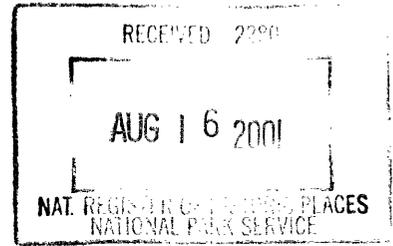


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

LSO
10/24



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 Chicken Historic District

other names/site number AHRS Site No. EAG-00008

=====
2. Location
=====
street & number Mile 66.5 Taylor Highway

not for publication n/a
city or town n/a vicinity n/a
state Alaska code AK county Southeast Fairbanks code 240
zip code 99732

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form

Chicken Historic District

Southeast Fairbanks

=====
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>15</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
		sites
<u>1</u>		structures
		objects
<u>16</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register n/a

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

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form

Chicken Historic District
Southeast Fairbanks, Alaska

=====
6. Function or Use
=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Domestic Sub: village
Commerce/trade department store/warehouse
Industry industrial storage

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Vacant/not in use Sub: _____

=====
7. Description
=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

No style

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation log
roof metal
walls log, metal, wood

other _____

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

The unincorporated village of Chicken is at mile 66.5 of the Taylor Highway in east central Alaska. It is 55 air miles south of the town of Eagle, 185 air miles southeast of the city of Fairbanks, and 78 road miles northeast of the town of Tok. The historic district has fifteen contributing buildings, one contributing structure, and one noncontributing building. Aspen have grown at the site since the mining camp closed in 1967. The surrounding area is devoted to gold mining, and tailings dominate the landscape. A water pipeline runs along the east side of the village. Chicken Creek is fifty yards east of the village and pipeline

The village's unpaved main street runs north to south about two hundred yards. All but two of the historic buildings are within fifty yards of the street. The contributing buildings are single story wood buildings. Some have batten exteriors, some have log exteriors, and some are sheet metal clad. The oldest standing building was constructed in 1906, but it is so changed in appearance that the buildings constructed in 1908 with physical integrity determined the starting date for the period of significance. All of the contributing buildings were built before 1967, as was the water pipeline, the contributing structure. The ending date for the period of significance is 1967, when the mining company stopped operations in Alaska and abandoned its camp at Chicken. Although this is less than fifty years ago, it is a logical ending date.

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form

Chicken Historic District
Southeast Fairbanks, Alaska

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.) n/a

- 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)

Commerce
Industry

Period of Significance 1908-1967

Significant Dates 1908
1951

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
John B. Powers

Cultural Affiliation n/a

Architect/Builder n/a

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Chicken Historic District
Southeast Fairbanks, Alaska

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=====
9. Major Bibliographical References
=====

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Berton, Pierre. *Klondike The Last Great Gold Rush 1896-1899*. New York and Toronto: Penguin Books, 1990.

Brooks, Alfred Hulse. *Blazing Alaska's Trails*. Fairbanks: University of Alaska and the Arctic Institute of North America, 1953.

Haynes, Terry L. *They Didn't Come in Four Wheel Drives, An Introduction to Fortymile History*. Boulder, Colorado: Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, 1976.

Mertie, J.B., Jr., *U.S.G.S. Bulletins 813, 872, 897C*. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, various dates.

Rollins, Alden. *Census Alaska: Numbers of Inhabitants 1792-1970*. Anchorage: University of Alaska, 1978.

Scott, Elva R. *Jewel on the Yukon: Eagle City*. Eagle City, Alaska: Eagle Historical Society and Museums, 1997.

Smith, Phillip, *U.S.G.S. Bulletins 813A, 824A, 857A, 880A*. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, various dates.

Specht, Robert. *Tisha*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1976.

Spence, Clark C. *The Northern Gold Fleet: Twentieth Century Gold Dredging in Alaska*. Urbana and Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 1996.

Yeend, Warren. *Gold Placers of the Historical Fortymile Region, Alaska*. U.S. Geological Survey Bulletin 2125. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1996.

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form

Chicken Historic District
Southeast Fairbanks, Alaska

=====
Previous documentation on file (NPS) n/a

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 # _____

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: _____

=====
10. Geographical Data

=====
Acreage of Property 3 acres

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing	
1	07	454662	7105979	3	07	454503	7105312
2	07	454811	7105869	4	07	454304	7105431
<input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.							

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Fifty yards north of the point where the Taylor Highway meets the water pipeline near Chicken Creek, follow the exterior side of the pipeline one hundred fifty yards north-northeast. Then go west-northwest fifty yards, then south-southwest one hundred fifty yards, then east-southeast fifty yards to the starting point.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The district includes the service and commercial buildings, the water pipeline, and several residential buildings that still stand adjacent to the main street that have historically been associated with the unincorporated village of Chicken as shown on the attached site map.

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form

Chicken Historic District
Southeast Fairbanks, Alaska

=====
11. Form Prepared By
=====

name/title Rogan C. Faith

organization Historic Walrussia

date August 6, 2001

street & number 1957 Hillcrest Dr.

telephone 907-274-0202

city or town Anchorage state AK zip code 99517
=====

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 George Seuffert, M.D.

street & number 8191 E. Del Joya Dr.

telephone 602-951-5371

City or town Scottsdale state AZ zip code 85258
=====

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form

Chicken Historic District
Southeast Fairbanks, Alaska

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Contributing properties (see site map)

A. New Powers Store (AHR Site No. EAG-00293), built prior to 1938. This log two-room building on a log foundation measures 24'6" by 31'6". The logs are 16 courses high. There is an 8' by 10' log lean-to with a sheet metal roof to the left of the front door. The south elevation has a wooden hinged door and two sliding 6/6 windows. The east elevation has one sliding 6/6 window. The building is subsiding in the southeast corner. Associated with the building is an 8' by 8' wooden storage shed ten yards north of the front entrance. It has a corrugated sheet metal roof and a door on the front (east) elevation.

B. F.E. Company Bunkhouse (AHR Site No. EAG-00294). A gabled log building with a back section 17' by 23' and a front 18' x 23'. The roof is covered with sheet metal. The north facade has a 6/6 casement window, a door, then a similar window. Each of the other elevations has a sliding window.

C. F.E. Company Residence (AHR Site No. EAG-00295). A gabled board and batten building that measures 11'6" by 13' 6". The north and west elevations have 3/3 bottom hinged windows. The south elevation has a door.

D. F.E. Company Bathhouse (AHR Site No. EAG-00296). The frame building measures 22'6" by 14' and has a gabled metal roof. It has an 8' by 5'6" lean-to on the south end. The east facade has a door and a 6/6 bottom-hinged window. The north elevation has a similar window. The lean-to has a door on the west elevation.

E. F.E. Company Manager's House (AHR Site No. EAG-00297) This frame gable building covered with plywood measures 9' x 20'. It has 3/3 bottom hinged windows on the east, west and north elevations, and a door on the south elevation.

F. F.E. Company Machine Shop (AHR Site No. EAG-00298). This wood gable building measures 18'6" by 32' and is covered with corrugated sheet metal. It has 3/3 casement windows in the east (rear) elevation and a door in the west elevation.

G. Chicken Roadhouse/School (AHR Site No. EAG-00048), also called the Chicken Creek Roadhouse. Built in 1906 as a two-story building with a covered porch, it was remodeled in 1924 for use as a school and the top story and porch were removed. The log building measures 24'6" by 31'6", and sits on a log foundation. The west elevation has two doors and four 6/6 single pane windows. The gable roof is covered with sheet metal. The south elevation has three 6/6 single pane windows and a 2/2 window in the loft. The east elevation has a door and two 3/3 casement windows. It is the only building in the district with painted window frames.

H. F.E. Company Storage Building (AHR Site No. EAG-00299) This lean-to building measures 21' by 14' and is covered with sheet metal. It has a double door in south elevation and a single door in the west elevation.

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Chicken Historic District
Southeast Fairbanks, Alaska

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I. Powers' Hay Barn (AHR Site No. EAG-00067). The building appears in a painting done from a 1920s photograph. It measures 19' by 16' and has 1" by 4" battens. There is a sliding door on the east elevation. It has a one-story loft. There is a sliding door in the east elevation, and 2/2 casement windows in the north and south elevations. The roof has a modest gable and is covered with sheet metal.

J. F.E. Company Workshop (AHR Site No. EAG-00300). This building measures 19' by 11'. The north elevation is covered with sheet metal. The building has a door and two 3/2 casement windows in the east elevation.

K. Powers' Horse Barn (AHR Site No. EAG-00068). Built about 1908, this is an 18' by 36' log building on a log foundation. It has a double door in the north elevation, and casement windows in the north and south elevations. It has a modestly gabled roof covered with sheet metal.

L. F.E. Company Engine Building (AHR Site No. EAG-00301). This wood frame lean-to measures 12' by 12' and is covered with sheet metal. The west elevation has a door and a 3/3 casement window.

M. F.E. Company Storage Building (AHR Site No. EAG-00302). This log building measures 14' by 15'. It has a modest gable roof covered with sheet metal. The north and south elevations each has a 3/3 casement window, and the east and west elevations each has a 4/4 casement window.

N. Original Powers Store (AHR Site No. EAG-00066). In poor condition, the 10' by 12' log building built in 1908 has a 9' by 10' addition constructed in 1946 on the front. The logs are halved and placed vertically on the original building, and are full and placed horizontally on the addition. The roofs have collapsed.

O. Dredge Keeper's Cabin (AHR Site No. EAG-00303). Believed to have been built in 1940, this board and log cabin measures 18' by 12'. There is a recessed entrance at the southeast corner. Part of the roof has collapsed. Associated with the cabin are a 4' by 8' wooden storage building about ten feet from the entrance and an 8' by 7' log building (partially open in the rear) on a log foundation ten yards southeast of the cabin.

Water pipeline (AHR Site No. EAG-00305). The F.E. Company installed the pipeline in 1951 to bring water from Mosquito Creek to Chicken Creek a distance of about a mile. The diameter of the pipe is 24". It is riveted in 4' sections. Only the section of the pipeline that is east and parallels the village is included in the district.

Noncontributing building

P. Residence (AHR Site No. EAG-00304). A 10' by 15' log cabin with gable roof. The building has a hinged door on the front. The building stands apart from and has no connection with the other buildings at the site. It was built after 1967.

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Chicken Historic District
Southeast Fairbanks, Alaska

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Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

The Chicken Historic District, with fifteen historic buildings and one structure, tells the story of the small remote village in the Fortymile Mining District of Interior Alaska. Gold miners founded the community shortly after finding gold in the area in 1901. It was the miners' commercial center for close to thirty years. John Powers, store owner, postal clerk, and freighter, owned most of the buildings in town from 1908 until 1938. The big gold mining operation in Interior Alaska, the Fairbanks Exploration Company (F.E. Company), began buying mining claims in the Chicken area in 1939. It operated a gold mining dredge in the area from 1951 to 1967. The company acquired the buildings in the village, used those serviceable, and constructed several others for its camp. The period of significance starts when Powers built his first store at Chicken in 1908 and ends when the F.E. Company ceased mining in the area and closed the camp in 1967, a logical instead of arbitrary ending date. The standing buildings at Chicken illustrate the transformation of the village from a local supply center and social gathering point for small scale gold miners to a company camp for a large scale gold mining operation. Much of the F.E. Company period was in the 1950s and 1960s, less than fifty years ago. The large-scale mining era is critical to Chicken's story and a number of the buildings in the village reflect this period.

Historic background

In 1886 prospectors found gold in the gravels of the Fortymile River, a tributary of the Yukon River that straddles the Alaska-Canada border. Around two hundred gold seekers staked claims and mined along the Fortymile River and its tributaries the next few years. Writer Pierre Berton described the Fortymile miners in *Klondike: The Last Great Gold Rush* (1990) as "a community of hermits whose only bond was isolation."

Prospectors discovered gold in 1891 on Chicken Creek near the southwestern corner of the Fortymile Mining District, and found a paystreak there in 1901. The U.S. Government established Chicken Post Office in 1903 and a small village grew around it. There are several stories about how the town got its name. One is that the miners wanted to name the place Ptarmigan after an abundant local bird but could not spell the word. Another is that the gold the miners found in the area was the size of corn kernels or chicken feed.

In 1906, Isaac "Harvey" Van Hook and Henry Struck built the Chicken Creek Roadhouse. Two years later, John Powers--a politician, miner and entrepreneur from Eagle about ninety miles north by trail--built a general store and horse barn at Chicken, and later added a hay barn. Powers had a freighting business between Chicken and Eagle. For thirty years he also had the mail contract between the two places. With intermediate stops, carrying the mail involved a trip of five days each way. Powers had a sawmill at Eagle between 1900 and 1905 and served on the Eagle City Council almost every year between 1902 and 1932. He was a Deputy U.S. Marshal from

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Chicken Historic District
Southeast Fairbanks, Alaska

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1912 to around 1920, and was a Territorial Senator from the Fourth Judicial District in 1935 and 1937. Powers died February 14, 1944.

The 1910 census counted 57 men and 10 women along Chicken, Napoleon and Franklin creeks. Nearby Ingle Creek had 8 men, Walker Creek 24 men and 4 women, and Canyon Creek had 14 men and 2 women. Chicken was the supply center for the people on these creeks. The 1920 census counted 47 men and 10 women living in the village. This included several children. Every man identified himself as a miner. A "Native Village of Chicken" two miles away had a population of 14 men and 10 women.

A painting of Chicken based on a photograph indicates that Powers' hay barn was built in the 1920s. In 1924, the Territory of Alaska acquired Chicken Roadhouse, extensively remodeled it, and used it as a school between 1926 and 1927. Chicken in 1928 had five placer mining operations within two miles and another six on nearby creeks within ten miles. Chicken's population declined to 20 by 1930. When the U.S. Government raised the price of gold from \$20.67 to \$35.00 an ounce in 1934, Chicken experienced a modest revival. John Powers built a new store at the south end of Main Street before he sold his businesses in 1938, the year he lost the mail contract.

The big Interior Alaska gold mining operation, the Fairbanks Exploration Company (F.E. Company) began acquiring claims in the area in 1939, and started gold mining in 1951. It purchased the buildings at Chicken and used them for a camp. The company converted some buildings for housing, storage, and a mess hall, and built a powerhouse, bathhouse, and machine shop. The company constructed a pipeline about a mile long from Mosquito Creek to Chicken Creek to bring water for the camp and a dredge. In 1959, the F.E. Company moved a dredge to Chicken Creek and operated it until 1967.

Chicken served area miners from 1906 until World War II as a supply and social gathering place. After the war it supported a large scale mining operation. Initially, supplies were bought to Eagle by boat then by trail to Chicken by entrepreneurs like John Powers. In 1942, a new community, Tok, became the supply center because of its location along the new Alaska Highway. An unimproved dirt road connected Chicken and Tok until construction of the Taylor Highway in 1953.

After the F.E. Company stopped mining in the area and closed the camp in 1967, only a few old-timers stayed. Today, a handful of people live in the area year-round and a few more during the summer. A few people mine gold, the others mine Taylor Highway travelers.

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Chicken Historic District
Southeast Fairbanks, Alaska

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NPS Form 10-900-a
(8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Photograph identification

1. Chicken Historic District
Southeast Fairbanks, Alaska
Rogan C. Faith
July 1998
Looking southeast at the northwest corner of the second, or new, Powers Store (A)
2. Chicken Historic District
Southeast Fairbanks, Alaska
Rogan C. Faith
July 1998
Looking south at the façade of the F.E. Company Bunkhouse (B)
3. Chicken Historic District
Southeast Fairbanks, Alaska
Rogan C. Faith
July 1998
Looking northwest at the southeast corner of the F.E. Company Residence (C)
4. Chicken Historic District
Southeast Fairbanks, Alaska
Rogan C. Faith
July 1998
Looking east at the façade of the F.E. Company Bathhouse (D)
5. Chicken Historic District
Southeast Fairbanks, Alaska
Rogan C. Faith
July 1998
Looking southeast at the F.E. Company Manager's House (E)
6. Chicken Historic District
Southeast Fairbanks, Alaska
Rogan C. Faith
July 1998
Looking northwest at the F.E. Company Storage and Machine Shop (F)

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Chicken Historic District
Southeast Fairbanks, Alaska

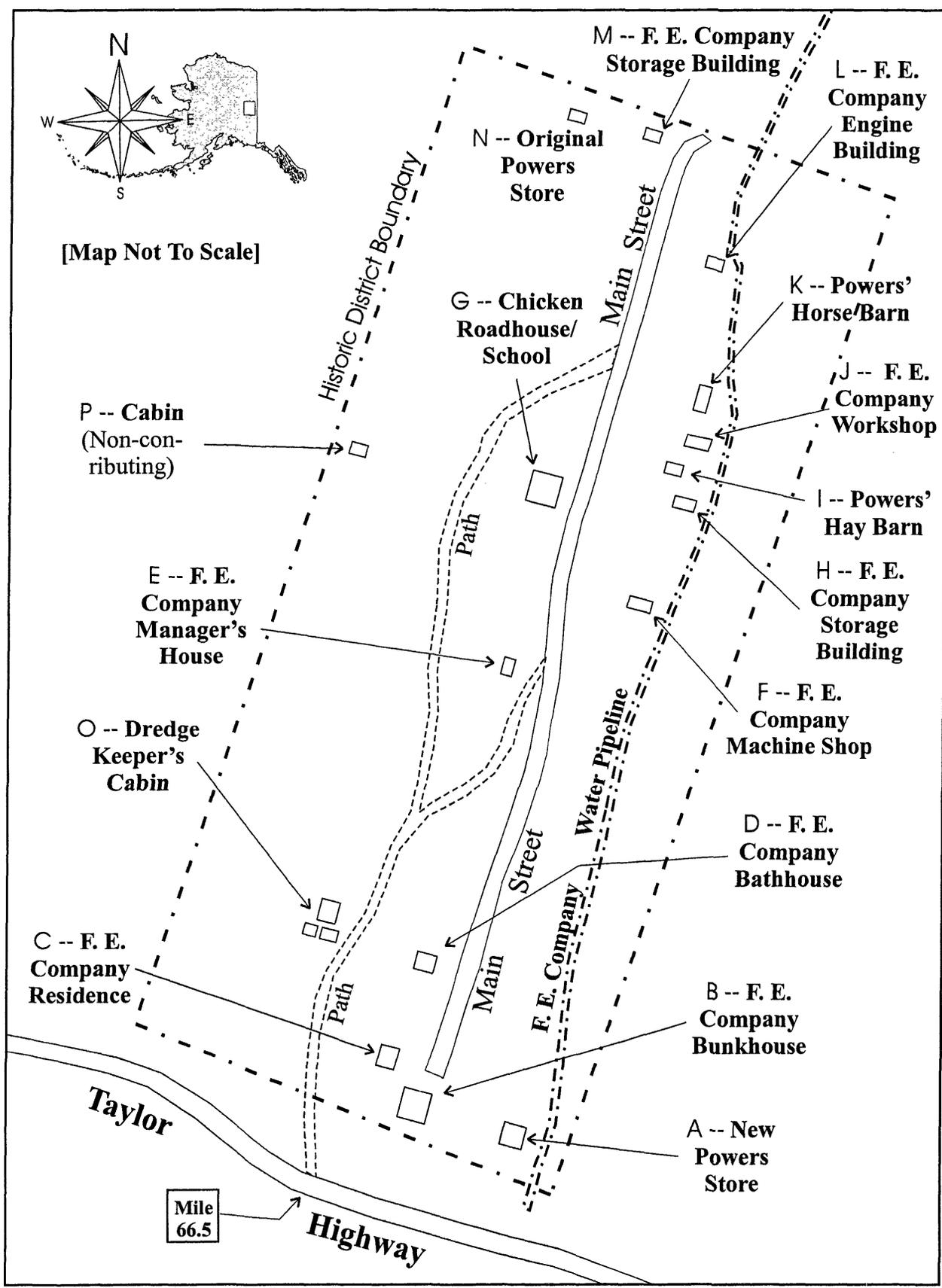
- =====
7. Chicken Historic District
Southeast Fairbanks, Alaska
Rogan C. Faith
July 1998
Looking west at the façade of Chicken Roadhouse/School (G)
8. Chicken Historic District
Southeast Fairbanks, Alaska
Rogan C. Faith
July 1998
Looking southeast at the F.E. Company Storage Building (H)
9. Chicken Historic District
Southeast Fairbanks, Alaska
Rogan C. Faith
July 1998
Looking northeast at Powers's Hay Barn (I)
10. Chicken Historic District
Southeast Fairbanks, Alaska
Rogan C. Faith
July 1998
Looking northwest at the F.E. Company Workshop (J)
11. Chicken Historic District
Southeast Fairbanks, Alaska
Rogan C. Faith
July 1998
Looking northeast at Powers's Horse Barn (K)
12. Chicken Historic District
Southeast Fairbanks, Alaska
Rogan C. Faith
July 1998
Looking southeast at the F.E. Company Engine Building (L)
13. Chicken Historic District
Southeast Fairbanks, Alaska
Rogan C. Faith
July 1998
Looking northwest at the F.E. Company Storage Building (M)
14. Chicken Historic District
Southeast Fairbanks, Alaska
Rogan C. Faith
July 1998
Looking east at the original Powers Store (N)

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Chicken Historic District
Southeast Fairbanks, Alaska

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15. Chicken Historic District
Southeast Fairbanks, Alaska
Rogan C. Faith
July 1998
Looking southwest at the Dredge Keeper's Cabin (O)

 16. Chicken Historic District
Southeast Fairbanks, Alaska
Rogan C. Faith
July 1998
Looking east at the water pipeline and the F.E. Company Storage Building
(H)



**Chicken Historic District
Southeast Fairbanks, Alaska**