

NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 10-90)

OMB No. 1024-0018



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

071

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A)*. Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic names: Brooks Camp Boat House

other names/site number:

Boat House/Office NPS BR-38; AHRS Site No. XMK-094

2. Location

street & number Shore of Naknek Lake, just north of the Brooks River Mouth in Katmai National Park and Preserve

not for publication N/A

city or town King Salmon vicinity x

state Alaska code AK county Dillingham code 070

zip code 99613

3. 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

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The Brooks River Historic Boat Storage House
Dillingham, Alaska

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 meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Robert A. Martin

11/13/09

Signature of certifying official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

National Park Service

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Joan M. Antonson, Deputy SHPO

2 September 2009

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

Alaska

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register

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):

[Signature]

3/15/2010

Signature of Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State

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 public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- Building**
- district**
- site**
- structure**
- object**

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
<u>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) Tourism and Early Park Development Resources of Katmai National Park and Preserve

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6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: LANDSCAPE Sub: park

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: LANDSCAPE Sub: park

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

no style

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation: stone

roof: metal; wood

walls: log

other:

Narrative Description:

The Boat Storage House at Brooks Camp is one of two unique log cabins located in Katmai National Park and Preserve. The cabin is part of the National Park Service's (NPS) complex of approximately twenty buildings and structures, which are located along the shore of Naknek Lake, just north of the Brooks River mouth. The building is singled out because it was one of the first buildings erected by the National Park Service at Brooks Camp and distinctly represents a period characterized by tourism and early park management in Katmai National Monument. In addition, the layout and construction materials used to build the Boat Storage House sets the building apart from the rest of the NPS properties. The cabin stands close to the lake while the majority of later NPS-constructed buildings and structures are located to the west and form a linear pattern heading north. Moreover, the Boat Storage House is one of two NPS buildings within the NPS complex that was constructed with locally cut logs. The remaining NPS buildings and structures built after 1962 are prefabricated, wooden panabodes. Presently, the Boat Storage House remains the primary center of park management activities at Brooks Camp and its log cabin saddle-notch building style continues to evoke a sense of "northern frontierism" which was central to the early history of Alaska's national parks. The building is located within but is not part of the Brooks River Archaeological District National Historic Landmark (AHR #XMK-051).

Environmental Setting:

Brooks Camp is situated at the center of a bouquet of deep, glacially-carved, freshwater lakes that make up the Naknek Lake complex. The major lakes include Grosvenor, Colville, Brooks, and Naknek lakes, the later being

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the fourth largest lake in Alaska. From the Dumpling Mountain Overlook, reached to by foot-trail leading northwest away from the cabins, one quickly gains a sense of Brooks Camp's remote location and setting. In the forefront is the one-and-a-half mile Brooks River that connects Naknek Lake with Brooks Lake. Looking right, Katmai's northern terrain is a great expanse of lake and mountain country, heavily covered with forest. To the east lies the broad valley of the Savonoski River, giving passage to the coastal range, and eventually, the shores of the Pacific Ocean. To the south stand the glacier-covered volcanoes of the Aleutian Range, plainly visible for 120 miles from Mount Mageik to Mount Peulik. Beyond Brooks Lake the western terrain becomes flat as the great Hudsonian coniferous forest, unbroken from its origin on the Atlantic coast, reaches its western limit and gives way to the tundra-covered Bristol Bay coastal plain that meets the Bering Sea. Because of such a remote environmental setting, Katmai was, and remains, one of the less accessible units in the National Park system, and the structures constructed during this period reflect the challenges and limitations of building in a wilderness area.

The historic property is located at the southeast end of the NPS complex in an environmental setting that has changed very little since the cabin was built in 1959—just four years after the first cabin—the Brooks River Ranger Station—was built. The cabin is tucked within a boreal forest environment, which consists mainly of white and black spruce, balsam poplar, paper birch, alders, willows, high bush cranberries, fireweed, and a variety of seasonal wild flowers. The Boat Storage House has an east-west orientation. In front of the cabin's west elevations is a 200-foot trail that links it to the Ranger Station. A large stand of spruce trees, combined with a panabode style building constructed in 1967 to the east, obstructs view of the beach and lake from the Boat Storage House.

Historic and Current Appearance:

The Boat Storage House is a rectangular shaped log cabin, measuring approximately 21'6" x 16'6". Like the Brooks River Historic Ranger Station, the Boat Storage House is constructed using saddle-notched logs. The base logs are set on rock piers that are raised approximately 6" above the ground for the foundation. The walls are constructed by alternating large and small spruce logs, joined together by a common joint. As with the Ranger Station, quartered split log were used to fill in the open spaces between the logs instead of filling in with chinking material.

The west has two six-light windows located at the southwest end and a non-historic, solid wood door with no surrounds at the northeast end of the elevation. A small rectangular plank porch with 2" x 4" railing rests on piles outside the west door which was added later. The east elevation features large intact, but now non-functional, double plywood doors designed to accommodate boat storage. The north and south walls each have three centrally located, adjacent six-light windows. The roof is shingled with natural wood shakes which cover the original green corrugated metal on board stringers.

Modifications:

The Boat Storage House roof was probably shingled about the same time as the Ranger Station roof in 1991. 2' x 4' planks set on end support a relatively shallow gable. Modifications to the interior include paneling and conversions for residence and administrative functions.

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Integrity:

The Boat Storage House at Brooks Camp has historical and physical integrity. The building has never been moved, nor has the environmental setting changed since 1959. The Boat Storage House has also retained its original style that continues to reflect a historic ambiance. Because the Boat Storage House has been altered little since 1959, it has maintained its original appearance.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or a grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions) _____
conservation

Period of Significance 1955-1962

Significant Dates 1959

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder National Park Service

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Narrative of Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Significance:

The second permanent building constructed by NPS at Brooks Camp was a log cabin used to store boats. The Boat Storage House was constructed by NPS rangers in 1959, just four years after they built the Brooks River Ranger Station, the first permanent NPS building in Katmai. Over the summers, the Boat Storage House was used by park staff to both live and work. The use of local building materials and a rustic style of architecture still project an image of frontier living and ambiance. Like the Ranger Station, the Historic Boat Storage House represents the establishment of the National Park Service's presence and authority within Katmai National Monument (now Katmai National Park and Preserve). The building is a current reminder of a period when Katmai was little known and seldom visited. Its historic architecture, association, use, and setting sets it apart from the prefabricated, wooden NPS buildings and structures erected after 1962, while at the same time, those same characteristics links the Boat Storage House to the Historic Ranger Station. And like the Ranger Station, the Boat Storage House continues to evoke a tradition of northern frontierism that is central to the history of Alaska's first national parks.

History:

For more than thirty years after the designation of Katmai National Monument in 1918, NPS's management was conducted from afar. In the eyes of NPS officials, the Monument was remote, it saw few visitors, and its resources were not thought to be endangered. As a result, little attention was paid or money allocated to the management of the Monument. Pressure for NPS to take a more active role began following the 1931 boundary expansion that nearly doubled the size of the Monument. Despite reports of illegal hunting, trapping and fishing activities in the monument, funding and personnel were slow to arrive. The first NPS Katmai patrol occurred in 1937 and amounted to a one-day visit. For many years thereafter, NPS had to rely on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to patrol Katmai.

World War II precipitated increased use of the Katmai area. The U.S. Army Air Corps established the nearby Naknek Air Base in 1941 (which was located close to where King Salmon was later established). Military and construction personnel seeking trophy rainbow trout used small float planes to access fishing areas throughout the region, including Brooks River and other parts of the upper Naknek drainage. Charter aircraft services started flying sportsmen into the Monument. Hampered by a lack of funding and by personnel shortages, NPS personnel visited only occasionally. By 1948, however, NPS was under pressure to develop the visitor and administrative infrastructure within the Monument.

The arrival of Northern Consolidated Airlines as NPS concessioner acted as a catalyst for early park development. In 1950, Ray Petersen, Northern Consolidated Airline's president, established a fishing camp at the mouth of the Brooks River. That same summer, NPS assigned its first seasonal ranger, William Nancarrow from Mount McKinley National Park, to patrol Katmai. The presence of a ranger was vital to counteract growing belief, particularly on the part of local residents, that the NPS had no interest in the area and that the Monument should be abolished. To accommodate his housing needs and to help establish an NPS presence,

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Nancarrow built a two-room wall tent and a cache and dug a well at the present Brooks Camp campground, located one-half mile north of the Brooks River mouth. However, with the rising number of sportsman arriving by airplanes, the need for a more central NPS base was becoming evident.

NPS plans to build a ranger station began during the summer of 1954 when Nancarrow cut, peeled, and seasoned spruce logs from Mortuary Cove. That same summer, Nancarrow constructed a second log cache at a location closer to the mouth of the Brooks River. By February 1955, NPS ordered building materials from Seattle and arranged for delivery to King Salmon by a Fish and Wildlife vessel. In July 1955, NPS Ranger Richard Ward and seasonal hire Russell Todd began construction of the Historic Ranger Station (BR-1; AHR# XMK-093) where the second log cache stood. The new log building replaced the wall tent at the campground as the park headquarters. With its completion, the Ranger Station was the National Park Service's first permanent building in Katmai.

Although seasonal rangers continued to be assigned to Katmai from this point forward, development of the NPS complex at Brooks Camp was slow. It was not until the summer of 1958 that the rangers secured and stored building materials in sufficient quantity to construct a "small warehouse" at Brooks Camp. The following summer Katmai rangers built the Boat Storage House (BR-38; AHR# XMK-094) about 200 feet north of the Ranger Station.¹

Like the Ranger Station, the log cabin architecture sets the Boat Storage House apart from other NPS buildings at Brooks Camp. The building's history is entwined with Katmai's relationship to its parent park, Mount McKinley National Park and the establishment of Alaska's parks by Boon and Crockett member Charles Sheldon in 1917. Sheldon visited the Denali region on a sports hunting expedition in 1906. During his three years in Alaska, Sheldon became enamored with the grandeur and scenery of the Alaska Range. In 1917 Sheldon's efforts were rewarded, as Mount McKinley had the distinction of becoming the first park added to the National Park system after the passage of the National Park Service Act of 1916. Two years later, Katmai National Monument was added.

With the establishment of Alaska's national parks in 1917, NPS started to consciously promote a kind of frontier ambiance in its parks, with hardy rangers, dedicated to conservation, playing the role of frontier lawmen. This frontier ambiance was projected through the use of a rustic style of architecture in park buildings, particularly, dark brown colored, gabled-roof log buildings. McKinley Park rangers built Brooks Camp's Boat Storage House using the same rustic style. The Boat Storage House is a gabled roof log cabin built using the round and/or saddle notching. It was also stained a dark brown color.

By the early 1960s, NPS presence and the construction of ranger support cabins at Katmai began to coincide with private-sector tourism development in the Monument. Beginning in the late 1950s, the concessioner replaced the wall tents at Brooks Camp with prefabricated wooden panabode cabins to provide more comfortable tourist housing and a lodge. As tourism increased at Brooks Camp, the NPS seasonal rangers worked to aid visitors, develop trails, and protect resources. The Boat Storage House provided rangers much-

¹ There is some question as to the exact construction date of the Boat Storage House. But according to Ranger Bob Peterson, who was stationed at Brooks Camp between 1960 and 1962, the building was there throughout his tenure at Katmai.

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needed storage space and has served many functions over the years. Originally, it served as a winter storage area for agency watercraft; in the summer of 1963 it was used for visitor interpretive talks, and in 1964 it was being used as a VIP residence. The Boat Storage House also functioned for a time as a visitor contact station.

Summer 1962 saw a burst of NPS construction activity in Katmai as part of the agency's nationwide Mission 66 program to upgrade and revitalize parks. NPS flew in four prefabricated cabins: three for housing at Brooks Camp and one for a visitor cabin at the Windy Creek overlook at the end of the Valley road. Road development to the Valley of Ten Thousand Smokes in the early 1960s led to an increase of non-fishing visitors and marked the beginning of Katmai as a significant visitor destination. To facilitate the rise in visitors and NPS employee numbers, nearly twenty buildings were eventually constructed. The subsequent NPS buildings and structures, however, are not of log construction but are, primarily, panabodes. Since 1990, the Boat Storage House has served as the ranger station at Brooks Camp.

Today, the National Park Service considers the Boat Storage House significant because it was one of the first permanent NPS buildings in the Katmai National Monument and it continues to be a base for ranger service duties and activities. Perhaps most importantly, the Boat Storage House complements the only other log cabin built by NPS at Katmai: the Historic Ranger Station located 200 feet away. Each are approximately the same size and shape, they show the same use of materials, and the same type of windows. The cabins' rustic architectural design, particularly the gabled-roof log cabin workmanship, conveys a "Last Frontier" ambiance that was a central and unifying theme of Alaska's first national parks. The buildings still maintain their historic feel and are directly associated to Brooks Camp's era of early tourism and park development that mark a significant period of history in Katmai National Park and Preserve.

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Clemens, Janet and Frank Norris. *Building in an Ashen Land: Historic Resource Study of Katmai National Park and Preserve*. Anchorage: National Park Service, 1999.

National Archives-Pacific Alaska Region. National Park Service KATM/ANIA Administrative History Collection.

National Park Service. *List of Classified Structures*. Alaska Support Office. On-going.

National Park Service. *Mount McKinley National Park, Superintendent Reports, 1954-1960*. Denali National Park and Preserve.

Norris, Frank. *Isolated Paradise: Katmai National Park and Preserve Administrative History*. Anchorage: National Park Service, 1996.

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Norris, Frank. *Tourism in Katmai Country: A History of Concessions and Activity in Katmai National Park and Preserve*. Anchorage: National Park Service, 1992.

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

- 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

Name of repository: National Park Service, Alaska Support Office

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Dillingham, Alaska

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property < 1 acre

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	
1	<u>5</u>	<u>338479</u>	<u>6493896</u>	3
2	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	4

1. Brooks River Historic Boat Storage House

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

SE ¼, Section 6, Township 19 S, Range 39 W, Seward Base and Meridian, U.S.G.S. Mt. Katmai (C-6) 1:63,360 quad map

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary includes the boat storage house that has stood at the site since it was built in ca.1959

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Katherine Ringsmuth, Historian
organization National Park Service, Alaska Support Office
date May 2009
street & number 240 West 5th Ave. #236
telephone (907) 644-3637
city or town Anchorage **state** AK **zip code** 99501

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Maps:

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs:

All current digital photographs taken by Katherine Ringsmuth, June 1-7, 2008; Historic Photographs are located at Katmai National Park's Cultural Resources division in Anchorage.

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Current Photographs:

1. Alaska _ Katmai National Park and Preserve _ Boat Storage House-South-east elevation_0001
2. Alaska _ Katmai National Park and Preserve _ Boat Storage House-North-east (back) elevation_0002
3. Alaska _ Katmai National Park and Preserve _ Boat Storage House-North-west (front) elevation_0003
4. Alaska _ Katmai National Park and Preserve _ Boat Storage House-South elevation_0004
5. Alaska _ Katmai National Park and Preserve _ Alaska _ Katmai National Park and Preserve _ Boat Storage House-Trail (south-facing) Linking Boat Storage House and Brooks River Ranger Station_0005

Historic Photographs:

6. Alaska _ Katmai National Park and Preserve _ Boat Storage House, Northwest elevation, 1960_0006

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section _____ Page _____

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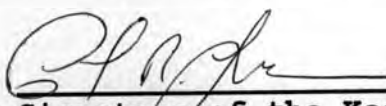
SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 10000071 Date Listed: 3/15/2010

Brooks Camp Boat House Dillingham AK
Property Name County State

Tourism and Early Park Development Resources of Katmai National
Park & Preserve MPS
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic
Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation
subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments,
notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included
in the nomination documentation.


Signature of the Keeper 3/15/2010
Date of Action

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Amended Items in Nomination:

Historic Function:
The Historic Functions are revised to read: *Recreation & Culture / outdoor recreation; Domestic / Institutional housing, camp*
The Current Function is revised to add: *Recreation & Culture / outdoor recreation*

Significance:
The Period of Significance is revised to read: *1959--1962.*
[The period cannot predate the construction of the historic resource (1959). The end date represents the period during which the property was most directly associated with the earliest NPS development within the Park and served as a main visitor contact/service location.]

The Area of Significance is amended to add: *Entertainment/Recreation.*
[This reflects the building's significant role in tourism and recreational development within the park as well as the NPS's increasing role in park management.]

Geographical Data:
The Verbal Boundary Description/Justification is amended to add: *"The boundaries encompass a rough rectangle approximately 20' out from the exterior walls of the cabin, to include both the building and sufficient lands surrounding the site to convey an appropriate sense of the historic setting of the property."*

These clarifications were confirmed with the FPO and local NPS office staff.

DISTRIBUTION:
National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Brooks Camp Boat House

MULTIPLE NAME: Tourism and Early Park Development Resources of Katmai National Park and Preserve

STATE & COUNTY: ALASKA, Dillingham

DATE RECEIVED: 1/29/10 DATE OF PENDING LIST:
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 3/15/10
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 10000071

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: Y SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: Y NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

___ACCEPT ___RETURN ___REJECT _____DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

The Brooks Camp Boat House is locally significant under National Register Criterion A in the area of Conservation and Entertainment/Recreation. Completed in 1959, the boat house was among the first permanent buildings erected in Katmai National Park (Monument) and marked the earliest establishment of a National Park Service presence and authority within the monument. The building's rustic construction forms reflected a purposeful intent to create a "last frontier" aesthetic for the recreational resources of the Alaska park. The building meets the registration requirements set out in the MPS cover document for the "Log Buildings" recreational property type.

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept Criterion A

REVIEWER Paul R. Lusignea DISCIPLINE Historian

TELEPHONE _____ DATE 3/15/2010

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.





Brooks Camp Boat House - AK - KATM - North
east (back) elevation - 0002



Brooks Camp Boat House - AK - KATM -
North - west (Front) elevation - 0003



Brooks Camp Boat House - AK - KATM - south elevation -
0004



Brooks Camp Boat Storage House — AK — KATM —
Trail linking Boat Storage House and Brooks
River Ranger Station (south facing) — 0005



Brooks Camp Boat Storage House - AK - KATM -
north-west elevation, 1960 - 0006

Please refer to the map in the
Multiple Property Cover Sheet
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64501061



United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service
Katmai National Park & Preserve
P.O. Box 7
King Salmon, Alaska 99613-0007
Phone (907) 246-3305
Fax (907) 246-2116



1132 (KATM-CR)

September 28, 2009

Dr. Janet S. Matthews, Keeper
National Register, History and Education
National Park Service
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240



Dear Dr. Matthews:

Under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, Section 110, we have prepared the enclosed National Register of Historic Places nomination for the Brooks River Historic Ranger Station and the Historic Boat Storage House, within a Multiple Property submission, *Tourism and Early Park Development Resources of Katmai National Park and Preserve*. We are submitting it for your review with all required attachments. If you have any questions about the nomination, please contact Jeanne Schaaf, our Cultural Resources Manager at (tel) 907-644-3640 or e-mail: jeanne_schaaf@nps.gov.

Sincerely,

Ralph Moore, Superintendent
Katmai National Park and Preserve

Enclosure

cc:

Ted Birkedal, Cultural Resources Team Leader, ARO