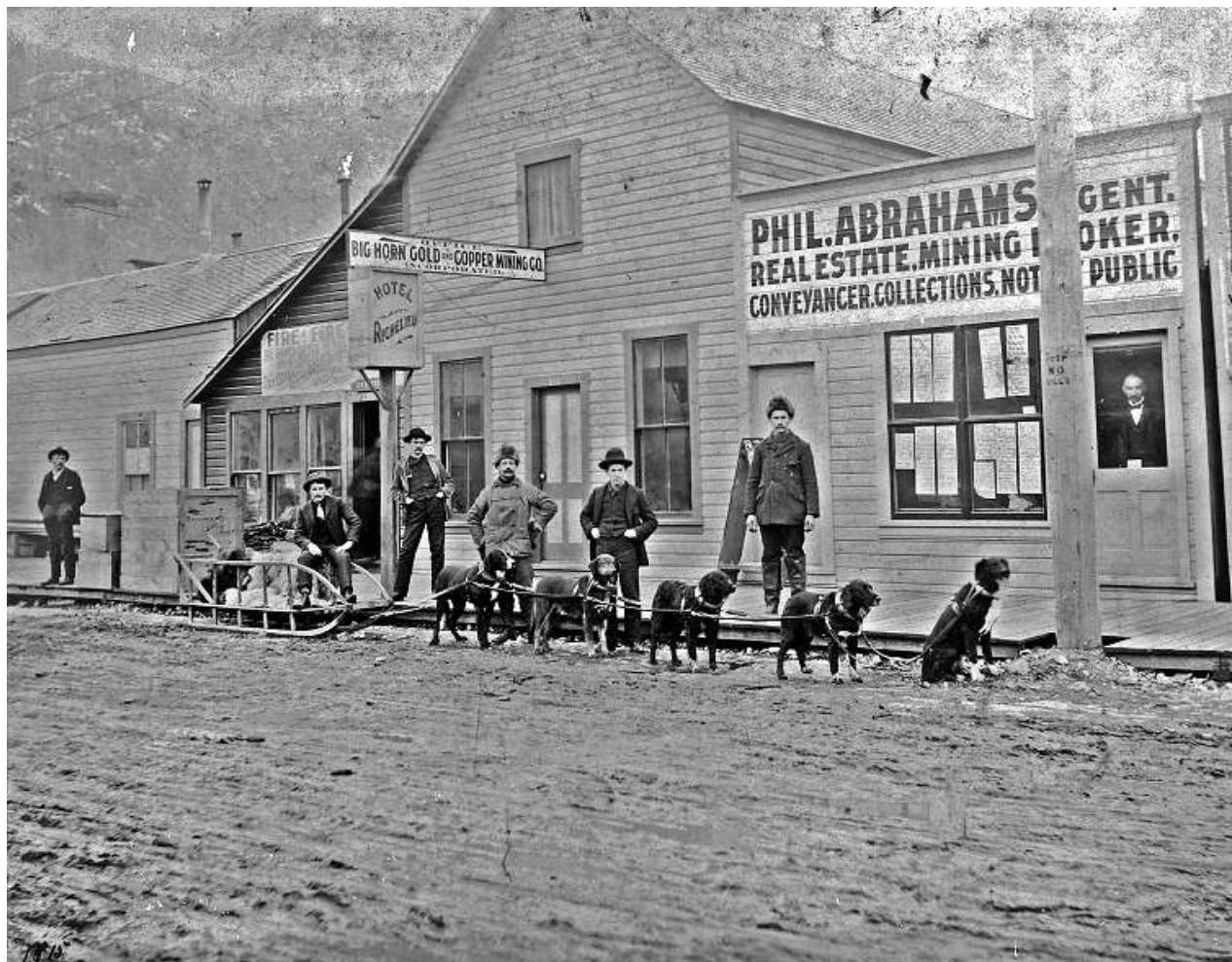




Fourth Avenue Dormitory Construction and Kalvick Bunkhouse Removal

Environmental Assessment

February 2019





As the nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural and cultural resources. This includes fostering the wisest use of our land and water resources, protecting our fish and wildlife, preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historical places, and providing for enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to assure that their development is in the best interests of all. The department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in island territories under U.S. administration.

NOTE TO REVIEWERS

If you wish to comment on this document, you may mail comments to:

Brinnen Carter, Ph.D.
c/o Resource Division
Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park
P.O. Box 517
Skagway, Alaska 99840

You may also comment for this project online at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/FourthAveDorm..>. Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, be aware that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. You can ask us to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, but we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

ON THE COVER

Hotel Richelieu on Fourth Avenue, Skagway, Alaska (circa winter 1901). This is a historic photo of the Hotel Richelieu in Skagway, Alaska, looking southeast across Fourth Avenue. The photo shows the north façade of the hotel with a shed addition to the east and a false front addition to the west. (Photo Credit: National Park Service, Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park, George & Edna Rapuzzi Collection, KLGO 55991b, Gift of the Rasmuson Foundation.)

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1 Proposed Action

The National Park Service (NPS) is considering constructing a dormitory for seasonal employee housing on Fourth Avenue in Skagway, Alaska, and removing a sub-standard bunkhouse in Dyea, Alaska. The new dormitory would occupy the entire Block 27, Lot 2 and the southern half of Block 27, Lot 1. The location of the bunkhouse proposed for removal would be restored to a natural condition.

2 Purpose and Need

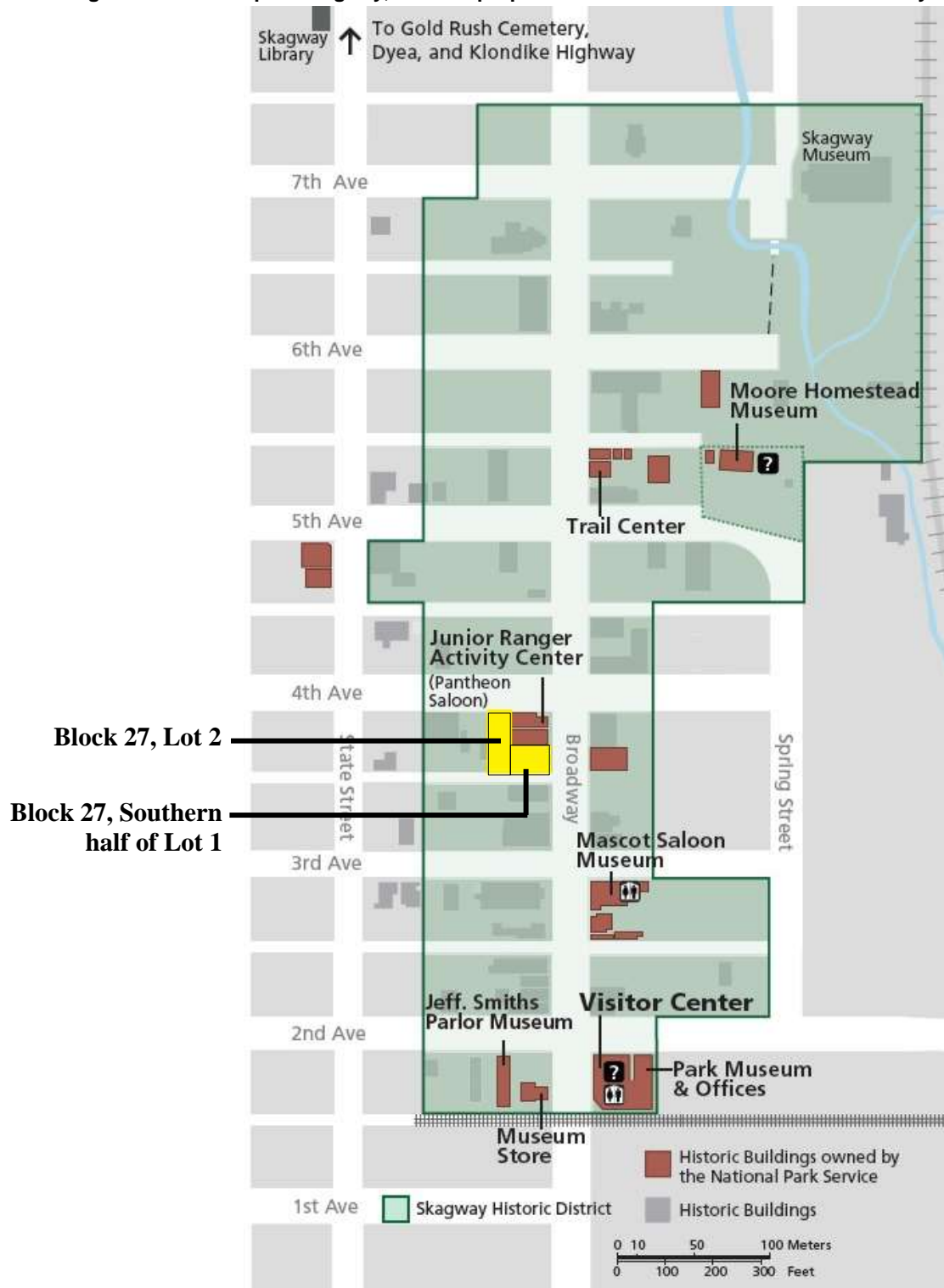
The purpose of the project is to provide affordable, efficient, accessible housing for seasonal employees in a high-demand, high-cost, seasonal housing market. The project is needed to improve employee housing conditions and to reduce the overall energy demands of the park. Employees housed in the Fourth Avenue Dormitory would be in close proximity to visitor facilities, duty stations, and community services, reducing the need for commuting between Skagway and Dyea in both personal and park vehicles.

The federal funding source for the project, the Housing Replacement Fund, focuses on upgrades and replacement of substandard federal housing. The Kalvick Bunkhouse in Dyea, which does not meet the needs of the park, would be removed from the park's property and housing pool.

Additional project objectives include:

1. Designing a building compatible with the period of significance (1897-1910) for the Skagway & White Pass District National Historic Landmark (NHL), and increase building density in this area to contribute to re-establishing the density of the cultural landscape during the period of significance.
2. Providing a high use to the Fourth Avenue lot that is centrally located to park operations and community services, re-establishing a higher density, consistent with the park's General Management Plan (NPS 1996).
3. Facilitating seasonal employment at a park that has low housing availability and high costs for housing and transportation during the peak summer season. Affordable, centrally located, high-quality housing may allow employees from a broader diversity of backgrounds to seek and retain NPS employment.

Figure 1: Street map of Skagway, AK with proposed site at Fourth Avenue and Broadway.



3 Background

Skagway has undergone an increase in summer seasonal recreational visits in the last two decades. The increased visitation has driven Skagway's commercial growth, which in turn has required large increases in seasonal workers, driving up demand for employee housing. As a direct result of this demand, both rental and purchase costs are high for housing.

Park facilities in downtown Skagway are now the most popular destinations in the park. Because of this, park demand for housing in Skagway is very high from May to October to support operational needs. An independent Housing Needs Assessment for Klondike Gold Rush NHP (NPS 2013) validated the need for the following government-employee housing units: 1 unit for a year-round "mandatory occupancy" employee, 9 units for year-round "permitted occupancy" employees, and 25 bedrooms for seasonal employees.

4 Issues

Issues Selected for Detailed Analysis

The following issues will be evaluated for each alternative:

Historic and Prehistoric Archaeological Resources: Construction activities on the Fourth Avenue site could disturb archaeological resources in the area.

Historic Structures and Cultural Landscapes: A new structure located within the Skagway & White Pass District NHL would alter the cultural landscape, potentially affecting site circulation, structure density in the area, and overall utilization of downtown Skagway. Removal of the Kalvick Bunkhouse would eliminate a non-contributing, modern element in the Chilkoot Trail & Dyea NHL.

Issues Considered but Dismissed

The following issues were identified, considered, and dismissed from further analysis:

Vegetation: While existing vegetation on the Fourth Avenue site would be altered due to construction, the overall quality of vegetation on the site could be improved by using native plants in the site plans. The Kalvick Bunkhouse site would be restored to natural conditions and monitored for invasive species.

Soils: Excavation for construction would remove previously disturbed soils from the proposed construction site and could have potential for erosion or run-off from the site during the construction period. Activities related to the Kalvick Bunkhouse removal would occur on previously disturbed soils. Standard best management practices would mitigate soils concerns.

Wildlife: The proposed project sites include a city lot and a rural residential site. Neither location is high quality habitat for wildlife, including threatened and endangered species.

5 Alternatives

This section describes a No Action alternative and the action alternative, as well as a brief description of alternatives considered but dismissed from further analysis.

Alternative 1: No Action

Alternative 1 would continue existing employee housing options, which includes a combination of park-managed housing and private housing leases in the community. Seasonal employees would continue to be housed in the existing Kalvick Bunkhouse in Dyea. A new dormitory would not be constructed in Skagway.

Alternative 2: Remove Old Bunkhouse and Construct New Dormitory

Proposed Action and Preferred Alternative

Remove Bunkhouse – The existing Kalvick Bunkhouse (constructed ca.1975) is a non-historic structure located in the Dyea area of the park near the Kalvick House and garage (all managed by NPS). Removing the bunkhouse would involve submitting McKinney/Vento Act disposition paperwork, beginning in 2019.

Figure 2: Kalvick Bunkhouse in Dyea (Center) sits on lot with Kalvick House (Left). NPS 2018.



The structure would either be sold intact and removed from park property, or, if not sold, would be disassembled or deconstructed and disposed-of off park property in accordance with Skagway

Municipal code. Utility lines would be removed or decommissioned in the bunkhouse area. After the Kalvick Bunkhouse is disposed of, the site would be restored using appropriate grading and planting plans that promote native plant propagation. The site would be monitored for invasive species, which would be removed if discovered.

Figure 3: Block 27, Lot 2 from Fourth Avenue, looking south. NPS photo 2018.



Figure 4: Block 27, southern half of lot 1 from Broadway, looking north. Native plant garden. NPS photo 2018.



Construct Dormitory – The NPS would construct a new, two-story employee dormitory on Fourth Avenue in Skagway, Alaska, within the Skagway & White Pass District NHL. The building design would house up to 12 employees, most of whom would be working in the park’s visitor use facilities or based in park offices in Skagway. In order to reestablish the density within the historic district, the dormitory would be a single building that would occupy Block 27 Lot 2 with support structures (boardwalk, fence line) and features (parking, dumpster) on the southern half of Block 27, Lot 1, all within the Skagway & White Pass District NHL. The building layout would be designed for the seasonal workers of today, most of whom prefer a smaller, private bedroom as compared to larger, shared bedrooms and common living areas.

The building would be constructed on-site primarily through contracted labor. The foundation for the building would be a concrete slab on grade. The exterior would be designed to include wood siding and trim, wood sash windows, and wood doors. The building exterior would be painted in a palette selected from the approved Historic Paint Color Scheme for the Skagway Historic District.

In designing this building, historic precedence would be used to develop the building’s size, scale, and massing, while referencing the historic structure present on the lot during the Klondike Gold Rush. The dormitory would be designed to help deter pests, consistent with integrated pest management principles. The building’s design and construction would be guided by certification standards established by Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED).

Ground disturbance for construction of the dormitory would equal about 5,000 square feet (approximately 0.1 acre). The building itself would have a footprint of about 4,000 to 4,500 square feet. All permits from the Municipality of Skagway Borough required for this construction project would be obtained. The NPS would present the building design and site plan for full review by the Skagway Historic District Commission.

Utilities – The proposed dormitory building would be served by existing utilities on site, including water, sewer, and electric. Connecting these existing utilities to the new dormitory building would entail excavation and placement of additional underground piping/wiring. Street and boardwalk closures would be minimal. The capacity of the existing Skagway sewage treatment plant, the water treatment plant, and electrical lines are adequate for the proposed facilities. Exterior refuse containers (dumpsters) would meet municipal bear-proof standards.

Parking – Municipal building code requires four off-street parking spaces for the proposed dormitory design. If the lot site restrictions do not allow enough space to provide for these four parking spaces, the park would need a variance from the Municipality.

One of the principal advantages of this location is easy pedestrian and bicycle access to park work locations and community services. The Fourth Avenue dormitory site is on the existing Skagway Municipality street network.

Site Preparation – Block 27, Lot 2 is currently a grass-covered lot with a picnic table, boardwalk, above ground tank for heating oil to service the adjacent Pantheon Saloon Complex & Red Front Buildings surrounded by fencing, and gravel parking spaces on the south end, all managed by NPS.

Block 27, Lot 1 south half parcel currently houses the park's native plant garden, a series of raised beds, seating, and pathways created in 2011 in partnership with the National Parks Foundation, Skagway School District, Skagway Recreation Center, and the Taiya Inlet Watershed Council.

Construction of the proposed dormitory would require no tree clearing or grubbing. Work would require the site to be excavated to a sufficient depth to support the proposed slab foundation and utility installation. Areas disturbed by construction of the new dormitory (outside the building footprint) would be re-vegetated and re-contoured to provide positive drainage away from the building. Native vegetation, rocks, or other natural features would be used, as appropriate, for landscaping around the dormitory. The dormitory would be constructed in accordance with current building and life safety codes.

Hauling of Materials Through the Park – The construction of the dormitory would occur on site. Construction material transport would be infrequent and the only special accommodation would be to have construction vehicles in tourist areas during peak tourist season.

Construction Staging – To implement this alternative, an area within the KLGO Maintenance Area (1st Avenue and Alaska Street) near the new dormitory building would be used for construction staging, material stockpiling, and equipment storage. This area would be sited in a previously disturbed area, away from visitor use areas. Portions of the existing parking lot on Block 27 Lot 2 or on Fourth Avenue adjacent to the lot might be used for construction staging purposes, as well.

Construction Schedule – Construction would begin in spring of 2019 and conclude within 24 months.

Alternatives Considered but Dismissed

Pursue community partnership housing construction – Seeking outside housing can be seen as competing with other community employers for housing. Park managers do not want to exacerbate the housing shortage by having NPS employees compete with commercial employers for local, seasonal housing, which is in high demand. This alternative was dismissed as being both too complicated and too susceptible to the criticism for competing with local employers for housing.

Construct dormitory on other NPS-managed lands in Skagway – Only three NPS properties in Skagway that sit outside of the Skagway Historic District were determined to be practical. One site, the maintenance facility, was found to be too small to accommodate the size of structure required to meet the park's housing needs. Moreover, its industrial workload was deemed incompatible with employee housing needs. The other lots, which currently accommodate a park-managed duplex and residence, are not large enough to accommodate another building the size of the proposed dormitory. Therefore, this alternative was dismissed from further consideration.

Construct dormitory on NPS-managed lands in Dyea – The Dyea Plan and Environmental Assessment Draft (2013) called for the construction of a similarly-sized dormitory in Dyea. When evaluating sites in Dyea, it became apparent that constructing the dormitory in Dyea would involve either constructing in a floodplain, which is not consistent with NPS policy, or constructing in an area where environmental impacts and costs would be much higher. Also apparent was the higher

demand for housing in close proximity to Skagway amenities and duty stations. Commuting costs (Dyea to Skagway), higher remote facility maintenance costs, diminished demand for staffing in Dyea, and increased utility costs impact the sustainability of constructing in Dyea. Therefore, this alternative was dismissed from further consideration.

Purchase land and construct dormitory in Skagway – Although there are a number of vacant parcels in Skagway, the process of identifying properties for sale, negotiating with landowners, increasing the legislated acreage of the park, and receiving authorization for purchasing additional lands, is protracted. The projected timeline would leave the park with unmet housing needs for at least 5 years, and add substantially to the planning, compliance, and construction costs. Therefore, this alternative was dismissed from further consideration.

Table 1. Summary of Alternatives

Alternative Elements	Alternative 1 – No Action	Alternative 2 – Remove Old Bunkhouse and Construct New Dormitory
Site Restoration	Kalvick Bunkhouse would be retained in Dyea. No site restoration would be conducted.	Kalvick Bunkhouse would be removed and the site restored.
Construction	No new housing would be constructed.	A new dormitory building would be constructed on Fourth Avenue in Skagway.
Excavation	No excavation would be required.	Some excavation to build a new foundation and route existing utilities to the new dormitory building.
Parking	Parking for the Kalvick site would be retained.	Parking for 4 vehicles would be constructed on the south end of Block 27 Lots 1 & 2 with access from the adjacent alley. No change in parking would occur at the Kalvick site.
Revegetation	No revegetation planned.	Topsoil would be retained using park standards already in place for construction projects. All disturbed areas outside the dormitory footprint would be re-vegetated or landscaped at the end of the project, including plantings around the dormitory and restoration of the Kalvick Bunkhouse site.
Construction Staging	No construction planned.	Construction staging for equipment and supplies would occur close to the worksites (at existing maintenance facility at 1st Avenue & Alaska Street) within already disturbed or paved surfaces.
Contractor Housing	No contractor housing required.	Contractors would be responsible for securing their own housing in the community.

6 Affected Environment

Historic and Prehistoric Archaeological Resources

The parcels proposed for development are Block 27, Lot 2 and the southern half of Block 27 Lot 1 and are within the Skagway & White Pass District NHL boundary. This area is significant for its central role in exploration and settlement of the Upper Lynn Canal and in the transportation of miners and supplies to and from the Yukon gold fields from 1897 to 1910.

The lots on which the dormitory would be constructed, and the lot from which the Kalvick Bunkhouse would be disposed, are the limits of the affected environment for this project in terms of

archeology. In the case of Block 27, Lots 1 & 2, the archeological deposits are known from systematic shovel-testing and test trenches excavated across the site in 2017 (Rockwell *et al.* 2017). Structures historically located on the site but no longer extant are well documented through historic photographs and maps (Gurcke 2017). Rockwell and her colleagues (2017) concluded that most or all of the features related to the Seattle Hotel and the Hotel Richelieu, subterranean features associated with the hotels' operations (i.e. bottle dumps, outhouses, cache pits, fencing, and pilings), demolition debris from the building's removal in the 1930s, and other pre-1960s deposits have been disturbed by site-work and filling from 1960 to present.

Removal of the Kalvick Bunkhouse, which sits on a post-on-pier above ground foundation, would not disturb the potential archaeology on the site, as it would not include ground disturbance. An archaeologist would monitor removal of underground utility lines and frost line footers.

Historic Structures and Cultural Landscapes

The project area is within the boundaries of the Skagway & White Pass District NHL, an NHL district with significance at a national level in the historical theme of exploration and settlement, and situated on a prime route to gold-bearing regions in the Yukon Territories of Canada (NPS 1998). The period of significance for the NHL is from 1897 to 1910 the years when Skagway and the White Pass and Yukon Route railroad were rapidly developed and actively used to support gold mining operations further north. The historic buildings and sites in Skagway that contribute to the NHL district maintain integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

Landscape features within the Skagway Historic District include an intact street grid with pedestrian boardwalks that dictate the circulation patterns of the downtown area, one- to three-story buildings densely sited within lots and adjacent to boardwalks, and linear features (such as overhead power lines and boundary fences). The affected environment for the project is the area around the proposed site from which the building would be visible. The affected environment would also include the Skagway roads and other circulation features that would be used to access the site during construction and operation.

The Kalvick Bunkhouse was last used for seasonal housing in 2017. It does not contribute to the Chilkoot Trail & Dyea NHL that has a period of significance of 1880-1900.

7 Impact Analysis

Alternative 1: No Action

Alternative 1, retaining the current housing distribution and approach, would have no effect on historic and prehistoric archeological resources, historic structures, or the cultural landscape of Block 27, Lots 1 & 2, nor at the Kalvick property.

Alternative 2: Remove Old Bunkhouse and Construct New Dormitory

Proposed Action and Preferred Alternative

Historic and Prehistoric Archaeological Resources Direct and Indirect Impacts

Archeological testing in 2017 (Rockwell *et al.* 2017) suggests there are no intact archeological features in the construction area. The identification of intact features prior to foundation and utility line excavations would be critical so archeological data would not be destroyed without recordation, therefore foundation and utility line excavations would be monitored by park archeologists. Artifacts encountered from the site excavation would be evaluated for incorporation into the park museum collection. Removal of the Kalvick Bunkhouse would be within existing disturbed soils, resulting in no direct or indirect impacts to archeological resources in Dyea.

Historic Structures and Cultural Landscapes Direct and Indirect Impacts

Construction of the Fourth Avenue Dormitory would occur within the boundaries of the Skagway & White Pass District NHL but would not directly affect historic structures. The construction of a new building of appropriate design, massing, and detail would not adversely affect the cultural landscape of the historic district.

The direct impact of construction would be the addition of a contemporary, non-contributing structure to the district. The principal indirect impact would be the addition of 10-12 people living within the historic district during peak season. The intensity of the direct and indirect impacts would be relatively small, given the overall size of the NHL boundary, the number of existing non-contributing buildings in the historic district, and the number of residents and visitors to the area. Relative to the lots' current vacant condition, the construction would help reestablish the density and massing of the block as it appeared during its period of significance, with a building that is of similar mass, design, and exterior detail. Removal of the Kalvick Bunkhouse would eliminate a non-historic structure from the Chilkoot Trail & Dyea NHL boundary.

Cumulative Impacts Summary and Conclusions

The discussion of cumulative impacts considers past, present, and reasonable foreseeable future actions as they relate to the proposed action and alternatives. The project would result in impacts to approximately 5,000 square feet of grass on an open lot in an urban setting and 2,100 cubic feet of soils. When viewed within the context of Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park and the Skagway & White Pass District NHL as a whole, the project would add one structure within a historic district that contains over 600 structures.

Past Actions

The Skagway & White Pass District NHL has seen many changes in the past, including most notably, the dramatic loss of buildings constructed during the period of significance (1897-1910) between 1910 and designation of the NHL in 1962. The destruction of the historic fabric in the NHL district slowed dramatically after 1962, stabilizing at approximately 174 contributing and 411 non-contributing structures in the late 1990s (Skagway & White Pass District NHL nomination 1999). Designation of the Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park in 1976 also helped preserve the historic buildings under NPS management, including ongoing rehabilitation and repair of historic buildings and maintenance of non-historic buildings.

Present Actions

The principal ongoing activity within the park's jurisdiction is the preservation, rehabilitation, and adaptive use of historic and non-historic structures within the Skagway & White Pass District NHL. Additionally, the Municipality of Skagway Borough encourages private landowners and city/borough properties to preserve historically significant buildings and features within the NHL boundaries through the operation of a permitting system and historic district commission.

Reasonably Foreseeable Future Actions

It is reasonably foreseeable that historic preservation efforts throughout the NHL district would continue to improve the overall condition of historic structures, limit the destruction of historic resources, and maintain permitting standards that support compatible architectural design within the Skagway Historic District. In the immediate and long-term future, the municipality is likely to conduct periodic rehabilitation of streets and utilities, including electrical and communications networks, as well as pursue strategies that enhance the walkability and visitor amenities in the NHL.

Historic and Prehistoric Archaeological Resources Cumulative Impacts

Past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions in the Skagway & White Pass District NHL have created numerous changes to archaeological resources. While there are no known intact archaeological deposits on the proposed site for the Fourth Avenue Dormitory, it is considered likely that some artifacts and features could be identified during site preparation. The contribution of the proposed action to cumulative impacts on historic and prehistoric archaeological resources would potentially add archeological data to the record of the occupation of Skagway, through the exploratory and mitigation excavations conducted in preparation for construction of the Fourth Avenue Dormitory.

Removal of the Kalvick Bunkhouse and associated utilities would not generate direct or indirect effects to archaeological resources and therefore would not contribute to cumulative impacts to archeological resources in Dyea by remaining within the current limits of disturbance for the Kalvick Bunkhouse.

Historic Structures and Cultural Landscapes Cumulative Impacts

The cultural landscape of Skagway has changed due to past actions, and is likely to continue to change due to present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions. The proposed Fourth Avenue Dormitory would add a non-historic building to the cultural landscape. This introduced element would not create an adverse effect on the Skagway & White Pass District NHL, by using design features and elements that would be compatible Skagway's Klondike Gold Rush era architecture.

In Dyea, removal of the Kalvick Bunkhouse would eliminate a non-historic feature in a listed NHL. Therefore, cumulative impacts to the cultural landscape of Dyea would be reduced by implementation of this action.

Historic structures would not be affected in Skagway or Dyea; therefore the proposed action would not contribute to the cumulative impacts to these resources.

Table 2. Summary of Impacts

Impact Topic	Alternative 1 – No Action	Alternative 2 – Preferred Alternative
Historic and Prehistoric Archeological Resources	No change in condition.	Testing in summer 2017 (Rockwell <i>et al.</i> 2017) indicates there are no intact archeological deposits on the site. Site monitoring during construction and removal of utility lines in Dyea would assure that unanticipated, intact archeological features would not be damaged or destroyed without recording and data recovery. Removal of the Kalvick Bunkhouse would be within existing disturbed soils, resulting in no likely impacts to archeological resources in Dyea.
Historic Structures and Cultural Landscapes	No change in condition.	Construction would not directly affect historic structures. The construction of a new building of appropriate design, massing, and detail would not adversely affect the cultural landscape of the historic district. Construction would be consistent with the appearance of the NHL during the period of significance. Additional density would be consistent with management objectives to re-establish the density of the cultural landscape during the period of significance. Removal of the Kalvick Bunkhouse removes a non-contributing building from within an NHL district.

8 Consultation and Coordination

State of Alaska, Office of Historic Preservation

- Consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer is proceeding. Section 106 will be complete prior to NPS issuing a decision on this project.

Tribal Consultation

Chilkat Indian Village, Chilkoot Indian Association, & Skagway Traditional Council

- Letter sent to Tribes on 29 November 2018.
- Phone call on 12 December 2018 to determine if further consultation was needed.

9 References

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APPENDIX A

Subsistence Evaluation Alaska National Interest Land Conservation Act Section 810 Summary Evaluations and Findings

I. INTRODUCTION

This evaluation was prepared to comply with Title VIII, Section 810 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA). It summarizes potential restrictions to subsistence uses that could result from the proposed action by the National Park Service (NPS) to construct a dormitory on Fourth Avenue in Skagway, Alaska and to remove the Kalvick Bunkhouse in Dyea, Alaska.

II. THE EVALUATION PROCESS

Section 810(a) states:

“In determining whether to withdraw, reserve, lease, or otherwise permit the use, occupancy, or disposition of public lands...the head of the federal agency...over such lands...shall evaluate the effect of such use, occupancy, or disposition on subsistence uses and needs, the availability of other lands for the purposes sought to be achieved, and other alternatives which would reduce or eliminate the use, occupancy or disposition of public lands needed for subsistence purposes. No such withdrawal, reservation, lease, permit or other use, occupancy or disposition of such lands which would significantly restrict subsistence uses shall be effected until the head of such Federal agency—

(1) gives notice to the appropriate State agency and the appropriate local committees and regional councils established pursuant to Section 805;

(2) gives notice of, and holds, a hearing in the vicinity of the area involved; and

(3) determines that (A) such a significant restriction of subsistence uses is necessary, consistent with sound management principles for the utilization of the public lands, (B) the proposed activity will involve the minimal amount of public lands necessary to accomplish the purposes of such use, occupancy, or other disposition, and (C) reasonable steps will be taken to minimize adverse impacts upon subsistence uses and resources resulting from such actions.”

Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park was established on June 30, 1976 to “preserve in public ownership for the benefit and inspiration of the people of the United States, historic structures and trails associated with the Klondike Gold Rush of 1898.” The park is located within two National Historic Landmark boundaries: the Skagway Historic and White Pass District National Historic Landmark, formally designated on June 13, 1962, and the Chilkoot Trail and Dyea National Historic Landmark, formally designated on June 16, 1978. The taking of fish and wildlife or other subsistence uses is not authorized within Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park.

The potential for significant restriction of subsistence uses must be evaluated for the proposed action’s effect on “...subsistence uses and needs, the availability of other lands for the purposes sought to be achieved and other alternatives which would reduce or eliminate the use, occupancy, or disposition of public lands needed for subsistence purposes.” (Section 810(a), ANILCA).

III. PROPOSED ACTION ON FEDERAL LANDS

Alternative 1 – No Action Alternative

Under the no action alternative, existing employee housing options would continue, which includes a combination of park-managed housing and private housing leases in the community. Seasonal employees would continue to be housed in the existing Kalvick Bunkhouse in Dyea. A new dormitory would not be constructed in Skagway.

Alternative 2 – Remove Old Bunkhouse and Construct New Dormitory (Proposed Action and Preferred Alternative)

The NPS is considering constructing a dormitory for seasonal employee housing on Fourth Avenue in Skagway, Alaska, and removing a sub-standard bunkhouse in Dyea, Alaska. The new dormitory would occupy the entire Block 27, Lot 2 and the southern half of Block 27, Lot 1. The location of the bunkhouse proposed for removal would be restored to a natural condition.

Alternatives 1 and 2 are described in detail in the Environmental Assessment (EA). This project occurs within Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park, which is closed to Title VIII subsistence uses.

IV. AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

The proposed project would occur within the Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park, which is closed to subsistence uses. The proposed project is not expected to significantly restrict subsistence uses on other federal lands adjacent to Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park where Title VIII subsistence is authorized.

V. SUBSISTENCE USES AND NEEDS EVALUATION

To determine the potential impact on existing subsistence activities, three evaluation criteria were analyzed relative to existing subsistence resources that could be impacted. The evaluation criteria are:

- the potential to reduce important subsistence fish and wildlife populations by (a) reductions in abundance; (b) redistribution of subsistence resources; or (c) habitat losses;
- the effect the action might have on subsistence fishermen or hunter access;
- the potential for the action to increase fisherman or hunter competition for subsistence resources.

1) The potential to reduce populations:

The proposed project would not significantly reduce populations of subsistence fish and wildlife resources. There is no Title VIII subsistence use authorized in the proposed area. No impacts are anticipated on subsistence use activities or fish and wildlife populations on adjacent federally managed lands.

2) Restriction of Access:

The proposed action is not expected to limit or significantly restrict the access of subsistence users to natural resources on other adjacent federal lands where Title VIII subsistence is authorized.

3) Increase in Competition:

The proposed action is not expected to result in increased competition for fish, wildlife, or other resources that would significantly restrict subsistence users.

VI. AVAILABILITY OF OTHER LANDS

The proposed project is site-specific to housing needs in Skagway, Alaska. It has been determined that no other federally managed lands would be suitable for this project.

VII. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

Two alternatives were analyzed for this project and are described in detail in the Environmental Assessment (EA). Both of the alternatives occur within the same area of Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park, where Title VIII subsistence uses are not authorized. Neither of the two alternatives proposed would significantly restrict subsistence uses on other adjacent federally managed lands.

VIII. FINDINGS

This analysis concludes that the proposed action will not result in a significant restriction of subsistence uses.