

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED FEB 8 1977
DATE ENTERED SEP 13 1976

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC **** Hirshey Mine (AHRS SITE NO. SEW-002)

AND/OR COMMON
Lucky Strike Lode

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
Mile 12, Palmer Creek Road

CITY, TOWN
Hope

VICINITY OF

Kenai -

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Alaska

STATE
Alaska

CODE
02

COUNTY
Cook Inlet Division

CODE
1202

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: None

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Chugach National Forest (907) 272-4485

STREET & NUMBER
2221 E. Northern Lights Blvd.

CITY, TOWN
Anchorage

— VICINITY OF

STATE
Alaska

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
District Recorder

STREET & NUMBER
Box 596

CITY, TOWN
Anchorage 99510

STATE
Alaska

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Alaska Heritage Resources Survey (AHRS)

DATE
1-10/71
— FEDERAL STATE — COUNTY — LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
State Division of Parks 323 East Fourth Avenue

CITY, TOWN
Anchorage 99501
STATE
Alaska

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Hirshey Mine is located just below the 3,000 foot elevation on the east wall of Palmer Creek valley, twelve miles from Hope on the Palmer Creek road. Sitting in the Kenai Mountains well above the good timber at 2,000 feet, the remnants of the mine are within the boundaries of the Chugach National Forest.

A mineralized acidic dike striking north and south with vertical dips and about one to six and one-half feet in width provides the resource that originally led to establishment of Hirshey Mine. Although no pictures of the mine during the period 1911-1942 have been located, written records indicate that the mine consisted of three tunnels at vertical intervals of one-hundred feet and that a stream-powered mill and compressor were used during the warm season from June to October.

At present Two buildings of the old camp and mill foundations are visible on the site. Beyond, the mine entrance can still be seen. Other evidences of mining, e.g., discarded machinery, tailings and other surviving evidence may be observed.

Aliquot parts description: T.8N.; R.1W.; S.7; SW1/4; S.M.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1911-1942

BUILDER/ARCHITECT John Hirshey

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of Hirshey Mine lies in its interpretive role in the presentation of the Hope-Moose Pass Mining District history. Mining in the area began in the late 1800's when gold was discovered near Hope by a man named King. In 1888, Charles Miller filed the first minerals claim in the region and by 1898 some gold-bearing lodes along Palmer Creek near the Hirshey Mine were being developed.

That year, 1898, quartz veins along Palmer Creek were claimed by Messrs. Loger and Kuner, and a stamp mill was in operation on the creek by 1911. John Hirshey was prospecting near Palmer Creek about that time, and working to the east of the creek he located what he called the "Lucky Strike" vein. The next year, 1912, Hirshey began working the mine, finding that the ore assayed several hundred dollars to the ton.

In 1922, the Hirshey Mine was purchased by the Alaska Minerals Company of Anchorage, but reverted to Hirshey in 1928. Three years later, the Hirshey Mine was the only producer in the district. At the end of the decade, the mine was still in operation, but in 1942 all gold mines were closed by government order and the tunnels have been abandoned since that time. Hirshey Mine and other similar gold lode mines in the Hope-Moose Pass Mining District merely supplemented the placer mines that accounted for most production both there and throughout Alaska. Although Hirshey's forte was quartz mining he continued to experiment and as late as the 1920's developed a hydraulic placer. Some of his mine surface structures and the mill buildings at the Lucky Strike Vein were destroyed by an avalanche in the winter of 1925-6. Two of the old buildings and the mill foundation with a crusher still bearing his name are in evidence from the 1931 peak when the mill had five stamps with jaw crusher and cyanamide system had been built.

Worked continuously from John Hirshey's discovery of the "Lucky Strike" vein in 1911 and almost into the first half of the century, Hirshey Mine represents a type of mining production, i.e., lode mining as opposed to placer mining, significant in the history of the Kenai Peninsula, and particularly in the recent past of the Hope area.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Berg, Henry and Edward H. Cobb, 1967, Metalliferous Lode Deposits of Alaska, U.S. Geological Survey Bulletin 1246.
- Johnson, Bertrand L., 1911, "Gold Deposits of the Seward-Sunrise Region, Kenai Peninsula" in Mineral Resources of Alaska: report on progress of investigations in 1911, U.S. Geological Survey Bulletin 520.
- Barry, Mary J., A History of Mining on the Kenai Peninsula, N.W. Pub. Co., Anchorage, 1973.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1

UTM REFERENCES

A 0,6 | 3,6,2,1,3,7 | 950 6742-300 | 6,7,4,0,5,2,1
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B [] | [] | [] | []
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C [] | [] | [] | []
 D [] | [] | [] | []

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The mine portal, two buildings, Mill foundation and remains of machinery located in T8N, R1W, S.7, S.W.¼ Seward Meridian, Alaska, just to the East of present roadway.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Michael S. Kennedy, State Historian

ORGANIZATION

Alaska Division of Parks

DATE

12/27/76

STREET NUMBER

323 E. 4th Avenue

TELEPHONE

(907) 274-4679

CITY OR TOWN

Anchorage

STATE

Alaska 99501

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

Russell W. Cahill

TITLE

Alaska SHPO

DATE

2/3/1977

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

R. B. Ketting

DATE

9/13/78

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST

William L. ...

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

Sept 12, 1978

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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Although George C. King reportedly found gold there earlier, the official discoverer--with the first claim located on Resurrection Creek, in May of 1893--was Charles Miller. This was followed, that summer, by only 9 others. The following year additional miners came in--principally from the vicinity of Cook Inlet and the Kenai Peninsula--and more claims were staked on Resurrection Creek, Bear and Palmer Creeks. By spring of 1895 there was an actual "rush" to the Turnagain Arm Mining District, as it was first called. In the rush was John Hirshey, in the smaller--but apparently richer district--now named Hope-Sunrise. Both Hope City and nearby Sunrise City were established that year. By 1896 word of the strike had reached Seattle and other West Coast Cities. As ice cleared from the Cook Inlet, the rush of the previous year was dwarfed by this second wave. This brought such diverse personalities as "Soapy" Smith, who was killed during the Klondike Rush as the renegade leader of crime in Skagway; and Austin "Cap" Lathrop, who became a prominent Alaskan industrial leader and is considered to be the protagonist of Ethel Ferber's novel, Ice Palace.

Unlike most miners, John Hirshey was not an itinerant, forever seeking a new bonanza. He arrived with one of the first group of prospectors, in 1895; staked one of the first claims on Resurrection Creek; and was among the founders of Hope City. He married his wife Therese in 1905 in Seward, and continued to mine there; on a small but productive scale throughout the remainder of his life. Except for Percy Hope, who went on to the Klondike and never returned, all of Hirshey's original party also were prominent in the life and development of Hope. George Roll was the leading storekeeper, postmaster from 1908 to 1915, and he introduced the first apple and plum orchard to the community. James Bazard ran one of the first saloons and his two sons were in the first school at Hope. Elmer Carson worked for many years as a miner, his wife had one of the finest gardens and he later served as Hope postmaster from 1923-39.

When the much richer and widely publicized Klondike Strike drew heavily from Hope-Sunrise, John Hirshey was among the few who elected to stay. He mined, with varying degrees of success, at Bear and Coeur d' Alene creeks, as well as further probing on Resurrection. It was not until 1910--that he began prospecting on the theory of quartz (the "Mother Lode" veins) from which he rightfully suspected that the dust and nuggets had settled in the valley stream-beds--offered the greatest potential. Accordingly, in 1911 he put his hopes on the outcropping at almost the highest elevation of the surrounding mountains, which he patented as

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the "Lucky Strike". From then on until all mines closed with World War II--and most of them in this district never reopened--his mining was devoted principally to this mine. Because of his long association and persistent faith, it became known, popularly, as The Hirshey Mine; and continues to be shown on U.S.G.S. maps as such.

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- Levine, Rosemarie, 1969, "Hope--a History of the Town and Surrounding Area", MS in University of Alaska, Anchorage, library.
- Martin, G.C., et al., 1915, Geology and Mineral Resources of Kenai Peninsula, Alaska, U. S. Geological Survey Bulletin 587.
- Moffitt, F. H., 1906, Gold Fields of the Turnagain Arm Region, U. S. Geological Survey Bulletin 277.
- Smith, Philip S., 1939, Mineral Industry of Alaska in 1939, U. S. Geological Survey Bulletin 926-A.