

Fritz's Roadhouse

IDT-009

A frame cabin in excellent condition was sighted in a clearing in open spruce woodland on the trail approximately 33 miles west of Ophir (Plate C-83). What appears to be foundations in the clearing east of the cabin suggests that another older structure once stood there next to the trail (Plate C-84).

This was the only commercially operated roadhouse known to have been built on the Hunter Trail and was constructed by Fritz Walter (Timothy Twitchell, pers. comm.; ARC Annual Report, 1931:56). Fritz's Roadhouse was constructed around 1916 when a mail route was established along the Hunter Trail. The roadhouse was purchased by Adam Twitchell shortly before the end of World War I (Timothy Twitchell, pers. comm.) and was operated by Jerry Wynne until it burned down on October 18, 1924 (Alaska Sportsman, October 1966:42). In 1931, a shelter cabin was rebuilt on the site by the ARC (ARC Annual Report, 1931:56).

The standing cabin at Fritz's Roadhouse site appears to be in good condition and probably only needs minor repairs to keep it intact. The area showing evidence of old foundations should be tested for archeological deposits. This site is on State-owned land.

Reindeer Cabin on Hunter Trail

IDT-015

An old log cabin was found 5 miles northwest of Hunter Trail approximately 30 miles southwest of Ophir. The site is in a small clearing