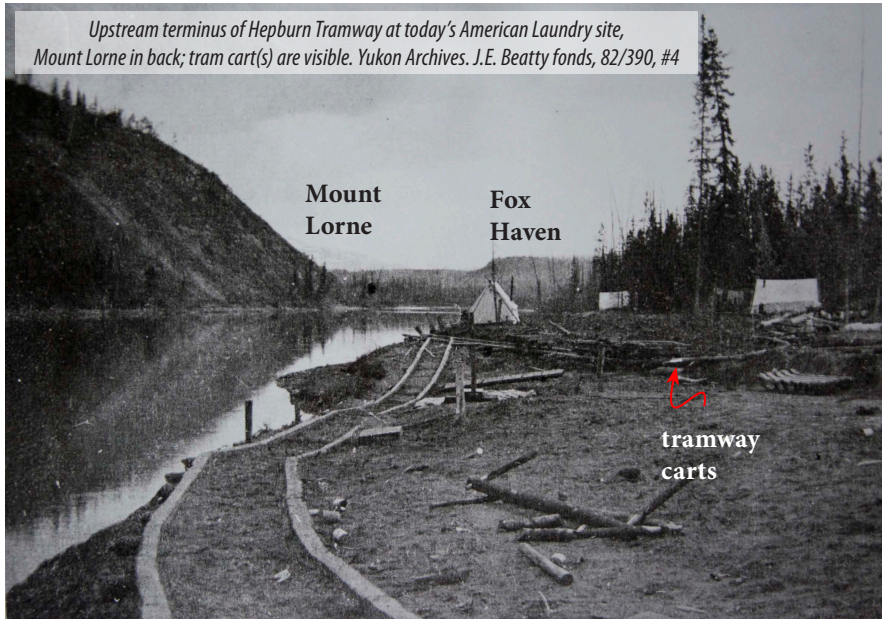


Upstream terminus of Hepburn Tramway at today's American Laundry site, Mount Lorne in back; tram cart(s) are visible. Yukon Archives. J.E. Beatty fonds, 82/390, #4



2: The tramway is in the bushes here. It has an obvious raised bed with a ditch alongside where they took the dirt for the raised bed. Follow it. Watch for old squared rail timbers on the edges of the bed. The old burnt stumps are from a pre-goldrush fire.

3: Cross over the American Laundry Road.



4: In about 1.3 km, there's a trail junction at the crest of the escarpment. The tramway continues ahead and descends along the escarpment edge beside a steep slope. The inset photo on the map shows the descending tramway. However, you'll turn right and follow the Escarpment Trail. In about 600 m, there's a large viewpoint over the canyon with a dirt road going away from the edge.

5: As you start down the dirt road, immediately take the small trail that goes off to the left. The trail descends gently along the escarpment edge high above the river, with views of Canyon City and the high escarpment on the opposite side.

Watch for pieces of the 1899 telegraph wire at places alongside the trail, on the ground or in the trees.

6: After about 1.2 km, the trail is just below the American Laundry Road. *Option: If it's wet climb up and walk down the road.* Otherwise, follow the trail until you return to the large clearing where we started.

Hepburn Tramway – Escarpment Trail, 4.2 km

This loop walk covers the first piece of the 1898 Hepburn Tramway. In spite of getting high above the river, this walk has gradual climbs and descents.

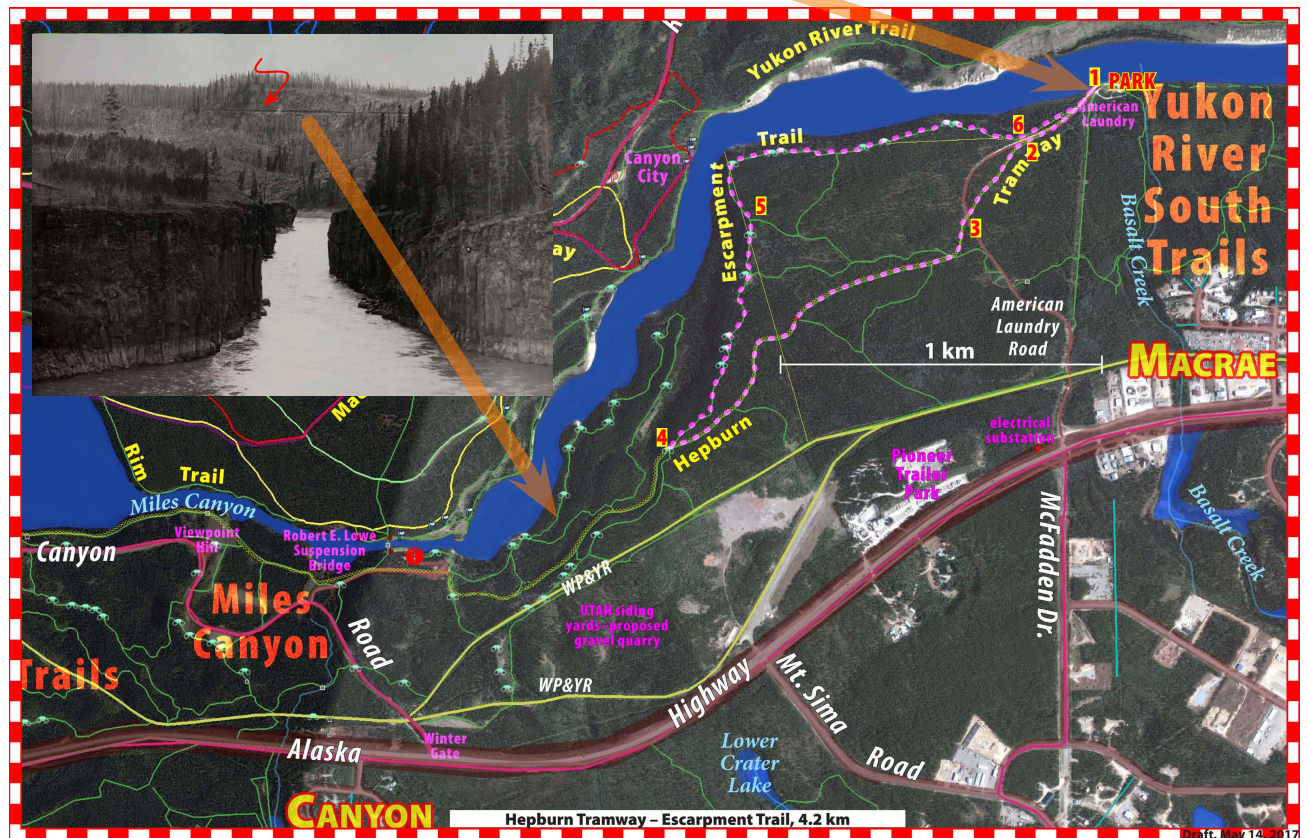
You'll walk a pristine section of the goldrush-era Hepburn Tramway; follow a route possibly used by First Nations; pass stretches of 1899 telegraph line; have neat views overlooking the start of Miles Canyon with Flat and Pilot mountains behind; look across at Canyon City and the Macauley Tramway; pass artifacts from when American Laundry was the largest camp on the wartime Alaska Highway project. You even cross the 135° meridian a few times.

Trailhead: Drive south on the Alaska Highway, going past the Miles Canyon Road, then past Pioneer Trailer Park. Just before Macrae, an electrical substation on your left signals the entrance to the American Laundry Road.

Follow this rough road down to the river and park.

1: The 1898-9 photo above shows the start of the tramway. Wander and explore the remains of structures here; the section of 1952 airphoto shows 3 buildings here at that time. Basalt Creek is at the far end of the open area. Then return to the road, walking about 200 m back up the hill until a small side road comes in on your left.

Much more on the tramway: http://www.whitehorsewalks.com/_walkingIdeas/HepburnTramway.html



Inset: Hepburn Tramway (red arrow) descending from escarpment ~1900. Yukon Archives, Eric Hegg fonds, #2582

Draft, May 14, 2017