



11. Wells Commercial Co.

In 1952 Max Wells purchased and expanded the Merrill Mercantile Co., selling essentials from lumber to toys to washing machines. The warehouse, located next door to the Wells', combined a residence and store. Photo taken the day after the '64 Quake.



12. Village Morgue Bar

The building, originally a stamp mill from the mining era of 1900-1918, was used in the 1920's as a morgue, storing bodies during the winter until graves could be dug in the spring. It then became a bar with a bass, piano, and saxophone band.

13. Standard Oil Tank Farm

Some of the tanks were used to hold asphalt for paving airports and roads. Oil from broken piping ignited and floated into town during the quake.

14. South Dike

The dike, built to keep the waters of the Valdez Glacier from flooding the town each spring, ran four miles along the three inland sides.

15. Union Oil Tank Farm

These tanks held gas and home fuel oil. They caught fire and exploded during the earthquake.

The Valdez Museum gratefully acknowledges Robert and Linda Felland for their generous support of this project.



16. William A. Egan home

In 1964, this home, rented by Alaska's first elected governor, William Egan and his wife Neva, belonged to the Growden family. Egan grew up in Valdez, one of eight children his mother raised as a widow in a larger house on 5th Street and Alaska Ave.



17. Pinzon Bar

A social gathering spot for many, especially those interested in politics. The Pinzon closed the day of the 1964 quake. See the bar now on display at the Valdez Museum on Egan Street.



18. Gilson's Mercantile

The cement block building included a café, butchery and bakery, groceries, and sundries. Gilson ran a 400-mile delivery route monthly and provided rental apartments for truck drivers and their families.



Trail Map and Walking Guide for "Old Town" Original Valdez Town Site

Trail information:
1.7 miles
Easy
1:00 hour



Pioneers of Alaska Igloos #7 and #2 placed historic markers on white posts at the original town site. This 2014 guide, created by the Valdez Museum & Historical Archive is based upon them.

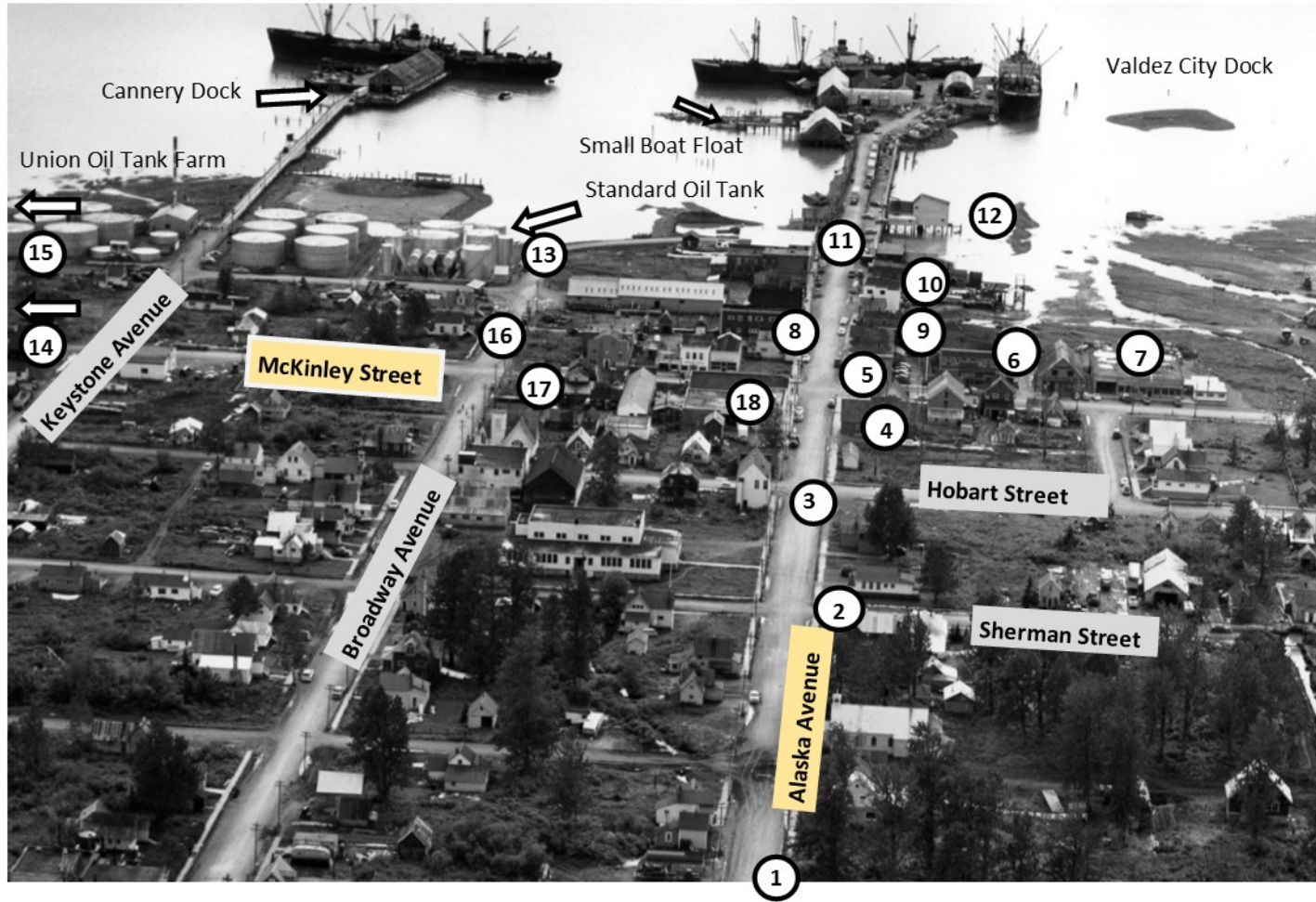
This map pictures only a part of Old Town that is accessible on foot.

South Dike

P 1 Start here.

N

Richardson Highway Valdez



Historic Markers

1. Interpretive Panels

“Original Valdez Town site.”
A pull-out with signage about historical Valdez, “the gateway to interior Alaska.” **(PARKING)**

2. Valdez Gospel Chapel

An Assemblies of God church which ran a Children’s Home on the same block.



Over the years, many Alaska Native children boarded here.

Photos: VMHA Collection

3. Pioneers of Alaska Hall

A meeting place for the Pioneers of Alaska, Igloo #7 and #2. The group served the community, providing civic and social opportunities, while striving to keep alive the history and fame of the early pioneers.



They promoted assistance for older Alaskan residents.

4. Interpretive Panel

US Post Office, Kennedy-era; Quake Victims Memorial. **(PARKING)**

5. Interpretive panel

“This was Home” Summarizes transition from old to new Valdez, post 1964 quake.

6. Hotel Valdez

Constructed in 1907 as a general store, then converted to a hotel in 1940. It housed some of the town’s school teachers.



7. Stith Motors

Ford dealership until 1960, whose cement foundation is still in evidence. Closed thereafter and repurposed by new owner to sell hardware and building materials. A three-bedroom residence attached to the north side of the structure.



8. Valdez Dock Co.

One of the major employers in Valdez, the Kelseys ran the dock company from the first floor and lived upstairs on the second floor.

The company was associated with Standard Oil of California (later known as Chevron) and the Alaska Steamship Company. The structure, relocated after the quake to Hazelet Ave in new Valdez.



9. Post Office

This building served as the US Post Office from 1916 until the early 1960’s when a new facility opened on Hobart Street. Built up on pilings, it survived the quake, moved to new Valdez and housed numerous businesses over the years.



10. Klip Joint

In the early 1960’s, this was the only barber shop in town. Proprietor Ethel McDougald Rhoden added a rear room as a play area for her two children.

For a guided tour, please contact:

The Valdez Museum
217 Egan Drive, Valdez, AK
(907) 835-2764
www.valdezmuseum.org

