

Ruby Creek Roadhouse

IDT-022

Remains of two log structures are located in a large grassy clearing just below the mouth of Ruby Creek (Figure 15; Plates C-40 and C-41). Only the wall foundations are in place. A few rotting logs lie in disarray about the smaller structure (Plate C-42). The investigators cut out shrubs and small trees that had grown up on and within the foundations (Plate C-43). A pile of bottles and tin cans was found under the grass between the two buildings. The dual tracks of the present winter trail are 150 feet east of the site (Plate C-40).

The smaller structure measured 16 by 18 feet at the foundations. The larger structure, measuring 18 by 34 feet, probably was the roadhouse.

Ruby Creek Roadhouse is mentioned by the Goodwin party who surveyed the Iditarod loop of the Iditarod Trail in 1910-11 (Alaska Yukon Magazine XI, 1911:55). The ARC map of 1916 and Rand-McNally (1922:40) both identify the roadhouse at this location as Ruby Roadhouse.

There is little in the way of structural remains left at the Ruby Creek Roadhouse site. It should receive archeological testing to determine the potential of the historic remains there. Further research into archival and local information sources may provide further details about the historic use of the site.