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Funter Bay Cannery



Figure 8.

By 2008 the forest had reclaimed most of the Funter Bay cannery site. Here looking northwest are the public floats and several dwellings. From left to right are: a small part of the roof to the watchman's cabin, a private dwelling (in the clearing) where the power house once stood, a cabin at the former mess hall location, and a cabin where the China house used to be. At far right is the edge of former cannery caretaker Harold Hargrave's home.

The villagers of St. Paul spent most of World War II at the Thlinket Packing Company cannery at Funter Bay. The cannery site is on a small peninsula projecting southwest into Funter Bay, on the Mansfield Peninsula at the northwest end of Admiralty Island (Figures 8-9). The land consists of rolling moraine deposits from sea level up to an elevation of almost 500', punctuated by sheer rock cliffs occurring from sea level up to the Peninsula's highest point – Robert Barron Peak at 3475' (Orth 1967:808). The mountain's peak and upper slopes are above treeline; a thick forest of spruce and hemlock

carpets the landscape below to the water's edge (Figure 8).

Early Years

The Mansfield Peninsula is within the traditional territory of the Wuckitan clan of the Auk Tlingit (Goldschmidt et al. 1998:37-44), and Funter Bay had probably long been favored for seasonal fishing (Figure 10). In 1899 Portland banker James T. Barron organized the Thlinket Packing Company (Gaston 1911:88-89) and applied for 11.75 coastal acres on the northwest end of Admiralty Island as a mining claim – the Irvington Lode. Mr. Barron was

Figure 9.

Map of the Funter Bay locality on the Mansfield Peninsula of Admiralty Island. See Figure 4 to orient map location in southeast Alaska.



the father of Robert Barron, for whom the Peninsula’s highest point is named (Orth 1967:808). It’s unlikely that the elder Barron had any intention of mining the claim; he completed the initial \$1000 worth of assessment work by excavating a 20’x40’ hole six feet deep

along the shore at what would become a warehouse site, and by digging a 2’ x 2’ “water flume” from a small creek to a point beside the machine shop that would become the cannery’s powerhouse. The land was patented as U.S. Mineral Survey 560 (Hill 1901), and

Barron had a cannery built at Funter Bay and was packing fish by 1902 (Cobb 1922:44). That same year a U.S. Post Office was established at the cannery (Orth 1967:357). A warehouse was built in 1906, and during the following year the cannery building was expanded to hold additional machinery (Figure 11), so that by 1907 the facility had the capacity to pack 2,500 cases of pink salmon a year under labels such as “Buster,” “Sea Rose,” “Autumn,” “Peasant,” “Thlinket,” “Tepee,” and “Arctic Belle” (Pacific Fisherman 1907:21). All of the cannery’s fish came from five large commercial fish traps, and the work force consisted of Native, Chinese, Japanese, and EuroAmerican laborers (Kutchin 1906:22).

In 1926 the Funter Bay cannery was sold to the Alaska Pacific Salmon

Corporation, which continued packing fish until 1930 or 1931 (Bower 1941:134; MacDonald 1949:32). A fire on May 31, 1929, destroyed “the Oriental bunkhouses and a number of Indian cottages” (Pacific Fisherman 1930:64-65). This was a boom time for Alaska’s fisheries (Cooley 1963:84, 102), particularly in southeast Alaska, and Chatham Strait had major facilities canning, salting, or rendering bottom fish, salmon, herring, and whale (Mobley 1994:30-31; 1999:8-18). During the 1930 season the Funter Bay cannery operated with two stationary and 19 floating fish traps (Bower 1931:44). Nonetheless, in 1931 the cannery was closed for what turned out to be forever, due to a water shortage (Colby 1941:149). In 1941 the property was sold to the P.E. Harris Company – a well-known



Figure 10.
Local Tlingit Indians still spent time at Funter Bay into the 1900s, years after the cannery was established. Note flagpole, sawn plank cabins, and traditional dugout canoes in this 1916 view.

Alaska State Library C.L. Andrews collection PCA45-124

Figure 11.

By early August of 1907 the Thlinket Packing Company at Funter Bay was processing its sixth annual pack of pink salmon.

Alaska State Library Case & Draper collection PCA39-1002



Alaska fish processor from 1912 until 1950 and the predecessor of Peter Pan Seafoods (MacDonald 1949:32).

A map made in August of 1942 two months after the Pribilof villagers arrived shows the cannery buildings labeled with their new emergency functions (Figure 12), while a 1962 plat for adjacent Alaska Tidelands Survey 147 plots most of those same pre-war buildings (as well as Quonset huts and small cabins built for the Aleut internment) with their original building titles from the pre-war cannery days (see Figure 25). So each map has functional building labels more appropriate for the other. The industrial buildings were clustered tightly near the south corner of the lot, where a

rock promontory juts into deep water and allowed construction of a wharf to serve deep-draft cargo vessels (Figure 13). The wharf connected the fronts of three long buildings extending out from shore – two large warehouses on the east and an even larger 80’-wide cannery building on the west. All three buildings were on pilings and most of their length was over the intertidal zone. A 1907 photograph shows a sign on the gable of the left warehouse reading “THE THLINGIT PACKING CO.”

Attached behind the central warehouse was a machine shop, and across a decked platform behind the cannery was the boiler room, or power house (Figure 14). The power house’s west

end protruded past the industrial complex, extending the power train to serve a winch for the marine railway at the intertidal zone. The building was oriented so that overhead belts could transfer power to the cannery in one axis and an overhead shaft could transfer power to the machine shop in the other axis. Two small rectangles on the north side of the power house (labeled TANKS on the plat – see Figure 25) were secondary fuel tanks probably served by the larger wood-stave fuel tank at the property's far south point. The last building of the industrial cluster was divided into a parts room serving the whole complex, and a commissary, or store.

The store opened onto the cannery's main boardwalk and – together with the mess hall and ramp down to the floats – served the citizens of greater Funter Bay as its social center. Archival photographs allow reconstruction of the layout. The mess hall was a two-story 40'x50' building almost completely encircled by the boardwalk, and was the first building encountered when walking up from the floats where smaller boats docked. At the south end of the west wall was the entrance to the dining room, below a sign reading "CANTEEN." In the southeast corner of the building was a partitioned room entered through an exterior door be-

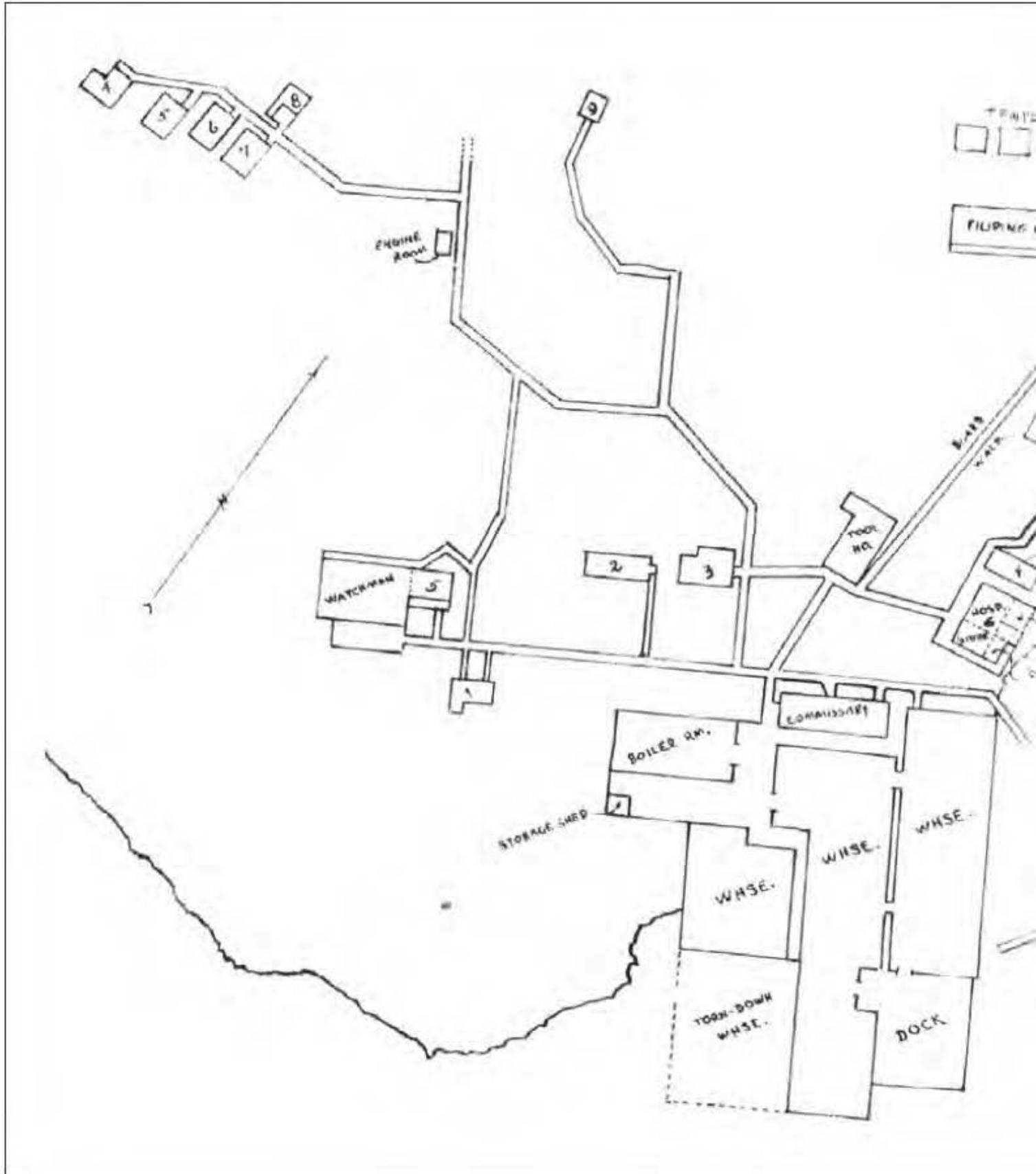
low a sign reading "FUNTER POST OFFICE." During the war a small cabin connected to the boardwalk by the mess hall was used as the USFWS office (Figure 15), contributing to the social importance of the building cluster. The next nearest building to the mess hall was the tool headquarters, or carpenter shop, located centrally to serve the entire cannery complex (Figure 16) and still standing in 2008.

Lodging at the cannery during its later years of operation was of several types (as mentioned the Quonset huts and two rows of small houses plotted north of the property line on the 1962 survey are of later wartime construction). The old surveys show some of

Funter Bay...is the best and most convenient anchorage in its vicinity. The bay is 2 miles long in a north-northeasterly direction and 3/4 mile wide at the entrance, expanding slightly inside. There is a small stamp mill on the southeast side of the bay, and some mining development has been done. A cannery and wharf are on the northwest side of the bay; this is the post office of Funter, and it has regular communication with Juneau.

U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey (1917:187)

the building locations, and the archival photographs show some of their architectural details (Figure 17). The superintendent's house was a composite building at the west end of the main cannery boardwalk consisting of a central one-story block with a shed-roofed



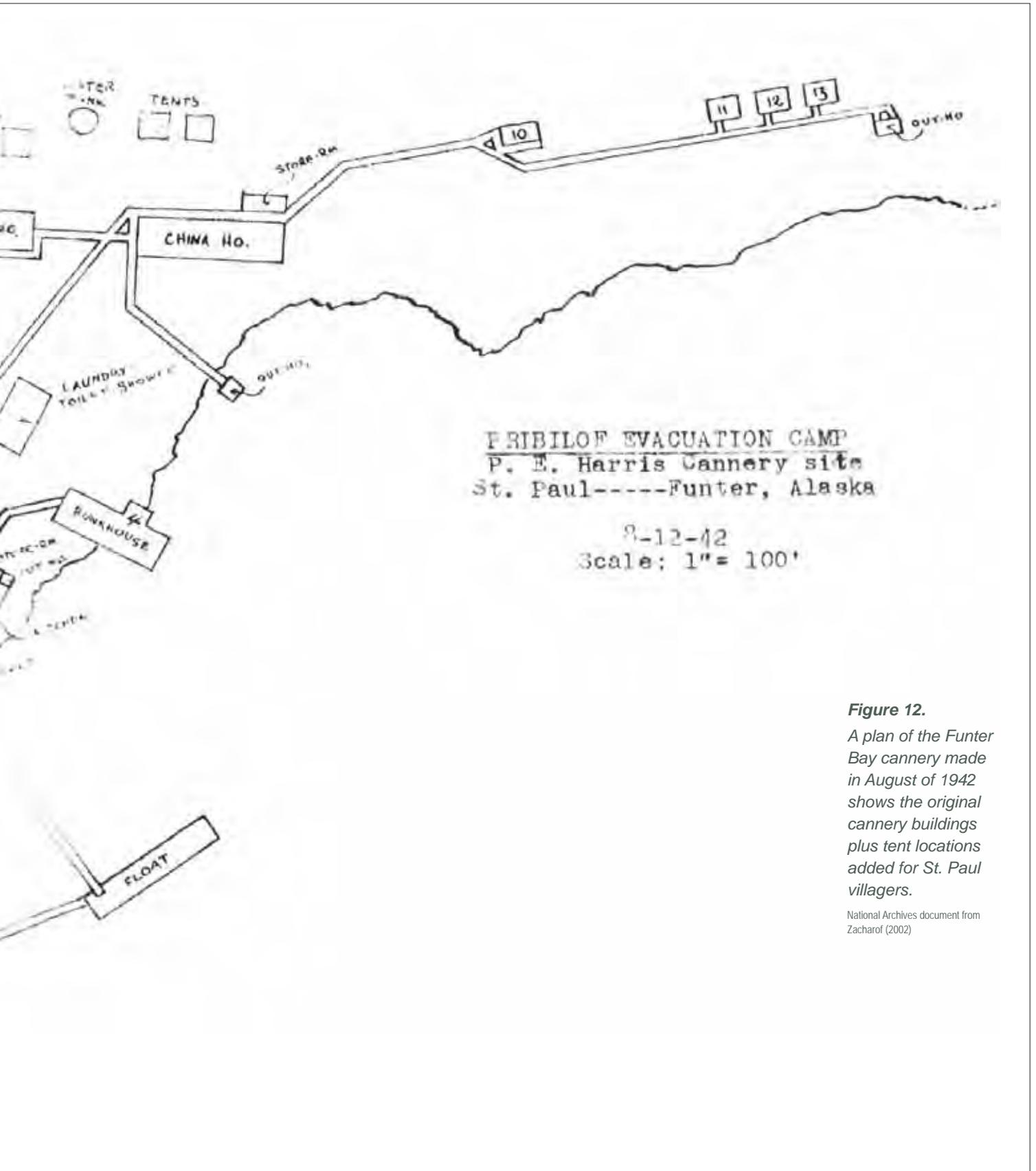


Figure 12.
A plan of the Funter Bay cannery made in August of 1942 shows the original cannery buildings plus tent locations added for St. Paul villagers.

National Archives document from Zacharof (2002)

Figure 13.

A 1907 view shows the Funter Bay cannery as it began its peak production years.

Alaska State Library William Norton collection PCA226-411



Figure 14.

The power house (center, looking southeast) held oil-fired boilers that provided steam for the retorts and ran the system of overhead axles, pulleys, and belts that operated the cannery's many machines.

Alaska State Library William Norton collection PCA226-412



dormer, attached at the southwest corner to a cross-gabled two-story block, and attached at the northeast corner to another one-story wing. Scaled from the survey, the building enclosed 2,220

square feet of space excluding two porches. Near the superintendent's house was the watchman's house – a small one-story home with one north-facing gable-roofed dormer over the



Figure 15.
Federal authority over the Funter camps was administered from a small frame office building prominently located between the cannery's store (at the photographer's back in this wartime image) and mess hall (at center).

Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association, Al Cox and Pat Pletnikoff collection

entry and another over a window. North of the main boardwalk and connected by a perpendicular boardwalk was a narrow bunkhouse or "Guest House" sharing a porch with a larger frame cabin (used during



Figure 16.
Here looking east are the mess hall at right, carpenter shop left of center, and a frame cabin at left. Second-growth trees and absence of the "USFWS Office" (Figure 15) date the view to just before 1942.

Alaska State Library Vincent Soboleff collection PCA 01-3844

the war by Father Baranof as his residence). On the shore northeast of the mess hall was a two-story bunkhouse half on shore and half on pilings over the intertidal zone. Deep in the forest to the north was a small "old watchman's cabin," and 200' to the east was a smaller log cabin. Set off from other buildings almost 200' to the north

were two large two-story bunkhouses, each about 24' wide and 96' long, one labeled "Filipino House" (Figure 18) and the other "China House." Since the cannery's "Oriental bunkhouses" reportedly burned in 1929, the Filipino and China houses mapped in 1942 may have been built immediately that year or the year after to replace

Figure 17.

The superintendent's house, here viewed towards the southwest from an upstairs west window of the China House across a sea of laundry during St. Paul villagers' time there, is half hidden by trees in the background right of center.

University of Alaska-Fairbanks
Fredericka Martin collection
91.223.272



Figure 18.

Seen here looking northwest from the railing of the mess hall during the war, the Filipino House was a twin to the nearby China House immediately right of photo. The cannery water tank can be seen at upper right.

University of Alaska-Fairbanks
Fredericka Martin collection
91-223-350



the lost housing, because 1930 was the last year of operation. A boardwalk extending along the top of the low coastal bluff northeast of the China House went past a cabin and then a group of three “Native Cabins.” West of the cannery a boardwalk led to a group of five small cabins overlooking Coot Cove, off the cannery lot on USFS property.

Systems serving the cannery complex consisted of water, sanitation, electricity, and the boardwalk. A small creek to the north (near the Aleut cemetery) was dammed with a simple timber crib, from which water was sent via a 4” steel pipe to a large wood-stave tank located between and upslope from the two large bunkhouses. From there at least one smaller line likely ran along the boardwalk to the industrial complex, with spigots along the way. Whether any of the original buildings had independent sewer/septic systems is unknown, but at least three outdoor privies were built out over the intertidal zone. One was attached to a storage shed immediately north of the mess hall, another served the Filipino and China Houses (Figure 19), and a third was located at the far end of the boardwalk past the three

Native Cabins. Electricity to individual buildings including dwellings was sent through wires strung on poles, using glass insulators near the tops. Connecting the cannery buildings was a web of plank boardwalks in at least two widths.

After the 1931 closing the owners retained an onsite caretaker who still served as storekeeper and postmaster. A current landowner suggested that a fox-farming or more likely mink-farming operation may have been initiated around that time because of the amount of chickenwire discernible in the early 1990s. But that activity has not been confirmed (since the property was patented land no USFS Special Use Permit would have been needed for a fur-farm, so no archival USFS documentation would necessarily be expected). Chickenwire was a common item at most canneries because it was used for webbing in commercial fish traps. Another explanation for chickenwire features at the Funter



Figure 19.
During WW II a community privy was built over the beach east of the cannery.

University of Alaska-Fairbanks
Fredericka Martin collection
91-223-279

cannery is that the caretaker in the 1950s was said to have kept rabbits at the site in chickenwire enclosures.

World War II

When the U.S. entered the war in 1942 the cannery at Funter Bay had not packed fish for over a decade, and the surrounding population attributed to “Funter” was down to about 14 (Colby 1941:149). P.E. Harris Company – the new owner – kept on the company payroll only a caretaker – Harold Hargrave – who lived onsite with his wife and operated the store and post office. Hargrave’s first year on the job was 1941 (The Juneau Empire 1999) and by that time many buildings had fallen into disrepair. The fish packing company was quick to recognize the opportunity for monthly income and had a lease prepared with “THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, hereinafter called the Government,” at a rate of \$60 per month, on June 16. The deal was barely struck by the time the Aleuts were underway.

On June 24, 1942, after a journey of more than a week, the *Delarof* docked at the cannery and disembarked the entire Native population of St. George and St. Paul villages. Bedding and food from the ship’s stores were discharged along with the villagers’ meager baggage. Two baidars – large (36’) traditional frame boats – had been brought as deck cargo for use at Funter

Bay (Figure 20). The two USFWS employees (St. George agent Daniel C.R. Benson and acting St. Paul agent Carl M. Hoverson) and their wives, and the two school teachers from St. Paul – Mr. and Mrs. Helbaum – and their two children, stayed at Funter Bay with the villagers. Other federal employees and their wives, including the two physicians – Drs. Grover and Berenberg – stayed on the *Delarof* as it cast off that same day and continued to Seattle by way of Killisnoo.

The Aleut Experience at Funter Bay

The day after they landed at the cannery, villagers from St. George were shifted to the mine site one mile away. Thereafter, the two Pribilof communities shared the Funter Bay experience from their two respective camps, while the cannery – having the post office, store, and larger dock – continued as the local social center (Figure 21). The St. Paul USFWS agent’s log entry for June 27 to August 2, 1942, describes the basic tasks that all the Aleut evacuee’s faced in making their wartime homes livable: “Entire gang during this period kept busy in constructing bunks, making beds from chicken wire, repairing walks to facilitate traffic, installing electric wiring in various dwellings, repairing leaking roofs, broken windows, rotten flooring, dilapidated outhouses; several men occupied in getting the mess arrangements systemized.



Warehouses fixed so that supplies could be locked up....Entire area around the Cannery was surveyed for a possible water supply. Several were found but none met the approval of the Sanitary Engineer. Entire population, both St. George and St. Paul immunized by Mrs. Clara Gaddie, Indian Affairs Nurse....” During the first months after their arrival many families lived

in tents; while the agent logged the temperature at 10 degrees above zero on Christmas Eve, 1942, the men were still installing plasterboard walls inside the bunkhouses.

Ordinary domestic tasks became difficult under the circumstances. Potable water was often in short supply due to freezing, poor pipes, inadequate flow, and contamination (Figure 22).

Figure 20. Two government-owned baidars, or traditional Aleut boats, were brought from the Pribilofs and used at Funter Bay. They were subsequently shared with Atkans at Killisnoo.

Alaska State Library Butler/Dale collection PCA 306-1093

Figure 21.

During World War II the old mess hall at the cannery, with its U.S. Post Office, was the social center of the greater Funter Bay area.

University of Alaska Fairbanks
Fredericka Martin collection
91.223.274



Figure 22.

The water system at the Funter Bay cannery wasn't designed to support a large community through all seasons, and spigots were few. This tap was east of the China House (upper right).

Alaska State Library Butler/Dale
collection PCA 306.1092



Washing clothes must have been an ordeal (Figure 17). Food preparation was made more complicated by the lack of adequate kitchen facilities and

familiar subsistence foods (Figure 23). The bunkhouses and cabins were not intended for winter occupancy, so they had no insulation or heating stoves.



Figure 23.

Dining accommodations at the Funter cannery were dilapidated; this image shows the interior of the Chinese bunkhouse, which had a functioning kitchen.

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Fredericka Martin collection
91.223.281

Agency officials reporting on the poor living conditions had limited success in obtaining needed food, medicine, and supplies.

The two communities continued to operate under the direction of their USFWS agents at Funter Bay as they had at their villages. Work parties were organized, and the men were expected to unload supply ships that came to dock. The USFWS's *Penguin* served the two Funter Bay camps, as did the agency's smaller vessels *Brant*, *Crane*, *Swan*, and *Heron*, and eventually their boat *Scoter* was assigned to winter at Funter Bay. Port calls were made by the USFS *Ranger 6* and *7*, fishing boats, fish-buying boats like the *King Fisher*, the mail boat *Estebeth* (Figure 24), and YP

Boats (vessels in southeast Alaska's fishing fleet that had been converted – often with original captains and crews – for submarine detection and coastal surveillance). Sometimes a float plane would fly in from Juneau. Villagers took jobs with some of these boats, or went to Juneau to work, but usually between 45 and 60 Aleut men were working at the camp each weekday during the first months

During the past cold spell it has been impossible to heat the houses and quarters occupied by the Natives. At night they have huddled around the stoves and in the dining room getting what little sleep possible. Most of the water pipes are still frozen and there still is no water in the reservoir behind the dam.

USFWS agent's log for the St. Paul community at the Funter Bay cannery, February 12, 1943.



Figure 24.
Funter Bay, Killisnoo, and other coastal communities in the area were provided mail, freight, and passenger services by the Estebeth, here viewed from the cannery. At far right is the Funter Bay mine's mill.

Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association
 (copy print, source unknown)

of the internment. Teams of as many as two dozen men went salmon fishing to feed the community, or clamming, and hunters would sometimes bring in three or four deer at a time. Eventually a USFWS boat arrived to issue them hunting licenses.

Dr. Berenberg returned to Funter Bay to treat his patients. There were several births in the camps in late 1942. People with severe dental problems went to Juneau for treatment. Islanders with tuberculosis were sent to the Juneau hospital, and sometimes Seattle, when their condition worsened. Soon the need for an Aleut cemetery was grimly acknowledged at Funter Bay, and a small almost-level plot was selected up

a protected draw east of the cannery, near the dam built to supply water to the facility. Despite the hardship and death at the Funter Bay camps, the St. Paul and St. George villagers resolutely faced them as they faced hardship and death in the Bering Sea. It is a tribute to the Aleut communities that their children were somewhat shielded from the brunt of the deprivations. Pribilof elders interviewed in the 1990s and 2000s were children at Funter Bay, and most remember a successful childhood adapted to the new surroundings. In mid-October of 1942 the children of the Pribilofs were sent with their federal teachers and their teachers' families to Wrangell where they attended classes at the Wrangell Institute.

Wartime Construction

The two large bunkhouses were not sufficient to house the entire community of St. Paul, and tents supplementing the housing arrangement weren't adequate for winter conditions. The 1942 plat shows a pair and another trio of tents north of the China House. The USFWS agent's logs indicate construction of new "cottages" in late 1942, likely represented on the 1962 survey by a row of three small buildings north of the China House, and an offset row of six small buildings north of the Filipino House (Figure 25). Also constructed during the war, probably in 1943, were a pair of Quonset huts just south of the Filipino House and a group of three further south (Figure 26). Quonset huts were prefabricated round-roofed 16'x36' buildings of corrugated sheet metal panels affixed to curved angle-iron ribs, manufactured by the tens of thousands for Allied military applications and intended to house "10 enlisted men or 5-7 officers" (Decker and Chiei 2005:14). Each of the two groups of Quonset huts had their buildings' gable walls aligned to face a boardwalk.

In keeping with their devout Russian Orthodox practices, the St. Paul villagers erected two large wall tents on a platform with plank walls to serve as a temporary chapel, according to a photograph taken by Father Michael Lestenkof. Yet another image from his collection, at the Aleutian Pribilof

Islands Association, shows a new but small one-story wood frame chapel, painted white (Figure 27).

New construction mentioned in the USFWS agent's logbook also includes a water pipeline – probably from the small impoundment near the Aleut cemetery. Sometime after August of 1942 a small gable-roofed building was erected (or perhaps relocated) along the boardwalk near the mess hall as the USFWS headquarters (Figure 15).

According to Zacharof (2002), one of the last acts by departing villagers was to dismantle their hastily built school, church, and pumphouse to build shipping crates for the journey home.

Post-War Development

The Funter Bay cannery stayed in the hands of the P.E. Harris Company after the war ended, and Harold Hargrave continued on as watchman. When the P.E. Harris Company became Peter Pan Seafoods, in about 1962, the new company continued to hold the old cannery property. Hargrave obtained a Special Use Permit from the U. S. Forest Service in 1951 for a residence, dock, and warehouse (also used as a boat house and net house) on the far east end of the cannery complex, according to files at the National Archives, and he and his wife Mary lived at Funter Bay until 1983 when they moved to Juneau (The Juneau Empire 1999). The cannery buildings



Figure 26.
Five Quonset huts including these three were erected at the Funter Bay cannery to house Aleut families. A note with the image states Dora Dushkin's family lived in the first Quonset, and the Melevedov family lived in the second.

Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association,
 Fr. Michael Lestenkof collection



Figure 27.
St. Paul villagers eventually built a small wood-frame chapel at the Funter Bay cannery.

Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association,
 Fr. Michael Lestenkof collection

continued to deteriorate through the 1950s, and by 1961 the seaward side of the industrial buildings was almost completely gone (Figure 28).

Peter Pan Seafoods owned the cannery during the 1960s and filed for the adjacent intertidal and submerged

land as Alaska Tidelands Survey 147 in 1962. By then the bunkhouse along the shore immediately north of the mess hall was completely gone, marked only by a “scattered piling of old buildings” (Figure 25). According to USFS records, in the early 1960s while Peter Pan Seafoods was

Figure 28.

By the time historian Bob DeArmond photographed the Funter Bay cannery in 1961 the end of the wharf was mostly gone.

Bob DeArmond photograph courtesy of Patricia Roppel



Harold and Mary Hargrave, they lived over near the cannery. Harold had been the watchman at the cannery before we knew him. After that they did some salmon trolling...they retired from that...The wooden crosses in the old Russian Orthodox design...were still standing thanks to Mary Hargrave – I think she took care of the cemetery during the whole time she lived near it...Everybody in the bay got together quite a bit for potlucks....You picked up and dropped off your mail at the cannery...once a week. By the time we got here there was a mail plane....It was kind of a social event....Jim and Blanche Doyle...were the last caretakers before it was sold. Jim was a retired Coast Guard chief petty officer....That's [watchman's cabin] still there, that's where Jim and Blanche lived. And that's where the watchman before them, Scotty Todd, lived.... One winter Harold, and Gunnar [Ohman], and I think the third one was Harvey [Smith] lived in the superintendent's house.

Karey Cooperrider

operating a major facility at nearby Hawk Inlet, they attempted to evict Hargrave from the Funter Bay cannery because some of Hargrave's improvements were on cannery property rather than USFS land as permitted. Apparently USFS was able to negotiate quick satisfaction for all parties when it became known, too, that some of the cannery's buildings were actually north of the cannery's lot line on USFS land.

As part of a package sale the Funter Bay cannery was conveyed along with several other properties to the Bristol Bay Native Corporation in the 1980s, which in turn sold it to Juneau resident Reed Stoops.

Stoops subdivided the property in the early 1990s and together with new owners such as Gordon Harrison hired a local company to demolish and remove or bury most of the derelict cannery buildings. A short system of public floats was built by the State of Alaska to replace the original cannery dock and floats. Funter Bay experienced a resurgence in private residency.

Joe Giefer and his wife Karey Cooperrider were new arrivals, building a home and lodge east of the cannery, and in a 2008 taped interview they described the condition of the cannery buildings in the early 1970s. At that time most of the industrial and domestic buildings were standing and could be cautiously entered, though their rate of deterioration was increasing. After Harold Hargrave disassociated with the cannery and established his adjacent residence, the watchman's cabin continued as a dwelling for property caretakers – first Scotty Todd, then finally Jim and Blanche Doyle – so it was in good shape at the time. Another small cabin in good condition was used as an overflow guest house by the Doyle family. The superintendent's house was in good shape except for the roof, and so the building began to disintegrate.

I bought the [Funter Bay] cannery from Bristol Bay Native Corporation. Most of it was a public nuisance – a liability for us – so we burned and buried the cannery building. The bunkhouse fell down in place. I built my cabin in 1990 – the log cabin right at the dock.

Reed Stoops

I purchased property at the cannery in 1993, and built my house from scratch from 1994 until 1999. I have some photographs of the last of the power house. It had part of the boiler, with fire brick. Reed Stoops hired John Gitkov, a marine contractor with several cranes and barges. In front of my house all that scrap is buried, and in my backyard are two of the fuel tanks. The woodstave tank on the point was torn down by Gitkov – I've got a few of the timbers under my house. Those three machines are early vintage gasoline engines, about 10-20 horsepower, that drove overhead power trains. There's a guy in Fairbanks that drives one in their annual Golden Days Parade.

Gordon Harrison

The Quonset huts were still standing, though the interior walls of beaver-board (an obsolete cellulose-panel material) were melting; some had chicken wire arranged by Harold Hargrave to keep rabbits. The small frame cabins built by St. Paul villagers were already lacking roofs in the early 1970s and were in poor condition. Two cliff-side outhouses were still readily distinguishable, one of which was divided into mirror halves (probably gender-specific), each of which had two or three seats. The pilings under the carpenter's shop were replaced in the early

Figure 29.

As viewed approaching the public floats, the Funter Bay cannery site is now occupied by four dwellings, of which the three modern examples are visible: Gordon Harrison's cabin with a shed-roofed dormer (left) built in the late 1990s where the power house used to be, the 1990 cabin (center) built by Reed Stoops where the mess hall once stood, and Randall Gray's two-story log cabin (right of center) constructed over the China House site.



1990s with creosote pilings salvaged from the cannery ruin at Hawk Inlet.

Current Condition

Funter Bay now holds several dozen parcels of private property, many with dwellings occupied seasonally or year-round by individuals with 30 years or more of residency – 75 years in the case of mine-steward Sam Pekovich. The State's public floats are in almost the same location as the original cannery floats (compare Figures 20 and 29). According to Zacharof (2002), the cannery's 11.5 acres were subdivided into 13 lots, and in 2008 at least nine landowners had a property interest in the historic cannery site. Almost all of the cannery's buildings are gone – either destroyed or decaying into the archaeological record, but many remnants are discernible. Some historic cannery features, as well as the Aleut

cemetery, are on USFS land. Because the site investigation was brief and done at a high tide, few intertidal features were observed. This discussion of the Funter Bay cannery's current condition briefly notes new construction, then goes on to describe standing buildings, building ruins, and non-architectural features that date to World War II or earlier. The site's AHRS number is JUN-029.

Three relatively modern dwellings are maintained on what was once U.S. Mineral Survey 560 (Figure 25). A fourth modern residence has been built immediately northeast of the cannery tract (near the trail to the Aleut cemetery) to replace Harold Hargrave's original home that was destroyed by fire. One of the three dwellings on the former cannery property is Reed Stoops' one-story cabin built

where the old mess hall used to be. A two-story cabin belonging to Randall Gray resides where the China House once stood (Figures 8, 29). And the cannery's former power house site is now occupied by Gordon Harrison's one-story frame cabin and several small sheds all painted a bright red (Figure 30). Whereas the two log cabins feature milled logs of obviously recent construction, the frame cabin is a gabled dwelling with a shed-roofed dormer facing the bay, a metal roof, and wood shingles, together giving the appearance of an older building (Figure 30).

STANDING BUILDINGS

Two original cannery buildings are standing in good shape – the watchman's cabin and the carpenter shop. Three other original buildings – two

cabins and a water tank enclosure – are standing in fair or poor shape. The only original dwelling still used for that purpose is the former watchman's cabin. Prior to 1942 the watchman occupied a multi-roomed house at the west end of the main boardwalk (Figure 12), but later that dwelling was enlarged for the new superintendent, and the watchman moved into a smaller cabin immediately east (Figure 25). In 2008 the building displayed one large gabled block measuring about 14'x25', with a small 4'x6' shed-roofed block appended to the south corner (Figure 31). Remnants of different roof pitches and vertical seams in the siding attest to a sequence of building modifications, and comparison of the 1942 and 1962 plans (Figures 12, 25) indicate that a 6' addition across the entire northwest elevation was



Figure 30.
The cannery power house site now holds a cabin and several small sheds built by Gordon Harrison between 1994 and 1999.

There were a lot of buildings standing when we first got here, but things were starting to deteriorate, and as things fell down and dropped into the water people who needed wood for one purpose or another would scavenge it. We had the whole of one of the warehouses on the beach...[the wood-stave water tank] was salvaged. It had two- to three-inch redwood staves, and they made excellent decking for walkways and stairs. They were about six by three, three by six [inches]. Beautiful wood, so it was nice that it was used instead of just melting into the ground....The carpenter shop – at that time that was in the best condition. It's a beautiful building. That's still there. It's divided down the center. It's two stories. It's probably 30'x70', I'd say. It has a good 12' ceiling and a ladder that goes upstairs. At the time we worked on it, early '90s...it needed new pilings, because it was sinking into the mud and the original pilings were falling apart. So we got new pilings from the Hawk Inlet cannery – we salvaged creosote pilings and put those in underneath.

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added during the intervening years. The building has mostly multi-pane windows, including 6- and 12-pane examples – the first singly and in ganged pairs and the last only in ganged pairs. The roof is of corrugated metal painted red, and the exterior walls are of gray-painted drop siding and plain planks.

The cannery's old carpenter shop (Figure 32) is in good shape in its original location on creosote pilings installed in the early 1990s. In replacing the foundation the building was probably elevated above its original floor level. The building is a long wood-frame

building with a wide hinged freight door centered on the south gable end and about a dozen original 6/6 double-sash windows penetrating the walls. A window is centered on each gable. The roof is now covered with ribbed metal painted red, and a large loading deck is appended to the south elevation. The building's dimensions are approximately 24' x 60'. Its construction date is unknown but it appears on the 1942 map (Figure 12), on which it is labeled as the "TOOL HQ" rather than "CARP SHOP" as on the 1962 map (Figure 25).

Less than 100' northwest of the watchman's cabin is a woodshed, a small water tank with a framed enclosure, and a cylindrical metal fuel tank (Figure 33). The woodshed is a small metal-clad frame building that in the 1970s (and perhaps still) held an old two-cylinder Lister diesel engine, according to local resident Joe Giefer. The other building measures about 8'x8' and 12' high, with a ribbed-metal shed roof. Missing and broken siding revealed vertical 8"x8" posts at each corner inside the building that support a water tank. The age of the building is unknown but Joe Giefer said that by the early 1970s it was unsafe to enter; old nail holes in the plain plank siding indicate that the boards were



Figure 31.
The cannery's watchman's cabin is an original building maintained as a private residence.



Figure 32.
The cannery's carpenter shop is still standing thanks to new pilings and a roof installed in the 1990s.

Figure 33.

Near the watchman's cabin is a dilapidated frame building enclosing a water tank (left), and a cylindrical metal fuel tank (right) matching two in their original location near the former power house (see Figure 51).

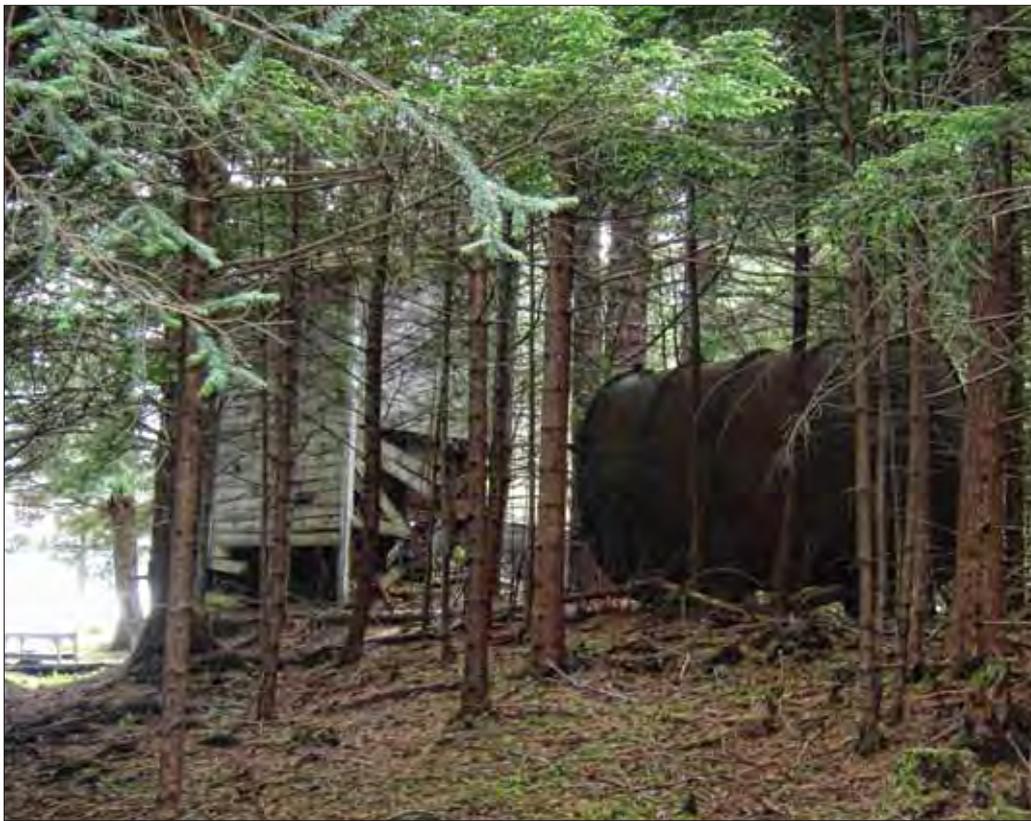


Figure 34.

A ramshackle cannery cabin at the west edge of the cannery, on USFS land, has a ceiling papered with pages from *The Saturday Evening Post* and *Collier's Weekly* magazines.



once nailed to a different set of studs. According to Giefer, muskeg water was pumped into the tank from the shallow pond behind the carpenter shop and used by the occupants for all but drinking. The metal fuel tank matches the two in their original location near the former power house, and the isolated example was probably moved to serve the watchman's cabin in the decades since cannery operation or Aleut internment.

A dilapidated but standing cannery cabin off U.S. Mineral Survey 560 to the west, on USFS land, still has remnants of magazine pages papering the ceiling and parts of the walls (Figures 34-35). The building is a one-story frame affair with many exposed interior studs, and likely represents one of the five cabins numbered four through eight at the far west end of the 1942 map (Figure 12); the 1962 map (Figure 25) was not carried far enough west to include those buildings. Papering the cabin's ceiling are pages from *The Saturday Evening Post* and *Collier's Weekly* magazines, with at least one page dated 1919.

Corresponding to either the centrally located "GUEST HOUSE" or "CABIN" plotted on the 1962 map (Figure 25) is a small one-story frame building missing its windows. The cabin measures approximately 12'x20' and has board-and-batten siding (Figure 36), but was not inspected further.



Figure 35.
The cabin papered in old magazines has pages as old as 1919.

BUILDING RUINS

In contrast to the five standing buildings left from the cannery and internment periods are numerous features classed here as building ruins. The distinction is an arbitrary division of the integrity continuum; one criterion considered is whether a building could be made habitable (a term relative to the experience and fortitude of the potential inhabitant). The brief field investigation at the Funter Bay cannery allowed photography of many building ruins and correlation of some with the 1942 and 1962 maps. Completely gone by 2008 were the main cannery building, warehouses, power house, machine shop, parts room, store, and mess hall. Remaining were remnants of the Filipino House from the cannery era, as well as wrecked Quonset

That [superintendent's house] was standing, and in quite good shape. It looked like a lovely old turn-of-the-century home, with a nice front porch, and steps leading up to it. Wainscoting inside. Lots of books on shelves. There was some wallpaper in some of the rooms. It would have needed to be cleaned up, but it was a habitable building. Two-story. The roof went bad several years after we were here, and eventually it started to deteriorate, and it was torn down and moved off when the cannery was sold and subsequently subdivided.... That larger building [mess hall] – on the beach to the right of the ramp and the floats as you go up – we always called it the superintendent's office because upstairs had beautiful wainscot and little office rooms. Quite nice.... [The China bunkhouse and Filipino bunkhouse] They were something. Two-story. Up on big pilings, both of them. And they had external stairways to the second floor. They were both in good shape. The China House seemed to be in better shape. It was divided into little 10'x10' rooms upstairs. Each one had a window. And they had beaverboard. Probably didn't have any insulation. Downstairs was all open, but upstairs was partitioned off. And they had one central heat [source].... The big heating stove in one of them was still there, when we first arrived. It would have been hard to keep it warm.... It [old watchman's cabin] was a one-room house. It had wainscoting inside. It was just a beautiful one-room, probably 12'x15'. And it wasn't used. That wood was also salvaged while we were here.

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huts, frame cabins, and outhouses from the Aleut internment period.

Of the pair of two-story bunkhouses from the cannery period – the China House and the Filipino House – only

the latter (the westernmost example) survives in close to a recognizable form (Figure 37). Visible in the twisted pile of lumber are walls constructed of 2"x4" studs covered with diagonal 1"x6" plank sheathing, overlain by tarpaper and 1"x4" drop siding. Window and corner trim boards are coated in a faded, oxidized green paint. Pieces of corrugated metal roofing protrude from the pile, as do round untreated pilings approximately 10" in diameter.

Of the wartime buildings erected at the Funter Bay cannery, the Quonset huts are easily identified by their steel metal frames. A group of three and a group of two Quonset huts were plotted on the 1962 map (Figure 25), and the remains of all five were found in 2008. The trio appear in an archival photograph (Figure 26), and were found in their original location (Figure 38). The other two were found in their plotted 1962 locations (which likely represent their 1942 locations as well). None of the Quonsets have any corrugated metal roofing or siding left, and likely the sheets were salvaged by locals long ago. The steel frames have mostly collapsed, and scraps of plywood and beaverboard are visible among the debris.

Two sets of cabin ruins were found corresponding to the two rows of “HOUSES” built for Aleut evacuees in 1942-43 behind the Filipino and China bunkhouses (Figure 25). A group of five buildings near the pair of Quonset huts are tumbling down but most still have at least one standing wall (Figures 39-41). More deteriorated ruins of another three are located to the northeast. Judging from the more intact examples the cabins were constructed of 2”x4” studs, 2”x6” rafters, and 1”x8” plank walls and roofs covered with tarpaper. Traces of beaverboard are visible nailed to the interior studs and ceiling joists.

The 1942 cannery map shows two outhouses: one over the intertidal zone reached by a boardwalk from the China House, and another

along the shore 500’ to the northeast (Figure 12). The example near the China House is likely the one shown



Figure 36.

Centrally located on the cannery site is a small frame board-and-batten cabin from the cannery era.



Figure 37.

A large two-story building ruin is all that remains of the cannery-era Filipino bunkhouse.

Figure 38.

Steel frames of three Quonset huts were found where they were erected for Aleut housing during World War II. Compare with the almost identical wartime view (Figure 26).



Figure 39.

A group of five cabins built for Aleut occupation during the war are now ruins, though several have at least one standing wall.





Figure 40.
The most intact Aleut cabin is simply constructed of horizontal 1"x8" planks covered with tarpaper, with a central door on a gable wall and few windows.



Figure 41.
The interior walls of the most intact Aleut cabin are covered with beaverboard painted white.

Figure 42.

Northeast of the industrial area is a small building ruin (likely an outhouse) hanging off the rock cliff overlooking the intertidal zone.



Figure 43.

A second small building ruin near the first (Figure 42) likely represents another former outhouse built over the intertidal zone.



in Figure 19. One of two small building ruins hanging off the bluff northeast of the industrial area in 2008 (Figures 42-43) likely represent the second outhouse mapped in 1942 – the one further to the northeast (Figure 12).

Other building ruins not observed during the brief 2008 field investigation likely remain to be found.

FEATURES

The Funter Bay cannery site in 2008 retained evidence of infrastructure other than buildings, including boardwalks, stationary equipment, and collections of debris. The central boardwalk that once extended from the floats southwest to the superintendent's house (Figure 25) is still maintained as far as the former watchman's cabin (Figure 31). It consists of four parallel 2"x12" planks nailed to four-foot stringers (Figure 44). North of the superintendent's cabin where once there was a boardwalk to Scow Bay, now there remains the brushed alignment and remnants of the stringers that once supported the planks (Figure 45). The 1962 map plots

a web of boardwalks serving the cannery complex (Figure 25), little of which was evident in 2008.

The huge wood-stave oil tank once located at the peninsula's point (Figure 14) and the water tank upslope from the two-story bunkhouses (Figure 25) were both demolished years ago, but the water tank foundation remains in place. It consists of about two dozen untreated round pilings supporting heavy timber stringers, which in turn supports a circular plank platform (Figure 46). Moss and small trees and shrubs have gained a footing on the rotten platform, which sags over the pilings in several places.

The cannery had at least two and possibly more water sources – all inadequate for the cannery's commercial operation. Near the carpenter shop the water table is high and a dark pool of water about 14' across with a low berm around it obviously represents an improved source, but the dark muskeg water was not potable. A dam was also built to tap a creek at the far northeast edge of the 1962 cannery map (Figure 25, upper image), near the Aleut cemetery, and it was still in place in 2008. The modest structure consists of two parallel rows of small pilings stretching across the bottom of the creek, each held in place by a horizontal log (one upstream and another downstream), with gravel filling the space between (Figure 47).



Figure 44.
Most of the central boardwalk from the floats to the watchman's house is still usable.



Figure 45.
A boardwalk once lead north from the site of the superintendent's house towards Scow Bay – a small cove to the northwest.

Figure 46.

The cannery's redwood-stave water tank was salvaged years ago, leaving the foundation remains – now in very poor condition.



Figure 47.

The cannery's water supply came from this small earth-and-timber dam located to the northeast, a little upstream from the Aleut cemetery.





Figure 48.
A large Fairbanks Morse gasoline engine still attached to its concrete pedestal is located where the cannery's machine shop once stood.



Figure 49.
A second large Fairbanks Morse engine – this one missing its cylinder – marks the former power house location.

A 2" galvanized steel pipe protrudes downstream from the dam face.

The cannery's industrial compound was built on pilings over a short reef protruding into Funter Bay, creating another feature type observed

in 2008. Circular depressions about 12" in diameter and up to 10" deep are carved into the bedrock where the pilings were set beneath what would have been the east warehouse.

Stationary equipment observed in 2008 consisted of three machines,

each a low-horsepower (10-20 hp range) gasoline engine affixed to a concrete pedestal. One large Fairbanks Morse engine sits prominently in a grassy clearing to mark the machine shop's location (Figure 48). A second Fairbanks Morse engine missing its cylinder is located at the

Figure 50.

Part of an engine assembly is still mounted on its concrete pedestal in the forest.



Figure 51.

Two large fuel oil tanks of about 1000 gallons each are located behind Gordon Harrison's cabin (left), probably in or close to their original position from the cannery days.





Figure 52.
North of the watchman's cabin is a large pile of metal cannery debris including the remains of many strap-steel trays or racks used to hold cans for loading into the retorts.

former power house site (Figure 49). A third gasoline engine of unknown manufacture, also minus its cylinder, is located inland among second-growth forest (Figure 50).

Several other features at the cannery are large but not stationary. Two cylindrical fuel oil tanks of about 1000 gallons each are located behind Gordon Harrison's house (Figure 51). They may be in their original position (Figure 25). The tanks are identical to the one beside the enclosed little water tank near the old watchman's cabin



Figure 53.
Coal was used for domestic heat, as indicated by this small scatter noted in 2008 near the cabin with the magazine-papered interior.

Figure 54.

The cemetery (JUN-975) near the cannery dam holds the graves of 23 Pribilof villagers who died at Funter Bay.



Figure 55.

Wooden Russian Orthodox crosses were replaced in 2000, and the originals were left inside the grave boundary.



(Figure 33). A debris pile north of the superintendent's house site contains mangled strap steel representing dozens of racks to hold cans in the cannery retorts (Figure 52). The cannery grounds undoubtedly hold smaller features like coal scatters (Figure 53) that escaped observation during the brief 2008 investigation.

ALEUT CEMETERY

The cemetery (JUN-975) in which both St. George and St. Paul interred their dead during the war is located near the cannery dam (Figure 47), northeast of the separate parcel on which former cannery caretaker Harold Hargrave once resided. Management of the land may have shifted from USFS to Alaska with the creation of a state marine park at Funter Bay (Zacharof 2002), but the state park as mapped does not include the cemetery (Reid 1994:165), and agency officials were not able to verify the transfer. Twenty-three graves are marked on the west side of the creek, on a low rocky bench otherwise surrounded by the stream canyon's steep sides. The surrounding forest is composed of second-growth spruce and hemlock. A wood arch painted white has been erected where the trail from saltwater enters the cemetery, and 18 of the graves have

white-painted wood Russian Orthodox crosses (Figure 54). The graves are roughly parallel and each has a marker at the end nearest the creek. Vertical wood plank borders that once outlined the graves (according to archival photographs) are gone and most of the graves are now outlined with rocks placed there in 2000 (Zacharof 2002). The wood cross at the head of each grave is made of 2"x2" stock, to replace older wooden markers made of 2"x4" stock which have been left inside the grave outline (Figure 55). Colorful paper-and-plastic icons have been affixed to the centers of most crosses, and at least one plastic flower arrangement was noted. Associated with five individual graves are stone monuments (of which at least one postdates WW II). The Aleut cemetery at Funter Bay is well-maintained under the remote circumstances. The 2000 "restoration followed Orthodox Church doctrine..." (Zacharof 2002). As part of this investigation, AHRS number JUN-975 was acquired for the site to distinguish it from the cannery property.

Summary

The Funter Bay cannery has been cleared of most old buildings and subdivided into residential lots, with some original cannery features intruding onto adjacent USFS land. Three new residences have been built, joining the only original cannery dwelling (the watchman's cabin) to total four houses on the property. Four other cannery

buildings remained standing in usable condition in 2008: the carpenter shop, a small enclosed water tank, and two small frame cabins. Otherwise the cannery's buildings are in various states of ruin – mostly collapsed and decaying into the archaeological record.

Those building ruins included several that could be correlated with cannery maps (Figures 12, 25), such as the cannery's Filipino bunkhouse. The twisted wrecks of five Quonset huts erected during the war are still visible in their original locations as a group of three and another group of two. Two separate alignments of rotting lumber represent one row of five small frame cabins and a second row of three, all built during the war for Aleut families. Two outhouse ruins were still visible in 2008.

Other features observed at the Funter Bay cannery included the water tank foundation, water impoundment dam, boardwalk alignments, piling depressions in the intertidal bedrock, debris piles, and coal scatters.

The Aleut cemetery that served both Pribilof villages at Funter Bay is not far from the cannery and has been maintained by Funter Bay residents and by Aleut relatives who occasionally visit. The cemetery, Quonset huts, frame cabin ruins, and outhouse ruins would appear to be the primary elements reflecting the Aleut WW II relocation experience at the site.

Figure 56.

Funter Bay resident Donna Emerson holds a handmade wooden toy boat that likely dates to the Aleut relocation era, found in the early 1980s tucked in the rafters of the cannery's China House as it was being salvaged for lumber.



Though artifacts evoking the Aleut experience were not observed at the site, in 1982 or 1983 Funter Bay resident Phil Emerson found a handmade wooden toy boat (Figure 56) tucked in the rafters of a bunkhouse being salvaged for material. Its details suggest an ocean-going ship. The hull is one piece of wood, with four separate pieces added to make the cabin, pilot house, and stack. The top of the stack is painted black. Small ferrous nails fore and aft clasp the stubs of mooring lines, and the starboard nail still has a

piece of string attached. The bottom of the hull has a dark stain representing either faded paint or a watermark from use. Since the bunkhouses held only adult cannery workers during commercial operation, it is likely the toy was made by a St. Paul adult for a child during the relocation years. Perhaps it was intended to represent the ship that would someday return the villagers to their home in the Bering Sea. The toy is a poignant symbol of the Aleut experience at Funter Bay.