

REPORT ON THE EXAMINATION OF THE TRIPP COPPER PROSPECT,
MT. HAYES QUADRANGLE

INTRODUCTION

The Tripp copper prospect is owned by Jack Tripp of 1995 Hilton Avenue, Fairbanks; it was examined on September 3, 1962.

The prospect is in the south-central part of the Mt. Hayes quadrangle at $63^{\circ} 05'$ N latitude and $145^{\circ} 38'$ W longitude; it is at 3600 feet altitude near the north end of a ridge west of the southern part of Summit Lake. One of the claims staked on the prospect lies across the Denali Highway at mile seven.

In 1962, Jack Tripp discovered the prospect and staked two lode claims on it. The claims are in the Fairbanks Recording District; however, the boundary between the Third and Fourth Judicial Districts - which, in this area, is also the boundary between the Fairbanks and Talkeetna Recording Districts - is within three miles of the prospect to the east, south, and west; and a prospector staking claims in the general vicinity should spot the claims carefully on an inch-to-one-mile map in order to be sure that each claim is recorded in the proper place.

MINERAL DEPOSIT

Copper minerals are exposed in two places on the claims: in the road cut near the seven-mile post and in a hand-dug pit three hundred yards uphill from the road. The direction from the pit to the exposure in the road cut is $N 70^{\circ} E$, and this appears to be the strike of the mineralized zone. The rock in both exposures is dark green volcanic flow rock, part of a unit that extends from Chistochina

River westward beyond Susitna River.⁽¹⁾ In the road cut, malachite stains are visible in fractures in the flow rock, but visual examination failed to disclose the presence of any primary copper minerals. At the upper exposure, veinlets of quartz carrying chalcopyrite and bornite are visible. Most of the veinlets are fractions of an inch in width with occasional pockets widening to two to three inches.

A grab sample was taken by chipping material from several of the small veinlets. An assay by Donald Stein at the College Assay Office showed that the sample contained a trace of gold, 0.30 ounces per ton of silver, and 1.38 per cent copper. The mineralized zone appears to be too small and too low-grade to be minable.

College, Alaska
February, 1963

Robert H. Saunders
State Mining Engineer

(1) Moffit, Fred H., U. S. Geological Survey Bulletin 498, HEADWATER REGIONS OF GULKANA AND SUSITNA RIVERS, 1912.