

ALASKA HERITAGE RESOURCES SURVEY

SITE #: SEW-565

MAPSHEET: D7 .SWNWNE, SEC. 9, T10, R1W, SM
60°58'31"N/149°27'28"W AREA: <001
UTM:

↳ BIRD CREEK ROADHOUSE

Location identified on the Alaska Engineering Commission map from Glacier Creek to Falls Creek dated December 1916 by T.W. Secrest. The roadhouse consisted of approximately 4 structures at the base of a steep slope on the east side of Bird Creek, .24mi. upstream from the mouth of the creek and the railroad bridge. Area was visited in 1976 and again in 1993, and no evidence of the site was found. Roadhouse was probably built in the creek flood plane and all remain have likely been salvaged or washed away by seasonal flooding.

SITE SIGNIFICANCE:

Associated with the Iditarod National Historic Trail.

LOCATION:

On the east side of Bird Creek, approx. .24mi. upstream from the mouth of the creek and the railroad bridge at Mile 86.8.

CITATIONS:

BLM Iditarod Trail Files
Alaska Engineering Commission Map 1916 (Glacier Ck to Falls Ck)
Buzzell, R.G. 1993:Fieldnotes (Bird Ck State Wayside survey)

DANGER OF DESTRUCTION:

CONDITION: CB2

ASSOCIATED DATE: AD 1916

ENVIRONMENT: 09

PERIOD: Historic

RESOURCE NATURE: Site, Commercial, Roadhouse, INHT

CULTURAL AFFILIATION: Euroamerican

PRESERVATION STATUS:

NHR DATE: / /

OWNER:

State of Alaska

REPOSITORY:

ACCESSION #:

BIA/BLM#:

OTHER#:

RELIABILITY: B3

CODED BY: RB

DATE OF ENTRY: 05/08/92; 09/17/93

DATE OF PRINTOUT: 09/17/93

Potter - Girdwood Archaeological and Historic
Site Survey, 1976

OFFICE of History & Archaeology Series No. 16

~~SEW-103~~

Bird Creek Roadhouse

Location: About twelve miles west of Girdwood, along Bird Creek at Seward Highway Mile 101.2.

Located along the routes of three trails that crossed the area, the Bird Creek Roadhouse operated at least by 1911. The stop was open while the Alaska Railroad was under construction in Turnagain Arm, 1915 to 1919. When the stop closed is unknown. There is no evidence at the site.

SEW-125 Bird Point (Figs. 12 and 13)

Location: The site is south of Seward Highway Mile 101.5, Alaska Railroad Mile 81.7.

In 1917 the Alaska Engineering Commission opened a sawmill and a camp at Bird Point that operated until the bridges over the mud flats were constructed. The station was a flag stop after 1918, and operated until the 1950's. The foundation of the section house is still visible. Evidence of a railroad wye headed toward the water can also be seen. Several oral accounts mentioned a mine shaft near the station that had been dug in the late 1800's. The shaft extended 100 feet below the Arm, however it flooded and the project was abandoned.

SEW-133 Snowshed, Alaska Railroad Mile 75.9

SEW-134 Snowshed, Alaska Railroad Mile 76

SEW-135 Snowshed, Alaska Railroad Mile 76.3

SEW-136 Snowshed, Alaska Railroad Mile 76.5

Four snowsheds, each approximately 550 feet long, were built during November, 1919, by the Alaska Engineering Commission. Nearby (a half mile from Mile 76.5) a tent camp with several log buildings was established in the late 1930's to facilitate construction to alter the route through the area. At that time, the snowsheds were eliminated.

SEW-016 Girdwood

Location: The community is 35 miles south of Anchorage, Mile 90.3 of the Seward Highway, Mile 74.8 of The Alaska Railroad.

Girdwood was a mining community, founded after gold was discovered along Glacier Creek in 1896. Because it was the largest community between Anchorage and Kern Creek, the site was selected for a major construction camp and railroad station. The camp operated during the 1917-1918 construction season and