

TERRITORY OF ALASKA
DEPARTMENT OF MINES

REPORT ON THE GRIFFIN NICKEL PROSPECT,
LIVENGOOD QUADRANGLE

by

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ABSTRACT

The Griffin nickel prospect is in the Livengood Quadrangle about three miles from the town of Livengood. The prospect is included in three claims that were patented by George Griffin in 1927. The underground workings on the prospect are not inaccessible. Two grab samples from dumps near the old workings contained only traces of nickel, no copper, traces of silver, and 0.74 and 0.14 ounces per ton of gold.

INTRODUCTION

In 1954, when some old records of the College Assay Office were sent to Juneau to be filed, a copy of a letter was discovered that mentions important amounts of nickel in some samples from the Livengood District. The letter, dated February 2, 1918, was written by the assayer to Mr. C. E. Lang of Livengood. It states that 11 samples received from Mr. Lang contained nickel in "small but probably workable amounts". The exact location from which the samples were taken is not given, and the nickel content of the samples is not shown in either the letter or the assay records.

In the College field office there is a map entitled "Map of the George Griffin Nickel Prospect". This map shows a group of 13 unpatented claims at the head of Lillian Creek near the town of Livengood, and it also shows some prospect pits and trenches on those claims. The claims shown on this map apparently reverted to the public domain, and part of the area was later included in three claims that were patented in 1927. The Department of Mines has no record of any other nickel prospect near Livengood; therefore, the samples described in the letter probably came from the Griffin prospect. An examination of the Griffin prospect was made on June 9 and 10, 1954, by Robert H. Saunders, Associate Mining Engineer, to determine how much work has been done on the prospect, and to obtain some samples of the nickel-bearing material.

LOCATION AND ACCESSIBILITY

The Griffin prospect is at 65° 30'N latitude and 147° 30'W longitude in the center of the Livengood Quadrangle. It is about three miles from the town of Livengood and less than one-half mile from the Elliott Highway. It lies on the northwest side of a rounded hill-top that has been named Money Knob, and it is on the left-limit side of the head of Lillian

Creek, tributary to Livengood Creek. The prospect is about 80 miles from Fairbanks by road. There is an airstrip suitable for small aircraft at Livengood.

PROPERTY AND OWNERSHIP

The Griffin nickel prospect is included in three claims that were patented by George Griffin (deceased) in 1927. The claims are the Piedmont, Yukon, and Mastadon lode claims, Mineral Survey Number 1990. A daughter of George Griffin, Mrs. Lyle M. Miller, lives at 4402 Ulmer Road, Vancouver, Washington.

GEOLOGY AND MINERAL DEPOSITS

The general geology of the area around the prospect has been described by J. B. Mertie, Jr., in U.S.G.S. Bulletin 662-D, THE GOLD PLACERS OF THE TOLOVANA DISTRICT, ALASKA. The underlying bedrock in the vicinity of the prospect is a group of sedimentary rocks, mostly of Devonian age. The rocks in this group include sandstone, quartzite, shale, slate, argillite, and limestone, associated with and probably intruded by serpentine and greenstone. There are several small granitic intrusive bodies in the immediate vicinity.

On the dumps near the adit and pits there are three types of rock: (1) a dark-colored, basic, igneous rock; (2) a light-colored rock, probably quartzite; and (3) quartz containing a few sulfides and a green mineral that looks like garnierite.

The deposit is not exposed on the surface, and the underground workings are inaccessible. The abundance of quartz on the dump suggests that the deposit is a quartz vein.

WORKINGS

The workings on the property include a shaft, an adit, and several pits and trenches. At the time of the examination, the shaft was filled with water, and timbers that cover the portal to the adit were frozen solidly in place so that all the underground workings were inaccessible. From the size of the dumps it appears that the shaft is 30 to 40 feet deep and the adit at least 100 feet long. The shaft, the portal to the adit, and the nearby pits and trenches are shown on the accompanying map. Other pits and trenches have been dug on other parts of the claims, but they have become filled with sloughings.

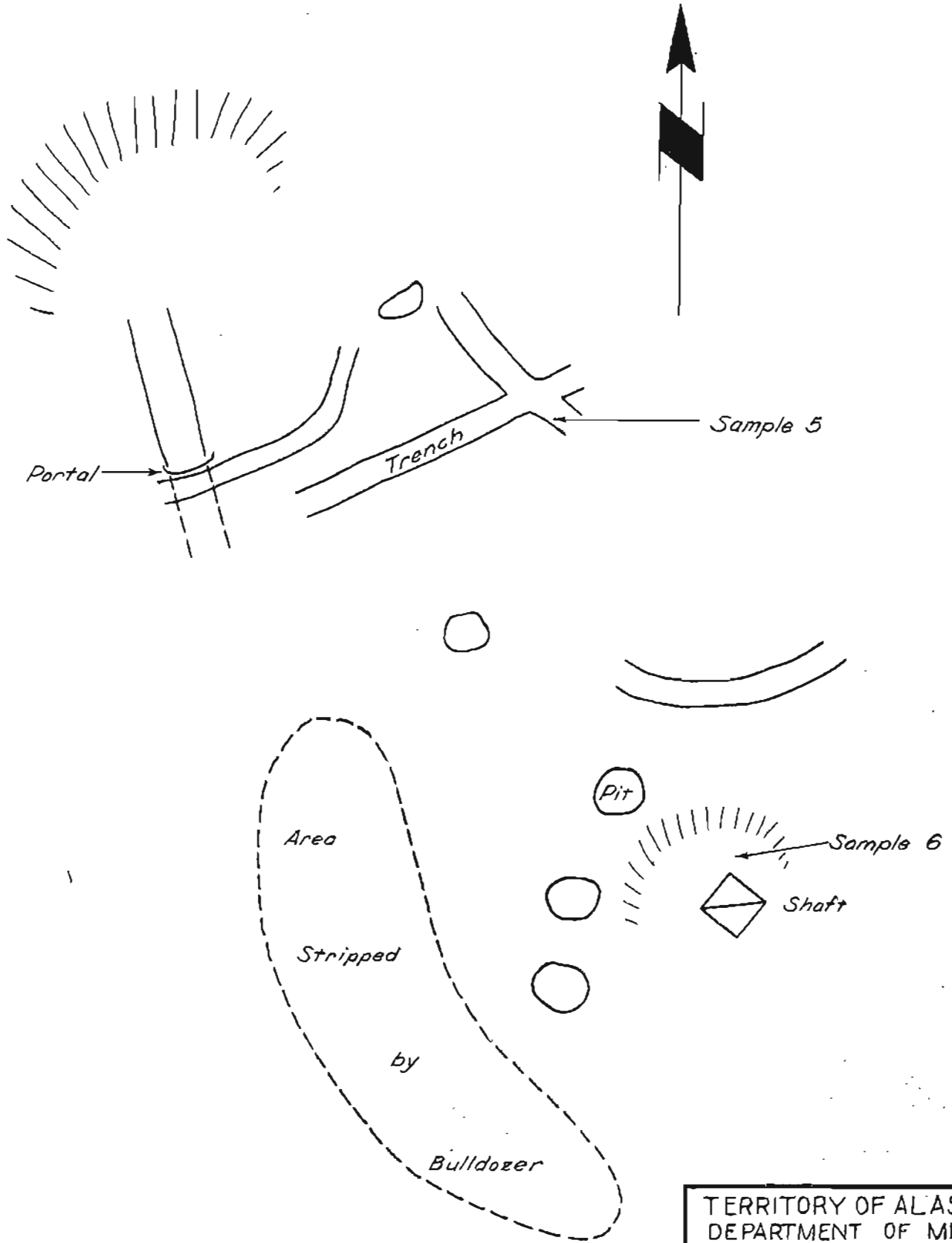
Information was obtained from Mr. Ben Falls, long-time resident of Livengood, that the prospect was leased between 1930 and 1940, and some work was done on it in an attempt to develop a gold-bearing quartz vein. Apparently no work has been done on the property since then.

SAMPLES AND ASSAYS

Two grab samples were taken during this examination; the locations from which they were taken are shown on the accompanying map. The samples were assayed at the Territorial Department of Mines Assay Office at College, and the results were as follows:

<u>Sample No.</u>	<u>Ounces per ton</u>		<u>Per Cent</u>	
	<u>Gold</u>	<u>Silver</u>	<u>Nickel</u>	<u>Copper</u>
5	0.74	Tr	Tr	nil
6	0.14	Tr	Tr	nil

The nickel content in the two samples taken during this examination is too low to be of any economic importance. The gold content of Sample No. 5 is high enough to be of interest; however, the property was abandoned as a gold prospect at a time when economic conditions were more favorable for gold mining than they are now.



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SKETCH MAP OF GRIFFIN PROSPECT	
Scale: 1"=40'	
R.H. Saunders	Feb. 1955