

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE **MAY 28 1979**
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED **OCT 16 1979**

PH0677248

**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

Chatanika Gold Camp (AHRS NO. LIV-023)

AND/OR COMMON Chatanika Gold Dredging Camp of the United States Smelting,
Refining and Mining Company

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Mile 27 3/4 Steese Highway

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Fairbanks

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF Fairbanks

Alaska, 1st District

STATE

Alaska

CODE

02

COUNTY

Fairbanks Division

CODE

090

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Galeoto

STREET & NUMBER

S.R. Box 20671

CITY, TOWN

Fairbanks

VICINITY OF

STATE

Alaska 99701

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Fairbanks-North Star Borough (907) 452-1541

STREET & NUMBER

522 Fifth Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Fairbanks

STATE

Alaska 99701

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Alaska Heritage Resources Survey (AHRS) (907) 274-4676

DATE

30 June 1974

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Office of History & Archaeology, Alaska Division of Parks
619 Warehouse Drive, Suite 210

CITY, TOWN

Anchorage

STATE

Alaska 99501

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input 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

Thirteen buildings are on the 49.061 acre Chatanika Gold Camp site. The buildings are set on a hill just off Mile 27.75 of the Steese Highway and above Cleary Creek. Five of the twelve structures standing are sided with corrugated galvanized steel and were built by the Fairbanks Exploration Company in 1925. The remainder, frame structures, were built at undetermined times, but thought to have been constructed prior to the establishment of the Fairbanks Exploration Company camp.

The largest buildings at the camp are the 36-man bunkhouse/mess hall, and the 52-man bunkhouse. Each is two stories high, rectangular, and covered with corrugated galvanized steel. The 36-man bunkhouse/mess hall measures 36 by 72 feet. The mess hall is now a restaurant and bar. The eight-foot long wood-burning cook stove is still in the kitchen, and the original tables, benches and chairs are used. The 52-man bunkhouse measures 31 by 60 feet with an adjoining wing on the northwest side that measures 26 by 16 feet. Other camp buildings of corrugated steel include the blacksmith shop, boiler house, and garage. The former blacksmith shop is now adapted for use as an arts and crafts store. Three storage sheds, two cabins, and the mining office are all one-room wood frame buildings, believed to be older than the metal structures.

Around the site old mining equipment, tools and other objects of historic interest can be found. Behind the site, to the north, are remnants of the Davidson Ditch that was also constructed by the Fairbanks Exploration Company. (The ditch is pending entry on the National Register of Historic Places.)

The galvanized steel structures are in good condition. The conditions of the wood structures vary. Of them, the mining office is in the best shape.

A site plan further describing the structure is attached.

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 1925-1959 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Fairbanks Exploration Company

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Chatanika Gold Camp was the base camp of the largest gold dredging operation in the Fairbanks mining region. The five remaining corrugated galvanized steel buildings were constructed in 1925 by the Fairbanks Exploration Company, later the U.S. Smelting, Refining, and Mining Company, that was one of the largest gold dredging operations in Alaska during the 1930's. The other standing buildings at the site are frame structures that, although used by the company, are believed to have been built before 1925. The twelve remaining buildings at the camp are owned by Mr. & Mrs. Robert Galeoto who have renovated two buildings and are interested in repairing and using the others. At present, they operate a restaurant and bar in the old mess hall and rent out rooms in the 36-man bunkhouse/mess hall building. The former blacksmith shop is an arts and crafts store. Alaska Gold Company, formerly the U.S. Smelting, Refining and Mining Company, holds the subsurface rights.

HISTORIC BACKGROUND

Placer gold was discovered in the interior of Alaska by Felix Pedro in 1902. Other discoveries in that region followed. Prior to 1923, however, the placer gold deposits in the Fairbanks Mining District were only tapped by sluicing and drift mining. To extract the gold in large paying quantities more sophisticated machinery was needed. The cost to ship and maintain dredging machinery was prohibitive. A reliable water supply and cheap source of power also had to be found. Construction of the Alaska Railroad, 1915-1923, connected the interior with a year-round ice-free port, and facilitated mining in the Nenana coal fields. These two developments cleared the way for dredging operations to begin in the Fairbanks region.

During the early 1920's one company, the Fairbanks Exploration Company (FEC) acquired the Hammond Consolidated Gold Fields that included holdings on Cleary, Fairbanks, Goldstream and Ester Creeks around the town of Fairbanks. More tracts were acquired by the FEC in 1926, and a year later the company became the largest holder of mining claims in the Fairbanks District. In 1925 the FEC tested these creeks, built Chatanika Gold Camp between the mining boom towns of Chatanika and Cleary, and began work on the 72-mile long Davidson Ditch, an engineering feat that was constructed between 1924 and 1928 to insure a water supply for the mining operations. The Chatanika camp was the base for company operations in the rich placer region. Five structures built by the company in 1925 still stand.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

(See Attached Sheet)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 49.061 acres

UTM NOT VERIFIED

QUADRANGLE NAME Livengood A-1

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:63,360

UTM REFERENCES

A	0,6	4,7,7	7,2,5	7,2	2,0	9,5,0	B	0,6	4,7,7	7,0,0	7,2	2,0	8,7,5
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING
C	0,6	4,7,7	9,7,5	7,2	2,0	7,0,0	D	0,6	4,7,7	8,7,5	7,2	2,0	5,2,5
E	0,6	4,7,7	4,0,0	7,2	2,0	7,7,5	F	0,6	4,7,7	4,2,5	7,2	2,0	9,0,0
G	0,6	4,7,7	3,0,0	7,2	2,0	9,7,5	H	0,6	4,7,7	4,0,0	7,2	2,1	1,2,5

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The properties included in U.S. Mineral Surveys No. 1655, 1902, 1917, and the claim known a No. 12 Below, 3rd Tier.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

John S. Kaufman, Alaska Conservation Action Corps

ORGANIZATION

Alaska Division of Parks

DATE

16 July 1978

STREET & NUMBER

c/o Bonanza Creek ACAC, Box 73958

TELEPHONE

Radio Fairbanks, 452-1166

CITY OR TOWN

Fairbanks

STATE

Bonanza Creek 7554

Alaska 99701

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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

William Shanahan

TITLE

SHPO

DATE

3/19/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

John C. Shull

DATE

10-16-79

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: *W. Ray Luce*

DATE

Oct 16, 1979

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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Chatanika Gold Camp (AHRS NO. LIV-023)

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1 of 1

The three years prior to 1928 were spent preparing tracts for dredging. First surface vegetation was removed, then the overburden thawed and deposited of, and finally the frost in the gravel was removed. During 1928 the company built three dredges, two on Goldstream Creek and one near the Chatanika camp, the ditch was completed, and dredging began. By 1931 the FEC was the largest dredging operation in Alaska.

The company continued to expand. More tracts were acquired in 1933 on English Creek (a tributary of Goldstream Creek) and at Ester. In 1934 the company reorganized as the U.S. Smelting, Refining and Mining Company. The FEC became the Fairbanks Exploring Department of the company. Dredging operations expanded to the Ester region west of Fairbanks in 1936.

The U.S. Geological Survey report on mining in Alaska in 1937 noted that U.S. Smelting, Refining and Mining was the only large company dredging in the Fairbanks district. That same year the company acquired claims on Pedro Creek and purchased the Tanana Valley Gold Dredging Company that had operated on the Fish Creek drainages. By 1940 U.S. Smelting, Refining and Mining Company was operating eight dredges in the Fairbanks district.

Operations continued during World War II, and in 1946 the company was listed among the largest dredging operations in the United States. Rising labor and maintenance costs combined with the fixed price of gold at \$35/ounce led to greatly reduced operations after the war. Finally in the late 1950's the mining operation shut down. The Chatanika camp had continued to be the company's base for operations north of Fairbanks. When the company discontinued dredging the camp was closed. Over the years no new buildings were added and little modification of the original structures was done.

Today the U.S. Smelting, Refining and Mining Company is known as the Alaska Gold Company. It continues to hold titles to the subsurface rights. The 49.061 acre campsite was purchased in 1976 by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Galeoto. To date, they have renovated two of the structures at the site.

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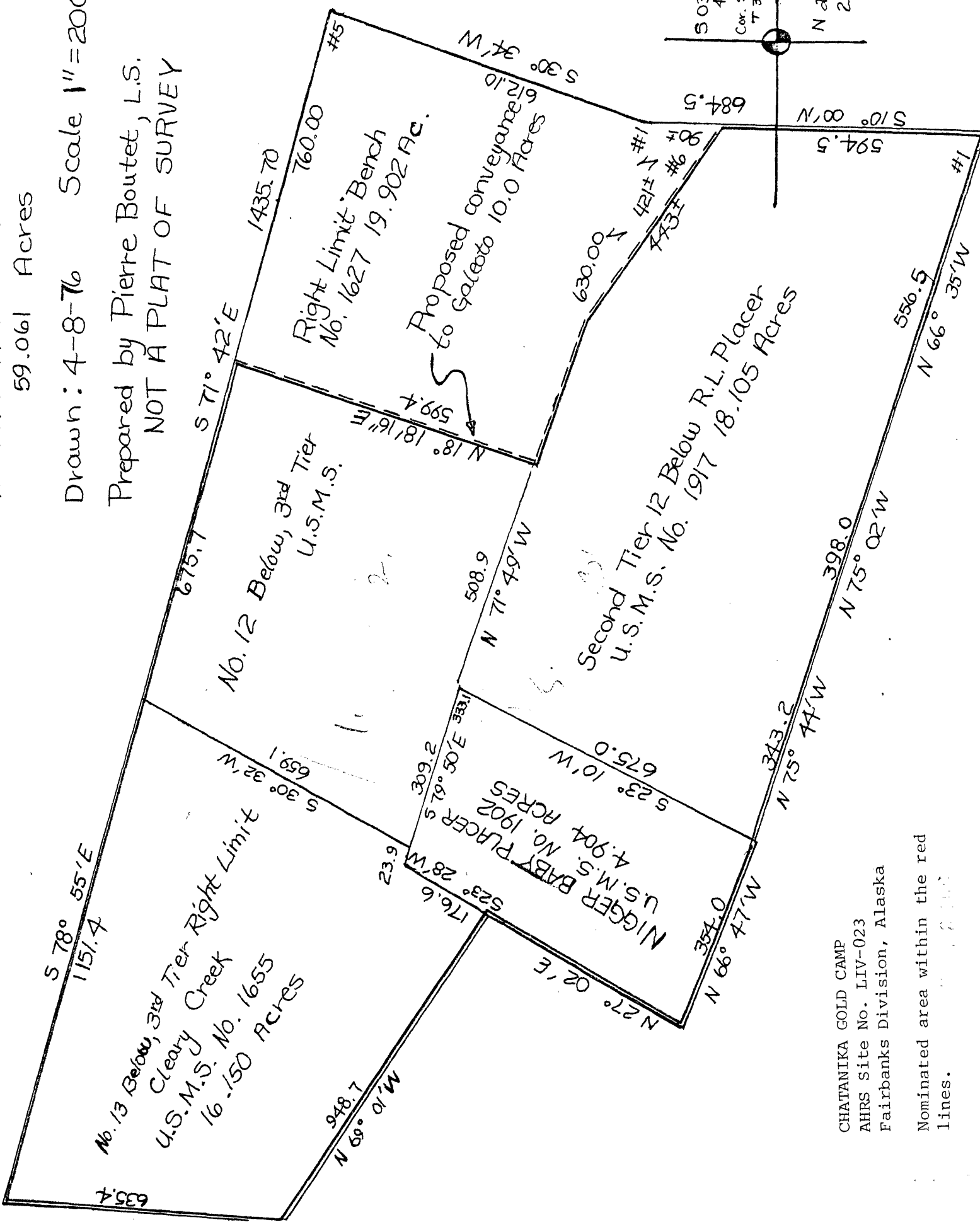
ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1 of 1

- Bain, H. Foster
1946 ALASKA'S MINERALS AS A BASIS FOR INDUSTRY. Information Circular 7379, U.S. Geological Survey. Carbon copy in the Anchorage office, Alaska.
- Bauman, Margaret
1978 They're Mining for Diners at Old Chatanuka Camp. ALASKA INDUSTRY (August), 34ff.
- Cook, Nancy
1976 Cleary. THE ALASKA JOURNAL V1:2 (Winter), 106-112.
- Kaufman, John S.
1978 Fox Historic Inventory Project Report, Bonanza Creek Youth Conservation Corps Camp. Copy in Alaska Division of Parks files, Anchorage.
- Moffit, F.H., et. alii
1927 MINERAL RESOURCES OF ALASKA IN 1925. U.S. Geological Survey Bulletin 792. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C.
- Smith, Philip S., et. alii
1930 MINERAL RESOURCES OF ALASKA IN 1928. U.S. Geological Survey Bulletin 813. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C.
- Smith, Philip S. and J.B. Mertie
1941 MINERAL RESOURCES OF ALASKA IN 1937. U.S. Geological Survey Bulletin 910. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C.

THE PROPERTY OF JOHN BALAS
59.061 Acres

Drawn: 4-8-76 Scale 1"=200'

Prepared by Pierre Boutet, L.S.
NOT A PLAT OF SURVEY



CHATANIKA GOLD CAMP
AHR Site No. LIV-023
Fairbanks Division, Alaska

Nominated area within the red lines.

number

- 36 - man Bunkhouse
- 52 - man Bunkhouse
- Blacksmith's Shop
- Boiler Room
- GARAGE
- mining office
- Dredge master's Home
- " Burned Down "

- A Storage Shed
- B Storage Shed
- C Storage Shed

CABIN " Rented out "

CABIN →

Not owned by ALASKA

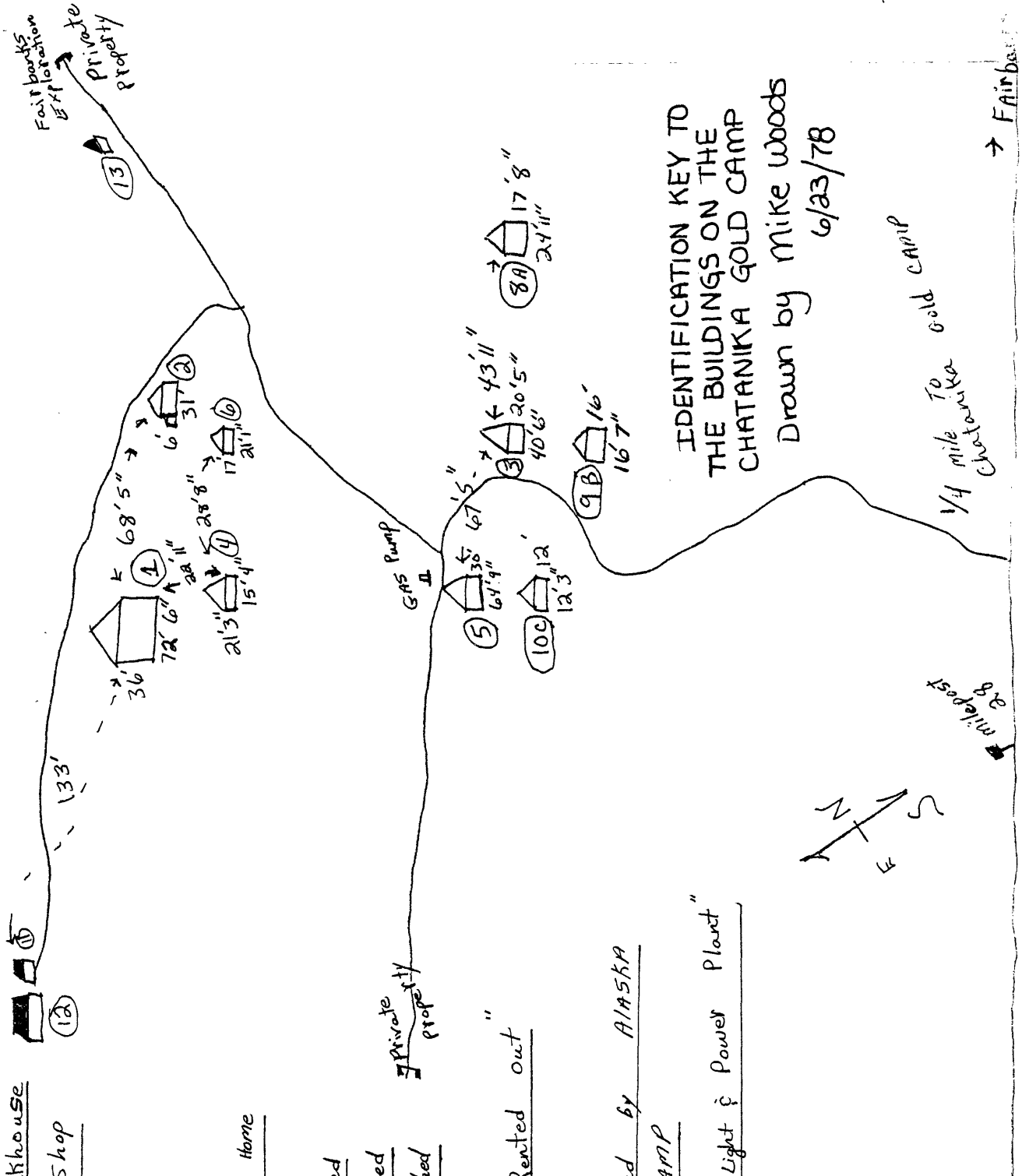
Gold CAMP

Title: " Light & Power Plant "

Historic Site MAP
" ALASKA Gold CAMP "

CHATANIKA GOLD CAMP
AHRS Site No. LIV-023
Fairbanks Division, Alaska

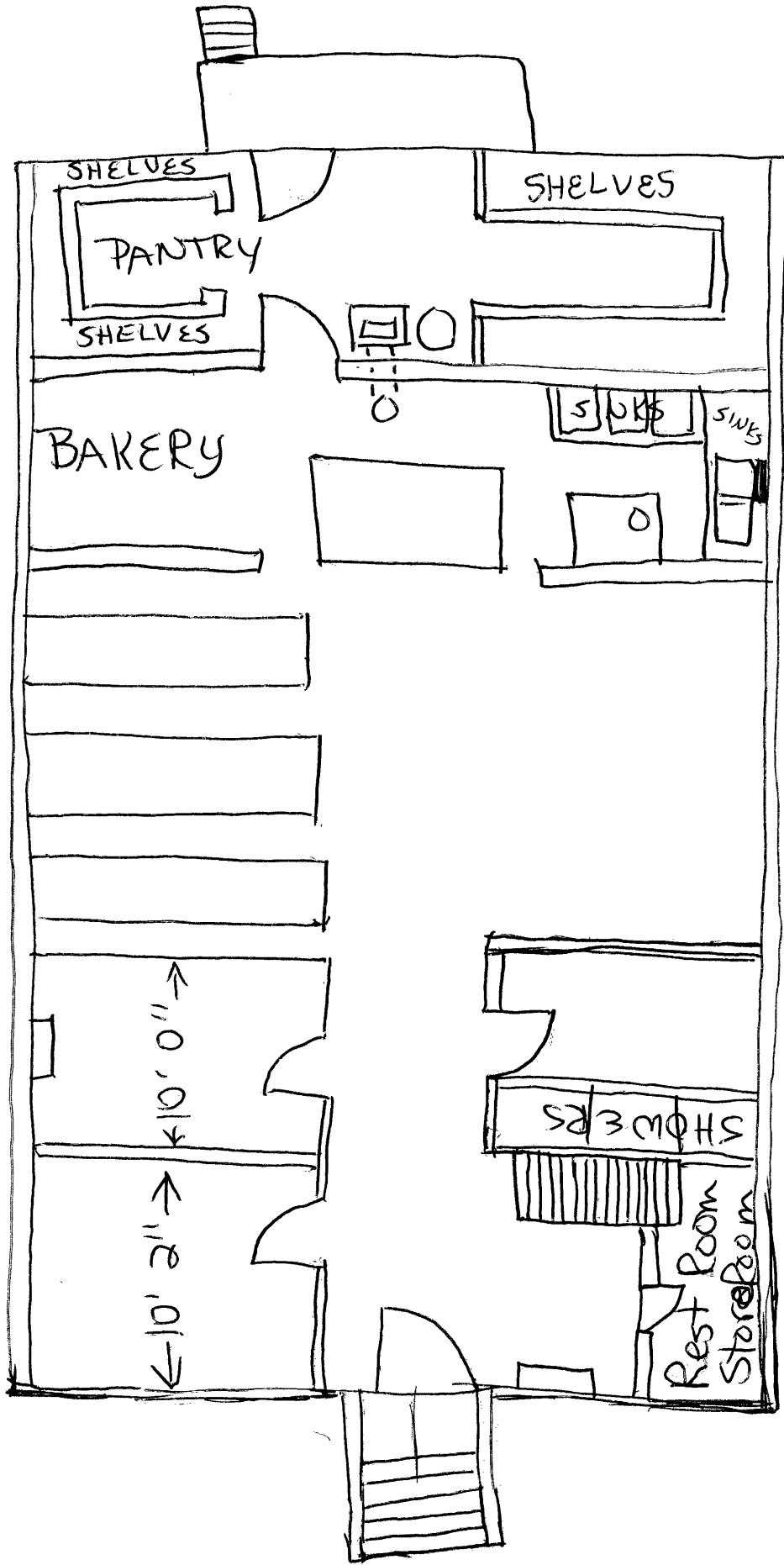
Site Plan, 1978 MAR 18 1978



IDENTIFICATION KEY TO
THE BUILDINGS ON THE
CHATANIKA GOLD CAMP
Drawn by Mike Woods
6/23/78

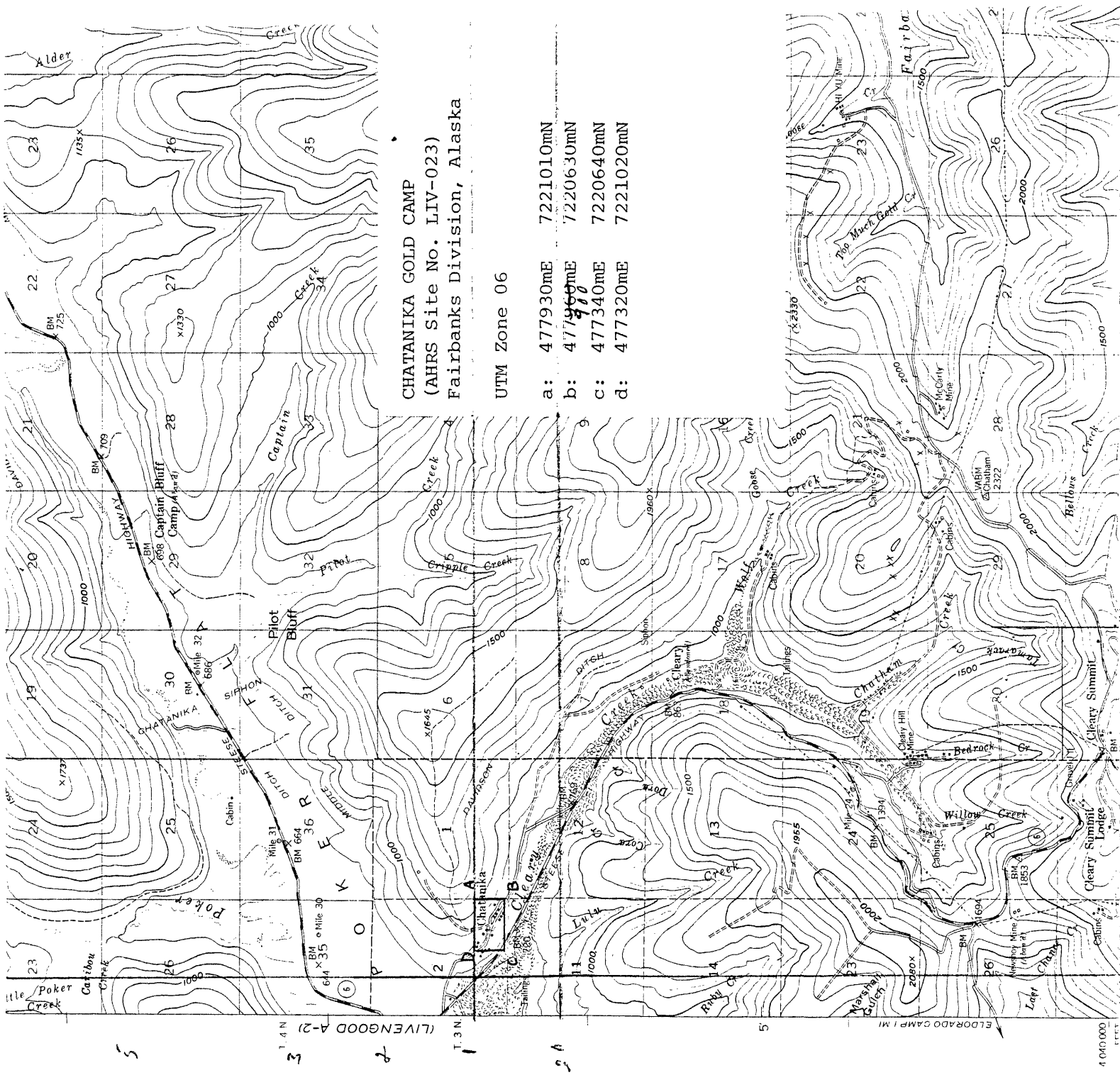
STEEL Highway

First Floor PLAN



ORIGINAL PLAN

FLOOR & FOUNDATION PLANE FOR 48 MAN
MESS AND BUNKHOUSE FOR CHATANIKA
DATE 12-24-41 SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0"
NO. 2179



CHATANIKA GOLD CAMP
 (AHR Site No. LIV-023)
 Fairbanks Division, Alaska

UTM Zone 06

- a: 477930mE 7221010mN
- b: 477960mE 7220630mN
- c: 477340mE 7220640mN
- d: 477320mE 7221020mN

5

(LIVENGOD A-2)

1.4 N

1.3 N

2.4

5

EL DORADO CAMP 1 MI

4 040 000