

and form of each building can still be determined. Each structure was composed of 14 stalls (Figure 14). Separate entries into each stall were 18 inches wide. The height of the barns at the top center was 48 inches. Wall log supports were stakes 37 inches high, suggesting that height of the side walls was 37 inches.

Some information on the history of Smith's Roadhouse was obtained from residents of McGrath and Nicolai. The roadhouse was built by Paul Mellick in 1914 (Miska Diaphon, pers. comm.). It was operated for Charlie "White Dog" Smith for a while in 1921 by the late Pete Snow Sr. (Evelyn Snow, pers. comm.). The site was sometimes called Blackwater Roadhouse because of its location on Blackwater Creek.

The ruins at Smith's Roadhouse site should be stabilized to prevent further deterioration of the site. Further evaluation of the historic significance and archeological potential of the site can be made through more intensive study.

Old McGrath

MCG-001

Old McGrath, established in 1907 as a small trading post, lies along both sides of a slough that once formed the mouth of the Takotna River. It lies on the route of the Old Iditarod Trail where it passes on the northern side of the Kuskokwim River, directly across from the present town of McGrath. A number of roadhouses were operated over the years in Old McGrath. Dave Clough had two log roadhouses at different times in Old McGrath. He operated another at Nixon's Fork (Timothy Twitchell,

pers. comm.). Crumm's Roadhouse in Old McGrath flourished in the 1920's and early 1930's (Margaret Mespelt, pers. comm). Mitchell's Roadhouse catered to trappers who came to town to trade their furs for provisions (Margaret Mespelt, pers. comm.).

People began moving to the present McGrath townsite in the late 1930's when the Takotna River changed its course. In 1951, the last residents of Old McGrath abandoned their house (Evelyn Snow, pers. comm.).

Time did not allow a thorough on-the-ground inspection of the old townsite. Superficial examination of the site reveals that a number of old log buildings are present as well as the remains of at least three riverboats, the Lavelle Young, the Tana and the burned remains of the Quickstep.

Old McGrath is on land that is currently Federal property, but will probably be patented to the village of McGrath as part of their village selection under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA). Until management responsibility passes from government hands, the historic resources at Old McGrath should be maintained. Further study and documentation of the site is required to determine if it qualifies as a National Register site or district, and to determine needs for stabilization/protection.

TAKOTNA TO KALTAG

The Iditarod Trail extends northwest from Takotna for 145 miles to