

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

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Item number Inventory

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INVENTORY

NAME: George McGregor Cabin

LOCATION: Left bank of the Yukon approximately 2 miles
downriver from Coal Creek.

UTM'S: 07.724900.401040

QUADRANGLE: Charley River B-5 SCALE: 1:63 360

ACREAGE AND BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: One and a half acres,
boundary drawn in a rectangle: 200' along the river bank;
360' back from the river to include all identified cultural
resources.

DESCRIPTION

The George McGregor Cabin site is located on the river terrace between Woodchopper Roadhouse and the Frank Slaven Roadhouse. During the period of significance the site was comprised of a residential cabin, a utility building, at least three caches and tool benches. (15) Built in 1938, the 14'X14' residential cabin was well made and tightly constructed. It was built of 7" (average diameter) unpeeled logs, which were hewn slightly on the interior and saddle-notched. The joints were chinked with moss. The window and door frames were built of dimensional lumber. The floor was constructed of 6" (average diameter) log stringers which supported a rough sawn plank floor. The root cellar was retained with 2" (average diameter) poles. The roof deck was made of 3" (average diameter) rough poles supporting a sod roof which was covered with planks, tarpaper, and corrugated metal. Original construction used a central ventilator and a corner chimney. The ridgepole extended 11'4" in front to support a corrugated metal roof, forming a porch.

CONDITION

The George McGregor Cabin site is camouflaged from the river by dense foliage. In the summer, the foliage is so thick

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that the cabin is visible only within about twenty feet. (P16) In the winter it is still used, or only very recently abandoned, as emergency shelter for trappers. The cabin is not maintained, but an occasional occupant has made temporary repairs designed to make the cabin more comfortable for an overnight stay. The flooring has been removed. The porch roof has collapsed. (P17;I5,6) There is a cabin ruin east of the main cabin consisting of about seven courses of logs. It may actually have been a tent frame, as canvas, some of it wrapped around metal poles, remains in the ruin. The only extant cache, raised nearly 10' on posts, is located approximately 250' southeast of the cabin. It has a split-pole floor and a tent frame of poles. Some canvas remains. (I6)

This site retains a high degree of integrity. The cabin is still fairly complete, which is unique in an area where cabin roofs are lost to winter snows. It is representative of the modest cabins built by solitary trappers. Use remains consistent with the historic period. There are no intrusions, the site retains much of the feeling of the historical period.

HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE

In the 1920s George McGregor staked some of the richest ground on Woodchopper Creek. In 1923, McGregor was in the Woodchopper district (Ott and Scheele to G. McGregor, September 5, 1923). In 1926, he and his partner Frank Rossback staked the discovery claim and several others on Mineral Creek, a tributary of Woodchopper. Between 1928 and 1935, McGregor staked five claims on Woodchopper. (Circle District Mining locations: 5:178, 184,185,309,310,572,606). In the mid-1930s, McGregor sold out to Ernest Patty, who represented Alluvial Gold, Inc., the corporation active on Woodchopper Creek.

At this time, McGregor turned to trapping. In 1938 he built this cabin as a his base on his trapline. He established his trapline in the traditional circuitous route: Woodchopper Creek over to Coal Creek over to Hannah Creek. Because he

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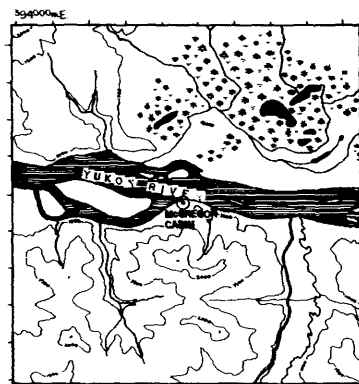
Page 8

needed a dog team as transportation to check his trapline, he fished in the summers to provide dog food. He had a fishwheel which enabled him to catch more fish than he needed. To further supplement his income, he sold the excess fish. Art Reynolds, who lived on Sam Creek, recorded buying fish from McGregor (August 18, 1941, and August 29, 1943). Louise Paul, whose husband worked for Ernest Patty at Woodchopper and Coal Creeks, remembered buying fish from McGregor.

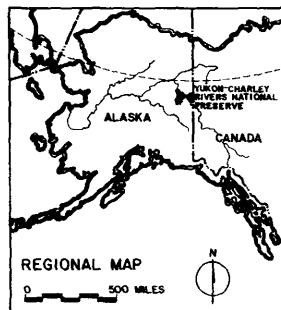
McGregor lived alone in his cabin, but was a part of the river community. He left diaries, extant from 1943-1962 in the Eagle Historical Society collection, telling of the life he lived and the people who were an important part of it along the Yukon. About a dozen people appear regularly, often identified only by first name. Each entry is extremely brief: "To little cabin. caught fox. wolf ate it. caught wolf. broke chain. got away" (December 1, 1945); "Split wood. Saw first Butterfly. heard Cranes. Bottled Beer" (May 8, 1945). In the summer of 1954, George McGregor moved to Eagle. He served on the common council and as an election judge (Scott, "Roster"). In 1963 he left Alaska.

The George McGregor Cabin, while not yet fifty years old, is included in this nomination because it has exceptional significance. It was built in response to the significant historic developments in the region, exploration and settlement and transportation, in a fashion consistent with the historic period. Located between Woodchopper Roadhouse and the Frank Slaven Roadhouse, this site has been either abandoned or periodically used in a manner consistent with the historic period as shelter for a trapper or other traveler along the Yukon corridor. George McGregor, a miner who supplemented his income with trapping, was an integral part of the river community for twenty-five years before building this particular cabin. This site retains much of the feeling of the historic period.

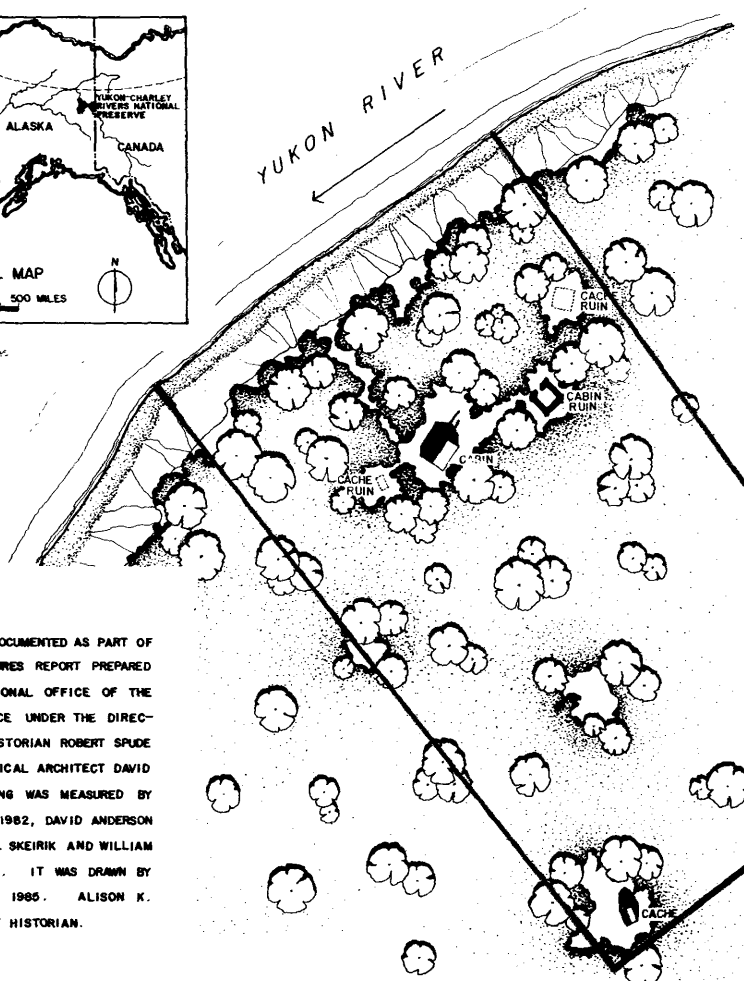
GEORGE MCGREGOR CABIN



TAKEN FROM USGS CHARLEY RIVER (B-5) 885 UTM 07.724800.401040
LOCATION MAP
 SCALE 1:63,360
 0 1 2 3 MILES
 0 1 2 3 4 KILOMETERS



REGIONAL MAP
 0 500 MILES

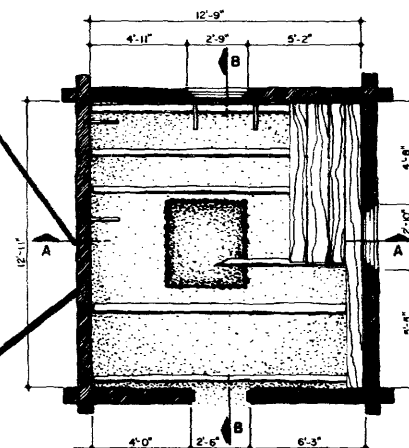


SITE PLAN
 SCALE 1"=30'-0"

0 10 20 30 40 50 FEET
 0 5 10 15 METERS



NORTHEAST ELEVATION
 SCALE 3/8"=1'-0"



FLOOR PLAN
 SCALE 3/8"=1'-0"

0 1 2 3 4 5 10 FEET
 0 1 2 3 METERS

GEORGE MCGREGOR, A MINER WHO TURNED TO TRAPPING, BUILT THIS CABIN IN 1938. MCGREGOR STAKED SOME OF THE RICHEST CLAIMS ON WOODCHOPPER CREEK IN THE 1920'S AND WORKED THEM FOR ABOUT TEN YEARS UNTIL HE SOLD HIS INTERESTS TO A CORPORATION. IN THE WINTERS, MCGREGOR, PROBABLY USING HIS CABIN AS HOME BASE, RAN TRAPLINES ON WOODCHOPPER, COAL, AND HANNAH CREEKS. IN THE SUMMERS THIS SITE WAS HIS FISH CAMP, WHERE HE CAUGHT FISH TO FEED HIS DOGS AND TO SELL TO OTHER MINERS AND TRAPPERS. THE ONE-ROOM SADDLENOTCHED LOG CABIN IS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MODEST CABINS BUILT BY SOLITARY TRAPPERS.

THIS BUILDING WAS DOCUMENTED AS PART OF AN HISTORIC STRUCTURES REPORT PREPARED BY THE ALASKA REGIONAL OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE UNDER THE DIRECTION OF REGIONAL HISTORIAN ROBERT SPUDE AND REGIONAL HISTORICAL ARCHITECT DAVID SNOW. THE BUILDING WAS MEASURED BY STEVEN PETERSON IN 1982, DAVID ANDERSON IN 1984, AND RANDALL SKEIRIK AND WILLIAM VANDEVENTER IN 1985. IT WAS DRAWN BY RANDALL SKEIRIK IN 1985. ALISON K. HOAGLAND WAS PROJECT HISTORIAN.

ILLUSTRATION 5

George McGregor Cabin, site plan, with
boundary

Yukon River Lifeways

Randall Skeirik

National Park Service, 1985

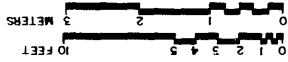
MATERIALS NOTES

WALLS: WALL LOGS ARE 7" AVG. DIAMETER, PEELED AND HEWN, WITH SADDLENOTCHED CORNERS. JOINTS ARE CHINKED WITH MOSS.

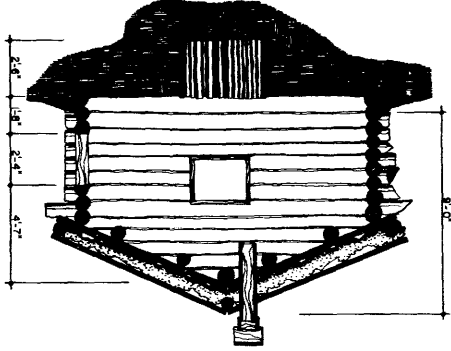
FRAMES ARE OF DIMENSIONAL LUMBER.

FLOOR: 6" AVG. DIAMETER LOG STRINGERS SUPPORT A ROUGH SAWN PLANK FLOOR, MOST OF WHICH IS NOW REMOVED. THE ROOT CELLAR IS RETAINED WITH 2" AVG. DIAMETER POLES.

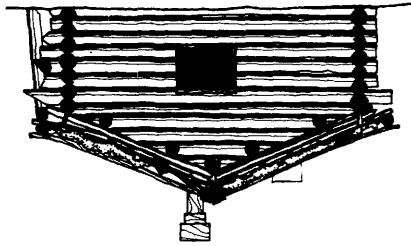
ROOF: THE ROOF DECK IS MADE OF 3" AVG. DIAMETER ROUGH POLES SUPPORTING A SOO ROOF NOW COVERED WITH BOARDS AND TAR PAPER.



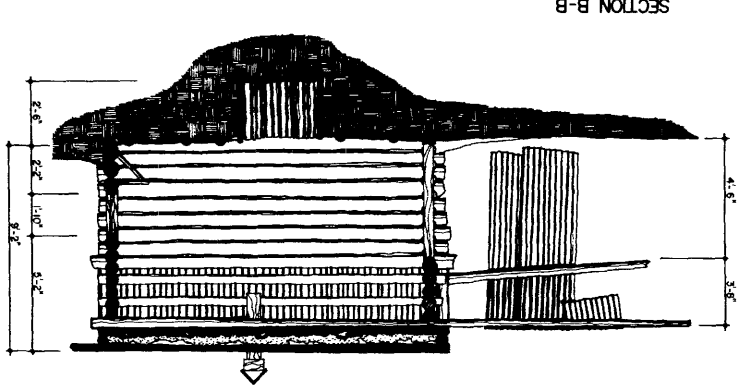
SECTION A-A
SCALE 3/8"=1'-0"



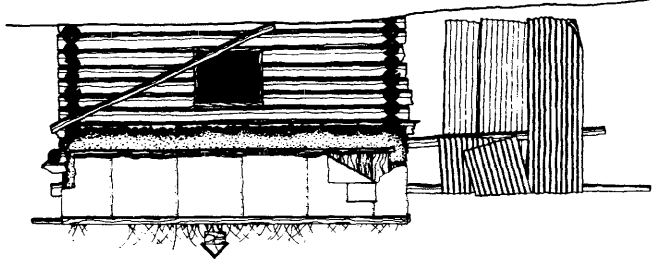
SOUTHWEST ELEVATION
SCALE 3/8"=1'-0"



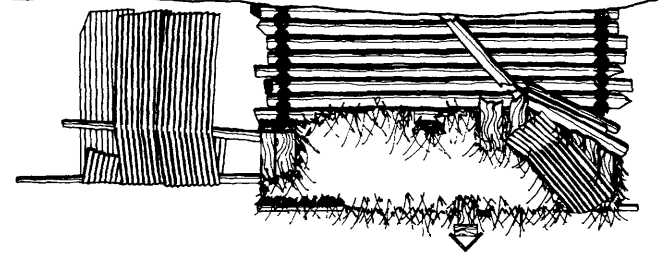
SECTION B-B
SCALE 3/8"=1'-0"



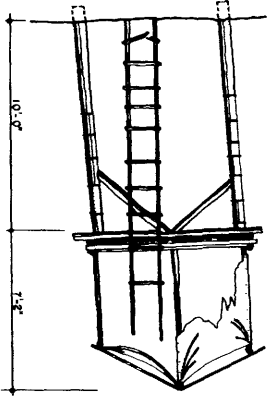
NORTHWEST ELEVATION
SCALE 3/8"=1'-0"



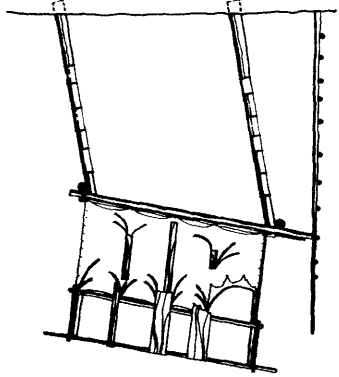
SOUTHEAST ELEVATION
SCALE 3/8"=1'-0"



NORTH ELEVATION
SCALE 3/8"=1'-0"



EAST ELEVATION
SCALE 3/8"=1'-0"



CACHE PLAN
SCALE 3/8"=1'-0"

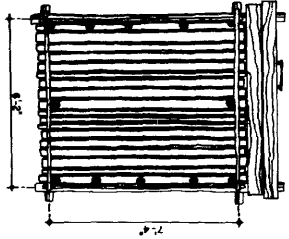


ILLUSTRATION 6

George McGregor Cabin and cache

Yukon River Lifeways

Randall Skeirik

National Park Service, 1985



1. GEORGE MCGREGOR CABIN IN THE WOODS;
YUKON RIVER LIFEWAYS
2. Eagle vicinity, Alaska
3. Robert Spude
4. 1984
5. NPS-ARO
6. looking southeast
7. P16;I2, 5,



1. GEORGE MCGREGOR CABIN; YUKON RIVER
LIFEWAYS
2. Eagle vicinity, Alaska
3. Jet Lowe
4. 1984
5. Library of Congress, HABS collection
6. looking southwest
7. P17;I5, 6