

Tape #2

STEVE PETERSON
ORAL NOTES

Second interpretive sign out of Nome on the existing road by Alaska Department of Transportation, Fort Davis. Fort Davis, located on the east side of Nome River and its confluence with Bering Sea or Norton Sound was established following the gold rush at the end of the last century. Gold was discovered on Anvil Creek in September of 1898, Anvil City later to become Nome, did not exist and there was no established local civil government.

In the spring of 1900 construction started on Fort Davis and during June units of the 7th Infantry US Army, took station at the new post. Their mission was to maintain law and order during the trouble times of claim jumping and litigation. Prior to this time soldiers from St. Michaels, 100 miles to the South had been assigned here. The first Alaska Air expedition, a squadron of four planes commanded by Captain St. Clair Streett, left Mitchell Field in New York on July 15, 1920, landed on the old parade ground at Fort Davis and returned to Mitchell Field on August 26, the development of air transportation in the area soon started thereafter.

You might consider road signage along the 47 miles of the original survey, possibly at the point of departure with the road to the survey trail of Goodwin, some kind of signage to commemorate that point.

On sight at the Dixon Railroad Crossing, the remains of several trains, railroad carriages, I guess from box cars and such. One large structure remaining, galvanized metal on pole frame foundation. Inside is found crates of several pumps in crate bed springs, hatches for some sort of a ship metal framing, looks to be new, miscellaneous engines, light portable pumps, wreckage of three

locomotives, structure is sound with the exception of foundation which is up on log piling, presently settling and sagging towards the river. It seems to be a stop off tour spot for arctic tours. Existing fairy that evidently took box cars and locomotives across the river remains cast iron haul or iron steel haul. Thought for interpretation would be to prepare some sort of a brochure that actually explains the iditarod portions of the trail and make it available to private tour groups and such to help establish some sort of understanding of just what the trail and its part especially around Nome was.

QUOTE: Arctic tour has just pulled in with a bus load of approximately 30, 35 people, one of the people immediately asked the bus driver what all of this stuff was, referring to locomotives, rail road cars, and everything. Quote, The bus driver says, "I have no idea, we have ten minutes here."

Survey monuments along the road indicate possibility that the state has taken aerial photographs, seems to be some horizontal markers, may want to check around the Nome area, see if we can use in the plan.....

Evidence that tripods approximately 100 to 250 yard average to the left hand side, or to the west of the road from Dickerson Landing through Solomon indicates the winter trail may possibly have been off that distance from the existing road.

Lees Landing, a large sight approximately 6, 7 miles up the cut off. It looks like one side has been clear as an air strip, indication, a small hangar one side, automobiles, large main house, several out structures, maintenance shed with large plus or minus 12 foot maintenance door, 1,2,3,4 smaller sheds or residence type. Evidence of recent mining perhaps as late as

probably 1960, simple gable roofs, two co-inset huts...

Solomon Town sight due to location along the road excellent opportunity for interpretive studies, not only the iditarod trail but of the creeks north and of perhaps the naturalness of the estuary adjacent to the ocean here. The railroad tie and transportation perhaps the multiplicity of interpretive...A multiple interpretive program discussing now a dog sled, the railroad, I suppose later cats up and down the creeks, the ocean, boats. Evident the two recent structures probably inhabitable and a, looks like what may be a 1940 school, perhaps a re-located military building. Would recommend that any rest stabilization and restoration of significant structures on the sight be under taken. It seems to offer an excellent opportunity which we say for visitor contact out of Nome the railroads cars and locomotives at the mouth non currently are visited by the city tours arctic tours, I guess, probably plus or minus 100 to 150 people per day at present time. Existing road house seems to have been or is being occupied perhaps on a week ends and such , a lot of personal items in there. Roof has been re-roofed within recent years, upstairs shows damage due to rain, but it seems that the roofing there now is taking care of that. Structure is basically sound with the edition of a foundation and a coat of paint and restoration of the roof to what it existing was the structure would be in a sound condition . The other structure of the residence located port on the Nome side I guess that's to the north or west, is in fairly sound condition, however stabilization the next few years would be required. Various other structures have fallen in. Better understanding of what the structures are perhaps HAVS study and some kind of a history of the sight would be in order. Research ownership and

investigate the possibility of additional houses being added. Additional inquire into construction of sheltered cabins from Nome to Unakleet as discussed by Colby Carter and Dave Scott said that 3 possibly 4 sheltered cabins are going be built from Nome to Unakleet along the trail system a joint effort, BLM, Alaska State Parks, and I think the city of Nome.

Solomon Creek offers opportunities to do some investigation of the dredges up and down the river evidence of two intact and two ruin dredges and possibly more towards consul to a near project. If possible try to locate some kind of visitor use profile or sense of the number of people that come into Nome. Explore some way that perhaps the money can be put back into the community bed tax or whatever into the restoration of the city. The road immediately out of Nome towards Solomon survey markers along the road by the Alaska Road Commission might investigate intent or what the intent of the road commission is as far as, or the highway commission is as far as upgrading the road, possibly could offer an opportunity for construction of way sides at designated points.

Cape Nome roadhouse, letter used EPS, Alaska communications air craft pilot Stinky Loin Hardy. By the telegraph station, owners of the big house, Chuch Reader. The small telegraph building belongs to Valerie Summoziski, she lives in town, her husband owns the Bering Sea Club. Topkok Head Trail is the Verdige Coddins map, a little telegraph line is also evidently tripod. Topkok roadhouse is still standing in the ruin. Richard Foster owns the Topkok roadhouse and the other structure on the point. Silver Bowl structure owned by Richard Foster located by the dangerous open water section of the trail.

We circle left. That one structure is the structure of bird on the side is the formal hospital. They had a hospital, and a post office, road house. Coastal area bluff, We are along coastal area subject to white out, dangerous flooding, trail move north.

Bluff absentee owners San Diego Structure is owned by some doctors, off shore is by a group out of San Diego. Structure is by a group of doctors from outside.

ARC shelter cabin at the summit of Portage Creek and _____ by the Portage road house. The trail evident that the trees on the Portage Road outside of the long structure at the Portage road house. Trail out from Elamu cross to approximately Iron Creek. It's right in the upper part of the

Joe Furry Senior informant Elim, a sizable settlement presently at Iron Creek, it looks like an FAA station, towards not Iron Point, Moses Point after the aid station. Put out location, unknown, Community of Cache at Moses Point itself.

Isaccs Point, Dexter Point, two predominant landmarks. Informants in Koyuk, Charlie Apfik, informant at Koyuk. Little evidence of the trail tells that the Ungalik road house presently erase trail cuts from Koyuk to Round Top Mountain and into Shaktoolik and then makes a break. The road house in Egavik is an old reindeer station. Road house sheltered cabin. Timbered tepee structure, called a poor man structure.....inch north of Egavik Egavik, large galvanized tin warehouse, secluded inseam warehouse, occupied by an old timer as fish camp of the Unalakleet 2 Point, related to _____

As the wind gets.....below the base of the building moves along the coast, Unalakleet, Egavik, Ungalik, Koyuk, Moses Point, Cache, Golovin, Nome, Fort Davis. Studied various FAA stations sights

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along the trail possible center for interpretation, traveling through the area. Fred Ketchatang, Unalakleet informant. St Michaels four steam boats, remains only tall steam boilers.

Boastal areas by Bluff discontinued, white out conditions.

Copies of maps to Cathy House, Elizabeth Andrews, Bill Shepherd concerning road house locations, possibility of aboriginal sights.

Shaktoolik informant George Owl White. Dexter road house is owned by Joe Dexter, it's at the mouth of the Javik River.

I'll try to get Dwayne out here in the winter time to take photos of the race and of the trail system. Pictures were taken this summer were all nice but unfortunately trails major use was in the winter. Additionally the nooks pit out of Nome, because of the sand that recovers from the trail, any other previous trails, quite easily, especially when it's been floodéd such in '74. No evidence of other trails along the spit Asper John Fledgetime, the tugboat captain. The trail range from the beach to the astuary lagoon behind,, Taylor Lagoon. Dickerson sight remains of what appears to be some old barges, perhaps river boats, along what I believe is a trail or the old rail road that from Dickerson north.

Recent cabin at the mouth of Pine Creek on the spit down from Dixon. Cabin marked roomed on USJS map down from Dixon before Taylor Lagoon looks like the roof possibly structure fell in on one side with a like corelle or foundation logs exposed on the other...No evidence. Cabin number one by Taylor Lagoon, existing structure with roof starting to fall in, not in location, designative Goodwin.

Topkok cabin we assume to be the road house. Structure I assume to be the roadhouse after sight inspection, quite certain it is not, looks like a fish camp structure never built for any permanent year round use. Its been added to many times, north and east

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north wall has been, there's a double wall with side insulation or filling between, so perhaps built upon an older pre-historic sight, the sight soils are just definitely sand, spit sand, front porch, galvanized roof, soon to be open, its in room shape. Walls are log in some areas, planking in other areas, drop siding in other areas, uninsulated roof on main part of structure covered with tar paper, small structure. Other evidence, ruins evidence of other structures around sight are quite evident. Small cabin Jim Foster, Topkok road house sight, small cabin by larger residence, five inch logs, round hand ax blades, on the insides, unlodged corner, [?]board and back, roofing with later building paper, heavy 98 pounds approximately. Roofs across the spit from the other road house, large structure, approximately 12 ft. by 30 ft., looks like ¹board and back planked rooms down to one possibly two, rows of logs, completely collapsed. Ruined structure. No on sight ?. State survey marker at top of point, first point away from Topkok head to south, Trail between Topkok and Bluff is evident approximately 100 to 500 yards from the beach above Cut Bank. At Bluff state aerial survey marker, at the top of the hill to the, mouth of the river at Bluff. Ruling number 1, Bluff Creek shed, type structure frame construction, 2 by 4 wall, outside drop siding 5 inch., sawn lumber, balloon frame, diagonal sheer bracing, seems to be on original location. Inside plumbing fittings half inch galvanized piping, low, approximate 7 ft, 6in. ceiling, simple purlin, raftered roof, baths with wood shingles appear to be cedar, structure listing to the west, old wood stove located inside, date May 1911 on it, its an old Lange drain pipe or chimney pipe it doesnt seem to have been used, woven agricultural wire, 3 foot tall galvanized.....cot, chimney pipe galvanized around the outside with a baffle appears to have been

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used for a chimney. Upstairs, stair system to what appears to be the attic system. No evidence of a floor, on second floor has possibly been removed, second floor has been removed, nothing remains. On second floor uninsulated, no interior sheeting or siding, window, one end upstairs, door way north end second floor. Appears to have been a shed, possibly a horse barn, horse harness inside, horse yoke located outside, two bays in structure, north bay, large diesel engine located appears to have been used as generator, water pump for house, hand pump. Structural condition, ruin, outside north side remains of an old round pot belly stove.

Building number 2 appears to be in ruin, possibly the old original road house log the north half and frame structure the first half, possibly two building joined together, plus or minus 8 inch logs, saddle notch corner construction rough. Logs have been sawn, not chopped, large horse shoe inside, metal drum, roof unknown appears to have been perhaps salvaged for some other structure, no purlin remains, no wall remains, looks like a wood floor, window east and west side, north elevation plain, inside face has been brought at certain places not a flat dress. Entry to south, addition to structure wood framed, two foot on center studs, rough sawn, circular studs, roof is 5 inch drop siding or lip siding, the roof appears to have been tar papered late, placed horizontally running with the roof, gable roof construction, appears to be a wood floor, 2 by unsure width. Does not appear to have been insulated, gable roof, drop siding 2 roof, insulators on front ridge peak, evidently the structure has been wired or telephone at some period. Log structures appear to have been gable running east to west or north to south ridge. The building size east west 20 ft. 10 north ends of log structure to end of log structure,

41 ft. 6 entire length of structures. North and south elevation 17 ft. 2in. long. Building number 3 appears to have been a residence perhaps a latter road house, bunk house, what have you, several rooms, front room from the south, entry appears to be kitchen, remains of an old wood burning stove, wash basin, cupboards, wood china, serving counter. Going directly to the back room appears to be sleeping bunk room, several cots, Yukon burning stove. Rear entry, remains of a large commercial, two commercial freezers, an upright refrigerator and a horizontal freezer frigidaire, late model 1950 probably. Room off the kitchen towards the rear appears to be perhaps cooks room, some kind of residential room, coat hangers, cot, army cot, remains. Final room off the front entry appears to be store room, pantry, remains of tin plates, similar cafeteria military plates, or trays I guess you'd call them, structural system frame throughout, no insulation on outer walls with the exception of front kitchen interior drop siding, lip siding, inside and out walls have been white washed, ceiling white washed, no interior covering, floor system similar 5 inch drop siding or lip siding, another floor covering evidence of linoleum, anything, any type. Ceiling covering in kitchen, card board, smoke vent in kitchen, appears to have been built or maintained only as a bunk house seasonal use structure. Outside wall covering drop siding similar with a double bevel on each edge, roof, building paper with battens layed vertically, eave terridge, drop siding outside have some time been covered with the same building material with vertical bats. Buildings 3,4, and 5 appear to have been moved in and do not seem to be on original location. Building number 4 appears to be a wannigan on skids, large size, horizontal planking, one by approximately 12 siding with horizontal bats, doesnt appear to have been covered

with building paper, an arched roof, galvanized heavy felt paper on the roof, one window north side may have served as a power shed, and was moved up and down the creek, settling bottle on the east side, door south side, large shed door on the west side, perhaps served as a garage or such for mining equipment. Door evident on the west side has been filled in with time, On large wooden skids, case generator, power plant inside, shelving for various plumbing fittings, work benches. Remains outside the west structure ruins of an old telephone, some what of those of the iditarod, oak board, small, generator box with remote detached speaker piece. Building 4 and building 5 seem to have been connected with the breeze way, the roof is presently fallen in. Farm implement items around sight seem to be spring to cultivator shoes, for breaking up the soil or rocks. Building no. 6 similar in construction to building no. 4, outside siding is typical drop not a double beveled edge as in building no. 4 frame structure. No appearance of having ever been insulated or any interior siding, shed only, no insulated roof, typical frame construction, arch 1 by 12 planking used in roof, rough sawn, circular, framing, building paper, and then outside siding. Appears to have worked as a plumbing and a repair shed as the others, various ruins of the remains of pumps and engines, washing machines, hot water heater, settling bottles, chicken wire range wire, has been wired for electricity, floors similar to other structures, 1 by 5 drop siding floor, windows north side, six light window, half windows on north end of east and west walls, 6 over 6 windows on south half of east west and two 6 over 6 windows south side. Remains outside include a smelting oven or kiln, a crucible lifter inside front doorway. Outside may be a good place to gather implements for the Nome museum as the mayor

was talking about. Correction tape ..The building I just labeled as building no. 6, is actually building no. 5. No. 6 is a small wannigan behind. Building no. 6, wannigan appears to be approximately 8 ft. by 6 ft. wide, its on skid, log skids, has been sitting in place a while. Gravity flow, fuel tank, a water tank, on the north side. Entry way on south east corner, one window , south, small window north side, black and white linoleum inside, its a piece out some other structure, appears that there was a small stove in the north west corner, masonite inside frame structure, plywood outside, one shelf, East side as you enter, single paned windows, rough framing, 6 foot ceiling with one outlet and one light socket , attached west wall, arched roof, 90 pounds building paper with asphalt or Haggregat chipped, horizontal side, horizontal plywood on sides, south entry is actually the front entry direct behind cabin. Building no.7, another small frame structure, canvas on the outside with battens, plank siding, random width approximately 1 by 12, evidence inside of some interior siding, however most of it seems to have been torn off. Structure appears to have been the wash up or the clean up shed for the gold concentrate, the old wash basins are still here, four sample bags on the floor, frame structure, no insulation, rough sawn, roof 1 by 5 drop siding again, flush face, no bevel edges, planking door, vertical, same vertical plank, random width, door north side, 6 pane window, north side, double split window west side, same south, same 6 pane window east side, plank flooring, 1 by approximately 8. Appears to have been skidded to sight, tar roof, evidence of fire damage, east side, again canvas on the outside with battens attaching two structures. East side has 1 by 15 inch board plank siding. Building no.8, appears to be an old oar separator, it

might be worthwhile to show all these old pictures to some old time miner who will know just what's here and what different type of mining activities took place at Bluff. Building no. 9 appears to be another old shed, perhaps oil shed inside rough frame drop siding somewhat others, 2 by 4 construction, 4 ft. on center, same with tress roof, work bench inside appears to have been a dirt floor with 2 by 6 bottom plate directly on ground, door ways east and west side, wood stamped or painted obviously imported, says, Bluff and it looks like, Frank K or Fran K or Pland, k, Plank, whatever, east side ruins with out board motors, pumps, plumbing fittings, gate valves, lazle cans, tires, 4 in. pipe. Outside of structure with plank drop siding, west elevation possibly two structures joined, no, horizontal plank siding outside north side has vertical planking over old horizontal, roofing, planking front, east to west with typical tongue and groove siding running rich to gable, building paper between two layers outside siding. 1 by 5 siding I referred to is actually 3 quarters of an inch, by 5 and 3/8ths of an inch, with the 3/8th inch lap lip. To the south east corner of the structure is the foundation or the evidence. It seems to be evidence of a prior existing structure now removed, it seems to have been a basement of sorts in that area, perhaps a pet house. Sign on west wall says, "AURIC OFF SHORE MINING COMPANY, NO TRESPASSING". Consider getting somebody on sight that worked at Bluff and lived here, somebody from the Alaska Miners Association, perhaps a chance to do oral history on sight as we talk about the mining processes. Building no. 10 similar cupolo to the type found in Nome and I believe Consol, World War II shed topper cupolo says someone has been used here for a banya or steam bath, recently modified to accept it however, painted in green and white, similar

to the other two cupolos found in Consul and Nome, tar roof painted silver, six sided structure on a square 1 by 3 or 5/8 by 3 T&G, plank flooring, small door, 3 ft tall, inside has small barrel stove, 55 gallon barrel stove with rocks stacked from floor up and over it, bench and mattress. Building no. 11, sign over the door on the west side, "Post Office", part of another sign that says, "Cheechako, what may me MFDO, yes, MEPO, MEDO, tar paper roof, vertical siding outside with the 1/2 by 5 with the centered Vee'd siding, inside structure, two parts two bay, east end appears to be the original end which is log , log structure with cloth stretched over the wall, inside log walls have been brodaxed off cleaned up and then the fabric stretched to give clean ceiling, 1 by 10 roof sawn, probably fur planking for the roof, fasciad eave. Main pulin to intermediate purlin roof construction log gable to ridge, floor system is 1/2 by approximately 2 and 5/8ths inch tongue and groove, flooring running east to west, original entry probably east side, small wannigan

Peterson Tape 4, Side A

~~SEE TAPE 3 SLIP B~~ — BLUFF

Central partition, or central section north one-half of building appears to have been a pantry shed, shelving. Remains of plates and jars, ceramic bottles, appears to have been some kind of a foundation or root cellar perhaps under the structure. Now caved in. Roof is rough, has not been finished. Interior walls are planking, unpainted, untreated, ceiling painted storm door green. Step down from original section, entry section of structure on east end, might not in there that; linoleum on floor, two layers of linoleum. West end of structure #12, across from post office appears to have been more of a wash shed, work shed area. Rougher, not painted, not insulated, frame structure, planking, one by 10 or 12 running facetted. Ridge pole 4 x 4, intermediate purlins, 2 x 4 rough sawn circular. East wall of structure has various electrical two breakers, fuse box breakers and voltage regulator for generator plant. Automobiles, sinks, hot water heater, busted seat, floats, old mattresses, a wash sink, various cupboards and shelving. Condition of structure, poor condition. Small outhouse southwest corner of structure. Drying rack, window frames, step down to landing on door at west side. One step, single door, no weather entrance on west side of structure.

Building 11 and 12 have wood planking rain gutters. Building #14, two-story, appears to be a residence of sorts. Second floor, frame structure, no insulation and it appears walls covered with one-foot, probably 16 x 32 inch pieces of one-half inch ceiling tile, pressboard, beaver board, insulation board. No insulation in walls. Mill 2 x 4 construction. Wallpaper upstairs. Direct glued to some old ceiling tile. Single bed upstairs. Wrought-iron bed rail with springs, box springs. Second floor consists of 2 x 6 floor rafters or joist. One by T and G milled flooring running to eaves end, north to south. One window south side, six-pane window standing edge. Old Zenith radio upstairs. Obviously a bedroom, short ceiling, 5'8", 5'10" possibly room for children. All walls downstairs cellutex-type panel board with wallpaper on top. Frame construction. Rear part of house or addition, Wanigan addition, possibly a later date, appears to be a work shed. Pantry part perhaps wood storage for the other part. Kitchen area linoleum on floor, ceiling and walls painted off-yellow. All wallpapers, light in color. Sawdust appears to have been used for some ceiling insulation in the structure.