

A number of tripod trailmarkers, now collapsed, are still visible in the Pass Creek vicinity. Since the first ARC survey, the use of tripods has proved especially effective in areas above tree line, where it is otherwise difficult to mark the trail. Tripods were used because of their stability and ease of construction, and because they could be easily erected in areas of permafrost or rocky ground.

Much of the original surveyed trail route is visible between Rainy Pass and Takotna. Some portions of the trail route in the canyon of the south fork are obscure, possibly traversing the frozen river surface or paralleling it near the edge of the floodplain. From Pioneer Roadhouse to Salmon River the trail is nearly straight and has been rendered highly visible by tractor and ATV traffic over the years. Part of the trail near Sullivan Roadhouse has not been impacted however, and retains the old narrow dogsled trail appearance. Between Salmon River and McGrath the route is obscure. Apparently traffic travelled the frozen surface of the Kuskokwim River. A well defined trail cuts across Stewart's bend at its narrowest point. West of McGrath the trail is again visible to Takotna. Snow machines and dogsled traffic have kept to the original surveyed route, though the trail does not appear to have been utilized by tractors.

Pass Creek Roadhouse

TAL-010

The ruins of a small structure were located during low-level aerial reconnaissance on Pass Creek approximately 2/3 mile south of Rainy Pass Lake. This is approximately at the location of Pass Creek Roadhouse

site described by Reed (1965:10), but neither the size of the structure nor the apparent building materials correspond to Reed's account. Reed states that, "the roadhouse was a long ramshackle log building facing south with a log cache on pilings behind" (Reed 1965:10). The ruin observed appears to have been a small, one-room frame building that has completely collapsed.

The Pass Creek Roadhouse site needs to be determined through historical background research and additional reconnaissance of the area. Further examination of relevant archival and local sources of information may shed some light on the exact nature of the observed ruins.

Rainy Pass Roadhouse

An establishment referred to as Rainy Pass Roadhouse is described in the same vicinity as Pass Creek Roadhouse (Rand-McNally 1922:40; Cadwallader n.d.:7; and Alaska Road Commission 1916 Map). It is likely that these two names refer to the same roadhouse, though two non-contemporaneous structures could be involved. Further research is required to clarify this situation.

Dalzell Cabin

MCG - 003

During low-level reconnaissance, the remains of a two-section log structure were observed on the Pass Fork of Dalzell Creek. It lies on the west side of the creek about 1/4 mile above the fork. The roof has collapsed and vegetation has grown up within the walls of one chamber. Five tiers of wall logs remain standing at one end of the structure. The other walls are in various stages of collapse.

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