

**ASSESSMENT REPORT**

**116C-08-2**

**SOURDOUGH**

**PREPARED BY**

**DIAND TECHNICAL SERVICES**

**MARCH, 1994**

**116C-08-2**

**SOURDOUGH**

**LOCATION**

Latitude: 64° 27'27"N

Longitude: 140° 06'59"W

The site is located approximately 56km northwest of the community of Dawson, the nearest community to the site. The site is in a low lying area in the Tintina Trench south of Coal Creek and north of Fifteenmile River. The site is only accessible by helicopter.

The site is approximately 450m above sea level.

Location maps and airphotos showing the location of the site is attached as Appendix A.

**WORK HISTORY**

A work history has been compiled from the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development Yukon Minfile record 116C 031. The work history at this site follows.

1887-1888 - Coal float was discovered by William Ogilvie at the mouth of Coal Creek in 1887 and the source was located by J. McAuley in 1888.

March, 1896 - Ogilvie staked the showing with C. Constantine and C.H. Hamilton on behalf of North American Trading and Transportation Ltd.

1903-1906 - The mine was opened and operated by Coal Creek Mining Co. Ltd. Development in 1903 consisted of a 19.3km railway from the Yukon River and a 149.4m decline. The coal was used initially in river boats and for domestic heating in Dawson City.

1906 - The mine was sold to Sourdough Coal Co. Ltd. Production was about 24251 tonnes.

1907 - A steam generating plant had been constructed at the mine and was supplying electricity to Dawson via an overland transmission line.

1908-1913 - The mine operated until 1913 when the generating plant was owned by Northern Light Power and Coal Co. Ltd. Coal grants were later transferred to B. Leveille.

**CLAIMS STATUS**

No active claims were found at this location, however a search for leases at the site was not completed. The Quartz and Placer map covering the area shows Lots 25, 27, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, and 39 covering the site.



The major commodity identified at this site is coal.

Geologic conditions consist of tertiary strata in Coal Creek consisting of four coal seams exposed along the creek. The presence of coal float along the 800m of creek exposure between the upper and lower showing and in the adjacent creek valley 3km to the northwest suggesting that coal may occur over a relatively wide stratigraphic interval.

### **CURRENT SITE CONDITIONS**

The mine site is in a remote location approximately 56km northwest of the community of Dawson. The site was the location of an old coal mine which operated from 1903 to about 1913. In 1907 a coal fired steam generating plant was constructed to supply electrical power to Dawson. A transmission line connected the electrical generation plant to Dawson. Since the generating plant was closed in 1913 it appears the site has been abandoned. The mine site and transmission line has since overgrown with vegetation and is no longer easy to find. The vegetation growth, made up of a mixture of poplar, willow, and spruce, has essentially covered up any of the past clearing. The remnants of buildings can still be seen from the air. Recent clearing for a helicopter pad allowed the inspection team to land at the site, otherwise the site would have been inaccessible to aircraft.

Site photographs showing current site conditions are attached as Appendix B to this report.

A small tributary to Coal Creek passes through the site.

Surface silts and gravel are overlying the site.

Remaining infrastructure at the site is very old, likely from the period 1903-1913. Remnants of 5 structures are visible from the air. These structures have either collapsed or will collapse in the near future. A summary of these structures follows;

- 1) The old powerhouse is a concrete structure that is still standing but crumbling and is in an advanced state of decay.
- 2) Three wood frame wood clad structures including a warehouse, cookhouse, and one other building on the opposite side of the creek, have all collapsed.
- 3) The only standing wood structure is a two storey log residence that is leaning and is expected to collapse in the near future.

Other material found at the site includes boilers, cookstoves, barrels, pails, hand tools, pipe, bolts, bedframes, etc.

No open adits were found at the site at the time of inspection on 1993/06/29, however locations suspected of being adits were located. These adits have all collapsed. Small piles of coal 3-4m high along with a pile of ash are located near the old powerhouse.

No other infrastructure or material was found at the site.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The areas once cleared around and for the mine, powerplant, and transmission line have all grown over with mature vegetation. No ground access is available to the site because the vegetation has grown over any roads or railways once constructed to the site. Attempting to conduct any site clean-up would require developing better access to the site, and this would cause new environmental damage. Because the site is so old, it is recommended that the site be left untouched. The site may actually be of some historical importance, and government organizations responsible for historical sites should be contacted if work is contemplated.

The standing log structure represents a public safety hazard because it is collapsing. It is recommended that the building be posted to warn anyone in the area that this building is unsafe to enter.

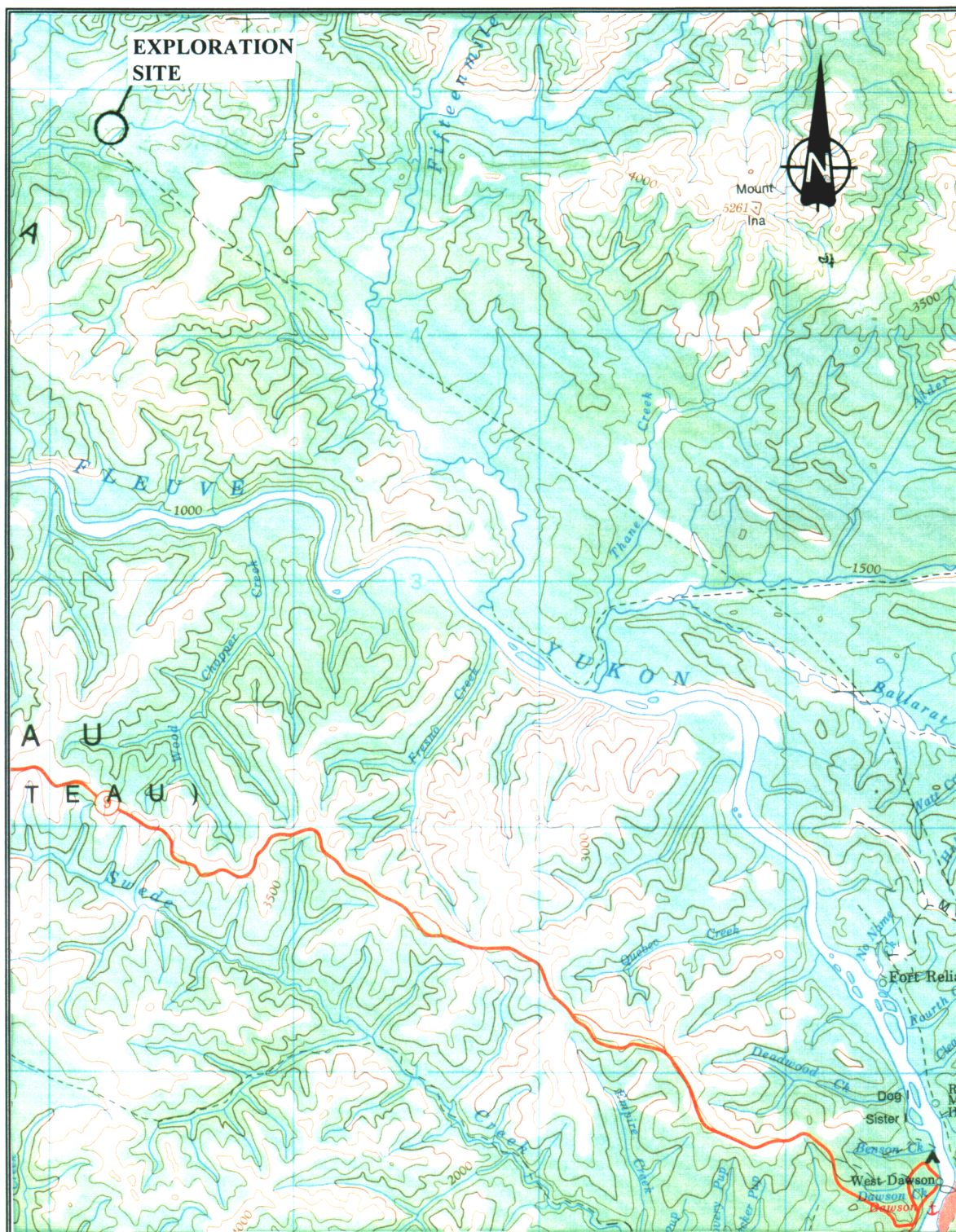
### **SUMMARY**

Posting the one remaining log structure that it is now unsafe should be completed as soon as possible.

No other work is recommended at this location.

**APPENDIX A**

**SITE LOCATION MAPS**



SITE NAME: **SOURDOUGH**

SITE NUMBER: **116C-08-2**

MAP NUMBER: **116B & 116C**

MAP NAME: **DAWSON**

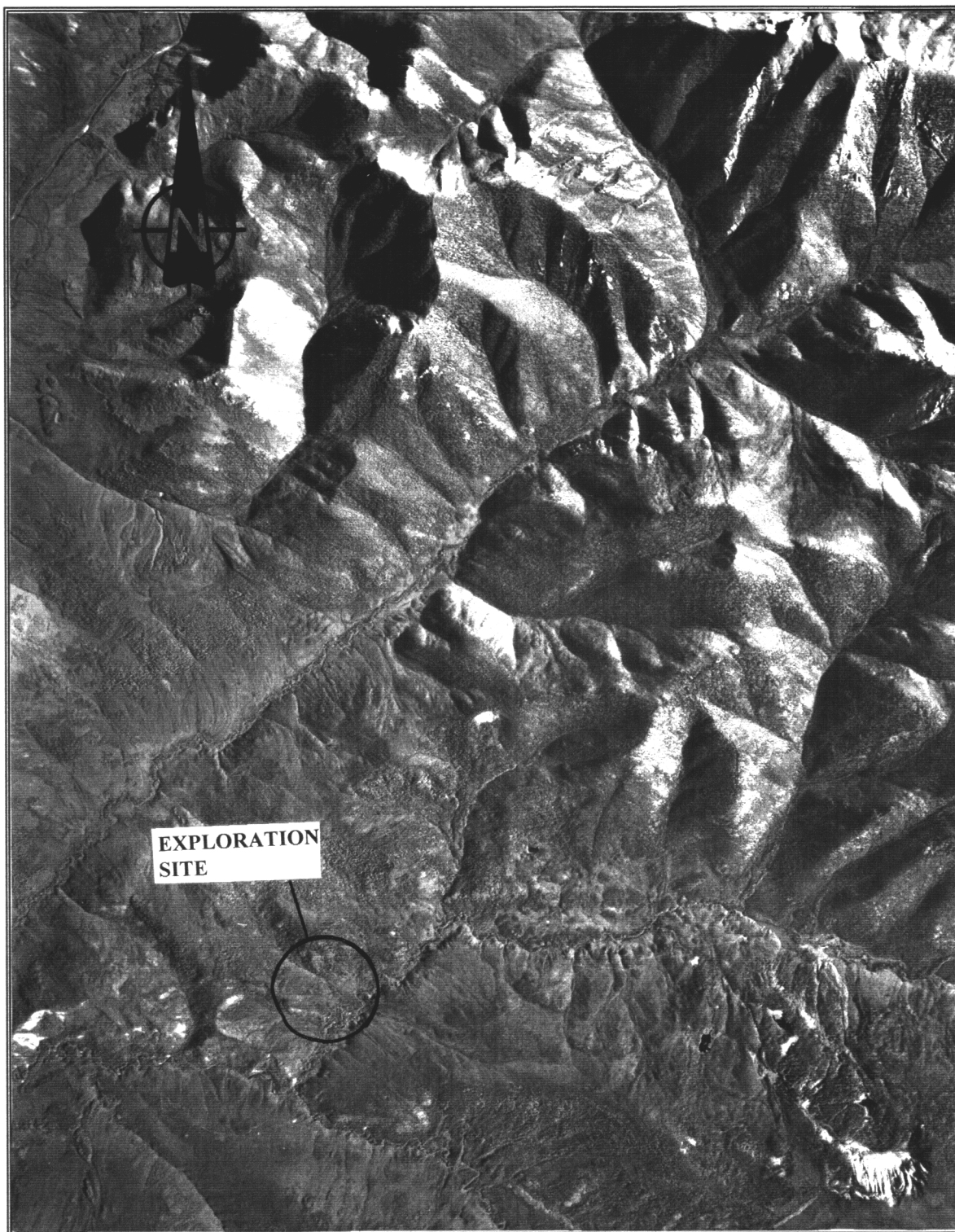
MAP SCALE: **1:250000**

SITE LOCATION:

LATITUDE: **64° 27' 27"**

LONGITUDE: **140° 06' 59"**





SITE NAME: SOURDOUGH

SITE NUMBER: 116C-08-2

AIRPHOTO NUMBER: A27619-146

YEAR: 1990

AIRPHOTO SCALE: 1:40000

SITE LOCATION:

LATITUDE: 64° 27'27"

LONGITUDE: 140° 06'59"

**APPENDIX B**

**SITE PHOTOGRAPHS**





OVERVIEW OF SITE



CONCRETE STRUCTURE





PILES OF COAL



LOG RESIDENCE





CONCRETE STRUCTURE



WOOD AND METAL WASTE





REMNANTS OF OLD BOILER



METAL BOX





BOILERS



WOOD AND METAL WASTE