

Town of Eagle  
Cabin  
Eagle ← *Southeast Fairbanks*  
Alaska

HABS NO. AK - 7 J

*HABS  
AK,  
17-EGE,  
1-J-*

Photographs  
Written Historical and Descriptive Data

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

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

TOWN OF EAGLE, CABIN

HABS  
AK.  
19-EGLE,  
1-J-  
HABS No. AK-7-J

- Location: Lot 5, Block 20, facing onto Second Street, Eagle, Alaska.
- Present Occupant: Vacant.
- Significance: Located in both the Eagle Historic District and the Eagle Historic District National Landmark, it is shown in exhibit 3 of the National Trust's Preservation plan for Eagle as an "Additional Eagle Building, 1910-1911, " and in Exhibit 7 as a "Supportive older building" (National Trust for Historic Preservation 1977: 18-19, 65). It is also listed in the plan's appendix as a "visual contributor" to the Eagle Historic District.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

- A. Physical History:
1. Date(s) of erection: Unknown. There is no listing in the Eagle City tax records for 1909, although there is a building shown on the property in the 1907-08 "Map of the Military Reservation; Fort Egbert Alaska."
  2. Alterations and additions: At the eastern corner of the cabin, along the southwestern wall, are the remains of a 9'-square shed or root cellar. It was constructed of 5-8" x 1" lumber and probably had a gable roof covered with canvas. The door of the addition faced onto Second Avenue.
- B. Historical Context: The cabin one time belonged to C. B. Nelson who paid taxes on the lot from 1945-49. Nelson used the cabin as a dog barn (Elva Scott, interview, 1987). Its similarity to other cabins in the vicinity indicate, however, that it was probably built originally as a dwelling. It is located on the proposed site of a new Eagle Main Post Office.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

- A. General Statement:
1. Architectural character: Like other early Eagle Cabins, this structure features a low-pitched front-facing gable roof and a roof with a board covering a layer of dirt insulation. Similar in size to other Eagle cabins, it is built to the front of the property line. (National Trust for Historic Preservation 1977: 66-67.

2. Condition of fabric: Fair to Poor. Doors are off their hinges and the windows lack glass. The roof is collapsing and the unpeeled wall logs show deterioration.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over all dimensions: 17' x 16' rectangle with a two-bay northeast/front facade, and one bay in each side and the rear.
2. Foundations: Dirt.
3. Walls: Round, unpeeled logs 6-10" in diameter are saddle-notched at the corners and chinked with moss.
4. Structural system, framing:
5. Chimneys: A 10" diameter stove pipe in the southern corner of the roof, and a 9½" wooden vent extends through the center of the roof. It is covered on the outside with a folded metal fuel can.
6. Openings:
  - a. Doorways and doors: There are two doorways, opposite each other in the northeast and southwest corners. These are low and wide, 5'4" x 3'-0" and 5'-7" x 3'-0" respectively. The doors, which may or may not be original, consist of a double layer of 3½" x ¾" tongue-and-groove boards nailed vertically to a Z-shaped frame.
  - b. Windows: A 3'-6" x 1'-10" window in the northeastern wall and a 3'-1" x 9'-0" window in the southwestern wall.
7. Roof: The shallow-pitched gable roof is constructed of poles laid across four purlins covered with sod and planks.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: One-room, rectangular plan.
2. Flooring: Split logs and dirt. Twenty-five logs cover the northwestern two-thirds of the floor. Nine logs run from the front door to the back. The southern corner has a dirt floor.
3. Decorative features and trim: A small bunk constructed of tongue-and-groove planks hangs from purlins along the southwestern wall.
4. Plumbing: A 4'-5" x 1'-3" x 5'-0" galvanized metal sink has a short drain pipe

extending out the bottom to the floor.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: The cabin faces northeast onto Second Street. Northwest of the cabin is a barrel stove with cast-iron legs and fixtures. Other debris around the structure includes scrap lumber, stove piping, cans, a piece of galvanized sheet metal, and a small wood table

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A. Interview: Elva Scott, 1987.

B. Bibliography:

1. Primary and unpublished sources:

Eagle City Tax Records, 1909.

Map of the Military Reservation; Fort Egbert Alaska," 1907-1908.

2. Secondary and published sources:

Fort Egbert and Eagle, Alaska; A Preservation Plan, A report prepared for the Bureau of Land Management by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Washington, DC, 1977.

C. Supplemental Material: See attached Subject Site Map (page 4) and Test Locations (page 5).

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