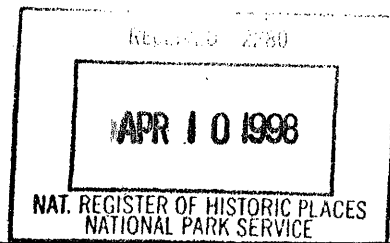


USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form
(Chisana Historic Mining Landscape)
(Northway, Alaska)



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NPS Form 10-900OMB No. 1024-0018
(Rev. 10-90)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Chisana Historic Mining Landscape

other names/site number Chisana Mining District; Chathenda Mining District; Shushanna

2. Location

street & number



not for publication X

city or town Northway

vicinity X

state Alaska

code AK

county Southeast Fairbanks

code 240

zip code 99764

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Ronald M. Greenberg 4-3-98
Signature of certifying official Date

National Park Service
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Judith E. Bittner March 11, 1998
Signature of commenting or other official Date

Alaska State Historic Preservation Office, Office of History & Archaeology
State or Federal agency and bureau Dept of Natural Resources

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

<u>X</u> entered in the National Register	<u>B. R. Fyfe</u>	<u>5/14/98</u>
<u> </u> See continuation sheet.		
<u> </u> determined eligible for the National Register		
<u> </u> See continuation sheet.		
<u> </u> determined not eligible for the National Register		
<u> </u> removed from the National Register		

_____ other (explain): _____

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☒ private
- ☐ public-local
- ☐ public-State
- ☒ public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- ☐ building(s)
- ☒ district
- ☐ site
- ☐ structure
- ☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>88</u>	<u>15</u> buildings
<u>58</u>	<u>9</u> structures
<u>186</u>	<u>2</u> sites
<u>9</u>	<u>0</u> objects
<u>341</u>	<u>26</u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 20

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Industry

Sub: Extractive facility
Waterworks

<u>Domestic</u>	<u>Village site</u>
	<u>Camp</u>
	<u>Single dwelling</u>
	<u>Secondary structure</u>
<u>Government</u>	<u>Courthouse</u>
	<u>Correctional facility</u>
	<u>Post office</u>
<u>Commerce/trade</u>	<u>Specialty store</u>
	<u>Department store</u>
	<u>Restaurant</u>
<u>Funerary</u>	<u>Cemetery</u>
<u>Transportation</u>	<u>Pedestrian-related</u>
<u>Subsistence Activities</u>	<u>Hunting/gathering</u>
<u>Landscape</u>	<u>Unoccupied land</u>
	<u>Natural feature</u>
	<u>Conservation area</u>

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>Domestic</u>	Sub: <u>Single dwelling</u>
	<u>Secondary structure</u>
<u>Industry</u>	<u>Extractive facility</u>
<u>Commerce/trade</u>	<u>Business</u>
<u>Funerary</u>	<u>Cemetery</u>
<u>Subsistence activities</u>	<u>Hunting/gathering</u>
<u>Transportation</u>	<u>Pedestrian-related</u>
	<u>Road-related (ATV)</u>
<u>Recreation and culture</u>	<u>Outdoor recreation</u>
<u>Landscape</u>	<u>Unoccupied land</u>
	<u>Natural feature</u>
	<u>Conservation area</u>

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

No style

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation	<u>wood; stone</u>
roof	<u>corrugated metal; canvas</u>
walls	<u>wood (buildings); canvas (tentframes)</u>
other	<u>stone (tailings)</u>

Narrative Description:

Summary

The Chisana Historic Mining Landscape is situated in interior Alaska, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Vegetation in the area is mainly associated with various tundra communities, interspersed with low shrubs on the slopes and riparian areas along the creeks. The area is characterized topographically by rolling hills and shallow valleys, with elevations ranging from 5,815 feet at the summit of [REDACTED] the townsite of Chisana City. Its higher areas provide sweeping vistas of both the Wrangell and Nutzotin Mountains.

Natural drainage systems form the skeletal backbone of Chisana's cultural landscape. Mining activity concentrated along the creeks and it was there that most of the miners chose to live. Nevertheless, each individual drainage is visually distinct, and each tells only a portion of the Chisana story.

Land Uses and Activities

The Chisana Historic Mining Landscape typifies the development of placer mining in Alaska, advancing through a number of discrete stages and employing a broad range of technology and equipment. Starting with little more than a shovel and a gold pan, miners subsequently ground-sluiced promising creek bottoms and hydraulic mined the adjoining benches. While miners usually built seasonal residences near their claims, they eventually established several larger and more distant communities as well. They also developed and maintained an extensive local transportation system, joining their mines, homes, and communities to the regional network which connected Dawson City and Canyon City, in the Yukon Territory, with McCarthy, Chitina, and Gulkana, Alaska.

Patterns of Spacial Organization

Like many mining landscapes, Chisana displays a distinctive organizational pattern. The miners' summer quarters were distributed along local trails, close to, but generally above, the path of the mining. Most were actually small clusters, typically comprised of one or more cabins, a shed, a privy, several dog houses, and an adjacent mining area. Many examples also included a water diversion and delivery system associated with hydraulic mining. The area's two major winter communities, Bonanza City and Chisana City, occupied key nodes on the regional transportation network. Chisana City was situated at the [REDACTED]

Response to the Natural Environment

Chisana's natural environment profoundly affected the manner and extent to which humans utilized this land, dictating settlement sites, circulation patterns, and mining methods. [REDACTED] constituted the heart of the landscape. Not only was it centrally located, but as the source of most local gold-bearing streams, it also was the focus of attention. More like a mountain than a hill, its steep and rocky terrain restricted transportation routes, limited potential building sites, and generally complicated mining. In some ways, however, [REDACTED]

topography also assisted the miners. Its narrow canyons concentrated placer gold deposits and provided ideal sites to construct the small dams necessary for ground-sluicing operations.

Climatological factors also influenced development in the Chisana district. A lack of precipitation restricted hydraulic mining and prevented dredging, while too much rain in late summer sometimes destroyed dams and flooded the miners' workings. The harsh climate could also be an advantage. Extreme cold solidly froze local streams and rivers, creating ideal transportation corridors.

Cultural Traditions

Western legal traditions controlled the occupation and use of surrounding land. Claims were restricted in both size and location. The layout of Chisana City shows cultural influences as well. Although never legally established as a townsite, this frontier community was nonetheless divided into lots positioned along a classically patterned street grid.

Circulation Networks

Like all human communities, the Chisana district was largely defined by its circulation network. Miners soon established local trails to facilitate the movement of people and freight. Major settlements eventually developed at prominent trail junctions, such as the [REDACTED] More ephemeral pathways linked individual elements within a cluster.

Boundary Demarcations

Discrete areas of land ownership and use are typically delineated by boundaries. Like most mining landscapes, Chisana's division was highly prescribed. Existing mining laws governed the number and size of claims, while geomorphic processes dictated their specific placement.

Vegetation Related to Land Use

Vegetation played a key role in the development of the Chisana district. Access to wood was crucial, as most mining areas were located above treeline, and miners required logs for both building materials and fuel. As a result, prospectors placed their first important camp, called Bonanza City, in the nearest available timber. After harvesting the few stunted trees in that vicinity, miners situated their larger and more permanent community of Chisana City about [REDACTED]

Contemporary vegetation can also reveal historic information. Pioneering species like willow and alder quickly reclaimed disturbed ground, including trail corridors and mining areas. Although now often completely overgrown, these features remain easily identifiable by their characteristic vegetation.

Cluster Arrangements

The Chisana Historic Mining Landscape retains many of the cultural elements once common to all frontier mining regions. These include a variety of utilitarian buildings and structures, locally manufactured tools, and landscape revisions consistent with small-scale mining operations. The original Chisana Historic District, added to the National Register in

1985 and one component of this nomination, contained twenty contributing buildings. These included:

1) U.S. Commissioner's court (NAB-121): This 14'2" x 24'2", one-story, two-room, v-notched, log courthouse was built about 1914. An excellent example of frontier architecture, it represents the introduction of government on Alaska's mining frontier. While local residents associate the building with Anthony J. Dimond, the first U.S. commissioner to locate at Chisana City and later Alaska's sole delegate to the U.S. Congress, it was more likely utilized by subsequent commissioners like Anthony McGettigan and Aaron E. Nelson, both of whom lived and worked in the district for decades. Extensively rehabilitated by the National Park Service in 1992, this cabin remains in excellent condition.

2) U.S. Commissioner's residence (NAB-122): This 14'11" x 25', one-story, two-room, saddle-notched, log cabin was built about 1914. Demonstrating a level of craftsmanship uncommon in the district, this cabin enjoys split-log trim on its window and door openings, as well as three complete shelving systems. Like the commissioner courthouse, this government building was probably utilized by Anthony McGettigan and Aaron Nelson during their respective terms of office. Rehabilitated by the National Park Service in 1992, this cabin remains in excellent condition.

3) Women's jail (NAB-123): This 11'3" x 15', one-story, one-room, saddle-notched, log cabin was built about 1913. The 3'10" wide porch on the east end has a small storage room made from one inch random width planks. Once utilized by Deputy Marshall Frank Hoffman, the first law enforcement officer to be stationed in the Tanana Basin east of Fairbanks, this cabin represents the introduction of justice on Alaska's mining frontier. It remains in excellent condition, having been rehabilitated by the National Park Service in 1992.

4) Saloon (NAB-124): NAB-124 is a relatively large (18'6" x 17'), one-room, one-story, log building. Its walls are constructed of 8" to 14" diameter, unpeeled spruce, with hand-hewn interior faces, saddle-notched corners, and moss chinking. The roof is gable-ended, with two peeled-spruce purlins and a ridge pole. Roofing members are unpeeled, split-spruce logs, laid flat-side down and overlain with sod. Although it retains structural integrity, the cabin is rapidly deteriorating and is now in only fair condition. Like the first three buildings, it, too, probably dates from the gold rush era.

5) Earl Hirst cabin (NAB-125): This 16'11" x 15'7", rapidly deteriorating log cabin is constructed of 6" to 10.5" diameter logs, unpeeled on the exterior and hewn flat on the interior. Insulation is provided by moss chinking and some gaps are covered with triangular-shaped, rough-cut battens. Probably constructed during Chisana City's boom period of 1913-1915, this cabin is primarily associated with Earl Hirst, a prominent Copper Basin trader and miner who used it during the district's mining revival in the 1930s. Although its gabled-roof has now collapsed, it retains some structural integrity.

6) Historic Post Office: This 1.5 story, gable-ended, log cabin was built during the town's gold rush era, and anecdotal evidence suggests that it served as Chisana City's post office during the 1930s. Although situated on federal land, the cabin itself is claimed by Eric Larson and has recently been refurbished.

7) Cache: This one-story, gable-ended, log cabin was built about 1913 and is now claimed by Eric Larson. It, too, is situated on federal land and has been recently refurbished.

8) Blacksmith's shop: Although deteriorating, this one-story, gabled-roofed, log cabin, retains structural integrity. Like the preceding two, this cabin, thought to date from Chisana's gold rush era, is located on federal land and is now claimed by Eric Larson.

9) First N. P. Nelson cabin: This gable-ended, log cabin, having three connecting rooms, was built about 1913. It once housed N. P. Nelson, one of the district's original locators and one of its longest residents. Anecdotal sources suggest that it now sits a few hundred

feet east of its original location. Although situated on land belonging to Ray McNutt, the cabin itself is claimed by Glenn Despain.

10) Sidney Johnston cabin [NAB-101]: Built around 1913, this 20' x 12'6", gable-ended, log cabin is associated with Sidney Johnston, a local freighter who operated horse and dog teams out of Chisana City during the 1910s and 1920s. During the 1940s this cabin was utilized by Harry Sutherland, who, partnered with Earl Hirst, worked several important claims [REDACTED]. Rehabilitated by the National Park Service in 1994, it remains in excellent condition.

11) Lou Anderton barn [NAB-120]: This 25' x 17', log barn was apparently built by Lou Anderton, who prospected, mined, guided hunters, and operated a store in the Chisana district from around 1920 until his death in 1961. Probably built about 1930, it retains good structural integrity.

12) Second N. P. Nelson cabin: Built in the 1930s, this gable-ended, log cabin is also associated with N. P. Nelson, one of the district's most important residents. Like the other Nelson cabin, it has also been moved. It now sits about 150 yards east of its original location on land belonging to Ray McNutt. Recently refurbished by owner Glenn Despain, it is in good condition.

13) Log shed: Although not conclusively dated, this shed, which belongs to Ray McNutt, is thought to have been built about 1930. It retains good structural integrity.

14) Cache: Dating from about 1913, this deteriorating, gable-ended, log cache retains good structural integrity. It, too, belongs to Ray McNutt.

15) Mercantile: This log building, built about 1913 and possessing a gabled roof and porch, served as the community's only store in the 1920s. Restored by owner Raymond McNutt, it remains in excellent condition and now functions as the cookhouse for his Wrangell R Ranch.

16) Storage shed: Although not conclusively dated, this log shed, which belongs to Ray McNutt, is thought to have been built about 1930. It retains good structural integrity.

17) Garage: Believed to date from about 1930, this log building retains good structural integrity. It also belongs to Ray McNutt.

18) Mail cabin: Although not conclusively dated, this cabin, which belongs to Ray McNutt, is thought to have been built about 1930. It retains good structural integrity.

19) Log cabin: Believed to date from about 1930, this log building retains good structural integrity. It, too, belongs to Ray McNutt.

20) Billy James cabin: This gable-ended, log cabin, probably built by Alfred Wright about 1915, once belonged to Billy James, one of the district's original locators and one of its longest residents.

The Chisana Historic District's 1984 nomination also listed five non-contributing buildings, including a recently constructed cabin, a smokehouse, a meat cache, a combination shower/laundry, and a bunkhouse, as well as one non-contributing structure, a modern sawmill.

This nomination's expanded boundaries incorporate additional components, better reflecting the district's long history of mineral development. Such features include the following forty-five clusters from on and around [REDACTED]

1) NAB-009: Situated at the [REDACTED] NAB-009 contains the remains of the abandoned mining community of Bonanza City, dating from the start of the Chisana rush. Although Bonanza City once included more than one hundred tentframes and cabins, evidence of its former glory is now restricted to only five buildings and fourteen sites. The former includes two standing cabins (A and B), a shed (C), and two doghouses (D and E). Building A is a T-shaped cabin, 21'2" x 21'8", constructed of unpeeled logs and chinked with moss. Its interior walls have been roughly squared with a broadaxe. Its roof

consists of crude shiplap and board and batten on gable ends. Building B is a 16'2" x 14'2" cabin made of hand-squared, notched logs that have been chinked with moss. Like that of Building A, its roof utilizes board and batten construction. Its distinctive door, facing [REDACTED] contains an unusual round, porthole-style window. Building C is a shed constructed of dimensional lumber on a cribbed-log foundation. Its roof consists of 1" x 4" ceiling rafters covered by horizontally nailed planks, with gable ends set vertically. Buildings D and E are both doghouses made of dimensional lumber. Of NAB-009's fourteen sites, thirteen are leveled areas with associated artifact scatters, thought to have once been occupied by tents. The last is the ruin of a third log cabin. Additional features undoubtedly remain hidden beneath the area's dense vegetation.

2) NAB-043: Located on the [REDACTED] this small mining camp includes four sites and two structures. All four sites (A, B, C, and D) are tentframe ruins. Site A measures 13' x 8'10" and consists of a set of crudely notched sill logs on a field stone foundation. Site B measures 8'4" square and consists of a set of hand-hewn logs placed directly on the ground. Site C, also 8'4" square, consists of a set of heavily deteriorated logs laid directly on the ground. It also includes an adjacent box stove, embedded in a field stone foundation. Site D measures 8'4" x 11'6" and consists of a set of hand-hewn, saddle-notched sill logs laid directly on the ground. Both structures are drift pits. Occupied only briefly, this camp is probably associated with Louis McCallum, who worked this area in 1931.

3) NAB-044: This small mining camp, probably dating from the 1930s, is situated on the [REDACTED]

It includes two sites and an assemblage of associated artifacts. Both sites are tentframes ruins with only their sill logs remaining.

4) NAB-045: Situated on [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] this cluster contains one building, one site, and one important associated artifact, a carbide-acetylene generator. The building, a 14'8" x 12'4" log cabin retaining excellent structural integrity, sports a 12'4" x 5'4" covered porch and a distinctive double-layered, random-width, dimensional-lumber roof. Its log walls are well crafted with tight fitting, saddle-notched corners. The horizontal contacts between log courses have been hewn flat, chinked with moss, and covered with 1" rough-sawn lumber. Although its interior log walls are peeled and have been flattened by hand, its exterior logs remain unpeeled. Interestingly, the cabin also contains a penciled inscription linking it to Billy James, a co-discoverer of gold in the Gold Hill district. The adjoining sawmill site is less complete. Missing all of its associated machinery except two saw blades and a trolley wheel, it is now reduced to only disarticulated wooden timbers. Both features probably date from the mid-1920s.

5) NAB-046: Situated just [REDACTED]

NAB-046 is one of the best examples of a small mining camp remaining in the [REDACTED] district. It contains eight buildings, including a cabin (A), three sheds (B, C, and D), two caches (E and F), a doghouse (G), and a privy (H). Building A is the 20'5" x 12'4", T-shaped, main cabin. Built with dimensional lumber, it rests on a spruce log foundation and employs a scrap-metal-covered, wooden roof. Anecdotal sources suggest that this building was built by Fletcher Hamshaw about 1915 and was originally used as the post office for his extensive camp at the [REDACTED]. N. P. Nelson moved the cabin to its present position on historic Bonanza No. 9 about 1940. While this cabin is in remarkably good condition, the camp's other buildings are more deteriorated, with most in only fair condition. Shed B is constructed of dimensional lumber on a log foundation, and employs board and batten walls and a scrap metal roof. Shed C is remarkably similar to Shed B: its builders also utilized a dimensional-lumber frame on a log foundation, board and batten walls, and a scrap metal roof.

Unlike Shed B, its interior walls are lined with tar paper. Shed D is a wooden tentframe set on a log foundation. Its walls consist of canvas-covered lumber, reinforced by vertical battens. Like the other sheds, it also employs a scrap metal roof. Cache E is framed with dimensional lumber, has horizontal boards and bats on its lower half, and a screened upper half. Its roof employs planks covered by canvas. Cache F is constructed of lumber uprights with screened sides and a board and batten roof. Doghouse G is made of scrap lumber and roofed with canvas. Privy H is framed with lumber and sided with vertical planks. Its roof employs two layers of milled lumber, and is covered with scrap metal weighted with field stone. In addition to the eight buildings, NAB-046 also contains two objects, both of which are metal mining boilers. It includes numerous associated artifacts as well, including a disassembled giant.

6) NAB-047: This small placer mining camp is [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] It consists of one building, six sites, one object, and one associated artifact, a windlass frame. The building, a one-room cabin, measures 12' x 16' and retains good structural integrity. Constructed of dimensional lumber, it rests on a 4" x 4" timber foundation and employs a pitched gable roof. Judging by the newspapers lining its interior walls, it dates from the early 1930s. If so, it was probably constructed by Pete Eikland, who worked Bonanza No. 3 during that period. Later that decade, it was probably also utilized by Don L. Greene, while he mined [REDACTED]. All six sites are dog house ruins, retaining little or no structural integrity. The camp's sole object is a 1'9" x 2'1" x 4', metal mining boiler. Lacking any maker's identification plate, this boiler was possibly of local manufacture.

7) NAB-048: This small placer mining camp is situated on a [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Probably utilized by Earl Hirst, who worked the claim during the district's mining revival in the mid-1930s, it includes three buildings and three sites. The camp's buildings consist of a shed, a two-story privy, and a doghouse, all made of dimensional lumber and retaining good structural integrity. NAB-048's sites include the remains of two tentframes and a collapsed log cache. A large assemblage of domestic artifacts, equipment, and mining tools is located nearby.

8) NAB-049: This small mining camp, apparently associated with open-cut mining activity on historic Bonanza Nos. 3A and 3B, is located [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] NAB-049 includes two buildings, both plank-walled tentframes, and one object, a portable mining boiler. While not conclusively linked to any particular miner, this camp may be associated with Fred W. Best, who worked the area in 1913 and 1914.

9) NAB-050: Situated on [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] of historic Bonanza No. 7A, NAB-050 contains the remnants of a small placer mining camp which probably dates from the mid-1940s. It includes four buildings, two structures, and four sites. Its buildings consist of one dimensional-lumber tentframe, two plank doghouses, and a wooden-framed privy. While the tentframe and the privy are in poor condition, both retain structural integrity, with walls and roof supports still partially intact. The two lumber doghouses are in better shape, retaining good structural integrity. Associated sites include the remains of second tentframe, a third doghouse, a flume, and a dam. Its structures include a drift mining pit and a pile of hand-stacked cobble.

10) NAB-051: This important mining camp, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] includes eight contributing buildings and two contributing structures. The largest building, measuring 23' x 11', is comprised of a shed and two adjoining tentframes. Both its walls and its roof are made from milled lumber covered with flattened metal cans. This building appears to date

from the 1920s, as a Seattle newspaper from October 15, 1922 was used to line one of its interior walls. If the newspaper was incorporated during its construction, it was probably built by Carl F. Whitham, who worked the claim from 1913 until 1923 and later developed the Nabesna Gold Mine, which is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places. NAB-051 also contains four additional tentframes, each measuring approximately 12' x 18', with 1" x 4" post and beam construction and milled-lumber walls. Other associated buildings include a privy, an open shed, and a meat cache. All buildings are in fair condition and retain good structural integrity. Many domestic artifacts and mining tools are located nearby. NAB-051 also contains one non-contributing building, a shower of relatively recent construction.

11) NAB-052: An extensively developed placer mining area, this cluster is situated on

was first mined by Carl Whitham in 1916, this particular spot seems to date from the 1930s and is probably associated with Joe Davis, who worked this area during that period. Its structures include a drift pit with timber supports, two test pits, and a ditch. Its sites include the ruins of two tentframes and the remains of two wooden dams. NAB-052 also contains one object, a commercially manufactured, metal mining boiler.

12) NAB-053: This small camp,

includes only one building, a tentframe. While historic Bonanza No. 3B was mined by Fred Best as early as 1913, this particular assemblage probably dates from the latter 1930s, when the area was reworked by Shushanna Joe, the Upper Tanana Native who guided Billy James and N. P. Nelson to the site of their discovery. Constructed of dimensional lumber, the tentframe's walls remain covered with boards, though its roof has lost virtually all of its original canvas. The tentframe is now in only fair condition, and without immediate intervention is unlikely to retain its structural integrity.

13) NAB-059: This elaborate water diversion system, running along

contains two sites and two structures. Its sites include the remnants of a flume and a holding dam. Associated structures consist of two ditches. Originally built by Billy James and N. P. Nelson in 1915, it was once linked to

Construction techniques vary along the system's length. Most of the flume is made of dimensional lumber, 32" wide and 20" deep. Battens are nailed over both floor and wall seams to prevent leakage. On steep side slopes, its builders excavated and flattened a six-foot-wide bench to provide support. The system's degree of preservation varies as well. In some places, virtually no features are evident. In others, only the flume's foundation remains. In a few places, however, particularly in the steeper parts of the canyon, lengthy segments retain good structural integrity.

14) NAB-060: This massively disturbed mining area contains two structures and two sites. Its most important structure is its huge hydraulic cut, beginning about

The best example of such activity in the district, it is situated on historic Bonanza Nos. 5 and 6 and is associated with N. P. Nelson, who worked the claims sporadically from 1913 until about 1940. It is also the terminus of James's and Nelson's elaborate diversion system (see NAB-059), which provided the water necessary to conduct the operation. NAB-060 also contains another structure, a earthen deflection dam, as well as two sites, including the ruins of a second dam and a tent platform. Associated artifacts include the remains of two sluice lines, two giant nozzles, a giant base, and a set of pole riffles.

15) NAB-061: This mid-1930s mining area is

Its three structures include two topographically distinct, hydraulic mining scars and one tailings pile. All are in fair condition and retain structural

integrity. It also contains one site, the ruins of a flume. Like NAB-048, this mining operation was probably conducted by Earl Hirst.

16) NAB-062: Although this equipment storage facility, situated on [REDACTED] does not contain any historically important buildings, structures, or sites, it does possess one significant object, a horse-drawn scraper. Several associated artifacts are located nearby, including sluice box remnants and a disassembled giant.

17) NAB-063: This small mining camp, located [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] is known to have been worked by Red Stevens in the mid-1920s. Its only contributing building is a 12' x 16' cabin, which, despite some minor modifications, retains good structural integrity. Framed with posts and beams, it sports a canvas-covered, lumber roof and porch. Associated sites include the remnants of a dam, the ruins of a tentframe, and a tent platform. More recent, non-contributing buildings include a tarpaper-covered, lumber privy, and a canvas-covered, lumber shed, both probably dating from the early 1950s. Associated artifacts include portions of a windlass and a steam point.

18) NAB-064: Billy James constructed the initial 1,000 feet of this water diversion system in 1915 to provide water for hydraulic mining on Bonanza No. 9. The Nelson Mining Company extended the flume in the mid-1930s to provide water to its operations on Bonanza Nos. 5 and 6. The most extensive such scheme in the [REDACTED] district, it extends about [REDACTED]. Its component parts include three structures and two sites. The former consists of a ditch, a standing trestle, and a dam, all of which retain good structural integrity, though the ditch is now partially filled with silt. NAB-064's sites are less well preserved, with both a second dam and most of the flume now reduced to ruins. Although in poor condition, some flume sections near the [REDACTED] retain structural integrity.

19) NAB-065: This small mining camp is situated on the [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Its contributing features include one structure, a ditch, and one site, the ruins of an historic tent platform. Four non-contributing buildings are located nearby, including a wooden-framed cabin, two tentframes, and a privy. This area also contains a non-contributing structure, a modern earth-filled dam. Dating from the early 1950s, these last five features are probably associated with Alfred T. Wright.

20) NAB-066: Situated on [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] this cluster is probably associated with Jack Carroll, who worked in the area for most of the 1920s. Representing one of the district's best preserved early mining camps, it consists of six buildings (A, B, C, D, E, and F), two structures (G and H), and three sites (I, J, and K). Building A is a one-room, 12'4" x 10', wooden-plank cabin. Its interior walls are supported by 3" x 2" studs on 16" centers. Its roof, 10' at the peak, is constructed of two layers of oppositely nailed boards. While the cabin was originally sheathed with white canvas over tar paper, much of that covering is now missing. Building B is a 12' x 6', three-sided shed. Its roof is supported by poles at its four corners. Its roof is made of 12-foot-long planks, overlapped to shed water. Building C is a 11'6" x 8'9" bunkhouse, constructed of sawn planks. Like Building A, it was once covered with tar paper and white canvas. Building D is a 3'6" x 4'6" meat cache. While two of its walls are made of planks, the others are only half high, with the rest covered by screen. Buildings E and F are doghouses, both of wooden-plank construction. Structure G is a 34-foot-long, earth and stone, automatic discharge type, "boomer" dam. Structures H is a terrace made of hand-stacked cobble. Sites I and J are the remains of wooden-plank tent platforms. Site K is the ruin of a lumber privy.

21) NAB-067: [REDACTED] NAB-067 contains one non-contributing structure, a portable churn drill, and one non-contributing site, a

collapsed cabin. While the drill appears to have been manufactured in the early 1930s, it did not reach the Chisana area until the mid-1950s. The cabin was probably constructed at about the same time.

22) NAB-068: [REDACTED] this sprawling habitation and mining cluster seems to have been occupied sporadically since the beginning of the Chisana rush. Historic sources relate that the spot was first mined during the winter of 1913-1914 by Charles Bush. NAB-068 currently contains five contributing structures. A ditch line, which once supplied water from [REDACTED], is closely associated with the camp area and probably dates from the 1930s, as do three nearby drift pits and a tailings pile. NAB-068 contains five contributing buildings, including a 12' x 9'8" cabin (A), a 7'6" x 6' blacksmith's shed (B), a 8' x 7'8" storage shed (C), a doghouse (D), and a privy (E). Building A is typical of those constructed in the district prior to 1950. Framed with poles, the sides and gable roof are made of planks laid flush on the walls and in board and batten fashion on the roof. Its primary weather sealing is canvas. Building B is walled with horizontally-laid, rough-cut lumber and roofed with boards and battens. All interior walls were once covered with canvas, though much is now in shreds. Building C, a storage shed, is constructed of two pole uprights and two lumber uprights, supporting a shed-type roof. Its side walls, originally made of canvas, are now missing. Building D is a 3' x 2'6", crudely-made, wooden doghouse. Building E is 4'4" x 3'6", pole and lumber privy. A sixth building, a more recent and therefore non-contributing feature, stands nearby: a portable skid shack designed to be pulled behind a tractor. NAB-068 also contains one contributing site, the ruins of a tentframe; one non-contributing site, a modern equipment storage area; and one contributing object, a 3'2" x 2'3" x 1'9", portable steam boiler.

23) NAB-069: Located in the vicinity [REDACTED] Below, this small mining camp occupies a [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] It consists of three structures and three sites. The former category is represented by a hand-staked cobble wall, a mining scar, and a prospect pit. The latter includes the remains of three tent platforms. While not conclusively associated with any particular miner, all six features probably date from the district's gold rush era.

24) NAB-070: [REDACTED] this mining area may be associated with a trio of miners named Bastell, Lewis, and Munsell, who operated historic claim No. 3 Below in 1915. It contains one structure, a 60' x 50' hand-stacked rock terrace, and one object, an unusual upright mining boiler. NAB-070 also contains two sites, the remnants of a flume and a substantial dam. The dam, the largest in the Chisana district, seems to have served as the central element in the ground-sluicing operations conducted on [REDACTED] and typifies the technology utilized in the region during the early decades of the 20th century. Although it is now breached in the middle, substantial portions of both ends remain.

25) NAB-071: This cluster is situated on a [REDACTED] Probably dating from the mid-1930s, this elaborate mining camp includes nine buildings (A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, and I) and two sites (J and K). The most elaborate building, feature A, is a 12' x 10', milled-lumber tentframe. Feature B is a wooden shed, having an intact roof supported on walls formed from axe-cut spruce poles. Its unpeeled uprights are two to three inches in diameter, braced with similar poles at the corners. Its shed-type roof is framed with spruce pole rafters shingled with flattened metal fuel cans. Feature C is a 7'11" x 5'8", framed-lumber tool shed, having a gable roof and board and batten sides. Feature D is a small, finely made meat cache, possessing a wooden frame and screen sides. Its lumber roof is covered with canvas for waterproofing. Features E, F, G, and H are all shed-roofed doghouses, framed with poles and

covered with lumber. Feature I is a small, low, wooden shed, probably once utilized for explosives storage. NAB-071's two sites include the remains of a privy and a tent platform.

26) NAB-073: Located on [REDACTED] this elaborate mining camp consists of one building, six structures, and four sites. The sole building is a two-room, plank cabin in good condition. Built on a foundation of axe-flattened spruce logs, its main room measures 12' x 10' and enjoys a front porch on its northwest side. The cabin's attached tentframe, gracing its southeast side, measures 8'10" x 6'11". Both portions originally sported canvas roofs. NAB-073's sites include the collapsed remains of a shed, two dams, and a tent platform. NAB-073 also contains six structures, only five of which contribute to its historic character. These include a relatively intact dam, two ditches, and two prospect pits. NAB-073's non-contributing structure is an abandoned track vehicle, probably dating from the 1960s. The remainder of its features probably date from the early 1940s. Some, however, some may date from as early as 1915, when pioneer prospector Dan Ryan worked this area.

27) NAB-074: This small mining camp, situated on the [REDACTED] is thought to date from the 1920s. It consists of three sites: the remains of two wooden dams and the ruins of a flume.

28) NAB-075: This small mining camp, thought to date from about 1918, is located [REDACTED] It includes two structures, both prospect pits; one site, a tent platform; and one object, a stone boundary marker.

29) NAB-076: This small mining camp is located on [REDACTED] It consists of four sites, including a raised and leveled tent platform, two other foundations, and the remnants of a stacked-stone dam. Based on a scatter of diagnostic cans, these features probably date from the beginning of the Chisana rush. If so, they might be associated with Fred Haggren, who mined this area in the fall of 1913.

30) NAB-077: This placer mining camp, thought to date from the 1940s, is located on [REDACTED] It includes four buildings, one structure, and four sites. The largest building is a shed, constructed of assorted planks over a spruce pole frame. Measuring approximately 6' x 12', this shed retains good structural integrity. The other buildings are all doghouses. NAB-077's four sites include three tentframe foundations and the remains of a second shed, built to shelter the camp's sole structure, a drift pit.

31) NAB-078: This mining camp of indeterminate age is located [REDACTED] It includes one site, a collapsed tentframe with milled-lumber flooring and walls. Many domestic artifacts are scattered nearby.

32) NAB-079: This early mining camp is located [REDACTED] Like NAB-078, it consists of one site, a deteriorated tent platform, and probably dates from the 1920s.

33) NAB-080: This mining camp is located [REDACTED] It consists of one site, a tentframe ruin, and one structure, a prospect pit, surrounded by domestic artifacts and debris. Although undated, the location's degree of revegetation suggests a relatively early occupancy, perhaps from the beginning of the Chisana rush.

34) NAB-082: This small mining camp is located [REDACTED] A carved

inscription at the scene links NAB-082 to Charlie Hawkins, who is known to have worked this area in 1915. The camp's sole building is a 14'6" x 12'6", one-room log cabin, constructed of both axe- and saw-cut spruce logs with inverted v-notched corners. Its logs, peeled only on their interior side, are chinked with moss. Its roof, supported by a ridge pole and four rough-squared purlins, is covered with unpeeled poles and sod. The cabin remains in relatively good condition, although its roof is beginning to collapse. In addition to the cabin, this cluster contains one site, a ruined privy, and two structures, both drift mining pits.

35) NAB-083: This elaborate mining camp, which may have been part of the gold rush community of Woodrow, is located [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] It consists of six buildings (A, B, C, D, E, and F) and eight sites (G, H, I, J, K, L, M, and N). Building A is a 21' x 13'7", log cabin with a 5' x 15'2" attached porch. Its logs are joined by axe-cut, inverted v-notched corners. While their interior surfaces have been flattened, their exterior surfaces retain their bark. The cabin's gable roof, supported by a ridge pole and two purlins, is covered in turn by poles, dimensional lumber, and sod. Building B is a 15'2" x 10'7" foot log cabin, constructed of unpeeled, square-notched logs, chinked with canvas. The remnants of canvas insulation also lines its interior walls. While its sod covered, slab-lumber roof was once supported by a ridgepole and four purlins, the northern half is sagging and the southern half has completely collapsed. Building C, a one-holed, milled-lumber privy, measures 4'8" x 4'6" feet. Although still standing, it, too, is very deteriorated. Buildings D, E and F are all standing doghouses. Site G is a collapsed privy; site H is the remnants of a shed; and sites I, J, K, L, M, and N are all doghouse ruins. NAB-083 appears to be contemporary with NAB-045, situated approximately three hundred yards downstream.

36) NAB-084: This mining area is situated [REDACTED]

Probably dating from the 1920s, it consists of one site, a collapsed adit, and two associated structures, including a prospect pit and a nearby spoil pile.

37) NAB-085: This small mining camp is situated about [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Probably dating from the 1920s, it consists of two buildings, two structures, and two sites. Its buildings include a relatively well preserved tentframe and an unusual stacked-stone cache. The camp's only structure is pile of hand-stacked cobble. Its sites are both tentframe ruins.

38) NAB-086: This mining camp is related to gold prospecting on [REDACTED] and probably pre-dates the First World War. If so, it could be associated with William Steinberger, who worked the area in 1914. Situated on the south side of [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] it contains one site, a stacked-rock tent platform.

39) NAB-087: This mining camp is situated about [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Probably dating from the late 1920s, it consists of one site, a tentframe ruin in poor condition. Evidence suggests that NAB-087 was probably associated with the construction and/or operation of NAB-090, the [REDACTED].

40) NAB-088: This small mining camp, thought to date from the 1930s, is located [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] It consists of one site, a collapsed and water-dispersed, wooden-framed cabin.

41) NAB-089: This habitation area is located [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Its single site, the remains of tent platform, is probably associated with the construction and/or

maintenance of a nearby ditch. Certain diagnostic cans suggest a relatively early occupation, probably in the 1920s. Although little of the structure remains, many additional artifacts may remain hidden beneath the vegetative cover.

42) NAB-090: Originating near the [REDACTED] this elaborate water diversion system follows the [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] It is comprised of five discrete structures: a sod dam, a ditch, two small holding ponds, and a flume.

43) NAB-091: Situated on the [REDACTED], this cluster contains one site, an historic artifact scatter, including the remains of two sleds.

44) NAB-092: This small mining area, situated [REDACTED], includes two structures, both of which are drift pits. It may be associated with Grant Reed, a prominent regional businessman who operated a store in Bonanza City and [REDACTED] in 1913.

45) NAB-102: This as yet undated mining area is situated [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Consisting of two contributing structures, a drift pit and a ditch with hand-stacked stone sides, it may be associated with Fletcher Hamshaw or Carl Whitham, both of whom mined in this vicinity during the gold rush era. Nearby is a non-contributing, bulldozer-created prospect with two adjoining spoil piles.

[REDACTED] also includes two additional non-contributing structures: a primitive airstrip and a network of ATV trails.

Recent surveys conducted within and around Chisana City's historic townsite have recorded an additional eighty-seven contributing clusters, omitted from the community's 1984 National Register nomination and its subsequent listing in 1985. While most have been extensively scavenged, future excavation of these early twentieth-century sites may still provide unique data about communal life in frontier Alaska, including information on such diverse topics as cabin and sled construction, ethnic distribution, and commerce. Such townsite-related clusters include:

1) NAB-171: Situated on the [REDACTED] within the historic confines of Chisana City, this site contains the foundation logs of an unusually large, two-room cabin, measuring approximately 32 x 16 feet. It also includes three wood-lined depressions and an assemblage of associated artifacts.

2) NAB-172: This site, [REDACTED] within the historic confines of Chisana City, includes the decomposed remains of a 15'8" x 13'7" log foundation, two depressions, and associated artifacts.

3) NAB-173: Situated on the [REDACTED] within the historic confines of Chisana City, this site includes a deteriorated, 19'2" x 5'10" log foundation of unknown function.

4) NAB-174: This site, located [REDACTED] within the historic confines of Chisana City, includes an 18'5" x 17'5" foundation berm and two associated depressions. A factory manufactured, stamped-steel, wood-burning stove rests nearby.

5) NAB-175: Situated on the [REDACTED] within the historic confines of Chisana City, this site includes the deteriorated foundation berm and sill logs from a 12' x 16' cabin. A trash scatter is located nearby.

6) NAB-176: This site, located on the [REDACTED] within the historic confines of Chisana City, includes a 21'7" x 15'5" log foundation and an unusually large can dump.

7) NAB-177: Situated on the [REDACTED] within the historic confines of Chisana City, this site includes some sill-log remnants, a deteriorated foundation berm, and four associated depressions.

8) NAB-178: This site, located on [REDACTED] within the historic confines of Chisana City, includes the axe-cut, saddle-notched, sill logs from a 17'8" x 15'8" cabin. It also contains three associated depressions, as well as the remains of a dog sled.

9) NAB-179: Situated on the [REDACTED] within the historic confines of Chisana City, this site includes the remains of a 15' x 16' log cabin foundation, three depressions, and two associated can scatters. Unlike most other buildings in Chisana City, this cabin contained a raised dirt and cobble platform, which may have served as a crude stove board.

10) NAB-180: This site, located on the [REDACTED] within the historic confines of Chisana City, includes the remains of a 16'8" x 15'8" log cabin foundation and a highly unusual, diagnostic bottle scatter.

11) NAB-181: Situated on the [REDACTED] within the historic confines of Chisana City, this site includes a 15' x 13'8" set of saddle-notched, sill logs and three associated depressions.

12) NAB-182: This site, located on the [REDACTED] within the historic confines of Chisana City, includes a 12' x 14' set of highly deteriorated sill logs, a small but diagnostic can dump, and two shallow depressions.

13) NAB-183: Situated on the [REDACTED] within the historic confines of Chisana City, NAB-183 includes two sites: the axe-cut, saddle-notched sill logs of a large (23'10" x 18'9") cabin and a crudely constructed doghouse. It also contains four associated depressions.

14) NAB-184: This site, located on the [REDACTED] within the historic confines of Chisana City, includes the three-course-high remains of a 15'4" x 12'9", unfinished log cabin and some associated log piles.

15) NAB-185: Situated on the [REDACTED] within the historic confines of Chisana City, this site includes the deteriorated sill logs and foundation of a 14'3" x 11' cabin and an associated depression.

16) NAB-186: Located on the [REDACTED] within the historic confines of Chisana City, NAB-186 includes two sites: a 19'7" x 15'9" set of saddle-notched, sill logs and a 16-foot-long log foundation of unknown function. Nearby are four associated depressions and a diagnostic can scatter.

17) NAB-187: Situated on the [REDACTED] within the historic confines of Chisana City, this site includes a 15'7" x 13'8" set of sill logs and two associated depressions.

18) NAB-188: This site, located on the [REDACTED] within the historic confines of Chisana City, includes the deteriorated sill logs from a 16'9" x 14'7" cabin, two associated depressions, and a substantial can scatter.

19) NAB-189: Situated on the [REDACTED] within the historic confines of Chisana City, this site includes a 11'10" x 11' set of saddle-notched sill logs and a nearby depression.

20) NAB-191: Situated on the [REDACTED] within the historic confines of Chisana City, this site includes a 12'9" x 12' set of deteriorated sill logs, four nearby depressions, and a domestic artifact scatter.

21) NAB-192: This site, located on the [REDACTED] within the historic confines of Chisana City, includes a deteriorated, 19'3" x 18'3" set of saddle-notched sill logs and two associated depressions.

22) NAB-193: Situated on the [REDACTED] within the historic confines of Chisana City, this site includes the faint remains of a 13'4" x 13' log foundation, a depression, and a small can scatter.

23) NAB-194: This site, located on [REDACTED] within the historic confines of Chisana City, includes the two-course-high, saddle-notched remains of a 26'5" x 12'5" cabin and a nearby depression. Associated artifacts include two stamped-steel, wood-burning stoves.

24) NAB-195: Situated on the [REDACTED] within the historic confines of Chisana City, this site includes the remains of a poorly defined foundation, two depressions, and a large and diagnostic can scatter.

25) NAB-196: This site, located on the [REDACTED] within the historic confines of Chisana City, includes a 18'3" x 12'4" set of deteriorated sill logs and two shallow depressions. Associated artifacts include the remains of a dog sled.

26) NAB-197: Situated on the [REDACTED] within the historic confines of Chisana City, this site includes a 15'6" x 13'8" set of highly deteriorated, saddle-notched sill logs and two shallow depressions.

27) NAB-198: This site, located on the [REDACTED] within the historic confines of Chisana City, includes a 14'10" x 12'8" set of saddle-notched sill logs, two shallow depressions, and an assemblage of domestic artifacts.

28) NAB-199: Situated on the [REDACTED] within the historic confines of Chisana City, this site includes a 18'6" x 16' set of hand-hewn sill logs and two associated depressions. Like NAB-179, this cabin possessed a rock-filled box, probably employed as a stove board.

29) NAB-200: This site, located on the [REDACTED] within the historic confines of Chisana City, includes a 19' x 7'3" set of deteriorated sill logs and two small associated depressions. Like NAB-179 and NAB-199, this building contains a rock-filled box, thought to have served as a stove board.

30) NAB-201: Situated on the [REDACTED] within the historic confines of Chisana City, this site includes a log-lined, 4'6" x 7' x 1' rectangular depression. Another depression is located nearby.

31) NAB-202: This site, situated on the [REDACTED] within the historic confines of Chisana City, includes a 16' x 15' set of heavily overgrown, hand-flattened sill logs and two nearby, wood-lined depressions.

32) NAB-203: Situated on the [REDACTED] within the historic confines of Chisana City, this site includes a 19' x 19' set of overgrown, saddle-notched sill logs and an associated wood-lined depression.

33) NAB-204: Located on the [REDACTED] within the historic confines of Chisana City, NAB-204 contains an intact, 14' x 4' x 2', cribbed-log structure of unknown function.

34) NAB-205: Situated on the [REDACTED] within the historic confines of Chisana City, this site includes a 16' x 15'6" set of overgrown, saddle-notched sill logs, a depression, and a small diagnostic can scatter.

35) NAB-206: This site, located on the [REDACTED] within the historic confines of Chisana City, includes a 18' x 14' set of deteriorated sill logs, two depressions, and a small domestic artifact scatter.

36) NAB-207: Situated on the [REDACTED] within the historic confines of Chisana City, this site includes a 16' x 15'6" set of saddle-notched, hand-flattened sill logs and two associated depressions. This cabin also possesses an attached 3'6" x 6'8" room of unknown function.

37) NAB-208: This site, located on the [REDACTED] within the historic confines of Chisana City, includes a 13' x 13' set of overgrown sill logs and an associated depression.

38) NAB-209: Situated on the [REDACTED] within the historic confines of Chisana City, this site consists of two, 14-foot-long, heavily overgrown, saddle-notched sill logs spaced 12'8" apart. Two associated depressions are located nearby.

39) NAB-210: Located on [REDACTED] Chisana City townsite, this small cemetery contains four Alaska Native grave houses. Each measures approximately 2'10" x 6'2" x 2'6", is constructed of wooden plants, and is graced with a gabled-roof and an attached cross. One of these graves belongs to Shushanna Joe, the Upper Tanana Indian who guided N. P. Nelson and Billy James to the Chisana district.

40) NAB-211: Situated on the [REDACTED] within the historic confines of Chisana City, this site includes the 5-8 course-high remains of a 14'9" x 11' log cabin. Its unpeeled logs, which display axe-cut ends and square corner notches, have been hewn flat on their interior surface. The collapsed ridgepole and other roof members lie inside the building. A shallow depression is located nearby.

41) NAB-215: Situated on the [REDACTED] within the historic confines of Chisana City, this site includes a depression and a can scatter.

42) NAB-216: This site, located on the [REDACTED] within the historic confines of Chisana City, includes a deteriorated, 16' x 11'10" log foundation, two associated depressions, and a small assemblage of domestic artifacts.

43) NAB-217: Situated on the [REDACTED] within the historic confines of Chisana City, this site includes a 9'10" x 8'5" set of saddle-notched sill logs and two associated depressions.

44) NAB-220: Located on the [REDACTED] the historic confines of Chisana City, NAB-220 includes two sites: a 15'9" x 15' set of peeled, saddle-notched sill logs and the remains of a 14' x 7'2", multi-roomed, log dog kennel.

45) NAB-221: Situated on the [REDACTED] the historic confines of Chisana City, this site includes the outline of a 19' x 13'10" cabin, now reduced to a set of hand-hewn, saddle-notched sill logs, and a small assemblage of domestic artifacts.

46) NAB-223: Situated on the [REDACTED] the historic confines of Chisana City, this site includes an 11'6" x 10'2" foundation outline and the partial remains of two log walls.

47) NAB-224: This site, located on the [REDACTED] the historic confines of Chisana City, includes the ruins of a 14'9" x 14'5", one-room, log cabin.

48) NAB-225: Situated on the [REDACTED] the historic confines of Chisana City, this site includes an 11' x 10'6" foundation outline.

49) NAB-226: This site, located on the [REDACTED] the historic confines of Chisana City, includes the foundation outline of a 17'8" x 16'5" log cabin, an accompanying depression, and a small artifact assemblage.

50) NAB-227: Situated on the [REDACTED] the historic confines of Chisana City, this site contains a 13'4" x 13'4" cabin foundation, now reduced to a set of saddle-notched, hand-hewn sill logs.

51) NAB-228: This site, located on the [REDACTED] the historic confines of Chisana City, includes a 14'1" x 10'2" foundation outline, marked by a set of four, completely overgrown, saddle-notched sill logs.

52) NAB-229: Situated on the [REDACTED] the historic confines of Chisana City, this site contains a 14'10" x 13'9" foundation outline, marked by a set of four, saddle-notched sill logs, two depressions, and a small assemblage of domestic artifacts and trash.

53) NAB-230: This site, located on the [REDACTED] the historic confines of Chisana City, includes a 21'4" x 19'4" foundation outline, now reduced to only two overgrown sill logs, two depressions, and a few associated domestic artifacts.

54) NAB-231: Situated on the [REDACTED] the historic confines of Chisana City, this site contains the 14'9" x 12'9" remains of a log foundation and an associated depression.

55) NAB-232: This site, located on the [REDACTED] the historic confines of Chisana City, includes a 10'10" x 10'3" foundation outline and an associated depression.

56) NAB-233: Situated on the [REDACTED] the historic confines of Chisana City, this site contains the three-course-high ruin of a 10'10" x 10'3" log cabin. Its wall logs are unpeeled outside, hewn flat inside, and sport saddle-notched corners.

57) NAB-235: Situated on the [REDACTED] the historic confines of Chisana City, this site contains the three to four-course-high ruin of a 11'10" x 10'8" log cabin. As in most of Chisana City's earlier buildings, it displays axe-cut log ends and saddle-notched corners. Collapsed wall and roof members lie both around and within the standing remains.

58) NAB-236: Located on the [REDACTED] of the historic confines of Chisana City, this cluster includes two sites: an overgrown, 16'9" x 16'5" foundation outline and the remains of a collapsed shed.

59) NAB-237: Situated on the [REDACTED] of the historic confines of Chisana City, this site contains the three to four-course-high ruin of a 13' x 9'9" log cabin and a small associated can scatter.

60) NAB-238: This site, located on the [REDACTED] of the historic confines of Chisana City, includes the seven-course-high ruin of a 18'9" x 14'7" log cabin and a small assemblage of domestic artifacts.

61) NAB-239: Situated on the [REDACTED] of the historic confines of Chisana City, this site contains the five-course-high ruin of a 12'2" x 12' log cabin.

62) NAB-240: Situated on the [REDACTED] of the historic confines of Chisana City, NAB-240 includes the five-course-high ruin of a 13'5" x 10'6" log cabin. Its walls are constructed of small (averaging about 5.5 inches in diameter) unpeeled spruce with saddle-notched corners. Three sets of bunk beds, made of spruce poles and slab lumber, remain inside. Nearby is an approximately 23-foot diameter, roughly circular-shaped, sawdust pile, marking the site of Fletcher Hamshaw's sawmill during his 1914 lumbering operation.

63) NAB-241: Located on [REDACTED] Chisana City townsite, this small cemetery contains two Alaska Native grave houses, one with a rapidly collapsing roof. Both measure approximately 2' x 4'6" x 2'4", are constructed of wooden planks, and possess gable-ended roofs. Both probably date from the 1930s.

64) NAB-242: This site, located on [REDACTED] within the historic confines of Chisana City, includes an 18'4" x 15'5" cabin foundation, now marked only by three overgrown, saddle-notched sill logs.

65) NAB-243: Situated on the [REDACTED] within the historic confines of Chisana City, this site contains an 18' x 14'4" cabin foundation, now marked only by a set of moss-covered sill logs and two associated depressions.

66) NAB-244: This site, located on [REDACTED] within the historic confines of Chisana City, includes a 13'9" x 13'4" cabin foundation and an associated depression.

67) NAB-245: Situated on the [REDACTED] within the historic confines of Chisana City, this site contains the faint remnants of a 14'6" x 13'6" cabin foundation and two associated depressions.

68) NAB-246: This site, located on the [REDACTED] within the historic confines of Chisana City, includes the faint remains of a 13'1" x 10'10" cabin foundation and an associated depression.

69) NAB-247: Situated on the [REDACTED] within the historic confines of Chisana City, this site contains the overgrown remains of a 17'6" x 13'7" cabin foundation, a depression, and an associated artifact scatter.

70) NAB-248: This site, located on the [REDACTED] within the historic confines of Chisana City, includes the sill logs from a 21'8" x 19'10" cabin, an ovoid depression, and the most extensive can scatter in the Chisana District.

71) NAB-249: Situated on the [REDACTED] within the historic confines of Chisana City, this site contains the faint remains of a 16'6" x 13'10" cabin foundation and an associated depression.

72) NAB-250: This site, located on the [REDACTED] within the historic confines of Chisana City, includes the water-dispersed remains of a 17' x 15' log cabin. Only its moss-covered sill logs and a few domestic artifacts remain.

73) NAB-251: Situated on the [REDACTED] within the historic confines of Chisana City, NAB-251 contains the overgrown remains of three sill logs, marking the site of a 17'10" x 17'5" cabin, and two associated depressions.

74) NAB-252: Located on the [REDACTED] within the historic confines of Chisana City, NAB-252 contains the faint remnants of a 12'2" x 10'2" log foundation, two small brush shelters (thought to have served as crude doghouses), a pole-framed depression, and a large can and artifact scatter.

75) NAB-253: Situated on the [REDACTED] within the historic confines of Chisana City, NAB-253 contains the overgrown remains of a 12'2" x 9'2" log foundation and two associated depressions.

76) NAB-254: This site, located on the [REDACTED] within the historic confines of Chisana City, contains the remnants of 25'6" x 14' log foundation. Unusually large for Chisana City, this cabin was constructed of peeled, hand-hewn, spruce logs and contained two rooms. Among the wide assortment of associated artifacts are a small, handmade wooden table and the remains of a dog sled.

77) NAB-255: Situated on the [REDACTED] within the historic confines of Chisana City, NAB-255 contains the overgrown remains of a 14'10" x 8'6" log foundation and three associated depressions.

78) NAB-256: This site, located on the [REDACTED] within the historic confines of Chisana City, contains the faint remains of a 17'6" x 17' log foundation and two associated can scatters.

79) NAB-257: Situated on the [REDACTED] within the historic confines of Chisana City, NAB-257 contains the overgrown remnants of a 19' x 16' log foundation and two depressions. Nearby associated artifacts include a wood-burning stove.

80) NAB-258: This site, located on the [REDACTED] within the historic confines of Chisana City, contains the remains of a 16'9" x 10'2" log cabin, three depressions, and a small artifact scatter.

81) NAB-259: Situated on the [REDACTED] within the historic confines of Chisana City, this cluster contains the faint remains of a 13'9" x 13'4" log foundation and two associated depressions.

82) NAB-260: This small cemetery, located on the [REDACTED] contains seven historic graves and their associated wooden grave markers. All, unfortunately, have been disturbed with most showing signs of having recently been refurbished. One of these graves belongs to Charles Simons, a prominent local merchant who served as Chisana City's postmaster from 1917 until his death in 1929.

83) NAB-262: Located on the [REDACTED] within the historic confines of Chisana City, NAB-262 contains the faint remains of a bridge across an ephemeral drainage.

84) NAB-263: Situated on the [REDACTED] within the historic confines of Chisana City, NAB-263 consists of the unidentified remains of a saw-cut log structure, believed to have been a bridge.

85) NAB-266: This site, located on the [REDACTED] within the historic confines of Chisana City, contains a large artifact scatter, including several bottles, over 100 cans (many with well preserved, lithographed labels), and a wooden crated bearing the hand-printed name of N. P. Nelson.

86) NAB-267: Situated on the [REDACTED] within the historic confines of Chisana City, NAB-267 contains a large, isolated artifact scatter, including over 100 cans, sled runners remnants, and a sheet metal stove.

87) NAB-268: This site, located on the [REDACTED] within the historic confines of Chisana City, contains several artifact scatters, including historic cans, horse-drawn sled fragments, and several wooden crates.

One additional non-contributing cluster was recorded at the Chisana City townsite as well. Situated on the [REDACTED] within the historic confines of Chisana City, NAB-271 consists of a relatively modern (c. 1955) and therefore non-contributing, 13' x 13', one-room, log cabin and an associated pole shed.

This nomination includes all buildings, structures, sites, and objects thought to contribute meaningfully to our understanding of the Chisana district's rich cultural landscape. This includes tent sites and cabin ruins, evidencing the transitory nature of mineral development; prospect pits, dam remnants, and tailings piles, illustrating contemporary mining methods; dog houses, indicating the miner's historic reliance on animal-powered transportation; and portable mining boilers, demonstrating the prospector's adaptability to technological change.

Land Ownership

All privately held land included in this nomination lies within the confines of the existing Chisana Historic District. The remaining land belongs to the federal government and is managed as part of Wrangell-St. Elias National Preserve. Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve notified the owners of both private property and valid mining claims of the impending nomination and solicited their comments. No written responses were received.

Integrity

Evaluating the integrity of an historic district requires a holistic approach that considers the value of all its component parts. Many elements of the Chisana Historic Landscape could undoubtedly qualify for individual nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. Others, more adversely impacted by the passage of time and the region's

harsh subarctic environment, clearly lack such distinction. Together these buildings, structures, sites, and objects contribute significantly to the integrity of the landscape as a whole. Their setting still conveys the environmental characteristics of the district's most significant era, the boom lasting from 1913 to 1915. Their specific locations reflect the area's topographical advantages and constraints. Their diverse designs demonstrate technological innovation as well as the miners' continuously evolving needs. Their various construction materials reveal the full range of locally available options. Their workmanship provides invaluable insight into the skills, engineering practices, and aesthetic preferences of their day. Their feeling of isolation and abandonment reflects the boom and bust cycle characteristic of all mining regions. When combined with their well-documented association with prominent people and events, these features convey an clear sense of the landscape's historic identity.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- ☒ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☒ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☐ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☒ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or a grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Exploration/Settlement
Industry

Period of Significance 1913-1942

Significant Dates 1913-1915

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

James, William E.
Nelson, Nels P.
Joe, Shushanna
Whitham, Carl F.

Cultural Affiliation Euro-American

Architect/Builder N/A

Statement of Significance:

The scene of Alaska's last important gold rush, the Chisana district played a key rôle in the history of interior Alaska. While few struck it rich, the resulting demand for materials and supplies helped establish regional transportation networks, encouraged supporting industries, and hastened the exploration and settlement of both the Copper and Tanana Basins.

The Chisana district was particularly significant from 1913 to 1915, the period encompassing its discovery, stampede, and boom. It remained locally important through 1942, when war-time exigencies virtually ended local mining.

Former Klondike stamperders and prototypical prospectors William E. "Billy" James and Nels P. Nelson made the first gold discoveries in the Chisana district, thereby precipitating the Chisana rush. Each subsequently devoted the rest of his life to developing mining properties in the district. Both miners are associated with buildings in Chisana City and each constructed sections of the two main Bonanza flumes (NAB-059 and NAB-064). Nelson is also associated with NAB-046, a large camp situated on [REDACTED] and NAB-060, the area's largest hydraulic mining cut.

Shushanna Joe, an Upper Tanana Indian whose traditional territory included the entire Chisana region, guided James and Nelson to the site of their [REDACTED] discovery. He subsequently spent the remainder of his life in the area, working as a trapper, market hunter, prospector, and miner, before finally dying in Chisana City about 1960. Joe, who exemplifies the major but often neglected role played by Alaska Natives in advancing the territory's mining frontier, is associated with NAB-053, a small mining camp located on [REDACTED]. He is buried in Chisana City (NAB-210).

Carl F. Whitham was also present at the time of the Chisana discovery and mined in the vicinity for more than a decade. He eventually moved about [REDACTED] where he established and operated the Nabesna Mine, now listed on the

National Register of Historic Places. Whitham is associated with NAB-051, an elaborate camp situated at the [REDACTED].

Embodying its period of early twentieth century, small-scale, placer mining, Chisana's cultural landscape superbly illustrates both its mining processes and its evolutionary sequence. Unusually complex, it retains examples of virtually all of its historic components, including a town, two town sites, numerous tent camps, two sawmill sites, various water diversion and delivery systems, a full range of hand, hydraulic, and mechanical mining operations, and an associated transportation network. It also contains a wide assortment of small-scale features, such as sluice and rocker boxes, metal mining boilers, steampoints, hydraulic nozzles, and metal penstock pipe, as well as more ephemeral elements like sled and wagon remnants and tool, trash, and domestic artifact scatters.

The Chisana district contains data which may be vital to any wider, comparative study of twentieth century placer mining. Its excellent examples of hand-mining methods are relatively rare: evidence of such activity elsewhere was often obliterated by subsequent hydraulic or dredging epochs. Further investigations in the Chisana district could also address key questions regarding mining variability and change. The timing, speed, and conditions under which innovations occurred are likely to be especially important. Excavations could also provide additional social data, including a better estimate of the district's population; the role played by women and Alaska Natives; the nature of the miner's material culture; and the production, distribution, and consumption of commodities.

Discussion

Gold has always been an elusive mineral. This was especially true in Alaska, where persistent seekers followed its trail for decades. Beginning with a strike in the [REDACTED] near Juneau in 1880, prospectors soon crossed the Coast Range and explored the upper reaches of the [REDACTED]. In 1886 they moved down the [REDACTED] in 1893 on to Birch Creek, near Circle. Three years later, George Carmack filed the first [REDACTED], initiating the Yukon Territory's famed Klondike rush. Other stampedes followed, including ones to Nome in 1899 and 1900, Fairbanks in 1903, and Iditarod in 1909. In 1913 discoveries along the northern margin of Alaska's Wrangell Mountains provoked Alaska's last important rush: to the remote [REDACTED].

Although credit for the Chisana discovery must be divided among at least half a dozen individuals, three were especially important. William E. "Billy" James and Nels P. Nelson began a detailed examination of the [REDACTED] country in 1912. Both had originally come north with the Klondike rush and had spent more than a decade fruitlessly exploring the Alaska-Yukon backcountry.²

Few details were ever recorded about Nelson's background. It is believed that he had served in the military before coming to Alaska in the 1890s. Although he was prospecting in the Fortymile country when Carmack made his Klondike discovery in 1896, Nelson failed to join

¹ David Wharton, *The Alaska Gold Rush* (Bloomington and London: Indiana University Press, 1972), 3-5; William R. Hunt, *North of 53°: The Wild Days of the Alaska-Yukon Mining Frontier, 1870-1914* (New York: Macmillan Publishing Company, Inc., 1974), *passim*.

² *Anchorage Daily Times*, April 6, 1960; April 9, 1960.

the initial wave of stampedeers up the Yukon River and therefore missed his first and greatest opportunity to strike it rich.³

James, like Nelson, possessed extensive prospecting experience. A hard-rock miner in California before joining the Klondike stampede, he had subsequently worked in both the Fortymile and Fairbanks districts. He was also extremely familiar with the White River country, having visited it regularly since about 1908.⁴

Late that summer the pair established a base camp near the [REDACTED] and spent the entire fall investigating the adjoining region. Although their primary route ascended [REDACTED] they established hunting trails in all directions. One reached [REDACTED]⁵

While there, an Alaska Native informant named Shushanna Joe showed James a quartz prospect located along that stream's middle reaches. The lode intrigued the miner, but he was much more interested in the area's placer potential. Recognizing that it was too late in the season for a detailed examination, James conducted some preliminary panning and vowed to return to the area the following year.⁶

James and Nelson returned in the spring of 1913. Reaching [REDACTED] on May 13, James concentrated on the lode. Nelson decided to try his luck on a nearby tributary. Walking about one hundred yards upstream, he reached a low bench where he proceeded to remove some of the overburden and to test the underlying gravel. To his surprise, his first pan yielded a dollar's worth of gold. Staking a discovery claim, Nelson, in the tradition of placer miners everywhere, christened the site [REDACTED].⁷

Rushing back to the Yukon, Nelson informed local residents about his discovery. Local prospectors reacted enthusiastically and by June 6 several parties were already preparing to leave for the diggings.⁸ Although these Dawson City stampedeers staked most of the property on [REDACTED] an Alaska miner obtained one of the richer claims. Carl F. Whitham, who was working near the [REDACTED] when James and Nelson made their strikes, acquired the second claim on [REDACTED].⁹

James and Nelson began sluicing [REDACTED] on July 4, 1913. Assisted by Andy Taylor and former Dawson City bartender Tommy Doyle, the pair recovered nearly 200 ounces in just two days. By August 2 they had already garnered \$9,000, or an average of about \$300 per day.¹⁰

³ Ivan R. Thorall, personal communication with Geoffrey Bleakley, August 8, 1996, Chisana, Alaska, notes in author's files.

⁴ Anchorage Daily Times, April 6, 1960; April 9, 1960.

⁵ Fred Best diary, September 19-December 15, 1912, *passim*, Best Collection, Alaska State Library and Archives, Juneau, Alaska (hereafter cited ASL).

⁶ Capps, *The Chisana-White River District, Alaska*, 92.

⁷ Mark J. Kirchhoff, "Shushanna: Alaska's Last Great Gold Rush," *Alaska Geographic* 16, no. (1989): 48.

⁸ Dawson Daily News, June 6, 1913.

⁹ Ibid, October 9, 1913.

¹⁰ Ibid, July 28, 1913.

While less productive than Little Eldorado No. 1, several other claims also yielded significant quantities of gold. Bonanza No. 6 produced some four- and five-dollar pans, and even samples taken from Bonanza No. 3 averaged more than a dollar.¹¹

Needing additional gear, one successful prospector returned to Dawson City about the middle of July. While there, he provided the local newspaper with a current description of the strike.¹²

Predictably, his account electrified the Yukon, Alaska, and eventually much of the Pacific Northwest. Fifteen years had passed since the Klondike rush and most of its participants were now middle-aged. Of those that remained in the region, few had accumulated much wealth. Many probably saw the Chisana discovery as their final opportunity to achieve success.

Another factor undoubtedly contributed as well: the strike was exceptionally well sold. Eager to enhance business, virtually all regional cities enthusiastically promoted the district. One newspaper proclaimed the Chisana strike as "the richest since the Klondike."¹³ This wildly exaggerated announcement provoked defections which virtually emptied the Nizina gold camps and even briefly jeopardized the operation of the Kennecott Corporation's massive copper complex.¹⁴

Cordova was similarly affected. The *Daily Alaskan* reported that public interest was intense and that scores of local residents were preparing to go: "They are only awaiting further details as to the extent of the richness of the strike."¹⁵ Many must have eventually left for the diggings, for witnesses claimed that after the departure of the northbound train, "you could fire a cannon down the main street of Cordova and not hit a soul."¹⁶

When news of the Chisana discovery reached the outside world, it soon elicited a similar response. As in the case of the Klondike strike, Seattle was particularly affected.

Gossip of the Shushanna strike was to be heard on all sides yesterday in the hotels and resorts [where] Alaskans are wont to congregate. Plans for hasty embarkation were being made and staid gold hunters of former days, who had not felt the call of the north in years, did not attempt to conceal their interest and enthusiasm. The 'fever' was very much in evidence.¹⁷

The liner *Northwestern* was one of the first to leave for the north. Friends of the departing gold seekers thronged the dock and automobiles lined the pier for more than a block in each direction. The *Seattle Times* noted the excitement, reporting that the waterfront had not experienced such activity since the Klondike days.¹⁸

¹¹ *Chitina Leader*, July 22, 1913; *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, August 11, 1913.

¹² *Fairbanks Times*, July 20, 1913.

¹³ *Cordova Daily Alaskan*, July 18, 1913.

¹⁴ *Chitina Leader*, July 22, 1913.

¹⁵ *Cordova Daily Alaskan*, July 21, 1913.

¹⁶ *Alaska Daily Dispatch*, August 5, 1913.

¹⁷ *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, July 29, 1913. During the gold rush era, the Upper Tanana name "Chisana" was usually transliterated as either "Shushanna" or "Shushana."

¹⁸ *Seattle Times*, August 7, 1913.

Vancouver's boosters soon began a campaign to wrest some of the traffic away from Seattle. Their "Progress Club" initiated a "Chisana Day," and offered free maps to all interested stampeder. It also began a subscription drive to pay for advertising Canadian routes and promoting the benefits of local outfitting. By early August, their efforts seemed to have been at least partially successful. Ticket agents reported "a tremendous inquiry" and speculated that "several hundred northerners will leave this city and Victoria before the end of the month."¹⁹

Like their counterparts in Vancouver, Fairbanks's merchants promoted their community as the district's best supply center. Its boosters advised prospectors not to be misled by the apparent logic of the Yukon's White River route. "The river at best is only navigable to the head of the [REDACTED]" they cautioned, "and that point is 105 miles from the scene of the strike." While they admitted that Dawson City was closer, they warned that goods shipped through Canada were subject to customs duty at the border. The Tanana River, in contrast, was an "all-American" route.²⁰

Stampeder approached the Chisana region from every possible direction. Most were poorly equipped and many even lacked a clear concept of where they were headed. Consequently, many failed to arrive, and of those who did, few remained for more than a few days.²¹

By the middle of July, prospectors had selected virtually all available sites. Those arriving later either turned around at once, staked "wildcats," jumped someone else's claim, or continued into adjoining districts. Even those who obtained a favorable tract usually left immediately, returning later with a sufficiently large outfit to complete their assessments.²²

The Chisana district's first recording office opened on July 22, 1913, in a tent at the [REDACTED], with Horatio E. Morgan serving as U.S. commissioner and recorder. Business at the office was brisk. By mid-August, Morgan had already registered about 250 claims.²³

Unfortunately, problems quickly developed. Not only were new arrivals accused of jumping claims but there were also widespread complaints about Morgan's bookkeeping methods. The recorder tried to defend his actions. While he admitted that his books--a hotel register and accounts ledger--were crude, he claimed that they were scrupulously honest. Faced with growing criticism, Morgan soon resigned.²⁴

Meanwhile, George Hazelet was also busy. A consummate speculator, the Cordova businessman began seeking an appropriate location for a townsite.²⁵ Named "Woodrow," this

¹⁹ *Vancouver Sun*, August 9, 1913.

²⁰ *Fairbanks Times*, July 26, 1913.

²¹ *Dawson Daily News*, August 14, 1913; Delorme D. Cairnes, *Upper White River District*, Geological Survey Memoir No. 50 (Ottawa: Canada Department of Mines, 1915), 129.

²² *Ibid*, 129-30. A "wildcat" was a speculative claim located on unproven ground.

²³ *Alaska and Northwest Mining Journal* 3, no. 3 (September 1913): 56; *Dawson Daily News*, September 17, 1913.

²⁴ *Fairbanks Times*, September 29, 1913; *Dawson Daily News*, September 15, 1913; October 13, 1913.

²⁵ Hazelet diary, August 12 and 14, 1913, cited in Elizabeth A. Tower, "Hazelet's High Road to Chisana: Tapping a Gold Mine for Cordova," *Alaska History* 6, no. 2 (Fall 1991): 1-15.

community became the site of the district's second recording office, managed by acting U.S. commissioner J. J. Finnegan.²⁶

Local prospectors soon objected to the location of Finnegan's office. By placing it in Woodrow, the commissioner forced them to walk nearly eight miles every time they wished to conduct business. Despite their complaints, Finnegan refused to move.²⁷

On September 9, 1913, seventy-five Chisana miners met near the [REDACTED] to address some of their common problems. Before the day ended, they established the [REDACTED] Mining District and selected a new townsite, which they christened "Johnson City." They also removed Finnegan as acting U.S. commissioner and selected George E. "Ned" Hill as his temporary replacement.²⁸

The district's first cold weather provoked an exodus of stampeders, with some bartering their entire outfits to finance their transportation home. Even James and Nelson deserted the region. Having accumulated a hefty nest egg before shutting down for the season, the two headed south to enjoy a relaxing winter.²⁹

Although mining activity dwindled, Johnson City continued to grow. By the middle of October, nearly all townsite lots had been staked and the village contained about two hundred cabins.³⁰ Among other amenities, it boasted two streets, two grocery stores, and the district's third recording office.³¹ It also possessed a post office, run by former steamboat captain Theodore Kettelson. Despite the wishes of most local residents, postal officials insisted on redesignating the site "Chisana City."³²

December brought profound changes to Chisana City. Anthony Dimond assumed his office at the beginning of the month, becoming the area's fourth commissioner. Later, Frank Miller opened the town's first saloon, appropriately calling his establishment the "Miner's Home."³³ The growing community now included about four hundred cabins and boasted four stores, two meat markets, two barber shops, two restaurants, a hotel, and a boarding house.³⁴

Near the close of the year, the district's miners received some other exciting news. A financial consortium of pioneer Alaskans, including John J. Price, Frank Manley, and E. J. Ives, offered the widely reported sum of \$500,000 to lease the property belonging to James, Nelson, and their two partners. The group accepted the syndicate's bid and transferred thirteen claims, including the richest one of all on [REDACTED]³⁵

²⁶ *Cordova Daily Alaskan*, September 26, 1913. Although several contemporary newspaper articles suggest that Hazelet situated Woodrow on Chavolda (Wilson) Creek at the mouth of Glacier Creek, that location is difficult to reconcile with Hazelet's own verbal description.

²⁷ *Dawson Daily News*, October 11, 1913.

²⁸ *Cordova Daily Alaskan*, September 20, 1913.

²⁹ *Dawson Daily News*, October 23, 1913; Kirchhoff, "Shushanna," 63.

³⁰ *Fairbanks Times*, October 17, 1913; *Dawson Daily News*, October 20, 1913.

³¹ *Fairbanks Times*, October 13, 1913.

³² *Chitina Leader*, October 21, 1913.

³³ *Dawson Daily News*, January 1, 1914; January 26, 1914; *Fairbanks Times*, January 20, 1914; *Alaska Weekly* (Seattle), October 7, 1955.

³⁴ *Dawson Daily News*, December 10, 1913; December 13, 1913.

³⁵ *Cordova Daily Alaskan*, December 11, 1913.

Still expanding, Chisana City began to assume an air of permanence and the camp at the [REDACTED] was also beginning to look more like a "town." Commonly called Bonanza City, it had grown throughout the winter, and by spring even included several women. Although still made up mostly of tents, it now possessed a few cabins, as well as four stores, two hotels, and a restaurant.³⁶

At the beginning of 1914, Manley, Price, and Ives assigned their newly acquired property to Fletcher Hamshaw, who situated his main camp on the [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Nearly a community of its own, it consisted of about sixteen tents, including offices, a mess hall, a commissary, and sleeping quarters. While somewhat isolated, both a trail and a telephone line linked the camp with Hamshaw's warehouse in Bonanza City.³⁷

Hamshaw concentrated his efforts on Bonanza Nos. 4 and 5 and No. 1 on [REDACTED] engaging a crew which sometimes approached one hundred men. Like most miners in the district, he generally ground-sluiced to remove the overburden, leaving the lower foot or two of gravel to be shoveled into the sluice boxes by hand. Hamshaw employed a horse-drawn scraper to remove the tailings from the lower end of his line.³⁸

The operator's efforts were quite successful. At Bonanza No. 4 his crews excavated 974 linear feet of creek bottom, recovering about \$21,100 on a \$14,800 investment, or a net profit of around 42 percent. He also mined Bonanza No. 5, moving 5,620 cubic yards of gravel from 833 linear feet of the stream. This site was less productive, returning only about \$20,500 on his \$15,500 investment.³⁹

Carl Whitham spent the entire summer working [REDACTED]. Starting with about 15 lengths of sluice box, his seven employees gradually added more as their mining progressed upstream. They also employed pressurized water to keep tailings from blocking the lower end of the line.⁴⁰

By mid-summer, opinions regarding the promise of the Chisana district varied widely. Most recognized some of the region's drawbacks. The gold bearing area was relatively small.⁴¹ It was also a expensive place to mine. Labor was prohibitively high, generally costing around six dollars per day, plus board.⁴²

When the anticipated discoveries failed to materialize, many residents left the region. Some went to Fairbanks, in route to the new diggings along the [REDACTED]. Others moved to the Nizina district. A few, like Anthony Dimond, even headed for the coast.⁴³

³⁶ Fred Best diary, March 15, 1914, Best Collection, ASL; *Dawson Daily News*, June 8, 1914.

³⁷ Stephen R. Capps, "Mineral Resources of the Chisana-White River District," in Alfred H. Brooks, et al., eds., *Mineral Resources of Alaska: Report on Progress of Investigations in 1914*, USGS Bulletin No. 622 (Washington: GPO, 1915), 211-12; *Dawson Daily News*, June 3, 1914; *Juneau Dispatch*, July 14, 1914.

³⁸ Capps, "Mineral Resources of the Chisana-White River District," 211-12.

³⁹ Stephen R. Capps, *The Chisana-White River District*, USGS Bulletin No. 630 (Washington: GPO, 1915), 105.

⁴⁰ Capps, "Mineral Resources of the Chisana-White River District," 216-17.

⁴¹ *Ibid*, 202.

⁴² *Ibid*, 203.

⁴³ *Dawson Daily News*, July 23, 1914; *Chitina Leader*, September 22, 1914.

Despite such setbacks, 1914 was a very successful year. The area's miners recovered 12,094 ounces of gold, or about \$250,000. Eagerly anticipating the coming season, around two hundred chose to winter in the district.⁴⁴

Chisana remained viable for an additional year. As in previous seasons, most mining occurred on [REDACTED]. By fall it was clear that the district was declining. Its gold production had fallen well below 1914 levels, with miners recovering only 7,740 ounces or about \$160,000. Employment was also down. Its seventeen active mines only fielded about 110 men. Having experienced a discouraging season, many miners left that fall, with only about fifty choosing to winter in Chisana City.⁴⁵

The district dwindled further in 1916 and 1917. It now contained only twelve mines which together employed forty men. While approximately thirty-five others continued to prospect in the vicinity, mining conditions deteriorated. A drought seriously hampered their sluicing operations. Gold production consequently fell to just \$40,000, a 75 percent decline.⁴⁶

The First World War curtailed mining throughout Alaska, and the Chisana was no exception. Its output plummeted in 1918, with prospectors recovering only 726 ounces, or \$15,000 worth of gold. The following year brought some improvement. Local miners increased their production to 1,306 ounces or about \$27,000.⁴⁷

The district soon resumed its long-term cycle of decline. Many of the district's most productive claims were nearly exhausted. Carl Whitham leased [REDACTED] in the early 1920s and began prospecting a new area about [REDACTED]. In 1925 Whitham located a promising lode above [REDACTED] which he eventually developed into the Nabesna Gold Mine.⁴⁸

⁴⁴ George C. Martin, "The Alaskan Mining Industry in 1918," in George C. Martin, et al., eds., *Mineral Resources of Alaska: Report on Progress of Investigations in 1918*, USGS Bulletin No. 712 (Washington: GPO, 1919), 43; *Chitina Leader*, September 22, 1914.

⁴⁵ Martin, "The Alaskan Mining Industry in 1918," 43; Alfred H. Brooks, "The Alaskan Mining Industry in 1915," in Alfred H. Brooks, et al., eds., *Mineral Resources of Alaska: Report on Progress of Investigations in 1915*, USGS Bulletin No. 642 (Washington: GPO, 1916), 62; *Cordova Daily Alaskan*, August 31, 1915.

⁴⁶ Alfred H. Brooks, "The Alaskan Mining Industry in 1916," in Alfred H. Brooks, et al., eds., *Mineral Resources of Alaska: Report on Progress of Investigations in 1916*, USGS Bulletin No. 662 (Washington: GPO, 1918), 55; George C. Martin, "The Mining Industry of Alaska in 1917," in George C. Martin, et al., eds., *Mineral Resources of Alaska: Report on Progress of Investigations in 1917*, USGS Bulletin No. 692 (Washington: GPO, 1919), 36.

⁴⁷ Martin, "The Alaskan Mining Industry in 1918," 43; Alfred H. Brooks and George C. Martin, "The Alaskan Mining Industry in 1919," in Alfred H. Brooks, et al., eds., *Mineral Resources of Alaska: Report on Progress of Investigations in 1919*, USGS Bulletin No. 714 (Washington: GPO, 1921), 84.

⁴⁸ William R. Hunt, *Mountain Wilderness: Historic Resource Study for Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve* (Anchorage: National Park Service, 1991), 66. Whitham's Nabesna operation is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Kirk W. Stanley, "Nabesna Gold Mine Historic District," National Register Nomination, 1978; David and William Tewkesbury, *Tewkesbury's Who's Who in Alaska and Alaska Business Index, Vol. 1947 I* (Seattle: Tewkesbury Publishers, 1947), 87.

By then only six mines remained in the Chisana district. The following year, the district was down to five. Gold production also fell, now barely reaching \$18,000. James L. Johnson fielded the largest crew. His three employees worked [REDACTED] employing a small hydraulic plant on the adjoining benches.⁴⁹

No significant recovery occurred until 1934, when the construction of a road linking the [REDACTED] greatly facilitated local transportation. The federal government's nearly 70 percent increase in the price of gold was even more significant, creating substantial incentives to mine. These factors prompted operators to explore deposits which had previously been ignored. N. P. Nelson built an elaborate ditch and flume system to Bonanza No. 5, starting about a [REDACTED]⁵⁰

The next year the number of active operations increased to ten and the district's gold production jumped to \$21,000. Nelson continued to field the largest crew, engaging six men for most of the season. Earl Hirst headed the second largest outfit, where four men were employed. Mining also continued on [REDACTED]⁵¹

The boom expanded in 1936. Although the district still only utilized about twenty men, total gold production jumped to \$37,500. As usual, most attention focused on [REDACTED].⁵²

As the 1930s ended, the Chisana district's production again began to fall. In 1937 it equaled \$30,000, and in 1938 it totaled \$29,000. Otherwise, conditions remained much the same, with most operators concentrating on [REDACTED]⁵³

⁴⁹ Fred H. Moffit, "Mineral Industry of Alaska in 1925 and Administrative Report," in Fred H. Moffit, et al., eds., *Mineral Resources of Alaska: Report on Progress of Investigations in 1925*, USGS Bulletin No. 792 (Washington: GPO, 1927), 17; Philip S. Smith, "Mineral Industry in Alaska in 1926," in Philip S. Smith, et al., eds., *Mineral Resources of Alaska: Report on Progress of Investigation in 1926*, USGS Bulletin No. 797 (Washington: GPO, 1929), 23; Philip S. Smith, "Mineral Industry of Alaska in 1927," in Philip S. Smith, et al., eds., *Mineral Resources of Alaska: Report on Progress of Investigations in 1927*, USGS Bulletin No. 810 (Washington: GPO, 1929), 24; Norman L. Wimmeler, "Placer Mining in Alaska in 1926," U.S. Bureau of Mines Microfilm Records, roll 21, item 6, 33, ARL.

⁵⁰ Philip S. Smith, "Mineral Industry of Alaska in 1934," in Philip S. Smith, et al., eds., *Mineral Resources of Alaska: Report on Progress of Investigations in 1934*, USGS Bulletin No. 868 (Washington: GPO, 1937), 44; Knut Peterson, *When Alaska Was Free* (Port Washington, N.Y.: Ashley Books, 1977), 25.

⁵¹ Philip S. Smith, "Mineral Industry of Alaska in 1935," in Philip S. Smith, et al., eds., *Mineral Resources of Alaska: Report on Progress of Investigations in 1935*, USGS Bulletin No. 880 (Washington: GPO, 1937), 47; Fred H. Moffit, "Recent Mineral Developments in the Copper River Region Alaska," in *ibid*, 105.

⁵² Philip S. Smith, "Mineral Industry of Alaska in 1936," in Philip S. Smith, et al., eds., *Mineral Resources of Alaska: Report on Progress of Investigations in 1936*, USGS Bulletin No. 897-A (Washington: GPO, 1938), 55.

⁵³ Philip S. Smith, "Mineral Industry of Alaska in 1937," in Philip S. Smith, et al., eds., *Mineral Resources of Alaska: Report on Progress of Investigations in 1937*, USGS Bulletin No. 910 (Washington: GPO, 1939), 56; Philip S. Smith, "Mineral Industry of Alaska in 1938," in Philip S. Smith, et al., eds., *Mineral Resources of Alaska: Report on Progress of Investigations in 1938*, USGS Bulletin No. 917 (Washington: GPO, 1939), 55; William R. Hunt, *Golden Places: A History of Alaska-Yukon Mining with Particular Reference to Alaska's National*

Few changes occurred until October 1942, when America's War Production Board issued Limitation Order L-208, which closed all but the smallest mines. Like most western states, Alaska fought the order. As a result, the federal government permitted some mines to operate, including those in Alaska employing five or fewer men.⁵⁴

Although legally allowed to function, many operators closed their mines for the duration of the war. Most were now too old to work their claims without the help of younger labor. Seventy-five-year-old Tony McGettigan was one exception. He continued operating Bonanza No. 12 until he disappeared one spring while hiking in from Chisana City.⁵⁵

Mining resumed in 1945, though on a scale far smaller than the immediate pre-war years. Only five outfits operated in 1945 and 1946, four of them on [REDACTED] Louis E. "Lou" Anderton, the Bonanza Mining Company, and the partnership of Earl Hirst and Harry Sutherland utilized hydraulic methods, while N. P. Nelson shoveled-in. Nelson's return was especially meager. He reportedly recovered just three ounces in 1946.⁵⁶

Mining continued during the 1950s, though on an increasingly smaller scale. Most operators employed mechanized equipment, leaving large trenches and extensive tailings.

Several of the area's earliest residents still frequented Chisana City. Though too old to mine, N. P. Nelson remained there until the mid-1950s. Billy James and Shushanna Joe stayed in the vicinity even longer. Joe finally died and was buried there around 1960.⁵⁷

Few changes occurred in the area until 1980, when the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) created Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve.⁵⁸ Among the 13.2 million acres which the federal government placed under its control was the entire Chisana district.

Some placer mining continues. ANILCA did not invalidate existing claims and many remain in effect. Not surprisingly, a few persistent operators still work [REDACTED] Creeks. The spiritual heirs of Billy James and N. P. Nelson, these miners continue their predecessors' quest, ever searching for that one rich strike.

The Chisana discoveries lured thousands of eager gold seekers into interior Alaska. Few struck it rich and most soon migrated to other districts. Nevertheless, even the most ephemeral residents made some contribution. By choosing to labor here, they facilitated the

Parks (Anchorage: National Park Service, n.d.), 242.

⁵⁴ Philip S. Smith, "Mineral Industry of Alaska in 1941 and 1942," in Philip S. Smith, et al., eds., *Mineral Resources of Alaska: Report of Progress in Investigations in 1941 and 1942* (Washington: GPO, 1944), 11.

⁵⁵ Peterson, *When Alaska Was Free*, 87, 90-91.

⁵⁶ Benjamin D. Stewart, *Report of the Commissioner of Mines for the Biennium Ended December 31, 1946* (Juneau: Territorial Department of Mines, 1947), 37, 41-42; Bruce Thomas, "Report of Mining Investigations, September 1946," U.S. Bureau of Mines Microfilm Records, roll 8, item 40, 3, ARL.

⁵⁷ Stuart Starbuck, interview conducted by Geoffrey Bleakley, August 25, 1995, Skagway, Alaska, audio tape in WRST files; Ivan R. Thorall, personal communication with Geoffrey Bleakley, Steve Lang, and Amy Gallaway, July 20, 1995, Chisana, Alaska, notes in WRST files; Bell Joe, interview conducted by Geoffrey Bleakley, September 16, 1995, Chistochina, Alaska, audio tape in WRST files.

⁵⁸ Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980, Pub. L. No. 96-48 (Dec. 8, 1980).

establishment of transportation networks, encouraged the development of supporting industries, and hastened the settlement of both the Copper and Tanana Valleys.

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Seattle Post-Intelligencer. 1913-1914.

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Previous documentation on file (NPS)

☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.

☒ previously listed in the National Register

☒ previously determined eligible by the National Register

☐ designated a National Historic Landmark

☒ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # AK-9

☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary Location of Additional Data

☐ State Historic Preservation Office

☐ Other State agency

☒ Federal agency

☐ Local government

☐ University

☐ Other

Name of repository: Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve, Copper Center, AK

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approximately 27,700

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1				10			
2				11			
3				12			
4				13			
5				14			
6				15			
7				16			
8				17			
9							

Verbal Boundary Description

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Geoffrey T. Bleakley, historian
organization Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve date 11/15/97
street & number P.O. Box 439 telephone (907) 822-5234
city or town Copper Center state AK zip code 99573

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve

street & number P.O. Box 439

telephone (907) 822-5234

city or town Copper Center

state AK

zip code 99573

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.