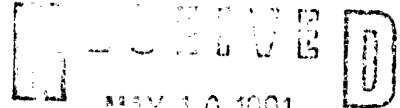


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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

=====

1. Name of Property

=====

historic name: Matanuska Colony Community Center

other name/site number: Palmer Historic District, AHRS Site No. ANC-750

2. Location

=====

street & number: N/A

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Palmer

vicinity: N/A

state: AK county: Matanuska-Susitna code: 170 zip code: 99645

=====

3. Classification

=====

Ownership of Property: private, public-local, public-state

Category of Property: district

Number of Resources within Property:

| Contributing | Noncontributing |            |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|
| <u>18</u>    | <u>9</u>        | buildings  |
| <u>1</u>     | <u>    </u>     | sites      |
| <u>2</u>     | <u>    </u>     | structures |
| <u>    </u>  | <u>1</u>        | objects    |
| <u>21</u>    | <u>10</u>       | Total      |

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 3

Name of related multiple property listing: Settlement and Economic Development of Alaska's Matanuska-Susitna Valley

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this  X  nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  X  meets   does not meet the National Register Criteria.   See continuation sheet.

Judith E. Buttner  
Signature of certifying official

May 7, 1991  
Date

Alaska  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property   meets   does not meet the National Register criteria.   See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register Antonieta Blue 6/21/91  
See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register \_\_\_\_\_
- See continuation sheet.  
determined not eligible for the National Register \_\_\_\_\_
- removed from the National Register \_\_\_\_\_
- other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

for \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

|                  |                   |             |       |
|------------------|-------------------|-------------|-------|
| <b>Historic:</b> | <u>commerce</u>   | <b>Sub:</b> | _____ |
|                  | <u>government</u> |             | _____ |
|                  | <u>domestic</u>   |             | _____ |
| <b>Current:</b>  | <u>commerce</u>   | <b>Sub:</b> | _____ |
|                  | <u>government</u> |             | _____ |
|                  | <u>domestic</u>   |             | _____ |

7. Description

Architectural Classification: no style

Other Description: N/A

|                   |                   |                 |              |                |
|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------|----------------|
| <b>Materials:</b> | <u>foundation</u> | <u>concrete</u> | <b>roof</b>  | <u>asphalt</u> |
|                   | <u>walls</u>      | <u>wood</u>     | <b>other</b> | _____          |

Describe present and historic physical appearance.  See continuation sheet.

Within the boundaries of the Matanuska Colony Community Center there are twenty-seven buildings, one site, two structures, and one object. They stand in a nine block area in the City of Palmer. Eighteen buildings, two structures, and one site are contributing properties in the historic district. The nine non-contributing buildings and one non-contributing object share similar massing and materials with the contributing properties and do not detract from the integrity of the historic district.

The contributing properties were built between 1935 and 1940 as part of the Federal Emergency Relief Administration's (FERA) Matanuska Colony rural rehabilitation project. A non-profit organization, the Alaska Rural Rehabilitation Corporation (ARRC) incorporated to implement the plan. Centered around a quadrangle, the integrated community center reflects early community and land use planning. The community center buildings originally shared many of the same building elements. One to three stories in height, all buildings were frame construction and most had rectangular floor plans. Horizontal drop siding with cornerboards and diagonal 45 degree gable siding sheathed the structures. Gable roofs with similar slopes predominated, although the largest buildings--school, gymnasium, and dormitory--had hip roofs. Asphalt shingles or asphalt rolled roofing were originally used. All fenestration is double-hung windows with multi-panes. A door with four sections of vertical drop siding and a small four-pane window was used throughout the community center buildings. Repetition of these details created a visual coherency to the buildings.

Today the historic district has much the same look as it did during the period of significance, 1935-1940. The hospital and power house, both destroyed by fire, and the original Lutheran church, that was moved to the nearby fairground, are the only colony community center buildings no longer in the district. As a group, the buildings in the district possess a remarkable degree of integrity of location, design, setting, feeling and association; and to a lesser extent have integrity of materials and workmanship. Few modern buildings intrude. Those that have been built

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within the district are similar in size, materials, and color. The quadrangle has remained open.

The trading post, cannery/creamery, and beauty/barber/cobbler shops now have metal roofs. Stucco has been applied to the trading post and beauty/barber/cobbler shops. The cannery/creamery has had several additions to the main facade. Although in disrepair, the chicken hatchery and the administration building are virtually unaltered. Central School now serves as the Matanuska-Susitna Borough's administration building. There have been at least three additions to the building. While the mass of the structure has increased, the additions retain the look of the original building and the front facade has its same general appearance. The rear facade has been altered. Although the fenestration has been retained, all multi-pane double-hung windows have been replaced with thermo-pane windows. Several staff houses have new siding, metal roofs, and thermo-pane windows.

Growth of privately-owned services in Palmer paralleled that of the colony. Whereas the community center was east of the railroad tracks, most of the private establishments were west of the tracks. The churches, constructed in 1936-1937, were exceptions. Standing east of the tracks, the Lutheran church was frame construction, while the Protestant and Roman Catholic churches were log construction. The United Protestant Church was listed in the National Register in 1980 and is a contributing property in the community center. The exterior of the Roman Catholic church has been significantly altered and the original Lutheran church has been moved and a new building stands on the site. These are non-contributing buildings.

Contributing properties:

1. Water Tower (AHRS Site No. ANC-747). This 94-foot high steel structure consists of a superstructure supporting a water tank. The water tank is cylindrical with a conical top and a half-spherical bottom. The steel tower has four columns, support beams, and rod cross-bracing. A circular walkway surrounds the tank at the top of the tower. A wood frame enclosure exits the bottom of the tank and drops to the ground. Although the water tower is no longer used, the Palmer Historical Society restored it to its original appearance in 1988.

2. Warehouse (AHRS Site No. ANC-711). This one-and-one-half story structure, measuring 275' x 50', is rectangular in plan, and has a parallel orientation. The gable roof is covered with rolled asphalt roofing and metal sheeting. Three equally spaced cupolas ventilate the roof. They are clad with 45 degree diagonal siding and have multi-pane windows. A covered

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platform parallels the railroad tracks on the south. The building is sheathed with horizontal drop siding and cornerboards. The gable ends are sided with 45 degree diagonal siding. Sliding double doors, single doors, and large multi-pane windows are used in this building. A large frame addition is attached to the east end of the building. An open shed is attached on the northwest corner of the warehouse. It is shed-roofed and clad with plywood and metal siding. The building is vacant.

3. Cannery/Creamery (AHRS Site No. ANC-478, later known as Mat-Maid Building). This one-story building is T-shaped with a perpendicular orientation. Each of the two horizontal wings of the T measures 85' x 41'6", and the vertical arm measures 31'6" x 81'6". The original portion has a gable roof. The exterior walls of the original building are covered with horizontal drop siding and cornerboards. The gable ends have 45 degree siding. A one-story concrete block addition has been constructed on the east end, leaving the gable of the original building visible. Several plywood covered additions have been constructed on the south facade. These additions partially obscure the original lines of the building but could be removed. A railroad siding parallels the north side of the building. Currently, the building is vacant.

4. Alaska Railroad Siding (AHRS Site No. ANC-755). Railroad tracks from the depot to the cannery/creamery were set in 1935. The tracks are immediately north and parallel to the cannery/creamery. In 1940, a warehouse was built on the north side of the tracks.

5. Chicken Hatchery (AHRS Site No. ANC-480). This one-and-one-half story structure is a simple frame building, rectangular in plan, measuring 24'6" x 50', with a perpendicular orientation. It rests on a full basement with window wells. Two shed dormers on the east side of the gable roof let light into the upper floor. A central cupola vents the building. The gable ends are sheathed with tongue-and-groove siding applied vertically. Drop siding and cornerboards are used elsewhere to sheath the building. Doorways on the east and west are accented with flush gables. Several original nine-pane windows with multi-pane storm windows and one colony door remain in place. A few of the original windows have been replaced with single pane windows. The building is vacant.

6. Palmer Depot (AHRS Site No. ANC-089). This is a one-story wood frame building with a peaked gable roof and a ten-foot overhang on the west side. It measured 93' x 38' when constructed in 1935. The length of the building was increased to 152 feet in 1948. The entire building is sheathed in wooden shiplap siding. Its materials, mass, and fenestration are sympathetic with the colony construction. The depot was listed in the

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National Register of Historic Places in 1978. It is now used as the Palmer Community Hall.

7. ARRC Administration Office (AHRS Site No. ANC-690). This is a one-and-one-half story frame building, with a L-shaped floor plan, paired windows set in simple frames, and a gable roof. The major wing, oriented east-west measures 40' x 28'. The minor wing, oriented north to south, measures 24' x 33'. The gable ends are covered with the typical 45 degree siding. Horizontal drop siding with cornerboards cover the rest of the building. The building sits on a concrete basement with window wells. A small, flat-roofed section which fills the inset corner is the only visible alteration. The building is currently vacant. The doors and windows, although original, have been boarded.

8. Beauty/Barber/Cobbler Shops (AHRS Site No. ANC-479). This small rectangular, one-story building measures 16' x 48'. It has a gable roof and a perpendicular orientation. It has five bays: three doors under projecting gables, alternating with two windows. Although the original multi-pane windows have been replaced with thermo-pane, the original openings were used. A small bay window located on the south end of the building is original. The three entry doors are the original colony plank doors with four-pane windows. The building has been stuccoed to the eaves but the gable ends sheathed with siding set at 45 degrees remain visible. The building is now the local office of the ARRC.

9. Trading Post (AHRS Site No. ANC-477). This one-and-one-half story frame building is C-shaped in plan with one-story wings projecting towards the quadrangle. The orientation is perpendicular. The central one-and-one-half story portion measures 105' x 35'6", is gable-roofed, and has shed dormers with multi-pane windows on the north side. The wings that extend eleven feet from the central section are also gable-roofed. The windows and doors are boarded with plywood. The exterior has been stuccoed but the original gable ends with the distinctive 45 degree siding are visible. The roof is covered with metal roofing. Centered on the north side is a gable-roofed canopy over a door and side-lite. The gable end has 45 degree diagonal siding. The original open veranda facing the square has been enclosed with plywood. The building is vacant.

10. Central School (Borough Building, AHRS Site No. ANC-483). Originally rectangular, this large three-story structure is now L-shaped. It originally measured 57' x 135' and had drop siding with cornerboards. The building has been added to on at least three occasions. While the mass of the structure has been increased, the additions retain the original look of the building. In 1952, the south end of the building was extended with

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the construction of a two-story, flat-roofed addition. In 1953, another floor was added to this addition. In 1984-1985, the entire addition was extended to the east creating the L-shaped floor plan.

After extending the building to the east, the entire flat-roofed portion was capped with a hip roof extending the original roof line. At the same time the entire building was covered with wooden shiplap siding. Original multi-pane windows have been replaced with single thermo-pane, but the original fenestration has been maintained. The same is true of the west or front entryway. The original two sets of double doors have been replaced by a single set of energy efficient doors, again retaining the original opening. A projecting gable-roofed canopy shelters the doors but does not obscure the original insets above the door. The double doors sheltered by an arched semi-circular canopy on the east or rear side of the building were added at an unknown date. Despite the modifications, the building, as it faces the quadrangle, retains the basic look of the original structure. A two-story enclosed walkway connected the school to the gymnasium. The building now houses the Matanuska-Susitna Borough's offices.

11. Quadrangle Site (AHRS Site No. ANC-754). The 90 x 145-yard grass-covered quadrangle was the focus of the colony community center. It was a planned open space with major community buildings on its perimeter. Central School faces the square from the east, the ARRC Trading Post faces the square from the north, and the Dormitory faces the square from the south. The area is still covered with grass. A single path cuts east-west through the middle.

12. Dormitory (AHRS Site No. ANC-481). This large two-and-one-half story frame building, measuring 92' x 32', is rectangular in plan and has a perpendicular orientation. The building's hip roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The front facade, facing the square, is plain except for a bay window which marks the living room. Drop siding with cornerboards was originally used. The building is now clad with aluminum siding. There is a long shed-roofed dormer facing the street on the south and hip-roofed dormers on the west and east ends. Large pane, double-hung windows have replaced the original multi-pane ones but are located in the original wood frames. The east and west ends of the building have been altered by the removal of small balconies and the installation of wooden stairs. These alterations are easily reversible and do not detract from the overall appearance. The building is vacant.

13. School Superintendent's House (AHRS Site No. ANC-693). This one-story building is L-shaped. The principle wing is oriented parallel and measures 36' x 16'. The lesser wing is oriented perpendicular and measures 12' x

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12'. A flat-roofed arctic entry has been added to the gable end. The short rear wing has a hip roof and a typical colony door. Aluminum siding covers the entire structure. Several of the original multi-pane windows remain.

14. Manager's House (AHRS Site No. ANC-692). This two-story building, measuring 30' x 30', stands taller than other staff housing and was the only one originally built with a garage. The building is L-shaped in plan and occupies a corner lot. The two-story house portion is gable-roofed, with the ridge running north-south. The smaller wing with the garage is gable-roofed, with the ridge running east-west. The house still has its original colony door. Most of the existing windows are the original double-hung, multi-pane windows with multi-pane storm windows. Shutters and a brick chimney have been added and stucco has been applied over the original drop siding.

15. Accountant's House (AHRS Site No. ANC-694). This one-story narrow rectangular building, measuring 16'4" x 40', has a gable roof and a perpendicular orientation. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The house sits on a concrete basement foundation with window wells. The front facade has five bays with a central vestibule entry flanked by four windows. Vertical siding sheaths the gable ends and horizontal drop siding with cornerboards covers the rest of the structure. The vestibule entry has a gable roof with the ridge running perpendicular to the main roof. The gable end of the vestibule is sheathed with vertical siding and has a triangular vent. The main gable ends have rectangular vents. The windows are the original multi-pane wood windows set in wide frames. The insulated metal doors are the only modification to the building.

16. Staff House #1 (AHRS Site No. ANC-751). This staff house is rectangular in plan, measuring 23' x 29', and has a gable roof, with a ridge running east-west. The eaves rise at the front door to create a gabled entry. The house sits on a concrete foundation. An open, shed roof garage has been added to the northeast corner of the house. The roof covering is asphalt. The original exterior walls have been covered with a vinyl-coated fiberboard. The gabled ends of the house have the original board-and-batten vertical siding. Most of the windows are the original multi-pane windows in wood frames, however the original door has been replaced with a different wood door.

17. Staff House #2 (AHRS Site No. ANC-695). This staff house has a square floor plan, measuring 28' x 28', and a hip roof rising to a central peak. A hip-roofed wing extends on the front. The small square inset porch and elevated concrete block basement were constructed when this house was



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relocated from its original site, one block away, during the 1950s. The move does not harm the integrity of the house or of the district. Its current location among the staff houses is in keeping with the original design of the community center. The original multi-pane windows used in the large front window have been replaced by a single-pane window, but several of the other original multi-pane windows remain. The two doors on the south are original colony doors. The main door is flanked by a set of original wood pilasters. The original drop siding has been covered by aluminum shiplap siding.

18. Staff House #3 (AHRS Site No. ANC-696). Measuring 21' x 26', this one-story structure has a gable roof and a perpendicular orientation. The double-hung, multi-pane windows, horizontal drop siding with cornerboards and vertical gable end siding are all original. Simple pilasters that surround the front door have not been altered. The only modification is replacement of the original colony doors with different wood doors.

19. Staff House #4 (AHRS Site No. ANC-698). This original one-story staff house is rectangular in plan, measuring 21' x 26', with a garage addition on the northwest corner. The house has a gable roof, with the ridge running east-west. The garage has an almost flat shed roof. Horizontal shiplap aluminum siding covers the exterior of the house. The original double-hung, multi-pane windows remain. The garage has single and double-pane windows.

20a & 20b. United Protestant Church and Parsonage (AHRS Site No. ANC-248). The church (20a) is a uniquely designed, rustic, log building. It is shaped like a cross with arms of exaggerated width as compared to length. The core measures 84' x 62'. The arms are 30' wide and run perpendicular to the dominant center nave. A bell-tower rises from the ridge of the shingled roof. It has four open sides and is capped by a hip roof with pronounced overhang. The large bell in the tower is visible from any direction. The church was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1980.

The one-and-one-half story log parsonage (20b) measures 28' x 30'. It has a rectangular arctic entry on the northeast corner. The gabled roof has a parallel orientation with the entry. The parsonage sits on a concrete foundation. There is a concrete block end chimney and a center concrete chimney. The logs are laid horizontally and false notched up to the window sills, approximately three feet high. The logs run vertically between the windows and create a visual band. Above the window and door headers, the logs are laid horizontally again, extending up the gabled ends of the building. The windows are the original double-hung, multi-pane windows.

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Non-contributing properties

21. Saint John Lutheran Church. The church is a two-story frame building of modern construction. The principal part of the building was constructed in 1975-1976, and a major addition was put on the building in 1984-1985. The roof is multi-level and composed of gable and hip roof sections.

22. Saint Michael's Catholic Church (AHRS Site No. ANC-243). St. Michael's Catholic Church is a one-story structure, measuring approximately 24' x 70', with an attached rectory which measures 28' x 30'. Its floor plan is irregular. It has two entrances, small windows set in rows, and a short, squat spire with a roof. All of the interior furnishings are made of log. Although built during the colony period, the log exterior of the building has been vastly changed. The walls were stuccoed in 1960 and the exposed ends of the joists were cut off.

23. Staff House #5 (AHRS Site No. ANC-697). This original staff house has been substantially altered. It is a one-story frame building with a gable roof. The house has had several additions and the north side of the house was extended approximately twelve feet. Windows have been altered and the entire building is sheathed in aluminum siding.

24. Residence. This house is a one-story frame building, measuring 30' x 23', with a gable roof. The walls are sided with T-111 siding. A small, flat roofed garage is attached to the west end. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The gables are tongue-and-groove, 45 degree diagonal siding. The house was built in 1957 on the foundation of an original staff house that had been destroyed by fire.

25. Staff House #6 (AHRS Site No. ANC-753). This is a one-story frame house, measuring 40' x 36', with an uneven gable roof. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The east wall of the house was extended several feet at an unknown date, drastically changing the roof line and overall look of the building. The exterior walls are covered with plywood siding.

26. Central School Gymnasium (AHRS Site No. ANC-748). The gymnasium is a 2-story frame building with a hip roof. The original structure measures 96' x 61'. It has a 44' x 61' flat roofed addition on the east facade. The original fenestration has been completely changed by the removal of the windows. The original roof line has been altered.

27. Power House. The power house is a one-story concrete block building measuring approximately 60' x 60'. The building has a flat, industrial grade roof. The building is without ornamentation of any type and only has

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a few windows and two doors. The building was constructed in 1957 to replace the original colony power house of wood frame construction with drop siding which was destroyed by fire.

28. Self-storage complex. The self-storage unit of recent construction is composed of a U-shaped, one-story building with a detached one-story central shed roofed unit. The building is covered with a combination of drop siding and T-111 wood siding.

29. Palmer Library. The library is a one-story, six-sided building of modern construction with a hip roof. Exterior walls are sheathed by wooden shiplap siding. The roof has a raised central section containing skylights. Roofing is an industrial quality corrugated metal.

30. Matanuska Colony Memorial (AHR Site No. ANC-756). The commemorative monument placed in the 1980s is made of three large boulders that are four feet in height. They are located west of the quadrangle. The names of the Matanuska colonists are inscribed on the stones.

## 8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: nationally, locally

Applicable National Register Criteria: A, C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): B

Areas of Significance: social history  
community planning and development  
government and politics  
architecture

Period(s) of Significance: 1935-1940

Significant Dates: 1935 1936

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Williams, David  
WPA Workers

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.  
X See continuation sheet.

The Matanuska Colony Community Center is an important part of the nation's social history for its association with a government-created community. In 1935, the New Deal Federal Emergency Relief Administration's (FERA) Division of Rural Rehabilitation created the community. It was one of 99 resettlement projects nationwide designed to relocate depression stricken families on self-supporting farms in an effort to provide them with a new opportunity. The Matanuska Colony Community Center in Palmer is the best extant example of community buildings from the New Deal resettlement program. As a group, the buildings within the district possess a remarkable degree of integrity of location, design, setting, feeling, and association; and to a lesser extent, integrity of materials and workmanship.

To construct the buildings and manage the project, the Federal Government organized the Alaska Rural Rehabilitation Corporation (ARRC), a non-profit organization. Construction of the community center buildings started in the summer of 1935. These buildings were planned to provide for the commercial and social needs of a cooperative agricultural community. The area selected was adjacent to the Alaska Railroad and central in the valley so that the farmsteads could be evenly dispersed around the center. The spatial arrangement called for a large open green to provide a visual and physical focus. Anchoring the south side of the green, or quadrangle, was the teacher/staff dormitory, on the east the school and gymnasium, and on

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the north the administration building, trading center, and beauty/barber/cobbler shops. The west side remained open. At the far end of the west side the railroad tracks and Palmer Depot created a boundary. To support agricultural development, the government built a warehouse, cannery/creamery, and chicken hatchery on the north side of the square. The colony's water tower and power plant were also constructed in this area. The community hospital was located on the south side of the quadrangle, across the street from the teacher's dormitory. Dispersed over a two block area adjacent to the hospital were twelve single family staff houses. In 1936, the colony farmers formed the Matanuska Valley Farmers Cooperation Association (MVFCA), and in 1940, this group purchased the principle community center buildings and took over management of the project from the ARRC.

The proposed district is also significant as an example of community planning. David Williams, the project's principal architect, was a pioneer in community planning concepts. He designed comprehensive, integrated communities with housing, industry, social services, planned open space, and recreation facilities. Williams stressed the use of indigenous building materials. His building plans and spatial arrangements harmonized with the topography of the area. The buildings within the community center were arranged, and remain, in a configuration that illustrates Williams' planning concepts. The focus of the buildings is the large open grass-covered public space. The importance of this space can be sensed by standing in the center of it and facing east. The view is of the school with the magnificent backdrop of Pioneer Peak.

The community center layout segregates building types. Clustered around the square on two sides are the public community buildings: the school, trading post, shops, beauty, barber and cobbler shops, and the administration building. To the north and across East Dahlia Avenue are the industrial buildings: the creamery, warehouse, water tower, and chicken hatchery. To the south of the quadrangle are the residential buildings with the dormitory located on the southern perimeter and additional staff housing beyond. Located in the center, the community buildings are readily accessible and serve as a barrier between the residential area and the industrial area. The arrangement also illustrates use of building scale. The larger buildings are located immediately around the square with smaller structures located farther away.

All of these principles created a community with a logical organization, comfortable building scale, and a sense of unity. The end result was an emphasis on what reviewers of Williams' work refer to as the "social task"

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of architecture, that is, use of community planning to bring human feeling  
to community buildings.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository: \_\_\_\_\_

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: 8 acres

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing      Zone Easting Northing

|   |           |               |                |   |           |               |                |
|---|-----------|---------------|----------------|---|-----------|---------------|----------------|
| A | <u>06</u> | <u>388260</u> | <u>6831550</u> | B | <u>06</u> | <u>388260</u> | <u>6831300</u> |
| C | <u>06</u> | <u>387960</u> | <u>6831350</u> | D | <u>06</u> | <u>388060</u> | <u>6831550</u> |

\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description:  See continuation sheet.

Boundary Justification:  See continuation sheet.

11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: Fran Seager-Boss, Archaeologist; Lawrence E. Roberts,  
Historian

Organization: Matanuska-Susitna Borough      Date: September 30, 1990

Street & Number: 350 East Dahlia Avenue      Telephone: 907-745-9859

City or Town: Palmer      State: AK      ZIP: 99645

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Section number   9  

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## =====

**Verbal Boundary Description:**

The district occupies a nine block area in the City of Palmer. Beginning at the corner of West Evergreen and South Colony Way proceed east to South Valley Way, then south to East Elmwood, then east to South Chugach, then south to East Fireweed, then east to South Diomedea, then south to East Fern Avenue, the east for one block, then north to East Fireweed, then east to South Eklutna, then north to East Elmwood, then east to South Gulkana, then north to East Dahlia, then west to South Denali, then north approximately 300 feet, then west for approximately 500 feet, then south for 250 feet, then proceed west to South Colony Way, then south to the corner of West Evergreen. Attachments 1, 2, and 3 outline the boundaries.

**Boundary Justification:**

The boundary includes the principal community center buildings and staff houses associated with the original Matanuska Colony project.

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Section number Photograph identification

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1. Matanuska Colony Community Center (AHRS Site No. ANC-750)  
Palmer, Alaska  
---  
May 1937  
Anchorage Museum of History and Art, 121 West Seventh Ave., Anchorage  
AK 99501  
Aerial view of Palmer; the community center is visible in the top half  
of the photograph
2. Matanuska Colony Community Center (AHRS Site No. ANC-750)  
Palmer, Alaska  
Unknown  
1986  
Matanuska-Susitna Borough, 350 East Dahlia Ave., Palmer, AK 99645  
Aerial view of community center
3. Matanuska Colony Community Center (AHRS Site No. ANC-750)  
Palmer, Alaska  
Larry Roberts  
September 12, 1990  
Cultural Resources Division, Matanuska-Susitna Borough, 350 East Dahlia  
Ave., Palmer, AK 99645  
Looking northwest at the water tower
4. Matanuska Colony Community Center (AHRS Site No. ANC-750)  
Palmer, Alaska  
Larry Roberts  
September 12, 1990  
Cultural Resources Division, Matanuska-Susitna Borough, 350 East Dahlia  
Ave., Palmer, AK 99645  
Looking east at the warehouse; the railroad siding extends along the  
side of the building
5. Matanuska Colony Community Center (AHRS Site No. ANC-750)  
Palmer, Alaska  
Louis Odsather Collection  
1936  
Anchorage Museum of History and Art, 121 West Seventh Ave., Anchorage,  
AK 99501  
Looking north at the cannery/creamery
6. Matanuska Colony Community Center (AHRS Site No. ANC-750)  
Palmer, Alaska  
Larry Roberts

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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Section number Photograph identification

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September 12, 1990

Cultural Resources Division, Matanuska-Susitna Borough, 350 East Dahlia Ave., Palmer, AK 99645

Looking northwest at the cannery/creamery

7. Matanuska Colony Community Center (AHRS Site No. ANC-750)  
Palmer, Alaska  
Louis Odsather Collection  
1936  
Anchorage Museum of History and Art, 121 West Seventh Ave., Anchorage, AK 99501  
Looking north at the cannery/creamery
8. Matanuska Colony Community Center (AHRS Site No. ANC-750)  
Palmer, Alaska  
Larry Roberts  
September 12, 1990  
Cultural Resources Division, Matanuska-Susitna Borough, 350 East Dahlia Ave., Palmer, AK 99645  
Looking northeast at the cannery/creamery
9. Matanuska Colony Community Center (AHRS Site No. ANC-750)  
Palmer, Alaska  
Larry Roberts  
September 12, 1990  
Cultural Resources Division, Matanuska-Susitna Borough, 350 East Dahlia Ave., Palmer, AK 99645  
Looking north at the chicken hatchery
10. Matanuska Colony Community Center (AHRS Site No. ANC-750)  
Palmer, Alaska  
Louis Odsather Collection  
1936  
Anchorage Museum of History and Art, 121 West Seventh Ave., Anchorage, AK 99501  
Looking north at the Trading Post
11. Matanuska Colony Community Center (AHRS Site No. ANC-750)  
Palmer, Alaska  
Larry Roberts  
September 12, 1990  
Cultural Resources Division, Matanuska-Susitna Borough, 350 East Dahlia Ave., Palmer, AK 99645  
Looking north at the Trading Post

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Section number Photograph identification

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12. Matanuska Colony Community Center (AHRS Site No. ANC-750)  
Palmer, Alaska  
Larry Roberts  
September 12, 1990  
Cultural Resources Division, Matanuska-Susitna Borough, 350 East Dahlia Ave., Palmer, AK 99645  
Looking southeast at the Trading Post, quadrangle, and dormitory
13. Matanuska Colony Community Center (AHRS Site No. ANC-750)  
Palmer, Alaska  
Louis Odsather Collection  
1936  
Anchorage Museum of History and Art, 121 West Seventh Ave., Anchorage, AK 99501  
Looking northeast at the beauty/barber/cobbler shops
14. Matanuska Colony Community Center (AHRS Site No. ANC-750)  
Palmer, Alaska  
Larry Roberts  
September 12, 1990  
Cultural Resources Division, Matanuska-Susitna Borough, 350 East Dahlia Ave., Palmer, AK 99645  
Looking northeast at the beauty/barber/cobbler shops
15. Matanuska Colony Community Center (AHRS Site No. ANC-750)  
Palmer, Alaska  
Larry Roberts  
September 12, 1990  
Cultural Resources Division, Matanuska-Susitna Borough, 350 East Dahlia Ave., Palmer, AK 99645  
Looking south at ARRC Administration Office
16. Matanuska Colony Community Center (AHRS Site No. ANC-750)  
Palmer, Alaska  
Larry Roberts  
September 12, 1990  
Cultural Resources Division, Matanuska-Susitna Borough, 350 East Dahlia Ave., Palmer, AK 99645  
Looking south at the dormitory
17. Matanuska Colony Community Center (AHRS Site No. ANC-750)  
Palmer, Alaska  
Larry Roberts  
September 12, 1990

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Section number Photograph identification

- =====  
Cultural Resources Division, Matanuska-Susitna Borough, 350 East Dahlia Ave., Palmer, AK 99645  
Looking north at the dormitory
18. Matanuska Colony Community Center (AHRS Site No. ANC-750)  
Palmer, Alaska  
Louis Odsather Collection  
1936  
Anchorage Museum of History and Art, 121 West Seventh Ave., Anchorage, AK 99501  
Looking east at Central School, the dormitory, and staff houses
19. Matanuska Colony Community Center (AHRS Site No. ANC-750)  
Palmer, Alaska  
Larry Roberts  
September 12, 1990  
Cultural Resources Division, Matanuska-Susitna Borough, 350 East Dahlia Ave., Palmer, AK 99645  
Looking east at same configuration as shown in photo #18
20. Matanuska Colony Community Center (AHRS Site No. ANC-750)  
Palmer, Alaska  
Louis Odsather Collection  
1936  
Anchorage Museum of History and Art, 121 West Seventh Ave., Anchorage, AK 99501  
Looking east at Central School
21. Matanuska Colony Community Center (AHRS Site No. ANC-750)  
Palmer, Alaska  
Larry Roberts  
September 12, 1990  
Cultural Resources Division, Matanuska-Susitna Borough, 350 East Dahlia Ave., Palmer, AK 99645  
Looking east at Central School
22. Matanuska Colony Community Center (AHRS Site No. ANC-750)  
Palmer, Alaska  
Larry Roberts  
September 12, 1990  
Cultural Resources Division, Matanuska-Susitna Borough, 350 East Dahlia Ave., Palmer, AK 99645  
Looking south at the School Superintendent's House

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23. Matanuska Colony Community Center (AHRS Site No. ANC-750)  
Palmer, Alaska  
Larry Roberts  
September 12, 1990  
Cultural Resources Division, Matanuska-Susitna Borough, 350 East Dahlia  
Ave., Palmer, AK 99645  
Looking south at the Manager's House
24. Matanuska Colony Community Center (AHRS Site No. ANC-750)  
Palmer, Alaska  
Larry Roberts  
September 12, 1990  
Cultural Resources Division, Matanuska-Susitna Borough, 350 East Dahlia  
Ave., Palmer, AK 99645  
Looking south at the Accountant's House
25. Matanuska Colony Community Center (AHRS Site No. ANC-750)  
Palmer, Alaska  
Larry Roberts  
January 21, 1991  
Cultural Resources Division, Matanuska-Susitna Borough, 350 East Dahlia  
Ave., Palmer, AK 99645  
Looking east at Staff House #1, Staff House #2, and residence
26. Matanuska Colony Community Center (AHRS Site No. ANC-750)  
Palmer, Alaska  
Larry Roberts  
September 12, 1990  
Cultural Resources Division, Matanuska-Susitna Borough, 350 East Dahlia  
Ave., Palmer, AK 99645  
Looking south at Staff House #3
27. Matanuska Colony Community Center (AHRS Site No. ANC-750)  
Palmer, Alaska  
Larry Roberts  
January 21, 1991  
Cultural Resources Division, Matanuska-Susitna Borough, 350 East Dahlia  
Ave., Palmer, AK 99645  
Looking north at the Palmer Depot
28. Matanuska Colony Community Center (AHRS Site No. ANC-750)  
Palmer, Alaska  
Larry Roberts  
September 12, 1990

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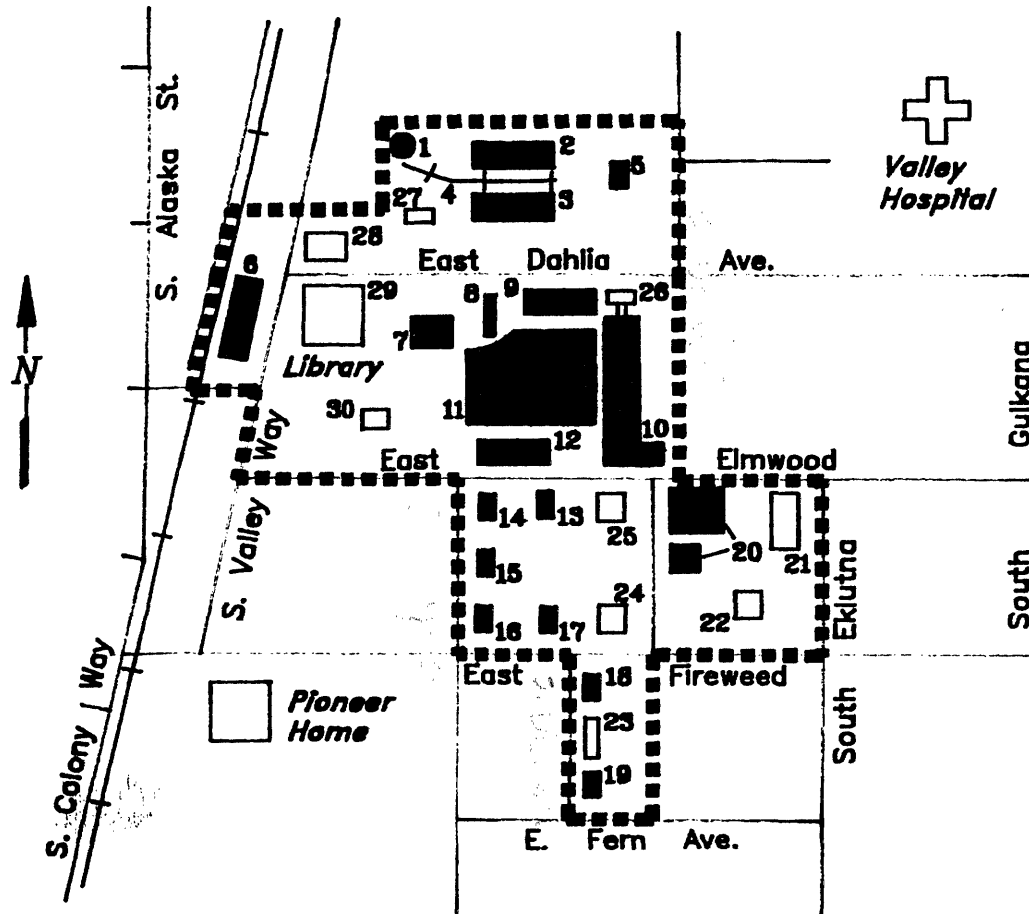
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number Photograph identification

- =====  
Cultural Resources Division, Matanuska-Susitna Borough, 350 East Dahlia Ave., Palmer, AK 99645  
Looking east at the United Protestant Church Parsonage
29. Matanuska Colony Community Center (AHRS Site No. ANC-750)  
Palmer, Alaska  
Larry Roberts  
September 12, 1990  
Cultural Resources Division, Matanuska-Susitna Borough, 350 East Dahlia Ave., Palmer, AK 99645  
Looking south at the United Protestant Church
30. Matanuska Colony Community Center (AHRS Site No. ANC-750)  
Palmer, Alaska  
Larry Roberts  
January 21, 1991  
Cultural Resources Division, Matanuska-Susitna Borough, 350 East Dahlia Ave., Palmer, AK 99645  
Typical colony door, Bailey Colony Farm (AHRS Site No. ANC-056)
31. Matanuska Colony Community Center (AHRS Site No. ANC-750)  
Palmer, Alaska  
Larry Roberts  
January 21, 1991  
Cultural Resources Division, Matanuska-Susitna Borough, 350 East Dahlia Ave., Palmer, AK 99645  
Typical colony window, Bailey Colony Farm (AHRS Site No. ANC-056)

# MATANUSKA COLONY COMMUNITY CENTER

(AHRs Site No. ANC-750)  
Palmer, Alaska



NO SCALE

- BOUNDARY
- CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURES
- NON-CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURES

1. Water Tower
2. Warehouse
3. Cannery/Creamery
4. Alaska Railroad Siding
5. Chicken Hatchery
6. Palmer Depot
7. ARRC Administration Office
8. Beauty/Barber/Cobbler Shops
9. Trading Post
10. Central School
11. Matanuska Colony Quadrangle Site
12. Dormitory
13. Superintendent's House
14. Manager's House
15. Accountant's House
16. Staff House #1
17. Staff House #2
18. Staff House #3
19. Staff House #4
20. United Protestant Church & Parsonage
21. St. John Lutheran Church
22. St. Michael's Catholic Church
23. Staff House #5
24. Residence
25. Staff House #6
26. Central School Gymnasium
27. Power House
28. Self-storage Complex
29. Palmer Library
30. Matanuska Colony Memorial

CULTURAL RESOURCES