

Nizina Bridge
Wrangell-St. Elias National Park & Preserve
Alaska

HAER No. AK-14

VALLEY COLORED COUNTY

HAER
AK,
20-MCARN,
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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, DC 20013-7127

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ARCHITECTURAL DATA FORM

STATE ALASKA	COUNTY VALDEZ-CORDOVA	TOWN OR VICINITY MCCARTHY VICINITY
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) NIZINA BRIDGE (Alaska Road Commission Reports)		HAER No. AK-14
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE		
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) Mile 8, Nizina Road; Wrangell-St Elias National Park & Preserve		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) 1914 then rebuilt in 1920-1925 (HAER Inventory)	ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE)	
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) Part of the McCarthy-Nizina Road, with the purpose of providing a route to the Dan Creek, May Creek and Chititu mines, the Bridge was an expensive thorn in the side of the Alaska Road Commission and a point of controversy for local residents as the Nizina River's ever shifting main channel undermined the Bridge resulting in high maintenance costs.		
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE)		
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) steel; wood		
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) Four 250' steel spans		
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE		
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED)		
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES This is the reconstructed Nizina Bridge, begun 1920, completed 1925, rebuilt, 1935; 1921, crossing selected, borings made, construction begun on 5 pairs of steel sheet piling cylinders; 1923, cylinders filled and capped with concrete; 1924, 2-180' steel spans, with room for 180' truss if needed with a 1650' trestle approach, which no longer exists. 1935, rebuilt.		
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE The trestle is destroyed; the Bridge is unused and deteriorated		
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE		
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.) Alaska Road Commission Reports; McCarthy Weekly News HAER Inventory, 1982.		
COMPILER, AFFILIATION Sandra M. Faulkner, Historian, National Park Service	DATE July 24, 1986	