

SITE Pioneer Roadhouse #1 AHRS NO: McG-009 INHT NO: 220C-1

OTHER SITE NAMES:

French Joe's (Verify)
Farewell Mountain Roadhouse
OLD JOE'S R.H. → 1922

TRAIL SECTION:

Seward-Rainy Pass
Rainy Pass-Kaltag X
Kaltag-Nome

LAND STATUS:

State Selection - Pending
Historic Site Application - 14H

LEGAL DESCRIPTION:

Approximate Actual X
Quad. McGrath C-2
Township 28 N.
Range 23 W.
Section 8
Subsection NW

Latitude: 62 32' 00"
Longitude: 153 37' 00"

UTM REFERENCE:

A
Zone Easting Northing

LOCATION AND USE:

Abandoned

INSPECTED BY: Lynch (78) DATE: Aerial Onsite X
Peterson (80)

STRUCTURAL TYPE: Shelter Structure X River Community
Native Settlement Mining Community Other

WALLS:	IN	OUT	FLOOR	ROOF	CORNER NOTCH
Log-Rough	<u>X</u>	<u>X</u>	Dirt	Sod <u>X</u>	Unknown
Log-Hewn	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>	Wood <u>X</u>	Metal <u> </u>	Double Saddle
Frame	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	Other <u> </u>	Wd. Plank <u> </u>	
Drop Siding	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	Unknown <u> </u>	Wd. Shingle <u> </u>	
Wall Covering	<u> </u>	<u> </u>		Tar Paper <u> </u>	
Unknown	<u> </u>	<u> </u>		Unknown <u> </u>	

TREATMENT RECOMMENDED:

ORDER OF SIGNIFICANCE:

<u> </u> Site Protection	<u> </u> National
<u>X</u> Preservation/Stabilization	<u>X</u> Regional
<u> </u> Restoration	<u> </u> Local
<u> </u> Reconstruction	
<u> </u> Adaptive Reuse	

Estimated Treatment Costs
Estimated Planning/Research Costs

IDENTIFIED TRAIL INVENTORY

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MANAGEMENT RATING CRITERIA

ACCESS ----- 40 POINTS

- 5 Difficult
(Dog Sled, Snow Mach., Heli.)
20 X Medium
(1 Day Hike, Boat, Fixed-Wing)
40 High
(Auto/Road, Short Hike)

CONDITION ----- 40 POINTS

- Not Located
1 No Remains
3 Ruin
8 Poor (Roof In)
15 X Medium (Roof Intact)
25 Good (Maintained)
40 Restored

PRESENT VISITOR USE

- Frequent
X Infrequent
 None

POTENTIAL VISITOR USE--20 POINTS

- 20 X High
10 Medium
5 Low

Total Points 55

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

Construction began on the Pioneer site during the winter of 1910-11 immediately following Goodwin's 1910 survey. "French Joe," Joe Blanchell, a French Canadian built and ran the original roadhouse.

The existing site consists of two cabins, two barns and a cache and served as a significant roadhouse site beginning at the time of the Iditarod gold rush. THE Pioneer Roadhouse "area" also has served as a traditional native gathering area.

Cabin #1: constructed at a later date ca. 1920s for use as a cabin/relief shelter in support of trapping and mail activities. Continued use evident through 1930s. Unusual construction using a double ridge purlin.

Probably constructed by Einor Carlsen and Jim Davidson who used it as a trap-line headquarters (pers. comm. Margaret Mespelt).

REFERENCE:

Lynch, Alice J., 1979. Preliminary Inventory of Cultural Resources of the Iditarod Trail Between Rainy Pass and Unalakleet. Bureau of Land Management.

GOODWIN'S ARTICLE IN 1911 ALASKA GAZETTEER MAG. → IP'S FAREWELL MTN.
ALASKA GAZETTEER & DIRECTORY - 1915-16 → IP'S FRENCH JOE'S (R.U.)

SITE RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Emergency stabilization and repair of sod roof (i.e., remove sod, replace "Gee" poles. Roof began to fall-in in 1979.
2. Nominate to the National Register.
3. Recreation - maintain and protect as a recreation/shelter cabin.
4. Archeological survey and possible excavation of site for education and interpretive purposes.