

James Minano Cabin  
Coldfoot (Bettles Vicinity)  
Yukon-Koyukuk Division  
Alaska

HABS No. AK-23

HABS  
AK,  
23-COLFO,  
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

ARCHITECTURAL DATA FORM

STATE ALASKA	COUNTY	TOWN OR VICINITY BETTLES VICINITY (COLDFOOT)
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) JAMES MINANO CABIN (National Park Service Files)		HABS NO. AK-23
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE		
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) On the south bank of the confluence of Slate Creek and the Middle Fork of the Koyukuk River.		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) 1915 (NPS Files)	ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE) James Minano (NPS Files)	
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) One of the only two extant buildings located at Coldfoot, an example of the small-scale gold rush town that existed in Alaska at the turn of the century. Here, James Minano, a Japanese trader and his family raised vegetables for sale to the miners.		
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE) Log cabin		
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) Unpeeled spruce logs, sod, flattened kerosene cans, round nails and some milled lumber		
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) Rectangular; 22' x 16' cabin with a 7' x 7' entrance shed and dugout basement		
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE The roof is made of small logs laid across the rafters, covered with sod and shingled with flattened kerosene cans		
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED) One room cabin with a barrel stove which rests on a gravel filled platform. The cabin features an unusual amount of whipsawn lumber, seen in the tongue-and-groove floor, the walls of the cellar, and the ceiling.		
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES Originally, the front room was a bedroom and the wall facing north had a large window with a table sitting in front of it. Originally occupied by the large Minano family, it was occupied by the adoptive parents of one Minano child until the 1950's.		
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE		
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE		
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.) National Park Service Files; See Bibliography HABS No. AK-25, Town of Wiseman		
COMPILER, AFFILIATION Sandra M. Faulkner, Historian, National Park Service	DATE June 20, 1986	

Table 1. Coldfoot Site features (refer to the map in Fig. 5). Identification is based on BLM 1981 fieldwork.

<u>Feature #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1.	James Minano Cabin.
2.	Cabin.
3.	Road. This is the northernmost road running through the site and is currently in use. It appears to roughly correspond with "First Avenue" as depicted on the Coldfoot Townsite plat.
4.	Cleared area. According to Mita Lord,* "large cleared areas are potato and oat fields," and there were many vegetable gardens.
5.	Midden.
6.	Midden.
7.	*Collapsed cabin. Mita Lord thought this cabin once belonged to Mike Farley. The schoolhouse was located "next to it".
8.	Road. The southernmost road running through the site is currently used by the Miscovich family to reach their mining claims across the river.
9.	Foundation. Mita Lord related that this foundation was once the "long house with garden and field" that belonged to the McNeil family. Susie McNeil was buried in the Coldfoot cemetery and that the family left Coldfoot in 1920.
10.	Clearing.
11.	Brush line. This appears to be a survey line that is probably related to Alyeska construction activity. It is not mapped on Fig. 5.
12.	Foundation.

\*Mita Lord is James Minano's daughter and lived in the cabin as a child.

13. Depression. This depression is fairly deep compared to others on the site and may represent a collapsed structure.
14. Clearing. This may have been a road or "street" providing access to Feature #29 and the slough from Feature #3.
15. Midden.
16. Small depression with trash in it.
17. Narrow trench system. It opens onto Feature #25 at two points.
18. Small depression.
19. Midden. This feature, consisting of bottle fragments and cans extends across Feature #25.
20. Foundation.
21. Large clearing (perhaps an cat field?). It opens onto Feature #3.
22. Small foundation.
23. Midden.
24. Midden.
25. Slough or ditch. It transects a portion of the site but has no distinct beginning or end.
26. Small square depression. This may be an outhouse associated with Feature #20.
27. Two small embankments. These curious features are aligned parallel to Feature #25.
28. Small ditch. Extends from Feature #14 and opens into the major slough along the northern portion of the site.
29. Foundation. According to Mita Lord, this large rectangular feature was once Mary English's "long house" where her son Billy was born.

30. Large circular depression.
31. Foundation; irregular and extremely overgrown.
32. Foundation; irregular and overgrown.
33. Bridge. Mita Lord stated that her father, James Minano built it in 1915.

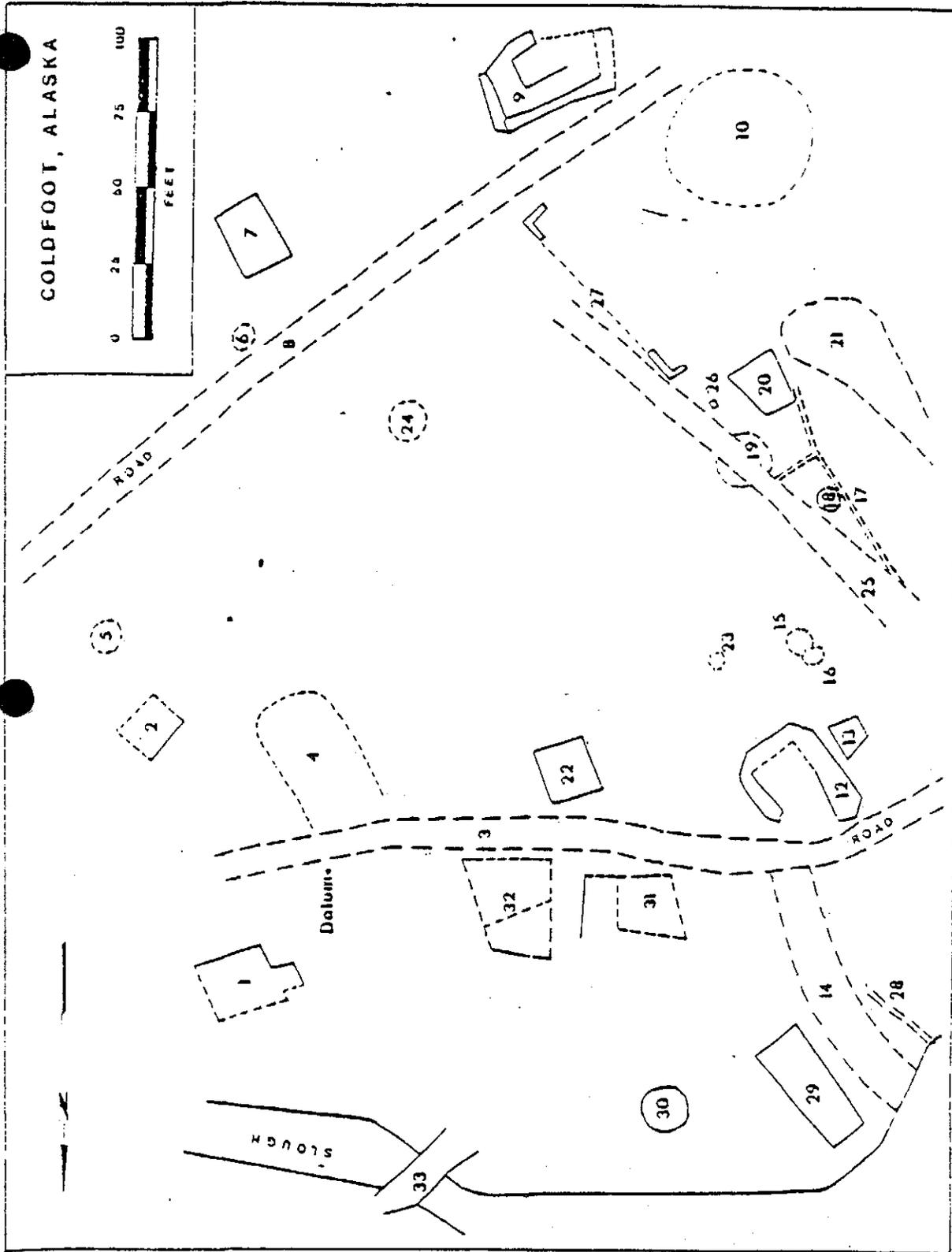


Figure 6 - Coldfoot, Alaska. Features mapped by BLM Archeological Survey crews in 1980-1981. Dashed lines indicate boundaries of features that were partially obscured by vegetation, Description of features listed in Table 1 and in the text. Surveyed by alidade, plane table, and tape.

ADDENDUM TO:  
JAMES MINANO CABIN  
Slate Creek at Middle Fork of Koyukuk River  
Coldfoot  
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area  
Alaska

HABS AK-23  
*HABS AK,23-COLFO,1-*

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

FIELD RECORDS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240-0001