
National Park Service
Cultural Landscapes Inventory
2002



Coal Creek Historic Mining District
Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve

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Executive Summary

General Introduction to the CLI

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI) is a comprehensive inventory of all historically significant landscapes within the National Park System. This evaluated inventory identifies and documents each landscape's location, physical development, significance, National Register of Historic Places eligibility, condition, as well as other valuable information for park management. Inventoried landscapes are listed on, or eligible for, the National Register of Historic Places, or otherwise treated as cultural resources. To automate the inventory, the Cultural Landscapes Automated Inventory Management System (CLAIMS) database was created in 1996. CLAIMS provides an analytical tool for querying information associated with the CLI.

The CLI, like the List of Classified Structures (LCS), assists the National Park Service (NPS) in its efforts to fulfill the identification and management requirements associated with Section 110(a) of the National Historic Preservation Act, NPS Management Policies (2001), and Director's Order #28: Cultural Resource Management (1998). Since launching the CLI nationwide, the NPS, in response to the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA), is required to report on an annual performance plan that is tied to 6-year strategic plan. The NPS strategic plan has two goals related to cultural landscapes: condition (1a7) and progress on the CLI (1b2b). Because the CLI is the baseline of cultural landscapes in the National Park System, it serves as the vehicle for tracking these goals.

For these reasons, the Park Cultural Landscapes Program considers the completion of the CLI to be a servicewide priority. The information in the CLI is useful at all levels of the park service. At the national and regional levels it is used to inform planning efforts and budget decisions. At the park level, the CLI assists managers to plan, program, and prioritize funds. It is a record of cultural landscape treatment and management decisions and the physical narrative may be used to enhance interpretation programs.

Implementation of the CLI is coordinated on the Region/Support Office level. Each Region/Support Office creates a priority list for CLI work based on park planning needs, proposed development projects, lack of landscape documentation (which adversely affects the preservation or management of the resource), baseline information needs and Region/Support office priorities. This list is updated annually to respond to changing needs and priorities. Completed CLI records are uploaded at the end of the fiscal year to the National Center for Cultural Resources, Park Cultural Landscapes Program in Washington, DC. Only data officially entered into the National Center's CLI database is considered "certified data" for GPRA reporting.

The CLI is completed in a multi-level process with each level corresponding to a specific degree of effort and detail. From Level 0: Park Reconnaissance Survey through Level II: Landscape Analysis and Evaluation, additional information is collected, prior information is refined, and decisions are made regarding if and how to proceed. The relationship between Level 0, I, and II is direct and the CLI for a landscape or component landscape inventory unit is not considered finished until Level II is complete.

A number of steps are involved in completing a Level II inventory record. The process begins when the CLI team meets with park management and staff to clarify the purpose of the CLI and is followed by historical research, documentation, and fieldwork. Information is derived from two efforts: secondary sources that are usually available in the park's or regions' files, libraries, and archives and on-site landscape investigation(s). This information is entered into CLI database as text or graphics. A park

report is generated from the database and becomes the vehicle for consultation with the park and the SHPO/TPO.

Level III: Feature Inventory and Assessment is a distinct inventory level in the CLI and is optional. This level provides an opportunity to inventory and evaluate important landscape features identified at Level II as contributing to the significance of a landscape or component landscape, not listed on the LCS. This level allows for an individual landscape feature to be assessed and the costs associated with treatment recorded.

The ultimate goal of the Park Cultural Landscapes Program is a complete inventory of landscapes, component landscapes, and where appropriate, associated landscape features in the National Park System. The end result, when combined with the LCS, will be an inventory of all physical aspects of any given property.

Relationship between the CLI and a CLR

While there are some similarities, the CLI Level II is not the same as a Cultural Landscape Report (CLR). Using secondary sources, the CLI Level II provides information to establish historic significance by determining whether there are sufficient extant features to convey the property's historic appearance and function. The CLI includes the preliminary identification and analysis to define contributing features, but does not provide the more definitive detail contained within a CLR, which involves more in-depth research, using primary rather than secondary source material.

The CLR is a treatment document and presents recommendations on how to preserve, restore, or rehabilitate the significant landscape and its contributing features based on historical documentation, analysis of existing conditions, and the Secretary of the Interior's standards and guidelines as they apply to the treatment of historic landscapes. The CLI, on the other hand, records impacts to the landscape and condition (good, fair, poor) in consultation with park management. Stabilization costs associated with mitigating impacts may be recorded in the CLI and therefore the CLI may advise on simple and appropriate stabilization measures associated with these costs if that information is not provided elsewhere.

When the park decides to manage and treat an identified cultural landscape, a CLR may be necessary to work through the treatment options and set priorities. A historical landscape architect can assist the park in deciding the appropriate scope of work and an approach for accomplishing the CLR. When minor actions are necessary, a CLI Level II park report may provide sufficient documentation to support the Section 106 compliance process.

Park Information

Park Name: Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve
Administrative Unit: Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve
Park Organization Code: 9870
Park Alpha Code: YUCH

Property Level And CLI Number

Property Level: Landscape
Name: Coal Creek Historic Mining District
CLI Identification Number: 100086
Parent Landscape CLI ID Number: 100086

Inventory Summary

Inventory Level: Level II

Completion Status:

Level 0

Date Data Collected - Level 0: 9/3/1999
Level 0 Recorder: T. Horton
Date Level 0 Entered: 9/3/1999
Level 0 Data Entry Recorder: T. Horton
Level 0 Site Visit: No

Level I

Date Level I Data Collected: 3/5/2002
Level I Data Collection: M. Curran
Date Level I Entered: 3/5/2002
Level I Data Entry Recorder: M. Curran
Level I Site Visit: No

Level II

Date Level II Data Collected: 7/30/2002
Level II Data Collection: M. Curran
Date Level II Entered: 7/30/2002
Level II Data Entry Recorder: M. Curran
Level II Site Visit: Yes

Explanatory Narrative:

Park concurrence received 8/22/2002. CLI under SHPO review 8/27/2003.

Landscape Description

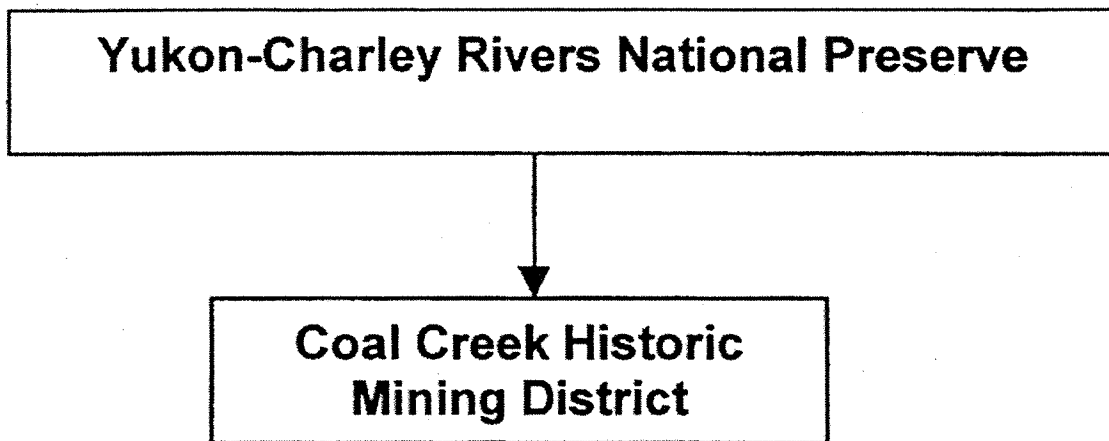
The Coal Creek Historic Mining District currently consists of buildings and structures including the dredge, water system, tailing piles, an airstrip, a historic road, and numerous artifacts from the period of the mining occupation. Between 1935-1936, miners constructed buildings on skids to facilitate the relocation of the camp as the dredge worked Coal Creek. The first camp, located about 3 miles upstream from the current camp location (Camp No. 3), no longer exists being dredged over by 1942. Camp No. 2, located approximately one and one-half miles downstream from Camp No. 1 and opposite the mouth of Boulder Creek (on the west side of the valley), existed until 1952 (also dredged over). At that time, miners moved most of the buildings to the present site on Beaton Pup Creek (Camp No. 3), about five miles above the confluence of Coal Creek with the Yukon River. For the most part, the buildings at the present-day camp date to the original 1935 camp, although miners moved some of the historic buildings to Woodchopper Creek in 1957 when mining operations temporarily ceased on Coal Creek. Circulation at the site includes an airstrip, a historic camp road located along the west slope of the drainage, and an unimproved gravel road located at the bottom of the drainage. (CC Mngt. Guide, 2002, p. 1-2)

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places on May 4, 1995, the Coal Creek Historic Mining District is part of a national preserve under NPS stewardship. The 1987 Coal Creek Mining Camp Historic District Guide for Management recommended the rehabilitation of the roadhouse and camp buildings for visitor and park use. Since 1987, the NPS completed a number of rehabilitation projects including Slaven's Roadhouse and most of the historic buildings at Coal Creek Camp. NPS has also mitigated mercury contamination, installed water and electrical systems at Coal Creek Camp, and constructed a public use cabin near Slaven's Roadhouse on the Yukon River. These maintenance, preservation, and construction projects have transformed the structures in the Coal Creek area into a functional facility for visitor and staff use. (CC Mngt. Guide, 2002, p. 2)

Contributing resources include 38 buildings (including Slaven Roadhouse and outbuildings, and Cheese Creek buildings), the camp tailings, the historic road (upper road), the Slaven Dome structures, and the dredge, all listed on LCS (List of Classified Structures). Other features in the landscape contribute to the site's historical significance, including the hydraulic ditch and the remnant of the upper penstock, along with a number of small scale features such as the locomotive boiler, Ingersoll-Rand compressor, gold saver, drill press, panner's bench, Keystone drill, and casing sled. Numerous historic artifacts, including the pipe yard, occur throughout the site, but have not been archeologically mapped at this time. Six buildings in the historic district are non-contributing. (LCS-Listings: 2003). The airstrip is a non-contributing structure. The status of the lower road has not been determined, pending further historical investigation.

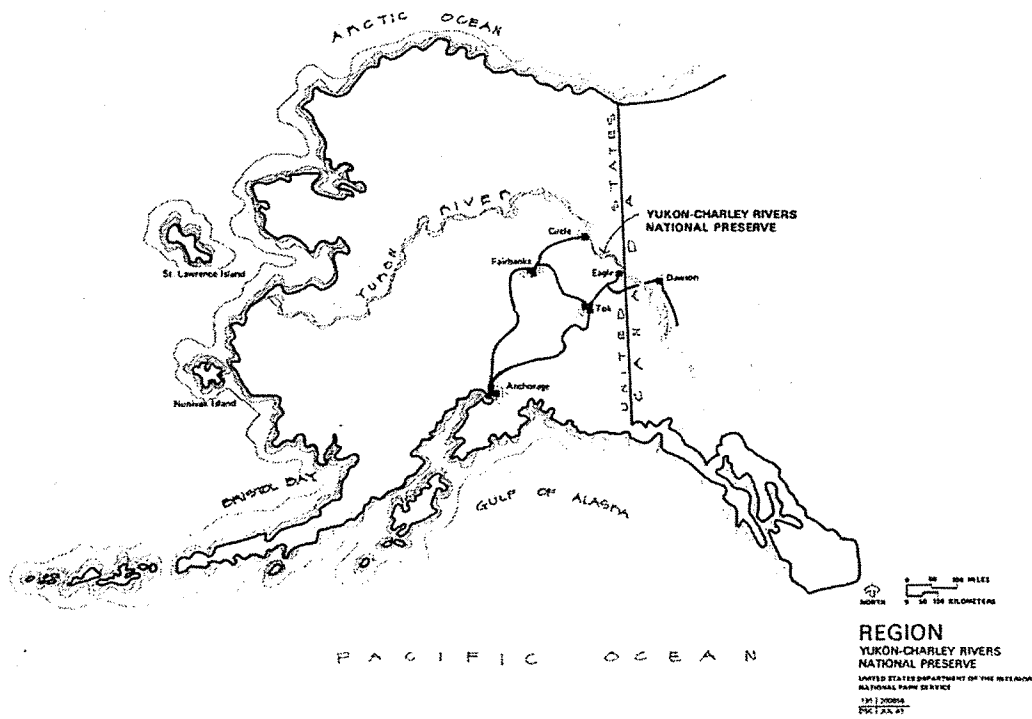
Cultural Landscapes Inventory Hierarchy Description

The Coal Creek Historic Mining District is a Landscape identified through the cultural landscape inventory process. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places May 4, 1995, the Coal Creek Historic Mining District is one of four Landscapes within the Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve. Other Landscapes include the 4th of July Creek Historic Mining District, the Ben/Sam Creek Historic Mining District, and the Yukon River Historic Corridor.



Coal Creek Historic Mining District is a Landscape within the Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve.

Location Map



The Coal Creek Historic Mining District is located within the Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve, Alaska.

Boundary Description

Beginning at the northeast corner of old Coal Creek Right Limit Hydraulic Claim 2 on the south bank of the Yukon River (1); thence running in a southeasterly direction 2.115 miles to the northeast corner of old Coal Creek Right Limit Hydraulic Association Claim 3 (2); thence southwest 1.823 miles to the southeast corner of old Coal Creek Right Limit Hydraulic Limit Association Claim (3); thence southwest 2.843 miles to the northeast corner of old Slaven Right Limit Association Claim (4); thence in a generally westerly direction 2.064 miles to the southeast corner of old 22 Below Upper Discovery Claim (5); thence north .243 miles to the northeast corner of 22 Below Discovery Claim (6); thence in a generally easterly direction .849 miles to the northwest corner of old Slaven Discovery Association (7); thence northwest 2.991 miles to the juncture of Snare Creek and Coal Creek-Woodchopper Road (8); thence in northeasterly direction 2.688 miles to approximately one-quarter mile west of the juncture of Pendergast Pup and Coal Creek-Woodchopper Road (9); thence 1.327 miles north (to include the Coal Creek-Woodchopper Road) passing the bench mark VABM 704 to the south bank of the Yukon River low water line (10); thence east following the Yukon River low water line .5 miles and closing at the northeast corner of old Coal Creek Right Limit Hydraulic Association Claim 2 (1) (which includes the mouth of Coal Creek). The boundary includes all land claimed and mined by Gold Placers, Inc. from 1933-1964, as well as supporting buildings, the road for the mining operations, and features such as tailing piles and the ditch structure along Coal Creek. (NR, 20)

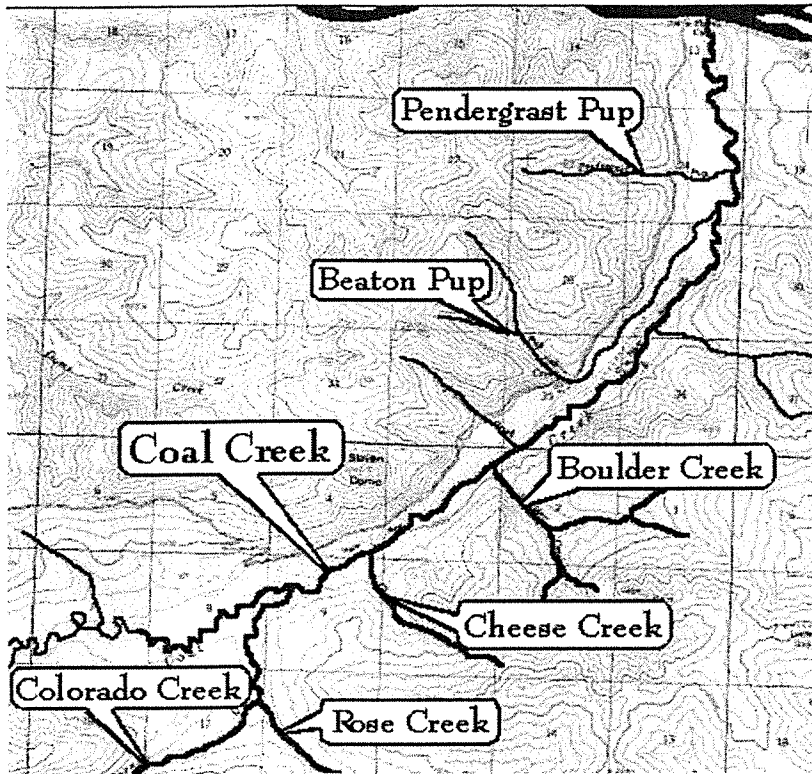
Regional Context

Physiographic Context

The Yukon River originates in the coastal mountains of Canada and flows 2,300 miles in a wide arc to the Bering Sea. About midway it flows through the Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve for 128 miles. As the river enters the preserve near Eagle it flows across a narrow floodplain flanked by high bluffs and heavily forested hills. The bluffs become less prominent as the river leaves the preserve near Circle and enters the Yukon Flats. The major tributaries of the Yukon within the preserve are the Nation and Kandik Rivers, and the Charley River which originates at about the 4,000-foot elevation and flows 106 miles north to its mouth on the Yukon. Composed of low, rounded benches and ridges trending southwest to northeast, the valley region rises noticeably at the Tintina Fault giving way to the mountainous region of the Yukon-Tanana uplands. (GMP, 22, 16)

The Tintina Fault divides the preserve into two distinct geologic districts with the fault zone running parallel to and 6-12 miles south of the Yukon River. North of the fault lies a significant geologic and paleontologic zone comprised of a sequence of unmetamorphosed sediments. These rocks provide an intact record of geologic events during a 620-million-year time span supporting the plate tectonics and continental margin theories concerning the formation and movement of continental masses. Of the three glacial advances that covered most of the mountainous areas of Alaska, only the second and third had any effect on the preserve, with less than 5 percent of the area ever glaciated. As a result, the lack of glaciation accounts for the completeness of the paleontologic record and the diversity of vegetation in the preserve. The primary economic mineral produced from the Yukon-Charley region is placer gold. Within the preserve, the most significant gold discoveries occurred in north-trending drainages that originated in the vicinity of the Tintina Fault. (GMP, 15-16)

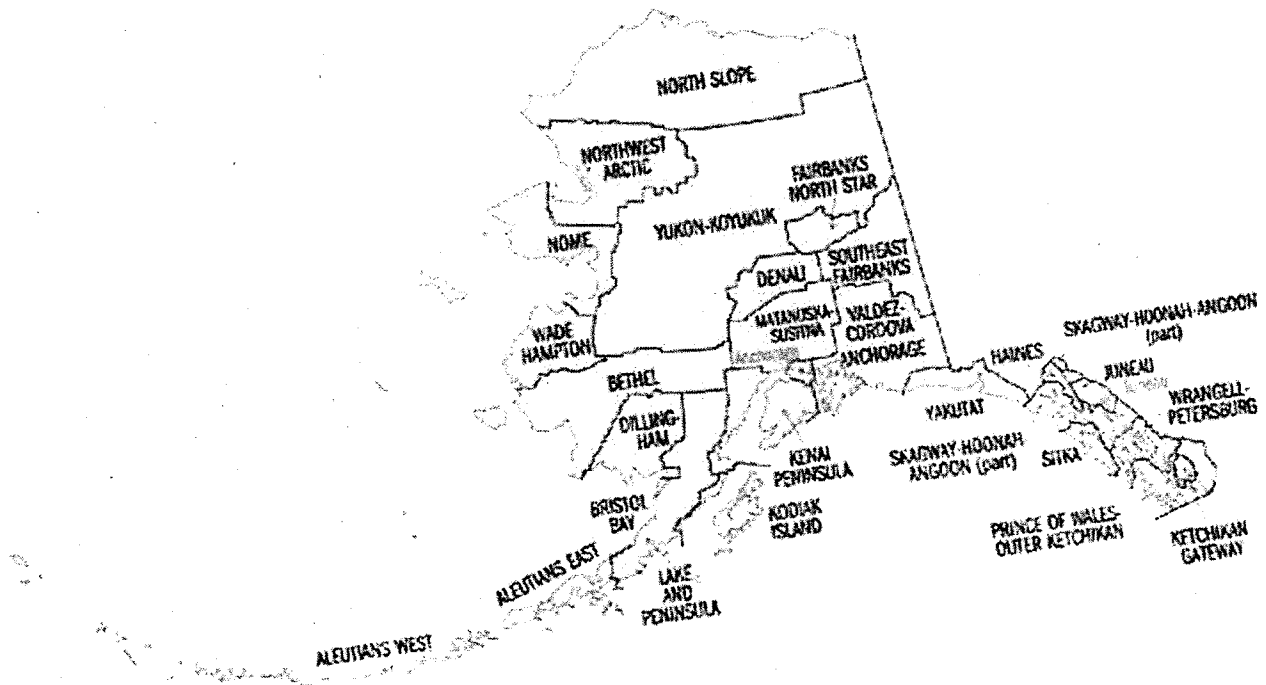
Dall's sheep, moose, caribou, grizzly and black bear, wolves, and numerous small animals exist in the preserve. The bird population primarily consists of migratory waterfowl, raptors, and gallinaceous birds. During spawning large numbers of salmon run the rivers and tributaries in the preserve.



Contour map of the Coal Creek Drainage in the Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve.

Political Context

The Coal Creek Historic Mining District lies within the Yukon-Koyukon U.S. Census Division of Alaska. Nearby communities include Eagle (population 150), Eagle Village, Circle, and Central. Fairbanks, the nearest city and approximately a one-hour flight from Coal Creek, has a population of about 30,000.



The Coal Creek Historic Mining District lies within the Yukon-Koyukon U.S. Census Division in Alaska.

Cultural Context

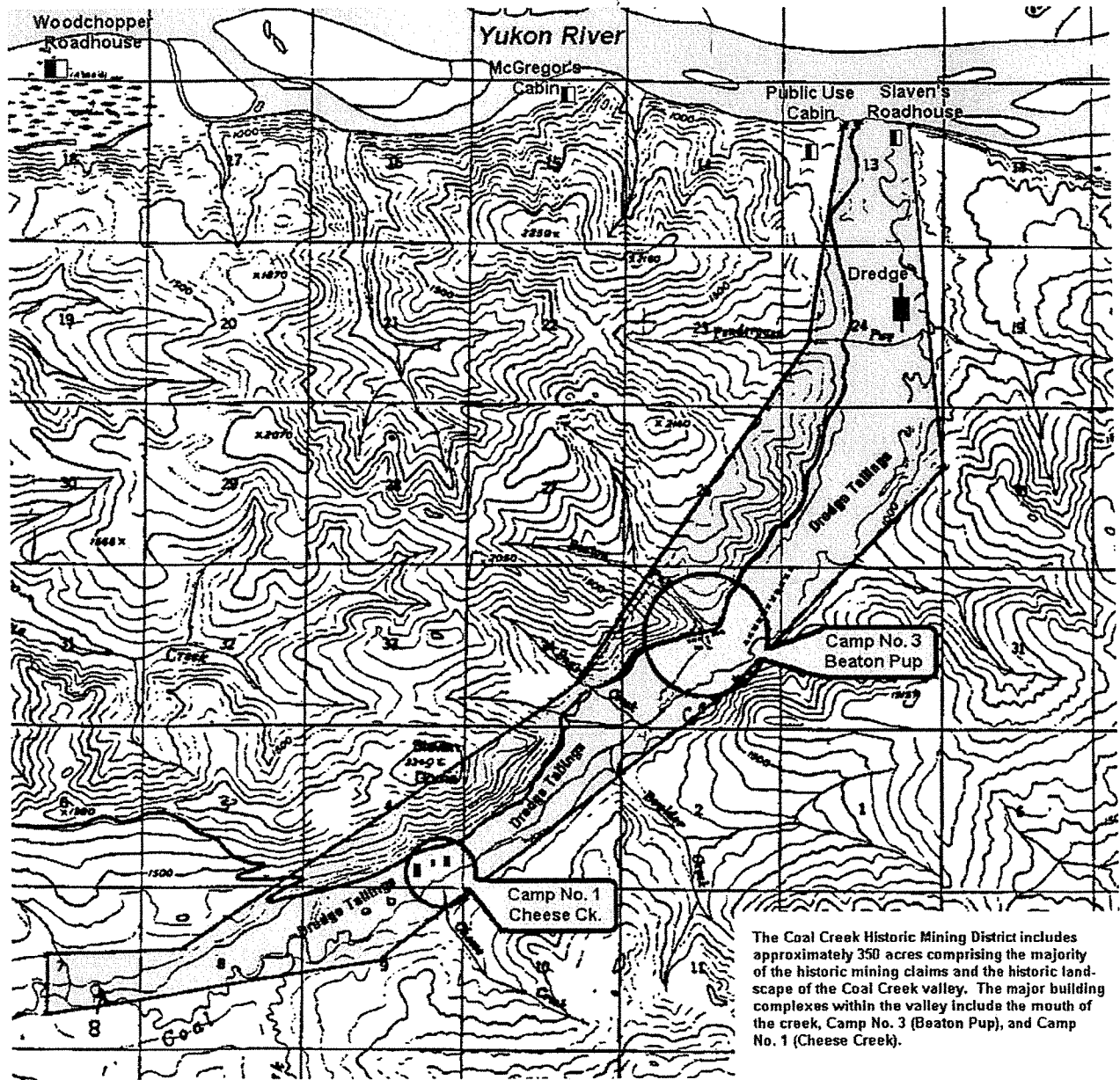
Earliest cultural activity in the area involved subsistence use by the Han Athabaskan numbering about 500 in population. Although no villages occur within the Coal Creek Historic Mining District, the entire area was utilized for subsistence purposes.

In 1986 when Coal Creek Mining Properties ceased operations, the company donated the land to the National Park Service. Part of the Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve, the Coal Creek Historic Mining District was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1995.

With the discovery of gold in the 1890s, miners began moving into the area. In the Coal Creek area several World War I veterans and others established small gold placer mining claims beginning in 1901. One of the miners, Frank Slaven opened a roadhouse at the confluence of Coal Creek and the Yukon River where riverboats and barges landed bringing supplies to the region. By the early 1930s, Gold Placers, Inc. purchased most of the small claims and began large-scale dredge mining operations on Coal Creek in 1936. The work crews consisted of local miners and trappers, residents from the communities of Circle, Central, Eagle Village, and Eagle, and a number of Han Athabaskan who resided in the area. Many of these men ran trap-lines and engaged in subsistence hunting during the winter months when the gold mining operations closed for the season.

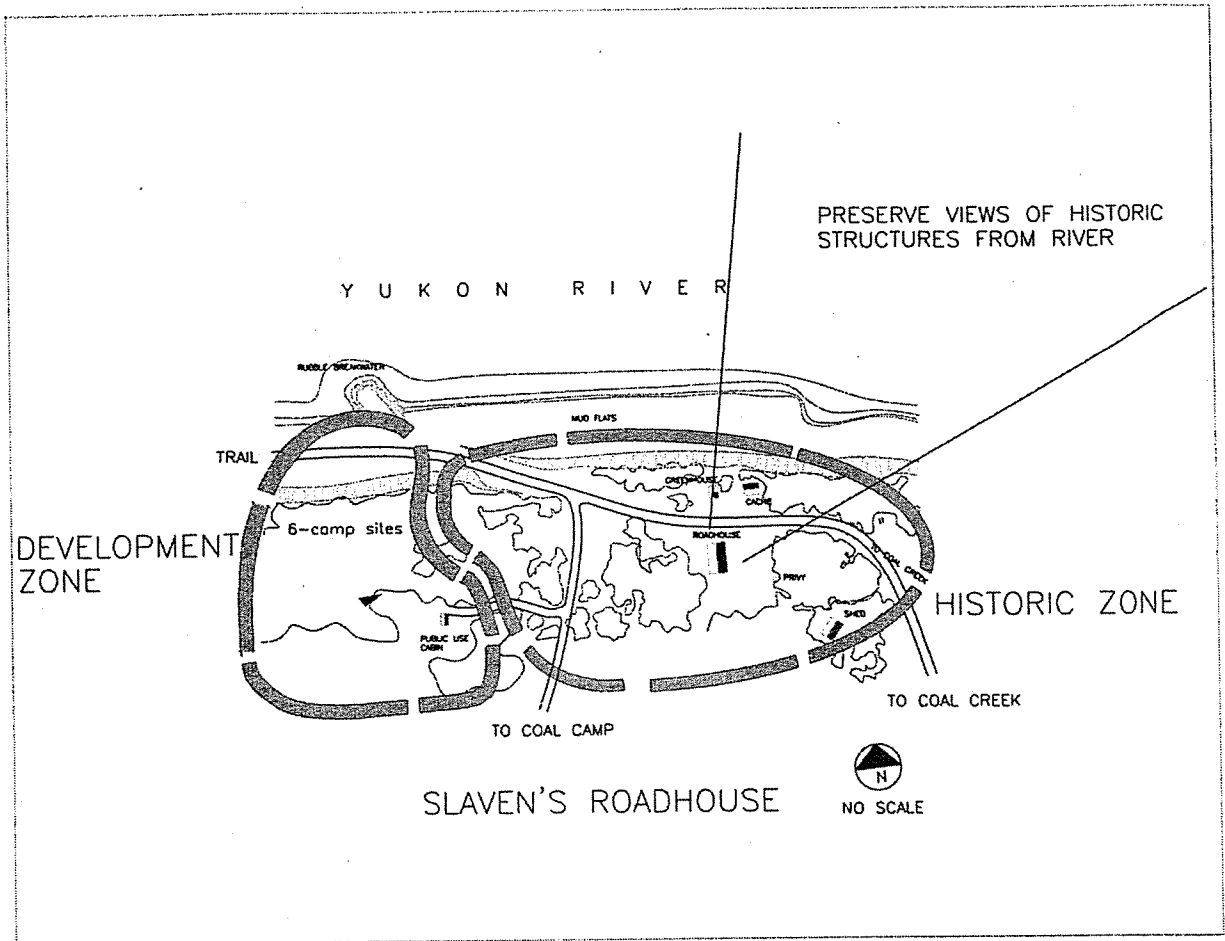
Site Plan

Coal Creek Historic Mining District in the Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve, Alaska.

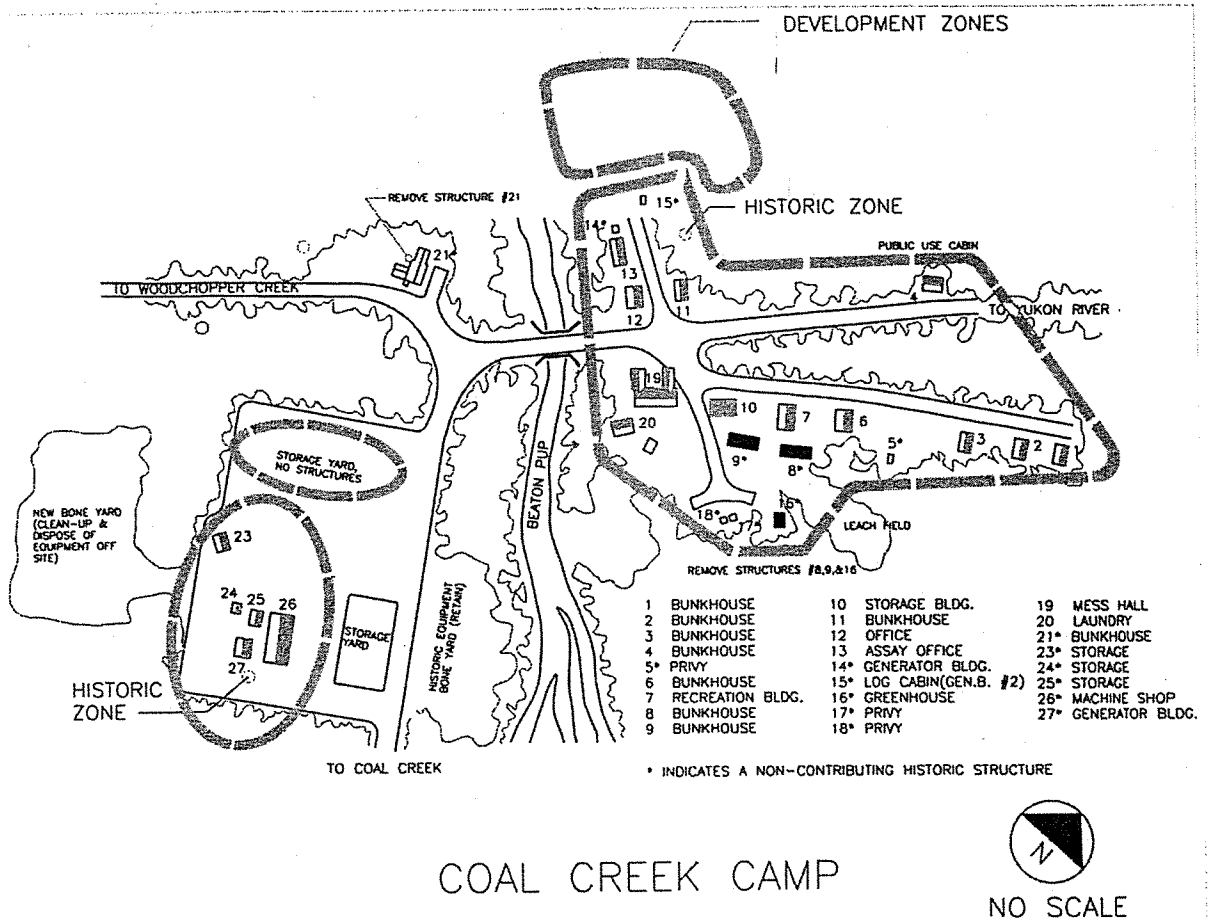


The Coal Creek Historic Mining District includes approximately 350 acres comprising the majority of the historic mining claims and the historic landscape of the Coal Creek valley. The major building complexes within the valley include the mouth of the creek, Camp No. 3 (Beaton Pup), and Camp No. 1 (Cheese Creek).

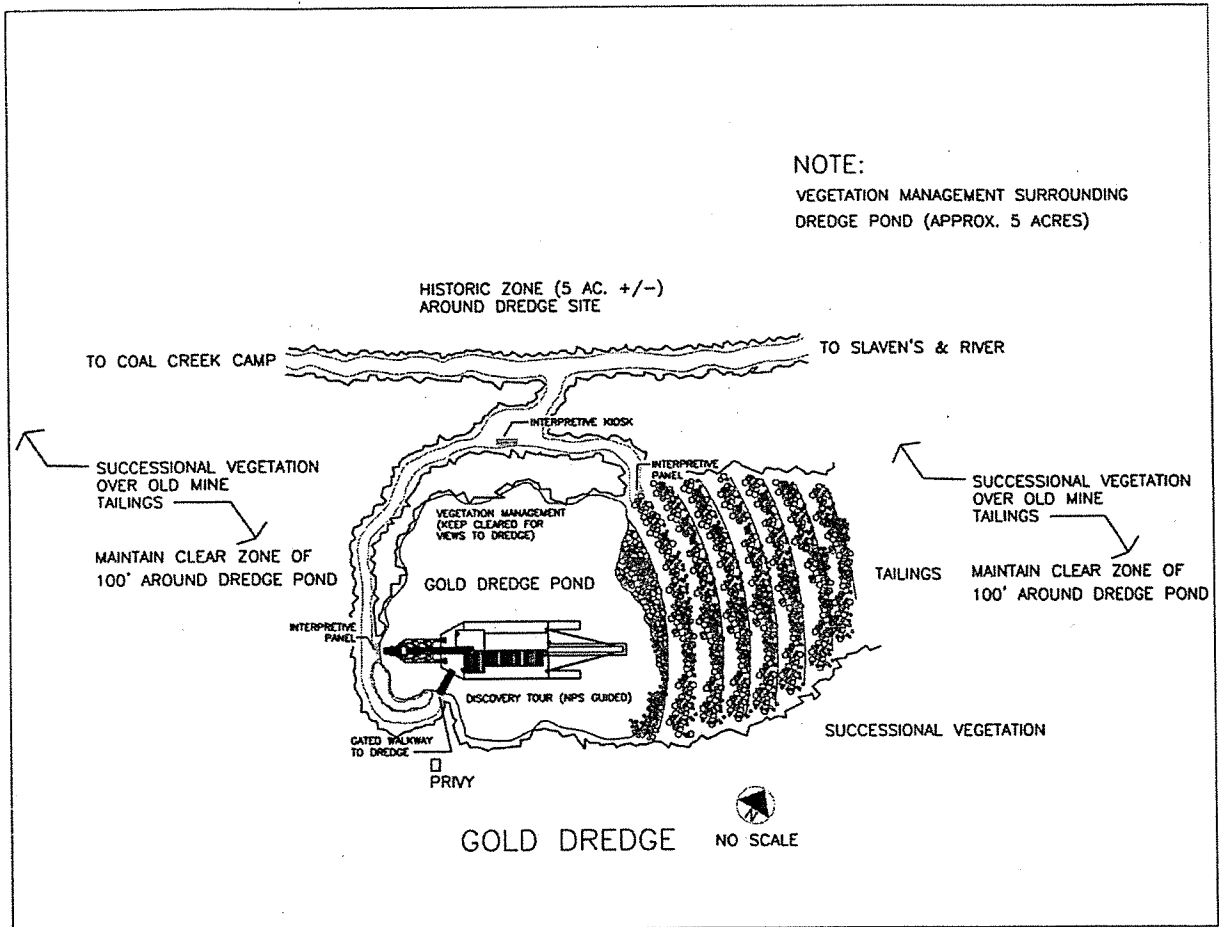
Site plan for Slaven's Roadhouse in the Coal Creek Historic Mining District, Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve.



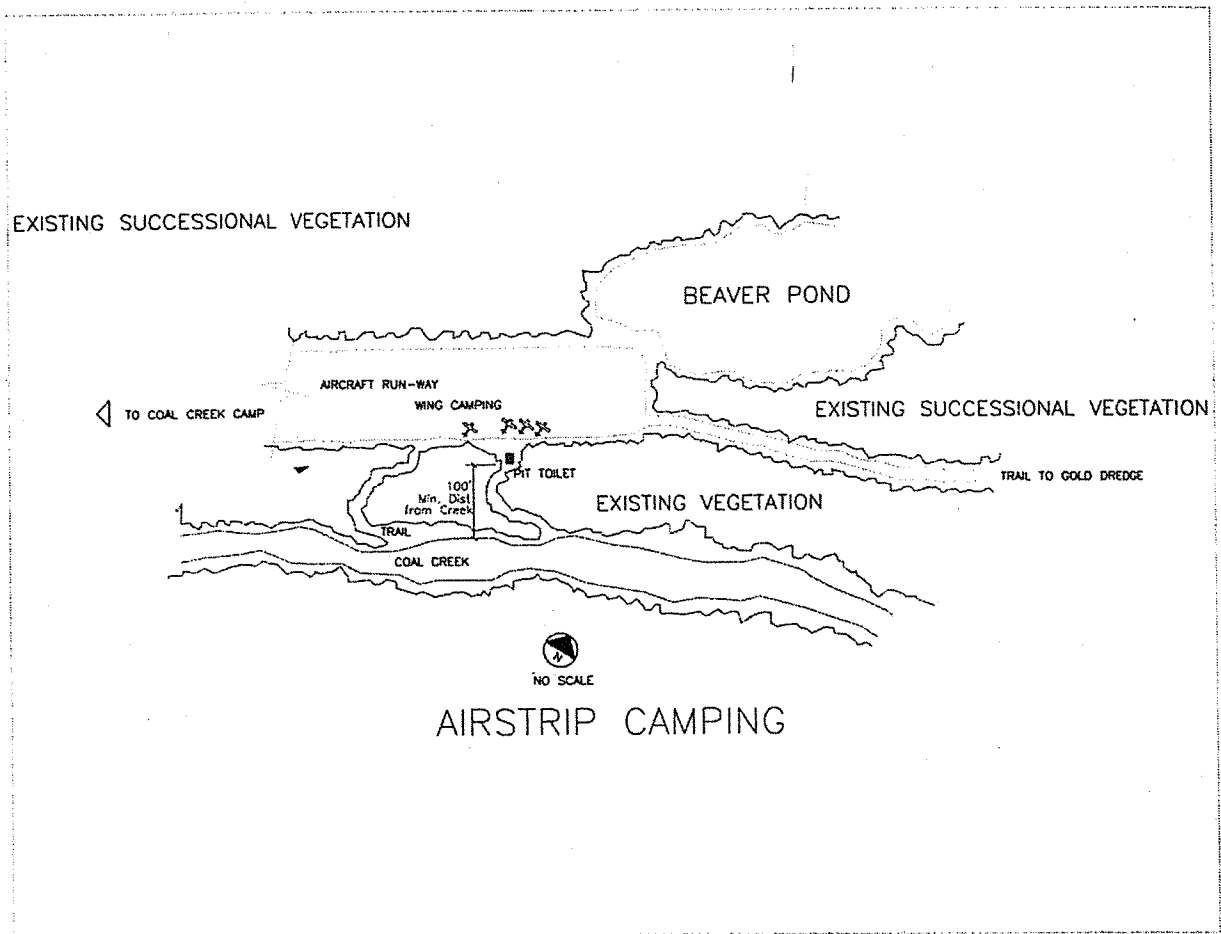
Site plan for Coal Creek Camp in the Coal Creek Historic Mining District, Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve, Alaska. Note: Generator Building No. 14 is contributing.



Site plan for the gold dredge in the Coal Creek Historic Mining District, Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve, Alaska.



Site plan for the historic airstrip in the Coal Creek Historic Mining District, Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve, Alaska. Pit toilet is not correct in this graphic—it is located on the side of the airstrip away from Coal Creek.



Chronology

| Year | Event | Description |
|-------------------|------------------|---|
| 4000 BC - 1900 AD | Farmed/Harvested | Han Athabaskan seasonal camps for fishing, hunting, fur trapping. |
| 1901 AD | Land Transfer | Mark E. Bray filed a bill of sale for 160 acres of coal mining ground in Coal Creek drainage. |
| 1901 AD | Land Transfer | Daniel T. Noonan filed the first placer mining claim on Coal Creek. |
| 1911 AD | Inhabited | U.S. census listed 16 people living at Coal Creek. |
| 1911 AD | Mined | U.S.G.S. report stated the first discovery of gold occurred on Coal Creek. |
| 1912 AD | Inhabited | U.S.G.S. reported 10-20 men engaged in mining/prospecting in Coal Creek drainage. |
| 1932 AD | Built | Frank Slaven constructed a two-story, wood-frame roadhouse at the confluence of Coal Creek and the Yukon River. |
| 1934 AD | Established | A.D. McRae, Ernest Patty, and several others established Gold Placers Inc. with the intention of dredge mining in the Coal Creek drainage. |
| 1934 - 1935 AD | Land Transfer | Frank Slaven and other small claim owners sold claims to Gold Placers Inc. |
| 1935 AD | Built | Gold Placers Inc. built a spur road from Coal Creek to Ben Creek. |
| 1935 AD | Built | Gold Placers Inc. dug a two-mile long ditch to deliver water to the penstock for stripping and thawing operations. |
| 1935 - 1940 AD | Built | Gold Placers Inc. constructed buildings for mining camp, including mess hall, laundry, recreation, office, bunkhouses, machine shop, garage, and blacksmith shop at Cheese Creek (Camp No. 1) |

| | | |
|----------------|--------------------|--|
| 1935 AD | Mined | Steam thawing methods replaced by water thawing method in preparation for dredge mining the following season. |
| 1936 - 1939 AD | Built | Alaska Road Commission (ARC) and Gold Placers Inc. construct road portions from Slaven's Roadhouse to Woodchopper Creek. |
| 1936 AD | Built | Dredge parts shipped from San Francisco, California to Slaven's landing, reassembled April-June. |
| 1936 AD | Mined | Dredge began operation July 1. First clean-up July 29. |
| 1936 AD | Built | Gold Placers Inc. constructed a second penstock to separate flow of water for stripping and thawing. |
| 1936 AD | Established | Patty and fellow owners of Gold Placers Inc. established sister company, Alluvial Golds Inc. to operate a dredge on Woodchopper Creek. |
| 1941 AD | Military Operation | World War II began. |
| 1941 - 1942 AD | Moved | Gold Placers Inc. moved the mining camp from Cheese Creek to a site opposite Coal Creek's confluence with Boulder Creek (Camp No. 2) |
| 1943 - 1944 AD | Abandoned | Mining operations ceased because of war restrictions. |
| 1945 AD | Mined | Mining operations resumed on Coal Creek. |
| 1947 AD | Developed | Gold Placers Inc. developed a natural thawing process eliminating the need for hydraulic thawing. |
| 1947 AD | Built | Coal Creek crew built a dam 300 feet downstream from the dredge to flood area for thawing purposes. |
| 1949 AD | Altered | Coal Creek diverted from its channel to facilitate natural thawing method. |

| | | |
|----------------|----------------|---|
| 1949 AD | Established | Ernest Patty made decision to mine Coal Creek and Woodchopper Creek alternate years. |
| 1950 AD | Destroyed | Machine shop at Cheese Creek destroyed by fire. |
| 1951 AD | Built | Gold Placers Inc. purchased a Butler building installing it near Beaton Pup establishing a new machine shop area. |
| 1951 - 1952 AD | Moved | Buildings dismantled at the end of 1951 season and moved to Camp No. 3 on Beaton Pup the following season. |
| 1952 - 1953 AD | Abandoned | Dredge operation idle at Coal Creek. |
| 1952 - 1953 AD | Destroyed | Severe flooding breached one of the dams at Coal Creek. |
| 1952 - 1953 AD | Built | Coal Creek crews built five additional dams across the valley downstream from the dredge for thawing purposes. |
| 1952 - 1954 AD | Rehabilitated | Buildings at Camp No. 3 improved and rehabilitated at cost of \$1800.00. |
| 1953 AD | Established | Ernest Patty resigned, became President of University of Alaska, Fairbanks. |
| 1954 AD | Established | Dale Patty became manager of Gold Placers Inc. and Alluvial Golds Inc. |
| 1954 - 1957 AD | Mined | Dredge operated at Coal Creek. |
| 1961 - 1964 AD | Land Transfer | Patty leased Coal Creek property and equipment to Ted. C. Mathews. |
| 1972 AD | Purchased/Sold | Ernest Wolff and partners purchased Coal Creek equipment and claims. |
| 1976 AD | Mined | AU Placers Inc. mined at Coal Creek. |
| 1977 - 1985 AD | Mined | Lomerson, LTD worked Coal Creek. |

| | | |
|----------------|----------------|---|
| 1978 AD | Established | Yukon-Charley Rivers National Monument. |
| 1980 AD | Established | Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve. |
| 1985 - 1986 AD | Mined | Coal Creek Mining Properties operated on Coal Creek. |
| 1985 AD | Developed | General Management Plan for Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve (YUCH). |
| 1986 AD | Purchased/Sold | Coal Creek Mining Properties sold the property to the National Parks Conservation Association, who then donated the property to the National Park Service (NPS). |
| 1987 AD | Developed | NPS evaluation and assessment of Coal Creek Historic Mining District. |
| 1987 AD | Established | Slaven's Roadhouse listed on the National Register of Historic Places as part of the Yukon Lifeways nomination. |
| 1987 AD | Developed | Coal Creek Historic Mining District Management Guide. |
| 1988 - 1997 AD | Stabilized | Hazardous waste studies and removal including mercury contamination mitigation completed. |
| 1989 AD | Developed | NPS archeological compliance work and historic road assessment. |
| 2001 AD | Rehabilitated | NPS completed rehabilitation of historic buildings at Slaven's, Coal Creek camp, and the dredge structure. |
| 2002 AD | Developed | Environmental assessment for improving access from Slaven's Roadhouse to Coal Creek Camp, revision of the Coal Creek Historic District Management Guide, and Cultural Landscapes Level 2 Inventory conducted. |

Statement Of Significance

Gold mining has been an important and persistent theme in the history of the upper Yukon River region of Alaska. From the consolidation of numerous small claims by Gold Placers Inc. between 1934 and 1935, to the introduction of heavy equipment between 1935 and 1936, to the growth of the operation under the managerial skills of Ernest N. Patty, and to the final dredging effort of Gold Placers, Inc. between 1960 and 1964, the Coal Creek Historic Mining District reflects the full spectrum of Alaskan placer gold mining. (NR, 13) The design, materials, and construction of the buildings reflect the ingenuity required to operate a significant large-scale mining operation in an extremely remote Alaskan site.

Virtually all of the components of the historic dredge operation including the dredge, mobile camp buildings, the historic road, tailings piles, hydraulic ditch, upper penstock, and innumerable other artifacts exist today in good to fair condition. Slaven's roadhouse and outbuildings, and the structures at Slaven Dome also contribute to the significance of the historic mining district. The List of Classified Structures (LCS) has listed 38 buildings (6 non-contributing) and 7 structures in the Coal Creek Historic Mining District. The Coal Creek airstrip is a non-contributing structure, and the status of the lower yard is undetermined, pending further historical investigation. The last owners, Coal Creek Mining Properties, sold the property to the National Parks Conservation Association who then donated it to the National Park Service in 1986, The district is a unique feature of the Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve. (NR, 13, and Beckstead)

A significant 20th century mining complex, the Coal Creek Historic Mining District is eligible for the National Register under criterion A as representative of mid-century placer mining on the upper Yukon and under criterion B for its association with Ernest N. Patty, who made enormous contributions to education in Alaska serving as dean and president of the University of Alaska, Fairbanks. Criteria consideration B applies to the mobile camp at Beaton Pup, its third location since 1935. Camp buildings associated with gold dredging were frequently built on skids allowing for the easy relocation of those buildings as the dredge progressed through the area. Under criteria consideration G, the period of significance 1933-1964, includes a span of time less than fifty years to include the full accounting of the mining history of Coal Creek and Patty's long-term involvement and impact. (NR, 13) The Coal Creek Historic Mining District was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1995.

Physical History

I. Introduction

Traditionally Athabaskan Han territory, the Yukon Basin (including the Coal Creek drainage) provided a rich subsistence base with an abundance of salmon, large game, fur-bearing animals, and berries. Although no permanent villages existed in the drainage, the area probably supported seasonal fishing and hunting camps. In the late 1890s, miners began prospecting in the area around Circle, Alaska and at Coal Creek by 1901. (Beckstead, 3) Small claim drift mining and hand operated placer mining continued in the area until 1933 when Canadian investor, Major General A. D. McRae contacted Ernest Patty, a mining engineer and University of Alaska dean and instructor in the School of Mines, to locate an area that could be profitably mined with the use of large-scale mining equipment. Once they agreed on the Coal Creek area, McRae, Charles Janin, Ira B. Joralemon, and Patty formed Gold Placers Inc. with the intention of purchasing mining claims in the area and installing a dredge. Patty resigned his position at the university and took over the management of Gold Placers Inc. for a salary and an interest in the mine. One of the more significant miners in the area, Frank Slaven, who constructed a roadhouse on the Yukon in 1932, sold his claims to the newly formed Gold Placers Inc. between 1934-1935. (NR, 15; Beckstead, 81-84)

In late 1934, McRae and Patty decided to establish a dredge operation at Coal Creek utilizing partner Charles Janin's knowledge (the foremost dredge designer of the day) to assist with the project's development. The Walter W. Johnson Co. of Oakland, California constructed the dredge, shipped the parts by steamship to Skagway, Alaska; by rail to Whitehorse, Yukon Territory, Canada; and by barge down the Yukon River to the riverboat landing at Slaven's Roadhouse at the mouth of Coal Creek. Once unloaded in October 1935, the 400 tons of dredge parts sat until sufficient snow and ice allowed for travel by sled to the dredge pond 6 ½ miles upstream from the roadhouse. (Beckstead, 92-94) Constructed between April and June 1936, the dredge operated on Coal Creek under Patty's management until 1960. After Gold Placers Inc. sold the property in 1972, the dredge operation continued sporadically until 1977. Following several ownership changes and the use of other mining methods, in 1986 the Coal Creek Mining Properties sold the property to the National Parks Conservation Association, who then donated the property to the NPS. Part of the Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve, the Coal Creek Historic Mining District was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1995.

II. Han Athabaskan Territory

Relatively little is known about the earliest inhabitants of the Yukon-Charley area. Archeological research carried out both within and outside the preserve boundaries indicate that early man may have occupied the general region surrounding the preserve possibly as early as 9000 to 12,000 years ago. Within the preserve the earliest identified site dates to plus/minus 6000 years ago. (GMP, 33)

In the immediate precontact period, two groups, the Han and Kutchakutchin, subdivisions of the Athabaskan linguistic group, inhabited the area. The Han lived along the river and its major tributaries from the Canadian border to Takoma Bluffs. The Kutchakutchin lived primarily in the Yukon Flats and utilized only the most northerly portions of the preserve area. (GMP, 33).

Native populations within the Yukon-Charley area were low, numbering about 500 persons a century

ago. From small villages located on main rivers and streams, the Han radiated out to many group and family fishing campsites along streams and to interior hunting and trapping camps. With the preserve area one historic Native village existed at the confluence of the Kandik and Yukon Rivers; Tadush or Charley Village had a population of 60 persons in 1875. Washed away by the spring ice breakup in 1914, the villagers moved to Circle. Johnny's Village or Klatolklin had a population of 200 in 1875, consolidating with Eagle (just outside the preserve) as the mining camp developed into a city. (GMP, 34)

Present day communities near the preserve with mostly Native populations include Eagle Village and Circle. Several Native men and their families, Suzy Paul, Willie Juneby, and Harry David, relocated from Eagle in the late 1930s and 1940s to work on the gold dredges at Coal Creek and Woodchopper Creek. Four structures on Slaven's Dome just above Snare Creek (tributary of Coal Creek) are possibly the ruins of the cabins occupied or built by those families.

III. Independent Miner Claims, 1901-1935

Steamboats traveling the Yukon relied primarily on wood for fuel, but operators saw coal as a potential alternative to wood. As a result, the initial interest in mining along Yukon tributaries involved coal. (Beckstead, 11) The first record of mining activities occurred on July 13, 1901 when Mark E. Bray filed a bill of sale for 160 acres of coal mining ground "situated on a small creek 8 miles from the Yukon." (Beckstead, 3) Daniel T. Noonan filed the first placer mining claim on Coal Creek on November 11, 1901. Within the next 6 years, Frank Slaven, W.P. Beaton, James Pendergast, Harold Malstrom, Frank Forrest, and others also filed placer mining claims or worked on Coal Creek. During the same time period, individual miners established claims on the nearby Woodchopper Creek. (Beckstead, 3) The 1910 US Census listed 16 people living and working along Coal Creek. In 1911, a USGS report stated the first discovery of gold occurred at Coal Creek in 1910 and that by 1912 between ten and twenty men were engaged in prospecting or mining on the creek and its tributaries. (Beckstead, 8)

While some of the claims involved investors who never spent time in Coal Creek, others arrived during the several rushes to the area prospecting and mining for a season and then moved on to other areas. Those who established claims and mined at Coal Creek from the early 1900s through the mid 1930s included Frank Slaven, John Boyle, Sivert O. Lee, Frank Bennet, John Holmstrum, and Bessie Currie. (Beckstead, 10) Between 1900 and 1948 miners filed 565 claims on the Coal Creek and Woodchopper Creek drainages. (Beckstead, 12) Although some of the miners left the area during the winter season, others built cabins and subsidized their existence by running trap lines and hunting game for food.

In 1932 Slaven constructed a two-story, wood-frame roadhouse at the confluence of Coal Creek and the Yukon River. After selling his gold claims to Gold Placers Inc. in 1934/1935, Slaven continued to operate the roadhouse until 1938 when he left the area. Photographs of the roadhouse show an extensive vegetable garden. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1987 as part of the Yukon Lifeways nomination, Slaven's Roadhouse is also part of the Coal Creek Historic Mining District in Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve. Today, Slaven's Roadhouse serves as a contact/ranger and public use station as well as a rest stop for mushers competing in the 1200-mile Yukon Quest International Sled Dog Race from Fairbanks, Alaska to Dawson, Yukon Territory, Canada. (Beckstead, 55-56)

Early miners confined their operations to working small placer deposits utilizing a variety of methods including drift, open cut, and hydraulic mining. Drift mining involved digging a shaft down to the bedrock and following the pay streak where an open-cut is open to the surface. Hydraulic mining employed pressurized water to wash gold-bearing gravel through a gold sluice. (Beckstead, viii) Mining

along Coal Creek operated on a small scale until 1934 when Gold Placers Inc. purchased the small claims and developed a large-scale mining operation.



Frank Slaven's Roadhouse, outbuildings and garden at the confluence of Coal Creek and the Yukon River, 1932-1938; Sherry Harrison (Frank Slaven's niece).



Frank Slaven Roadhouse and garden, USGS 8-26-1938.



Frank Slaven's Roadhouse and garden, 1932-1938; Sherry Harrison (Frank Slaven's niece).

IV. Gold Placers, Inc., 1933-1960

In 1933, General A. D. McRae from Vancouver, Canada consulted with Ira B. Joralemon, an internationally known geologist; and Charles Janin, a renowned dredge engineer with the intention of mining gold in Alaska. In the summer of 1933, McRae and Joralemon contacted Ernest N. Patty, dean of the School of Mines at the Alaska Agriculture College and School of Mines in Fairbanks, Alaska, because of his knowledge of mining districts in Alaska. After examining a number of properties recommended by Patty, the group decided to set up a dredge mining operation on Coal Creek establishing Gold Placers Inc. McRae offered to match Patty's university salary and to give him an interest in the mine if he would agree to manage the mining operation; Patty agreed to do so resigning from the university in late 1935. (Beckstead, 79-84)

Supplies for the mining camp arrived by riverboat at the landing by Slaven's Roadhouse throughout the summer of 1935. During the same summer, workers dug a two-mile long ditch to deliver water for stripping and thawing operations, and built the camp buildings. Salvaged wood from the Fort Egbert gymnasium provided lumber for the wood-frame buildings mounted on skids allowing for the relocation of the structures as the dredging operation moved down the valley. (Grauman, 470) AKSO Historical Architect Steve Peterson, who worked on the restoration of Fort Egbert, stated that the Coal Creek camp structures "were constructed using Fort Egbert materials" supported by "the detailing, siding, window/sash style, and colors used." (Peterson, AKSO) According to Dale Patty and the Gold Placers Inc. accountant new materials went into the construction of the camp buildings. (Beckstead)

The first camp, located on Cheese Creek (about 3 miles from the present camp location), included a two-sectioned mess hall, a series of four-man bunkhouses, a gold room for cleaning and assaying, an office, a machine shop, and a tractor repair shop. (Beckstead, 85) Gold Placers Inc. hired an experienced dredge operator to supervise the siting of the camp and dredge pit, and the preparations for stripping and thawing ground. During the limited 1935 season and in preparation for dredging the following year, Gold Placers Inc. utilized steam thawing methods, but quickly switched to water thawing which they found to be more reliable and efficient. Also during the busy 1935 season, the Alaska Road Commission (ARC) entered into a cooperative agreement with Gold Placers Inc. granting 7 miles of right-of-way for the construction of a permanent road from Slaven's landing to the campsite. (Beckstead 94, 85, 88, 91)

For a cost of \$143,000 dollars, the Walter W. Johnson Company in San Francisco, California manufactured the dredge designed by Janin for the Coal Creek mining operation. Built in San Francisco, then dismantled and shipped by ship to Skagway, Alaska, the 400 tons of dredge parts arrived in Whitehorse, Yukon Territory, Canada via the White Pass and Yukon Route Railway. From Whitehorse the dredge parts traveled by barge down the Yukon River to Slaven's landing on Coal Creek. The dredge parts sat in storage by Slaven's until the ground froze and sufficient snow allowed for the final leg of the journey by sled to the dredge pond. Beginning in early March, it took work crews several weeks to transport the dredge parts 6 ½ miles to the pond. From April 8 to June 18, 1936 crews reassembled the dredge. (Beckstead, 88, 91, 94)

The dredge began working the Coal Creek drainage on July 1, 1936. After resolving minor operational problems, the first clean up took place on July 29, 1936. By the end of the working season almost 3,500 ounces of gold, valued at \$121,000.00 dollars had been accumulated by the dredge. During that season, Gold Placers Inc. constructed a second penstock upstream from the first penstock to separate the flow of water for the stripping and thawing operations. By the end of 1936, workers adapted and modified the dredge design to make its operation more productive for the situation and site on Coal Creek. With Gold

Placers Inc. operating on Coal Creek, the owners decided to form a sister company, Alluvial Golds, Inc. to dredge for gold on the nearby Woodchopper Creek. (Beckstead, 100, 103, 104, 98)

From mid-June to mid-October, the ARC completed six miles of the road from the Coal Creek Camp 1 to the Yukon River, finishing the last ½ mile in 1937. From 1936 until 1939 the ARC provided equipment under contract with Gold Placers Inc. and Alluvial Golds Inc., who provided money, manpower, and engineering, to extend the road from Coal Creek Camp to the ridge above Woodchopper Creek. The total distance of the road from Slaven's to Woodchopper is about 17 miles. (Beckstead 107-108; Beckstead interview with D. Patty, 7/2001) The road followed the Coal Creek valley upstream utilizing several switchbacks to climb a steep portion and then ran along the ridge for about a mile and a half before dropping down to Mineral Creek and on to Woodchopper Creek. A telephone line ran along the right-of-way providing communication between the Coal Creek and Woodchopper Creek camps. (Beckstead, 6-7) The upper fourteen to fifteen miles of the road required little upkeep or repair, but the first several miles of the right-of-way from the Yukon River contained areas of permafrost resulting in the need for corduroy road construction. Heavy truck traffic caused the lower two miles of corduroy road to deteriorate, necessitating the use of heavier surfacing such as gravel or slide rock. By 1940, this section of road had been finally been improved to the point where it held up well under heavy truck traffic. (Beckstead, 108,) Gold Placers Inc. also built a spur road to Ben Creek from Coal Creek. (Beckstead, 6-7. 106-108)

The start of World War II resulted in mining regulations issued by the U.S. Office of Production Management and the War Production Board that limited mining activity in the U.S. Along with difficulties in obtaining materials, parts, and machinery, Gold Placers Inc. struggled during the war because of the loss of employees to the military and better-waged war jobs. As a result, the company hired less-experienced local people to work in its dredging operation. (Beckstead, 112) Because of the limitations imposed by the war, the dredge did not operate on Coal Creek in 1943, but the sister-company Alluvial Gold Inc. operated on Woodchopper Creek that year. Neither company operated in 1944. (Beckstead, 114-116).

During winter 1941/1942, Gold Placers Inc. relocated the camp buildings on Cheese Creek to a site between the Coal Creek-Woodchopper Creek road and the dredge area, on the west side of Coal Creek, opposite its confluence with Boulder Creek. (Beckstead, 113). The second camp included the following buildings moved from the first camp: a food warehouse connected to the mess hall (1936), a 12' x 20' combination post office and radio station (1936), two 12' x 20' bunkhouses (1936), a 4-person bunkhouse (1939), a bathhouse and laundry building (1937), a recreation hall (1940), and the dredge master's house (1936). The machine shop area buildings remained at the Cheese Creek location. (NR, 15; Beckstead 114-116)

With the rescinding of mining restrictions after the war, Gold Placers Inc. attempted to mine at Coal Creek in 1945 despite the dire shortage of laborers. Continually experimenting with thawing methods to prepare ground for the dredge operation, by 1947 Gold Placers Inc. developed a natural thawing process that replaced the need for hydraulic thawing and required fewer workers. Usually hydraulic thawing began in April and dredging commenced in June when the ground had softened sufficiently. In late 1947, the crew at Coal Creek built a dam 300 feet downstream from the dredge flooding the area with three to five feet of water. With the insulation of ice, the ground remained unfrozen and once the water thawed in the spring the dredge could be begin working. Another innovation designed to save labor costs involved the diverting of Coal Creek from its channel into a number of parallel channels onto land the company wanted to strip. Equally as effective as hydraulic stripping, the company cut their stripping expense in half by using the channel diversion technique. (Beckstead, 124-127)

Continuing to struggle with the cost of running the two mining operations, in 1949, Patty decided to alternate mining at Coal Creek and Woodchopper Creek on a yearly cycle. Following the June 1950 which destroyed the machine shop at Cheese Creek, Gold Placers Inc. purchased a Butler Building (Quonset hut covered with galvanized steel) and installed it near Beaton Pup about ½ mile downstream from the dredge work site. The new machine shop and the equipment remain at that location today. Between 1951 and 1952, crews moved the camp to its third and present location on Beaton Pup. Originally constructed in 1936, the wooden skids under the buildings had to be rebuilt prior to the relocation. (Beckstead, 128-129) The dredge did not operate on Coal Creek from 1952 until summer 1954. As a result of severe flooding which damaged the 1947 dam, crews strengthened and straightened the dams to re-float the dredge. Gold Placers Inc. built five additional dams across the valley, downstream from the dredge, to manipulate the flow of the creek and manage the natural thawing process. (Beckstead, 134)

After accepting the position of President of the University of Alaska in Fairbanks in 1953, Ernest Patty recommended that his son Dale take over the management of Gold Placers Inc. and Alluvial Golds Inc. The dredge operated on Coal Creek for the next four years, 1954-1957. (Beckstead, 134-137) In 1958, the mining operation shifted to Woodchopper Creek. By 1960, after operating at a loss for several years, Dale Patty resigned his position and the dredging operations under Gold Placers Inc. and Alluvial Golds Inc. effectively ceased.



Coal Creek Camp No. 1, 1935; Everett Hammon Collection, Alaska Polar Regions Archives, Rasmusson Library, University of Alaska, Fairbanks.



Coal Creek Camp No. 1 (1938)

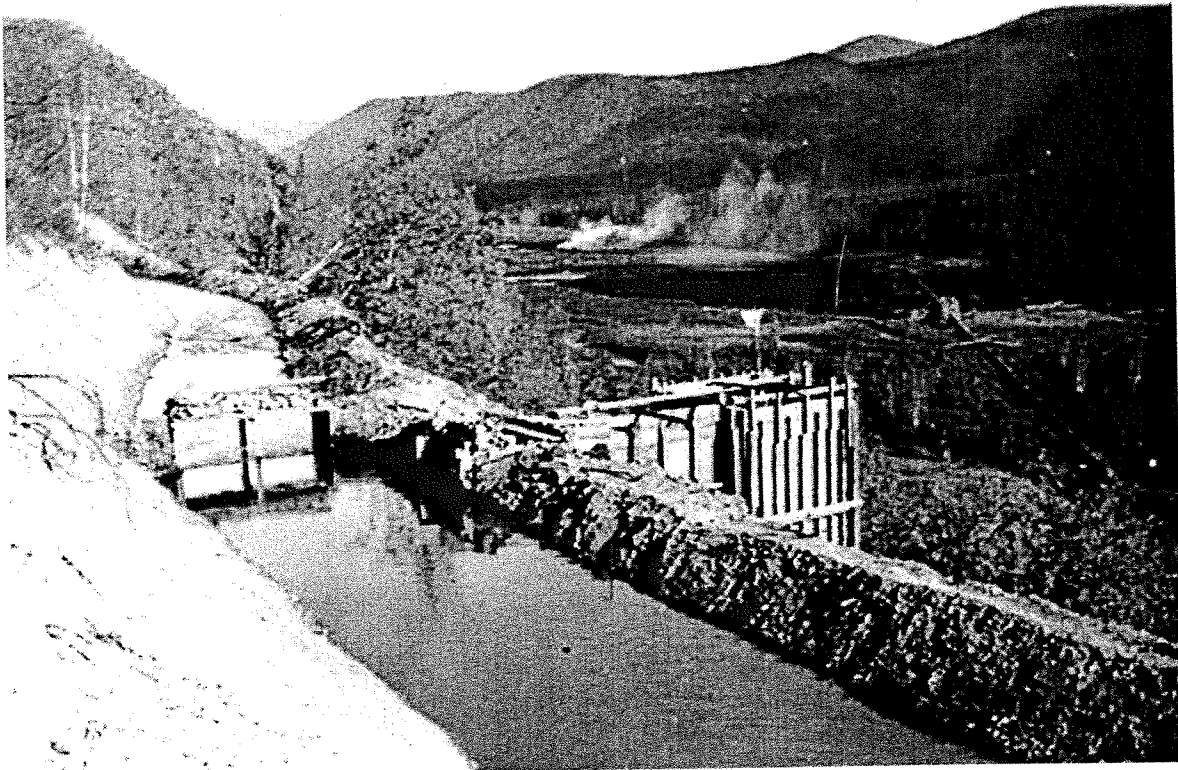
1. My Bunkhouse
2. Vieno's House or Part of it
3. The Dredge
4. To Office
5. The Mess House
6. The Machine Shop
7. Bathhouse
8. Post Office
- 9-13. Bunkhouses

Photo courtesy
Glen Franklin
Fairbanks, Alaska

Coal Creek Camp No. 1, 1938; Glen Franklin Collection, NPS, Fairbanks, Alaska. There are no known photographs of Camp No. 2.



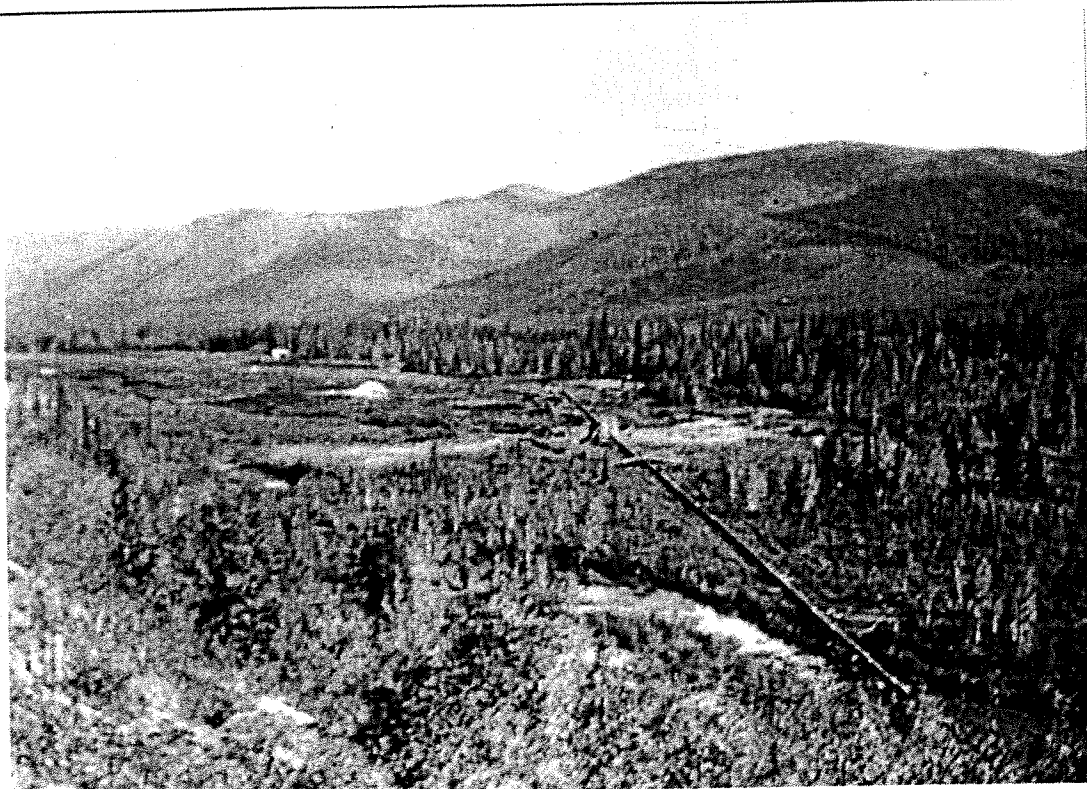
Work on the construction of the hydraulic ditch, 1935; Everett Hammon Collection, Alaska Polar Regions Archives, Rasmusson Library, University of Alaska, Fairbanks.



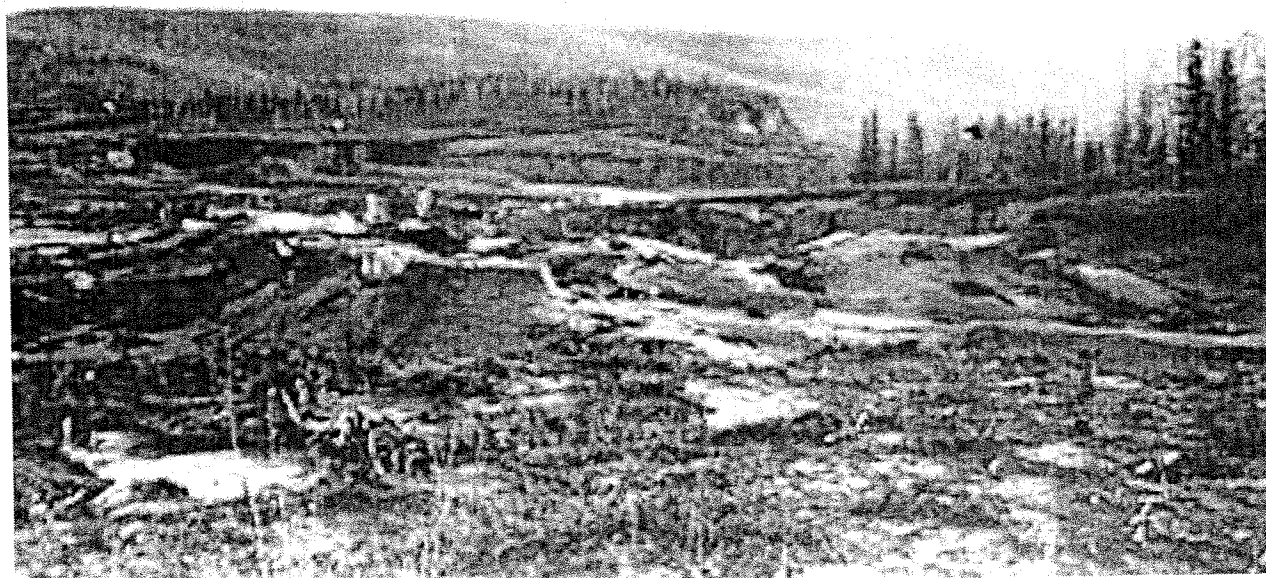
Lower penstock and hydraulic ditch, 1935; Everett Hammon Collection, Alaska Polar Regions Archives, Rasmusson Library, University of Alaska, Fairbanks.



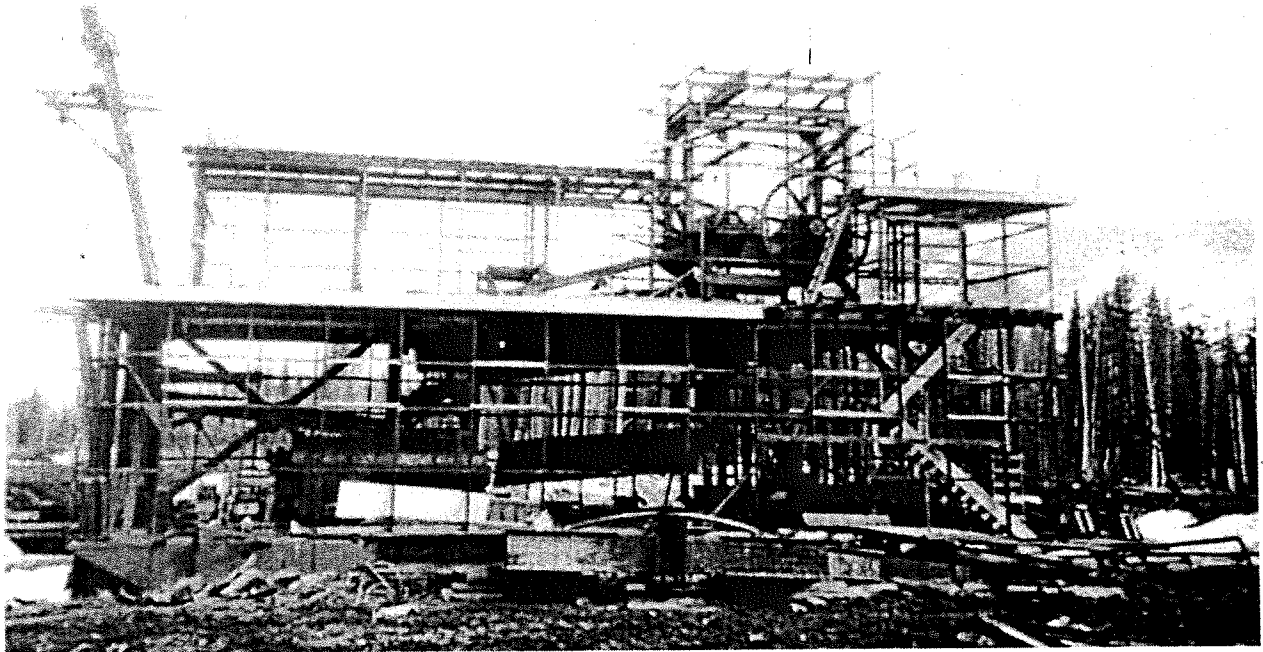
Gold Placers Inc. and Alaska Road Commission (ARC) road, 1930s; Bill Lemm Collections, NPS, Fairbanks, Alaska.



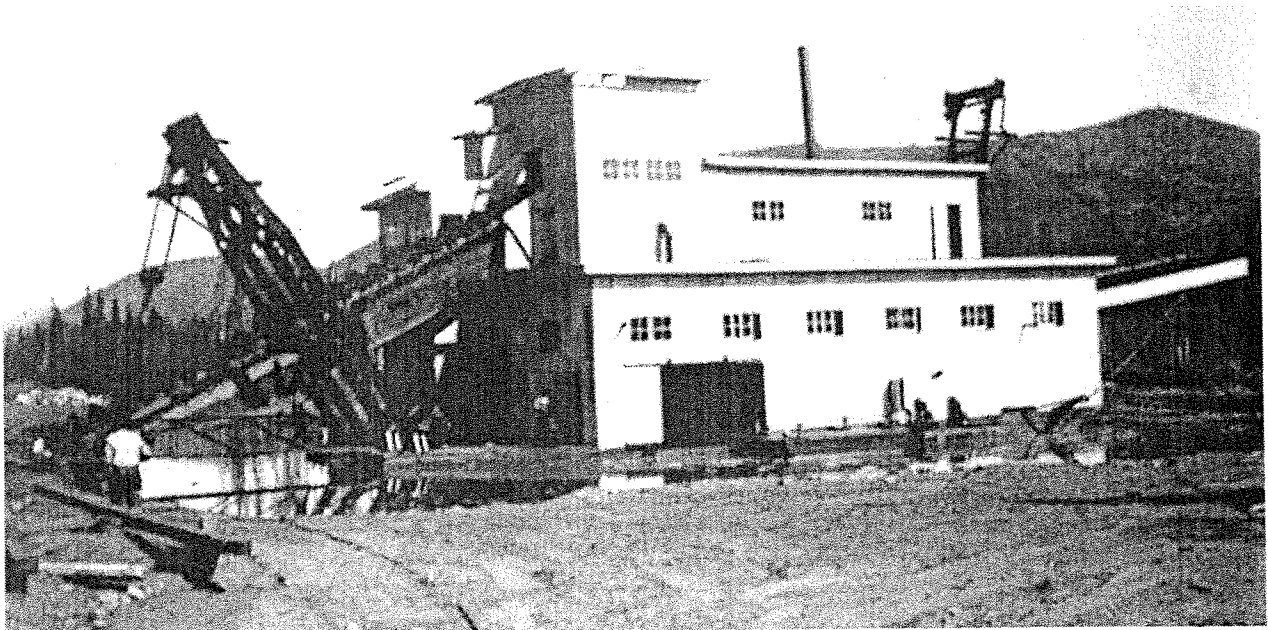
Main hydraulic pipe, date unknown; Everett Hammon Collection, Alaska Polar Regions Archives, Rasmusson Library, University of Alaska, Fairbanks.



Thawfield, 1941; Franklin Hall Collection, NPS, Fairbanks, Alaska.



Dredge being reassembled, 1936; Max Beck Collection, NPS, Fairbanks, Alaska.



Dredge fully assembled, 1936; Bill Lemm Collection, NPS, Fairbanks, Alaska.

V. Post Gold Placer, Inc. Operations, 1960-1986

In 1961, Ted C. Mathews, a Fairbanks mining engineer, leased the Coal Creek property and equipment from Gold Placers Inc. Continuing to report to Ernest Patty, Mathews operated the mining operation and dredge until 1964. Between 1965 and 1972, Patty explored numerous options and finally arranged the sale of equipment and claims to Ernest Wolff, a mining engineer connected with the University of Alaska, and his partners Dan Cobin and W. Sothen. The group mined Coal Creek, utilizing the dredge only briefly, from 1972 until 1976. After that time, AU Placers Inc. operated the mine during the 1976/1977 season, Lomerson, LTD worked the mine from 1977-1985. Lomerson, LTD probably constructed the airstrip and the lower road during their tenure at Coal Creek. (Beckstead communication) Coal Creek Mining Properties ran the mine from 1985-1986. None of these operations had a great deal of success. In 1978, Coal Creek became part of the Yukon-Charley Rivers National Monument and in 1980 part of the Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve managed by the National Park Service (NPS). Coal Creek Mining Properties donated its Coal Creek property to the NPS in 1986. (NR, 18)

VI. National Park Service, 1986-Present

The General Management Plan (GMP) pre-dated the donation of the Coal Creek property to the NPS. Published in 1985, the GMP outlined basic policies and alternatives for the overall management of the preserve. The plan regulated public access to the preserve, allowing commercial and private aircraft, boats, and in winter, snowmachines and dogsleds. All other off-road, all-terrain vehicles were prohibited. Along with other ranger presence throughout the preserve, the plan called for 2 rangers to be stationed in the Woodchopper/Coal Creek area. (GMP, 63-64) In that area, the preserve planned to use existing structures (e.g. Slaven's Roadhouse) for seasonal visitor contact and the ranger station.

In regard to historic structures in the preserve, the GMP stated that such structures would not be reconstructed or replaced with replicas, but that "appropriate adaptive uses of suitable historic structures will ensure their continued preservation and maintenance." The GMP committed to locating historic cabins and structures scattered throughout the preserve, and having archeological, historical, architectural, and cultural values professionally evaluated. Eligible structures would be entered on the List of Classified Structures (LCS). (GMP, 59) The plan stated:

"Any renovation of existing structures and any new structures will include energy conservation and handicap accessibility features. All work will be compatible with the historic nature of existing structures and the vernacular architectural themes of the area. All of these proposals will comply with relevant guidelines for the adaptive use of historic structures and NPS policies, and local traditions regarding site suitability, architectural styles, and construction methods." (GMP, 67)

In 1987, an NPS Alaska Regional Office (ARO) team conducted a site visit at Coal Creek resulting in an evaluation and assessment that included a number of recommendations. Several of those recommendations specifically addressed concerns regarding the preservation of the cultural landscape:

"-The degree of brush control needs to be determined. The growth of brush around historical features such as the dredge, the old machine shop area, the pipe dumps, the steam point stashes, the equipment dump at the current camp, the Snare Creek site, isolated equipment such as the double drum winch needs to be considered. A particular concern here would be to keep the brush at certain of these sites under some control.

-The possibility of pilfering of items needs to be addressed. It may be advisable to collect portable, valuable items such as whole bottle and cans. Larger items may be best handled by documenting,

labeling, and leaving in place.

Other comments: Noted, the old shop supplies and meat slicer had been removed since my 1985 visit to the site." (Trip Report, AKSO Staff, Paul Gleeson, July 10, 1987)

Revegetation and the potential for pilfering of artifacts continue as management issues in the remote historic district.

In 1989, an archeological compliance work (002-89-YUCH) identified ten different cultural resources including 4 dumps, 4 borrows, and several artifacts (wire rope and dredge part). In their recommendations, the archeological team approved the road rehabilitation providing that 1) dump areas not be covered with additional fill, 2) borrow areas not be used without additional clearance work, 3) the dredge sprocket location be protected, 4) work crews notify the Regional Archeologist if any artifacts surfaced during the construction work, and 5) the Regional Archeologist be notified of the construction start time so that onsite monitoring could be arranged if at all possible.

The archeological report described the condition of the road in 1989:

"Currently there are two roughly parallel roads running the 3.5 miles from the Slaven Roadhouse to the mining camp. The lower road, now in use, runs essentially through the Coal Creek floodplain and placer tailings. The exact route is variable, changing with the dynamic Coal Creek floodplain. Comparing the 1987 air photos and the 1956 USGS map indicates that Coal Creek has shifted to the west about one quarter mile or more. The location of the lower road is close to or in the present course of the creek. The creek shown on the 1956 map is now a slough. Sections of the road are quite informal and require a heavy duty FWD vehicle. The upper road runs along the slope of the hills west of Coal Creek more or less following the 1000' contour for the first 1.5 miles, the 900' contour for the next 1 mile, and drops 200' to Slaven Roadhouse at 704' ASL over the final mile. The upper 2 miles are in good condition, requiring only minor brushing, one or two culvert installations, and minor gravel application to be useable by normal vehicles. The last mile nearest to the roadhouse runs through relatively low, swampy terrain and will require major brushing, several culverts, and major graveling in places. Once rehabilitated, however, this road will be relatively stable and require limited maintenance, except for periodic regravelling in a few low spots, providing easy access to the Coal Creek camp. Preserve personnel want to reactivate this route and abandon the difficult lower trail." (Archeological Compliance Report, 002-89-YUCH, November 1989)

In the intervening years since Report 002-89, the difficulties of maintaining the two roads has become evident. The earlier assessment of the upper historic road was overly optimistic and did not adequately address the dynamics of a permafrost environment. Overlain with an organic layer of soil, the permafrost has begun to melt and adjacent hillsides are subsiding in various locations. Park efforts in recent years to stabilize the road by reestablishing culverts and ditches and to repairing the swampy thawing locations have not been successful. The lower road, which follows a fairly defined route from the Coal Creek Camp to an area near the dredge, remains stable. From an area just south of the dredge to Slaven's Roadhouse the road route varies with the seasons. Stream diversion as a result of the past mining activities, seasonal flooding due to breakup, and ice build up in the lower several hundred yards causes the lower road route to change each year. As a result, vehicle and pedestrian access is hindered or often impassable due to high water conditions. While both routes provide good access during winter months, summer access is difficult and, at times, impassable. (Steve Peterson, AKSO Historical Architect)

In 1993, the NPS compiled the Yukon-Charley River Resource Management Plan (RMP). Several

sections specifically addressed problems and developed project proposals dealing with hazardous waste contamination and the degradation of Native plant communities resulting from the mining activities at Coal Creek. The NPS removed hazardous waste materials from the mining camp in 1988 and 1990, along with making minor repairs to the dredge to prevent visitor injuries. Inventory and testing of hazardous waste materials continued at the site. Approximately 800 acres (RMP, N-023.1, p. 1) of the Coal Creek drainage had been mined with a floating dredge and wash plant operation. As a result, acres of tailings piles lay on the landscape. The NPS management had to reconcile revegetation of Native plant communities along with the need to preserve the mine tailings as part of the historic cultural landscape. The primary conclusion of the document pointed out the need for the development of planning documents, such as archeological survey and inventory, ethnographic overview and assessment, oral and life histories, historic structures reports, historic resource studies, collection management plan, cultural landscape report, along with preservation maintenance programs to better enable managers to protect the preserve's resources. At the time of the publication of the RMP, the preserve focused most of its cultural resource management program on documenting sites, and implementing stabilization, maintenance, and rehabilitation as needed to preserve the historic integrity of features, buildings, and structures. (RMP, N-019.0 through N-023.1; C-005.0)

The acquisition of the Coal Creek mining property in 1986 added another 36 buildings and 7 structures along with numerous small-scale features and artifacts for the NPS to manage in the preserve. In 1987, NPS ARO staff prepared a management guide (draft) for the Coal Creek Historic District that was revised in 2002. By this time, Slaven's Roadhouse and all of the historic buildings at Coal Creek Camp had undergone rehabilitation, along with mercury contamination mitigation and the installation of water and electrical systems at the camp. In addition, NPS built a public use cabin near Slaven's Roadhouse. These improvements provided functional facilities for visitors, interpretation, and staff use. (CC Mngt. Guide, 2)

The management guide stated that the historic landscape at Slaven's Roadhouse would be preserved and protected. No modern intrusions such as fuel tanks, new buildings, or permanent storage yards would be allowed within the zoned historic area. At Coal Creek Camp improvements would be confined to the existing buildings in order to provide for expanded public use and for educational and research purposes. Zoned into historic and development zones, the historic character would be managed to preserve the historic setting of the camp. Any modern intrusions necessary for preserve operation (buildings, equipment sheds, housing) would be constructed in a manner appropriate to the camp setting and minimize intrusion into the historic landscape. The dredge and surrounding site would also be managed as a historic landscape. No modern facilities or improvements, other than interpretive signing, would be permitted at the dredge site. (CC Mngt. Guide, 4-5)

The guide called for operation management at Coal Creek to minimize the use of nonrenewable resources in the powering and heating of buildings by utilizing alternative sources of energy whenever possible. In 1987, the well at Coal Creek Camp serviced the area with water being hauled from the town of Eagle for use at Slaven's Roadhouse (1987 CC Mngt. Guide, 5). The guide suggested that a hand pump ground water well should be installed at the site. Although the guide recognized that increased visitor use might require a more reliable power source, the intention was to keep the utilities at Slaven's primitive and possibly utilizing a portable power generator and propane lights. (1987 CC Mngt. Guide, 6) At Coal Creek Camp propane supplied energy for cooking, some heat, hot water heat, and backup lighting. A small permanently installed generator (supplemented with a bank of batteries) provided electricity. Heat in the cabins came from fuel oil drip stoves and wood. Outhouses provided restroom facilities at the Camp, as well as at Slaven's. The recently installed leach field would be improved to provide septic and leach disposal meeting the requirements of the Alaska Department of Environmental

Conservation (ADEC). (CC Mngt. Guide, 6)

Recognized by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), and identified in the Alaska Supplement, the 2500-foot long Coal Creek airstrip needed to be repaired. NPS proposed downsizing the airstrip to 1500 feet, improving and maintaining the strip to FAA standards for the use of light twin aircraft and helicopters. After resurfacing the airstrip, NPS planned to grade it seasonally and allow the unused 1000 feet to revegetate. Fuel for aircraft, camp, and vehicle operations would be stored at the airstrip and limited to NPS operations only; no commercial fuel would be provided. (CC Mngt. Guide, 7)

The lower road traveling through the riparian zone of Coal Creek had severely eroded to the point where the creek and roadbed joined. Damage to riparian resources, along with damage to vehicles, resulted in a recommendation to discontinue use of the road until a Road Alignment and River Realignment Study could be conducted. The upper historic trail running from the Yukon to Woodchopper Creek evidenced signs of erosion and expanded trail tread in certain sections. The management guide recommended that the upper road be stabilized to its historic trail width and upgraded to accommodate pedestrian and small, lightweight ATV vehicles between Slaven's, the dredge site, and Coal Creek camp. (CC Mngt. Guide, 8-9)

As a result of revegetation in the Coal Creek valley, the management guide noted that the tailings piles and other historical and archeological resources in the district would be obscured over time. The guide recommended archeological mapping and the completion of a cultural landscape inventory to document landscape resources in the district with an eventual Cultural Landscape Report to determine zoning and treatment/preservation plans. (CC Mngt. Guide, 14)

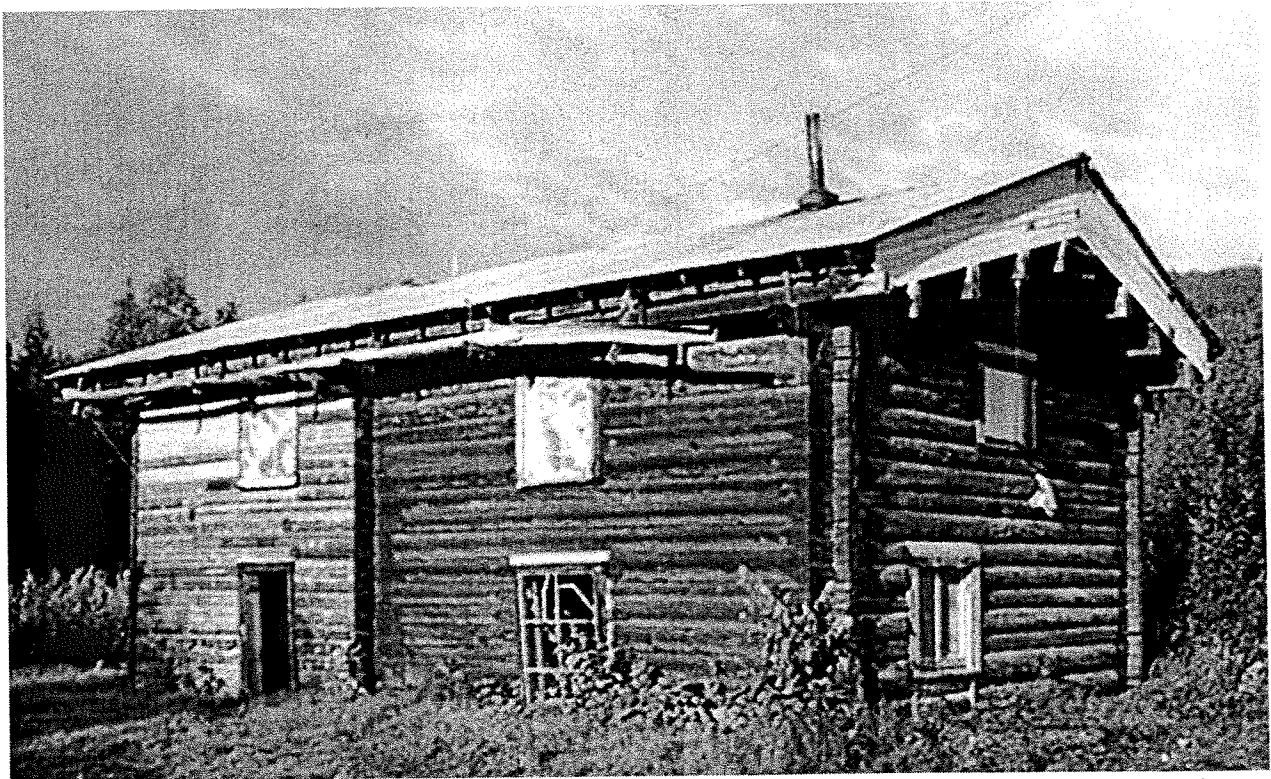
On May 4, 1995 the Coal Creek Historic Mining District was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. By 2001, rehabilitation projects completed (to good condition) in the District included: Slaven's Roadhouse, Slaven's Garage, Slaven's Cache, and Slaven's Greenhouse. Slaven's Smokehouse and Slaven's Outhouse did not receive any rehabilitation but were in fair condition, in use, and should be preserved. Re-roofed in 1990, the Coal Creek Dredge rehabilitation in 2001 included the restoration of windows, doors, siding repairs, and interior repair to stairways. Additional work on the steel hull will be needed. At Coal Creek Camp, by 2001, the following buildings had been rehabilitated to good condition: 6 historic Bunkhouses, Recreation Hall, Storage Building (#10), Office Building (#12), Assay Office (#13), Mess Hall (#19), and Laundry Building (#20). Untreated historic buildings included the Machine Shop (#26), Storage Building (#24), Storage Building (#23), and Storage Building (#22). Originally constructed to serve the equipment and storage requirements of the mining camp, plans intend to rehabilitate those buildings to provide similar support functions for NPS operational needs in the historic district. Non-historic and non-contributing buildings scheduled for demolition or relocation outside of the historic district included the Generator Shed, Generator Cabin, Outhouse, Greenhouse, and three bunkhouses (#8, #9, #21). Historic buildings and one ruin at Cheese Creek (Garage and Warehouse, Blacksmith Shop, and Shed), and the 4 Slaven Dome structures have not been treated to date and will be maintained as is. Recommendations specified preservation, revegetation control, and minor repair work. (CC Mngt. Guide, 15-16)

In 2002, an environmental assessment for improving the access from Slaven's Roadhouse to Coal Creek Camp began. Currently in draft form, the assessment identifies issues involved, such as State of Alaska right-of-way, visitor use, maintaining historical integrity at Slaven's Roadhouse and the dredge, disruption of cultural sites, construction over permafrost areas, level of use, and type of vehicles to be allowed. Improvements to the existing route or an alternative access route needs to be developed because use of the lower road necessitates vehicular traffic through the streambed of Coal Creek, which

is not environmentally acceptable. (Draft, Environmental Assessment, Coal Creek, March 2002)

Also, in 2002, park and support office staff revised the Coal Creek Historic Mining District Management Guide. In the section relating to the cultural landscape in Coal Creek, the guide noted the scheduling of a Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI) to be completed in 2003-03. The guide stated that Slaven's Roadhouse "will be managed to limit conflicting uses" and that "work in future years will see an increased emphasis on preserving and restoring the historic landscape in the vicinity of Slaven's Roadhouse." (15) In reference to the dredge, the guide called for an "increased emphasis on restoring the historic landscape vicinity to include vegetation management in an approximately 5-acre area." (16) The guide reported that revegetation "is causing the destruction and obscuring of the tailings and historical archeological resources of the historic district." (16) In the past ten years, "the Preserve has made significant progress in the preservation of historic structures within the Coal Creek Historic Mining District" including rehabilitation to "good condition" of many of the buildings at Slaven's and in Coal Creek Camp. The guide identified the need for an extensive archeological inventory and mapping project to document the location of objects and artifacts throughout the historic district. (17)

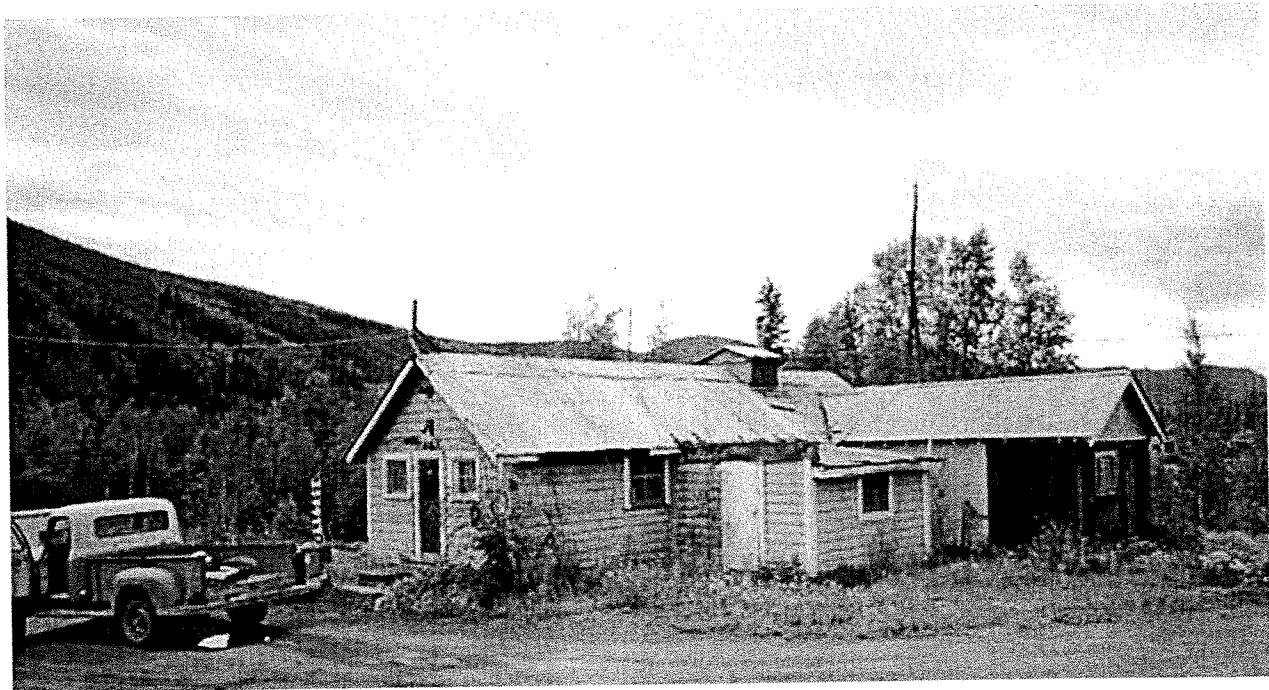
The relatively recent addition of the Coal Creek mine to the Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve along with the size and remote location of the property create complex and challenging management issues for the NPS, reminiscent of the challenges faced by the developers of the mining industry in the same area. The Coal Creek Historic Mining District provides a unique visitor experience contrasting the cultural landscape with the natural landscape—creating an understanding of the vision and determination of the miners contending with wilderness, terrain, accessibility, and climate in order to derive a living from the Coal Creek drainage.



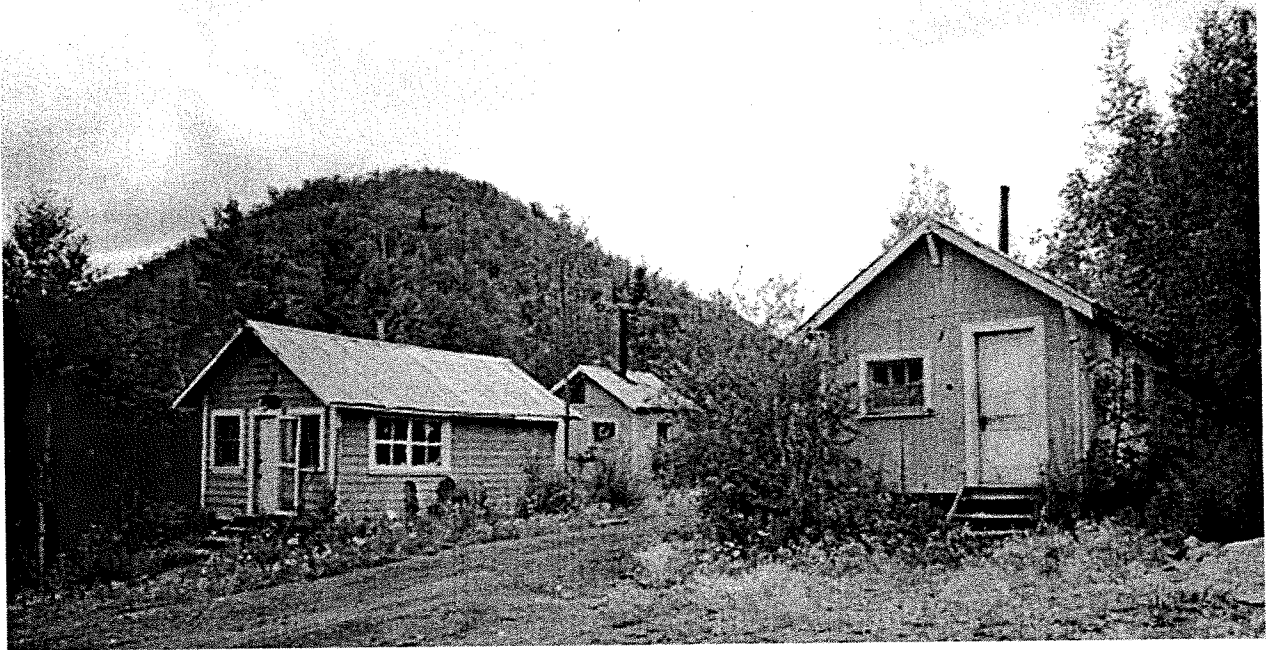
Frank Slaven's Roadhouse, 1984; HABS-HAER, 001207.



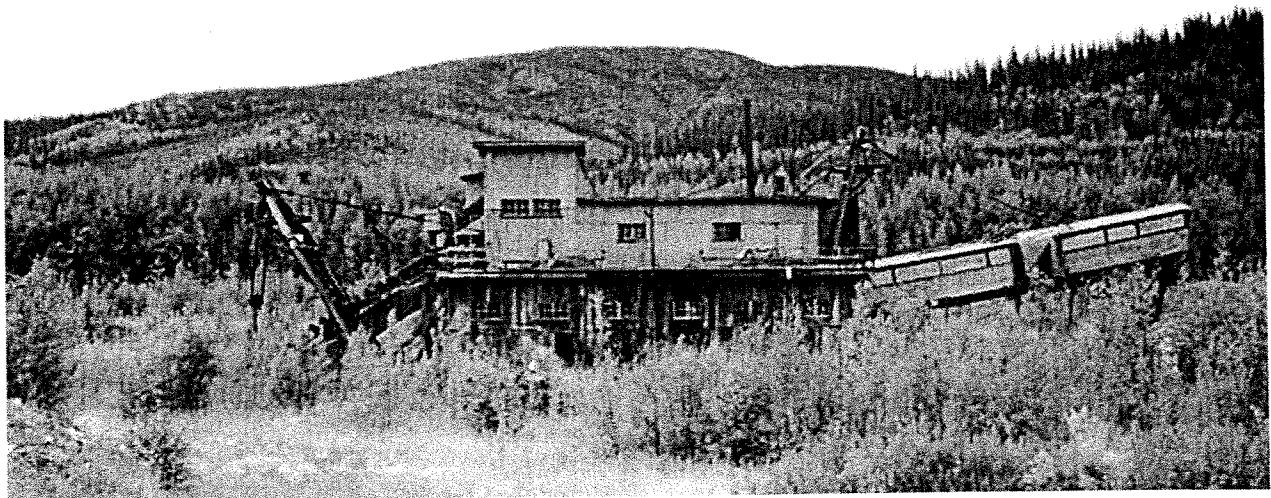
Cheese Creek: Garage/Warehouse and Blacksmith Shop/Storage, 1984; HABS-HAER, 00798pv.



Mess Hall at Coal Creek Camp No. 3 on Beaton Pup Creek, 1984; HABS-HAER, 000800pv.



Assay Office, Generator Building, and Bunkhouse at Coal Creek Camp No. 3 on Beaton Pup Creek, 1984; HABS-HAER, 000801pv.



Coal Creek dredge, 1984; HABS-HAER, 000786pv.



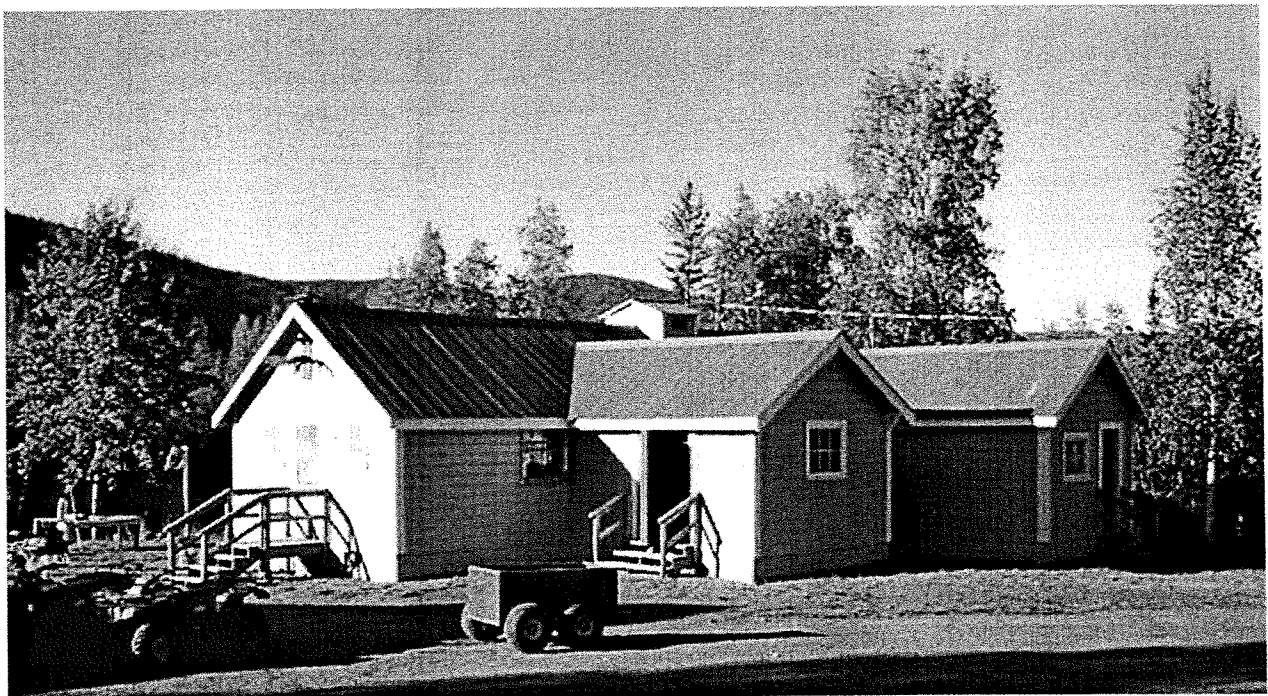
Coal Creek dredge, 2002; NPS-AKSO Cultural Landscapes Program, 075.



Slaven's Roadhouse, Greenhouse, and Cache, 2002; NPS-AKSO Cultural Landscapes Program, 157.



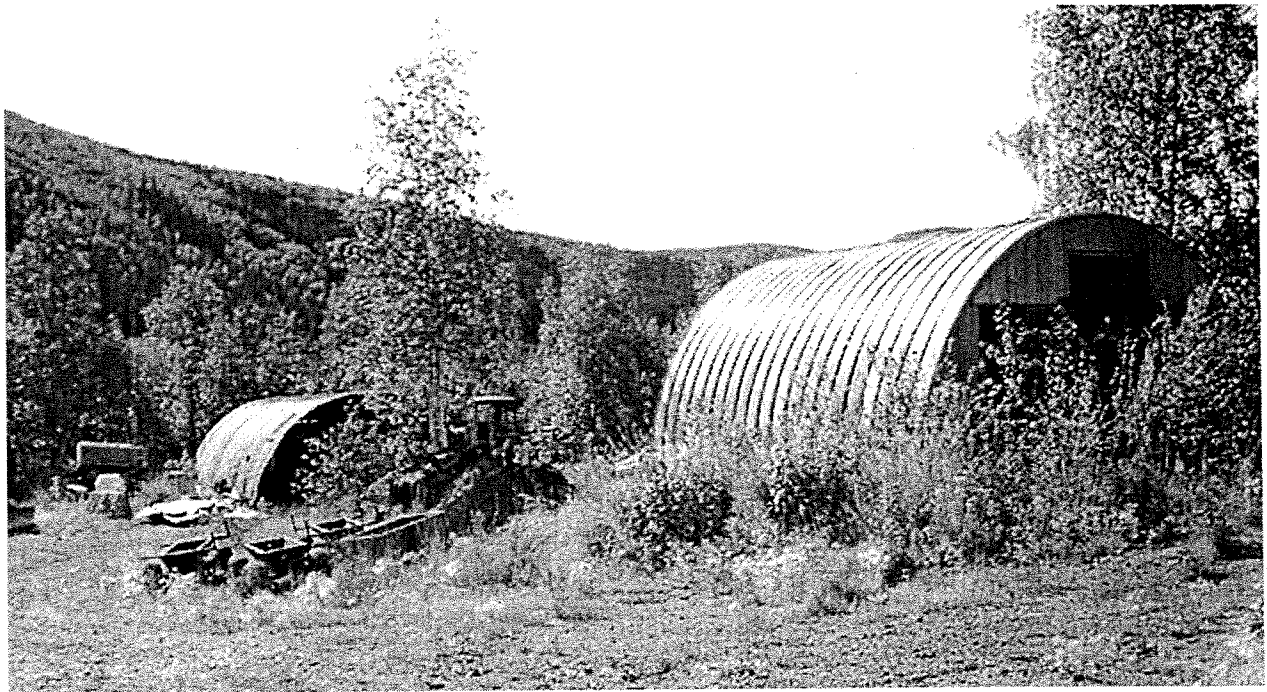
Slaven's Roadhouse, 2002; NPS-AKSO Cultural Landscapes Program, 150.



Coal Creek Camp No. 3 Mess Hall, 2002; NPS-AKSO Cultural Landscapes Program, 046.



Coal Creek Camp No. 3, Office Building No. 12, Assay Office No. 13, Generator Building No. 14, Bunkhouse No. 11, 2002; NPS-AKSO Cultural Landscapes Program, 041.



Coal Creek Machine Shop Building No. 25, cut in half during soil contamination mitigation, 2002; NPS-AKSO Cultural Landscapes Program, 176.



Coal Creek airstrip, 2002; NPS-AKSO Cultural Landscapes Program, 077.



Slaven Dome Cabin, 2002; NPS-AKSO Cultural Landscapes Program, 003.



Cheese Creek Blacksmith Shop/Storage and Garage/Warehouse, 2002; NPS-AKSO Cultural Landscapes Program, 125.

Analysis And Evaluation

Summary

The Coal Creek Historic Mining District lies within a remote area of Alaska that can be accessed by air or by boat via the Yukon River from the towns of Eagle or Circle, Alaska. Although visitation to the park is limited, the historic site has camping and cabin facilities providing visitors with comfortable accommodations. The historic mess hall and bunkhouses have been rehabilitated for the use of park staff, researchers, and visitors.

Encompassing approximately 350 acres, the primary concerns regarding the historic cultural landscape involve threats posed by exposure to the elements and successional vegetation. Although most of the buildings and dredge have been rehabilitated and are currently in good condition, numerous small-scale features, such as the Keystone Drill, the panner's bench, boiler, compressor, gold saver, drill press, casing sled, etc. remain in place and will continue to deteriorate in the harsh climate. Historic structures remaining in Cheese Creek and the Slaven Dome structures show evidence of deterioration in varying degrees from exposure to the elements and successional vegetation.

Successional vegetation occurs along the outer edges of the tailings piles and along the historic road. Both of these structures have been documented by LCS and contribute to the overall integrity of the historic district. During the period of historical significance, 1933-1964, camp employees used a Caterpillar to maintain the road (historic) and mining circulatory roads at Cat-blade width allowing for the movement of mining equipment throughout the camp, and to the camp at Woodchopper Creek. Flooding, permafrost, erosion have compromised the integrity of the upper historic road, and successional vegetation has begun to obliterate the hydraulic ditch, upper penstock, and portions of the historic road past the Coal Creek Camp to Woodchopper Creek.

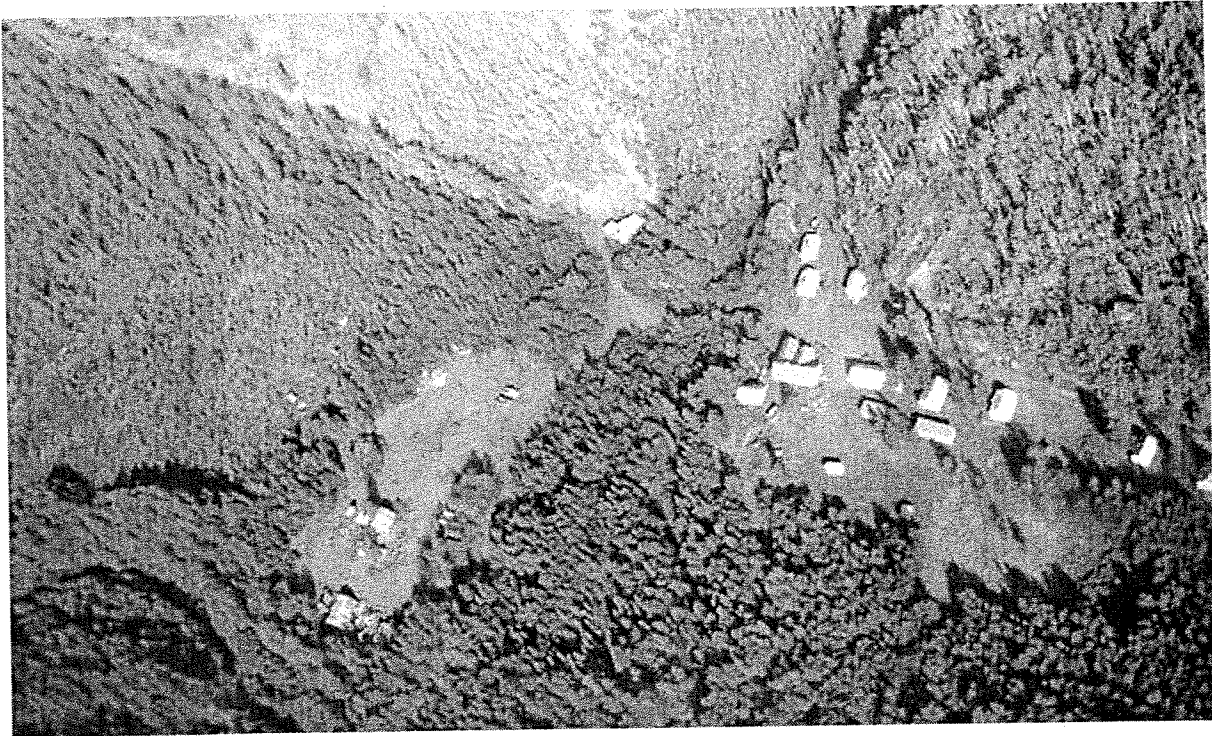
Numerous small artifacts, such as cans, bottles, tools and industrial scrap can be found throughout the historic mining district, along with numerous structures, such as the camp buildings and the dredge, and small-scale features, such as the panner's bench and Keystone Drill. An archeological survey and mapping project, scheduled for summer 2003, will provide the park with important cultural resource documentation.

The collective image of the Coal Creek Historic Mining District retains integrity in regards to overall location, design, settings, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Necessitated by the movement of the dredge through the mining site, work crews constructed most of the buildings on skids to allow for easy mobility. Although the workers moved the buildings from Camp 1 to Camp 2 to Camp 3 (present location), the buildings retain historical integrity excepting location.

Landscape Characteristics And Features

Topography

The topography of the Coal Creek Historic Mining District contributes to the integrity of the site. Constructed to take advantage of the topography, the hydraulic ditch and the two penstocks delivered high volumes of water to the thawing and stripping techniques utilized in the dredging operation. Although now in a state of deterioration, these features are still in evidence at the site as well as being documented in historical photographs. The Yukon River, the Coal Creek drainage, and surrounding mountains are contributing features in the topography.



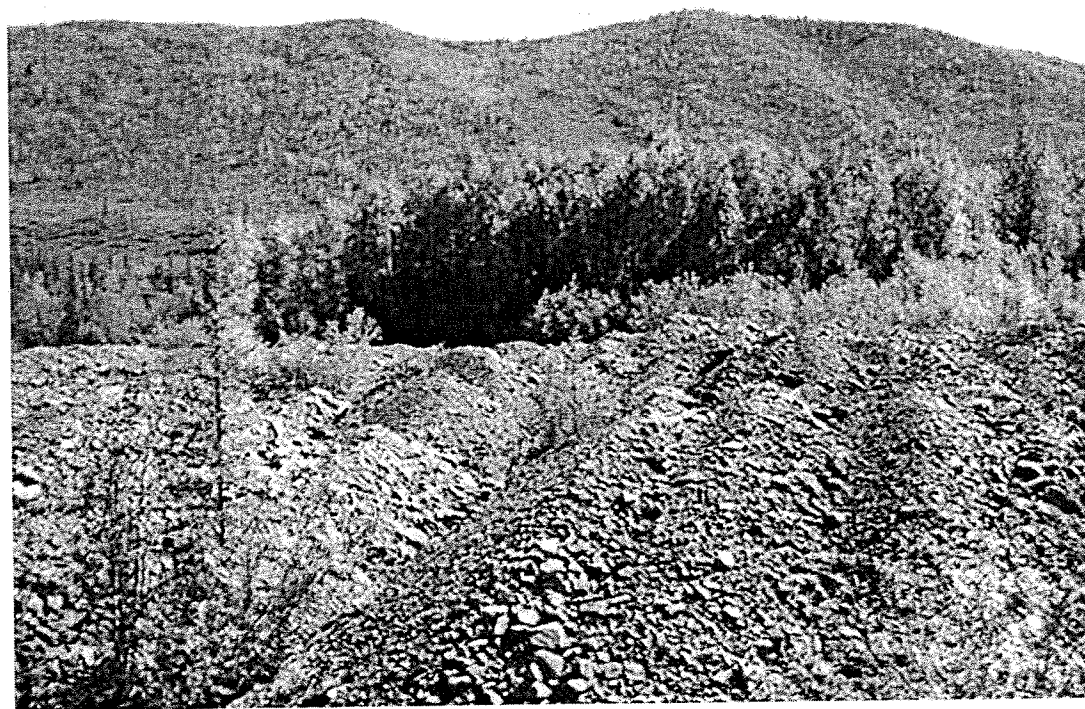
Coal Creek Camp No. 3 and Machine Shop area, 2002; NPS-AKSO Cultural Landscapes Program.



Revegetation: Coal Creek Historic Road portion showing some brushing to original cat-blade width, as well as unbrushed road at the top of the photograph, 2002; NPS-AKSO Cultural Landscapes Program.



Revegetation: Coal Creek Historic Road revegetation along the Camp No. 3 to Woodchopper Creek section of the historic road, 2002; NPS-AKSO Cultural Landscapes Program.



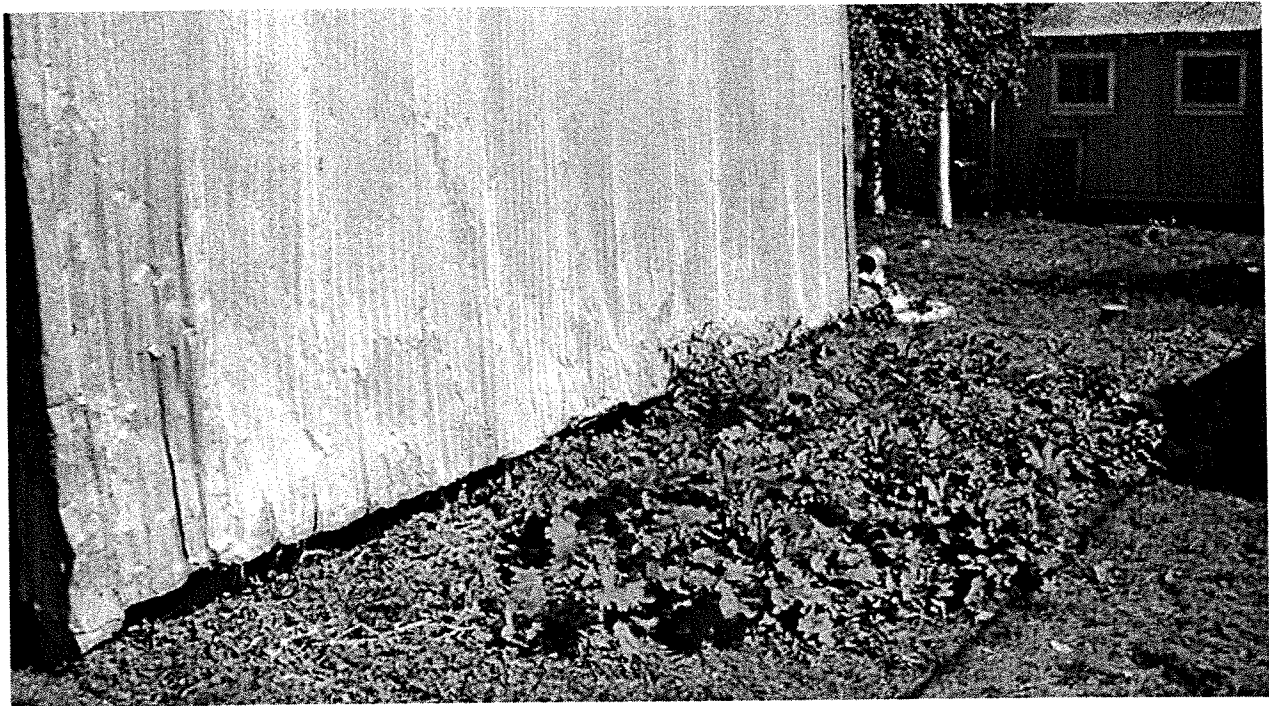
Revegetation: Coal Creek Tailings Piles revegetation, 2002; NPS-AKSO Cultural Landscapes Program.



Revegetation: Coal Creek Tailings Piles revegetation, 2002; NPS-AKSO Cultural Landscapes Program.



Slaven's Roadhouse, possible historic garden transplanting, 2002; NPS-AKSO Cultural Landscapes Program.



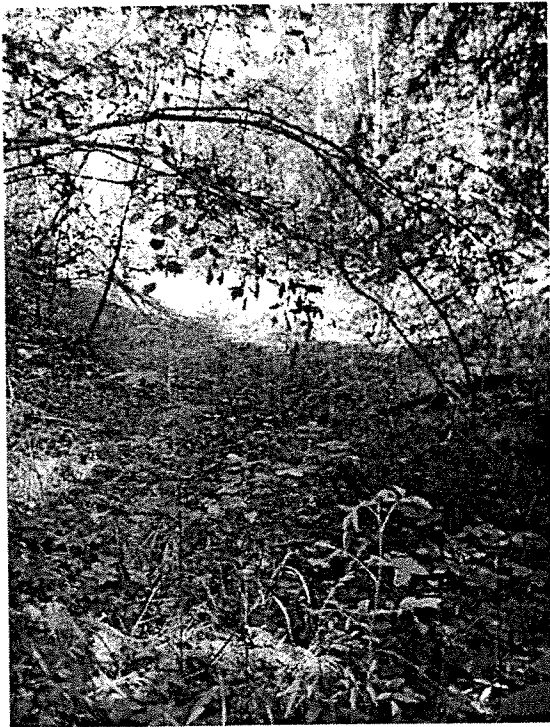
Coal Creek Camp No. 3 Storage Building No. 10, possible historic garden transplanting, 2002; NPS-AKSO Cultural Landscapes Program.



Constructed Water Feature: location of Coal Creek lower penstock, 2000; D. Beckstead, NPS, Fairbanks, Alaska.



Constructed Water Feature: Coal Creek upper penstock, revegetation, 2002; NPS-AKSO Cultural Landscapes Program.



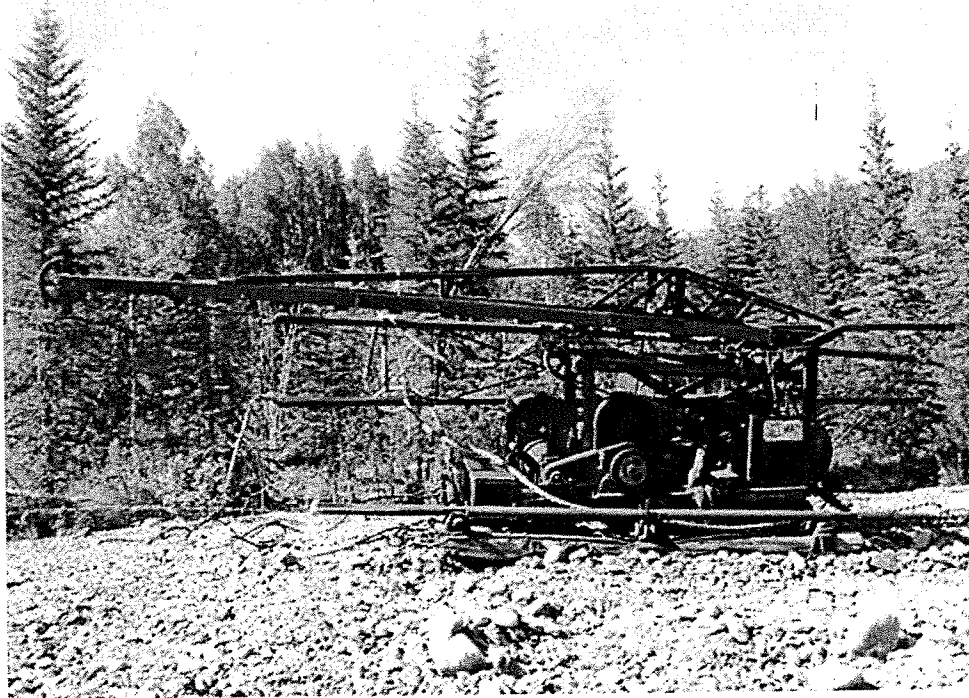
Constructed Water Feature: Coal Creek hydraulic ditch, revegetation, 2002; NPS-AKSO Cultural Landscapes Program.



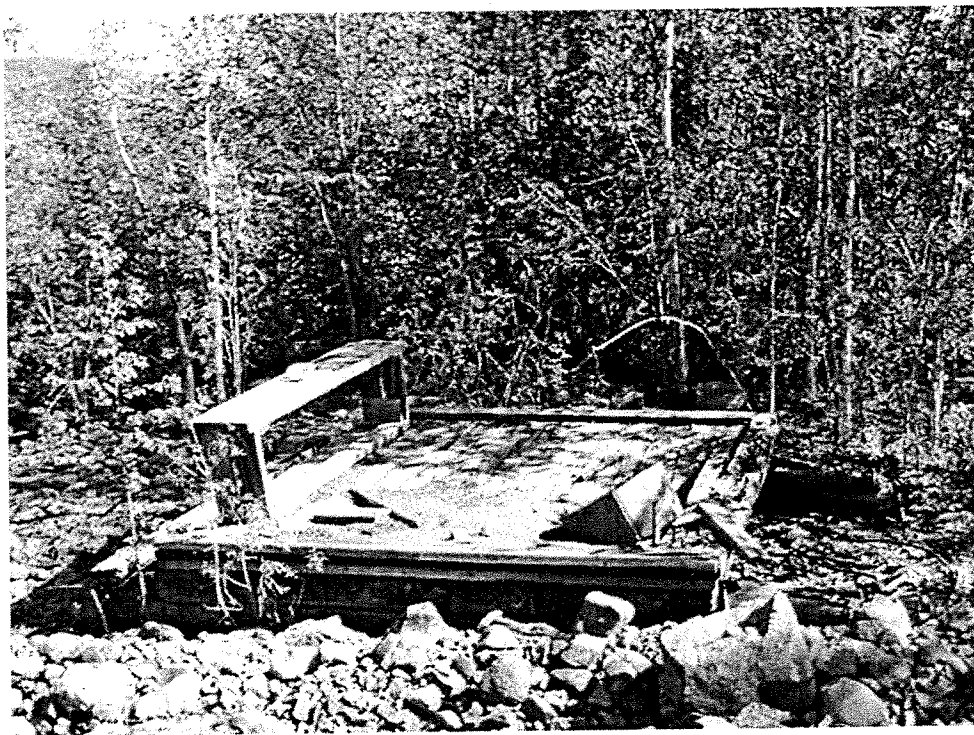
Small Scale Feature: Cheese Creek Boiler, 2002; NPS-AKSO Cultural Landscapes Program.



Small Scale Feature: Cheese Creek Ingersoll-Rand compressor, 2002; NPS-AKSO Cultural Landscapes Program.



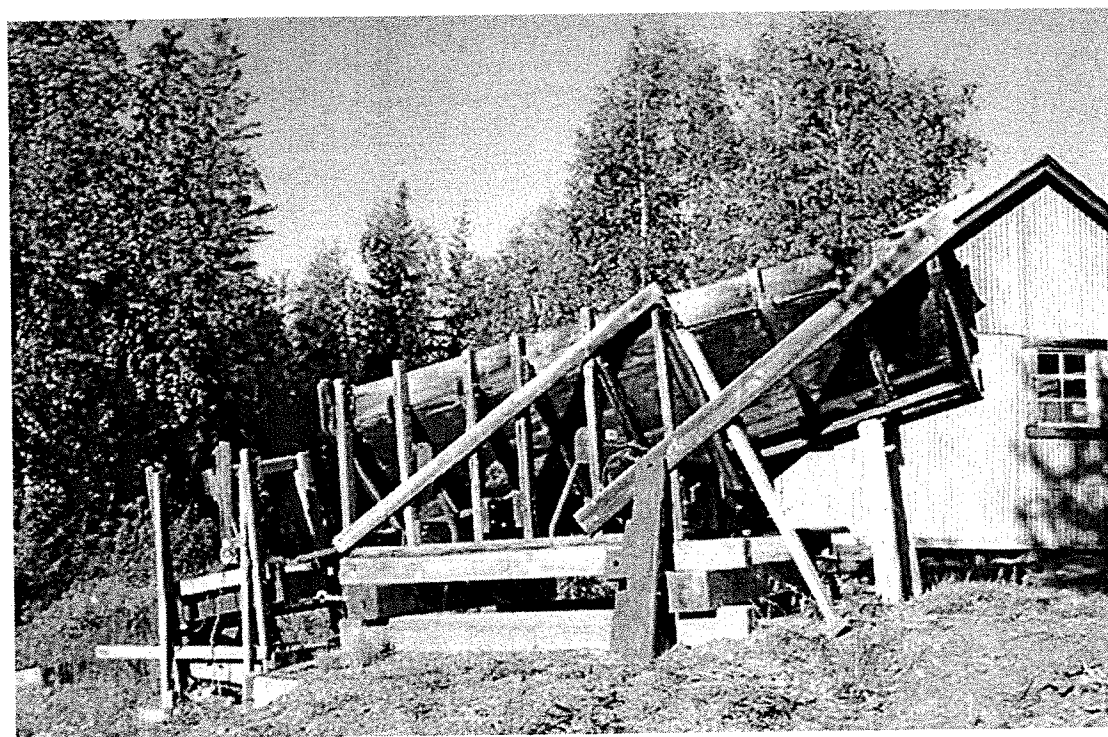
Small Scale Feature: Coal Creek Keystone Drill, 2002; NPS-AKSO Cultural Landscapes Program.



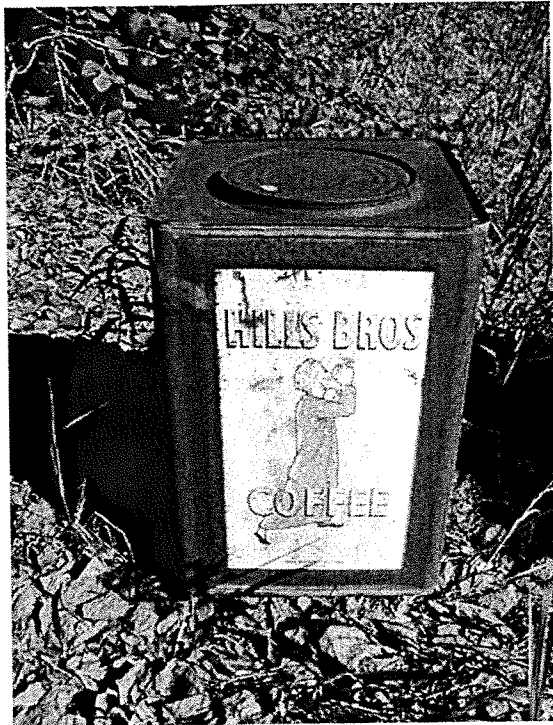
Small Scale Feature: Coal Creek panner's bench, 2002; NPS-AKSO Cultural Landscapes Program.



Small Scale Feature: Coal Creek casing sled, 2002; NPS-AKSO Cultural Landscapes Program.



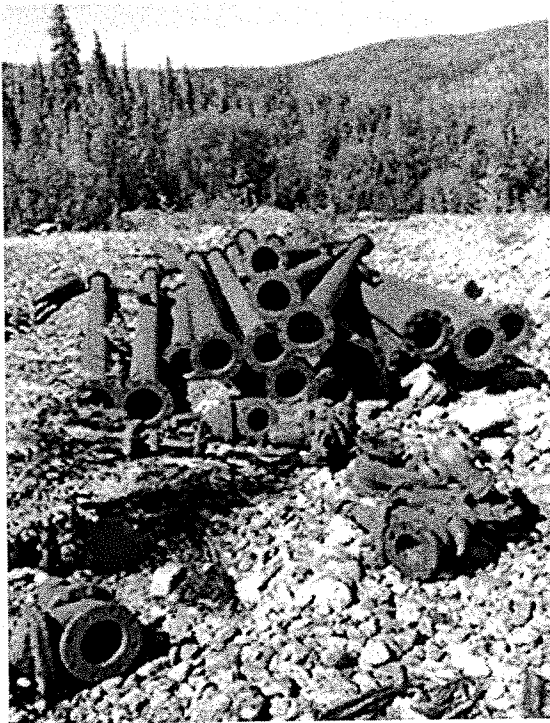
Small Scale Feature: Coal Creek gold saver, 2002; NPS-AKSO Cultural Landscapes Program.



Archeological artifact: Coal Creek artifact by Camp No. 2 area, 2002; NPS-AKSO Cultural Landscapes Program.



Archeological artifact: Coal Creek hydraulic pipe alongside road by Camp No. 2 area, 2002; NPS-AKSO Cultural Landscapes Program.



Archeological artifact: Coal Creek pipe yard, 2002; NPS-AKSO Cultural Landscapes Program.

| Characteristic Feature | Type Of Contribution | LCS Structure Name | IDLCS Number | Structure Number |
|--|-----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Coal Creek Drainage | Contributing | | | |
| Mountains surrounding Coal Creek Drainage. | Contributing | | | |
| Yukon River Drainage | Contributing | | | |

Natural Systems And Features

The natural systems and features of the landscape of the Coal Creek Historic Mining District contribute to the integrity of the site. Primary placer gold deposits occur within 10 miles of the Tintina Fault, which roughly parallels the Yukon River. The most significant gold discoveries in the preserve have been in north-trending drainages originating in the vicinity of the fault including Coal Creek.

Contributing natural systems and features include the Yukon River and the Coal Creek Drainage.

Spatial Organization

The spatial organization at Coal Creek involved constructing buildings on movable skids to allow for moving the camp facilities as the dredge progressed down the drainage. Each of these three camps had basically the same spatial organization that can be seen today at the third camp on Beaton Pup. The earlier two camps utilized the same buildings, including the mess hall, laundry, office buildings, generator building, storage buildings, outhouse, and some of the bunkhouses.

Although the spatial organization has lost some integrity because of the relocation and obliteration of Camps 1 and 2, the overall spatial organization in the Coal Creek Historic Mining District retains integrity. Slaven's Roadhouse provided respite for incoming crew members on the boats and barges that docked on the shores of the Yukon River. The road from Slaven's provided access to the dredge, mining camp, and machine shop.

The spatial organization in the Coal Creek Historic Mining District retains overall historical integrity and includes Slaven's Roadhouse and outbuildings, the historic road, Camp No. 3 on Beaton Pup, the dredge site, the machine shop complex on Cheese Creek, and the machine shop complex on Beaton Pup.

Vegetation

Vegetation, in particular the revegetation of the site by plants such as willow and alder, poses a threat to the integrity of the Coal Creek Historic Mining District. The historic road running from Slaven's Roadhouse to just above the Woodchopper Creek mining area is no longer used as a work road. As a result, revegetation along the road has begun to obscure the original Cat-blade width of the road. Likewise, revegetation along the outer edges of the tailings piles has begun to move into the tailings piles and will obscure the affect of the structure over time. The 2002 Coal Creek Management Guide addressed the issue of revegetation and made recommendations on vegetation management in the areas around the Coal Creek Camp, Cheese Creek, and the dredge.

Remnants of rhubarb patches at Slaven's Roadhouse and at Coal Creek Camp (alongside Storage Building No. 10) may have historical significance. Historical photographs document the garden at Slaven's and it is possible that the present gardens may have been transplanted from that earlier garden.

Circulation

The circulation system in the Coal Creek Historic Mining District involves the Yukon River which provides access from the outside via power boats, canoes, rafts in the summer, snow machine and dog sleds in the winter, and year around by aircraft on the Coal Creek airstrip. Access to the Coal Creek Camp is via the upper historic and lower roads which originate at Slaven's Roadhouse. The historic gravel roadway runs from Slaven's Roadhouse to Coal Creek Camp and exits the historic district before reaching the Woodchopper Creek mining area and is approximately 17 miles in length. Built by Gold Placers, Inc. and the Alaska Road Commission between 1936 and 1939, the gravel-surfaced road varies between 8 to 12 feet in width. As previously mentioned, melting, permafrost, erosion, and revegetation pose a threat to the integrity of the historic road. The Yukon River and the historic road, are contributing features in the circulation system at Coal Creek. The Coal Creek airstrip is non-contributing feature. The status of the lower road is undetermined pending further historical investigation.

| Characteristic Feature | Type Of Contribution | LCS Structure Name | IDLCS Number | Structure Number |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Coal Creek Camp Historic Upper Road | Contributing | Coal Creek Camp Road | 035126 | COALCP88 |
| Yukon River | Contributing | | | |
| Coal Creek Airstrip | Non-Contributing | | | |
| Coal Creek Camp Lower Road | Undetermined | | | |

Buildings And Structures

Most of the buildings and structures in the Coal Creek Historic Mining District contribute to the integrity of the site. One of the original miners in the region, Frank Slaven, built a roadhouse at the confluence of Coal Creek and the Yukon River in 1932. After Gold Placers, Inc. purchased the small claims in the area between 1933 and 1935, the company established a mining camp, constructed a dredge and built a road. Originally constructed on skids between 1934 and 1940, a number of the camp buildings were relocated from the first camp on Cheese Creek, to the second camp above Snare Creek, to the present location on Beaton Pup. The buildings have wood frames, plank floors, with board siding or beaverboard walls. Several buildings, the laundry, machine shop and one storage building have corrugated metal sheathing. Despite the relocation, the camp buildings retain historical integrity in terms of spatial arrangement and construction. The buildings at Cheese Creek include a garage/warehouse, a storage/blacksmith shop, and a small shed, all of wood frame construction and sheathed in corrugated metal. These buildings, along with the 4 Slaven Dome structures have not been scheduled for treatment.

Other structures listed in LCS include the historic road (described in Circulation section), the tailings piles, and the dredge. The crescent shaped tailings piles trace the path of the dredge as it moved through the Coal Creek valley. Completed in 1936, the dredge consists of steel construction and some wood framing with an overall length of 162 feet and is about 41 feet wide and 44 feet high.

| Characteristic Feature | Type Of Contribution | LCS Structure Name | IDLCS Number | Structure Number |
|--|----------------------|--|--------------|------------------|
| Cheese Creek Camp Black Smith Shop/Storage | Contributing | Cheese Creek Camp Black Smith Shop/Storage | 035081 | COALCP82 |
| Cheese Creek Garage/Warehouse | Contributing | Cheese Creek Garage/Warehouse | 035080 | COALCP80 |
| Cheese Creek Shed | Contributing | Cheese Creek Shed | 035134 | COALCP-A |
| Coal Creek Camp Assay Office #13 | Contributing | Coal Creek Camp Assay Office #13 | 035077 | COALCP13 |
| Coal Creek Camp Bunkhouse #1 | Contributing | Coal Creek Camp Bunkhouse #1 | 035073 | COALCP01 |
| Coal Creek Camp Bunkhouse #11 | Contributing | Coal Creek Camp Bunkhouse #11 | 035075 | COALCP11 |
| Coal Creek Camp Bunkhouse #2 | Contributing | Coal Creek Camp Bunkhouse #2 | 035072 | COALCP02 |
| Coal Creek Camp Bunkhouse #3 | Contributing | Coal Creek Camp Bunkhouse #3 | 035071 | COALCP03 |

| | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------------|--------|----------|
| Coal Creek Camp Bunkhouse #4 | Contributing | Coal Creek Camp Bunkhouse #4 | 035074 | COALCP04 |
| Coal Creek Camp Bunkhouse #6 | Contributing | Coal Creek Camp Bunkhouse #6 | 035070 | COALCP06 |
| Coal Creek Camp Generator Shed #14 | Contributing | | | |
| Coal Creek Camp Hall Building #7 | Contributing | Coal Creek Camp Hall Building #7 | 035069 | COALCP07 |
| Coal Creek Camp Laundry Building #20 | Contributing | Coal Creek Camp Laundry Building #20 | 035067 | COALCP67 |
| Coal Creek Camp Machine Shop #25 | Contributing | Coal Creek Camp Machine Shop #25 | 035078 | COALCP26 |
| Coal Creek Camp Mess Hall #19 | Contributing | Coal Creek Camp Mess Hall #19 | 035066 | COALCP19 |
| Coal Creek Camp Office Building #12 | Contributing | Coal Creek Camp Office Building #12 | 035076 | COALCP12 |
| Coal Creek Camp Road | Contributing | Coal Creek Camp Road | 035126 | COALCP88 |
| Coal Creek Camp Storage Building #10 | Contributing | Coal Creek Camp Storage Building #10 | 035068 | COALCP10 |
| Coal Creek Camp Storage Building #22 | Contributing | Coal Creek Camp Storage Building #22 | 035082 | COALCP22 |
| Coal Creek Camp Storage Building #23 | Contributing | Coal Creek Camp Storage Building #23 | 035130 | COALCP84 |
| Coal Creek Camp Storage Building #24 | Contributing | Coal Creek Camp Storage Building #24 | 035128 | COALCP84 |
| Coal Creek Camp Tailings Piles | Contributing | Coal Creek Camp Tailings Piles | 035125 | COALCP89 |
| Coal Creek Dredge | Contributing | Coal Creek Dredge | 035131 | COALCP83 |
| Slaven Cache | Contributing | Slaven Cache | 035010 | YURI040C |
| Slaven Dome Cabin | Contributing | Slaven Dome Cabin | 035135 | COCR015 |

Coal Creek Historic Mining District
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| | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------------|--------|----------|
| Slaven Dome Outhouse | Contributing | Slaven Dome Outhouse | 035138 | COCR015C |
| Slaven Dome Shed | Contributing | Slaven Dome Shed | 035136 | COCR015A |
| Slaven Dome Shed/Cache | Contributing | Slaven Dome Shed/Cache | 035137 | COCR015B |
| Slaven Garage | Contributing | Slaven Garage | 023115 | YURIO40B |
| Slaven Greenhouse | Contributing | Slaven Greenhouse | 035011 | YURIO40D |
| Slaven Outhouse | Contributing | Slaven Outhouse | 035009 | YURIO40F |
| Slaven Roadhouse | Contributing | Slaven Roadhouse | 023116 | YURIO40A |
| Slaven Smokehouse | Contributing | Slaven Smokehouse | 035012 | YURIO40D |
| Coal Creek Camp Bunkhouse #8 | Non-Contributing | Coal Creek Camp Bunkhouse #8 | 035122 | COALCP92 |
| Coal Creek Camp Bunkhouse #9 | Non-Contributing | Coal Creek Camp Bunkhouse #9 | 035121 | COALCP93 |
| Coal Creek Camp Caretakers House #21 | Non-Contributing | Coal Creek Camp Caretakers House #21 | 035123 | COALCP91 |
| Coal Creek Camp Generator Cabin #15 | Non-Contributing | Coal Creek Camp Generator Cabin | 035127 | COALCP87 |
| Coal Creek Camp Greenhouse #16 | Non-Contributing | Coal Creek Camp Greenhouse #16 | 035124 | COALCP90 |
| Coal Creek Camp Outhouse | Non-Contributing | Coal Creek Camp Outhouse | 035120 | COALCP94 |

Cluster Arrangement

The cluster arrangement in the Coal Creek Historic Mining District includes the Slaven's Roadhouse complex at the confluence of the Yukon River and Coal Creek, Coal Creek Camp on Beaton Pup, Slaven Dome Cabin and outbuildings, the machine shop area at Beaton Pup, and the old machine shop area at Cheese Creek.

Along with the roadhouse, the Slaven complex includes a garage, outhouse, cache, greenhouse, and smokehouse. Historically the roadhouse served as a point of landing for barges bringing in supplies and equipment to the mining camp. Part of the Gold Placers Inc. dredge mining operation on Coal Creek, Camp No. 3 on Beaton Pup includes a group of 23 buildings (17 contributing, 6 non-contributing), including bunkhouses, mess hall, laundry, office buildings, generator cabin, greenhouse, outhouse, and storage buildings serving the needs of camp workers and camp operation. The machine shop area provided maintenance facilities for the large equipment utilized in the dredging operation, as did the earlier machine shop on Cheese Creek (3 buildings) near the now extinct Camp No. 1. The four structures at Slaven Dome (constructed between 1935 and 1950) probably housed Gold Placer Inc. workers.

Excepting the loss of Camp 1 and Camp 2 that were dredged over, the cluster arrangement within the Coal Creek Historic Mining District retains integrity and contributes to the significance of the site.

| Characteristic Feature | Type Of Contribution | LCS Structure Name | IDLCS Number | Structure Number |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|--------------|------------------|
| Beaton Pup Machine Shop area | Contributing | | | |
| Cheese Creek Machine Shop area | Contributing | | | |
| Coal Creek Camp complex | Contributing | | | |
| Slaven Dome Cabin and outbuildings | Contributing | | | |
| Slaven Roadhouse complex | Contributing | | | |

Constructed Water Features

The dredge operation at Coal Creek required the construction of a hydraulic ditch and two penstocks. Constructed in 1935 and of heavy wood construction, the two penstocks (located at the lower end of the ditch) incorporated a sluice or gate for restraining water or otherwise regulating the flow of water into large pipes used in the stripping and thawing operations. Although overgrown today, the hydraulic ditch branches off from Coal Creek approximately two miles above where it crosses the historic road and follows the contour of the valley. At that crossing, traces of the bulldozer-constructed ditch are still evident. In the late 1940s, Gold Placers developed a natural thawing system by re-routing Coal Creek with dam diversions. At that time, Gold Placers Inc. blocked the hydraulic ditch at the diversion dam. Falling into disuse, the ditch and penstocks have become almost totally obscured by successional vegetation. Structural remains are evident at the upper penstock, the lower penstock has no structural remains. Crews re-routed Coal Creek to accommodate the movement of the dredge as it followed the richer gold deposits. By creating parallel channels from Coal Creek, work crews could move and manipulate the dredge, create thawing pools, and use pressure from the channels for stripping muck.

The re-routed creek, the upper penstock, and the hydraulic ditch contribute to the historical integrity of the historic mining district. The lower penstock has completely deteriorated and is a non-contributing feature.

| Characteristic Feature | Type Of Contribution | LCS Structure Name | IDLCS Number | Structure Number |
|------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|--------------|------------------|
| Coal Creek Re-route | Contributing | | | |
| Hydraulic Ditch | Contributing | | | |
| Upper Penstock | Contributing | | | |
| Lower Penstock | Non-Contributing | | | |

Small Scale Features

Small scale features in the Coal Creek Historic Mining District that contribute to the historical integrity of the site include large artifacts such as the Keystone Drill, the panner's bench, a locomotive boiler, an Ingersoll-Rand compressor, and a gold saver (used in clean-up). Numerous smaller artifacts can be found scattered throughout the site. These small scale features contribute to the integrity of the historic district.

| Characteristic Feature | Type Of Contribution | LCS Structure Name | IDLCS Number | Structure Number |
|---------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|--------------|------------------|
| Casing Sled | Contributing | | | |
| Gold Saver | Contributing | | | |
| Ingersoll-Rand Compressor | Contributing | | | |

| | |
|-------------------|--------------|
| Keystone Drill | Contributing |
| Locomotive Boiler | Contributing |
| Panner's Bench | Contributing |

Archeological Sites

In past years archeological work has been limited to compliance work. In 1989, an archeological clearance survey on Coal Creek Road identified four dump sites, and four borrow areas; the report recommended that the dump sites not be covered with additional fill, and that borrow areas not be used for road construction/surfacing without additional clearance. In 2003, the NPS began a detailed archeological inventory and mapping project of the historic district to document the location and variety of artifacts scattered throughout the site. Archeological sites include AHRs No. CHR-030 Frank Slaven Cabin (Roadhouse); AHRs No. CHR-089 Coal Creek Mining District; and AHRs No. 102 Coal Creek Mining Camp. Each of these archeological sites contributes to the significance of the Coal Creek Historic Mining District.

| Characteristic Feature | Type Of Contribution | LCS Structure Name | IDLCS Number | Structure Number |
|--|----------------------|--------------------|--------------|------------------|
| Coal Creek Mining Camp, AHRs CHR-102 | Contributing | | | |
| Coal Creek Mining District, AHRs CHR-089 | Contributing | | | |
| Slaven Roadhouse, AHRs CHR-030 | Contributing | | | |

Management Information

Descriptive And Geographic Information

Historic Name(s): Coal Creek Camp
Current Name(s): Coal Creek Historic Mining District
Management Unit: NA
Tract Numbers: NA
State and County: Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area, AK
Size (acres): 349.81

Boundary UTM

| Boundary UTM(s): | Source | Type | Datum | Zone | Easting | Northing |
|------------------|----------------------|-------|--------|------|---------|----------|
| | USGS Map 1:62,500 | Point | NAD 27 | 7 | 400040 | 7243550 |
| | USGS Map 1:62,500 | Point | NAD 27 | 7 | 396325 | 7240900 |
| | USGS Map 1:62,500 | Point | NAD 27 | 7 | 393000 | 7240375 |
| | USGS Map 1:62,500 | Point | NAD 27 | 7 | 393000 | 7241000 |
| | USGS Map 1:62,500 | Point | NAD 27 | 7 | 398375 | 7246900 |
| | USGS Map 1:62,500 | Point | NAD 27 | 7 | 400850 | 7246900 |
| | USGS Map 1:62,500 | Point | NAD 27 | 7 | 394300 | 7341000 |
| | USGS Map 1:62,500 | Point | NAD 27 | 7 | 401100 | 7249000 |
| | USGS Map 1:62,500 | Point | NAD 27 | 7 | 401900 | 7249040 |
| | USGS Map 1:62,500 | Point | NAD 27 | 7 | 402100 | 7245700 |

GIS File Name:

GIS File Description:

National Register Information

National Register Documentation: Entered -- Inadequately Documented

Explanatory Narrative:

The inventory unit is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and identified in a National Register nomination, but is not adequately documented in a National Register nomination based

on the findings of the CLI.

NRIS Information:

NRIS Number: 95000573
Primary Certification: Listed In The National Register
Primary Certification Date: 5/4/1995
Other Certifications: Date Received/Pending
Nomination
Other Certification Date: 3/19/1995
Name In National Register: Coal Creek Historic Mining District
Other Names In
National Register: Coal Creek Mining Camp;Gold Placers,Inc.;AHR
Site #CHR-089;;Coal Creek Mining Camp;Gold
Placers,Inc.;AHR Site #CHR-089

National Register Eligibility: Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination

Explanatory Narrative:

Date of Eligibility Determination: 5/4/1995

National Register Classification: District

Significance Level: State

Contributing/Individual: Individual

Significance Criteria: A -- Inventory Unit is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history
B -- Inventory Unit is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past

Criteria Considerations: B -- A building or structure removed from its original location but which is significant primarily for architectural value, or which is the surviving structure most importantly associated with a historic person or event
G -- A property achieving significance within the past 50 years if it is of exceptional importance

Period Of Significance

Time Period: 1933 - 1964 AD

Historic Context Theme: Developing the American Economy

Historic Context Subtheme: Extraction or Mining Industries

Historic Context Facet: Other Metals And Minerals --

Area Of Significance:

Category: Engineering
Priority: 1
Category: Commerce
Priority: 2

State Register Information

State Register Documentation

Document ID Number: AHRS Site No. CHR-089
Date Listed: 5/4/1995
Document Name: Coal Creek Mining District
Explanatory Narrative: The district covers the final eight miles of Coal Creek and the valley it flows through ending at the Frank Slaven's Roadhouse on the Yukon River.

Document ID Number: AHRS Site No. CHR-30
Date Listed: 5/4/1995
Document Name: Frank Slaven Cabin (Roadhouse)
Explanatory Narrative: Part of the Coal Creek Mining District.

Document ID Number: AHRS Site No.-102
Date Listed: 5/4/1995
Document Name: Coal Creek Mining Camp
Explanatory Narrative: The Coal Creek mining camp on Beaton Pup creek is the third and only remaining mining camp in the Coal Creek Mining District.

National Historic Landmark Information

National Historic
Landmark Status: No

World Heritage Site Information

World Heritage Site Status: No

Cultural Landscape Type and Use

Cultural Landscape Type: Historic Vernacular Landscape

Current and Historic Use/Function:

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Use/Function Category: | Domestic (Residential) |
| Use/Function: | Camp |
| Detailed Use/Function: | Camp |
| Type Of Use/Function: | Both Current And Historic |
| Use/Function Category: | Industrial/Processing/Extraction |
| Use/Function: | Industrial/Processing/Extraction-Other |
| Detailed Use/Function: | Industrial/Processing/Extraction-Other |
| Type Of Use/Function: | Historic |
| Use/Function Category: | General Storage |
| Use/Function: | Equipment/Vehicle Storage |
| Detailed Use/Function: | Equipment/Vehicle Storage |
| Type Of Use/Function: | Both Current And Historic |
| Use/Function Category: | General Storage |
| Use/Function: | Storage Yard (Open Area Used) |
| Detailed Use/Function: | Storage Yard (Open Area Used) |
| Type Of Use/Function: | Both Current And Historic |
| Use/Function Category: | Transportation |
| Use/Function: | Air-Related |
| Detailed Use/Function: | Airport |
| Type Of Use/Function: | Both Current And Historic |
| Use/Function Category: | Transportation |
| Use/Function: | Water-Related |
| Detailed Use/Function: | Landing (Wharf, Dock) |
| Type Of Use/Function: | Both Current And Historic |
| Use/Function Category: | Transportation |
| Use/Function: | Road-Related |
| Detailed Use/Function: | Truck |
| Type Of Use/Function: | Historic |
| Use/Function Category: | Transportation |
| Use/Function: | Road-Related |
| Detailed Use/Function: | Motorized Equipment |
| Type Of Use/Function: | Historic |

Ethnographic Information

Ethnographic Survey Conducted: Yes-Restricted Information

Associated Groups

Name of Peoples: Athabaskan Han
Type of Association: Historic

Significance Description:

The ethnographic study conducted by Craig Mishler and William E. Simeone (Han, People of the River) for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game is in draft form, and expected to be released in the next year.

Relatively little is known about the earliest inhabitants of the Yukon-Charley area. Archeological research carried out both within and outside the preserve boundaries indicate that early man may have occupied the general region surrounding the preserve possibly as early as 27,000 years ago. Within the preserve the earliest identified site dates to plus/minus 6000 years ago. (GMP, 33)

In the immediate precontact period, two groups, the Han and Kutchakutchin, subdivisions of the Athabaskan linguistic group, inhabited the area. The Han lived along the river and its major tributaries from the Canadian border to Takoma Bluffs. The Kutchakutchin lived primarily in the Yukon Flats and utilized only the most northerly portions of the preserve area. (GMP, 33).

Native populations within the Yukon-Charley area were low, numbering about 500 persons a century ago. From small villages located on main rivers and streams, the Han radiated out to many group and family fishing campsites along streams and to interior hunting and trapping camps. Within the preserve area one historic Native village existed at the confluence of the Kandik and Yukon Rivers; Tadush or Charley Village had a population of 60 persons in 1875. Washed away by the spring ice breakup in 1914, the villagers moved to Circle. Johnny's Village or Klatoklin had a population of 200 in 1875 consolidating with Eagle (just outside the preserve) when the mining camp developed into a city. (GMP, 34)

Present day communities near the preserve with mostly Native populations include Eagle Village and Circle. Several Native men and their families, Suzy Paul, Willie Juneby, and Harry David, relocated from Eagle in the late 1930s and 1940s to work on the gold dredges at Coal Creek and Woodchopper Creek. These families possibly occupied or built cabins on Slaven Dome at that time; four of those structures can be seen at the site today.

Adjacent Lands Information

Do Adjacent Lands Contribute? Yes

Adjacent Lands Description:

Creeks outside of the Coal Creek Mining District have also been utilized for mining. Gold Placer Inc. partners established a sister-company, Alluvial Golds Inc., which operated a dredge at Woodchopper Creek located just over the ridge to the west of Coal Creek. Numerous hunter and trapper cabins exist throughout the preserve and the surrounding; many of which have historical significance. Part of the larger ecosystem extending beyond the historic district and the preserve, the landscape throughout the Yukon River Basin contributes to the significance of the site.

General Management Information

Management Category: Should Be Preserved And Maintained

Management Category Date: 5/4/1995

Explanatory Narrative:

The Coal Creek Historic Mining District was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1995, and thus, should be preserved and maintained.

Condition Assessment And Impacts

The criteria for determining the condition of landscapes is consistent with the Resource Management Plan Guideline definitions (1994) and is decided with the concurrence of park management. Cultural landscape conditions are defined as follows:

Good: indicates the landscape shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The landscape's cultural and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under the given environmental conditions. No immediate corrective action is required to maintain its current condition.

Fair: indicates the landscape shows clear evidence of minor disturbances and deterioration by natural and/or human forces, and some degree of corrective action is needed within 3-5 years to prevent further harm to its cultural and/or natural values. If left to continue without the appropriate corrective action, the cumulative effect of the deterioration of many of the character-defining elements will cause the landscape to degrade to a poor condition.

Poor: indicates the landscape shows clear evidence of major disturbance and rapid deterioration by natural and/or human forces. Immediate corrective action is required to protect and preserve the remaining historical and natural values.

Undetermined: Not enough information available to make an evaluation.

Condition Assessment: Fair

Assessment Date: 07/30/2002

Date Recorded: 06/03/2003

Park Management Concurrence: Yes **Concurrence Date:** 8/22/2003

Level Of Impact Severity: Moderate

Explanatory Notes: The condition assessment, first recorded in 1999, was re-entered following the site visit in 2002.

Condition Assessment: Fair

Assessment Date: 09/30/1999

Date Recorded: 09/30/1999

Park Management Concurrence: No
Level Of Impact Severity: Moderate

Stabilization Measures:

Impact:

Type of Impact: Exposure To Elements

Internal/External: Internal

Description:

Buildings and structures documented by LCS will weatherr as a result of rain, wind, and winter weather conditions in the harsh sub-arctic climate. Numerous mining artifacts scattered throughout the historic mining district will decay over time from those same climatic conditions. Archeological inventory work begun in 2003 begins to establish a record of artifacts and will provide a basis for selective collection and curation of friable artifacts. Building upkeep and maintenance programs instituted by the park will prevent the buildings and structures from deteriorating.

Type of Impact: Release To Succession

Internal/External: Internal

Description:

Successional vegetative growth will eventually obscure the tailings piles, the historic road (both listed in LCS and contributing features), other circulatory roads, the two historic machine shop areas, the upper penstock, and the hydraulic ditch. Archeological inventory and mapping beginning in 2003 will provide a permanent record of the location of significant features and objects. Future protection will be supplemented with detailed inventory. The 2002 Coal Creek Management Guide provides direction on vegetation management in critical areas commensurate with available resources, interpretive opportunities, and ability to maintain.

Type of Impact: Erosion

Internal/External: Internal

Description:

Portions of the upper historic road have been damaged by melting permafrost resulting in erosion and the development of swampy sections. In 2002, an environmental assessment for improving the access from Slaven's Roadhouse to Coal Creek Camp began. A Road Alignment and River Realignmnet Study will help to find solutions to the problem.

Agreements, Legal Interest, and Access

Management Agreement: None

Explanatory Narrative:

NPS Legal Interest: Fee Simple

Explanatory Narrative:

Public Access: Unrestricted

Treatment

Approved Treatment: Rehabilitation
Approved Treatment Document: Other Document
Document Date: August 1, 2002

Explanatory Narrative:

Coal Creek Historic Mining District Management Guide, first released in 1987, and revised in 2002. Although some of the structures have been rehabilitated for adaptive re-use, others have been left as is, and plans for the maintenance/preservation of the historic road have yet to be implemented. NPS spent \$22,500.00 on soil mitigation in 1999.

Approved Treatment Completed: No

Approved Treatment Cost

LCS Structure Approved Treatment Cost: \$220,000
Landscape Approved Treatment Cost:
Cost Date: January 1, 2001
Level of Estimate: A - Working Drawings
Cost Estimator: Support Office
Explanatory Description: In 2001, NPS spent \$75,000.00 on Coal Creek Camp rehabilitation, \$72,000.00 on Assay Office rehabilitation, and \$22,000.00 on painting.

Stabilization Costs

LCS Structure Stabilization Cost: \$51,000
Landscape Stabilization Costs:
Cost Date: January 1, 2001
Level Of Estimate: A - Working Drawings
Cost Estimator: Support Office
Explanatory Description: In 2001, NPS spent \$51,000.00 replacing the roof and windows on the Coal Creek Dredge.

Documentation Assessment and Checklist

Documentation Assessment: Good

Documentation:

Document: General Management Plan
Year Of Document: 1984
Amplifying Details: Also land protection plan, Charley Wild River management plan, and wilderness suitability review.

Adequate Documentation: Yes

Document: Resource Management Plan
Year Of Document: 1994
Adequate Documentation: Yes

Document: Historic Resource Study
Year Of Document: 1977
Adequate Documentation: Yes

Document: Other
Year Of Document: 1987
Amplifying Details: Coal Creek Historic District Management Guide
Adequate Documentation: Yes

Document: Other
Year Of Document: 2002
Amplifying Details: Coal Creek Historic Mining District Management Guide
Adequate Documentation: Yes

Appendix

Bibliography

Citations:

Citation Author: Staff
Citation Title: Master Plan, Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve
Year of Publication: 1973
Source Name: CRBIB
Citation Number: 011576
Citation Type: Narrative

Citation Author: Staff
Citation Title: GMP, EA, Land Protection Plan, Charley Wild River Management Plan, Wilderness Suitability Review, Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve, Alaska
Year of Publication: 1983
Source Name: CRBIB
Citation Number: 011855
Citation Type: Narrative

Citation Author: Grauman, Melody Webb
Citation Title: Yukon Frontiers, Historic Resource Study of the Proposed Yukon-Charley National River
Year of Publication: 1977
Source Name: CRBIB
Citation Number: 011577
Citation Type: Narrative

Citation Author: Strunk, Mike
Citation Title: Development Concept Plan and Environmental Assessment, Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve, Alaska
Year of Publication: 1993
Source Name: CRBIB
Citation Number: 016361
Citation Type: Narrative

Citation Author: Don Pendergrast
Citation Title: Draft Environmental Assessment for Improving the Access from Slaven's Roadhouse to Coal Creek Camp
Year of Publication: 2002
Source Name: YUCH
Citation Number: 016361
Citation Type: Narrative

Citation Author: Douglas Beckstead
Citation Title: The World Turned Upside Down: A History of Mining of Coal Creek and Woodchopper Creek, Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve
Year of Publication: 2000
Publisher: YUCH
Source Name: YUCH
Citation Type: Both Graphic And Narrative
Citation Location: ,

Citation Author: Steve Peterson, et.al.
Citation Title: Coal Creek Historic District Management Guide
Year of Publication: 1987
Publisher: AKSO
Source Name: AKSO
Citation Type: Narrative

Citation Author: Staff
Citation Title: Coal Creek Historic Mining District Management Guide
Year of Publication: 2002
Publisher: YUCH
Source Name: YUCH
Citation Type: Narrative

Citation Author: Ann Kain
Citation Title: Coal Creek Historic Mining District Nomination Form
Year of Publication: 1994
Publisher: AKSO
Source Name: National Register of Historic Places
Citation Type: Narrative

Citation Author: O'Neill, Schneider, Tyrrell, Beckstead, et.al
Citation Title: Jukebox--Oral History Project
Year of Publication: 1991
Source Name: University of Alaska, Fairbanks, Rasmussen Library
Citation Type: Narrative

Citation Author: NPS-ARO
Citation Title: Frank Slaven's Roadhouse: Historic Structure Report
Year of Publication: 1990
Publisher: AKSO
Source Name: YUCH-AKSO
Citation Type: Narrative

Citation Author: Jet Lowe
Citation Title: Gold Placers, Inc., Coal Creek Dredge
Year of Publication: 1984
Publisher: HABS/HAER
Source Name: HABS
Citation Type: Graphic

Citation Author: LCS
Citation Title: Coal Creek Historic Mining District
Year of Publication: 1990
Publisher: LCS
Source Name: LCS
Citation Type: Both Graphic And Narrative

Citation Author: Paul Gleeson
Citation Title: Trip Report, Coal Creek Dredge and Mining Operation
Year of Publication: 1987
Publisher: NPS Memorandum
Source Name: YUCH Files
Citation Type: Narrative

Citation Author: Ted Birkedal
Citation Title: Archeological Clearance, 002-89-YUCH
Year of Publication: 1989
Publisher: NPS Memorandum
Source Name: YUCH Files
Citation Type: Narrative

Supplemental Information