

CAPTAIN WILLIAM MOORE BLOCK
(Portland House)
Skagway and White Pass Historic District
490 State Street (southeast corner at 5th Avenue)
Skagway
Municipality of Skagway Borough
Alaska

HABS AK-280
HABS AK-280

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

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Note: Within Skagway, cardinal directions are colloquially oriented with reference to the city's street grid instead of true north. The north-south axis is aligned with State Street, making "north" closer to northeast. The photo captions follow this convention.

Captions written by Susannah Dowds, Historian, Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park, 2018.

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Robert Lyon, photographer, September 2015

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North (front) facade of Captain William Moore Block. The two-story gable roofed building has a front facade with a unique roofline and projecting shingled cornice. Under the shingled cornice is a six-sectioned paneled frieze with decorative X-panels in the center two sections. The exterior facades have horizontal drop siding. Four double-hung, two-over-two windows are evenly spaced on the second floor. A belt course runs across the north facade over the first floor window and door openings. The belt course breaks at the midpoint where storefront windows of the northwest corner are taller than the openings on the east half of the facade. On the first floor, two entryways lead to each half of the building. The east (left) entry, has a single panel door with a recessed panel and two large four-paned windows on each side. The west (right) recessed entry is flanked by plate glass storefront, transom windows, brackets, and cornice above the belt course. The building served as the commercial headquarters for Captain Moore, owner of numerous early business ventures in Skagway. Over time, the block expanded to include a hotel, retail space, and offices for local organizations including Skagway Chamber of Commerce and the Alaska Road Commission. The building later became the Portland House, a hotel. It is now under renovation.

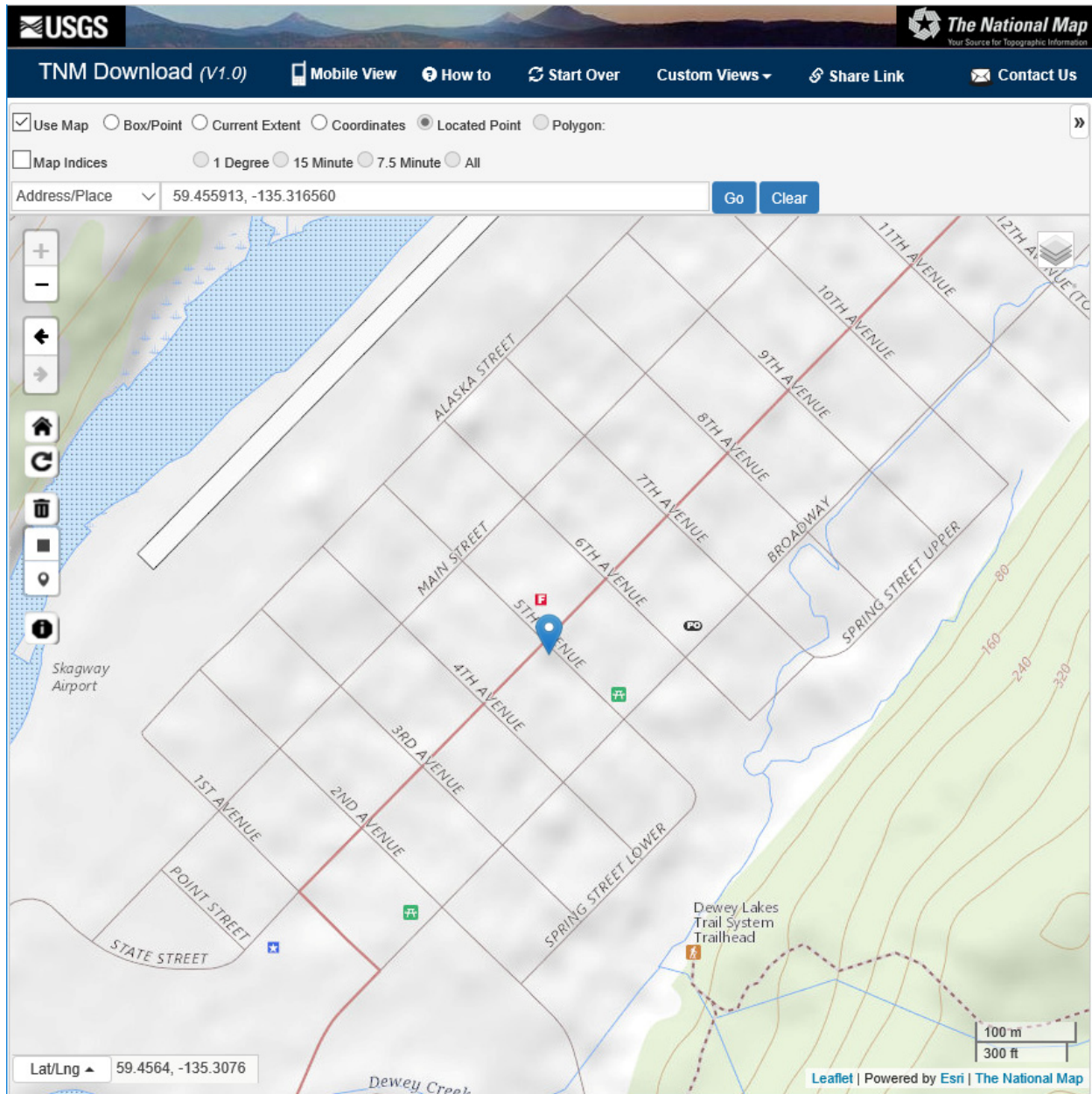
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North (front) and west facades of Captain William Moore Block. The false front and gabled roof are visible. The second floor has four windows just below the eaves, similar to those on the front facade of the building. The storefront cornice return, transom windows, and plate glass windows wrap around the northwest corner of the building. The belt course and two side entrances on the southern end of the west facade are similar to front entrance near the northeast corner of the building.

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Location Map



The Captain William Moore Block is located at longitude: 59.455913, latitude: -135.316560. This point represents the front door. It was obtained by Jen Larsen, Biological Wildlife Technician & GIS Specialist, Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park, in August 2019 working with historical building spatial layers within ArcMap (NAD83).

Map source: The National Map, U.S. Geological Survey, accessed August 23, 2019, <https://viewer.nationalmap.gov/basic/>.