

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE 1.24,

PH0695513

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JAN 24 1979
DATE ENTERED APR 26 1979

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

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

McCarthy Power Plant (AHRS SITE NO. XMG-035)

AND/OR COMMON

Mother Lode Coalition Mining Co. Power House;
Mother Lode Plant

2 LOCATION

at McCarthy Creek

STREET & NUMBER

Lot 7 Block C

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

McCarthy

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Alaska, at large

STATE

Alaska

VICINITY OF

CODE 02

COUNTY Cordova-McCarthy

Alaska

CODE 080

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: Mining

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Bob Jacobs/Haven Holsapple and Margaret Holsapple

(406) 363-1382

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 231

CITY, TOWN

Hamilton

VICINITY OF

STATE

Montana 59840

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

District Recorder

(907) 424-7417

STREET & NUMBER

Box 696

CITY, TOWN

Cordova

STATE

Alaska 99574

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Heritage Resources Survey (AHRS)

DATE

11/20/77

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Alaska Division of Parks, 619 Warehouse Dr., Suite 210

CITY, TOWN

Anchorage

STATE

Alaska 99501

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

ORIGINAL CONDITION:

The Mother Lode Coalition Mining Company power plant was built as a three story, 60' long by 40' wide building with a distinctive clerestory roof. It was situated on a lot 100' on the eastern border, 150' on the north, 130' on the west with McCarthy Creek as the southern border. A 3-step stairway leads to the front door which was covered by a small eave. On the east side a smaller addition (2 story, approximately 10' wide by 20' long) sat at a right angle to the main building. This addition served as the terminal for power lines leading to and from the Mother Lode Mine for electrical power. On the west side a single smoke stack was attached to the building and rose approximately 40' from ground level. The building appears to have been painted green with white trim and, according to photographs, there were no external signs or other projections. According to reports, the inside housed an Allis Chalmers steam turbine powered by a diesel-fired boiler.

PRESENT APPEARANCE:

The building remains on the same size lot, slightly shrunken. Erosion from McCarthy Creek has left only 10-15 feet of earth on the south side of the building. The general dimensions (40' x 60') are the same. The small stair and eave are now gone. The small building addition, which was the power line terminal on the east side, is also gone. The smoke stack has been taken down and lost. The siding is still in place though, through time, has weathered and cracked. Most windows have lost their glass and have been boarded up on the main sides. The corrugated metal roof is in need of repairs.

A doorway is now visible on the east side where the small addition was attached. The northeast corner now has two garage type doors which comprise the main entrance. The timbers have suffered dry rot for the first 1-2 feet, and the two middle supports must be jacked, replaced, and straightened. The building is a faded green. It is mostly still intact, and relatively little altered from its original appearance.

Inside, there remains the turbine pedestal. It is believed that this turbine was moved to Kennecott. The floor is a combination of concrete and wooden planks. Toward the south wall is the boiler; with much of its original brick housing having been dismantled. No other large machinery remains inside. The building is empty except for miscellaneous bricks, ledgers, letter files and furniture from both earlier use and accumulated storage over the years.

The power plant is an impressive and unexpected industrial remainder of Alaska's mining history. It remains the dominant structure in a ghost mining camp setting.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Mining	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1917

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The year 1899 was an important one for the copper industry as a whole, but especially for the industry in the State of Alaska. At that time two prospectors discovered the fabulous ore deposits that were to become the Kennecott Mining Company's mainstay, and also the deposits that became the Mother Lode Mining Company claims. This latter company's significance is its independent development. With little financial backing and a high grade ore, the only mine with copper ore still above 60% in 1923, wagons and sleds were used to bring the unearthed deposits to the railroad. This mine was the only rich claim on the east side of the copper bearing ridge. The ore was brought to McCarthy Creek and freighted to the townsite for loading only the Copper River and Northwestern Railroad, built by Morgan-Guggenheim interests for Kennecott.

Due to severe topographic and weather conditions, the movement of ore down the mountain was a tedious, stop-and-go procedure. Winter months were the best, when the ground was frozen and sleds could be used. In the summer, wet weather turned the ground into a series of bogs; and often shipments of ore were stopped dead. After the completion of the Copper River and Northwestern Railroad the isolation of McCarthy was broken; and the Mother Lode Mining Company began a series of expansions. During this time a power plant was envisioned to supply electrical energy to the mine, the Tramway and the miners. Supplies were gathered and work begun around 1914. By the next year, 1915, a tramway connected the mine with bunkers on McCarthy Creek. The large 40' x 60' 3 story wooden building now stood in the townsite of McCarthy. Initially a coal-fired boiler powered an Allis - Chalmers steam turbin, using more than 10 miles of power lines, electricity was supplied to the Mother Lode Mine.

In 1919 severe snow slides destroyed both the power lines and the tramway. It was a financial blow to the company and they liquidated 51% of their stock to the Kennecott Mining Company. This signaled the end of a totally independent growth. The new Mother Lode Coalition Mining Company became a subsidiary of the Kennecott Mining Company.

Soon after a cross cut was driven from Kennecott's Bonanza Mine to the Mother Lode workings and ore thereafter was transported down the tramway to the Kennecott concentrator. The power plant at McCarthy was no longer needed and the turbine was removed to Kennecott, and the building closed. Although its time in use was quite limited, this building was a symbol of formative years of the Mother Lode

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Grauman, Melody Webb, Big Business In Alaska: The Kennecott Mines, 1898-1938, A National Park Study ms., Fairbanks, AK, 1976.
 Local interviews and research by Jacob and Holsapple.
 Kennecott and McCarthy files, Alaska Division of Parks, Office of History and Archaeology, Anchorage, AK.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY -1 McCarthy (B-6) Quad 1:63 360

UTM REFERENCES

A	0,7	3,9,7,3,1,1	6,8,1,2,4,0,2	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

275

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Located as plated in original townsite of McCarthy as Lot 7, Block C.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Bob Jacobs/Haven Holsapple-Owners

ORGANIZATION

DATE

July 20, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 231

TELEPHONE

(406) 363-1382

CITY OR TOWN

Hamilton

STATE

Montana 59840

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL x

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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

William H. ...

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE January 15, 1979

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

ATTEST: *Bill Tolovich*
 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE *4-26-79*
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
 DATE *April 26, 1979*

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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	APR 26 1979

McCarthy Power Plant (AHS SITE NO. XME-035)

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1 of 1

Mining Company and provided a significant chapter in its own right in the Copper Mining Annuals of Alaska. The Mother Lode Power Plant is a moot reminder of a time when mining carved an incredible niche out of the Wrangell Mountain wilderness. It is an exceptional example of industrial development in a formidable environment.

The present owners have acquired the building for historic restoration and preservation, to be utilized as headquarters and an outfitting center for mountain climbers and recreationists in the Wrangell Mountain wilderness.