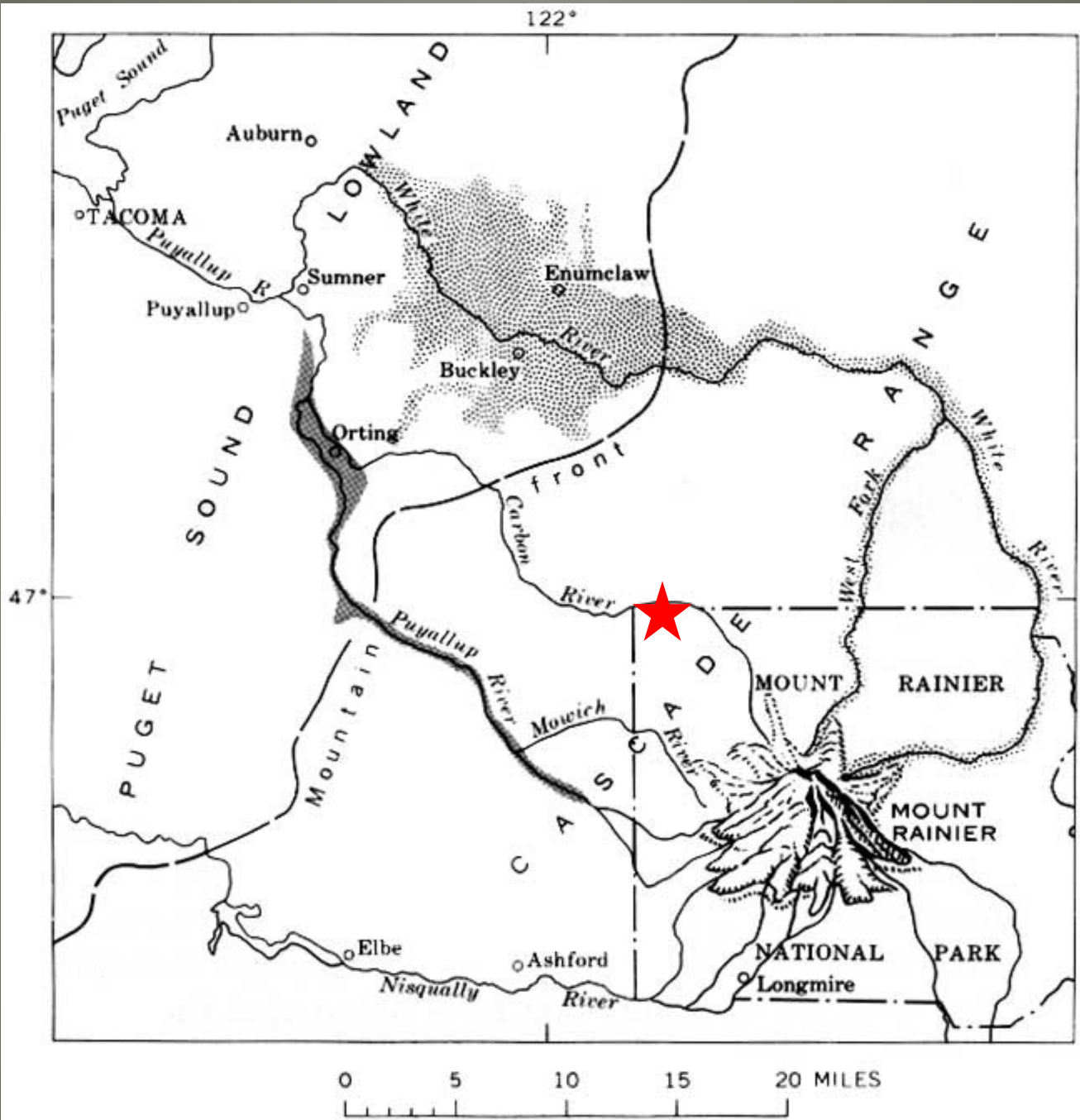


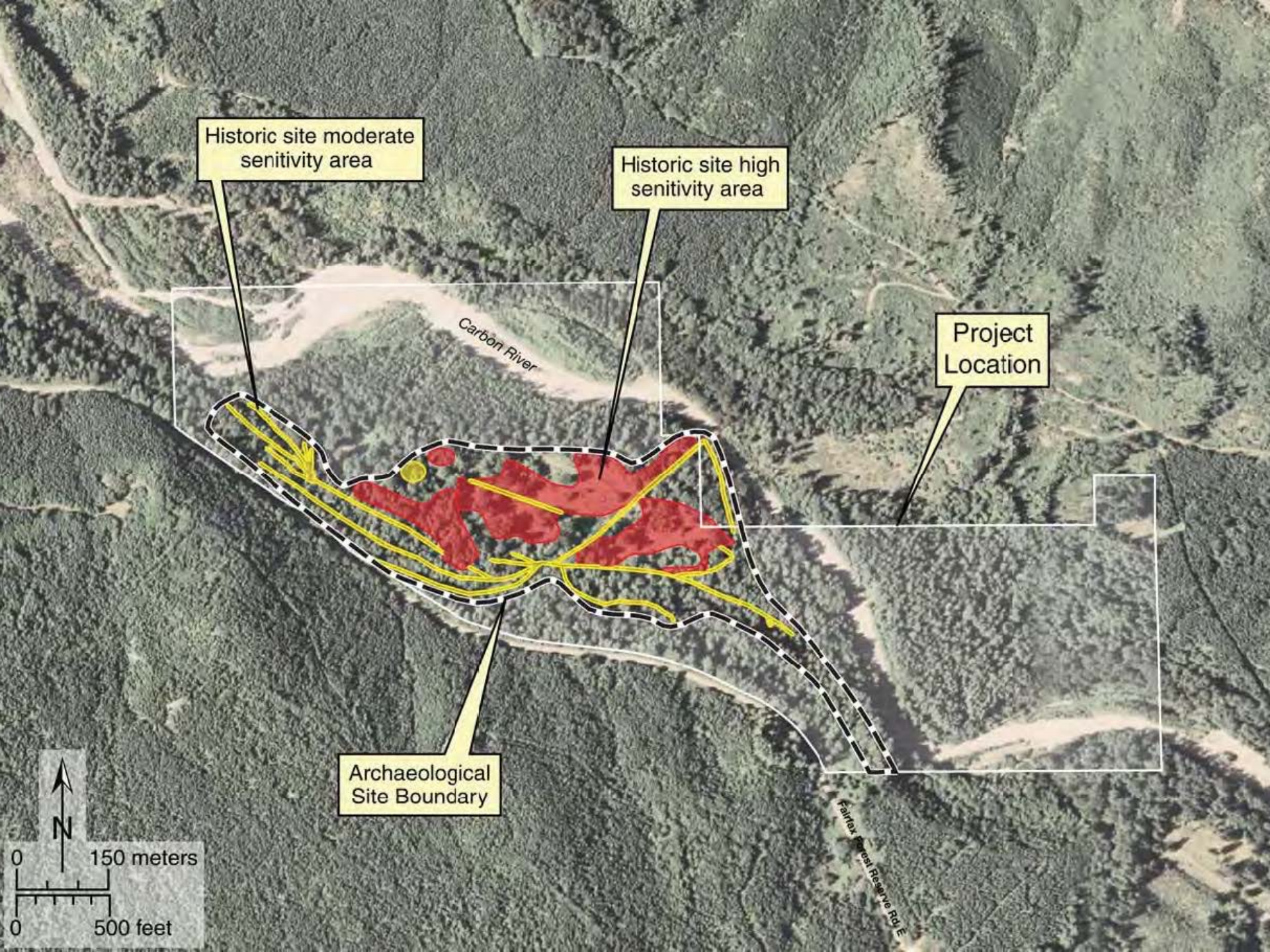
FAIRFAX, WASHINGTON

Archaeological testing and demographic analysis of a multiethnic community in the Cascade Foothills and the exploration of race, class, gender and paternalism at a company town



THE FAIRFAX TOWNSITE (45-PI-918) SUPPORTED THE INDUSTRIAL EFFORTS OF COAL AND TIMBER EXTRACTION IN THE CARBON RIVER CANYON FROM THE 1890S TO 1941. DURING THE PEAK YEARS, ROUGHLY 500 PEOPLE LIVED IN THE FAIRFAX DISTRICT.





Historic site moderate sensitivity area

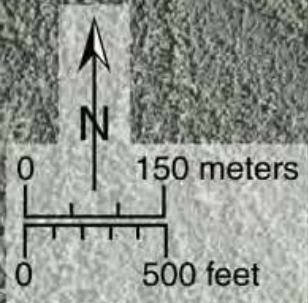
Historic site high sensitivity area

Project Location

Archaeological Site Boundary

Carbon River

Fairfax Forest Reserve Rd E



HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT: TIMELINE OF MAJOR EVENTS

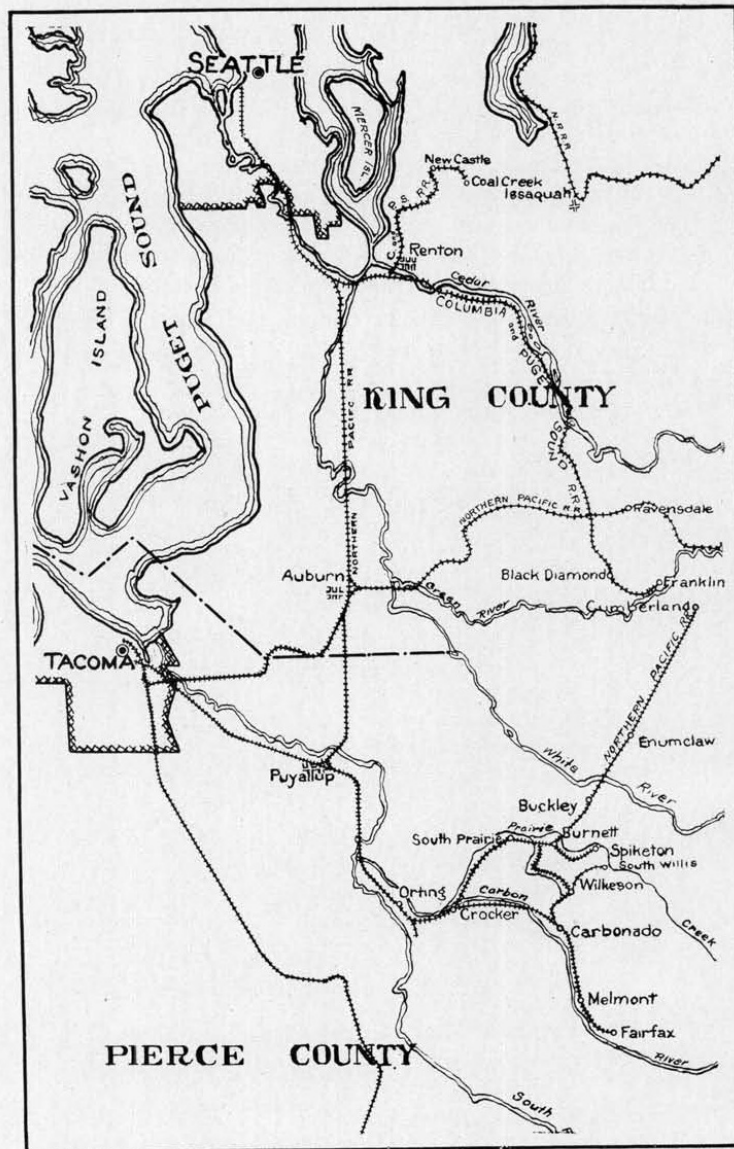
- *The initial discovery of coal in the region occurred in 1862 near Wilkeson.*
- *In 1896, Fairfax began producing coal when the Western American Company opened the Fairfax Mine.*
- *In the late 1890s labor issues reportedly arose at Fairfax, with disgruntled European Americans going on strike. African American and Japanese workers were supposedly brought in by company owners during this period.*
- *In 1915, the town of Fairfax had approximately 500 residents, including 80 coal miners. Fairfax was accessible only by train until 1921, creating a relatively isolated environment.*
- *Fairfax had amenities including a formal schoolhouse, a 20-room hotel, saloon, store, post office, butcher shop and rail depot.*
- *By 1925, the market for coke had drastically declined. Fairfax ended production entirely in 1930. Following the decline of coal, Fairfax partially supported the logging operations of the Manley-Moore Lumber Company until it was entirely abandoned by 1941.*
- *Remaining structures were razed in 1991 by Burlington Northern.*

THE CARBON RIVER COAL TOWNS

Carbon River Coal Country

- X Burnett
- X Spiketon
- X Pittsburg
- X Wilkeson
- X South Willis
- X Carbonado
- X Wingate
- X Melmont
- X Fairfax
- X Montezuma
- X Manley-Moore

by Nancy Irene Hall

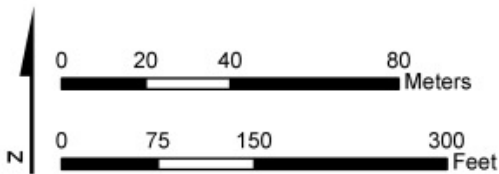


Place Map Showing Mining Towns.

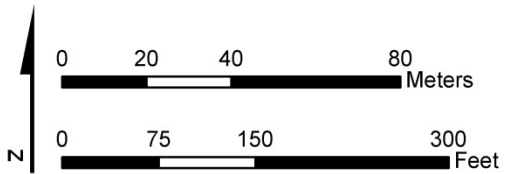
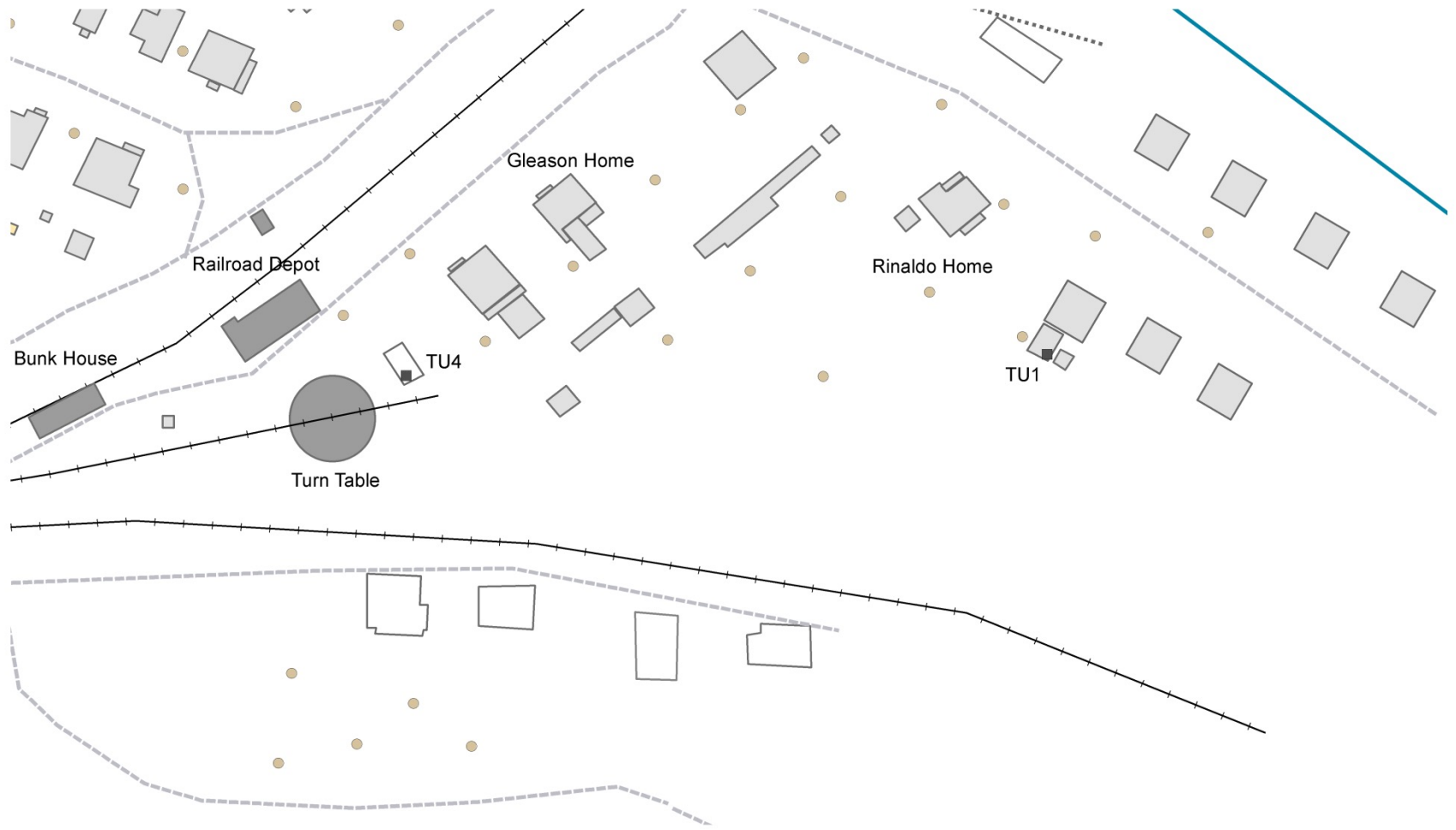
INITIAL SUBSURFACE INVESTIGATIONS: MATERIAL MANIFESTATIONS OF EVERYDAY LIFE













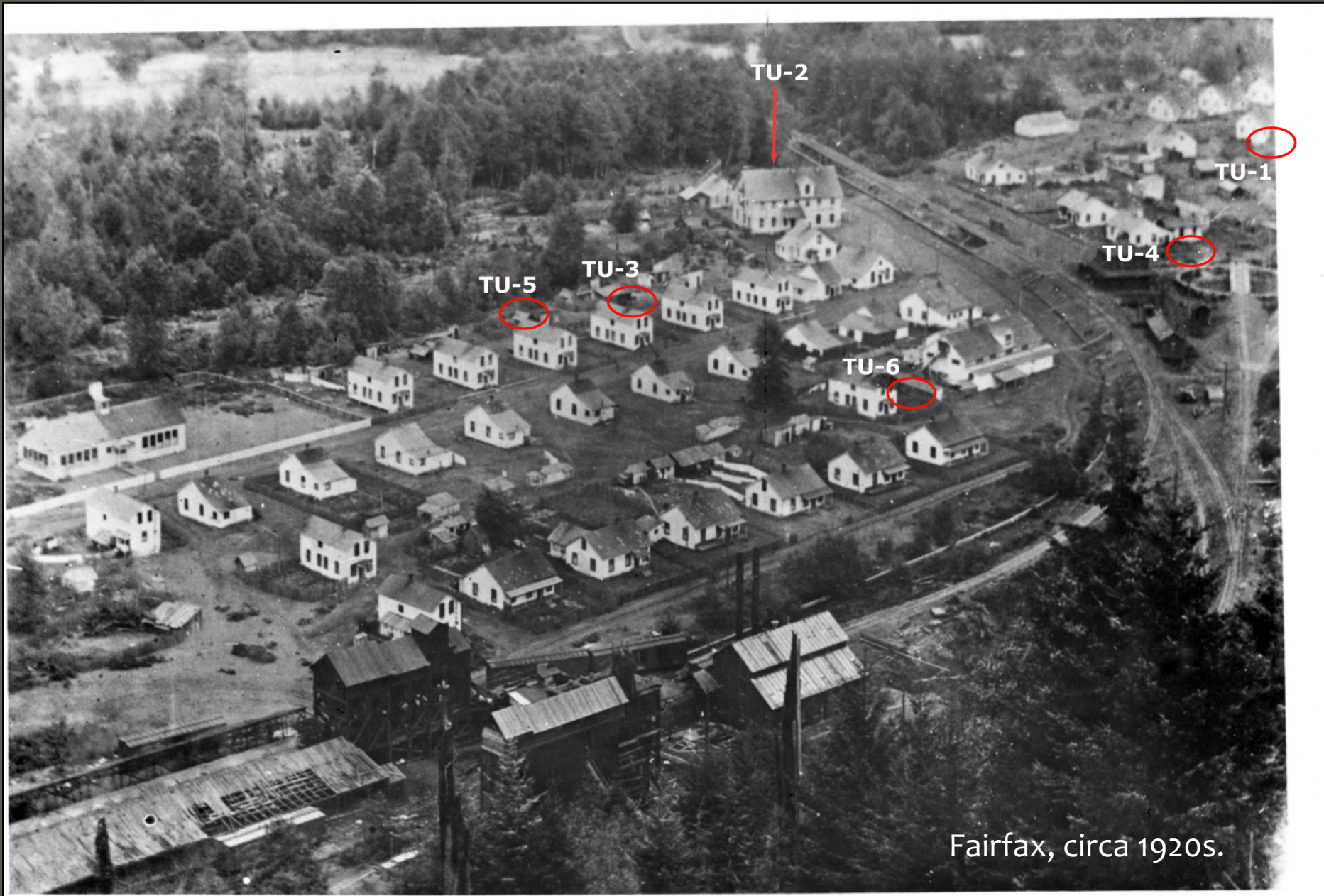
- Session 1: Shovel probing survey. 35 shovel probes were excavated across the residential spheres at Fairfax – east and west of the main grade, and in the area of the Hotel.
- 5 exploratory probes were placed on the upper terrace.
- Session 2: Excavation of 4 1x1 m units and 2 1m x 50cm units.
- Documentation of 16 Looter Pits and collection of associated artifacts.
- 4,678 items identified, representing all Sprague Functional Categories, but predominantly the Domestic Group.



- Historic Road
- Creek
- Historic Rail
- Terrace Edge
- Highway
- Industrial Buildings
- Unknown Buildings
- Residential Buildings
- Test Unit
- Shovel Probe



- | | | | | | |
|---|---------------|---|-----------------------|---|--------------|
|  | Historic Road |  | Industrial Buildings |  | Test Unit |
|  | Creek |  | Unknown Buildings |  | Shovel Probe |
|  | Historic Rail |  | Residential Buildings | | |
|  | Terrace Edge | | | | |
|  | Highway | | | | |



TU-2

TU-1

TU-4

TU-3

TU-5

TU-6

Fairfax, circa 1920s.

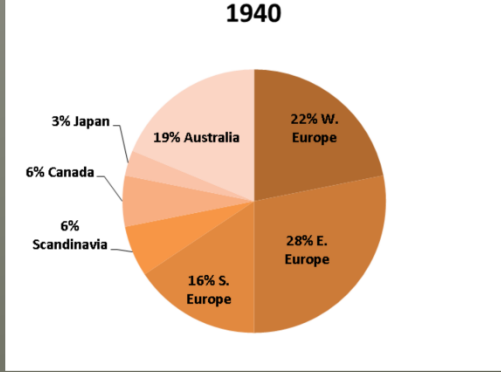
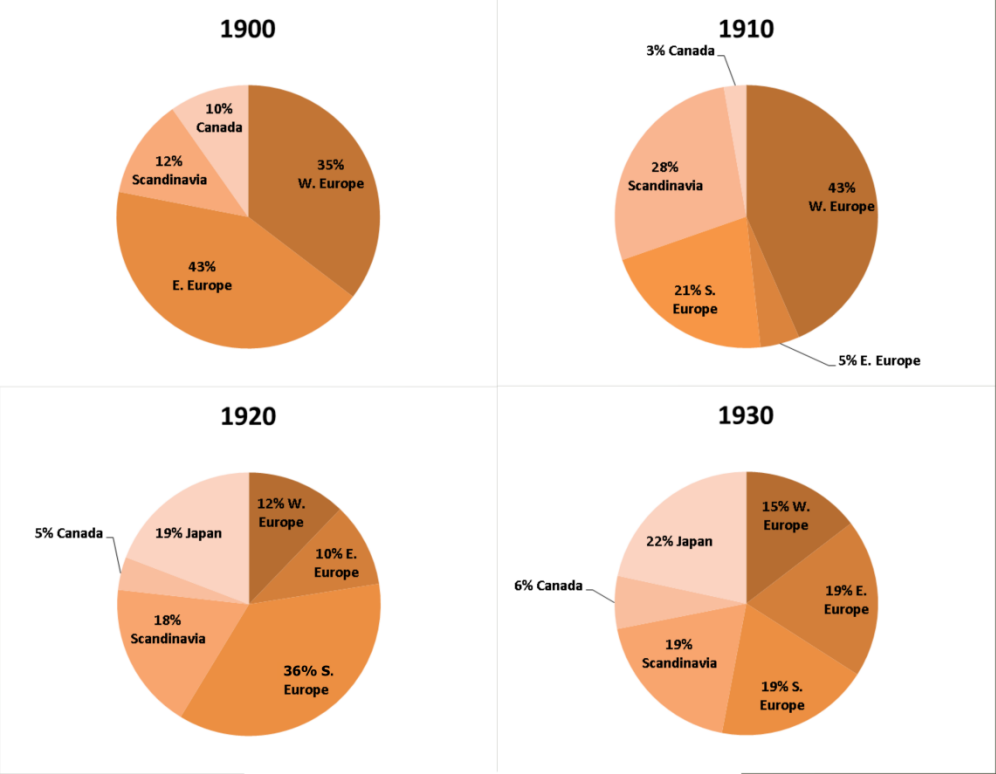


DEMOGRAPHY OF FAIRFAX: AN IMMIGRANT WORKFORCE AND THE EVOLUTION OF A FAMILY TOWN

- *The only racialized minority enumerated on Census Records between 1900 and 1940 were Japanese workers and their families, who emigrated to the United States between 1898 and 1924 and were listed on census records from 1920 and 1930.*
- *More than 25 nationalities enumerated within the Fairfax District, including but not limited to Italian, Greek, Irish, English, Norwegian, Swedish, Japanese, and Australian workers and their families.*
- *At its peak, one quarter of the population were under the age of 12.*
- *Evidence of elderly, unemployed, and widowed residents.*
- *Women worked in and outside of the home, as homemakers, boarding house keepers, teachers, cooks, stenographers, and servants.*

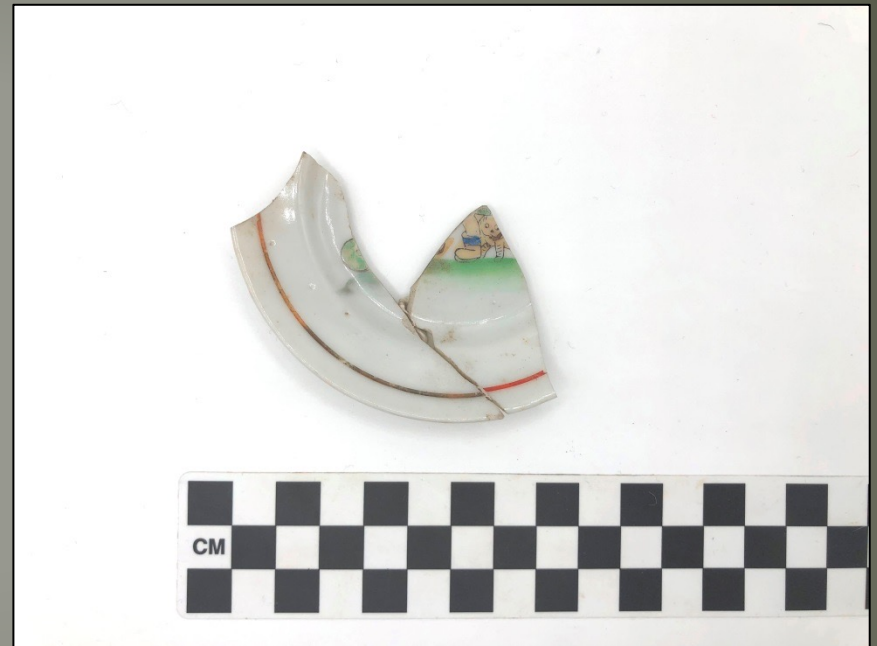


Mrs. Saucet, road camp cook and daughters, 1910s



Foreign-born Population over Time at Fairfax

Year	Population	Foreign Born	Percentage of Total Residents
1900	164	82	50%
1910	254	145	57%
1920	587	272	46%
1930	519	185	36%
1940	106	32	30%



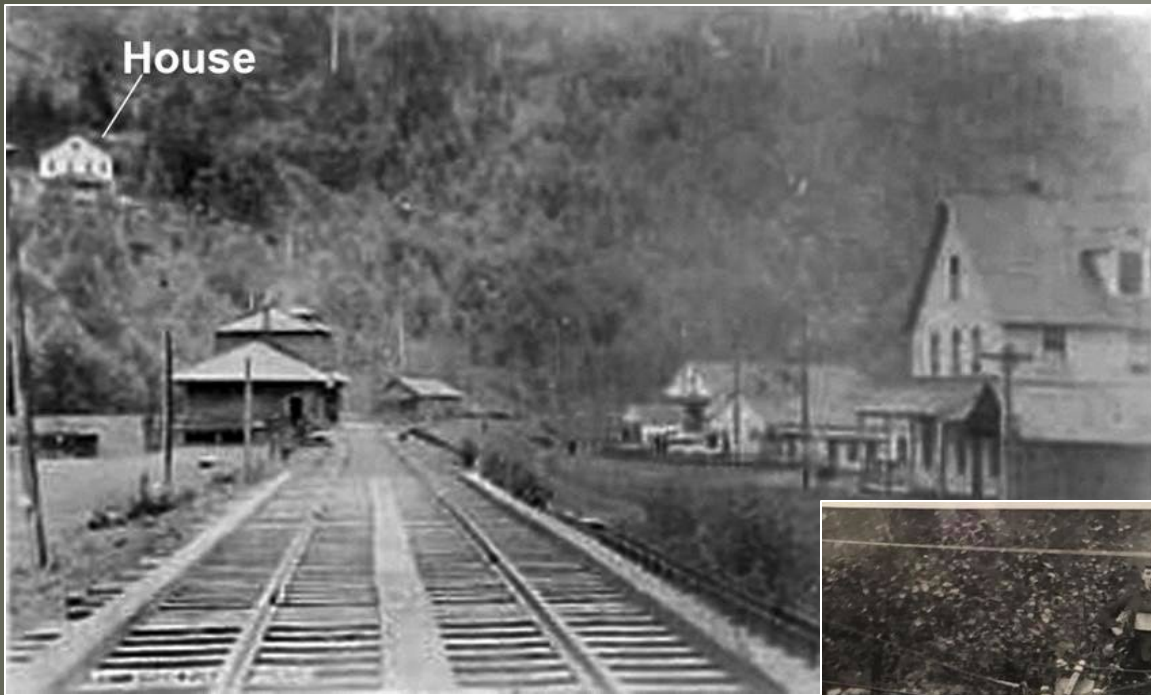
Fairfax Population under 12 Years of Age by Census Year

<u>Census Year</u>	<u>Count</u>	<u>Total Count</u>	<u>Percentage of Total Population</u>
1900	34	164	21%
1910	63	254	25%
1920	150	587	26%
1930	99	519	19%
1940	17	106	16%



DIVISIONS OF CLASS: MANAGERS, LABORERS, AND CORPORATE PATERNALISM

- *Common of company towns, Fairfax was characterized by a panoptic design, with the Superintendent's house distant and elevated from the rest of town housing.*
- *The Superintendent's area was not identified during this phase of work, although attempts were made – this may speak to the degree to which it was separate from the town.*
- *Unlike other company towns, the store at Fairfax was privately owned by Charles Brehm and no scrip system was in place.*
- *Residents were free to purchase goods from peddlers and families often purchased items from outside of the town, in the cities of Seattle and Tacoma.*
- *Several residents had secondary income streams: taking in boarders, growing fruits and vegetables, raising dairy cows, etc.*



Miner Frank Gleason's House east of the grade, 1916



Colliers at the Fairfax Mine Entrance, 1914

ITEMS OF LEISURE, ITEMS OF VICE



Duncan McDougall “TD” pipe bowl fragments (circa 1890s) recovered from TU-4



Harmonica reed fragments found in TU-1



Salt-glazed stoneware demijohn from TU-4

ETHNIC DIVISIONS OF LABOR AND LIFE: THE SPATIAL SEPARATENESS OF THE *ISSEI* COMMUNITY



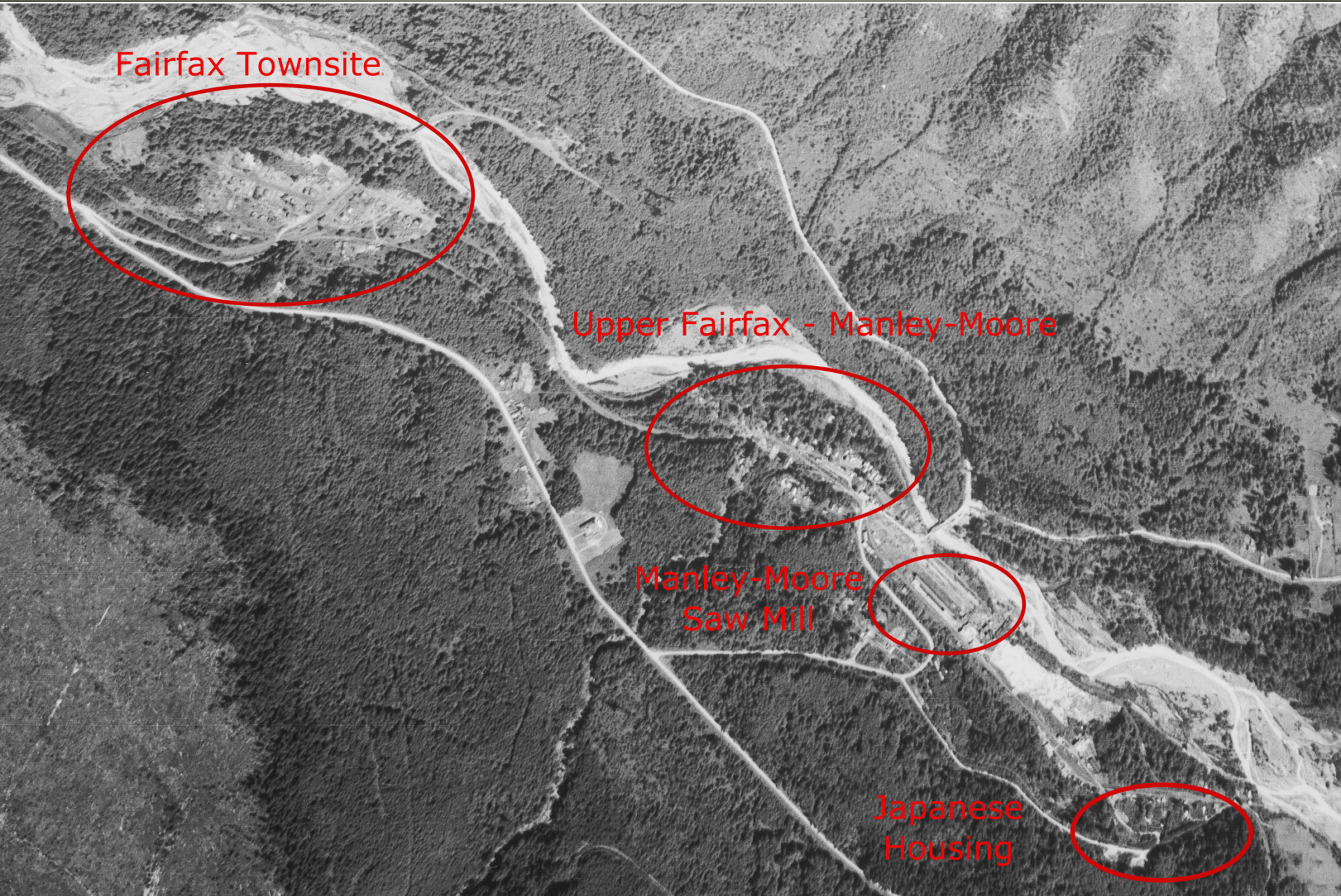
Japanese workers and their families at the Manley-Moore Saw Mill, circa 1927

Fairfax Townsite

Upper Fairfax - Manley-Moore

Manley-Moore
Saw Mill

Japanese
Housing



Division of Labor Based on Census Designated Race at the Manley-Moore Saw Mill, 1920

<u>Category</u>	<u>Japanese</u>	<u>White</u>	<u>Occupation</u>
Superintendent		1	
Managerial	1	4	Foremen, Managers
Engineering	1	2	Engineers
Unskilled Labor	32	16	General Laborers Tally Men, Loaders, Scalers,
Skilled Labor	8	16	Edgermen, Sawyers
Administrative		2	Bookkeepers, Stenographers
Specialty		3	Blacksmiths, Carpenters
Safety	2		Firemen
	44	44	



Stenciled, hand-painted, and undecorated wares from TU-1 and TU-4 of Japanese origin and possible use.

PREDOMINANT PATTERNS

- *Dense boarder population west of the main grade. Evident in TU-6 - secondary refuse aggregate of food and consumption items.*
- *Personal items of leisure, grooming, and health largely identified east of the grade.*
- *Items of Japanese origin only identified east of the grade.*
- *East of the grade less disturbed by looting.*



**LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS
AND GENERATIONAL
IMPACTS**





Remains of Fairfax swimming pool, August 2018.

FUTURE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EFFORTS AND THE BENEFIT OF INTERPRETING THE HISTORIES OF WASHINGTON'S IMMIGRANT AND WORKING FAMILIES

- *Community outreach*
- *Identification of the Superintendent's area*
- *Investigations at Upper Fairfax*
- *Exploration of hypothesized Japanese enclave*
- *Interpretive signage developed with Pierce County – extension of Rails to Trails*
- *Development of company town archaeological context statement for Washington state*

THANKS AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I am eternally grateful to the field and lab crew – each an amazing archaeologist, together, a true force.

- *Thank you, Dana Holschuh, Nastya Smith, Glynis Irwin, Anna Robison Mathes, Sean Stcherbinine and Josh Moss.*



CONTINUED

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- *Drone footage by Josh Moss, SWCA Environmental*

