



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MICHAEL J. DUNLEAVY

Department of Natural Resources

DIVISION OF PARKS & OUTDOOR RECREATION
Office of History & Archaeology

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March 26, 2019

File No.: 3130-1R NPS
2018-00536

Anne Matsov, Acting Superintendent
National Park Service
Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park
PO Box 517
Skagway, AK 99840

Subject: Determination of Eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places for Canyon City Cabin (Mile 7.5) and Sheep Camp Cabin (Mile 13) of the *Chilkoot Trail and Dyea National Historic Landmark* within the Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park and Preserve

Dear Superintendent Matsov:

The Alaska State Historic Preservation Office (AK SHPO) received your letter and National Register of Historic Places (National Register) Registration Forms for the subject properties on February 15, 2019. We evaluated the determination of eligibility for each cabin based on the criteria found in the *National Register Bulletin: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation* (formerly *Bulletin 15*).

Canyon City Cabin

Constructed in 1962, this 57-year-old property was evaluated under Criterion A for its significance to the state of Alaska. The building, in its original location, retains integrity of setting and association, as a warm-up hut for hikers on the Chilkoot Trail. Although the roof has been replaced and a foundation added to prolong the life of the building, neither repair has changed the original feeling, design, materials or vernacular workmanship of the property. Therefore, we *concur* with your finding that the Canyon City Cabin is eligible under Criterion A for listing on the National Register. Before submitting the form to the National Register, we recommend that the photographs be reformatted two to a page, and the size and font of the captions standardized before submitting the form to the National Register.

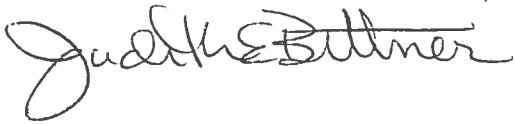
Sheep Camp Cabin

Constructed in 1963, this 56-year-old property was also evaluated under Criterion A for its significance to the State of Alaska. The cabin site remains in its original location, but the Sheep Camp campground and a segment of the hiking trail were moved further inland in 2003 when the Taiya River flooded Sheep Camp. Although some of the original construction materials are still visible, but they are scattered about the site, the result of the cabin roof collapsing during the winter of 2009/2010 from a heavy snow load. The building now lacks basic structural integrity and an association with the Chilkoot Trail; its original design and vernacular workmanship are no longer recognizable. Although the forest setting is likely similar to that of the early 1960s, the collapsed cabin no longer engenders the feeling of a welcome shelter from wet weather. Because Sheep Camp Cabin has lost its structural integrity and has become a ruin, we *do not concur* with your finding that the former cabin is eligible for the National Register.

However, if some of the original construction materials could be salvaged and a new cabin constructed at the current Sheep Camp site, the intent of the original cabin could once again be realized and serve a useful purpose, as shelter from the rain and a warm place where hikers could dry their wet clothes and socialize.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Please contact Sylvia Elliott at 269-8724 or sylvia.elliott2@alaska.gov if you have any questions or if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judith E. Bittner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a long horizontal stroke extending across the name.

Judith E. Bittner
State Historic Preservation Officer
JEB: she

3130-1R NPS



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park
P.O. Box 517
Skagway, Alaska 99840

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FEB 15 2019

OHA

IN REPLY REFER TO H 3019
Canyon City & Sheep Camp State Cabins Determination of Eligibility

February 11, 2018

Ms. Judith Bittner
State Historic Preservation Officer
Department of Natural Resources
Office of History and Archaeology
550 W. 7th Avenue, Suite 1310
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3565

Dear Ms. Bittner:

Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park would like to respectfully submit to you the enclosed Determination of Eligibility (DOE) applications for the Canyon City State Cabin and Sheep Camp State Cabins.

The two state cabins remain in their original locations, retaining the original design of a one room warming area, gable roof, front porch, chimney and stove. Characteristics of the vernacular workmanship from the 1960s are integral to the buildings; saddle notches and tapered corners, original window configuration, and doors are extant. As use of the trail has increased from under 50 hikers per year in the 1970s to over 2,700 hikers in the 2017 summer season, the original association of the State Cabins as comfort stations has continued to play a central role in the experience of hiking the Chilkoot Trail.

Both DOEs were completed to support the rehabilitation and continued use of the buildings. The applications recommend that the Canyon City and Sheep Camp State Cabins be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places at the state level under Criterion A.

These applications were previously submitted in April of 2018, submittal number 2018-00538. On May 7, 2018 Susannah Dowds gratefully received feedback from Sylvia Elliott specifying the appropriate format for photographs. According to Ms. Elliott's specifications, all photographs are captioned with:

- Figure number
- Name of property
- Location
- Subject
- Date the photo was taken

As recommended, each photograph is referenced in the text in numerical order, photographs are identified in parenthetical citations and are lesser in number.

The final draft has been reviewed by Bridget Maley, historical architect contracted through the Alaska Regional Office. Additional advice from Heather Feil and Katie Wackrow of the Alaska Regional Office has

been incorporated into this draft. Applications that have served as examples include the Lagoon Island Cabin in Glacier Bay and the Josey Boy Scout Lodge and Keeper's Cabin in Walker, Texas.

Please submit your comments to Anne Matsov, Chief of Resources, Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park, at anne_matsov@nps.gov or 907.983.9244.

Sincerely,



Anne Matsov
Acting Superintendent

SD

Enclosures: *Canyon City State Cabin Determination of Eligibility, Sheep Camp State Cabin Determination of Eligibility*

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Canyon City State Cabin

Other names/site number: Alaska Heritage Resources Survey 49-SKG-090

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: Mile 7.5 Chilkoot Trail

City or town: Chilkoot Trail State: AK County: Skagway-Yakutat Division

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this ___ nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national ___ statewide ___ local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

___A ___B ___C ___D

<hr/>	
Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
<hr/>	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.	
<hr/>	
Signature of commenting official:	Date
<hr/>	
Title :	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
<u>1</u>	_____	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register _____

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Recreation and Culture: Outdoor Recreation

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Recreation and Culture: Outdoor Recreation

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Other: log cabin

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Wood logs

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

In 1962, the State of Alaska sponsored the construction of the Canyon City “warm up” cabin on the newly brushed recreational Chilkoot Trail, in the Skagway-Yakutat Division of Alaska. The single-story, west-facing, 27'-10" x 18'-6" log cabin is constructed of locally harvested cottonwood (*Populus balsamifera ssp. trichocarpa*), stacked horizontally and joined by saddle notches. Log ends at each corner are tapered from the ground up. The building is capped by a gable roof sheathed in corrugated aluminum sheets, likely from varying time periods, with two skylights, and a metalbestos chimney. A single entry door is located at the south end of the front porch. Windows are paired wood casements that have been nailed shut, but were likely originally intended to be operable. The single interior room is outfitted with wood stoves, bunks, some emergency supplies, and a small seating area. The cabin remains in its original location, but the campground that surrounds it, constructed concurrently in 1962 by the same State of Alaska work crews, has shifted location due to flooding, improvements, and expansion. An outhouse that was present at the site in the 1960s is no longer extant. The Canyon City State Cabin is in good condition and continues to function as a warming shelter, much as it did when originally constructed. The building retains all aspects of historic integrity.

Narrative Description

Site

The Canyon City State Cabin was built by the State of Alaska, Department of Youth and Adult Authority in 1962 at the newly developed Canyon City campground (also constructed by the state) approximately 7.5 miles from the Chilkoot trailhead in Dyea. The Canyon City State Cabin remains in its original location approximately a half mile southeast of the Klondike Gold Rush-era town site of Canyon City (Alaska Heritage Resources Survey 49-SKG-090) and is situated along the historic Chilkoot Trail (Alaska Heritage Resources Survey 49-SKG-067). The recreational Chilkoot Trail, based on the alignment of the historic trail, was also constructed by the State of Alaska in the early 1960s.

The west facing Canyon City State Cabin is centrally situated in a wooded area, tall black cottonwood (*Populus balsamifera*) and spruce trees (*Picea sitchensis*) surround the cabin. The site slopes slightly south to north, and a stream runs to the north of the cabin. Other amenities related to the campground including a warming tent, picnic table, two composting outhouses, and eleven campsites are in the vicinity (Photographs 1-4).

Roof

The cabin's gable roof covers one large interior room and extends west to shelter the front porch. The roof is sheathed in corrugated aluminum sheets, and features a metal ridge cap and one clear corrugated fiberglass skylight on both the north and south slopes. A metal stove pipe pierces the roof just below the ridge on the north slope.

A ridge log and two purlins on each slope compose the roof framing and 1" dimensional lumber boards varying in width from six to twelve inches runs from the ridge board to the drip edge of the roof to support the corrugated roofing. At the west and east gable ends, 2x6" barge boards, painted green, partially cover the purlins of the projecting roof. On the north and south sides of the roof, 2x4" fascia boards, also painted green, are attached to the dimensional lumber boards running from the ridge board. The roof rests on two wall plate logs at the top of the north and south façades, wall plate logs extend the full 27'-10" length of the building. Three vertical, wood posts support the roof over the porch (Photograph 5).

Front (west) Elevation

The walls of the log cabin are saddle-notched cottonwood logs varying in diameter from 11" to 16" and chinked with orange spray foam. Metal, louvered openings are present in the gable ends of the east and west walls for air circulation. On the west (front) façade, a porch is enclosed on three sides by a log-constructed pony wall the height of three log courses. The porch is accessed by two solid wood steps. The dimensional wood foundation is visible at the west elevation.

The porch is accessed through a cut in the pony wall south of center; the opening is flanked on either side with a vertical half-round log. Three vertical wood posts support the roof over the porch. In the northwest and southwest corners, log posts, 6" in diameter, bear on the pony wall to support the top wall plate. Between 1977 and 1985 a king post was added below the gable to support the ridge beam. The top log of the pony wall was notched to receive the king post. The porch has a wood plank floor with floor boards running east to west.

The single entry door on the south end of the west wall leads to the building interior. Constructed of three vertical planks with three horizontal exterior braces, the door swings outward, and is hinged on the south side by three metal strap hinges. The door has a simple frame and its threshold is notched out of the west sill log. The door has a simple, sliding latch and a metal door handle typical of a wood stove. The door and wood trim are painted green (Photograph 6).

To the north of the west wall entry door there is a window with paired, three-over-three, wood casement windows. These windows were likely originally operable, but they have been nailed shut. The window opening is notched into the wall logs. The window sash and wood trim are painted green.

Side Elevations (north and south)

The north and south elevations are identical with courses of continual logs running the full length of each elevation. There is one window at each elevation situated toward the west end of the cabin. These are, like the west elevation, paired, three-over-three wood casement windows nailed into place. One of the north wall casement windows has been modified and now has a single pane of glass over the three panes below.

Rear (east) Elevation

The rear or east elevation has continuous log courses and no window openings. A metal, louvered opening is present in the gable end for air circulation.

Foundation

The building has a dimensional wood foundation, with large stones laid loosely around the porch to assist with recurring drainage issues (Photograph 7).

Interior

The building interior consists of one open room with a heat stove, carved wood chairs, bunk beds, and shelving. The wood floorboards are 7" wide, running east to west. Single bunks on the north and south walls on the west end of the room are constructed of stripped log posts with plywood sleeping surfaces. One table, under the window on the north wall, and wall shelves along the west wall have a similar, simple round log construction technique. A "Smart Stove" brand wood burning heat stove sits west of center. It has a corrugated roof hearth surrounded by 5x5" rough cut lumber. Three chairs carved out of tree stumps surround the stove.

Almost every surface of the cabin features names, dates and messages, carved or written in marker, by hikers who have visited the site in the past fifty-five years. Additionally, abundantly and conveniently located around the cabin interior are large nails, hooks, and strings for hanging hiking gear and drying wet clothes (Photographs 8-12).

Alterations / Maintenance

A 2004 report, by building conservator Harrison Goodall, rated the cabin as being in good to fair condition. By comparing historic images of the cabin, it is evident that a king post was added to

the porch between 1977 and 1985.¹ In 2009 and 2010, NPS maintenance staff made a number of repairs, replacing the roof sheathing and adding a dimensional wood foundation. Workers also installed new interior flooring and replaced the bottom three cottonwood wall courses with spruce (*Picea sitchensis*) logs. Lead paint present on the wood trim was removed in 2011.

The Canyon City State Cabin and campground has flooded numerous times in the past five decades. A 1991 flood deposited two feet of sediment at the Canyon City campground and around the base of the cabin. During the summer of 2002, the trail crew worked to redirect the path of the streambed and repair damage to the cabin and campground. Campsites were relocated to the north and east sides of the trail, the bridges to the north and south entrances to the campground were also moved and a new bank was built to protect the cabin from future flooding.

¹ Harrison Goodall, *Condition Assessment of Historic Cabins at Klondike Gold Rush NHP* (Langley, WA: Conservation Services, LLC, 2004), 1.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Canyon City State Cabin is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places at the state level under Criterion A, significant within the area of Recreation. The State Cabins at both Canyon City and Sheep Camp, built in 1962 and 1963 respectively, signaled the beginning of state and federal interest in preserving and promoting the history of the Klondike Gold Rush for tourists and recreational hikers. Situated along the Chilkoot Trail, the cabins afforded hikers the opportunity to stop, rest, and recreate as they hiked the trail. Managed jointly by the National Park Service and Parks Canada, the Chilkoot Trail is integral to the mission of both parks. Beginning with sporadic maintenance between the trailhead and Sheep Camp at mile thirteen in the early 1960s, the 33-mile Chilkoot Trail now spans the American and Canadian border, and has made significant contributions to recreational activities in the area. Between 1963 and 2012, the two state cabins served as the primary warming shelters for hikers who traveled on the American side of the trail. In 2016, over 2,700 hikers hiked the entirety of the trail.² The period of significance for the Canyon City State Cabin is 1962, reflecting its date of construction. The building retains all aspects of historic integrity.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Criterion A: Area of Recreation

The Canyon City and Sheep Camp State Cabins reflect an increased governmental interest in opening a recreational trail that mirrored the journey of fortune seekers during the Klondike Gold Rush between 1896 and 1899. Constructed in 1962, the Canyon City Cabin was the first of the two recreational structures completed along the Chilkoot Trail.

The Chilkoot Trail has been a transportation corridor from coastal Alaska to the Interior for thousands of years. The Chilkat Tlingits first used the passage as a trading route, exchanging goods with interior Athapaskan communities.³ In 1897, the Chilkoot Trail rose to fame as a key route to the goldfields during the Klondike Gold Rush. After the stampede ended in 1899, the route was rarely traveled. Recreational hikers returned in the 1960s when state and federal governments began to take interest in maintaining the Chilkoot as a recreational trail, focusing on the history of the Klondike Gold Rush. The Chilkoot Trail has become an integral state-wide recreational resource managed jointly by Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park (National Park Service) and the Chilkoot Trail National Historic Site (Parks Canada).

² "Monthly Public Use Report, Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park, December 2016." National Park Service, last modified 2016, <https://irma.nps.gov/Stats/SSRSReports/Park%20Specific%20Reports/Monthly%20Public%20Use>.

³ Thomas F. Thornton, *Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park Ethnographic Overview and Assessment* (Anchorage: National Park Service, 2004), vi.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Entertainment/Recreation

Period of Significance

1962: Canyon City State Cabin was constructed by work crews managed by Department of Youth and Adult Authority, State of Alaska.

Significant Dates

August 11, 1972: Cooperative agreement between the NPS, the BLM, and the State of Alaska stipulating that management and protection of the Chilkoot Trail would be transferred to the NPS starting in 1973

June 30, 1976: President Gerald Ford signed S. 98 into law, establishing Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park

1991: Canyon City flood caused a slight relocation of the campground, rerouting of the trail, and two new bridges at the north and south ends of the campground

Summer 2009: NPS workers added foundation to Canyon City State Cabin and repaired the roof

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Work crews of adult and youth offenders under the direction of Russel Lowell of the State of Alaska, Department of Youth and Adult Authority

The majority of the text for the following section, "Beginnings of the Recreational Chilkoot Trail," was extracted from *Legacy of the Gold Rush: An Administrative History of Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park* by Frank Norris, 1996 (59, 61, 64-65, 138-143).

Beginnings of the Recreational Chilkoot Trail

Local representatives had advocated for establishing national monuments in Skagway, Dyea and the Chilkoot Trail as early as the 1930s, but it was not until the 1960s that governmental funds were allocated toward improving the Chilkoot Trail.⁴ In 1961, the Division of Lands, in the Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and the state's corrections department, the Division of Youth and Adult Authority (Y&AA), cooperated to start work on a recreational Chilkoot Trail.

Work began on May 15, 1961. That day, Thomas Murton and Richard Branton of the Y&AA discussed the project with Charles Mehlert and Michael Leach of the Division of Lands in Juneau. The four traveled to Skagway, and the following day they continued on to Dyea and began flagging the proposed route. Guided by Emil Hanousek, a Dyea resident who was familiar with the trail corridor, the group hiked up the east side of the valley to the site of Canyon City, flagging as they went. The following day, they continued on to Sheep Camp. They then returned to Dyea and left the area.

The trailblazers were unsure as to whether the path they followed was the same as that followed by the gold rush stampeders. Hanousek had told them that "an old wagon road which began at Dyea and proceeded along the west bank of the river to Canyon City was, in fact, the location of the original trail." Because they had not followed that route, Leach urged that the route be re-located so as to be more historically authentic. When the work crews arrived, however, they eschewed Leach's suggestion and merely followed the flags. The route they pioneered that summer is, with minor exceptions, the same one used today.

Nine youths began work on June 9, 1961. Adults, who traveled from jails in Juneau and Ketchikan, arrived three days later. Both groups, led by Russel Lowell, completed their work by July 20. The crews had accomplished a great deal during the summer. They had brushed out a trail from the east side of the Dyea steel bridge to a point one-half mile south of Sheep Camp.

State Cabins on the Chilkoot Trail

The work accomplished on the Chilkoot Trail in the summer of 1961 proved so successful that the project was continued. In 1962, Y&AA officials hoped that the trail would be brought up to U.S. Forest Service standards. Led by Don Davis, the prisoners spent most of June and July 1962 working from a Canyon City base camp, and by the end of their season they had improved the trail as far as Canyon City. Major accomplishments included a three-mile relocation of the trail around the unsightly Hosford Sawmill site, the logging road past the mill was improved, courtesy of a rented bulldozer. Workers also erected a 27'-10" x 18'-6" ' shelter cabin near Canyon City, replaced the Slide Cemetery headboards, and cleaned up the Dyea Town Cemetery.

⁴ Edwin C. Bearss, *Proposed Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park Historic Resource Study* (Office of History and Historic Architecture, Eastern Service Center: Washington D.C., 1970) 281, 284.

In the summer of 1963, work continued farther up the trail. Major work consisted of improving the trail from Canyon City to the timberline, a mile above Sheep Camp, and constructing a shelter cabin near Sheep Camp similar in design to the one constructed the summer prior near Canyon City. A 1963 letter from forester Lawrence Dutton to Michael Leach of the Division of Lands reported on the progress of the trail work in June 1963. He noted that the Sheep Camp State Cabin was the "major effort" of the season and that the crew would use materials ordered from Haines in addition to resources found in the area to construct the cabin.

The major effort thus far this season has been concentrated in the erection of shelter cabin at the site of Sheep Camp. This cabin measures 18 feet by 22 feet [sic] and upon completion will be completely enclosed and roofed. Roofing will consist of corrugated aluminum which was purchased from Haines Lumber Co. at Haines, Alaska, at a total cost of \$232.40. The roofing was picked up in Haines and taken to Dyea where it was delivered to the Y&AA and packed up the trail. There will be several windows in the cabin and entry will be thru a door in the south end of the cabin. The south end will also have a porch with roof extended over it. It is planned that the porch will be supported on two small cast iron cable drums, about 12" by 18", and weighing about 75 pounds each.⁵

By summer's end, the trail had been improved to a standard acceptable to both the Youth and Adult Authority and the Division of Lands. During the trail construction period, about forty people had hiked over the trail.

After 1963, Y&AA work crews returned to the trail each summer for the next five years. The crews were involved in such tasks as bridge repair, maintenance of the trail tread, and the installation of mileage and directional signs. Crews camped along the trail each year until 1968; thereafter, crews from DNR's Division of Parks replaced them. Trailside markers indicating each half-mile of trail were installed in 1965; they remained until the late 1970s.

Rise in Recreation and Transfer to National Park Service

During the late 1960s and early 1970s, the Chilkoot Trail witnessed an explosion in recreational visitation, from less than 100 during the 1968 season to an estimated 1,000 during the summer of 1972. Through the 1972 season, however, there was no ranger presence on the Chilkoot. The only staff on the U.S. side during the 1969-1972 period was maintenance personnel from the Alaska Division of Parks, who spent just a few weeks on the trail each summer.

When it became clear that the yearly number of hikers would require patrols and maintenance, three government agencies were identified that could potentially manage the trail: the Alaska Department of Natural Resources; the federal Bureau of Land Management (BLM); and the federal National Park Service (NPS). The transfer of maintenance and eventually, ownership, went to the NPS. The Alaska Department of Natural Resources recognized that NPS had spent

⁵ Lawrence A. Dutton, Field Forester to Michael S. Leach, Area Forester, Chilkoot Trail Inspection Report, July 5, 1963, Administrative Central Files: Maintenance and Construction Roads and Trails PCSR.FCAB1.DR2, Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park Archive, Skagway, AK.

associated with cabins and shelters in other parks. Removal of the cabins might result in some dispersal of camping (and would certainly alleviate what may soon become a building maintenance headache), but is neither politically feasible nor, given the area's weather, necessarily recommended in the light of possible emergencies. These cabins, if they are to be maintained by the park, should be worked into the Cyclic Maintenance Program within the next two years, with special attention given to foundations and floors.⁶

Another maintenance report from 1979 noted that conditions were cramped, not only for hikers, but also for crews who maintained the trail.

Until the "Administrative Camp" near the Sheep Camp Ranger Station was created the crew was forced to occupy part of the visitor camping area at Sheep Camp. With very basic compliment of backcountry base-camp supplies and equipment the crew operated fairly well considering the weather conditions. The major problem is the ability to dry out at the end of normally wet working days. It is almost impossible to utilize the existing shelters during the peak visitor months (June-August). While the crew worked around the Sheep Camp area the rangers were more than helpful by sharing their already crowded ranger station. In addition to the proposed improvements of the Sheep Camp Ranger Station (three 16 x 20 platform wall-tents) two more platform wall-tents should be constructed in the immediate area to be used as storage, V.I.P. housing, and trail crew base camp for the upper canyon area. This should include a large steel storage box for tools and basic backcountry maintenance equipment.

On August 22, the crew shifted its base of operations to Canyon City. Here a spike camp was established, again in a normally highly used visitor area. Since the visitor use began to diminish by this time we were able to use the Canyon City Shelter to dry cloths [*sic*] and bedding during the day. By the 2nd week of September we more or less occupied the shelter since visitor use had reduced to less than four people daily.⁷

Shields also recommended that the primitive campgrounds at Canyon City and Sheep Camp be expanded. Infrastructure for hikers and maintenance crews steadily improved, with the addition of amenities at Finnegan's Point, Pleasant Camp, Canyon City, and Sheep Camp in the late 1980s and early 1990s:

- Canyon City trail crew cabin, equipment shed, and tent platforms (1981-87)⁸
- Finnegan's Point pit toilet (ca.1985)⁹

⁶ Michael D. Shields, Trails Foreman, Skagit District to Regional Director, Pacific Northwest Region, Trip Report—Chilkoot Trail, Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park, August 7-August 14, 1978, Administrative Central Files: RG 2.06 KLGO 338, Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park Archive, Skagway, AK.

⁷ 1979 Maintenance Report, Administrative Central Files: Maintenance and Construction Roads and Trails PCSR.FCAB1.DR2, Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park Archive, Skagway, AK.

⁸ *Chilkoot Trail: Cultural Landscape Report Part I*, (Anchorage: Cultural Landscapes Program, Alaska, 2010), 207.

⁹ *Chilkoot Trail: Cultural Landscape Report Part I*, 167.

considerable effort developing the proposal for a Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park; representatives of the state agency also realized that the state was unable to provide season-long protection for hikers or historical resources. Similarly, the BLM had applied for most of the land in the Taiya Valley, but recognized that the agency, like the State of Alaska, had no manpower to protect the area. Based on those assumptions, the NPS, the BLM, and the State of Alaska entered into a cooperative agreement on August 11, 1972. The agreement stated that the NPS "shall undertake to provide management and protection and do what may be necessary to administer, protect, improve, and maintain the lands and associated resources" in the Chilkoot Trail corridor. The parties maintained, however, "that this cooperative agreement shall in no way be deemed to be a transfer of title to any lands or associated resources, nor constitute in any way a disavowal or relinquishment of any right, title, or interest by any of the parties..." The agreement was to terminate "at such time as legislation is enacted to establish the proposed Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park or at such time as the parties hereto may hereafter agree." The NPS began to administer its new responsibility in the region in the summer of 1973.

The NPS chose Scott Sappington and Chuck Nelson to be its first Chilkoot Trail rangers. The two, under the guidance of Superintendent Bob Howe of Glacier Bay National Park, and assisted by local resident Robert Vaughan, began working along the trail in late May 1973 and continued their duties until late September. The two established a new ranger headquarters at Sheep Camp, which consisted of an A-frame wall tent located one-quarter mile south of the state-built cabin. They spent the summer providing guidance and information, enforcing regulations, and educating hikers on the importance of the area's historic resources. In early June 1973, the State of Alaska trail crew joined the rangers and spent the next few weeks maintaining the trail, much as they had been doing since 1969.

The following summer, the NPS rangers continued the work they had begun in 1973. In addition, they teamed up with Parks Canada trail personnel and installed a series of 24 aluminum interpretive signs. On June 30, 1976, President Gerald Ford signed S. 98, the law that established Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park.

Canyon City and Sheep Camp State Cabins 1976-Present

As NPS took over management of the Chilkoot Trail, the number of hikers continued to rise and the Canyon City and Sheep Camp State Cabins served as the primary amenities on the U.S. side of the border from the early 1970s to the early 1990s. In 1978, Ed Stondall, engineer from the NPS Alaska Area Office, and Michael D. Shields, Trails Forman at North Cascades hiked the trail from August 7-14, 1978. In his report to the Director of the Pacific Northwest Region Shields noted:

At present there are two camp areas on the U.S. side of the pass (Canyon City and Sheep Camp), both showing evidence of overuse (soil compaction, loss of vegetation, depletion of firewood and cutting of green timber, etc.). The cabins at both camps encourage crowding and intense overuse of a fairly small area in their immediate vicinity; despite a surprisingly high proportion of inexperienced hikers on the trail, signing at trailheads to the effect that the cabins are nearly always full seems to have prevented most of the cabin-reliant unpreparedness normally

- Finnegan's Point tent platforms (1987)¹⁰
- Sheep Camp ranger station (1989-1990)¹¹
- Sheep Camp trail crew and ranger supply shed (1992)¹²
- Pleasant Camp shelter (1993)¹³
- Finnegan's Point canvas warming shelter (1993)¹⁴
- Pleasant Camp pit toilet (1996)¹⁵

Warming shelters and staff accommodations improved, however the number of Chilkoot hikers continued to grow, and the state cabins remained popular resting places. In 1984, Tom Walker's *Building the Alaska Log Home* featured a photograph of the Canyon City State Cabin observing, "With the exception of some Forest Service cabins, this is probably one of the most used public cabins in Alaska."¹⁶ Evidence of use remains apparent in the walls of both cabins in the form of names and dates carved into the logs in the interior of the cabin.

Records of maintenance work on the state cabins between the 1980s and the 2000s are scattered, but it is clear that both cabins required a number of repairs.

Period of Significance

The period of significance for the Canyon City Cabin is 1962, reflective of its date of construction. There are no additional important dates or notable additions or alterations that would extend the period of significance.

Integrity

The cabin remains in its original **location**; it has not been moved. It retains the original basic design intent of a one-room warming hut. Its gable roof, front porch, chimney and stove all reflect the original **design**. Characteristics of the vernacular **workmanship** from the 1960s are integral to this log cabin; saddle notches and tapered corners, original window configuration, and the one door are extant. Over time, individuals have added nails to the interior wall to be used as hooks for drying wet gear. The National Park Service has made an effort to preserve the 1960s era materials and workmanship of the cabin; however, the original designs and wood materials are vulnerable to decay. To ensure longevity and safety, maintenance crews have completed a number of repairs. Between 1970 and 1985, crews added a kingpost to the Canyon City porch. The Canyon City State Cabin now rests on a dimensional wood foundation, has a new interior plank floor, and the bottom three cottonwood log courses were replaced with spruce *Picea sitchensis* in 2009. These necessary improvements are in keeping with the original **character** of the log cabin and it retains its overall rustic **feeling**. The strong **association** with the Chilkoot Trail's recreational history is expressed in the design and workmanship of the Canyon City State Cabin. The original **setting** of the cabin as a warming hut in a campground has continued to play a central role in the experience of hiking the Chilkoot Trail. The building retains all aspects of historic integrity.

¹⁰ Ibid., 207.

¹¹ Ibid., 254.

¹² Ibid.

¹³ Ibid., 250.

¹⁴ Ibid., 167.

¹⁵ Ibid., 250.

¹⁶ Tom Walker, *Building the Alaska Log Home* (Anchorage: Alaska Northwest Publishing Company, 1984), 173.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Bearss, Edwin C. *Proposed Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park Historic Resource Study*. Office of History and Historic Architecture, Eastern Service Center: Washington D.C., 1970.

Chilkoot Trail: Cultural Landscape Report Part I. Anchorage: Cultural Landscapes Program, Alaska, 2010.

Dutton, Lawrence A., Field Forester to Michael S. Leach, Area Forester, Chilkoot Trail Inspection Report, July 5, 1963. Administrative Central Files: Maintenance and Construction Roads and Trails PCSR.FCAB1.DR2, Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park Archive, Skagway, AK.

Goodall, Harrison. *Canyon City Cabin: Condition Assessment of Historic Cabins at Klondike Gold Rush NHP*. Langley, WA: Conservation Services, LLC, 2004.

"Monthly Public Use Report, Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park, December 2016." National Park Service. Last modified 2016. Accessed November 14, 2017. <https://irma.nps.gov/Stats/SSRSReports/Park%20Specific%20Reports/Monthly%20Public%20Use>.

Norris, Frank. *Legacy of the Gold Rush: An Administrative History of Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park*. Anchorage: National Park Service, 1996.

Shields, Michael D., Trails Foreman, Skagit District to Regional Director, Pacific Northwest Region, Trip Report—Chilkoot Trail, Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park, August 7-August 14, 1978. Administrative Central Files: RG 2.06 KLGO 338, Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park Archive, Skagway, AK.

Thornton, Thomas F. *Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park Ethnographic Overview and Assessment*. Anchorage: National Park Service, 2004.

Walker, Tom. *Building the Alaska Log Home*. Anchorage: Alaska Northwest Publishing Company, 1984.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register

_____ designated a National Historic Landmark
_____ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
_____ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
_____ recorded by Historic American Landscapes Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

_____ State Historic Preservation Office
_____ Other State agency
 Federal agency
_____ Local government
_____ University
_____ Other
Name of repository: Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property N/A (building footprint)

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|--------------|------------|
| 1. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

1. Zone: 8 Easting: 481678.1962 meters Northing: 6607750.2594
meters

2. Zone: 8 Easting: 484906.5378 meters Northing: 6613454.9328 meters
3. Zone: 8 Easting: 484900.1801 meters Northing: 6613451.4008 meters
4. Zone: 8 Easting: 484905.125 meters Northing: 6613449.7525 meters

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The footprint of the Canyon City State Cabin comprises the boundaries of the historic property.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The Canyon City State Cabin remains in the same location as it did when first constructed in 1962; it has not been relocated. As use of the trail has increased from under of 50 hikers per year to over 2,700 hikers in a summer season, the footprint of the surrounding campground has shifted due to flooding and expansion.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Susannah Dowds, Archives Technician
organization: Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park
street & number: PO Box 517, 291 Broadway
city or town: Skagway state: AK zip code: 99840
e-mail susannah_dowds@nps.gov
telephone: 907-983-9221
date: 2/11/19

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Canyon City State Cabin

City or Vicinity: Chilkoot Trail

County: Skagway-Yakutat Division

State: Alaska

Photographer: Susannah Dowds (unless otherwise noted)

Date Photographed: June 2017

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1 of 12: Front and side view, west and south façades.

2 of 12: Back and side view, east and north façades.

3 of 12: Side and partial front view, north and west façades.

4 of 12: Side and front view, north and west façades.

5 of 12: Southwest corner of porch showing bottom of porch post (exterior).

6 of 12: Latch on door to interior.

7 of 12: Cabin foundation.

8 of 12: Interior view from southwest corner showing side (north) and back (east) walls, stovepipe of central warming stove, bunks, graffiti, clothesline for drying hiking gear, skylight, ridge log and two purlins.

9 of 12: Interior view from northeast corner showing front (west) and side (south) walls, central warming stove, chairs, storage locker, bulletin board, graffiti, and clothesline for drying hiking gear.

10 of 12: Interior, close-up view of carved graffiti.

11 of 12: Interior view of clothesline and graffiti on purlins, dating as early as 1989.

12 of 12: Interior view of ceiling taken from the back (east) wall, shows top of west wall, ridge log and purlins, beams, skylight, metal louvered opening, clothesline and top of support for bunks.

List of Figures

1 of 5: Canyon City State Cabin, west (front) façade, view looking east. Unknown photographer, NPS 1977 (NPS, KLGO, Administration Maintenance File, 02.06.338.46666).

2 of 5: West (front) and south (side) façades, view looking southeast. Unknown photographer, NPS c.1970 (NPS, KLGO Library, D-1970-CC-7-5418).

3 of 5: West (front) and south (side) façades, view looking northeast. Unknown photographer, NPS 1985 (NPS, KLGO, Administration Maintenance File, 02.06.338.43882).

4 of 5: Canyon City State Cabin, west (front) and south (side) façades, view looking northeast. Unknown photographer, NPS 1992 (NPS, KLGO, Administration Maintenance File, 02.06.405.47564).

5 of 5: Canyon City State Cabin, view looking north, shows flooding along southeast corner and part of south wall. Unknown photographer, NPS 1993 (NPS, KLGO, Administration Maintenance File, 02.06.405.47564).

List of Maps

1 of 2: Canyon City State Cabin: Chilkoot Trail Location

2 of 2: State Cabins: Chilkoot Trail Location

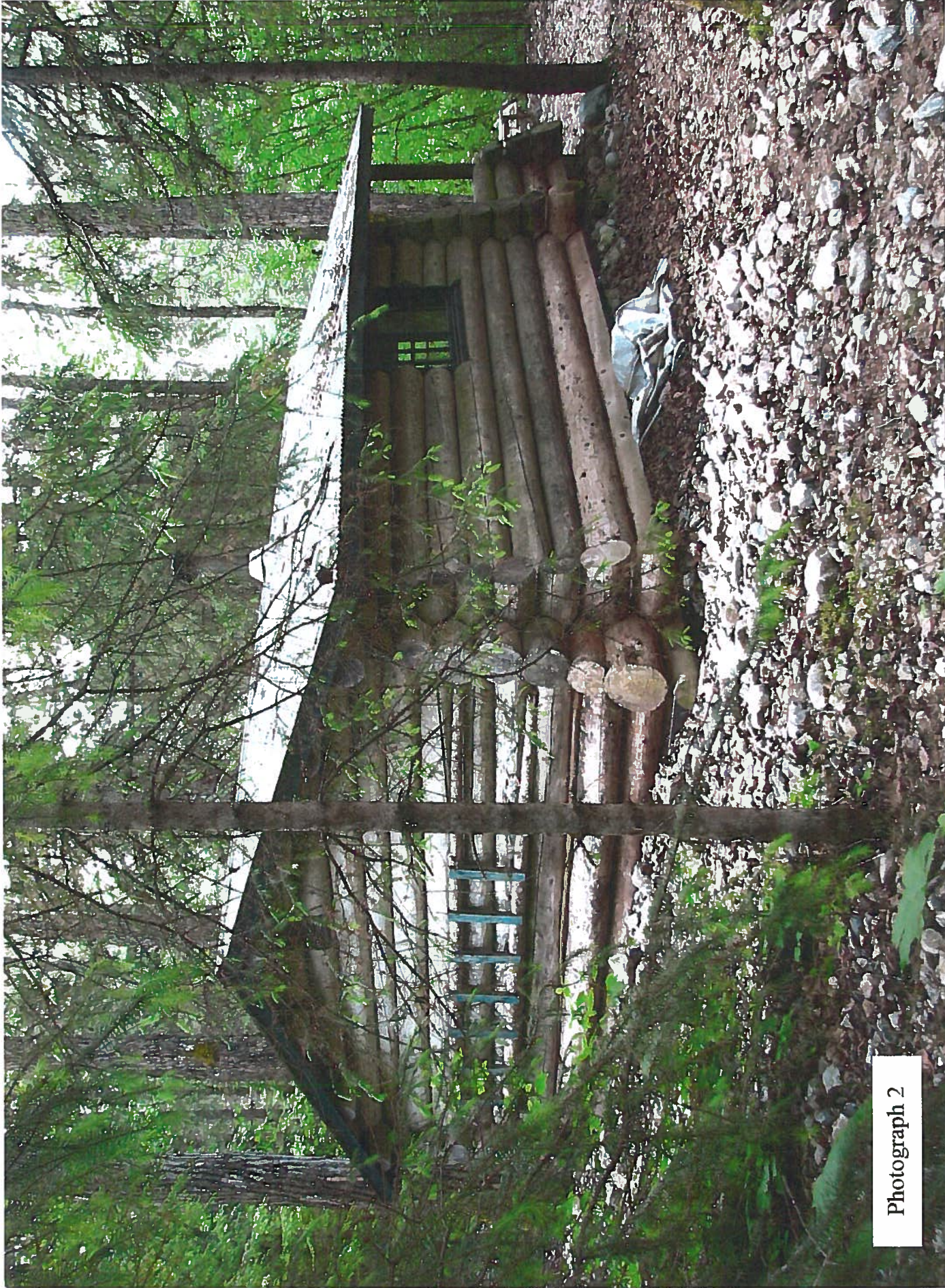
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.



Photograph 1

Canyon City State Cabin, Mile 7.5, Chilkoot Trail, Front and side view, west and south façades. Susannah Dowds, Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park, Site Visit, June, 2017.



Photograph 2

Canyon City State Cabin, Mile 7.5, Chilkoot Trail, Back and side view, east and north façades. Susannah Dowds, Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park, Site Visit, June, 2017.



Photograph 3

Canyon City State Cabin, Mile 7.5, Chilkoot Trail, Side and partial front view, north and west façades. Susannah Dowds, Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park, Site Visit, June, 2017.



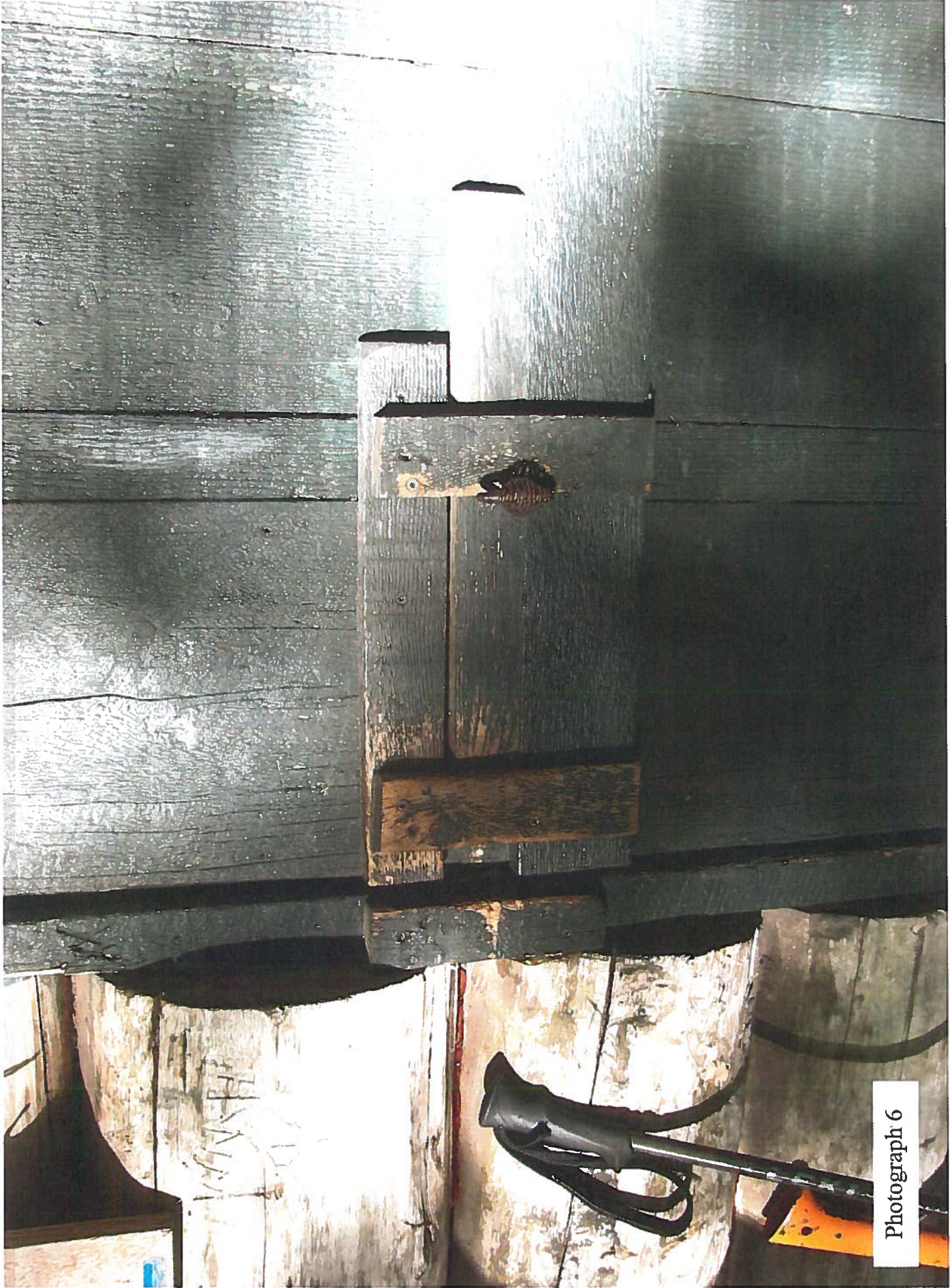
Photograph 4

Canyon City State Cabin, Mile 7.5, Chilkoot Trail, Side and front view, north and west façades. Susannah Dowds, Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park, Site Visit, June, 2017.



Photograph 5

Canyon City State Cabin, Mile 7.5, Chilkoot Trail, Southwest corner of porch showing bottom of porch post (exterior).
Susannah Dowds, Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park, Site Visit, June, 2017.



Photograph 6

Canyon City State Cabin, Mile 7.5, Chilkoot Trail, Latch on door to interior. Susannah Dowds, Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park, Site Visit, June, 2017.



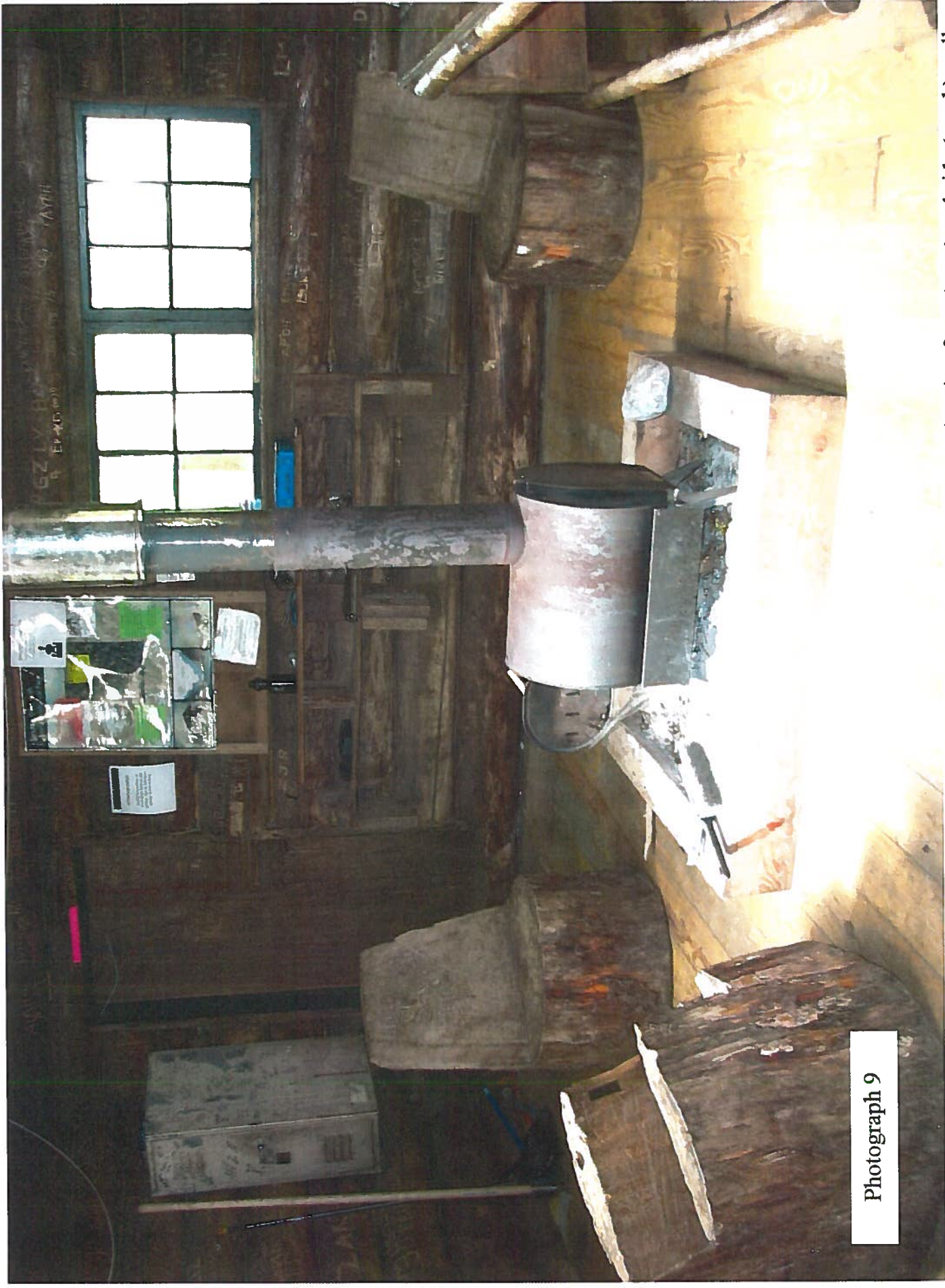
Photograph 7

Canyon City State Cabin, Mile 7.5, Chilkoot Trail, Cabin foundation. Susannah Dowds, Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park, Site Visit, June, 2017.



Photograph 8

Canyon City State Cabin, Mile 7.5, Chilkoot Trail, Interior view from southwest corner showing side (north) and back (east) walls, stovepipe of central warming stove, bunks, graffiti, clothesline for drying hiking gear, skylight, ridge log and two purlins. Susannah Dowds, Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park, Site Visit, June, 2017.



Photograph 9

Canyon City State Cabin, Mile 7.5, Chilkoot Trail, Interior view from northeast corner showing front (west) and side (south) walls, central warming stove, chairs, storage locker, bulletin board, graffiti, and clothesline for drying hiking gear. Susannah Dowds, Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park, Site Visit, June, 2017.



Photograph 10

Canyon City State Cabin, Mile 7.5, Chilkoot Trail, Interior, close-up view of carved graffiti. Susannah Dowds, Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park, Site Visit, June, 2017.



Photograph 11

Canyon City State Cabin, Mile 7.5, Chilkoot Trail, Interior view of clothesline and graffiti on purlines, dating as early as 1989. Susannah Dowds, Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park, Site Visit, June, 2017.



Photograph 12

Canyon City State Cabin, Mile 7.5, Chilkoot Trail, Interior view of ceiling taken from the back (east) wall, shows top of west wall, ridge log and purlins, beams, skylight, metal louvered opening, clothesline and top of support for bunks.

Susannah Dowds, Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park, Site Visit, June, 2017.

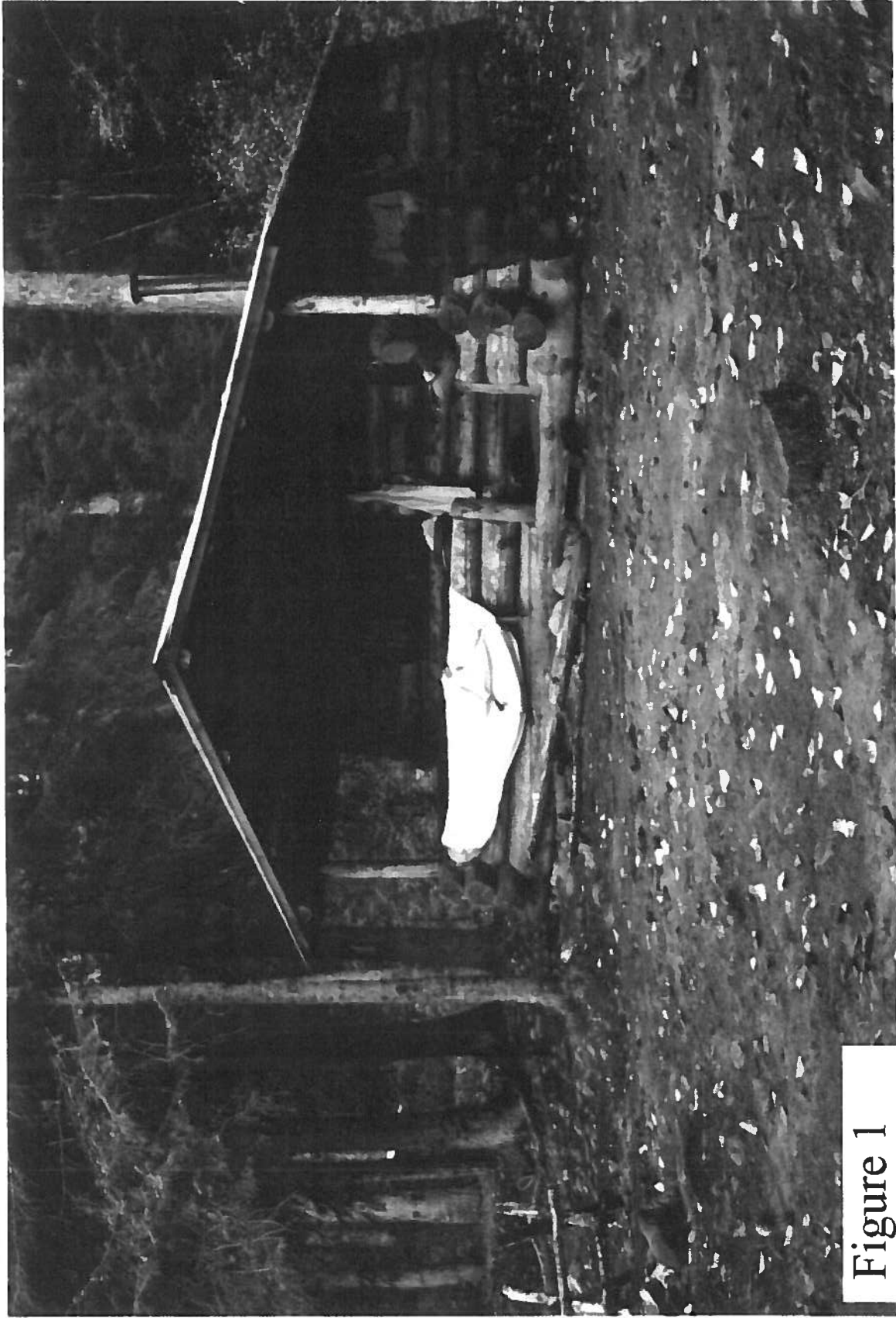


Figure 1

Canyon City State Cabin, Mile 7.5, Chilkoot Trail, west (front) façade, view looking east.
Unknown photographer, NPS 1977 (NPS, KLGO, Administration Maintenance File, 02.06.338.46666).



Figure 2

Canyon City State Cabin, Mile 7.5, Chilkoot Trail, west (front) and south (side) façades, view looking southeast. Unknown photographer, NPS c.1970 (NPS, KLGO Library, D-1970-CC-7-5418).



Figure 3

Canyon City State Cabin, Mile 7.5, Chilkoot Trail, West (front) and south (side) façades, view looking northeast. Unknown photographer, NPS 1985 (NPS, KLGO, Administration Maintenance File, 02.06.338.43882).



Figure 4

Canyon City State Cabin, Mile 7.5, Chilkoot Trail, Canyon City State Cabin, west (front) and south (side) façades, view looking northeast. Unknown photographer, NPS 1992 (NPS, KLGO, Administration Maintenance File, 02.06.405.47564).

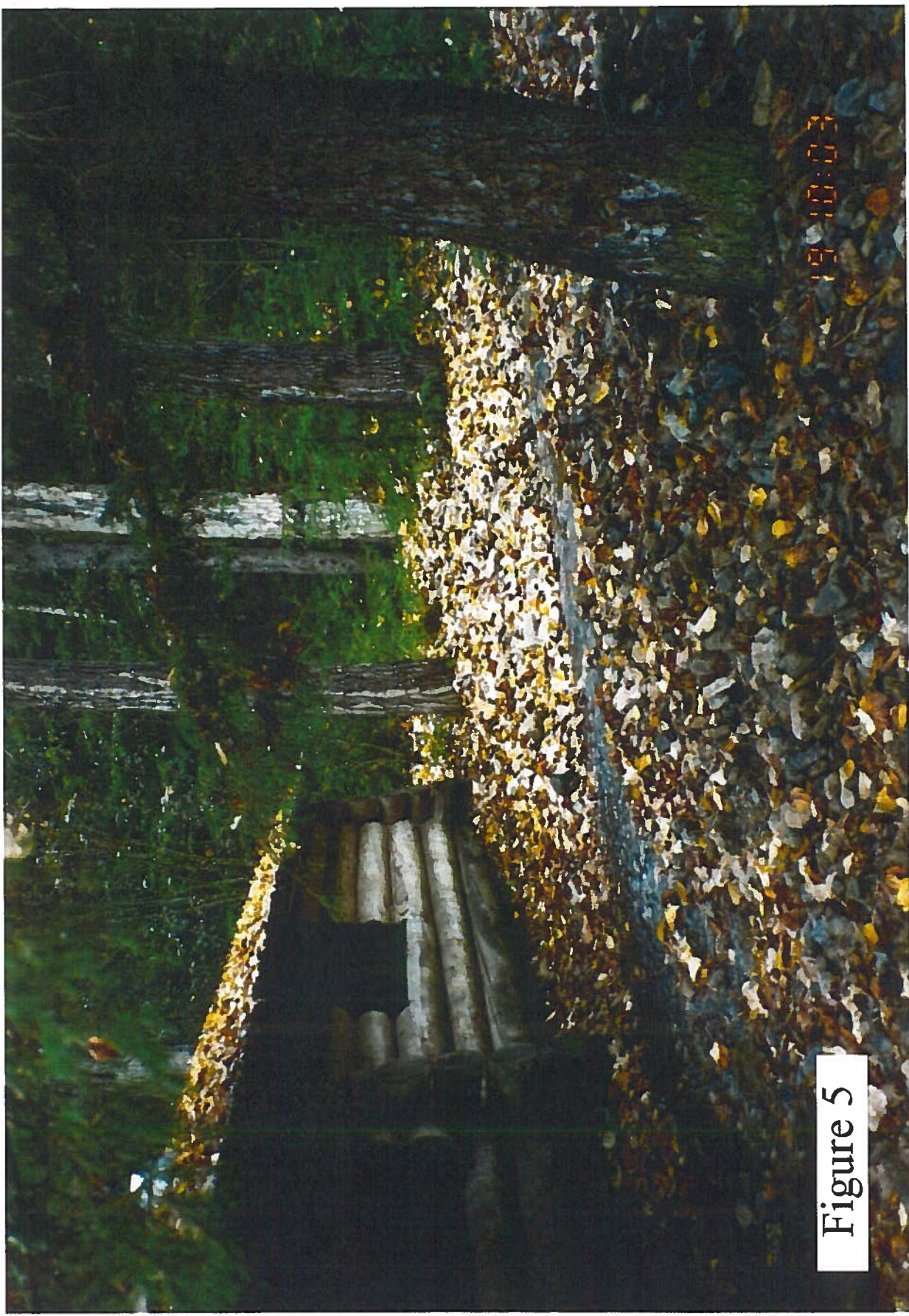


Figure 5

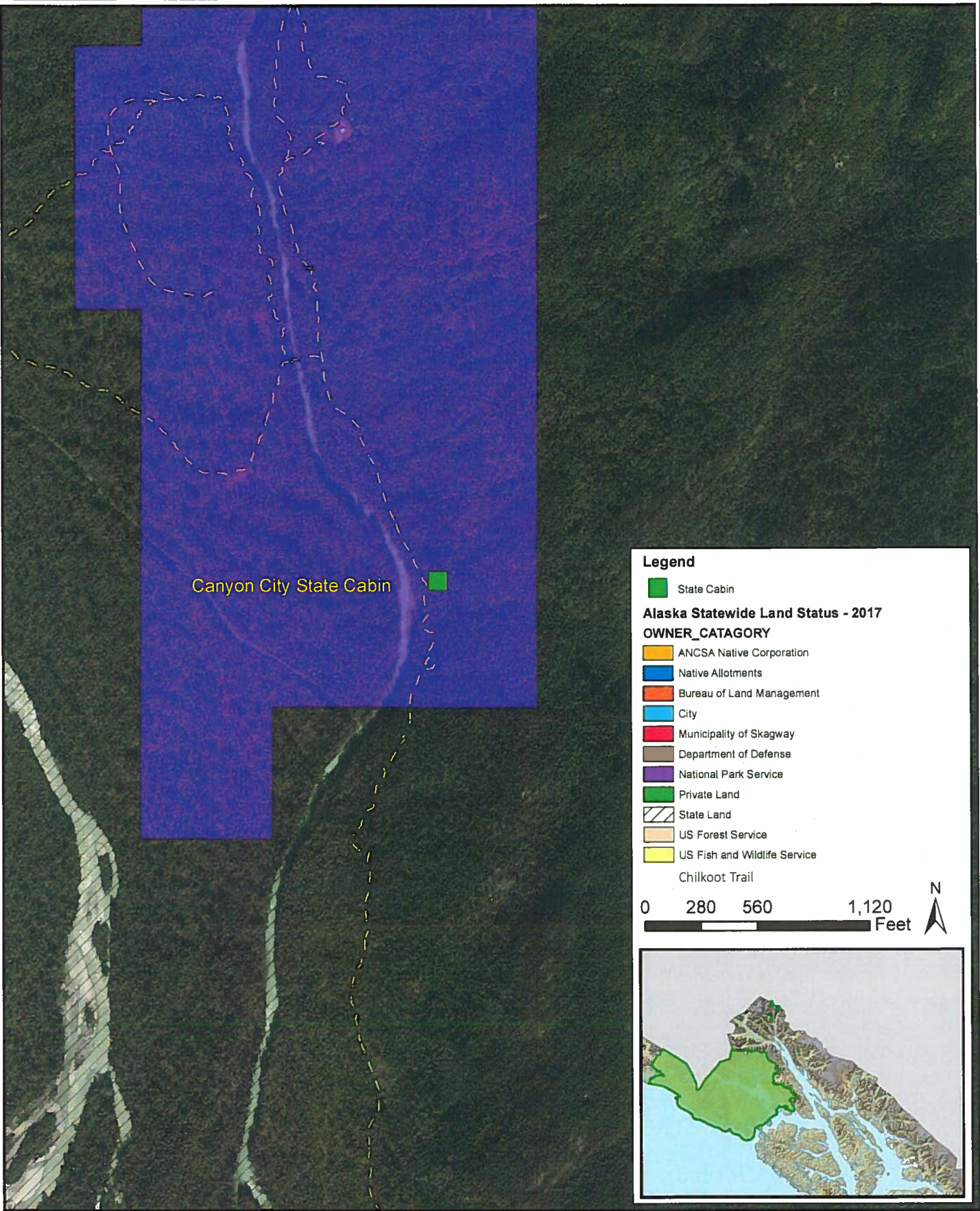
Canyon City State Cabin, Mile 7.5, Chilkoot Trail, Canyon City State Cabin, view looking north, shows flooding along southeast corner and part of south wall.

Unknown photographer, NPS 1993 (NPS, KLGGO, Administration Maintenance File, 02.06.405.47564).

Canyon City State Cabin

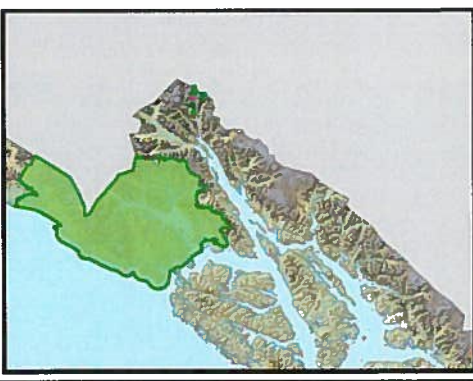
Chilkoot Trail Location

Alaska Region
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Legend

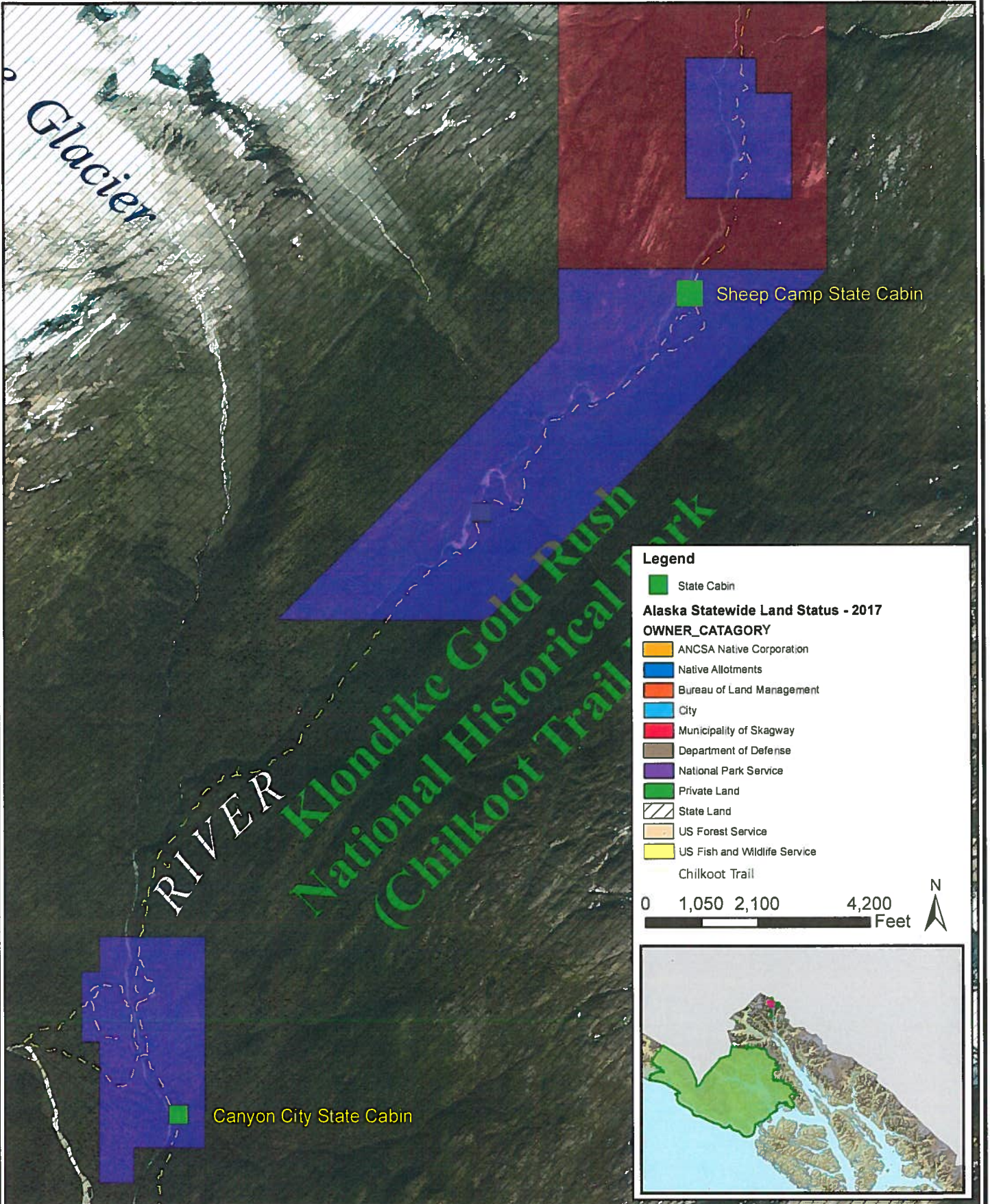
- State Cabin
- Alaska Statewide Land Status - 2017**
- OWNER_CATAGORY**
- ANCSA Native Corporation
- Native Allotments
- Bureau of Land Management
- City
- Municipality of Skagway
- Department of Defense
- National Park Service
- Private Land
- State Land
- US Forest Service
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- Chilkoot Trail



State Cabins

Chilkoot Trail Location

Alaska Region
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Legend

- State Cabin

Alaska Statewide Land Status - 2017

OWNER_CATAGORY

- ANCSA Native Corporation
- Native Allotments
- Bureau of Land Management
- City
- Municipality of Skagway
- Department of Defense
- National Park Service
- Private Land
- State Land
- US Forest Service
- US Fish and Wildlife Service

Chilkoot Trail

0 1,050 2,100 4,200 Feet

N

