

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
 INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAY 22 1980

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
 TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

(AHS ANC-118)

HISTORIC: The Eklutna Power Plant (Anchorage Power and Light Company)
 AND/OR COMMON: Old Eklutna Power Plant

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: Eklutna River, approximately 30 m. N.E. of

CITY, TOWN: Anchorage
 STATE: Alaska
 VICINITY OF: Eklutna
 COUNTY: Anchorage Division
 CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Alaska at large
 CODE: 02

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: none

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME: Bureau of Land Management (907) 271-5050

STREET & NUMBER: Federal Building, 701 C Street

CITY, TOWN: Anchorage
 STATE: Alaska 99513

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Bureau of Land Management (907) 271-5050

STREET & NUMBER: Federal Building, 701 C Street

CITY, TOWN: Anchorage
 STATE: Alaska 99513

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE: Alaska Heritage Resource Survey (907) 274-4676

DATE: 10/10/76
 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Alaska Division of Parks 619 Warehouse Avenue

CITY, TOWN: Anchorage
 STATE: Alaska 99501

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Old Eklutna Power Plant, built in 1928-9 for hydroelectric power production, originally included a series of engineering facilities: a storage dam, a diversion dam, a tunnel and penstock, and the power house. The water source for plant operation was Eklutna Lake, a natural lake fed largely by melting snow and glaciers, and the Eklutna River whose head waters are from the lake.

The Storage Dam and the Diversion Dam. At the northwest end of Eklutna Lake a storage dam was constructed to provide year-round water flow to the power house, some nine miles away. This original earthen dam collapsed before the plant began operation. Temporary restraining structures were used until 1941 when a concrete-reinforced dam was completed. About seven miles downstream a diversion dam was built on the Eklutna River. This concrete arch dam is 61 feet high and 98 feet long on the crest. The crown of the base is eight feet thick and the top is five feet thick. Its spillway crest was designed to pass 6,000 cubic feet of water per second. It is not nominated, nor is:

The Tunnel and Penstock. At the northern abutment of the diversion dam a tunnel was built to channel the water to the power house. The tunnel is 1,900 feet long, seven feet wide, eight feet high, and has a drop of 16.2 feet along its length. It was cut out of bedrock, with only the last seventy feet being concrete lined, and is protected by a trash rack covering about 100 square feet. At its terminus, a concrete-reinforced valve house protected the 54-inch butterfly valve used to cut off water flow for turbine repair. The penstock, a 54-inch steel pipe, meets the tunnel approximately 870 feet from the power house. Necessary water pressure was reached as the water was forced from the tunnel into the much smaller penstock.

The Power House. When the plant was finished in 1929, the operation included a 1500 horsepower Pelton water turbine and a General Electric standard 2300-volt (3-phase, 60-cycle alternating current) generator. The capacity of the Eklutna plant doubled in 1935 when identical turbine and generating units were installed. This equipment was removed when the plant shut down in 1956. The power plant building, however, has not changed over the years and remains intact. Its reinforced concrete walls measure 61 by 27 feet. Atop the walls are steel trusses which support the asbestos shingle roof. Large galvanized steel-framed windows are prominent features. The largest entrance is a truck-sized garage doorway with a steel rolling door. Above this entrance is an arched window. A set of small doors provide pedestrian access. A crane runway overhead in the main building was used to move heavy machinery. Two concrete lean-to additions are attached to the sides of the main building. The north-side addition which was built in the early 1950's housed the switchboard and office facilities. The other lean-to was used as a tool and supply room; it appears to be part of the original fabric of the plant.

Other Buildings. Because of the size of the operation, it was necessary for full-time personnel to reside at the plant site. Four frame and stucco-covered cottages were constructed to provide housing for the Eklutna Plant employees and their families. Other buildings at the site included a bunkhouse (16 x 20 feet), a mess hall (20 x 50 feet) equipped to serve twenty men, a tool house (16 x 10 feet), a blacksmith shop and various garages. None of these buildings remain at the site. Considerable

See continuation sheet.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1922, 1928-29, 1956

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Jasper and Stacey, San Francisco

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Old Eklutna Power Plant was the first hydroelectric plant in this region of Alaska. It served the City Of Anchorage from 1929 to 1956 when the electrical demands of a growing Anchorage exceeded its capacity. The plant was replaced by the much larger Eklutna Project. (That power plant was built in the mid-1950's by the Alaska Power Administration and is located about 5 miles east of the older Eklutna plant). Many of the original components of the half-century old, vacant plant are in good condition. They remain as evidence of the engineering and management endeavors associated with the project.

After an initial year of development, the City of Anchorage was supplied with most public facilities, including electrical power. From 1916 to 1921, the Alaska Engineering Commission oversaw power generation and distribution; their steam plant was located in the terminal yards along Ship Creek. In 1921, not long after the incorporation of the city, the Anchorage Public Utilities was formed. This department, the forerunner of Municipal Light and Power, took over the telephone and electrical distribution facilities of the Alaska Engineering Commission.

The Eklutna Power Plant was realized through the efforts of local citizens, especially Frank I. Reed. The idea that hydroelectric power production from the Eklutna Lake source was feasible belonged to an electrical engineer with the Alaska Railroad, John J. Longacre. Yet the promotion and creation of the project was accomplished largely by Reed. Reed was a self-made financial success. After gold mining in Nome in 1903, starting a dredge operation at Cache Creek in 1913, and timber cutting in the South Central Alaskan region in 1915, he settled in Anchorage. He became the owner and manager of the Anchorage Hotel, one of his life long concerns. His other major concern was the Eklutna Power Plant.

His application to the Federal Power Commission was approved March 8, 1923, and he was issued a license to undertake power development. The land on which the power plant now sits was withdrawn by Presidential Executive Order on December 5, 1927. Two weeks later he transferred that license to the Anchorage Light and Power Company, Inc.

He went to San Francisco to gain monetary support for the project. There he interested Russell-Colvin in financing the project. Through a sale of bonds, \$750,000 was raised for the project. Letters of intent to use the power from both the city and railroad were instrumental in successful financing. Reed originally owned 30 percent of the stock. Later, when Russell-Colvin went bankrupt in the Depression, Reed was able to amass 60 percent of the stock.

See continuation sheet.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Karg, John J. and John A. Smiley. "Memorandum Report on Cost and Accrued Depreciation of Federal Power Commission Project No. 350, Alaska (Eklutna)", to Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Department of the Interior, December 31, 1949.
2. Longacre, John J., and W. L. Kinsell. "Report on the Anchorage Light and Power Company to the Bank of America, San Francisco." June 1, 1941.
3. Interview of Michael E. Carberry with Frank Reed, II. Anchorage, Alaska, March 7, 1978

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

UTM NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY, 20 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A 0,6 | 37,5 | 2,5,0 | 6,8 | 1,5 | 9,9,5
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B 0,6 | 37,5 | 5,0,0 | 6,8 | 1,6 | 0,9,0
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C 0,6 | 37,5 | 6,2,5 | 6,8 | 1,5 | 0,9,0

D 0,6 | 37,5 | 8,7,5 | 6,8 | 1,5 | 1,8,5

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

A 600 foot wide strip which runs parallel to the tunnel and includes both the diversion dam and power plant site is the logical boundary. This parcel was set aside by the Bureau of Land Management to the Alaska Power Authority until reversion to Bureau of Land Management in 1978.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE For Anchorage Historical Landmarks Commission-
Michael E. Carberry, Historic Preservation Specialist 15 March 1978
 ORGANIZATION c/o Planning Department, Municipality of Anchorage DATE (907) 264-4888
 STREET & NUMBER Pouch 6-650 TELEPHONE
 CITY OR TOWN Anchorage STATE Alaska

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE William Stunabel

Herrick E. Banks
 BUREAU LIAISON - BLM
 5/12/80

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer DATE 3/12/80

FOR NPS USE ONLY
 I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER
W. Ray Luce DATE 6/20/80
 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
 ATTEST Kristin O'Connell DATE 6/17/80
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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Eklutna Power Plant (AHR Site No. ANC-118)

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portions of the engineering facilities still exist and with the exception of the storage dam at Eklutna Lake, are contained within a 600-foot wide strip covering 20 acres, an ideal geographic boundary for these nominated buildings and structures. The area is recorded on a status plat at the Bureau of Land Management. The existing power plant, all that remains viable of the larger original facility, is nominated as a significant well-known local landmark, ideally suited to interpret the history of Anchorage Power and Light Company.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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Eklutna Power Plant (AHRS Site No. ANC-118)

CONTINUATION SHEET

2

ITEM NUMBER 8

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Even though construction began in July of 1928, it was not until October that the major units of the project - the dams, penstock, power house, and substations - were begun. The Jasper-Stacey Company of San Francisco carried out the work on these facilities. On September 9, 1929 the power plant at Eklutna was tested, and problems were found with the diversion dam's wasteway. It was not until January 1930 that full-time production began.

The initial 1500 horsepower capacity was doubled in 1935 with an additional turbine and generating unit. Having long been operated with temporary storage dams at Eklutna Lake, the project was improved in 1941 when the steel and concrete reinforced dam was completed. On October 25, 1943, the City of Anchorage purchased the Eklutna Project from the Anchorage Power and Light Company for almost \$1.1 million. The City continued the operation of the power plant until 1954 when the Bureau of Reclamation bought the rights and facilities in anticipation of the opening of the new Eklutna Power Project; power production continued until 1956 when the much larger Eklutna project was in full operation. All equipment was removed from the old plant shortly after being shut down.

The development of the Eklutna project in the 1920's was in keeping with the progressive, modernistic thinking of those who created Anchorage. The Alaska Engineering Commission was just completing the railroad to tap coal and other resources of the subcontinent when the dreams of Frank Reed were being formed about the Eklutna Project. When the project was completed by the end of the decade, it marked the first time that another of the region's basin resources, its water power, had been tapped. The facility was able to serve Anchorage for over a quarter of a century -- a time during which the town grew from a budding railroad town to the largest of Alaskan Cities.

The surviving power plant building is not only a local landmark, but represents a significant interpretive feature for newer residents, tourists, and future generations to better understand the progressive private enterprise spirit which helped make Anchorage the metropolis of Alaska.