

Alaska Surveying & Mapping Conference 2019



- 1938 Small Tract Act (Alaska in 1945)
- "Jack Rabbit" Homesteads (5 ac. or less)
- 1954 Alaska's most popular disposal type
- Includes ROW for Roads & Utilities
- 33' or 50' along one or more boundaries
- 5,600 Small Tract patents issued in Alaska
- Other disposal types include:
  - Homesteads, Homesites, HQ Sites
  - Trade & Manufacturing Sites
  - Townsite Lots, Mining Claims
  - Native Allotments

- ROW that served other types of disposals
  - Townsites street dedications
  - RS-2477 (Mining Law of 1866)
  - ANCSA 17(b)(2) easements
    - Generally to other public lands
    - Also protects valid existing rights
    - Stewart IBLA 84-148 Mining Claim
  - FLPMA Sec. 701(a) existing rights

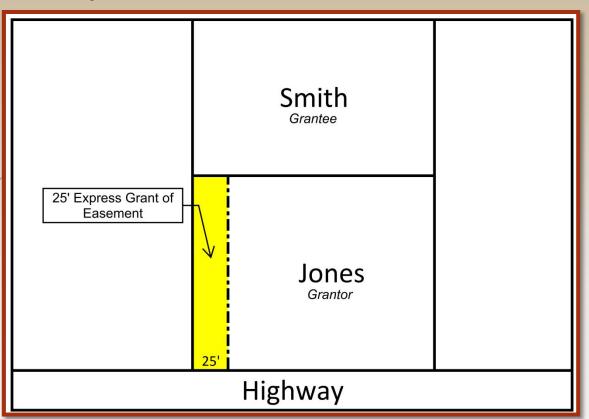
- Patent similar to a quitclaim deed
- Prior Existing Rights patent "subject to"
- Small Tract Patents were "subject to" a specific road & utility right-of-way
- Right-of-Way?: The right to pass along a specific route through another's land.
- Unless otherwise stated, a ROW is considered to be an easement interest



- Easement Defined: A nonpossessory interest in another's land that entitles the holder only to the right to use such land in the specified manner.
- What was meant by the term "right-of-way" in the Small Tract Patent?

- Easement Appurtenant
  - Servient Estate: Parcel burdened by easement
  - Dominant Estate: Parcel benefiting from easement
  - Passes with the land
- Easement in Gross Personal to holder
  - No dominant estate
  - Does not run with land
  - Assignable i.e. Utility Easements
- How are easements established?

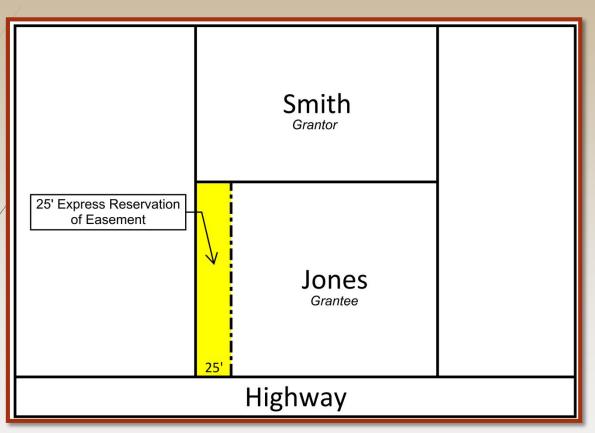
## **Express Grant of Easement**



Jones conveys parcel to Smith along with grant of easement across Jones remaining land.



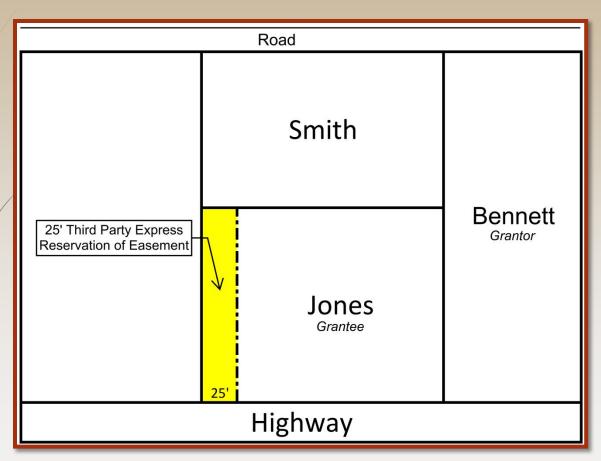
## Express Reservation of Easement



Smith conveys parcel to Jones and reserves easement to remaining Smith land. (ST ROW?)



## Third Party Reservation



Bennett conveys parcel to Jones and reserves easement for benefit of Smith.

- Dedication: An appropriation of land by the owner for the benefit of the public. Requires an Offer and an Acceptance.
  - May be: Express (Clearly stated) or Implied (by factual evidence)
  - Statutory Dedication
    - Conforming to provision of statute
    - Certificate of Dedication
    - Certificate of Acceptance

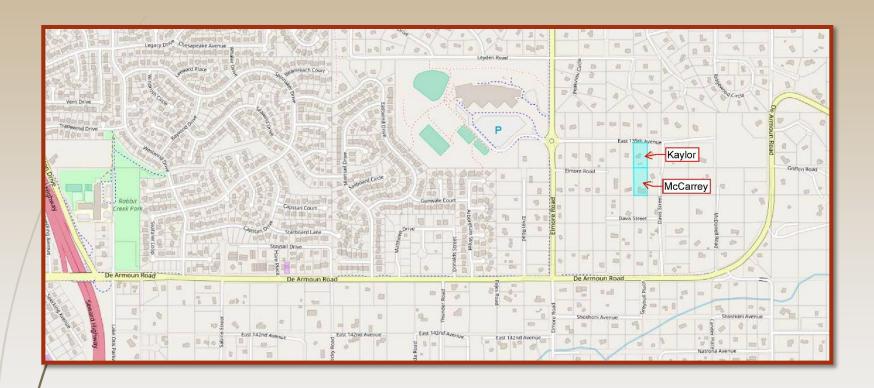
- Common Law Dedication (ST ROW?)
  - Owner's offer of Dedication
  - Acceptance of offer by the public:
    - Acceptance by official Act
      - (1923 RS-2477 Acceptance)
      - Local Government policy
    - Acceptance by public use
      - Public maintenance
      - Photo/Map evidence of use
  - The rule in Unorganized Borough prior to DNR platting authority in 1998 -

- What was intended in the Small Tract Patent?
- Was the ROW an Express Reservation of Easement or Common Law Dedication?
- When a court determines a deed to be ambiguous – they will interpret the intent of the parties.

- Alaska Supreme Ct. 3-step process:
  - Look first to the four corners of the deed can the intent of the parties be determined unambiguously?
  - If ambiguous determine the intent
    - Examine the deed
    - Extrinsic evidence
  - Rules of Construction Ambiguities found
  - In favor of government
  - In favor of grantee
  - In favor of land free of easements

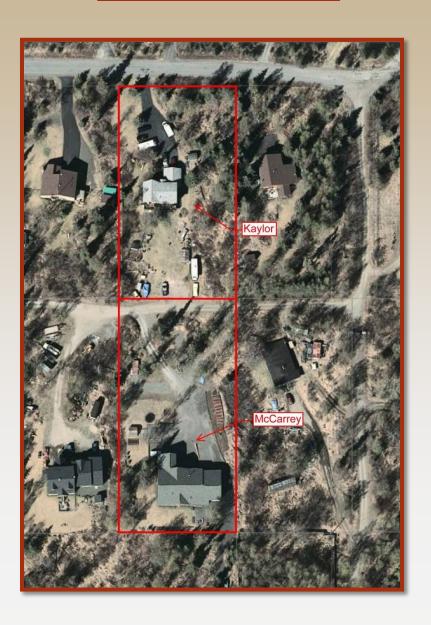
- McCarrey v. Kaylor Alaska Supreme Court - March, 2013
  - McCarrey Small Tract 50' ROW along north boundary - E136th Avenue
  - Kaylor parcel adjoins to the north
  - E136th signed gravel road/driveway but not maintained by Municipality

- Kaylor uses ST ROW to access south portion of lot to park motorhome, boat and other vehicles.
- McCarrey proposes fence with locked gate on common boundary – must have 72-hour notice to open ~
- 2010 Superior Ct Kaylor filed injunction and claim of prescriptive easement: Court agrees ~

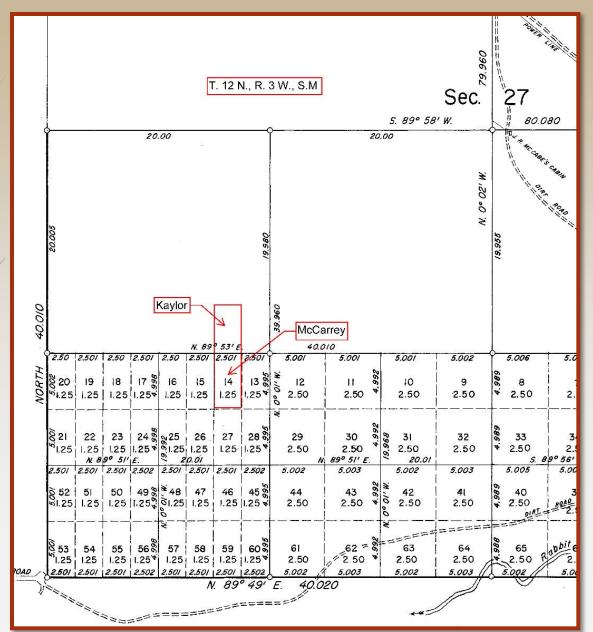


McCarrey v. Kaylor
North East of DeArmoun & Elmore





McCarrey &
Kaylor
separated by
E 136<sup>th</sup>
Avenue



	1132192 R/W							
R/W OG Other Min	1223491 <sup>15–1.25</sup> R/W OG Other Min	1220903 <sup>14</sup> -1.25 R/W OG Other Min	1175059 <sup>13–1.25</sup> R/W OG Other Min	12-2.50 120564 R/W Ou Other N				
i,	,26–1.25 <i>n</i>	,27–1.25 in	,28–1.25 , in	29-2.50				

**BLM Master Title Plat** 

This patent is subject to a right-of-way not exceeding 50 feet in width, for roadway and public utilities purposes, to be located along the north boundary of said land.

- Werneke Patent
- June 28, 1961
- Lot 14, Sec. 27
- 7.12N, R.3W., S.M.
- /"is" not "may be"
- "Subject To"
- 50-foot wide ROW
- Roadway & Utilities

Anchorage 054798

#### The United States of America

To all to whom these presents shall come. Greeting:

WHEREAS, a certificate of the Land Office at Anchorage , Alaska, is now deposited in the Bureau of Land Management, whereby it appears that pursuant to the act of Congress of June 1, 1938 (52 Stat. 609), as amended by the Act of July 14, 1945 (59 Stat. 467),

and the acts supplemental thereto, the claim of Charles H. Werneke

has been established and that the requirements of law pertaining to the claim have been met, for the following described land:

Seward Meridian, Alaska.

T. 12 N., R. 3 W.,

#### Sec. 27, Lot 14.

The area described contains 1.25 acres, according to the official plat of the survey of the said land, on file in the Bureau of Land Management: Dependent Resurvey officially filed May 31. 1955:

NOW KNOW YE, That the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, in consideration of the premises, DOES HERBEY GRANT unto the said claimant and to the heirs of the said claimant the tract above described; TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the same, together with all the rights, privileges, immunities, and appurtenances, of whatsoever nature, thereunto belonging, unto the said claimant and to the heirs and assigns of the said claimant forever; subject to (1) any vested and accrued water rights for mining, agricultural, manufacturing, or other purposes, and rights to ditches and reservoirs used in connection with such water rights, as may be recognized and acknowledged by the local customs, laws, and decisions of courts; and (2) the reservation of a right-of-way for ditches or canals constructed by the authority of the United States, in accordance with the act of August 30, 1890 (26 Stat., 391, 48 U. S. C. sec. 945). There is also reserved to the United States a right-of-way for the construction of rallroads, telegraph and telephone lines, in accordance with section 1 of the act of March 12, 1914 (38 Stat., 305, 48 U. S. C. sec. 365)

Excepting and reserving, also, to the United States all oil, gas and other mineral deposits, in the land so patented, together with the right to prospect for, mine, and remove the same according to the provisions of said Act of June 1, 1938.

This patent is subject to a right-of-way not exceeding 50 feet in width, for roadway and public utilities purposes, to be located along the north boundary of said land.

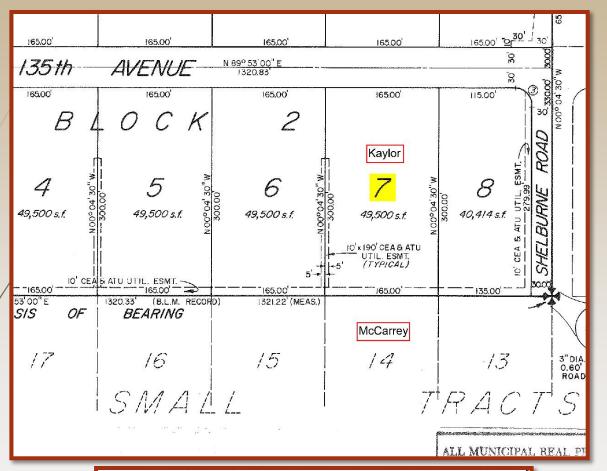
> IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, the undersigned authorized officer of the Bureau of Land Management, in accordance with the provisions of the Act of June 17, 1948 (62 Stat., 476), has, in the name of the United States, caused these letters to be made Patent, and the Seal of the Bureau to be hereunto affixed.

GIVEN under my hand, in the District of Columbia, the TMENHY-EIGHTH day of JUNE in the year Our Lord one thousand nine hundred and SIATY-ONE and of the Independence of the United States the one hundred and EIGHTY-FIFTH.

For the Director, Bureau of Land Management.

By Reth W. Tally Chief, Patenta Section.

Patent Number



No
existing
ROW
shown on
north
boundary
of
McCarrey
lot.

PLAT OF

OLSON HEIGHTS SUBDIVISION

COMPRISING LOTS ITHRUBBLK. I & ITHRUBBLK. 2 & BEING
A SUBDIVISION OF SEI/4 NW I/4 SW I/4 & SW I/4 NW I/4 SW I/4

SEC. 27, TI2N, R 3W, S.M., ALASKA

CONTAINING 20.006 ACRES MORE OR LESS

Plat 79-68

- Supreme Court McCarrey v. Kaylor
  - Case requires interpretation of deed
  - McCarreys argue:
    - Small Tract ROW is a common law dedication (BLM IM 91-196)
    - If valid (accepted), it is only for the use of other Small Tract owners
    - Small Tract ROW authority repealed by FLPMA – ROW no longer valid.
    - IM 91-196 says offer to dedicate only available as long as Small Tract Classification Order in effect.

- Supreme Court says:
  - Small Tract ROW "subject to" is clearly a common law offer of dedication.
  - While FLPMA terminated the Small Tract Act, it did not act as a blanket termination of ST classification orders.
  - FLPMA could not revoke or terminate the ROW in question because FLPMA did not apply to private property.
  - The dedication, if accepted is a public ROW available to all parties.

- Supreme Court did not rule on:
  - Prescriptive easement no argument.
  - Acceptance of dedication no evidence provided.
- Remanded to Superior Court to determine if offer had been accepted ~

- Superior Court Sept. 2013 Round 2
  - McCarrey argues against acceptance by either formal official action or public use.
  - McCarrey then argues if it was accepted the dedication is limited to the physical footprint (30') which leaves a gap between the dedication and the common lot line.

- Kaylor argues:
  - Use of E136th for more than 15 years
  - Municipal code recognition of "double fronted" lots constitutes an official acceptance of dedication.

- The Rest of the Story:
  - September 11, 2013 Superior Court issues Stipulation for Dismissal with Prejudice
  - The Court issued no judgment regarding common law acceptance of E 136<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

- McCarrey contact May 2018
  - Dismissal was result of a settlement.
  - Agreed to a 30-foot ROW.
  - Was to be recorded but was not.
  - Acceptance of common law dedication never determined.
  - Parties continued to disagree over the terms of the settlement.
  - McCarrey agreed the issue was never resolved.
  - Kaylor passed in 2017 at age 75

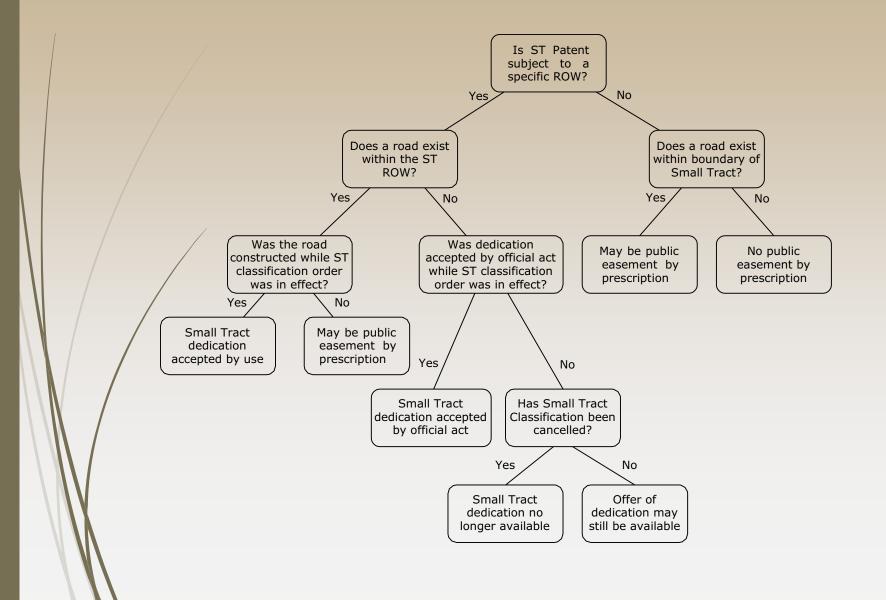
- What did we learn?
  - A Small Tract ROW is the offer of a common law dedication and not an express reservation.
  - The offer must be accepted by official act or public use.
  - Offer must be accepted prior to termination of ST classification.
  - FLPMA did not vacate ST ROW's.
  - FLPMA did not end ST classifications.
  - A Small Tract ROW is a public ROW.

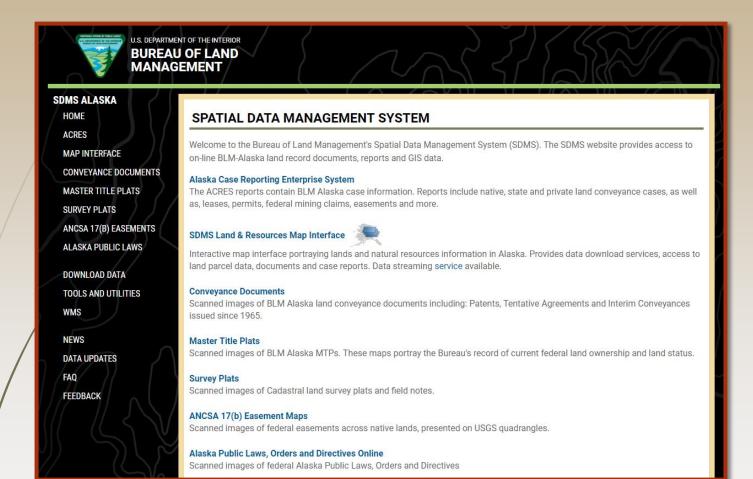




### Research Methods

- You are assigned to survey & map GL-11 Section17, T1S, R1W, F.M. located to the north of Davis Road in Fairbanks.
- Given the results of McCarrey v. Kaylor, how do you determine whether a common law dedication has been accepted or whether the offer to dedicate is still available for acceptance?

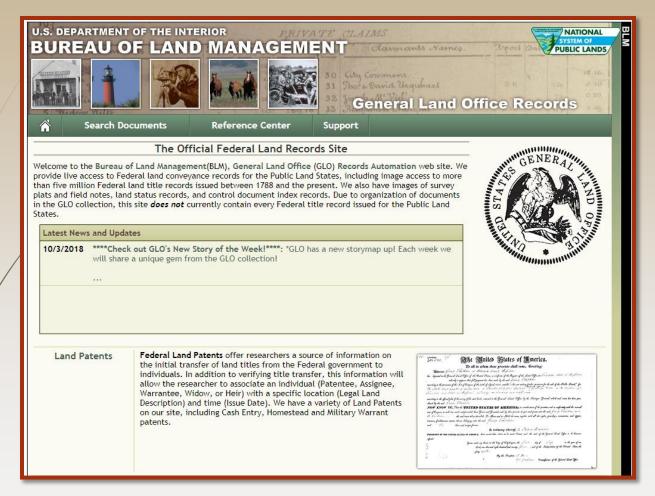




Obtain MTP from sdms.ak.blm.gov/sdms/

# Locate Lot & patent No. from MTP

Ī			112. R/V	5543 V						1126519 R/W
		8-2.50 1148712 R/W All Min	7–2.50 1153618 R/W All Min	6-2.50 1136935 R/W All Min	5–2.50 1195358 R/W All Min	4-2.50 1139324 R/W All Min	3-2.50 1164405 R/W All Min	2-2.50 1141771 R/W All Min	1-2.50 1143335 R/W All Min	
		9-2.50 1154724 R/W All Min	10-2.50 1150975 R/W All Min	11-2.50 1158110 R/W All Min	12-2.50 1158109 R/W All Min	13-2.50 1159923 R/W All Min	14-2.50 1163364 R/W All Min	15-2.50 1147315 R/W All Min	16-2.50 1167617 R/W All Min	
		24-2.50 1146838 R/W All Min	23-2.50 1149164 R/W All Min	22-2.50 1179366 R/W All Min	21-2.50 1159922 R/W All Min	20–2.50 1154452 R/W All Min	19-2.50 1168491 R/W All Min	18-2.50 1179372 R/W All Min	17-2.50	
		25-2.50 1154350 R/W All Min	26-2.50 1179375 R/W All Min	27-2.50 1157083 R/W All Min	28-2.50 1154839 R/W All Min	29-2.50 1137093 R/W All Min	30–2.50 1181761 R/W All Min	31-2.50 1137095 R/W All Min	32-2.50 1133562 R/W All Min	17
		40-2.50 1155700 R/W All Min	39-2.50 1137094 R/W All Min	38-2.50 1154348 R/W All Min	37-2.50 1150972 R/W All Min	36-2.50 1142156 R/W All Min	35-2.50 1137541 R/W All Min	34-2.50 1195548 R/W All Min	33-2.50 1133565 R/W All Min	1 7
	į	41-2.50 1149725 R/W All Min	42-2.50 1160854 R/W All Min	43-2.50 1148039 R/W All Min	44-2.50 1185183 R/W All Min	45-2.50 1213284 R/W All Min	46-2.50 1142422 R/W All Min	47-2.50 1133566 R/W All Min	48-2.50 1137166 R/W All Min	
	l İ	56-2.50 1146835 R/W All Min	55-2.50 1147313 R/W All Min	54-2.50 1151948 R/W All Min	53-2.50 1151186 R/W All Min	52-2.50 1160857 R/W All Min	51-2.50 1185184 R/W All Min	50-2.50 1179377 R/W All Min	49-2.50 1137207 R/W All Min	
	_ İ	57-2.50 1185185 R/W All Min	58-2.50 1156160 R/W All Min	59-2.50 1152920 R/W All Min	60-2.50 1168793 R/W All Min	61-2.50 1185186 R/W All Min	62-2.50 1170322 R/W All Min	63-2.50 1217561 R/W All Min	64-2.50 1153615 R/W All Min	1129250 R/W



Obtain patent from GLORecords.blm.gov



## Select "Patent Image" tab and download

Sea	rch Documents	By Type	Search Documents By Location		
Pa	tent Identifiers		ent Identifier		
•	Accession #: BLM Serial Nr:	Serial Patent	<b>V</b>	1158110	

This patent is subject to a right-of-way not exceeding 33 feet in width, for road-way and public utilities purposes, to be located along the west and south boundaries of said land.

## Section 17 Small Tract Patent Review

		112. R/V	5543 V	1126519 R/W					
	8-2.50 1148712 R/W All Min	7–2.50 1153618 R/W All Min	6-2.50 1136935 R/W All Min	5–2.50 1195358 R/W All Min	4-2.50 1139324 R/W All Min	3-2.50 1164405 R/W All Min	2–2.50 1141771 R/W All Min	1-2.50 1143335 R/W All Min	Section 17, T1S, R1W, FM - Fairbanks Small Tracts Act of June 1, 1938 Small Tract Classification No. 20
	9–2.50 1154724 R/W All Min	10-2.50 1150975 R/W All Min	11-2.50 1158110 R/W All Min	12-2.50 1158109 R/W All Min	13–2.50 <i>1159923</i> R/W All Min	14-2.50 <i>1163364</i> R/W All Min	15–2.50 <i>1147315</i> R/W All Min	16-2.50 1167617 R/W All Min	* 64 - 2.5 acre tracts * 63 patents * 10 described by aliquot parts * 53 described by Government Lot
	24-2.50 1146838 R/W All Min	23–2.50 1149164 R/W All Min	22–2.50 <i>1179366</i> R/W All Min	21–2.50 1159922 R/W All Min	20–2.50 1154452 R/W All Min	19-2.50 1168491 R/W All Min	18–2.50 <i>1179372</i> R/W All Min	17-2.50	1 - No ROW reservation (GL-6) 3 - ROW 1 side only (GL 39, 48, 49) 1 - E/W ROW reversed (GL 46) 4 - Non-specific ROW (GL 4, 47, 17, 32)
	25–2.50 1154350 R/W All Min	26 – 2.50 1179375 R/W All Min	27–2.50 <i>1157083</i> R/W All Min	28–2.50 1154839 R/W All Min	29–2.50 <i>1137093</i> R/W All Min	30-2.50 1181761 R/W All Min	31–2.50 <i>1137095</i> R/W All Min	32-2.50 1133562 R/W All Min	1 7 Davis Road
Avenue .	40-2.50 1155700 R/W All Min	39–2.50 1137094 R/W All Min	38–2.50 1154348 R/W All Min	37-2.50 1150972 R/W All Min	36–2.50 1142156 R/W All Min	35–2.50 1137541 R/W All Min	34–2.50 1195548 R/W All Min	33–2.50 1133565 R/W All Min	1/———
University .	41–2.50 1149725 R/W All Min	42-2.50 1160854 R/W All Min	43–2.50 <i>1148039</i> R/W All Min	44–2.50 1185183 R/W All Min	45–2.50 <i>1213284</i> R/W All Min	46–2.50 1142422 R/W All Min	47-2.50 1133566 R/W All Min	48–2.50 1137166 R/W All Min	
	56–2.50 1146835 R/W All Min	55–2.50 1147313 R/W All Min	54–2.50 1151948 R/W All Min	53-2.50 1151186 R/W All Min	52-2.50 <i>1160857</i> R/W All Min	51-2.50 1185184 R/W All Min	50–2.50 <i>1179377</i> R/W All Min	49-2.50 1137207 R/W All Min	_
Lj	57-2.50 1185185 R/W All Min	58-2.50 1156160 R/W All Min	59–2.50 1152920 R/W All Min	60-2.50 1168793 R/W All Min	61–2.50 1185186 R/W All Min	62-2.50 1170322 R/W All Min	63–2.50 1217561 R/W All Min	64-2.50 1153615 R/W All Min	PBO 1129250 R/W

## The hard part: Finding the Classification Order

#### Locate Historical Index at BLM SDMS

Action Date	Section	Aliq Part	Lots	Other Desc	Acres Qty	Document ID	Kind Entry	Remarks
26-Jan-50	17	S2NW, N2SW				20	BLM O	
26-Jan-50	19	E2SW	4			20	BLM O	
26-Jan-50	30		2		287.5	20	BLM O	ST CL; PART REV DO 4/26/1960; CANC 2/12/1964

Small Tract Classification Order No. 20 applied to Sections 17, 19 & 30 – Note cancellation dated 2/12/1964

# BLM SDMS "Alaska Public Laws, Orders and Directives" – Document Type: Small Tract Orders – Search for Order No. 20

#### ALASKA

SMALL TRACT CLASSIFICATION NO. 20

JANUARY 26, 1950.

By virtue of the authority contained in the act of June 1, 1938 (52 Stat. 609; 43 U. S. C. 682a), as amended, and Departmental Order No. 2325 of May 24, 1947 (43 CFR 4.275 (b) (3), 12 F. R. 3566), and pursuant to the authority delegated to me by the Director, Bureau of Land Management, by Order No. 319, dated July 19, 1948 (43 CFR 50.451 (b) (3), 13 F. R. 4278), it is ordered as follows:

Subject to valid existing rights, the following described lands in the Fairbanks, Alaska, land district, embracing 287.49 acres, are hereby classified as chiefly valuable for lease and sale under the Small Tract Act of June 1, 1938 (52 Stat. 609; 43 U. S. C. 682a), as amended, for home and cabin sites:

T. 1 S., R. 1 W., Fairbanks Meridian, Sec. 17: \$15,NW14 and \$15,SW14.

Sec. 19: Lot 4 and El2CW14.

Sec. 30: Lot 2.

#### ALASKA

#### Small Tract Classification Order Cancellations: Corrected Date

F.R. Doc. 64-1624 appearing in the issue for February 19, 1964, is hereby corrected as follows:

Paragraph 4 containing description of Small Tract Classification Order No. 20 is hereby corrected so that portion reading:

Small Tract Classification Order No. 20 of March 23, 1950 (F.P., Doc. 2642)

#### will read:

Small Tract Classification Order No. 20 of January 26, 1950 (F.R. Doc. 50-2642)

Ross A. Youngslood,
District Manager.

[F.R. Doc. 64-2007; Piled, Mar. 2, 1964; 8:46 a.m.]

Or search GPO Federal Register

## Federal Register search for February 19, 1964 and "Small Tracts" returned:

#### **ALASKA**

#### Classification Orders

#### FEBRUARY 12, 1964.

1. Pursuant to the authority redelegated to me from Bureau Order 684, dated August 28, 1961 (26 F.R. 6215) as amended by the Alaska State Director in section 3, Delegation of Authority (28 F.R. 294) dated January 9, 1963, the following Small Tract Classification Orders are hereby cancelled as to the lands embraced thereby:

Small Tract Classification Order No. 20, as amended. 4. Small Tract Classification Order No. 20 of March 23, 1950 (F.R. DOC. 2642), as amended by the general amendment of February 19, 1957, and as modified by the partial cancellation order of April 26, 1960 (F.R. DOC. 60-4012), which classified the following lands for lease and sale for home and cabin sites under the Small Tract Act of June 1, 1938 (52 Stat. 609, 43 U.S.C., 682a), as amended:

#### FAIRBANKS MERIDIAN

T. 1 S., R. 1 W., Sec. 17, SW¼NW¼ and N½SW¼; Sec. 19, lot 4 and E½SW¼.

Containing 269.33 acres.

#### DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management ALASKA

Small Tract Classification Order No. 20; Cancellation (Partial)

APRIL 26, 1960.

Effective April 26, 1960, Small Tract Classification Order Number 20, dated January 26, 1950, as pertaining to the following described public land, is cancelled:

FAIRBANKS MERIDIAN

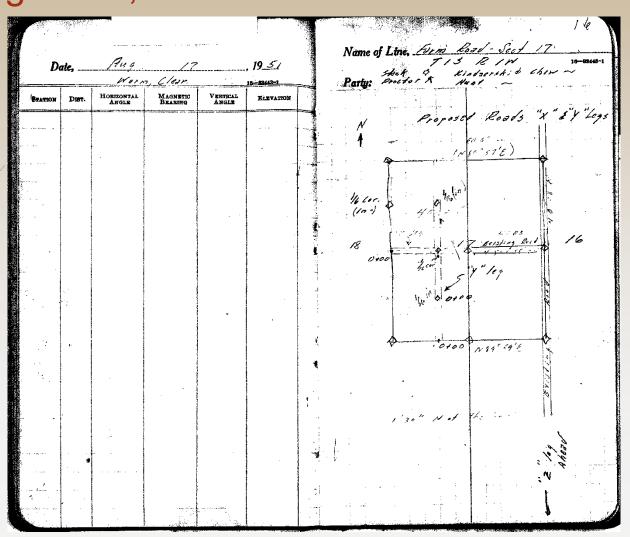
Section 30: Lot 2.

Containing 18.16 acres.

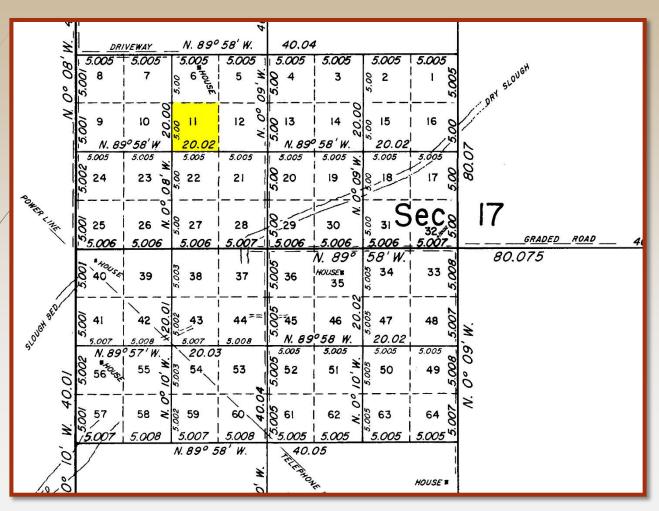
RICHARD L. QUINTUS, Operations Supervisor, Fairbanks.

[F.R. Doc. 60-4012; Filed, May 3, 1960; 8:49 a.m.]

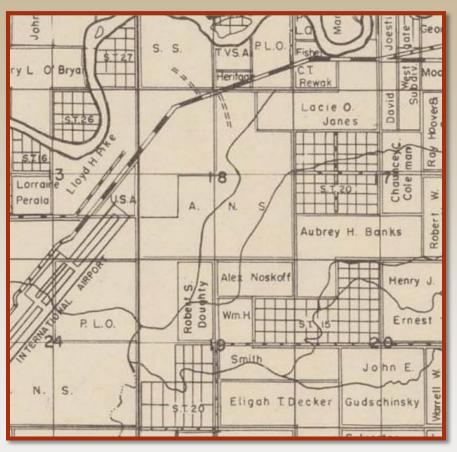
Alaska Road Commission field book August 17, 1951 – Davis & Alston Roads

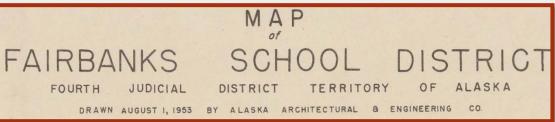


#### Evidence of road construction & use

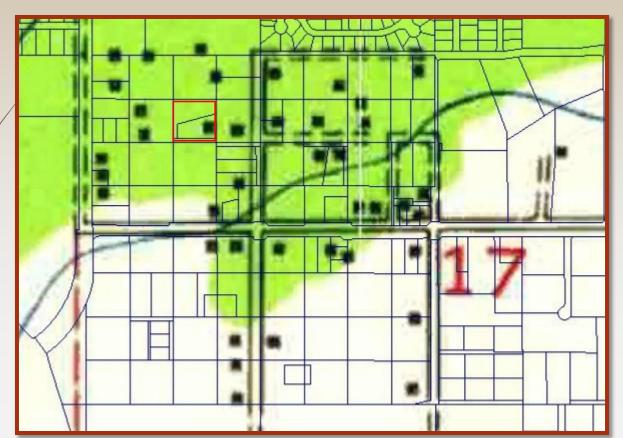


Township Survey Plat approved 4/13/53

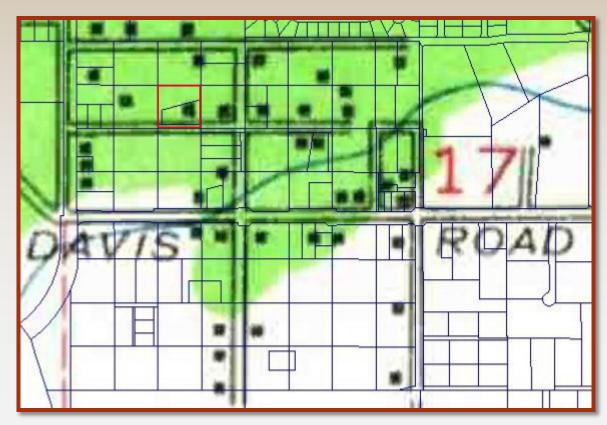




USGS Quad – 1959 Ed. – "culture" (roads) revised based on 1954 aerial photos – lot lines from FNSB GIS: GL-11 Holden Road?



USGS Quad – 1965 Ed. – Holden Road now shown as light duty on S. boundary of GL-11. Lot lines from FNSB GIS

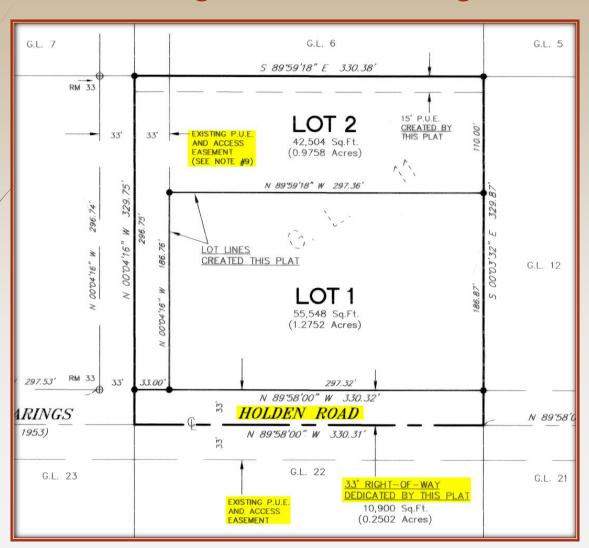




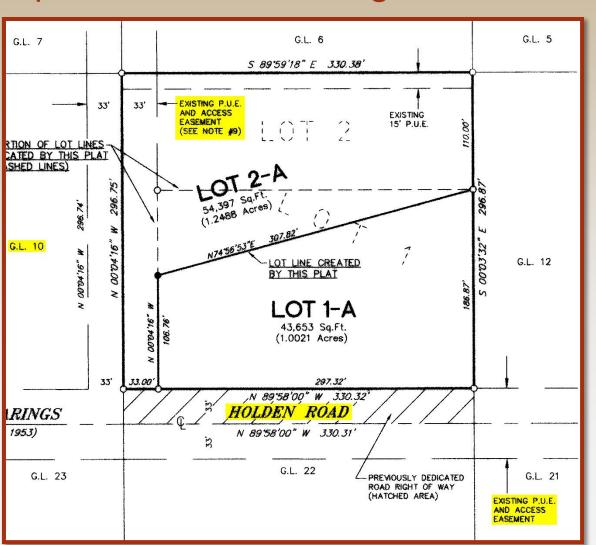
FNSB GIS: 2003 Photography



## 2004-62 Lorring Subd. Showing ST ROW



## Replat 2005-134 Lorring Subdivision





FNSB GIS: 2009 Photography – Note encroachment into GL -10 (ST ROW?)



- Conclusion:
  - ST ROW Classification Order No. 20 Terminated February 1964.
  - ST ROW for Holden on GL-11 S. bdy.
     likely valid by use prior to termination and also by plat dedication.
  - ST ROW on GL-10 E. bdy. not valid.
  - ST ROW on GL-11 W. bdy. not valid by use. Plat calls "existing". Valid by plat dedication/reference?

**FNSB GIS: 2013** 



