

Gilpatrick's Cabin

SEDW-015

EXCERPT FROM

**SURVEY AND EVALUATION OF THE IDITAROD TRAIL
AND CONNECTING TRAILS IN THE CHUGACH NATIONAL FOREST**

DRAFT TECHNICAL REPORT

VOLUME 2: NATIONAL REGISTER EVALUATION FORMS

Prepared for
USDA Forest Service
Chugach National Forest
Anchorage, Alaska

Prepared by
Cultural Research & Management, Inc.
444 Tanager Lane
Eden Prairie, Minnesota

Kurt P. Schweigert, Principal Investigator

Performed under Contract No. 52-0102-9-0027

March, 1991

PHASE I EVALUATION FORM

Kurt Schweigert

March, 1991

SEW-159

1. Name of Property: Gilpatrick's Cabin, Gilpatrick's Mining Camp, → AHRS Site #: SEW-015

2. Location: NE Section 24, T6N-R2W, Seward Meridian
Seward C-7 Quadrangle

3. Classification:

Ownership: Public-federal

Category of Property: Site

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing: 0

Non-Contributing:

Number of Contributing Resources previously listed: 0

Name of related multiple property listing:

6. Function or Use:

Historic Functions: Domestic/Camp

Current Functions: Domestic/single dwellings

7. Description:

The reported location of Gilpatrick's cabin was examined on August 5, 1990. The location contains a number of buildings, but none of the structures appears to date before 1920. Only one true cribbed log building was observed, and the owner stated that it was built about fifty years ago. The style of the building corresponds to the Craftsman rustic tradition which was not uncommon in residential construction during the 1920s. The owner of this house, Jorgenson, had lived here since the 1950s and had never heard that any of the existing structures were Gilpatrick's cabin. He reported that an old cabin on the south side of Summit/Slate Creek had burned. This area was found to contain a dozed area and a log slab and frame outhouse; this property appears to have been previously recorded as Gilpatrick's cabin (Iditarod National Historic Trail 1982).

Thomas Kiester occupies a site containing two log buildings in SW/NW Section 24, T6N-R2W, to the south of the main Gilpatrick community. Kiester's buildings were built in the 1930s and in 1962; the newer building is far more deteriorated from weathering than is the older structure. Kiester is knowledgeable about the history of the area, but he knew of no cabins dating from the ca. 1906-1915 era.

All of the existing structures in this area appear to be associated with recreational use, which is allowed under U.S. Forest Service permits.

8. Statement of Significance:

Significance Level: N/A

Applicable Criteria: N/A

Areas of Significance: N/A

Period of Significance: N/A

Significant Dates:

Significant Person:

Architect/Builder:

State significance of property:

John Gilpatrick is reported to have constructed a cabin in about 1906 at this location, and other miners built other cabins in the vicinity. The community became known as Gilpatrick, but was called Johnstown by John Gilpatrick. An effort was later made to name the community Watsonville, after one of the purchasers of John Gilpatrick's mining claims. The community did not develop into a major trade or residential center; in August 1909, at the height of the prospecting boom in the area, the town had three cabins and eleven tents (Seward Weekly Gateway 8/14/1909). Mining remained active in the vicinity of Gilpatrick until at least the 1930s (Barry 1973:160). In 1938 Robert Hatcher obtained the old Gilpatrick claims and organized the United Mining and Development Company to manage the property. Company officer Robert Baumgartner reportedly lived in the cabin identified as the Gilpatrick cabin from the 1940s until 1956 (Iditarod National Historic Trail 1982).

Ed Estes, a long-time resident of Moose Pass and mail carrier, stated in 1981 that the cabin on the south side of Summit/Slate Creek was built by Dan McMillan in 1926-1927. He also stated that the old Gilpatrick cabin on the north side of the creek had completely rotted away (Estes 1981).

On the basis of an aerial inspection in 1981, the supposed Gilpatrick cabin and the Gilpatrick mining camp were recommended to be highly significant and highly appropriate for interpretive development (Iditarod National Historic Trail 1982). Conditions recorded in 1990, however, recommend that these properties are not eligible for nomination under any of the National Register criteria. All existing structures appear to date after 1920 and appear to be associated with seasonal recreational use rather than with the theme of lode mining during the period of

mining significance for this area, 1906-1915. These properties are also not directly associated with the Iditarod Trail or any of the connecting trails, and therefore these properties are not eligible as elements of a multiple properties group associated with the Iditarod Trail.

9. Major Bibliographic References:

Barry, Mary J.

- 1973 A History of Mining on the Kenai Peninsula.
Alaska Northwest Publishing Company,
Anchorage.

Estes, Ed

- 1981 Interview at Moose Pass, Alaska, June 15,
1981. On file at Bureau of Land Management
Anchorage District office, Anchorage, Alaska.

Iditarod National Historic Trail Project Office

- 1982 The Iditarod National Historic Trail, Seward
to Nome Route. Volume Two: Resource
Inventories. Bureau of Land Management,
Anchorage District Office, Anchorage, Alaska.

Schweigert, Kurt P.

- 1991 Survey and Evaluation of the Iditarod Trail
and Connecting Trails in the Chugach National
Forest. Report prepared for U.S. Forest
Service, Chugach National Forest, Anchorage,
Alaska.

Seward Weekly Gateway, August 14, 1909.

GILPATRICKS

