## PHOOS4909

Form 10-300 (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)


1. NAME

## COMMON: Pleasant Camp

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Dalton Trail Post
2. Location
STreet and number:
Mile 40, Gaines Highway
CITY OR TOWN:

3. Classification

4. OMAER OF PROPERTY

| EWNER'S NAME: |
| :--- |
| ElrOY Ninnis Jr. and J. A. Johnson |
| STREET AND NUMBER: |

C/O Juneau Motors

| CITY OR TOWN: |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :---: |
| Juneau | STATE: | Alaska |

3. LOCATION OF LEGA OESCRIPTION

CoURTHOUSE, REGISTR
Hines Borough

| street a |
| :--- |
| Box H |

CITY OR TOWN:
Haynes
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE of survey:
Alaska Heritage Resource Survey
DATE OF SURVEY: 1971 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Alaska Division of Parks STREET AND NUMBER:

| 323 E. 4th Avenue |  |
| :--- | :--- |
| CITY OR TOWN: <br> Anchorage | Alaska |

Senators: Mike Gravel/Ted Stevens Congressman: Don Young


DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE
Northwest Mounted Police records indicate that in 1898 four buildings and a dugout were constructed at this location. The principal buildings were the Officers' Quarters "Dimensions, $28^{\prime}$ by $35^{\prime}$, kitchen and diningroom 16 'by 20', with cellar underneath, plastered in and outside, floored with ship-sawed lumber, and hand-made shingles, five and a half inches to the weather" (Jarvis, 1899: 97). Other structures included Sergeant-Major and Sergeants' Quarters--20' by 24, whip-sawed lumber floor, shingled roof, plastered outside and partly inside; Men's Quarters, 35 by $28^{\prime}$, two-story, with cellar; Storehouse, 12 by 15'; and a dugout built into the river bank, $14^{\prime} \times 20$, with a mud covered slab roof. Except for whip-sawed floor, single or slab roofs, and the dugout, all construction was log.

An 1898 photo (Jarvis, 1899: 99) shows two of these buildings, while a photograph taken one year later (Brooks, 1900: Plate XLI) is clearly the largest building standing today. A comparison of photos, Jarvis' description, and existing structures indicates that the largest surviving building is the Men's Quarters. The lean-to on the southeast of the building and dormers are obviously later additions.

Today the condition of the building is very poor. Sections of the roof appeat to have been scavenged and no windows or doors are present. Wall partitions have been torn out. Log walls seem sound and the building is not out of line There is evidence of extensive animal invasion, particularly porcupine. Stairs are badly chewed as are large sections of wall panels.

A pair of deteriorating outbuildings are located about 100 yards away from the Men's Quarters. These outbuildings measure about $7 \times 10^{\prime}$ at doorway. No doors are present. These structures have settled considerably.


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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE
At the national level, Pleasant Camp and its buildings are material remains associated with participation of the Canadian Northwest Mounted Police on the American side of the Klondike Gold Rush, while at the local level they are tied to participation in the establishment of the U. S.-Canadian border. Many Americans and Canadians rushed to the Klondike in the late 1890's as news of gold strikes spread throughout both countries. Some travelled over the Chilkoot and White Pass trails, others reached the Yukon Territory by steamboat from St. Michael, and still others trekked the Dalton Trail from Pyramid Harbor to a point on the Yukon River between Five Finger and Rink Rapids.

To deal with these invaders, the Northwest Mounted Police rapidly increased their strength in the Yukon. A part of this buildup was Inspector A. M. Jarvis and a party of eighteen.

Ordered to the north, Jarvis and his troopers left Calgary on April 3, 1898 travelling via rail and steamer to Haines, Alaska. They arrived on April 14. Going on by horse and canoe, the police on May 4 established a Canadian customs station at Dalton Cache and began collection. The first to cross was a Dr. W.M. Thompson who "came over, saluted the flag by taking off his hat, and said it was the first time he had seen it on English soil (in twenty years)."

Although Jarvis had been instructed to build a post at Rainy Hollow, he decided that, since it would have taken well into June to move his men and supplies there, his headquarters should be built at the location known first as Dalton Trail Post and later as Pleasant Camp.

During Jarvis' tenure in command of the Dalton Detachment (April to October 1898), $\$ 11,738.50$ were collected in custom fees, several criminals were successfully pursued, the remanants of the United States Reindeer Relief Expedition passed through, and approximately 2,000 head of cattle and horses were noted enroute to the Klondike. In October, Jarvis was ordered to Lake Tagish, leaving Sergeant-Major Barker in command of the Dalton Trail Post.

Police records subsequent to Jarvis' departure have not been located, but local folk tradition reports that about this time the Chilkat Indians clashed with the Mounties over the U.S.-Canadian boundary issue. The Chilkats, adopting the American position, encountered a party of police near the village of Klukwan and lured them into a violenceless ambuscade in

## 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Brooks, Alfred H., "A Reconnaissance from Pyramid Harbor to Eagle City, Alaska..." in Iwenty-First Annual Report of the United States Geological Survey, Part II, Washington, 1900 , 338, Plate XLI.
Hall, George A., "Summary of Historical Development of Haines Area in Alaska" ms., Alaska Division of Parks, 1971, n.p.
Jarvis, A.M., "Annual Report of Inspector A.M. Jarvis" in Annual Report of the North-West Mounted Police, 1898, Part III, Yukon Territory, King's
Printer, 1899, 95-110.
10. GEOGRAPHICALDATA
STREET AND NUMBER

| STATE | CODE |
| :---: | :---: |
|  | 02 |
| NATIONAL REGISTER YERIFICATION |  |

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES 

 INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORMSignificance
(Continuation Sheet)
(Number all entries)

| STATE <br> Alaska |  |
| :---: | :---: |
| county |  |
| 1st Judicial District |  |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY |  |
| Entry number | date |
| 414.51373 |  |

which the Mounties were forced to retreat in the face of overwhelming numbers. Returning to Pleasant Camp, the police sent a large garrison flag to the Chilkats as a prelude to a "peace meeting". Not knowing what to do with the banner, the Indians staked it to the ground. This enraged the police, but the Klukwans explained that it was to serve as a "common ground"--and was not be be walked nor sat upon. The meeting ended peacefully despite its inauspicious beginnings, and the great flag was for many years kept in the Ganaxadi "Whale House" at Klukwan.

In the spring of 1899 , Pleasant Camp, under the command of a Dr. S. M. Frazer, was still noted as an Northwest Mounted Police Post by Alfred H. Brooks of the U. S. Geological Survey. However, by the time Brooks' report of his survey of a trail from Pyramid Harbor to Eagle was published in the "Twenty-first Annual Report of the U.S. Geological Survey" (1900), the international boundary had been redefined and the published information referred to the location as a former NWMP post.

After the police moved, there is little significant information about pleasant Camp. There are interesting, but unconfirmed stories about the new boundary running through the building now standing (the Men's Quarters) and law dodgers moving from the bar in the Canadian section of the structure to the U. S. side when the Mounties arrived.

During the survey of the Haines Highway new information proved that the international line runs outside the building and the "magic" line became just another story in the history of the northwest. More recently, the Men's Quarters were operated as Riggles Border Lodge and now are just an empty structure in a private recreational area.

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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

SKAGWAY (B-4) QUADRANGLE 1:63 360 SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

AMERICAN CUSTOMS STATION-PLEASANT CAMP


