

SITE Old McGrath

AHRS NO: McG-001

INHT NO: _____

OTHER SITE NAMES: _____

TRAIL SECTION:

Seward-Rainy Pass _____

Rainy Pass-Kaltag X

Kaltag-Nome _____

LAND STATUS: 3/6/81 ADP 3/19/81

Private and village selection. ✓

PL 92-202
PLD 5184

MIF 24-78

LEGAL DESCRIPTION:

Approximate	Actual	X
Quad. <u>McGrath D6</u>		
Township <u>33 N.</u>		
Range <u>33 W.</u>		
Section <u>8</u>		
Subsection <u>NW</u>		

Latitude: 62 57' 30"

Longitude: 155 35' 30"

UTM REFERENCE:

A	Zone	Easting	Northing
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LOCATION AND USE:

Abandoned - Old McGrath is across river on an oxbow from present site of McGrath.

INSPECTED BY: Lynch (78) Peterson (80) DATE: _____ Aerial X Onsite _____

STRUCTURAL TYPE: Shelter Structure X River Community X
Native Settlement _____ Mining Community _____ Other _____

WALLS:	IN	OUT	FLOOR	ROOF	CORNER NOTCH
Log-Rough	_____	_____	Dirt	Sod	Unknown
Log-Hewn	_____	_____	Wood	Metal	
Frame	_____	_____	Other	Wd. Plank	
Drop Siding	_____	_____	Unknown	Wd. Shingle	
Wall Covering	_____	_____		Tar Paper	
Unknown	_____	_____		Unknown	

TREATMENT RECOMMENDED:

ORDER OF SIGNIFICANCE:

- | | |
|---|-----------------------|
| <u>X</u> Site Protection | <u>X</u> National |
| <u>_____</u> Preservation/Stabilization | <u>_____</u> Regional |
| <u>_____</u> Restoration | <u>_____</u> Local |
| <u>_____</u> Reconstruction | <u>_____</u> _____ |
| <u>_____</u> Adaptive Reuse | |

Estimated Treatment Costs _____
Estimated Planning/Research Costs _____

IDITAROD TRAIL INVENTORY

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MANAGEMENT RATING CRITERIA

ACCESS ----- 40 POINTS

- 5 Difficult
(Dog Sled, Snow Mach., Heli.)
20 Medium
(1 Day Hike, Boat, Fixed-Wing)
40 High
(Auto/Road, Short Hike)

CONDITION ----- 40 POINTS

- Not Located
1 No Remains
3 Ruin
8 Poor (Roof In)
15 Medium (Roof Intact)
25 Good (Maintained)
40 Restored

PRESENT VISITOR USE

- Frequent
 Infrequent
 None

POTENTIAL VISITOR USE--20 POINTS

- 20 High
10 Medium
5 Low

Total Points 45

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

Old McGrath was established in 1907 as a small trading post (across the river from the present McGrath townsite). The site grew for many years and eventually included several roadhouses; Lough's Roadhouse in the early years; Crumm's Roadhouse in the 1920s and 1930s, a post office, trading companies, and saloons. The town prospered until the late 1930s when the N.C. Company moved to the present townsite because of shifting river patterns. The N.C. Company took the U.S. Post Office with it, further hastening Old McGrath's demise (pers. comm. Jack Morris). ~~Several structures and ruins of three riverboats remain, and will be inventoried in 1981.~~

016 LEAVE IN

Old McGrath, though significant at the time of the Iditarod gold rush, was largely bypassed by many early travelers. The route to the north through the Salmon River Roadhouse, Big River Roadhouse, through Nixon Fork and Takotna served as the primary route to the Iditarod gold fields from 1908 to 1914.

(Continued on next page)

REFERENCE:

- Lynch, Alice J., 1979. A Preliminary Inventory of Cultural Resources of the Iditarod Trail Between Rainy Pass and Unalakleet. Bureau of Land Management.
Oral Interview: Jack Miller, 1980 at McGrath and Takotna. (Jack ran the McGrath roadhouse for many years (1930-1950) in McGrath.)

SITE RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Inventory in 1981 and develop preservation plan.
2. Brush and clear around townsite to protect from forest fire.
3. Consider for National Register nomination.
4. Explore opportunities for providing visitor tours to the site from McGrath.

A.E.C. McPHERSON'S SURVEY, DEC 1914 → ID'S, NORTHERN COMMERCIAL CO. HEADQUARTERS w/ (A) BUILDINGS } STRUCTURES
SOUTH BANK KUSKOKWIM RIVER → D.W. SPRAGUE CABIN.

