



HISTORIC RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE AGENDA

January 10, 2024 at 5:00 PM

City Hall Conf. Room 224/Zoom Webinar

<https://juneau.zoom.us/j/83467626208> or 1-253-215-8782 Webinar ID: 834 6762 6208

A. CALL TO ORDER

B. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge the Áak'w K'wáan and T'aakú K'wáan as the original owners and inhabitants of the City & Borough of Juneau. We are grateful to be here in your ancestral homeland as we come to you from areas of Alaska and beyond. We are thankful that you have permitted us to live here and make this land our home. Gunalchéesh.

C. ROLL CALL

D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. 12.06.2023 HRAC Draft Minutes

F. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

G. AGENDA TOPICS

2. Old Business

-DIA Invitation

-Douglas Cemeteries Letter

H. STAFF REPORTS

I. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

J. NEXT MEETING DATE

3. February 7, 2024

K. SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

L. ADJOURNMENT

ADA accommodations available upon request: Please contact the Clerk's office 36 hours prior to any meeting so arrangements can be made for closed captioning or sign language interpreter services depending on the meeting format. The Clerk's office telephone number is 586-5278, TDD 586-5351, e-mail: city.clerk@juneau.gov.



Historic Resources Advisory Committee
 December 6, 2023 at 5:00 PM
DRAFT MINUTES

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Jones called the meeting to order at 5:06 PM.

B. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge the Áak'w Kwáan and T'aakú Kwáan as the original owners and inhabitants of the City & Borough of Juneau. We are grateful to be here in your ancestral homeland as we come to you from areas of Alaska and beyond. We are thankful that you have permitted us to live here and make this land our home. Gunalchéesh.

C. ROLL CALL

Committee members present in person: Dorene Lorenz, Don Harris, Zane Jones, Shannon Crossley, and Gary Gillette.

Committee members present via zoom: Chuck Smythe.

Committee members absent: Eric Moots

Staff present: Forrest Courtney, CDD Planner

Members of the public present: Laurie Craig, Tony Tengs, Skip Gray, Page Bridge, Morgan Dufseth, and Jerrick Hope-Lang.

D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ms. Crossley motioned that the agenda be approved with no additions, Ms. Lorenz seconded the motion. Motion approved. 6-0.

E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Ms. Crossley motioned to approve the minutes from the November 1, 2023, HRAC meeting, Ms. Lorenze seconded the motion. Motion approved. 6-0.

F. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None.

G. AGENDA TOPICS

2. Old Business:

1. Telephone Hill Letter

Chair Jones recused himself from the discussion. Vice Chair Crossley assumed the role of Chair for the agenda topic.

Mr. Gillette motioned that a subcommittee, comprised of Ms. Lorenze, Ms. Crossley, and Mr. Gillette, redraft the Telephone Hill letter based on comment and testimony, Ms. Lorenze seconded the motion. Motion approved. 6-0.

2. Douglas Cemeteries Letter

Chair Jones resumed his role as Chair.

Mr. Smythe motioned that in response to the Pioneer of Alaska Igloos #6 Letter; HRAC write a letter expressing CBJ consider becoming caretaker of the Douglas Cemeteries, Ms. Crossley seconded the motion. Motion approved. 6-0.

3. DIA Invitation Letter

Based on information gathered over the past month, the committee discussed whether a letter was still needed. No action.

4. Legislative Priorities Letter

Chair Jones notified the committee that HRAC's legislative priorities letter was submitted on time. No action.

3. New Business:

1. CDD Memo

Chair Jones reviewed the CDD Memo for the committee. No action.

2. Annual Meeting

The committee's annual meeting will be held December 14th, 2023, at 5:00 pm in Room 224.

3. Election

The committee's office election will take place at the annual meeting.

4. Alternative January Meeting Date

The committee will meet on January 10th, 2024, instead of January 3rd, 2024.

H. STAFF REPORTS

CDD Staff Liaison Forrest Courtney introduced himself to the committee and reviewed his role.

I. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

None.

J. NEXT MEETING DATE- December 14, 2023

K. SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

None.

L. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Gillette motioned that the committee adjourn the December 6, 2023, HRAC meeting, Ms. Lorenz seconded the motion. Motion approved. 6-0.

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DRAFT

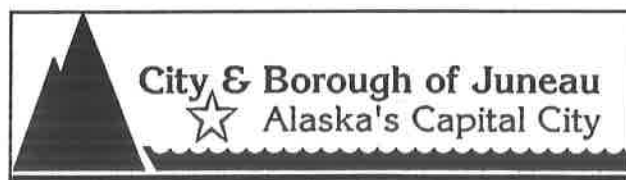
Report of the Survey and Inventory of the
HISTORIC CEMETERIES
in
DOUGLAS ALASKA



September 1995

REPORT
of the
SURVEY AND INVENTORY
of
HISTORIC CEMETERIES
in
DOUGLAS, ALASKA

Prepared By
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT



With
Willette Janes, Historical Researcher
and
Renee Hughes, Photographer

September 1995

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Survey and Inventory of Historic Cemeteries in Douglas, Alaska was produced by the CBJ Community Development Department, and community volunteers, with the support of the Juneau Historic Commission and the Juneau Historic Resources Advisory Committee.

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Historic Resources Advisory Committee

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Willette Janes, Historical Researcher
Renee Hughes, Photographer

The research for this report has been financed in part with Federal funds from the National Park Service, Department of the Interior, and through the assistance of the Office of History and Archaeology, Alaska Department of Natural Resources. However, the contents and opinions do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Department of the Interior, nor does the mention of trade names or commercial products constitute endorsement or recommendation by the Department of the Interior or the Department of Natural Resources.

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*Cover photograph: Memorial Marker for Chief Aanalahaash (Anna-Cla-Ash), 1985
CBJ Collection
Photograph by Diane Brady*

FOREWORD

In July of 1994 the City and Borough of Juneau (CBJ) Community Development Department (CDD) embarked on an ambitious project to survey the historic cemeteries in Douglas, Alaska located within the City and Borough of Juneau. The following report documents this research effort and presents a look at the significance of these cemeteries and the community as a whole. When the project began it was believed there were only three cemeteries in Douglas; the Catholic Cemetery, Eagles Cemetery, and Douglas Indian Cemetery. Once research got under way it proved that there are actually ten separate recognized cemeteries in Douglas; the Catholic, Eagles, Douglas Indian, Masons, Odd Fellows, City, Servian, Asian, Native, and Russian Orthodox.

Research of the burial records indicated 514 burial sites within nine of the cemeteries. The field survey found 157 grave markers in these cemeteries. No burial records were available for the Douglas Indian Cemetery but 12 markers were found. Each cemetery was surveyed, inventoried, and researched for historical significance and physical condition. It is believed that the cemeteries are historically significant and retain the integrity to be considered eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

The historic cemeteries offer information which helps to better define the historic community of Douglas, Alaska. Although only a few are regularly maintained they all render the opportunity to yield information about the individuals, the community, and the religious practices of the people of their period.

Historic preservation is an important ingredient in the process of community development. It helps with the understanding of influences in the growth and development of a region and the local community. It tells the tale of the struggle of our predecessors as they strived for development and modernization in this Southeast region of Alaska. It helps decision makers plan for the future with an understanding of the past. The importance of informing people of their community's heritage cannot be understated. The City and Borough of Juneau's commitment to historic preservation is contained in Policy 53 of the Comprehensive Plan which states; "It is the policy of the CBJ to identify and protect historic and archaeological resources." It is with this goal that the Community Development Department has pursued the Survey and Inventory of the Historic Cemeteries in Douglas, Alaska.

Gary Gillette
Historic Preservation Planner

INTRODUCTION

Historic Preservation

The Survey and Inventory of Historic Cemeteries in Douglas, Alaska is a continuation of the City and Borough of Juneau Community Development Department's efforts to identify, survey, and preserve historic resources. The historic cemeteries tell a unique story of the people of the area and are deserving of recognition as such. With this in mind, a goal of this project was to use survey information to evaluate the historic resources for their potential eligibility for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

The preservation of our country's cultural resources is imperative and efforts to accomplish this task are evident in the actions of government and private citizens alike. Many of these efforts began with the Antiquities Act of 1906 and the Historic Sites Act of 1935 which established the National Historic Landmarks Survey. The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 authorized the National Register of Historic Places, expanding Federal recognition to historic properties of local and state significance.

The National Register of Historic Places is the official Federal list of districts, sites, objects, buildings, and structures significant in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture. Significance may be found in four aspects of American history recognized by the National Register Criteria:

- Criterion A Association with historic events or activities
- Criterion B Association with important persons,
- Criterion C Distinctive design or physical characteristics, or
- Criterion D Potential to provide important information about prehistory or history.

The National Register is administrated by the National Park Service in partnership with the State Historic Preservation Officer. Communities, such as the City and Borough of Juneau, having a certified local historic preservation program, called Certified Local Governments (CLGs), make recommendations, based on identification and surveys such as this one, to the SHPO on the eligibility of properties within their community.

Cemeteries may be eligible for listing on the National Register under Criteria A, B, or C (as identified above) provided they meet special requirements known as Criteria Considerations. Cemeteries nominated under Criterion D for the importance they may yield do not need to meet the special requirements. Again from Bulletin #41: "Though the tradition of cleaning up and beautifying old cemeteries is a long one, the current interest in these subjects partly owes to widespread incidents of abandonment, theft, vandalism, real estate development, and environmental hazards such as acid rain, which have pushed cemeteries to the forefront of preservation issues. National Register listing is an important step in preserving cemeteries because such recognition often sparks community interest in the importance of these sites in conveying the story of its past. Listing also gives credibility to State and local efforts to

preserve these resources for their continuing contribution to the community's identity, The documentation contained in surveys and nominations of these historic burying places - especially those cemeteries that are neglected or threatened - is the key to their better protection and management."

Historic Cemeteries

According to the Graveyard Preservation Primer, a cemetery is a place set apart for burying the dead and is from the Greek word for sleeping chamber. The term became popular in the nineteenth century whereas the term graveyard was previously used.

National Register Bulletin #41 provides guidelines for evaluating and registering cemeteries and burial places. The following is from that bulletin: "Individual and collective burial places can reflect and represent in important ways the cultural values and practices of the past that help instruct us about who we are as a people. Yet for profoundly personal reasons, familial and cultural descendants of the interred often view graves and cemeteries with a sense of reverence and devout sentiment that can overshadow objective evaluation. Therefore, cemeteries and graves are among those properties that ordinarily are not considered eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places unless they meet special requirements."

Burial customs vary from region to region, age to age, and according to spiritual beliefs. Of special consideration are the burial sites of Native Americans. The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) sets out the rights of Native Americans regarding human remains, funerary and sacred objects, and other culturally significant objects. One of the main purposes of NAGPRA is to protect Native American graves and related items, and to control their removal.

Purpose of the Inventory/Survey

In 1984 the City and Borough of Juneau, adopted its Comprehensive Plan. The Plan establishes policies for planning and development. Policy #53 states, "It is the policy of the CBJ to identify and protect historic and archaeological resources." Implementing actions for this policy include:

- * Complete the inventory of historic resources and evaluate historical significance and relative value of each resource.
- * Identify appropriate regulatory measures to protect identified historic resources. These may include special review of proposed changes, development standards, tax concessions and other measures.

To identify potentially significant historic properties within the City and Borough of Juneau, the Department of Community Development, in 1984, prepared a strategy for its work in historic preservation. Goals and priorities were formulated which identified a number of

future tasks to be pursued. In 1990, the department revised its strategy, reviewed its accomplishments and identified new tasks for the next four years. The goal for the historic preservation program remained the same:

The Department of Community Development will gather information on the historical development of the Juneau/Douglas area. This resource base will serve as an aid in long-range planning for growth and development in the City and Borough of Juneau.

One of the priorities identified was the need for recognition and survey of potential historic districts. As a means of identifying areas for study and for devising better strategies for management, the department developed its historic neighborhood concept. Areas of potential significance are identified which can be described as cohesive architectural and/or historical entities. Boundaries are based on geography, topography, historic uses, and resource types. These areas are surveyed and the information collected through these surveys identifies districts of historic and/or architectural significance which, when placed in regional and community contexts, allows for planning in areas relating to the preservation of these cultural resources. Specifically, these surveys allow the Community Development Department to identify architectural and/or historic districts which are eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

The survey and inventory of the Douglas Cemeteries is a departure from the practice of evaluating historic buildings. The cemeteries are "neighborhoods" in a sense in that they have common attributes and often common styles of headstones, families are often grouped together, and most were planned and laid out with a sense of organization.

Description of Survey Area

In 1994, the CBJ Community Development Department applied for and received a Historic Preservation Matching Fund Grant to Survey and Inventory the Historic Cemeteries of Douglas, Alaska. The survey area encompassed three non contiguous cemetery sites known generally as the "Catholic Cemetery", "Eagles Cemetery", and the Douglas Indian Cemetery. Two of the cemeteries are located across Douglas Highway from each other. The third, the Douglas Indian Cemetery, is located about a mile and a half down the road. Once research began it was uncovered that two of the cemeteries were actually made up of a grouping of smaller cemeteries. The "Catholic Cemetery" includes the Catholic Cemetery, the Odd Fellows Cemetery, the Masons Cemetery, the Native Cemetery, the Asian Cemetery, and the Russian Orthodox Cemetery. The "Eagles Cemetery" is made up of the City Cemetery, the Eagles Cemetery, and the Servian Cemetery. All grave markers within the cemetery boundaries were surveyed and an inventory of burial records was compiled.

Survey Methodology

The survey and inventory of these historic cemeteries involved literature research, field investigation, and documentation. The search for information included research in the Tax

Assessor's office, local newspapers, Alaska State Archives and Records Office, Alaska Historical Library, oral history interviews, study of historic photos, and site survey and photographic recordation of each property. Field survey forms were developed which feature information required to complete Alaska Heritage Resources Survey (AHRS) forms including a physical description of the site and structures, period of significance, short statement of significance, whether the resource is in danger of destruction, cultural affiliation, and other information pertinent to the property.

This survey report focuses on the historic preservation contexts and architectural and historic significance judgements based on those established contexts. All extant properties were identified and surveyed. The significance judgements were formulated after individual properties and the cemeteries as a whole were analyzed based on historic and present physical appearances.

Goals and Priorities of the Survey

The goal of the Community Development Department is to identify areas worthy of recognition in Juneau. In conducting the survey and inventory of historic cemeteries of Douglas, and indeed in all of its preservation related activities, the Community Development Department wishes to engender community awareness and pride in Juneau's important historic and cultural resources. This survey and inventory project is an important step toward preservation of these historic sites and in evaluating their potential for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.



*Douglas Highway at Cemeteries, ca. 1935 - Eagles Cemetery on Left
Alaska Road Commission Collection; # 61-38-4686
Courtesy of the Alaska State Historical Library*

LOCATION MAP





HISTORICAL CONTEXT

General

In order to establish the significance of a resource, it is necessary to place it in the context of its surroundings. To do this, the historic themes of the region, the community, and the immediate neighborhood itself must be examined to ascertain the important people, events, and dates that influenced the character of a particular place at a particular time in history. With this information, it is possible to see how an individual resource was affected by and how it relates to the immediate neighborhood, the community, and the region in which it is located.

To understand how the Historic Cemeteries of Douglas illustrate the larger themes or trends important to the history of the region and the community, it is necessary to examine the trends and patterns of settlement, industrialization, and growth of government which influenced Alaska, the Southeast Region, Juneau, Douglas, and Treadwell.

Southeast Alaska

The Southeast Region of Alaska was a region explored because of the possibility of great riches and eventually settled because these possibilities proved to be true. Russians, British, and Americans came for fur in the early 1800's. After the United States purchased Alaska in 1867, prospectors searched for gold and found it in many places. By the early 1870's there were gold discoveries in Sitka and the Taku and Gastineau Channel areas of Southeast Alaska, including Treadwell, Douglas, and Juneau.

Southeastern Alaska, or the Panhandle, is a distinct geographical regions of Alaska. This large (42,000 square miles) and diverse region is composed of a narrow lacework of islands and peninsulas stretching approximately 500 miles from Icy Bay, northwest of Yakutat, to Dixon Entrance at the United States-Canada border beyond the southern tip of Prince of Wales Island.

Southeast Alaska's maritime climate is mild because of the warming influence of the Japanese Current. The first inhabitants of this hospitable region were the Tlingit, and Haida Indians who established permanent villages and developed diverse and culturally rich societies. These societies were greatly changed with the coming of European explorers in the 18th century.

Gastineau Channel

The Gastineau Channel region was a fishing ground for local Tlingit Indians in 1880 when Sitka mining engineer George Pilz grubstaked groups of prospectors to explore the area for new gold deposits. Among these prospectors were Joseph Juneau and Richard Harris who were sent to Gastineau Channel. A sub-chief of the Auk Tlingits, Chief Kowee (Cowee), had previously showed ore samples from the area to Pilz. It wasn't until their second trip in

October of 1880 that they found any appreciable amount of gold. Harris wrote a Code of Laws and staked a 160 acre townsite on October 18 of that same year. The new town was first named Harrisburg and later Juneau. It was the first town founded in Alaska following the U.S. purchase from Russia.

Juneau, Douglas, and Treadwell

Harris and Juneau returned to Sitka with news of their find and the rush was on. Prospectors flocked to the area and began staking claims. A French Canadian by the name of Pierre "French Pete" Errusard learned of a gold bearing outcrop on Douglas Island across the Gastineau Channel from the new town of Juneau. He staked adjacent claims in 1881 that were eventually sold along with others to John Treadwell, who was representing California investors. The mining town of Treadwell was soon established along with the town of Douglas City. Juneau and Douglas grew along with the mines as more people came to the area not only to mine but to start businesses.



*Treadwell Mine, 1899
Winter and Pond Collection; PCA 87-333
Courtesy of the Alaska State Historical Library*

Gold mining was the driving force behind this growth. At first placer mining was practiced then miners attempted to work the larger, higher grade quartz veins they encountered by drilling and blasting to break the gold-bearing quartz from the surrounding waste rock. Eventually, the prospectors began to consolidate adjoining properties and attack the quartz veins on a larger scale. By the 1890's, several of the small mining companies consolidated and became the Treadwell Group on Douglas Island.

As mining grew and large companies expanded the workings, it became apparent that Juneau and Douglas would not be just "boom and bust" gold camps. Rather, they enjoyed growing prosperity built on the mines, with their great mechanized mills and large payrolls. The three large mines, the Alaska Gastineau, the Alaska Juneau, and the Treadwell drove the economy. The latter two became the largest gold producers of low grade ore in the world, recovering more than \$130 million from the mountain rock stamped to dust in the huge mills.

Douglas grew into a thriving community along with the mining camp of Treadwell. The town was called by various names including New Town, Edwardsville, Douglas City and finally Douglas. Douglas Island, from which the town name was derived, was named in 1798 by Captain Vancouver for John Douglas, the Bishop of Salisbury. A group of Treadwell employees got together and appointed a townsite committee that applied to the U.S. Land Department for a townsite land grant covering 14 acres. A survey was completed in 1885 and lots were ready to be sold.

The majority of people lived in tents at first and soon log cabins began to appear. By 1886 a number of families of Treadwell employees started to arrive. Some of the first permanent residents were Richard McCormick, Nickolas King, George Shotter, Mike McKanna, P.H. Fox, and Henry Mead.

Tlingit families settled in the area from around Southeast Alaska. Many of the natives were from the Taku River area. They lived along the waterfront between the mine and the town of Douglas in houses on pilings. The natives were employed as laborers at the Treadwell mines and for construction of the Treadwell Ditch which brought water to the mills.

The first bakery was opened by P.H. Fox and Mike McKanna. By 1888 Frank Tibbits and Tom Fisher installed a boiler and engine in a Columbia River type sailboat and enclosed it to carry about twelve passengers. The little vessel was called "Marion." The Juneau Douglas Navigation Company was established in early 1890's and soon a wharf was built at the foot of "D" Street. A power company was organized around 1892 (Alaska Electric Light and Power) that served both Juneau and Douglas.

Douglas incorporated in 1902 as a first class city but a townsite patent wasn't granted until 1918. City government was soon established and Douglas began rivaling Juneau. Numerous streets were planked or graveled, water and sewer service was started and fire hydrants were installed. The fire department that was organized in 1889 was equipped with a hose cart. A weekly newspaper called the Douglas Island News was established in 1898. There were several small dairies, a fish packing plant, a barrel factory, a cigar manufacturing plant, cabinet making and mortuary businesses, jewelers, steam laundries, and a three story school.

Doctors and dentists practiced in a hospital run by the Sisters of St. Ann which was paid for by the Treadwell Gold Mining Company. By 1910 the population had grown to 1,722.



*Downtown Douglas, Alaska 1912
Early Prints Collection; PCA 01-977
Courtesy of the Alaska State Historical Library*

In 1917 some of the Treadwell mining tunnels flooded due to a massive cave-in caused by water seeping through surface fractures at an extremely high tide. This catastrophe caused the eventual closure of the Treadwell operations in 1922. It was a devastating economic blow to the residents of Douglas. By 1920 only 919 people remained in Douglas. Many businessmen closed up shop and moved south. Former Treadwell miners found work at the Alaska Juneau mine and mill in Juneau.

The Treadwell cave-in was not the only disaster to affect the town. In March of 1911 fire broke out and destroyed sixteen buildings including two hotels in the area known as Front Street. Fifteen years later in, October of 1926, another fire hit the community. It turned south and raced up St. Ann's Avenue toward Treadwell. By the time the fire was put out, it had burned the Native village on Sandy Beach, residences and businesses on St. Ann's Avenue and parts of Treadwell as far south as the Glory Hole.

In February 1937 disaster struck once again as a fire burned businesses on Front Street and moved up "D" Street into the heart of the townsite along Third Street. Blocks of business property were destroyed along with the school, city offices, churches, and many residences. Among the items burned were the city records dating back to the 1890's. By 1939 the population dropped to around 593 residents. The spirit of the town was not dampened however. Many families continued to make Douglas their home and numerous descendants still live in the area today.

Douglas was an independent town with its own city government, self supporting volunteer fire department, and public school. The Douglas Bridge, completed in 1935, created a physical tie between the communities and in 1970 a political tie was secured when Douglas was incorporated with the City and Borough of Juneau. Many pioneers are still not happy with this arrangement. They have a fierce pride in their town and are loyal to the old Douglas.

Douglas Cemeteries

Accurate records of the Douglas cemeteries are difficult to obtain due to the 1937 fire in Douglas which destroyed the community's important records. Among them were vital statistics records from 1909 to 1920; old cemetery records by W. Boyd from 1900 to 1910; numerous burial lists, records and papers; revised cemetery record 1927; and chart and burial lot plat of the cemetery. The only resources available are the newspapers and the fading memories of the pioneers, but most of those that could help provide information have long since passed away. We have been able to find a little information in the newspapers regarding the development of some of the sites, but others drew a blank.

During the early years of mining there were numerous mining accidents many of which resulted in death. Not only were miners killed, but diseases such as diphtheria, small pox, and influenza took a good percentage of lives in Douglas and Treadwell, as did infant mortality and old age.

There was no cemetery in Douglas in the early 1880's and 1890's. In 1887 there were no newspapers except in Juneau and little mention was made of deaths in Douglas or Treadwell, unless it was a major mine accident. The Douglas Island News was established in 1898 and vital statistics were recorded. One article states that Douglas people were buried in Juneau before 1900. Some may have been buried in the "Ridge Cemetery" (Chicken Ridge) as early as 1887 and in the Evergreen Cemetery which was developed in 1888-89. A few deaths were recorded in 1899, and in August of 1900 people were reported as being "buried in the old cemetery." It is not clear whether or not they meant Douglas. There may have been some burials near the outskirts of town before the establishment of the "new" cemetery.

Laura McCarley, author of "Treadwell, Alaska" says that blanket burials in unmarked graves were the standard practice of the mining companies. She also reports that the new (Douglas) cemetery, presumably the City Cemetery, was laid out in 20' by 20' plots, with streets and alley ways and that a German cabinet maker and hardware merchant, John Feusi, went into the undertaking business. Reportedly a partially blind Tlingit from the Taku Village, Frank Weaver, was carving tombstones out of Tolkeen Marble.



*Douglas Highway at Cemeteries, ca. 1935 - Catholic Cemetery on Right
Alaska Road Commission Collection; # 61-38-4959
Courtesy of the Alaska State Historical Library*

The first issue of the Douglas Island News in 1898 stated that a movement to start a cemetery occurred at a public meeting. In the August 1900 issue the editor commented, "In constructing a cemetery on Douglas Island a very peculiar condition presents itself. Will Douglas citizens bury their dead on Douglas Island?" He goes on to say that there "are numerous graves tended and fenced by Douglas relatives (in Juneau) and would families want to be separated." The old cemetery was known all over Alaska as the Juneau-Douglas Cemetery. Yet the citizens of Douglas wanted their own burial ground.

In 1899 mining engineer W.A. Sanders, W.A. Thompson, and Minnie Ross Holman applied for a patent to mining claims which took in the northwest end of the town of Douglas, including streets and buildings. The ground consisted of over 50 acres which included 13 lode claims and some mill sites. A committee was formed to protest this patent. Sanders agreed that if the committee did not protest his application for patent he would deed back "all lots, easement of streets, etc. and other points in which his patent interfered with the town of Douglas." This was later agreed to in writing.

The committee also asked for ground for a cemetery. Sanders agreed to give the people of Douglas "the dry knoll this side of Lawson Creek" if they would not object to his patent. He also agreed to build a road to the grounds, but declined to put it in writing and said his word was good. Immediately after the meeting, a Cemetery Committee consisting of P.H. Fox, M.J. O'Connor, Rev. Peplogle and W.C. Boyd took possession of the knoll and ran a line from Third Street in Douglas to the area.

Shortly after Sander's verbal agreement the Cemetery Committee hired three men and started clearing a trail, which later became a gravel road, from Third Street in Douglas to the knoll. The land claimed was "to the left of the gravel road on the bench from the gulch where the road strikes the bench, to Lawson Creek." The road was approximately one-half mile in a straight line. About 30 feet of planking was done from the end of Third Street to the "Old Indian Graveyard" (Douglas Indian Cemetery) and three small bridges were constructed. Two acres were cleared and between four and five acres were enclosed by a wire fence. This description fits the location of the current City Cemetery.



*Douglas Highway at Cemeteries, ca. 1935 - Catholic Cemetery on Right
Alaska Road Commission Collection; # 61-38-4836
Courtesy of the Alaska State Historical Library*

Though W.A. Sanders was a noted mining engineer, it was felt among the citizens of Douglas the Sanders' claims were not valid because he was a resident of Nova Scotia, Canada. Apparently the patent office did not agree. In 1900 Sanders obtained a patent to part of the mining claims. He kept his written word and deeded back the land and buildings, but refused to honor his verbal agreement regarding the cemetery, in fact he denied making it. Eventually he admitted he had made the agreement but "he wasn't going to buy land and pay out money for it and then give it away."

Mr. Sanders was informed that the people of Douglas had earned the cemetery ground because they did not interfere with his patent. They even offered to pay him the government price of \$5.00 an acre. He did not feel that was enough. It is not stated what the final outcome was. Sanders did post no trespassing notices as late as 1903 threatening to prosecute any person using the ground for burial purposes, but they soon disappeared. Douglas residents claimed that they had been in "legal and peaceable possession of the premises for about three years."

Fund drives began in 1900 to raise money to pay for the gravel road and other improvements. Over \$1,000 was collected in two months through musical benefits and subscriptions. Donations were as high as \$30 per individual when the average day's wage was around \$3.00.

The cemetery land was eventually divided into nine sections which were sold to various groups. The main ones being the City Cemetery, Eagles, Odd Fellows, Masons, and Catholics. Smaller sections were dedicated to the Servians, Asians, Natives, Russian Orthodox and one source claims there were separate sections for prostitutes and suicides.

In November 1900 pioneer Douglas resident W.C. Boyd was appointed clerk for the Cemetery Committee and was to keep all records. He also was in charge of the road gang and later appointed as grave digger because previous diggers were not "observing the plan of the streets and alleys as marked out."

W.C. Boyd came to the area around 1885. He was referred to as the "grand old man of Douglas." He was very active in Douglas city affairs. He was also a prospector and before he was put in charge of the Douglas Cemetery he was manager of the Alaska Snettisham Gold Mining Company. In 1910 he moved to California for health reasons but returned to the Pioneer Home in Sitka where he died in 1917 near the age of 80.

Persons wishing to bury their dead in the Douglas Cemetery were required to apply for a permit with the description of the deceased, name, age, and birth place. Records were kept for future use. A charge of \$5.00 was made for a burial permit and a plot (this fee was still in affect as late as 1933). Families could secure a lot sufficient for five burials for \$10.00. Societies (lodges, etc.) could obtain a lot from \$50.00 upwards, depending upon the size. The ground was to be cleared and fenced and a yearly fee was charged for road repairs and other maintenance.

One source reported that in 1907 there was unrest at Treadwell because of rumors that if a man died and had no relatives, his body would end up in the mill tailings piles. That same year John Yamanoi, a Japanese kitchen worker was murdered. A week later the "Treadwell Funeral Riots" began. The men demanded special caskets and funerals complete with the Treadwell Band, marked graves and notification of their deaths to their relatives. In 1913 the Treadwell Company agreed to funeral expenses not to exceed \$125 per interment.

There were over eight mining related deaths at the Treadwell mines in 1901. The greatest loss of life was on March 2, 1910 at 11:30 PM on the 1,100 foot level of the Mexican Mine when the powder magazine exploded. The men were gathered at their station wiring to be hoisted to the surface for their midnight meal. All 36 men died except one who was badly injured. At the 900 foot level a man was killed by the shock of the explosion and others were injured.

Numerous graves have been found in the city cemetery and one in the native cemetery of these mining accident victims. The average age of the 1910 victims was twenty and most of them appeared to be single. The men were from all over the world including Austria, Italy, England, Norway, and Finland. Only two were listed as being from the United States.



Douglas Highway at Cemeteries, ca. 1935 - Service Road to Cemeteries on Left
Alaska Road Commission Collection; # 61-38-4960
Courtesy of the Alaska State Historical Library

There were no morticians as we know them today. Cabinet shops were established that included the making of furniture and caskets. The owners of these shops became the undertakers for the town. Advertisements were in the Douglas Island News reading "Undertaking ... Manufacturers of Furniture, Carpentering, Jobbing, Store & Office Fixtures." Others read, "Douglas Undertaking Parlors, Funeral Directors and Embalmers." Some of these undertakers were H.V. Sully, J.A. McKanna, T.P. Sheldon, and L.G. and Merle Thomas. Some of the deceased were shipped to Juneau to C.W. Young and Charles W. Carter and then returned to Douglas for burial.

Recent Developments

An undetermined number of graves in the Servian, Asian, and Native cemeteries were moved when the Bureau of Public Roads constructed Douglas Highway to Cowee Creek in 1934. A news article stated that the bodies were interred in the present City Cemetery. In 1967, due to a road project, eight graves containing 13 bodies in the Douglas Indian Cemetery were removed and interred at Evergreen Cemetery in Juneau. In 1972 graves were disturbed at the Eagles Cemetery due to the widening of Douglas Highway. About 25 graves were moved to Alaska Memorial Park in the Mendenhall Valley. The exact number of burial sites disturbed or moved is difficult to document as the records are not readily accessible or don't exist.

In July of 1979 foundations were being constructed for a private home allegedly on the western edge of the City Cemetery. A group of Douglas residents were extremely upset and tried to halt construction. The attorney for the individuals said there was no evidence that the site was part of the Douglas Cemetery, even though the house is surrounded by graves. Investigations were made by the Alaska State Troopers and the State Attorney General's office. An archaeologist was also called in to investigate. It was later proved that the house was not within the cemetery boundaries.

The proof sought was a quiet title action, dated in 1964, by the O.T. Corporation versus the City of Douglas that indicated the land was not part of a cemetery. In the judgement and decree of the court the O.T. Corporation got title to the lot which was eventually sold. The lot was described as adjacent to but not in a cemetery. The owners of the property in question reportedly took extraordinary measures to make certain there was no problem.

During the controversy, numerous Douglas residents turned out to clean away the brush and debris in the Douglas Cemetery. Residents also asked the Borough Assembly to stop the construction project, but this request was turned down.

In the early 1970's the City and Borough of Juneau agreed to survey cemetery land in Douglas as part of an effort to investigate, clear title to the property, and gather information to acquire, survey and maintain the cemeteries. One assemblyman agreed that an inventory should be made and that the city should assume responsibility for the Douglas land. It was even suggested that additional land around the cemetery be purchased to accommodate new burial sites. It was also suggested that individuals who had relatives in the cemetery be asked to maintain the grave sites or donate money to have them maintained. The Ross Estate was to be contacted and asked for transfer of ownership of the cemetery land. If they could not be contacted, a quiet title action was to be initiated and the grave sites were to be inventoried.

It has been a source of confusion who are the executors of the Ross Estate. Attempts to reach them by mail have been fruitless as the address is in care of general delivery in Douglas and no one in recent times has come for this mail. There is no evidence that the Ross Estate was ever contacted and the quiet title action has never been completed.

Current Conditions

Over the years the cemeteries have received varying amounts of maintenance. The Eagles, Catholic and Native Cemeteries have been kept weeded. The others are overgrown with ferns, alders, and salmonberry bushes. Generally there has been no attempt to protect and preserve the graves or headstones, except by a few dedicated individuals. In 1994 the Douglas Lions Club made the City Cemetery a service project to clean the area and preserve the existing markers. The work continues in 1995.

Although there were no plan drawings found in the research of the cemeteries it appears that some planning went into the layout of the plots in the individual cemeteries. Plots appear to be laid out in rows generally parallel to the channel. Graves are positioned with the head toward the mountains and the feet toward Gastineau Channel.

Most headstones are deteriorating except the metal ones which have some evidence of vandalism. Numerous tablets and headstones are face down or on their side. None were found with footstones. Most of the stones are covered with moss or lichen that have etched and obscured the inscriptions. Only two original wood markers were discovered, however many wood markers have been replaced especially in the Eagles Cemetery. The only grave houses were located in the Douglas Indian Cemetery.

There are some family plots which are surrounded by low concrete walls which have one headstone identifying multiple burials. Several sites were surrounded by ornamental metal fences which now lie on the ground. In one case an elaborate wooden picket fence surrounded the burial plot however the only remains are a few of the picket pieces.

Early cemetery and burial records were destroyed in the 1937 fire. There has been no attempt to re-establish the cemetery documentation since the fire.

The property upon which the cemeteries are located represent a variety of owners. The Catholic, Native, Asian, and Russian Orthodox Cemeteries are owned by the Catholic Church. The Douglas Indian and Masons Cemeteries are owned by the Ross Estate. The Eagles and City Cemeteries are owned by Ripley/Rountree/Isaak Trustees. The Servian cemetery is owned by a private individual. And the Odd Fellows Cemetery is owned by an out-of-state development corporation which is in the process of transferring this holding to the City and Borough of Juneau.

The Eagles Club maintains the Eagles Cemetery and the Douglas Lions Club has recently taken on the task of caring for the City Cemetery. The Douglas Indian Association performs periodic maintenance on the grounds of the Douglas Indian Cemetery. Maintenance at the other cemeteries is inconsistent, often provided by an individual or family whose relatives are buried there.



Grave House at Douglas Indian Cemetery, 1986
CBJ Collection
Photograph by Gabrielle LaRoche

HISTORIC SITES SUMMARY STATEMENT

Douglas Indian Cemetery

Established ca. 1900

AHRS No.: JUN-064

CBJ No.: H-10

Records were not available to confirm the establishment of the Douglas Indian Cemetery however it is believed to have been around 1900. The earliest identifiable grave marker was in 1909 of Mrs. Gilbert Jackson. Her burial marker lies within one of the two grave houses that exist on the site. These hexagonal buildings were constructed of wood and one features wooden columns. They have wood shingles and are in deteriorated condition.

The cemetery site is located within the boundaries of the City of Douglas across from the Gastineau Elementary School. It is surrounded on three sides by residential development and on the fourth side by Third Street. The site is a level bank with native grassy vegetation. Most grave markers are overturned and many ground depressions are unmarked. The site includes a wooden sign which refers to the cemetery as the burial site for the Taku Tribe, Crow Clan. A representative of the Douglas Indian Association indicated that persons other than Taku Tribe members were buried there and that the local Natives refer to it as the Douglas Indian Cemetery.

A prominent person buried in the Douglas Indian Cemetery is Chief Aanalahaash (misspelled as Anna-Cla-Ash). A wooden memorial marker is located within the cemetery but is badly deteriorated. The two wooden grave houses are in a deteriorating condition.



Douglas Indian Cemetery, 1995

CBJ Collection

Photograph by Renee Hughes

Catholic Cemetery

Established ca. 1912

AHRS No.: JUN-135

CBJ No.: H-8

Records were not available to confirm the establishment of the Catholic Cemetery and there was no mention of it in newspapers of 1911 or 1912. However the grave of H.P. Carroll was the earliest marker identified with a date of 1912. Lillian McCormick, of a prominent Douglas Catholic family, was buried in the Douglas City Cemetery in 1911. According to a family member, this was because the Catholic Cemetery was not yet developed. It appears that all other McCormick family members were buried in the Catholic Cemetery.

The survey revealed 24 burial site markers. Based upon visual observations of ground depressions only another 6 burial sites are evident. This number may be low, however, as the area may have been regraded to plant and maintain grass. The descendants of the McCormick Family are primarily responsible for maintaining the cemetery by cutting the grass and periodically brush the area.

The Catholic Cemetery is located between the Odd Fellows and Native cemeteries. A stand of Spruce trees lies between the Catholic and Odd Fellows cemeteries and there is a small drainage ditch separating the Catholic and Native cemeteries. The Catholic Cemetery slopes gently up hill from a service road to the base of a condominium housing development. A large white cross is centered at the top of the cemetery. Most of the identifiable burial sites are toward the top of the slope. There are two burial sites at the lower end between the service road and Douglas Highway.

The earliest burial date identified was that of H.P. Carroll, October 2, 1912. The most recent date is June 6, 1995 when the ashes of Kathleen Mary McCormick were placed at the family plot.

The grave markers in the Catholic Cemetery are a mixture of upright and flat granite either engraved or featuring a brass plaque. A couple of wooden markers remain but are deteriorating badly. The family plots feature low concrete boundary walls. The newer markers all lie flat.



*Catholic Cemetery, 1995
CBJ Collection
Photograph by Renee Hughes*

Some of the prominent persons buried in the Catholic Cemetery are:

Anton Afric: Born in Austria on January 29, 1877, died on December 8, 1937. He worked as a miner at the Treadwell Mine and later for the Alaska Juneau Gold Mining Company. He was a member of the Moose and Croation Lodges. An ad in a local newspaper refers to the Africh & Africh (sic) store and residence which he may have operated with his brother John.

Tom Cashen: Born on January 8, 1873, died on September 13, 1931. He was working as a blacksmith at the Treadwell Mine as early as 1901, when he married Sadie King. He continued working at that trade until the Treadwell cave-in in 1917. In 1925 he was a wharfinger for the city of Douglas.



Wooden Grave Marker at Catholic Cemetery, 1995
CBJ Collection
Photograph by Willette Janes

Richard McCormick, Sr.: Born in Pottsville, Pennsylvania on August 8, 1859, died in Pacific Grove, California on May 3, 1934. He moved to Treadwell in 1886 where he worked as a blacksmith at the Mexican Mine. He married Nora Connors in 1888 with whom he had eleven children. He served as a postmaster at Treadwell in 1911 and later was employed at the Treadwell Foundry.

Madeline Riedi: Born in Alsace Lorraine (Germany) on July 16, 1885, died on October 1, 1947. She and her husband, Joseph, arrived in Douglas around 1907. They operated a grocery store, a bakery and later a restaurant with Joseph's brother George who was a well known baker in Douglas since 1898.

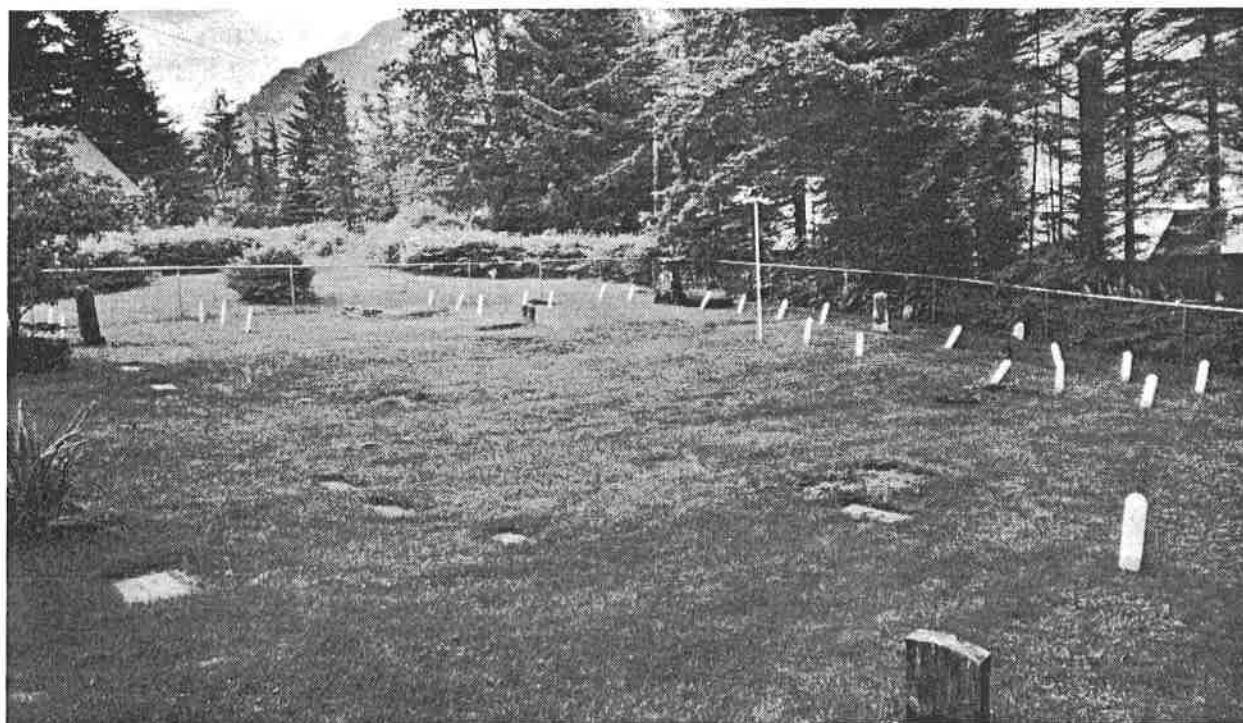
Mat Slujo: Born in Austria on January 15, 1886, died May 15, 1921. He was reportedly the last person to die at the Treadwell before it closed. He worked at the Ready Bullion mine, the only mine of the Treadwell group of mines not flooded in the 1917 cave-in. His widow, Sarka, was the daughter of Anton Krasel, a tailor, who operated a business on St. Anns Avenue as early as 1910.

Eagles Cemetery

Established 1902

AHRS No.: JUN-136
CBJ No.: H-9

Douglas Aerie, No. 117 of the Fraternal Order of Eagles was organized in July of 1901 with a membership of 120. In October of that same year a fancy ball was given to raise money for purchasing, clearing and fencing a cemetery tract. In 1902 the area was enclosed with a white picket fence and a sign with the Eagles emblem was placed above the entrance. In August 1904 the tract was formally dedicated with speeches and songs. Part of the speech by the Grand President, Douglas druggist, Elmer E. Smith read, "For when an Eagle takes his last homeward flight, here he may rest in peace...."



Eagles Cemetery, 1986
CBJ Collection
Photograph by Gabrielle LaRoche

The earliest date identified on a marker was that of a child who died in October 1901. The latest date was that of G.R. "Mex" Isaak who died on June 8, 1988. Records indicate there were 61 burials in the cemetery although 10 of these were moved in 1980 to the Alaskan Memorial Park due to a road construction project. The survey identified 27 markers with

citations. Additional unidentified markers were placed in later years as the originals wooden markers had deteriorated beyond recognition.

The plot is currently surrounded by a four foot high chain link fence and gate. The site is generally level, planted with grass, and features an American flag flying in the center of the site. The majority of the markers are flush with the ground. Some of the more elaborate stone monuments are showing signs of deterioration.

The late G.R. "Mex" Isaak dedicated over 25 years to keeping the area clean and the grass mowed. He marked all the unidentified graves with simple white wooden markers. Mr. Isaak's family continues to maintain the cemetery.

Some of the prominent persons buried in the Catholic Cemetery are:

James Edminson: Born in Scotland in 1879, died in Seattle, Washington on March 14, 1944. He was a miner at the Treadwell and A.J. Mines. In 1921 he was working at the Treadwell Foundry.

John Runquist: Born in Finland on February 24, 1876, died on December 9, 1937. He came to Treadwell around 1900 and worked as a miner at the Ready Bullion Mine. He also worked at the A.J. Mine as a drilling contractor and later as machinist. He was popularly known as "the machine doc."

Lisa Uberti: Born in Piamonte, Italy on February 6, 1879, died on December 28, 1918. She was the first wife of Emil Uberti who was a well known Douglas business man. He owned a pool room on Front Street and was manager of the Hunter Hotel. They had three children.

Charles Wortman: Born in 1852, died on November 25, 1905. He owned the Charles Coffee House in 1898 and was a partner with John Feusi in a hardware store, which he later became sole owner in 1899. He also was the senior partner in the business of Wortman & Jensen, a hardware and furniture store in the early 1900's.

City Cemetery

Established 1899

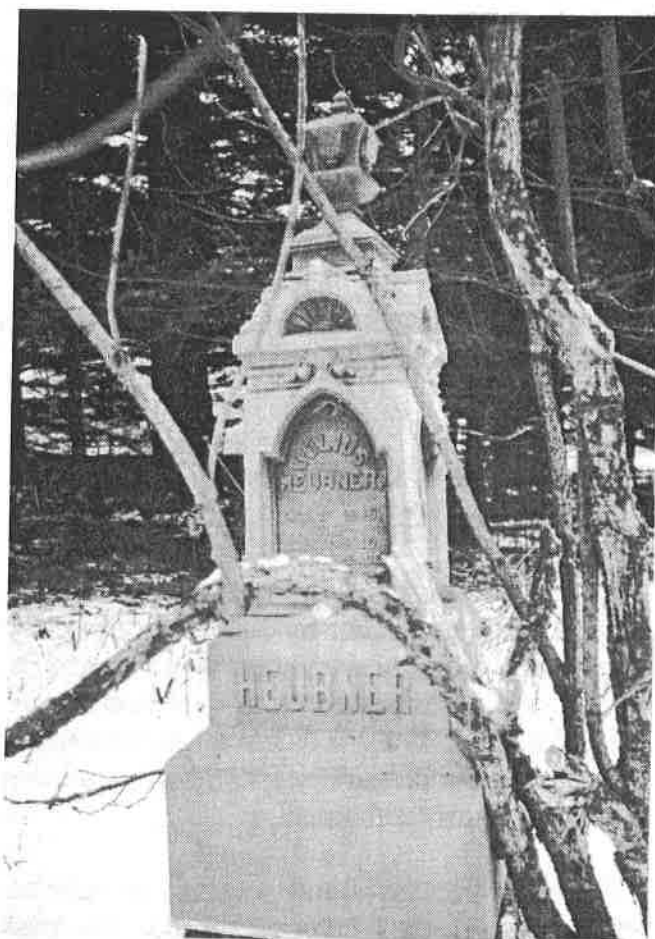
AHRS No.: JUN-680

CBJ No.: H-117

The City Cemetery was established on land given to the City of Douglas by W.A. Saunders in exchange for not interfering with his application for mining patents. There is no record that Douglas actually received a deed, and ownership is listed as the Ross Estate. Previous to the establishment of the Douglas City Cemetery burials were in the Chicken Ridge Cemetery and later in the Evergreen Cemetery. Graves in the Chicken Ridge Cemetery were eventually moved to the Evergreen Cemetery in Juneau. Between 1934 and 1972 some graves were disturbed in the City Cemetery and moved due road construction work on the Douglas Highway.

Records indicate about 275 burials at the City Cemetery however only 52 markers were found in the field work. Numerous ground depressions are evident which may account for more burial sites. The cemetery features wooden markers, wooden and metal fences surrounding family plots, low concrete walls surrounding individual and family plots, cast iron markers, and marble or granite markers. Markers are in various conditions. Many are leaning or fallen over. Some, especially the wooden ones, are not legible at all. Many have broken elements and most of the fences have fallen.

In 1994 the Douglas Lions Club took on the project to start clearing the brush and overgrowth in the cemetery. Due to the size of the site, the work continues and much more needs to be done. The work done so far has exposed many grave markers.



Grave Markers in City Cemetery, 1995
CBJ Collection
Photograph by Renee Hughes

Some of the prominent persons buried in the Catholic Cemetery are:

George E. Anderson: Born in Bodie, California on July 22, 1882, died on January 30, 1901. He moved to Douglas in 1889 when he was six years old. He worked at Treadwell at the time of his death which was caused by an explosion at the 700 Foot Mine. It was said that his funeral was the largest on Douglas Island.

Sarah Anne Archer: Born in Flintstone, England on 1846, died on October 25, 1904. She was married to Michael B. Archer who was the Treadwell marshall in 1910. She owned a store in Union City which was located west of the current Douglas Bridge. They also had a small dairy in 1903.

Albert Dazadelli: Born in Italy in 1887, died March 2, 1910. He worked at the Mexican Mine of the Treadwell. He died in an explosion which also took the lives of 36 other miners. The explosion took place on the 1,000 foot level in the powder magazine while the miners were waiting for the hoist to take them to the surface at the end of their shift.

Phillip and James Egan: Born August 19, 1900 and August 14, 1901 respectively, Phillip died on April 9, 1902 while James' death date is not known. They were the young sons of John and Annie Fontaine Egan. The boys died in a Dyptheria epidemic. John owned a brewery and a butcher shop in Douglas.

Frederick Higgins: Born in Springfield, Nova Scotia in August of 1891, died on September 17, 1919. He worked at various mines in the area. He played semi-professional ball in the United States and was well known as a pitcher in the Douglas baseball team. He was a member of the Douglas Volunteer Fire Department.

Odd Fellows Cemetery

Established 1911

AHRS No.: JUN-681

CBJ No.: H-118

The Odd Fellows lodge was organized in Douglas as early as 1898. It was in August of 1911 that Harper and Company cleared a cemetery tract for them. In 1912 improvements were made and a central monument was placed in the center of the tract with the names of the Grand Nobles inscribed on it. Concrete stairs led up to the monument in the shape of a "Y." The lot was 170' by 100' and all gravestones were to have IOOF engraved along with the name of the individual. H.V. Scully, a local undertaker and carpenter, was contracted to put up an ornamental fence.

The grave markers in this cemetery are unique to this cemetery. They are all generally the same size. They feature an arched top vertical slab approximately thirty inches high by twenty four inches wide by six inches deep. The engraving is on the top arched surface.

The site slopes up from a small service road and is overgrown with brush. Some cutting of Alder trees over the years has resulted in layers of branches lying over markers and grave impressions. Once a year a descendant removes brush from three of the burial sites.

Based on records and information there are approximately 35 burial sites however only 17 markers were identified. In most cases it was difficult to positively identify the persons in the cemetery because it was the practice of the Odd Fellows to only list the last name. In the case of a wife buried along with an Odd Fellow she is only listed as "Mrs.".

Some of the prominent persons buried in the Odd Fellows Cemetery are:

August Aalto: Born in Tanperi, Finland on February 19, 1866, died on October 17, 1958. He arrived in Douglas around 1890 and worked in the Treadwell and later the AJ mines. He had a small dairy farm on St. Anns Avenue and in 1912 was the owner of the Midnight Express Company.

Maria Newman Anderson: Born in Ornestaad, Sweden on October 8, 1872, died on July 13, 1928. She married Nels Anderson in 1895 and moved to Juneau in 1897 and to Douglas in 1904. Nels worked for the Treadwell as a foreman of the Ready Bullion Mine. He was mayor of Douglas in 1926.

John C. Strapran: Born in 1888, died on November 15, 1920. He was a native of Russia and came to America in his teens. He arrived in Treadwell about 1918 and worked as an electrician at the mine. Later he worked for the Juneau Lumber Mills as an engineer on a loading crane. He was unmarried.

Masons Cemetery

Established 1914

AHRS No.: JUN-682

CBJ No.: H-119

The Masons were meeting as a club as early as 1898 but they were not under a charter. In 1902 members were taking steps for the organization of a lodge. Shortly thereafter they were recognized as the Free and Accepted Masons Lodge #124. They did not secure a tract of land for the cemetery until 1914.

The Masons Cemetery is adjacent to the Odd Fellows. The site slopes up from a small service road and is heavily overgrown. There is evidence that an elaborate metal fence surrounded the entire tract.

Records indicate that only 5 persons were buried in the cemetery. There is only one marker located at the northwest corner of the cemetery. It is at the edge of a gully near the rear of an adjacent house. There are recognizable depressions in the ground that are possibly burial sites.

The only marker in the cemetery is:

James Lindsay: Born in 1879, died on September 15, 1916. He arrived in Douglas around 1906. He worked at the Treadwell as a millman in 1914. He was the owner of a transfer business at the time of his death. His widow, Margaret, married Edward Cashel Jr. in 1917.

Servian Cemetery

Established 1902

AHRS No.: JUN-683

CBJ No.: H-120

In 1902 members of the Servian Benevolent Association secured a plot of ground adjoining the Eagles Cemetery. In 1908 two miners that belonged to the association were killed in a Treadwell mine accident. One of them was buried without incident, but there was a riot from rival union members and they asked Father Orloff not to perform the service on the non-union miner. The marshall had to be called and finally the miner was buried without further incidence.

Researched information indicates as many as 9 persons were buried in the cemetery. In 1904 there were five burials listed in the Douglas Island News. Most of the deaths were caused by accidents in the Treadwell group of mines. Only one marker remains. It is a somewhat elaborate stone monument with an inscription that has been partially translated into English by the current property owner.

The land came into private ownership during the 1970's. There is speculation that some of the graves were removed during road construction projects. The grave marker is located in the northwest corner of the back yard of a private residence. The owners of the house have kept the area clean and have shown an interest in preserving the marker.

The only marker in the cemetery is:

Obtte Ttoynbajy (translated as Toma Bykoba): Born in the Ukraine with date unknown, died on February 23, 1912. The inscription on the marker translates that he was born in the Ukraine, a Soviet republic in southwestern Russia.

Native Cemetery

Established ca. 1901

AHRS No.: JUN-684

CBJ No.: H-121

There is no specific information about the establishment of this cemetery. The earliest burial date noted was June 9, 1901. It is located adjacent to the Catholic Cemetery on a relatively level area in a stand of old growth spruce trees and other native bushes.

Identifiable markers indicate a Tlingit chief, wife of a chief, and a member of the Kaagwaantaan-wolf clan buried in the cemetery. Several of the markers are rather elaborate with relief carvings of the individual's clan crest.

There are numerous family plots surrounded by low concrete walls. One grave marker has rounded low pillars at the corners of the concrete walls. Several of the graves have solid concrete covers with no identification. Some of the concrete tops have an open section in the center in the shape of a cross. Others have small smooth stones embedded in the concrete.

Some of the prominent persons buried in the Native Cemetery are:

Mrs. Jimmie (Jennie) and Helen (daughter) Fox: No date is available for either birth, Mrs. Fox died on December 24, 1918, Helen died on December 28, 1918. Jennie was reportedly the daughter of "Taku Jack" Keen. Jimmie Fox was the best known and respected Native on Douglas Island. When Chief Aanalahaash (Anna-Cla-Ash) died, Jimmie Fox, who was his nephew, became chief of the Taku Tribe. His title was Chief Aanalahaash II. Both mother (Jennie) and daughter (Helen) died of influenza.

Mrs. Charles Green: Born in 1886, died on October 17, 1915. She was the wife of Charles Green who was a partner, with Harry G. Slater, in a sawmill in 1902 in Douglas.

Chief Johnson: Born in 1862, died June 1917. He was born in the Taku River area and was known as a trapper and fisherman.



*Grave Marker at Native Cemetery, 1995
CBJ Collection
Photograph by Renee Hughes*

Asian Cemetery

Established ca. 1907

AHRS No.: JUN-685
CBJ No.: H-122

No specific information was found relative to the establishment of this cemetery however the earliest date shown on a marker is 1907. The site is relatively flat in a stand of old growth spruce trees with devil's club, salmon berry and fern understory.

There are only three identifiable grave markers and about 11 ground depressions which appear to be graves. One of the markers is inscribed in Japanese, one is in Japanese and English and the other is inscribed in, what appears to be, Slavik. One of the graves had an elaborate wooden picket fence surrounding it and some of the picket pieces remain but are deteriorated.

One person buried in this cemetery is:

T. Yamane: No specific dates of birth or death are known. He may have been the Japanese steward killed in a shooting at the Mexican Boarding house. Many Japanese were employed at the Treadwell boarding houses as cooks and stewards.

Russian Orthodox Cemetery

Established ca. 1916

AHRS No.: JUN-686

CBJ No.: H-123

This cemetery was thought to be a part of the Catholic Cemetery however two oral history sources claim that it was a separate cemetery for the Russian Orthodox. There was no specific establishment date found but the earliest marker was 1916. The majority of the burials were between 1926 to 1957.

There are approximately 40 burial sites in the cemetery with 14 identifiable markers. Some of the burial sites have low concrete walls surrounding the plot. Most markers are seriously deteriorated.

Some of the prominent persons buried in the Russian Orthodox Cemetery are:

Thomas J. Bowman: Born in Douglas on December 17, 1887, died on May 3, 1957. He was a carpenter by trade and was a charter member of the Douglas Camp of the Alaska Native Brotherhood and served as president for nine years. He was a veteran of the Battle of Kiska during World War II. He and his wife Sarah owned a house in the Douglas Native Village on Sandy Beach.

Thomas Shorty: Born in 1894, died on September 9, 1926. He was a well known fisherman and said to be one of the most honorable and well liked natives on Douglas Island. He was reportedly of the Raven clan. His wife, Susie, was Wooshkeetaan of the Eagle clan.

Jack Marshall: Born in the Taku River area, died on June 24, 1945. He was a fisherman and a respected member of the Alaska Native Brotherhood.

HISTORIC CEMETERIES MAPS and SURVEY SHEETS

The inventory and survey of the historic Douglas cemeteries identified burial records indicating 514 burial sites within nine of the cemeteries. The field survey found 157 grave markers in these cemeteries. No burial records were available for the Douglas Indian Cemetery but 12 markers were found. In addition to markers, numerous ground depressions were identified. It is also known that some bodies were removed and reinterred at Evergreen Cemetery and Alaska Memorial Park located in Juneau.

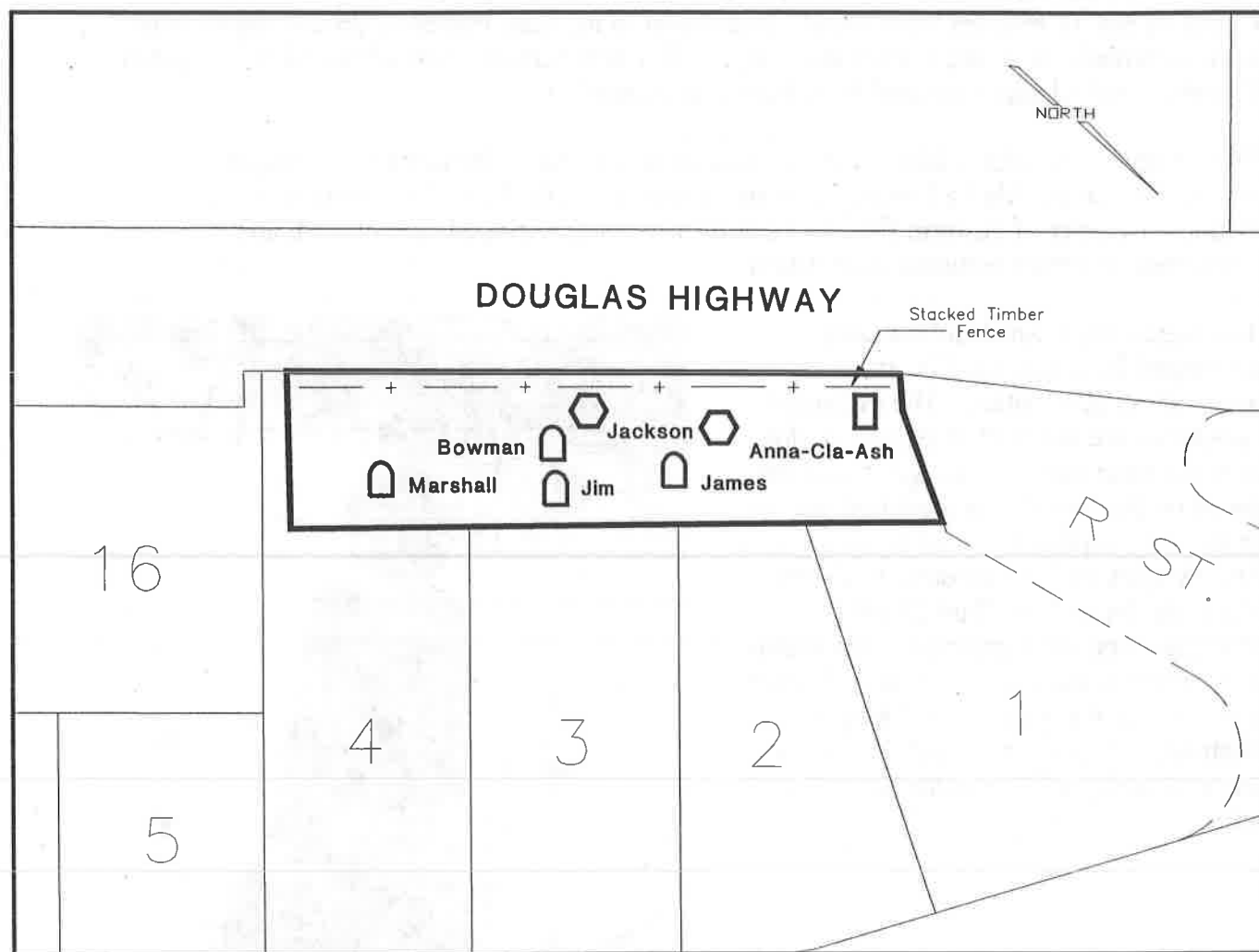
The survey sheets which follow were developed to respond to the primary criteria as established for the Alaska Heritage Resources Survey (AHRS) and for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. Each cemetery was surveyed, inventoried, and researched to record pertinent information.

The sketch maps which follow were developed from existing CBJ street atlas and platting information. The individual cemeteries are not platted as separate lots thus the boundaries are an approximation based on the burial sites identified and the oral history reports received about the area. The Douglas Indian Cemetery is a stand-alone site located on Third Street in Douglas. The other cemeteries are within two cemetery areas across from each other just north of the townsite on Douglas Highway. A key map is included to show the relationship of these cemeteries to each other.



*Grave Marker in City Cemetery, 1995
CBJ Collection
Photograph by Renee Hughes*

DOUGLAS INDIAN CEMETERY



-  Grave Marker
-  Grave House
-  Memorial Marker

SURVEY SHEET

Site Name: Douglas Indian Cemetery **Aliquot:** T41S, R67E, S36
AHRS #: JUN-064 **Lat./Long.:** 58°16'50"N / 1 34°23'57"W
Other Identifying Numbers: H-10 (CBJ Historic Resource Number)
 2-D04-0-20A-026-0 (CBJ Parcel Number)
 Sealaska 1314

Map Sheet: USGS Juneau B-2 **Acreage:** .23 acres (10,216 sq. ft.)

Number of Burials: Unknown **Number of Grave Markers:** 12

Site Description: The cemetery is rectangular in shape and is located on a level bank adjacent to a residential area. Two wooden hexagonal grave houses (one with pillars) exist on the site. A marble marker is located in one grave house. A wood faced marker with engraved raven figure exists and a large wood sign identifies the site. A wood picket fence once existed but has since deteriorated. A stacked timber fence is located on the highway side to deter damage caused by plowing the road in winter.

Significance: Burial for Taku Tribe, Raven clan. Prominent memorial marker commemorating Chief Aanalahaash (Anna-Cla-Ash), who died in 1918. Marker inside one grave house with name Mrs. Gilbert Jackson, who died in 1909.

Location: Third Street in Douglas, Alaska across the street from Gastineau Grade School

Citations: Inventory of Historic Sites and Structures, City and Borough of Juneau, 1986;
Survey and Inventory of Historic Cemeteries in Douglas, Alaska, 1995.

Danger of Destruction: Yes, through neglect

Present Condition: Grave houses in deteriorated condition, grave markers overturned and wooden memorial marker in very deteriorated condition.

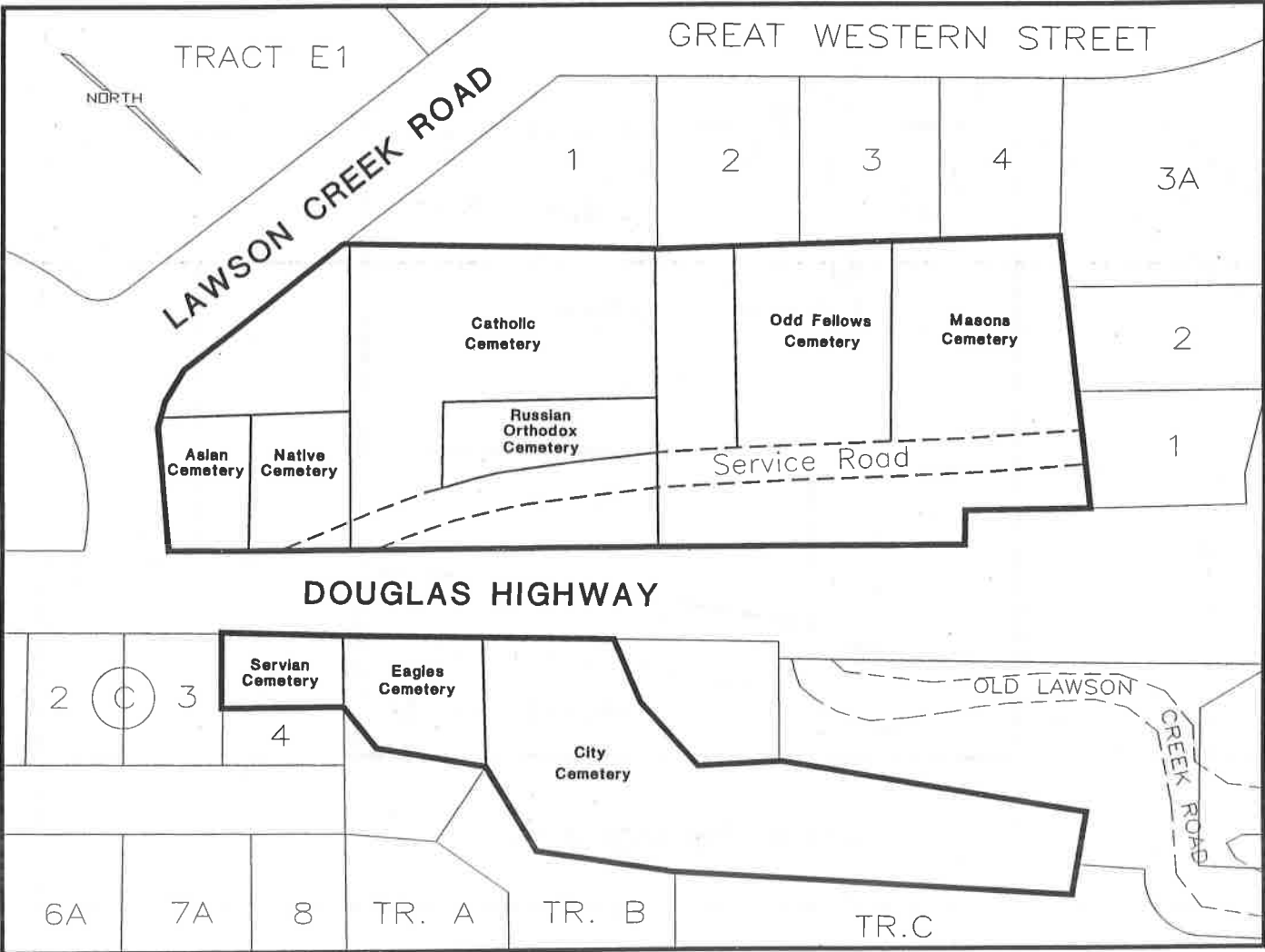
Ecosystem: Rainforest **Cultural Affiliation:** Native Alaskan

Period of Significance: 1900 to 1940 **Period:** Historic

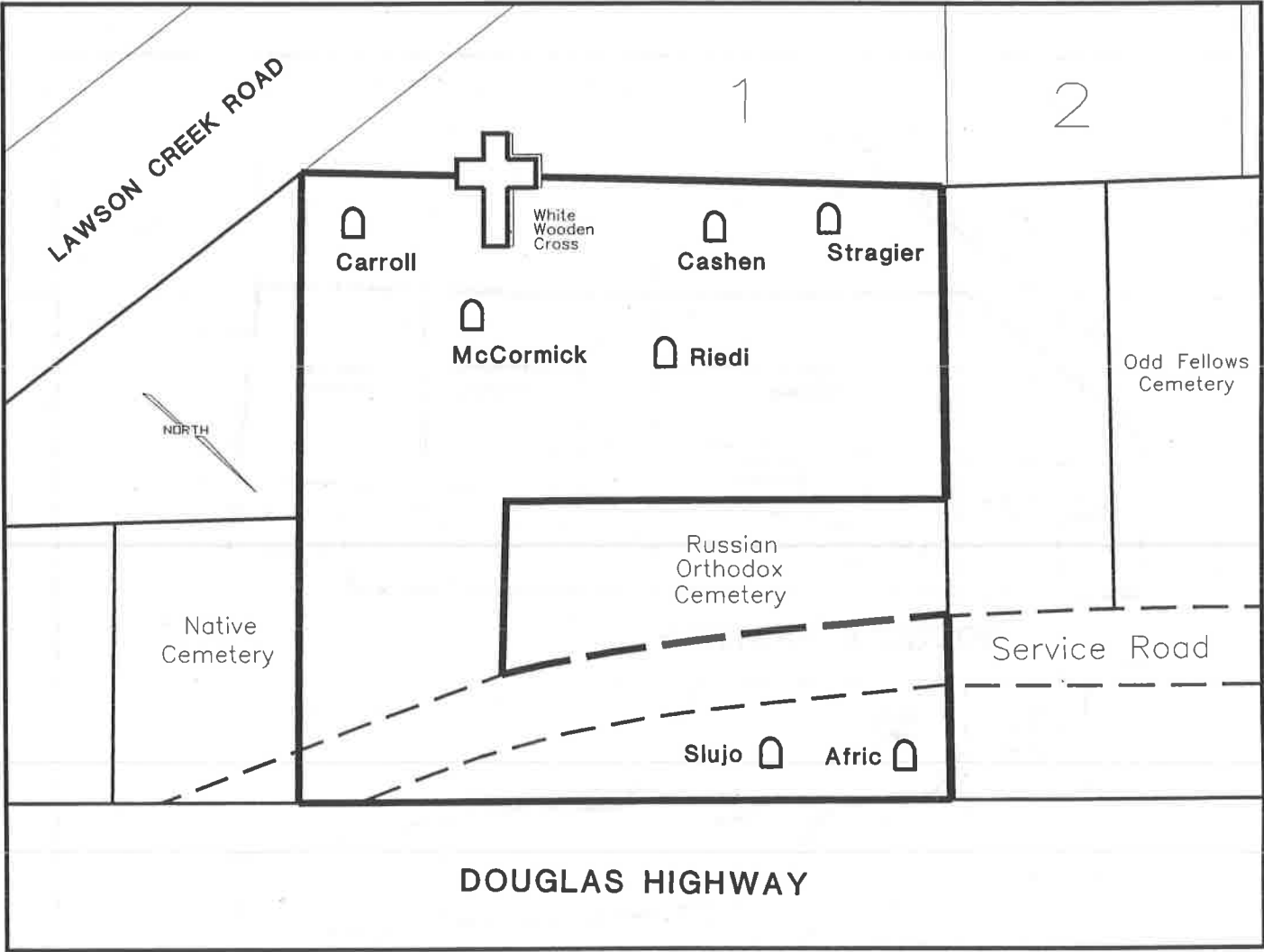
Resource Nature: Cemetery

Preservation Status & Date: None

CEMETERIES MAP KEY



CATHOLIC CEMETERY



☐ Grave Marker

SURVEY SHEET

Site Name: Catholic Cemetery **Aliquot:** T41S, R67E, S26
AHRS #: JUN-135 **Lat./Long.:** 58°16'50"N / 134°24'24"W

Other Identifying Numbers: H-8 (CBJ Historic Resource Number)
 2-D05-0-D01-001-0 (CBJ Parcel Number)

Map Sheet: USGS Juneau B-2 **Acreage:** .6 acres (26,300 sq. ft.)

Number of Burials: 30 **Number of Grave Markers:** 24

Site Description: The cemetery is irregular in shape and wraps around the Russian Orthodox Cemetery. It is located on a high bank above Douglas Highway which slopes steeply upward. A large white cross about 20 feet high dominates the site. Most grave markers and family plots are located at the top of the slope with numerous depressions evident below. Markers are wood, concrete, and stone with many in ruins. Historic photos indicate a fence once surrounded the cemetery. No evidence of the fence remains.

Significance: The cemetery was established for the catholic parishioners who previously were interred at the Douglas City Cemetery or in Juneau. Burial ground of prominent Douglas and Treadwell pioneers.

Location: USMS 341A, approximately 2203 Douglas Highway.

Citations: Inventory of Historic Sites and Structures, City and Borough of Juneau, 1986;
Survey and Inventory of Historic Cemeteries in Douglas, Alaska, 1995.

Danger of Destruction: Yes, through neglect, however, some individual plots have been maintained and repaired by family members.

Present Condition: Wooden markers seriously deteriorated, many stone or concrete markers and family plot boundaries deteriorated.

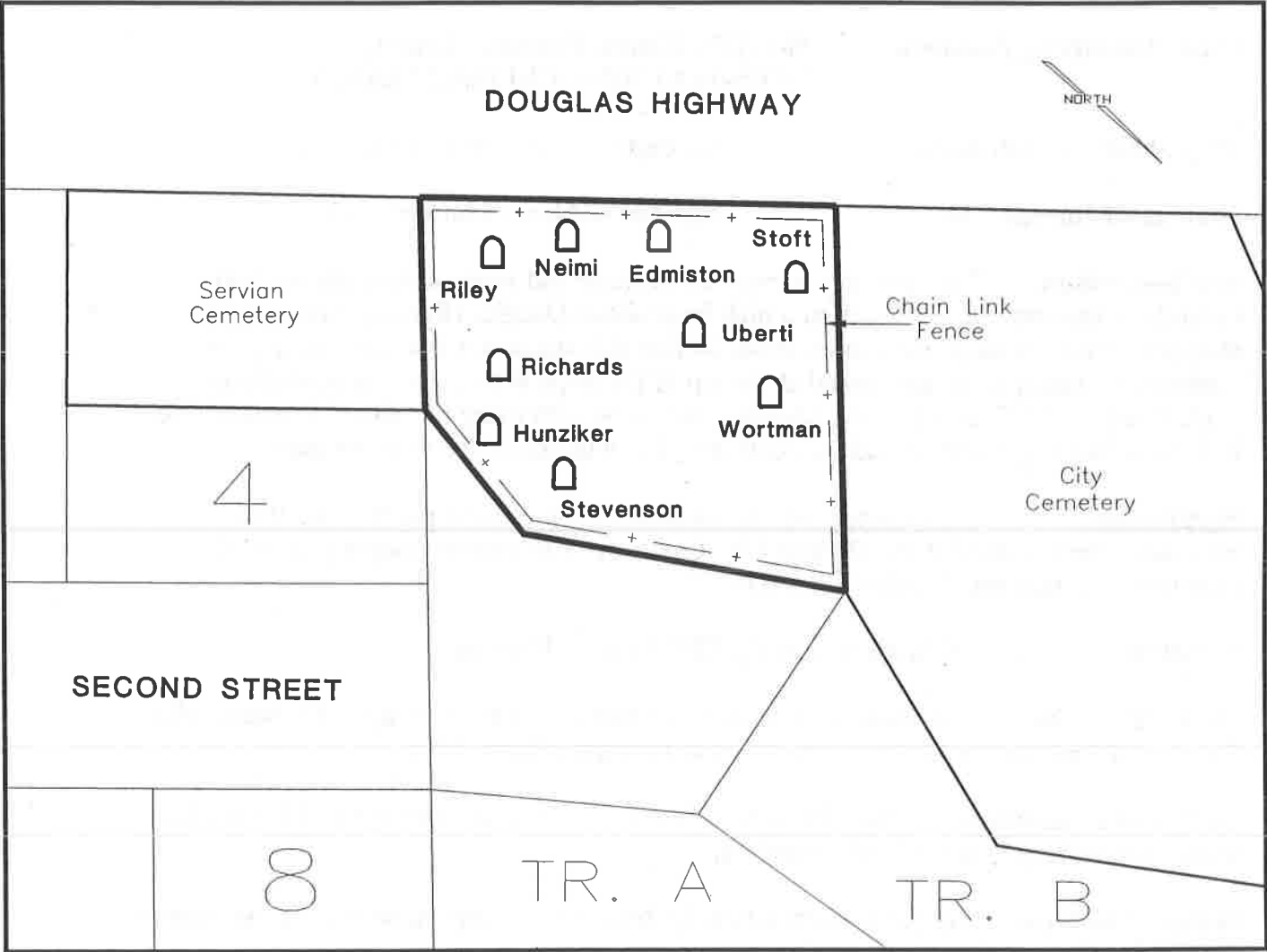
Ecosystem: Rainforest **Cultural Affiliation:** Euroamerican

Period of Significance: 1912 to 1995 **Period:** Historic

Resource Nature: Cemetery

Preservation Status & Date: None

EAGLES CEMETERY



 Grave Marker

SURVEY SHEET

Site Name: Eagles Cemetery **Aliquot:** T41S, R67E, S26
AHRS #: JUN-136 **Lat./Long.:** 58°17'02"N / 134°24'21"W
Other Identifying Numbers: H-9 (CBJ Historic Resource Number)
 2-D05-0-K01-005-0 (CBJ Parcel Number)

Map Sheet: USGS Juneau B-2 **Acreage:** .23 acres (10,156 sq. ft.)

Number of Burials: 61 **Number of Grave Markers:** 27

Site Description: The cemetery is generally square in shape. It is located on a level bank adjacent to residential area and overlooking Gastineau Channel and is surrounded by four foot high chain link fence with gate. Area is well maintained by the Eagles Lodge. White wooden grave markers, stone monuments and engraved metal markers flush with the ground. Many deteriorated wood markers have been replaced.

Significance: Cemetery of Douglas Aerie, No. 117, of the Fraternal Order of Eagles which was organized in 1901. Burial ground of prominent Douglas and Treadwell pioneers.

Location: USMS 341A, approximately 2130 Douglas Highway.

Citations: *Inventory of Historic Sites and Structures, City and Borough of Juneau*, 1986;
Survey and Inventory of Historic Cemeteries in Douglas, Alaska, 1995.

Danger of Destruction: No, Eagles Club members maintain site.

Present Condition: Good, although many original wooden markers have been replaced with non-authentic replicas.

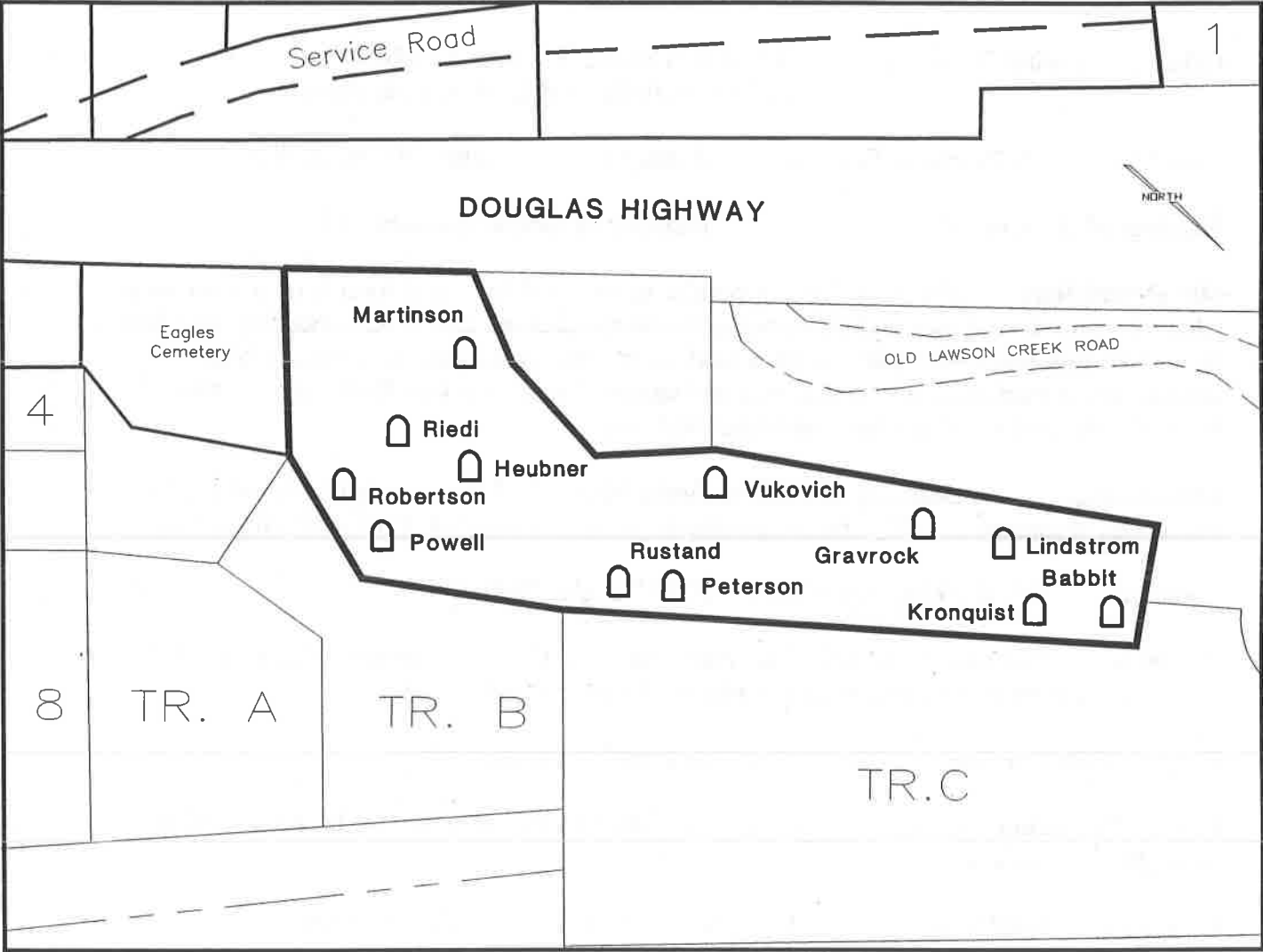
Ecosystem: Rainforest **Cultural Affiliation:** Euroamerican

Period of Significance: 1902 to 1988 **Period:** Historic

Resource Nature: Cemetery

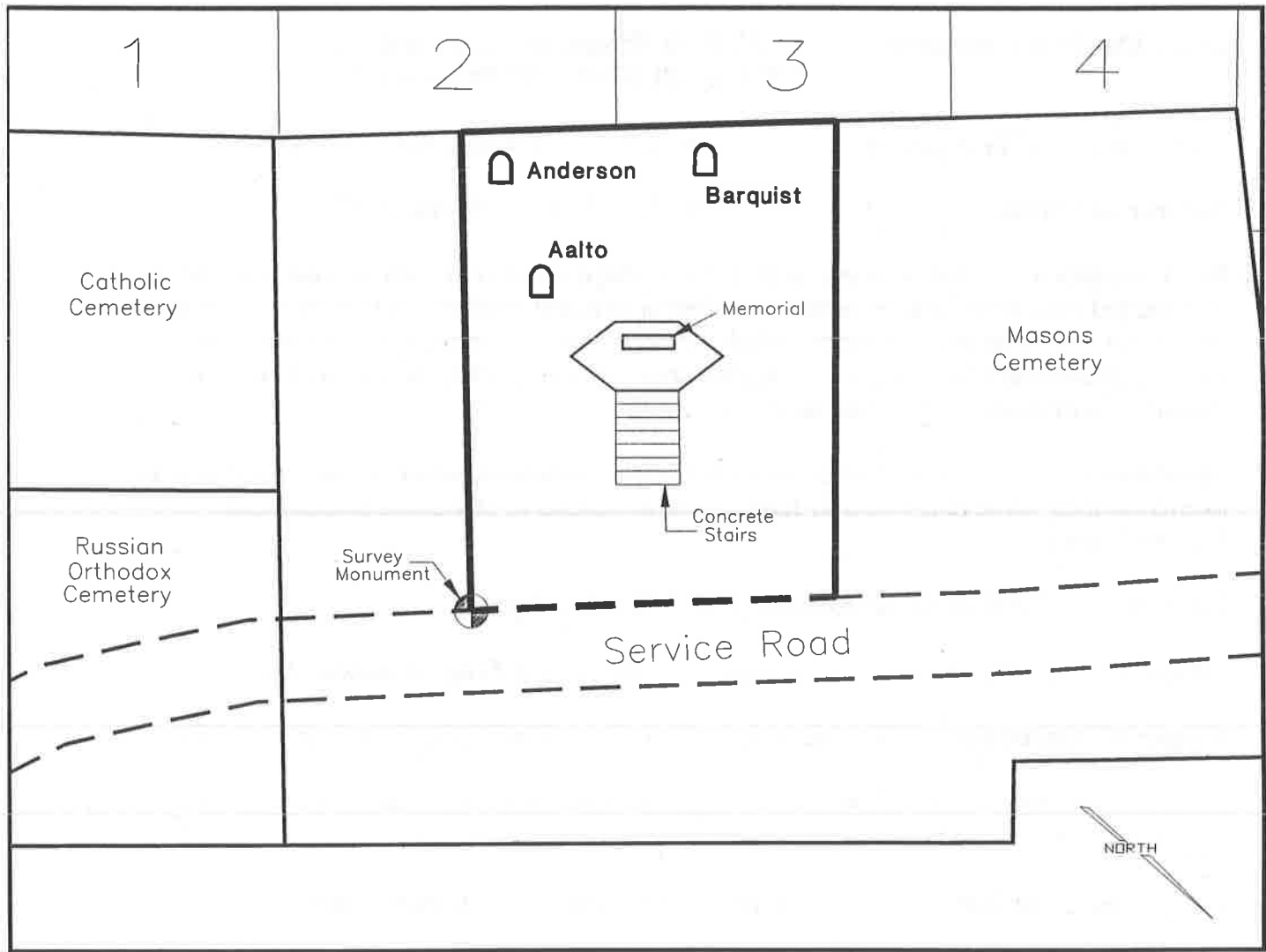
Preservation Status & Date: None

CITY CEMETERY



 Grave Marker

ODD FELLOWS CEMETERY



☐ Grave Marker

SURVEY SHEET

Site Name: Odd Fellows Cemetery **Aliquot:** T41S, R67E, S26

AHRS #: JUN-681 **Lat./Long.:** 58°17'02"N / 134°24'26"W

Other Identifying Numbers: H-118 (CBJ Historic Resource Number)
2-D05-0-D01-003-0 (CBJ Parcel Number)

Map Sheet: USGS Juneau B-2 **Acreage:** 1.04 acres (45,302 sq. ft.)

Number of Burials: 35 **Number of Grave Markers:** 17

Site Description: The cemetery is rectangular in shape. It is located on a moderate slope which is overgrown with vegetation. Remnants of a stair promenade leading to a marble marker with names of Odd Fellow members. No evidence of a fence was found.

Significance: Cemetery of the Douglas Odd Fellows lodge which was organized in 1898. Burial ground of prominent Douglas and Treadwell pioneers.

Location: USMS 341A, approximately 2205 Douglas Highway.

Citations: *Survey and Inventory of Historic Cemeteries in Douglas, Alaska*, 1995.

Danger of Destruction: Yes, through neglect.

Present Condition: Overgrown with vegetation. Many markers overturned, concrete stairs deteriorated, and central monument is overturned.

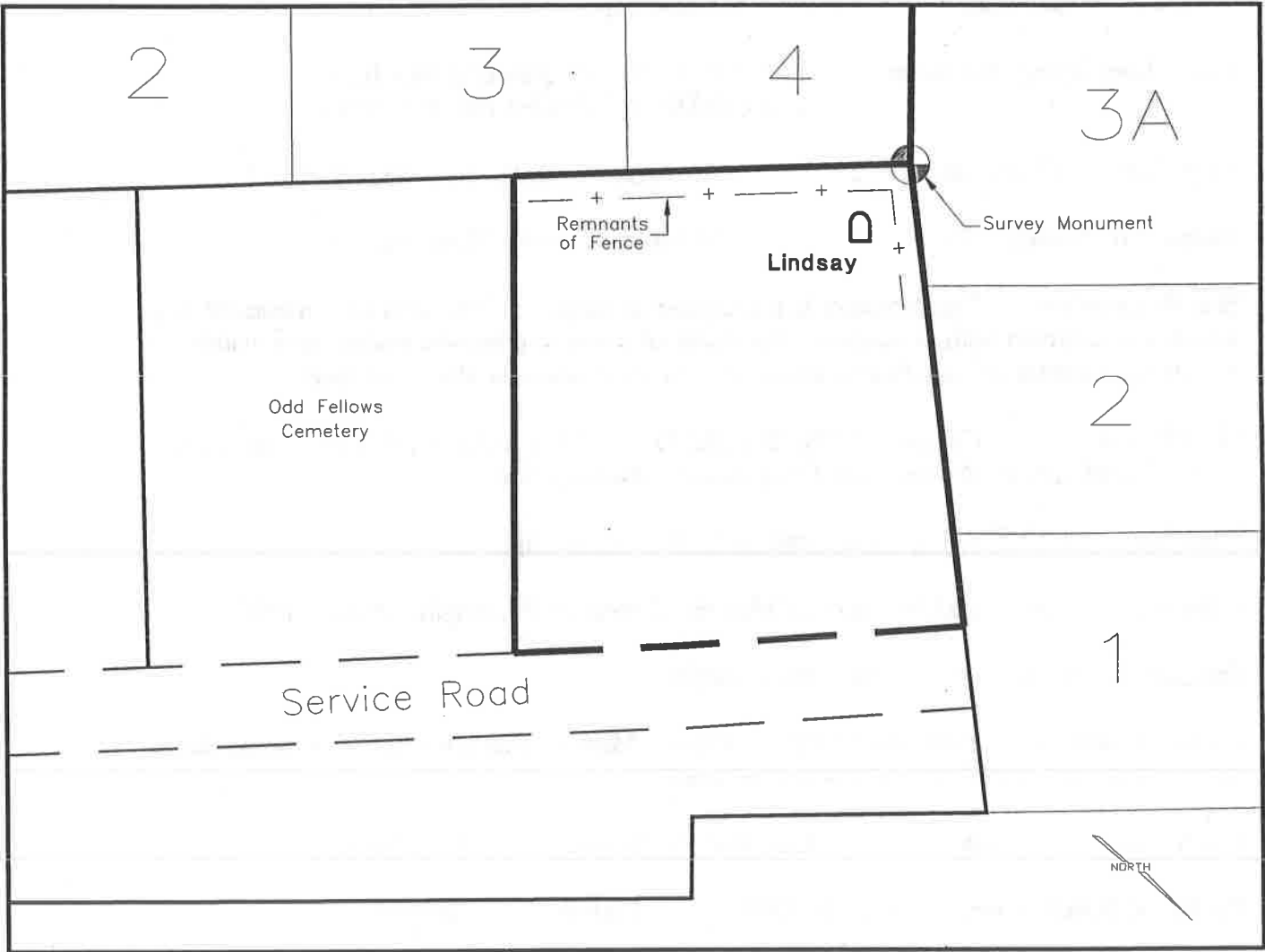
Ecosystem: Rainforest **Cultural Affiliation:** Euroamerican

Period of Significance: 1911 to 1961 **Period:** Historic

Resource Nature: Cemetery

Preservation Status & Date: None

MASONS CEMETERY



 Grave Marker

SURVEY SHEET

Site Name: Masons Cemetery **Aliquot:** T41S, R67E, S26
AHRS #: JUN-682 **Lat./Long.:** 58°17'04"N / 134°24'28"W
Other Identifying Numbers: H-119 (CBJ Historic Resource Number)
2-D05-0-D01-002-0 (CBJ Parcel Number)

Map Sheet: USGS Juneau B-2 **Acreage:** .43 acres (18,885 sq. ft.)

Number of Burials: 5 **Number of Grave Markers:** 1

Site Description: The cemetery is rectangular in shape and is located on a moderate slope overgrown with vegetation. Remnants of an iron fence which surrounded the site is evident.

Significance: Cemetery of the Free and Accepted Masons Lodge #124.

Location: USMS 341A, approximately 2207 Douglas Highway.

Citations: *Survey and Inventory of Historic Cemeteries in Douglas, Alaska*, 1995.

Danger of Destruction: Yes, through neglect

Present Condition: Only one grave marker remains and is in fair condition. Remnants of iron fence remains lying on the ground.

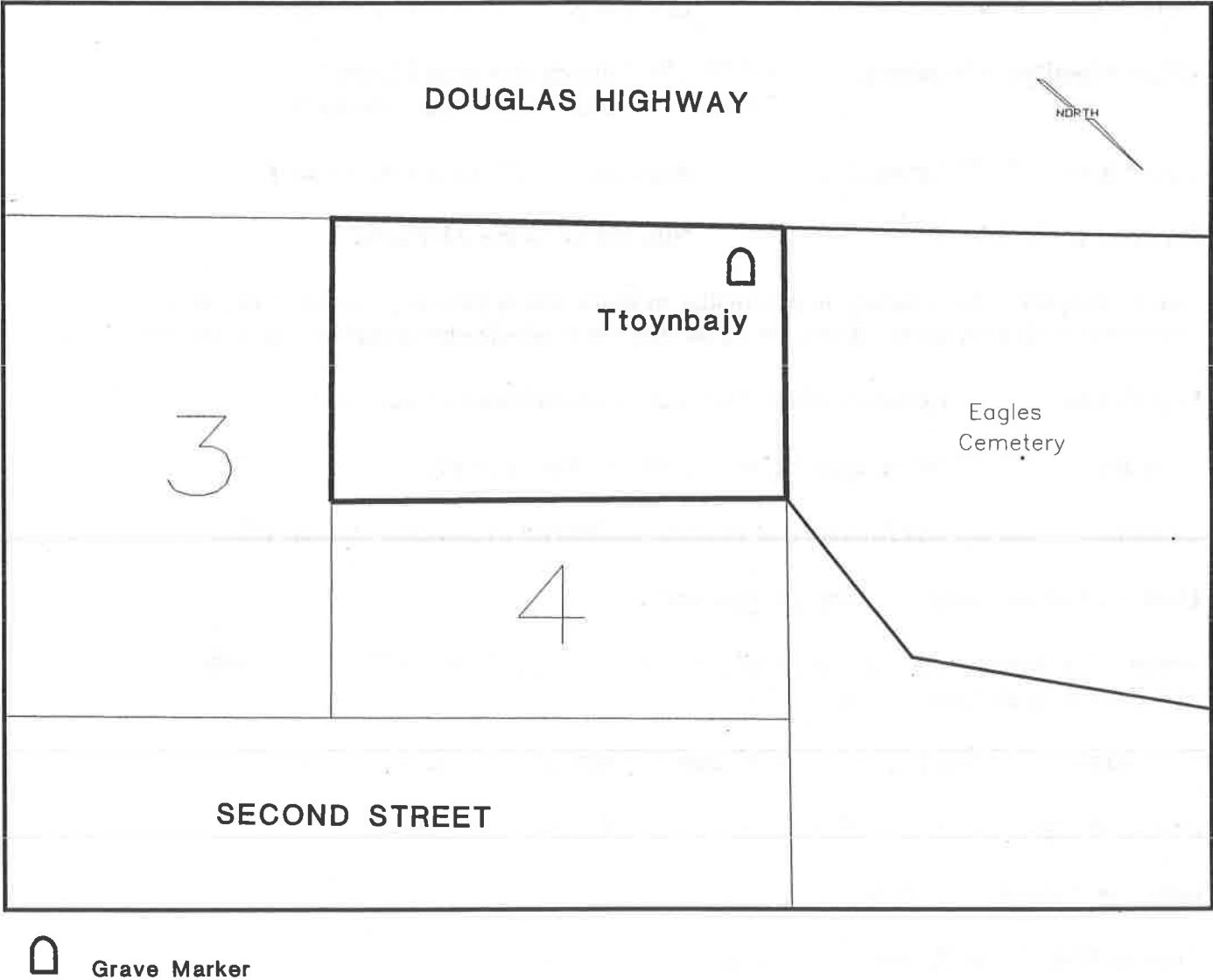
Ecosystem: Rainforest **Cultural Affiliation:** Euroamerican

Period of Significance: 1914 to 1920 **Period:** Historic

Resource Nature: Cemetery

Preservation Status & Date: None

SERVIAN CEMETERY



SURVEY SHEET

Site Name: Servian Cemetery **Aliquot:** T41S, R67E, S26
AHRS #: JUN-683 **Lat./Long.:** 58°17'00"N / 134°24'19"W
Other Identifying Numbers: H-120 (CBJ Historic Resource Number)
 2-D04-0-20C-004-0 (CBJ Parcel Number)
Map Sheet: USGS Juneau B-2 **Acreage:** .19 acre (8,252 sq. ft.)
Number of Burials: 9 **Number of Grave Markers:** 1

Site Description: The cemetery is rectangular in shape and is located on a level site. The site has been sold in past years as a residential lot and the remaining marker is in the back corner of the property. There is a pipe fence surrounding the only remaining grave marker.

Significance: Cemetery of the Servian Benevolent Association.

Location: Lot 4, Blk C, Capital View Subdivision

Citations: *Survey and Inventory of Historic Cemeteries in Douglas, Alaska*, 1995.

Danger of Destruction: No

Present Condition: Grave marker and fence surround in good condition.

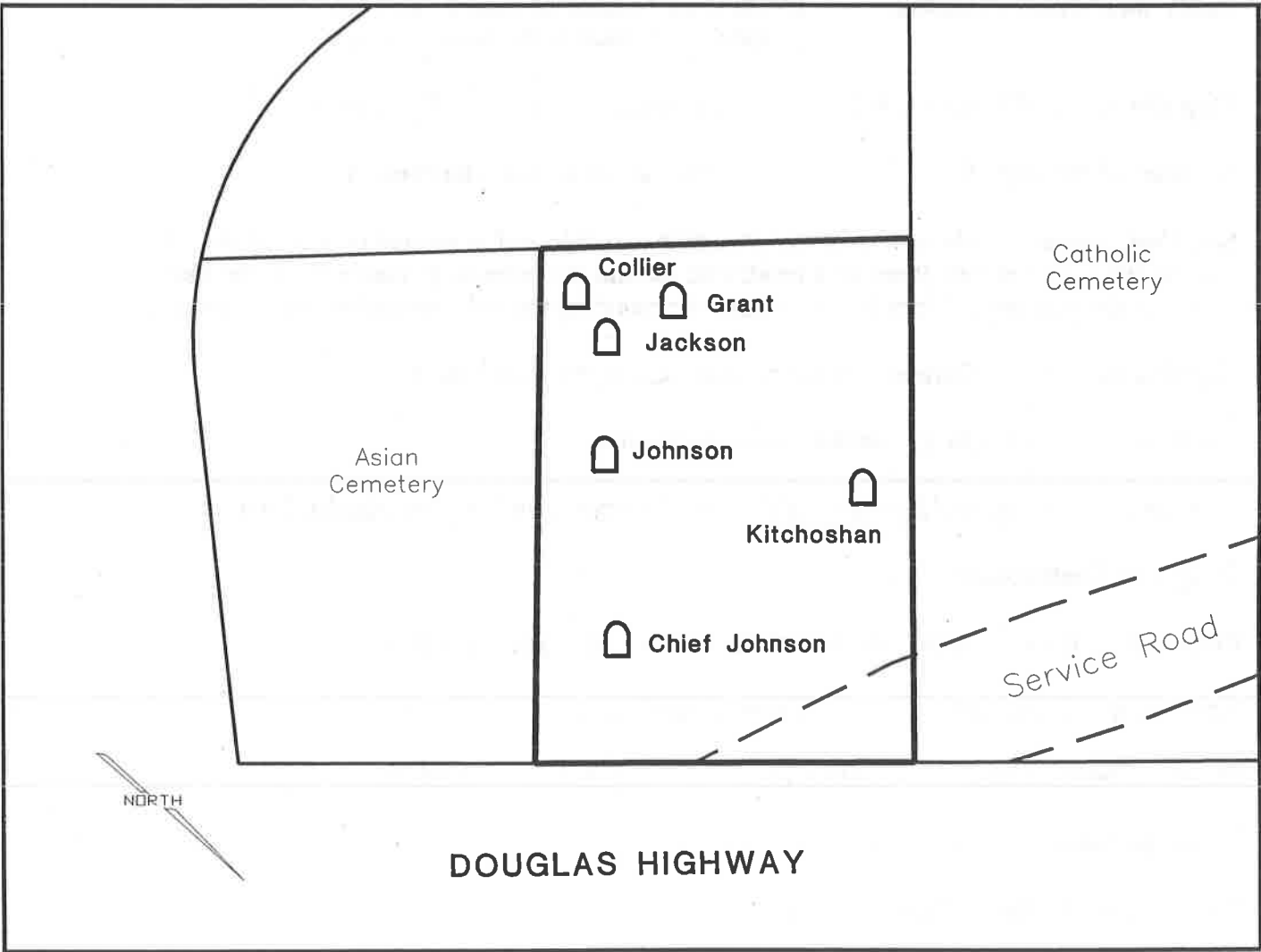
Ecosystem: Rainforest **Cultural Affiliation:** Servian

Period of Significance: 1902 to 1920 **Period:** Historic

Resource Nature: Cemetery

Preservation Status & Date: None

NATIVE CEMETERY

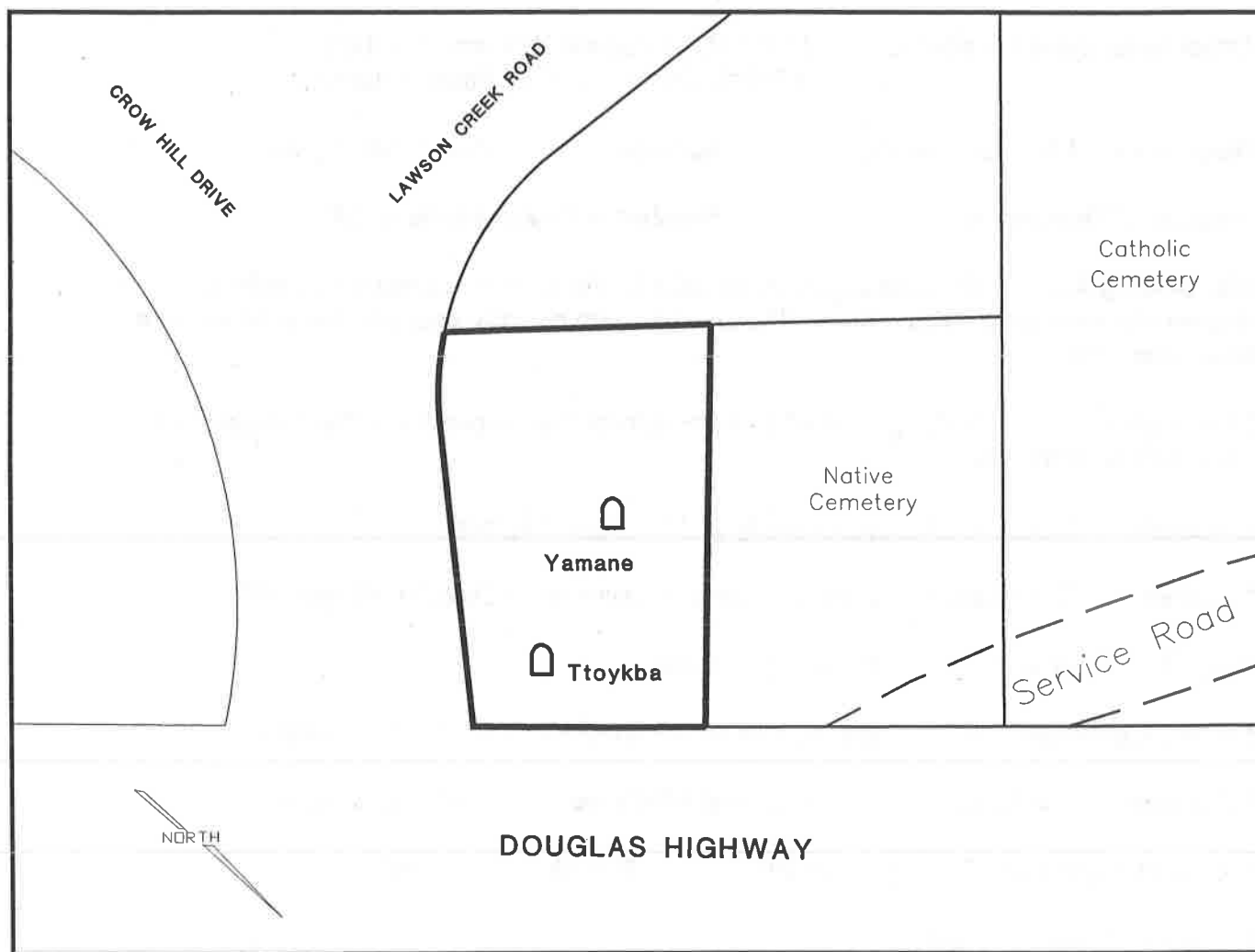


 Grave Marker

SURVEY SHEET

Site Name: Native Cemetery **Aliquot:** T41S, R67E, S26
AHRS #: JUN-684 **Lat./Long.:** 58°16'58"N / 134°24'22"W
Other Identifying Numbers: H-121 (CBJ Historic Resource Number)
 2-D05-0-D01-001-0 (CBJ Parcel Number)
Map Sheet: USGS Juneau B-2 **Acreage:** .22 acres (9,386 sq. ft.)
Number of Burials: 45 **Number of Grave Markers:** 18
Site Description: The cemetery is rectangular in shape. It is located on a moderately sloping site with many mature trees. The area has been recently brushed. No evidence of a fence was found.
Significance: Burial ground of some prominent Native persons in the Douglas and Treadwell communities.
Location: USMS 341A, approximately 2127 Douglas Highway.
Citations: *Survey and Inventory of Historic Cemeteries in Douglas, Alaska*, 1995.
Danger of Destruction: Yes, through neglect
Present Condition: Most markers in fair condition, some tilting or overturned.
Ecosystem: Rainforest **Cultural Affiliation:** Native Alaskan
Period of Significance: 1901 to 1937 **Period:** Historic
Resource Nature: Cemetery
Preservation Status & Date: None

ASIAN CEMETERY



 Grave Marker

SURVEY SHEET

Site Name: Asian Cemetery **Aliquot:** T41S, R67E, S26
AHRS #: JUN-685 **Lat./Long.:** 58°16'56"N / 134°24'20"W
Other Identifying Numbers: H-122 (CBJ Historic Resource Number)
 2-D05-0-D01-001-0 (CBJ Parcel Number)

Map Sheet: USGS Juneau B-2 **Acreage:** .14 acres (6,242 sq. ft.)

Number of Burials: 14 **Number of Grave Markers:** 3

Site Description: The cemetery is rectangular in shape. It is located on a site which is gently sloping with mature trees and overgrown with vegetation. A few wooden fence pieces were found in the survey. Based on the number of pieces and their location it was assumed the fence was for a family plot rather than a fence for the cemetery boundaries.

Significance: Burial ground of many Treadwell mine workers.

Location: USMS 341A, approximately 2125 Douglas Highway.

Citations: *Survey and Inventory of Historic Cemeteries in Douglas, Alaska*, 1995.

Danger of Destruction: Yes, through neglect

Present Condition: Most markers in fair but deterioration condition.

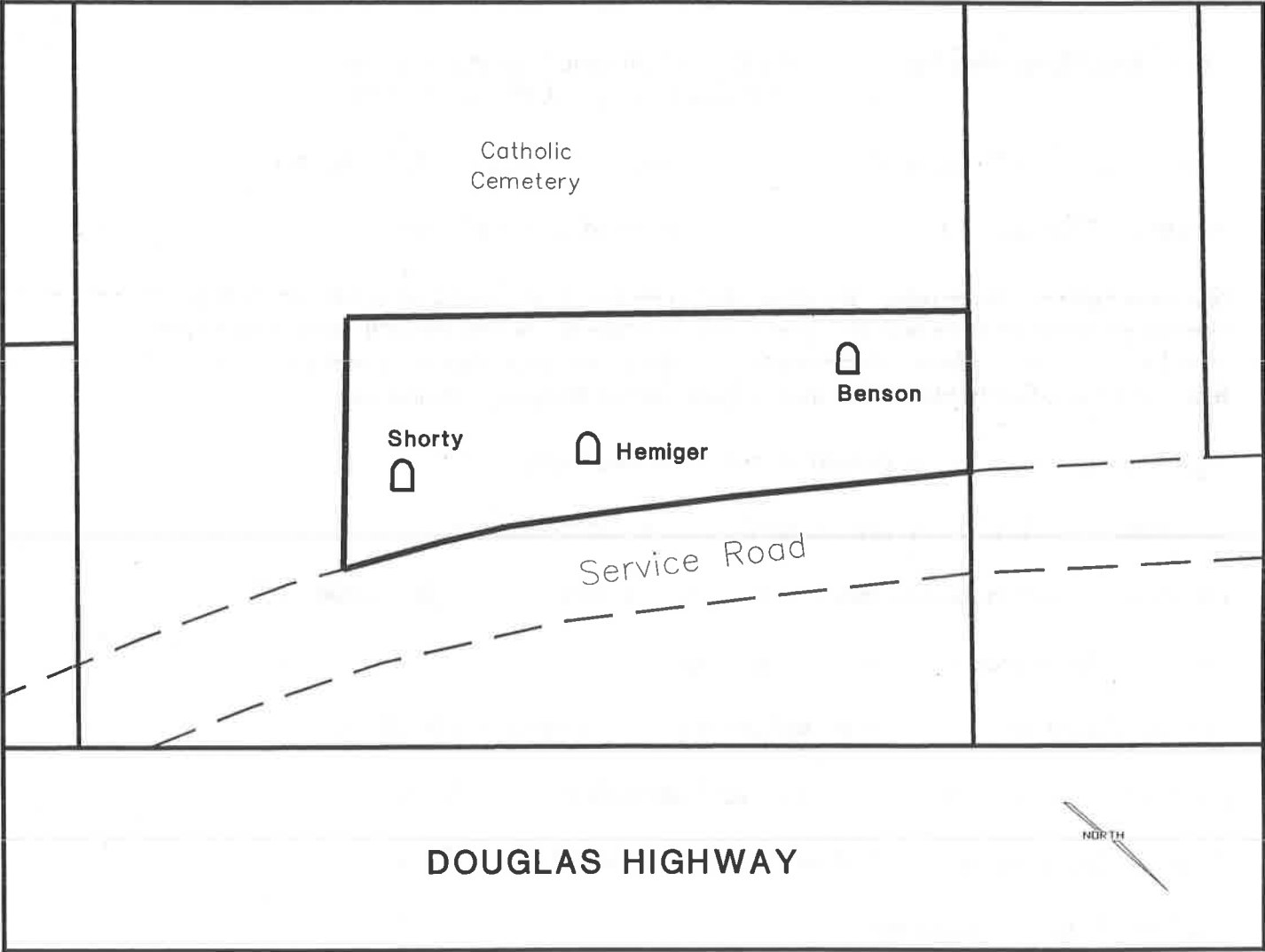
Ecosystem: Rainforest **Cultural Affiliation:** Asian

Period of Significance: 1907 to 1920 **Period:** Historic

Resource Nature: Cemetery

Preservation Status & Date: None

RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CEMETERY



☐ Grave Marker

SURVEY SHEET

Site Name: Russian Orthodox Cemetery **Aliquot:** T41S, R67E, S26

AHRS #: JUN-686 **Lat./Long.:** 58°16'56"N / 134°24'20"W

Other Identifying Numbers: H-123 (CBJ Historic Resource Number)
2-D05-0-D01-001-0 (CBJ Parcel Number)

Map Sheet: USGS Juneau B-2 **Acreage:** .12 acres (5,000 sq. ft.)

Number of Burials: 40 **Number of Grave Markers:** 14

Site Description: The cemetery is rectangular in shape. It is located on a gently sloping site overgrown with vegetation. No evidence of a fence was found.

Significance: Burial ground of many Treadwell mine workers.

Location: USMS 341A, approximately 2125 Douglas Highway.

Citations: *Survey and Inventory of Historic Cemeteries in Douglas, Alaska*, 1995.

Danger of Destruction: Yes, through neglect

Present Condition: Most markers in deteriorating condition.

Ecosystem: Rainforest **Cultural Affiliation:** Euroamerican

Period of Significance: 1916 to 1957 **Period:** Historic

Resource Nature: Cemetery

Preservation Status & Date: None

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

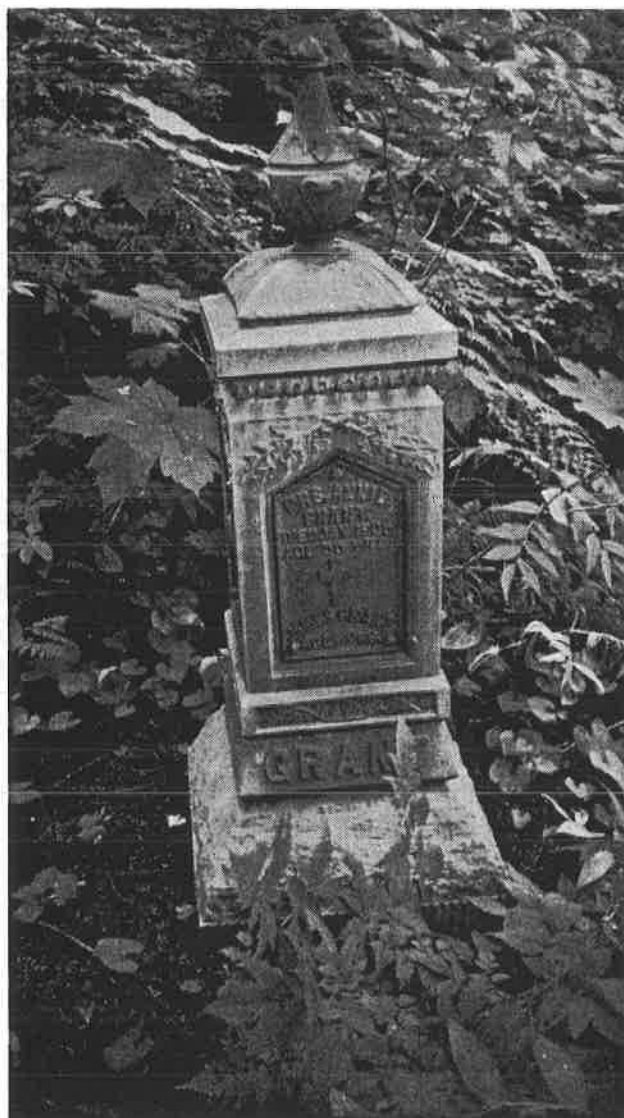
Evaluation Criteria

The National Register of Historic Places identifies three key concepts that are used to evaluate whether or not a property is qualified for listing on the register. These concepts are: historic significance, historic integrity, and historic context.

Significance

Historic significance is the importance of a property to the history, architecture, archeology, engineering, or culture of a community, State, or the nation. To be eligible for the National Register, a cemetery must be shown to be significant under one or more of the following Criteria for Evaluation:

- Criterion A* Association with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- Criterion B* Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- Criterion C* Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- Criterion D* Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.



*Grave Marker, Historic Cemeteries of Douglas, 1995
CBJ Collection
Photograph by Renee Hughes*



Family Plot Fence Post, Douglas Cemeteries, 1995
CBJ Collection
Photograph by Renee Hughes

Based on the information provided by the inventory and survey of the Douglas Cemeteries, it appears the cemeteries may be considered for nomination to the National Register under Criterion A and D. Certain types of properties, including cemeteries, do not qualify for the National Register unless they meet special conditions. These conditions are referred to as Criteria Considerations. Criteria Consideration A states; "A religious property is eligible if it derives its primary significance from architectural or artistic distinction or historical importance." Criteria Consideration D states; "A cemetery is eligible if it derives its primary significance from graves of persons of transcendent importance, from age, from distinctive design features, or from association with historic events."

The Douglas cemeteries appear to meet the intent of Criteria A and D. They were associated with events and activities during the early development of the communities of Treadwell and Douglas. They were the result of a conscientious plan to develop the City Cemetery group and the Catholic Cemetery group in a concentrated area at, what was then, the outskirts of the developed towns.

The cemeteries are an important part of the culture as the epitaphs on the markers can reveal important genealogical information, which may have been lost in other records. Social, cultural, and statistical information can be gathered from inscriptions found on grave markers. Often a group of deaths from the same period or even the same date may be an indication of an epidemic or tragic accident. A family plot marker may give some family history or events of personal nature about the family members.

Further, the Douglas cemeteries appear to meet special Criteria Considerations A and D. Although some of the cemeteries are owned by religious or cultural groups, their significance is primarily derived from their association with historic community development trends relating to the towns of Douglas and Treadwell.



Grave House at Douglas Indian Cemetery, 1995
CBJ Collection
Photograph by Renee Hughes

Integrity

The question of historic integrity involves formulating a judgement as to whether or not a property maintains the physical characteristics which existed during its historic period and, in addition, whether or not that property contributes to or detracts from the overall integrity of the district. The National Register lists seven qualities which helps to establish a property's integrity. These qualities are location, design, workmanship, feeling, association, setting, and materials. All must be considered in determining whether a cemetery retains enough of its

characteristic features to represent the associations, function, and appearance it had during its period of significance. The natural and developed landscape features that are associated with cemeteries must be considered as part of the evaluation of integrity.

The historic cemeteries of Douglas appear to have retained their integrity to the extent necessary to meet the qualifications of the National Register guidelines. While the widening of Douglas Highway impacted some of the cemeteries it did not destroy the general setting from what it was originally.



Grave Marker at City Cemetery, 1995
CBJ Collection
Photograph by Renee Hughes

Even though a couple of cemeteries have had recent burials the original character has been preserved. In fact, the most recent burials have been into older existing family plots. Also it appears that the more recent burial markers have been laid flat which has not impacted the overall visual character of the cemetery.

Context

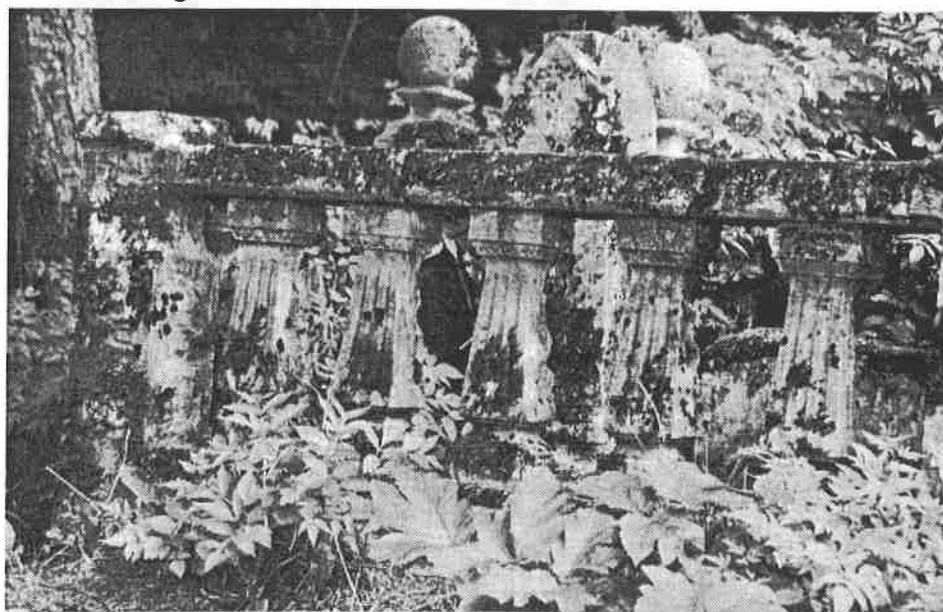
Through examination of the historic trends of the Southeast region and the cities of Douglas and Treadwell, as described earlier in this document, the Douglas cemeteries have been placed in their historic context. Historic trends which engendered the growth of Douglas and Treadwell were the establishment of large scale gold mining operations. In 1910 the population estimate of Douglas placed it as the largest community in Southeast Alaska. This was due mainly to the impact of the mining economy.

During this peak of population is also the general time of the development of the first cemeteries in Douglas. Previous to this period persons were interred in Juneau. The trend of increased population led the community to develop its own cemeteries.

Where From Here?

It appears that the historic cemeteries of Douglas, Alaska meet the concepts of historic significance, historic integrity, and historic context needed for consideration to be placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Consideration should be given to prepare a multiple property nomination of the Douglas historic cemeteries. The inclusion of the historic Evergreen Cemetery in Juneau should also be considered as there was an early association between Juneau and Douglas regarding the interment of community residents.

The Survey and Inventory of Historic Cemeteries in Douglas highlights a need for better care of the cemetery property. Some individuals and groups associated with the cemeteries have expressed interest in restoration activities at the cemeteries. The first step in securing funding for such work would be a National Register Nomination.



*Family Plot Fence, 1995
CBJ Collection
Photograph by Renee Hughes*

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