3

Funter Bay Mine

Figure 57.
Historic buildings and building ruins of the Admiralty Alaska Gold Mine are visible along the shore of Funter Bay. From left to right are: the wash house ruin, the two-story bunkhouse, the shop, the roof of the mill (in trees right of center), the Sam Pekovich residence, and a modern prefabricated metal utility building.

Villagers from St. George were housed at the shoreside camp of an old gold mine on Funter Bay (Figure 57). The Admiralty Alaska Gold Mine is a collection of old buildings including a mill, a road and tramway inland, two adits and other workings, and the seasonal homes of Sam Pekovich and Andrew Pekovich. The mill and mining camp are located about one mile from the cannery, on the southeast shore of Funter Bay (Figure 9). The mine is patented land owned by Sam and Andrew Pekovich and the Admiralty Alaska Gold Mining Company, and includes old mineral claims going back to the late 1890s. The land near the coast is gently rolling and steepens inland to become Robert Barron Peak. A thick forest of hemlock and spruce, with some cedar and fir, blankets the landscape (Guard 1958:6).

Early Years

The claims were originally staked by Richard G. Willoughby, a prospector and opportunist who worked his way north along the Pacific Coast in the mid-19th century, arriving in Wrangell by 1875 (DeArmond 1957). Willoughby was a contemporary of Joe Juneau and Richard Harris – the

Figure 58.

Looking south from the dock around the early 1920s, the mill building of the Admiralty Alaska Gold Mine stands at far right. The two-story bunkhouse right of center was still in use in 2008, as was the tool shed immediately to its right.

Alaska State Library Winter and Pond collection PCA 87-0394

historical discoverers of gold at Juneau in 1880. He subsequently kept a cabin in Juneau on the street eventually named for him, becoming "one of the best known pioneer miners in Alaska" (New York Times 1902). Between July of 1888 and January of 1889 Willoughby and his partner A. Ware staked ten mineral claims on the southeast shore of Funter Bay (Chipperfield 1935). The territorial governor reported in 1891 that the Funter Bay mine "has continued its usual activity" (Knapp 1891:30), but the details are unknown. Six years later Willoughby (without his partner) amended the claims, according to Chipperfield (1935), and in 1902 he died while in Seattle (New York Times 1902).

The first few claims that became the patented Admiralty Mine property were staked about 1897 by a guy named [Richard S.] Willoughby – the same guy that Willoughby Avenue in Juneau was named after – and his partner. The claim passed through several hands until eventually a guy named Hunter got it, and then my dad – W.S. Pekovich – got involved in 1915. My dad had immigrated from Yugoslavia....My father along with Henry Roden was one of the original incorporators shown in the Articles of Incorporation dated December 20th or 29th, 1919....Our family has had an interest in that property for over 90 years. We have a stock-holding company with 3300 stockholders.

Andrew Pekovich, May 8, 2008

The Territorial Commissioner of Mines (Maloney 1915:12) reported in 1915 that "the old

Funter Bay mine on Admiralty Island has been reopened and "was operated on a profitable basis during the year." On December 20th or 29th, 1919, Henry Roden, W.S. Pekovich, and other citizens of the Territory of Alaska incorporated the Admiralty Alaska Gold Mining Company with control over Willoughby's claims, according to documents in the possession of mine investor, officer, and caretaker Andrew Pekovich. By then several owners had come and gone, according to Pekovich – a son of Serbian immigrant W.S. Pekovich. The Admiralty Alaska Gold Mining Company was formed to develop the Funter Bay claims, and the sale of shares funded construction of a waterfront mill and support buildings (Figure 58), plus a rail line to workings including two adits inland at the base of Robert Barron Peak. In July of 1923 the Admiralty Alaska Gold Mining Company amended and recorded Willoughby's ten claims (Chipperfield 1935).

"Uncle Dick" Willoughby, as he was commonly known, was reported to have been born in North Carolina or Tennessee and to have first gone to California in 1849. A few years after that he was in Kansas and was married in Missouri in 1854, leaving at once with his bride for California....His wife died during the Civil War....In 1859 or 1860 he went to the Fraser River and from there to Cariboo, where he was reported to have "cleaned up" more than $100,000 in a few weeks and to have "blowed" it almost as rapidly. He moved to the Omineca and the Cassiar and was in Wrangell in 1875, running a dance hall. From there he went to Sitka, prospecting in the summers and running a saloon in town during the winters. In the summer of 1880 Willoughby was prospecting in Glacier Bay, where an island is named for him, at the time Juneau and Harris made their strike in Silver Bow Basin. He reached the new camp in December, 1880. He mined around Gold Creek, engaged briefly in the hotel business and spent most of his time in the later years around Funter Bay. In Juneau he owned a cabin near the present corner of Main and Willoughby Avenue. Known as a practical joker and a free-wheeling story teller, and entertainer, Willoughby was also said to have been a pretty fair fiddle player and to have been much in demand at miners' dances.

DeArmond (1957)

U.S. Geological Survey geologist A.F. Buddington (1926:46) described the Funter Bay deposits as mostly gold-quartz veins accompanying the Mertie Lode – a mineralized sulphide at about the 2000' elevation and 6000' from the mill. By 1929 gold-quartz veins had been mined from four claims: the Tellurium, Uncle Sam, King Bee, and the Heckler Blanket, and three concentrate shipments were sent to the smelter at Tacoma in 1926 and 1927 (Eakin 1929:6-7). W.S. Pekovich left the Board of Officers to serve as General Manager during those years, according to Andrew Pekovich.

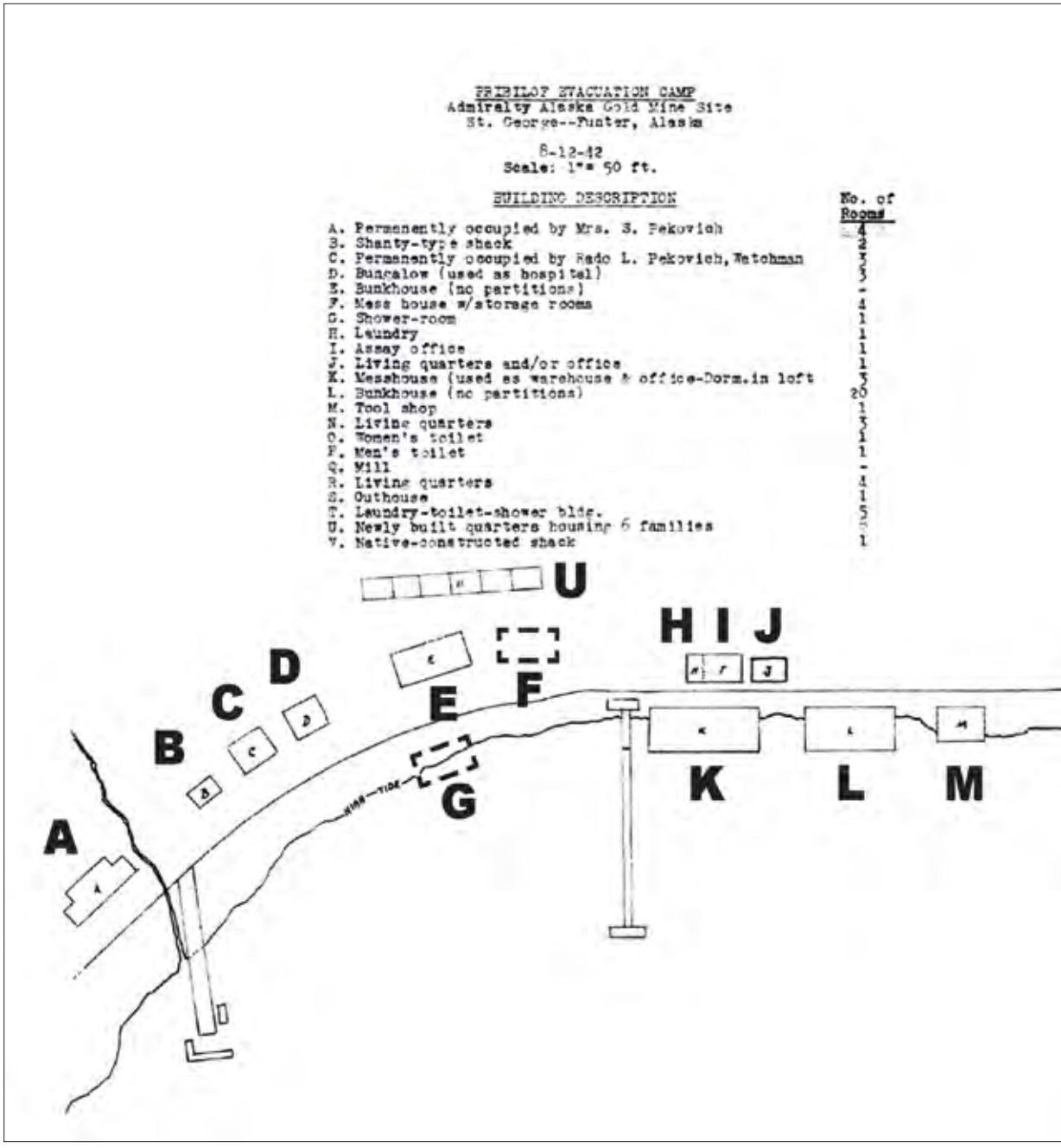
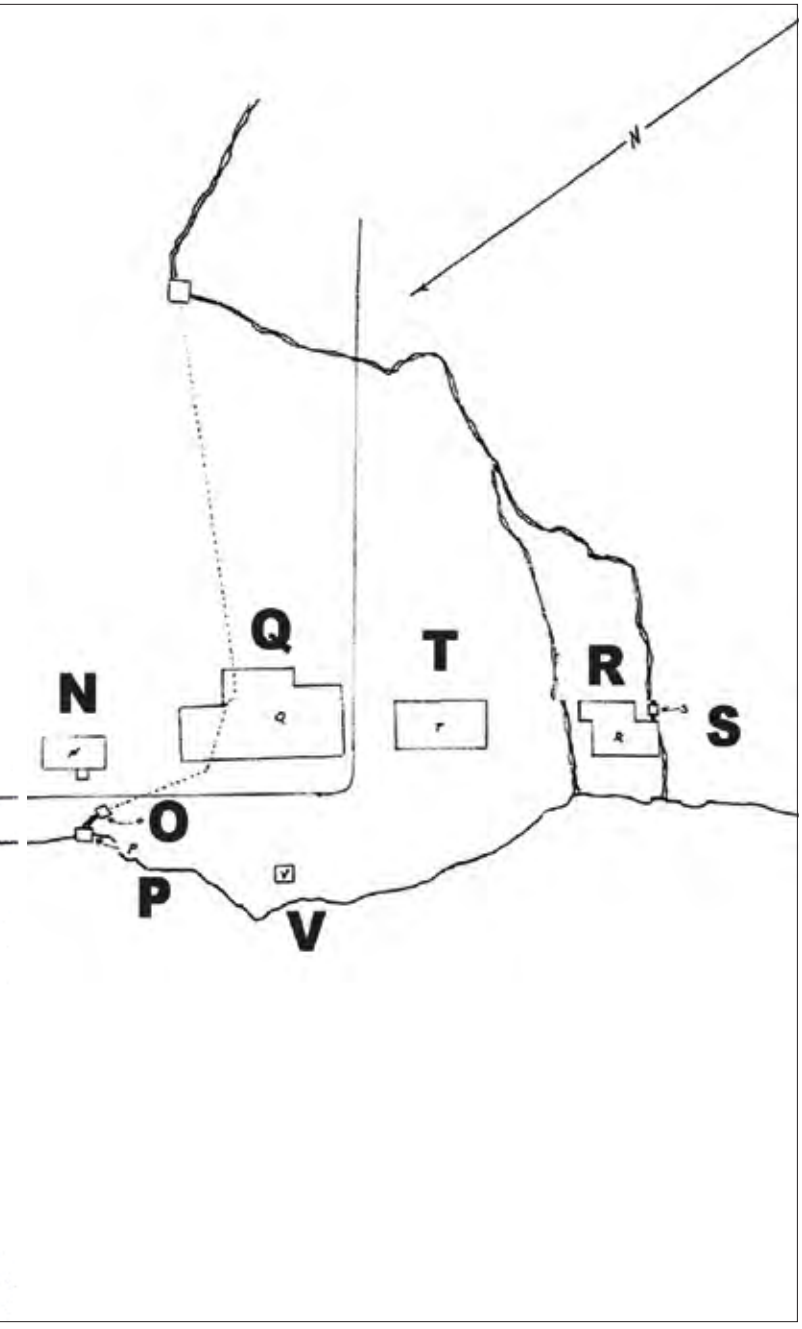


Figure 59.

A map of the Admiralty Alaska Gold Mine's mill and camp buildings made in August of 1942 (with bold letters added) shows a six-room building (U) built for St. George evacuees upslope from the original alignment of buildings. Building F is listed in the legend but was not originally plotted – it burned down soon after St. George villagers arrived. Building G was listed but not plotted – it was soon constructed at the tideline across from Building E. The tram and boardwalk alignment is indicated by a single line that parallels the shore and jogs inland at the corner of the mill (Building Q). The dotted line represents a domestic water pipe.

The 1930s were generally good years for mine operators, at first because of the Depression's cheap labor, then inadvertently in 1934 because President Franklin D. Roosevelt made private ownership of gold illegal, forced citizens to sell to the government at $20.67 per ounce, and subsequently revalued it at $35 per ounce (Salee-by 2000:33-34). But the Admiralty Alaska Gold Mine had little if any production during those years. In 1935 the company applied for a patent to the ten Funter Bay claims, prompting



the USFS District Ranger's report (Chipperfield 1935) and leading to legal ownership of the land. Chipperfield described the buildings and workings, and their condition, and opined that the claims had been idle for the three prior years.

The lack of activity noted by the USFS District Ranger in 1935 reflected the Funter Bay mine's corporate officers' attention being focused instead on mining to the south at Hawk Inlet. In addition to being an officer for the Funter Bay mine, Henry Roden was also President of the Alaska Empire Gold Mining Company according to a December 12, 1932, letter submitted with a Hawk Inlet mine report by Juneau surveyor Frank A. Metcalf. That company was associated with the Hawk Inlet Gold Mining Company (Alaska State Library 2002). W.S. Pekovich was also General Manager for the Alaska Empire operation and lived at Hawk Inlet with his family for much of the time between about 1932 to 1950, reports Andrew Pekovich, leaving his father's cousin Rado Pekovich as caretaker at the Funter Bay mine. Connections between the mining companies were strong, with suggestions in the archival record that claims and equipment were shared or exchanged (Stewart 1933:13; Townsend 1941). Together they controlled 200 claims stretching from Funter Bay to Hawk Inlet (Stewart 1933:13).

Strategic material surveys conducted in support of World War II prompted the U.S. Geological Survey to assemble existing mining reports for government review. Geologists A.F. Buddington's notes and reports of visits to Funter Bay in 1936, 1937, and 1938 were used by geologist John Reed (along with his own visit) to evaluate Funter Bay's potential wartime mineral contribution in 1942. Of interest was the nickel-copper component of the Mertie Lode higher up the slope of Robert Barron Peak, but Reed's (1942) report judged the ore grades insufficient to warrant mining.

All the buildings are located along the shore of the Tellurium and King Bee lodes. They consist of 4 frame dwellings each about 20 by 20 feet. Two of these are new, having been built in 1930. An assay office 12 by 30 feet, an old bunkhouse about 20 by 40 feet, and old mess house about 20 by 40 feet, a new unfinished bunkhouse 24 by 50 feet, unfinished messhall 24 by 40 feet, a new warehouse 14 by 25 feet, a mill 40 by 60 feet are all of frame construction. The mill was equipped with 10 stamps at one time but these have all been removed, and at the time of inspection the mill was not equipped for operation although the major machinery was still there. This consisted of 2 - 100 h.p. McKintosh-Seymore diesel engines, crushers, tables, lathes and drills. A rail tramway and small locomotive were used in connection with the mining....Approximately 3/4 mile of open ditch had been constructed for the purpose of supplying water to the mill....In valuing the improvements, one gains the impression that too much money has been expended for the results obtained....An old wharf with 120 feet face and 300 foot approach extends from the Tellurium lode to deep water.

Chipperfield (1935)

A map made in August of 1942 shows most of the original shoreline buildings described by Chipperfield seven years earlier (Figure 59). All the buildings were of frame construction. Dominating the shoreline was the tall mill building, measuring 40'x60', with its steep, conspicuous roof. A tram track from the upland workings dumped ore from a cart into the top of the mill to begin the processing system. In a typical mill of the period, the ore would fall onto a "grizzly" or grate and be sorted for feeding either directly into a battery of stamps or through a crusher first and then the stamps; from there the finely crushed ore would progress down through the mill across amalgamating plates and on to concentration tables (Sagstetter 1998:56). In 1935 Chipperfield noted that the ten stamps once operating at the mill had been removed. A photograph of a building said to be the assay office incidentally shows a pile of vanner rollers (Figure 60), providing more detail about the ore concentrations and sorting systems. Other major industrial features on the shoreline were a shop and an assay office, plus

one and then later two wharfs (Figures 58-59).

Many of the shore buildings mapped in 1942 were for housing. Two buildings on the north end of the alignment were "permanently occupied" – one by Rado L. Pekovich, who was identified as the watchman, and the other by Mrs. S. Pekovich – the first wife of W.S. Pekovich. A two-story 24'x50' bunkhouse on pilings over the intertidal zone, with space for 20 people, was described as unfinished in 1935 by Chipperfield. An older bunkhouse (Building E), identified as 2-story from photographs (Figures 58, 61), measured 20'x40'. Three buildings are identified as "living quarters," with three or four rooms each (Figure 59). Other dwellings consist of one "bungalow" and a couple "shacks." Two buildings (one 20'x40', the other 24'x40') are listed as "mess house," each with a secondary function – one had storage rooms, the other was used as a warehouse and office with a dormitory in the loft. The 1942 map doesn't plot the mess house with storage (Figure 61) because it burned down within a couple months of the Aleut arrival.

Utilities for the mine were simple. Water was piped to a large laundry/toilet/shower building south of the mill – Building T (Figure 62). The source was either a small impoundment box on a creek to the southeast or via the existing large 3'-diameter penstock laid in a ¾ mile-long ditch to serve the milling process. A WW II period photograph of a kitchen interior shows a wood washing basin served by two independent sets of 1" pipe, indicating a hot-water heater (Figure 63). An outhouse serving the southernmost dwelling (Building R – the home of "Smiley" Jukich, the maternal grandmother of Sam and Andrew Pekovich) was perched over a small creek about 30' from the high tide line. Outhouses serving the remainder of the pre-war mining camp are not identified on the

> *Funter Bay...has two docks, one at a cannery on the north side, where there is a post office, and another, which belongs to the owners of the Mertie Lode, on the southeast side. A number of buildings, including cabins, a bunkhouse, a cook- and mess-house, an assay office, and a mill have been constructed near the dock on the southeast side of the bay. From the mill a narrow-gauge railroad extends southeastward about three-fourths of a mile over bench land, in part swampy, to the foot of the steep slope of Robert Barron Peak at an altitude of about 200 feet. From the southeast end of the railroad a long tunnel, driven in the search for gold deposits, extends southeastward into the mountain, and from a point nearby, two aerial tramways, now in disrepair, diverge from the railroad – one southeastward....The Mertie Lode was discovered in 1919. It was named for J.B. Mertie, Jr., of the Geological Survey, who was one of the discoverers.*
>
> Reed (1942:350-352)

Figure 60.

A one-story frame building north of the mill (Building N on Figure 59) is said by Sam Pekovich to have been the assay office, though the 1942 map identifies it as living quarters and a smaller building further south as the assay office. Note at lower left a stack of rollers for vanners – devices for sorting ore from waste rock.

Alaska State Library Butler/Dale collection PCA306-neg898.187 (Aleuts)

map and may have been attached to one or both wharfs extending into the bay. Two small buildings near the tide line identified as women's toilet and men's toilet (Figure 59) were almost certainly constructed for the mine's new wartime occupants. A wartime photograph shows a third outhouse on land upslope (east) of a shoreline boardwalk (Figure 64).

The Admiralty Alaska Gold Mine had more than one power source, though likely not all were in operation at once. Installed in the mill were two large 100 horsepower Seymour-MacIntosh diesels, accounting for one system. According to Sam Pekovich, another generator was housed in a shed just east across the boardwalk from the bunkhouse (Building L; though the small building isn't plotted, it shows on WW II photographs). Serving the mine adits and aerial tram was a large onsite Pelton wheel. Archival

Figure 61.

St. George men chop wood for the old mess house (Building F) that was destroyed by fire in 1942, thus dating this image to the early weeks of the relocation. At upper left is a bunkhouse (Building E).

University of Alaska Fairbanks
Fredericka Martin collection
91.223.3417

Figure 62.

Building T south of the mill was mapped as a laundry, toilet, and shower facility in 1942, and was later incorporated into the home of Sam Pekovich. Both plank doors visible here remained in place in 2008.

Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association
(copy print, source unknown)

photographs show poles and overhead electrical lines extending north at least to Building B, and – since the northernmost cabin A was identified as "permanently occupied by Mrs. S. Pekovich" – the line probably extended to her home also.

World War II and the Camp Experience

By June of 1942 the Admiralty Alaska Gold Mine had been out of production for at least 15 years, and no longer was there the need for a large crew of workers or the shoreside facilities to serve them. Rado Pekovich was the mine's onsite caretaker and at least one other related individual lived there, while the W.S. Pekovich family lived (until about 1950) at nearby Hawk Inlet. Negotiations between the federal government and represen-

Figure 63.

Large pots and a sloping dish-drainer suggest this may have been the interior of the mine's mess hall, with two 1" water lines indicating a hot water heater nearby.

Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association (copy print, source unknown)

Figure 64.

In contrast to the cannery's known outhouses on pilings over the intertidal zone, the Funter Bay mine had at least one outhouse on land.

Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association (copy print, source unknown)

tatives of the mine are evidenced in the archives only by a July 15, 1942, letter sent from USFWS General Superintendent Edward C. Johnston in Seattle to Alaska Indian Service agent Claude M. Hirst in Juneau, implying that initially the President of the mining company (probably still at that time Henry Roden, a well-connected territorial politician) wanted $250 per month to house Aleut evacuees. Ultimately the mine was leased for one dollar per year, according to Pekovich family members.

St. George villagers had more or less the same evacuation experience as the St. Paul villagers, arriving at Funter Bay on the USAT *Delarof* together and disembarking at the cannery on June 24. The following day the St. George villagers were moved across the bay to the mine. Fewer archival photographs are available for the mine compared to the cannery, and only two wartime images show activity – men chopping wood for the mess house (Figure 61), and a meeting between Rado Pekovich and USFWS officials Lee McMillan, Carl Hoverson, and Roy Hurd (Figure 65).

The mining camp facilities adequate for the Pekovich family's activities were not adequate to comfortably serve the entire village of St. George, and an onsite report prepared by USFWS officials three days before the arrival of the *Delarof* and its human cargo described those inadequacies. Old cords and bare wires created electrical hazards, the assay office and mill contained poisonous chemicals, the

Figure 65.
Mine watchman Rado Pekovich (right) talks with USFWS agents Lee McMillan (center), Carl Hoverson (left of center), and Roy Hurd (far left). At far right is the mess house (Building K). At far left is Building B with Buildings C, D, and E behind and center.

University of Alaska Fairbanks
Fredericka Martin collection
91.223.277

The Delarof transport came in from St. Paul, picked everybody from over there, and anchored right here. And everybody, families, group by group, they go in baidar and they go on the ship. We didn't have time to pack anything. They rushed everybody. Four hours. I was young enough it was fun, you know. Me too, I thought it was fun. Remember? We didn't sleep. We stayed up all night….People didn't have enough suitcases so they had to use sacks and just put them by the warehouse down there. A lot of people didn't find their things because there was everybody from St. Paul, even from Aleutian [Atka] you know. Seven hundred to eight hundred people aboard that one transport. You know what this island manager [Benson] did? We put every three gallons of gas by each houses, even church, even this building [hotel]. They were ready to burn everything. And Coast Guard and Navy came and stopped them. They would have been just gone. They don't want the Japs to use them. But they quit that. It could have been something like Atka. They burned Atka's buildings, you know, including the church. This church was brand new. The Virgin Mary icon came with us, down to southeast Alaska with us, and it came back with us again and put it back. Maybe it gives us good luck.

Andronik Kashavarof, Sr., Terenty Merculief, Sr., and Victor Malavansky, University of Alaska H1998-34

Having received orders from the Navy to prepare for an immediate evacuation of all white and native population, the entire village has been mined with TNT; the cattle were rounded up and stanchioned, then shot; pails of gasoline stationed in each house to facilitate destruction, etc. Everyone was limited to one suitcase only; however at the last minute, several small boats and outboard engines were salvaged.

St. George Agent's Log for June 16, 1942

existing sewage system consisted of only two outhouses on pilings over the beach, and drinking water was not piped to any of the buildings. The mining camp's buildings were generally smaller than those of the cannery, but were in better shape.

Villagers immediately set to work to make the place more habitable, erecting tents, repairing buildings, improving the plumbing, and addressing the most obvious safety issues. Many cords of wood had to be cut – with saw and axe – to heat the drafty buildings. Fishing teams, hunting parties and clamming expeditions were undoubtedly organized to feed the villagers as they were for the St. Paul contingent across the bay. An annotated photograph of the camp (Figure 66) indicates that the village priest, Father Feodosiy, lived three winters in Building B (Figures 59, 65). A room at the end of the mess house (Building K) was converted into a small chapel using the icons and vestments brought from the church at St. George (Figures 67-68).

The cannery continued to be the social center, having the post office, the store, and the floats and wharf for delivery of

Figure 66.

A photograph of the Funter Bay mining camp annotated in Cyrillic translates as: 1) Chicken coop (possibly misspelled) – an apartment of Archimandrite Feodosiy in which he lived three winters of 1942, 1943, and 1944. 2) Hospital. 3) and 5) Barracks in which the inhabitants of St. George Island (Alaska) resided. 4) Kitchen, canteen, food storage/ warehouse and a temporary church in the corner. 6) Gold mine mill.

Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association
Fr. Michael Lestenkof collection

freight and passenger service to Juneau and elsewhere. Of the two Pribilof villages St. George typically received less federal attention and resources compared to St. Paul because the latter had much larger seal rookeries and a harbor – and therefore a larger Native population maintained by USFWS. So it was not surprising that the St. Paul camp, with three times the population as St. George, was the hub of activity. Small resident boats and skiffs plied Funter Bay regularly but the Aleut villagers arrived with only two baidars and those belonged to USFWS, so local transportation was likely limited at first. Father Michael Lestenkof had evacuated his outboard motor from St. Paul, and Father Feodosiy procured a skiff, according to St. George elders Terenty

> *The gold mine dwellings were in somewhat better shape than those across the bay at the cannery. Two cottages had cots, heaters, and cooking ranges, but no plumbing. An old two-story bunkhouse was in fairly good condition except that its inside was unfinished and the sleeping cots were damaged. The old mess hall contained usable equipment, as did a newer mess hall, which nonetheless lacked a range and heating unit. Unlike the cannery, the gold mine had a bath house, a small unit containing one shower. This facility had a hot water system that could be repaired and expanded. A bunkhouse had been started but was only a shell with roof and flooring….There was a private residence, a good four-room house.*
>
> Kohlhoff (1995:90) summarizing the USFWS Geeslin to Hirst report of June 23, 1942

Figure 67.

The one-story mess house (Building K) had a room set aside as a chapel, here seen through the doorway with a Russian Orthodox cross and the date "1944" painted above.

Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association
(copy print, source unknown)

Figure 68.

St. George villagers brought with them the icons and vestments from their Russian Orthodox Church and reconstructed the village altar.

Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association
Fr. Michael Lestenkof collection

Merculief, Sr., Andronik Kashevarof, Sr., and Victor Malavansky, who alluded in a 1998 interview to a youthful wartime event in which some or all of the three "borrowed" the priest's boat and almost swamped it in the bay.

Health and sanitation were chronic problems at both Funter Bay camps during the internment, and several government officials from various agencies wrote frank reports describing the dismal circumstances of the displaced Aleuts. One of the more sensational accounts was that of Alaska Attorney General Henry Roden as delivered in an often-cited letter to Governor Ernest Gruening after Roden "had occasion to visit Funter Bay in mid-September 1943" (Kirtland and Coffin 1981:43). Overlooked is the fact that Roden had been a longtime officer (President and Treasurer) in the Admiralty Alaska Gold Mining Company (Alaska State Library

2002), and he may have been the person who had attempted negotiating the $250 lease for the property. Roden had a long political career that included seats in the 1st Territorial Senate (1913-1914), the 13th (1937-1938) and 15th (1941-42), as well as service as Attorney General in 1928-1929 for Governor James Wickersham and later in 1943. As both a well-connected territorial official and a longtime Funter Bay mine investor he may have had an influential role in the decision to house Aleuts at Funter Bay.

Wartime Construction

Tents were used to house the overflow of villagers at the Funter Bay mine until more buildings could be erected. One of the first construction tasks was to complete the unfinished bunkhouse. In early August the USFWS vessel *Penguin* delivered materials with which to build a long narrow one-story bunkhouse (Kohlhoff 1995:94), labeled as Building U on the 1942 map (Figures 59, 69). It was constructed on a raised bench overlooking the camp and was reached by a flight of stairs from the boardwalk (Figure 72). Materials were also delivered

One Elder recalls that Mr. Rado Pekovich...insisted that the [gift of his venison] meat be given to the internees over the objections of the federal overseers and that he emphasized his determination to back down the federal officials by the judicious brandishing of his shotgun.

M. Richard Zacharof, in a November 12, 2001, letter to Andrew Pekovich, Juneau.

Henry Roden was shown as being one of the incorporators, one of the directors, and the president in the [Admiralty Alaska Gold Mine] Articles of Incorporation dated December 20 or 29, 1919, and a director and one of three signers of Amended Articles of Incorporation dated April 6, 1931. He was also one of three signers of the Certificate of Amendment dated March 27, 1952, and shown as president on a prospective dated October 19, 1954. Whether he held the president's position at the time [when the government lease of the Funter Bay mine was negotiated] I have no way of knowing. My father was general manager.

Andrew Pekovich

At noon every day Henry Roden, Charley Wagner, collector, Fox, attorney and Beers meet in my office & we smoke cigars and talk for an hour.

Judge James Wickersham in his diary entry of September 19-20, 1935

I have no language at my command which can adequately describe what I saw; if I had I am confident you would not believe my statements....in short, the situation is shocking. I have seen some tough places in my days in Alaska, but nothing to equal the situation at Funter.

Alaska Attorney General (and long-time President of the Admiralty Alaska Gold Mining Company) Henry Roden, describing the Funter Bay mine and its Aleut occupants in a September 20, 1943, letter to Governor Ernest Gruening.

Figure 69.

A one-story six-room bunkhouse (Building U) was built in the forest upslope from one of the existing bunkhouses, using materials delivered by the USFWS vessel Penguin in early August of 1942.

National Archives Still Picture Branch

Figure 70.

The Penguin's 1942 shipment included materials to build a wash house (Building G) with showers, toilets, and a wood-fired hot water heater.

National Archives Still Picture Branch

Figure 71.

A house (Building R) above the tide line at the far south end of the mining camp was the home after the war of Pekovich family matriarch "Smiley" Jukich. It was moved to make room for a prefabricated metal utility building erected in about 2005.

Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association

for a wash house (Building G) built on pilings at the high tide mark across from Bunkhouse E (Figure 70). The building had four doors facing east towards the boardwalk. Based on his post-war familiarity with the building, Sam Pekovich described the south room as containing a wash room and a one-hole privy against the wall over the beach. The next room north contained three toilets. The room after that contained three showers. The north room contained a woodstove and boiler, a 300-gallon wood water tank, and a 4-kw generator that likely postdated the war period. In 1944 ten surplus Army Quonset huts were brought to Funter Bay, of which two were erected at the mining camp on the water side of the boardwalk across from the assay office or Building N (Zacharof 2002).

[Conditions were] terrible. Not really good. We stayed in one big building. The smells! Small rooms, about ten by ten. Just with the blankets. No privacy. Some of the elder guys like my dad, uncles, they go to Juneau. They work for Army defense. Like my dad – he was a carpenter, building everything down there in Juneau. Big warehouse, stuff like that. A lot of people from St. Paul and St. George started going to Juneau to get better house for the family, because we were losing quite a bit, of the sickness. People. We lost quite a bit. You know what really happened? There was German prisoners only forty miles from where we are. They were fed more better than us, we find out. Government! And we just mostly eat soup, every day. Boiled bacon for supper or whatever. But I thought it was fun, though. We eat clams. But we didn't know how good they were, you just had to take what's coming. Some of those clams were not too hot, I know that. We used to fish down there. We used to catch salmons – cohoes. Remember that? We used to use that Father Feodosiy's boat and go out fishing. We take them to the St. Paul side, and take them back to St. George side....Every time somebody gets sick you just have to cross that lake [Funter Bay] to get them to see a doctor. Even people with pneumonia. Doctor can't come over, have to take the patient over.

Andronik Kashavarof, Sr., Terenty Merculief, Sr., and Victor Malavansky, University of Alaska H1998-34

Some original mining camp buildings were destroyed during the internment. Within a few short months a power house and the old mess house (Building F) burned to the ground, according to Sam Pekovich.

Post-War Development

After the villagers went back to St. George, the Pekovich family continued their involvement in the Funter Bay mine property through their stock holdings in the Admiralty Alaska Gold Mining Company (which owns 130 acres), their status as officers and caretakers for the company, and their eventual ownership of about 35 adjacent acres. The Territorial Commissioner of Mines continued to list the mine as active into

Figure 72.

In 1970 the Admiralty Alaska Gold Mine's shore features were mapped as part of Alaska Tidelands Survey 712 (from which this illustration was prepared). Labels are those of the 1970 survey; letters correspond to those of the 1942 map (Figure 59).

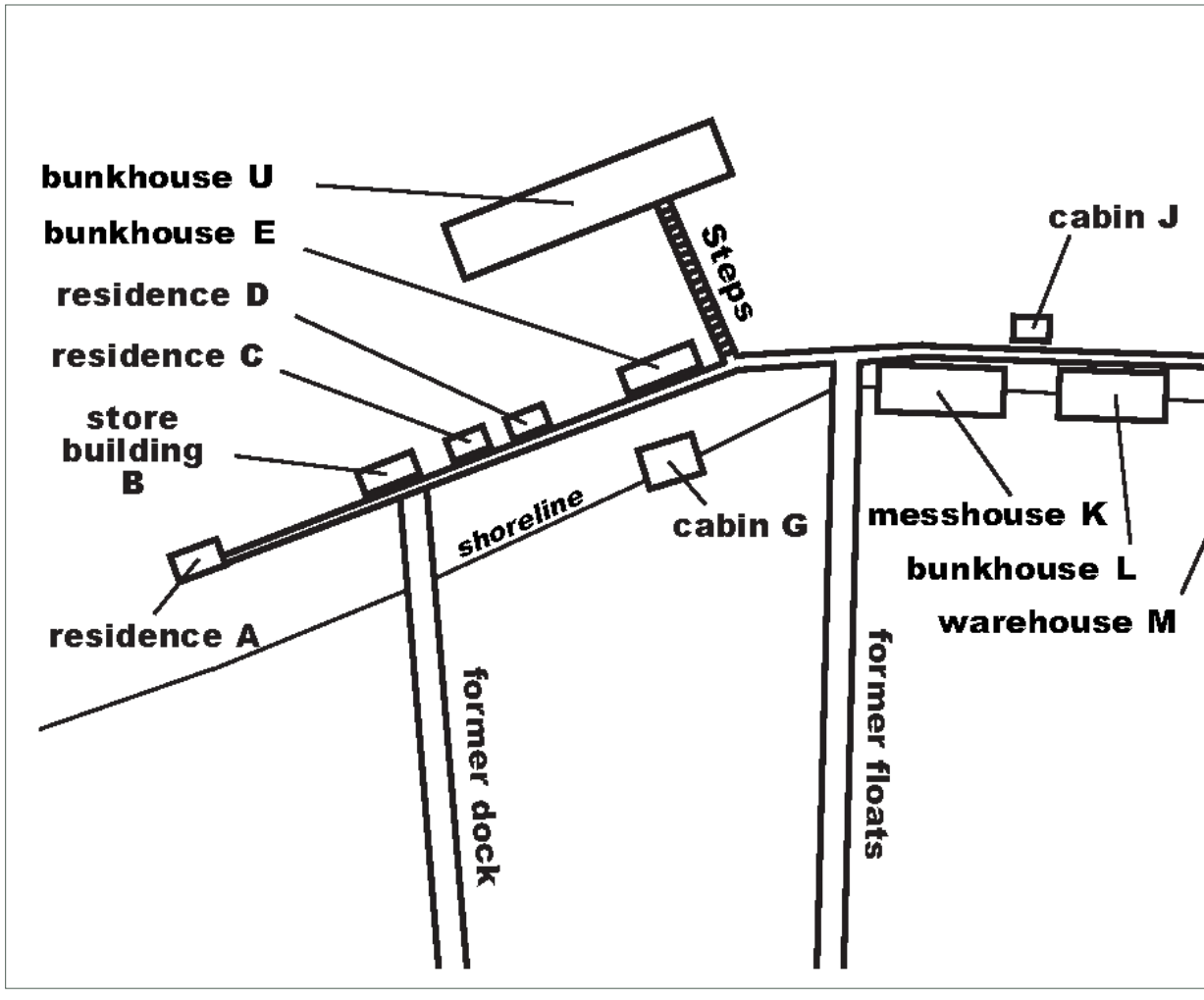


Figure 73.

A prefabricated metal utility shed stands near shore at the far south end of the mine camp.

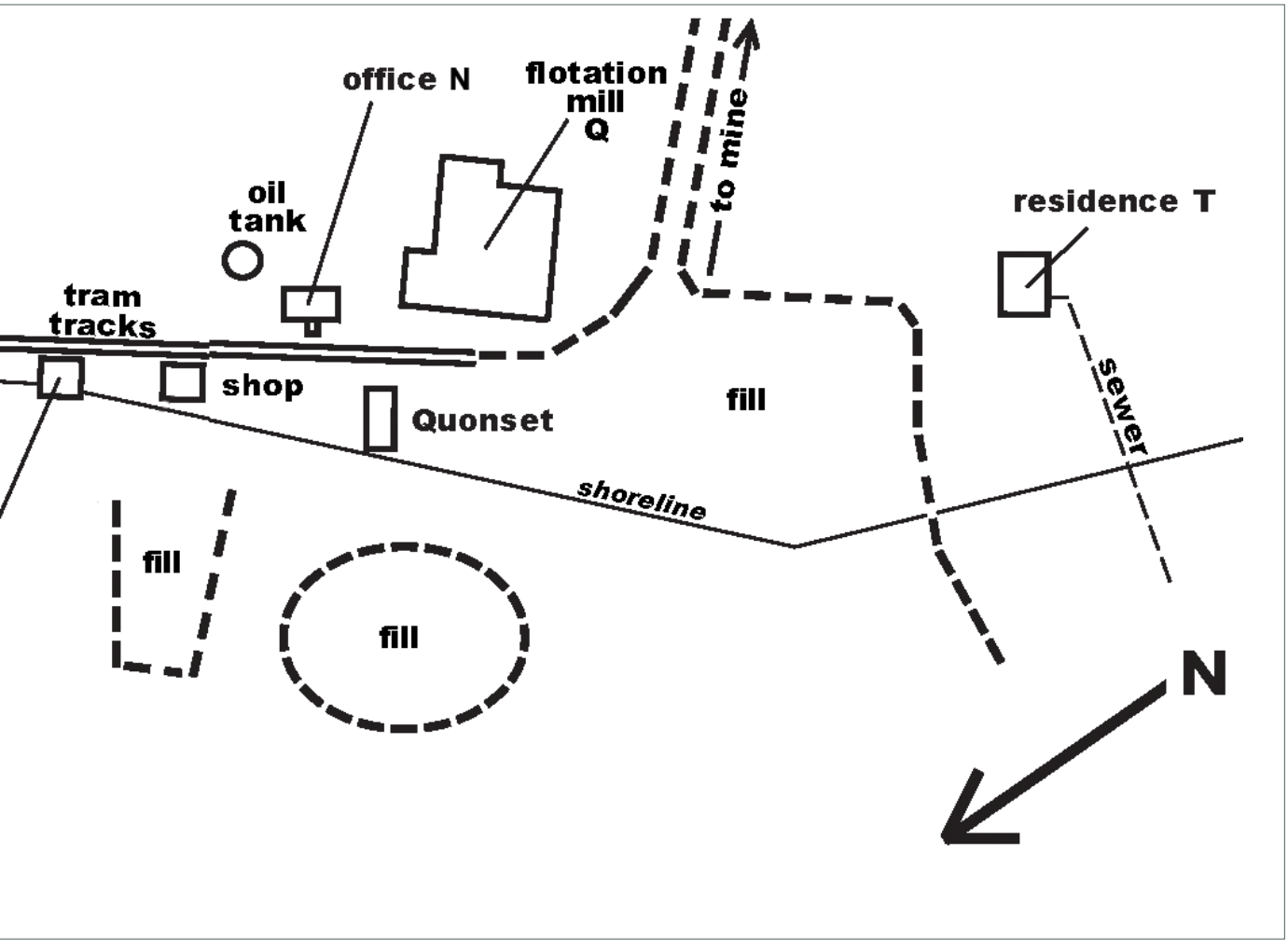


Figure 74.

A small gable-roofed utility shed of corrugated metal is located along the shore near a Quonset hut.

Our father thought he was doing the patriotic thing by providing the property with no lease fee required. We were brought up, during the summer, in those same buildings that the Pribilof folks lived in. When they complained about the conditions, they were actually criticizing where we lived. I understand the cannery was terrible – way worse than the mine. The water was bad there.

Andrew Pekovich, May 8, 2008

They dumped us all in a broken down cannery. There were only two bunkhouses there. One was a Filipino bunkhouse, the other was Chinese. Everybody slept on the floor that night from both islands….The Chinese bunkhouse had a kitchen and a big stove where they did the cooking for everybody. We lived mostly on beans and eggs when we first got there….The bunkhouse where I was staying was completely bare. So later on people who were living there put the Army blankets for a little privacy. We had no kind of heat where we were living so everybody had to wear their warm clothes day and night just to keep warm. It was in that cold, heatless place that I gave birth to my son Harry…. Most of the men from both St. Paul and St. George were sent to the islands the next summer to harvest seals. They didn't get back until November. Thirty-seven people died during that time and my dad was one of them.

Martha Krukoff, St. Paul, 1981 testimony

the 1950s, when 30 people were said to have been employed doing maintenance (Holdsworth 1955:75). As late as 1958 "the main camp buildings and general facilities are adequate to take care of a large crew," and except for "a small jeep..., a power wagon, Willys-pickup, or other front-wheel-drive truck, pipes, rails, ties, vent pipes, fan... for driving a 1,200 foot tunnel, [and] a small jumbo [drill],... the equipment and tools on the property are nearly adequate to proceed with the suggested exploration program" (Guard 1958:3-4).

The mine's shoreline was mapped as part of Alaska Tidelands Survey 712 in 1970, at which time most of the original buildings were still standing (Figure 72). Little work was done on the claims in subsequent decades, but the continuing stream of lead, zinc, silver, and gold from Hecla Mining Company's Greens Creek mine only 20 miles away has sustained the hope that the Funter Bay deposits will someday be brought into production. For two summers in the mid-1980s crews mapping the geology of the Mansfield Peninsula for Noranda Exploration leased the two-story bunkhouse, according to Sam Pekovich.

The camp has seen some changes in its building inventory in recent decades. Building T at the south end of the camp was remodeled and enlarged by Sam Pekovich as a second residence to his home in Juneau. The dwelling (Building R) at the far south end of the complex (Figure 71) was removed and a modern prefabri-

cated utility building (Figure 73) was installed nearby in about 2005. At least one other original mine building was demolished for the material by local residents.

Current Condition

Compared to the five other WW II Aleut relocation camps, where most buildings have been razed or removed, most of the Funter Bay mine buildings have decayed in place. Thus its remains are the most evocative of the six sites. Inland are the mine workings and equipment, while the shoreline holds the mine camp that had been occupied by St. George villagers. The buildings described here as "standing" are those with effective roofs making them usable; those described as ruins may have one or more standing walls but are nonetheless well on their way to becoming archaeological features. Other features are grouped for discussion according to whether they are along the shoreline (part of the mining camp) or inland (part of the mine workings). Alaska Tidelands Survey 712, made in 1970, plots the buildings evident at that time and forms a good base map for describing the 2008 circumstances (Figure 72).

STANDING BUILDINGS

Standing buildings at the Admiralty Alaska Gold Mine include a modern prefabricated metal utility shed, historic Building T that has been remodeled into a home, the two-story bunkhouse (Building L), a small shop (Building M), and three small sheds. The prefabricated building has an arched roof and walls made of windowless metal panels with ribbed joints, with a vehicle entrance at one end (Figure 73). The building was erected 20'-30' from shore at the south end of the site in about 2005. Other storage sheds consist of two small gable-roofed buildings clad in T-111 serving Building T, and an older (but not wartime) gable-roofed shed immediately southwest of the Quonset hut. The latter building is sided and roofed with corrugated metal sheeting, and is windowless (Figure 74).

The only other new construction at the site since the Aleut experience is a frame addition to Building T, the Funter Bay residence of Sam Pekovich, who caretakes the site on behalf of the Admiralty Alaska Gold Mining Company. The composite building is an attractive one-story dwelling with the addition's north gable end attached to Building T's south gable end (Figure 75). Both

> *Phil Emerson and I got permission from Sam [Pekovich] to salvage [a mine building] because the roof was gone. But the floor and siding was still good. It had beautiful 1"x12" – full 1"x12" – vertical-grain fir planks inside.*
>
> Joe Giefer

Figure 75.
The modern home of mine caretaker Sam Pekovich is composed of a modern addition (right) attached to original Building T (left). View is south.

Figure 76.
In 2008, Building T still retained two original plank exterior doors, including this one (compare with Figure 62).

components have a metal roof. The addition is clad with T-111, while the original building is unclad and has nail-stains on the weathered horizontal boards that show the stud patterns. The older building has an enclosed entry facing the water and another facing inland, each with a simple plank exterior door. Both front and back doors are original wartime fixtures (compare Figures 62 and 76). Whereas the building once had only six-pane fixed windows (Figure 62), now all but two in the front entry have been replaced with single-pane windows (Figures 75-76).

Standing side-by-side as a conspicuous part of Funter Bay's built environment are the mine's original two-story bunkhouse and warehouse/shop (Figure 77). The bunkhouse (Building L) is a simple wood frame gable-roofed building on pilings over the upper intertidal zone. Five equidistantly spaced windows penetrate the east and west eave elevations on both floors to create two long identical parallel walls. Each gable end has symetrically spaced windows upstairs and downstairs, with a door centered on each floor of the south elevation (Figure 78). The north elevation has no doors. The interior was not inspected, but the building style is typical of simple two-story bunkhouses built by canneries and mines in southeast Alaska, with its long axis parallel to shore (Mobley 1993:34-41, 1999:16-25; 2009:42). The building's materials consist of drop siding, red-painted corrugated metal roofing, and 1/1 sashed windows replacing original 6/6 sashed units. Most of the north- and east-facing windows are boarded over. The south gable end has exterior stairs to the second floor and a stovepipe from the first floor up to the roofline (Figure 78). In 2008 the building was inhabited, and has been sporadically for the last couple decades, according to Sam Pekovich.

Immediately south of the two-story bunkhouse (Figure 77) is original Building M. The building is of the same materials as the bunkhouse, with dilapidated drop siding, red-painted corrugated roofing, and a single six-paned window penetrating the south gable wall (Figure 79). It still functions as a warehouse/shop as it did 70 years ago (Figure 80).

BUILDING RUINS

Classed as ruins are buildings ranging from those with deteriorated roofs, walls, and/or foundations making them too dilapidated to be of use, to buildings consisting of little more than rotten boards protruding from the forest floor.

The most prominent ruin in 2008 was the mill (Building Q), a large wood frame building with several floor levels and roof angles (Figure 81). Though its walls and roof appeared relatively intact during the field investigation, the building's interior was a dangerous jumble of collapsed beams and equipment that precluded anything more than a glimpse from inside one door. According to Sam Pekovich, snow collapsed the building during the winter of 2008-2009. Construction materials consisted of 12"x12" posts and beams, 2"x12" planks, and smaller lumber. The majority of the building's window frames were in place and more than half the glazing was intact, with most windows – including a massive bank on the south elevation – being fixed 16-pane examples (Figures 81-82). Some of the building's siding was of

Figure 77.

Conspicuous reference points in Funter Bay are the mine's original two-story bunkhouse (Building L) and warehouse or shop (Building M) – both on pilings over the intertidal zone.

Figure 78.

The bunkhouse (Building L) was home to one full-time resident in 2008.

vertical planks, and some were horizontal (Figure 82).

The 100-hp diesel engines mentioned by Chipperfield (1935) were still in place in 2008, on the bottom floor midway along the south wall. A large Westinghouse switchboard with copper breakers remained in the building (Figure 83). A large metal lathe

Figure 79.
Still in place in 2008 was a small frame building (Building M) identified as a warehouse in 1942 and a shop in 1970.

Figure 80.
Building M has probably served much the same function for at least 70 years.

and drill press were positioned in the southwest corner of the building. Visible from the building's southwest corner door was an ore hopper on the second level. An ore elevator visible through a window had its manufacturer stenciled on the side: "J. Jacob Shannon & Co., Pasadena, N.J." (internet references indicate the firm was a prominent farm and mine

equipment manufacturer based in Philadelphia in the early 1900s).

Two small cabins shifting into the ruin category are similar in design. Each is a single-story frame building with gable walls perpendicular to the shore and a shed-roofed entry facing south (Figures 84-85). One of the two (Building A) has a second shed-roofed room on its north end (Figure 84). Each of the cabins has vertical plank siding, corrugated metal roofing, and windows with four and six panes. The

Figure 81.
In 2008 the mill (Building Q) was a large frame building full of original equipment, but collapsed timbers and flooring made it too dangerous to enter beyond a couple steps inside one door. Snow the following winter collapsed the building.

BOTTOM LEFT
Figure 82.
The mill's windows were relatively intact and still held most of their glass panels.

BOTTOM RIGHT
Figure 83.
The mill contained a Westinghouse electrical switchboard with copper breakers.

second of the two cabins (Building J) still shows remnants of red paint (Figure 85). Building A's interior (Figure 86) is similar to that of Building J, with tattered beaverboard walls and ceilings. Its domestic function is evidenced by a derelict wood stove, a built-in ironing board, a wire-chain-spring bed frame, and a kitchen with counter space and pantry shelves.

Plotted as Building N in 1942 is a one-story building variously used as a residence and an office. The building is of

Figure 84.
Building A is an unused one-story gable-roofed cabin with shed-roofed rooms at each gable end.

Figure 85.
Becky Saleeby examines Building J – an unused cabin similar to Building A that still retained traces of red paint in 2008.

frame construction with drop siding and a corrugated metal roof (Figure 87). The roofing metal – which appears to be only a few decades old – is too short, and rotten wood shingles protrude from under it at the eaves. A roof extension protects a small entry centered on the wall facing the waterfront. The entry has a five-panel wood door and a four-pane window; other windows are 1/1 sashed examples.

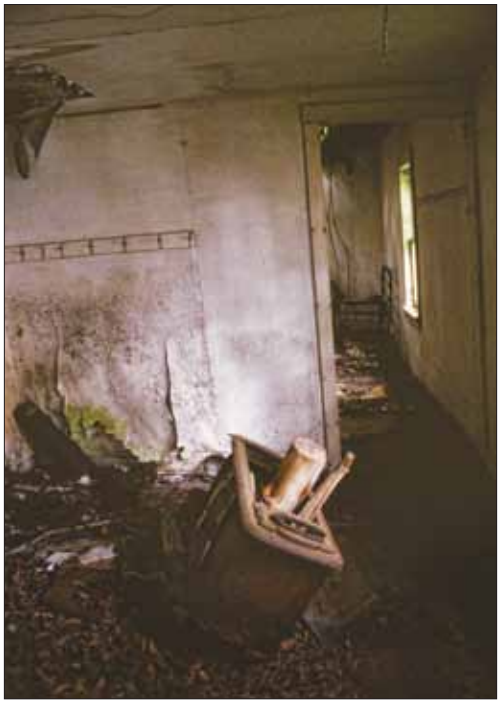


Figure 86.
Dilapidated beaverboard covers the walls and ceiling of Building A.

During the Aleut experience the main approach to the mine was by way of the north dock (Figure 58), which disembarked passengers to the tramway/boardwalk running the length of the camp and deposited them before three buildings in a row. Remains of the three – Buildings B, C, and D – were easily distinguishable in 2008. Building B is a shed-roofed building with vertical plank siding and a decided list away from the water due to foundation failure (Figure 88). The porch upon which federal officials were photographed in 1942 (Figure 65) is no

Figure 87.
Building N is an unused one-story building ruin once serving as a residence and an office.

longer evident. During the internment Father Feodosiy lived in the building (Figure 66). The 1970 map (Figure 72) labels it "store building," meaning either a warehouse or a commercial retail establishment – both are logical functions given its position at the foot of the dock. The building floor holds a jumble of documents that predate World War II (Figure 89). Ore reports and similar mining documents are mixed with other scraps of

Figure 88.
Building B at left lists inland due to a failing foundation. At right are the pair of hip-roofed cabins – Buildings C and D.

Figure 89.
The interior of Building B is littered with documents predating World War II.

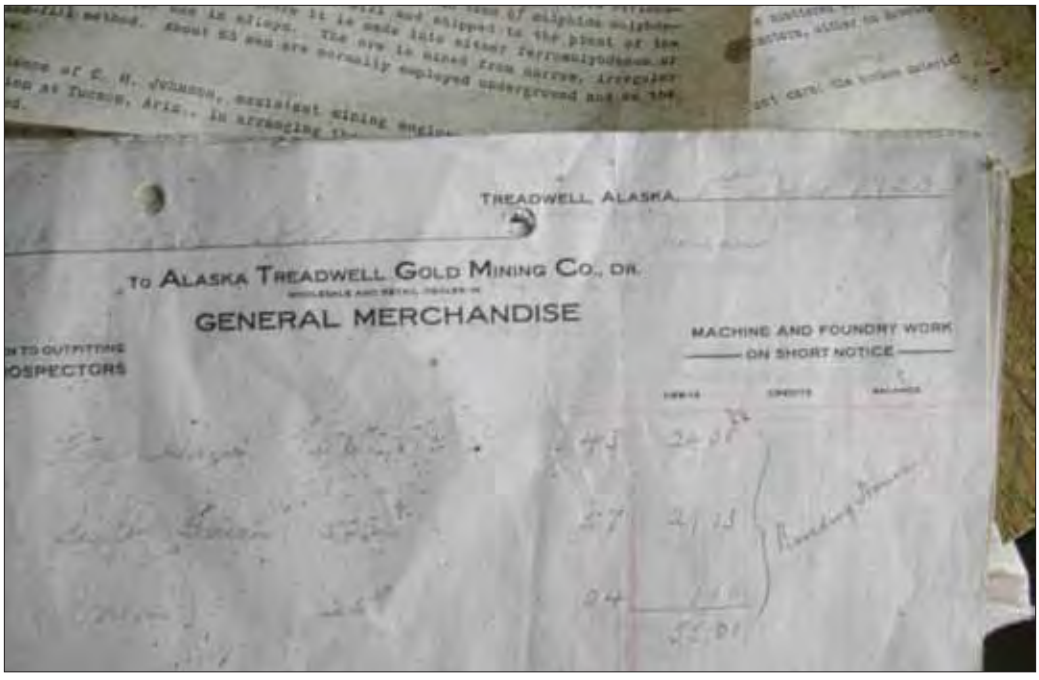


Figure 90.
Found in Building B was a receipt dated December 1, 1920, from the company store at the Treadwell Mine in Juneau, for 56 lbs of ham, 52 lbs of bacon, and 25 lbs of onions.

Figure 91.
Also noted in Building B was part of a 1938 calendar.

paper. A receipt dated December 1, 1920, from the company store at the Treadwell Mine in Juneau, lists the purchase of 56 lbs of ham, 52 lbs of bacon, and 25 lbs of onions (Figure 90). A calendar displaying the months of July, August, and September was dated 1938 (Figure 91).

Immediately south of Building B are the remains of Buildings C and D – a pair of pyramidal hip-roofed residences that stand out from the mining camp's other gable-roofed buildings (Figure 58). Both have failing foundations, roofs, and walls, and both are being reclaimed by forest vegetation (Figure 92). The 1942 map (Figure 59) says Building D was "used as hospital," but nothing inside would suggest that function.

The wash house built in late 1942 for St. George villagers (Figure 70) is slumping into the intertidal zone north of the two-story bunkhouse. The one-story frame building's foundation is

giving way, and the north end is little more than a jumble of boards, but the south end is more intact (Figure 93). The building still displays evidence of its six-pane windows, drop siding, and five-panel wood doors, and inside a few shelves and other furnishings can be seen (Figure 94).

Another ruin of a building constructed during the war is on a bench upslope, or east, of the boardwalk alignment. Building U is listed on the 1942 map

Figure 92.
The remains of Buildings C and D, here looking north, are overgrown with vegetation.

Figure 93.
The foundation of the 1942 wash house (Building G) is failing and the north third is mostly destroyed, but the south two-thirds (shown here) are relatively intact. Compare with Figure 70.

(Figure 59) as a new six-family dwelling with six contiguous rooms. In 2008 it consisted of a wide rectangular swathe of planks embedded in the forest floor (Figure 95). Here and there a window or door frame can be seen, and obviously the roof collapsed in place, but few structural details can be discerned. Furniture fragments or artifacts were lacking. The 1942 archival photograph (Figure 69) relays more immediate information about the building's appearance than does its archaeological context.

Figure 94.
The wash house still holds remnants of its interior furnishings.

One Quonset hut is located along the waterfront side of the shoreline tramway/boardwalk, between Building M (Figure 74) and a post-war corrugated utility shed. The exterior wooden partitions at each end are badly deteriorated, and the building leans to the north (Figure 96).

Figure 95.
The ruin of Building U is a rectangular jumble of planks on a bench 40' above the waterfront buildings. Compare with the same perspective in Figure 69.

It was used mostly for firewood storage in 2008.

SHORELINE FEATURES

A pedestrian at the mining camp in 2008 could not help but notice the long path, some of which is graveled for vehicle traffic, along the waterfront between the buildings and ruins (Figure 97). The path is the current reflection of the wartime boardwalk and tram track (Figures 59, 65, 72). Rails for the tramway have been removed from the camp, but eventually they reappear on the inland section leading to an aerial tram station.

Another feature evident in 2008 is a large steel oil tank located upslope from the boardwalk (Figure 72). The tank is about 18' in diameter and 12' high, with a prominently beveled upper rim. According to Sam Pekovich, the tank postdates World War II and is unused. A second tank is stored in pieces nearby.

Parts of two historic water systems were observed in 2008. One feature consists of a simple 2" steel pipe conducting water to a tap in the north part of the camp from a small spring upslope. The second system is evidenced by a small rectangular plank and sheet metal box or dam buried in a creekbed upslope from the mill, that once diverted water into a pipe and on to the camp. Though not labeled, the feature is drawn on the 1942 map as serving two gender-specific toilets at the high tide mark (Figure 59). Sam Pekovich described a 3' diameter pipe that once extended from the dam to the mill.

Suggested by only a few rotten boards in 2008 was the stairway leading up the mountainside from the boardwalk to

Figure 96.
One Quonset hut is located between the boardwalk and the shore of Funter Bay.

the six-room bunkhouse (Figure 72). Since the bunkhouse (Building U) was built for Aleut use in 1942, the stairway was likely built then, too. The uppermost portion of it shows in an archival photograph (Figure 69).

Artifact scatters around the mining camp reflect the accumulation, storage, and discard patterns of the mine owners, and several collections of building material and machinery were noted in passing. One machine

Figure 97.
The tramway and boardwalk alignment connecting the shore buildings is now a narrow gravel track, visible here behind Joe Giefer and Becky Saleeby. Behind them is the shop (Building M) and two-story bunkhouse (Building L). At right is Building N.

Figure 98.
The tramway's steel rails lead inland from the mill building to an overhead tramway station, consisting of hoisting equipment and a still-taut steel cable leading to workings high on the side of Robert Barron Peak. Note ties and rail at lower right.

displaying a bank of three pistons, with the word FLECK cast into the metal, is embedded in the forest floor near the old office (Building N). The Fleck Brothers Company of Philadelphia manufactured steel industrial machines and supplies in the early years of the twentieth century (Williams Company 1911). Elsewhere a metal object – perhaps a cowling for a Pelton wheel – was observed with the manufacturer's name cast into it: B.D. STURDEVANT, BOSTON. Internet and other sources (Williams Company 1911) indicate the company was in business at least between 1884 and 1915.

The 2008 reconnaissance did not inspect the intertidal zone for features. Areas identified offshore as fill on the 1970 map (Figure 72), no doubt consisting of mine tailings, now appear to be part of the natural beach. Sam Pekovich and his brother Andrew maintain private floats offshore to moor watercraft and aircraft, roughly corresponding to the old dock location, but historic piling patterns in the intertidal zone were not noted.

INLAND MINING FEATURES

The 2008 field investigation included brief inspection with Sam Pekovich of mining equipment inland from the mining camp. The tramway was followed upslope, past the mill, to the place where the steel rails meet an overhead tram system (Figure 98). The overhead tram station consists of a tripod of steel pipe supporting a steel cable – still taut – along with the winching equipment. Built to serve

Figure 99.
A steam engine lies in place near the lower mine workings.

workings far up the slope of Robert Barron Peak, the system has long been inoperable.

While the overhead tram appears to have been powered by a gasoline or diesel engine, evidence of two other power systems was observed inland near the lower workings. One is a steam engine (Figure 99). The other is a large Pelton wheel, fed by 700' of 3' diameter pipe narrowing to a 1" nozzle (Figure 100). According to Sam Pekovich, "it took three mules and five Serbs to roll the flywheel up here from the beach."

Figure 100.
The forest is reclaiming a large Pelton wheel that once provided electricity for the mining camp and the lower workings.

Figure 101.
Buildings around the two adits (upper right) of the lower workings have collapsed, leaving mounds of rusty mining equipment. At center is an electric locomotive.

> *We were supportive of the Aleuts revisiting the cemetery, but the more attention that gets brought to this site the harder it is for us. We have no-trespassing signs. The float is on our property. Sam's [Pekovich] house is part of the area where the Aleuts were interned. My house is a distance away. People look at it as an abandoned mine, but it's not abandoned, it's just dormant. There's not much left of the original buildings.*
>
> Andrew Pekovich

The lower workings consist of numerous mining features centered around two adits (Figure 101). Each adit entrance contains steel rail from the tram system, and one has an ore cart blocking the way. Both are obviously too dangerous to enter and are signed to that effect. Waste rock from the adits forms an artificial bench upon which the remains of buildings can be discerned, but in 2008 they consisted of little more than rotten plank piles over metal equipment and debris. That equipment includes an electric locomotive (Figure 101), a mucker, and drills and bits. Off the waste rock at a slightly lower elevation are other building ruins, one of which contains an air compressor. Vehicles noted in the vicinity included a tractor and a two-ton Chevrolet dump truck with dual wheels.

Summary

The Admiralty Alaska Gold Mine at Funter Bay is still owned by the Pekovich family and their fellow stockholders, as it was before and during the Aleut experience there. One building has been maintained and expanded upon as the residence of Sam Pekovich, and several utility buildings have been erected in recent decades. Wartime buildings still in good enough shape to use consist of the two-story bunkhouse and an adjacent shop. Otherwise the mine's original cabins and other buildings are quickly leaving the architectural realm to become part of the archaeological record. The mill collapsed some months after the 2008 field investigation.

Most of the wartime buildings could be identified, even though deteriorated. Referring back to the 1942 map (Figure 59), Buildings A, B, C, and D were distinguishable. Building E is completely gone, and Building F burned in 1942. Building G – built soon after the villagers arrived – is in poor condition. Building H/I is gone and in its place is a stack of wood and metal material. Nearby Building J is unusable but still has standing walls. Building K is gone but Building L (the two-story bunkhouse) and M (the adjacent shop) are standing and in use. Building N is almost whole but is not usable. Buildings O and P (two outhouses) and Building V were very small and built at the upper tide line, and no traces of them were seen in 2008. Building Q (the mill) is now collapsed. Building T exists, and – with an

addition – serves as a residence. Buildings R and S are gone, and that location now holds a prefabricated utility building. The mine's lower workings hold no buildings but most of the original machinery has been left to deteriorate in place.

The mine workings are not directly relevant to St. George villagers' wartime experience, which centered instead on the mining camp along the shoreline. Eleven of the camp's main wartime buildings can be detected in their original location, even if some are becoming archaeological features. Despite the camp's general deterioration, the majority of the building remains and features of the Admiralty Alaska Gold Mine are discernible and still convey much of the site's wartime layout and feeling.