

"First Chance" Shelter Cabin

IDT-019

Ruins of a log cabin were found along Hunter Trail near the divide between First Chance Creek and Dishna River. It lies in a small clearing in the upland spruce woodland just to the north of the drainage channel of an intermittent stream (Plate C-81 and C-82). The structure is roughly square and divided into two chambers of equal size. The building is partially standing, but the superstructure has collapsed on the walls, and much of the roof is gone.

This structure is shown on the map of the Kuskokwim Mining District, accompanying the 1927 and 1929 ARC Annual Reports for 1927 (p.74) as First Chance shelter cabin. The 1929 ARC Annual Reports (p.121) gives the location of First Chance cabin as 46 miles from Ophir on Hunter Trail. This description correlates well with the location of the observed cabin.

The First Chance shelter cabin was sometimes called Summit Roadhouse because of its location near the summit between the Iditarod and Dishna River drainages (Timothy Twitchell, pers. comm.). There is no evidence that it was ever a commercial enterprise, however, and was apparently only used as a free shelter cabin.

The ruins at the First Chance shelter cabin site should be maintained in their present condition, or restored. The site is on State-owned land.