

PH0055077

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

| |
|---------------------------------|
| STATE: Alaska |
| COUNTY: Southcentral |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY |
| ENTRY DATE OCT 9 1974 |

1. NAME

COMMON:
Independence Mines

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Wasilla Mining Company Alaska Pacific Consolidated Mining Company

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: **W of Palmer**
Mile 23, Fishhook Road

CITY OR TOWN: **Palmer vicinity** CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:

STATE: **Alaska** CODE: **02** COUNTY: **Southcentral** CODE: **02**

3. CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY (Check One) | OWNERSHIP | STATUS | ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object | <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both | Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress |
| PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate) | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Entertainment | <input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum | <input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC: Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted, <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted, <input type="checkbox"/> No | | | |

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Alaska Pacific Consolidated Mining Company (see Item 7)

STREET AND NUMBER:
314 Colman Building

CITY OR TOWN: **Seattle** STATE: **Washington** CODE: **47**

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
District Magistrate Court

STREET AND NUMBER:
Main Street

CITY OR TOWN: **Palmer** STATE: **Alaska** CODE: **02**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

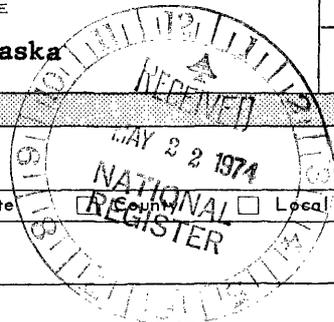
TITLE OF SURVEY:
Alaska Heritage Resource Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: **1973** Federal State Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Alaska Division of Parks

STREET AND NUMBER:
323 East Fourth Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: **Anchorage** STATE: **Alaska 99501** CODE: **02**



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: COUNTY: ENTRY NUMBER: DATE: FOR NPS USE ONLY

Senators Mike Gravel/Ted Stevens Congressman: Don Young

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

(Check One)

Altered Unaltered

(Check One)

Moved Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Original appearance: The camp consisted of 16 wood frame buildings of the type and style of architecture of the late 1800's; although some buildings were constructed as late as 1939. The camp sits on a very steep mountain side and all buildings were built on wood piling foundations. Due to heavy snow in the winter months all buildings and the mine shafts were connected with wooden tunnels.

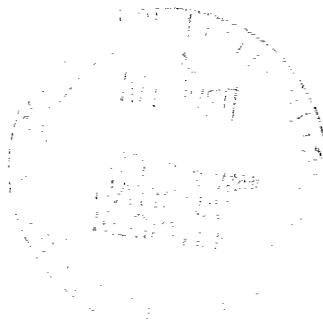
Present condition: Due to lack of maintenance since 1955, all the wooden tunnels connecting the buildings of the camp have collapsed from heavy snow loads. The blacksmith shop, ore staging area, milling and processing plant, and most storage sheds have collapsed, also, due to heavy snows in the winters. Most of the remaining buildings are in extreme danger of the same fate within the next one to two years if preventive measures are not taken.

The problem for all remaining structures results from spring runoffs and summer rains flowing under the buildings and softening or rotting pilings. This results in settling, which throws the building out of square. When heavy winter snows come the weight on the walls and roof break the buildings apart at corners. Most remaining buildings are in sound condition structurally, but all need to be re-roofed, repainted, repaired inside, and extensive work completed on the foundations.

Item 4 continued

Property placed in receivership of Superior Court of the State of Washington for King County.

Howard C. Lincoln, Liquidating Receiver
 Law Office of MacBride, Sax and MacIver
 1001 Fourth Avenue - Suite 3712
 Seattle, Washington 98154



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

6. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

| | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1934-1950**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

| | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

As early as 1897, recorded evidence shows that prospecting was done on the property, and active mining was done on what is now called Fishhook Creek.

In the early 1900's, two Japanese prospectors located the first outcropping of gold in a hard rock deposit on what is now called the Eldorado Claim, part of the Independence. In 1934, the Wasilla Mining Company emerged from the earlier efforts and began truly large operation of the property. By 1936 the Wasilla Mining Company evolved into the "Alaska Pacific Consolidated Mining Company" and expanded its number of working claims to just under 3,000 acres, and had recovered over 150,000 ounces of pure gold by 1942. In 1943 Public Land Order 207 closed the mines because of World War II.

The mine reopened and operated from 1948 to 1950 when rising cost and fixed gold prices of \$35.00 per oz. made it economically unprofitable to mine.

During its operation, Independence Mine established several firsts. It was, and is, the largest hard rock gold mine in Southcentral Alaska and second in the state, only to the Alaska-Juneau Mine in Juneau. At one time it was the fifth largest population center in Alaska, having over 300 employees and some 26 families. It should be noted that while the mine was closed in 1950, it was the corporation's intention to resume operations as soon as Congress lifted restriction on gold prices established during wartime. As a result, all equipment and inventory was stabilized and left for future use. While some inventory and equipment has been sold, and there is some damage due to vandalism, and there has been some theft, there is still a great deal of inventory which is now of great value as antiques and rare equipment.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Capps, Stephen R.
1915 The Willow Creek District, Alaska, U.S. Geological Survey Bulletin 607.

Ray, Richard G.
1954 Geology and Ore Deposits of the Willow Creek Mining District, Alaska, U.S. Geological Survey Bulletin 1004.

Smith, Philip S.
1942 Mineral Industry of Alaska in 1940, U.S Geological S. Bulletin

933-A

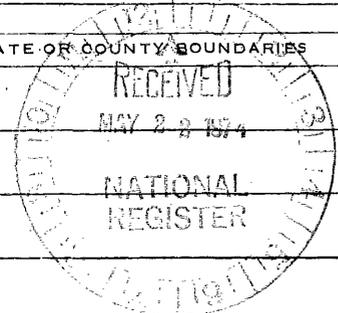
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

| LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY | | | O R | LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES | | |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------|---|-------------------------|--|
| CORNER | LATITUDE | LONGITUDE | | LATITUDE | LONGITUDE | |
| | Degrees Minutes Seconds | Degrees Minutes Seconds | | Degrees Minutes Seconds | Degrees Minutes Seconds | |
| NW | 61° 48' 08" N | 149° 17' 52" W | | 0 | 0 | |
| NE | 61° 48' 08" N | 149° 16' 02" W | | | | |
| SE | 61° 47' 16" N | 149° 16' 02" W | | | | |
| SW | 61° 47' 16" N | 149° 17' 52" W | | | | |

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: ±75

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

| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|--------|------|---------|------|
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Arthur J. Kreiter, Chairman, Board of Directors

ORGANIZATION: **Alaska Pacific Consolidated Mining Company** DATE: **9-8-73**

STREET AND NUMBER:
3100 W. 29th Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: **Anchorage** STATE: **Alaska** CODE: **02**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

Owner Notified

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name Theodore G. Smith
Theodore G. Smith

Title State Historic Preservation Officer

Date May 14, 1974

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Arthur J. Kreiter
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 10/9/74

ATTEST:

Charles H. Henry
Keeper of The National Register

Date 10/4/74

CONTOUR INTERVAL 100 FEET
SURVEYED IN DETAIL INDICATED BY BROKEN LINES
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL



ANCHORAGE (D-2), ALASKA

N6145-W14915/15x22.5

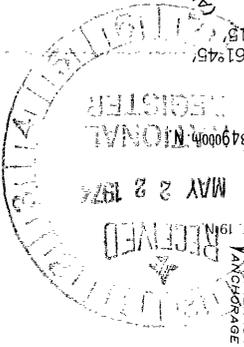


Longitude
149°16'02" W

Longitude
149°17'52" W

Latitude
61°47'16" N

Latitude
61°48'08" N



ANCHORAGE C-6

ANCHORAGE D-6

ANCHORAGE E-6

ANCHORAGE F-6

ANCHORAGE G-6

ANCHORAGE H-6

ANCHORAGE I-6

ANCHORAGE J-6

ANCHORAGE K-6

ANCHORAGE L-6

ANCHORAGE M-6

ANCHORAGE N-6

ANCHORAGE O-6

ANCHORAGE P-6

ANCHORAGE Q-6

ANCHORAGE R-6

ANCHORAGE S-6

ANCHORAGE T-6

ANCHORAGE U-6

ANCHORAGE V-6

ANCHORAGE W-6

ANCHORAGE X-6

ANCHORAGE Y-6

ANCHORAGE Z-6

ANCHORAGE AA-6