

Type	Loc: Overview State			
Location			AK	
Name/Descrip				
Address				
Opened	1898	Closed/End of Svc		
RR Name: Primary	Alaska Railroad			
RR Hstory	Purchase of Alaska Engineering Commission on 7/15/1923 Seward, AK to Fairbanks, AK [Alaska] Anchorage, AK [Alaska] 498 Miles Operated			
Parentage	ARR-			
Loc Significance	<p>The United States purchased Alaska from the Russian Empire on March 30, 1867, for 7.2 million U.S. dollars at approximately two cents per acre. The area was eventually organized as a territory on May 11, 1912. The mountainous geography of Alaska made transportation difficult. As a result, the state has depended on seaborne shipments from its important ports: Anchorage*, Juneau, Valdez, Whittier*, and Seward*. * Ports served by the Alaska Railroad. The Alaska Railroad mainline line runs roughly northward from Seward to Anchorage, Denali, and Fairbanks.</p>			
History	<p>Alaska's rail mileage is comprised principally of the Alaska Railroad (470 miles), the 45 mile Tanana Valley Railroad and the 111 mile White Pass & Yukon Railway.</p> <p>The Alaska Central was the first railroad to operate in Alaska. It was planned to be a 412 mile railway that would run north from Seward (a port city), to wind its way through the Susitna Valley and Broad Pass to the Tanana River and into the rich Matanuska coal fields. Initial construction began on April 16, 1904. The railroad began operation on the first 50 miles of track in 1905. It eventually became the Alaska Railroad. The Alaska Central's line began in Seward. Seward is located on the Gulf of Alaska (Pacific Ocean), It is 127 miles south of Anchorage.</p> <p>Alaska was originally best known for its gold deposits, which had been found in the Klondike region of the Yukon in north-western Canada between 1896 and 1899. The discovery of gold led to the construction of the White Pass & Yukon Railroad, to connect Skagway (on the Pacific Ocean) with the gold fields in the Klondike. The remaining economy in 1889 was largely confined to fisheries, and related marine activities. [8]</p>			
References	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. http://www.american-rails.com/alaska-railroads.html 2. Alaska RR Timetable (1972) https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/4/4e/Alaska_Railroad_timetable_1972-05-21_02.jpg 3. Alaska RR Timetable (2003) http://www.alaskarails.org/glance/timetables/Alaska_Railroad_Timetable131.pdf 4. https://www.alaskarailroad.com/corporate/history 5. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alaska 6. "Historical Gazetteer of the United States" By Paul T. Hellmann, 2005 https://books.google.com/books?id=REtEXQNwq6MC+++ 7. "Historical World's Columbian Exposition and Chicago Guide" (1892) https://books.google.com/books?id=G-ZNAAAAMAAJ&pg=PA14 8. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Klondike_Gold_Rush 			