

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

_____
Name of Property
_____
County and State
_____
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page 1

Supplementary Listing Record

NRIS Reference Number: BC100002397

Date Listed:

Property Name: Mount McKinley National Park Headquarters District (Boundary Increase)

County: Yukon-Koyukuk

State: AK

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

6/22/18  
Date of Action

=====  
Amended Items in Nomination:

The current documentation represents both a Boundary Change (Increase) and Additional Documentation as it revises the overall district's Period of Significance from 1926-1941 to 1926-1961, while also adding Community Planning & Development as a new Area of Significance to the previously approved areas of Conservation, Recreation, and Architecture.

Resource Count

Building 217 is not located in the Boundary Increase area, but is a re-evaluation and re-categorization of a building previously classified as noncontributing in the original nomination. Likewise, Building 640 is also not located within the new Boundary Increase, but represents new noncontributing construction within the original nomination boundaries. [The Resource Count in the original nomination should add one (1) contributing building. (The change of Building 217 from NC to C and the addition of a new NC building cancel out any additional effect on the count of noncontributing resources.) The Resource Count for the BI alone now represents 7 new contributing buildings and 3 noncontributing buildings.

\_\_\_\_\_

The ALASKA SHPO and NPS Park staff were notified of this amendment.

\_\_\_\_\_

**DISTRIBUTION:**

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

BC-2397

# 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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. 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.



### 1. Name of Property

Historic name: Mount McKinley National Park Headquarters Historic District (Boundary Increase)

Other names/site number: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of related multiple property listing: \_\_\_\_\_

N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

### 2. Location

Street & number: Milepost 3.1 Denali Park Road

City or town: Denali National Park and Preserve State: Alaska County: Denali Borough

Not For Publication:  Vicinity:

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this nomination X 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

\_\_\_ national X statewide \_\_\_ local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A \_\_\_ B X C \_\_\_ D

	<u>3/15/2018</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
<u>NPS FPO</u>	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.	
<u>Joan M. Antonson</u>	<u>15 May 2017</u>
Signature of commenting official:	Date
<u>Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer</u>	<u>Alaska</u>
Title :	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

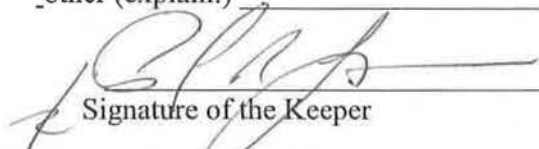
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#### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register  
 determined eligible for the National Register  
 determined not eligible for the National Register  
 removed from the National Register  
 other (explain:)

  
Signature of the Keeper

5/10/2019  
Date of Action

#### 5. Classification

##### Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:   
Public – Local   
Public – State   
Public – Federal

##### Category of Property

(Check only one box.)

- Building(s)   
District   
Site   
Structure   
Object

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**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>8</u>	<u>4</u>	buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>11</u>	<u>5</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 1

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling, multiple dwelling, secondary structure

INDUSTRY/energy facility

TRANSPORTATION/road-related (vehicular)

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling, multiple dwelling, secondary structure

INDUSTRY/energy facility

TRANSPORTATION/road-related (vehicular)



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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

MODERN MOVEMENT/NPS Modern, Ranch Style

**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property:

WOOD/Log, Shingle; CONCRETE; METAL/Aluminum; ASPHALT

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

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### Summary Paragraph

This Registration Form is a supplement to the nomination for the Mount McKinley National Park Headquarters Historic District (the District), a resource that was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on October 23, 1987. This document supports a District Boundary Increase (the Increase) that incorporates eligible mid-twentieth-century National Park Service (NPS) Modern style resources by (1) extending the physical boundary of the District and (2) re-evaluating mid-twentieth-century resources previously determined as non-contributing in the 1987 nomination. The District Boundary is expanded approximately 4.4 acres to the east and 0.07 acres to the west. The larger of the two, the eastern boundary expansion, contains a mid-twentieth-century residential development on a loop road. The western boundary expansion is a small parcel that incorporates one building, an office building constructed in 1926 for the first superintendent of the park. The Increase encompasses a total of 11 contributing resources (eight buildings, two structures, and one site) comprised of five residences, one office building, two utility buildings, two roads, and a historic landscape.<sup>1</sup> It also identifies five non-contributing resources, consisting of late-twentieth-century resources that do not meet the historical associations defined in Section 8 of this form or were constructed after the District's period of significance. The Increase retains integrity in the areas and period of significance defined in Section 8 of this Registration Form. Overall, the District conveys its historical significance through its location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

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<sup>1</sup> Building 22 is a contributing building to the original Mount McKinley National Park Headquarters Historic District National Register nomination. In July 2016, the building was rehabilitated using the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation and moved back into the core of the original historic district. It is not one of the 8 buildings being added to the Boundary Increase; however, the boundary was expanded to encompass Building 22's new location. The Alaska Historic State Historic Preservation Office determined that the relocation of the Building had no adverse effect on the integrity of the historic district.

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## Narrative Description

### SETTING

The District is located on the south side of the Denali Park Road, with its access road at Milepost 3.37. It is approximately 700 feet west of the C-Camp Seasonal Housing and Maintenance Area (Milepost 3.1 of the Denali Park Road), 230-260 feet west of Rock Creek, and 0.25 miles north of Hines Creek. The District is nestled in a moist tundra landscape with a dense, mixed-coniferous forest that blocks potential views of the neighboring C-Camp housing and maintenance development.

### CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES

The 11 contributing resources associated with the Increase fall within the period of significance (1926-1961) and retain sufficient integrity to convey their historic associations with the areas of significance defined in Section 8. The subsequent descriptions of the contributing resources are grouped by resource type, beginning with the overall landscape, including roads, and ending with buildings. In general, the building descriptions are organized by building location, beginning with the cluster within the eastern boundary expansion (encompassing Building 22, 26, 27, 28, 34, 51, and 54). Building descriptions are listed in order of how they appear, clockwise, within the eastern boundary expansion. Building 217, located within the original 1987 District Boundary, and Building 22, within the western boundary expansion, are described last.

The **Mount McKinley National Park Headquarters Historic District Landscape (LCS ID. none, contributing site)** is characterized by its spatial organization (including cluster arrangement) and natural features.<sup>2</sup> The District, which sits on a natural topographic bench, is generally divided into two building clusters, with early mid-twentieth-century development (1926-1941) to the west and mid-twentieth-century development (1950-1961), the eastern boundary expansion portion of the Increase, to the east. The western cluster is spread across the higher elevation of the bench, while the eastern cluster is situated at the lower elevation.

The spatial organization of the District is also defined by its generous open space between buildings. No formal landscaping plan is associated with buildings within the Increase; though, extant informal lawns, planter beds, gardens, and greenhouses are linked to residential properties. The area surrounding Building 54 is paved and maintained by the NPS for employee parking and equipment storage.

Vehicular routes are the primary circulation system within the Increase: the Residential Loop Road and the Boiler House Spur Road. The **Residential Loop Road (LCS ID. none, contributing structure)** was

<sup>2</sup> As defined by Timothy J. Keller and Genevieve Keller, *National Register Bulletin 30: Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Rural Historic Landscapes* (Washington, DC: National Park Service, 1987) and Timothy J. Keller et al., *National Register Bulletin 18: How to Evaluate and Nominate Designed Historic Landscapes* (Washington DC: National Park Service, 1990), spatial organization is the organization of physical forms and visual associations in a landscape that define and create spaces; cluster arrangement is the location and pattern of buildings and structures in a landscape and associated outdoor spaces; natural systems and features are the natural aspects that have influenced the development and physical form of a landscape.

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constructed in 1953 to provide improved access to Buildings 26, 27, 28, and 34; to improve the area's circulation; and to support additional residential development. For the purpose of this Registration Form, the Residential Loop Road (the loop road) includes residential driveways. The road is paved with 2"-thick asphalt over a gravel grade. It is void of curbs, shoulders, and road lines, and retains simple, minimal traffic signage that discourages public access.

Located at the easternmost boundary of the District, the semi-circular, one-and-one-half-lane-wide, one-way loop road is accessed from its southernmost intersection with Headquarters Access Road (a point east of Building 107) and egressed from its northernmost intersection with the access road (a point north of Building 26 and south of Building 27).<sup>3</sup> From its access, the loop road runs in an easterly direction, south of Buildings 99 and 53. North of Building 51, the loop road dramatically curves to the northwest, hugging the east elevation of Building 34, and continues to run in a northwesterly direction, south of Buildings 171, 28, and 27. Although portions were slightly widened following the period of significance to accommodate residential parking, the Residential Loop Road generally retains its historic alignment and, in general, its historic width.

Leading from the Residential Loop Road to the southern end of Building 54, the **Boiler House Spur Road (LCS ID. none, contributing structure)** was constructed in 1960 as part of the construction of Building 54 (Boiler House). The paved spur road structure was preceded by a circa 1928 gravel route that led to a septic field, presently located outside of the District, to the south.<sup>4</sup> For the purpose of this form, the Boiler House Spur Road includes a small, paved parking lot immediately south of Building 54. The spur road is paved to the same specifications as the loop road, but allows for two-way traffic to and from Building 54 (Boiler House). After the period of significance, the road was widened north of Building 252 (located outside of the District) to accommodate parking for the occupants of Building 51. A contemporary, graded, graveled recreational vehicle parking area (outside of the District) was constructed east of Building 54. To the south of the spur road is another graded, gravel parking area (outside of the District).

With no sidewalks to accommodate pedestrian traffic, the Residential Loop Road and the Boiler House Spur Road are also used for transportation by foot. Informal social trails intersect several of the greenspaces within the area; although, they do not retain sufficient integrity to be evaluated as contributing to the District.

Vegetation within the District is characterized by plants and trees native to the region. Dense with white spruce, quaking aspen, cottonwood, willow and alder trees, the District is also covered with blueberry bushes, rosehip, and a number of other native shrubs and grasses. Historically, a substantial amount of vegetation was intentionally cleared from the District.<sup>5</sup> Today, while the NPS continues to cull vegetation with the intent to retain historical vistas, management practices also involve retaining vegetation to provide a privacy barrier between buildings. In 2004, as part of the Alaska Western Area Fire

<sup>3</sup> In 2005, in an effort to address safety issues in the residential portion of the District, the NPS instituted an informal policy of one-way travel on the Residential Loop Road. However, due to the orientation of driveways associated with houses to the west, residents often travel two ways on the loop road.

<sup>4</sup> Tuttle and W.A.P., *Park Facilities Topography, Mt. McKinley, Alaska* (Anchorage, AK: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 1957).

<sup>5</sup> Margie Coffin Brown et al., *Cultural Landscape Report for Park Headquarters, Denali National Park & Preserve* (Boston: Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation, 2008), 151.

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Management's fuel load reduction program, the NPS substantially thinned trees and shrubs within the District to better reflect the historic character of the District and adhere to fire management practices.<sup>6</sup>

Detailed information on the District's cultural landscape, which focuses on the original boundaries of the Mount McKinley National Park Headquarters Historic District as delineated in 1987, is available in the Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation's *Cultural Landscape Report for Park Headquarters: Denali National Park and Preserve* (2008).

Situated along the Residential Loop Road, **Buildings 26, 27, 28, and 34 (The "Doty Houses")** are clustered in a north-central location within the Increase's eastern boundary expansion. The Doty Houses are single-story, wood-framed, side-gabled, approximately 24' by 50' ranch style, NPS Modern, single-family residences with attached 28' by 12' single-car garages. The buildings were constructed using a single set of plans designed in 1949 by Cecil J. Doty (1907-1990), architect and landscape architect for the NPS between 1923 until 1968. Buildings 26 and 27 were completed in 1950, and Buildings 28 and 34 in 1952. The Doty Houses are nearly identical, with minor variations in dimensions, finishes, and amenities. Generally rectangular shaped, the buildings retain stepped bays across the façade and a recessed front entry.

Facing northwest, **Building 26 (Single Residence) (LCS ID. 600951, contributing building)** is located on the southeast corner of the Headquarters Access road and the Residential Loop Road. In 2014, Building 26 was substantially rehabilitated, using Doty's 1949 plans as a guide, in an effort to return the building to its original appearance. As a result, Building 26 stands apart from Building 27, 28, and 34. It has stained vertical and horizontal tongue-and-groove, v-notched, redwood and cedar siding. The west elevation (façade) contains four bays, including the garage: on the end bays of this elevation, the siding is oriented horizontally, while on the two central bays, the siding is oriented vertically. All other elevations of this building feature horizontally oriented siding. The front porch includes a low-profile concrete deck with two shallow steps leading off its southwest edge, and a single, squared, wood post situated on its southwest corner. Fenestration is regular with 1/1 single, paired, and tripled double hung, wood sash windows; single-pane, vinyl windows at the basement level; and four-paneled (horizontally) wood doors on the recessed porch of the façade and the covered porch of the rear (east) elevation. The façade features (from north to south) an off centered (to the south) single window in the first bay, a centered triple window in the second bay, a single window off center (to the north) in the third bay (recessed porch), and a 16-pane wood garage door that includes a ribbon of fixed-pane windows. The south elevation bears a single off-centered window to the east and a metal louvered vent in the gable peak. The small covered entrance on the east elevation, with its poured concrete platform and three shallow steps and four-paneled wood door, is supported by a single squared wood column. North of the entrance, the east elevation has (from south to north) a paired window, a triple window, and a paired window. A wide, stout concrete block chimney pierces the roof slope. The north elevation is similar (but not identical to) the gable end of the south elevation, with a single window to the east, a paired window to the west, and a metal louvered vent in the gable peak. Due to its 2014 rehabilitation, Building 26 retains the highest integrity of all four Doty Houses.

Across the Residential Loop Road from Building 26, sit two parallel resources, the southwest-facing **Building 27 (Single Residence) (LCS ID. 600925, contributing building)** and **Building 28 (Single Residence) (LCS ID. 600959, contributing building)**. **Building 34 (Single Residence) (LCS ID.**

<sup>6</sup> Brown et al., *Cultural Landscape Report*, 152; Alaska Regional Office, "Cultural Landscape Rehabilitation Plan, Vegetative Evaluation for Coordination with the Park Fire Management Strategy" (Anchorage, AK: NPS Alaska Regional Office, 2001).

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**600966, contributing building** is situated across the loop road, southeast of Buildings 27 and 28. Buildings 27, 28, and 34 have a concrete block foundation; are overall clad in non-historic cream-painted aluminum lap siding with historic period horizontal tongue-and-groove, v-notched, painted cedar and redwood siding on the garage; bear steel-blue-painted window and door trim; and retain a 5V-crimp metal roof (installed in 2013) with non-historic metal snow guards. On Building 27, the rear (east) elevation is clad in aluminum siding, except for a patch to the north of the porch, which is wood lap siding painted a

slightly darker color. At the rear, the shed wall facing the porch is covered in vertical tongue-and-groove siding consistent with the original design.

The front porch is comprised of a low-profile concrete deck with two shallow steps leading off its southwest edge (steps are featured on Buildings 26, 27, 34), and a single, squared post situated centrally (Buildings 28 and 34) or on its southwest corner (Buildings 26 and 27). Building 28 contains a full-length contemporary wood balustrade and staircase atop the poured concrete deck and Building 34 contains a simple contemporary wooden stair with a single railing leading from the front porches. The recessed front porches accommodate three entryways: one leading into the living room (left), one into a mud room (center), and one enters into the garage (right). Two of the three entryways contain non-historic wood replacement doors, and leading to the garage, one historic period wood paneled door with three lights.

At the rear of each building is a small, covered, porch that is nestled in the exterior corner of the garage and the main portion of the house. It has a poured concrete platform and three shallow steps and four-paneled wood door, is supported by a single squared wood column. There is a built-in woodshed (now used as general storage) adjacently to the right (and protected under the roof) of the rear porch. On Buildings 27 and 28, the shed has no door; the wall is covered in vertical tongue-and-groove siding consistent with the original design. On Building 34, the shed entrance, originally left open, is in-filled with a contemporary door.

Overall, window and door configurations are similar between Buildings 27, 28, and 34, with nearly identical window and door openings and materials. Fenestration is regular with single, paired, and tripled vinyl windows (contemporary replacements for original wood windows) and wood doors on the recessed porch of the façade and the covered porch of the rear elevation. The façade features (from left to right) an off centered (to the right) single window in the first bay, a centered triple window in the second bay, a single window off center (to the left) in the third bay (recessed porch), and a 16-pane wood garage door that includes a ribbon of fixed-pane windows.<sup>7</sup> The elevation encompassing the gable end of the garage bears a single off-centered window to the right. Buildings 27, 28, and 34 contain single-pane casement windows, excepting on the south elevations (garage gable ends), where there is a single historic 1/1 double-hung wood sash window on Buildings 27 and 28 and a 6/6 double-hung wood sash window on Building 34. Right of the entrance, the elevation has (from left to right) a paired window, a triple window, and a paired window. The rear porch contains a contemporary wood door and casement window to the left of the rear door. Metal louvered vents pierce the peaks of each gable end.

Originally, the garages were constructed with a shed roof. In the 1970s, the shed roof of the attached garages were converted into a side gable to align with the main portion of the house. A remnant of the original shed-roof soffit board is visible on the garages of Buildings 26, 27, and 28. On these buildings, the wood siding above the soffit board contains a coarser grain than the siding below the soffit. Each garage contains two notable historic features: (1) a historic wood-paneled garage door with a centered

<sup>7</sup> In this overview description of the Doty Houses, relative directions (right, left, etc.) are used in lieu of cardinal directions to describe the locations of architectural features due to the varying orientation of the Doty Houses.

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ribbon of four small fixed rectangular windows and (2) vertical wood siding sheathing the left exterior wall of the garage, within the recessed porch. The garages have simple wood corner boards, boxed plywood eaves, and a narrow, molded cornice.

The interior plans of the Doty Houses are typical of mid-twentieth-century ranch style residences, with two bedrooms and one bathroom. The main portion of the building's floor plan encompasses (from right to left) a rectangular mud room (originally titled the "service porch"); a square kitchen; an "L" shaped living room; a small, centered hall flanked by two closets (to the front) and a small bathroom (to the back); and two equal-sized bedrooms. The floor plan of the attached garage contains two rooms (from front to back): an open, approximately 20' by 12' space for a car; and an open, approximately 8' by 12' storage area, originally constructed for use as a woodshed. A staircase leading to the basement level is accessible by the front left corner of the mud room. The main portion of the building contains a basement floor plan that is comprised of (from the rear to the front) a square laundry room (to the right) and furnace room (to the left) and a small square storage room (to the right) and larger rectangular storage room (to the left). Over time, original surface materials were generally replaced in-kind. The bathroom and kitchen have vinyl floors, while the rest of the floors are carpeted. The walls and ceiling are generally covered in painted gypsum board, with the exception of the upper right-hand wall in the living rooms of Buildings 26 and 28, which is clad in wood paneling. In these two buildings, this wall features a stone-faced fireplace. The basement has unfinished concrete surfaces.

Since the period of significance, **Buildings 26, 27, 28, and 34 (contributing buildings)** have seen several alterations, including changes to the roof, siding, doors, and windows. The clearest structural change is the extension of the main gable roof across the garage and woodshed, which was originally covered with a shed-style roof. The roofs were modified in the 1970s to remediate issues with snow loading and runoff on the shed roof.<sup>8</sup> The original plans called for 26-gauge galvanized v-crimp metal roofing to be installed.<sup>9</sup> Photographs of the four buildings from 1963 illustrate that metal roofs were installed on the residences in at least two different styles: 5-V metal on Building 27 and corrugated galvanized metal roof on Building 28.<sup>10</sup> The photographs do not offer views of the Buildings 26 and 34 roofs; however, maintenance building files at Denali National Park and Preserve reveal they were constructed of metal.<sup>11</sup> The different metal roof types are not surprising, as Buildings 27 and 28 were completed two years apart. It is not known when the cedar shingle roofs were first installed, but they are incompatible with the original design of the buildings. The concrete masonry unit (CMU) chimneys in Buildings 26 and 28 are original to the buildings.

Cedar tongue-and-groove siding, similar to those visible on the garages of all four buildings, mimics the original horizontal redwood tongue-and-groove siding that covered the entire exterior of the buildings. It was stained to show off the natural wood color. The siding was oriented horizontally on the garage and left end of the building, and vertically on the center of the building. Maintenance issues with the redwood siding originally used on the buildings date back to the first few winters the buildings were in service. In a letter to the director of Region 4 of the NPS, Superintendent Duane Jacobs, described the myriad of problems the Mount McKinley National Park maintenance crew were having with the siding. "Severe

<sup>8</sup> Doug Gasek (SHPO), Steve Carwile (NPS), and Steven Peterson (NPS), SHPO Meeting Minutes: Treatment Recommendations for the Rehabilitation of Residence #26, 17 August 2008, 3.

<sup>9</sup> Cecil J. Doty, Building Plans: Employee Residence, Park Headquarters, Drawing No. NP-McK-2025B (Mount McKinley National Park, AK: National Park Service 1949, rev. 1951), 3.

<sup>10</sup> Building 27 and Building 28, Photographs, Catalog Nos. DENA 21-461 and DENA 21-463, Denali National Park and Preserve Museum Collection Archives, Denali National Park and Preserve, AK, 1963.

<sup>11</sup> National Park Service, Maintenance Division Building Reports (Building 26, 27, 28, and 34), Denali National Park and Preserve Maintenance Division Working Files, Denali National Park and Preserve, AK.



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shrinkage has occurred... and ‘creeping and crawling’ of this lumber is continually taking place. Cracks ½ inch to 1 ½ inches have opened between the siding which has drastically reduced the outer insulation seal.”<sup>12</sup> He went on to describe his conversations with an Alaskan builder, who noted the wood was inferior to pine, spruce, or fir wood in the Alaskan climate, as redwood absorbed too much moisture from snow, which caused cracking and rot. Today, the balance of the façades are now covered with rigid foam insulation and aluminum siding. Close examination of the exterior of Building 28 suggests that the original redwood siding still exists under the new siding, and removal of the aluminum could reveal the original siding. All garages retain original redwood siding on at least one elevation (south).

Some of the original exterior entry doors still exist, such as the door to the garage on Building 26. However, most of the doors have been replaced with new doors in a variety of styles. As previously described, the porches have three doors. While the original plans for the building did not call for a door into the garage from the porch,<sup>13</sup> and in construction photograph of Building 27 shows that they were added at the time of construction and are original to the houses.<sup>14</sup> The original 5-panel solid panel wood garage doors have been replaced with new doors as described in the exterior descriptions.

Casement, fixed pane, or 1/1 wood sash window units of similar proportions have replaced the original 1/1 double-hung wood sash windows (with matching storm windows) on all the buildings as described. Original windows, such as the one on the south elevation of Building 26, have been called out individually in the building description, and are few in number. The windows have been replaced multiple times, as had the wood trim around them. However, even in instances where a single window has replaced banks of multiple windows, the exterior dimensions of the original window openings have been maintained, and the trim has been kept proportional to the original, though it is not historically correct. There used to be a single window on the rear elevation of all four buildings between the central bank of living room windows and the bank of windows on the right side of the building for the bedroom. This window, which opened in to the bathroom, has been infilled, and the scar concealed by the aluminum siding.

The interiors of the houses have retained their original floor plans, including the kitchen and bathroom, but some of the finishes have been changed. The oak hardwood floors, originally stained with a clear varnish to show off the wood, are now covered in carpet. Wood floors remain underneath the carpet. The original “plaster board” (gypsum wall board) walls, wood baseboards and window trim appear to remain intact, but have been repainted over time. There is also wood paneling on the wall where the fireplace is located, which may be original. The stone fireplaces, one of the major ‘rustic’ design elements in the interior, are also intact in Buildings 26 and 28, the two houses that also retain their chimneys. However, the kitchens and bathrooms have been completely remodeled, with new vinyl floors and cabinets. The interior utility systems have also undergone periodic upgrades along with the rest of the headquarters buildings, requiring occasional utility updates.

Despite these exterior and interior alterations, all four “Doty Houses” retain a moderate degree of historical integrity. The houses are still in their original location and setting within the residential area of park headquarters; all infill development that has occurred around them is compatible in scale and use, and does not adversely affect the setting. The houses also maintain their feeling and association with the

<sup>12</sup> Memorandum from Superintendent Duane D. Jacobs, Mount McKinley National Park, to Regional Director, Region 4, National Park Service, “Recommendation Against Future Exterior Use of Redwood for Construction Purposes in Mount McKinley,” 18 June 1957.

<sup>13</sup> Doty, Building Plans: Employee Residence, 1.

<sup>14</sup> Building 27, Photograph, Catalog No. DENA 21-440 (Quarters 16/Building 27), Denali National Park and Preserve Museum Collection Archives, Denali National Park and Preserve, AK, 1950.

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park's 1950s residential development. The houses still function as single family housing and their form reflects the ranch style floor plan, large lot, and landscape distribution that was considered desirable during the 1950s. The houses have lost some of their integrity in the categories of design, materials, and workmanship. Although the original redwood siding remains intact under the current aluminum siding, the aluminum sheathing obscures an important design element of the building that set it apart from previous construction at headquarters. The extension of the gable roof over the garage, though done for a practical purpose, must also be considered an adverse effect. The buildings retain their overall forms and floor plans, and are still identifiable as historic buildings even in their current condition. On the interior of the buildings, the integrity is also moderate. An agreement between the Alaska State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), Denali National Park and Preserve and the NPS Alaska Regional office stipulates that the historic interior of Building 28 is to be preserved.<sup>15</sup>

**Building 51 (Six-Plex Apartments) (LCS ID. none, contributing building)** was constructed as part of Mount McKinley National Park's Mission 66 Master Plan to create more permanent staff housing for park employees and their families. It was completed in 1958 as a two-story, flat-roofed apartment building with a full basement, housing utilities and a recreation center. The rectangular floor plan consists of two larger three bedroom, one-and-one-half bath units flanking four smaller two bedroom, one bath units in the center of the building. The foundation of the building is poured-in-place concrete with additional interior load-bearing CMU walls that support the floors. The structure is wood frame construction, clad in vertical tongue-and-groove wood siding, complimented by horizontal tongue-and-groove wood siding on each end unit. The entire building, including the foundation, is painted "Park Service Brown."<sup>16</sup> The wood trim around the windows, as well as the decorative CMU walls and both ends of the front elevation, are painted a contrasting bright white. The flat built-up roof slopes up slightly at the front elevation, directing water to the gutters installed on the rear edge of the roof. Several metal pipe utility vents pierce the top of the roof, as well as one large CMU chimney for the boiler in the basement.

The main entrances to each of the six apartment units are located on the northwest elevation of the building. A concrete sidewalk parallels the building, branching off to lead up to each front door. The front doors are honey colored birch wood, with three rectangular windows placed diagonally in the upper half, descending from the top left to bottom right corner. The arctic entries on the four central units (51B through E) are newer additions lit by vinyl fixed pane windows, placed to the left of the front door on units 51 B and C, between the two doors into 51D and to the right of the door on 51E. The entrances to units 51A and 51F are shielded from view by the original decorative CMU walls. The front doors for these units are accessed by ascending two concrete steps to the front door, which is the same color wood as the other units, but with only one small rectangular window. A narrow water table caps the concrete foundation close to the ground. The balance of the first floor façade is clad in square plywood panels framed with narrow wood trim, punctuated with four small 2/2 double hung, wood sash windows between the entrances. The second floor projects slightly above the first, forming a shallow cantilever. The second floor is clad in vertical tongue-and-groove siding all the way to the eaves. The fenestration pattern across the second story is made up of 2/2 double hung wood windows, taller than those on the first floor. There are fourteen windows in all, placed individually and grouped as two sashes in a single frame. A wooden box with an escape ladder has been attached to the wall directly below each set of two windows for

<sup>15</sup> Doug Gasek (SHPO), Ann Kain (NPS DENA), Bonnie Houston (NPS AKRO), Steven Peterson (NPS AKRO), SHPO Meeting Minutes: Denali National Park and Preserve "Doty Houses," 3 May 2006, 2.

<sup>16</sup> "Park Service Brown" refers to the dark, saturated brown color that is traditionally used to paint many National Park Service buildings. The brown is intended to blend into wooded surroundings and mimic the color of natural wood. The color is not standardized; therefore, "Park Service Brown" painted buildings may, at times, reveal hues of red or blue.

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emergency egress. The eaves have T1-11 boards in the soffit, and vent holes drilled in to the blunt ends of the roofline.

The right (southwest) and left (northeast) elevations of the building are identical. The site slopes steeply down toward the rear (northeast) side of the building, gradually exposing more of the concrete foundation. The basement level has two small rectangular window openings; the one oriented closest to the front of the building is infilled with a plywood board and a metal utility vent, while the one located toward the back has a wood single pane awning window. Similar to the front façade, the foundation and the first floor siding are separated by a narrow water table trim, which transitions into horizontal tongue-and-groove wood siding that covers the entire side of the building. The first floor has three groups of two windows, the one toward the front of the building is shorter than the other two to provide privacy to a half bathroom. The second floor has two groups of two windows. On the left side of the building (51A), all of the original windows have been replaced with new vinyl casement or horizontal sliding sash windows. On the right side (51F), the windows on the first floor are original, while those on the second floor are both replacements. The second floor windows also have escape ladder boxes. The eave detail is the same as on the front elevation.

The rear (southeast) elevation has a stepped profile in plan, with units 51A and 51F projecting forward farther than the apartments in the center. Due to the building's construction into a hill, the foundation is pronounced on this elevation. Eleven small rectangular single pane (original wood and replacement vinyl) windows, matching those on the southwest and northeast side, light the interior of the basement. On the south side of the elevation, underneath unit 51E, there is a concrete ramp leading down to the entrance to the basement. The projecting end units are clad in the same horizontal siding as the sides of the building, while the center has vertical siding. A deck, the height of the foundation, spans the entire south elevation. The decks for units 51A and 51F are separate from the others, with their own access stairs. The main deck for the eastern four units is accessed by a central stair, and the deck itself is divided with wood vertical privacy screens, with openings in them to allow easy access to the stairs. New solid core, honey-colored, wood doors with side lights and matching screen doors have been installed where there were once windows to give each apartment access to the deck. Large fixed wood awnings with tabbed asphalt roofing shelter each door. All the windows on the rear elevation are sets of two windows in a single window opening. There are six sets of windows on the first floor, matching those on the north elevation. All of these are original 2/2 double hung wood sash windows. The first and second floors in the center of the building are defined by a simple horizontal stringcourse molding. All but one out of the twelve sets of windows on the second floor are original. One of the windows in unit 51F was replaced with a vinyl sliding sash window. A gutter has been installed on the edge of the roofline, with the four downspouts spaced evenly across the elevation, two at the corners and two on the central façade that empty under the deck.

The interior of units 51A-C are mirrors of 51D-F. The walls and ceilings of all units are constructed of plasterboard and are painted white. The ceiling is composed of swirl textured plaster. Unit 51A retains parquet flooring. The floors of the remaining units are laminate flooring, with linoleum in the kitchens and bathrooms. Many original light fixtures have been retained throughout all the spaces, though some have been replaced with contemporary models.<sup>17</sup> The individual apartment units come in two basic layouts, a larger three bedroom floor plan for the end units (51A and 51F) and a two bedroom floor plan for the inner units (51B-E).

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<sup>17</sup> For detailed information on the fixtures and finishes in each unit, refer to Jocelynn Gebhart, *Draft Historic Structures Report: Employee Housing Six Unit Apartment*, 2010.

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The floor plans of the end units are similarly designed. Entering from the front door of unit 51A, the stairs to the second floor and a small half bath are located to the right. To the left are a coat closet, kitchen, and hallway to the living room. From the living room, straight ahead is the door to the deck, to the right are the stairs to the basement, and to the left is an attached dining area. In Unit 51A there is a louvered wall screening the dining area from the hallway, which has been removed in unit 51F. Climbing the stairs to the second floor, straight ahead is a full bath, and to the right is the hallway leading to the three bedrooms and two hall closets. Each bedroom is roughly the same size, and has one closet with sliding honey colored birch doors.

The interior unit floor plans are also similarly designed. Entering the front door of unit 51B, a small entrance hallway leads to the kitchen on the right, the living room straight ahead, and the stairs to the second floor on the right. The stairs to the basement are in the living room, on the same wall as the second floor staircase. Climbing the stairs, directly at the top there is the only bathroom, and to the left are the two bedrooms and one hall closet. One bedroom is larger than the other, but both have two closets with the same sliding doors as the end units. Unit 51E has smaller hallway closets on the first and second floors than the other units to accommodate the chimney flue for the boiler in the basement.

Each unit contains a private basement utility room, which is located towards the ends of the building to make room for the central recreation room. All the utility rooms have unpainted concrete floors and walls. The recreation hall is reached via the second front door in unit 51D. A sign over the door directs visitors down to the basement. One enters the space through an auxiliary door from the small hall outside the utility room. Unit 51C also has a door that exits into the recreation room from the stairwell. The recreation room itself has a tight-weave carpet and painted walls with a drop ceiling. A door to the southwest leads to the boiler room, which has access to the exit into the backyard area. A door to the northeast opens into a kitchenette with a half-bath attached.

Building 51 retains its integrity, but has been altered over time. Major exterior alterations are limited to the rear and include a full-length deck and open, board-and-batten arctic entryways constructed around 1984.<sup>18</sup> The shape of the deck mirrors the stepped pattern of the rear elevation. The rear doors were added where there were previously windows, maintaining the symmetrical fenestration of the elevation. Most of the 2/2 double hung wood sash windows are original, with some vinyl replacements in units 51A and 51F, as described above. The fire egress ladders were installed underneath the second floor windows in January 1959.<sup>19</sup>

Inside the apartments, the floor plans have been retained. Alterations are restricted to fixtures and finishes. All of the doors within the spaces, save for the rear doors added to access the deck, are original to the space. Some doors have been removed, particularly in the first floor hallways, as the space no longer serves as a mud room since the installation of arctic entrances. The kitchens have been completely remodeled to remove all the original white painted metal cabinets and the water heaters in 1988, though the layout of the space has been retained.<sup>20</sup> Mechanical systems have also been updated, and the water heaters removed from the kitchens. Some of the bathrooms have original fixtures, but generally they have been remodeled to the point of retaining little integrity.<sup>21</sup> Original wood parquet flooring is extant in units 51A (throughout unit) and 51E (second floor bedrooms). The basement recreation center was completely

<sup>18</sup> Gebhart, *Draft Historic Structures Report*, 18 and 40.

<sup>19</sup> Mount McKinley National Park, *Superintendent's Monthly Report*, January 1959.

<sup>20</sup> From Gebhart; Interview with Karen Keith, 6 August 2010.

<sup>21</sup> See Gebhart for detailed descriptions.

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renovated in 1997. The remodel included asbestos abatement and replacement of the original support columns with new steel I-beams to provide a column-free space used for conference and training space.

Overall, Building 51 retains its integrity of location and setting within the residential area of the headquarters district. It also retains its design, materials and workmanship, despite a few alterations over time. The arctic entries and deck have had an impact on the exterior appearance, but are compatible with the building's original design and do not obscure it. Regarding feeling and association, the building retains its associations with the Mission 66 development and recreation for park employees in the headquarters area.

The **Building 54 (Boiler House) (LCS ID. none, contributing building)** was completed in 1961 as part of Mount McKinley National Park's upgrade of the utility systems at park headquarters. It was designed by Joseph S. Mosias (1909-2001), the architect for Building 51, to serve as the hub for water, sewer and electric systems for the area. The building has a rectangular floor plan, with a tall central building and a shorter eastern wing. When it was constructed, the foundation of the building was first poured, its boilers installed, then the walls and roof built around the internal equipment.<sup>22</sup> It is built on a poured concrete slab on grade foundation with concrete footings. The original central portion of the building is concrete block construction, as is the addition on the west side of the building. The east shed-roof addition is wood frame construction, clad in plywood. The entire building is painted "Park Service Brown." The flat built-up roof has modest decorative cornice moldings at the roofline, but no eaves. The roof itself is interspersed with several vents for the mechanical equipment inside the building, including a large "U" shaped air vent on the roof of the east wing.

The front (south) elevation of the building is dominated by two large, 6'8"x9'5" steel frame windows. These windows are original to the building, and have 28 individual panes (four wide by seven tall) of glass. While most of the window is fixed in place, there is a pivoting panel of four glass panes near the bottom of the windows that allow for air circulation. The window also has a small sloping concrete sill. To the right (east) of the windows is a two-story tall roll-up steel door. Right of the door the roofline steps down to the generator and office wing of the building. This section of the building has a steel door with a fixed glass transom, flanked by an eight pane (two wide and four tall) window in the same design as the larger windows, with concrete sill, including a central screened vent. These features are also original to the building. The door leads into the Boiler House office. From the southeast corner of the roof there is an "overhead drop" or attached aboveground power line connecting the Boiler House to the larger electrical grid for the park, including the power plant near the visitor center.

The right (east) elevation of the building has been obscured by a large lean-to addition, constructed at an unknown date. This addition has a casement window with two sashes on its south side, and a centered entry door with three small, squared, stepped, fixed, single-paned windows on its east side. The design of the door mimics the three-window doors on Building 51, with three small square windows arranged in a diagonal line. At each corner of this addition's east elevation, there is a decorative wood bracket. The north wall of the addition is blank. Overall the wood-framed addition is incongruous with the original portion of the building, with extra decoration not present on the main building. One original window, identical to the one for the office on the south elevation, pierces the southeast corner of the façade.

The rear (north) elevation, comprising the original mass of the building, is punctuated by the 50' tall, 24" wide steel smoke stack, set away from the wall but intersecting with it near the roofline. There is also a small air vent, partially overlapped by the smoke stack, about half way up the wall. At the northwest

<sup>22</sup> Mount McKinley National Park, *Superintendent's Monthly Report*, August 1960.

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corner of the building there is an emergency-only-exit steel door. The wall illustrates multiple patches, showing that there has been some infill of old vents and that the location of the smoke stack has been shifted. However, all the infill has been done in a compatible manner, maintaining the common bond pattern of the concrete blocks.

The left (west) elevation is also dominated by a large, single-story addition, constructed at an unknown date. This addition, constructed of concrete blocks and a flat roof, mirrors the original wing of the east side of the building, but is not an exact replica. This addition has a plain concrete block wall on the north side, a centrally located, single window with two 1/1 single hung aluminum sash windows on the west side, and a steel entry door on the south side. All of the doors on this elevation have a concrete pad at its base. In the case of this door, the pad is a remnant of the one that used to belong to the original door on this elevation, which has since been enclosed by the addition.

The interior of the Boiler House is divided into three main rooms, with additional rooms on the east and west sides of the building created by additions. The boiler room, the largest of the spaces, is entered through the large roll-up door on the south elevation. The boiler room is equipped with two large boiler units, oriented east-west within the room, set on top of two 4-inch tall concrete slabs. Heating and steam equipment is also located within this room. In the northwest corner of the boiler room is a pit for the headquarters' utilidor system, in which all the steam, water and sewer pipes and electric wiring passes through underground. There is also a secondary entrance to the boiler room in the corner near the utilidor pit. A utilidor trench extends from the trench, parallel to the boilers, and into the generator room. Most of the trench is located underneath the floor slab, but the section oriented north-south next to the boilers is covered with removable metal plates for easy access. To the right (east) side of the room there is a door to the office, which has an external door on the south elevation. North of the office is the generator room, which can be accessed through the boiler room or through the east lean-to addition. The generator room has one large diesel electric generator in place, with the fuel storage tanks located outside to the north of the building. There is a small half-bath in the northeast corner of the boiler room, adjacent to the generator room door. To the left (west) side of the boiler room there is a door to the water laboratory. The primary entrance to the water laboratory is through an outside door on the south elevation.

Building 54 has undergone moderate alterations over time. Maintenance records show that the rooms within the original building continue to be used for their historic functions, but there have been changes in the equipment and its orientation within the spaces. The Boiler House continued to operate with its original equipment, periodically upgraded, until 1984, when the system was completely overhauled.<sup>23</sup> Two larger boilers replaced the original smaller ones, requiring the removal of the floor, which was re-poured with new pads for the new equipment. The door at the northwest corner of the boiler room near the utilidor pit was also added at this time. A new 50-foot tall smoke stack was installed, shifted slightly east of the original stack's location. The large wall vent on the north was also enclosed, creating the much smaller vent present today. The water laboratory addition was also added as part of the upgrades. One of the concrete pads in the generator room, no longer in use, was also removed and the floor recast. It is not clear when the east addition was constructed, though it was built between 1985 and 2005, when it is shown in place in pictures inside the Boiler house maintenance files. It is also not clear what the original paint color on the building was, as it is not specified in the design drawings. The building has been repainted Park Service Brown several times since its construction.

<sup>23</sup> Wieland, Lindgren and Associates, Inc., As-Constructed Drawings: Renovation of Boiler Plant and Steam Distribution System, Park Headquarters Area (Denali National Park and Preserve, AK: National Park Service, 1986), 1.



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Despite the alterations, the building still retains a high degree of historic integrity. It still retains its historic location and setting south of the Residential Loop Road along the utility spur road, surrounded by residential uses but set aside as a utility hub. It also retains its integrity of design, materials and workmanship, easily identifiable by its historic appearance. The two additions detract from the original footprint of the building, but the west addition is more compatible with the original design, constructed out of CMUs, and the wood east addition is stylistically different enough to not be confused as historic construction, and could be easily removed. Furthermore, the Boiler House retains its feeling and association, a simple utilitarian building continuing its historic function of providing utility services to park headquarters.

**Building 217 (Three-Stall Garage) (LCS ID. none, contributing building)** was constructed in 1957 to provide garage space for park employees living in Buildings 12 and 13. This side gable garage is rectangular in plan, with three car bays on the front (south) side, the remainder of the building's walls have no openings. The building has a concrete block foundation, with a poured concrete slab floor on the interior. The wood framed structure is clad in 10 inch wide and 1 inch thick redwood v-notch tongue-and-groove siding painted "Park Service Brown." The 12-panel garage doors are framed with simple rectangular trim. The roof has open eaves, exposing the soffit boards and rafters of the roof structure. There are triangular gable vents at the roofline on the left (west) and right (east) ends of the building. The roof itself is clad in v-crimp metal. The garage is reached via a small loop road on the west side of the employee access road into park headquarters. It is uniformly paved, with a large parking lot between the garage and Building 12. The grade slopes up to the north of the building toward the Denali Park Road. The interior of the garage is currently being used as administration storage.<sup>24</sup>

From the outside the building is nearly identical to its appearance when it was constructed.<sup>25</sup> Through photographic research it appears that the garage doors, siding and trim are all original to the building. The only alterations to the exterior are the painting of the redwood siding, which was originally stained to highlight the wood grain, and the replacement of the original metal roof sheeting in kind in 2002.<sup>26</sup> The garage retains a high degree of historical integrity of location, setting, materials, design, and workmanship, feeling and association because the building, in its original location, has not been substantially altered.

The small 0.07-acre western boundary expansion encompasses **Building 22 (Office Building) (LCS ID. 005236, contributing building)**, a 18' by 20', single-story log building with a 6' by 18" full-length porch.<sup>27</sup> The building, which is facing east, has a low-pitched front-gabled metal roof that extends over the porch. The porch is supported by a log "gable truss," and simple log railing. Fenestration on the building is regular, with 6-pane horizontally sliding wood windows, with thick wood window frames on its east, north, and south elevations. The west elevation contains a single 12-pane casement window. The interior is comprised of a single room, with an exposed roof. In 2016, the building was restored and relocated from the northern boundary of the original headquarters district, to the east of Building 111 (non-contributing building). Building 22 is now located just west of Building 21 (contributing building).

## NON-CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES

<sup>24</sup> National Park Service, Facility Management Software System (FMSS), accessed August 2011.

<sup>25</sup> Grant H. Pearson and Seriford Hill, Building Plans: Employees Garage, Headquarters and Residential Area, Mount McKinley National Park, Drawing No. NP-McK-2105 (Mount McKinley National Park, AK: National Park Service, 1954).

<sup>26</sup> FMSS.

<sup>27</sup> Building 22 is a contributing building that was previously listed. In July 2016, the building was moved back into the core of the original historic district, but it is not one of the 8 buildings being added to the Boundary Increase.

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The five non-contributing resources associated with the Increase consist of mid- to late-twentieth-century architecture that does not meet the historical associations defined in Section 8 of this form or were constructed outside of the District's period of significance.

**Building 53 (Six-Stall Garage) (LCS ID. none, non-contributing building)** was built in 1958 as a companion building to Building 51, with a one car stall for each of the six apartment units. Also designed by Leonard S. Mosias (1909-2001), the building originally had the same stylistic elements as the apartment. The building was clad in horizontal redwood siding, with 12-panel garage doors, and a flat roof that sloped slightly upwards at the front. The interior of each stall was separated by chicken wire.

The garage was significantly remodeled in 2009-2010, converting it into a multi-use building containing a weight room, garage and offices for the park's Information Technology (IT) department. Except for the footprint, the building has been completely altered. The building is now clad in horizontal wood lap siding at its base, with vertical board and batten siding on the upper portion of the walls into the wood gables. It has a tall side gable roof with two front facing gable hoods over two entryways at either end of the building. The roof is clad in seamed metal roofing with roof cleats inserted to keep snow from sliding off the front and back. All of the windows are new casement windows with transom windows above. All of the apartment parking was lost as a result of the renovation, and has been reassigned to the surrounding surface parking lot. Building 53 has lost its integrity of materials, design, workmanship, feeling and association with the Mission 66 residential planning at park headquarters, especially with Building 51. Therefore, it is ineligible for the National Register and is a historic but non-contributing resource within the historic district.

**Building 99 (Backcountry Operations) (LCS ID. none, non-contributing building)** is a small rectangular wood frame building that sits on a concrete slab foundation. It is clad in beveled drop siding and painted "Park Service Brown" like many of the surrounding buildings. It has a gently sloped, built-up roof capped with a large gabled vent. The building houses the park's central files. It is unclear when the building was first constructed. The FMSS database gives the construction date as 1962<sup>28</sup>, but the database does not give a source or corroborating evidence to support this date. The building does not appear on any of the maps of the park around 1962, and its construction is not mentioned in the Superintendent's Monthly Reports (SMRs) or any other archive sources at the park. The building does not appear on maps of headquarters at the current location of Building 99 until 1978.<sup>29</sup> The building depicted is approximately the correct size, but is oriented with its short axis to the road. In 1979, a building is shown in the correct position and orientation, and is labeled "Biologist's Office."<sup>30</sup> The building was either constructed or moved to its present location between 1978 and 1979. Because Building 99 appears to date outside the period of significance for the Increase, it is considered a non-historic, non-contributing resource within the district.

On the east side of the dominant curve of Residential Loop Road, between Buildings 51 and 28, **Building 171 (Residence) (LCS ID. none, non-contributing building)** was built in 1985 as a single-story ranch with a raised basement. It has a rectangular floor plan with an attached garage and paved parking area on the north end. It is clad in horizontal wood lap siding painted "Park Service Brown," and has a side-gable roof clad in seamed metal roofing. Building 171 is of a compatible scale and building type within the

<sup>28</sup> FMSS.

<sup>29</sup> Zieman and Hilgers, Construction Drawing: Electrical Distribution System Replacement, Hotel and Park Headquarters Areas (Mount McKinley National Park, AK: National Park Service 1978), 2.

<sup>30</sup> Jack O'Neale, Base Map: Headquarters Area (Mount McKinley National Park, AK: National Park Service 1979), 2.

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historic district, and does not negatively impact the function of the residential district. However, because the residence is less than 50 years of age and outside the period of significance, it is a non-historic, non-contributing resource to the Increase.

Just northeast of Building 51, sits a **Playground (LCS ID. none, non-contributing building)** constructed in 1995. Constructed after the period of significance, this resource is non-contributing to the Increase.

**Building 640 (Employee Residence) (LCS ID. none, non-contributing building)** was constructed in 2015 for employee housing. Just east of Building 111, within in the original headquarters district, Building P-640 is a two-story-tall, gabled, wood-framed building with a metal seamed roof, T1-11 siding, and vinyl windows. Constructed long after the period of significance, this resource is non-contributing to the district.

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**HISTORIC DISTRICT INCREASE DATA SHEET**

**CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES**

**NOTE:** \* This resource was previously listed in the *Mount McKinley National Park Headquarters District National Register Nomination Form (1987)* as a non-contributing resource.

RESOURCE NAME	LCS ID	DATE	PHOTO #
<b>BUILDINGS = 8</b>			
Building 22 (Office Building)	005236	1926	4
Building 26 (Single Residence)	600951	1950	5
Building 27 (Single Residence)	600925	1950	6
Building 28 (Single Residence)	600959	1952	7
Building 34 (Single Residence)	600966	1952	8
Building 51 (Six-Plex Apartments)	None	1958	9
Building 54 (Boiler House)	None	1961	10
Building 217 (Three-Stall Garage)*	None	1957	11
<b>STRUCTURES = 2</b>			
Residential Loop Road	None	1953	1, 3
Boiler House Spur Road	None	ca. 1960	2, 16
<b>SITES = 1</b>			
Park Headquarters Historic District Landscape	None	1926-1961	1-16
<b>OBJECTS = 0</b>			
<b>TOTAL CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES = 11</b>			

**NON-CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES**

RESOURCE NAME	LCS ID	DATE(S)	PHOTO #
<b>BUILDINGS = 4</b>			
Building 53 (Six-Stall Garage)	None	1958	12
Building 99 (Backcountry Operations)	None	ca. 1978	13
Building 171 (Single Residence)	None	1985	15
Building 640 (Employee Residence)	None	2015	N/A
<b>STRUCTURES = 1</b>			
Playground	None	1995	N/A
<b>SITES = 0</b>			
<b>OBJECTS = 0</b>			
<b>TOTAL NON-CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES = 5</b>			

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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 grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

**Period of Significance**

1926-1961

**Significant Dates**

1950-1952: Doty Houses (Building 26, 27, 28, and 34) Constructed

1953: Residential Loop Road Constructed

1957: Building 217 Constructed

1958: Building 51 Constructed

c. 1960: Boiler House Spur Road Constructed

1961: Building 54 Constructed

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Doty, Cecil J (Architect)

Mosias, Leonard S. (Architect)

Warrack, J.B., Construction Company (Builder)

Promacs, Inc. and Western Equipment and Supply Company (Builder)



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**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

Mount McKinley National Park Headquarters District is significant at the state level for its association with park administrative development and with National Park Service (NPS) Rustic architecture (Criteria A and C; areas of significance, Architecture and Community Planning and Development). The original period of significance for the district is 1926-1941, encompassing the early years of park headquarters development under the direction of Superintendent Harry Karstens and as built by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and park staff.<sup>31</sup>

The Mount McKinley National Park Headquarters Historic District (Boundary Increase) extends the period of significance for the district to 1961, the years of post-World War II and Mission 66 development within park headquarters, and expands the boundaries of the district to include the buildings constructed during this time period. The addition, like the original district, is significant under Criterion A for its association with the continued development at park headquarters, which fulfilled some of the developments that were planned for by Superintendent Harry Karstens, landscape architect Thomas Vint and park staff but were not realized in the 1940s. These developments divided headquarters into two functions, the west for administration and the east for residential, with a focus on single family housing and modernized amenities. It is also significant under Criterion A for its association with the Mission 66 program, a nationwide NPS development initiative which officially took place between 1956 and 1966. Mission 66 brought improvements to the residential area of headquarters, completely changing the use and traffic patterns in the area. In addition, the Increase is significant under Criterion C, as the buildings, especially the residences, exemplify the transition to a new modern style of architecture adopted by NPS during the postwar period and Mission 66 program. Dubbed “Park Service Modern” (NPS Modern) by scholars Ethan Carr and Sarah Allaback, the style grew out of the principles of earlier rustic park architecture, influenced by the International style modernism prevalent during the 1950s and 1960s. The “Doty Houses” are excellent examples of this transitional style, while those built between 1958 and 1961 are modest, but mature, examples of the NPS Modern style.

The original boundaries of the historic district contain the earliest styles of architecture represented within park headquarters, namely regional vernacular rustic buildings based on mining cabins in the area of Mount McKinley National Park, and the more structured Rustic architecture style as codified in the 1930s by Albert H. Good and the Branch of Plans and Design. The seven contributing buildings within the Increase are illustrative of the evolution of the preferred architectural style of the NPS away from the Rustic style to the new NPS Modern style. Buildings 26, 27, 28, and 34, or the “Doty Houses,” designed by Cecil J. Doty, are excellent examples of the transition between the two styles, mixing both traditional rustic and modern ranch style design elements. The single family floor plans (with distinct public and private spaces) and an attached garage, also reflect what would become the preferred layout for new staff housing within the national parks in the late 1950s and 1960s. Buildings 51 and 54 built during the Mission 66 program are modest but typical examples of the NPS Modern style, designed by NPS contract architect, Leonard S. Mosias. The buildings, however, are more significant within the area of community planning and development.

<sup>31</sup> Gail Evans, *Mount McKinley National Park Headquarters District National Register Nomination* (Washington DC: National Park Service, 1987).

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The period of significance for the Mount McKinley National Park Headquarters District starts in 1926 and is extended to 1961 with the Boundary Increase. Following World War II, a distinct period of building expansion occurred. It began with the completion of Buildings 26 and 27 in 1950 and continued to 1961 with the completion of Building 54—the last building to be completed during the Mission 66 program that is still extant today.

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**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

**CRITERION A – COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT &  
CRITERION C – ARCHITECTURE**

The contributing buildings within the Boundary Increase illustrate continued planning and evolving use of the Mount McKinley National Park Headquarters District. The period of significance for the existing historic district ends in 1941, with the beginning of World War II. The Increase extends the original district narrative into the mid-century period to 1961. The establishment of the Residential Loop Road and its associated housing fulfilled earlier master plans for dedicating the east side of headquarters as a residential development, separate from the administrative side of headquarters to the west. All four single family “Doty Houses,” built between 1949 and 1952, and the Residential Loop Road, completed in 1953, are considered contributing resources to the expanded Park Headquarters District, as they represent continuity of the planning ideas for the headquarters area, building on those developed by Karstens and Vint through the fulfillment of the residential area called for in earlier park master plans. They also represent an early example of the trend towards a more modern architecture and planning within the Park Service that responded to new economic and socio-cultural conditions within the parks and the United States as a whole. This echoed the shift nationally toward a more auto-centric culture, resulting in more single-dwelling houses with attached garages and greater numbers of amenities. This shift in thought would peak at the end of the 1950s and into the 1960s with the Mission 66 program.

Buildings 51, 54, and 217 are significant for their association with Mission 66 development at park headquarters. Developmental planning was one of the most important aspects of the Mission 66 program. Adequate facilities for both visitors and staff were needed in order to accommodate increased visitation and use of the parks, all the while minimizing the impact on cultural and natural resources. This was achieved at Mount McKinley National Park by increasing the density of development within the headquarters area, without expanding it any farther into the landscape. New residential buildings were constructed around the existing Residential Loop Road. The design of Building 51 as an apartment building rather than single family housing reflects the park’s struggle to manage utility issues and the need for denser development to allow for greatest efficiency in management. The six-plex apartment also has special significance within the culture of park headquarters, as its recreation hall represented the first real indoor gathering space for park employees, changing the way employees socialized and spent their free time. Building 217, the detached garage, stands as a testament to the nation-wide mid-twentieth century rise of the automobile. Building 54, the boiler house, and the associated Boiler House Spur Road are also related to this infrastructural development, its completion bringing improved, more reliable utility service to the headquarters area.

At present, all of the buildings built after 1961 are non-contributing to the historic district, as they do not fall within the period of significance or themes of the district. They also do not currently qualify for the National Register because they are not historic and are less than 50 years of age. They do not qualify under Criteria Consideration G, as they have no exceptional importance. However, all of the buildings do

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have strong physical integrity, and have the potential in the future to contribute to the development history of the district, if the period of significance were to be expanded.

### Mount McKinley National Park Headquarters District

Mount McKinley National Park's first administrative area was outside the park, established in the town of Nenana. In June 1921, Superintendent Harry Karstens, former guide to Charles Sheldon and the park's first employee, chose Nenana because of the 'easy' 60 mile distance from the national park, and because the Alaska Engineering Commission (AEC), which was constructing a railroad all the way from Fairbanks to Seward, had yet to reach the park's boundary when he arrived in Alaska.<sup>32</sup> During that summer, Karstens poured over maps of the area, and decided that the main entrance to the park would be most logically located within the Riley Creek area, on the east side of the park. As it turned out, choosing a good location for park headquarters was more difficult than he expected. From the outset, Superintendent Karstens had his eye on the "high bench" north of the bridge across Riley Creek, but other land claims around the McKinley Park Station area, specifically that of Italian immigrant Maurice Morino, made the location impossible to obtain in 1921. Given the constraints, Karstens sought out a site unencumbered by claimants or terrain, and settled on a site south of McKinley Park Station, along Riley Creek but upstream from the Hines Creek confluence.<sup>33</sup> However, the site's distance from the railroad station (and the road Alaska Road Commission was building to access the park) made it difficult to keep track of and control the comings and goings of visitors.<sup>34</sup> Furthermore, the location made headquarters susceptible to extreme winter cold and spring flooding. Nevertheless the superintendent, his family and a rotating staff of park rangers (none of which stayed more than a few months at a time) toughed it out at the new headquarters site.<sup>35</sup>

The current park headquarters site was chosen by Karstens in 1924. Located along Rock Creek, the site was far enough west down the newly roughed out park road to fall outside the numerous claims around McKinley Park Station. It was also on a high bench above the Creek, avoiding the weather-related issues the original headquarters site experienced. Progress was initially halted when Morino, the majority landholder along the railroad, offered to relinquish part of his claim to the park; however, he soon rescinded his offer.<sup>36</sup> After a large forest fire threatened the existing headquarters site in July of 1924, Superintendent Karstens insistently requested permission to relocate the park headquarters to the new site he had chosen.<sup>37</sup> The Washington, D.C. office was still not ready to commit to 'permanent' construction at the site; nevertheless, the first buildings began to be erected in the fall of 1925. Though the park had no allotment of funds for building construction, Karstens formulated an overall vision for the headquarters area, and by 1928 the site had no less than nine structures plus 800 linear feet of road. The superintendent's office and park staff residence cabins fronted on the park road, while the utility buildings were located to the rear (south) and accessed by the headquarters stub road. The buildings had an overall linear arrangement, made easy as the core of construction took place on a relatively flat top of the bench above Rock Creek. Most of the materials used for construction were salvaged from abandoned railroad construction camp buildings and timber in the nearby forests, and were all constructed by park staff. As a

<sup>32</sup> Frank Norris, *Crown Jewel of the North: An Administrative History of Denali National Park and Preserve, Volume 1* (Anchorage, AK: National Park Service, Alaska Regional Office: 2006), 29.

<sup>33</sup> Norris, *Crown Jewel*, 30.

<sup>34</sup> Norris, 34, 48.

<sup>35</sup> Norris, 31.

<sup>36</sup> Norris, 47.

<sup>37</sup> Margie Coffin Brown et al., *Cultural Landscape Report for Park Headquarters, Denali National Park & Preserve* (Boston: Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation, 2008), 19.

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result, the buildings were very rustic in character, taking a stylistic and functional cue from the vernacular mining camp structures in the area.<sup>38</sup>

Mount McKinley National Park received its first ever funding for building construction within the park in 1928. That February, Superintendent Karstens met with NPS Chief Landscape Architect Thomas Vint at the Superintendent's Conference in San Francisco to discuss headquarters development. Vint was an established landscape architect in the NPS. He began his career in 1923 working with renowned park architects Gilbert Stanley Underwood and Herbert Maier in Yosemite. Using drawings and photos provided by Karstens, Vint created a "free hand sketch" map of the headquarters complex, with locations for new ranger cabins, a warehouse (Building 101), and a barn (Building 107).<sup>39</sup> Karstens and Vint also wanted to create a formal master plan for headquarters development, but because of the relatively low priority of the park, funding for a site visit by Vint was not approved. Finally, in August 1929, Thomas Vint visited the park and met with the new Superintendent, Harry Liek. Vint concurred with many of Karstens' development suggestions, even suggesting that headquarters might be moved to a site closer to the railroad. However, NPS Director Horace Albright would not be convinced, and the Service finally committed to the Rock Creek headquarters site.<sup>40</sup> An official master plan for park headquarters was first prepared in the mid-1930s, and in 1937 the Branch of Plans and Design produced a park-wide master plan which included detailed maps and descriptions of the headquarters area, along with the locations of proposed future construction.<sup>41</sup> While most of the buildings continued to be constructed by park staff, in 1938 and 1939 the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) established a permanent camp just up the road from park headquarters. During the two years the CCC was stationed within Mount McKinley National Park they built several structures throughout the park, including two residences, the superintendent's garage and a new dog kennel at headquarters. The style of the buildings built by NPS and the CCC during the 1930s and early 1940s has come to be known as Park Service Rustic, or Rustic architecture. Codified in Albert H. Good's *Park and Recreation Structures*, the Rustic style emphasized harmony with nature through use of natural materials and 'rough' finishing to give buildings the look of having 'sprung up' from their surroundings, even when they were built with more modern construction methods and materials.<sup>42</sup>

The Mount McKinley National Park Headquarters District defined in 1987 includes all of the buildings still surviving from the 1926-1941 period of development, bookended by the date of completion of the oldest extant building (Building 22) and the beginning of World War II. World War II virtually halted development within the parks, and the War Department closed Alaska to tourist travel.<sup>43</sup> As previously discussed, the district was nominated under Criterion A for its association with early development of Mount McKinley National Park and the NPS in Alaska, as well as its association with the CCC, a national program that contributed to the conservation and recreation movement nationally and locally at Mount McKinley National Park. It is also nominated under Criterion C for the design, materials, and construction methods of the buildings, representative of the early vernacular rustic architecture in the park, as well as the national Rustic architecture style adopted by NPS. Many of the buildings have changed functions multiple times, but the district as a whole retains a mix of administrative and residential functions.

<sup>38</sup> Mount McKinley National Park, *Superintendent's Annual Report*, Fiscal Year 1927.

<sup>39</sup> Brown et al., *Cultural Landscape Report for Park Headquarters*, 27.

<sup>40</sup> Brown et al., 32-35.

<sup>41</sup> Evans, *Mount McKinley National Park Headquarters District National Register Nomination*.

<sup>42</sup> Albert H. Good, *Park and Recreation Structures* (Washington DC: Government Printing Office, 1938).

<sup>43</sup> Brown et al., 137.

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### Post-World War II Development at Park Headquarters – Buildings 26, 27, 28, and 34

During World War II federal funding for many agencies was cut in order to channel more dollars to the war effort, and the NPS was no exception. The war brought the end of the CCC and other New Deal programs that had benefited the parks, as legislators in Washington, D.C. streamlined the budget by paring down or completely cutting off major public works programs. When the war ended in 1945, the annual NPS budget was only \$4,740,000, down over 70% from the annual budget of \$21,098,000 in 1940.<sup>44</sup> As a result of this protracted period of underfunding, many park units could barely keep up with maintenance as facilities aged, and staff was stretched so thin that many parks were without adequate means to protect their natural and cultural resources. Problems were further compounded by exponentially increasing visitor numbers; the American public, flourishing in the post-War economy, had begun to vacation again. The national parks quickly became a popular travel destination as many of them were accessible by car, offering respite from the cities and suburbs across the country. However, the parks were ill-equipped to deal with record visitation, and soon the NPS was drawing criticism from the public because of overcrowded campgrounds, deteriorating trails and trampled vistas.<sup>45</sup>

During the wartime years, Mount McKinley National Park, in addition to maintaining its own facilities, served as a wartime site to test winter military equipment and between 1943 and 1945 the McKinley Park Hotel operated as a U.S. Army recreation camp during the winter months.<sup>46</sup> As a result, the park's budget was not as severely cut as some other parks throughout the system. Mount McKinley National Park was also the beneficiary of military manpower, which was volunteered by the army to help offset the strain that thousands of visiting soldiers were putting on the park's staff. During the summer of 1943, the Alaska Defense Command assigned Company F of the 176<sup>th</sup> Engineers to the park, where they installed telephone lines, overhauled the headquarters utility system, and improved roads, among other tasks.<sup>47</sup> However, the park did not receive any funds for projects that did not benefit military activities, and the NPS budget allotment was only getting smaller. Instead, the park made do without a construction budget by repurposing existing buildings and moving buildings from the CCC camp (known as C-Camp today) into the headquarters area.

After the end of WWII, the military left Mount McKinley National Park, and park administration readjusted to cope with increasing management pressures. Between 1945 and 1947, the park added four new permanent positions, but had no new buildings in which to house new hires and their families. As Congress refused to designate any funds to build new employee residences, the park continued to make do as they had in the years before, converting the old ranger dormitory (Building 21) into a "family dwelling," and dragging in old tent frames from the aging Savage River concessions camp in an attempt to augment available housing.<sup>48</sup> Finally, the housing situation became critical enough that despite the continued trend toward low levels of NPS funding, in 1949 Congress authorized funds for two new residences at park headquarters. With assistance from the Alaska Road Commission, excavation for the basements of Buildings 26 and 27 was immediately undertaken by park staff. By the end of October, "forms for the footings of one of the houses were in place."<sup>49</sup> In May 1950, contractors resumed the

<sup>44</sup> Conrad Wirth, *Parks, Politics, and the People* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1980), 261. Figures in period dollar amounts, not adjusted for inflation.

<sup>45</sup> Ethan Carr, *Mission 66: Modernism and the National Park Dilemma* (Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press, 2007), 55.

<sup>46</sup> Brown et al., *Cultural Landscape Report for Park Headquarters*, 87.

<sup>47</sup> Norris, *Crown Jewel*, 109.

<sup>48</sup> Norris, 141.

<sup>49</sup> Mount McKinley National Park, *Superintendent's Monthly Report*, October 1949.

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construction begun the previous winter, and both buildings were ready for occupancy by November. The park also received funding for a third residence, Building 28, that September, and the fourth residence, Building 34, was underway by September 1951. Both 28 and 34 were completed by 1952. Electricity for all the new houses, as well as the other headquarters buildings, was provided by a 75 kilowatt generator which had been installed at headquarters in 1948.<sup>50</sup> By 1950, headquarters boasted around the clock electricity for all its residents.<sup>51</sup>

The first two new houses were sited along the existing easternmost road alignment, across from Buildings 12, 13 and 23, the latter an employee residence. The second two were constructed farther down the slope from park headquarters, and a spur road was constructed to access them. The exact locations of the new buildings were selected in consultation with Landscape Architect Alfred Kuehl from the Branch of Planning and Design, who visited the park in August 1949.<sup>52</sup> The way the buildings were sited in the landscape, hidden from view by trees and shrubs, enhanced the privacy of the residences. The location of these residences is consistent with master plans completed for the headquarters area in the 1930s and 1940s. In a 1942 version of the master plan for park headquarters, a teardrop shaped residential road loop is depicted in the same area that Buildings 26, 27, 28, and 34 were constructed in the 1950s.<sup>53</sup> A 1951 version of the master plan also shows the park's intention to complete the road loop as planned, with additional housing to create a dedicated residential area.<sup>54</sup> Road construction finally began in 1953, extending the road between the newly constructed houses, looping around and ending near Building 107. The same year Buildings 12 and 13, both employee housing units, were upgraded. This area continues to be the primary staff residential area today, with the Residential Loop Road as the primary circulation path through the area. The construction of the new houses, plus the new road alignment, solidified the east side of the headquarters complex as a residential enclave.

The design of the new houses was a departure from the traditional rustic style log construction within the park. Instead, the buildings were frame ranch houses, identical in plan, clad in redwood tongue-and-groove siding. The new buildings met with mixed reactions from Mount McKinley National Park staff. Park employees were pleased with how roomy and light the interiors were, and how modern the amenities transitioned from the more "basic" accommodations available at headquarters at the time. However, Chief Park Ranger John Rumohr aptly summarized the staff's response to their appearance best: "Unfortunately from the outside they look very much like tool sheds on a construction job. They are squat, ugly and look foreign in the scenery of Mount McKinley National Park as would the Empire State Building."<sup>55</sup>

Although the aesthetics of the new houses were new to the park staff at the time, they are representative of the new trend within the NPS design branch toward a more modern architectural design. There was never an express mandate made by NPS leadership to move away from Rustic architecture. Also unlike the Rustic style movement, Director Wirth made no effort to standardize park architecture as it had been

<sup>50</sup> Norris, *Crown Jewel*, 198.

<sup>51</sup> Norris, 143.

<sup>52</sup> Mount McKinley National Park, *Superintendent's Monthly Report*, August 1949. Kuehl would go on to work on larger scale projects for the national parks in Alaska, particularly during the Mission 66 program. He was involved designing and constructing the Sitka Visitor Center in 1965, and served as the primary architect for the Glacier Bay Lodge, completed in 1966.

<sup>53</sup> Walliser, M. and E.A. Davidson, General Development Plan, Part of the Master Plan for Mt. McKinley National Park (Mount McKinley National Park, AK: National Park Service 1942).

<sup>54</sup> Walliser, M., Headquarters—My. McKinley Park Station, Part of the Master Plan for Mt. McKinley National Park (Mount McKinley National Park, AK: National Park Service 1951).

<sup>55</sup> Mount McKinley National Park, *Superintendent's Monthly Report*, November 1950.



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during the CCC era. Wirth made his most definitive statement about new post-WWII park architecture in 1958: "Structures should be designed to reflect the character of the area while at the same time following up-to-date design standards. Park structures are to conform, to some extent, with the trend toward contemporary design and the use of materials and equipment accepted as standard by the building industry. However, restraint must be exercised so that the structures will not be out of character with the area and so that the structures will be subordinate to their surroundings."<sup>56</sup> While Wirth's statement post-dates the construction of the buildings at headquarters, it succinctly summarizes the new 'style' that park architects were working towards during the post-war transition period. It encompasses much of the philosophical thinking that went into formulating the original Park Service Rustic style, but tempered with a call for practicality; less focus on the picturesque and more focus on the functional.

Indeed, as Wirth's statement suggests, the shift towards a modern aesthetic for the parks came through a combination of influences that made the change logical. Cecil J. Doty, the designer of these four park headquarters residences, was known to think that the "shift from the old to the new was completely natural; he was simply doing his job under new parameters and within a changing social and political climate."<sup>57</sup> A long time park architect, Doty began his career with the NPS in the 1930s, working for the CCC state parks program in Oklahoma. Under the tutelage of Herbert Maier and Thomas Vint, Doty was trained in the Rustic architectural style, using his mentor's designs as models for his own work.<sup>58</sup> However, during the wartime years Doty, like many architects throughout the country, abandoned the revival/historicists styles of the earlier century in favor of the "New Architecture," which is currently identified as "International Style." As Wirth hinted, this was in keeping with the evolving contemporary architectural scene, which in the 1940s was beginning to fully embrace the modern styles being developed and imported from Europe by architects like Richard Neutra and Ludwig Mies van der Rohe.<sup>59</sup>

There were also economic and social factors that played into the NPS shift toward modern architecture. Realistically, NPS could not afford to build 'hand-crafted' Rustic buildings as it had in the 1930s without the aid of cheap CCC labor, and there were no signs that the CCC was going to be revived.<sup>60</sup> And even if there had been the desire, the numbers of buildings that could be built with the small budget the NPS had at the time would not have come close to meeting the demand for new facilities. Building contemporary wood frame houses with concrete foundations was not only less expensive, but NPS could be guaranteed to find contractors who knew how to build them, as it was the most common structural system being used both residentially and commercially at the time. Additionally, the type of residences that were needed within the parks was also changing. Before World War II, most park staff throughout the system had generally been single males, who could be housed in large unisex dormitories. As soldiers returned home from the war and started families, dormitories became an outmoded form of housing within the parks. The construction of the new residences at Mount McKinley National Park as single-family dwellings reflects the NPS's growing need to accommodate employees with families. That the park chose to build single family houses instead of dorms or apartments in 1950 anticipated the results of the Baggley Study, a survey of the wives of park service employees organized by Herma A. Baggley in 1953. Each was asked about their preferences and expectations for park housing. Overwhelmingly, 94% of respondents

<sup>56</sup> Conrad L. Wirth, "Mission 66 in the Headlines," *National Parks Magazine* 32, no. 132 (January 1958), 8-9, 36-37, as quoted by Carr, *Mission 66: Modernism and the National Park Dilemma*, 141.

<sup>57</sup> Sarah Allabeck, *Mission 66 Visitor Centers: The History of a Building Type* (Washington, DC: National Park Service, 2000), 213.

<sup>58</sup> Carr, *Mission 66: Modernism and the National Park Dilemma*, 139.

<sup>59</sup> Jonathan Searle Monroe, *Architecture in the National Parks: Cecil Doty and Mission 66*. Master's Thesis, (Seattle: University of Washington, 1986), 56.

<sup>60</sup> Monroe, *Architecture in the National Parks*, 56.

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preferred the privacy of detached houses with modern amenities, a pattern similar to other American families moving into the blossoming suburbs across the country.<sup>61</sup>

The four Mount McKinley National Park headquarters residences, or “Doty Houses,” embody the transition between rustic design elements and fully standardized modernism. Doty, though he designed a very standardized building, did so while still trying to maintain the balance between old and new, tradition and function within the district. The buildings have a flat, regular ranch profile, with plain wood windows and a concrete block chimney, very different than what had built within the park before. However, they are clad in rusticated redwood tongue-and-groove siding, giving them a naturalistic appearance that allows them to relate to the rest of the headquarters buildings. Inside, the fusion is continued, with painted plasterboard walls, solid oak floors, and the concrete block fireplace; rather than being left plain, the fireplace was faced with stone. Mudrooms, three bedrooms, a large kitchen, and attached garages (desired amenities listed in the Baggeley survey) were features that Doty included in his design. After the houses at Mount McKinley National Park, Doty did not design more residences for NPS, instead becoming known for his visitor centers during Mission 66.<sup>62</sup> However, the relationship between the site, building and materials within the headquarters district does exemplify the style that Doty and other NPS architects were moving towards in the 1950s.

### **Mission 66 for the National Parks**

When Conrad Wirth, formerly a NPS recreational planner, first gained the directorship in 1951, the parks were still attempting to deal with repairs on a park by park basis, making individual requests for funds as had been done in the past. The subsequent failure of that system, which allowed Congress to approve or deny funding very easily, made it impossible for NPS to keep up with the demand for better visitor infrastructure and improved administrative facilities. This led Wirth to develop a new style of administrative planning which involved seeking funding on a larger scale. To that end, the NPS was able to secure federal aid highway money specifically for park roads as part of the Federal Highway Act (FHA) of 1954.<sup>63</sup> Inspired by the success of such multi-year funding proposals in Congress, the very next year Wirth convened a committee of architects, historians, foresters, naturalists, and economists to put together a 10-year funding plan to revive the national parks. Named “MISSION 66” by Wirth, the goal of the program would be “To Provide Adequate Protection and Development of the National Park System for Human Use.”<sup>64</sup> Wirth presented the Mission 66 proposal during President Eisenhower’s cabinet meeting in January 1956, with the president’s personal endorsement.<sup>65</sup> That spring, Congress approved the proposal with its initial expected budget of over \$700 million. In order to be considered for part of the Mission 66 funding, each park unit was required to submit a prospectus, outlining a basic idea of what facilities they would need to construct over the next ten years and estimates for expenses.

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<sup>61</sup> Herma A. Baggeley, “Report of the National Park Service Housing Survey,” 1953, as cited in Polly Welts Kaufman, *National Parks and the Woman’s Voice: A History* (Albuquerque, NM: University of New Mexico Press, 2006), 113-117.

<sup>62</sup> Doty would design over fifty visitor centers for the National Park Service before his retirement in 1968. For more information about Doty’s visitor centers, refer to Sarah Allaback, *Mission 66 Visitor Centers: The History of a Building Type* (Washington DC: National Park Service, 2000).

<sup>63</sup> Carr, 88.

<sup>64</sup> National Park Service, *Mission 66 for the National Park System* (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1956), Title Page.

<sup>65</sup> Ethan Carr et al., *Draft National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form: The Mission 66 Era of National Park Development, 1945-1972*, 2006.

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Beyond the task of restoring the agency, Mission 66 was a development program. It was not enough to repair extant buildings (most built during the CCC era of park construction.) New visitor and administration facilities were also required to accommodate future growth, especially in the newer and more remote park units that had never experienced extensive visitation before, and had little to no infrastructure to speak of at all. By 1966, the NPS would spend over \$1 billion on land acquisition, new staff and training, general operations, and all types of construction activity.<sup>66</sup> However, the philosophy of NPS planners was to keep the impact of new development as minimal as possible, either by building in already developed areas or by keeping new construction to the periphery of the park away from sensitive natural and cultural resources. Visitor centers were also developed to more efficiently provide the public with information, and sidewalks, trails and viewpoints were built to more effectively control visitor impact on the landscape.<sup>67</sup> Separate park headquarters compounds were built elsewhere, separating administrative and visitor functions so as to facilitate smooth operations within the parks. Not only were the planning principles modern, but so was the style of the buildings, which had strong modernist lines. Matured from the transitional style of the 1940s and early 1950s, NPS Modern fully embraced modern structures and standardized plans, all while tempering the buildings in keeping with the surrounding landscape. Some of the more important building complexes were even designed by notable contemporary architects such as Richard Neutra and Eero Saarinen. All of this created a mental break with past Rustic style architecture and planning, but more importantly, enabled the NPS to take advantage of the latest labor-saving technologies and materials to reduce costs.

By the 1960s, conservationists questioned the impact of Mission 66 development on the environment. Controversies over such projects as the reconstruction of the Denali Park Road stirred the debate over the definition of wilderness and whether portions of the national parklands should be set aside as wilderness.<sup>68</sup> Tensions within the Department of the Interior also put pressure on the program, as the new Secretary of the Interior, Stewart L. Udall, was appointed in 1961. Udall was himself sympathetic to the environmental cause, and had conflicting ideas with Wirth as to how the national parks fit into the new wilderness legislation passing through Congress.<sup>69</sup> Wirth ended up stepping down as director of the NPS at the end of 1963, to be replaced by George B. Hartzog, Jr.<sup>70</sup> Hartzog saw the Mission 66 program through to the grand completion celebrations in 1966, and tried to use the funding momentum created by Mission 66 to launch his own initiative entitled "PARKSCAPE, U.S.A." to be completed by the Yellowstone Centennial in 1972.<sup>71</sup> The Parkscape program continued many aspects of the Mission 66 program that came before, but did not represent the same scale or level of the original planning for Mission 66.<sup>72</sup>

The legacy of Mission 66 is one of long term planning and development that not only shaped the way the parks look today, but how the NPS manages them and how the public interacts with them.

### **Mission 66 at the Mount McKinley National Park Headquarters Area: Building 51, 53, 54, and 217**

The Mission 66 program began at a fortuitous time for Mount McKinley National Park. Park administration knew that the Denali Highway, which would connect the park to the evolving continental

<sup>66</sup> Carr et al., *Mission 66 Era MPDF*, 4.

<sup>67</sup> Allaback, *Mission 66 Visitor Centers*, 17.

<sup>68</sup> Carr et al., *Mission 66 Era MPDF*, 69.

<sup>69</sup> The Wilderness Act was signed into law on September 3, 1964.

<sup>70</sup> Carr et al., *Mission 66 Era MPDF*, 99.

<sup>71</sup> Carr et al., *Mission 66 Era MPDF*, 106.

<sup>72</sup> Carr et al., *Mission 66 Era MPDF*, 107.

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road system, would open in 1957, and bring with it a whole new level of tourism to the park.<sup>73</sup> Up until that time, travel to and within the national park had been moderated by the means of access available. Visitors generally came in by train, fewer by plane, and while one could pay to have their car hauled on the train to the park, most visitors toured the park in concessioner buses, making them easy to manage. However, the new highway would open the park to unrestrained automotive tourism, and the park lacked the manpower and facilities to support it. The park's looming overcrowding situation was exactly the kind of problem that Mission 66 was initiated to control. To cope with what they expected to be an exponential growth in visitation, the park wrote a strong Mission 66 prospectus, requesting (and receiving) \$9.7 million in funding over the course of the program; \$7.2 million for road improvement and reconstruction and \$2.5 million for new campgrounds, trails, visitor centers, and other visitor and administration-related construction projects.<sup>74</sup>

Additional funds and visitation enabled the park to hire more permanent and seasonal staff.<sup>75</sup> This strained the already tight housing situation at C-Camp and headquarters, so new housing continued to be the most pressing administrative need for the park. This is reflected in the buildings constructed at headquarters during Mission 66, which were primarily residential and reflect the parks continued commitment to improving employee living situations. The 1954 master plan for park headquarters anticipated the housing need, and more single-dwelling residences, not unlike the "Doty Houses" built a few years previous, were proposed around the Residential Loop Road.<sup>76</sup> However, by the time the 1957 Mission 66 version of the master plan was issued, park planners had completely changed this scheme, recommending multi-unit dwellings instead. "In view of past experience there is every reason to believe that sporadic [detached] housing development should be avoided. Future planning should be pointed toward apartment style housing and concentration of utilities, with a central heating system"<sup>77</sup> To this end, in 1958 the park included the construction of a six unit apartment complex (Building 51) with accompanying garage (Building 53) in with the contract for the new Eielson Visitor Center, which was awarded to J. B. Warrack Construction Co. of Anchorage, AK. The building was "essentially complete" by that December, and park staff were able to move in at Christmas.<sup>78</sup> The apartments included all the modern amenities that the "Doty Houses" had introduced to the park a few years before, including garages for each unit. As important as the new housing was, the inclusion of an indoor recreation area in the basement of the building was celebrated even more by park staff. It provided a much needed social

space for employees, especially those who wintered over in the park, when outdoor gatherings were all but impossible. As Superintendent Duane Jacobs put it himself, "The Recreation Room constructed in the basement of the new 6-unit employee apartment, is serving a fine purpose. Movies, square dancing, games and pot luck gatherings are taking place. The need in past years for a space large enough for

<sup>73</sup> Norris, *Crown Jewel*, 157.

<sup>74</sup> Between 1956 and 1958, the number of visitors to Mount McKinley grew from 5,205 to 25,900; Norris, Appendix B; National Park Service, "Mission 66 for Mount McKinley National Park," (Washington DC: National Park Service, 1957), 9. Combined, the total amount requested for Mission 66 equates to \$74.3 million in today's economy.

<sup>75</sup> Between 1950 and 1961, the budget for the park grew from \$70,630 to \$348,916, mirroring the visitation numbers, which raised from 6,672 to 18,286. Norris, Appendix B.

<sup>76</sup> Turello, Residential Area [Plan], Part of the Master Plan for Mt. McKinley National Park (Mount McKinley National Park, AK: National Park Service, 1954).

<sup>77</sup> Turello, De Haven, Ruehl, Headquarters Area [Plan], Part of the Master Plan for Mt. McKinley National Park (Mount McKinley National Park, AK: National Park Service, 1957).

<sup>78</sup> Mount McKinley National Park, *Superintendent's Monthly Report*, December 1958, as quoted by Norris, *Crown Jewel*, 198.

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employees and their families to gather has been great indeed. It is a deep source of pleasure and satisfaction that such a dream has now become a reality at the park. We are grateful to those who have made this possible.”<sup>79</sup> Nevertheless, the completion of Building 51 was not enough to satisfy the need for seasonal housing. Trailers and tents continued to be erected within the headquarters district to house seasonal employees through the 1980s.<sup>80</sup>

Further development required the unreliable utility system at headquarters to be addressed in a comprehensive way. While the area had around the clock electricity since the last upgrade in 1950, the hotel and park headquarters service was lagging behind demand.<sup>81</sup> The headquarters utilidor system, which had first been installed in the 1930s, also had a habit of freezing during the winter months, causing service outages for both electricity and plumbing.<sup>82</sup> Park officials decided on a complete overall of the system, with a new concrete utilidor and a dedicated boiler house at park headquarters, complete with a steam heating system for all the headquarters area buildings. Building 54, the boiler house, would be located behind the apartment building on a dirt spur road which lead to the existing septic field.<sup>83</sup> In July 1959, a contract for the job was awarded to Promacs, Inc. and Western Equipment and Supply Co. of Seattle, WA.<sup>84</sup> However, just a month later, the steam heating provision was dropped from the contract for budgetary reasons, partially eliminating the reason the boiler house was being constructed in the first place. The Boiler House also supported two backup electrical generators. The primary source of power for headquarters was the larger power plant at the McKinley Park Hotel, which was connected by transmission lines to headquarters in 1959.<sup>85</sup> Despite the lack of funding for the steam heat connections, work on the Boiler House commenced in early 1960. However, it was immediately plagued by delays, caused by a “lack of organization, men and equipment.”<sup>86</sup> While the boiler house was operational by November 1960, it was not fully completed until 1961.<sup>87</sup> The utilidor was finally declared complete in September 1962, despite unsatisfactory heat leakage issues.<sup>88</sup> Meanwhile, the park was also able to allocate funding for fiscal year 1961 to install the steam heating system, as well as make upgrades to the headquarters sewage system. In light of the issues with the original contractor, a new contract was awarded to Gordon Johnson Plumbing and Heating Co. of Fairbanks, AK, in April 1961 and completed by October of that year.<sup>89</sup> The job was

completed by that October. After all the work was complete, Mount McKinley National Park had an upgraded, fully expandable utility system for headquarters that would carry them into the years ahead. By 1965, the power plant at the hotel was still serving as the primary electrical source for the park during the

<sup>79</sup> Mount McKinley National Park, *Superintendent's Monthly Report*, February 1959.

<sup>80</sup> Norris, *Crown Jewel*, 198.

<sup>81</sup> The McKinley Park Hotel (1939) was managed by a string of federal agencies, then, after 1953, by private concessioners. Throughout its history, the hotel's infrastructure, including the McKinley Park Hotel Power House (1938), was overseen by the NPS.

<sup>82</sup> “Utilidor” refers to “utility corridor.” Utilidors are common in cold climates, where burying utility lines (such as electricity, and water and sewer) above the frost line leads to freezing and/or cracking of equipment. The first District utilidor was constructed of wood and installed between 1938 and 1939 by the CCC.

<sup>83</sup> Tuttle and W.A.P., *Park Facilities Topography, Mt. McKinley, Alaska* (Anchorage, AK: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 1957).

<sup>84</sup> Norris, 199.

<sup>85</sup> Norris, 199.

<sup>86</sup> Mount McKinley National Park, *Superintendent's Monthly Report*, August 1960.

<sup>87</sup> Mount McKinley National Park, *Superintendent's Monthly Report*, November 1960.

<sup>88</sup> Mount McKinley National Park, *Superintendent's Monthly Report*, September 1962, as quoted by Norris, *Crown Jewel*, 199.

<sup>89</sup> Norris, 199.

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summer, and Building 54 served as the main power generation station in the winter, providing power for the hotel and headquarters, as well as steam heat and hot water to buildings around headquarters.<sup>90</sup>

The apartment building, associated garage, and the boiler house were all designed by Leonard S. Mosias, a contract architect hired by the Park Service Western Office of Design and Construction (WODC.) WODC was the western branch of the NPS's design arm, its eastern counterpart being the Eastern Office of Design and Construction (EODC). These offices included all of the architects, landscape architects, engineers, and other design professionals who worked within the park units. It was the policy of the NPS during Mission 66 to do as much design and planning in house as possible, to keep costs down and the ensure that development was compatible with the management goals of each park service unit. However, since the workload was so great during Mission 66, it was not uncommon for both ODCs to hire contract architects to design and draft more 'low profile' park buildings that would not be seen readily by the public, such as housing.<sup>91</sup> Mosias was a native San Franciscan with his own architectural office in the city, which also happened to be where the WODC headquarters office was located. However, while Mosias would have had some aesthetic control over his designs, anything he designed would have been subject to final approval by ODC staff. Cost was a key factor, as the Department of the Interior Bureau of Budget had set strict guidelines as the size and cost of residential construction.<sup>92</sup> To this end, the first edition of "Standard Plan for Employee Housing" was issued by NPS in 1957. It included standardized plans for single and multiple family housing units that had to be strictly adhered to by the parks, and could only be changed through special request. However, construction details, such as materials and external appearance, were left up to the discretion of ODC and the parks. They were encouraged to use construction methods and styles compatible with local environmental and economic factors; in other words, they were to build as cost-effectively as possible, while still providing fully modern living facilities for park employees. Following the trend of early post-war park architecture, ODC architects generally chose to stick to mainstream trends and techniques that local contractors would be familiar with, which meant modern styles like the Ranch house and labor-saving technologies like pre-fabricated and concrete construction. The modernist style design used by NPS during Mission 66, in conjunction with standardized planning (particularly for residential development) has been dubbed "Park Service Modern" (NPS Modern) by Mission 66 researchers.<sup>93</sup>

Mosias adhered to these principles when designing the residences and structures for the Mount McKinley National Park headquarters area. It is possible that the plans for the six-plex apartment building and garage were completed before the first addition of "Standard Plans" was distributed, since it does not exactly match any of the plans in the 1957 edition. However, the layout is, with some modifications, similar to the model floor plan of Building 12 for two and three bedroom two story multi-unit housing.<sup>94</sup> It is clear from the original floor plan that he attempted to incorporate climate-appropriate features, such as extra doors within the entries to act of weather baffles against cold winter air, though other inappropriate features, such as the flat roof, have caused trouble for maintenance staff over the years. It is unknown whether Building 53 and 54 were based on a standardized plan, as none were found. Mosias also styled the exterior of the buildings to relate to those already in the area. He mimicked the use of

<sup>90</sup> Grant H. Pearson and Seriford Hill, *Building Plans: Employees Garage, Headquarters and Residential Area*, Mount McKinley National Park, Drawing No. NP-McK-2105 (Mount McKinley National Park, AK: National Park Service, 1954).

<sup>91</sup> Monroe, *Architecture in the National Parks*, 67.

<sup>92</sup> National Park Service, "Standard Plan for Employee Housing, Mount McKinley National Park," unpublished report, 1957b.

<sup>93</sup> Allaback, *Mission 66 Visitor Centers*, 22-24.

<sup>94</sup> Lessig, "Multi-Unit Housing. 12 Plan," 1956.

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horizontal and vertical wood siding on the “Doty houses” on Building 51. In many other respects, the buildings are generic mid-century buildings, designed to be plain and to fade into the background of the headquarters residential loop; however, these buildings embody significant mid-twentieth century residential and utility planning principals.

Prior to the actual announcement of Mission 66, Mount McKinley National Park had already begun to rethink the traffic circulation within headquarters in anticipation of the developments to come. As early as 1955 a new master plan was drawn up for the headquarters area, and approved by Thomas Vint and Director Wirth in 1957.<sup>95</sup> This plan eliminated visitor traffic from the administrative hub of headquarters by constructing a large circular parking lot just north along the main park road. In addition, the main north-south road that previously intersected the park road would be removed, and traffic into headquarters would be routed through the residential area or via a new service road extending to the west, which connected into headquarters through an extended service court adjacent to Building 103. A new system of trails would channel visitors either to the proposed administration building off the parking lot or down toward the dog kennels. The remains of the north-south spur road directly adjacent to administration buildings would be converted into additional parking. The location of the parking lot, with a new administration building, had been a prominent feature in park plans from the 1930s.<sup>96</sup> Only part of the 1955 realignment plan was constructed as proposed. Both the western service road and the large visitor parking lot north of Building 21 were built by the end of the 1950s. Allowances also had to be made for the north-south spur road, which in the end was not closed. This also meant the proposed parking proposed had to be moved to the expanded service court area near the service road. The new administration building was never built.

Ultimately, traffic patterns associated with the early park planning era were retained. Despite a proposal in the 1955 McKinley National Park Master Plan that would increase traffic on the Residential Loop Road, the residential area remained private due to the retention of the original entrance to the district by way of the Headquarters Access Road and the construction of the north parking lot, which gave headquarters a designated visitor destination.<sup>97</sup>

### **Post-Historic Period Development – Building 99 and 171**

Since 1961, development has continued at a slow pace within park headquarters, concentrated around the Residential Loop Road and the Boiler House Spur Road. Housing continues to be the biggest priority for the park, as more and more seasonal employees are hired each year to bolster park operations. Permanent buildings subsequently built around headquarters are either single or multiple dwelling residences, added to allow the park to keep up with permanent and seasonal housing needs. Building 99 first appeared west of Building 53 in 1978, and currently houses the park’s central files. Building 171, a single residence, was constructed in 1985 just south of Building 28. It is sited in the same ‘rambling’ fashion as all of the “Doty

Houses,” and is approximately the same scale as well, so it is not a conspicuous addition. These buildings were built along the Residential Loop Road and Boiler House Spur Road, consistent with the circulation pattern established during the postwar years and Mission 66. Since they are in keeping with the historic organization of the area as a residential quarter, they do not have an adverse effect on the integrity of the

<sup>95</sup> Turello, De Haven, Ruehl, Headquarters Area [Plan], Part of the Master Plan for Mt. McKinley National Park.

<sup>96</sup> Brown et al., *Cultural Landscape Report for Park Headquarters*, 93.

<sup>97</sup> Turello, De Haven, Ruehl, Headquarters Area [Plan], Part of the Master Plan for Mt. McKinley National Park.

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planning of the area. As new functions are required, existing buildings are renovated and repurposed for new uses.

## SUMMARY

The Increase is important to illustrate the development of the Mount McKinley National Park Headquarters District. The Increase encompasses the entirety of the headquarters residential area, highlighting buildings constructed between 1950 and 1961. Residential use is a function within park headquarters that was underrepresented in the original Headquarters District, as most of the residential buildings had yet to reach the customary 50-year requirement for historic resources on the National Register of Historic Places when the district was nominated in 1987. The nine contributing roads and buildings within the Increase are eligible for the National Register under Criterion A because they each represent the changing patterns of residential use within Mount McKinley National Park headquarters in their own way. At the beginning of the 1950s the construction of the “Doty Houses” and the Residential Loop Road set a precedent for permanent housing development on the east side of headquarters. These changes, based on planning which had begun in the 1940s, formed the internal planning pattern of park headquarters in a way that continues to shape land use within the area today. More broadly, the types of resources represented in the Increase are also representative of the continuation and evolution of the NPS design philosophy and mid-20<sup>th</sup> century planning goals. Mission 66 was a transformative program for the agency. The residential development at park headquarters is a small but important part of the many changes that took place in Mount McKinley National Park during the period to accommodate increased visitation by expanding the operating capacity of the park. Buildings 51 and 217 are representative of the continued refining of residential planning at park headquarters, taking in a new, more compact direction that better suited the needs of the park for more housing during Mission 66. The Boiler House and its associated Spur Road also represent the evolution of amenities at headquarters through the modernization of utility services.

The four “Doty Houses” are further eligible for the National Register under Criterion C for their transformative architectural style. They are excellent representative examples of the type of single dwelling, ranch housing that became preferred by NPS employees and their families in the 1940s and 1950s. The residences, designed by an architect who would later be a very prolific designer during the Mission 66 program, stylistically have a mix of rustic and modern elements, representative of the transition NPS was making away from its trademark Park Service Rustic style to a new NPS Modern style. Though NPS Modern has yet to be officially recognized within the realm of architectural history, the growing body of literature concerning the “modernization” of architecture within the Service in the 1940s and 1950s suggests that the form and style of these buildings is important in the history of the NPS. They were built during a lean time in NPS history between the New Deal years and the advent of Mission 66. Because there was so little construction during this period, they are rare surviving example not only of architecture from this period, but of the transitional style NPS architects like Cecil Doty were experimenting with at the time.

As a whole, the Boundary Increase is a logical addition to the Mount McKinley National Park Headquarters District because the mid-century developments within park headquarters cannot be as fully understood without the context of earlier development, and vice versa. The 1987 district, encompassing the western half of headquarters, and the Increase, representing the eastern half, today operate as a whole district, and the way that the eastern permanent housing area was developed is directly related to its



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predecessor. As a single, expanded district, the narrative of park headquarters is not fractured, and a framework is created to allow for easier, comprehensive additions to be made to the district in the future.

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**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 # HABS AK-35
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: Denali National Park and Preserve Museum Collection Archives

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** HEA-00147

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**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreege of Property** 16.55

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**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)**

Datum: NAD 1983 Alaska Albers

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

<b>Point</b>	<b>Latitude</b>	<b>Longitude</b>
1.	63.721779° N	-148.965580° W
2.	63.722030° N	-148.966727° W
3.	63.722420° N	-148.965019° W
4.	63.722164° N	-148.963676° W
5.	63.721571° N	-148.963275° W
6.	63.721411° N	-148.962089° W
7.	63.720947° N	-148.961155° W
8.	63.720316° N	-148.961297° W
9.	63.719861° N	-148.961547° W
10.	63.719765° N	-148.962170° W
11.	63.720441° N	-148.962754° W
12.	63.720464° N	-148.964484° W
13.	63.720039° N	-148.965125° W
14.	63.720071° N	-148.965982° W
15.	63.719406° N	-148.966337° W
16.	63.719463° N	-148.967721° W
17.	63.719367° N	-148.968220° W
18.	63.719421° N	-148.969742° W
19.	63.719739° N	-148.969688° W
20.	63.719719° N	-148.968493° W
21.	63.721058° N	-148.967757° W
22.	63.720997° N	-148.966835° W
23.	63.721070° N	-148.966473° W
24.	63.721187° N	-148.966172° W
25.	63.721460° N	-148.966027° W
26.	63.721470° N	-148.965704° W

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

The Mount McKinley National Park Headquarters Historic District (Boundary Increase) is illustrated on the attached Site Map and Photograph Key. The Increase is comprised of 4.4 acres to the east to include the mid-twentieth-century development cluster; and 0.07 acres to the west to incorporate Building P22 (Office Building), a contributing resource. This expands the overall Mount McKinley National Park Headquarters Historic District to 16.38 acres.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The Boundary Increase encompasses all mid-twentieth-century resources associated with the Mount McKinley National Park Headquarters Historic District, including roads, walkways, and surrounding landscape.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Kelly M. Christensen/Historian and Kathleen M. Wackrow/Historian  
organization: United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service  
street & number: 240 West 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
city or town: Anchorage state: AK zip code: 99501  
e-mail: kathleen\_wackrow@nps.gov  
telephone: (907) 644-3458  
date: December  
2015

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**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)



Mount McKinley National Park Headquarters Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
Name of Property

Denali Borough, AK  
County and State

## Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

**Name of Property:** Mount McKinley National Park Headquarters District (Boundary Increase)

**City or Vicinity:** Denali National Park and Preserve

**County:** Denali Borough

**State:** AK

**Photographer:** Erik K. Johnson/Historian (unless otherwise noted)

**Date Photographed:** June 2015

### Description of Photograph(s) and number:

1 of 16. Mount McKinley National Park Headquarters District (Boundary Increase), Residential Loop Road, facing southeast from intersection with Headquarters Access Road.

2 of 16. Mount McKinley National Park Headquarters District (Boundary Increase), Boiler House Spur Road, facing south from intersection with Residential Loop Road.

3 of 16. Mount McKinley National Park Headquarters District (Boundary Increase), Residential Loop Road, facing west from intersection with Boiler House Road.

4 of 16. Building 22 (Office Building), south and east elevations, facing northwest. Photographed by Heather A. Feil on August 2016.

5 of 16. Building 26 (Single Residence), south elevation, facing northeast.

6 of 16. Building 27 (Single Residence), west elevation, facing northeast.

7 of 16. Building 28 (Single Residence), east elevation, facing northwest.

8 of 16. Building 34 (Single Residence), south elevation, facing northwest.

9 of 16. Building 51 (Six-Plex Apartments), north and west elevations, facing southeast.

10 of 16. Building 54 (Boiler House), north elevation, facing southeast.

Mount McKinley National Park Headquarters Historic District (Boundary Increase) Denali Borough, AK  
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11 of 16. Building 217 (Three-Stall Garage), south and east elevations, facing northwest.

12 of 16. Building 53 (Six-Stall Garage), south and west elevations, facing northeast.

13 of 16. Building 99 (Backcountry Operations), south and east elevations, facing northwest.

14 of 16. Building 171 (Single Residence), east elevation, facing northeast.

15 of 16. Residential Loop Road, facing south.

16 of 16. Boiler House Spur Road, facing south.

Mount McKinley National Park Headquarters Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
Name of Property

Denali Borough, AK  
County and State

**Description of Document(s) and number:**

- 1 of 35. Mount McKinley National Park Headquarters Historic District (Boundary Increase) Location Map. Healy C-4. NW1/4, Section 8, Township 14S, Range 7W.
- 2 of 35. Mount McKinley National Park Headquarters Historic District (Boundary Increase) Boundary Map with Coordinates. Prepared by Dael Devenport, Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Alaska Regional Office.
- 3 of 35. Mount McKinley National Park Headquarters Historic District (Boundary Increase) Site Plan. Prepared by Kathleen M. Wackrow, Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Alaska Regional Office.
- 4 of 35. Excerpt of the Working Drawings of Doty Houses (Buildings #26, 27, 28 and 34) showing elevations. Prepared by Cecil B. Doty, 1949 revised 1951. ETIC Drawing No. NP-McK-2025B, Pages 1 and 2 of 5. Accessed online at <http://etic.nps.gov>.
- 5 of 35. Representative floor plan of Doty Houses (Buildings #26, 27, 28 and 34.) Prepared by Kelly M. Christensen, Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Alaska Regional Office. Based on ETIC Drawing No. NP-McK-2025B. . Plan does not reflect individual differences in buildings, but gives a general idea of the interior layout.
- 6 of 35. Historic Photograph of unidentified Doty House, c.1955. Photograph No. 21-460. Denali National Park and Preserve Photographic Archives.
- 7 of 35. Historic Photograph of unidentified Doty House, c.1955. Photograph No. 21-462. Denali National Park and Preserve Photographic Archives.
- 8 of 35. Historic Photograph of Building #26, 1963. Photograph No. 2223. Denali National Park and Preserve Photographic Archives.
- 9 of 35. Historic Photograph of Building #27, 1963. Photograph No. 21-461. Denali National Park and Preserve Photographic Archives.
- 10 of 35. Historic Photograph of Building #28, 1963. Photograph No. 21-463. Denali National Park and Preserve Photographic Archives.
- 11 of 35. Historic Photograph of Building #34, 1952. Photograph No. 21-442. Denali National Park and Preserve Photographic Archives.
- 12 of 35. Detail of layers of siding on Building #28, 2011. Arrow points to layer of original redwood siding. Prepared by Kelly M. Christensen, Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Alaska Regional Office.
- 13 of 35. Historic Photograph of Building #27 (Q-16) under construction, 1950. Photograph No. 21-440. Denali National Park and Preserve Photographic Archives. Note porch door into garage.

Mount McKinley National Park Headquarters Historic District (Boundary Increase) Denali Borough, AK  
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- 14 of 35. Historic Photograph of unidentified Doty House, 1961. Photograph No. 21-449. Denali National Park and Preserve Photographic Archives. Note original wood window, trim and storm window.
- 15 of 35. Historic Photograph of fireplace being installed in Building #27 (Q-16), 1950. Photograph No. 21-439. Denali National Park and Preserve Photographic Archives.
- 16 of 35. As Constructed Drawings of Building #51, 1960. ETIC Drawing No. NP-McK-3117D, Page 5 of 21. Accessed online at <http://etic.nps.gov>.
- 17 of 35. Historic Floor plan of Building #51, c.1960. Prepared by Kelly M. Christensen, Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Alaska Regional Office. Based on ETIC Drawing No. NP-McK-3117D.
- 18 of 35. Historic Photograph of Building #51, 1963. Individual Building Report File, Denali National Park and Preserve Maintenance Files.
- 19 of 35. Historic Photograph of Building #51, 1958. Superintendent's Monthly Report (SMR) October 1958. Denali National Park and Preserve Archives.
- 20 of 35. Historic Photograph of Building #51 Recreation Hall, park employees dancing, 1959. Photograph No. 23-002. Denali National Park and Preserve Photographic Archives.
- 21 of 35. As Constructed Drawings of Building #54, 1958, revised 1962. ETIC Drawing No. NP-McK-3124C, Page 2 of 14. Accessed online at <http://etic.nps.gov>.
- 22 of 35. Floor plan of Building #54, historic and current conditions. Prepared by Kelly M. Christensen, Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Alaska Regional Office. Based on ETIC Drawing No. NP-McK-3124C.
- 23 of 35. Historic Photograph of Building #54, 1960. SMR, November 1960. Denali National Park and Preserve Archives.
- 24 of 35. Historic Photograph of boiler room of Building #54, 1960. Photograph No. 23-813. Denali National Park and Preserve Photographic Archives.
- 25 of 35. Historic Photograph of boiler room of Building #54, 1960. Photograph No. 23-814. Denali National Park and Preserve Photographic Archives.
- 26 of 35. As Constructed Drawings of Building #217 (124), 1954. ETIC Drawing No. NP-McK-2105, Page 1 of 1. Accessed online at <http://etic.nps.gov>.
- 27 of 35. Historic Photograph of Building #217, 1957. Individual Building Report File, Denali National Park and Preserve Maintenance Files.
- 28 of 35. Historic Photograph of Building #53, 1959. Photograph No. 21-184. Denali National Park and Preserve Photographic Archives.

Mount McKinley National Park Headquarters Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
Name of Property

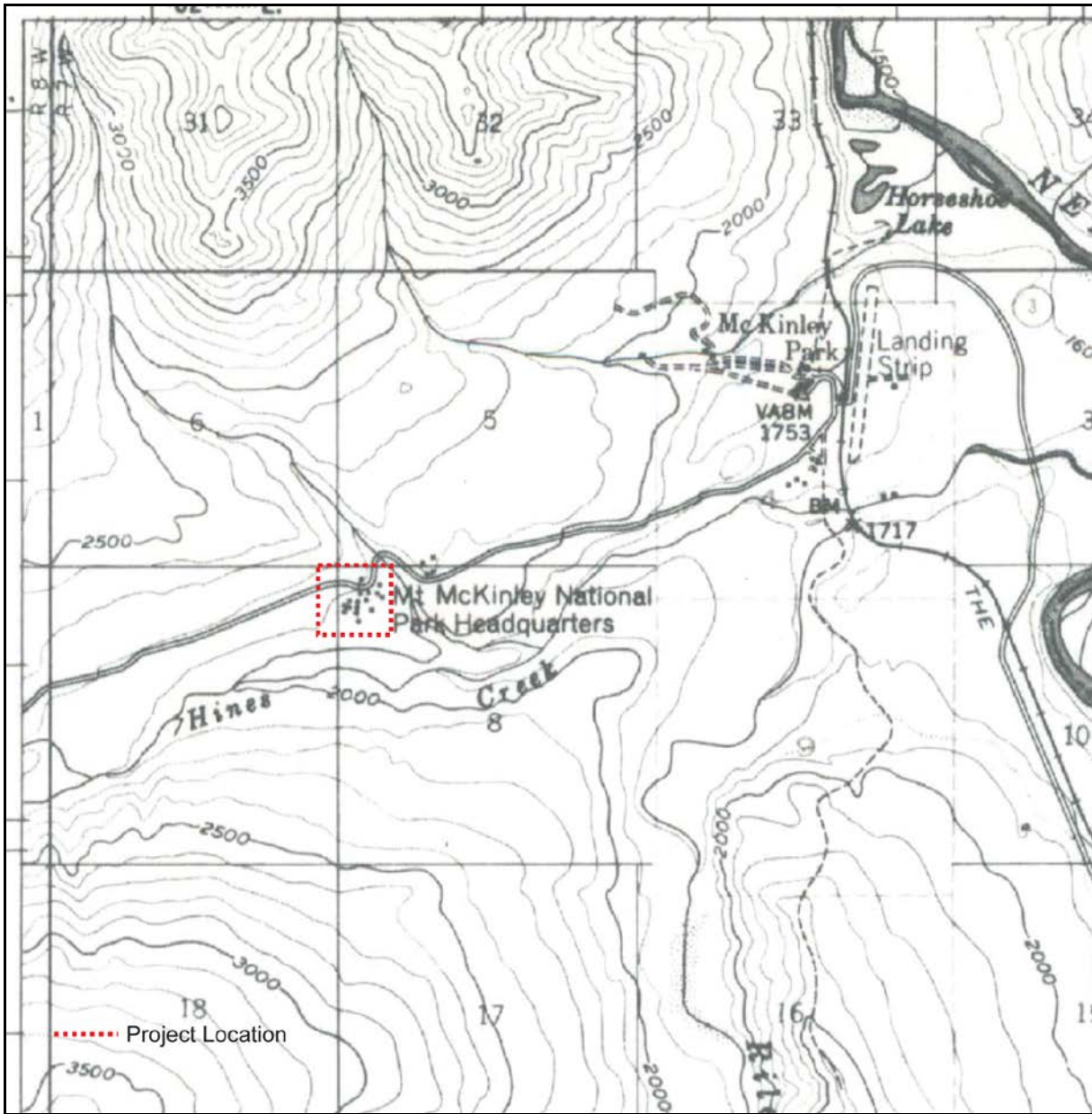
Denali Borough, AK  
County and State

- 29 of 35. Historic Photograph of Residential Loop Road initial grading, 1953. Photograph No. 22-136. Denali National Park and Preserve Photographic Archives.
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- 32 of 35. Excerpt from the 1954 Master Plan showing the existing and proposed improvements to the residential area of headquarters. ETIC Drawing No. NP-McK-2115, Page 1 of 1. Accessed online at <http://etic.nps.gov>.
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- 35 of 35. Plan No. 12 Multi-Unit Housing. United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service. "Standard Plan for Employee Housing." Unpublished report. U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1957. Accessed online at <http://etic.nps.gov>.

Mount McKinley National Park Headquarters Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
Name of Property

Denali Borough, AK  
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1 of 35. Mount McKinley National Park Headquarters Historic District (Boundary Increase) Location  
Map. Healy C-4. NW1/4, Section 8, Township 14S, Range 7W.

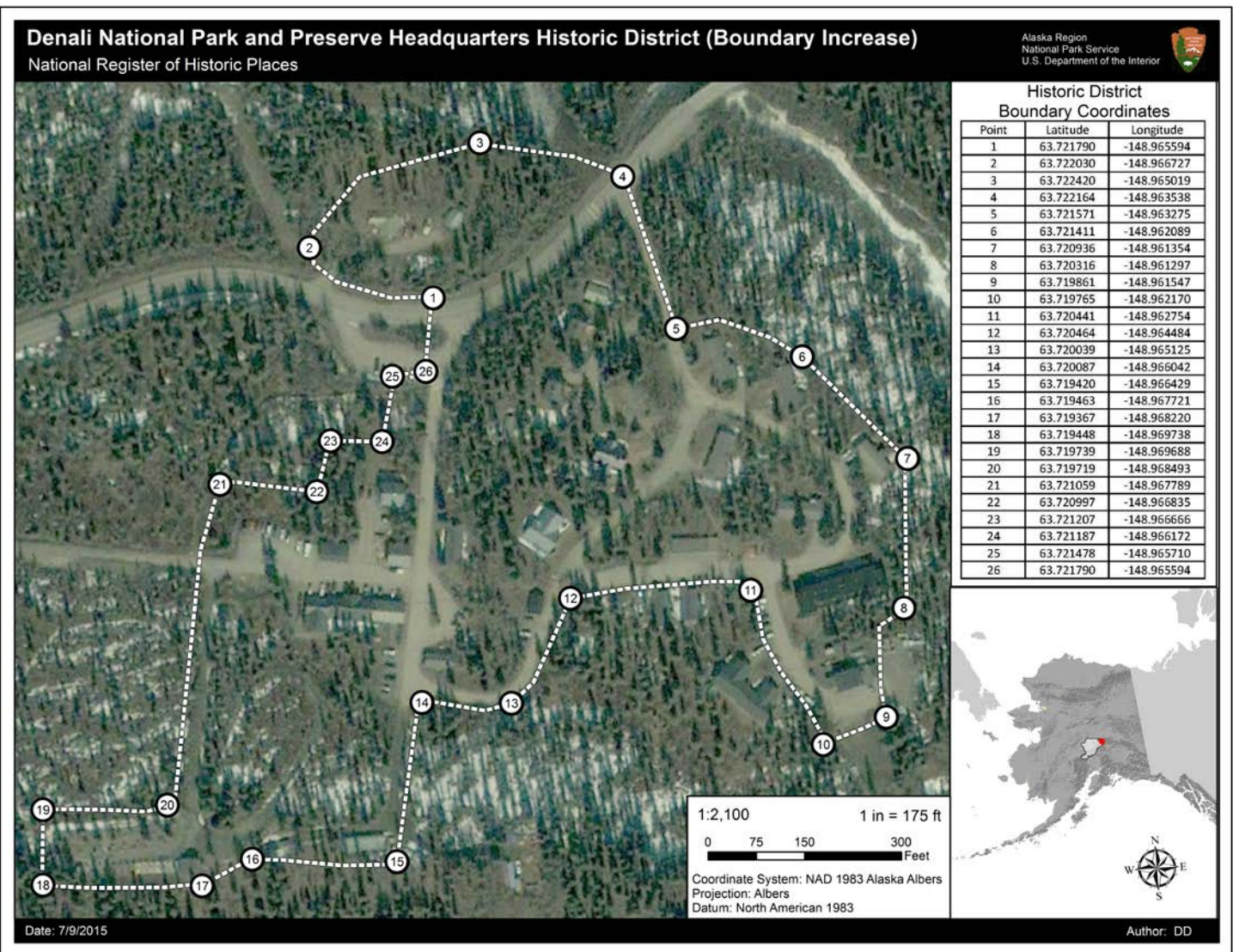




Mount McKinley National Park Headquarters Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
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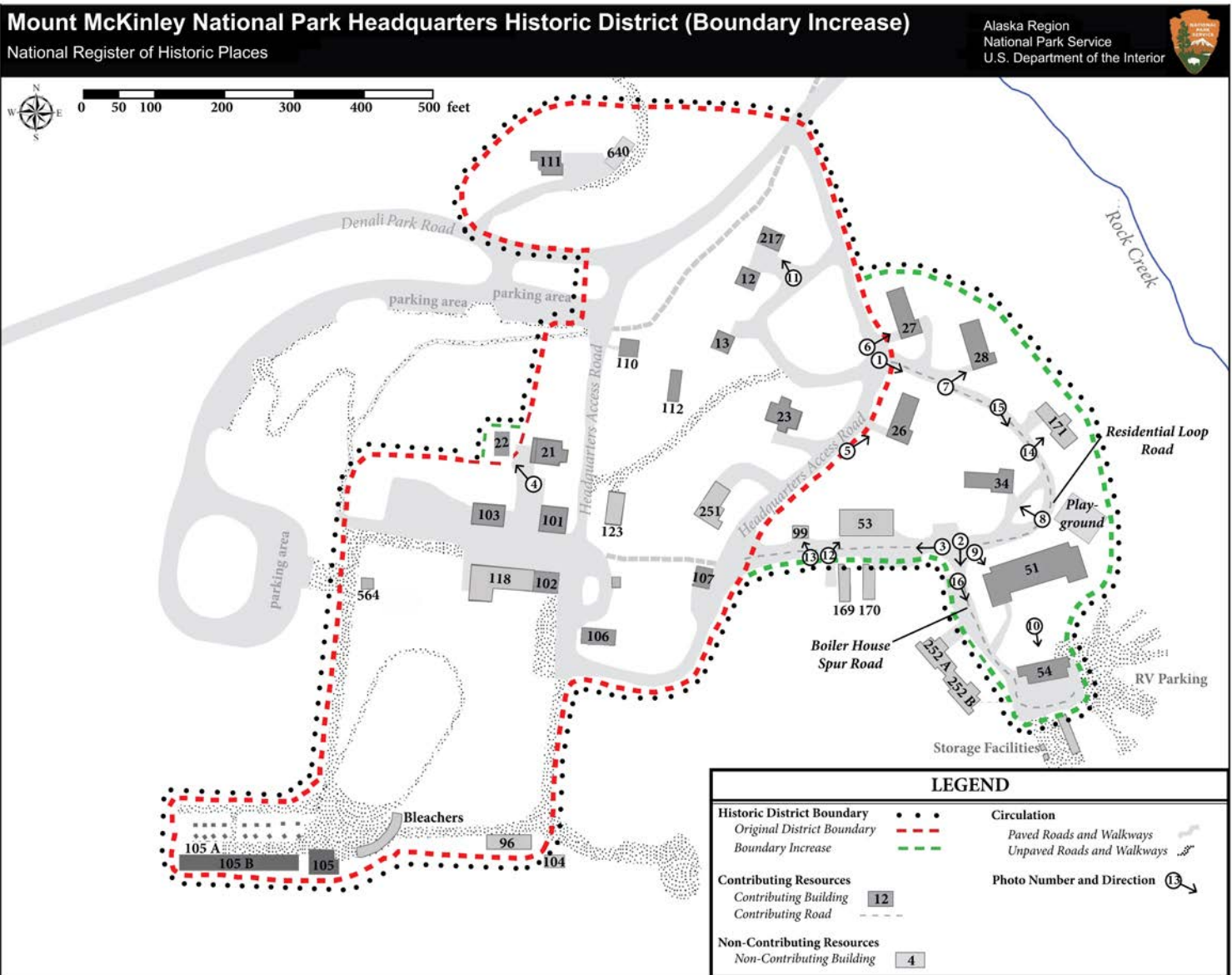
2 of 35. Mount McKinley National Park Headquarters Historic District (Boundary Increase) Boundary Map with Coordinates. Prepared by Dael Devavenport, Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Alaska Regional Office.



Mount McKinley National Park Headquarters Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
 Name of Property

Denali Borough, AK  
 County and State

3 of 35. Mount McKinley National Park Headquarters Historic District (Boundary Increase) Site Plan.  
 Prepared by Kathleen M. Wackrow, Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Alaska  
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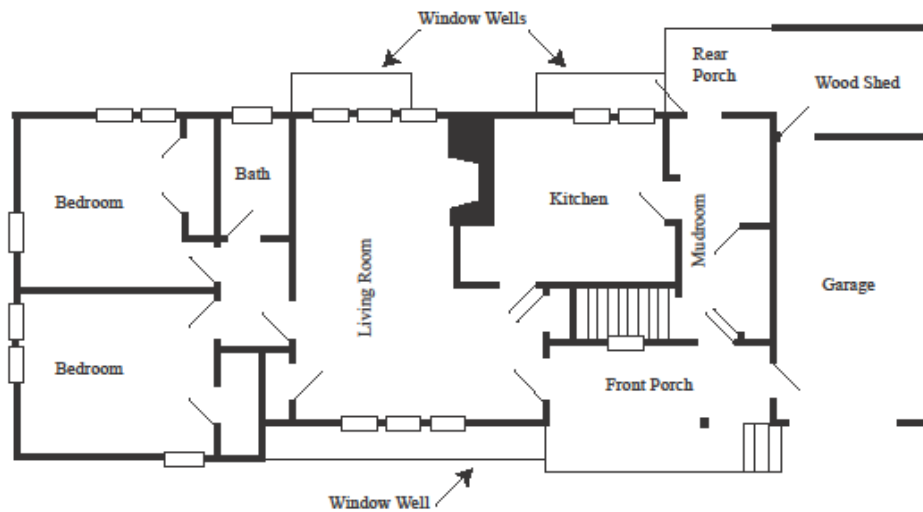




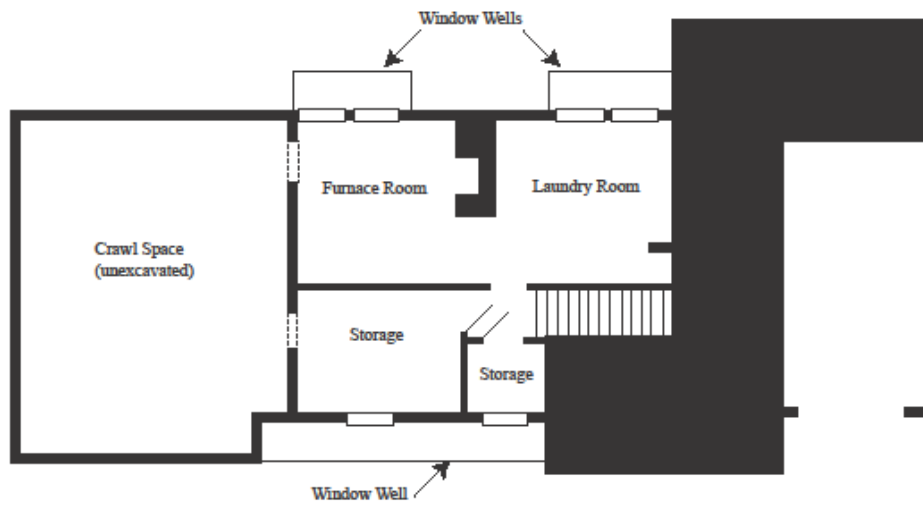
Mount McKinley National Park Headquarters Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
Name of Property

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County and State

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First Floor



Basement

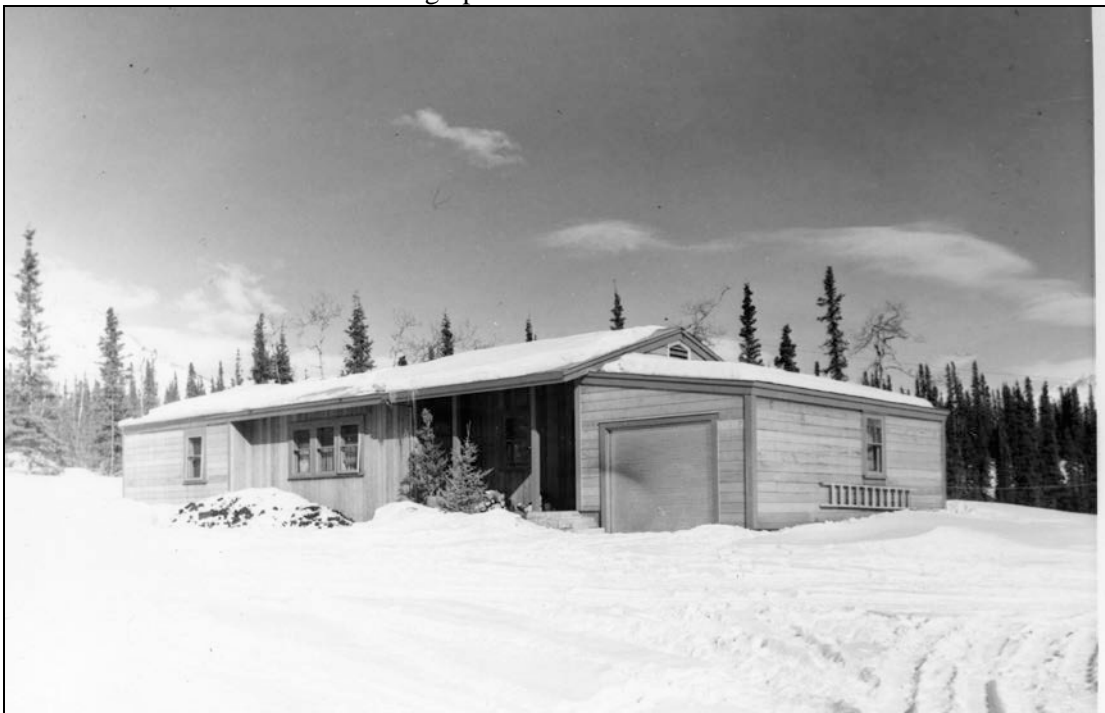
Mount McKinley National Park Headquarters Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
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12 of 35. Detail of layers of siding on Building #28, 2011. Arrow points to layer of original redwood siding. Photo by Kelly M. Christensen, Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Alaska Regional Office.

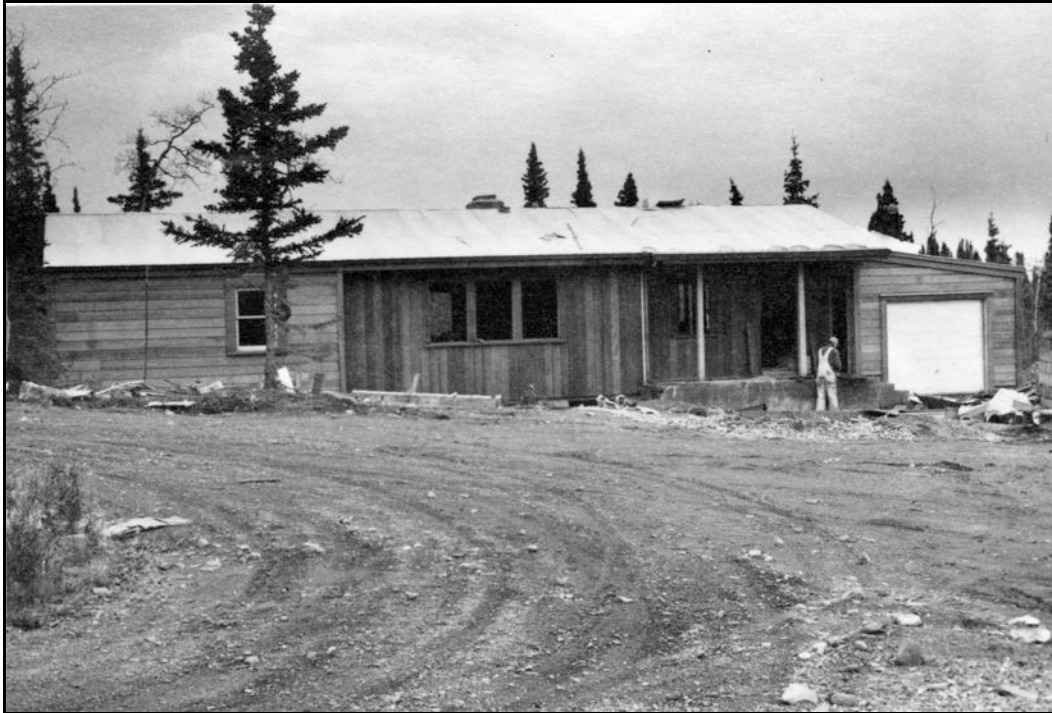




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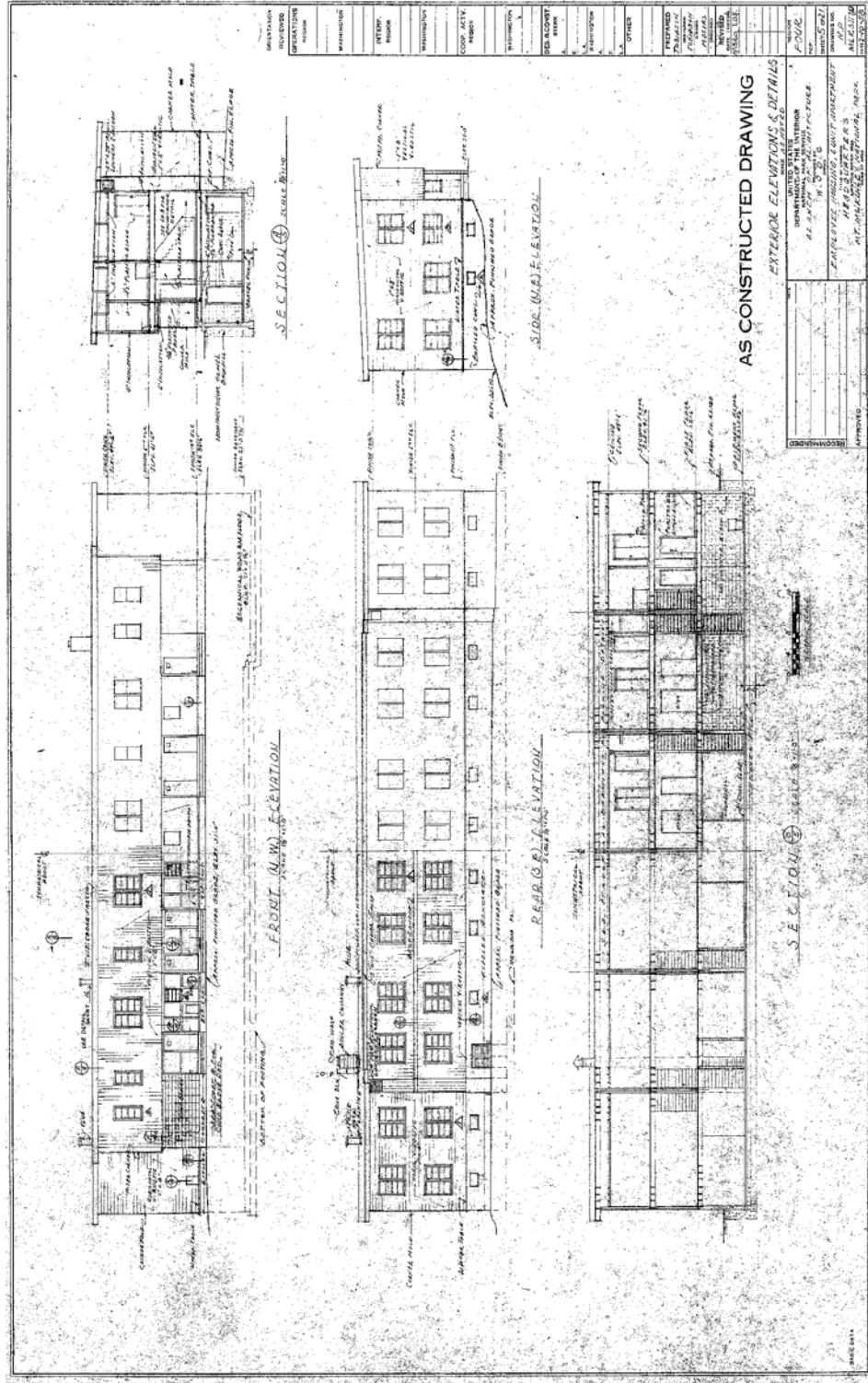




Mount McKinley National Park Headquarters Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
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Denali Borough, AK  
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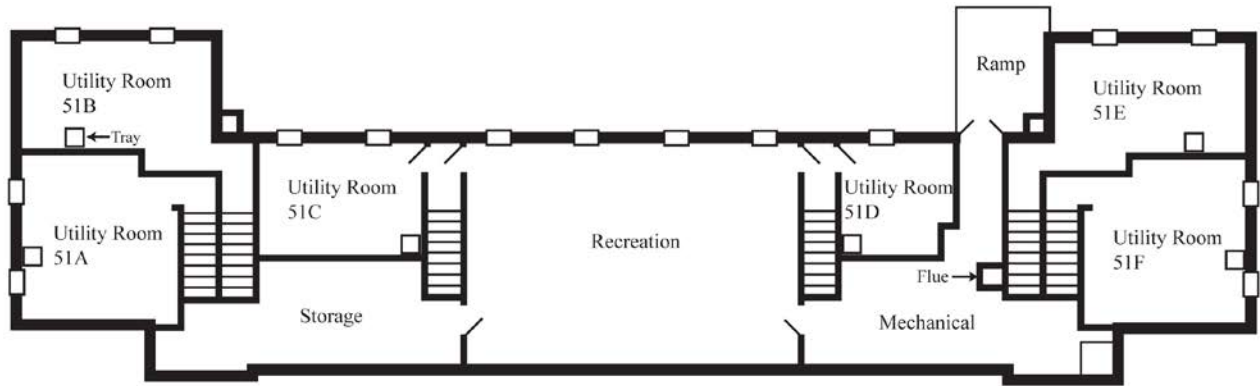
16 of 35. As Constructed Drawings of Building #51, 1960. ETIC Drawing No. NP-McK-3117D, Page 5  
 of 21. Accessed online at <http://etic.nps.gov>.



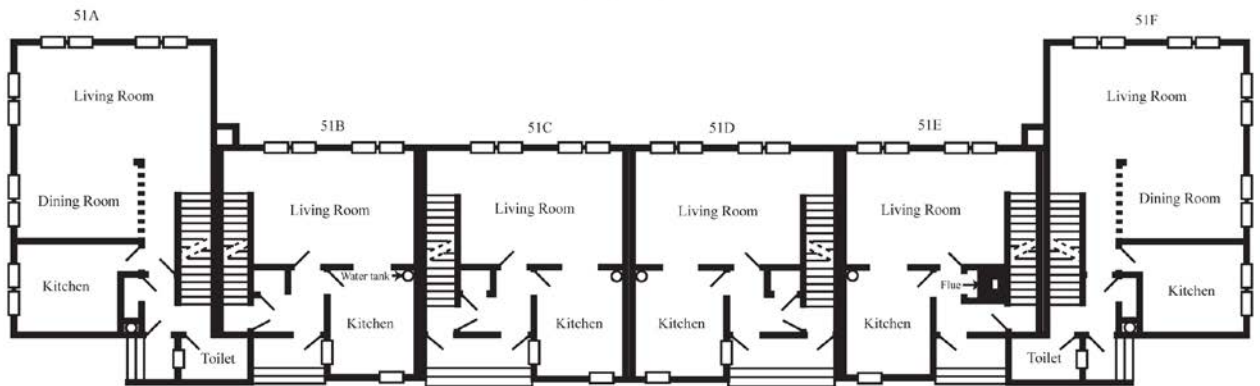
Mount McKinley National Park Headquarters Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
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County and State

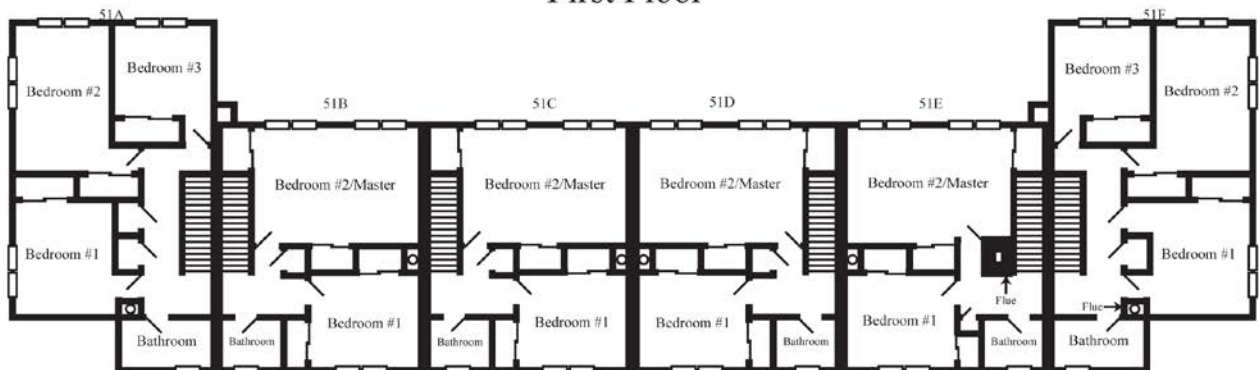
17 of 35. Historic Floor plan of Building #51, c.1960. Prepared by Kelly M. Christensen, Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Alaska Regional Office. Based on ETIC Drawing No. NP-McK-3117D.



Basement



First Floor



Second Floor

Mount McKinley National Park Headquarters Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
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18 of 35. Historic Photograph of Building #51, 1963. Individual Building Report File, Denali National Park and Preserve Maintenance Files.



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Mount McKinley National Park Headquarters Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
Name of Property

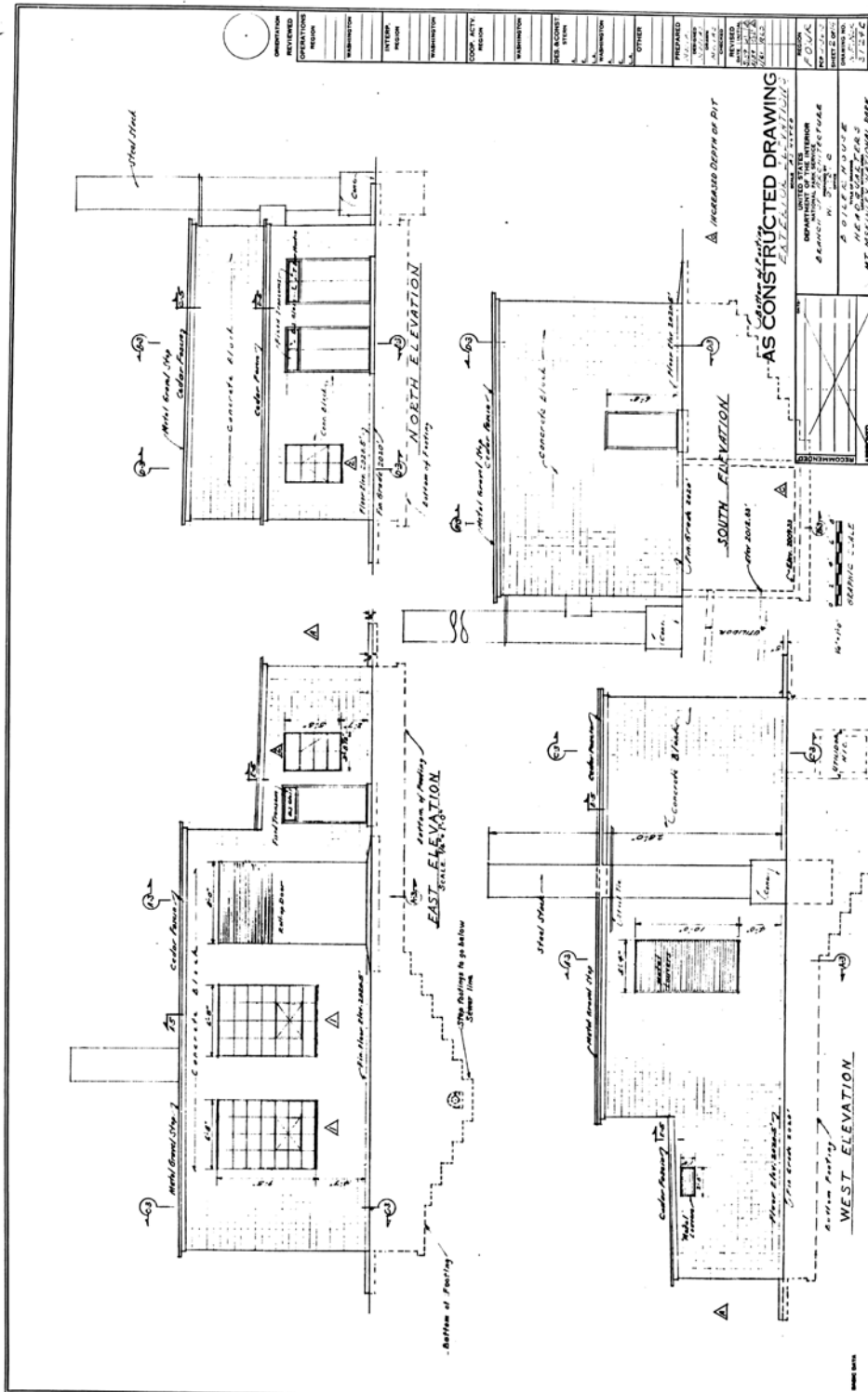
Denali Borough, AK  
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Mount McKinley National Park Headquarters Historic District (Boundary Increase) Denali Borough, AK  
 Name of Property County and State

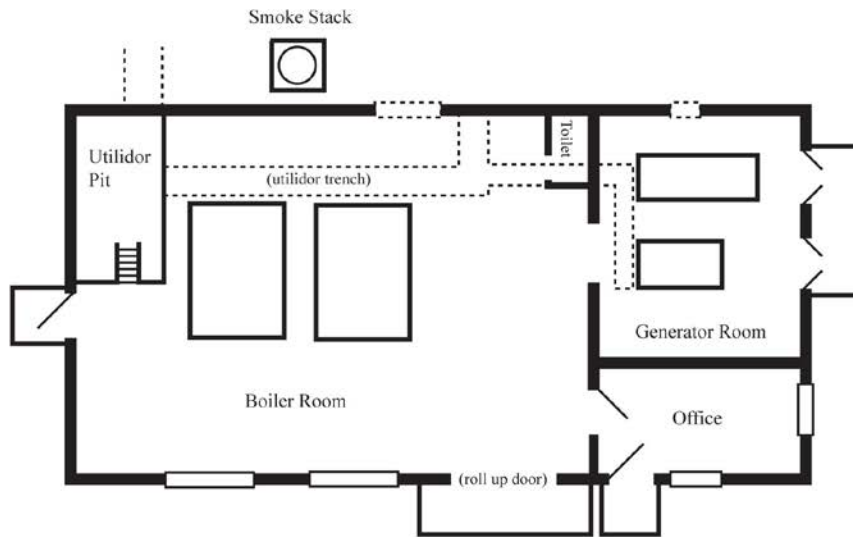
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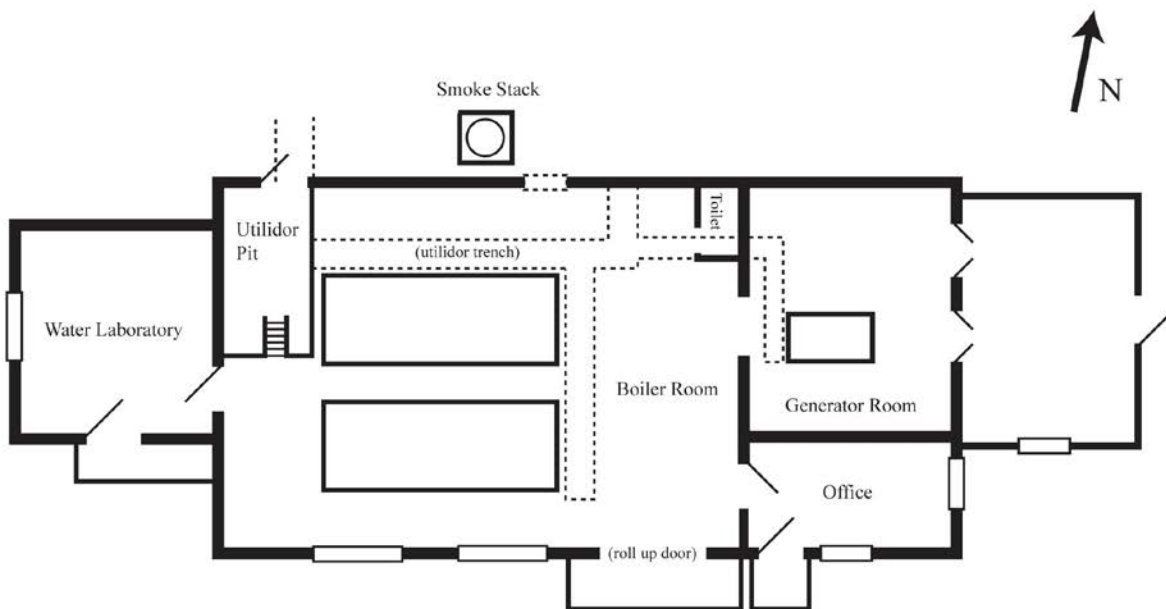
Mount McKinley National Park Headquarters Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
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22 of 35. Floor plan of Building #54, historic and current conditions. Prepared by Kelly M. Christensen, Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Alaska Regional Office. Based on ETIC Drawing No. NP-McK-3124C.



Building #54 Floor Plan - 1961



Building #54 Floor Plan - 2011



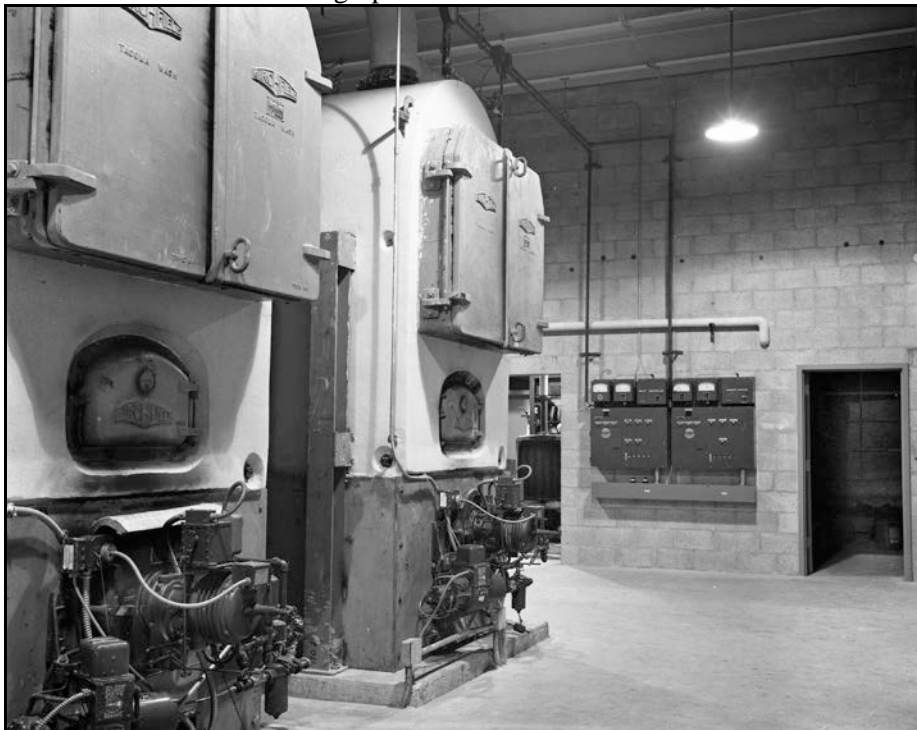
Mount McKinley National Park Headquarters Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
Name of Property

Denali Borough, AK  
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23 of 35. Historic Photograph of Building #54, 1960. SMR, November 1960. Denali National Park and Preserve Archives.



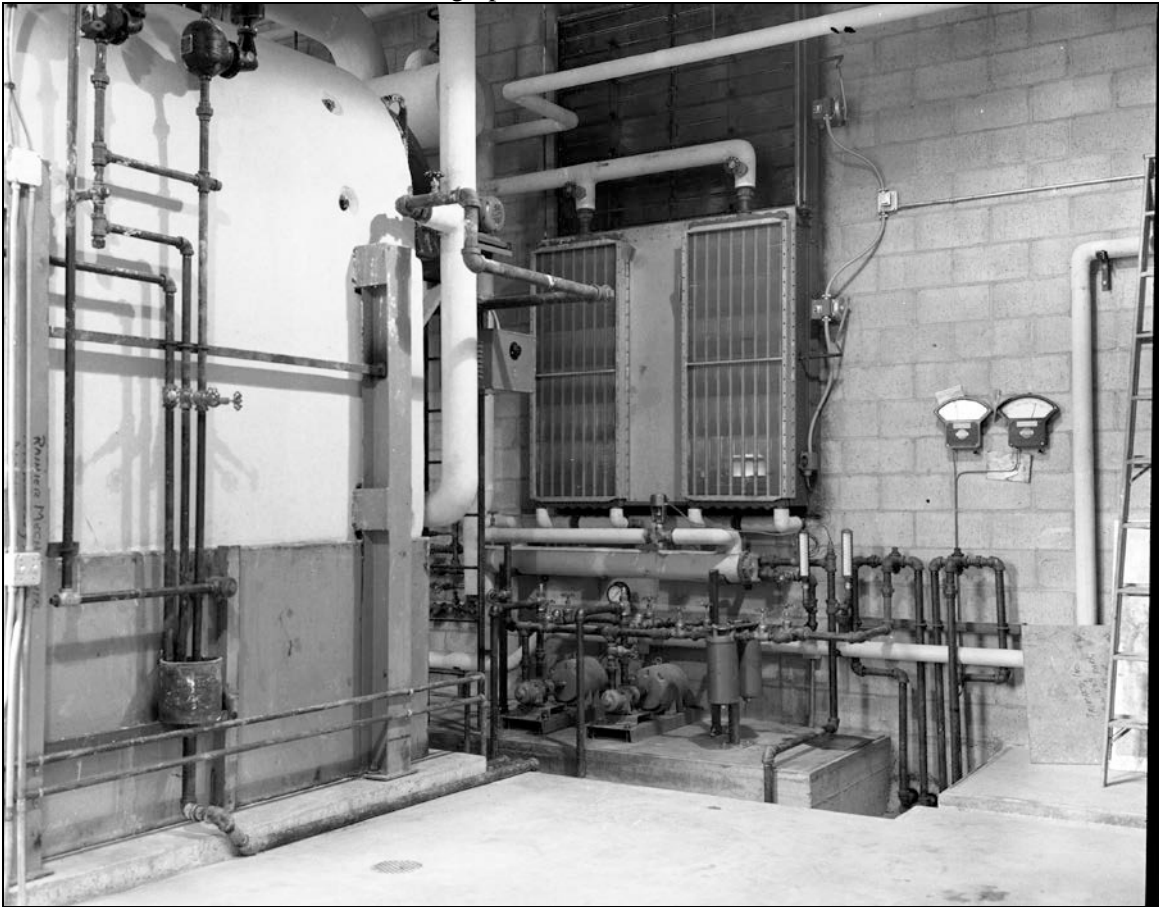
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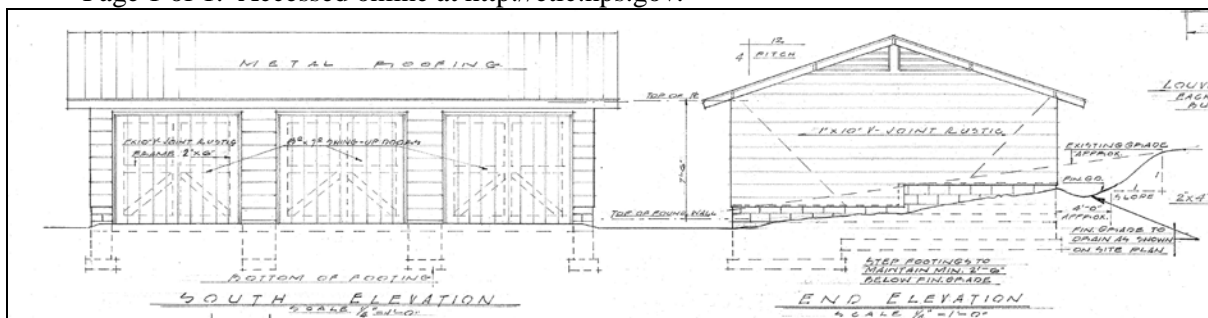
Mount McKinley National Park Headquarters Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
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Mount McKinley National Park Headquarters Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
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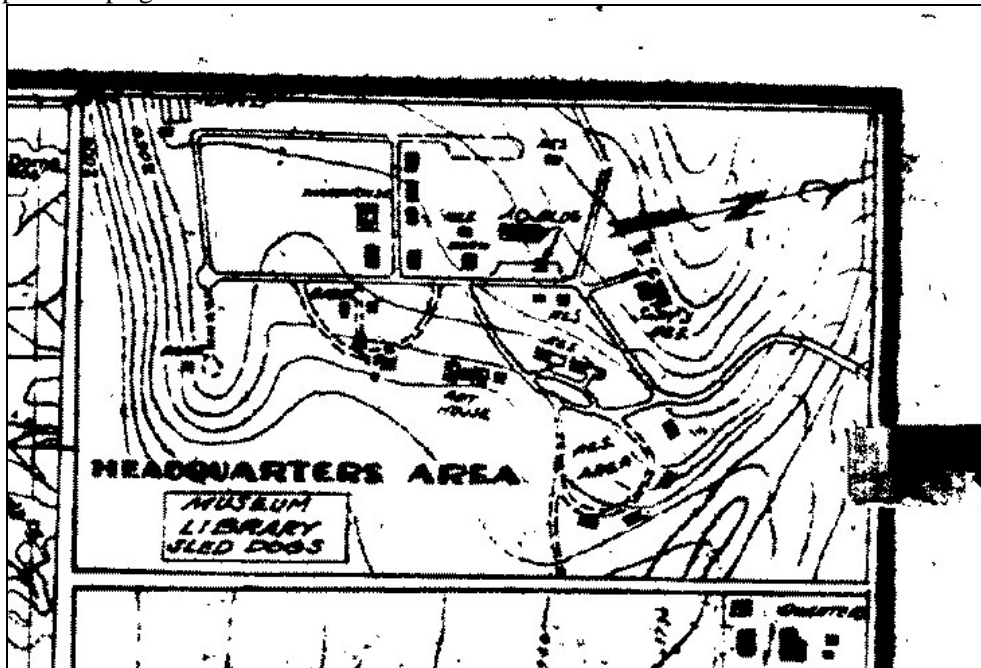
Mount McKinley National Park Headquarters Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
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29 of 35. Historic Photograph of Residential Loop Road initial grading, 1953. Photograph No. 22-136.  
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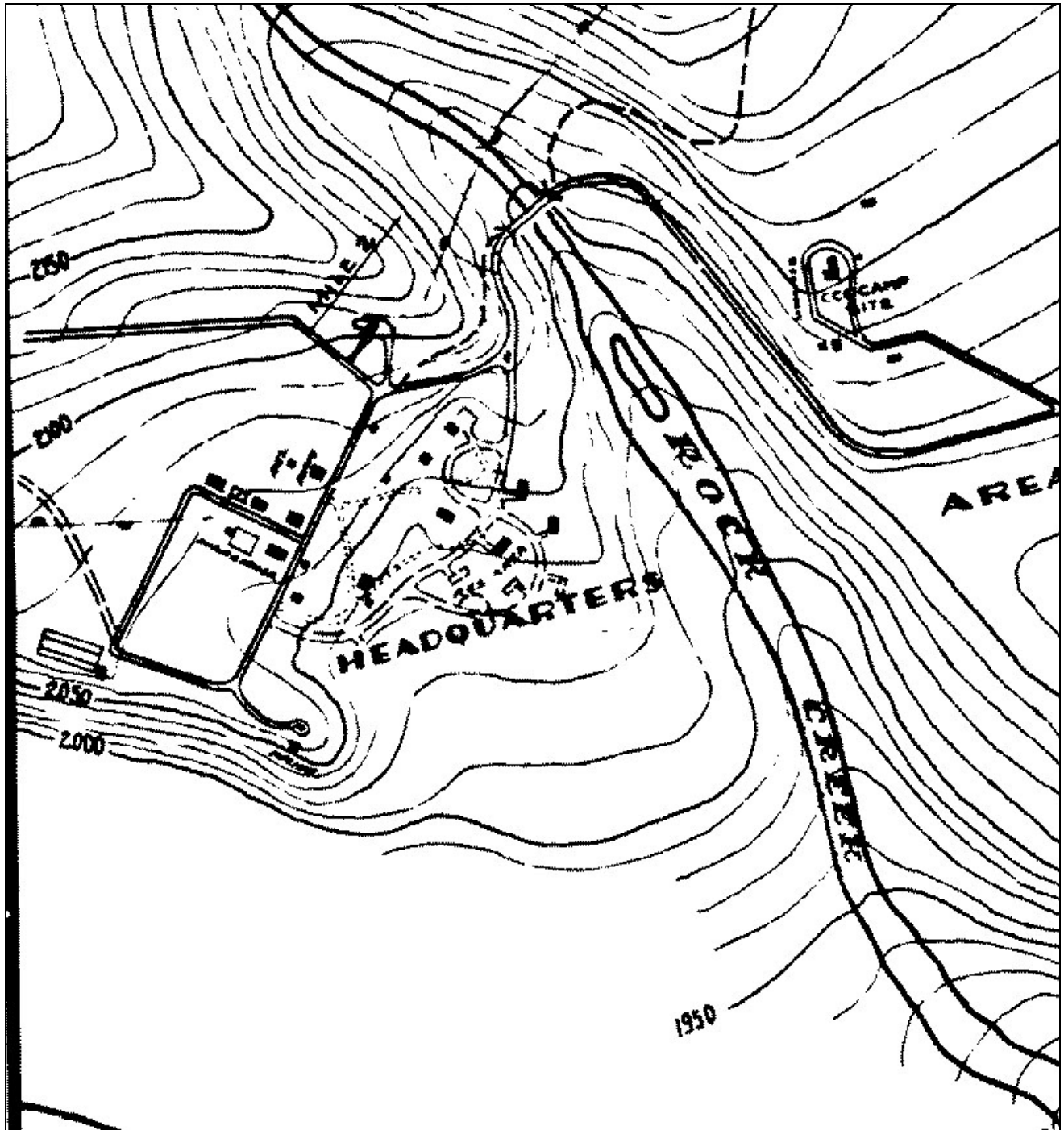
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Mount McKinley National Park Headquarters Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
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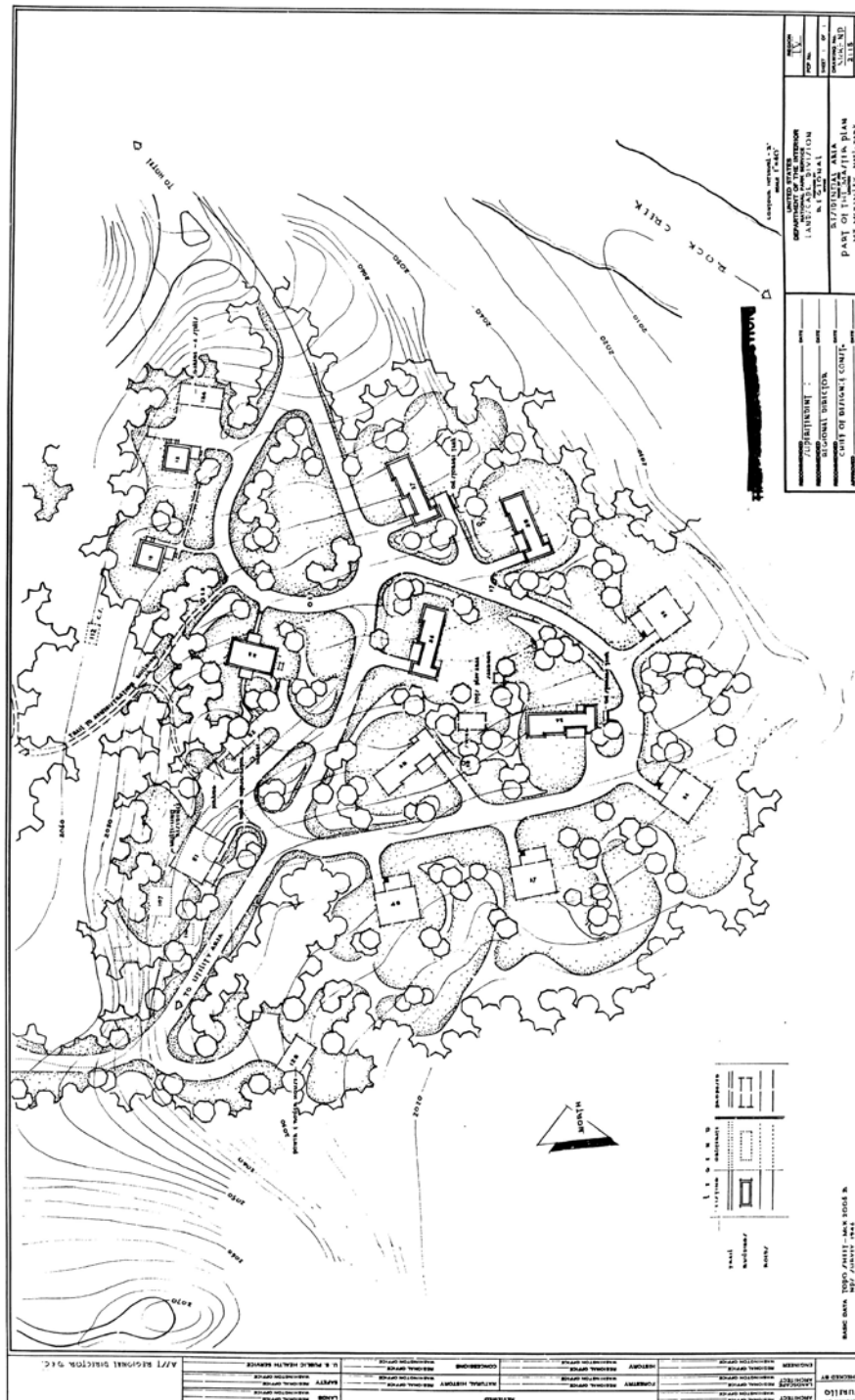
31 of 35. Excerpt from 1951 Master Plan showing the proposed residential loop on the east side of headquarters. ETIC Drawing No. NP-McK-2014A, page 1 of 1. Accessed online at <http://etic.nps.gov>.



Mount McKinley National Park Headquarters Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
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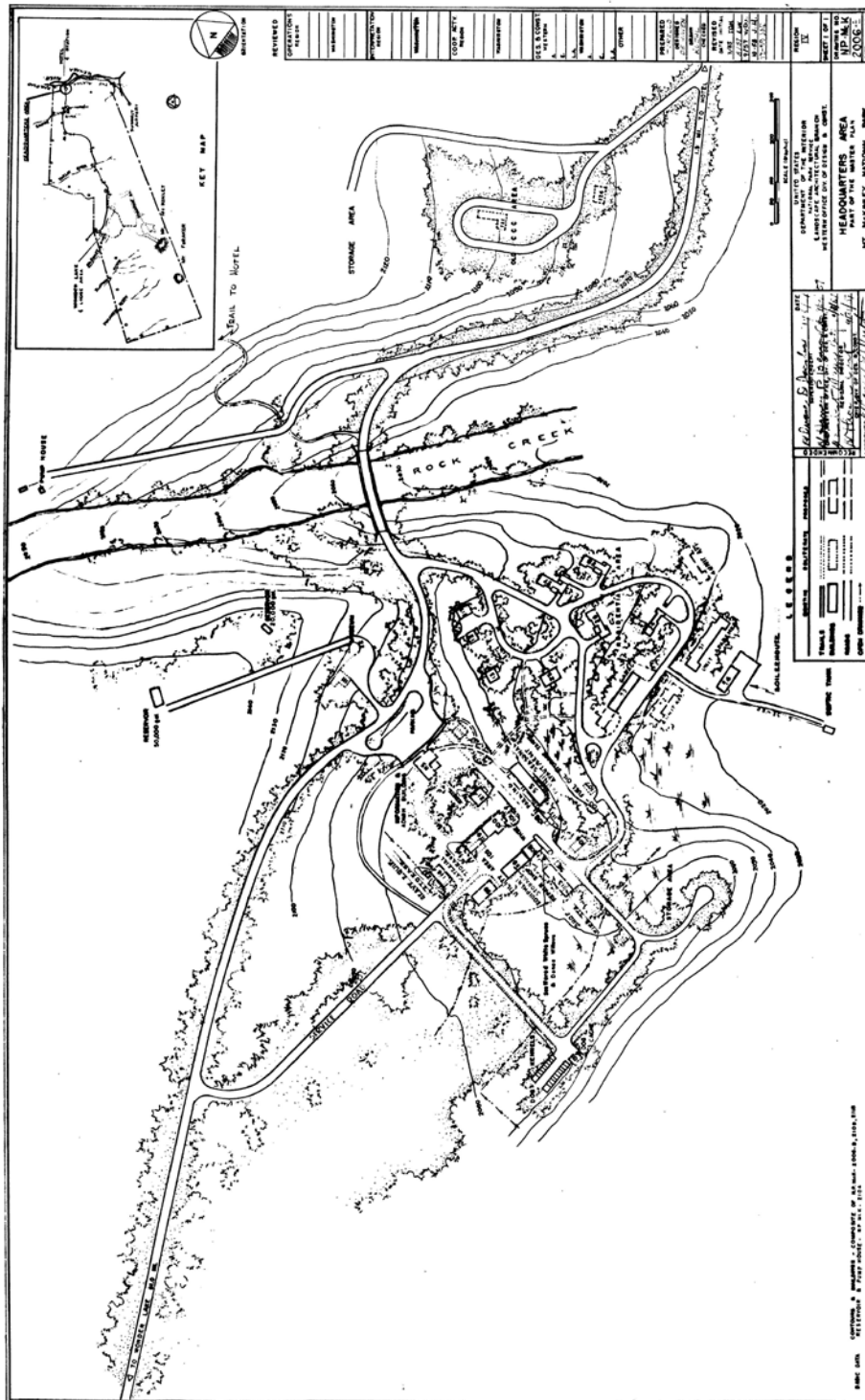
32 of 35. Excerpt from the 1954 Master Plan showing the existing and proposed improvements to the residential area of headquarters. ETIC Drawing No. NP-McK-2115, Page 1 of 1. Accessed online at <http://etic.nps.gov>.



Mount McKinley National Park Headquarters Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
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Mount McKinley National Park Headquarters Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
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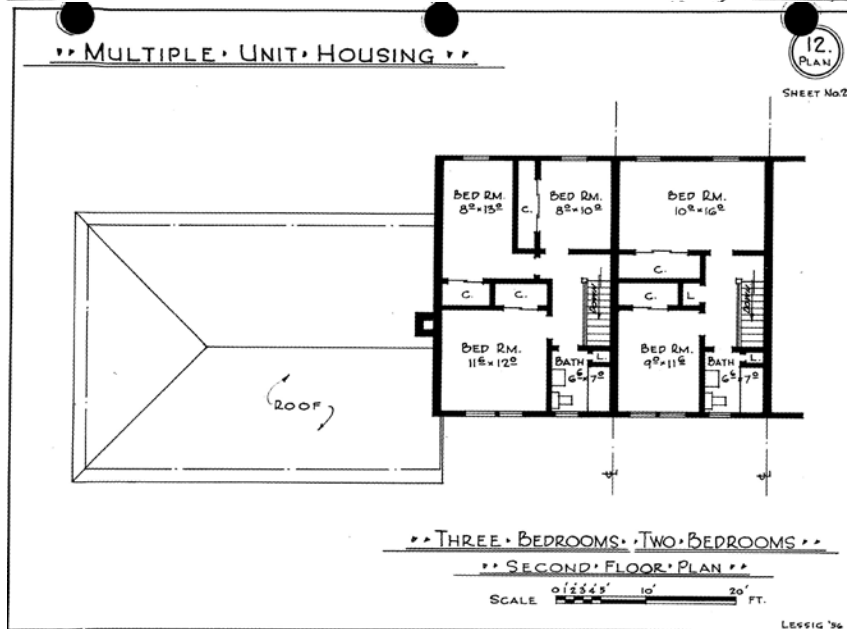
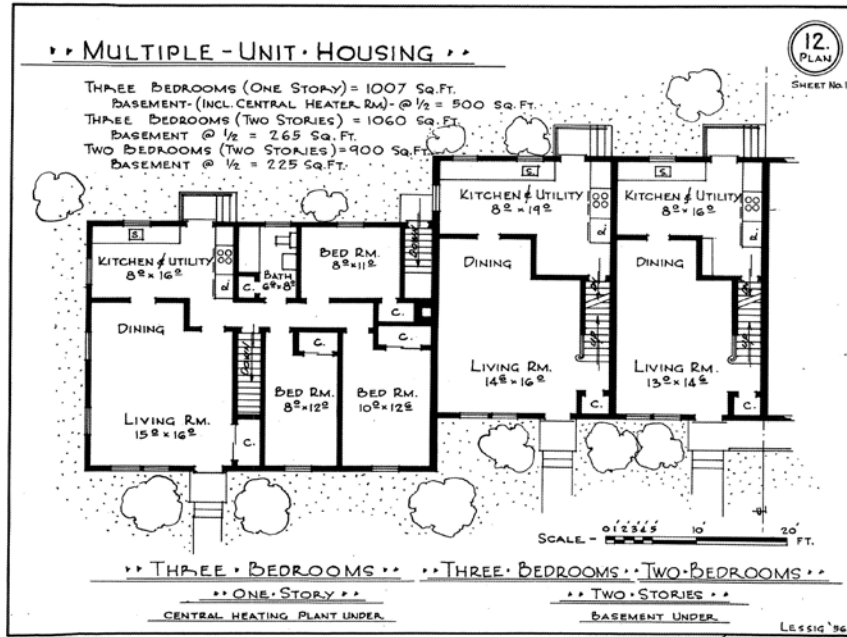
34 of 35. Composite Map of multi-sheet Army Corps of Engineers survey of the Park headquarters area, 1957. ETIC Drawing No. 184-9007.



Mount McKinley National Park Headquarters Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
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35 of 35. Plan No. 12 Multi-Unit Housing. United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service. "Standard Plan for Employee Housing." Unpublished report. U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1957. Accessed online at <http://etic.nps.gov>.



Mount McKinley National Park Headquarters Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
Name of Property

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**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.





1 of 16. Residential Loop Road.



3 of 16. Residential Loop Road.



16 of 16. Boiler House Spur Road.



2 of 16. Boiler House Spur Road.





5 of 16. Building 26 (Single Residence).



7 of 16. Building 28 (Single Residence).



4 of 16. Building 22 (Office Building).



6 of 16. Building 27 (Single Residence).





9 of 16. Building 51 (Six-Plex Apartments).



11 of 16. Building 217 (Three-Stall Garage).







13 of 16. Building 99 (Backcountry Operations).



15 of 16. Residential Loop Road.



12 of 16. Building 53 (Six-Stall Garage).



14 of 16. Building 171 (Single Residence).









NO  
PARKING  
ANY  
TIME

















A small, dark window on the left side of the house.

A large window with multiple panes, located to the left of the deck.

9-544

A wooden deck with a railing, situated in front of the house.

A set of wooden stairs leading up to the deck.

A two-car garage with dark grey doors, located on the right side of the house.

28









NO  
PARKING  
ANY  
TIME

















THE DOWNUNDER

99

99





U.S. PARK RANGER

3813N

NO PARKING  
EXCEPT  
IN DESIGNATED AREAS











UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
 NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
 EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Boundary Update

Property Name: Mount McKinley National Park Headquarters District (Boundary Increase)

Multiple Name:

State & County: ALASKA, Yukon-Koyukuk

Date Received: 3/26/2018      Date of Pending List: 4/18/2018      Date of 16th Day: 5/3/2018      Date of 45th Day: 5/10/2018      Date of Weekly List:

Reference number: BC100002397

Nominator: State

Reason For Review:

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal<br><input type="checkbox"/> SHPO Request<br><input type="checkbox"/> Waiver<br><input type="checkbox"/> Resubmission<br><input type="checkbox"/> Other | <input type="checkbox"/> PDIL<br><input type="checkbox"/> Landscape<br><input type="checkbox"/> National<br><input type="checkbox"/> Mobile Resource<br><input type="checkbox"/> TCP<br><input type="checkbox"/> CLG | <input type="checkbox"/> Text/Data Issue<br><input type="checkbox"/> Photo<br><input type="checkbox"/> Map/Boundary<br><input type="checkbox"/> Period<br><input type="checkbox"/> Less than 50 years |
|--|--|---|

X Accept       Return       Reject      5/10/2018 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments: The Boundary Increase illustrates the continued development of the Mount McKinley National Park Headquarters District in the post war period, reflecting the expanded residential development of the area and important new infrastructure features designed to serve the increasing staff size of the park. The 1950s era Doty-designed residences and Mission 66-related buildings illustrate the common post-war property types and increasingly standardized modernist forms of the post-war build-out of the administrative area. The Boundary Increase and Additional Documentation revised the district's overall period of significance to 1926-1961, while adding Community Planning & Development to the already accepted Conservation, Recreation and Architecture areas of significance under Criteria A and C.

Recommendation/ Criteria: Accept Boundary Increase & Additional Documentation.

Reviewer Paul Lusignan      Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2229      Date 05/10/2018

DOCUMENTATION:      see attached comments : No      see attached SLR : **Yes**



## United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
Denali National Park and Preserve  
P. O. Box 9  
Denali Park, AK 99755

IN REPLY REFER TO:

H30 (DENA)

December 16, 2016

Ms. Judith Bittner  
State Historic Preservation Officer  
Department of Natural Resources  
Office of History and Archaeology  
550 W. 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 1310  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3565

RE: Mount McKinley National Park Historic District (Boundary Increase) National Register of Historic Places Nomination (Cultural Resource Report No. 2017-DENA-003)

Dear Ms. Bittner:

Denali National Park and Preserve would like to respectfully submit to you the enclosed National Register of Historic Places Registration Form for the Mount McKinley National Park Historic District (Boundary Increase). This nomination was prepared in accordance with Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended.

This Registration Form is a supplement to the nomination for the Mount McKinley National Park Headquarters Historic District (AHRS # HEA-00355, HEA-00147), a resource significant for its associations with early park development and NPS Rustic Architecture from 1926 to 1941 that was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on October 23, 1987. This document supports a District Boundary Increase that incorporates eligible mid-twentieth-century NPS Modern style resources by (1) extending the physical boundary of the District and (2) re-evaluating mid-twentieth-century resources previously determined as non-contributing in the 1987 nomination.

The Boundary Increase is eligible for listing at the state level under Criterion A, for its association with Mission 66 era park development and under Criterion C, for its excellent examples of NPS Modern architecture. Its period of significance extends from 1950, when one of the three residences in the district designed by notable NPS Architect, Cecil J. Doty was constructed to 1961, when the last Mission 66 era building (Building 54/Boiler House) was constructed in the district.

In accordance with 36 Code of Federal Regulations 60.9(c), we respectfully request your 45-day review and signature on page two of this form. Please return the nomination package to Kathleen Miller, Historian, Cultural Resources, National Park Service, Alaska Regional Office, 240 W. 5th Avenue, Anchorage, AK 99501. If you have any questions, please call Kathleen at (907) 644-3458.

Sincerely,



**Denice Swanke**  
Deputy Superintendent

**Enclosures:**

1. National Register Registration Form
2. Compact Disk with National Register Photographs

**CC:**

Phoebe Gilbert (DENA)  
Kathleen M. Miller (AKRO)



## **United States Department of the Interior**

**NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**

Denali National Park and Preserve

P. O. Box 9

Denali Park, AK 99755

**IN REPLY REFER TO:**

**H30 (DENA)**

**January 23, 2017**

**Mayor Clay Walker  
Denali Borough  
P.O. Box 480  
Healy, Alaska 99743**

**Subject: Mount McKinley National Park Historic District (Boundary Increase) National Register of Historic Places Nomination**

**Dear Mayor Walker,**

**In accordance with 36 Code of Federal Regulations 60.9(c), we are honored to provide you with the opportunity to comment, within 45 days, on the enclosed nomination to the National Register of Historic Places, the Mount McKinley National Park Historic District (Boundary Increase). The National Register of Historic Places is the official list of our Nation's historic places worthy of preservation.**

**The enclosed nomination is an update to the Mount McKinley National Park Headquarters Historic District (AHS # HEA-00355, HEA-00147), a resource that was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on October 23, 1987. The Park Headquarters District was evaluated as significant for its associations with early national park development and National Park Service (NPS) Rustic Architecture from 1926 to 1941. The updated nomination form incorporates significant mid-twentieth-century NPS Modern style resources by (1) extending the physical boundary of the District and (2) re-evaluating mid-twentieth-century resources previously determined as non-contributing in the 1987 nomination.**

**The Boundary Increase is eligible for listing in the National Register at the state level under Criterion A, for its association with Mission 66 era national park development and under Criterion C, for its excellent examples of NPS Modern architecture. Its period of significance extends from 1950, when one of the three residences in the district designed by notable NPS Architect, Cecil J. Doty was constructed, to 1961, when the last Mission 66 era building (Building 54/Boiler House) was constructed in the district.**

Any formal correspondence will be included in our official submission package to the Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places in Washington, D.C. Please submit comments to Kathleen Miller, Historian, Regional Cultural Resources (RCR), National Park Service, Alaska Regional Office, 240 W. 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Anchorage, AK 99501. If you have any questions, please contact Katie at [kathleen\\_miller@nps.gov](mailto:kathleen_miller@nps.gov) or (907) 644-3458.

Sincerely,



Denice Swanke  
Deputy Superintendent

Enclosures:

1. National Register Registration Form

CC:

Phoebe Gilbert (DENA)  
Kathleen M. Miller (AKRO)





THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

**Department of Natural Resources**

DIVISION OF PARKS & OUTDOOR RECREATION  
Office of History & Archaeology

550 West 7<sup>th</sup> Ave., Suite 1310  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3565  
907.269.8721  
<http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/oha>

May 15, 2017

Re: 3330-3 Mount McKinley National Park Headquarters Historic District (Boundary Increase) (AHRS Site No. HEA-00147)

Denice Swanke, Deputy Superintendent  
Denali National Park & Preserve  
P.O. Box 9  
Denali Park, Alaska 99755-0009

Dear Ms. Swanke:

Summer Louthan and I reviewed and discussed the National Register of Historic Places boundary increase documentation prepared for the Mount McKinley National Park Headquarters Historic District. As we understand it, the supplemental documentation expands the district boundaries, adds 11 contributing resources to the district listing, and documents 5 resources in the expanded boundaries that are considered non-contributing. We concur with the expansion of the historic district, and the determinations. Below are a few comments regarding the documentation.

In the original nomination Building 22 is identified as a contributing building. On pages 4 and 16 of the supplemental documentation, please clearly state that it is the 1 identified on page 3 as the previously listed resource, it is not one of the 8 buildings being added to the district, and provide more of an explanation of how at its new and current location it fits as a contributing building to the district. We noted the building was a central one in the early years of the district and now is on the perimeter.

The earlier nomination has a period of significance of 1926-1941. The summary information in the National Register online database states the period of significance is 1925-1949. The new documentation has a period of significance of 1950-1961. Is there some correspondence regarding the period of significance for the original nomination we are not aware of? If not, the new documentation needs some explanation addressing the 1941-1949 break in the period of significance period. We sent an inquiry to the Alaska reviewer at the National Register office and from his response, believe the district's period of significance should be 1926-1960 with no break.

Please complete the Previous documentation on file (NPS) section and add the Alaska Heritage Resources Survey Number HEA-00147 on page 41,

Attached is a paper copy of the registration form with additional comments in the margins. Most are easy to address: inconsistencies in milepost locations, different areas of significance identified, incomplete sentences, typos and the like. The organization building the Alaska Railroad was the Alaska Engineering Commission

Denice Swanke  
May 16, 2017  
Page 2

(AEC) (page 24). Because I prefer adding a "s" when just using the word building when several are in a series I marked them. There are a number places where the documentation follows my preference, so I didn't mark them. You might use a style manual that says without an "s", and what would be best is to be consistent!

We apologize for taking so long in our review. The documentation is detailed and thorough. Because the comments above are easy to address, I have signed the a page of the nomination so after considering these comments it can be forwarded to your Federal Preservation Officer for submitting to the Keeper of the National Register. Please copy us on your transmittal letter or memo and send us a copy of the final package for our files.

If you or the preparers have questions about these comments, please contact me at 907.269.8714 or [jo.antonson@alaska.gov](mailto:jo.antonson@alaska.gov).

Sincerely,



Joan M. Antonson  
State Historian / Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

Attachment

7500



# United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Denali National Park and Preserve

P. O. Box 9

Denali Park, AK 99755



IN REPLY REFER TO: H30

December 12, 2017

Ms. Joy Beasley  
Federal Preservation Officer  
National Park Service  
National Register of Historic Places  
1849 C Street, NW, Mail Stop 7228  
Washington, DC 20240

RE: Mount McKinley National Park Headquarters Historic District (Boundary Increase) National Register of Historic Places Nomination

Dear Ms. Beasley,

In accordance with 36 Code of Federal Regulations 60.9(d), we respectfully submit the Mount McKinley National Park Headquarters Historic District (Boundary Increase) nomination for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Included in the submission package is a hard copy of the nomination, copies of the notification letters sent to the Alaska State Historic Preservation Office and local officials, and an archival grade disc that contains a digital copy of the nomination and digital photographs in TIFF format. Please contact Phoebe Gilbert at (907) 683-9540 or [phoebe\\_gilbert@nps.gov](mailto:phoebe_gilbert@nps.gov) with any questions about this nomination.

Sincerely,

Denice Swanke  
Deputy Superintendent

Enclosures:

1. National Register nomination
2. Compact Disc with National Register nomination and photographs
3. Copies of notification letters to SHPO and local officials

CC:

Phoebe Gilbert (DENA)  
Kathleen Wackrow (AKRO)





IN REPLY REFER TO:

# United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20240



**MAR 15 2018**

H32(2280)

## Memorandum

To: Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places *Jay Selby*

From: Acting Associate Director, Cultural Resources, Partnerships, and Science,  
and NPS Federal Preservation Officer

Subject: National Register Additional Documentation for Mount McKinley  
National Park Headquarters Historic District, Denali National Park, Denali  
Borough, AK

I am forwarding the National Register Additional Documentation for the Mount McKinley National Park Headquarters Historic District in Denali National Park. The Park History Program has reviewed the nomination and found it eligible under Criteria A and C, with Areas of Significance of Community Planning and Development and Architecture.

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and chief local elected official(s) were sent the documentation on December 16, 2016. Within 45 days, the SHPO  supported  supported with comments  did not respond. However, the SHPO concurred with the nomination on May 15, 2017. Any comments received are included with the documentation.

If you have any questions, please contact Kelly Spradley-Kurowski at 202-354-2266 or [kelly\\_spradley-kurowski@nps.gov](mailto:kelly_spradley-kurowski@nps.gov).