

Frame Cabin on Bonanza Creek

A relatively recent frame cabin is located on Bonanza Creek approximately 3 miles southwest of Ruby Creek Roadhouse site near the fork in the trail (Plate C-44). This site does not correspond with any known historic site location, but the cabin does closely resemble the one on the Hunter Trail that was apparently built by the Road Commission.

Flat

IDT-005

The town of Flat was photographed during aerial reconnaissance (Plates C-45 and C-46). Time did not allow detailed examination of the existing buildings however.

Flat, also known as Flat Camp, Flat City, and Flat Creek, is located on Otter Creek 8 miles southeast of Iditarod. The mining camp became active in 1910, grew into a town by 1912 and by 1917 surpassed Iditarod as the regional population center (Polk's Gazetteer 1917-18:323). Plate C-47 shows Flat as it appeared during its heyday.

A number of hotels and roadhouses were operated in Flat over the years. Mr. and Mrs. George Mutchler ran a hotel there in 1917 (Cadwallader, n.d.:10). In 1923, Polk's Gazetteer (1923:298) listed three hotels and their owners: Grand Hotel - Mrs. George Mutchler; Flat City Hotel- Mrs. Gunning; and Snyder House - Maud Earl.

According to Fred Gularte, who lived in Flat and Iditarod from 1910 until the early 1920's, there were also a number of "flop houses" where a bed could be rented for a stated number of hours, with meals obtained elsewhere.

Flat's last roadhouse proprietor was Henry Durant (Timothy Twitchell, pers. comm.). The town was abandoned in 1942 when the Federal Government shut down all gold mining at the beginning of World War II (Lyman 1972).

Because a large number of structures of various ages are still standing in Flat, an extensive program of recordation is required to document the existing situation. Archival sources and former residents could supply a great deal of information about the site. Archeological investigations may be necessary to evaluate subsurface features. Until such an extensive study can be made to determine stabilization and restoration needs, the site should be protected from disturbing activities.

Iditarod

IDT-014

The historic town of Iditarod is on an old channel of the Iditarod River seven miles northwest of Flat (Plate C-49). A large number of buildings still stand. Time only allowed for a superficial examination of the site.

Several of the structures on the east side of the river were examined in 1976. The buildings are in various states of disrepair, although most