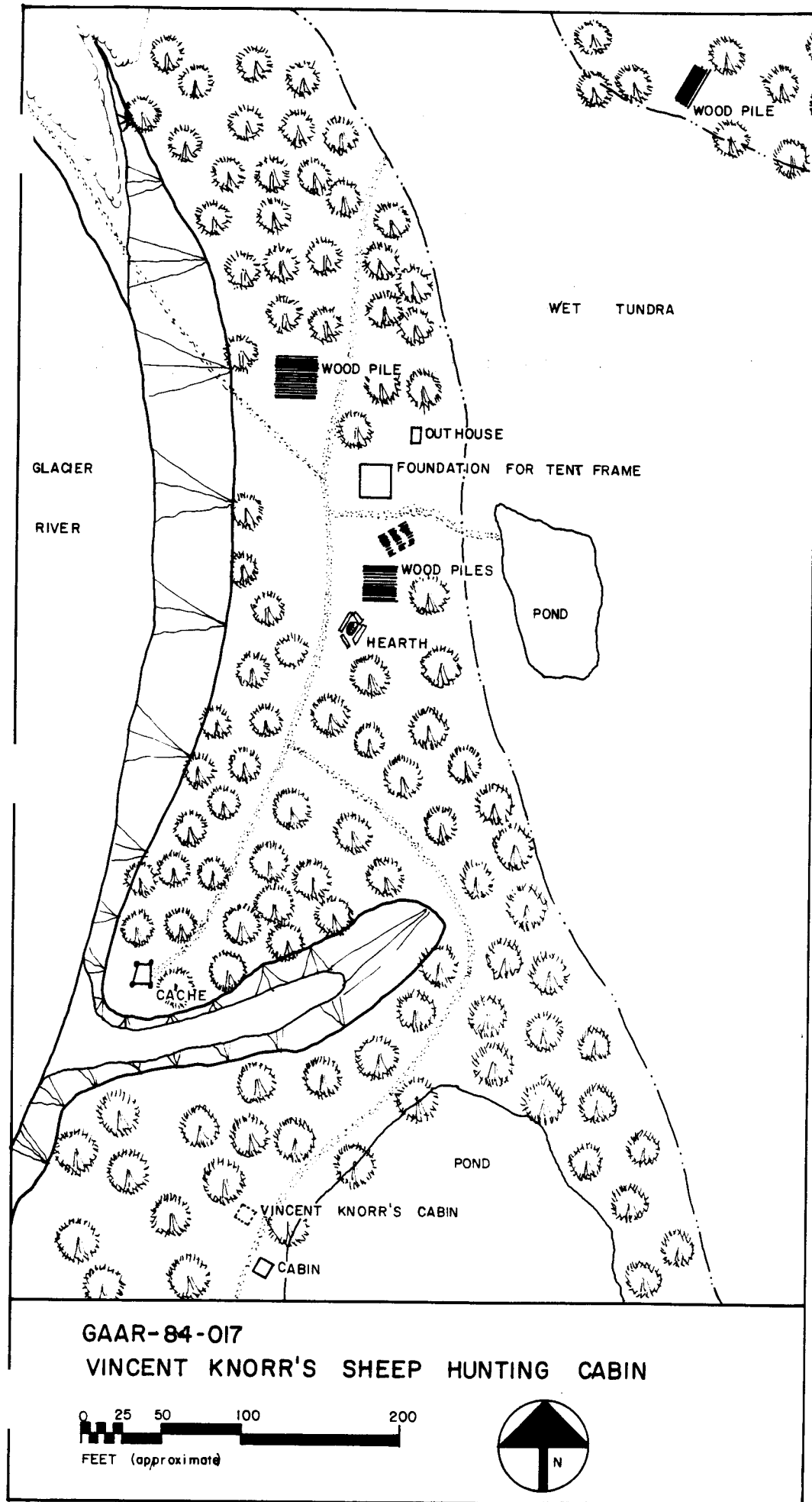
Approximately 25 feet southeast of the cabin remains, is a standing cabin that measures 8' x 9'-4". This cabin has been constructed within the last 25 years and is not historic. Across the top of the door is written in pencil "1964, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1974, Property of Ross Henry, Wiseman, AK 99726."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

#### HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE:

The remnant 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.

#### PREVIOUS SURVEY:

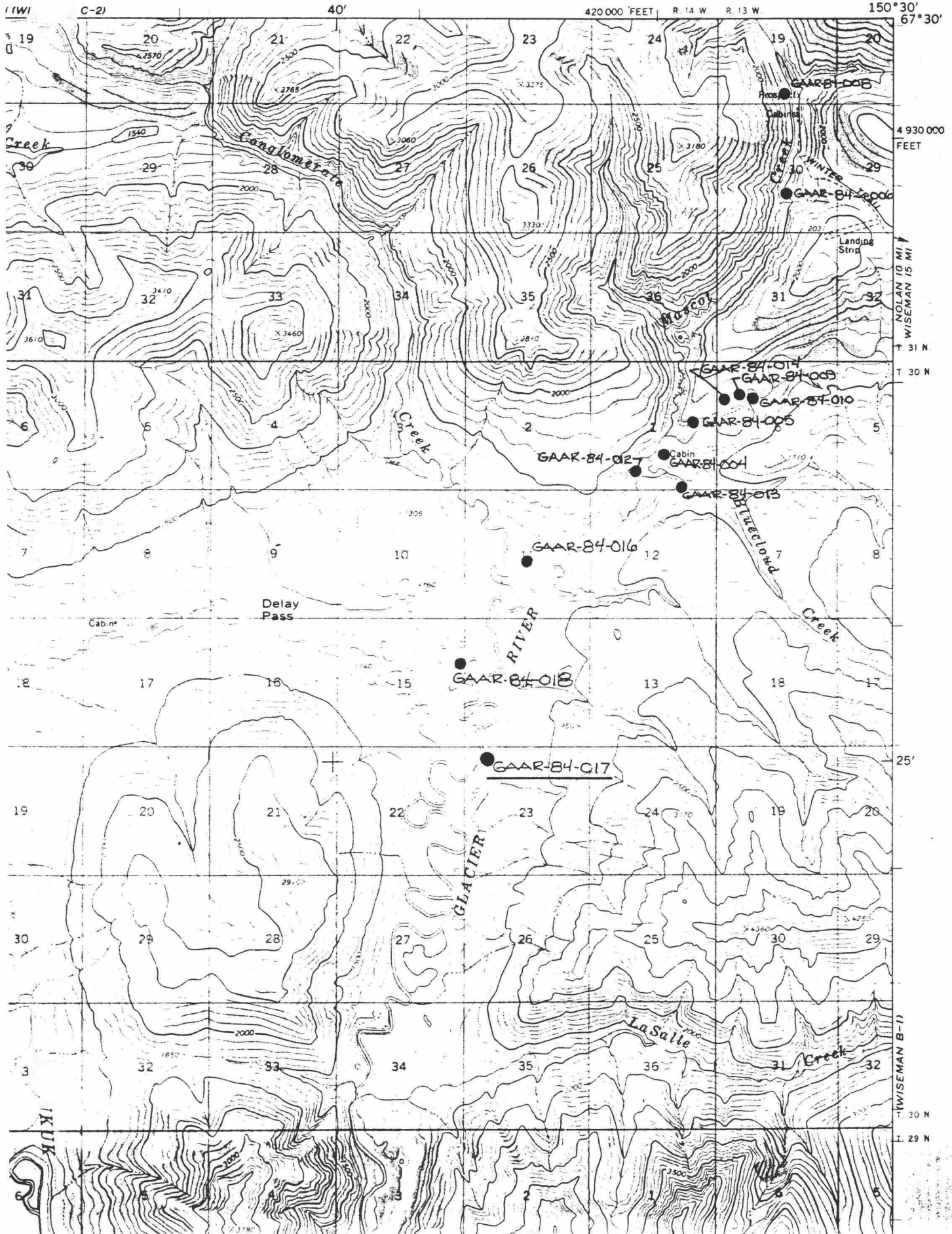
The site was previously surveyed by Susan Steinacker, Seasonal Ranger, in 1981. Her brief description is on file at Gates of the Arctic Fairbanks Office under Cabin Inventory No. PS-03.



WISEMAN (B-2) QUADRANGLE  
ALASKA

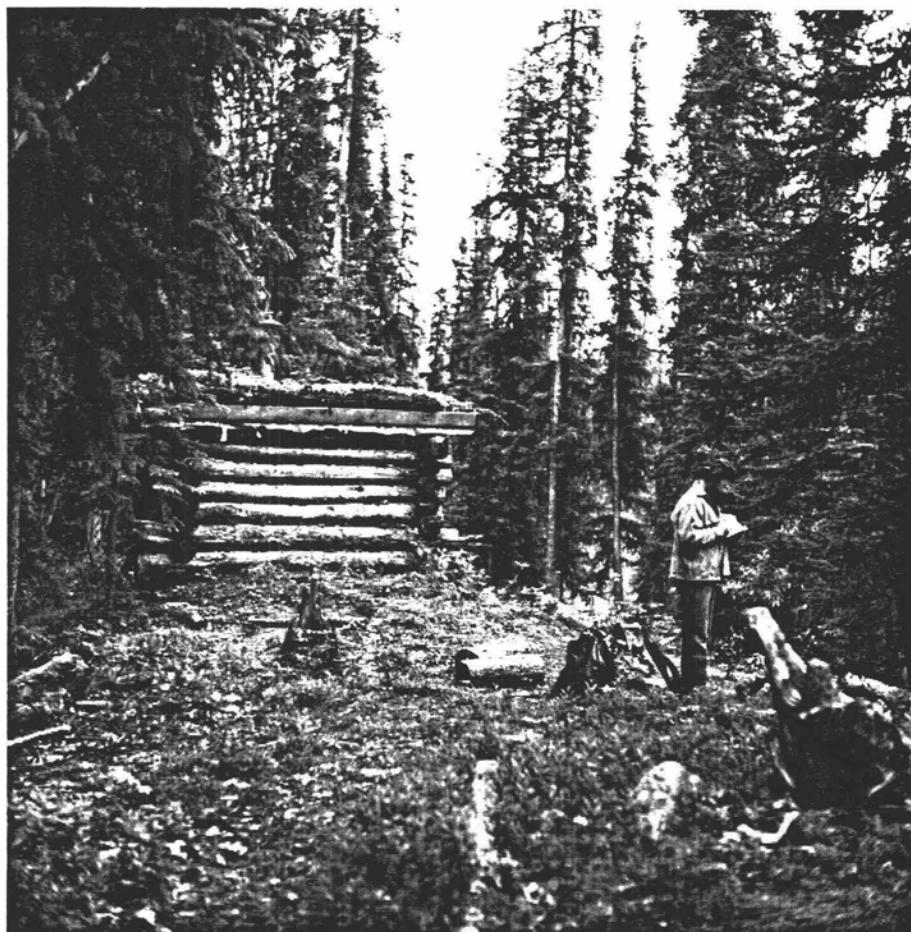
1:63 360 SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

(WISEMAN C-1)





GAAR-84-017 showing ruins of Vince Knorr's cabin. W. Brown photo.



Vince Knorr hunting cabin and modern sheep hunting camp (GAAR-84-017), with Russ Sackett recording Knorr's collapsed cabin, and modern cabin in background. W. Brown photo.





GAAR-84-017, general view of modern campsite. W. Brown photo.





GAAR-84-017 showing platform and tent-frame cache; note sheet metal around posts to foil climbing varmints. W. Brown photo.

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 consists 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 nearby) had once been located towards the southeast corner of the south wall.

A log storage shed 3' x "" extends out from the south wall at its west end. This shed remains standing only 2'6" high. The roof of the structure is completely gone and there is little indication of what type of roof the cabin may have had. Some remains, however, indicated that it probably had rip-sawn board covering.

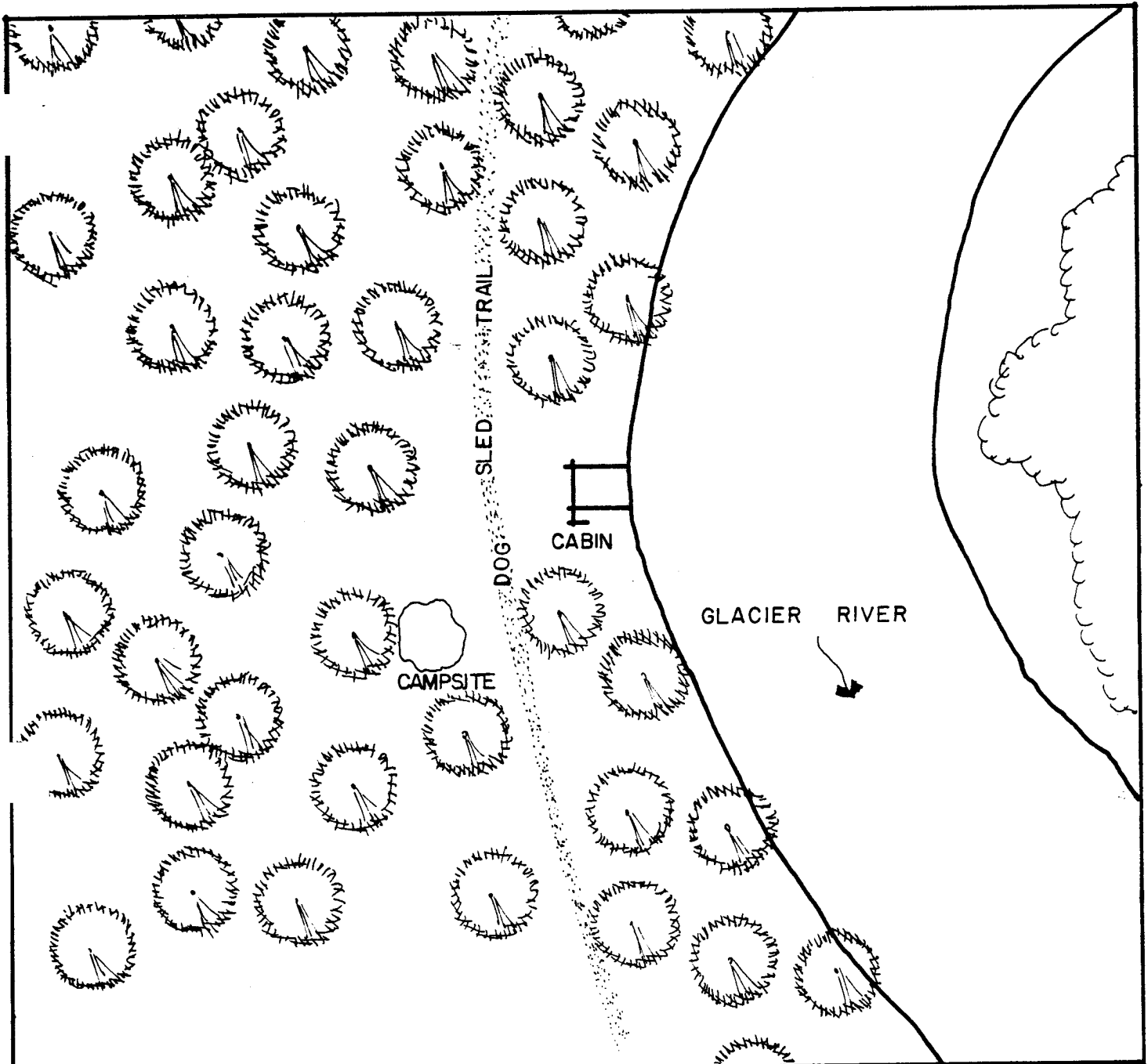
The interior of the cabin is clean of artifactual material, containing only debris of the collapsed cabin.

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.

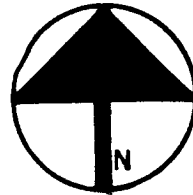
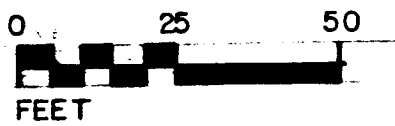
The site represents a specific use, that of trapping, of the region. This site will be claimed by the river in the near future.

PREVIOUS SURVEY: None



GAAR-84-018

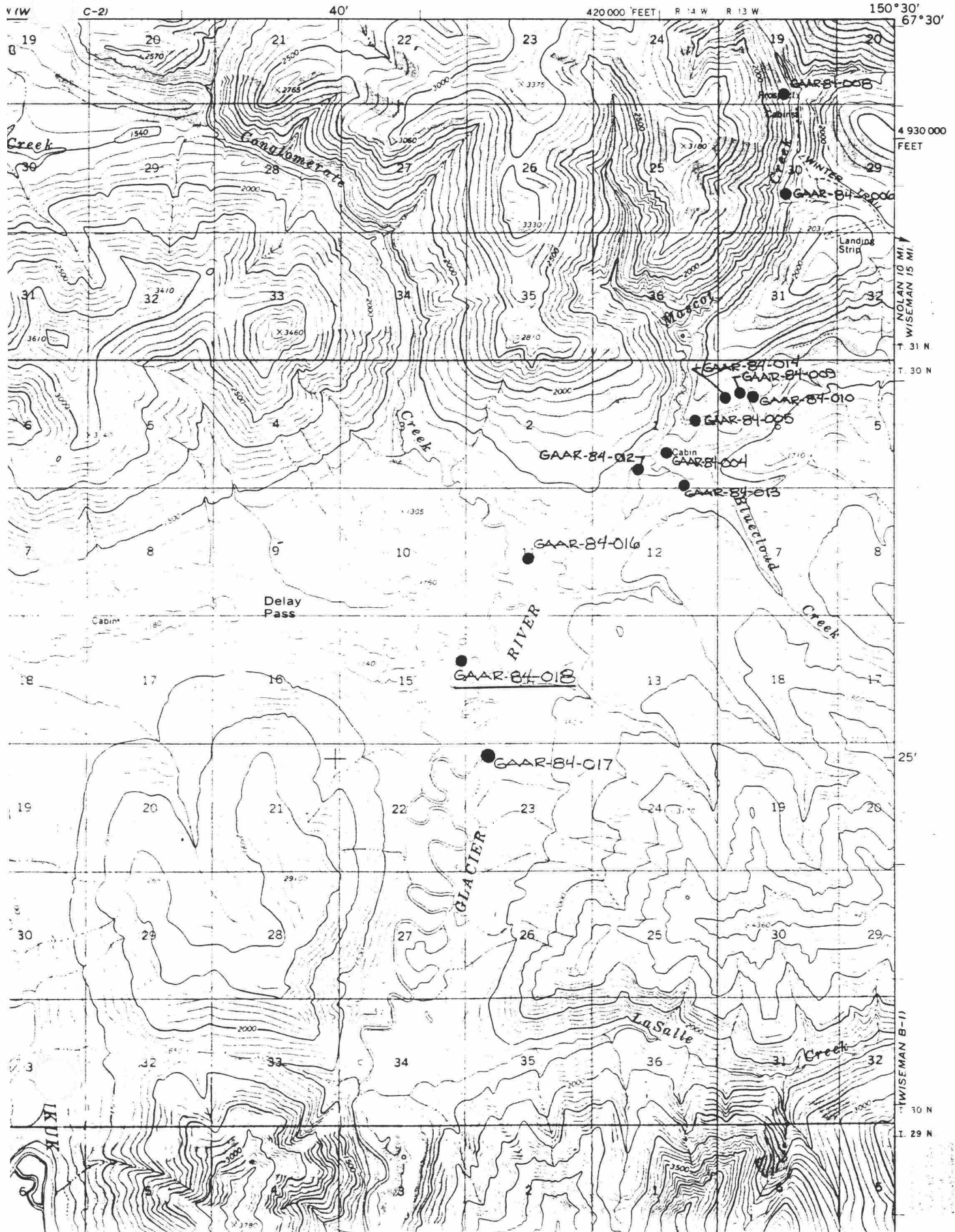
TRAPPER'S CABIN



WISEMAN (B-2) QUADRANGLE  
ALASKA

1:63 360 SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

WISEMAN C-11





Trapper's Cabin collapsing into Glacier River (GAAR-84-018).  
W. Brown photo.

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.

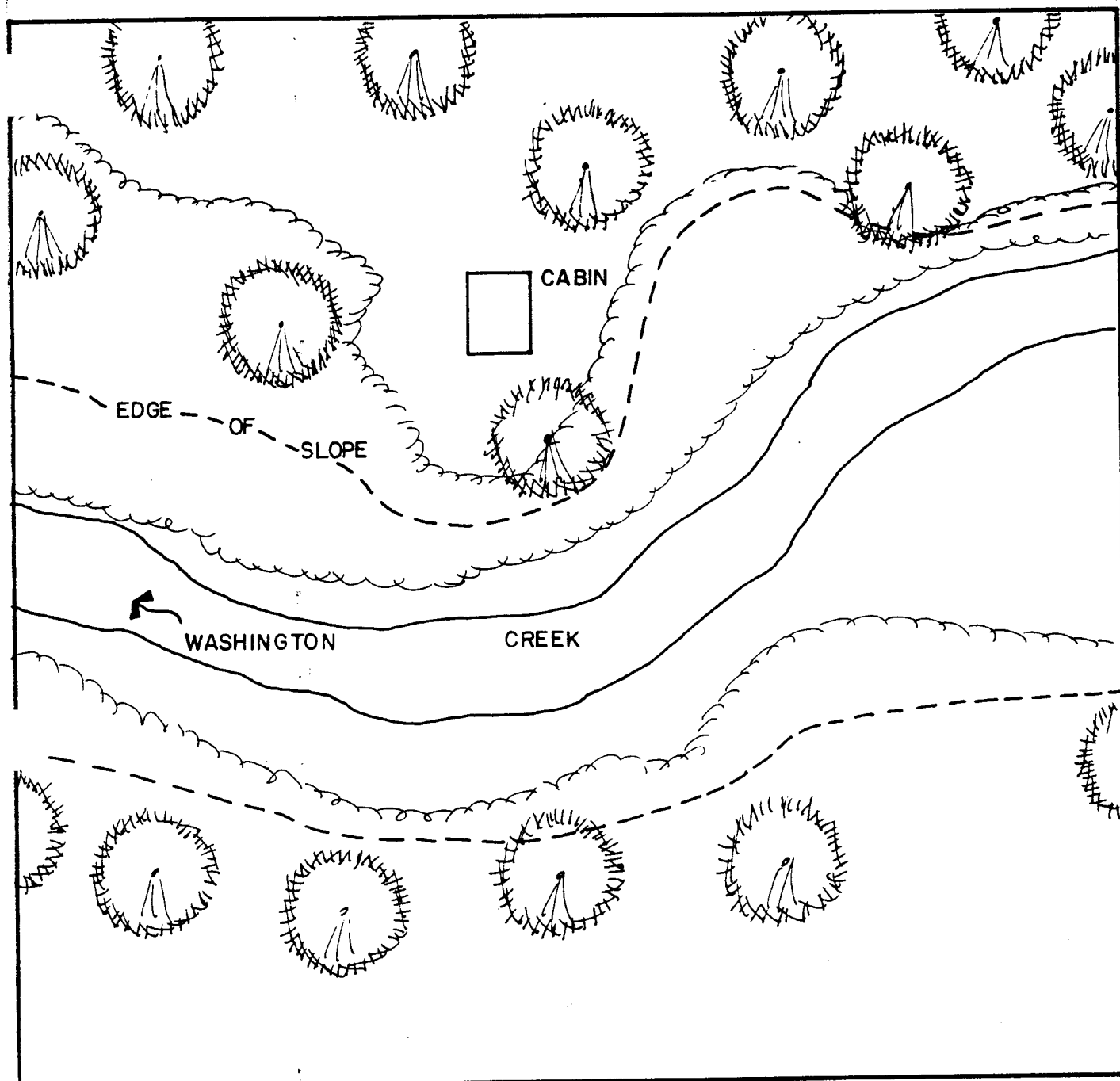
In front of the cabin (south side) there is a large quantity of cans and cookware forming a garbage pile and scattered about the site.

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.

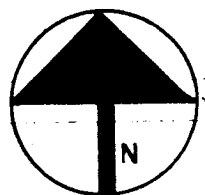
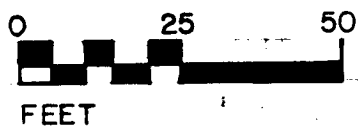
Archeologically, the site has significance in the quantity of material remaining undisturbed for the documentation and reconstructing of both activities and life style of early miners within the region.

PREVIOUS SURVEY: None

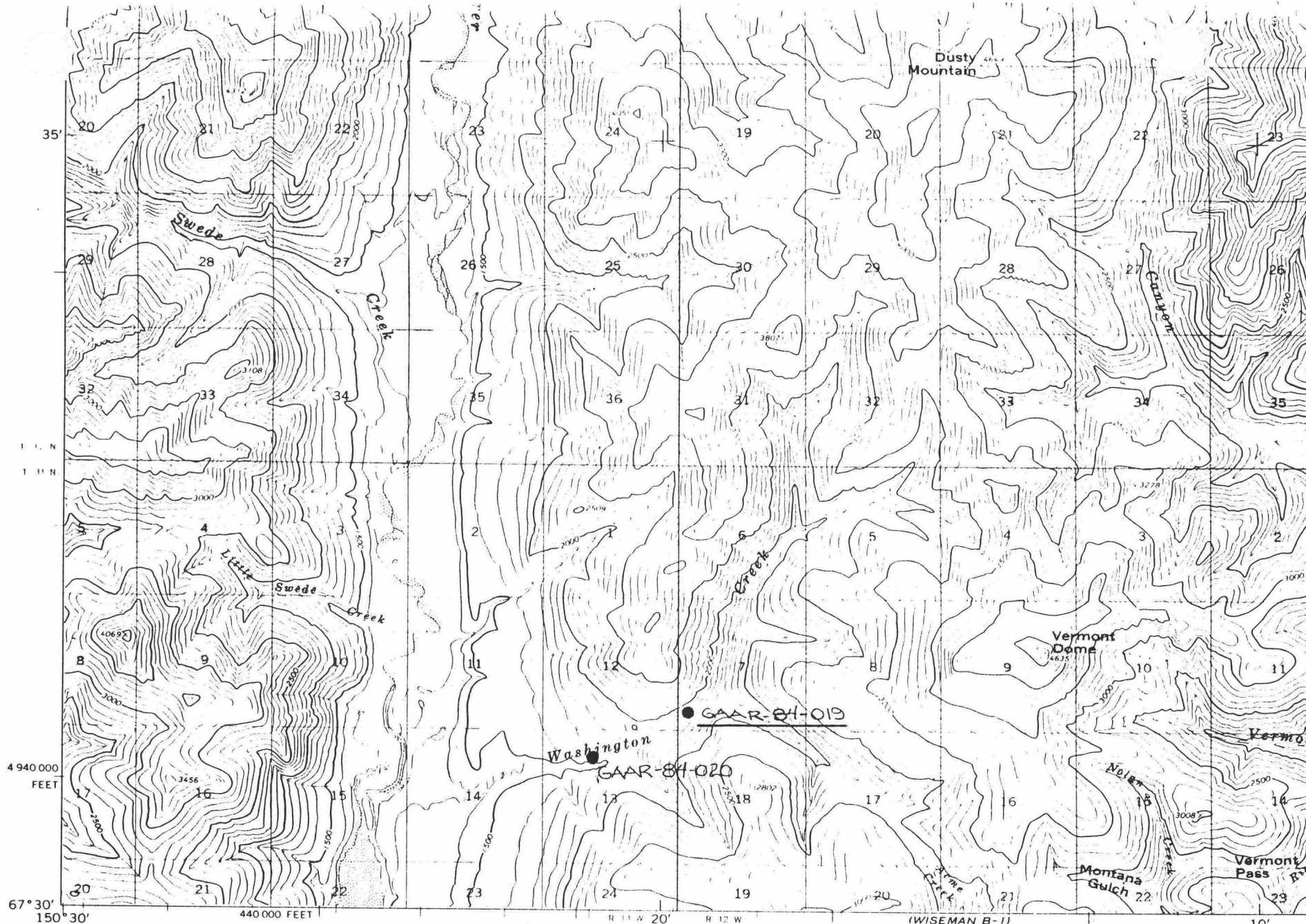


GAAR-84-019

MINER'S CABIN







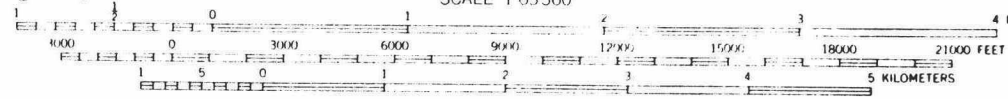
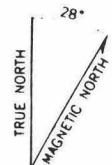
WISEMAN B-2)

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS and USC&GS

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs  
taken 1970, field annotated 1971. Map not field checked

Projection and 1,000-meter grid ticks: Universal  
Transverse Mercator, zone 5  
10,000-foot grid ticks based on Alaska coordinate  
system, zone 4. 1927 North American datum

Wiseman C-1



CONTOUR INTERVAL 100 FEET  
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL



Miner's Cabin on Washington Creek (GAAR-84-019).  
Russ Sackett photo.

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 and its roof is 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 the cabin has saddle notched corners.

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.

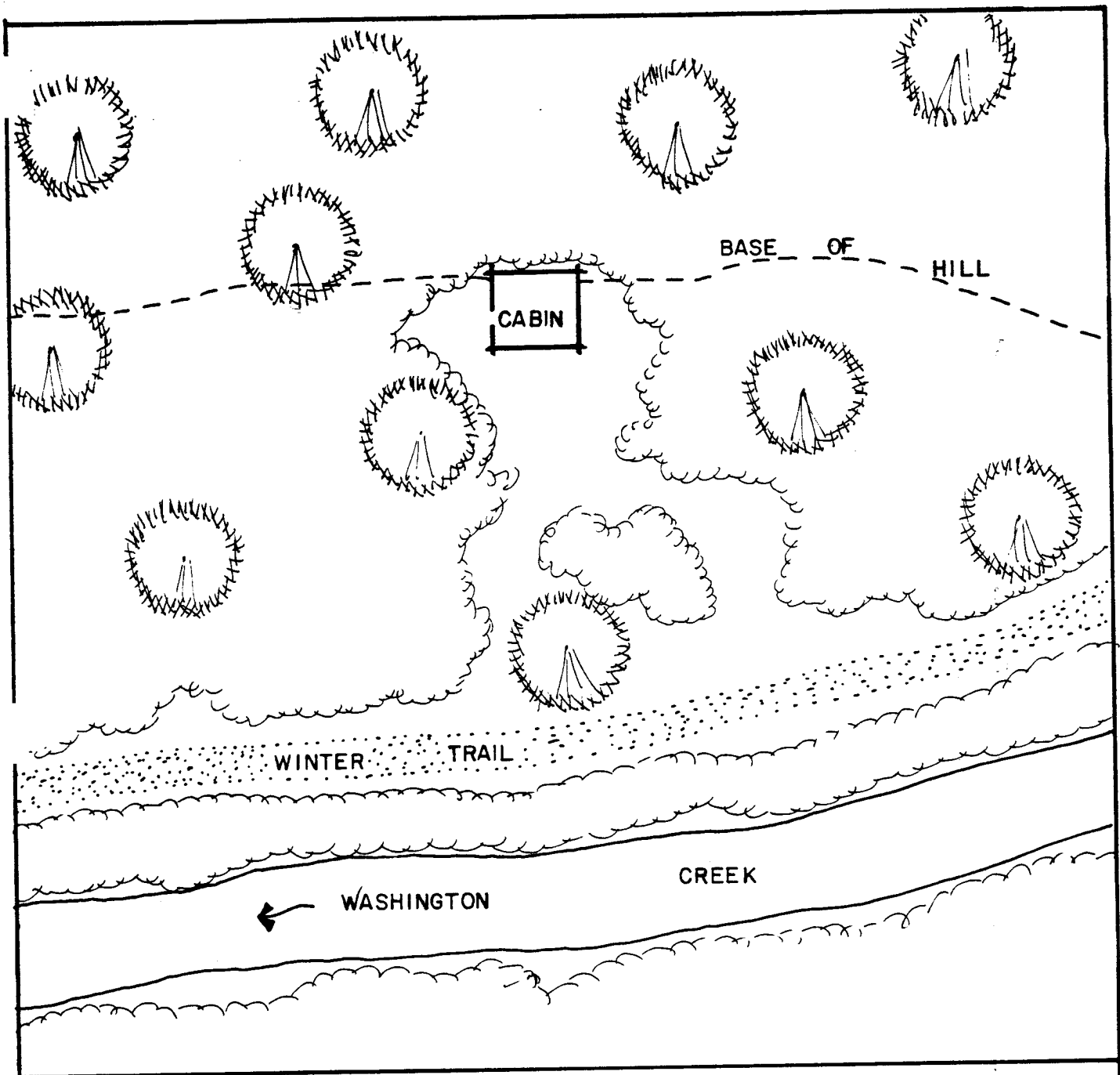
With the exception of the remains of a pole bed along the north wall, a few tin cans, a blazo can, and a wooden blazo can box, the interior of the cabin as well as the entire site are clean.

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

HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE:

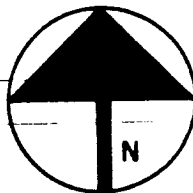
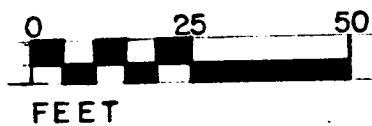
The significance of the site rests in its documenting the use pattern by miners within the region as a whole. It is felt that the site has no significance on its own merits.

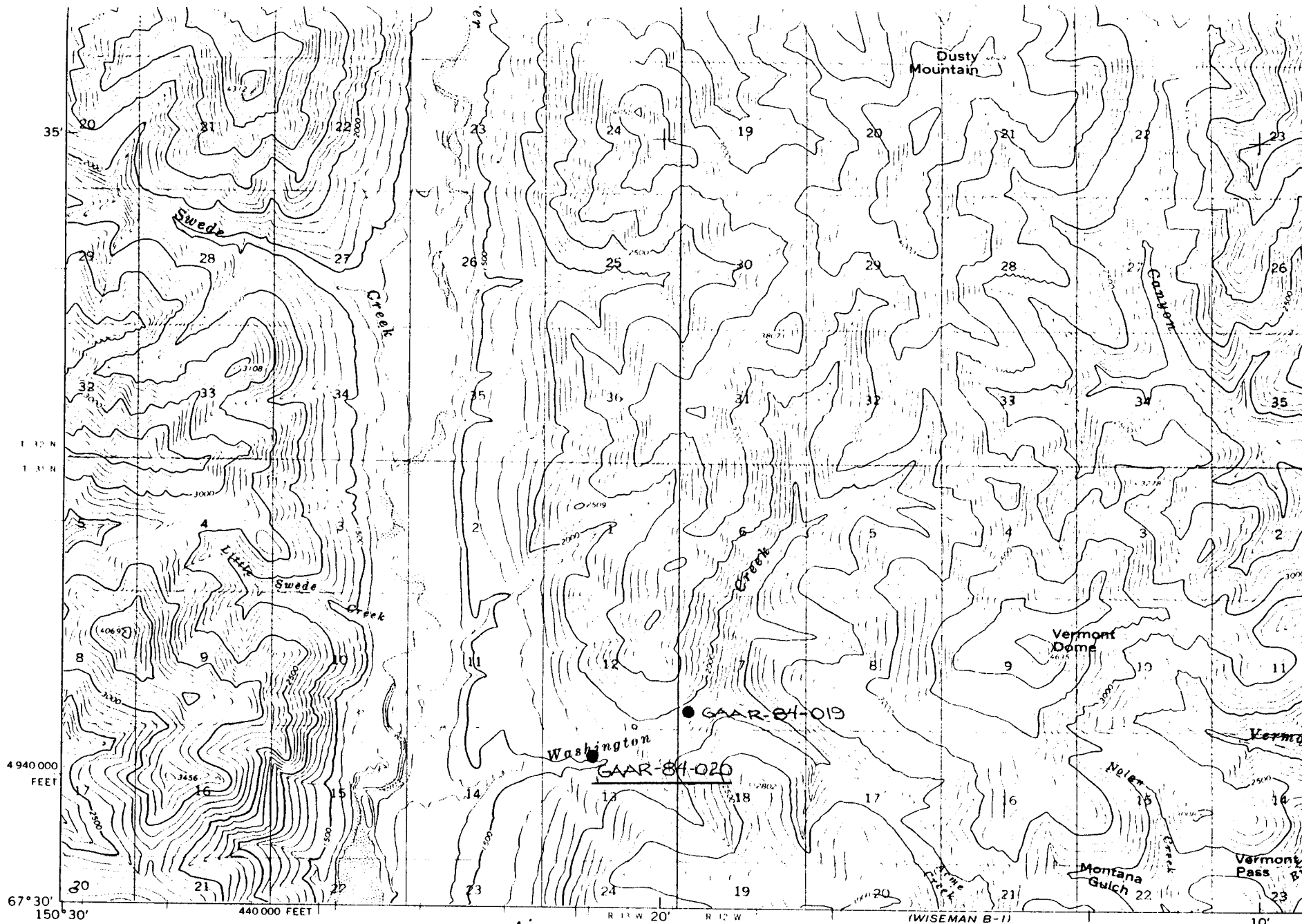
Note: Since the 1984 survey, this site has been conveyed to Doyon, Ltd.



GAAR-84-020

MINER'S CABIN





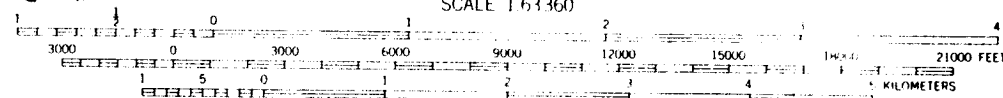
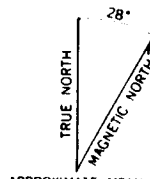
(WISEMAN B-2)

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS and USC&GS

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs  
taken 1970, field annotated 1971. Map not field checked

Projection and 1,000-meter grid ticks: Universal  
Transverse Mercator, zone 5  
10,000-foot grid ticks based on Alaska coordinate  
system, zone 4. 1927 North American datum

Wiseman C-1



CONTOUR INTERVAL 100 FEET  
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL



Miner's Cabin on Washington Creek (GAAR-84-020).  
Russ Sackett photo.

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). The site begins right on the edge of the bank, whence the ground slopes moderately to a high point of 300 feet above river elevation approximately 1000 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) are the remains for a tailing pile representing the overburden removed from the shaft. This tailing pile is 30 feet in diameter and approximately 10 feet in height.

#### HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE:

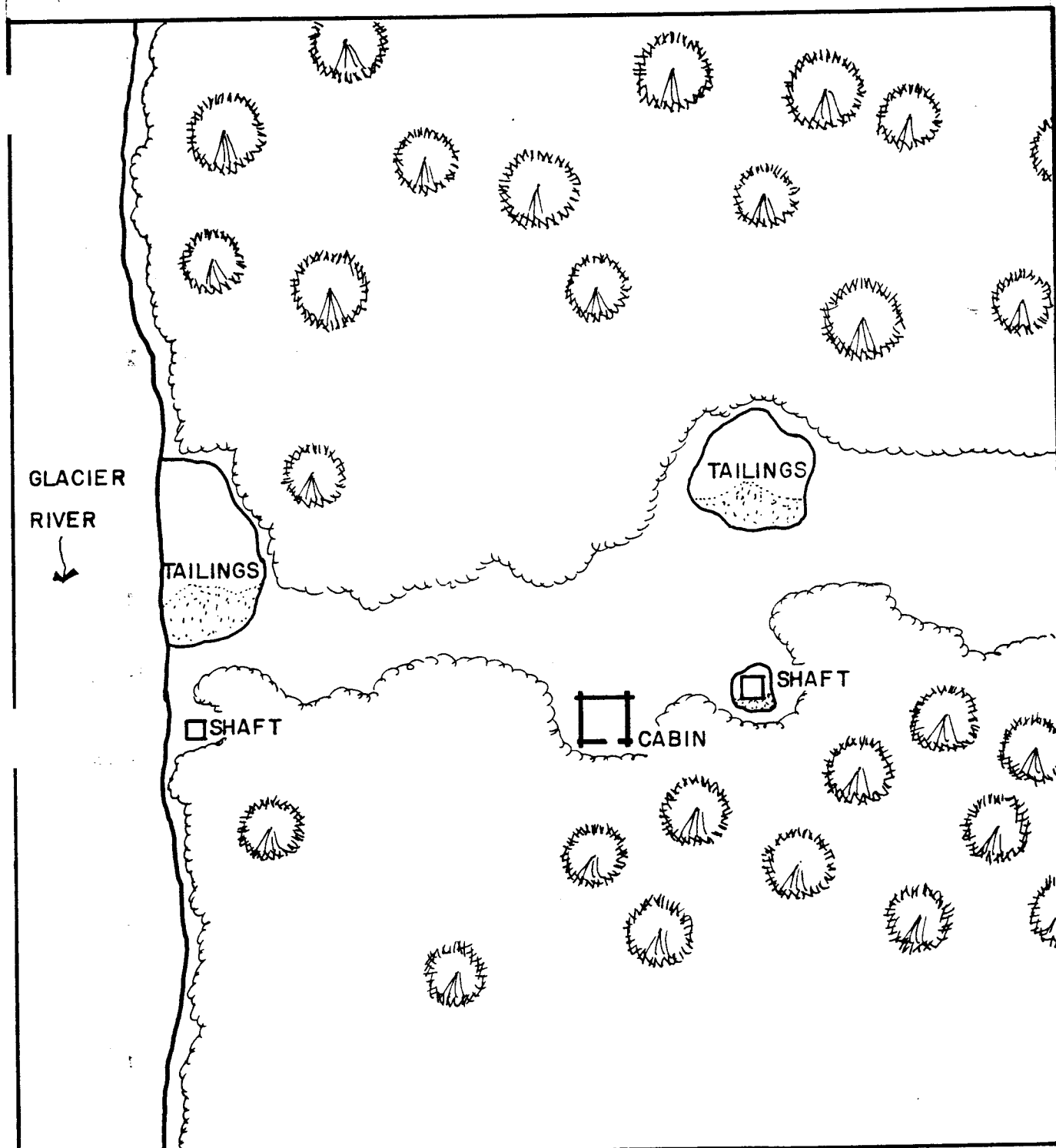
According to the 1938 Reed report, "A.P. Ness sank three shafts in early days about 1/2 mile above Yehl (Yale) cabin to bedrock on the deep channel. The deepest of these was 258 feet." (Only two of the three shafts were found during the 1984 survey.)

The site has significance in its documentation of early drift mining on the Glacier River. It illustrates through its remains a type site for this kind 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

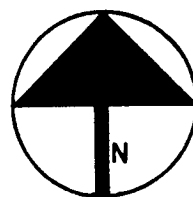
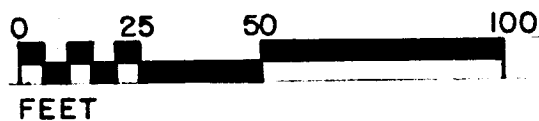
Note: Since the 1984 survey, this site has been conveyed to Doyon, Ltd.

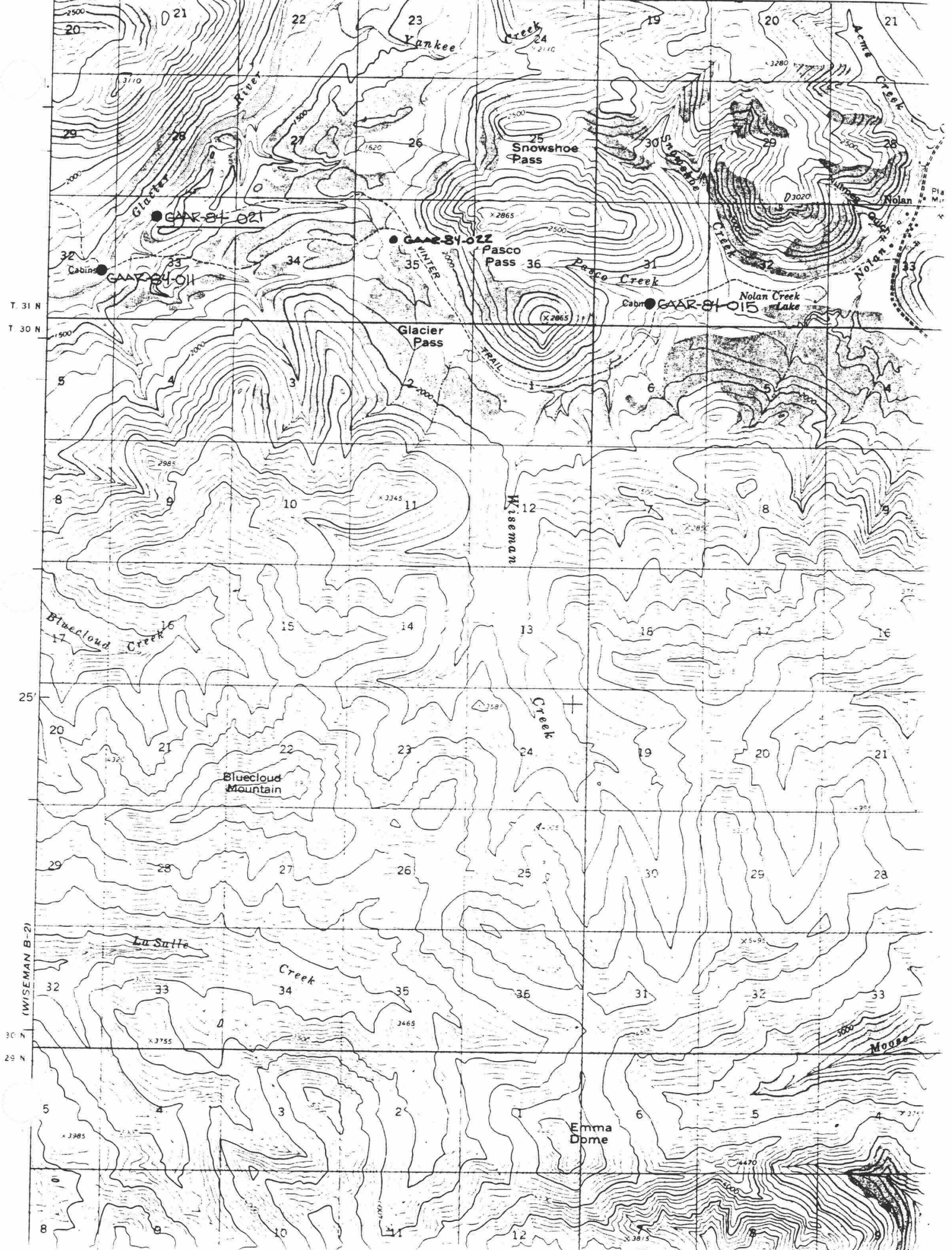




GAAR-84-021

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







Albert Ness Cabin (GAAR-84-021) on Glacier River.  
Russ Sackett photo.

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:

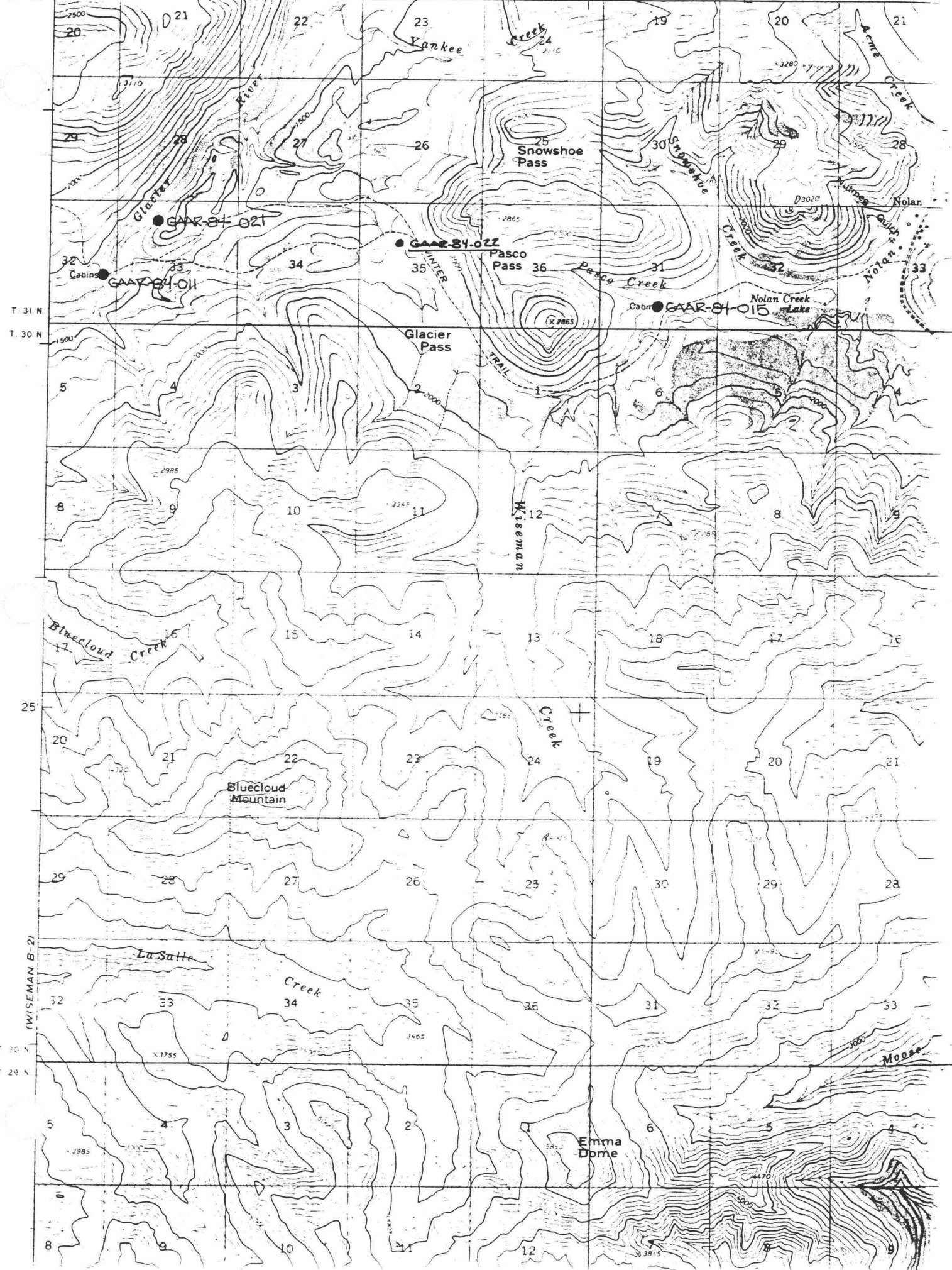
This site is located within Glacier Pass approximately 4 miles west of Nolan. It was found during the archeological survey of the Pass and was not visited by the historical survey team. The site is composed of the ruins of a small trapper's line cabin resting on the south slope of a dry knoll. In total 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 reinforced by a wood frame.

HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE:

The history of this site is unknown. It represents a specific activity that occurred within the region and probably dates from the early half of the 1900s.

PREVIOUS SURVEY: None

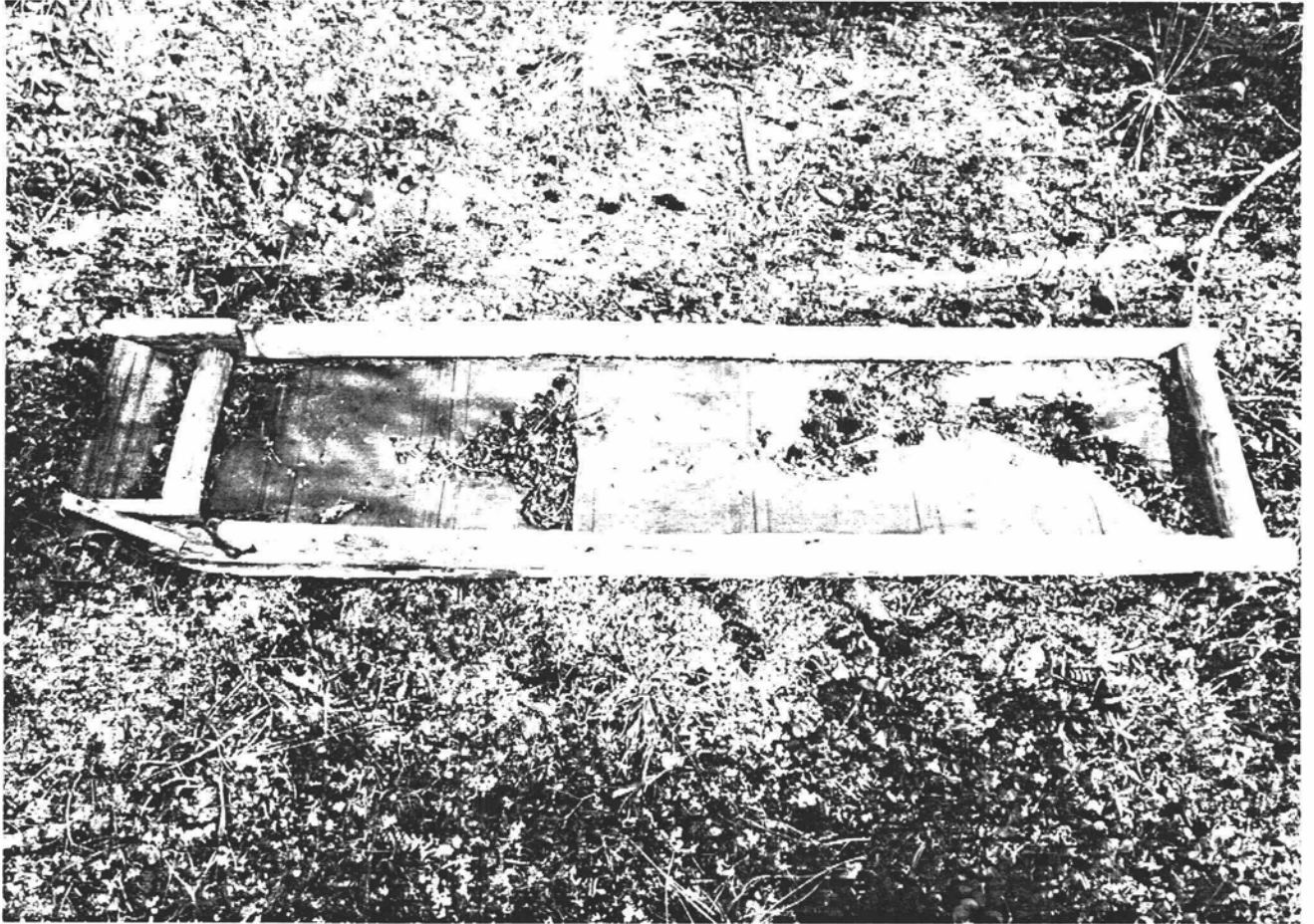
Note: Since the 1984 Survey, this site has been conveyed to Doyon, Ltd.



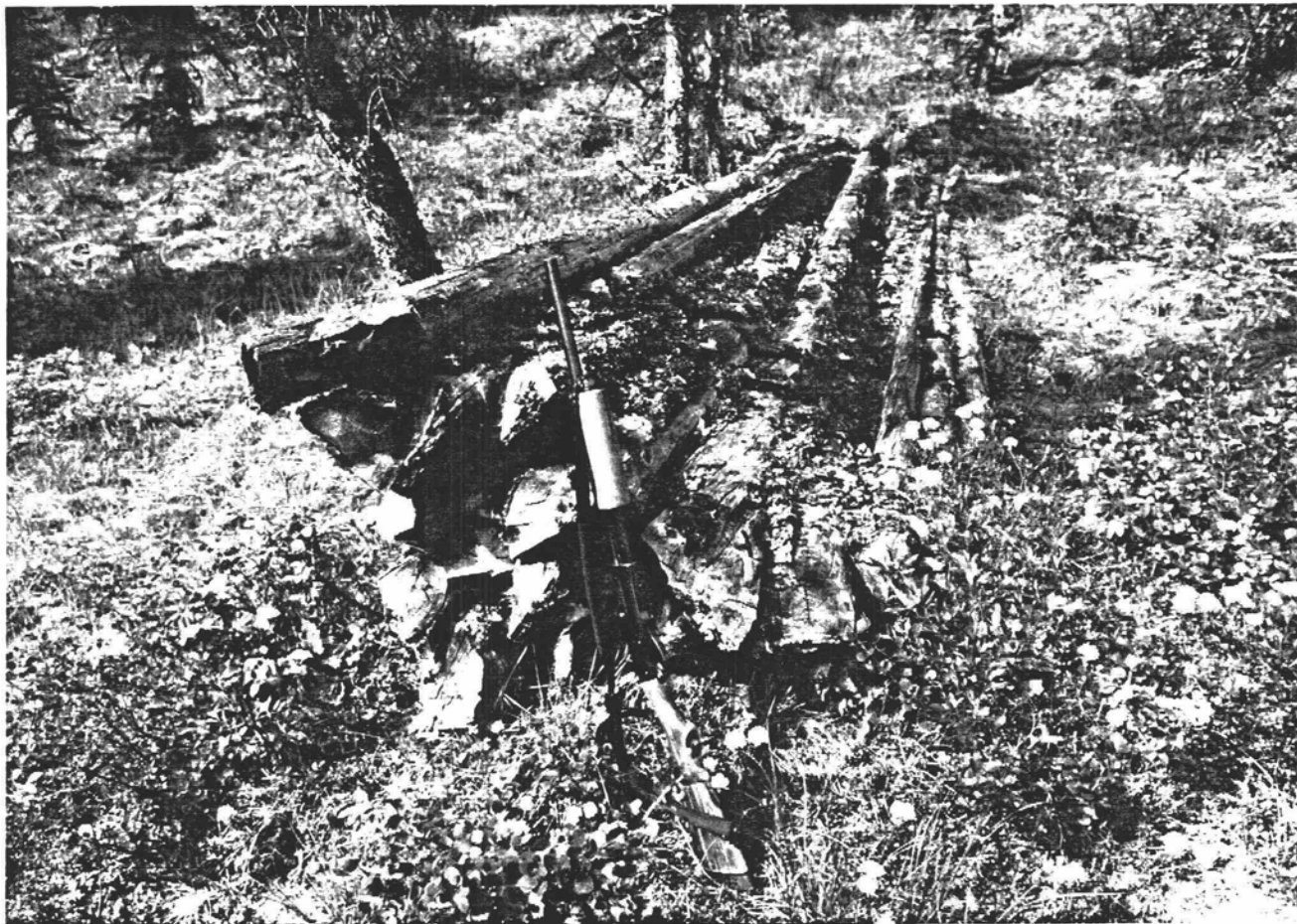




Trapper's Cabin in Glacier Pass (GAAR-84-022).  
Mark Standley photo.



Homemade sled in association with GAAR-84-022 site.  
Mark Standley photo.



Typical woodpile in Glacier Pass cut for drift mining.  
Mark Standley photo.



SITE TYPE: TRAPPER'S LINE CABIN (ERNIE JOHNSON'S CABIN)

SITE NUMBER: GAAR-85-023

LOCATION: This cabin is located at the east end of Ernie Lake in the Alatna River drainage.

USGS QUAD: Wiseman (1:250000)

TOWNSHIP, RANGE: R.24W., T.30N.

DATE FIELD SURVEYED: June 25, 1985

SURVEYORS: William Brown, Jim Creech

SITE DESCRIPTION:

This cabin site is located about 100 yards east of the east end of Ernie Lake. The site contains the cabin, a cache, a pole-and-hole toilet, and a trash dump.

The cabin is constructed from unpeeled logs chinked with moss and has saddle notched corners. The door on the east end of the cabin has been ripped off its hinges and leans against the outside wall. A window on the west end of the cabin has been filled in with short logs. The original roof is gone and a makeshift roof of poles, scraps of plastic sheeting and canvas, and salvaged tin has been fashioned in later years, probably by fly-in fishermen. The cabin is small, measuring 8' x 12', reflecting its use as a trapline cabin. The roof is holed in places and the interior has been trashed. Though it retains standing walls 9 or 10 log courses high (1985), the cabin is in a badly deteriorated state with collapse imminent. Many of the wall logs are rotted punk.

The cache, 50' south of the cabin, is 4' x 6 1/2' in plan, mounted on poles and standing 10' above the ground. The trash dump is overlain with modern camp debris. Otherwise the site has been cleaned up.

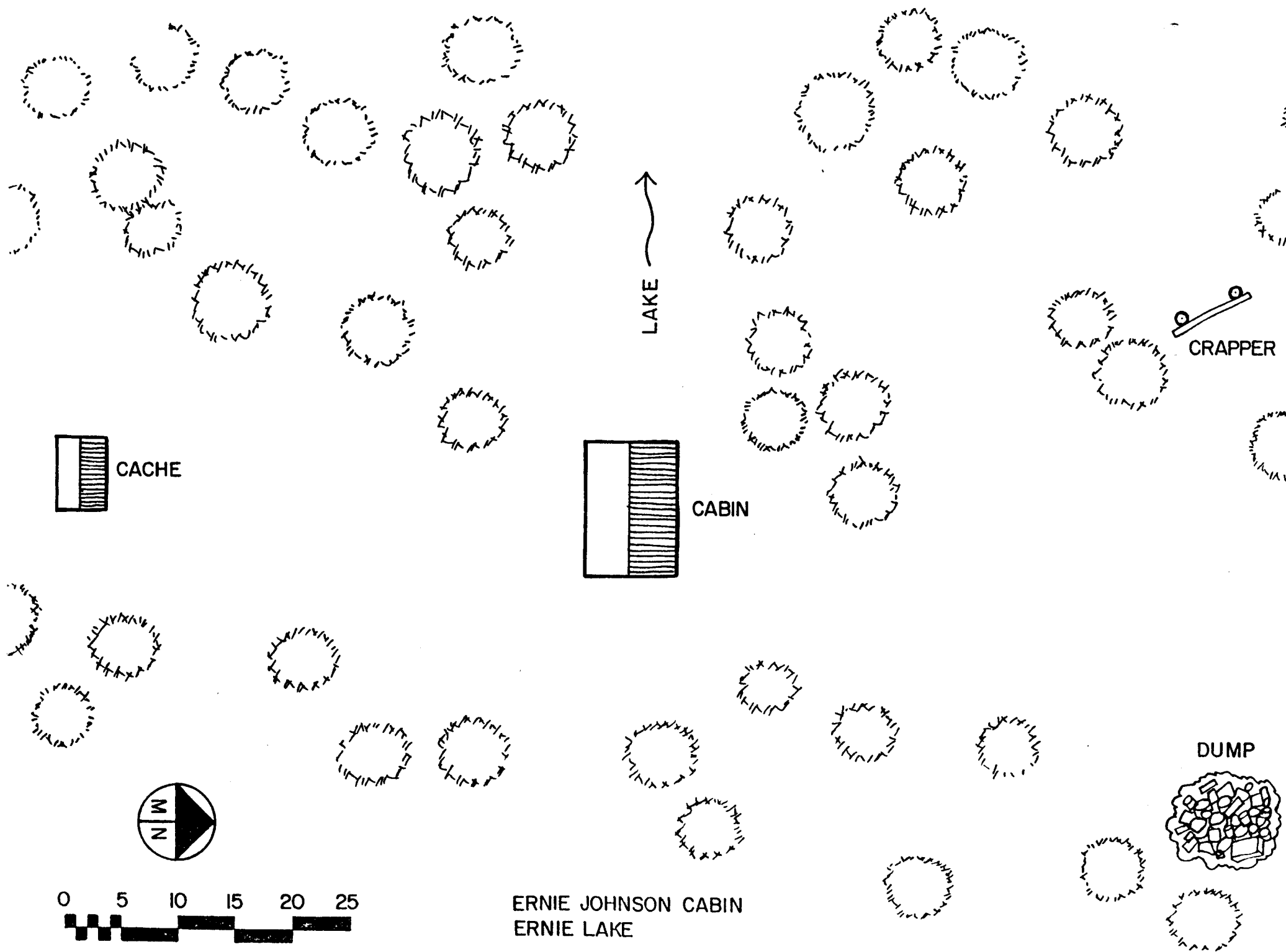
HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE:

This simple line cabin was used by Ernie Johnson in the post-World War II era as a line cabin in winter and a fish camp in summer, when he netted lake trout for his dogs. In later years, when Ernie and his brother Rudolph lived in Fairbanks, they would charter a flight to the lake for a few days of summer fishing and easy living in the woods.

Just 6 miles east of this line cabin, on Mettenpherg Creek--on State land and an active mining claim--stands an example of the crafted cabins that made Ernie Johnson famous as a builder in the upper Koyukuk country. Ernie and his brother mined on nearby Colorado Creek, basing at this fine cabin. Daryl Morris of

Bettles, who mined on the Colorado claims after Ernie's death in 1961, states that the Mettenpherg Creek cabin, which he occupied, is the acme of north-country cabin building. Ernie's roofing technique accounted for the durability and high state of preservation of this cabin and Ernie's town cabin at Old Bettles (see documentation in the Old Bettles section below). According to Daryl Morris (Interview, June 24, 1985) Ernie covered the roof planks and poles with a gravel and moss drainage and insulation layer, held in place by fascia boards, then sheathed the roof with sheet metal from flattened oil drums. Header logs were shielded by the metal overhang. Strength was gained by using dual ridge beams.

Unfortunately, neither of the two surviving examples of Ernie Johnson's crafted "home" cabins are within the park. The deteriorated and degraded remnant of the intrinsically inferior line cabin at Ernie Lake is judged a lost site.



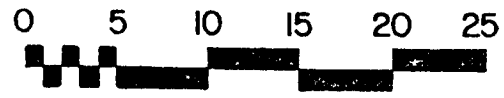
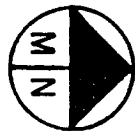
CACHE

LAKE

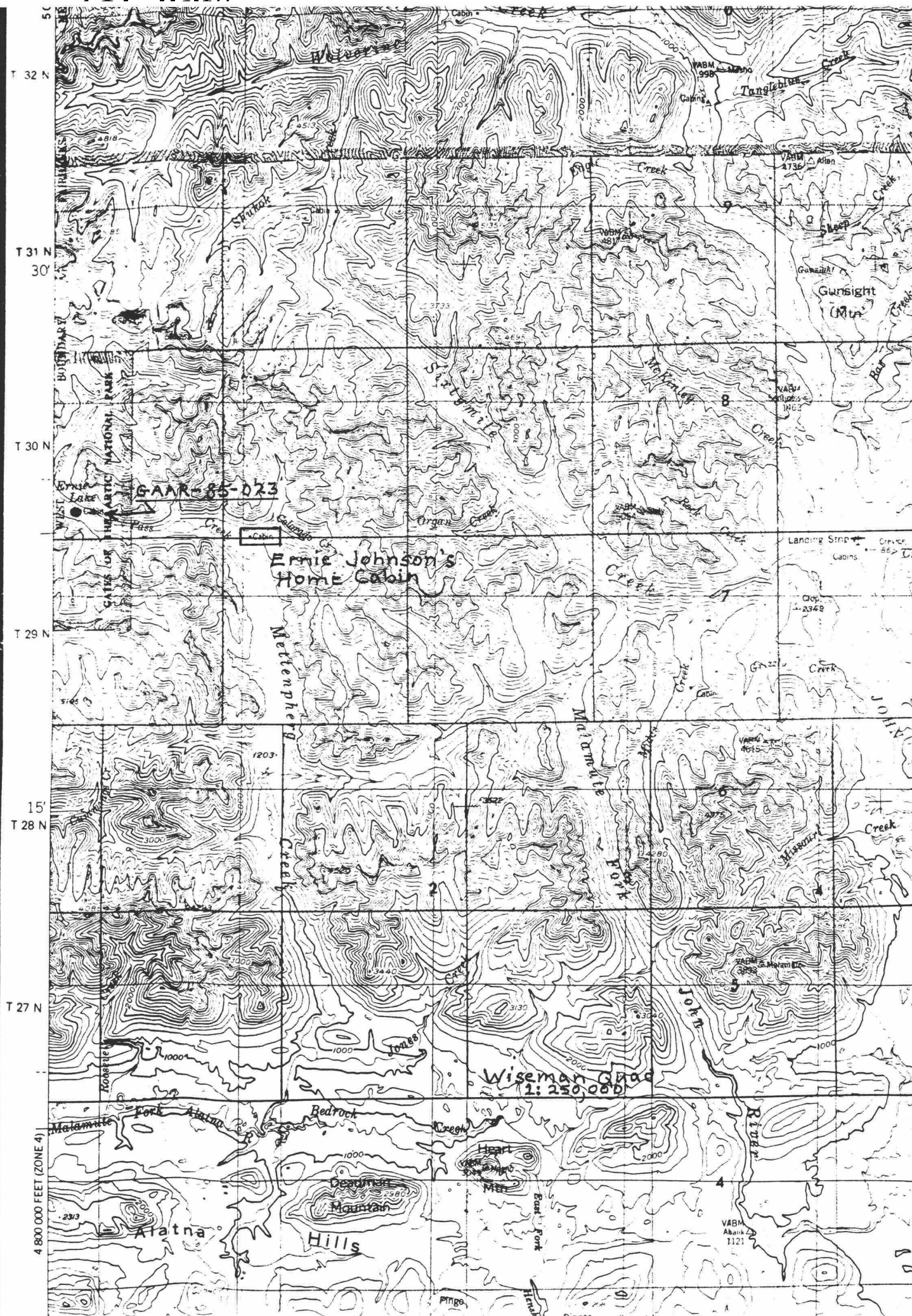
CABIN

CRAPPER

DUMP



ERNIE JOHNSON CABIN  
ERNIE LAKE



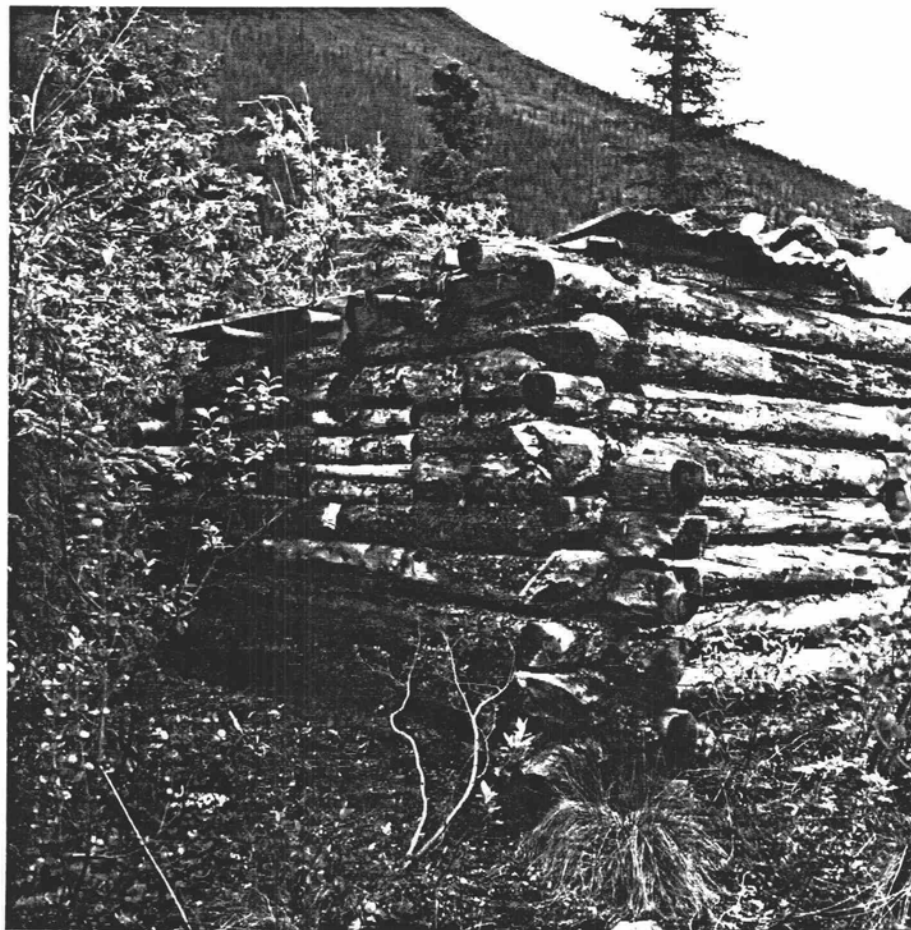


Overview of Ernie Johnson Cabin Site at east end Ernie Lake (GAAR-85-023)  
showing cache and cabin (background) with Jim Creech recording.  
W. Brown photo.



GAAR-85-023: east elevation of Ernie's Cabin. W. Brown photo.



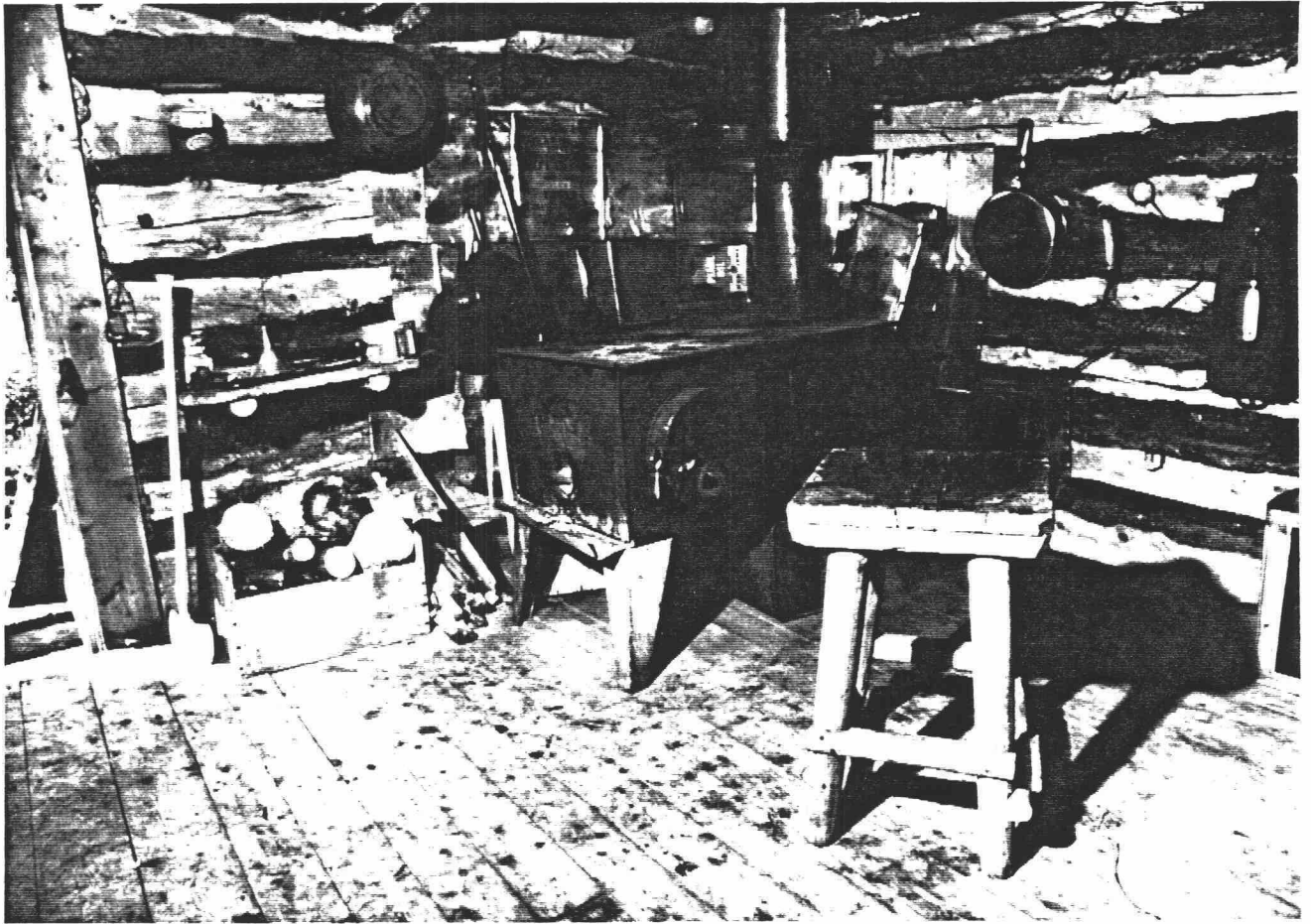


GAAR-85-023: rear of cabin showing filled-in window. W. Brown photo.



Ernie Johnson Cabin on Mettenpherg Creek, 6 miles east  
of Ernie Lake Cabin. Robert Belous photo, 1978.





Interior of Mettenpherg Creek Cabin. Robert Belous photo,  
1978.

Sites Beyond the Park Boundary in the Middle Fork Drainage

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 east of the mouth 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.

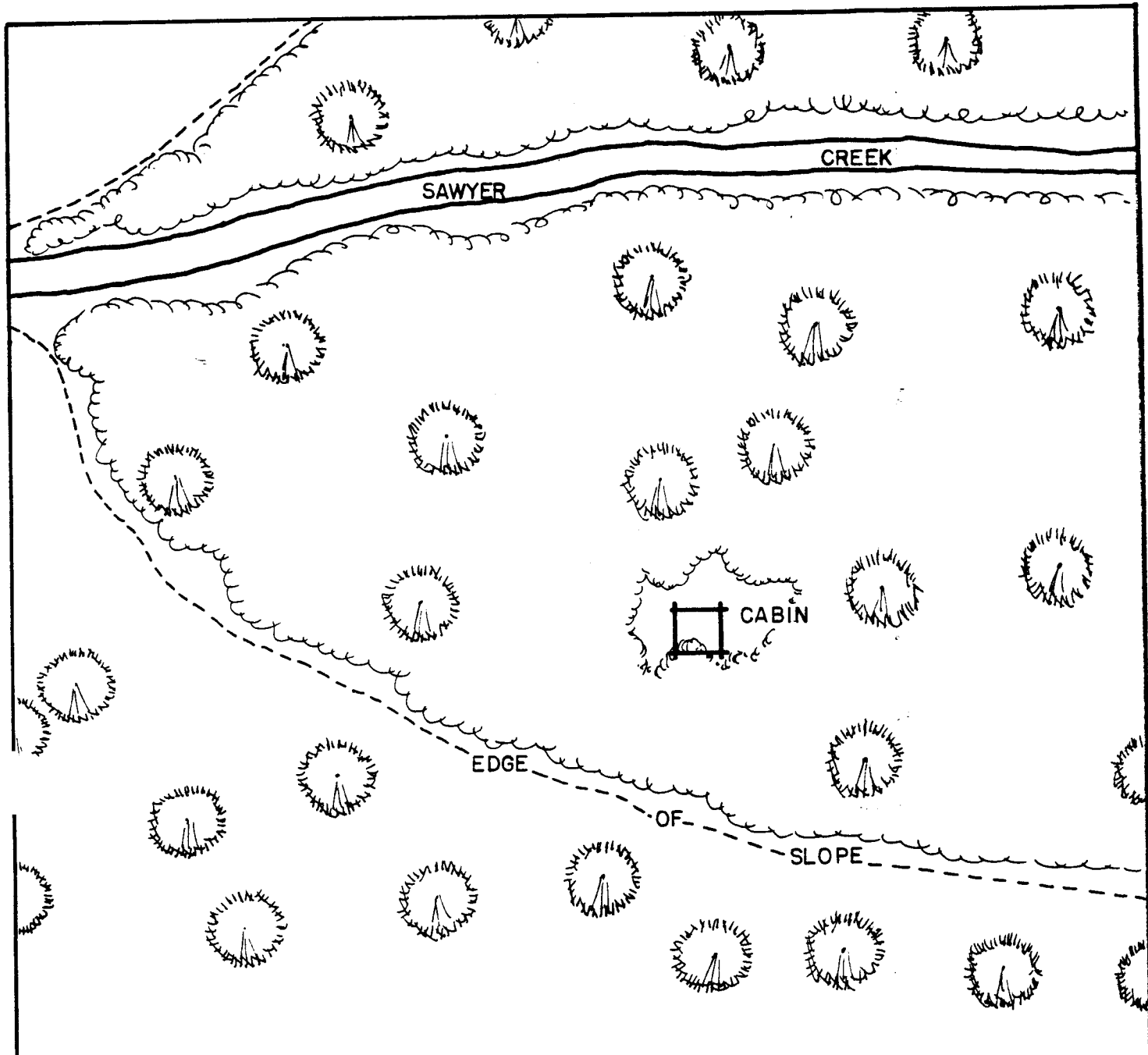
The immediate area around as well as within the cabin contains a number of old tin cans, square 5 gallon blazo cans, and fragments of a chimney.

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.

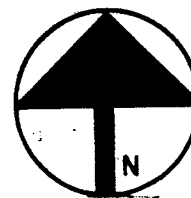
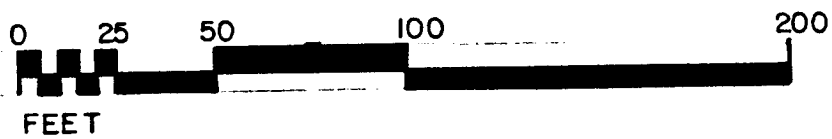
According to Harry Leonard (personal communication, July 20, 1984) Frank Miller built and stayed in this cabin but there were others on the creek before him. Leonard did not know who the others were.

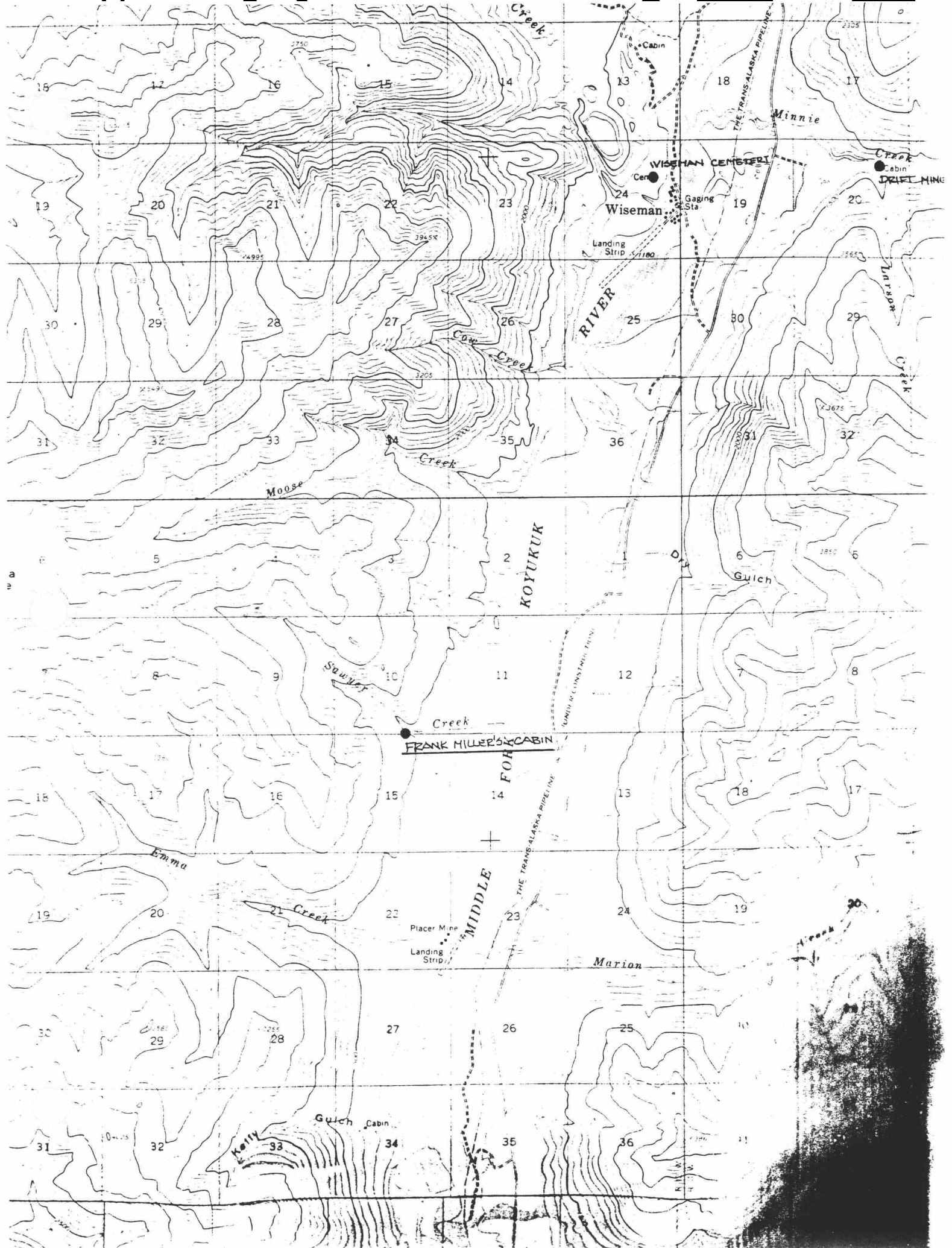
PREVIOUS SURVEYS: None



MINER'S CABIN, SAWYER CREEK

FRANK MILLER







Frank Miller cabin remains on Sawyer Creek. W. Brown photo.

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. Descriptions of these features follow:

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 feature 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 are 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:

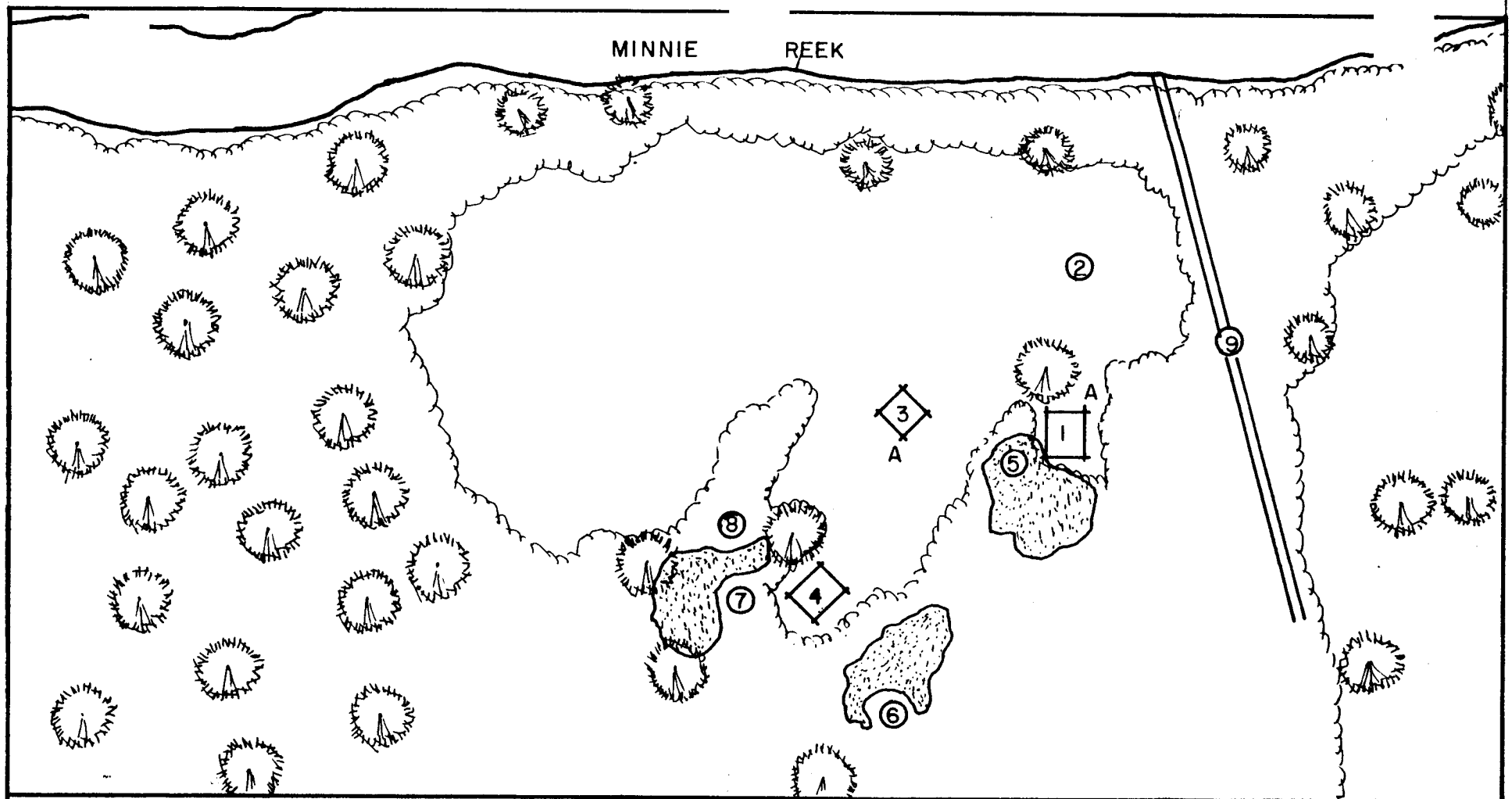
According to Maddren's 1909 field notes, the first hole to bedrock on Minnie Creek was sunk in 1904 but water drove the miners out. 1905 saw the greatest amount (pre-1909) of work on the creek. In 1906 Sylvester Buckhart and Louis Troxler were working the creek. (See Chapter 4 of narrative for details of these miners' tragic deaths.)

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

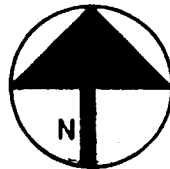
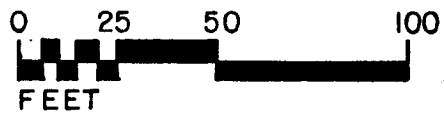
PREVIOUS SURVEYS:


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 Fluor Northwest, Inc. by Jean Aigner and Brian Gannon, Anthropology Program, University of Alaska Fairbanks.





# MINNIE CREEK DRIFT MINE COMPLEX



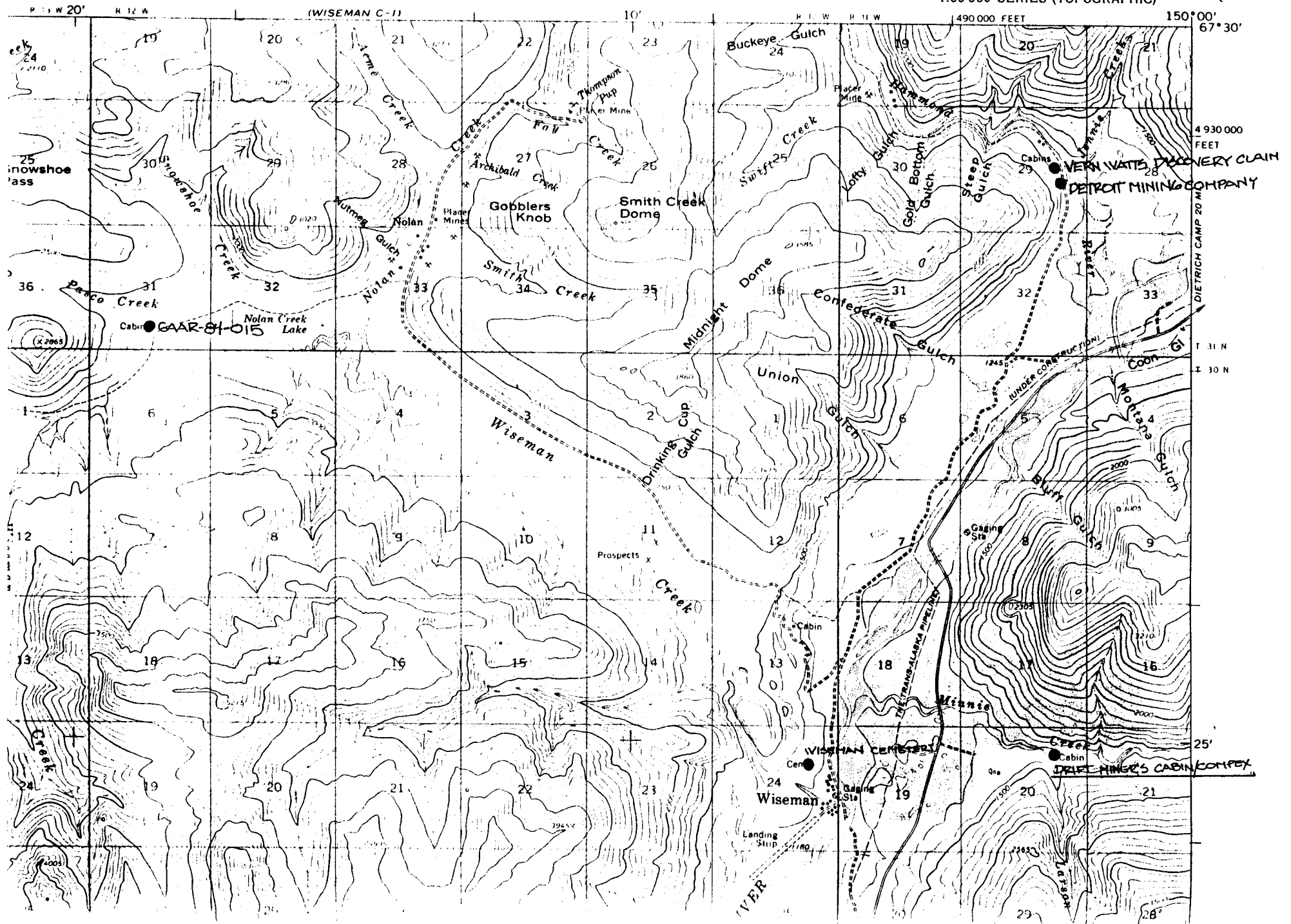
- |   |                  |   |                  |
|---|------------------|---|------------------|
| A | TWO MAN BOILER   | 7   | DRIFT MINE SHAFT |
| 1 | BOILER CABIN     | 8   | DRIFT MINE SHAFT |
| 2 | OUTHOUSE         | 9   | DITCH            |
| 3 | CABIN            |  | TAILINGS         |
| 4 |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

# WISEMAN (B-1) QUADRANGLE

ALASKA

1:63 360 SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

DALAR C-1



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: William Brown, 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 were 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 are 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 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 was 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 bottle 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 bedstead 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 and 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

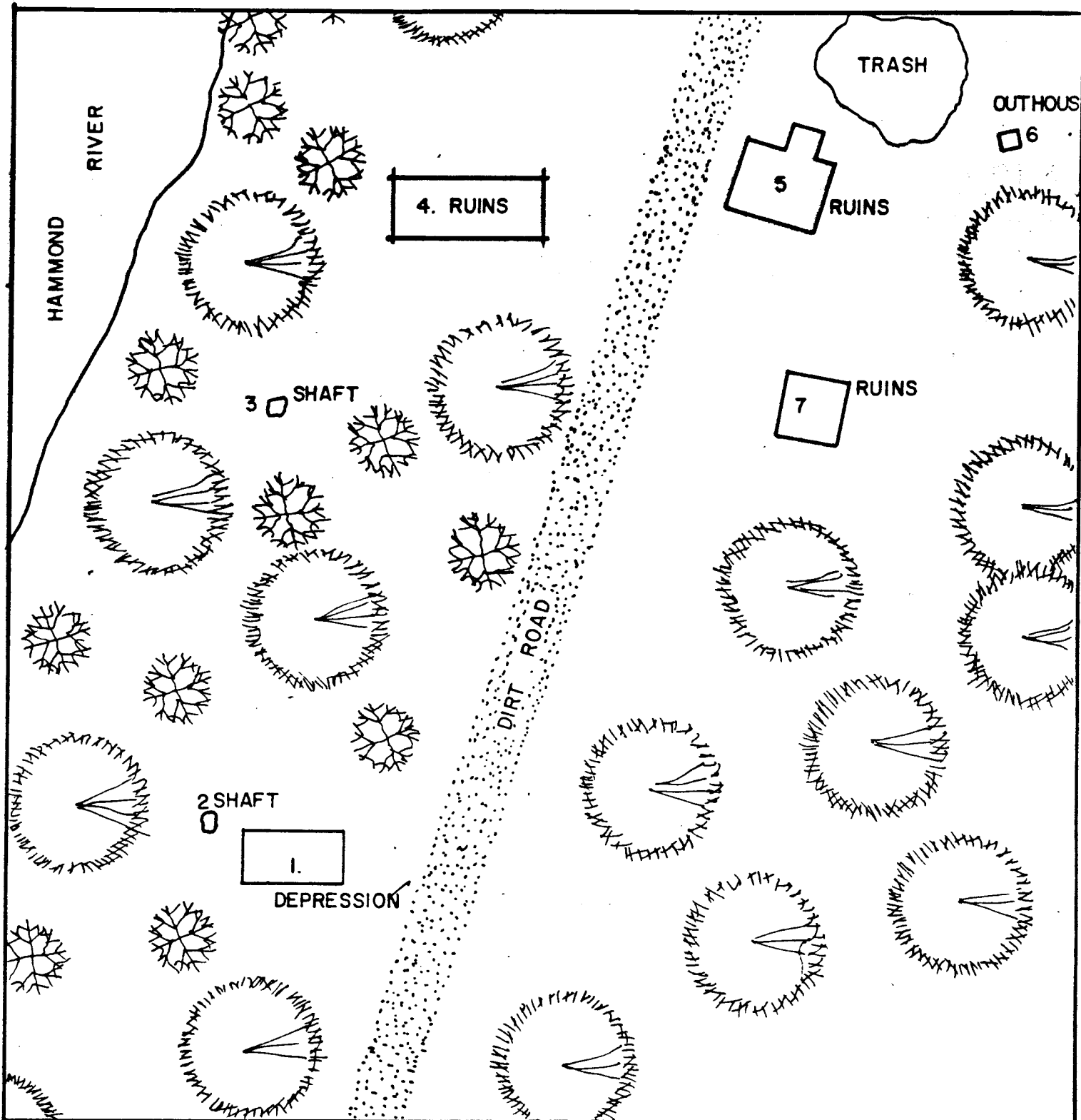
Approximately 40 feet west of feature 5 lie the remains of another cabin. This cabin is marked only by square notched sill logs and a slumped in cold cellar. The cabin had measured 18' x 18' and has only a few tin cans in association.

HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE:

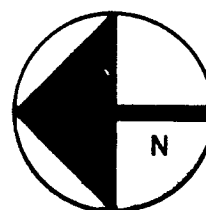
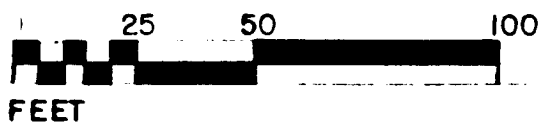
This site represents the Detroit Mining Company's short activities on the Hammond River during the 1920s. (See Chapter 5 of narrative.)

The site has significance in its relationship to an organized mining company in the early decades of the 1900s rather than the small scale operations generally found in the region. The large quantity of material still found on the site offers a unique look at a large-scale mining effort on the upper Koyukuk.

PREVIOUS SURVEY: None



HAMMOND RIVER  
DETROIT MINING COMPANY

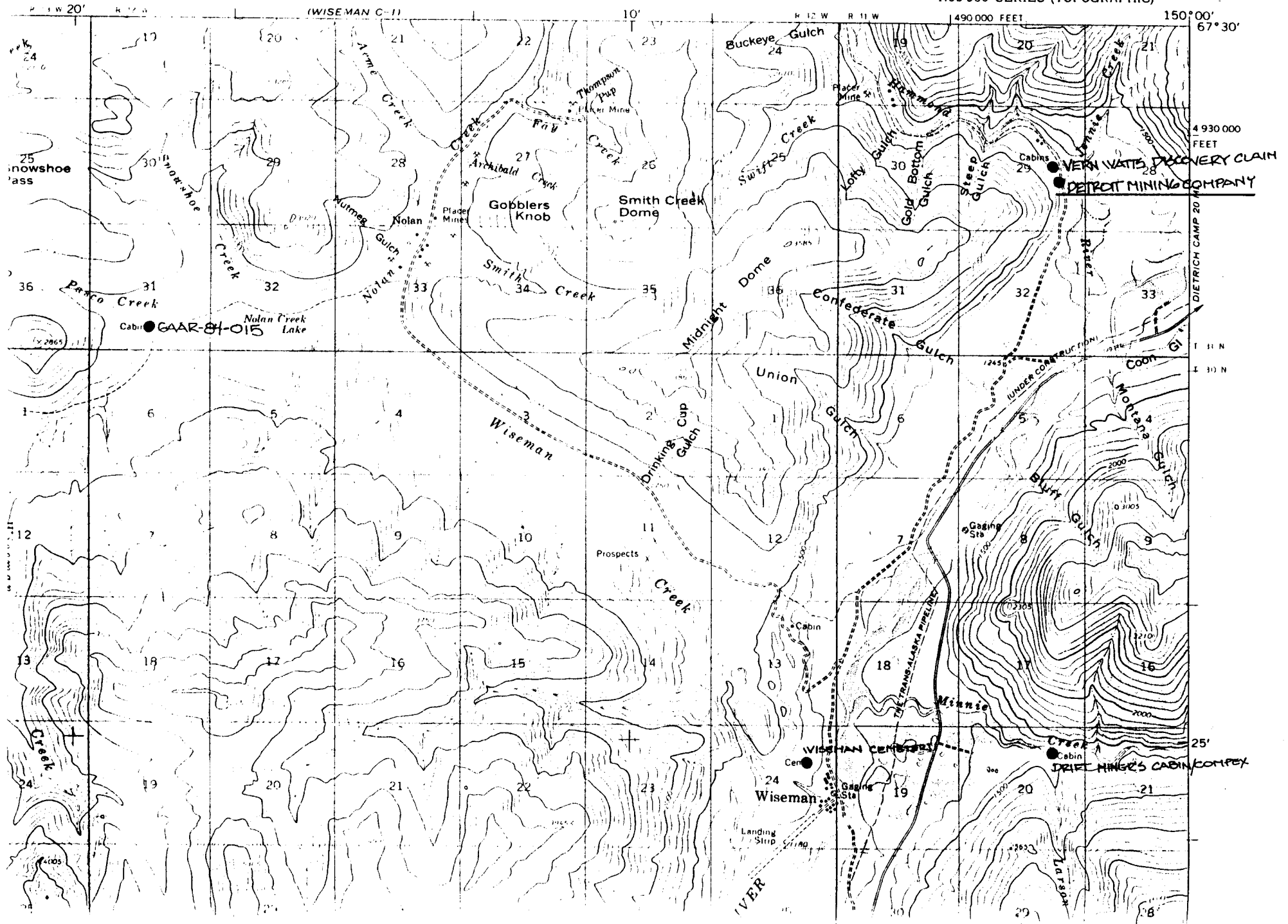


# WISEMAN (B-1) QUADRANGLE

ALASKA

1:63 360 SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

DALAR C





Collapsed cabin, Feature 4, Detroit Mining Co. Site, Hammond River.  
Russ Sackett photo.



SITE TYPE: HAMMOND RIVER MINING COMPLEX

SITE NUMBER: None

LOCATION: This complex of mining sites is located on the mouth 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 7, 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 represents a number of separate claims worked during different periods of time in the early decades of the 1900s. Because of the extent of the complex, it has been broken down into six areas for ease of description as follows:

AREA 1

This area is located at the northwest edge of the total complex and is the location of Vern Watts' discovery claim with its features corresponding to those seen in the Marshall photograph collection. The ground 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. 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." forge 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. 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, consists 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 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. A local miner plans to remove the boiler from the cabin sometime in the near future. Unfortunately, the cabin will probably have to be dismantled in order to remove the boiler.

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 they 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. 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 chiller has slumped in, suggesting that this was a residential cabin.

#### Feature 2: Ditch

Approximately 100 feet east of feature 1 is the remnant 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'.

Feature 4: Cabin Remains

One foot south of feature 3 are the remains of a second cabin. The proximity of the two cabins suggest that they both were under a single roof. Only two log courses 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 which 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.

Features 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 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.

Two 5' x 5' log cribbed drift mine shafts with their associated tailings lie 20 feet to the west and 60 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 ruin. 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 with 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. 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 pieces to active areas at a later date. It is quite likely that this array of

heavy equipment dates from the aborted Detroit Mining Co. scheme.

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, is 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 a depression where two cabins were placed end to end. The cabin outlines 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 are 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. Features located within Area 6 are as follows:

Features 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 a steam line descend 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 celler, 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.



#### 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 Watts' Discovery Claim where it all began. The complex not only has significance in its history, but also has significance in its relatively undisturbed character and in what it contains archeologically in interpreting early drift mine activities, methods, life style, and equipment.

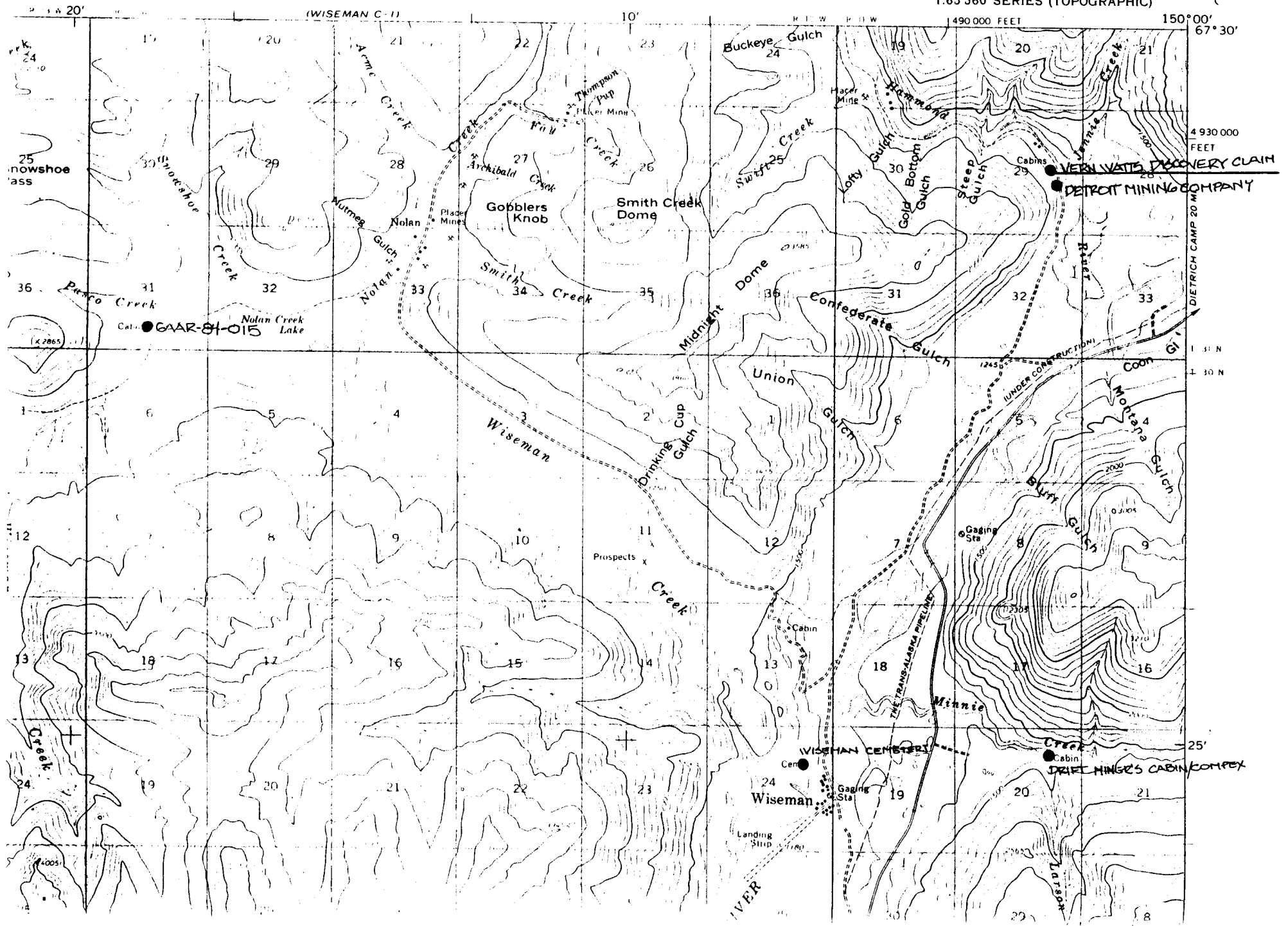
PREVIOUS SURVEY: None

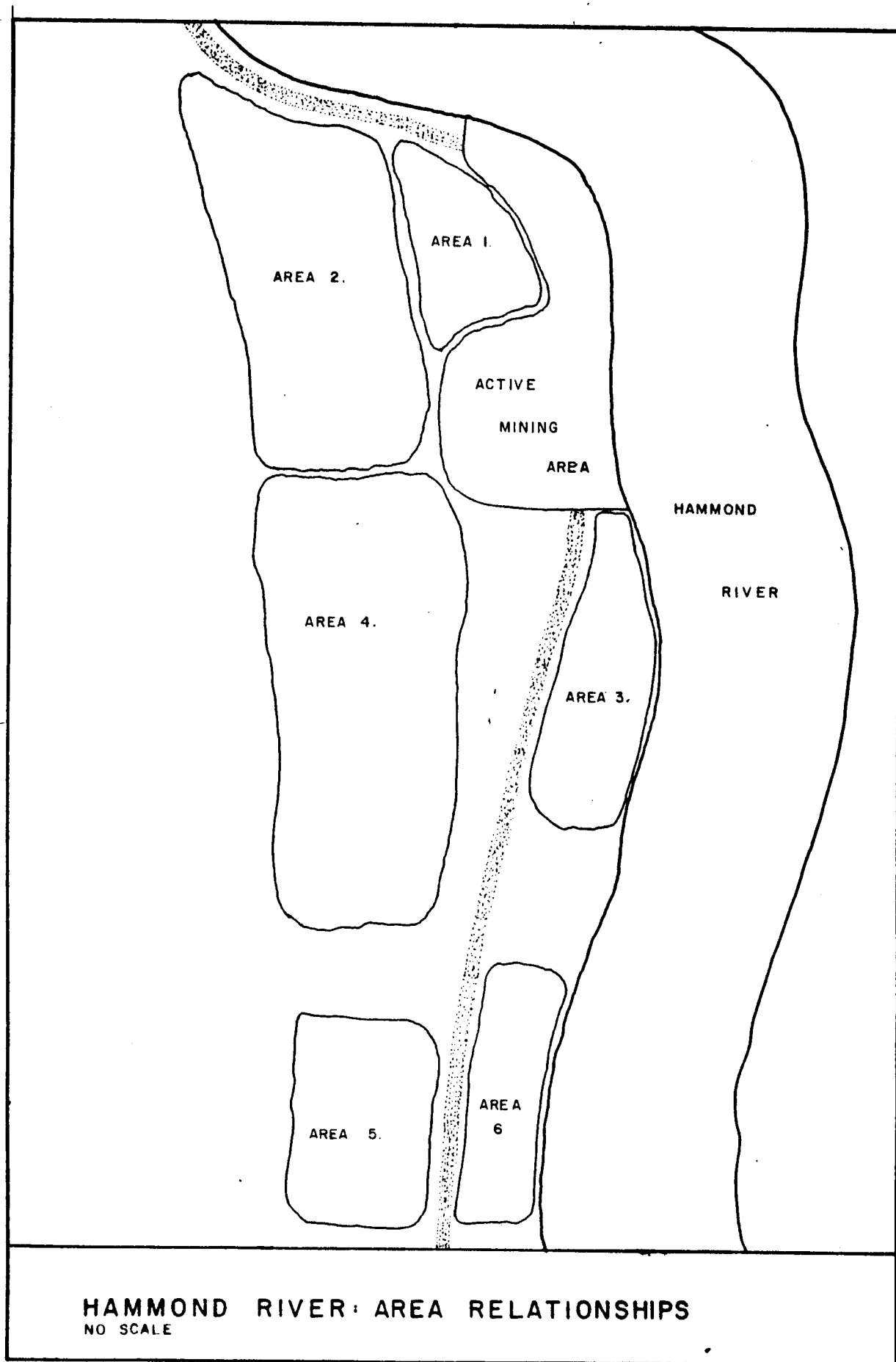
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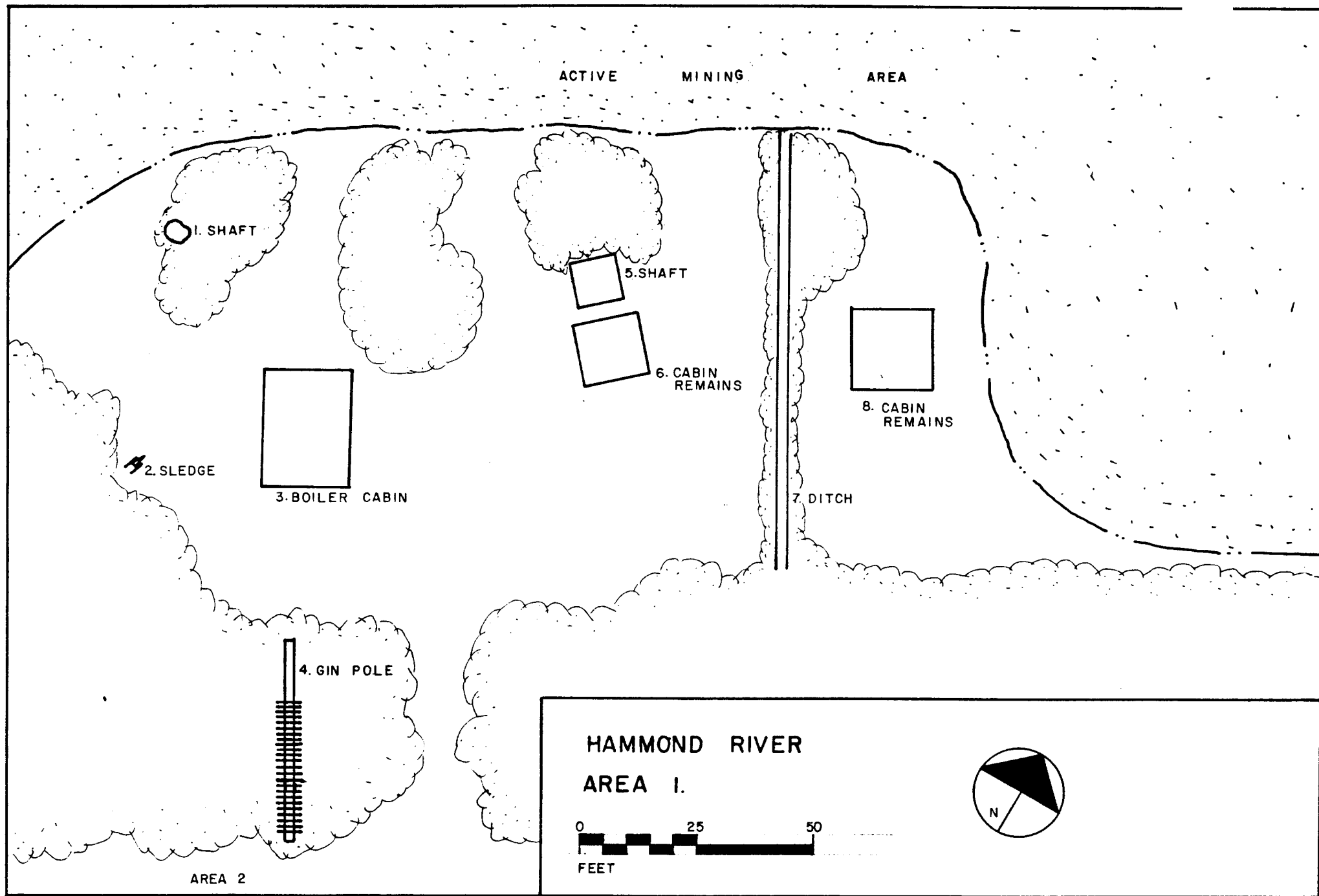
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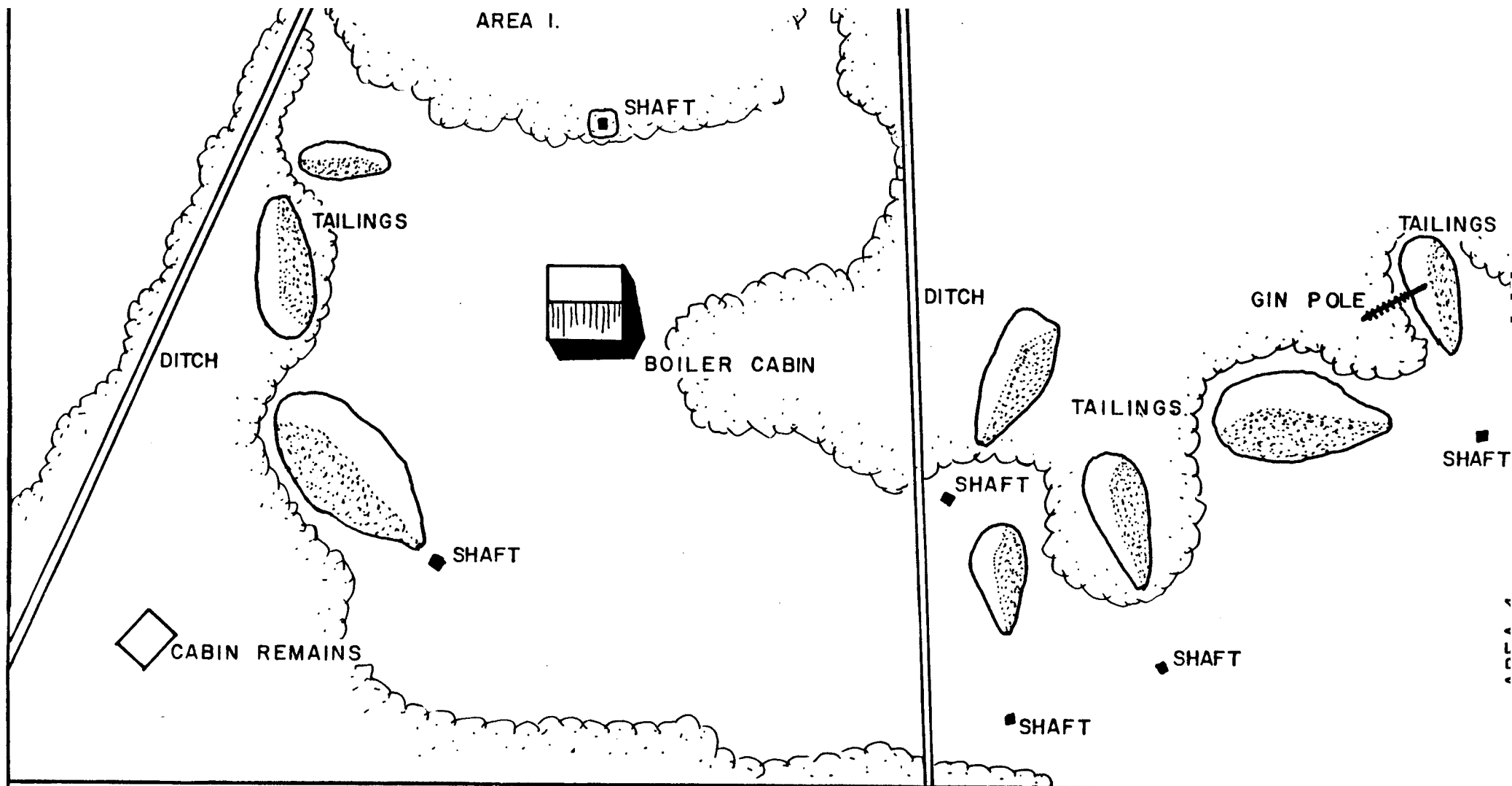
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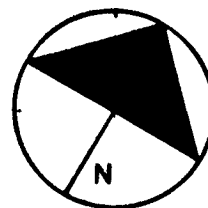
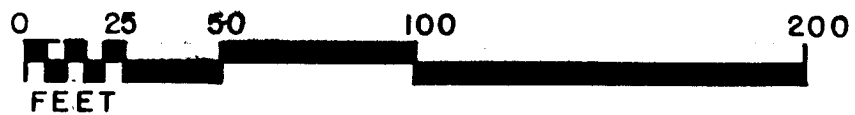


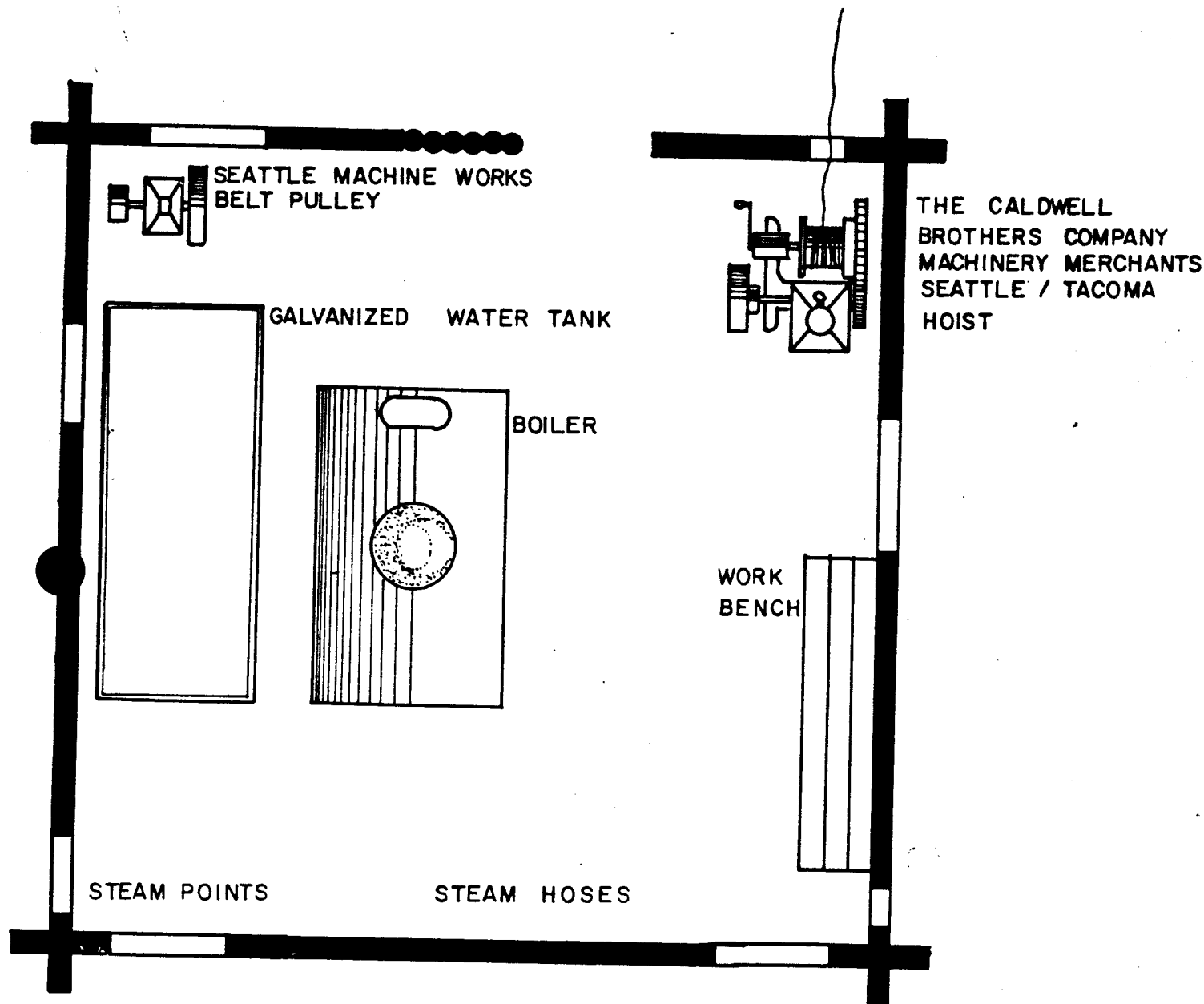




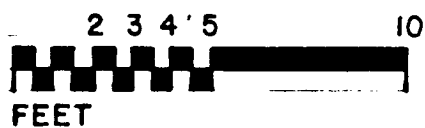


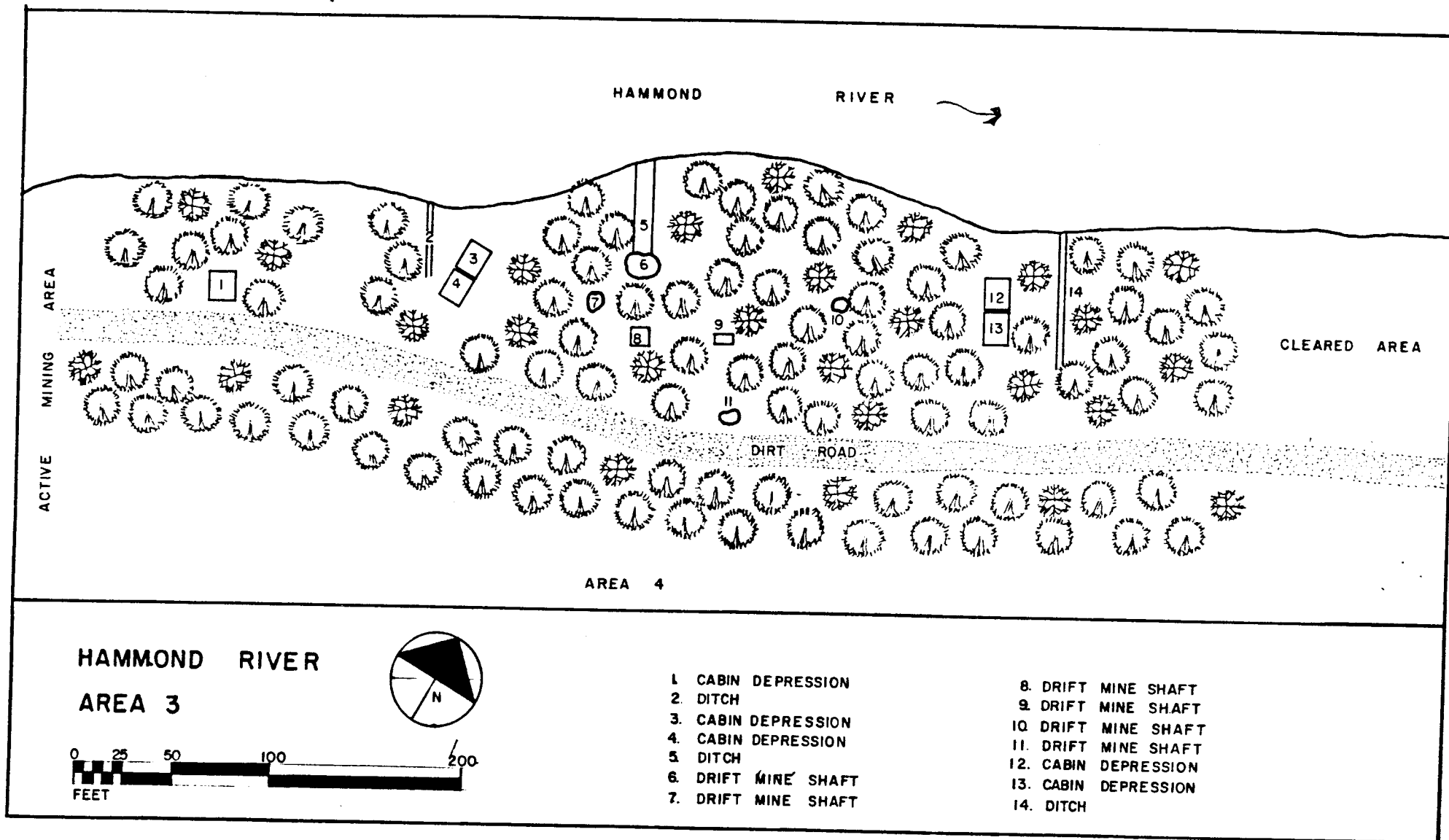
## HAMMOND RIVER: AREA 2

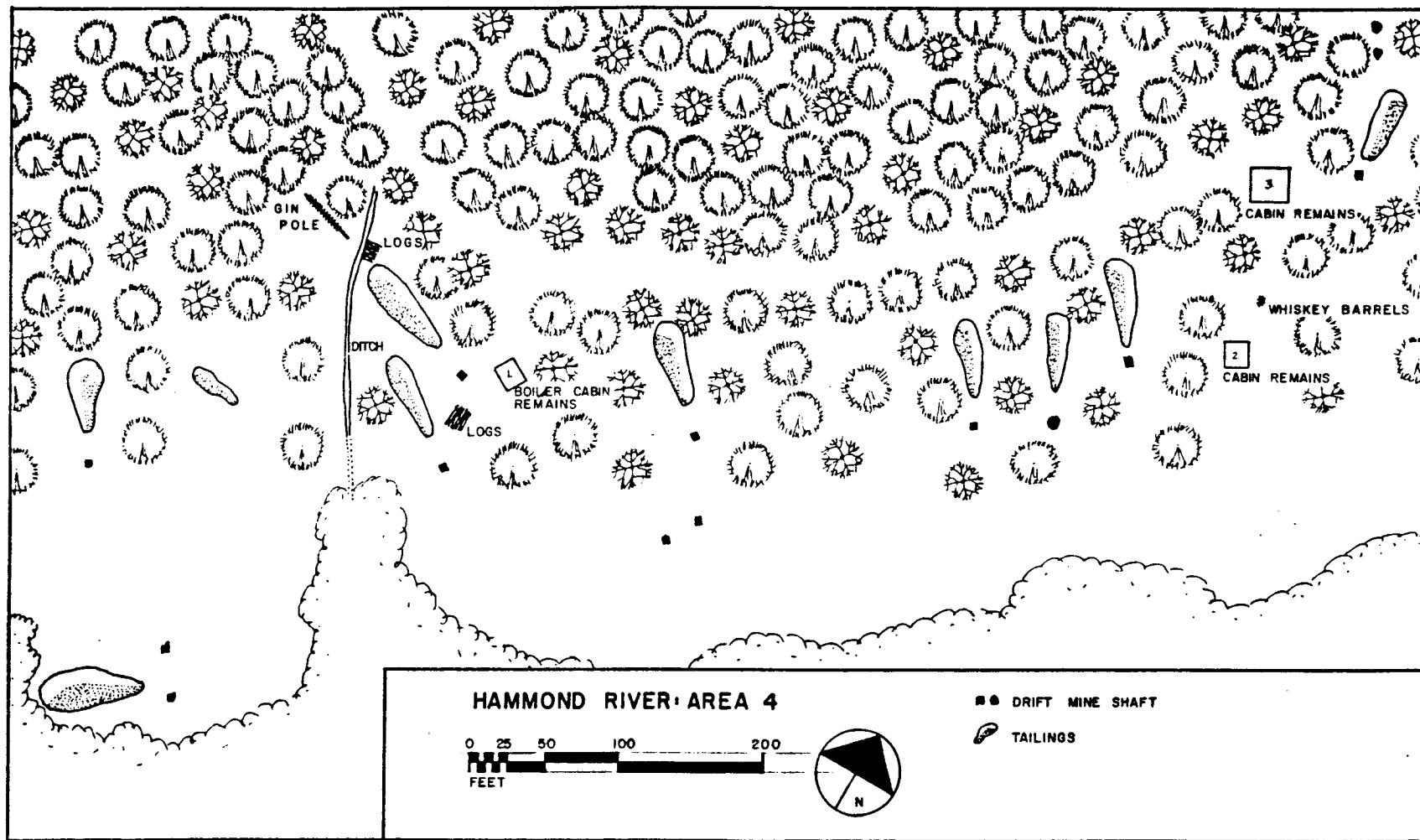




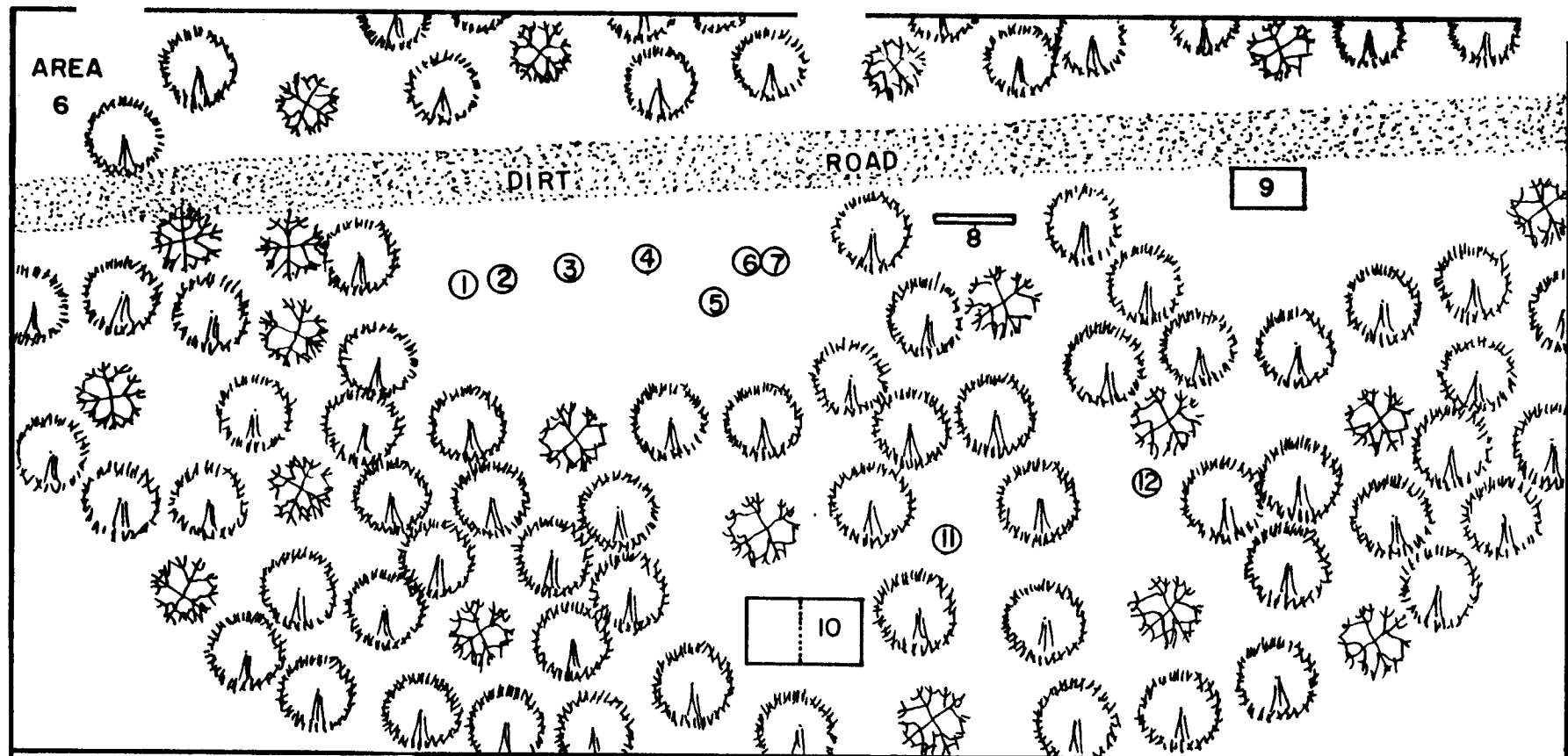
# HAMMOND RIVER AREA 2: BOILER CABIN FLOOR PLAN



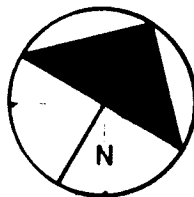
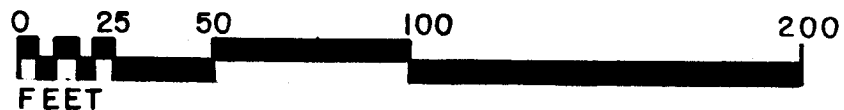




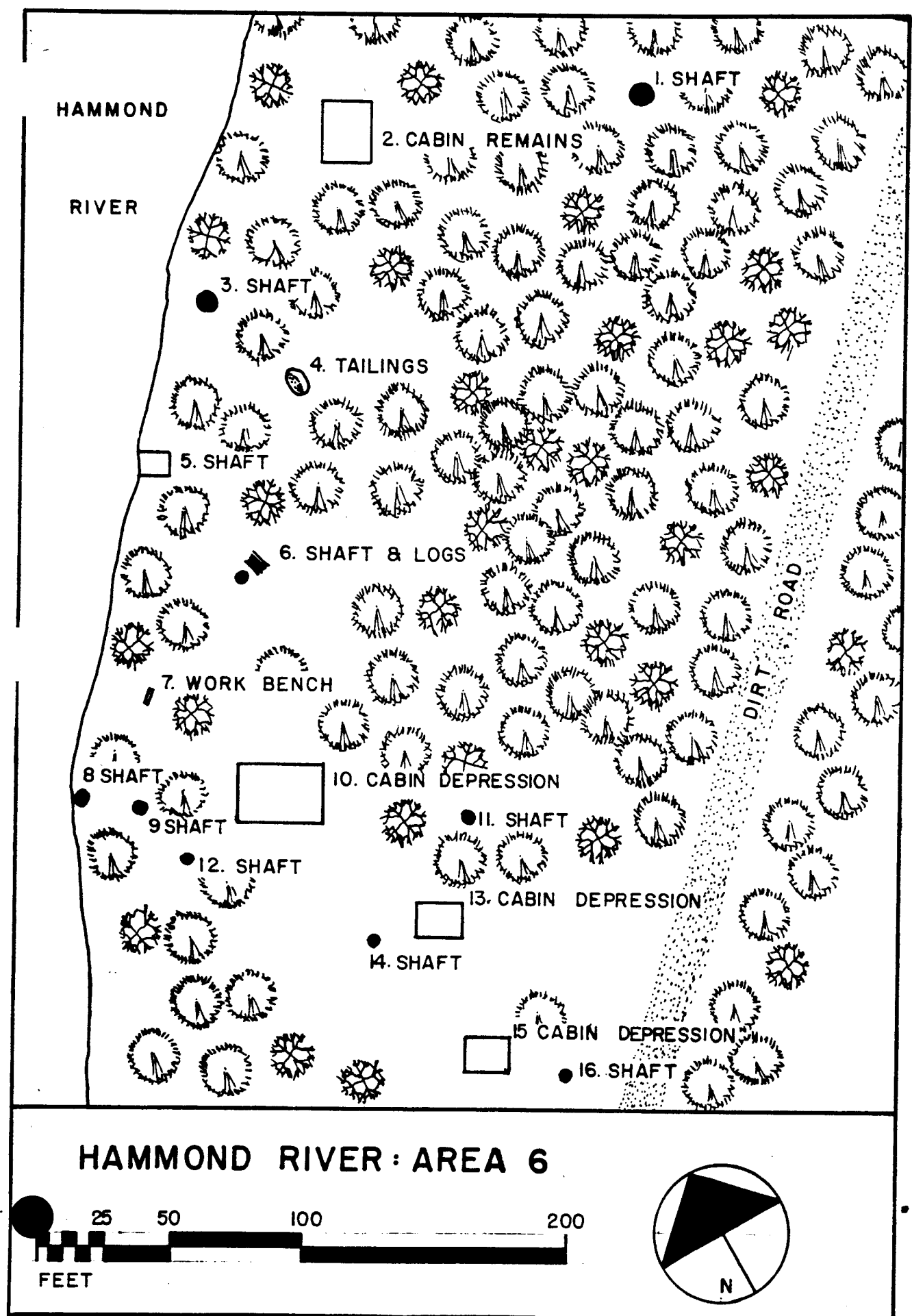


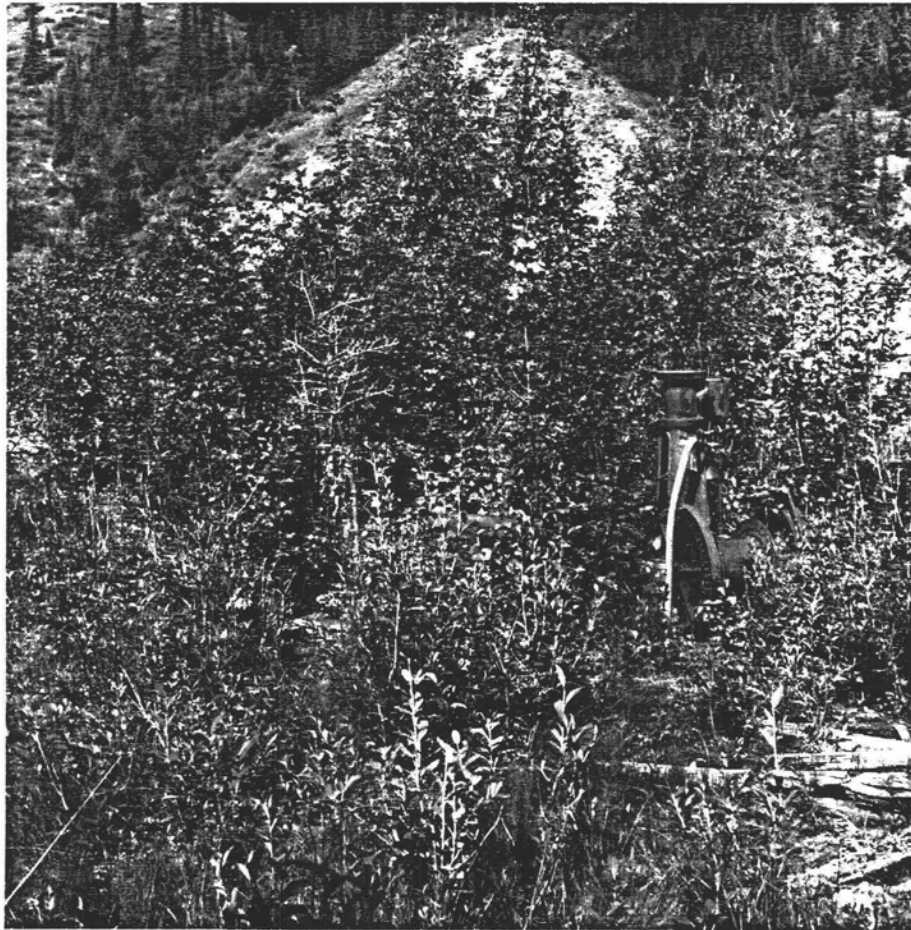


## HAMMOND RIVER: AREA 5



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

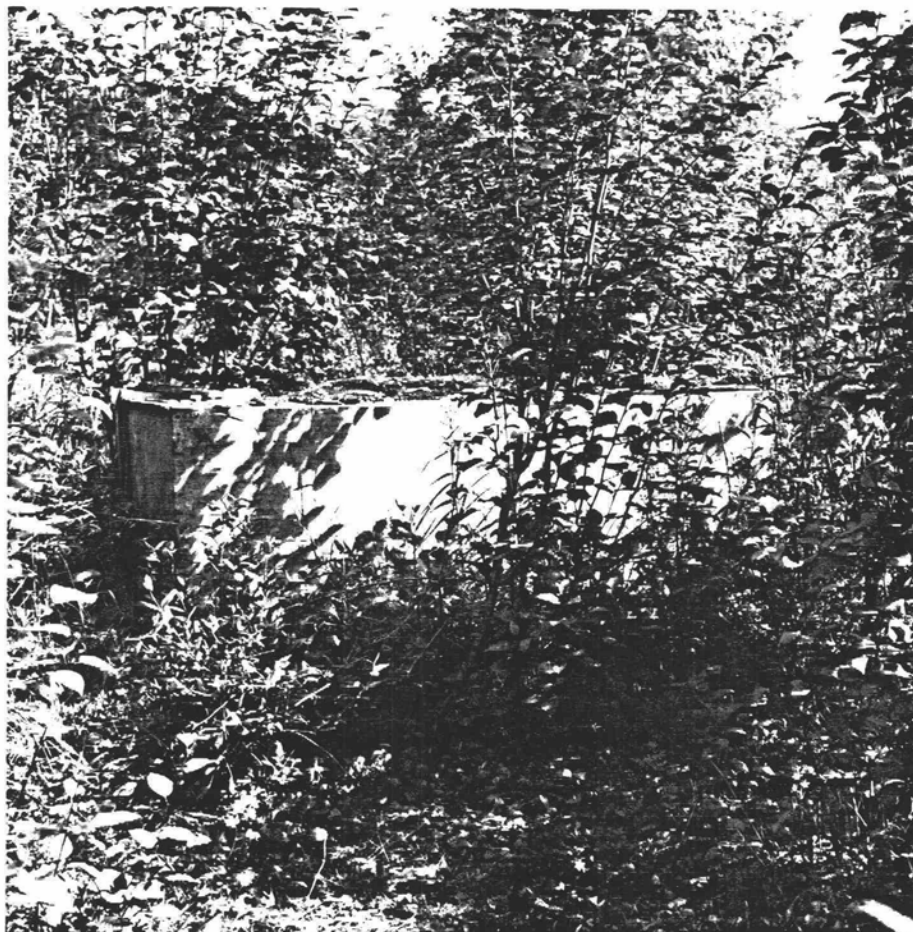




Vern Watts Driftmine Complex on Hammond River: Area 1, hoist in collapsed boiler cabin. W. Brown photo.



Vern Watts Site: Area 1, two-man boiler. W. Brown photo.



Vern Watts Site: Area 1, water tank with inscription, "Bill To:  
August Olson, Nolan, Alaska, via St. Michaels."  
W. Brown photo.

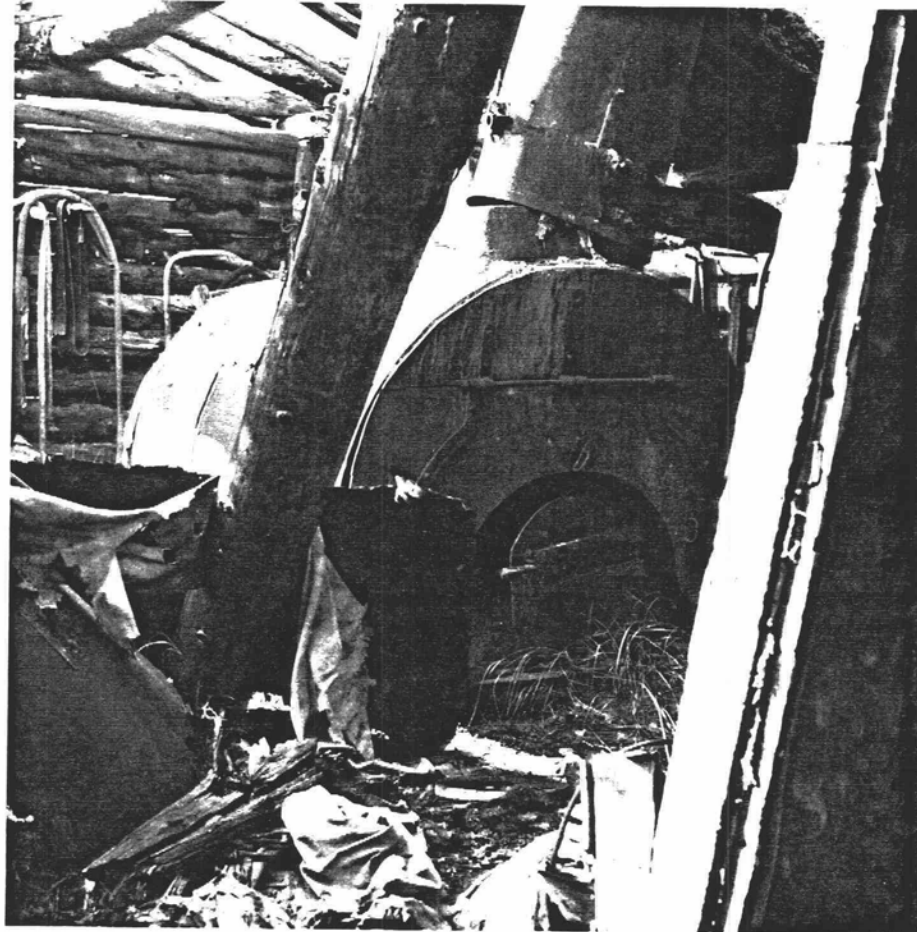


Vern Watts Site: Area 2, boiler cabin from tailings pile.  
W. Brown photo.



Vern Watts Site: Area 2, boiler with insulation wrapping, from  
hoist cable opening in rear wall of boiler cabin.  
W. Brown photo.





Vern Watts Site: Area 2, interior of boiler cabin from doorway  
showing front of boiler and steam hoses hanging from rear-  
wall pegs. W. Brown photo.





Vern Watts Site: Area 2, Kim Hoagland holding Miner's Shovel,  
"Columbia Crucible No. 20." W. Brown photo.



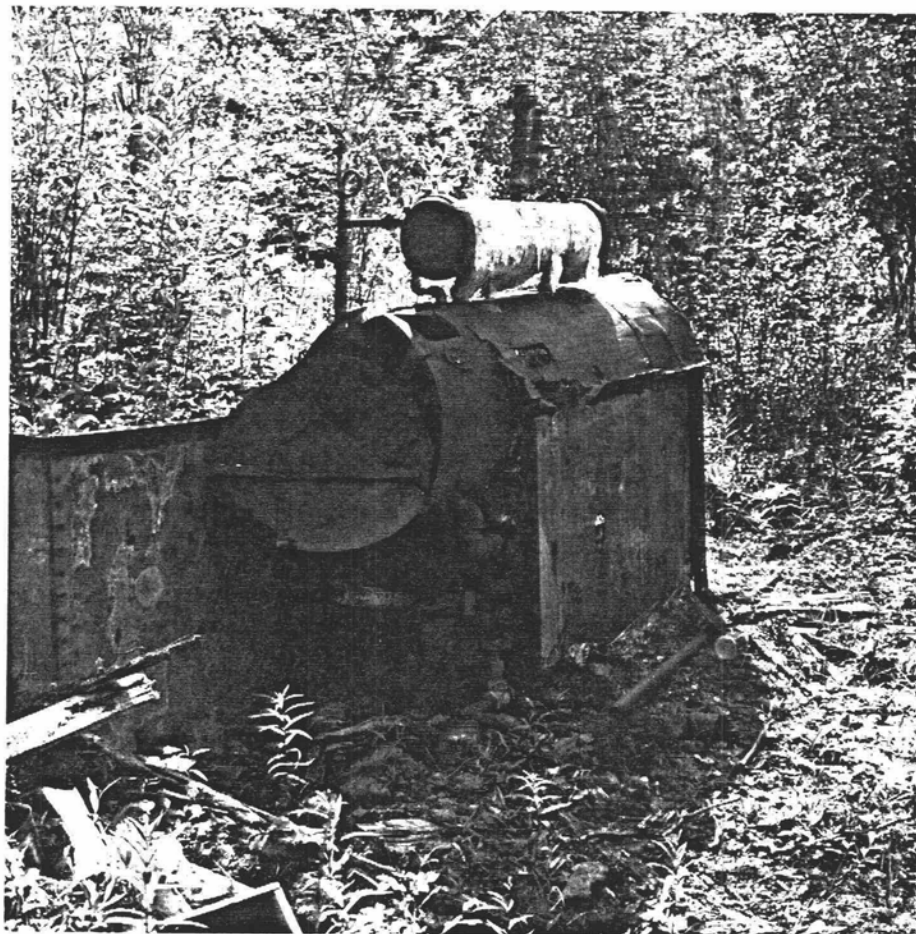
Vern Watts Site: Area 2, with Kim holding self-dumping bucket rig.  
W. Brown photo.



Vern Watts Site: Area 2, steam point stuck in tailings pile; the point was pounded in on the blunt head then the steam hose was connected to the nipple. W. Brown photo.



Vern Watts Site: Area 4, sluice box. W. Brown photo.



Vern Watts Site: Area 4, small boiler and water tank. W. Brown photo.

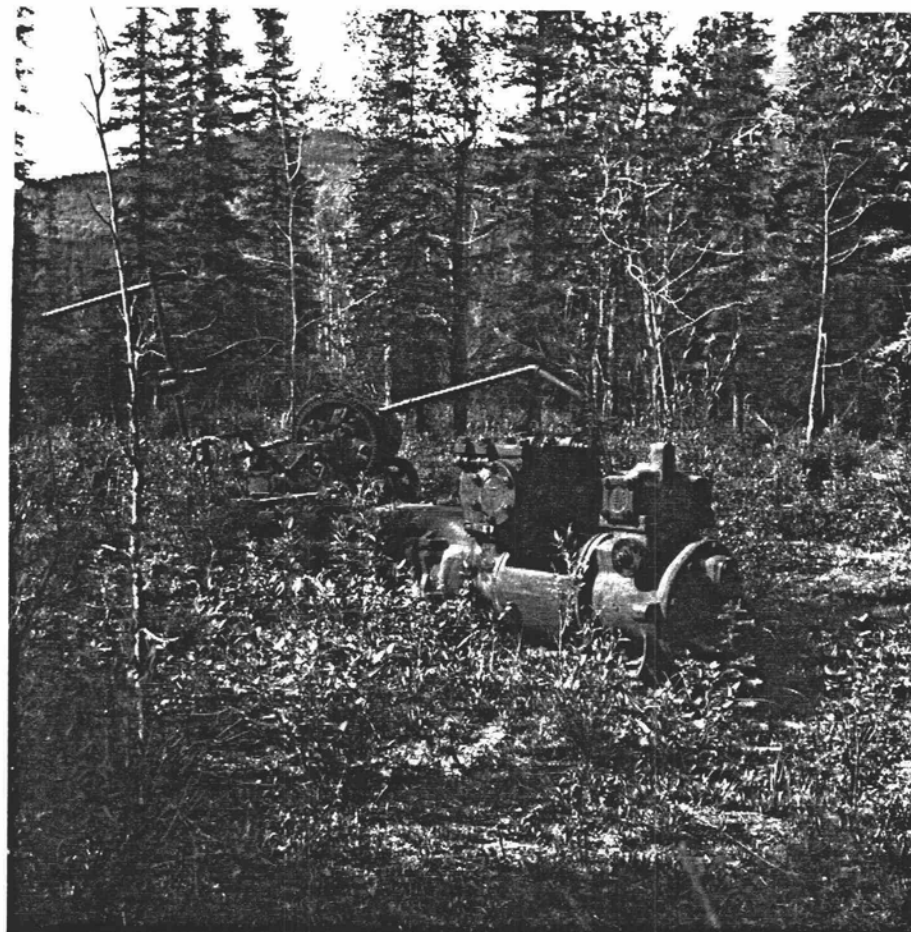


Vern Watts Site: Area 4, fallen gin-pole. W. Brown photo.



Vern Watts Site: Area 5, marine boilers for drift mining, "Tacoma Steam Boiler Works." W. Brown photo. These and other heavy equipment lined up along the road were likely salvaged from the Detroit Mining Co. site just down the Hammond River from the Vern Watts Site.



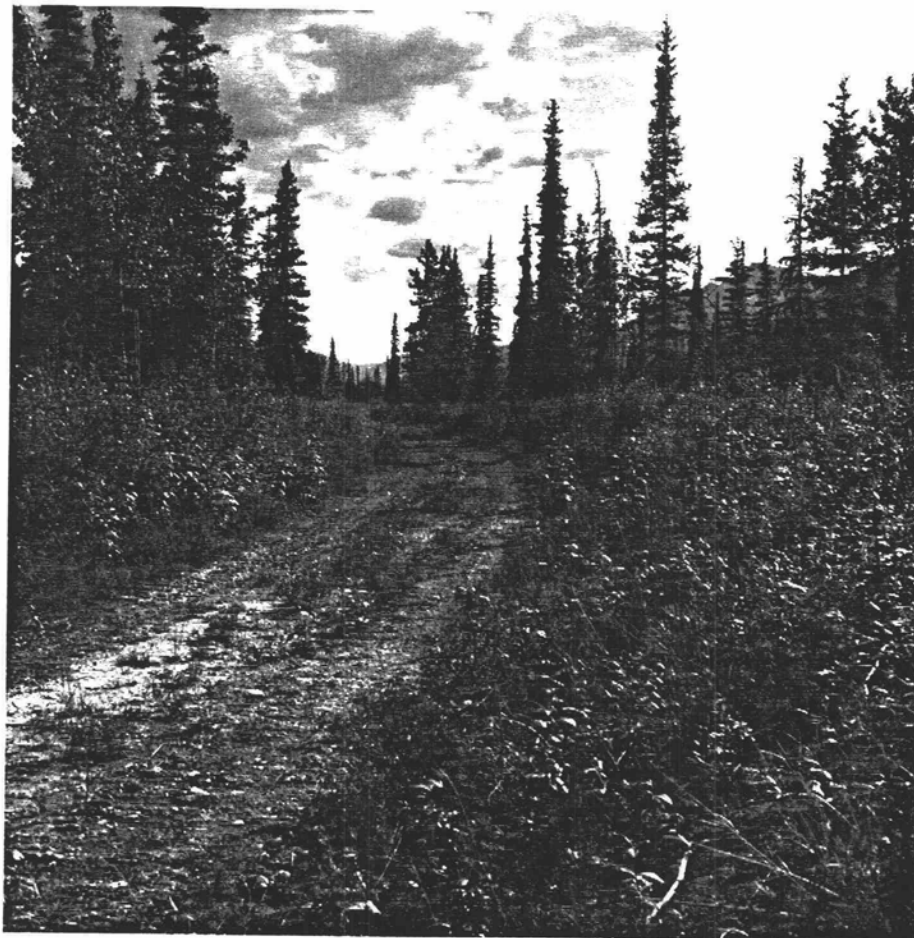


Vern Watts Site: Area 5, steampump and winch, "A.S. Cameron Steampump Works, Size 9, No. 62068, N.Y. City." W. Brown photo.





Vern Watts Site: Area 6, cribbed driftmine shaft with ladder, on Hammond River bank . W. Brown photo.



The old ARC road between Wiseman and Hammond, this view below the Vern Watts Complex, paralleling Middle Fork, Koyukuk River. W. Brown photo.

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, descriptions of which follow:

Feature 1: Pole Cache

The remains of a pole cache stand 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 "Arctic John" Etalook are 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 was then lined with canvas with sod piled against it. The interior of the walls was 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 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 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 Borrow

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 8'x 12' and burnt sill logs suggest that the cabin burned down. There are a few old tin cans scattered about the 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.

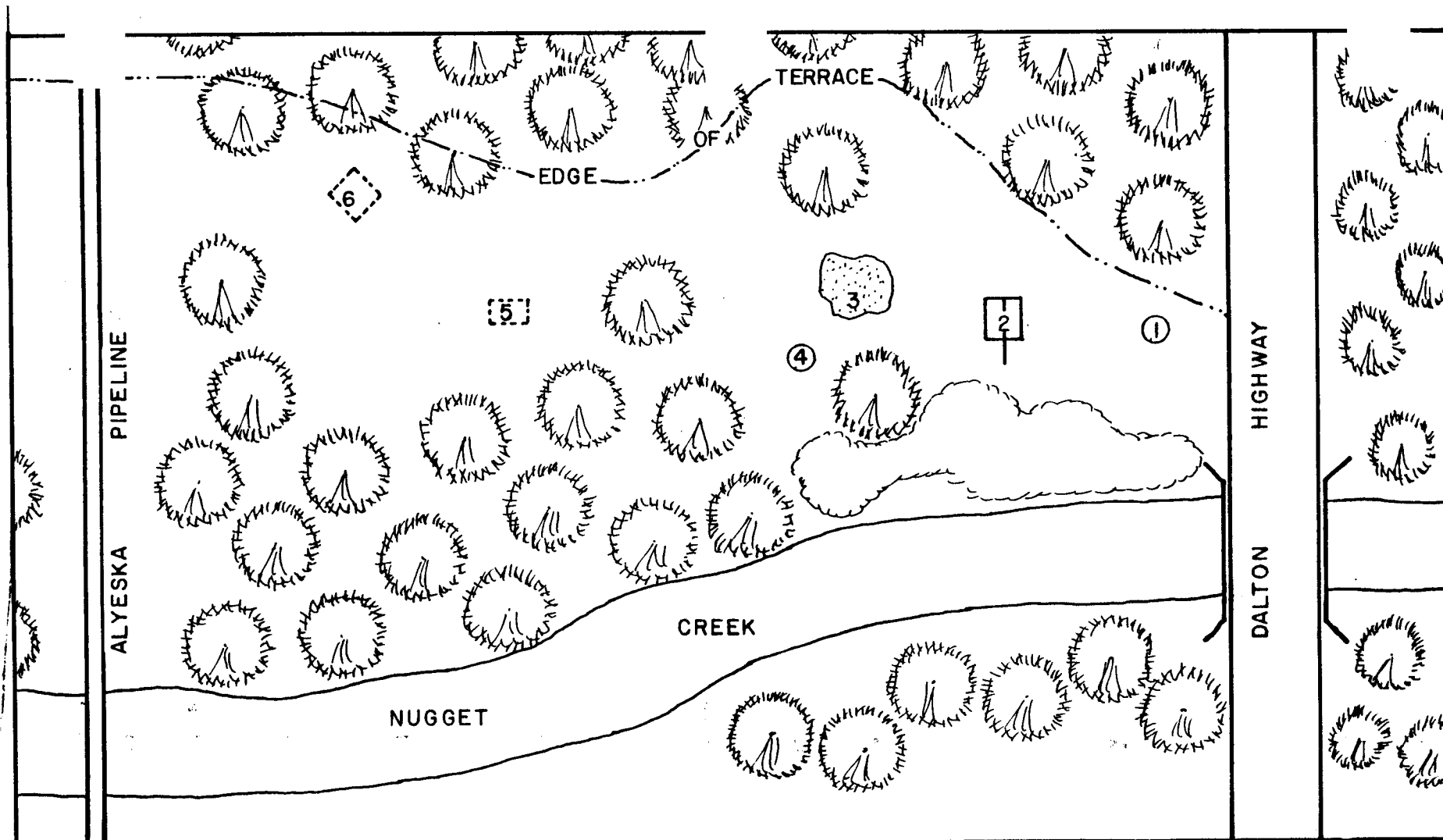
HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE:

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.

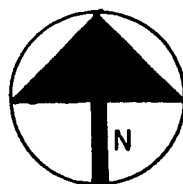
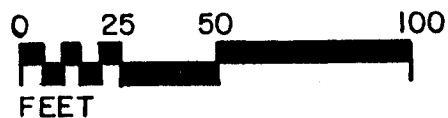
The significance of the site rests in its association with "Arctic John" Etalook, an historic figure, and in the traditional Native style of construction of the sod house.

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 Fluor Northwest, Inc, by Jean Aigner and Brian Gannon, Anthropology Program, University of Alaska, Fairbanks.



# NUGGET CREEK SOD HOUSE & CABIN REMAINS

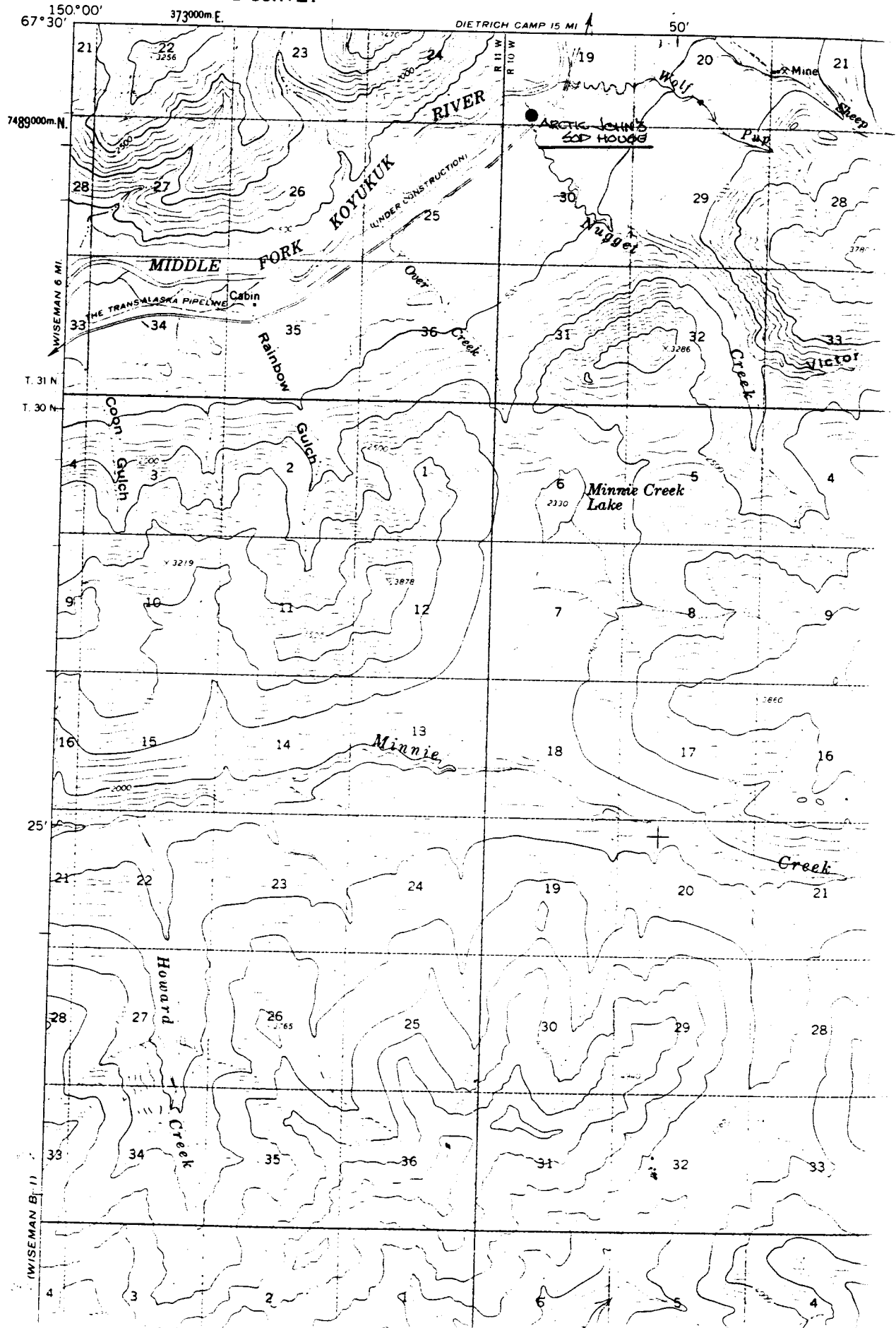


1. POLE CACHE
2. SOD HOUSE
3. SOD BORROW
4. DOG HOUSE
5. CABIN DEPRESSION
6. CABIN DEPRESSION

(WISEMAN C-1)

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Chandalar B-6



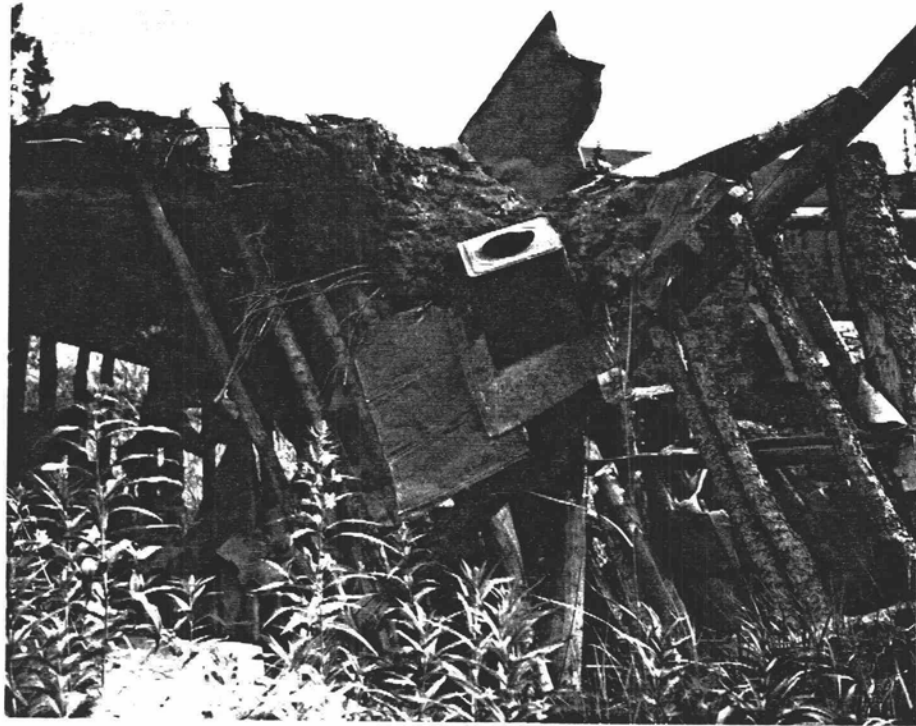


Arctic John Etalook's pole-and-sod house at Nugget Creek-Dalton Highway intersection, cache remains in foreground, house in background. W. Brown photo.



Arctic John's house with remnants of sod cover. W. Brown photo.





Close-up of Arctic John's house showing adaptive use of blazo can  
for stove-pipe jack. W. Brown photo.

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 comprise the site.

This shelter is composed of unpeeled logs standing 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 the 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:

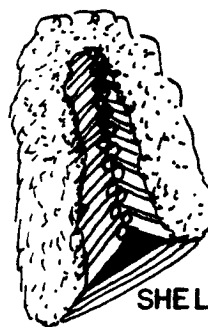
Not enough is known about the site to determine historic significance. It is reported that the shelter was Florence Jonas' who used it when traveling between Wiseman and Linda Creek.

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

DALTON

HIGHWAY



SHELTER

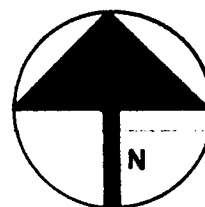
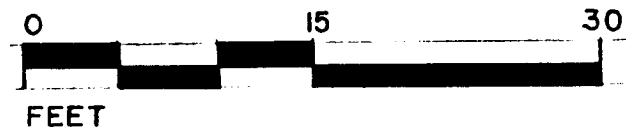


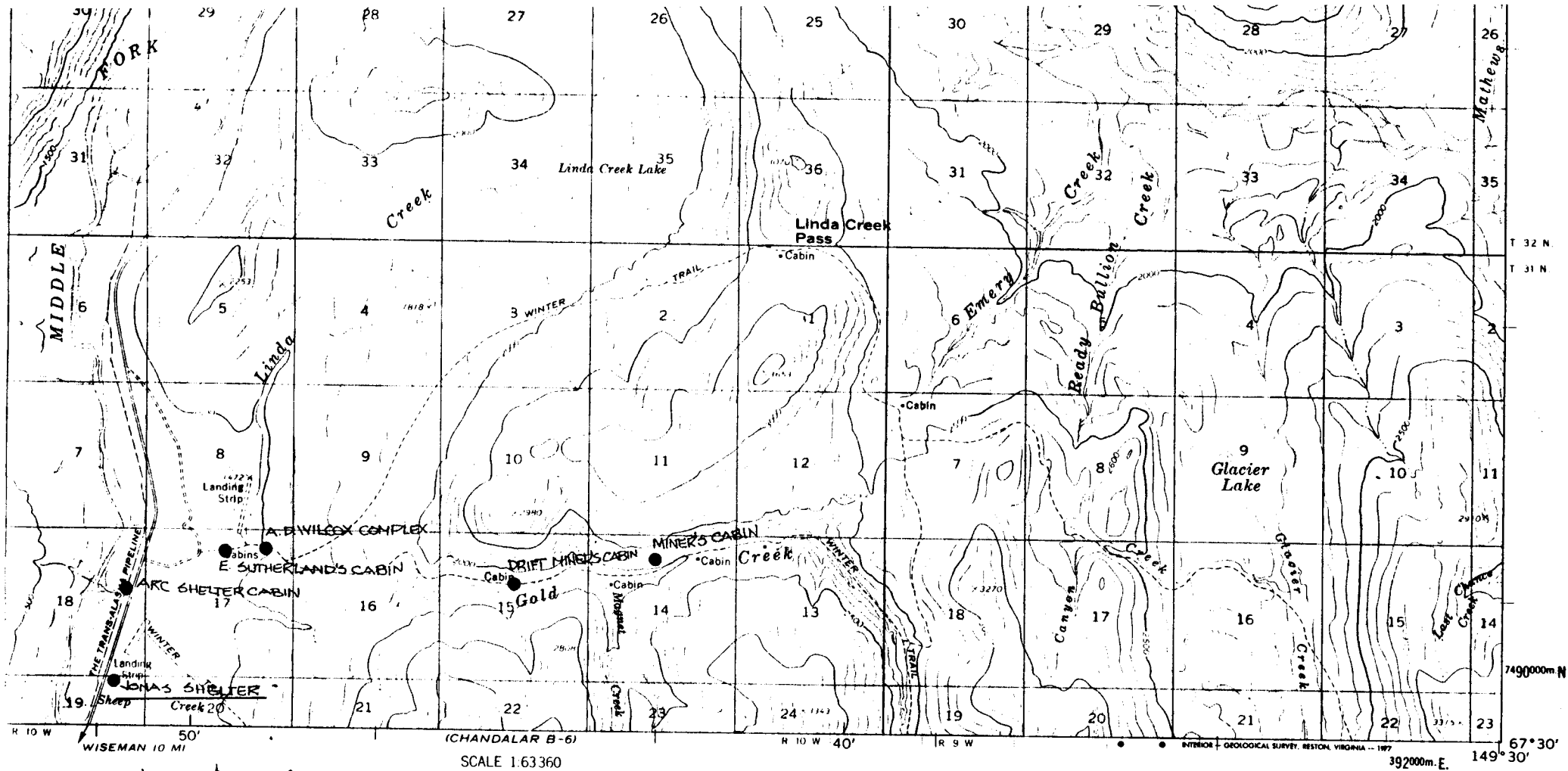
FIREWOOD



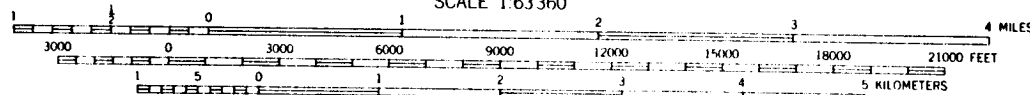
STACKED POLES

JONAS'S SHELTER





TRUE NORTH  
MAGNETIC NORTH  
APPROXIMATE MEAN  
DECLINATION, 1975



CONTOUR INTERVAL 100 FEET  
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929



ROAD CLASSIFICATION  
Light-duty ————— Unimproved dirt —————

FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99701, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

CHANDALAR (C-6), ALASKA  
N6730—W14930/15 X 30

1971  
PHOTOREVISED 1975



Jonas' Shelter near Sheep Creek; note sod cover over logs toward rear of shelter. W. Brown photo.

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 stands 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 eave 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 eave by 2 feet. Reason for this is unknown. The gable roof extends 3'3" out from the north and south elevations.

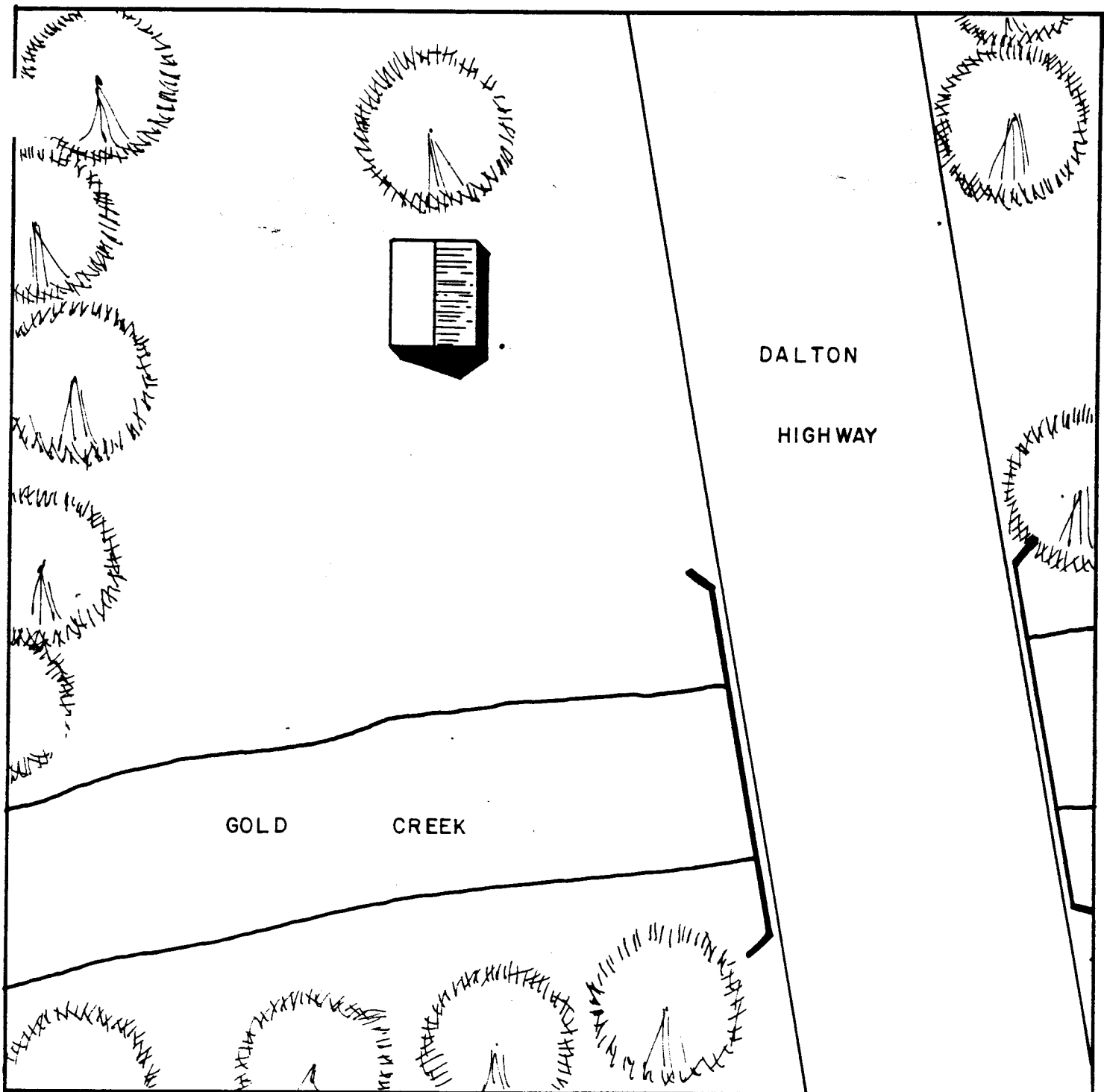
The interior of the cabin is clean of historic material and contains only a little modern trash. This is also true of the area around the site.

HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE:

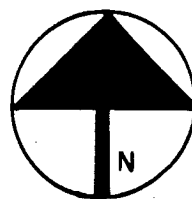
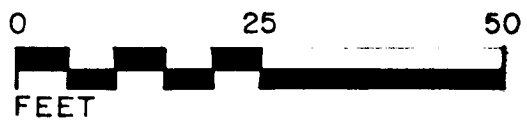
The cabin represents the activities of the early days of the Alaska Road Commission's establishment and maintenance of winter trails, important in the development of the region.

PREVIOUS SURVEY:

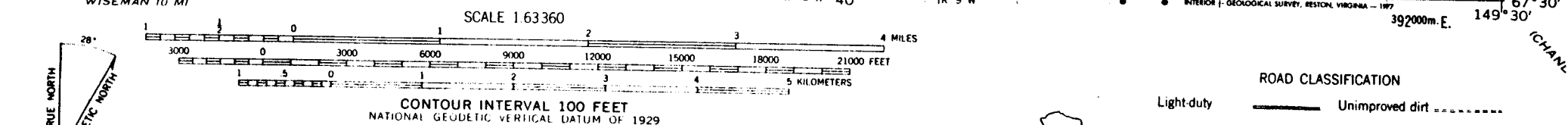
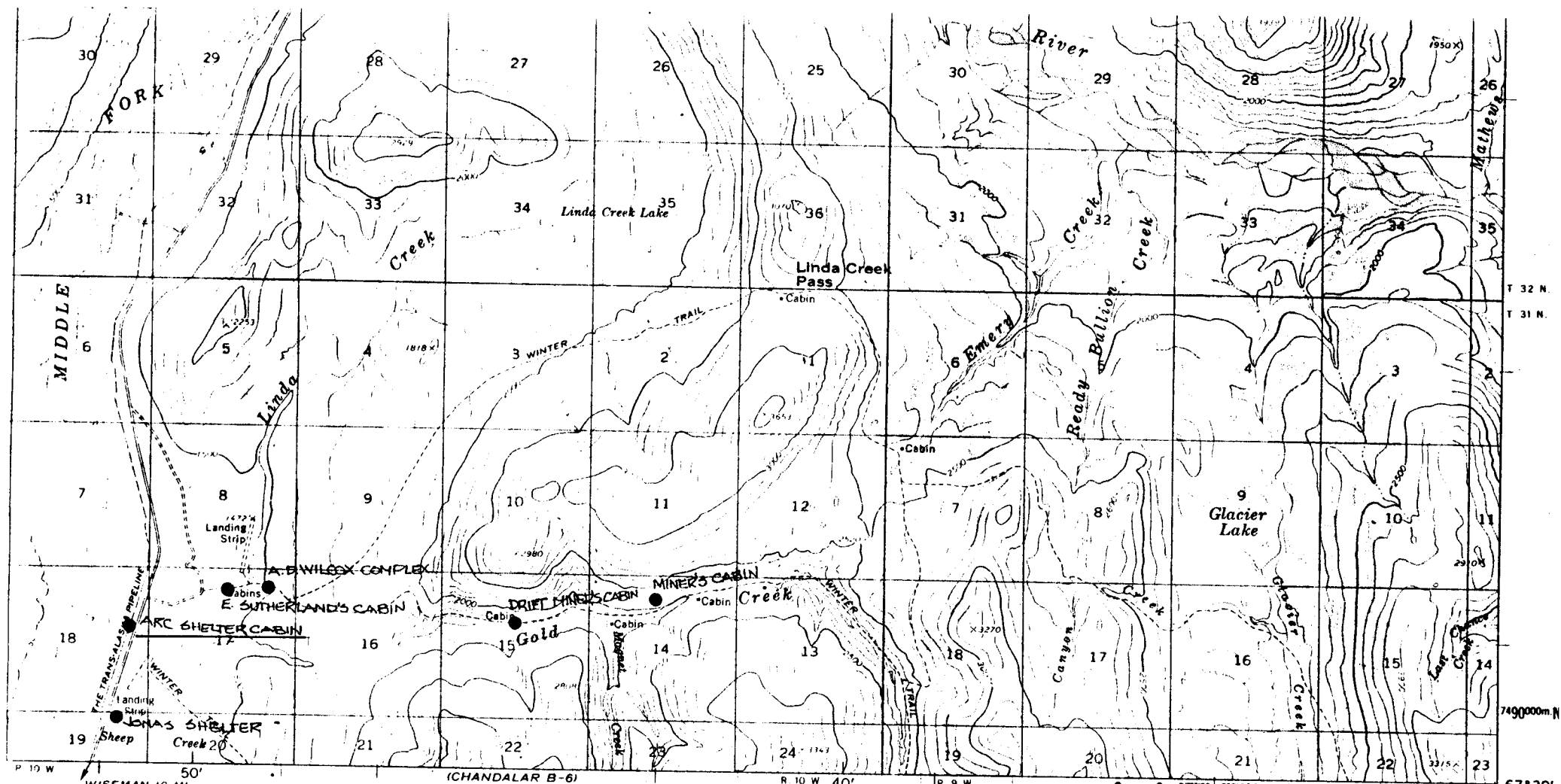
The cabin was surveyed in 1980 and described in "Final Report on the 1980 Archaeological Survey Along the Northwest Alaskan Pipeline Company Natural Gas Pipeline Corridor from Prudhoe Bay to Delta Junction; with Additional Work to the South" submitted to Fluor Northwest, Inc., by Jean Aigner and Brian Gannon, Anthropology Program, University of Alaska, Fairbanks.



GOLD CREEK  
ARC SHELTER CABIN







FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
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 A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

CHANDALAR (C-6), ALASKA  
 N6730—W14930/15 X 30  
 1971  
 PHOTOREVISED 1975



ARC Shelter Cabin at Gold Creek-Dalton Highway intersection, from  
Gold Creek bridge. W. Brown photo.

SITE TYPE: DRIFT MINERS 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 was 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 stand 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 are visible in the northwest corner along with a cracker tin and a #3 shovel.

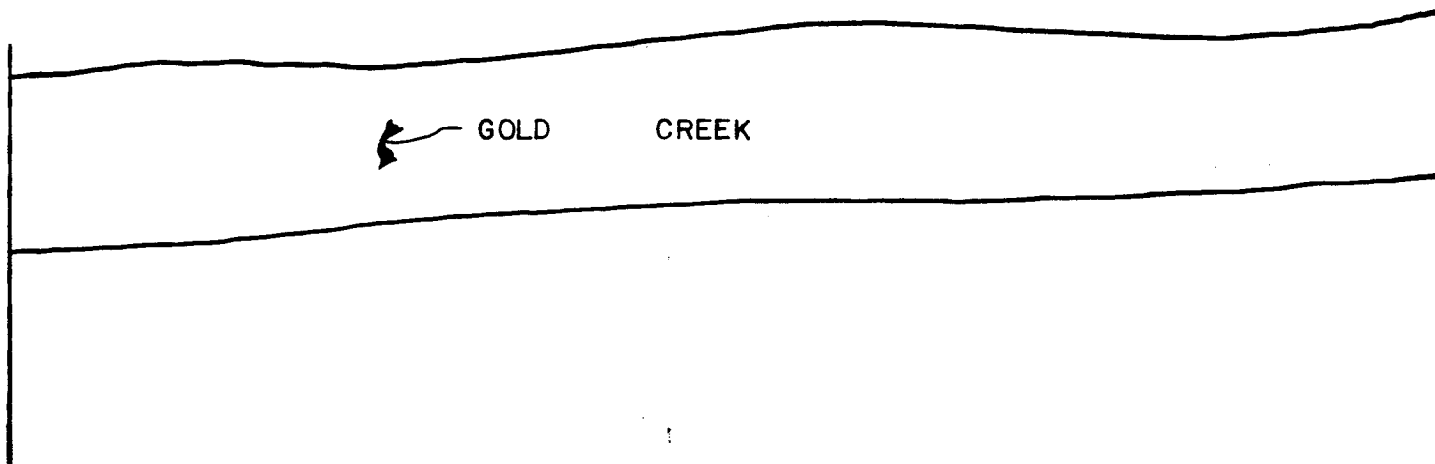
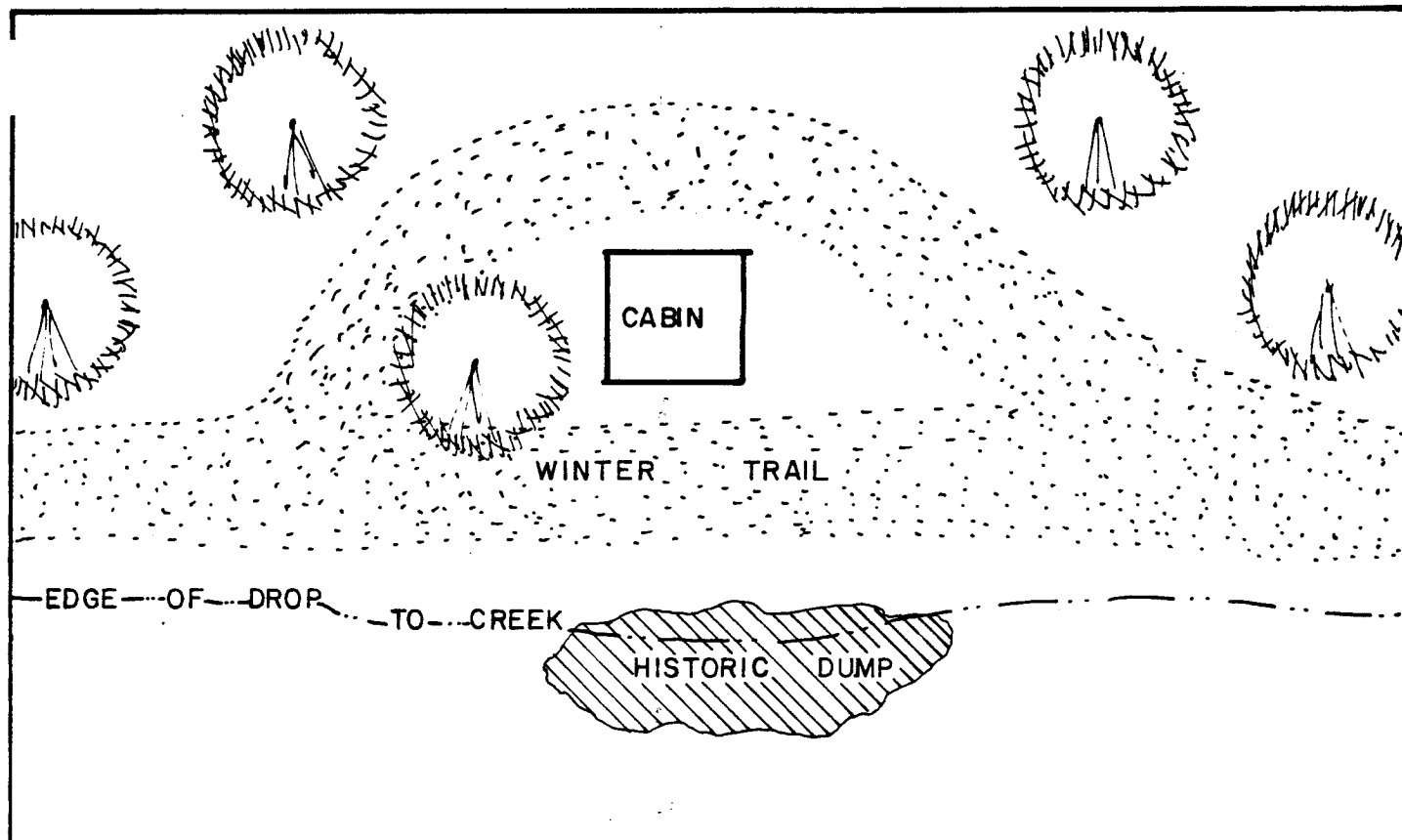
Historic trash to the south of the cabin includes pre 1930s bottles, tin cans (hole-in-top dating from the turn of 1900s), old gold pans, and fragments of boots.

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.

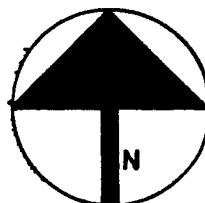
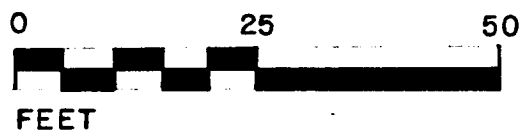
**HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE:**

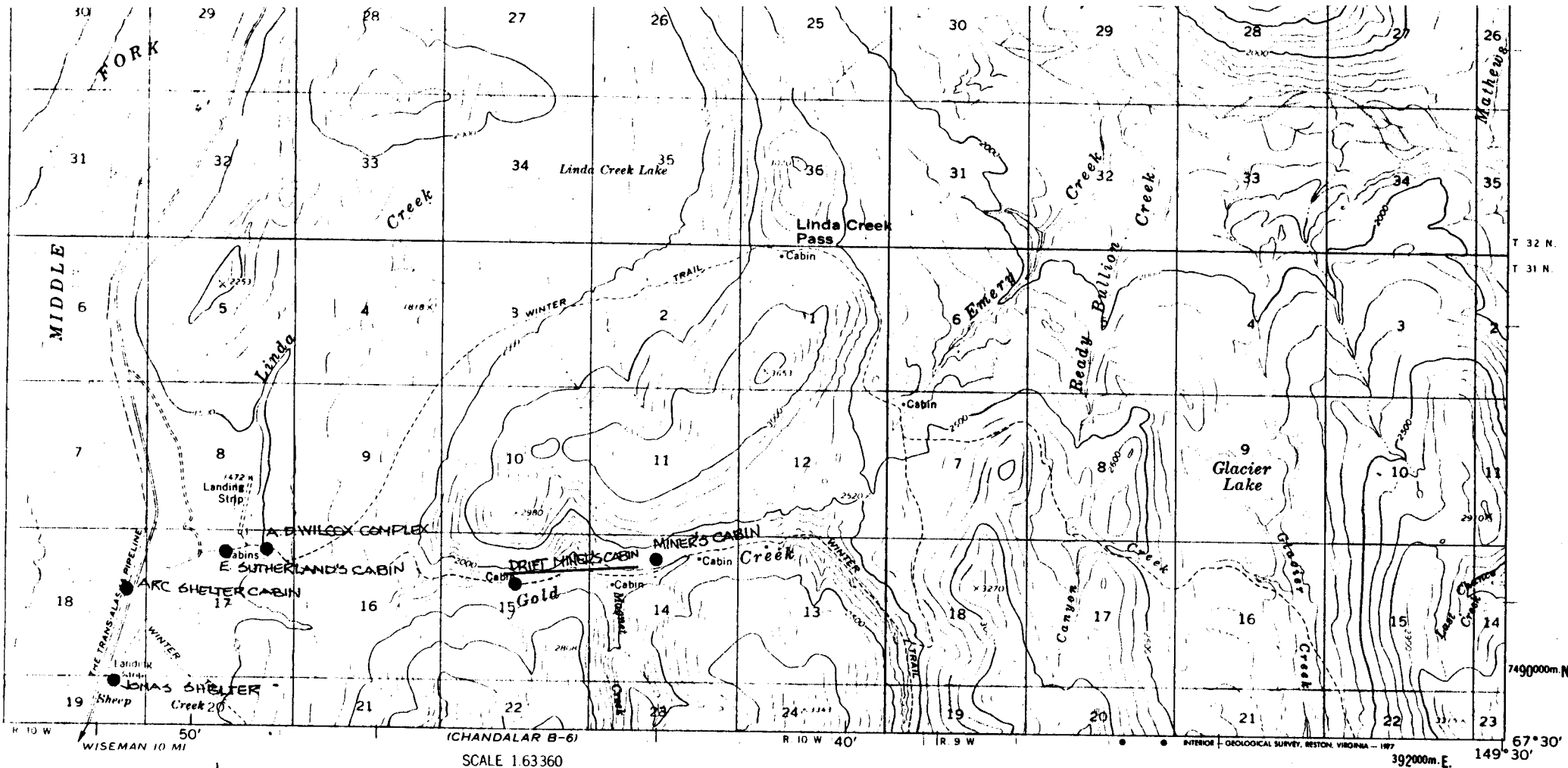
Specific history of the site is not known. Evidence on the site suggests that it dates from the first decade of 1900s.

Gold Creek is important in the turn of this century in the region's mining history.

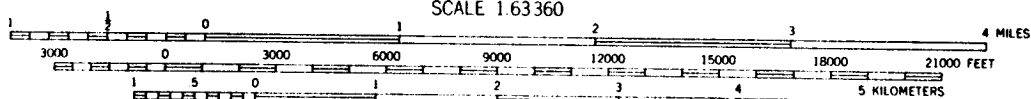


# GOLD CREEK MINER'S CABIN





TRUE NORTH  
MAGNETIC NORTH  
APPROXIMATE MEAN  
DECLINATION 1975



SCALE 1:63,360  
CONTOUR INTERVAL 100 FEET  
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929



ROAD CLASSIFICATION  
Light-duty ——— Unimproved dirt - - - - -

FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99701, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

CHANDALAR (C-6), ALASKA  
N6730—W14930/15 X 30

1971  
PHOTOREVISED 1975



Gold Creek Drift Miner's Cabin, Russ Sackett recording, with remains  
of pole shed-arctic entrance in evidence. W. Brown photo.

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 contains 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 gabled portion. This portion of the wall has collapsed, 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.

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.

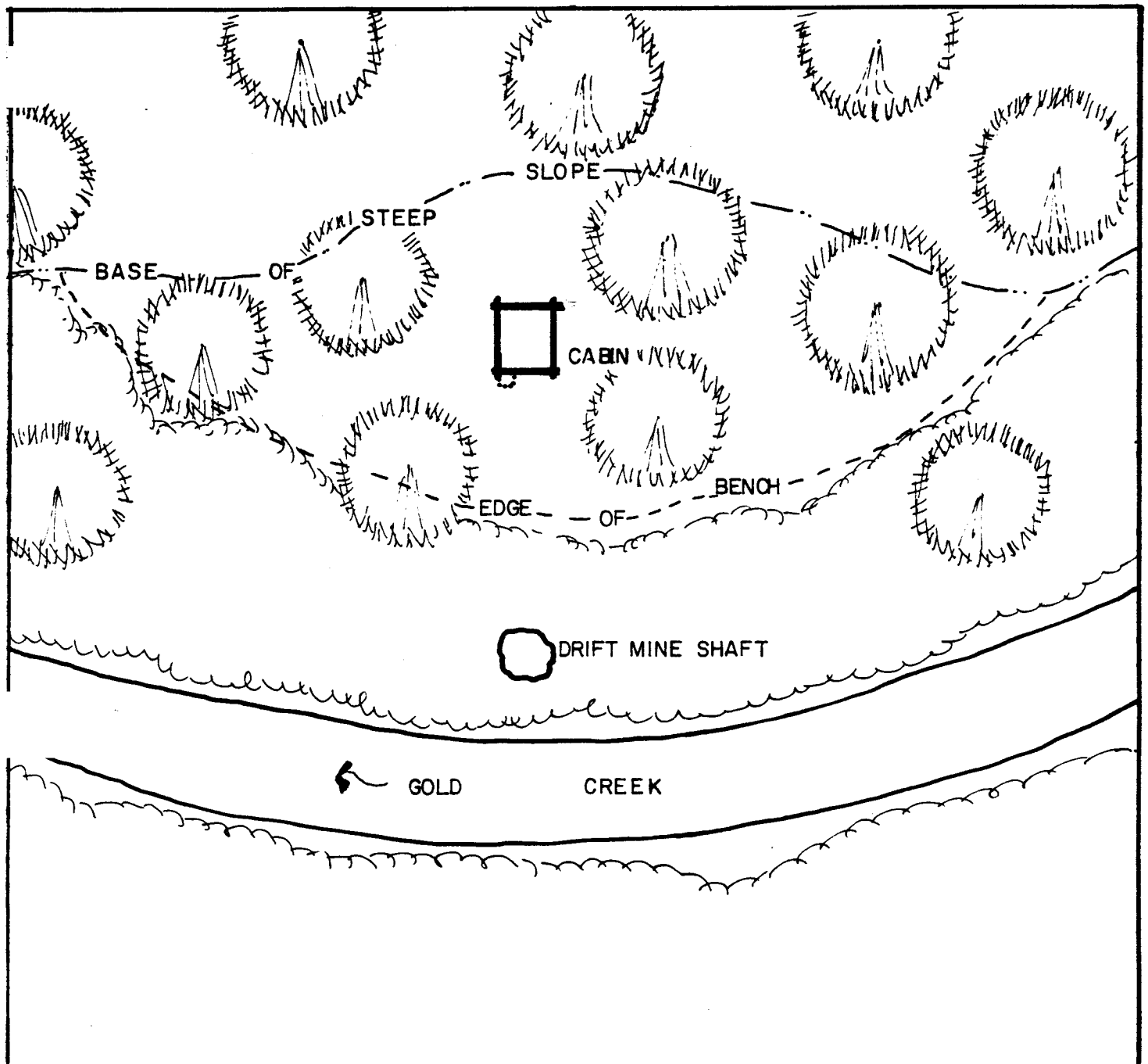
On the south and west sides of the cabin there are a number of tin cans, wood box fragments, and old gold pans. Along the edge of the creek embankment to the south is a major dump of historic material.

**HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE:**

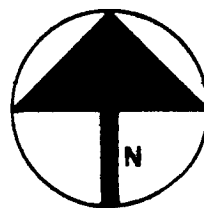
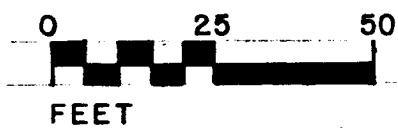
Specific site history is not known. Gold Creek is important in regional mining history during the first decades of the 1900s.

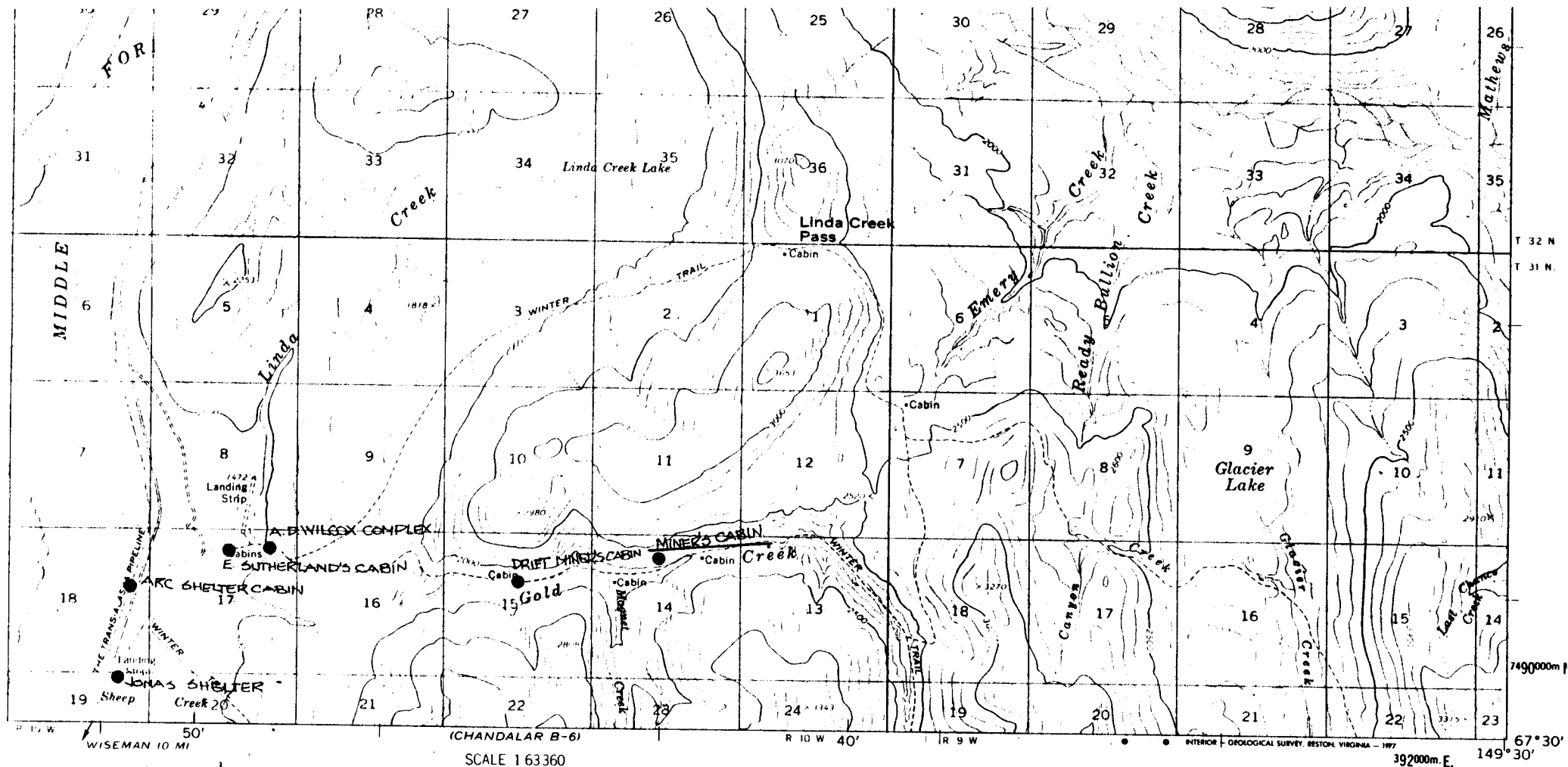
PREVIOUS SURVEYS: None



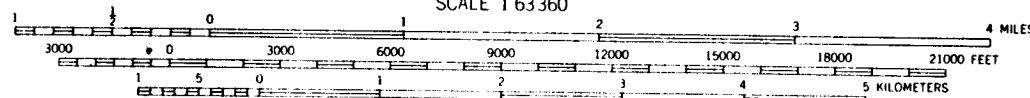


GOLD CREEK  
DRIFT MINER'S CABIN





TRUE NORTH  
MAGNETIC NORTH  
APPROXIMATE MEAN  
DECLINATION 1975



CONTOUR INTERVAL 100 FEET  
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929



ROAD CLASSIFICATION  
Light duty ————— Unimproved dirt - - - - -

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A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

CHANDALAR (C-6), ALASKA  
N6730—W14930/15 X 30

1971  
PHOTOREVISED 1975



Gold Creek Miner's Cabin with Russ Sackett recording. W. Brown photo.  
Sign on post warns off government agents.

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.

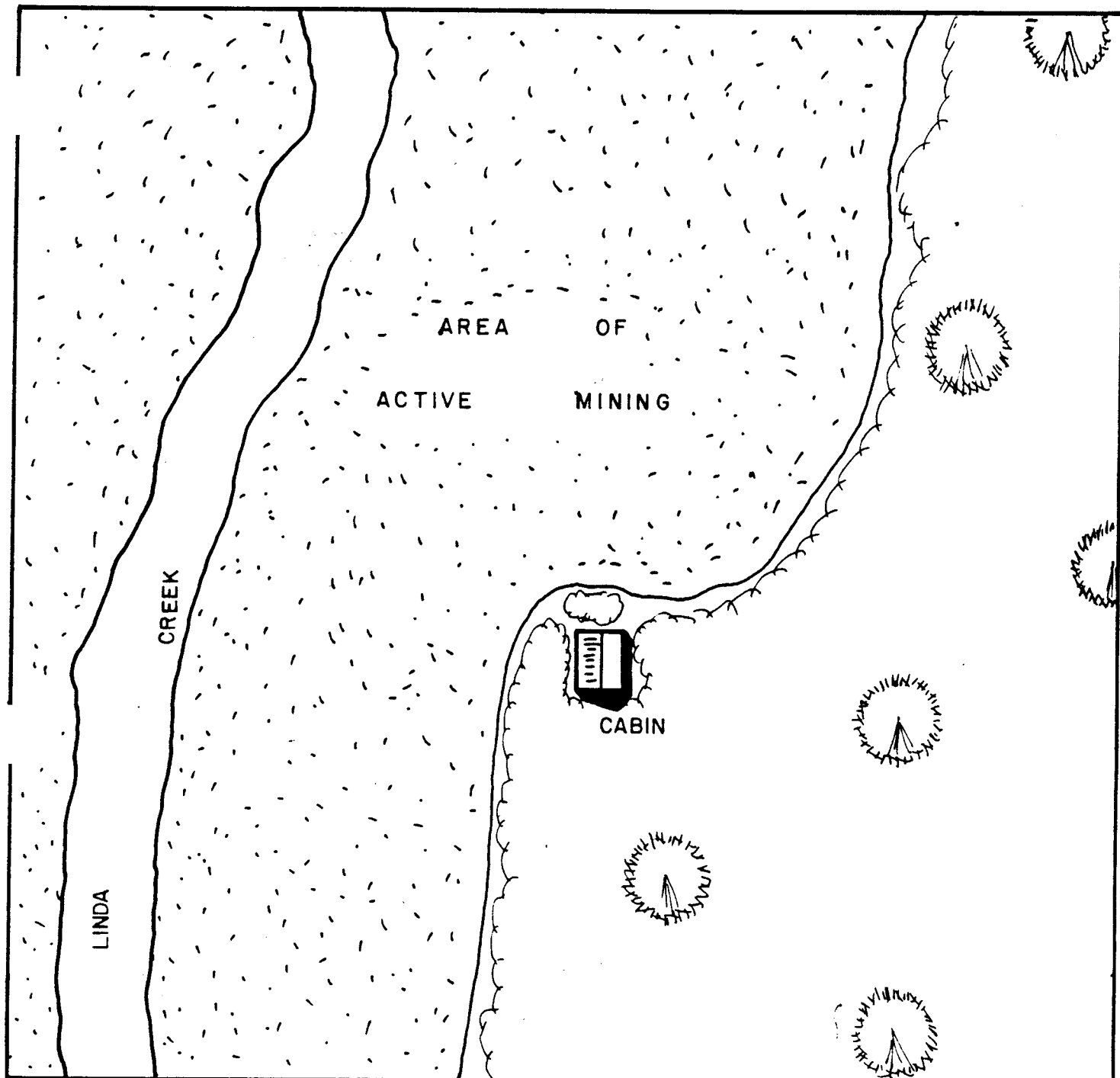
The west and south elevations are plain with no openings and are 4'5" tall and composed of eight log courses. The east elevation has a 2'3" x 3' window opening placed in its center. A 2'4" x 4'5" door opening is located to the right of the north elevation's center. The entire cabin has sunk into the ground approximately one foot.

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.

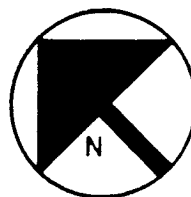
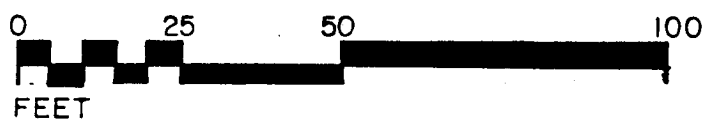
HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE:

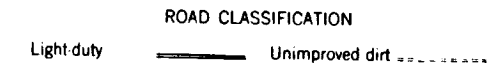
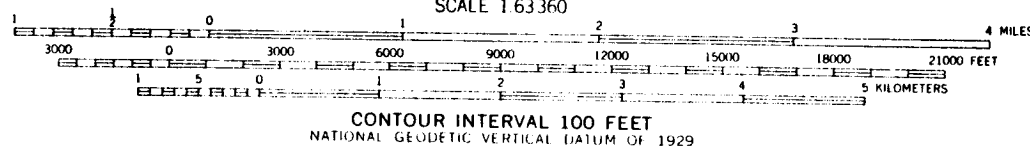
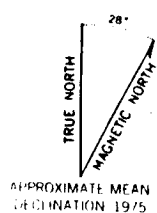
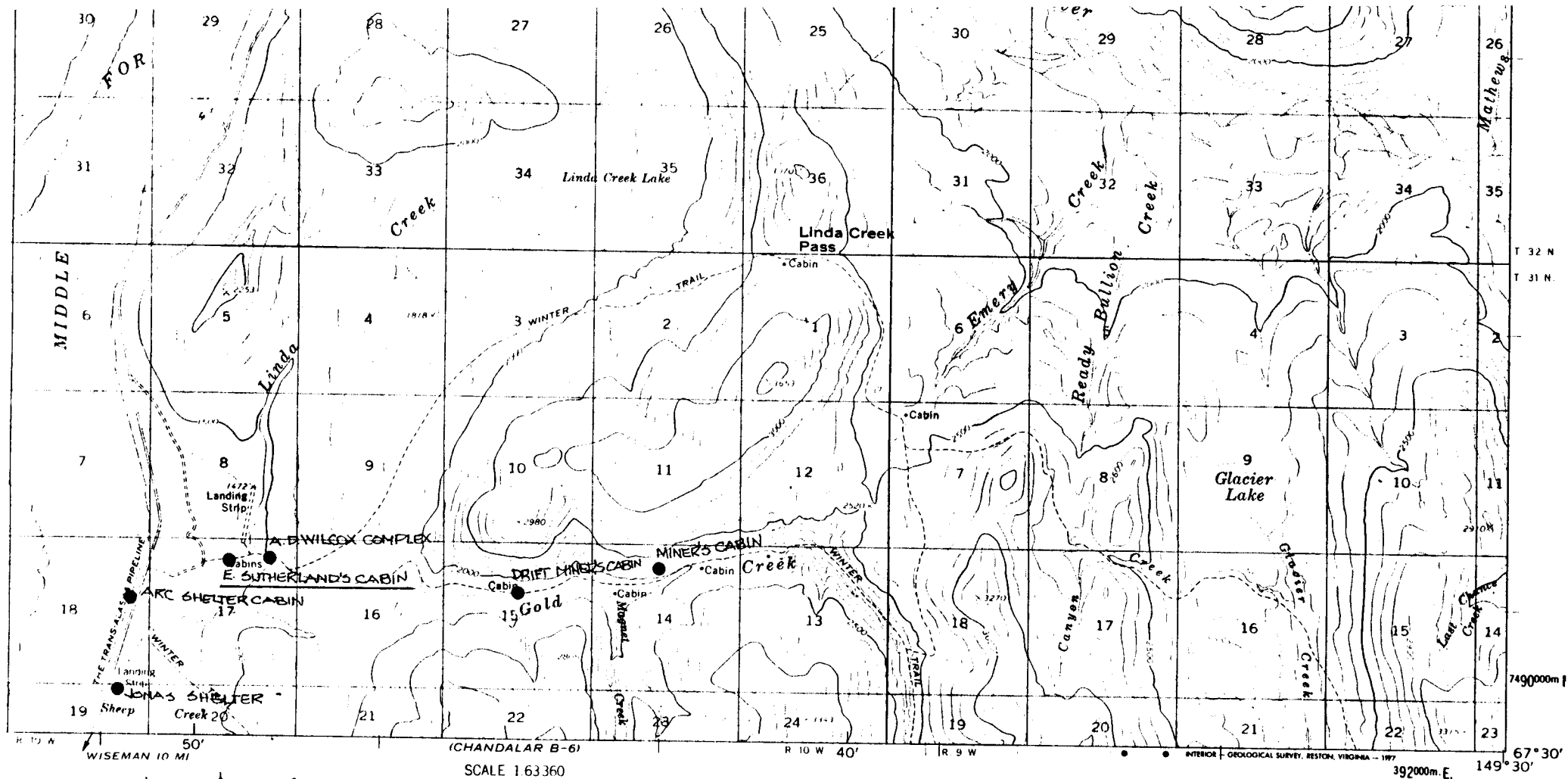
The cabin is reported to have belonged to Ed Sutherland who mined the area in the 1920-30s. His wife is buried on the ridge marking the northern edge of the active mining area.

PREVIOUS SURVEY: None



LINDA CREEK  
ED SUTHERLAND'S CABIN







Ed Sutherland's Cabin, Linda Creek. Russ Sackett photo.

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 comprise 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 26" x 2'10". The west wall is gabled 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 woodstove. 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 115 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. But 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 log 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 attached to the top 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

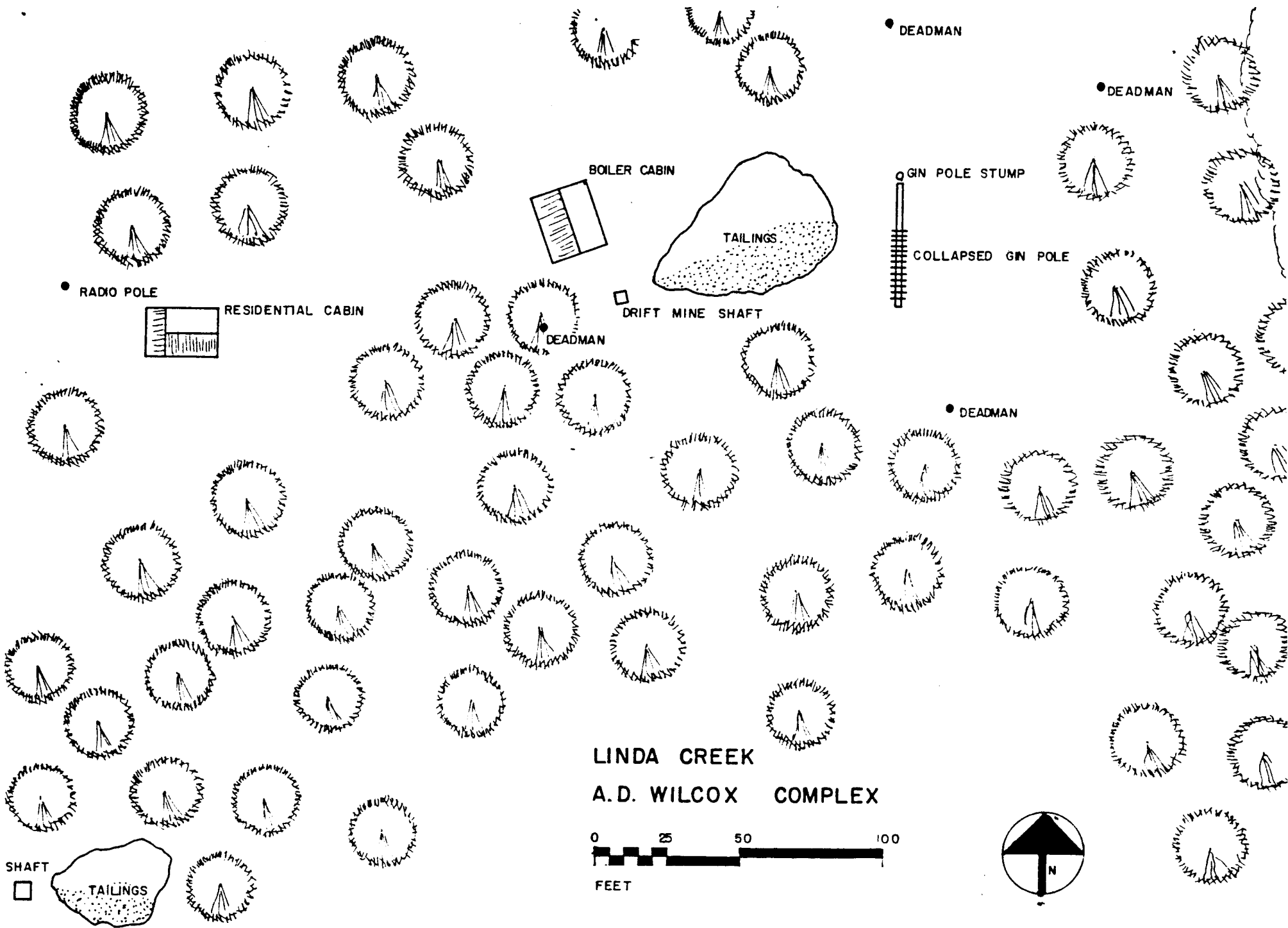
A second drift mine shaft and associated tailing pile are located approximately 190 feet southwest of the residential cabin. This shaft measures 5'6" x 5'6" and is log cribbed. The shaft represents earlier workings on the site.

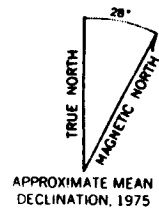
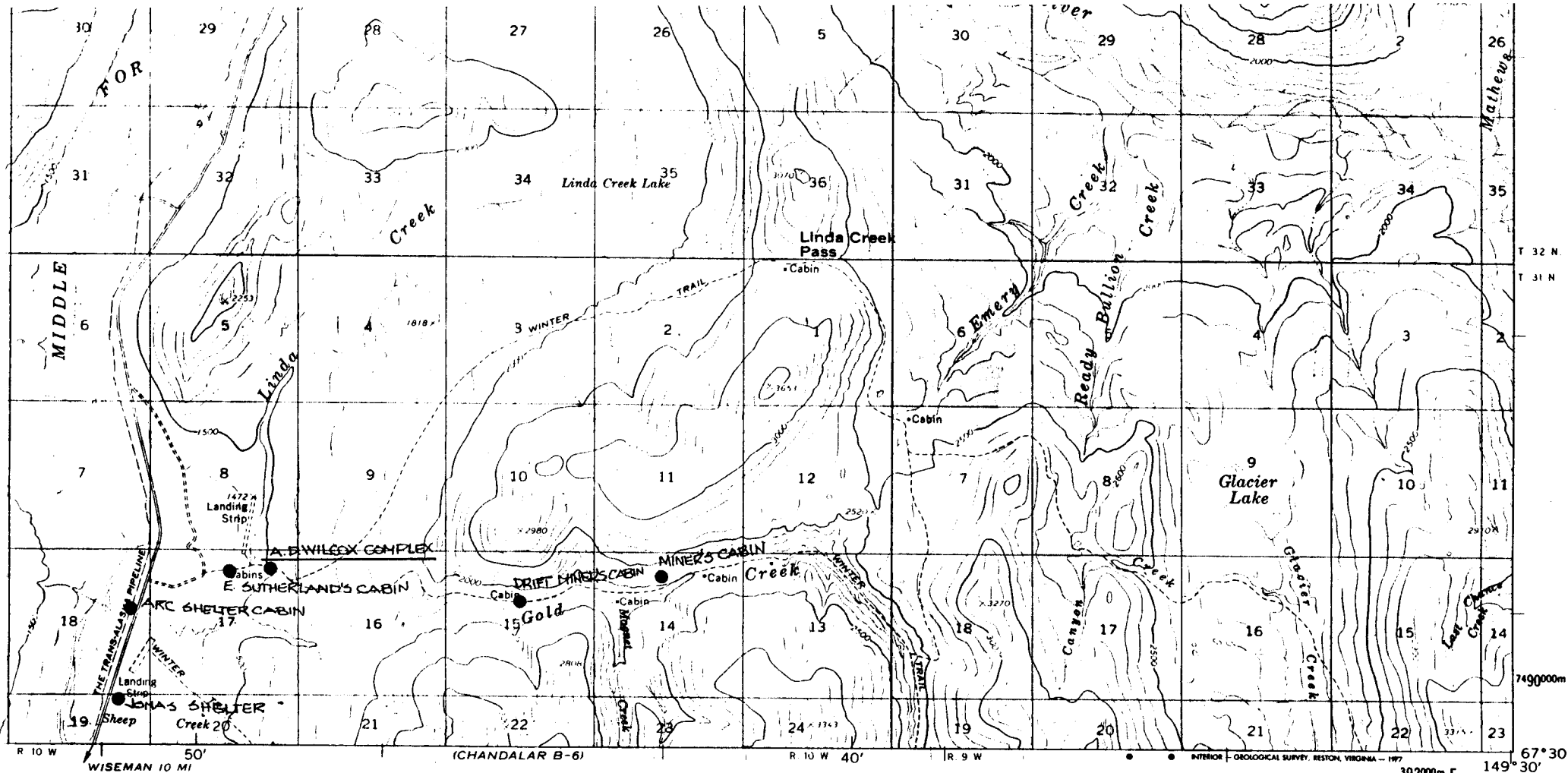
#### HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE:

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 drift mining 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

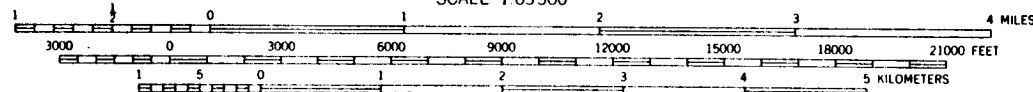
retains, in their original positions, the boiler, hoist, several hoses and pieces of machinery; the shaft is still surmounted by the headframe; and the gin pole remains where it fell.

PREVIOUS SURVEY: None





APPROXIMATE MEAN  
DECLINATION, 1975



CONTOUR INTERVAL 100 FEET  
NATIONAL GEODEIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

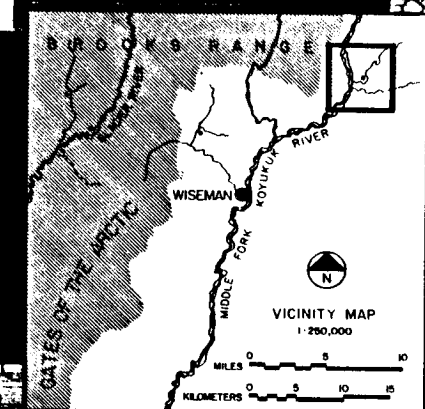
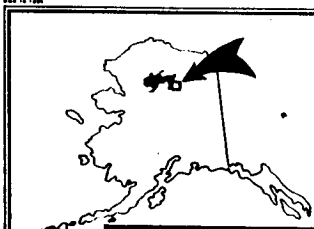
ROAD CLASSIFICATION  
Light-duty ————— Unimproved dirt - - - - -

CHANDALAR (C-6), ALASKA

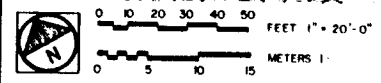
N6730—W14930/15 X 30

1971  
PHOTOREVISED 1975

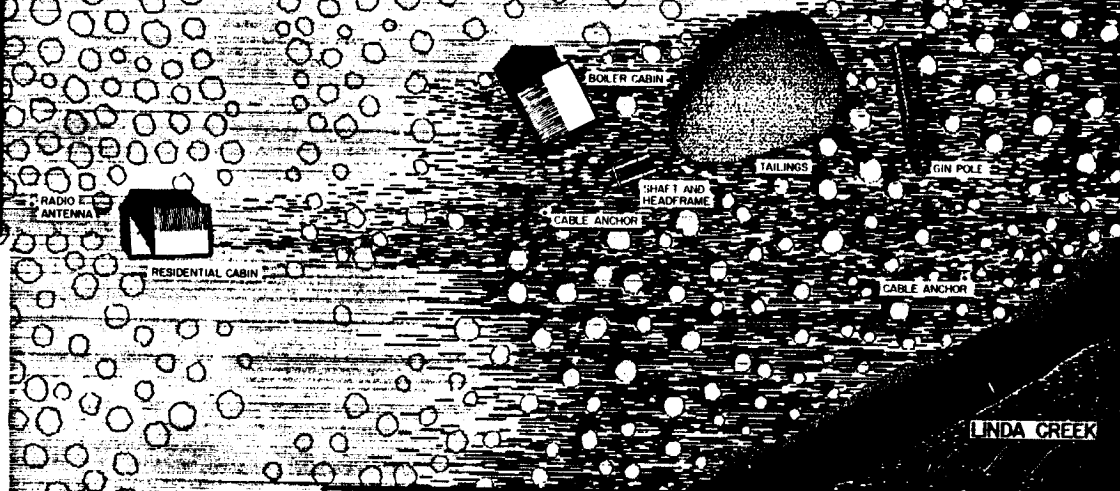
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99701, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



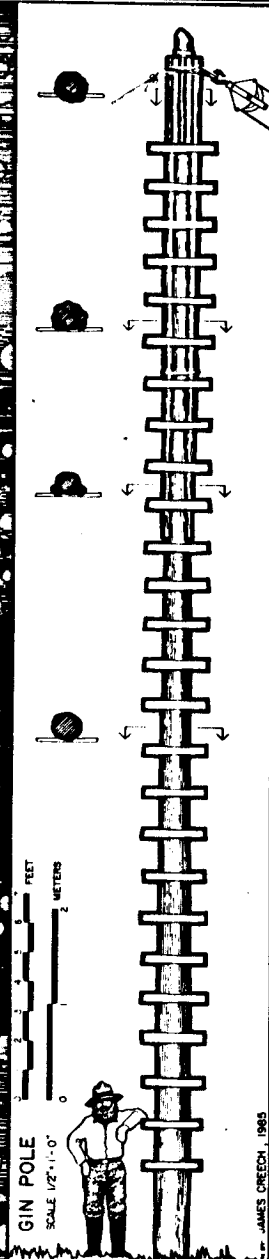
DOCUMENTATION OF SITES IN THE EASTERN SECTION OF GATES OF THE ARCTIC NATIONAL PARK AND BORDERING AREAS WAS UNDERTAKEN BY THE HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY // HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD (HABS/HAER), A DIVISION OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE. THE PROJECT WAS EXECUTED UNDER THE GENERAL DIRECTION OF ROBERT J. KAPSCHE, CHIEF, HABS/HAER, AND ROGER CONTOR, ALASKA REGIONAL DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE. RECORDING WAS CARRIED OUT DURING THE SUMMER OF 1984 BY WILLIAM E. BROWN, PROJECT HISTORIAN; ALISON K. HOAGLAND, HISTORIAN; JAMES CREECH, RUSSELL SACKETT, AND MARK SCHARA, HISTORICAL ARCHITECTS; AND JET LOWE, PHOTOGRAPHER, WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE STAFF OF GATES OF THE ARCTIC NATIONAL PARK AND PRESERVE.



# A. D. "ACE" WILCOX COMPLEX



THIS COMPLEX WAS BUILT IN THE EARLY 1920'S BY A D "ACE" WILCOX AND HIS PARTNER FRANK MILLER, WHO TOGETHER DRIFTMINED THE LINDA CREEK DEEP CHANNEL UNTIL CA 1938. JACOB JONAS ACQUIRED THE COMPLEX TOWARDS THE END OF THE 1930'S FROM WILCOX AND CONTINUED DRIFTMINING WITH HIS SON-IN-LAW ALBERT STRAND DURING THE 1940'S. 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 1940'S, 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 ON THE CLAIM. THE BOILER CABIN RETAINS, IN THEIR ORIGINAL POSITIONS, THE BOILER, THE HOIST, AND SEVERAL HOSES AND PIECES OF MACHINERY; THE SHAFT IS STILL SURMOUNTED BY THE HEADFRAME, AND THE GIN POLE REMAINS WHERE IT FELL.



ON MICROFILM

185/25005



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 KOTLIK 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 DRIFT 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. INVERTED 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.

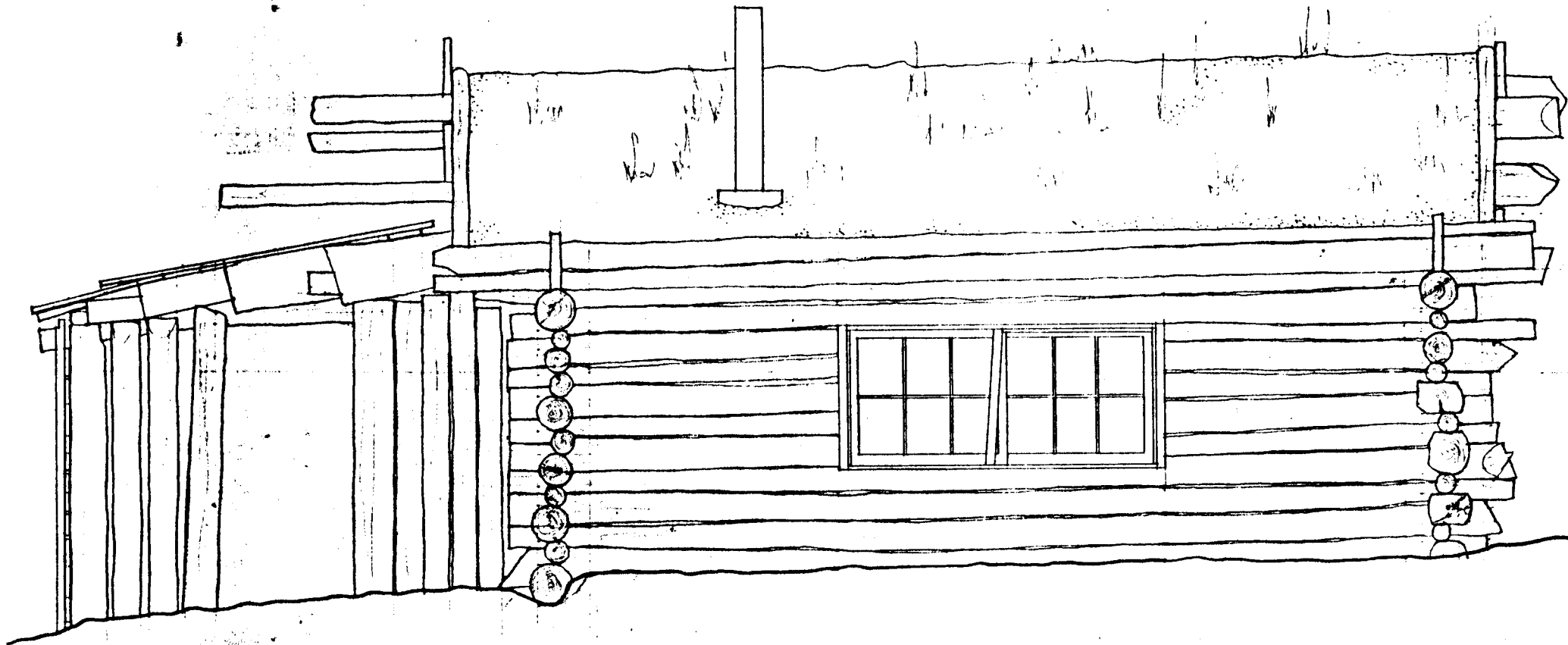
SCALE 1/8" = 10'

DESIGNED BY: JAMES CREECH, 1984-85	GATES OF THE ARCTIC PROJECT NORTH STAR SERVICE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR	GAAR	A.D. WILCOX COMPLEX LINDA CREEK, WISEMAN VICINITY	ALASKA	SURVEY NO. AK-7	HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD SHEET 5 OF 5 SHEETS
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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 AROUND IN THE VICINITY.

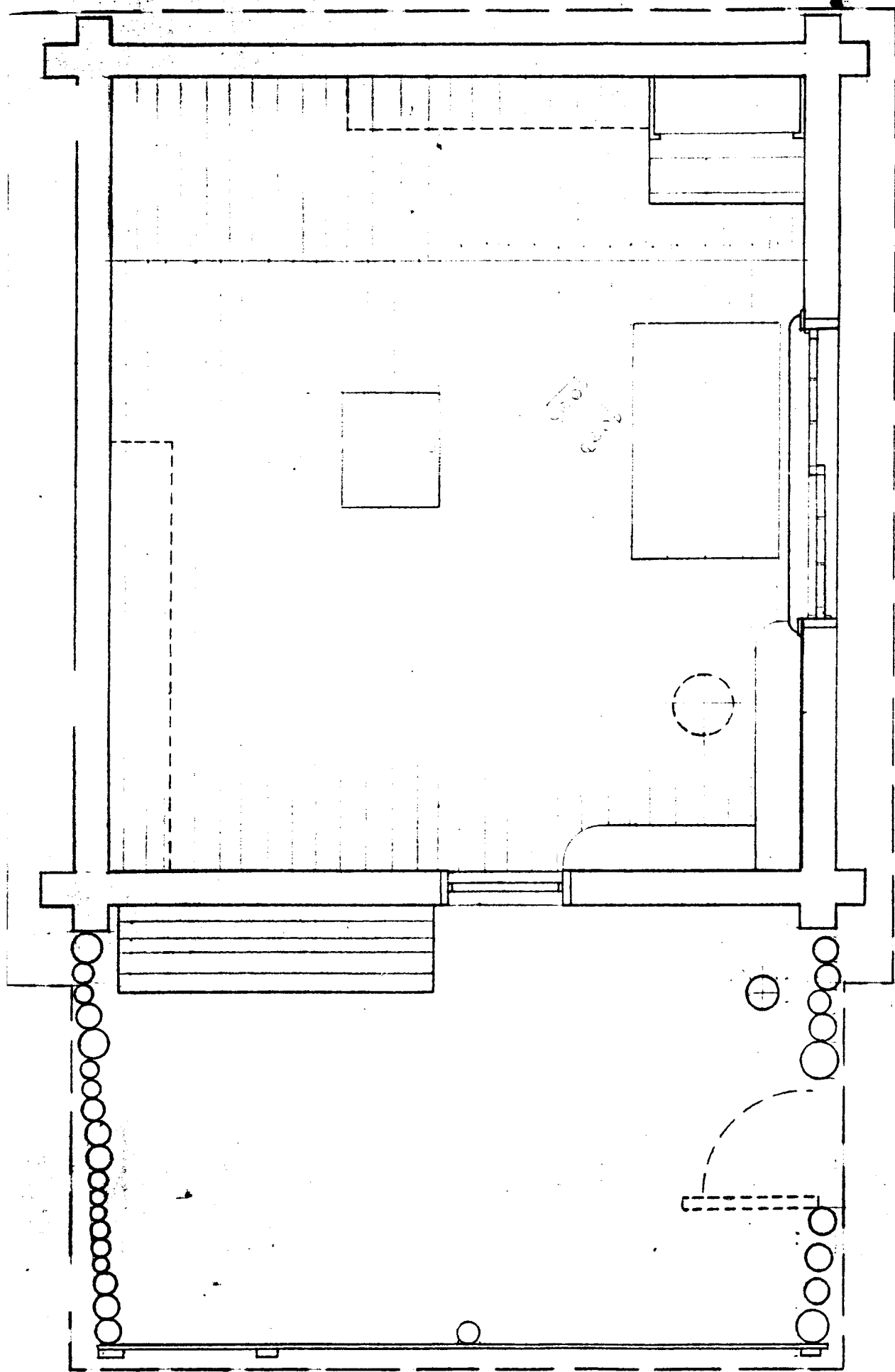
**HISTORIC AMERICAN  
ENGINEERING RECORD  
VOLUME 5 OF 5 PART 1**





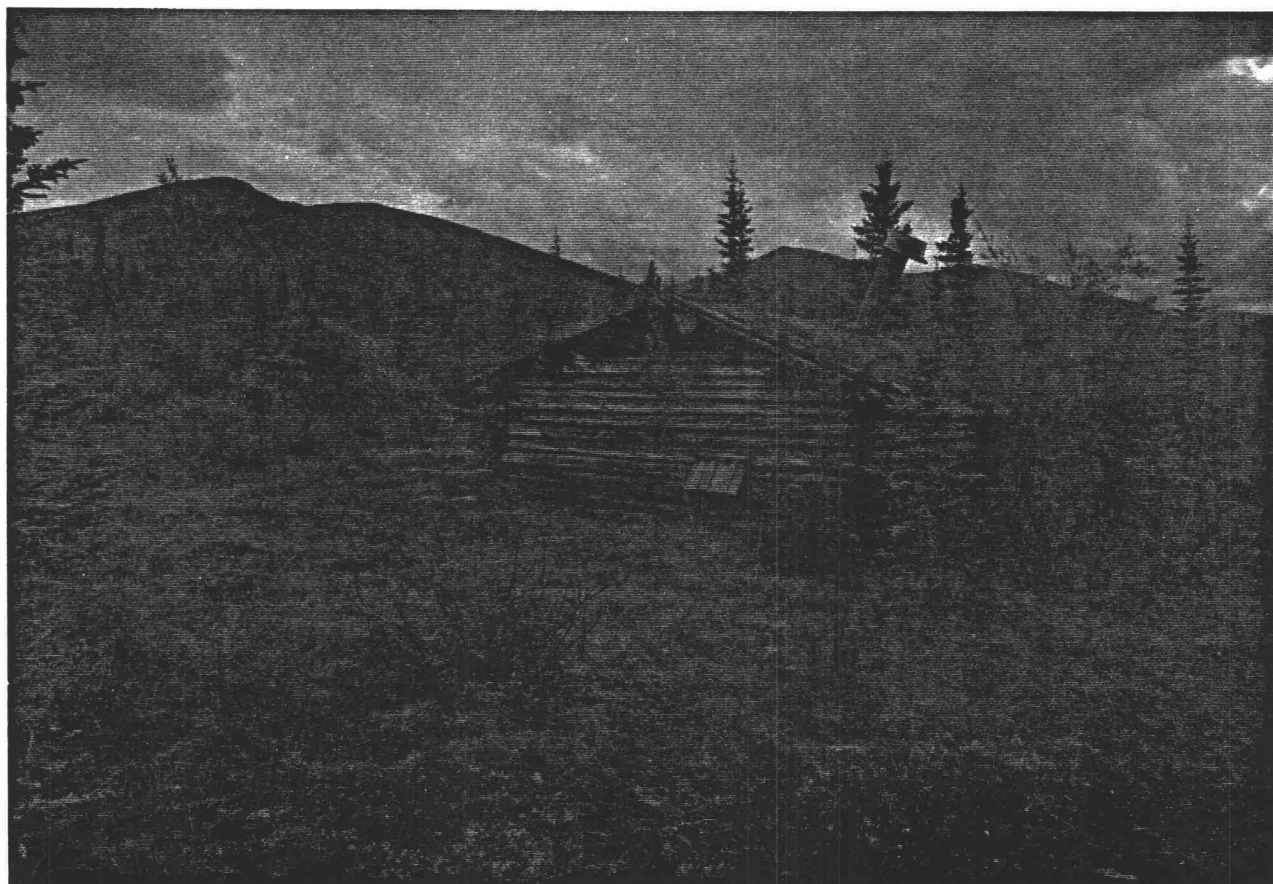
WILCOX RESIDENTIAL CABIN  
SOUTH ELEVATION

DRAWN BY MARK SCHARA

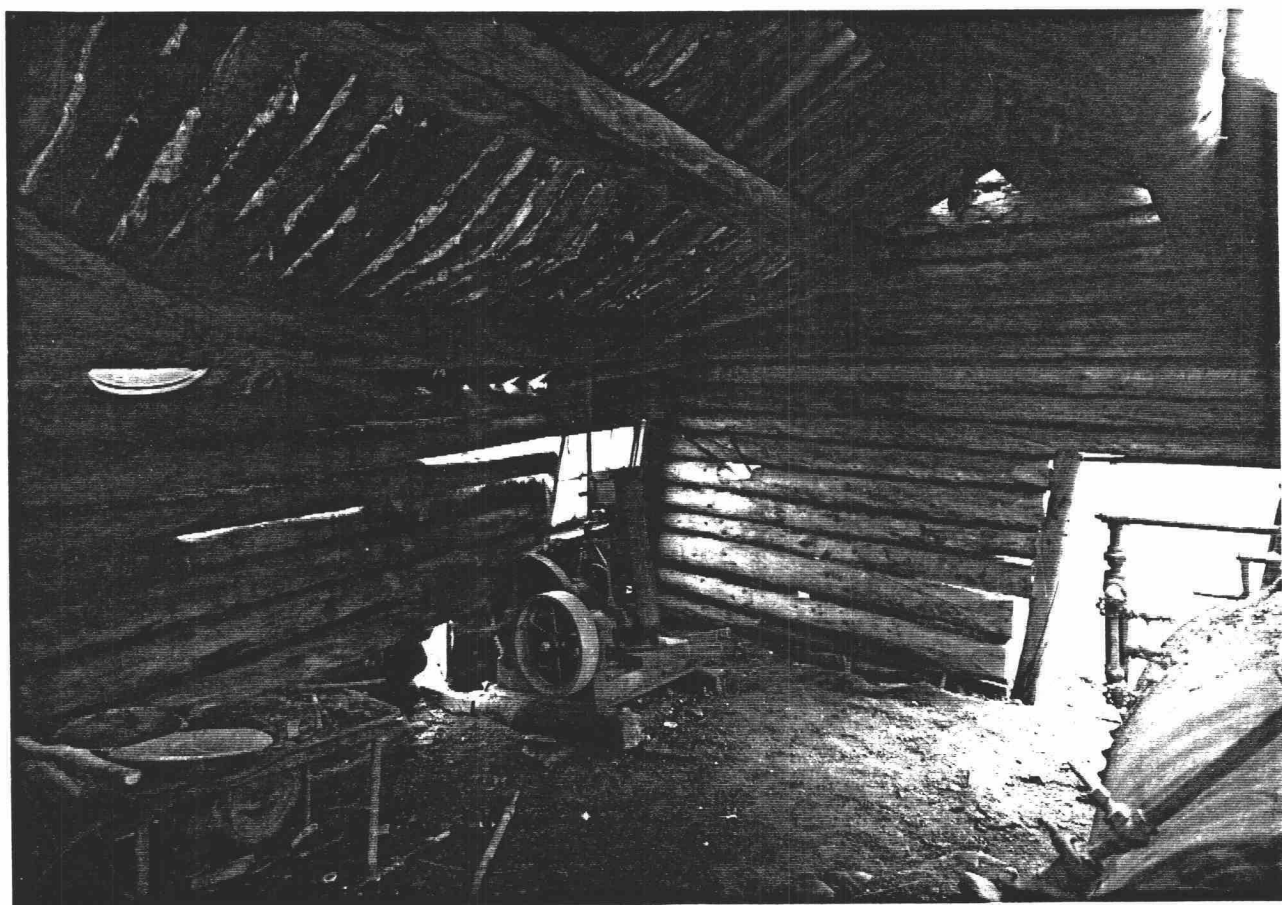
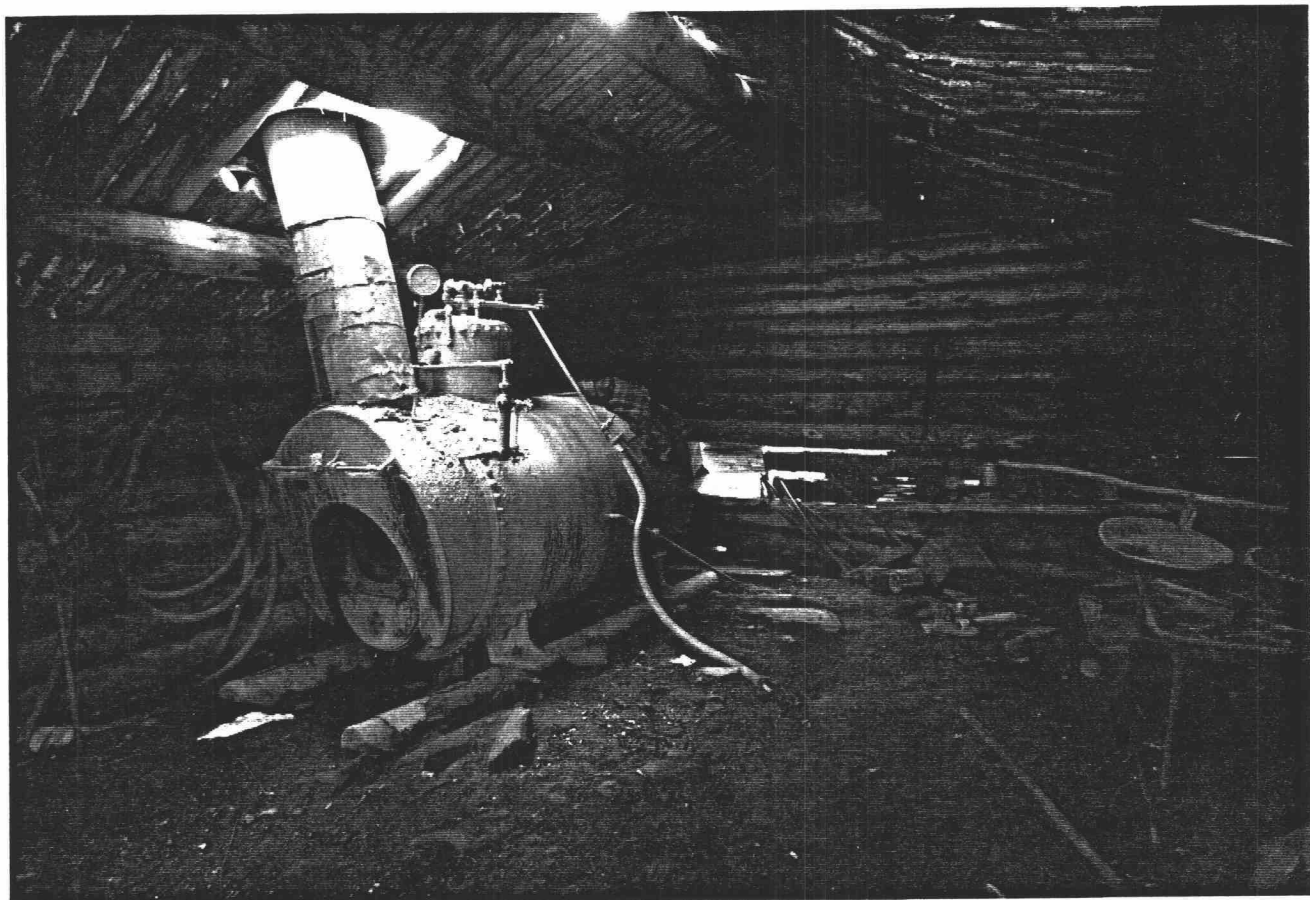




Linda Creek Drift Mine Complex (HAER-AK-7): overview of site  
showing headframe and boiler cabin. Jet Lowe, HAER photo.



Linda Creek Complex: boiler cabin, front and rear.  
Jet Lowe, HAER photos.

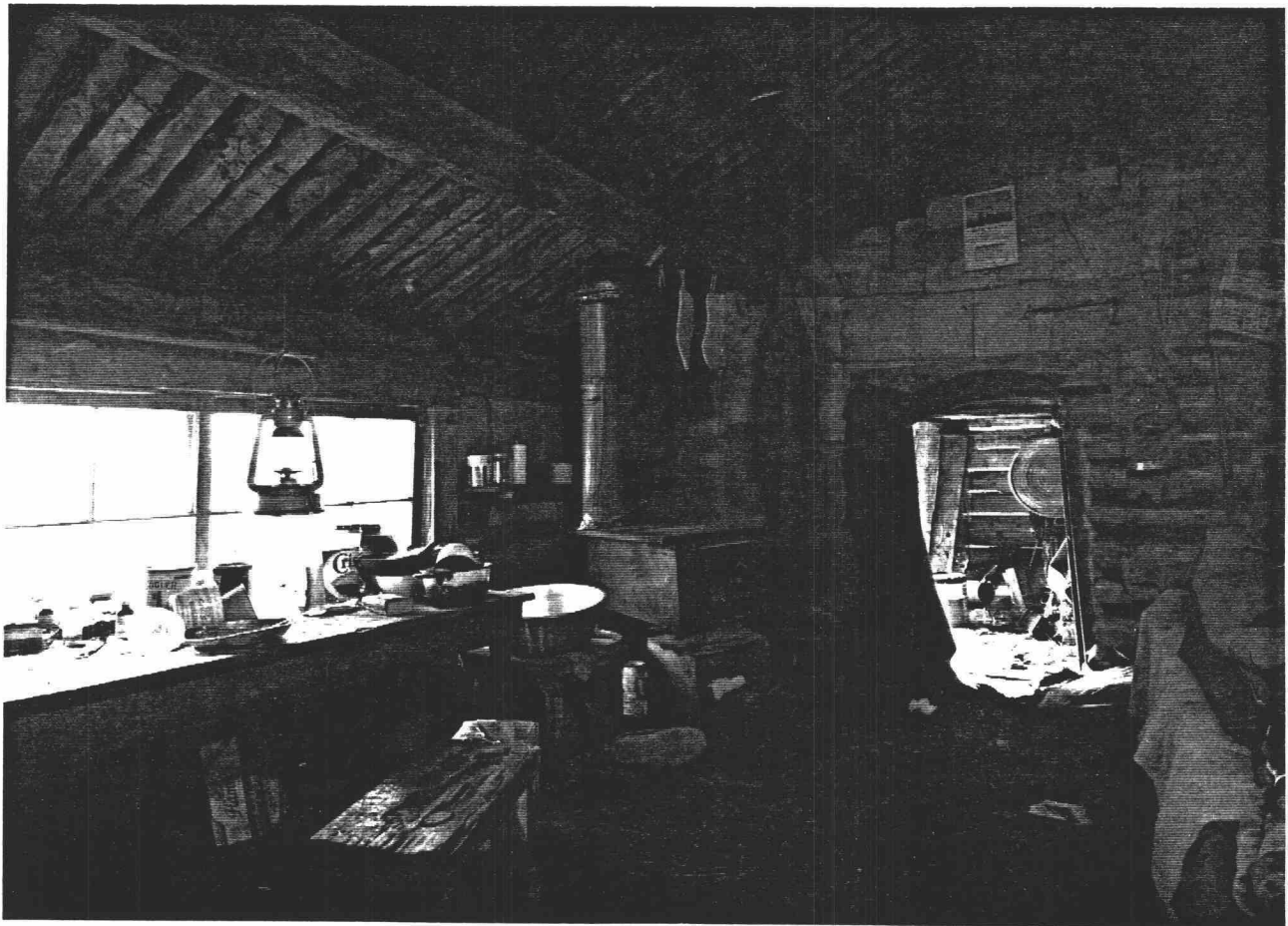
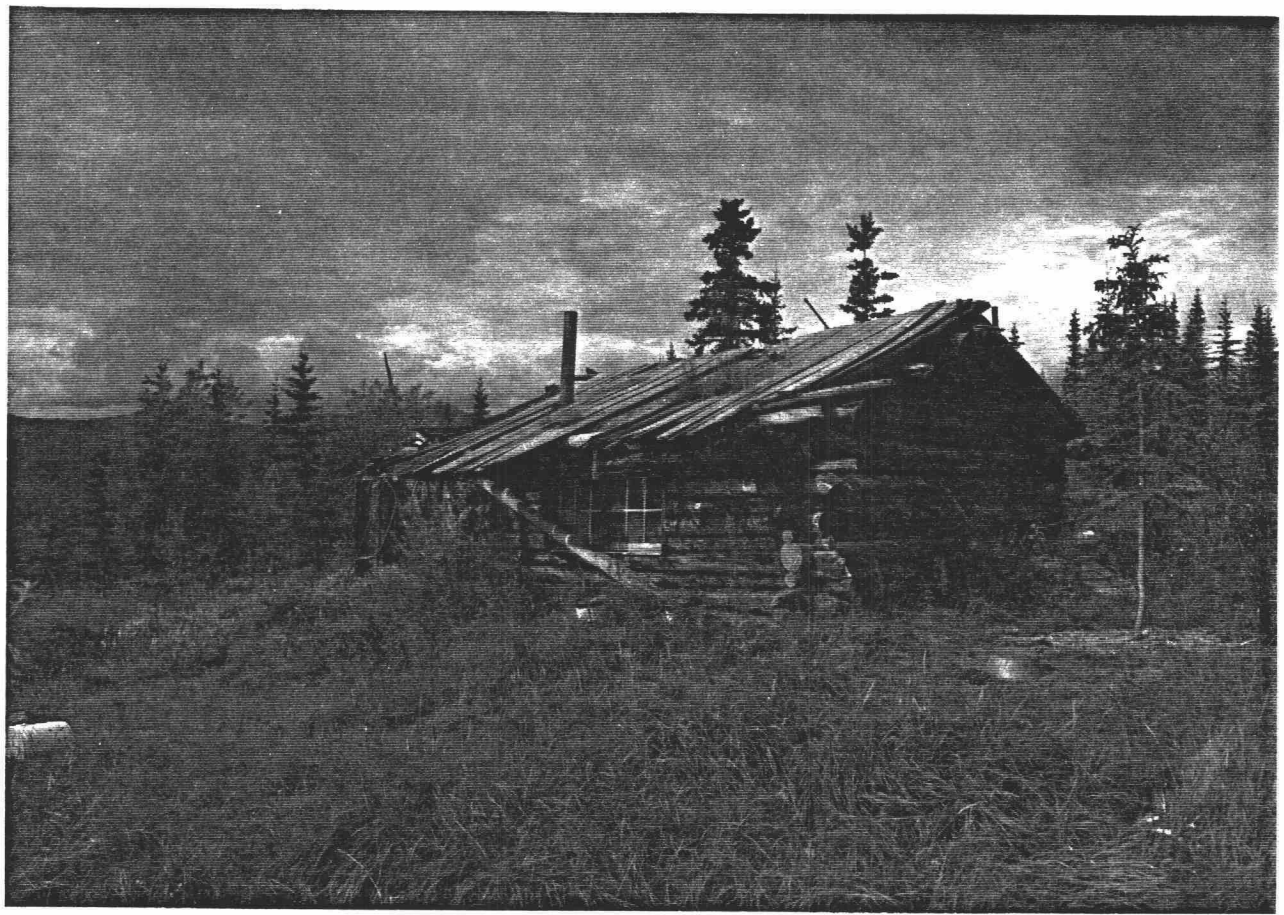


Linda Creek Complex: interior boiler cabin showing boiler (top)  
and hoist and forge (bottom). Jet Lowe, HAER photos.





Linda Creek Complex: headframe over drift mine shaft.  
Jet Lowe, HAER photo.



Linda Creek Complex: residence cabin exterior and interior.  
Jet Lowe, HAER photos.

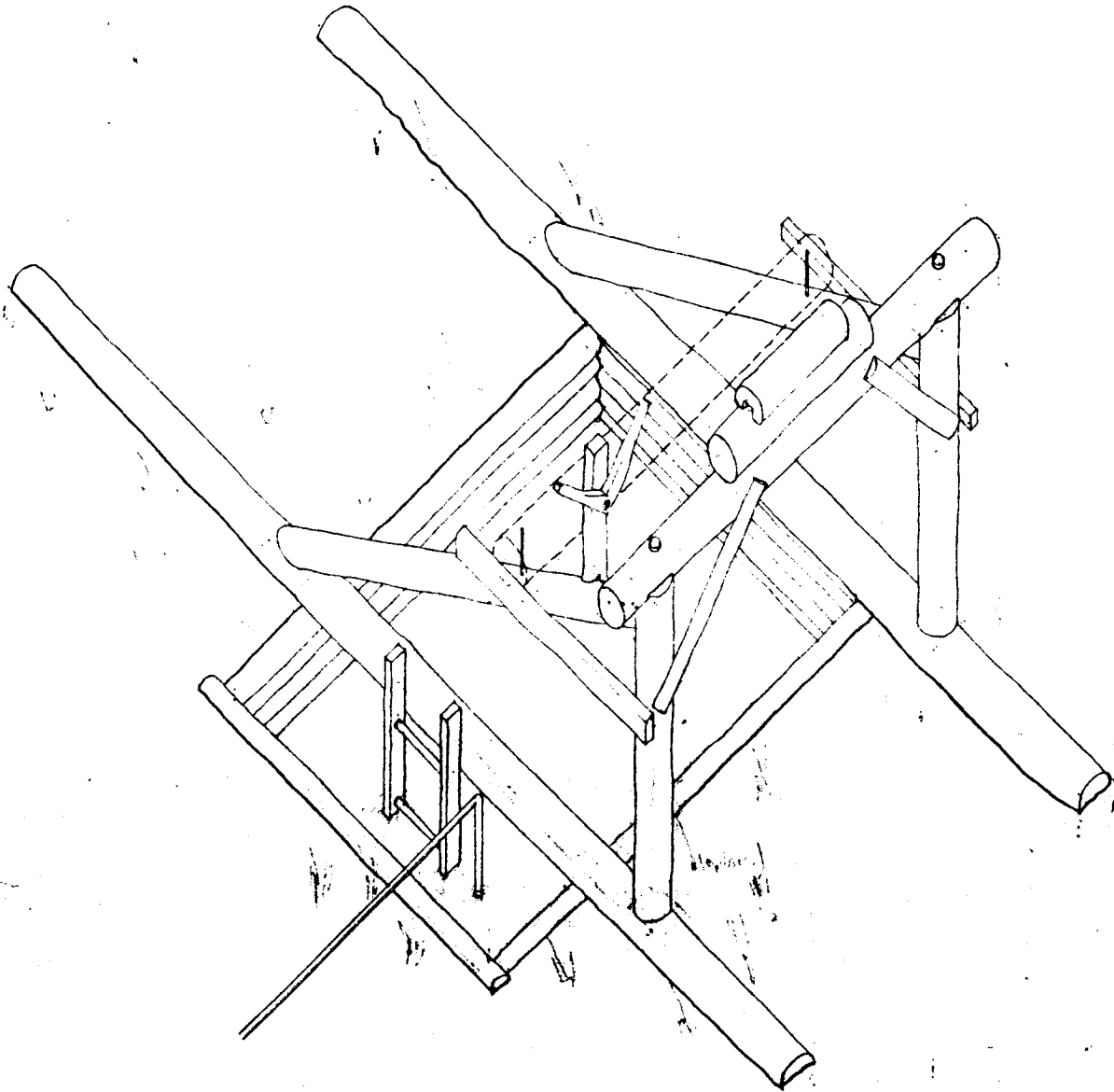


Linda Creek Driftmine Complex: fallen gin-pole, with Charley Breck explaining technical operation to Russ Sackett.  
W. Brown photo.





Linda Creek Driftmine Complex: headrame, with Charley Breck explaining technical operation to Kim Hoagland and Russ Sackett.  
W. Brown photo.



scale inaccurate: reduced for reproduction.

WILCOX HEADFRAME  
1/2" = 1' 0"

DRAWN BY MARK ZHARA

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 SURVEYED: July 23, 1984  
SURVEYOR: Russell Sackett

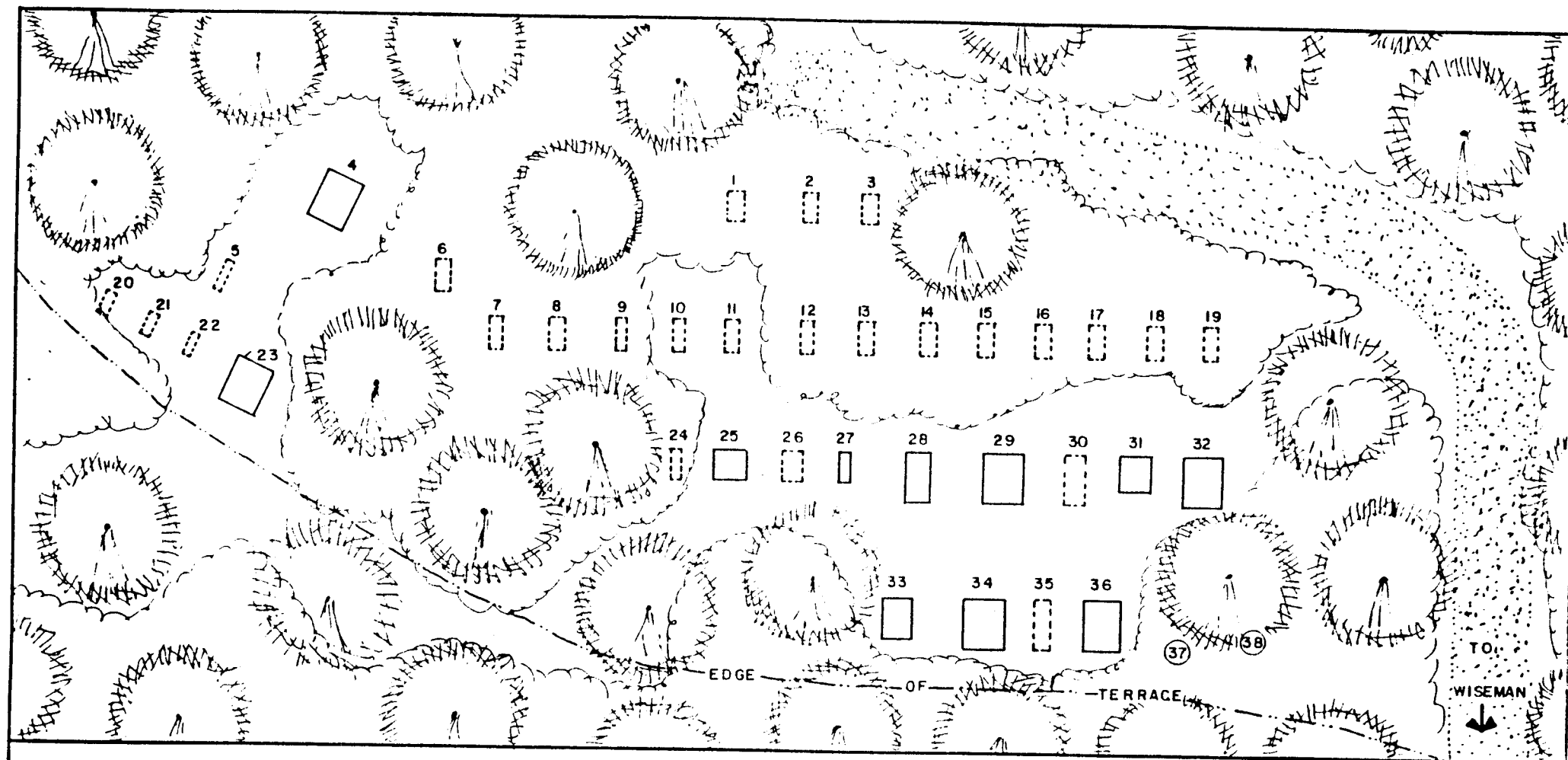
SITE DESCRIPTION:

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 list with grave numbers referring to the number appearing on the field map.

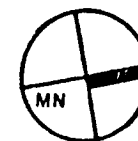
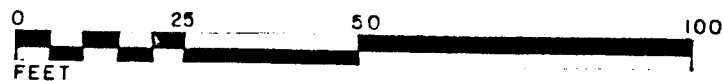
- Grave 1: This grave is marked by a wood cross that is inscribed "Oct. 7, 1880, Geo. Terrel, May 7, 1940"
- Grave 2: unmarked
- Grave 3: unmarked
- Grave 4: Marked by a balustrade 5'5" x 9'5" and 3'2" high. Within the balustrade is a white wood cross inscribed "Ross Harry, March 11, 1939, Sept. 28, 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." One of Harry Leonard'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 without identification.
- 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 "1925, 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 tombstone inscribed "Dr. C.E. C--forth, 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. Woodcross enclosed inscribed "Joseph Coxy Brown, Born on Kobuk, Oct. 1896, 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, R.F.M. 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 tombstone inscribed "Igloo No. 8, P. of A., John C. Coope, Native of Germany, Born Bremr, 1885, Died May 6, 1915, Rest in Peace"
- Grave 38: Wood cross out of place inscribed "W.B. Connell, Died June 6, 1915"



# WISEMAN CEMETERY

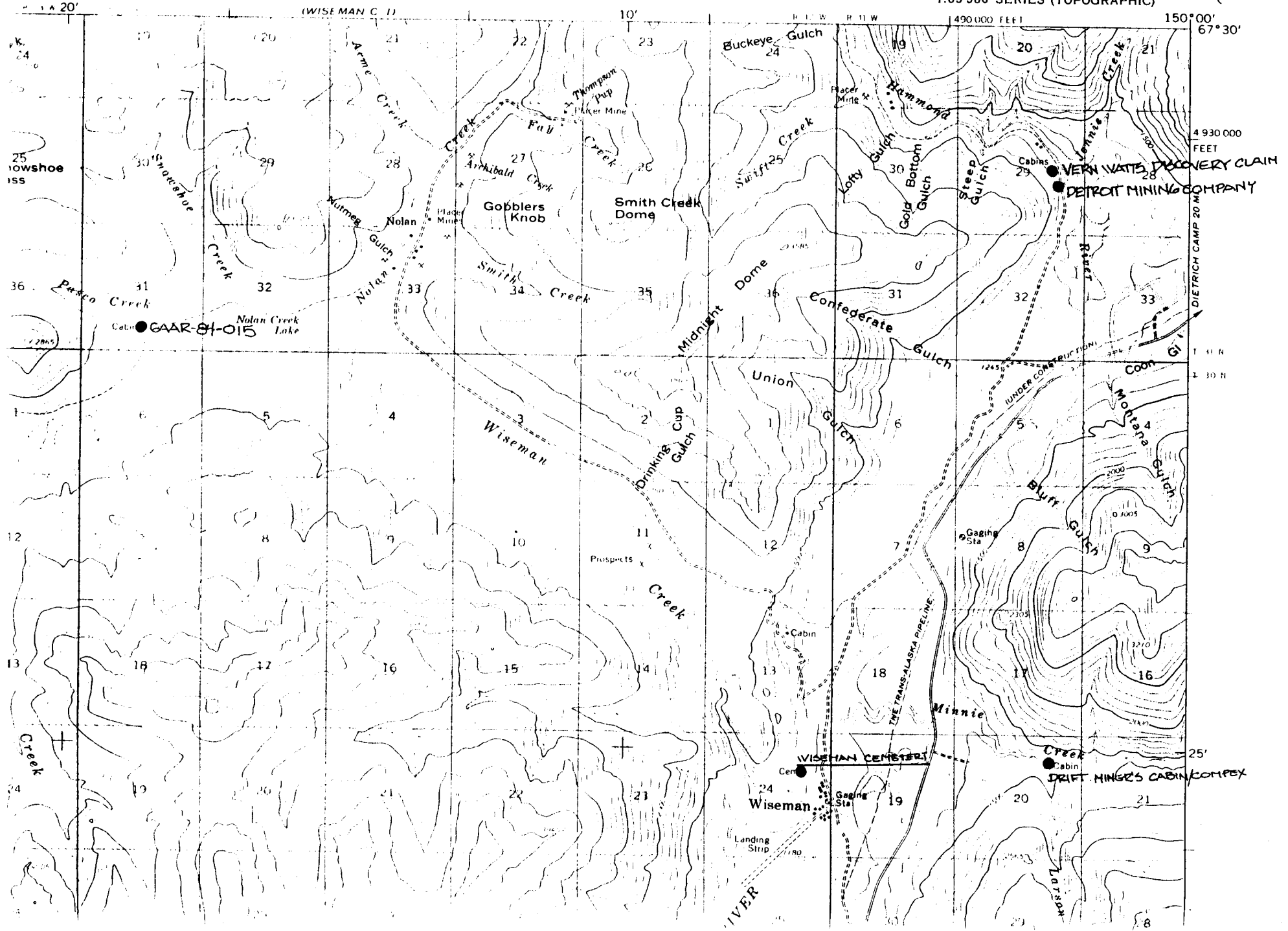


# WISEMAN (B-1) QUADRANGLE

ALASKA

1:63 360 SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

DALAR C-1



Historic Sites and Structures Noted by Mining Assessment (1981)  
and Mining Compliance (1985) Surveys

A number of collapsed cabins and one undisturbed early placer mining site were discovered during these surveys. None of these sites was visited by the historical survey team in 1984, because either they were beyond the team's logistical range or, as on Conglomerate Creek, the nearly obliterated remains could not be found in the later summer vegetation. These sites are as follows:

1. Collapsed cabin on Alder Creek, tributary of North Fork (Koyukuk) River: R. 14 W., T. 27 N., Sec. 3. From an evaluation of slides of this ruin, log-cabin expert David Evans, at the request of archeologist Paul Gleeson, made these comments:

Most small cabins, built by miners and trappers, were constructed with full length logs. This cabin was built using short log sections, joined together in the center of each wall in the Hudson's Bay Co. fashion of splined log posts and mortised log ends. In ten years observation of log cabin ruins in the upper Yukon region of Alaska, I have never seen this construction method employed.

Given its remote location, ruin condition, and present lack of historical data, this cabin ruin should be left undisturbed for the present. About 25 slides showing details of construction are on file in the mining compliance records in the Alaska Regional Office. Additional historical research may discover the builder of this cabin; and if opportunity comes, an historical architect should visit the site and prepare measured drawings of architectural detail and--if the material data allow--a reconstruction drawing of the original cabin.

2. Two collapsed cabins on Bonanza Creek, tributary of North Fork (Koyukuk) River: R. 15 W., T. 31 N., Sec. 15. Slides taken by the mining assessment team in 1981 show these cabins in complete ruins, with a maximum of 4 log courses still standing in walls not totally collapsed. The assessment report indicates that the sites were virtually stripped of cultural materials. Though it was staked, Bonanza Creek was never a paying proposition for miners. It is listed neither in Cobb's Placer Deposits of Alaska nor in Irving McK. Reed's 1938 report of his 1937 field survey of the upper Koyukuk. Consign these ruins to benign neglect.
3. Cabin ruin or hunting camp remains at confluence of Harp Creek and Conglomerate Creek, tributary of Glacier River: R. 14 W., T. 31 N., Sec. 20. An aerial slide



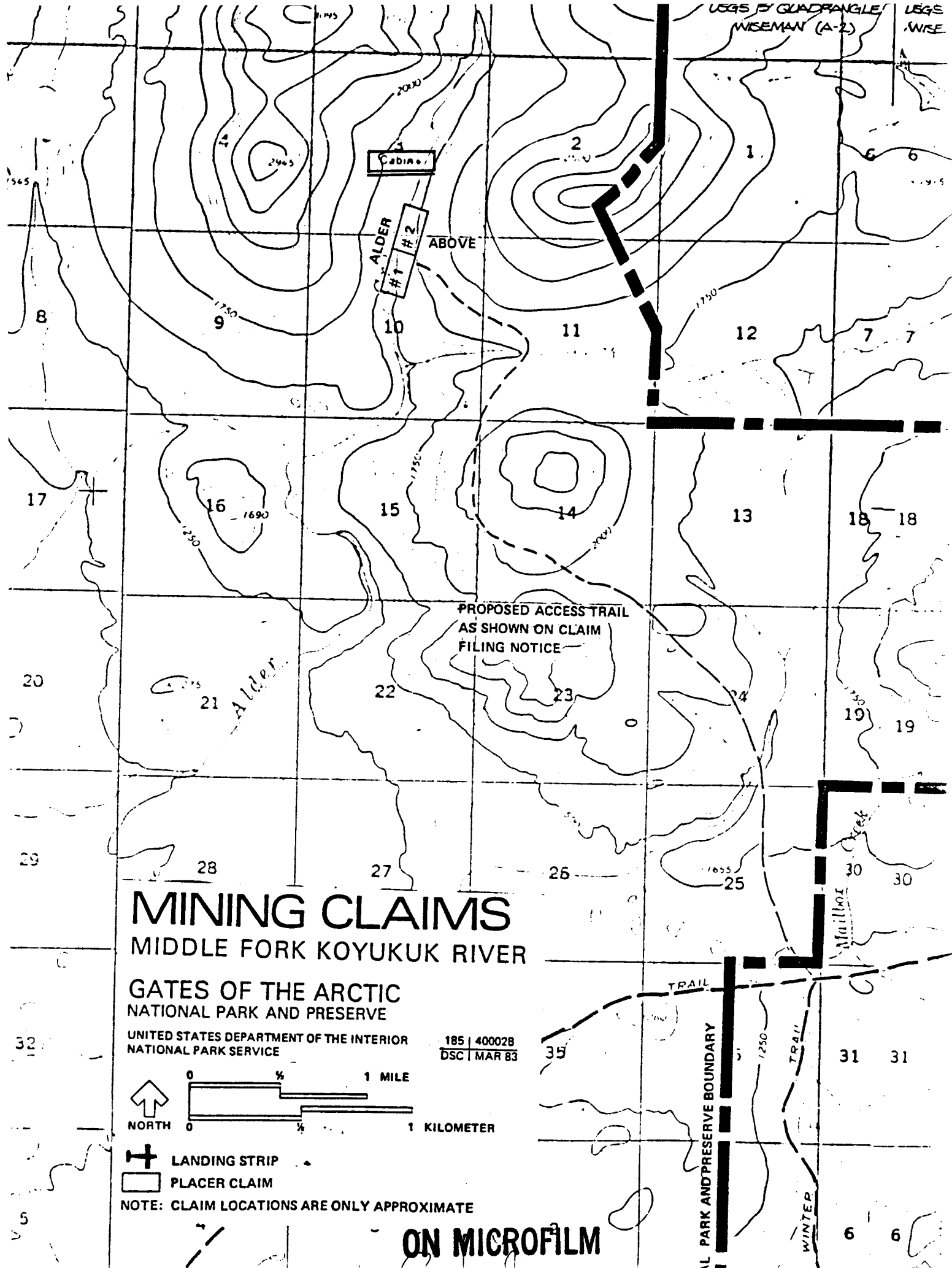
taken by the mining assessment team shows a pile of collapsed logs at this site. Cobb does not list this creek; Reed states that there were some promising signs in the early mining period, but in 1937 there was no mining on the creek. Consign this ruin to benign neglect.

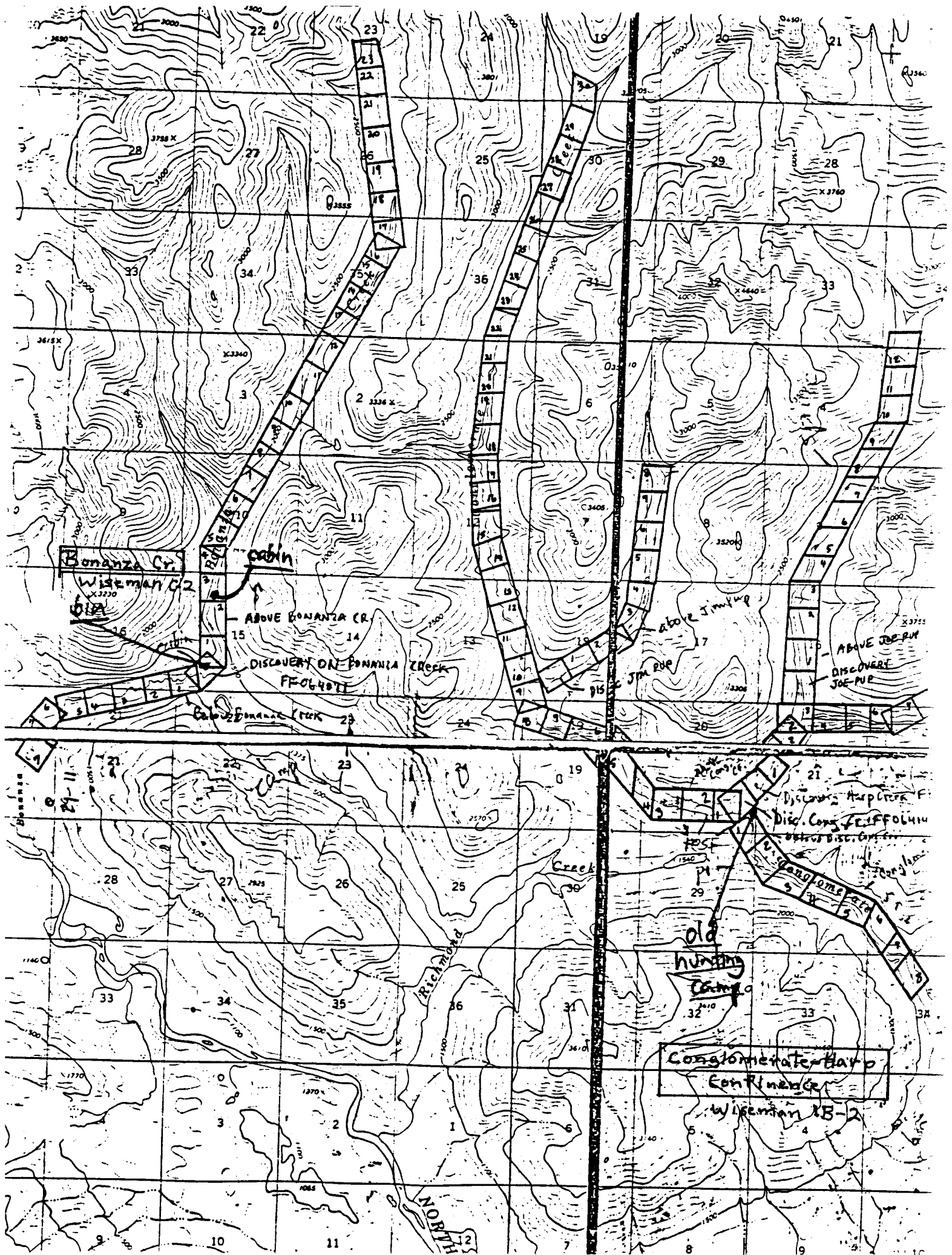
4. Cabin and early mining works and equipment at Down River Claim No. 2, Middle Fork (Koyukuk) River: R. 14 W., T. 26 N., Sec. 14. During the mining compliance field work in 1985 this site was visited by archeologists Paul Gleeson and Maureen King. A paraphrasing of their evaluation follows: This site illustrates early historic mining on the upper Koyukuk. Intact remains of this hand-worked placer mining operation include the original system of dams, ditches, and mining trenches and shafts, as well as a partially collapsed cabin evidently dating from the early mining effort. The site is significant because it represents an integrated system, a single component in terms of time and activity, which remains essentially uncompromised by later cultural and natural intrusions.

This evaluation indicates possible National Register eligibility for this site. Any Mining Plan of Operations at this site should stipulate no disturbance of the historic zone and contextual environs of the site. In addition, the site should be revisited by a historian-archeologist team with time allowed for detailed mapping of the mine works and analysis of cultural material, after a documentary search that would attempt to define the site's specific history. If this investigation warrants it, the site should then be nominated to the National Register.

See following location maps and field sketches showing both the immediate cabin site and the larger site context showing the extent of the mine works.







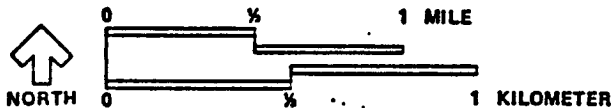
# MINING CLAIMS

## MIDDLE FORK KOYUKUK RIVER

GATES OF THE ARCTIC  
NATIONAL PARK AND PRESERVE

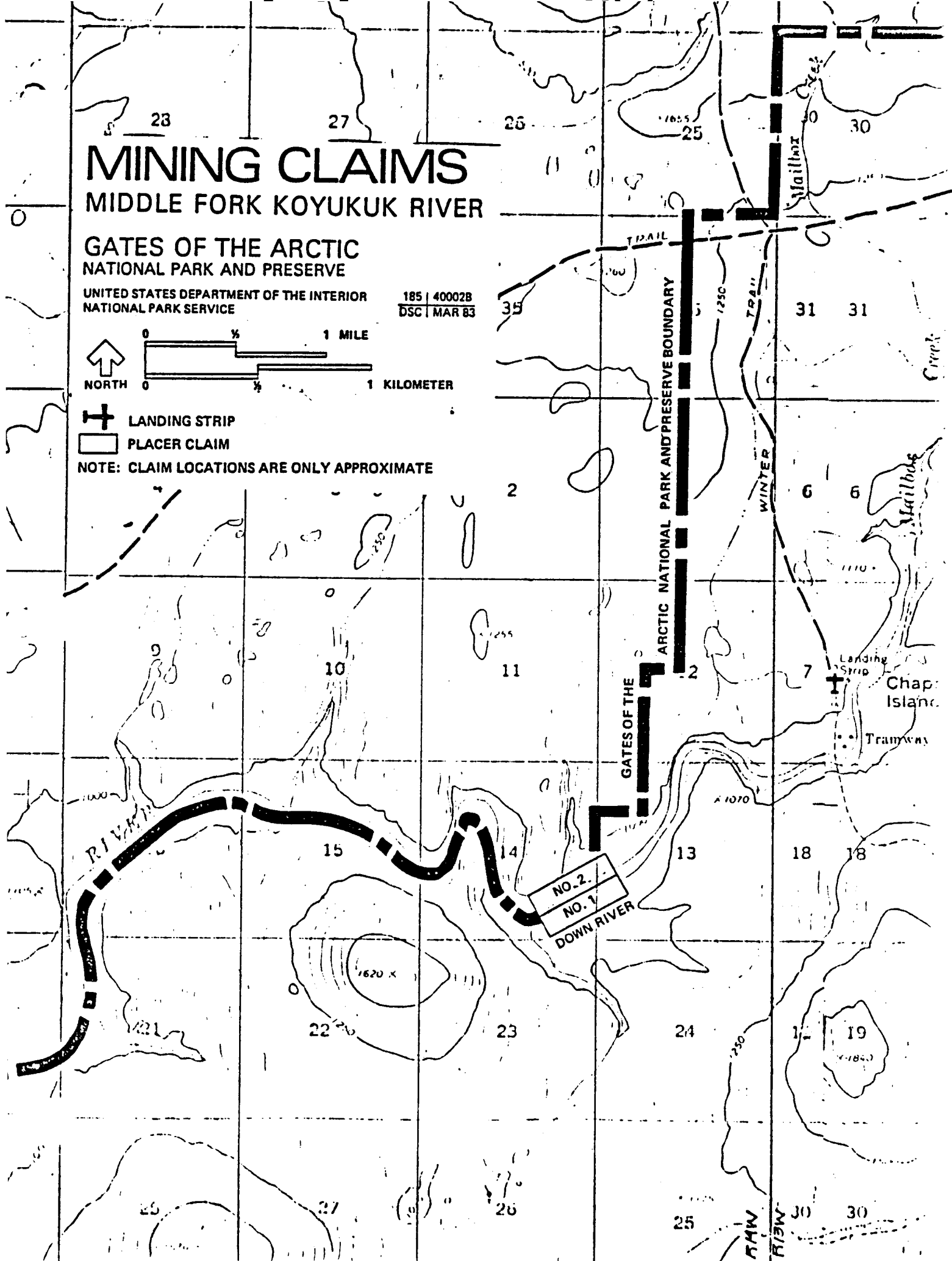
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

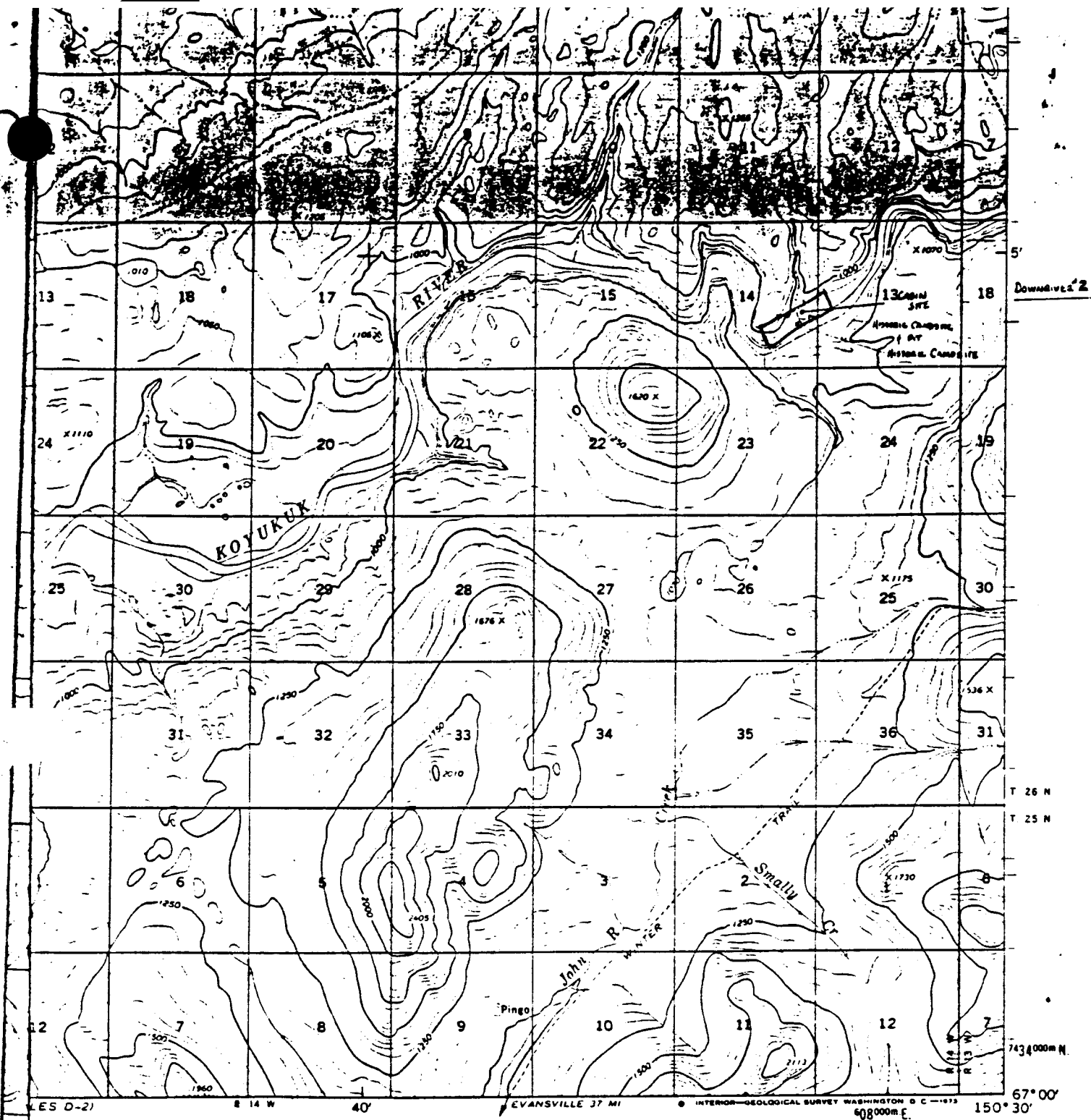
185 | 40002B  
DSC | MAR 83



 LANDING STRIP  
 PLACER CLAIM

NOTE: CLAIM LOCATIONS ARE ONLY APPROXIMATE





LES D-2)

1 63360

0 2 3 4 MILES

1000 12000 15000 18000 21000 FEET

2 3 4 5 KILOMETERS

EPVAL 50 FEET  
ENT 25 FOOT CONTOURS  
EAN SEA LEVEL



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Trails -----

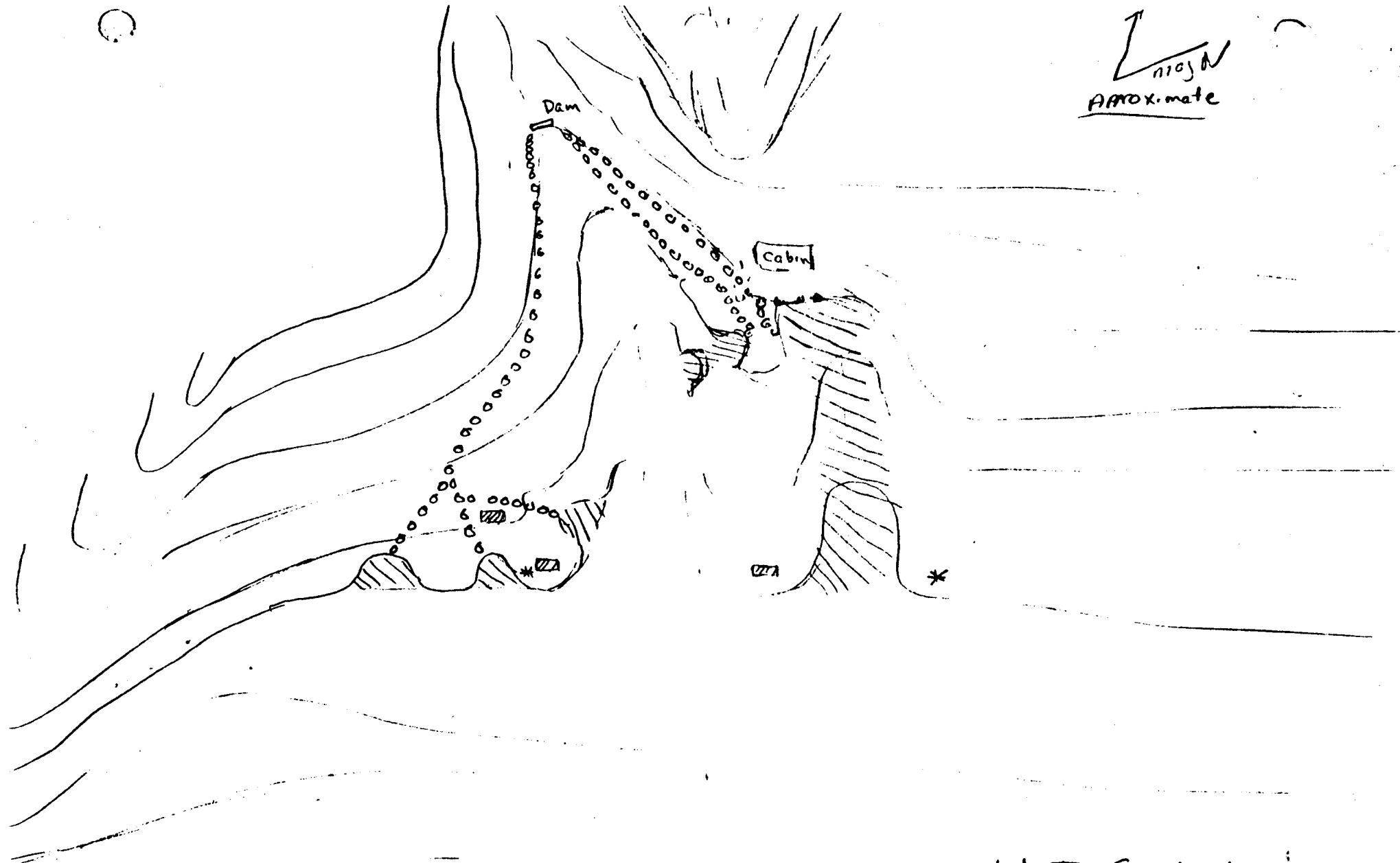
WISEMAN (A-2), ALASKA

N6700-W15030/15X30

1970

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
DO 80225, OR WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242  
NO SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

↑  
N  
Approximate



Koyukuk River

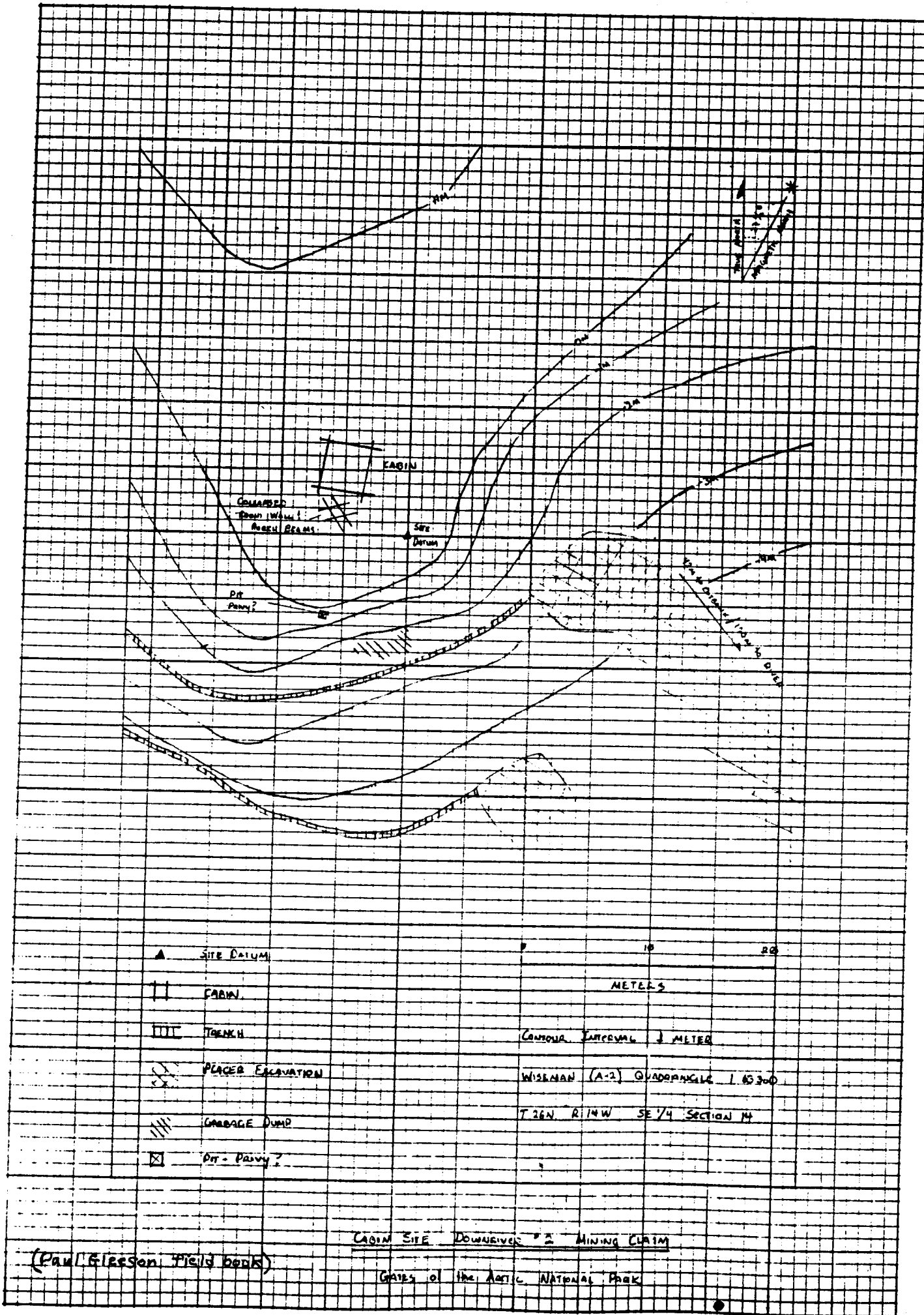
General Site Plan, Down River No. 2  
(Paul Gleeson field book)

Not To Scale!

- Cabin - Cabin
- \* Camp area
- ooooo - diversion canal
- mined areas
- mining test shafts

Down River No. 2

PAUL GIBSON FIELD BOOK  
SITE MAP AT CANYON, 1000 MILES



▲	SITE DATUM	0	10	20
	CABIN	METERS		
	TRENCH	CANYON INTERVAL 1 METER		
X	PLACE EXCAVATION	WISEMAN (A-2) QUADRANGLE 1:63,000		
	GARBAGE DUMP	T 26N R 14W SE 1/4 SECTION 14		
☒	DIT - PARRY?			

(PAUL GIBSON FIELD BOOK)

CABIN SITE DOWNRIVER #2 MINING CLAIM  
GATES OF THE ARCTIC NATIONAL PARK

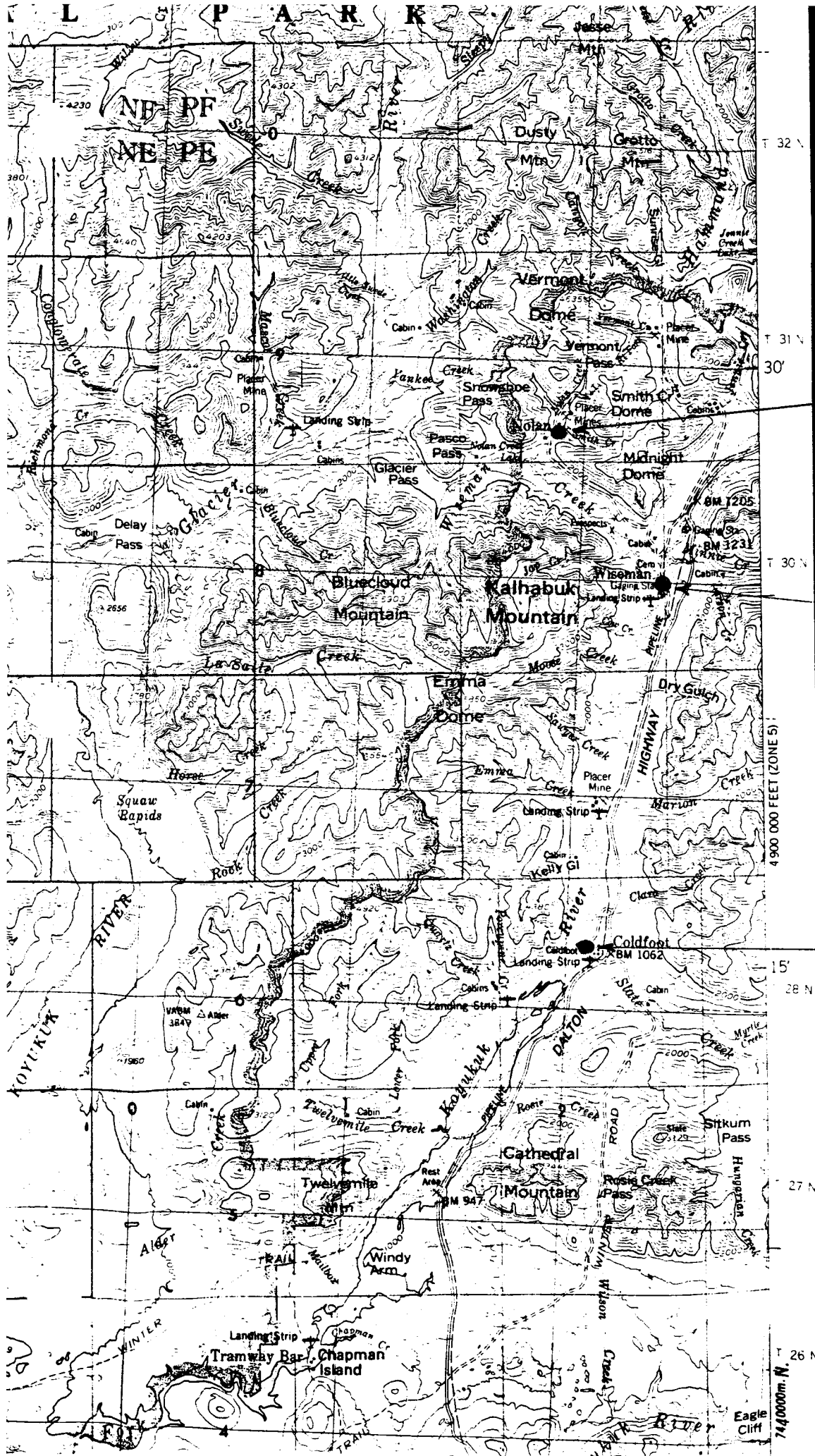


Historic American Buildings Survey Documentation of Wiseman and Vicinity

Site Number	Type	Location
HABS AK-23	James Minano Cabin	Coldfoot
HABS AK-24	Postlethwaite-Jones Cabin	Smith Creek, Nolan
<u>HABS AK-25</u>	Town Plan	Wiseman
HABS AK-26	Schoolhouse	Wiseman
<u>HABS AK-27</u>	Pioneers of Alaska, Igloo No. 8	Wiseman
HABS AK-28	Northern Commercial Company Store	Wiseman
HABS AK-29	Dow-Ulen Cabin	Wiseman
HABS AK-30	Gus Larson Cabin	Wiseman
HABS AK-31	Heppenstall-Green Cabin	Wiseman
HABS AK-32	Vincent Knorr Cache	Wiseman

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\* Non-park sites recorded only by HABS. Except for those underlined, these sites received only field recordation and await completion to finished recordation standards before filing in the Library of Congress.



Jones-  
Postlethwaite  
Cabin

Wiseman

James Minano  
Cabin

Wiseman Quad  
1:250,000

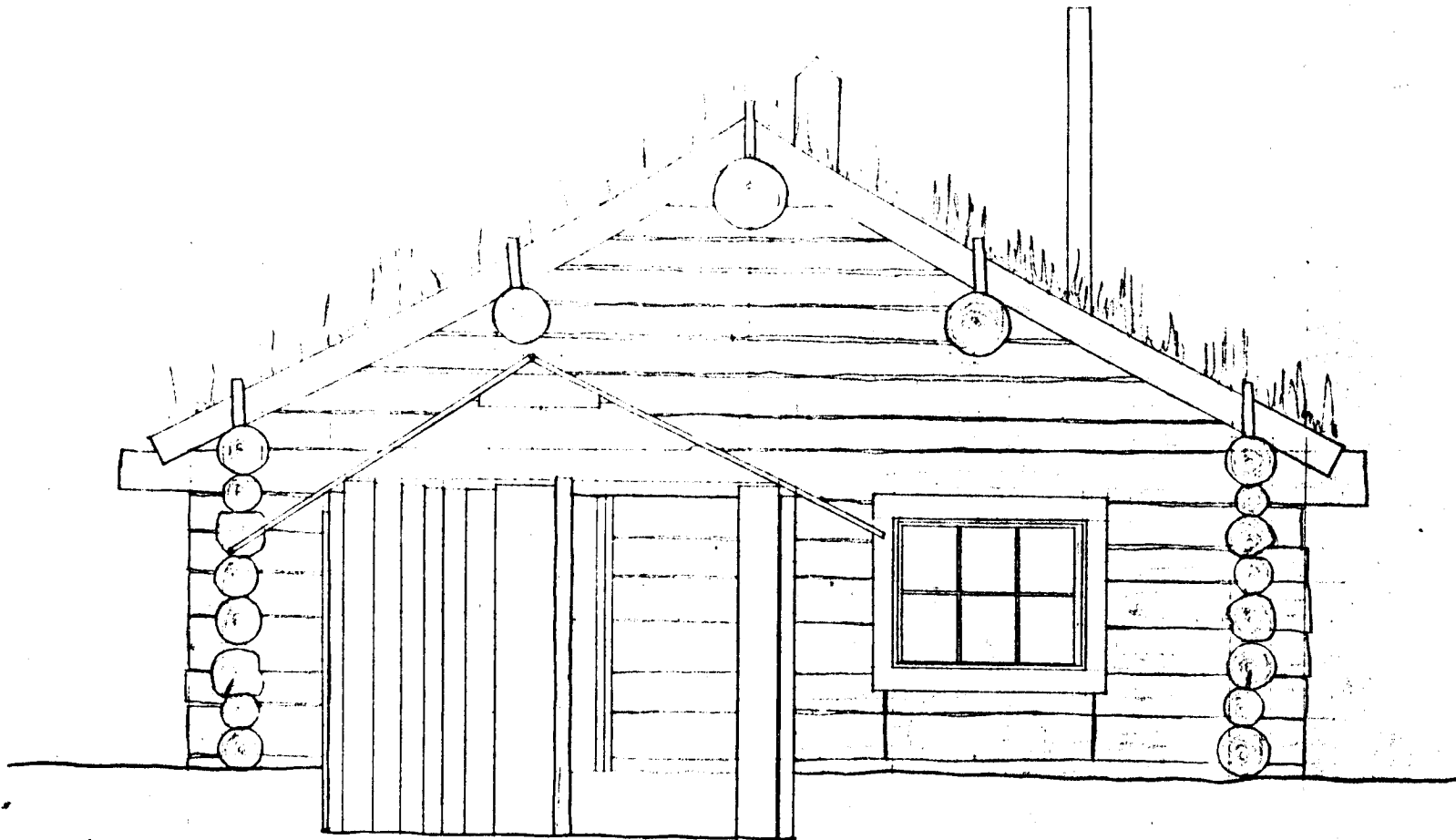
JAMES MINANO CABIN  
Coldfoot

HABS No. AK-23

This is one of only two historic cabins which remain at Coldfoot, the original gold rush town on the upper Koyukuk. Coldfoot flourished from 1901 until 1906, after which time most of the people and businesses moved north to Wiseman. James Minano, a Japanese trader who had landed at Barrow and came south, built this cabin in about 1915. He had a garden and sold vegetables to the miners. The cabin features an unusual amount of whipsawn lumber, seen in the tongue-and-groove floor, the walls of the cellar, and the ceiling.

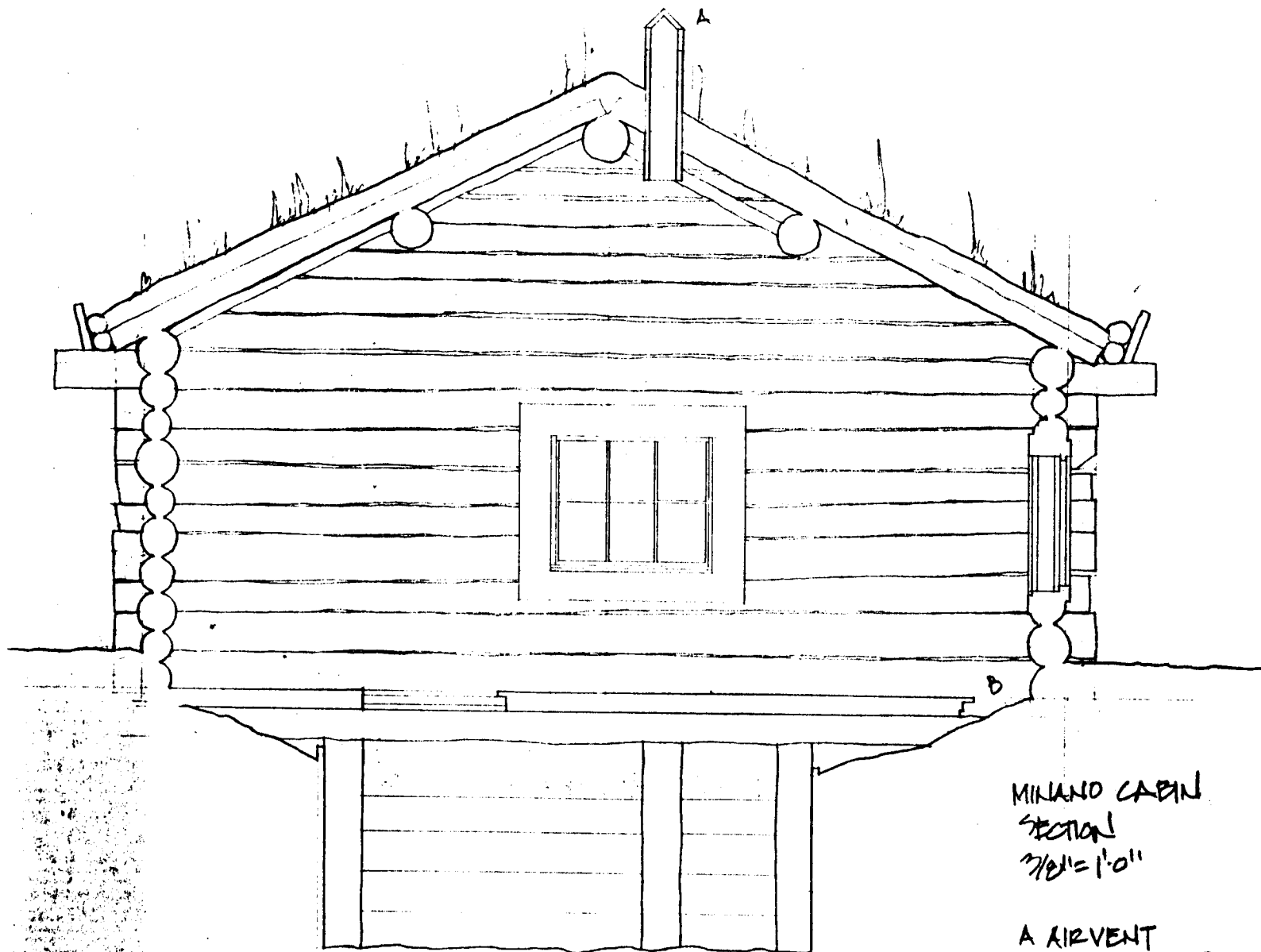


James Minano Cabin, Coldfoot. Jet Lowe, HABS photo.



MINANO CABIN  
WEST ELEVATION  
3/8" = 1'-0"

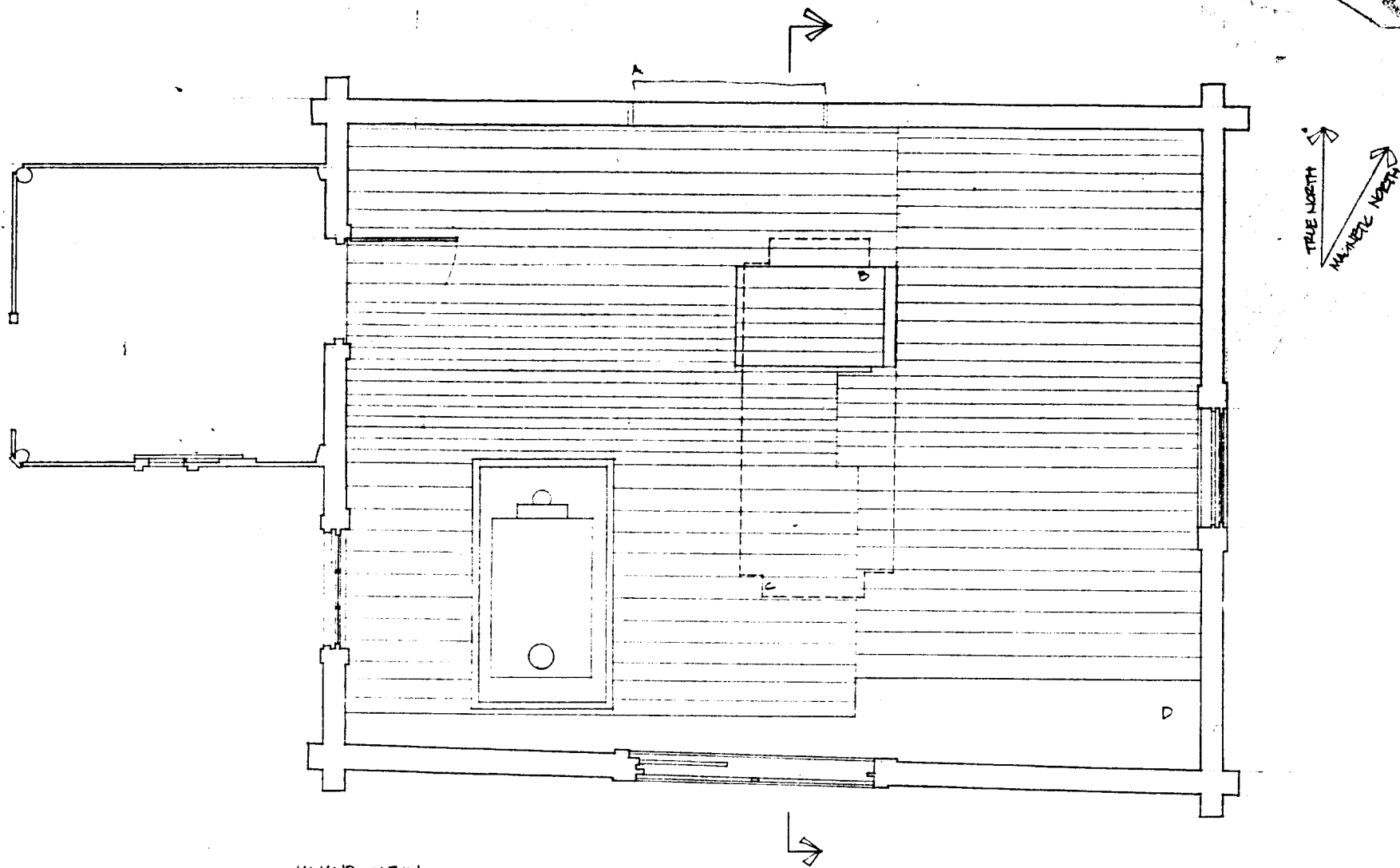
ROOF & EAVES SHOWN RESTORED



MINARD CABIN  
SECTION  
3/8" = 1'-0"

A AIR VENT  
B FLOOR BOARDS MISSING

ROOF & EAVES SHOWN RESTORED  
STRUCTURAL REINFORCEMENTS ADDED C/OTS NOT S



MINANO CABIN  
PLAN  
3/16" = 1' 0"

- A ORIGINAL WINDOW OPENING
- B TRAP DOOR FOR FOOT CELLAR
- C OUTLINE OF FOOT CELLAR
- D FLOOR BOARDS MISSING

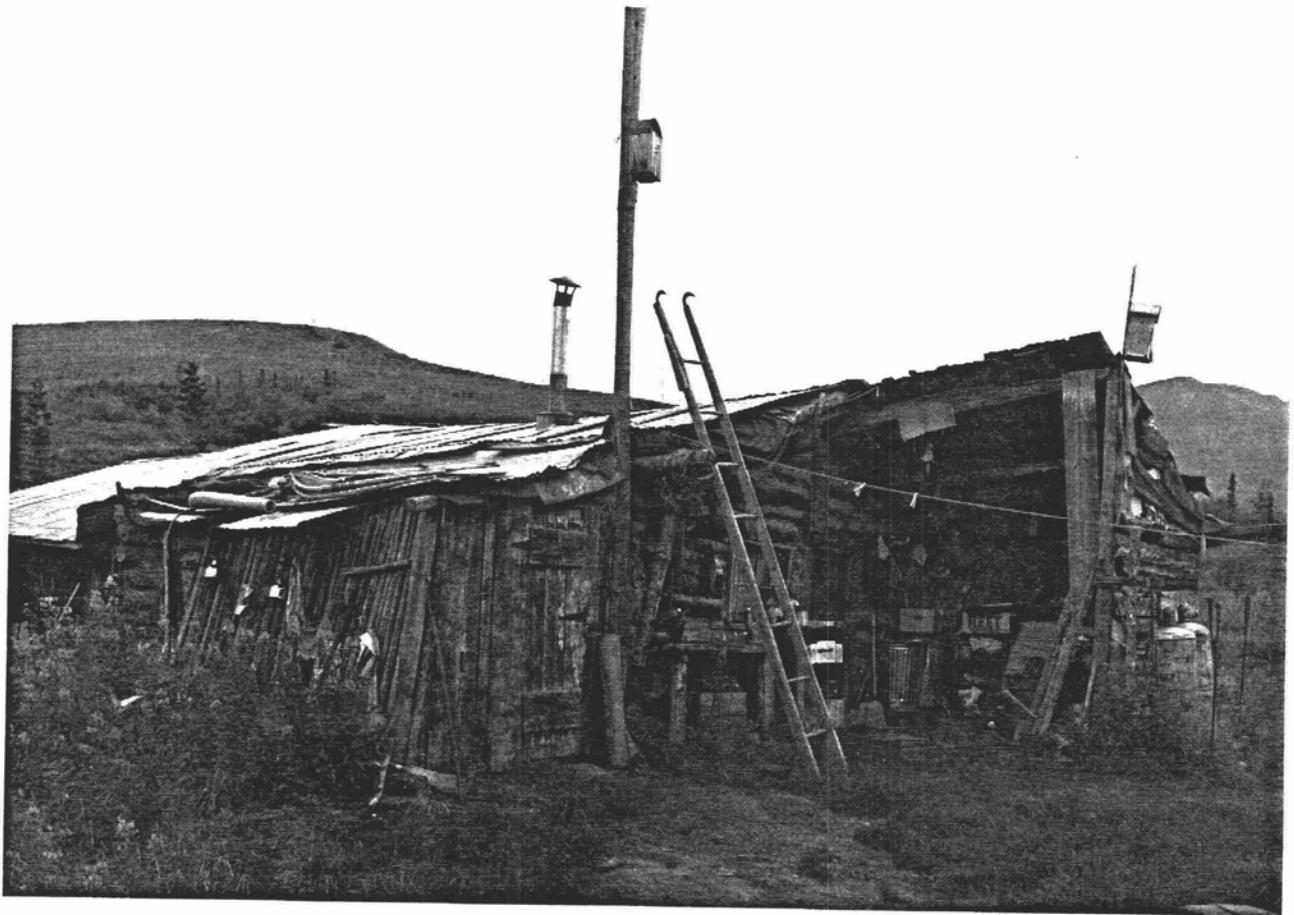
STRUCTURAL REINFORCEMENTS ADDED C 1975 NOT SHOWN

POSTLETHWAITE-JONES CABIN  
Smith Creek, Nolan

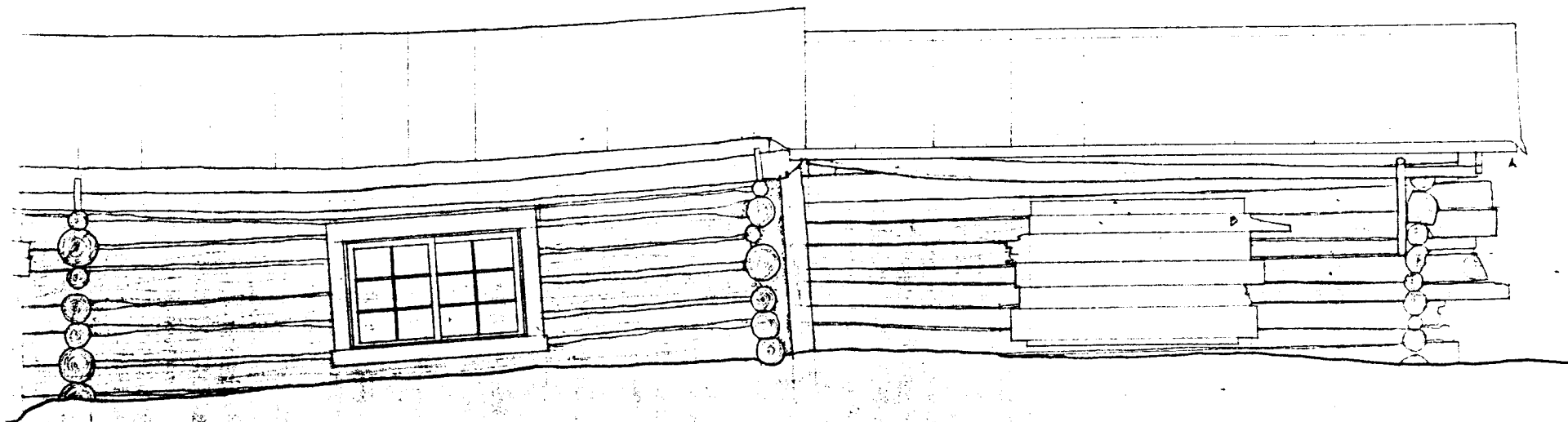
HABS No. AK-24

By 1909, Nolan Creek had yielded more gold than any other tributary of the upper Koyukuk. Poss Postlethwaite built this cabin on Smith Creek, a tributary of Nolan Creek, at about that time. In 1921, Bobby Jones, a Welshman, joined the then 69-year-old Postlethwaite in his mining operation. Jones acquired the cabin and lived here until he died in the late 1960s. The east room was added to the original cabin, perhaps as early as 1920, and the shed additions on the west were present by the 1930s.





Postlethwaite-Jones Cabin, Nolan. Jet Lowe, HABS photo.

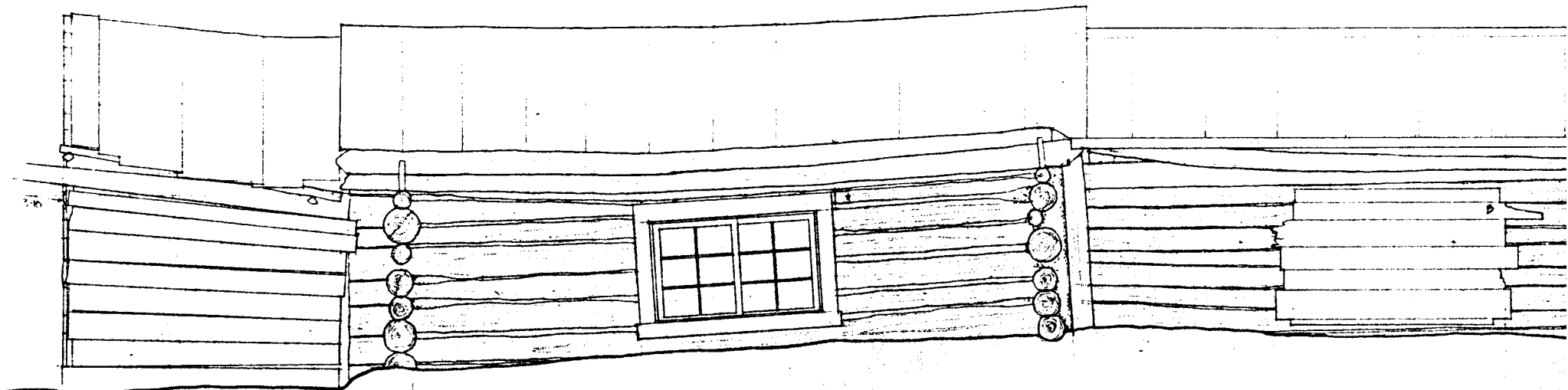


POSTLETHWAITE JONES CABIN  
SOUTH ELEVATION  
3/8" = 1'-0"

scale inaccurate: reduced for  
reproduction.

A RAFTERS REBUILT  
D WINDOW BONED UP

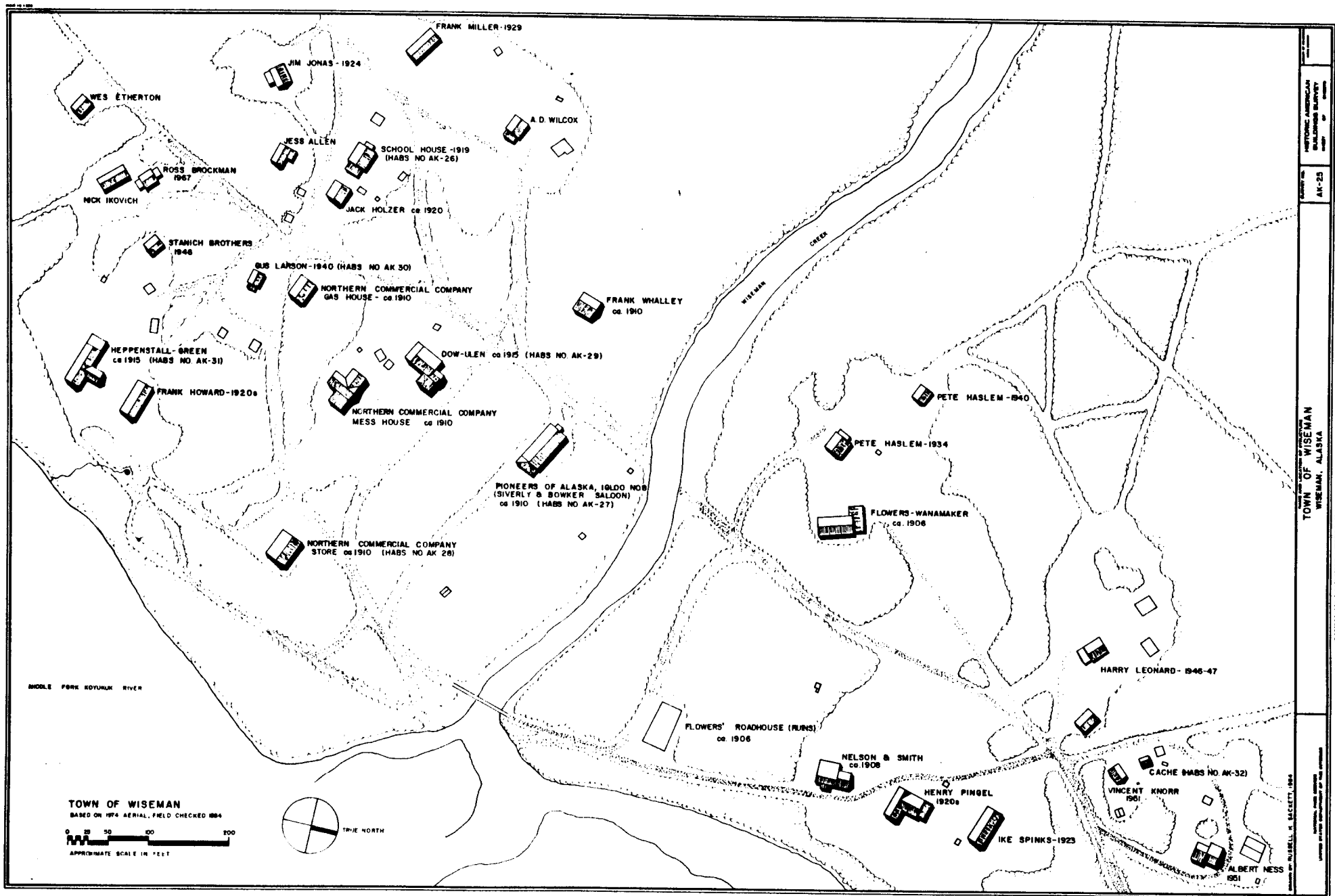
DRAWN BY MARK SCHARA



POSTLETHWAITE-JONES CABIN  
SOUTH ELEVATION  
3/8" = 1'-0"

A RAFTERS REBUILT  
D WINDOW BOARDED UP

SEE PAGE 10 FOR DETAILS



SCHOOLHOUSE  
Wiseman

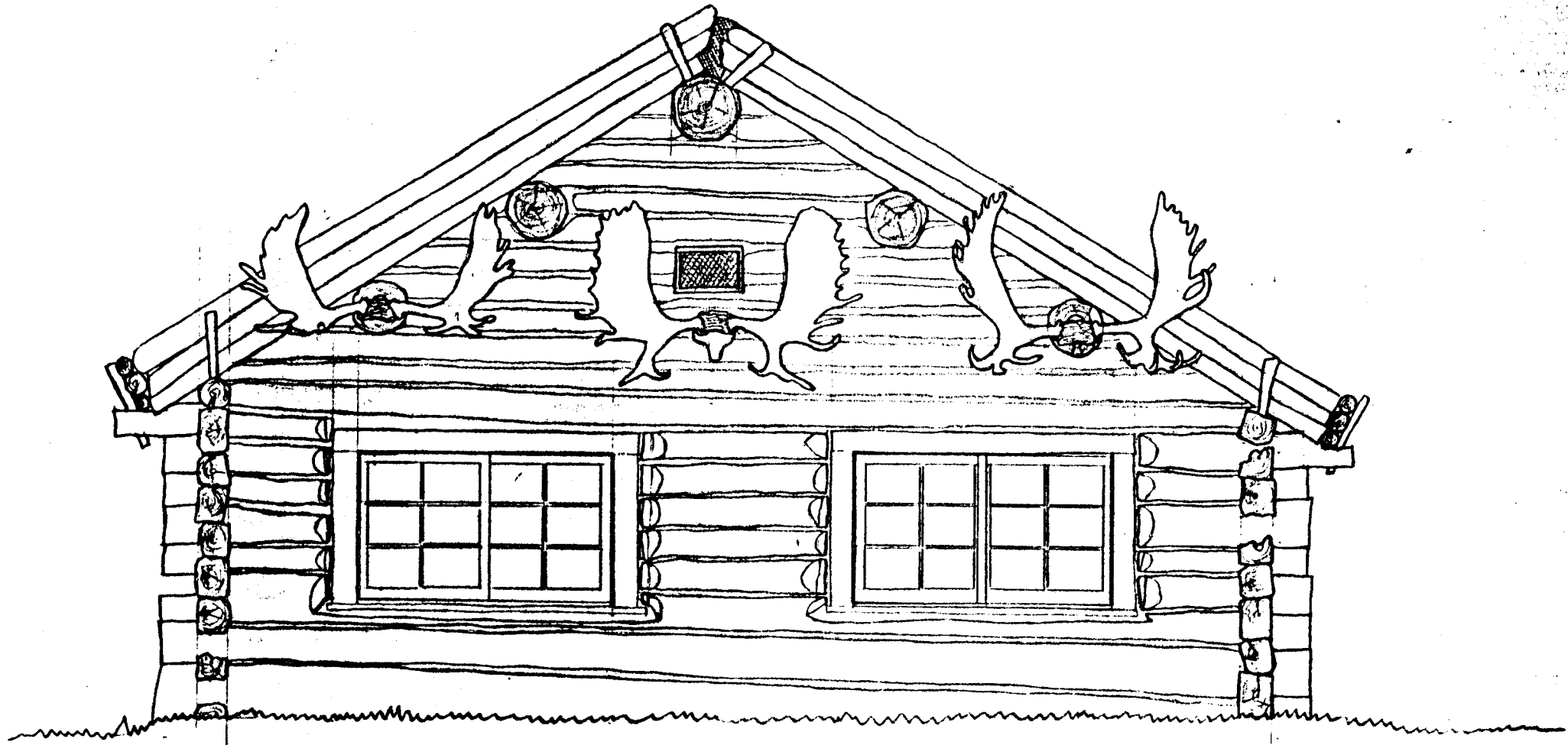
HABS No. AK-26

This building was built in 1919 in Coldfoot as the first schoolhouse in the newly established Wiseman District. During a six-week period, E.M. Sutphen, Thomas Pearson, C.A. Youngberg, and J. M. McNeil constructed the building for \$1,500. The school closed in 1924 for lack of students. School resumed in 1927 in Wiseman in a building purchased for \$300. In 1928 the Coldfoot schoolhouse was disassembled and moved to Wiseman. New joists, ridge poles, and roof poles were used in its reconstruction, and the Commissioner of Education provided a galvanized iron roof. There was a board and canvas arctic entry on the east end. The building that had been used as the Wiseman school in 1927 became the teacher's quarters and still stands directly east of the schoolhouse. The school operated until about 1940.



Schoolhouse, Wiseman. Jet Lowe, HABS photo.

REAR ELEVATION: SCHOOLHOUSE

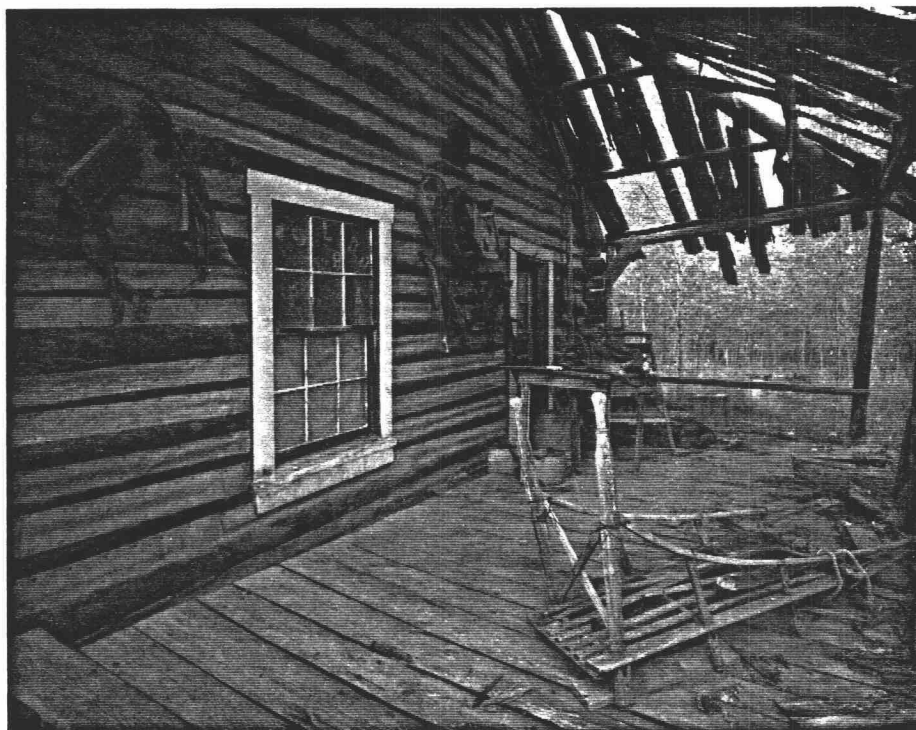


PIONEERS OF ALASKA IGLOO NO. 8  
(Siverly & Bowker Saloon)  
Wiseman

HABS No. AK-27

This building was constructed ca. 1910 as the Siverly and Bowker Saloon. The Pioneers of Alaska, a fraternal and benevolent organization formed by and for gold miners in gold rush towns, established Igloo No. 8 in Wiseman in 1914. In the absence of a local government, the Pioneers filled an important civic function in Wiseman, raising funds for the Signal Corps station, the school, and the sick and needy. In 1914 they bought this building and added the kitchen wing. Pioneer Hall, as it was popularly known, served as a community center, library, chapel, and dance hall.

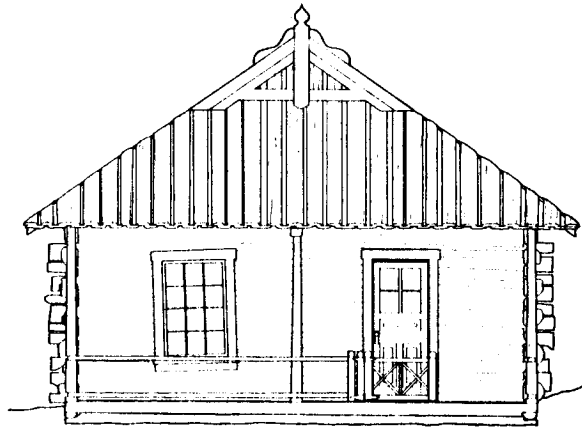




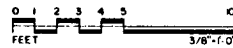
Pioneers' Hall, Wiseman. Jet Lowe, HABS photo.

# PIONEERS OF ALASKA

THE PIONEERS OF ALASKA, A FRATERNAL AND BENEVOLENT ORGANIZATION FORMED BY AND FOR GOLD MINERS IN GOLD RUSH TOWNS, WAS FOUNDED IN 1902. IN 1914, IGLOO NO. 8 WAS ESTABLISHED IN WISEMAN. THE PIONEERS PURCHASED THE FORMER SIVERLY & BOWKER SALOON, WHICH HAD BEEN CONSTRUCTED ABOUT FOUR YEARS EARLIER, AND ADDED THE KITCHEN WING TO THE REAR OF THE BUILDING. IN THE ABSENCE OF A LOCAL GOVERNMENT, THE PIONEERS FILLED AN IMPORTANT CIVIC FUNCTION IN WISEMAN, RAISING FUNDS FOR THE SIGNAL CORPS STATION, THE SCHOOL, AND THE SICK AND NEEDY. PIONEER HALL, AS THE IGLOO WAS POPULARLY KNOWN, SERVED AS A COMMUNITY CENTER, LIBRARY, CHAPEL, AND DANCE HALL.



EAST ELEVATION



**MATERIALS**  
ALL LUMBER USED IS WHITE SPRUCE  
PORCH ROOF: 1/2" x 9" (AVG) BOARDS  
PORCH POSTS: 6" (AVG) DIA LOGS  
WALLS: 7" (AVG) DIA LOGS, SADDLE-NOTCHED AT THE CORNERS, WITH GALVANIZED TIN STRIPS NAILED OVER THE INTERSTICES

## IGLOO NO. 8 (SIVERLY & BOWKER SALOON)

DOCUMENTATION OF SITES IN THE EASTERN SECTION OF GATES OF THE ARCTIC NATIONAL PARK AND BORDERING AREAS WAS UNDERTAKEN BY THE HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY/HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD (HABS/HAER), A DIVISION OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE. THE PROJECT WAS EXECUTED UNDER THE GENERAL DIRECTION OF ROBERT J. KAPSCH, CHIEF, HABS/HAER, AND ROGER CONTOR, ALASKA REGIONAL DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE. RECORDING WAS CARRIED OUT DURING THE SUMMER OF 1984 BY WILLIAM E. BROWN, PROJECT HISTORIAN; ALISON K. HOAGLAND, HISTORIAN; RUSSELL SACKETT, JAMES CREECH, AND MARK SCHARA, HISTORICAL ARCHITECTS; AND JET LOWE, PHOTOGRAPHER, WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE STAFF OF GATES OF THE ARCTIC NATIONAL PARK AND PRESERVE.



**NOTES**  
PORCH ROOF SHOWN RESTORED  
PORCH STEPS NOT SHOWN DUE TO DETERIORATED CONDITION

NORTHERN COMMERCIAL COMPANY STORE  
Wiseman

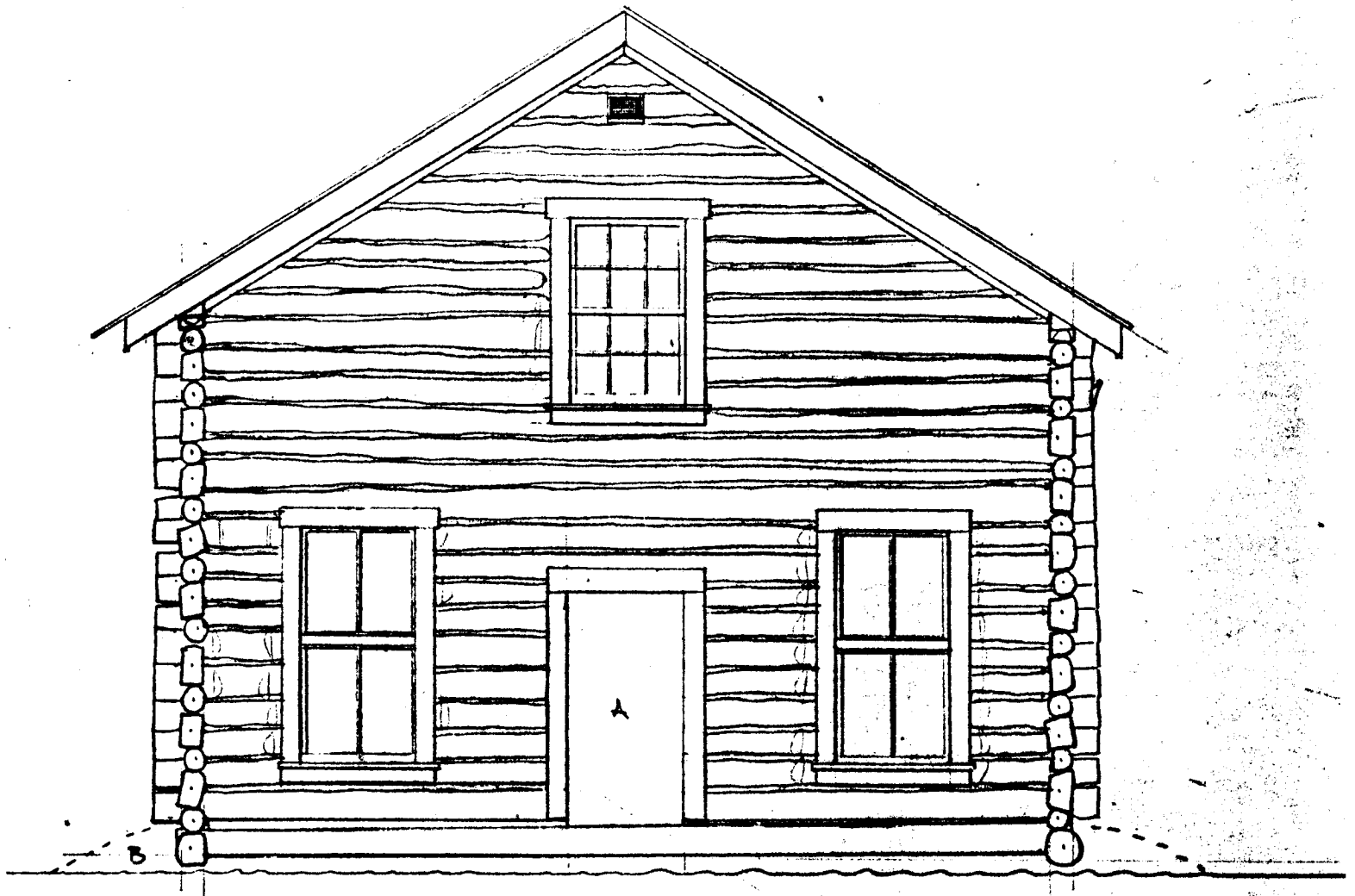
HABS No. AK-28

The Northern Commercial Company, established in 1901, was one of the most important outfitting companies which provided the crucial service of provisioning the communities in remote regions of Alaska. Their store in Wiseman was built ca. 1910 when the N. C. Co. moved its operations from Coldfoot. It was later sold to Sam Dubin and William English who did business as the Wiseman Trading Co. The building had large metal-covered shed additions on the south and west sides, which were removed in 1983. The building's cellar was also filled in at that time. The store is the only remaining one of three store buildings that once served Wiseman, and also the only remaining two-story structure in the town. The store's construction, unique to the surviving buildings in Wiseman, consists of vertical iron tie rods, securing the summer beams beneath the second-floor joists to the roof purlins.



Northern Commercial Company Store, Wiseman. Jet Lowe, HABS photo.

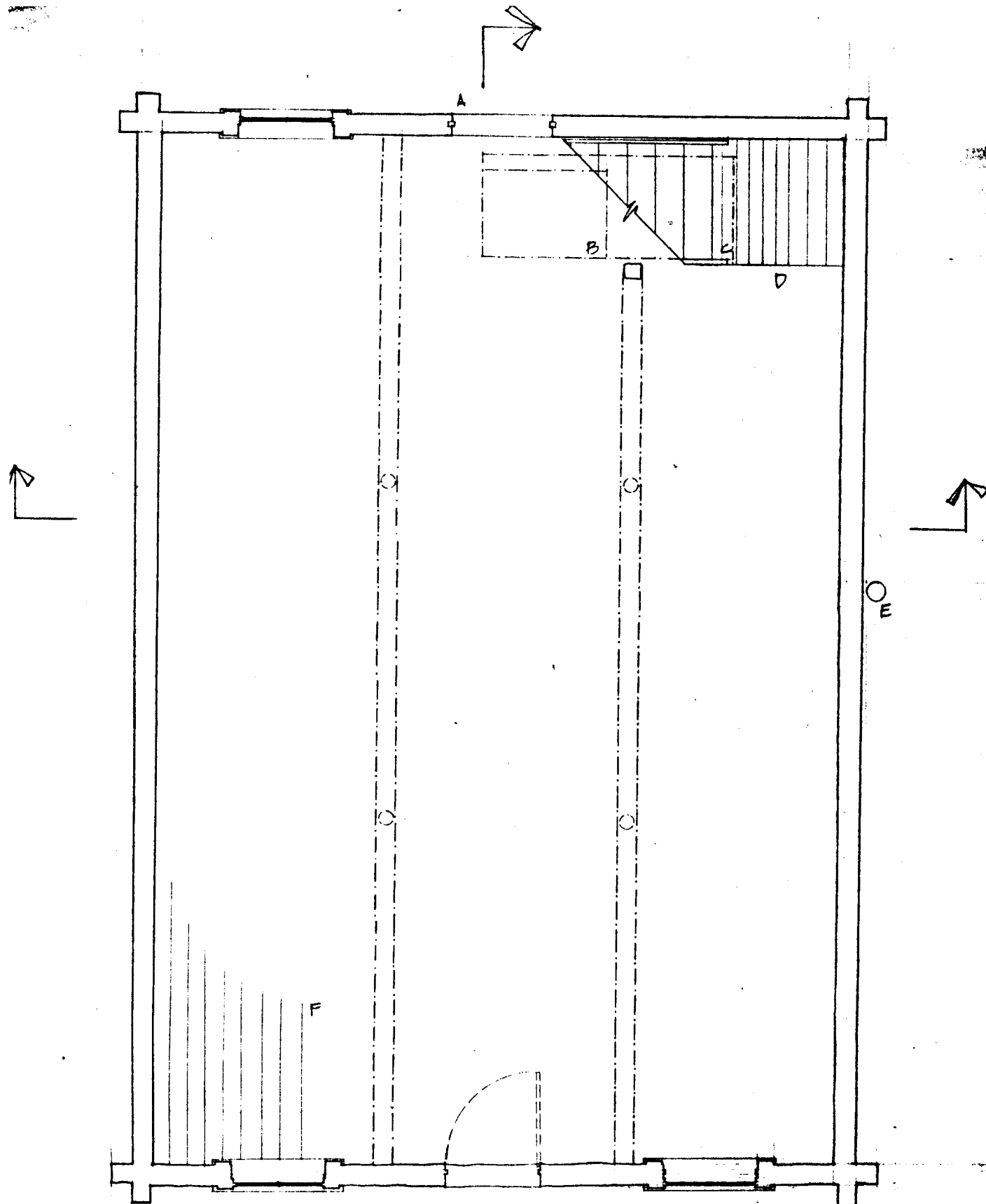
EAST ELEVATION: NC STORE



A - DOOR MISSING  
B. LANDING RAISED ON  
CONCRETE FOOTINGS.  
EARTH BERMING PROBABLE  
ALONG SIDES.

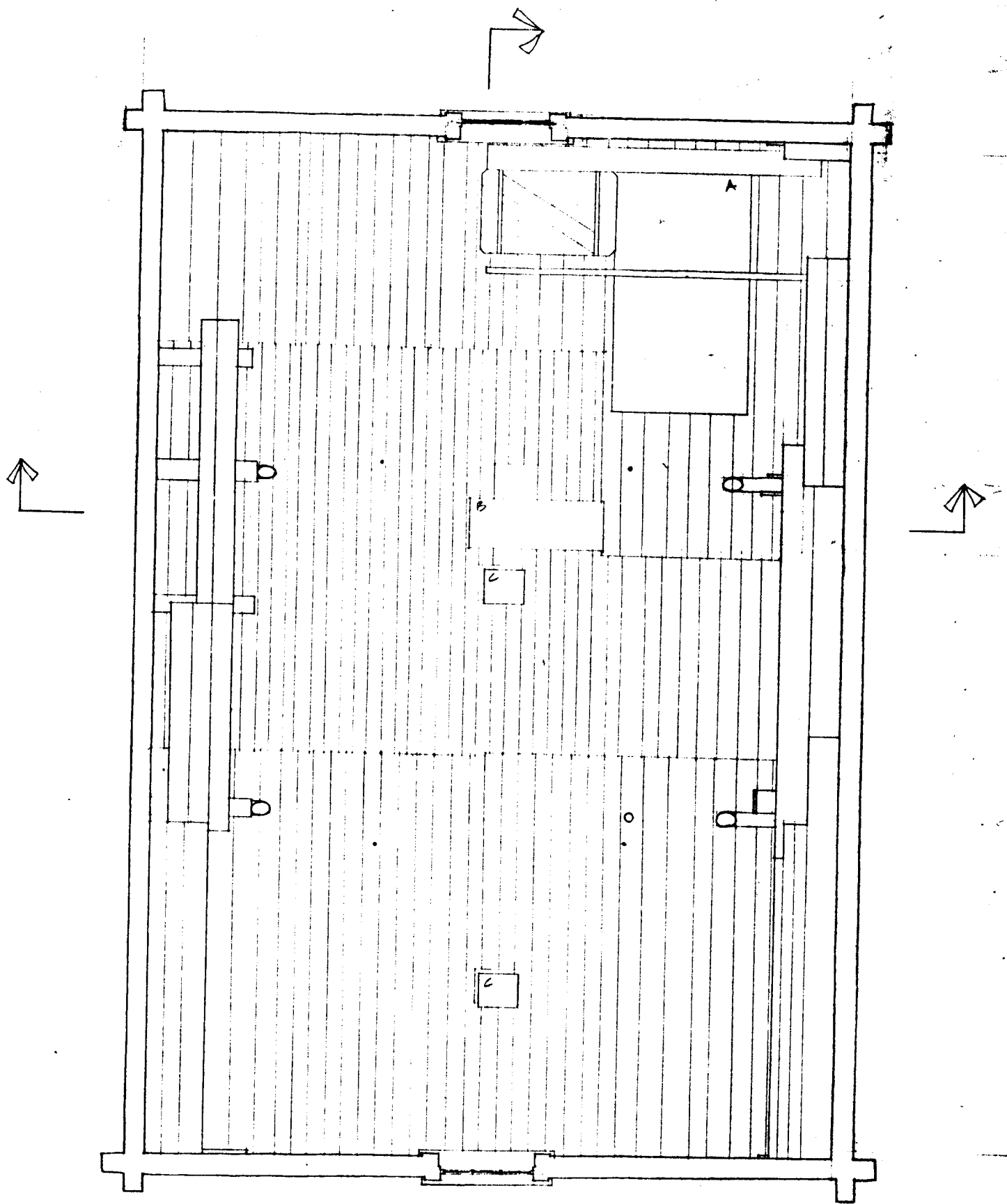
$\frac{1}{4}'' = 1'-0''$

DRAWN BY J. CREECH



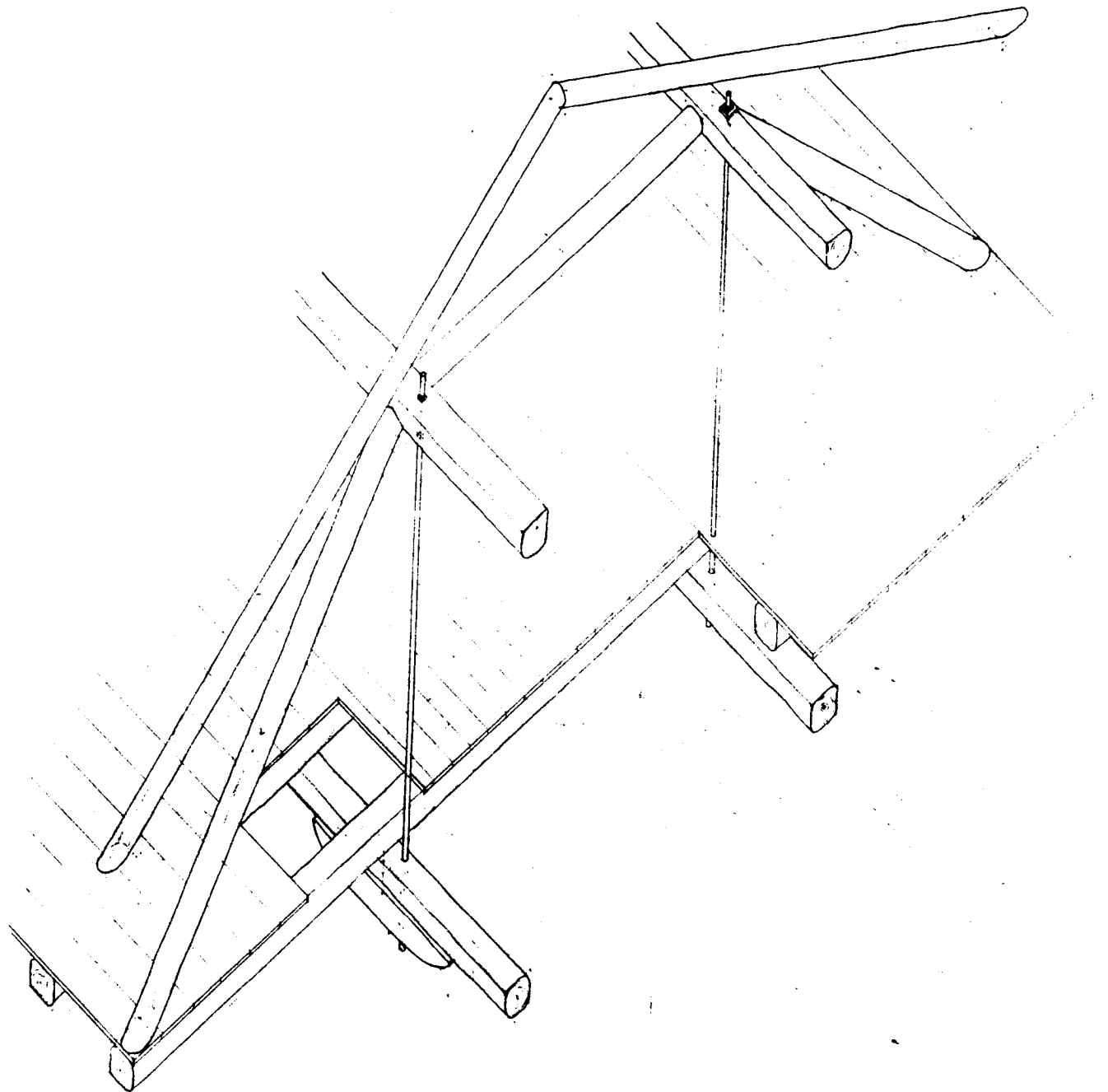
DOORWAY WIDENED c 1983  
 F AIR OPENING  
 ORIGINAL STAIR OPENING  
 LOWER FLIGHT OF STAIRS MISSING  
 AIR VENT FOR ROOF CELLAR?  
 FLOOR SHOWN RECONSTRUCTED

NORTHERN COMMERCIAL COMPANY STORE  
 FIRST FLOOR PLAN  
 1/4" = 1'-0"



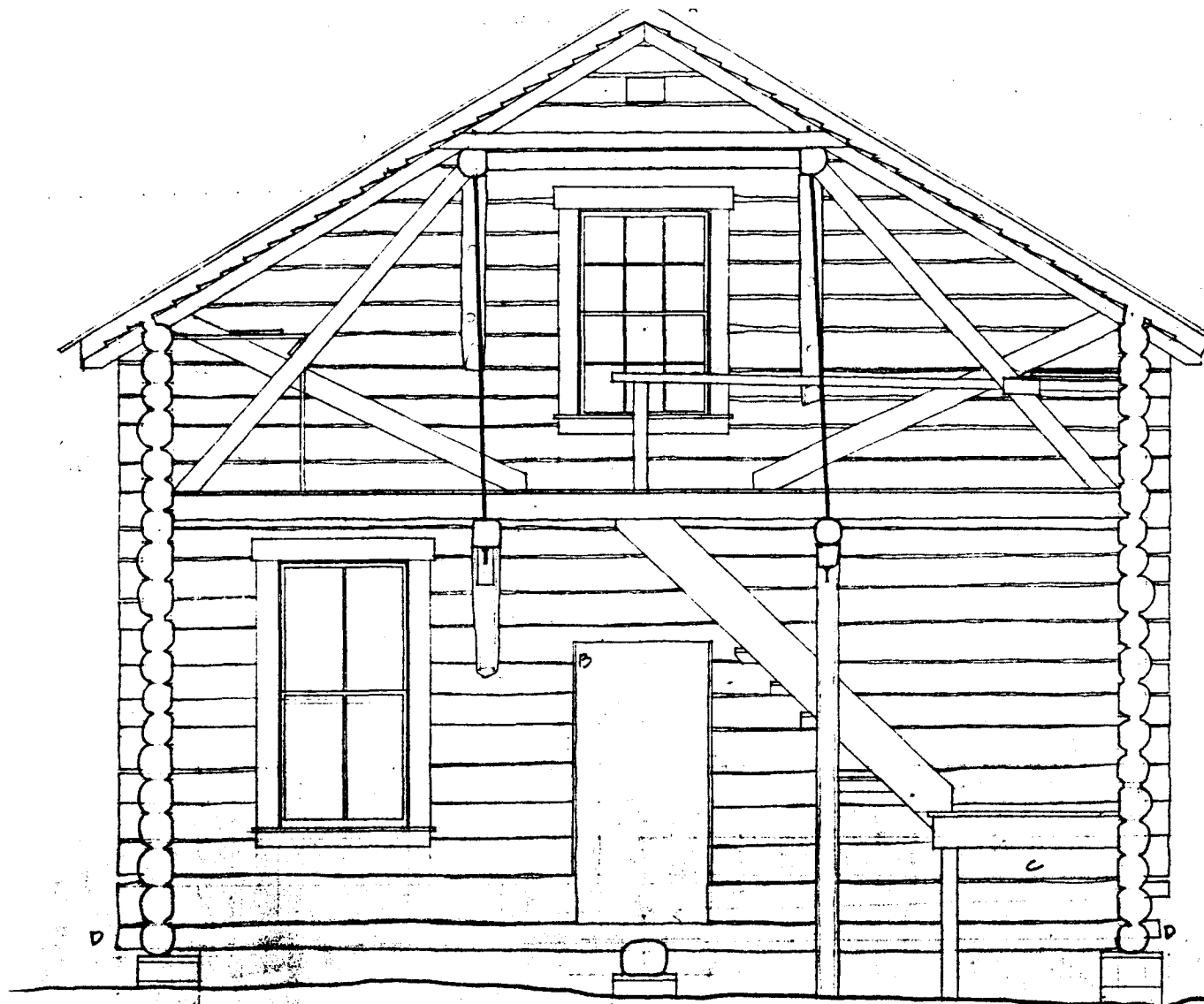
- A STAIR OPENING ENCLOSED  
 B METAL PLATES ON FLOOR TO ACCOMMODATE  
 STOVE  
 C VENTS IN FLOOR

NORTHERN COMMERCIAL COMPANY STORE  
 SECOND FLOOR PLAN  
 1/4" = 1'-0"

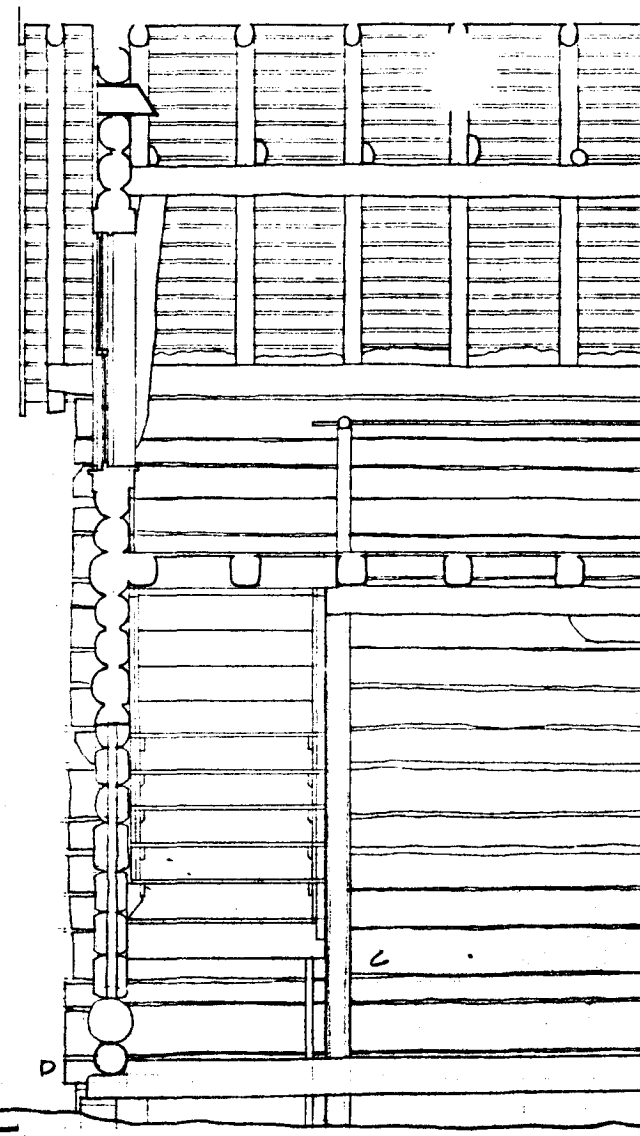


NC 00  
FRAMING AXON





TRANSVERSE SECTION

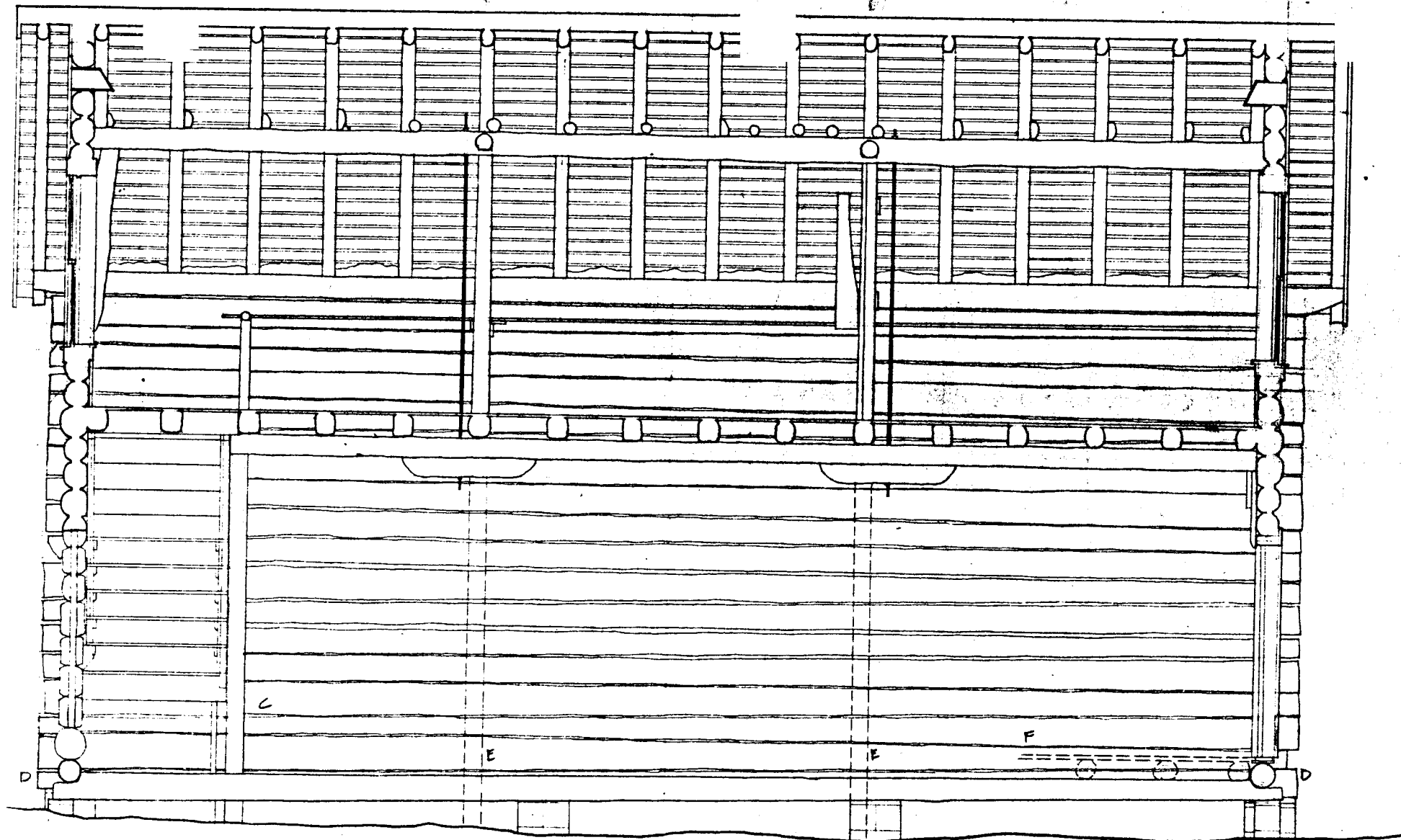


LONGITUDINAL SECTION

NORTHERN COMMERCIAL COMPANY STORE  
 $\frac{3}{8}" = 1'-0"$

scale inaccurate: reduced for  
 reproduction.

- A ROOF RESTORED C 1983
- B DOORWAY WIDENED C 1983
- C LOWER FLIGHT OF STAIRS REMOVED C 1983
- D BOTTOM LOGS REPLACED C 1983
- E POSTS REMOVED C 1983
- F FLOOR REMOVED C 1983



LONGITUDINAL SECTION

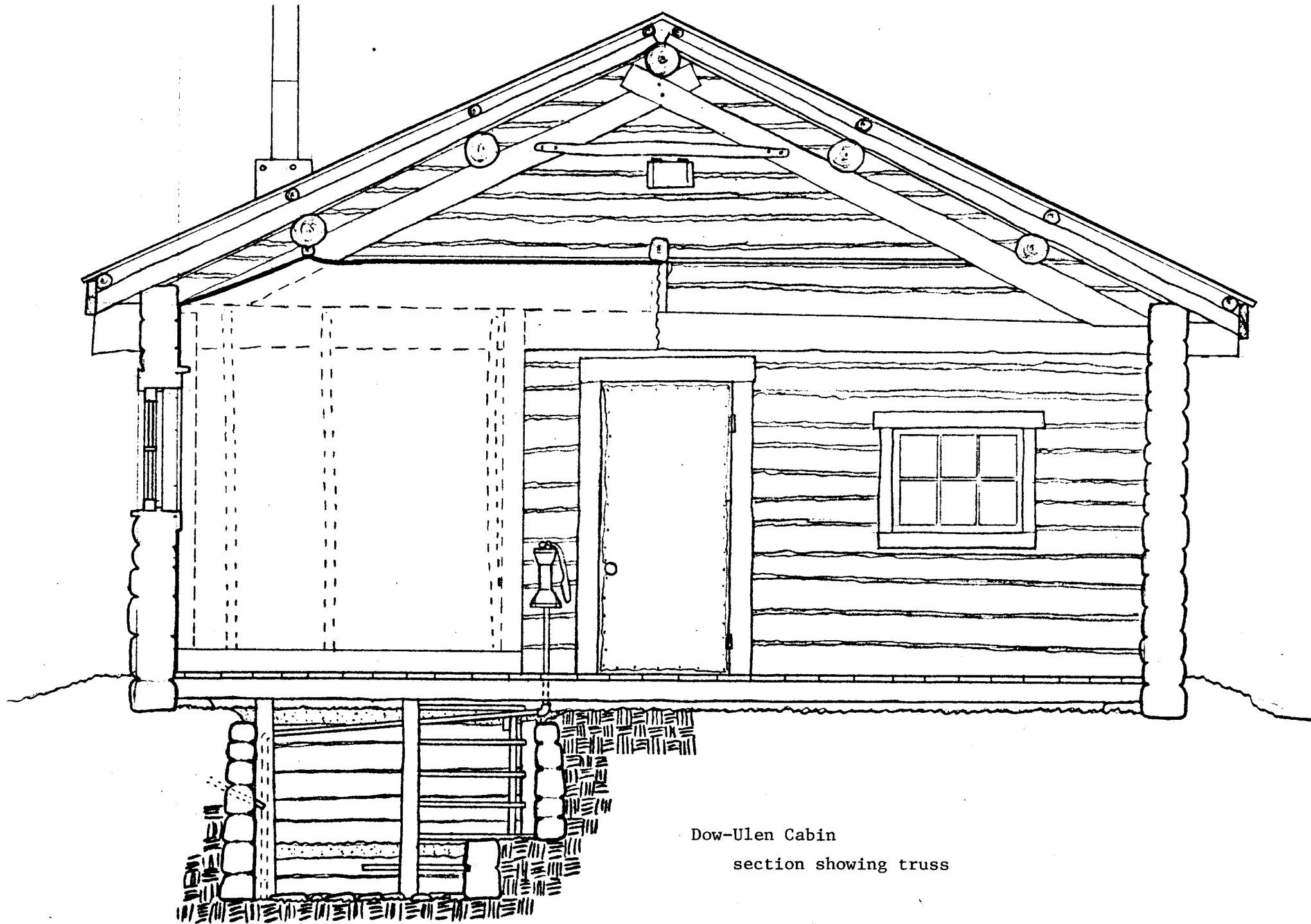
DOW-ULEN CABIN  
Wiseman

HABS No. AK-29

Peter Dow, a miner who came into the Koyukuk region ca. 1900, built this cabin in about 1915. In 1928 the cabin was bought by Joe Ulen, who ran the Signal Corps station in Wiseman. His widow, Tishu, still owns the cabin. The house is notable for its well-cribbed cellar and for the large truss supporting the ridge pole and purlins, a unique feature among the surviving houses in Wiseman.



Dow-Ulen Cabin, Wiseman. Jet Lowe, HABS photo.

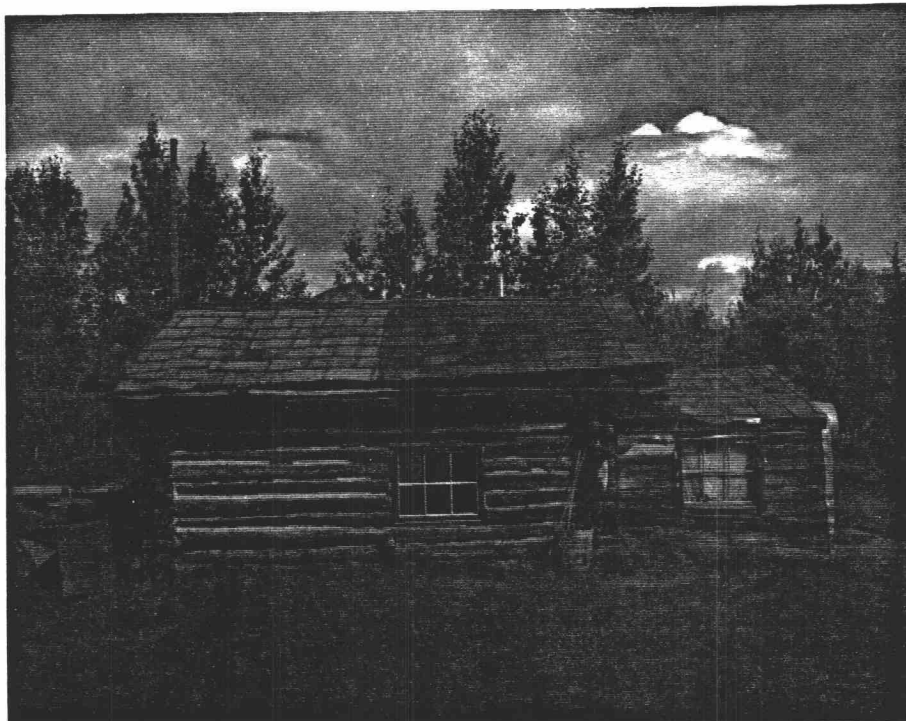


Dow-Ulen Cabin  
section showing truss

GUS LARSON CABIN  
Wiseman

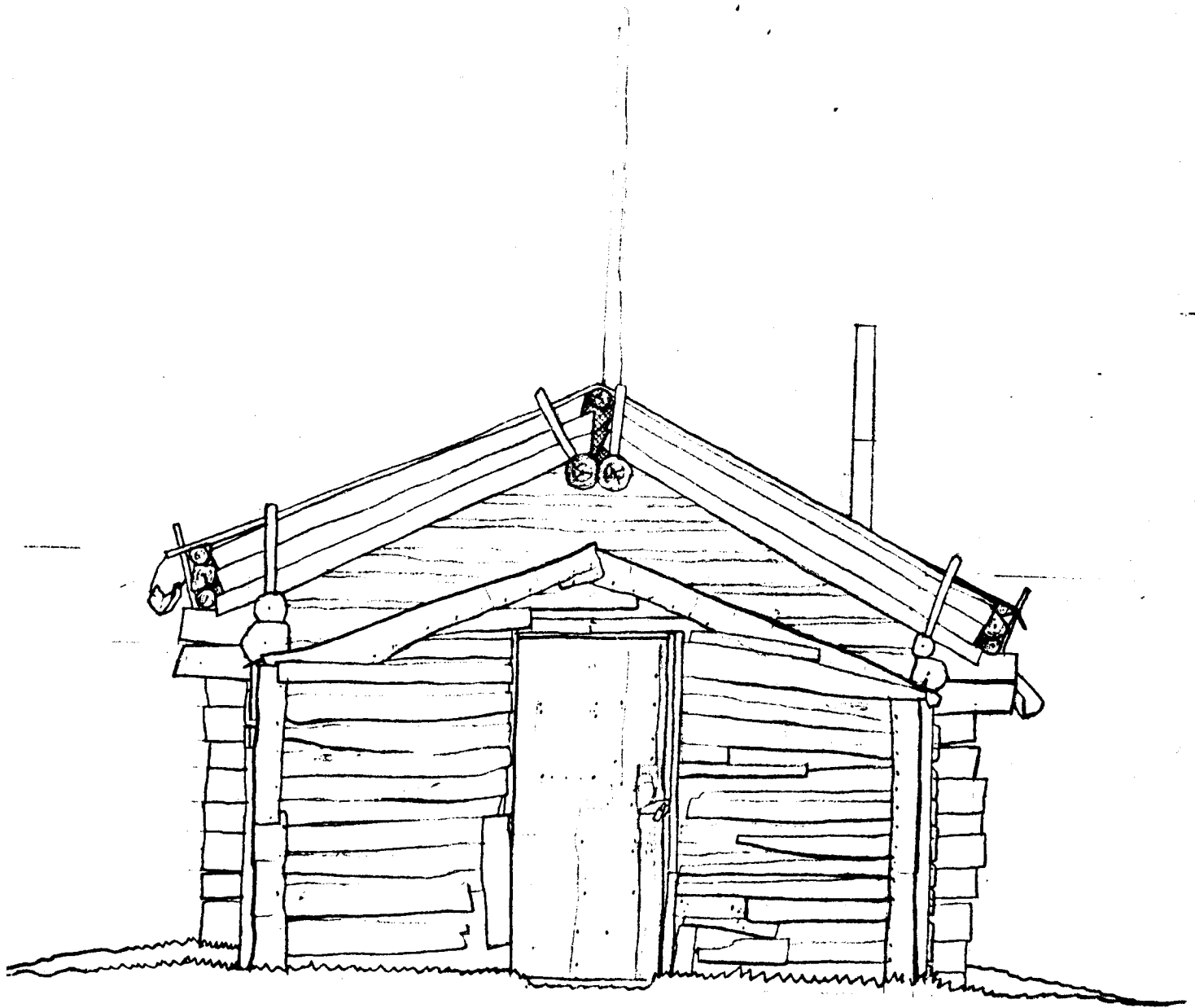
HABS No. AK-30

This cabin was built in 1940 by Gus Larson. George "The Greek" Manglas lived here later in the 1940s. The owner in 1984, Tony Tomsich, had owned and occupied the building since 1967. The careful construction and compact quality of the cabin make it a good example of a Koyukuk region cabin. It has remained substantially unchanged since its construction.



Gus Larson Cabin, Wiseman. Jet Lowe, HABS photo.

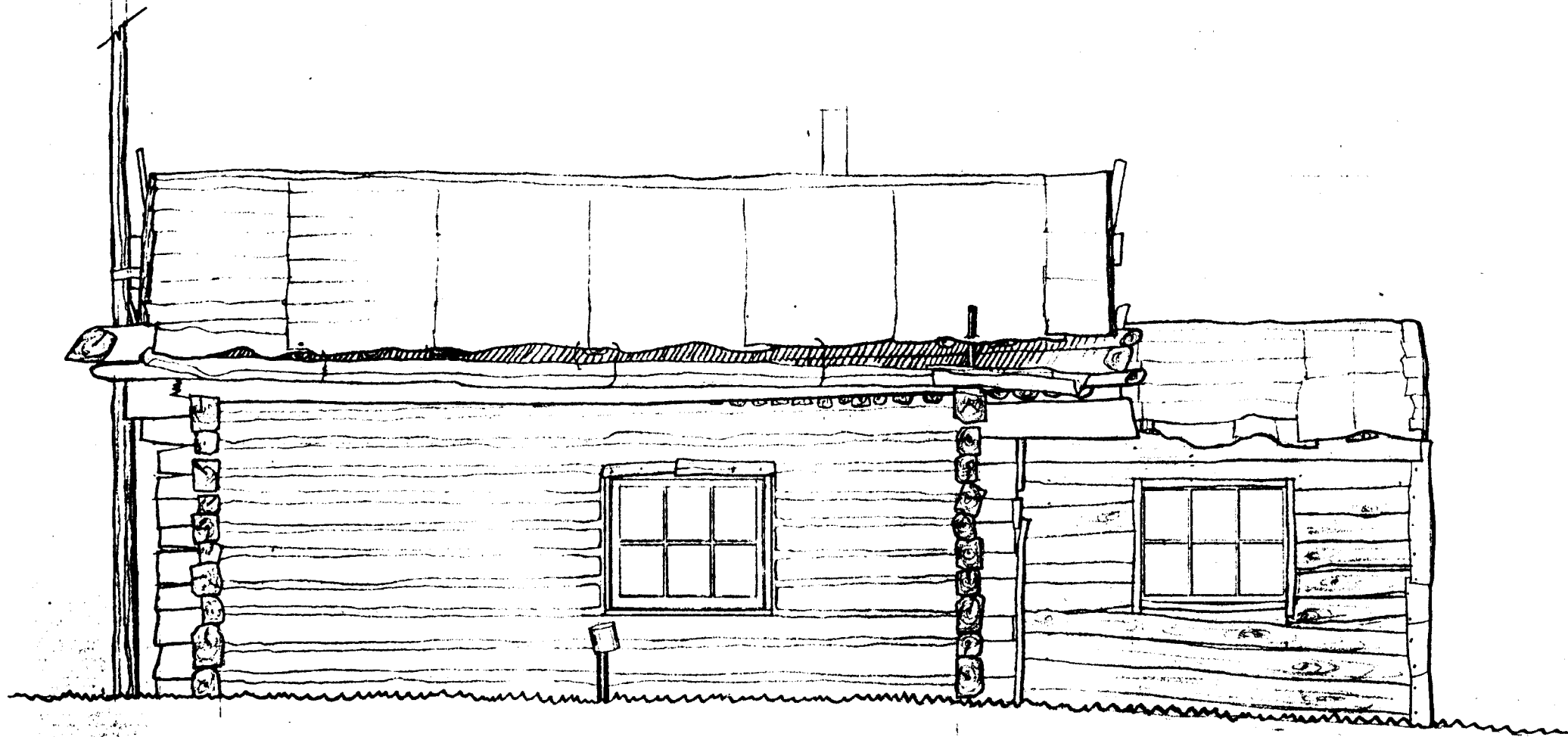
EAST ELEVATION: GUS LARSON



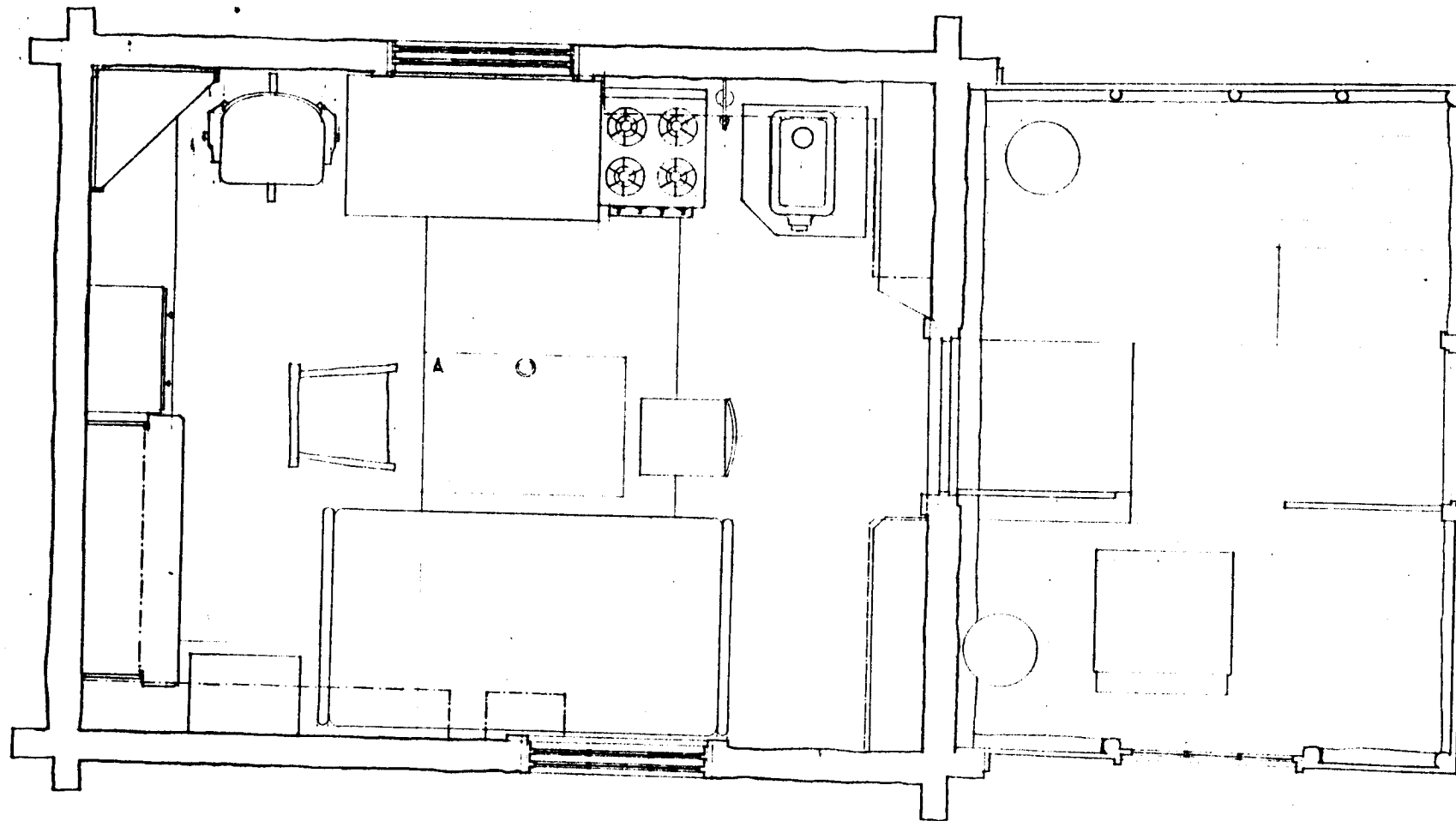
DRAWN BY: J. CREECH



SOUTH ELEVATION: GUS LARSON AND  
WISEMAN



DRAWN BY: CRETCH



GUS LARSON CABIN

3/8" = 1'-0"

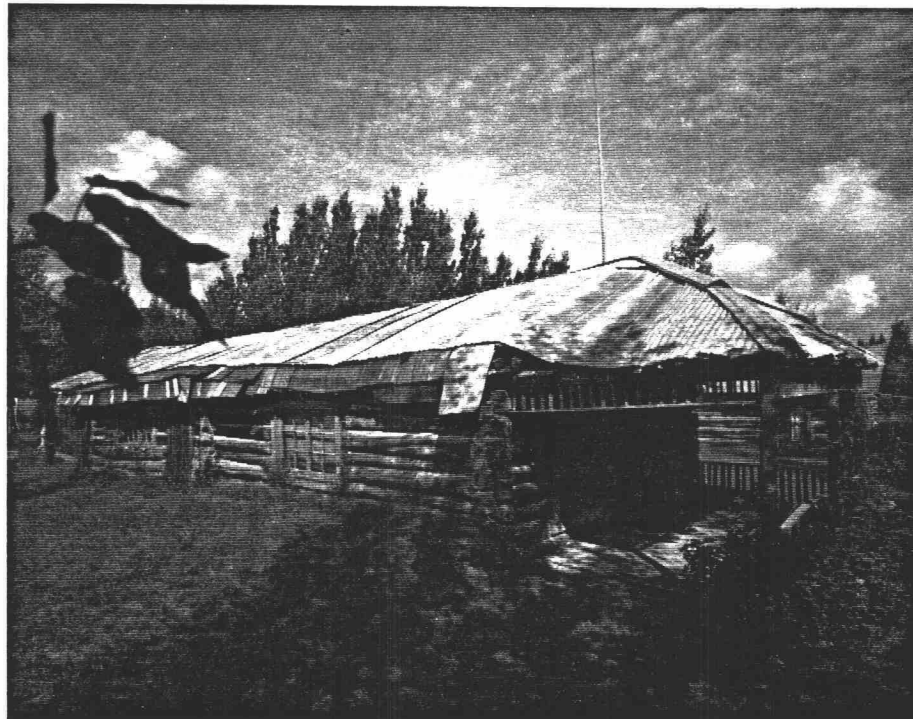
A TRAP DOOR FOR FOOT CELLAR

1 BY MARK SCHARA

HEPPENSTALL-GREEN CABIN  
Wiseman

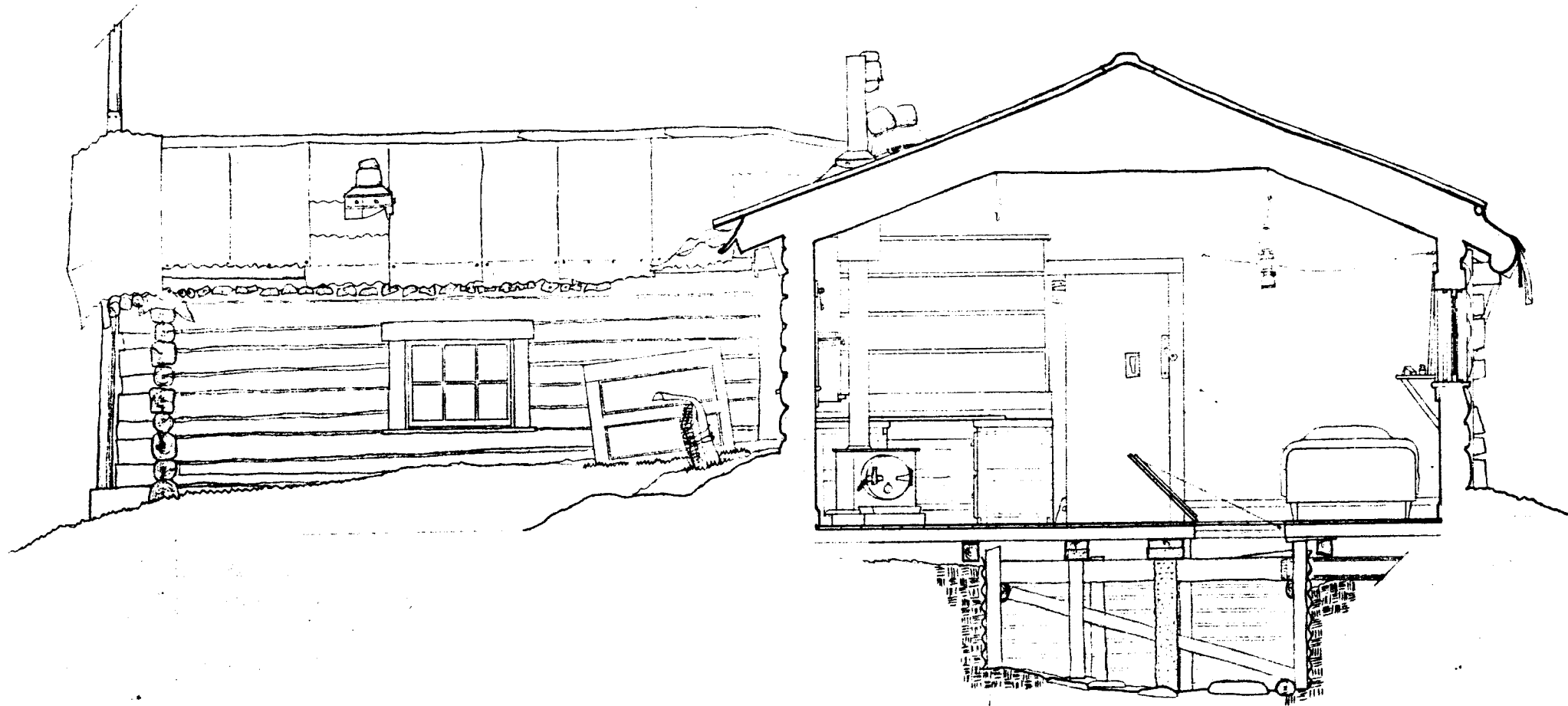
HABS No. AK-31

E. D. Heppenstall is believed to have built this cabin about 1915. By the late 1920s, it belonged to the U.S. Marshal, Vaughn O. Green. Green died in 1932 and by the 1940s the cabin was the home of Victor Neck, a miner. The cabin, which features a fully braced root cellar and an unusual ornamented front porch, is one of the largest houses in Wiseman, having three distinct rooms built of logs.



Heppenstall-Green Cabin, Wiseman. Jet Lowe, HABS photo.

SECTION A - GREEN CABIN



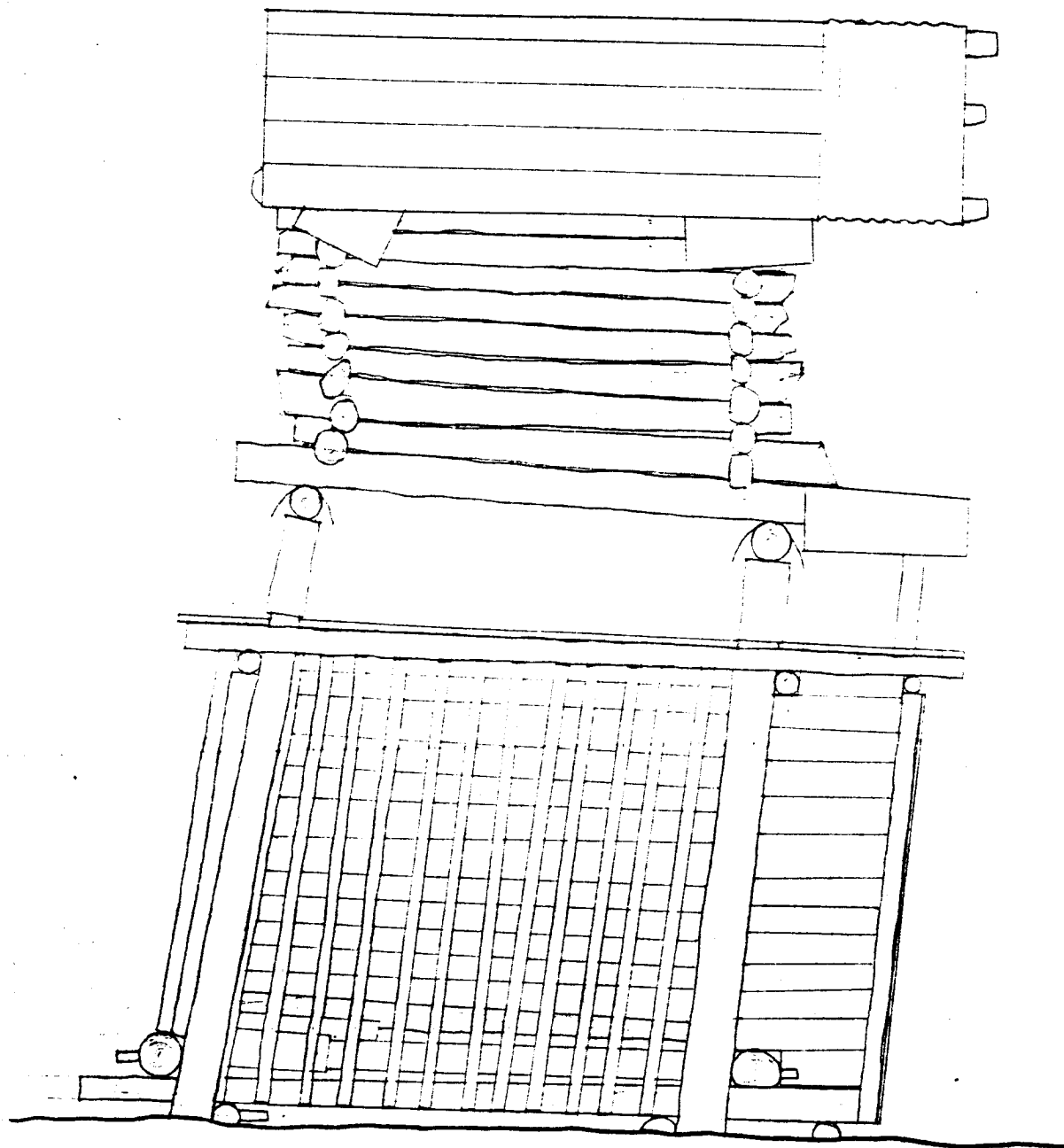
VINCENT KNORR CACHE  
Wiseman

HABS No. AK-32

This cache, a log structure on four posts, was constructed by Vincent Knorr when he moved to Wiseman in 1951. Knorr was a miner who had come to the Koyukuk region in 1927 and in the 1930s built a cabin which still stands on Mascot Creek. Associated with Knorr's Wiseman homestead are a small cabin, a storage shed, and an outhouse, as well as this cache. By 1959, the first level had been enclosed with horizontal planks and vertical poles. The careful construction of this cache makes it a particularly fine example of this distinctively Alaskan building type.



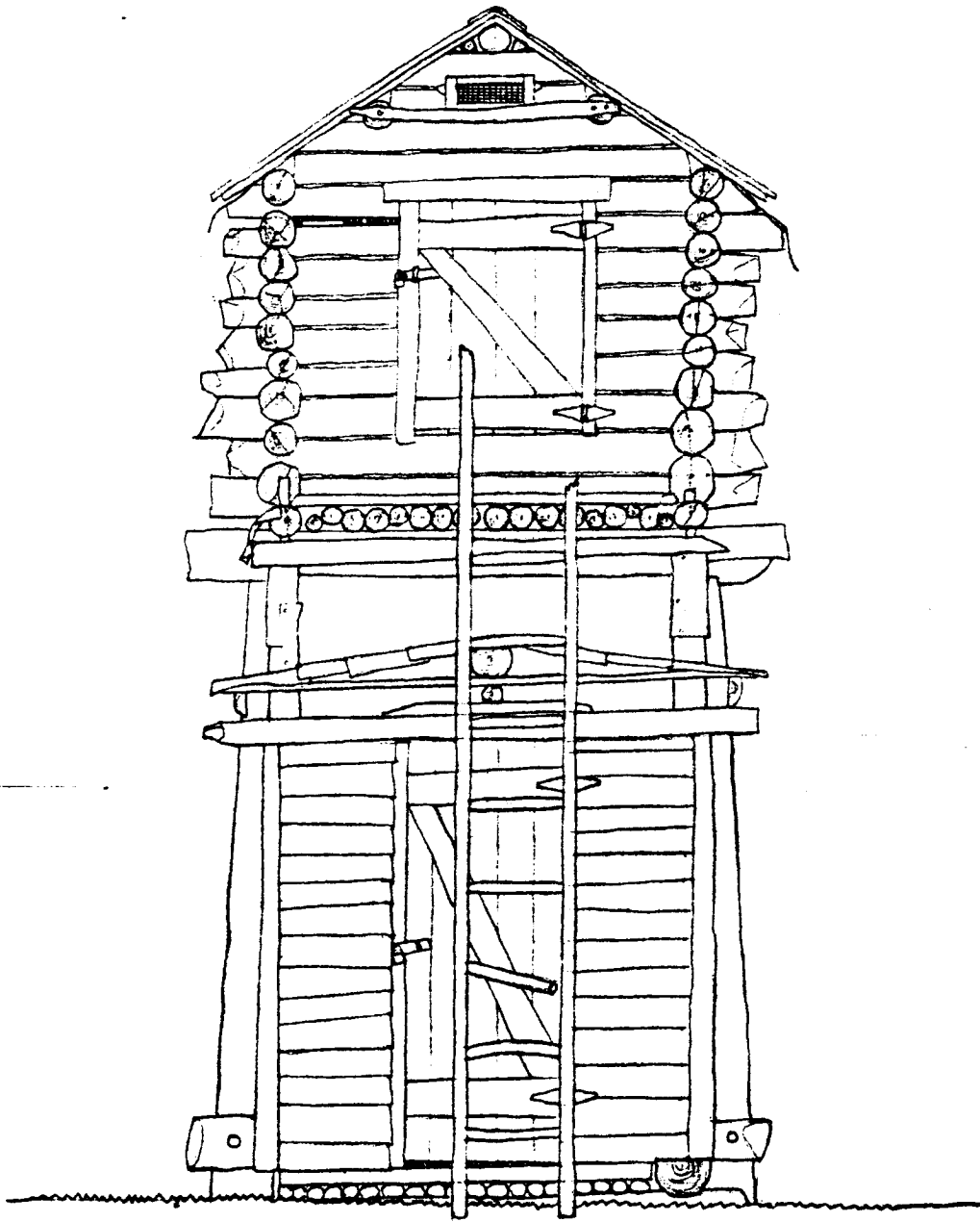
Vincent Knorr Cache and log skinner, Wiseman. Jet Lowe, HABS photo.



VINCENT KNORR CACHE  
SOUTH ELEVATION  
3/8" = 1'-0"

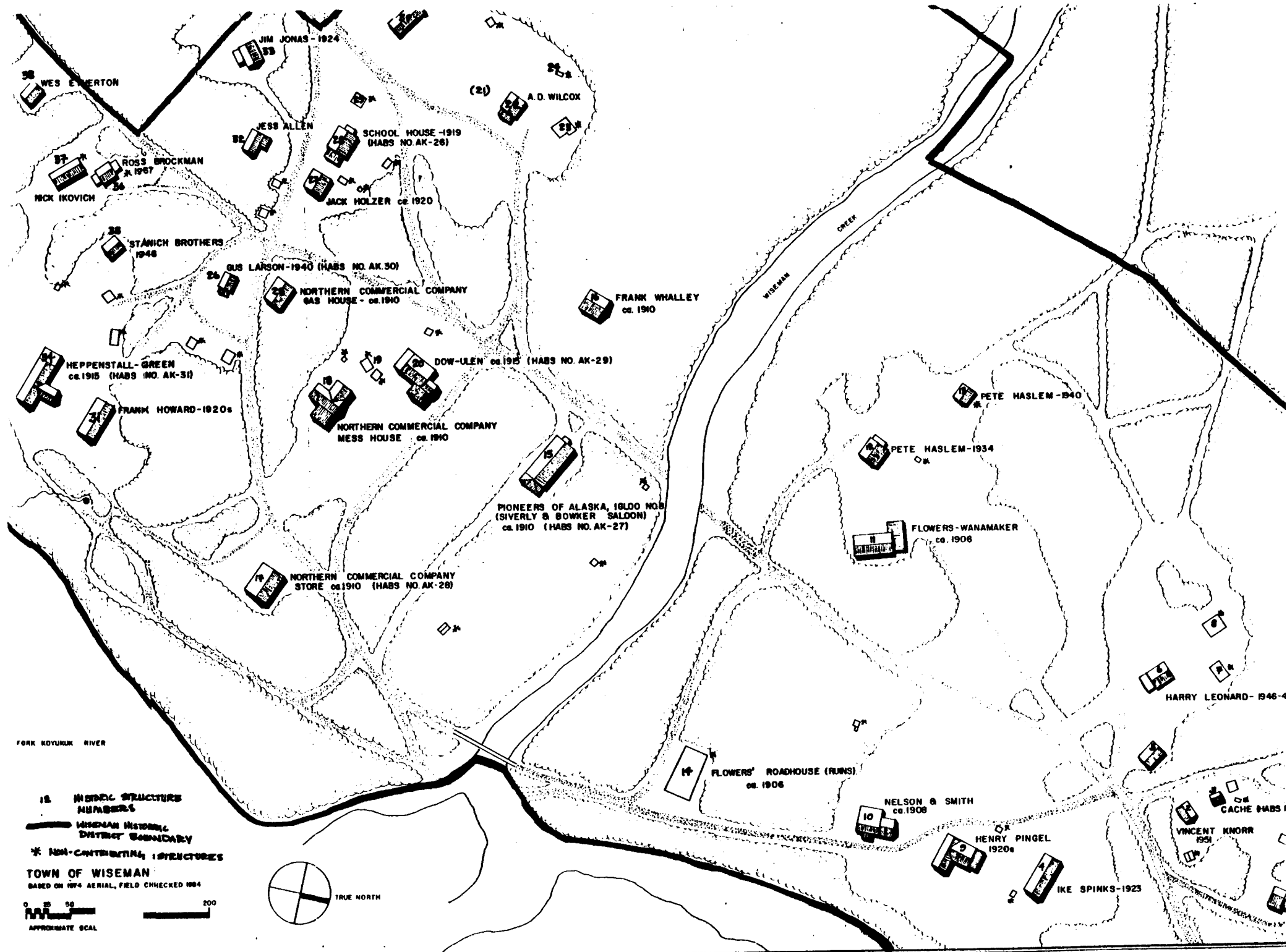
DRAWN BY MARK SCHARA





### Historic Structures Inventory--Town of Wiseman

These historic-structures descriptions and histories were compiled by Archeologist Susan M. Will of the Bureau of Land Management's Yukon Resource Area. The NPS/HABS team recorded 7 of the 38 inventoried structures and also prepared the Town of Wiseman plan, a number-keyed version of which is included with this inventory. This phase of the cooperative NPS/BLM cultural resources survey contributed to a National Register Determination of Eligibility for the Wiseman Historic District by the Secretary of the Interior, dated June 5, 1985. A copy of the Notification of Eligibility and supporting data follows the inventory. This historic district is listed as WIS-008 on the Alaska Historical Resource Survey.



STRUCTURE NO: 1

LOT NO: 12

PRESENT OWNER: Pete Pasquali III and Gloria L. Pasquali  
Wiseman, AK 99726

DESCRIPTION: Log cabin with attached back shed and enclosed entry/porch  
There is also a large workshed made of sheet metal to the north of the cabin  
and a cache just west of the cabin.

BUILT BY: Albert Ness    DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1951    AGE: 33

HISTORY: This cabin was built by Albert Ness in 1951 when he was in his '60's. It was built to replace his original cabin, located just south of the bridge across Wiseman Creek, which burned. Ness was a prospector who had lived most of his life and worked in the Wiseman area. Marshall (1933:47) quotes Ness' philosophy about people in the North as follows, "Always, after any stampede, it's not the successes who build up the country. It's the failures who stay on, decade after decade, and establish homes." An ardent socialist, he was also an avid reader. Most of his library was lost in the fire which destroyed his original cabin but a few volumes were saved and he had again acquired quite a collection before he died (Personal communication, Johnson, 1984).

It was purchased by Mort R. and Verna L. Hulce and James J. and Vera L. Hulce from Eugene G. and Patricia Earnest on August 16, 1969. James J. and Vera Dunn bought the property from Hulce April 3, 1970.

STRUCTURE NO: 2 and 3      LOT NO: 11

PRESENT OWNER: Dr. Robert L. and Virginia R. Rausch  
Box 5447, University Station  
Seattle, WA 98105

DESCRIPTION: This property consists of a small cabin, a storage shed, an outhouse, and a cache.

BUILT BY: Vincent Knorr      DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1951      AGE: 33

HISTORY: These structures were constructed by Vincent Knorr, another old-timer who came to the Koyukuk in 1927. He was very reclusive and religious, possibly as a result of something which had happened in his past. Reed's report (1938) on mining activity in the Koyukuk indicates that Knorr was one of the more important miners on Mascot Creek, which is the most significant mining area in Gates of the Arctic. In his later years his only communication was with Ruth Barrett, a wealthy Fairbanks widow whose husband had founded Samson's Hardware. Knorr left his cabin to her when he died in 1970. All the structures are decorated - the exteriors painted white with red, black, and green trim. By 1959, the first level of the cache had been enclosed with horizontal planks and vertical poles. The careful construction of this cache makes it a particularly fine example of this distinctive Alaskan building type. It was documented by the 1984 HABS crew (HABS No. AK-32).

STRUCTURE NO: 4      LOT NUMBER: 10

PRESENT OWNER: Joseph Strunka  
P.O. Box 550  
Fairbanks, AK 99707

DESCRIPTION: This structure consists of a two-room log cabin with and attached cache.

BUILT BY: Ike Spinks      DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1923      AGE: 61

HISTORY: Ike Spinks built the original one-room cabin in 1923. Ed Marsan and his wife, Mable, lived in the cabin in the '30's and added a room and the cache. Marsan was a French Canadian blacksmith who first came to Alaska in the gold rush of 1898, worked for the Alaska Road Commission and mined on Nolan Creek. He later left Alaska and returned to Quebec. His wife stayed and worked at several of the mines in the Wiseman area. Although she was apparently an ex-prostitute, she was a very cheerful and well-liked person and one of her best friends was Louisa Pingel, an ex-missionary. After Marsan left, Hughie Boyle lived in the cabin until his death in 1945. After his death the cabin passed to Bobby Jones who later sold it to Joe Strunka in 1965.

STRUCTURE NO: 5,6,7, and 8      LOT NO: Patented Homesite (U.S.S. 4181)

PRESENT OWNER: Harry Leonard  
Wiseman, AK 99726

DESCRIPTION: Two cabins and outbuildings.

BUILT BY: (6,7,8 - Harry Leonard)      DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: (6,7,8 - 1946)  
(5 - Jack White ?)      (5 - pre-1934)

AGE: (6,7,8 - 38)      (5 - +50)

HISTORY: According to Leonard, Structure No. 5 was a small cabin owned by Jack White. It was the location of an incident that Marshall relates (1933:191-192) where White tried to eject Floyd Hyde, who hadn't paid rent, out of the cabin. When Hyde wouldn't leave, White started removing the roof one morning while Hyde was still in bed! The roof was repaired and the cabin served as Wiseman's second post office in 1959. The interior is still intact, complete with pigeonholes and wanted posters on the wall.

Leonard built the other cabin and outbuildings when he moved into town from Gold Creek in 1946.

STRUCTURE: 9    LOT NUMBER: 1 and 30

PRESENT OWNER: George H. and Barbara Lounsbury  
Box 983  
Fairbanks, AK 99707

DESCRIPTION: This is a large cabin with a pole-constructed shed on the north side, and an outhouse.

BUILT BY: Unknown    DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: prior to 1944    AGE: +40

HISTORY: Henry Pingel and his wife owned the cabin until 1944. Henry was more than 70 and still worked with pick and shovel in his cut every day when Marshall visited him in 1930. Pingel reminisced about his early days in the Far North: storming White Pass in midwinter, boating up the virgin waters of the Stewart River, seeing a companion clawed and bitten by a bear, breaking through overflows at 60 below, and crossing the trackless wilderness from the Chandalar to Coldfoot in the dark days of December. Louise Pingel was a former missionary with a good sense of humour who was noted for helping folks out. They also had a large cabin and claims at Nolan. Albert Ness relates some information on the Pingels (Marshall 1933:157): "It's funny, but take a man like old Pingel. He can't do any work any more and he knows it. He's got enough money for him and the old lady to live luxuriously for the rest of their lives. But still he wants to come back and mine. It's not the money he's after at all."

After the Pingels left the cabin was claimed by Harry Leonard who later sold it to George Lounsbury who mines in the Wiseman area every summer.



STRUCTURE NO: 10      LOT NO: 2 and 3

PRESENT OWNER: Cora P. Chappel  
101 12th Avenue  
Fairbanks, AK 99701

DESCRIPTION: This cabin consists of two rooms with two attached caches. One room is about 16' by 16'; the main living room is 24' by 16'; the cache/entrance is 9' by 7'; and the exterior cache is 24' by 8'. There is a 20' by 10' cellar under the house.

BUILT BY: Nelson and Smith    DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: ca. 1919    AGE: 65

HISTORY: This cabin was constructed by Nelson and Smith either in 1908 or 1919 and possibly used as the Smith and Nelson Saloon or Frank Smith's Saloon and roadhouse. It was later Jim Kelly's store. Carl Frank purchased it around 1920 and also operated a store out of it. When Carl Frank died it was purchased by Oliver L. Chappel from Norman Veach who was the administrator for Frank's estate. Cora, the daughter of Oliver, who mined in the Wiseman area, grew up in the house.

STRUCTURE NO: 11      LOT NO: 5 and 6

PRESENT OWNER: Ann Dolney Boyle  
S.R. Box 20085  
Fairbanks, AK 99701

DESCRIPTION: This is a large cabin with two rooms and an attached shed. The structure apparently once had interior plumbing of some sort as there are water lines, a well, and a bathtub.

BUILT BY: Unknown    DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: ca. 1905    AGE: +79

HISTORY: This structure is probably the old J.H. Flowers house. The Flowers built and operated the Wiseman Roadhouse. The house was later sold to Smitty Wanamaker who lived in it during the 1940's and made a number of improvements. He was reported to be quite a "tinkerer" and probably put in the indoor plumbing.

STRUCTURE NO: 12

LOT NO: 7 and 8

PRESENT OWNER: Peggy A. Harry  
1539 E. Howard St. #236  
Pasadena, CA 91104

DESCRIPTION: This structure is a small log cabin with an attached shed on the west side.

BUILT BY: Pete Haslem    DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1934    AGE: 50

HISTORY: Pete Haslem, who was driving a trolley car on Coney Island at the time, heard of the Klondike, came to the Koyukuk in 1898 and stayed on in the North. In addition to this cabin he built one just to the south of it which was sold to Alice Stuart, a forester who lived in Wiseman in the 1940's. The latter cabin no longer stands. He also built Structure No. 13. Haslem died in the 1930's and was buried in the Wiseman cemetery. The cabin was sold to Ross Harry, who died in 1975 and is also buried in the Wiseman cemetery. The cabin now belongs to his wife.

STRUCTURE NO: 13

LOT NO:

PRESENT OWNER: James W. Pitts  
Wiseman, AK 99726

DESCRIPTION: Small log cabin.

BUILT BY: Pete Haslem    DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1940    AGE: 44

HISTORY: The cabin was built by Haslem in 1940 and later sold to Fred Terrel.  
Pitts purchased it from Terrel on July 21, 1981.

STRUCTURE NO: 14

LOT NO: 4

PRESENT OWNER: Timothy R. and Onita McKay  
P.O. Box 60650  
Fairbanks, AK 99706

DESCRIPTION: Collapsed remains of the old roadhouse.

BUILT BY: J.H. Flowers (?) DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: ca. 1912 AGE: +72

HISTORY: Known as Jack Flowers' Roadhouse (pre-1911), it was sold to Mrs. Julia E. Hill on April 16, 1912. She operated it with her husband, Arthur, when it was known as the Wiseman Roadhouse. It was sold to Martin Slisco on November 6, 1926 when it consisted of the main building, a pool hall, bunkhouse, kitchen, storage area, and other outbuildings. Bob Marshall lived in a cabin which was located to the north of the present day remains during 1930-31. There was also a large garden to the west of the Roadhouse. Slisco sold the property to Tom Kovachecich on June 24, 1927. Harry Leonard later sold it to Jackie Patrick on October 10, 1976 and Patrick sold it to McKay on November 15, 1976.

Leonard tore the roof off the building several years ago. The walls of the structure collapsed during the winter of 1983-84.

**STRUCTURE NO:** 15**LOT NO:** 14

<b><u>PRESENT OWNER:</u></b>	Burton E. Stearns	Clint E. Stearns	George Carroll
	Rt.1, Box 97A	P.O. Box 3495	2507 Campden
	Eastsound	Palmer	Austin
	WA 98245	AK 99645	TX 78745

**DESCRIPTION:** This is a large rectangular cabin with an enclosed addition on the west end and a porch on the east end.

**BUILT BY:** W.L. Siverly (?) **DATE OF CONSTRUCTION:** ca. 1910 **AGE:** 74

**HISTORY:** This building was constructed ca. 1910 as the Siverly and Bowker Saloon. The pioneers of Alaska, a fraternal and benevolent organization formed by and for gold miners in the gold rush towns, established Igloo No. 8 in Wiseman in 1914. In the absence of a local government, the pioneers filled an important civic function in Wiseman, raising funds for the Signal Corps station, the school, and the sick and needy. The building was purchased by the Pioneers from Erle R. Brown on November 2, 1914 and the kitchen wing was added. Pioneer Hall, as it was popularly known, served as a community center, library, chapel, and dance hall. Stearns and Carroll purchased it on February 2, 1972 from Harry Leonard.

The building was documented by the HABS crew in 1984 (HABS No. AK-27).

STRUCTURE NO: 16

LOT NO: 19

PRESENT OWNER: William R. Lytle  
1020 Warner St.  
Chico, CA 95926

DESCRIPTION: This structure is a two-room log cabin with an enclosed entryway.

BUILT BY: Frank Whalley DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: ca. 1912 AGE: +72

HISTORY: This structure was built by Frank Whalley who left the country in 1912. It was purchased by the Pioneers of Alaska Igloo No. 8 from Erle Brown and rented to the Signal Corps to house radio and telegraphic equipment. It was sold by Harry Leonard to Lytle in 1976.

STRUCTURE NO: 17

LOT NO: 16

PRESENT OWNER: Dr. Walter Johnson  
1521 G Street  
Anchorage, AK 99501

William D. English  
c/o Dr. Walter Johnson

DESCRIPTION: This is the only two-story log structure in Wiseman. The building had two large metal-covered sheds on the south and west sides which were removed in 1983 during replacement of the sill logs which had rotted. The building's large cellar was also filled in at the time. The store's construction, unique to the surviving buildings in Wiseman, consists of vertical iron tie rods, securing the summer beams beneath the second-floor joists to the roof purlins.

BUILT BY: N.C. Company(?) DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1927 AGE: 57

HISTORY: This structure was built after the original, located just northwest of the present store, burned. The Northern Commercial Company, established in 1901, was one of the most important outfitting companies which provided the crucial service of provisioning the communities in remote regions of Alaska and opened the store in Wiseman in 1910. The company's Wiseman operations were sold to Sam Dubin and William English who did business as the Wiseman Trading Co. It was sold to the present owners by Dubin and English in 1945.

The structure was documented by the HABS crew in 1984 (HABS No. AK-28).



STRUCTURE NO: 18      LOT NO: 17

PRESENT OWNER: Dr. Walter Johnson      William D. English  
1521 G Street      c/o Dr. Walter Johnson  
Anchorage, AK 99501

DESCRIPTION: This is a three-room log cabin with an enclosed porch.

BUILT BY: N.C. Company    DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: ca. 1910    AGE: 74

HISTORY: Probably constructed at the same time as the store building, this is sometimes referred to as the "mess house". Later it was sold to Sam Dubin and William English who did business as the Wiseman Trading Co. In 1945 it was sold by William English and Cora B. Dubin to the present owners. It was the home of Mary English, wife of William and mother to William D. and Tishu Ulen, until her death.

STRUCTURE NO: 19 and 20      LOT NO: 18

PRESENT OWNER: Tishu V. Ulen  
1271 9th Avenue  
Fairbanks, AK 99701

DESCRIPTION: This house is notable for its well-cribbed cellar and for the large truss supporting the ridge pole and purlins, a unique feature among surviving houses in Wiseman. It is a two room-log cabin with an enclosed porch and outbuildings.

BUILT BY: Peter Dow    DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: ca. 1915    AGE: 69

HISTORY: Peter Dow, a miner who came into the Koyukuk region ca. 1900, built this cabin between 1914 and 1916, when he lived in Wiseman. In 1928 the cabin was purchased by Joseph Ulen, who came to Wiseman to run the Signal Corps station, from O. R. Williams. He sold it to his wife, Tishu, in 1956.

The structure was documented by the HABS crew in 1984 (HABS No. AK-29).

STRUCTURE NO: 21, 22, 23, and 24      LOT NO: 20

PRESENT OWNER: Charles A. Breck  
Wiseman, AK 99726

DESCRIPTION: Structure 22 is a 16' by 16' log cabin with an enclosed porch. Structure 21, Ace Wilcox's original cabin, has been torn down. The other structures are outbuildings.

BUILT BY: Ace Wilcox    DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: prior to 1940    AGE: +44

HISTORY: Ace Wilcox was an early market hunter and gardener who supplied many of the miners in the Wiseman area with produce from his large gardens. He was married to an Eskimo woman, Kayak. He apparently bought his cabin (Structure 21) from Siverly in 1920. Structure 22 served as the storage cabin for potatoes and was probably built by Wilcox between 1920 and 1940. Bobby Jones owned the property after Wilcox died and sold it to Charlie Breck in 1951. Charlie, the unofficial "mayor of Wiseman", mined in the Wiseman area and still maintains a large garden to this day.

STRUCTURE NO: 25

LOT NO: 17

PRESENT OWNER: Dr. Walter M. Johnson  
1521 G Street  
Anchorage, AK 99501

William D. English II  
c/o Dr. Walter Johnson

DESCRIPTION: This is a log structure with a tin roof. Due to the fact that it is sinking into the ground, there is now an excavated area down to the door.

BUILT BY: N.C. Company (?) DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: ca. 1910 AGE: 74

HISTORY: This structure is known as the "Gas House" because fuel was stored in it. It has also been referred to as the old jail but this is incorrect. The structure was purchased from the N.C. Co. by Sam Dubin and William English, doing business as the Wiseman Trading Co. It was sold to the present owners by Dubin and English in 1945.

STRUCTURE NO: 26

LOT NO: 24

PRESENT OWNER: Anthony W. Tomsich  
Wiseman, AK 99726

DESCRIPTION: This small 12' by 14' foot cabin displays careful construction and a compact quality that make it a good example of a Koyukuk region cabin. It has been carefully maintained and remains substantially unchanged since its construction.

BUILT BY: Gus Larson      DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1940      AGE: 44

HISTORY: The cabin was built by Gus Larson, a cabinetmaker. He changed his name to "Norder" when he left Wiseman and later died in Tanana. George "the Greek" Manglas lived here later in the 1940's. Tony Tomsich purchased the cabin and has lived in it since 1967.

The structure was documented by the HABS crew in 1984 (HABS No. AK-30).

STRUCTURE NO: 27      LOT NO: 22

PRESENT OWNER: Annette E. Reakoff  
Wiseman, AK 99726

DESCRIPTION: This structure is a small log cabin.

BUILT BY: Jack Holzer(?)      DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: prior to 1926      AGE: +58

HISTORY: On August 18, 1927 "half of the cabin located in Wiseman known as the 'Holser's cabin' " was sold to Erik Sjoblorm by Henry Pingle". This is probably the same cabin which was then sold in 1928 by Carl Frank to the Wiseman School District and described as a "one room cabin located between the A.D. Wilcox and J.C. Allen residence known as the Jack Holzer cabin". The cabin was used as the schoolhouse in 1927 but was too small and served as the the schoolteacher's residence the following year. It was later sold by Tishu Ulen to Rick Reakoff. Tishu had used the old cabin to store her trapping supplies. Reakoff subsequently sold it to his daughter, Annette.

STRUCTURE NO: 28 and 29      LOT NO: 21

PRESENT OWNER: Rick Reakoff  
Wiseman, AK 99726

DESCRIPTION: Structure 28 is a log cabin with a large enclosed porch.  
Structure 29 is a cache to the west of the cabin.

BUILT BY: E.M. Stuphen, Thomas Pearson, C.A. Younberg, and J. M. McNeil

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1919                      AGE: 65

HISTORY: This structure was built in 1919 in Coldfoot as the first schoolhouse in the newly established Wiseman School District. It was built during a six-week period for \$1,500. It was closed in 1924 for lack of students. In 1928 the structure was disassembled and moved to Wiseman, as the schoolhouse there proved too small. New joists, ridge poles, and roof poles were used in its reconstruction, and the Commissioner of Education provided a galvanized iron roof. There was a board and canvas arctic entry on the east end. The school operated until about 1940.

The structure was documented by the HABS crew in 1984 (HABS No. AK-26).

STRUCTURE NO: 30

LOT NO: Native Allotment (F-031921)

PRESENT OWNER: Vern Miller  
P.O. Box 307  
Fairbanks, AK 99707

DESCRIPTION: This is a log cabin with outbuildings.

BUILT BY: Frank Miller DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1929 AGE: 55

HISTORY:



STRUCTURE NO: 31

LOT NO: 28

PRESENT OWNER: Richard J. and Marlys M. Henderson  
S.R. Box 20083  
Fairbanks, AK 99701

DESCRIPTION: This is a large rectangular log cabin.

BUILT BY: unknown DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: prior to 1932 AGE: +52

HISTORY: This building was sold by Jessie M. Howard to Sam Dubin in 1932. The Wiseman Trading Co. used it as storage for a Caterpillar tractor, and it was known as the "Cat house". At some point, it was occupied by a dentist who served the Wiseman community. Later, it was sold to Norman Veach who lived there until 1972 when it was sold to Henderson.

STRUCTURE NO: 32      LOT NO: 23

PRESENT OWNER: Linda Dolney  
S.R. Box 20085  
Fairbanks, AK 99701

DESCRIPTION: This is a small log cabin with a sod roof. It is partially collapsed.

BUILT BY: Jess Allen(?)    DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: prior to 1930    AGE: +54

HISTORY: Known as the "Jess Allen cabin", the cabin was occupied in 1940 by Ken Harvey who owned or was caretaker of it after Jess Allen. In 1980 the cabin was quit-claimed by Henry Bender to Linda Dolney.

STRUCTURE NO: 33

LOT NO: Native allotment (F-17769)

PRESENT OWNER: This allotment is currently undergoing ANCSA processing.

DESCRIPTION: This is a large log cabin with an attached shed to the east.

BUILT BY: Big Jim    DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1924    AGE: 60

HISTORY: Big Jim built the cabin with money he earned from mining in the Wiseman area. He lived in the house until 1933 with his second wife, Nakuchluk, and their two adopted children, Joseph and Ester Hopson. When Ester married James Tobuk, they moved into the house and lived there after Big Jim moved to Big Lake. The Tobuks lived in the house until 1941, when they moved to Fairbanks. Florence Jonas, Big Jim's niece, and her family moved into the cabin in 1954 and she resided there until her death. Her husband, Jacob, is buried in the Wiseman cemetery.

STRUCTURE NO: 34

LOT NO: 29

PRESENT OWNER: James Johnson  
Box 2699  
Fairbanks, AK 99707

DESCRIPTION: This is a large three-room log cabin with an attached cache to the west. It features a fully braced root cellar and an unusual ornamented front porch.

BUILT BY: E.D. Heppenstal (?) DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: ca. 1915 AGE: 79

HISTORY: This house was the home of Marshall Vaughn O. Green in the late 1920's and 1930's. Green was married to Mamie, the daughter of James Minnomo, a Japanese, and his Kobuk Eskimo wife who lived at Coldfoot. The Greens had a daughter, Lorraine. Following Green's death in 1932, Johnny Repo, a miner lived in the house for awhile. It was sold by Mamie Green to Victor Neck in 1941. Johnson purchased the house from Neck.

The structure was documented by the HABS crew in 1984 (HABS No. AK-31).

STRUCTURE NO: 35

LOT NO: 25

PRESENT OWNER: Jack L. Reakoff  
Wiseman, AK 99726

DESCRIPTION: This is a small log cabin.

BUILT BY: Sam and O'Brien Stanich DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1946 AGE: 38

HISTORY: Sam and O'Brien Stanich brothers were Serbs from Yugoslavia who mined on Porcupine Creek since the 1930's. Sam had been in Iditarod in the 1920's. The two were extremely conservative, maintaining a large garden on Porcupine Creek and rarely spending money or taking time off from mining. Marshall stayed with them during one of his winter trips. After Sam's death in the early 1950's, O'Brien had Tishu Ulen sew all his gold into his clothing and he returned to Yugoslavia where he married and raised a family.

Rick Reakoff used the cabin for storage before his son, Jack, and his family moved in.

STRUCTURE NO: 36 and 37    LOT NO: 26

PRESENT OWNER: Ross C. Brockman  
Wiseman, AK 99726

DESCRIPTION: Structure 36 is a cabin with a porch and a large storage loft. Structure 37 is a rectangular cabin which is beginning to collapse.

BUILT BY: (36) - Ross Brockman    DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: (36) - 1967  
(37) - Nick Ilovich    (37) - prior to  
1940

AGE: (36) - 17  
(37) - +44

HISTORY: Ross Brockman, who prospected in the Wiseman area, purchased Structure 37 in 1950 and then moved into the other cabin after its completion.

STRUCTURE NO: 38

LOT NO: 27

PRESENT OWNER: Clint E. and Karen S. Stearns  
P.O. Box 3495  
Palmer, AK 99645

DESCRIPTION: This is a small cabin with a front porch.

BUILT BY: Wes Etherington      DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: prior to 1940

AGE: +44

HISTORY: Etherington came to Alaska in the 1910's and worked on the railroad. He came to the Koyukuk in the 1920's and worked for the Alaska Road Commission before he began mining and prospecting on the South Fork. He left Wiseman in 1960 and resided in Palmer until his death. Clint Stearns purchased the cabin from him while he was in Palmer.

ST#0-#K  
**E.O. 11593**

**DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY NOTIFICATION**  
**National Register of Historic Places**  
**National Park Service**

O. H. A.  
JUN 13 1985

**Name of property:** Wiseman Historic District

**Location:** Yukon-Koyukuk Division

**State:** AK

**Request submitted by:** DOI/BLM Fred Wolf

**Date received:** 4-10-85

**Additional information received:** 6-4-85

**Opinion of the State Historic Preservation Officer:**

☒ **Eligible**

☐ **Not Eligible**

☐ **No Response**

**Comments:**

"It is the only gold rush era town that remains intact and essentially unchanged from days of the gold rush on the Middle Fork of the Koyukuk River. It is significant in the history of the area, and it is representative of the broad patterns of development that took place in Alaska."

**The Secretary of the Interior has determined that this property is:**

☒ **Eligible**

**Applicable criteria:** A

☐ **Not Eligible**

**Comments:**

The Wiseman Historic District is locally significant as a rare, intact concentration of log buildings dating from ca. 1905 to 1935 that exhibit the lifeways of an Alaskan frontier community in the Koyukuk River country during the early years of its exploration and settlement. Please see attached map for the district boundaries accepted for purposes of the determination of eligibility.

There is no reason, at present, for this village to be eligible as an archeological site. There is no evidence that anything beyond the known historical facts could be obtained in this village.

☐ **Documentation insufficient**

**(Please see accompanying sheet explaining additional materials required)**

*William B. Bushong*  
for Keeper of the National Register

**Date:** 6/5/85



# EO. 11593

**DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY NOTIFICATION**  
**National Register of Historic Places**  
**National Park Service**

---

**Name of property:** Wiseman Cemetery

**Location:** Yukon-Koyukuk Division

**State:** AK

**Request submitted by:** DOI/BLM Fred Wolf

**Date received:** 4-10-85

**Additional information received:** 6-4-85

---

**Opinion of the State Historic Preservation Officer:**

☐ Eligible

☐ Not Eligible

☒ No Response

**Comments:**

**The Secretary of the Interior has determined that this property is:**

☐ Eligible

**Applicable criteria:**

☒ Not Eligible

**Comments:**

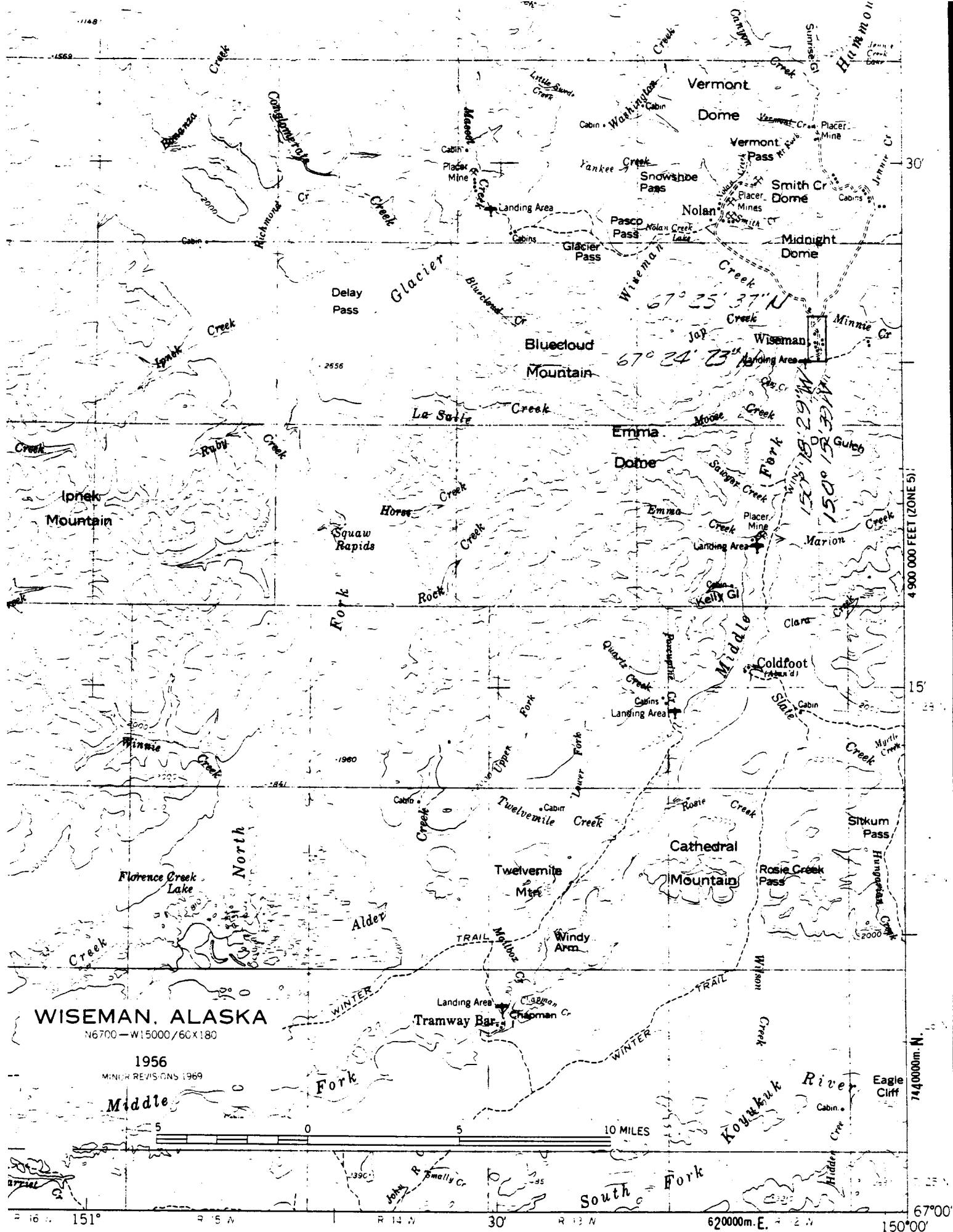
The cemetery does not meet the exception to National Register criteria due to significance from graves of persons of transcendent importance, from age, from distinctive design values, or from association with historic events. In addition, the documentation for this property indicates that no evidence beyond known historical fact could be obtained from the site.

☐ Documentation insufficient

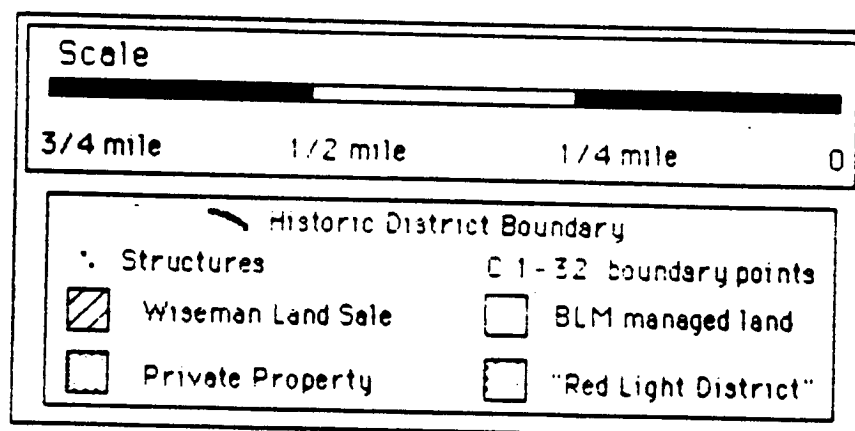
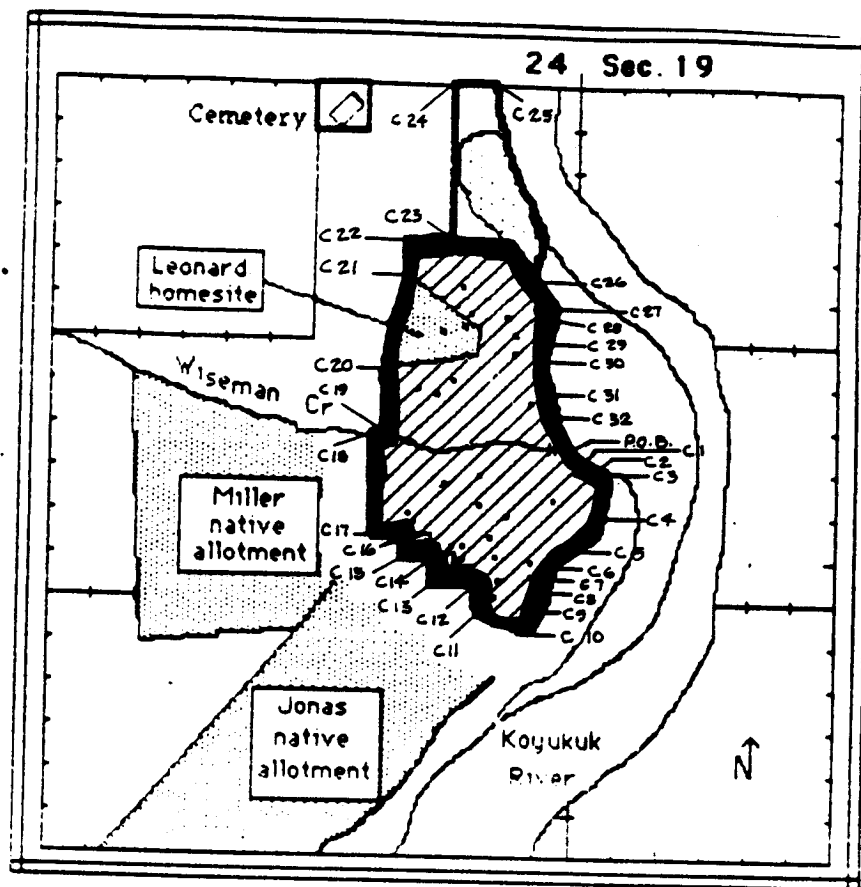
(Please see accompanying sheet explaining additional materials required)

*William B. Bushong*  
for Keeper of the National Register

**Date:** 6/5/85



Boundary accepted for purposes of  
determination of eligibility.  
OUTLINED IN RED



# WISEMAN HISTORIC DISTRICT

May 31, 1985

Re: 3448 (BLM)

Bill Bushong  
Office of the Keeper of the National Register  
Department of Interior  
W438  
Washington D.C. 20243

Dear Mr. Bushong:

After examining the information available, it is the professional judgment of my staff that the Wiseman Historic District meets the criteria for the National Register of Historic Places. It is the only gold rush era town that remains intact and essentially unchanged from the days of the gold rush on the Middle Fork of the Koyukuk River. It is significant in the history of the area, and it is representative of the broad patterns of development that took place in Alaska.

The Interior of Alaska was explored and developed by gold seekers who scoured the rivers and hillsides looking for traces of the precious metal. Beginning with the Klondike gold rush of 1898 and continuing through the first three decades of this century, these successive rushes led to the establishment of small towns as supply centers, post offices, and locations of rest and relaxation. Many of these towns flourished and faded in the course of a few years. Wiseman is one of a few towns remaining from this period in Interior Alaska, and one of fewer still that remains relatively unchanged by development and growth.

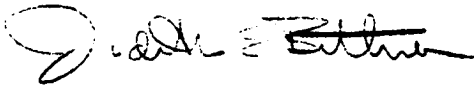
Each of the contributing structures in the Wiseman Historic District is representative of the basic log cabin architecture that was prevalent at the time of the town's development. What is significant about Wiseman is that the configuration of these structures in relationship to one another remains intact and undisturbed by intrusions. The architecture and the location of the structures reflect the lifeways of the early mining frontier in Alaska. Other towns of this era have either succumbed to the elements, or have gone on to become major centers of population such as Fairbanks or Nome.

Bill Bushong  
May 31, 1985  
Page 2

The gold mining that took place on the Middle Fork of the Koyukuk during the first three decades of this century is representative of the type of exploration and mining that took place throughout Alaska during this period, and the individuals who settled Wiseman, as described in Robert Marshall's Arctic Village, are similar to those who developed many small camps and villages throughout Alaska. Wiseman is one of the few that remain.

Sincerely,

Neil C. Johansen  
Director



By: Judith E. Bittner  
State Historic Preservation Officer



# United States Department of the Interior

IN REPLY REFER TO

8143 (933)

## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Alaska State Office  
701 C Street, Box 13  
Anchorage, Alaska 99513

April 2, 1985

Ms. Carol D. Shull  
Keeper of the National Register  
USDI, National Park Service  
National Register of Historic Places  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Q. H. L.  
APR 5 1985

Dear Ms. Shull:

In response to your request for additional information concerning the Wiseman Historic District, the following data and description have been prepared:

1. The acreage for the Wiseman Historic District:

	<u>Acres</u>
Proposed Wiseman land sale	25.81
Leonard homesite	4.45
Jonas native allotment	1.25
Miller native allotment	1.00
Remaining BLM managed land (2.5 acres are cemetery)	17.00
Wiseman Historic District	49.51

2. Enclosure 1: A graphic of the entire District, drawn to scale from the MTP and the USGS map, showing the District boundaries.
3. Enclosure 2: A Metes and Bounds description of the Wiseman Historic District.
4. Enclosure 3: A 1984 NPS map which shows the town and existing structures with the contributing and non-contributing structures noted.
5. Enclosure 4: An updated (1984) version of the structure information, including each structure's contribution to the District's significance.
6. Enclosure 5: A map and information on the cemetery which are courtesy of the National Park Service.

file: 3440(wiseman)

~~The Wiseman Historic District graphic (Enclosure 1) shows the numbered~~  
 points corresponding with the descriptive material in Enclosure 2. UTM  
 coordinates have been calculated for the following selected numbered points  
 and the cemetery:

	<u>Zone</u>	<u>Easting</u>	<u>Northing</u>
C3 =	5	624181	7479697
C10 =	5	624009	7479447
C17 =	5	623812	7479684
C18 =	5	623792	7479845
C24 =	5	623871	7480336
C25 =	5	623953	7480349
Cemetery	5	623694	7480241

These calculations were developed by digitizing the corners of the Wiseman (B-1) USGS 1:63,360 quad map (1971, photo revised 1975) and then digitizing the points named above.

The "theme" of the Wiseman Historic District is "Frontier Mining in Alaska."

Since Wiseman has seen cycles of activity associated with the vagrancies in gold's discovery and economic value, it is difficult to assign time periods or limits to this theme. That is one of the things which makes Wiseman significant; it is still a frontier mining community illustrating a way of life which has existed since the turn of the century. For heuristic purposes, two notable periods can be assigned to the Wiseman Historic District. The first is the period dating roughly from 1911, when Watts made the discovery of gold on the Hammond River, to 1915. This period was the highlight of activity and growth in Wiseman. The second is the period from 1929 to 1933. The Great Depression had little effect on the community of Wiseman and the people continued much as they had for years. However, during this period Robert Marshall recorded the people and activities of Wiseman, leaving us with an important view of the frontier mining community and its people at a time when the rest of the western world was recoiling from its headlong rush into the 20th century.

We trust the above information answers your questions concerning the Wiseman  
Historic District.

---

Sincerely yours,

*Fred Wolf*

Fred Wolf  
State Director  
Acting

5 Enclosures:

- Encl. 1-Wiseman Historic District graphic
- Encl. 2-Metes and Bounds description
- Encl. 3-1984 NPS map
- Encl. 4-1984 Structure Information
- Encl. 5-Cemetary Map and Information

CC:  
✓ SHPO  
DM-F



## Wild Lake, Old Bettles, Chandalar, and the Historic Environs of Anaktuvuk Pass

These brief essays and the graphics accompanying them illuminate sections of the narrative text and provide additional type-site documentation for the upper country.

Wild Lake: The mining sites on Surprise Creek date from the first decades of the century. The creek follows a steep gradient through a narrow V-shaped valley that intermittently closes down to only a few feet in width, thus blocking access by heavy machinery in later years. As a result the creek is a museum of primitive mining techniques, based on the intensive hand labor of one or two men using the simplest tools. According to Irving McK. Reed who traversed the creek in 1937, Jack Lamont discovered gold on Surprise in 1904 and a succession of miners, including Joe Matthews, Austin Duffy, R.H. Creecy, and Volney Wakefield, used boomer dams to get down to the pay zone: the lower 3 feet of gravel and the rotted top layer of bedrock which also trapped gold. After the self-dumping dam had splashed or boomed a segment of creek bed to clear out the medium- and small-gauge overburden that covered the pay zone, the miners stacked the larger rocks and boulders to the side of the creek, then covered the exposed pay gravel with a carefully laid pavement of flat schist rocks. With the pay gravel thus protected the miners could progress upstream for the next increment of booming. After sufficient gravel had been uncovered for a season's work, sluice boxes were set up and shoveling in commenced (Reed, 1938: 116-19; Reed used the name Summit Creek for Surprise Creek). Remains of the "China Wall" rock piles and the successive boomer dams mark the ascent of the creek. The Austin Duffy site, with cabin ruin and partly standing boomer dam, high above the lake, is one of the region's most provocative places.

The middle and upper Spring Creek sites display remains of small-scale drift-mining and boomer-dam technology. Drift mining here relied on wood fires or small, 2-man boilers for thawing. Most claims yielded only a few dollars in gold per season, at the cost of immense outputs of labor. For example, at the Forks Claim, nearly 2 miles upstream from the creek mouth and more than 1,000 feet above Wild Lake, Joe Smith in the mid-1930s sank two shafts to bedrock, 25- and 50-feet deep, then drifted with 6- to 10-foot wide tunnels as much as 50 feet through the solid rock for a net yield of about \$200. Frank Smith both boomed and drifted on the Homebrew Claim, a mile from the lake, one shaft yielding \$10 for a season's work. In the tradition of the region's spot gold deposits, however, Ben Sirr, just below Smith's \$10 claim, cleared \$7,000 between 1927 and 1932--a small fortune at the time. On the lower reaches of Spring Creek, Discovery Claim and Claim 1 Below to the mouth of the creek, Joe Matthews in the years 1904 to 1912 cleared \$22,500 (Reed, 1938: 119-21).

Frank Smith later took over these lower claims. The remains of his and older camps on Discovery Claim recall the adventures of Otto Geist during the winter of 1924-25, related in Chapter 5 of the narrative. Geist had pooled his summer earnings (from crewing on Sam Dubin's Teddy H.) with Frank and Mary Smith and set out for the Wild Lake claims with them to make a fortune. For Geist's \$1,600 share of the stake he netted \$100 in gold at cleanup the next spring. Whatever Otto's mining misadventures, the camp site--with cabin ruins, utility structures, and generations of mining camp equipment and debris--provides a rich documentation from the early mining era into the 1950s. One find that recalls a specific story related by Geist is a bundle of hundreds of wire rabbit snares used by Mary Smith to keep the miners fed when provisions ran out.

For a few years after World War II the site was used by the Wien family--famous in Alaska aviation--as a summer retreat. By the late 1950s Wild Lake had only one year-round establishment, that of Fred Meader at the north end of the lake. Fred, his family, and a sequence of young converts had come to Wild Lake as Thoreau had gone to Walden Pond. To preserve the lake and its creatures, they discouraged hunters and confronted those who intruded Nature's sanctum with airplanes and motorboats. Local informants state that Fred and his crew sawed through the roof beams of Frank Smith's main cabin, thereby collapsing the roof to discourage use of the site by squatters. In any event, the beams are sawed and the roof is down. Whether true or not this story reflects the fact that Wild lake evokes from those who know it well proprietary and protective instincts. And these protectors range in predilections from the Meader-type philosophers of Nature to miners Wally and Bonnie Gordon, who perpetuate the old art of drift mining on Lake Creek, another feeder of Wild Lake (see Tom Bundtzen, "Drift Miners--Alaska's Incurable Optimists," Alaska Mines & Geology, 33, 1, Jan. 1984, 1-4).

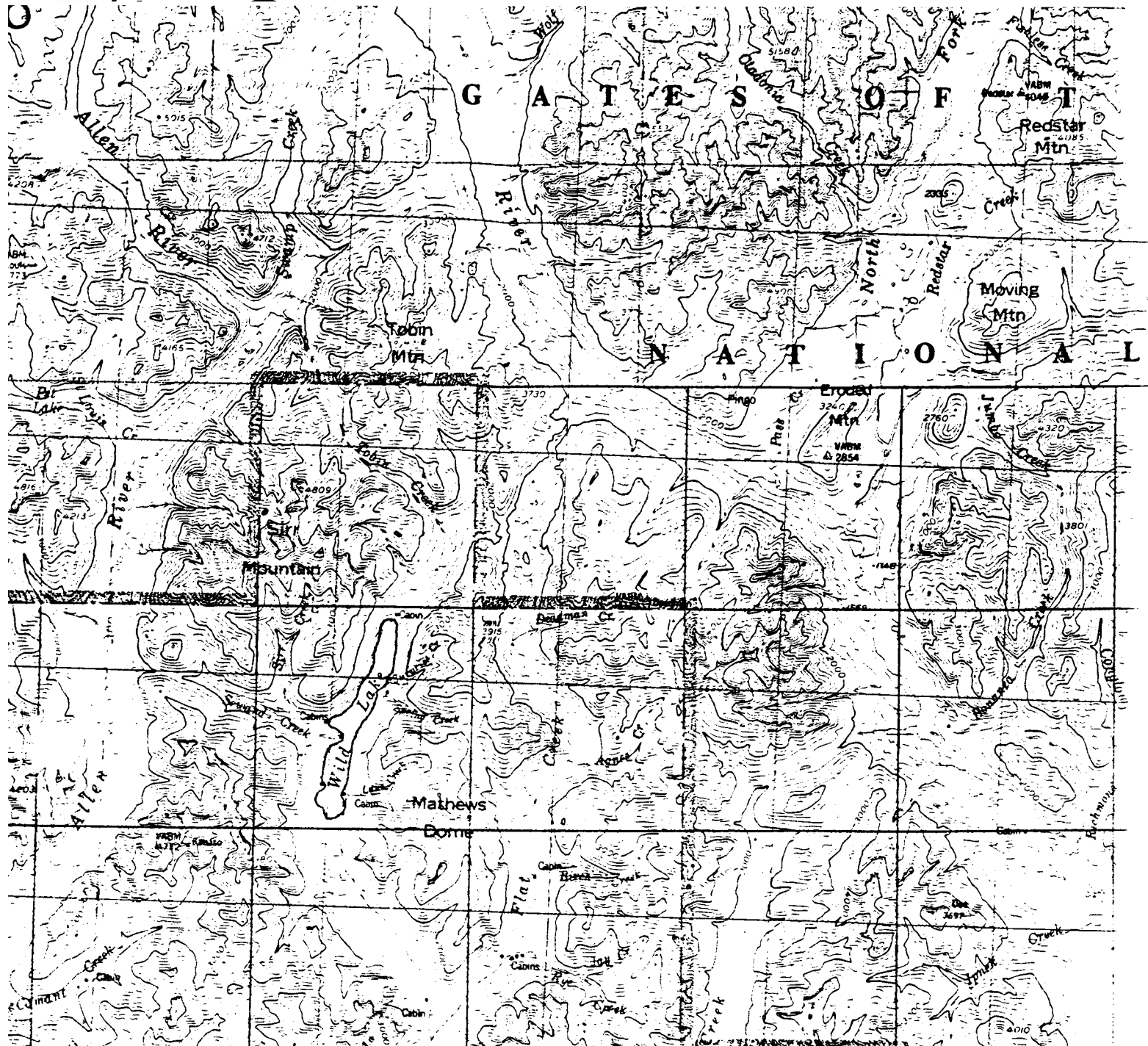
A personal interview with Al Withrow, Sr., on August 22, 1985, revealed that he built the meathouse at the Spring Creek site when he and his wife worked the claims in 1948-50. Al stated that Frank Smith had earlier brought in big 'Cats to Discovery and adjacent claims and moved so much gravel that all the fine gold got lost. Al built a header dam across the creek and with salvaged sluice boxes cleaned up the remaining heavy gold lodged in the clay and bedrock layers, using pry bars to break out the rock slabs. In 1949 he gleaned 35 ounces of gold--enough to pay all his bills and live through the winter. One summer, Spring Creek dried up, so Al built a dam down by the creek mouth to catch the seepage, then pumped the water up to his sluice boxes.

The building of rock dams was an art in itself, Al said. To make them leak-proof two walls of rock chinked with moss were built 1 foot apart across the stream. Sand and gravel fill was placed between the walls. In short order the sand infiltrated the moss chinking, in effect creating solid mortar.

With further reference to chinking, Al told how old timers made tight cabins: Lay 4 rounds of logs, then wedge up log 2 and hand chink with moss; remove wedges. Then lay round 5, wedge and chink between logs 3 and 4, etc. The roof weight compresses the upper-rounds chinking.

Al converted some other speculations about features at the Spring Creek site into facts: The on-site cable was a dog-run device suspended between two trees. One of the sets of sill logs near the main cabin was part of the Frank and Mary Smith tent frame mentioned by Geist. The main cabin was the one built in the Fall of 1924 by Geist and the Smiths. And the hoist that we found upstream on Spring Creek was used by the early miners to excavate test holes.

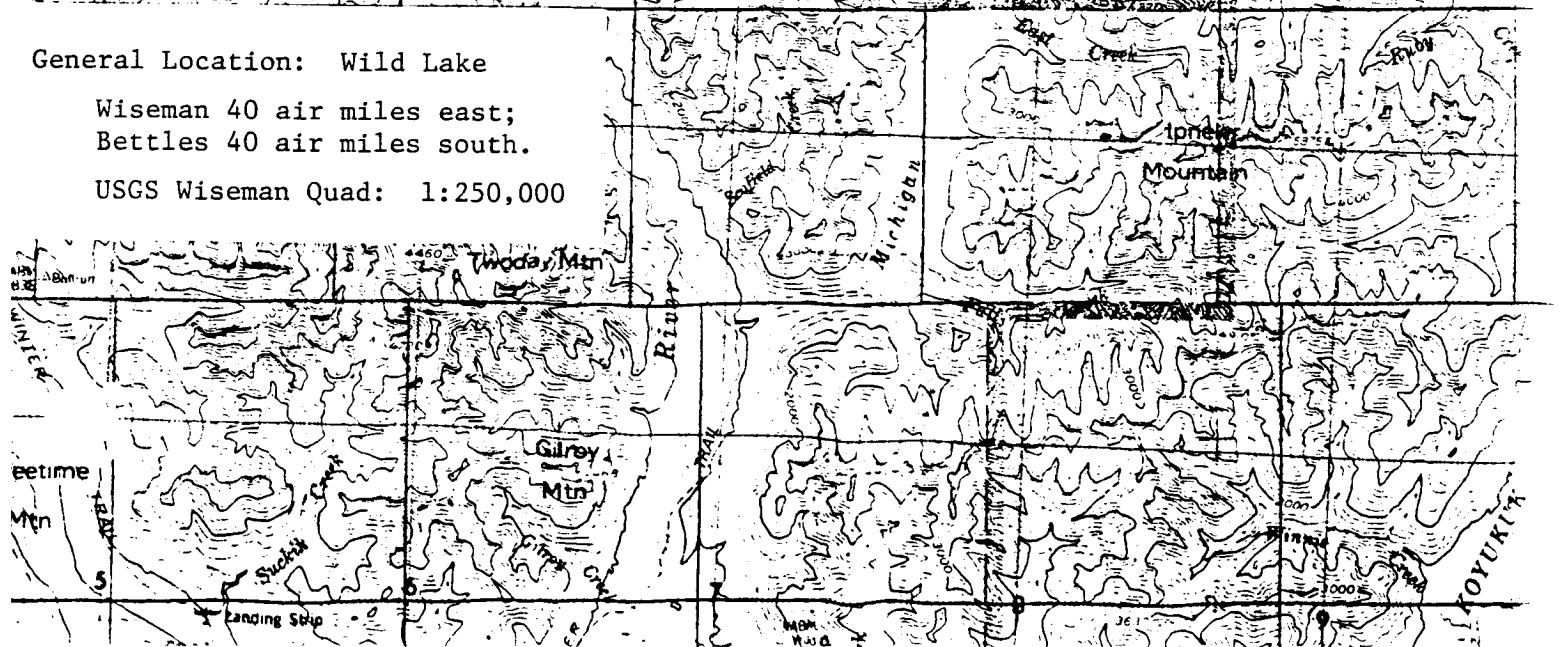
Finally, Al helped us to understand fine-gold mining on the big rivers, a critical component of the evolved subsistence life style that included hunting, trapping, and gardening: Where the river flow slants off the downstream end of a cutbank, creating a backwater swirl, sand and gold from the cutbank are deposited, with the gold lodging at the upper end of the resultant sand bar. The miner--using shovels and buckets or, today, a suction dredge--excavates the upper end of that sand bar right where the backwater deposition is occurring. Thus, for 6 years Al lived at Bedrock Cabin, 2 miles above the mouth of John River, and made his living mining the same bar.

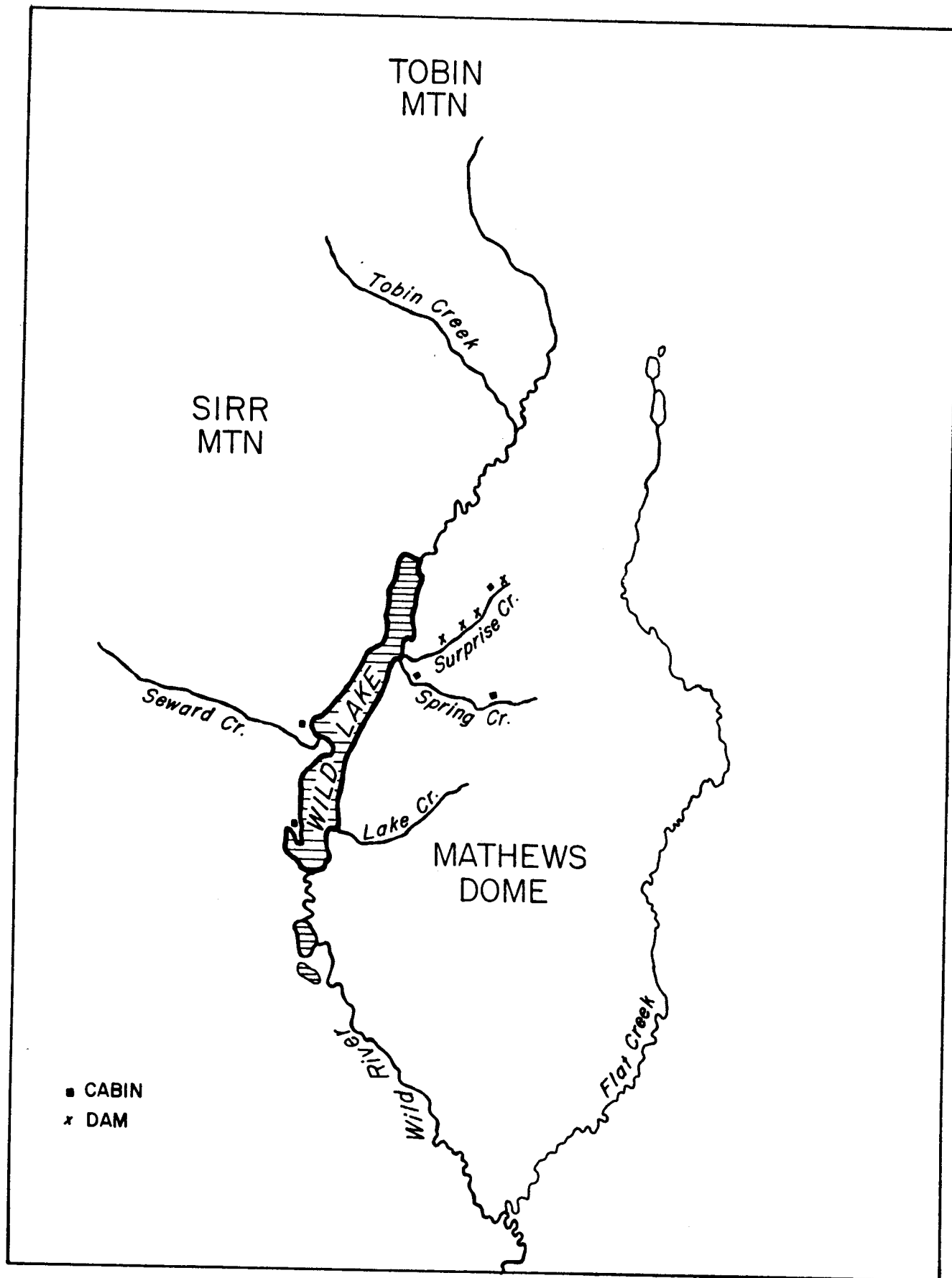


General Location: Wild Lake

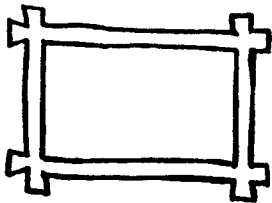
Wiseman 40 air miles east;  
Bettles 40 air miles south.

USGS Wiseman Quad: 1:250,000





SURPRISE CREEK SITE



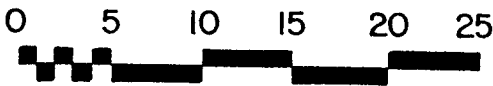
CABIN

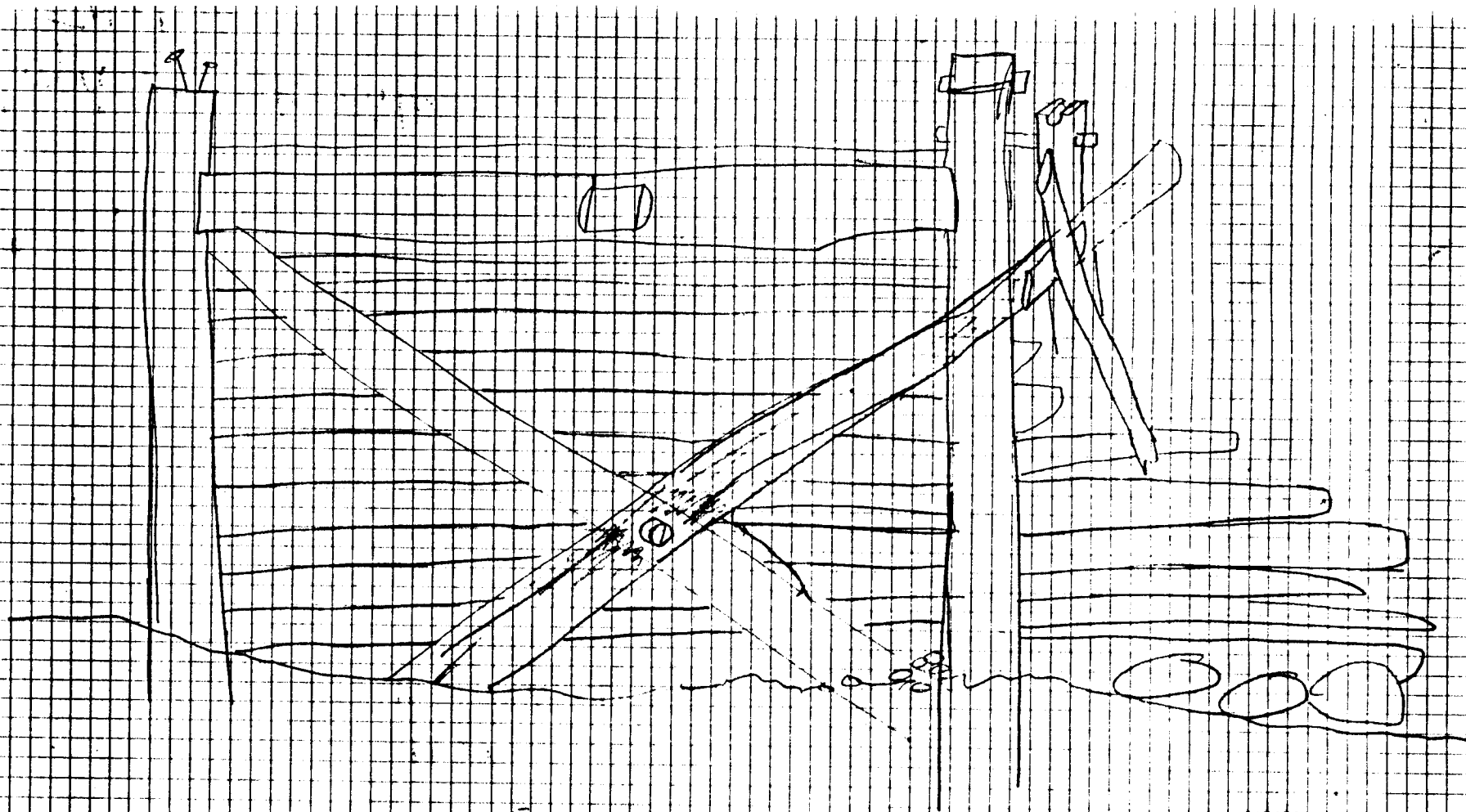
RIDGE

DAM

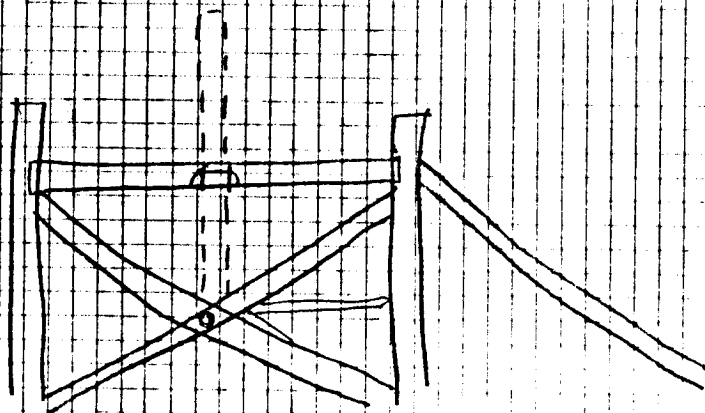
CREEK

GE

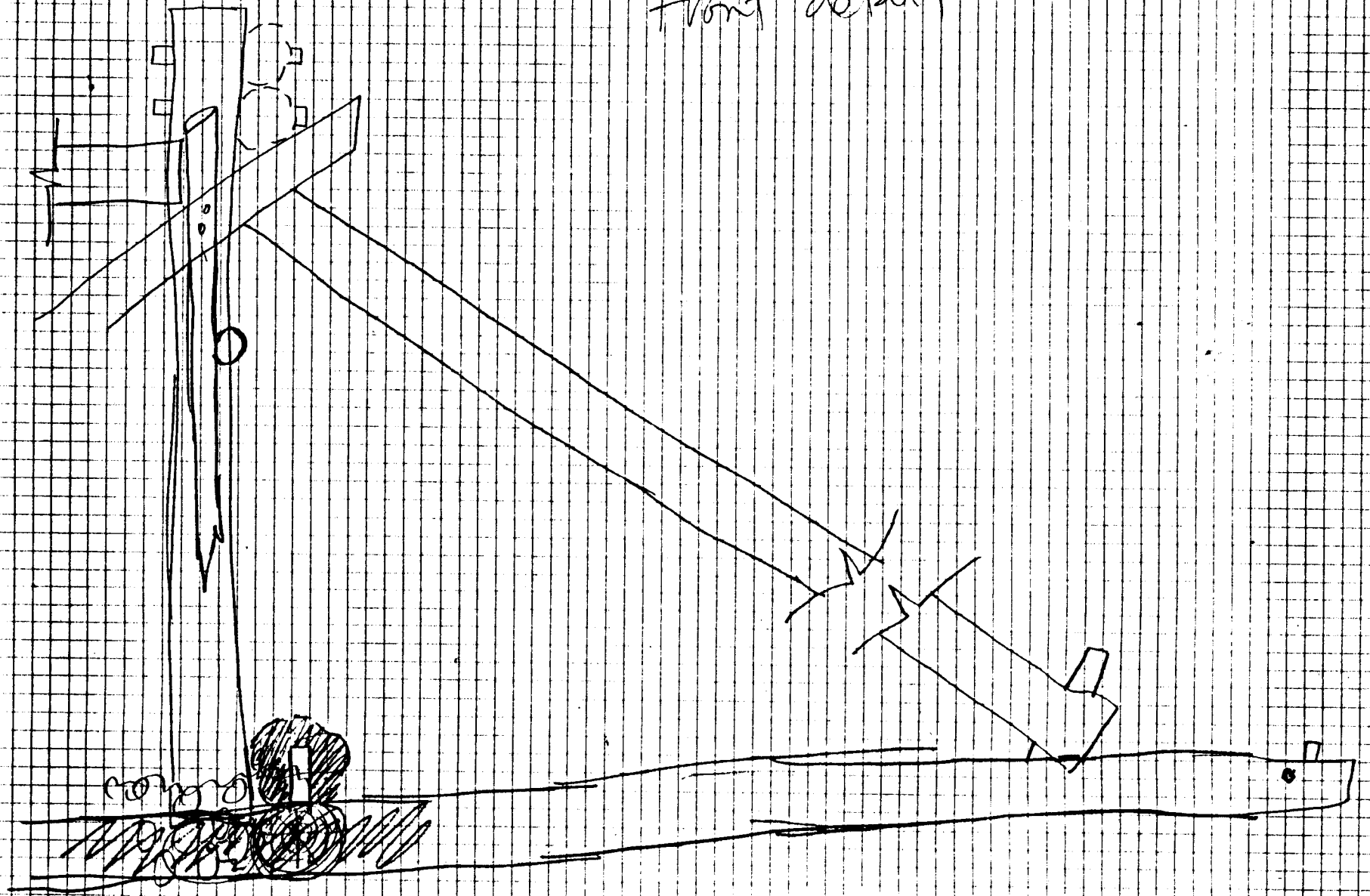




Structural  
Frame



Front detail



Splash in on Surprise Creek





Overview of Austin Duffy dam and cabin sites on Surprise Creek  
above Wild Lake. W. Brown photo.



Austin Duffy cabin remains. W. Brown photo.

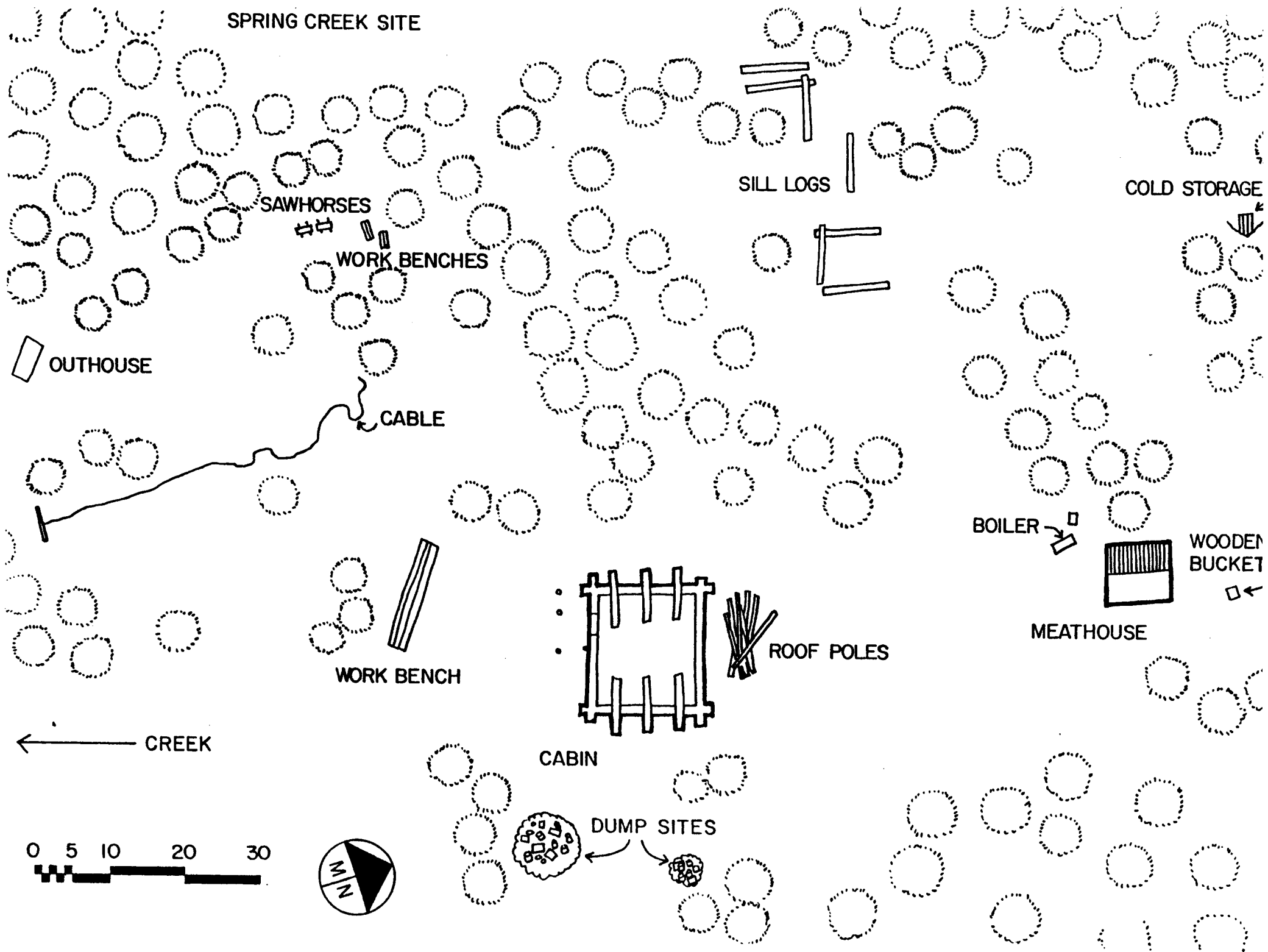


Surprise Creek Site: Austin Duffy dam from upstream and from downstream. Jim Creech photo.



From Austin Duffy dam site, looking down Surprise  
Creek to Wild Lake. Jim Creech photo, 1985.

# SPRING CREEK SITE



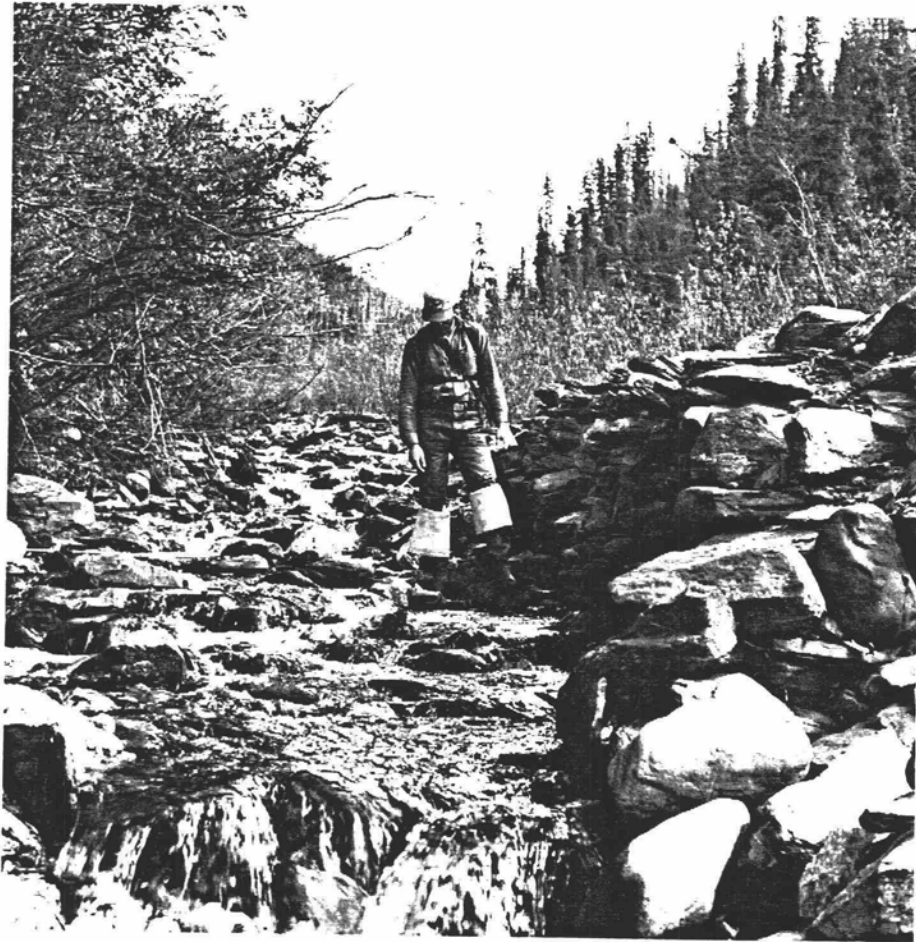


Spring Creek Site: main cabin and meathouse. Jim Creech photo.





Spring Creek Site: walk-in cold storage. Jim Creech photo.



Middle claims on Spring Creek off Wild Lake: rock wall piled after booming to pay gravel, Jim Creech in creek bed.  
W. Brown photo.





Middle claims on Spring Creek off Wild Lake: abandoned steam  
hoist used for excavating test holes. W. Brown photo.

Old Bettles: The old town of Bettles, 5 miles down the Koyukuk from Bettles Field, persists as a ghost town. Al Withrow, Jr., and his son Earl still live here. Al recalls the last days of the once-bustling river town, where his father operated the aircraft radio beacon before the shift to the new Bettles Field began in 1945.

At the head of steamboat navigation, strategically placed to control the scow traffic up the forks of the Koyukuk to the mining camps, historic Bettles was the upper country's transportation nexus. Gordon Bettles chose well when he located his trading post here in 1899.

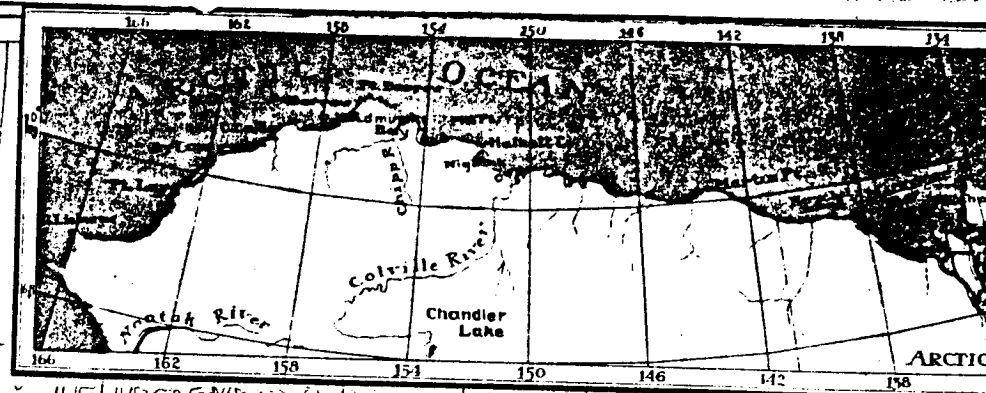
Air transportation came of age in the upper country after World War II, based largely on the new airstrip at Bettles Field, originally a relay field for oil exploration north of the Brooks Range. Commercial river traffic, already anemic by this time, died. And so did old Bettles. Most of the people had moved to Bettles Field-Evansville by the early 1950s; many of them took cabins and other structures with them. A big flood in 1954 washed away or damaged what still remained of the Front Street structures.

Yet, a few of the old buildings still stand amidst encroaching aspen and willow--covered with moss, falling in on themselves. Here and there are found pieces of heavy equipment, some of them relics of the Detroit Mining Company's abortive effort to bring big-time mining to Hammond River. A big winch recalls low-water times when steamboats were dragged through the Koyukuk's shallows on the last leg of the trip to the Northern Commercial Company warehouses that once dominated the town.

Looking in the empty windows and sagging doorframes of store and dance hall and cabin, one can picture that diverse crew of traders, merchants, boatmen, haulers, hunters, and gardeners that once served and skinned the prospectors and miners, who--normally scattered on the far creeks--occasionally came to Bettles for the products and pleasures of civilization.

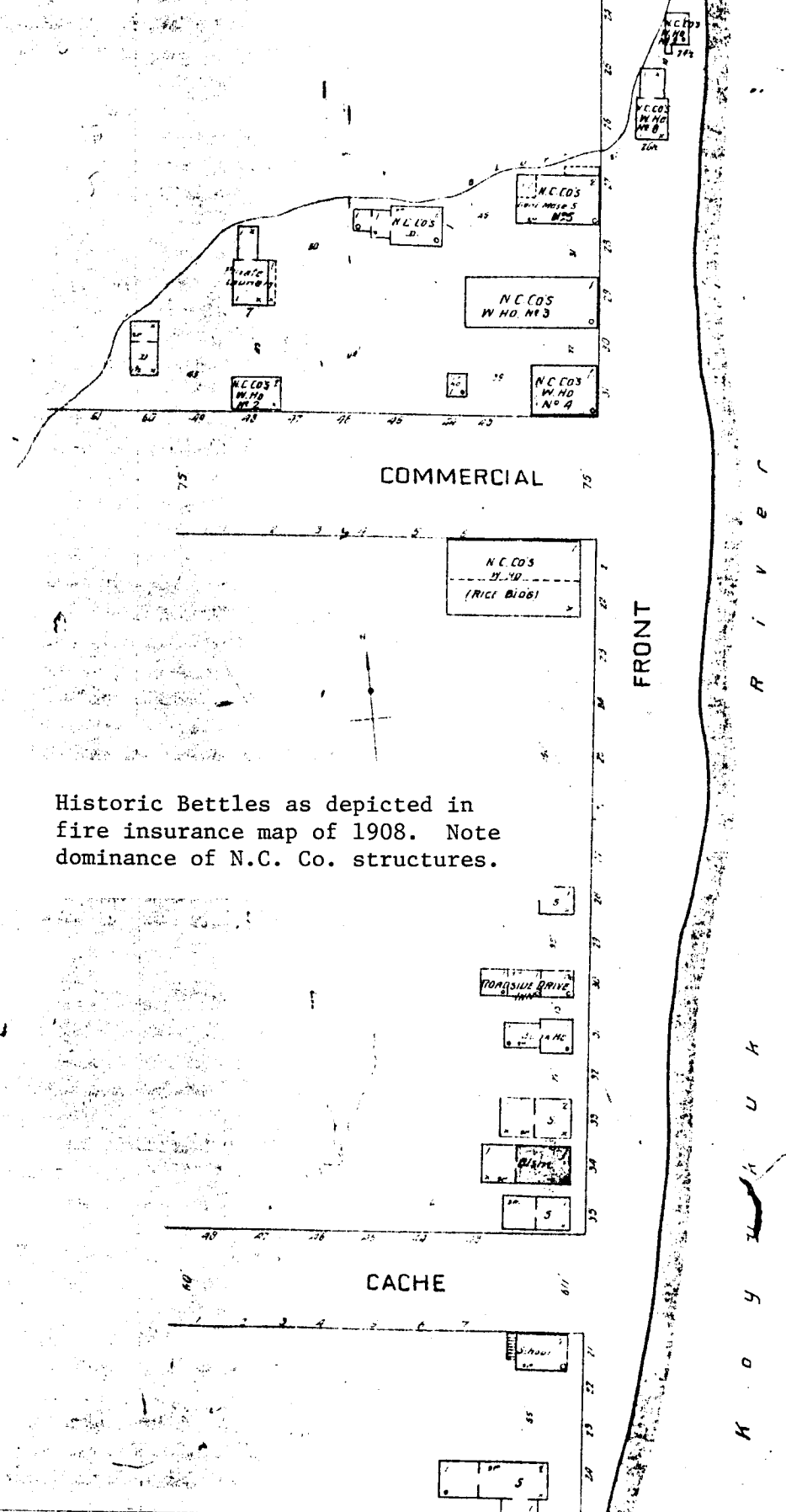
Behind the town stands Lookout Mountain where Lt. Henry Allen, gazing over wilderness, traced Koyukuk tributaries toward the distant mountains. After him came Gordon Bettles and the waves of miners. Left now are the decaying remains of that brief history. Soon, the scene will revert to the one Allen first saw.

Bettles at the head of navigation  
on the Koyukuk River. Alaska Road  
Commission Map of Alaska, 1916, RG  
126, Map 5, Alaska, General Transpor-  
tation, National Archives.



# BETTLES

ALASKA  
NO FIRE PROTECTION



Historic Bettles as depicted in  
fire insurance map of 1908. Note  
dominance of N.C. Co. structures.

COMMERCIAL

FRONT

N.C. CO'S  
H. NO.  
PRICE NO. 81

2

FORBIDE DRIVE

dukh No

S

S

S

CACHE

School

3

S

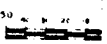
S

X

H. NO.

MILL

R I V E R  
K O Y U A U K





Old Bettles: Al Withrow, Jr., in front of his 1940s cabin with  
Jim Creech. W. Brown photo.



Old Bettles: front elevation of the old dance hall. W. Brown photo.



Old Bettles: rear elevation of old dance hall. W. Brown photo.





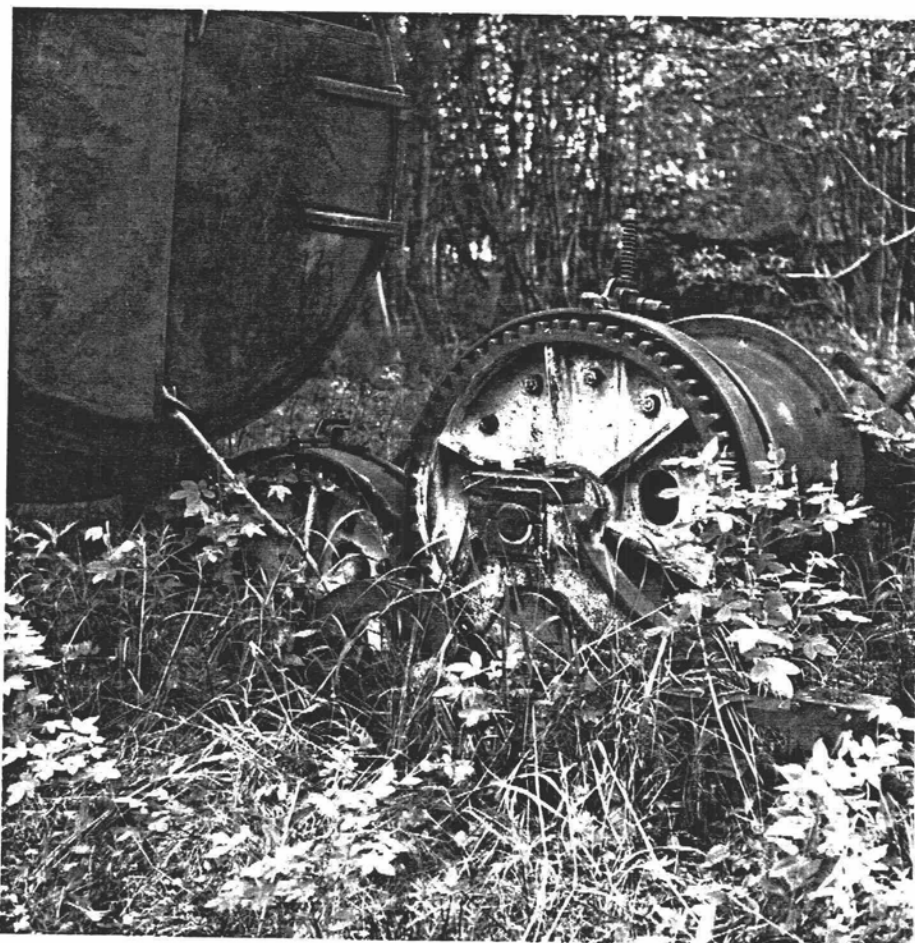
Old Bettles: false front of old store. W. Brown photo.



Old Bettles: raised cabin-sized cache. W. Brown photo.



Old Bettles: the store. W. Brown photo.



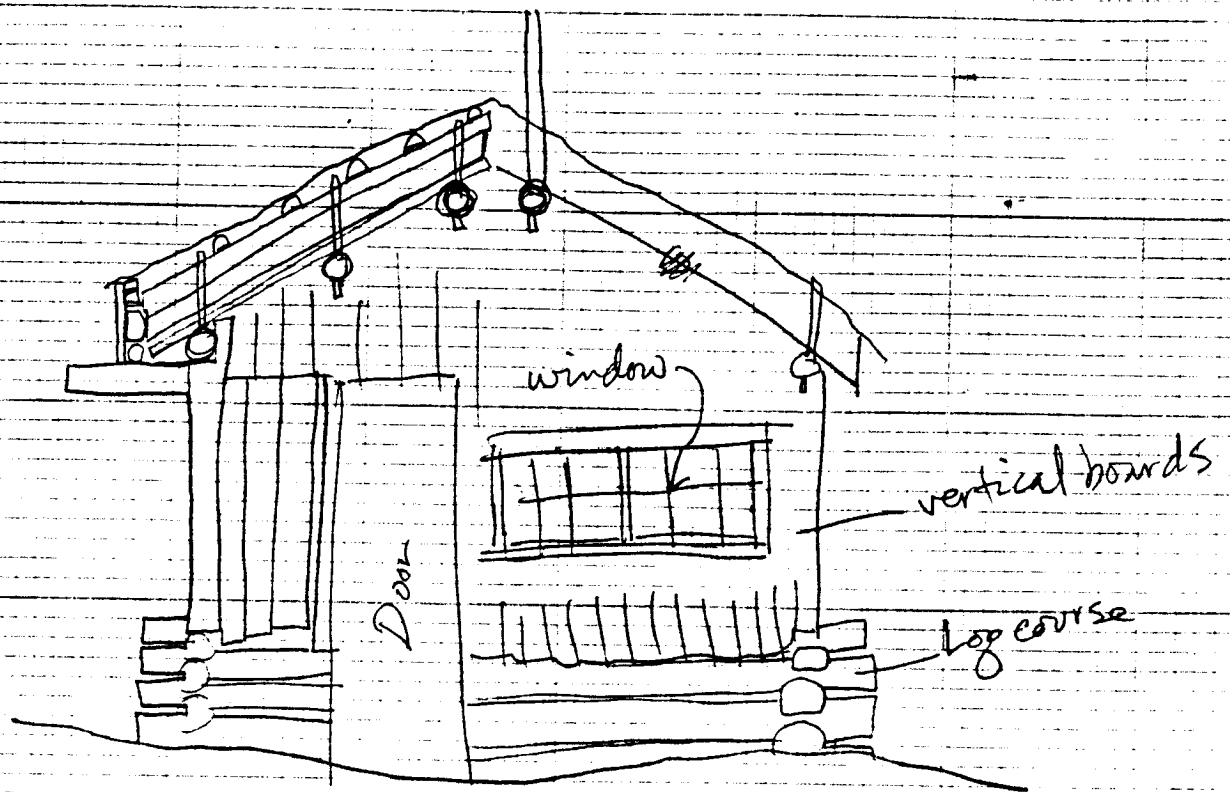
Old Bettles: abandoned winch and boiler. W. Brown photo.



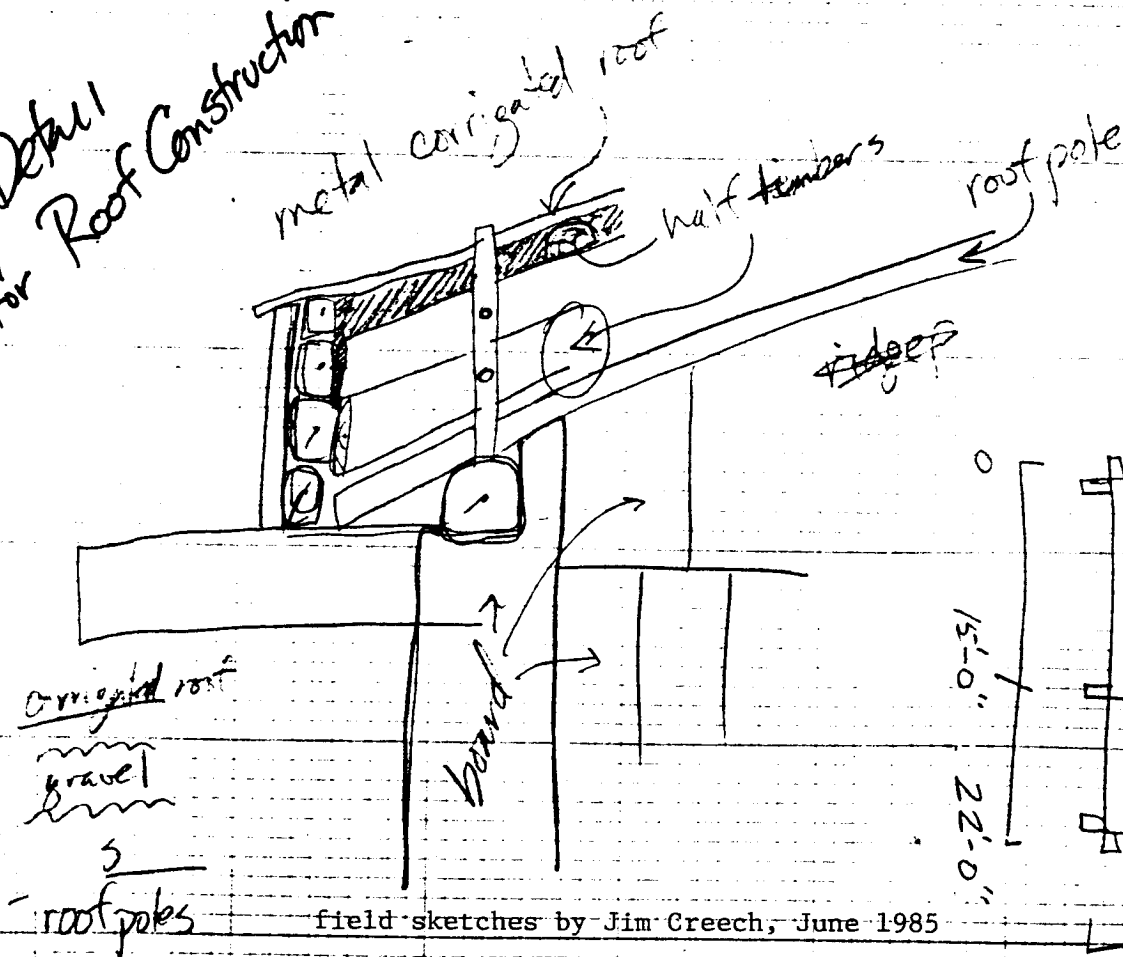
Old Bettles: Ernie Johnson's town cabin. W. Brown photo.

# Ernie Johnson Cabin @ Old Bettles

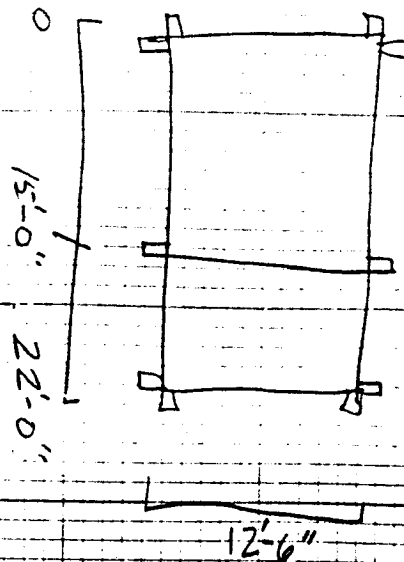
Front Elevation



Detail of Roof Construction

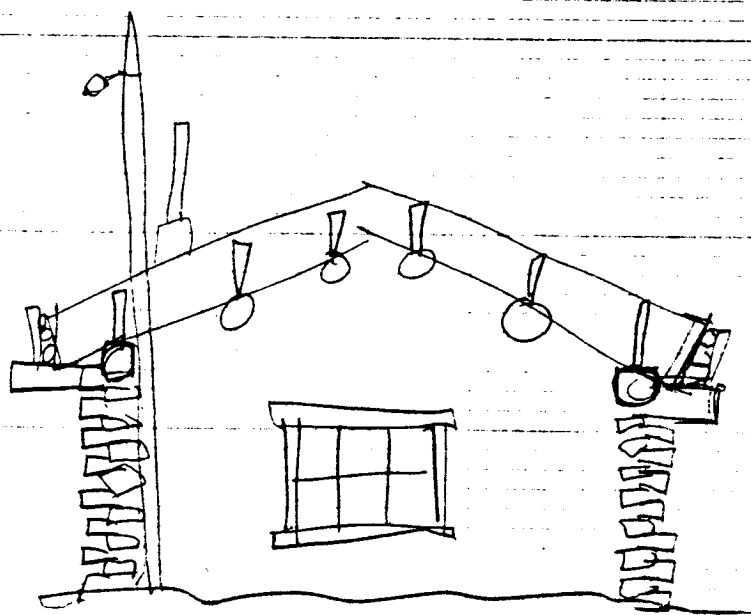
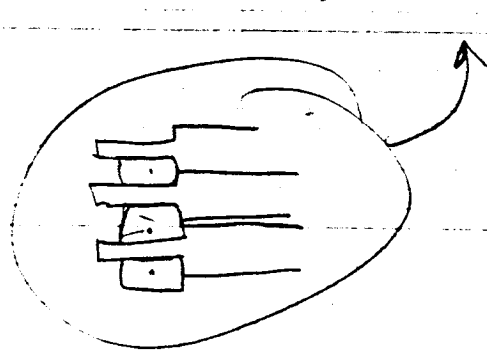
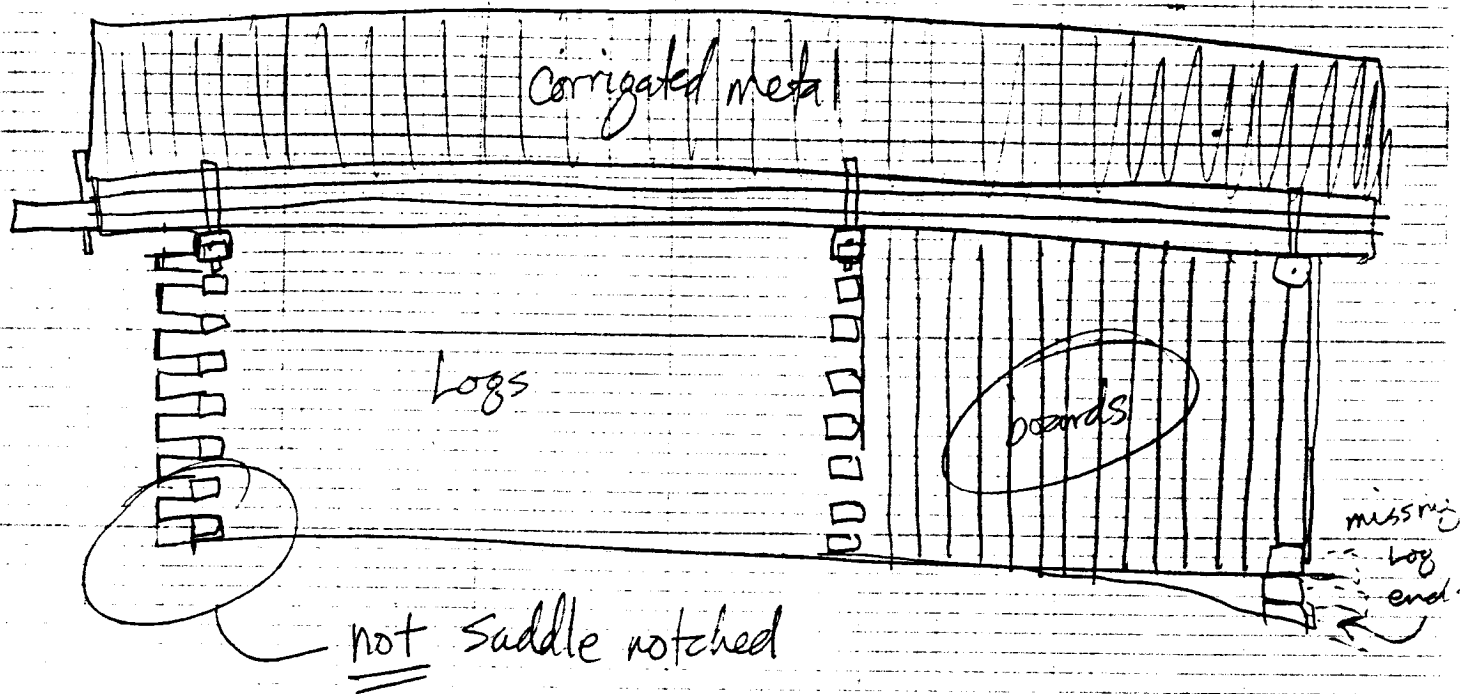


Plan

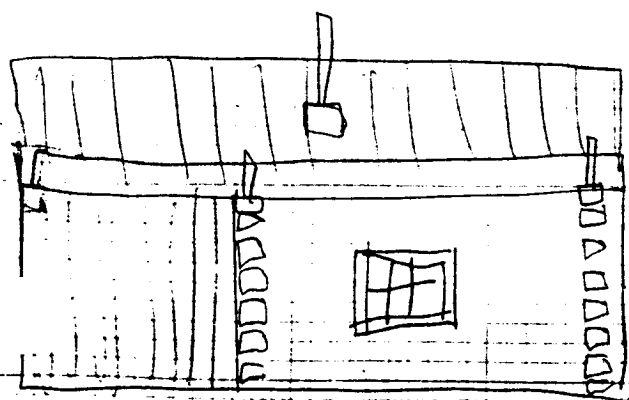


Plan

field sketches by Jim Creech, June 1985



back elevation

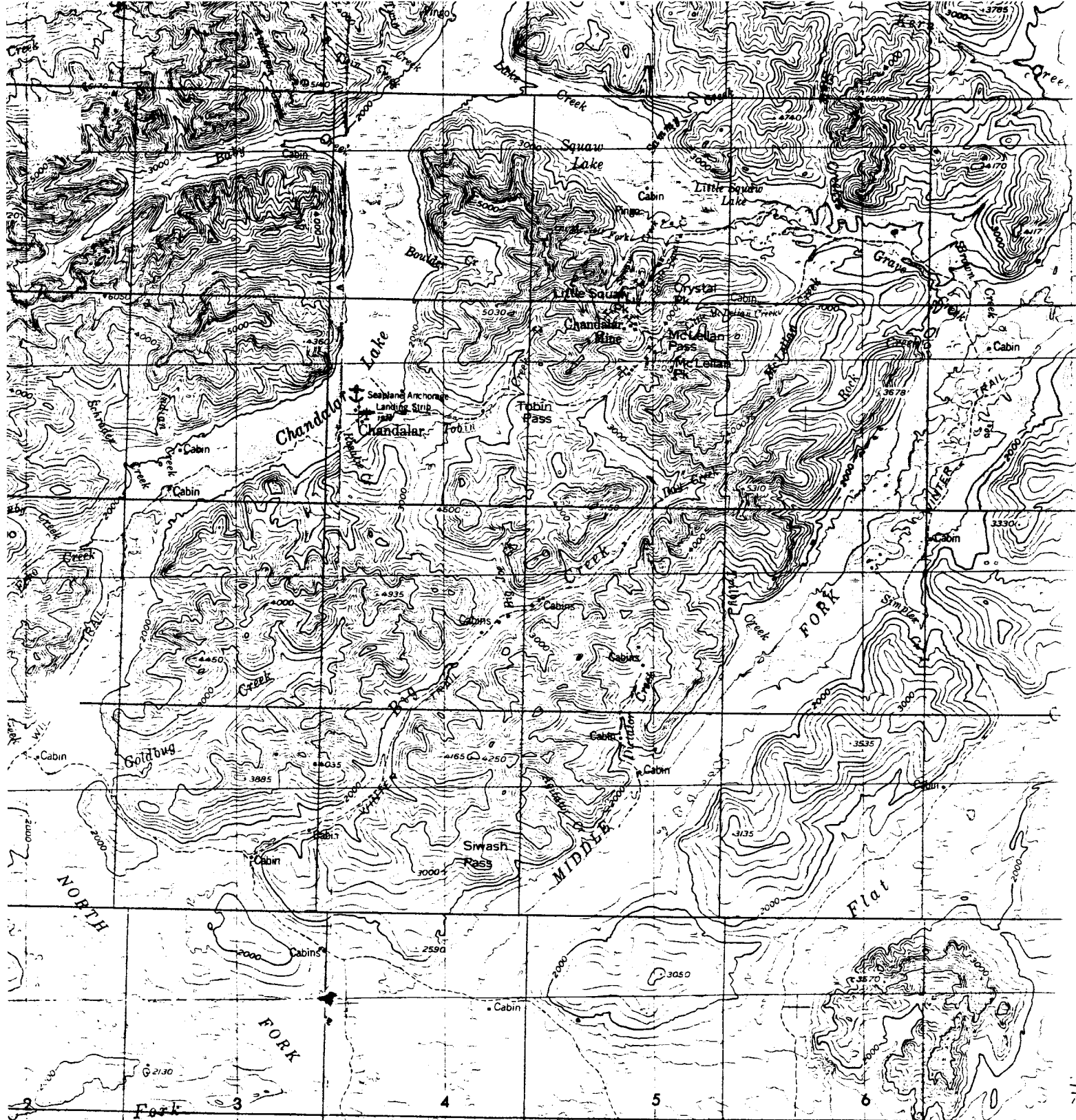


River side elevation

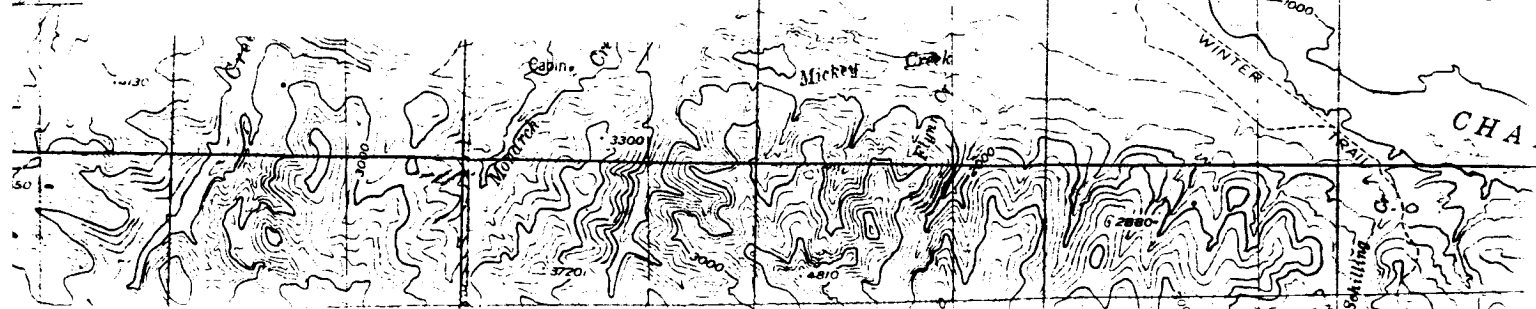
Chandalar: The frustrating saga of Sam Marsh, William Sultzer, and the Alaska-Chandalar Mining Company is related in Chapter 4 of the narrative. Donald Grybeck of the USGS Branch of Alaskan Geology has kindly provided pictures of some of the relics of that era, plus an aerial photograph that speaks volumes about the mountain barriers that contributed to the demise of the enterprise.

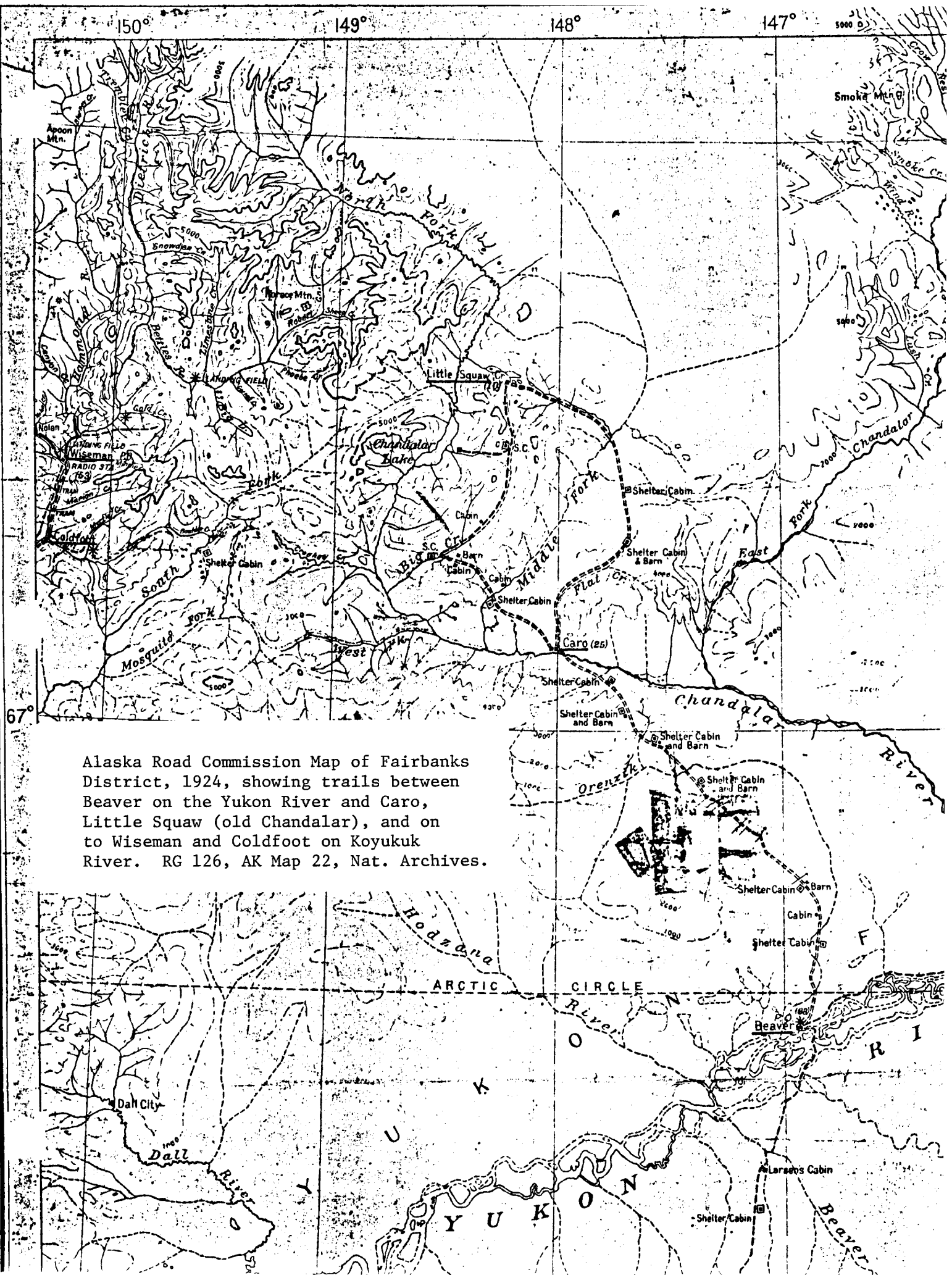
Note that the old town of Chandalar, site of the pictured U.S. Commissioner's Office and the stamp mill, was on the lower reaches of Little Squaw Creek, not on the east shore of Chandalar Lake, as mapped today.

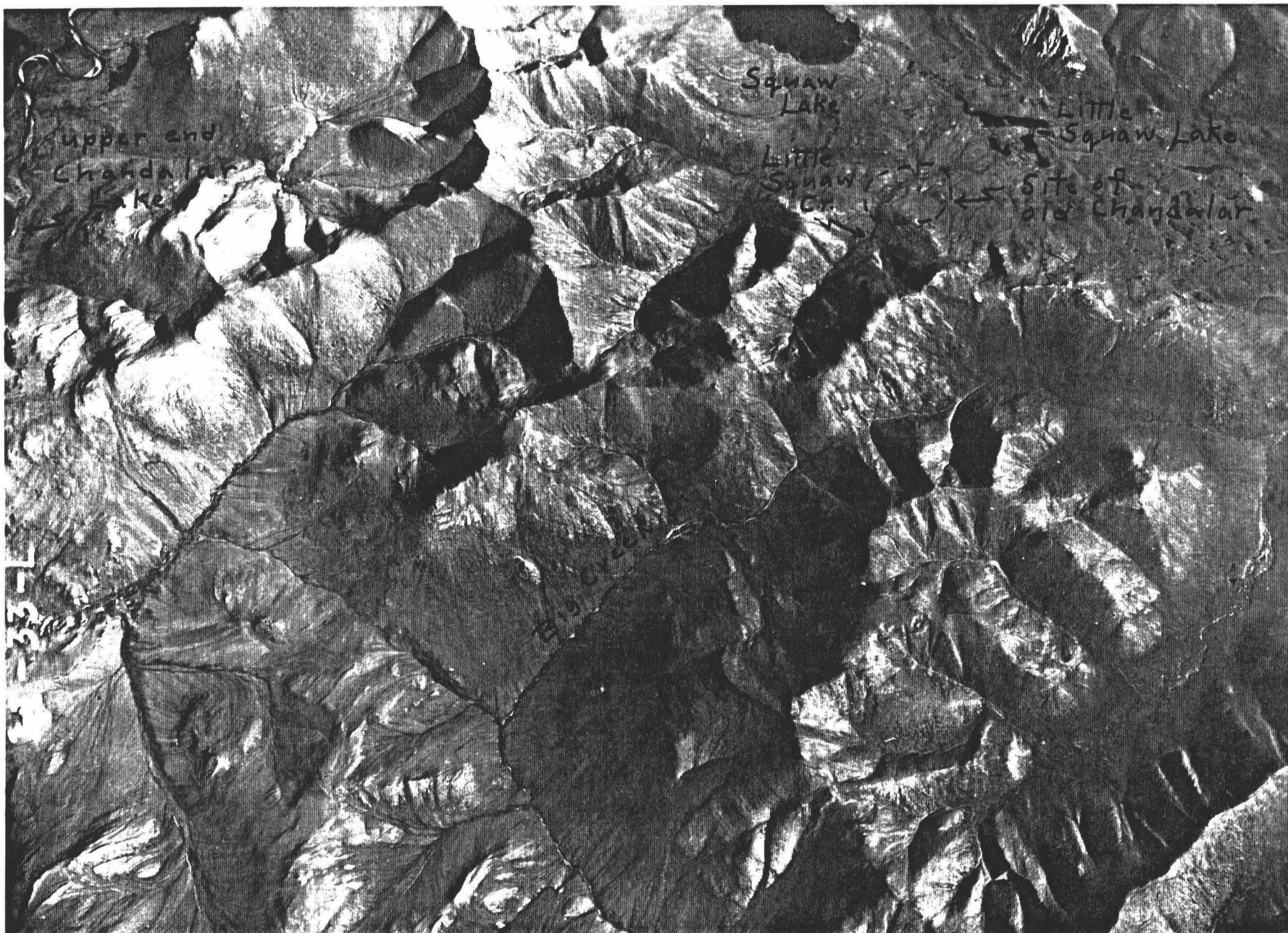




General Map Chandalar District,  
USGS Chandalar Quad, 1:250,000.







Aerial photo of Chandalar Mining District. Source: Donald Grybeck, USGS.

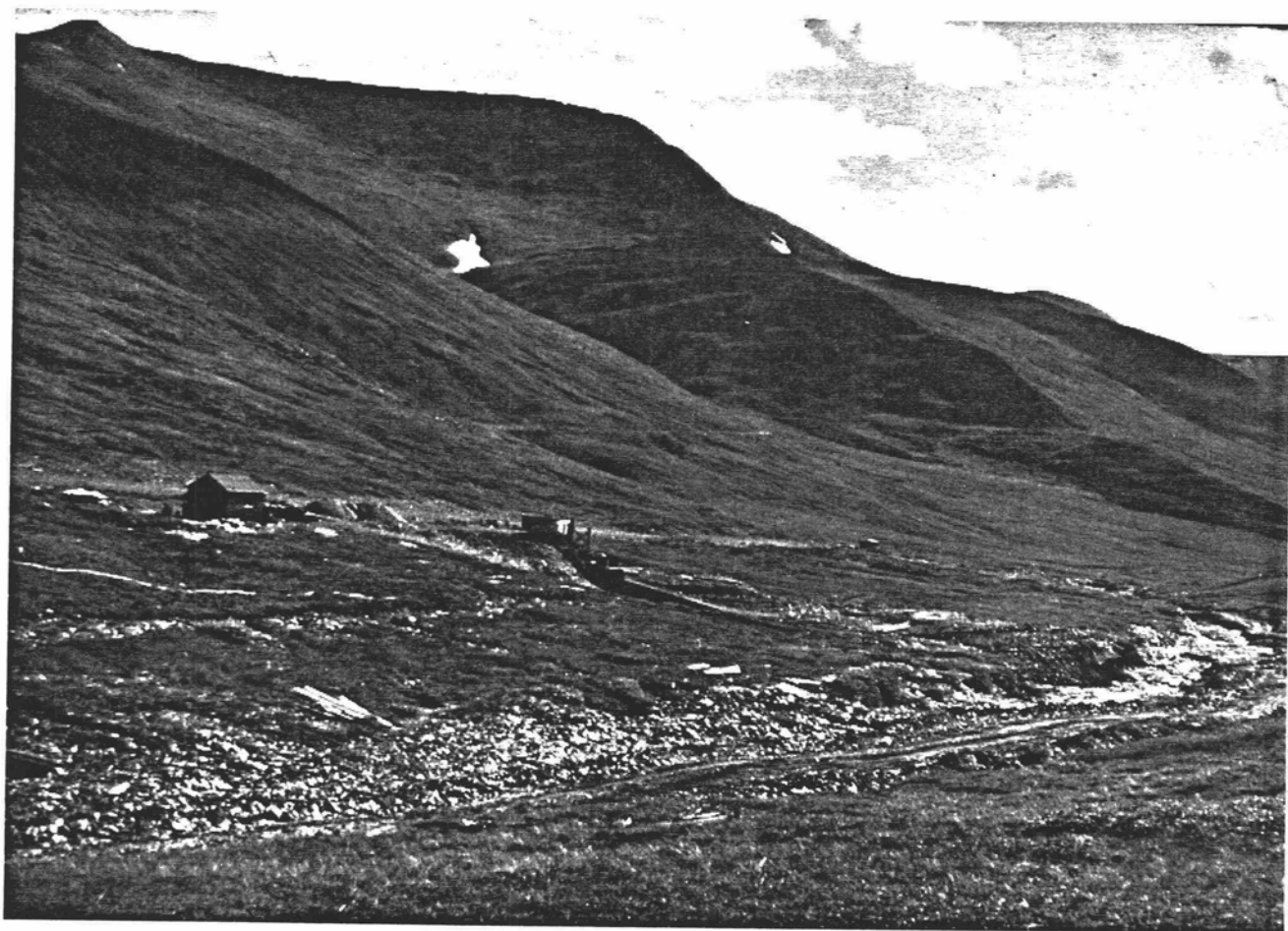




Stamp Mill at spring near Old Chandalar. Donald  
Grybeck photo, ca. 1977.



U.S. Commissioner's Cabin at Old Chandalar. Donald  
Grybeck photo, ca. 1977.



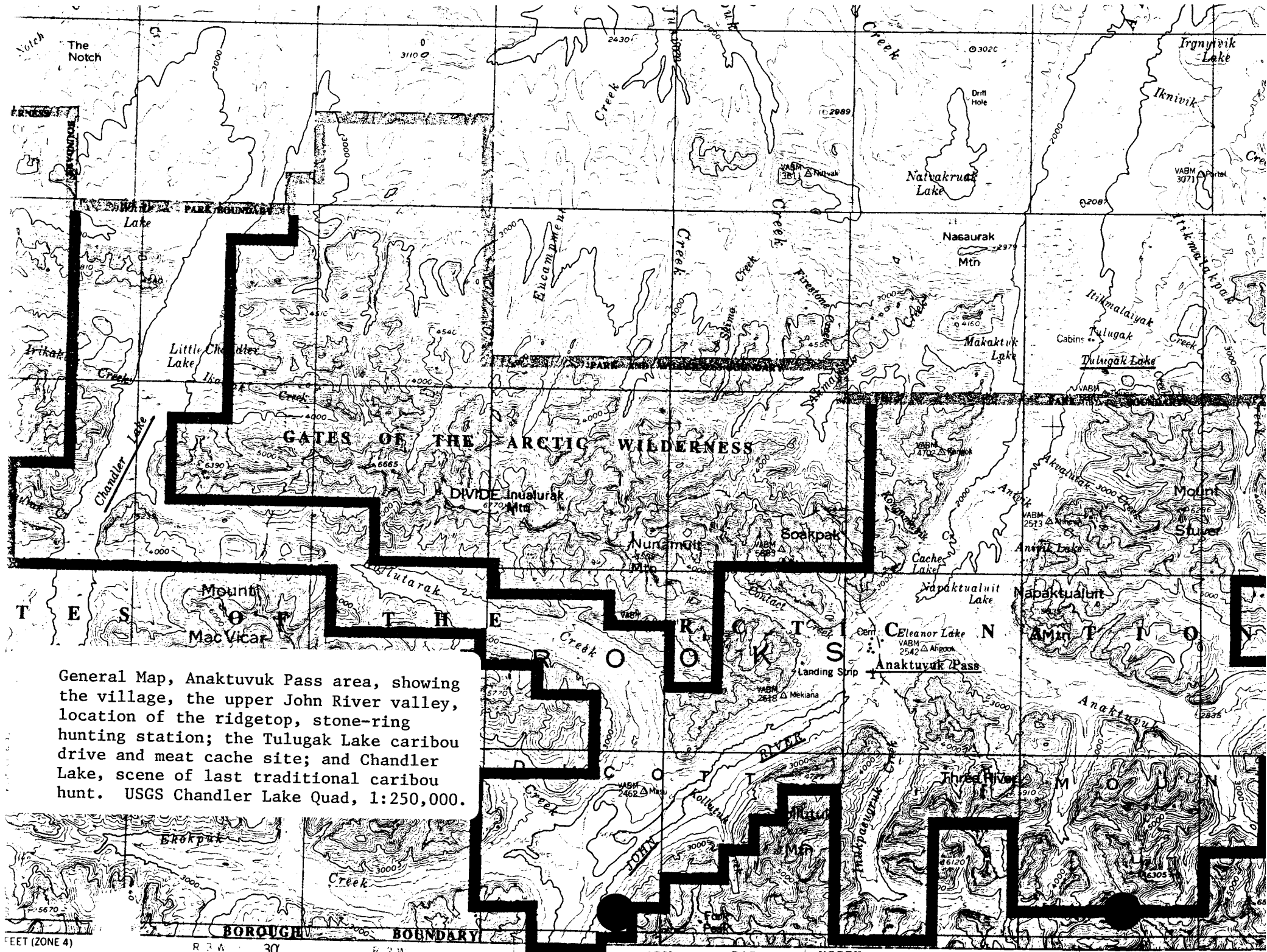
Mining site at headwaters of Big Creek, Chandalar District.  
Donald Grybeck photo, ca. 1977.

Anaktuvuk Pass and Nearby Sites: About 1950 a series of forces and events brought together at Anaktuvuk Pass the remaining families and small bands of Eskimos that had historically ranged through the northern valleys of the Endicott Mountains. First came airplanes and scientists to nearby lakes and gravel-bar strips. This led to a post office in a tent and encouraged the opening of a trading post. Soon followed a church and a school. Then an improved airstrip on the river terrace. In combination these developments changed what had been a nomadic people to permanent village people.

At Anaktuvuk Pass village a few physical remnants of those critical days of change still survive. They remind the village people that these simple beginnings launched them into the accelerations of the 20th Century, partly by choice and partly by imposition.

Proceeding from the village with its modern facilities and products toward the lakes, terraces, and ridges that surround, one comes upon places and signs that recall the older way of life. Some of these are ancient, with artifacts dating back thousands of years. Others--hunting stands, caribou-drive grounds, meat caches--were used by parents of people still living in the village.

One picture that follows is particularly poignant. It shows an old-line archeologist who many years ago discovered type sites that helped shape the content of Arctic archeology. He was guided to some of these places by the old man--now dead--sitting next to him. To the old man's left kneels a modern anthropologist working against time to glean from the old man his account of the last traditional caribou drive. And finally, a woman born to the last days of traditional life, then schooled in the new ways--now at the interface of the two--translating the old man's thoughts and words. Of the four, only the old man, now gone, could envision from experience and cultural vision the living event that intrigued the others. Our entire knowledge of that complex event, and all those like ones that preceded it, is but a pale distillation--fragments of memory. And such a hunt, with all of the nuances of that old man's tradition, will never happen again.







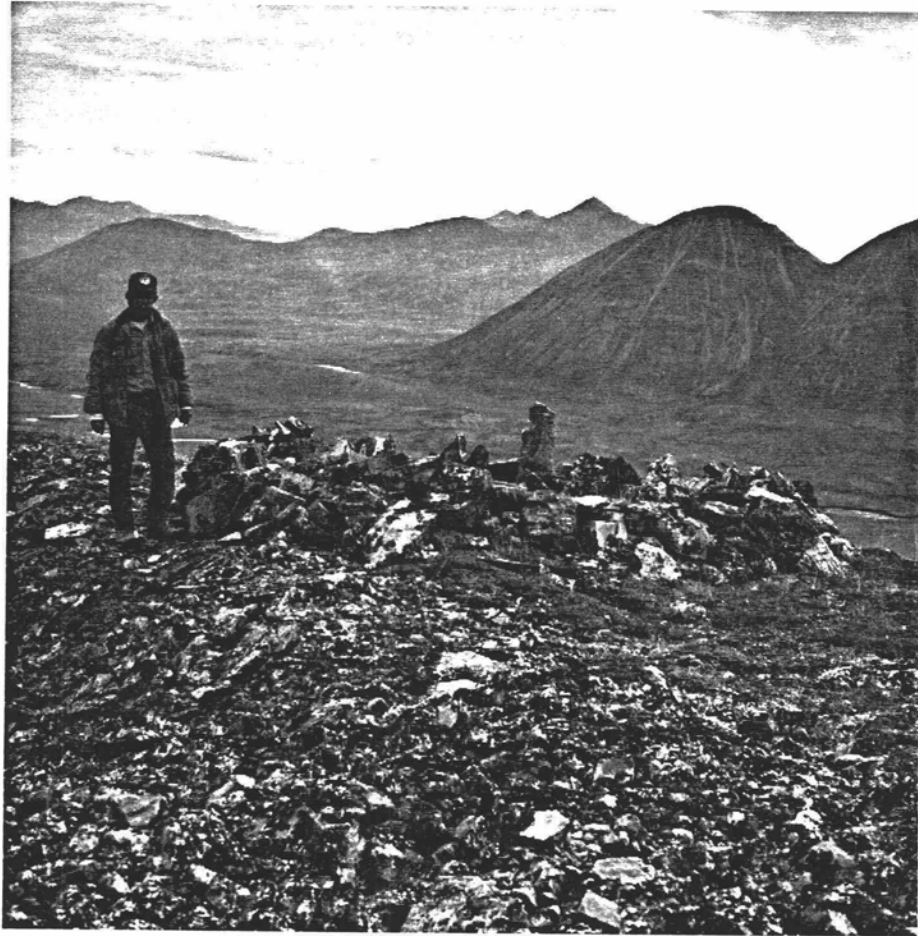
Anaktuvuk Pass: Pat O'Connell's first trading post, later his summer cabin. W. Brown photo.



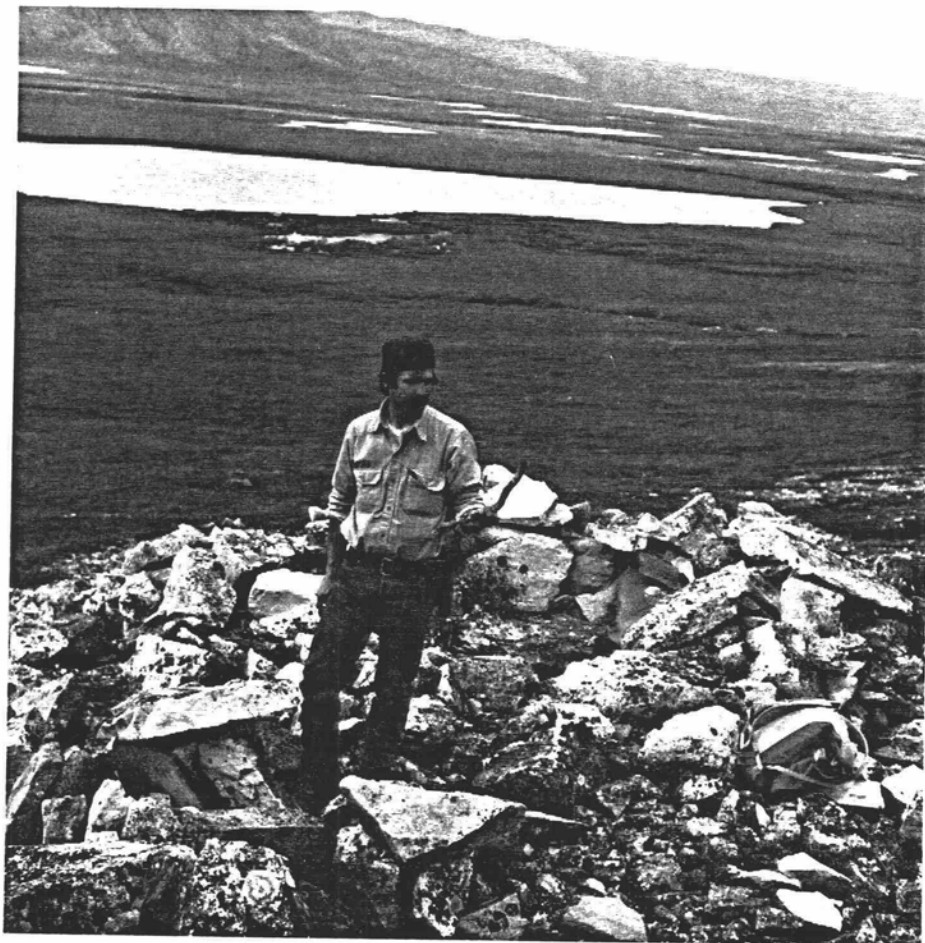
Anaktuvuk Pass: the log church. W. Brown photo.



Anaktuvuk Pass: The abandoned snow machine, the new house and all-terrain vehicle, and the meat drying rack (left) speak of changing times and changes within the changing times. W. Brown photo.



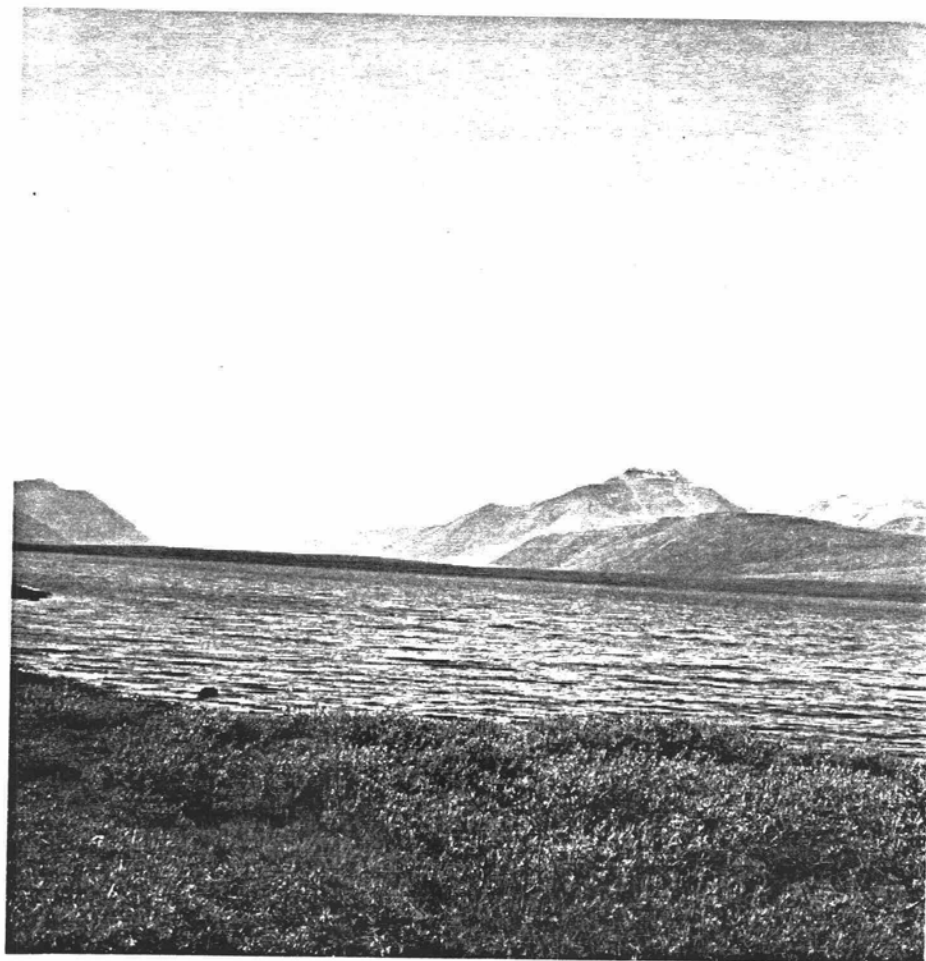
Anaktuvuk Pass: Grant Spearman gives scale to the hunting station  
on a ridge overlooking John River Valley. W. Brown photo.



Anaktuvuk Pass: meat cache on rock slope overlooking Tulagak Lake. Caribou drives, kills, and butchering took place in the valley, then the meat was hauled up the slope and stored in the stone caches to protect it from animals. W. Brown photo.



Anaktuvuk Pass: in camp north of Chandler Lake. From left: Archeologist Jack Campbell, Elijah Kakinya, Grant Spearman, Anna Nageak. W. Brown photo.



Anaktuvuk Pass: from our campsite on the small round lake just north of and downstream from Chanler Lake, near the last traditional caribou drive site. W. Brown photo.