

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

1. Name of Property

historic name Bly, The Dr. Elmer, House

other names/site number Bly House, The Point, AHR Site No. XLC-00160

2. Location

street & number N/A

city or town Port Alsworth

state Alaska code AK

county Lake and Peninsula code 164

zip code 99653

not for publication N/A

vicinity N/A

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation 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 ___ nationally ___ statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Joe Wallis 3/2/06
Signature of certifying official Date

National Park Service

State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Quadrine Bittner 9-2-05
Signature of commenting or other official Date

Alaska State Historic Preservation Officer

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
___ See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the
National Register
___ See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the
National Register
- removed from the National Register

Edson H. Beall 4.12.06

___ other (explain): _____

Jan

Signature of Keeper

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

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	_____ buildings
_____	_____ sites
_____	_____ structures
_____	_____ objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Domestic Sub: Single dwelling
Commerce/trade Professional

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Domestic Sub: Institutional housing

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

No style

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Wood
roof Metal
walls Log
other _____

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

The Dr. Elmer Bly House is a 23' by 37' one-and-a-half story log building on the shore adjacent to the protected waters of Hardenburg Bay in Lake Clark. The house sits on a short point of land extending into the bay. It is part of the community of Port Alsworth within the Lake and Peninsula Borough in southwestern Alaska, about 140 miles northeast of King Salmon and 150 miles southwest of Anchorage. The house faces southwest and is shaded by white spruce and white birch trees. The waters of Hardenburg Bay surround it on three sides, and its land side faces Tanalian Mountain to the east. The screened-in porch/arctic entry on the front of the house measures 10' by 13' and is within 20 feet of the high water mark of the bay. A north facing cellar entrance, about 8' by 8', is within 18 feet of the high water mark of the bay.

The Bly House is now part of a National Park Service compound that contains a floatplane base with a dock and fueling station, a small boat dock, boats, and permanent and seasonal wall tents used for housing. A small wooden framed fire cache is about 50 feet south of the Bly House. The docks, fuel tanks, housing, wall tents, and storage sheds are located immediately to the east and north of the Bly House. The closest feature is a sewage lift station pump house that is seven feet from the east wall of the Bly House. These NPS support facilities are not historic and do not contribute to the historic context of the Bly House.

About 1947 or 1948 Babe Alsworth encouraged Doc Bly to file on a small point of land east across Hardenburg Bay from the Alsworth homestead. According to a long-time resident, Alsworth wanted Bly to file on the property to prevent a potential rival air taxi operator from filing on the point. Bly moved his Dillingham dental office to Lake Clark. The Bly House was built between 1947 and 1951. Norm Stadem of Levelock stated he received dental care from Doc Bly in the house in 1947. Babe Alsworth's son John stated the Bly House took several years to complete.

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.) N/A

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

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Exploration / Settlement

Period of Significance 1947-1954

Significant Dates 1947

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation Euroamerican

Architect/Builder Bly, Elmer; Thompson, Joe

9. Major Bibliographical References

BOOKS AND PERIODICALS

Branson, John B., BRISTOL BAY, ALASKA FROM HINTERLANDS TO TIDEWATER: A GRASSROOTS PICTORIAL 1885-1965, National Park Service, Anchorage, 1998.

CHELAN VALLEY MIRROR, "Dr. E.L. Bly died Thursday in Chelan," October 6, 1966, p.8.

Denison, Floyd, interview with Sara Hornberger, 9-26-84.

Eliot, Charles W., JOHN GILLEY of BAKER'S ISLAND, Eastern National Park and Monument Association in cooperation with Acadia National Park, National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior.

Hirschmann, Fred, editor, LAKE CLARK-LAKE ILIAMNA COUNTRY, The Alaska Geographic Society, Anchorage, 1986.

Hoagland, Alison K., A SURVEY OF THE HISTORIC ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCES IN LAKE CLARK NATIONAL PARK AND PRESERVE, National Park Service, Historic American Buildings Survey, Anchorage, 1982.

Hornberger, Sara, "Overview of Historic Contact In The Lake Clark Study Area," in LAKE CLARK SOCIOCULTURAL STUDY: PHASE I, 1986, Linda J. Ellanna, editor, Lake Clark National Park and Preserve, Anchorage, 1986.

Osgood, Wilfred H., "Lake Clark, A Little Known Alaskan Lake," NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC MAGAZINE, XV (August 1904), pp. 327-331.

Vandenbergh, Lydia and Earle G. Shettleworth, REVISITING SEAL HARBOR AND ACADIA NATIONAL PARK, Arcadia Publishing, Dover, New Hampshire, 1997.

INTERVIEWS AND DOCUMENTS

Glen Alsworth, interview, 3-7-03.

John Alsworth, interview, 3-7-03.

Mary Alsworth, interview, 1974-1993.

Andrew Balluta, interview, 6-27-02.

Craig Coray, interview, 2-25-03.

Margaret Clum, interview, March 2003.

Paul Haertel, interview, 2003.

Bella Hammond, interview, 3-15-03.

Oren Hudson, interview, 2002.

Martin Johnson, interview, 7-23-94.

Jonah E. Kackley, probated will, 8-10-55, Alaska State Archives, Juneau

Carolyn Bly Matti, interview, 9-22-02.

Frank Moore, interviews, 1982 to present.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section _____ The Dr. Elmer Bly House
name of property
Lake and Peninsula, Alaska
county and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 3.94

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

	Zone Easting	Northing	Zone Easting	Northing
1	<u>05 0427734</u>	<u>6674786</u>	3	_____
2	_____	_____	4	_____

____ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

The Elmer Bly House is located in the NE ¼ of the NW ¼ of the SW ¼ of Section 3, Township 1N, Range 21W, Seward Peninsula.

Boundary Justification

The boundary encompasses the house on Hardenburg Bay historically associated with Dr. Elmer Bly. Associated buildings and structures, including the outhouse, generator shed, dock, and stairs between the dock and house no longer stand.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title John B. Branson, Historian

organization Lake Clark National Park and Preserve date 9-01-2005

street & number One Park Place telephone 907-781-2111

city or town Port Alsworth state AK zip code 99653

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 The Dr. Elmer Bly House
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Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

SIGNIFICANCE

The Elmer Bly House is one of the two oldest occupied buildings remaining at Port Alsworth, and the only house retaining its historic integrity. The house, built between 1947 and 1951, reflects early Euroamerican settlement in the remote Lake Clark area. Doc Bly's house began the "rusticator" settlement pattern at Lake Clark. Doc Bly, by profession a dentist, built a second home at Lake Clark and opened a dental office there. He intended to spend at least summers at Lake Clark, working as a dentist and pursuing his hunting and fishing interests. His house is in the log building tradition at Lake Clark that started in the early twentieth century and is characterized by use of logs without corner notching. The period of significance starts when Doc Bly came to Lake Clark and ends in 1954 when he left Alaska.

HISTORIC BACKGROUND

Elmer Bly was born in Iowa in 1886. He married May Elizabeth "Maize" Shabot (1892-1968) in 1916 and graduated from Marquette University School of Dentistry about 1920. Bly conducted a dental practice around Stanley and Ladysmith, Wisconsin before moving to Alaska in the early 1940s to work on the Alcan Highway. Later in the 1940s and early 1950s he practiced dentistry in Cordova, Dillingham, Anchorage, and Port Alsworth. Babe Alsworth met Doc Bly in Dillingham in the mid-1940s and brought him to Lake Clark. By the late 1940s Doc Bly had his "shingle" up on one of the Alsworth's first buildings at what would become known as Port Alsworth. According to the doctor's daughter, Carolyn Bly Matti, Doc Bly encouraged the Alsworths to name their new post office site Port Alsworth, which was done in 1951. Babe Alsworth aided Bly, flying patients from surrounding Native villages to Lake Clark where Doc Bly would treat them. Among his patients still living are Norm Stadem from Levelock, Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Drew from Iliamna, and Craig Coray from Lake Clark, presently all living in Anchorage, and Bella Hammond of Lake Clark. Doc Bly and his wife maintained their permanent home in Anchorage and he had a dental office there.

The style of the Bly House is associated with the kind adopted by the first permanent Euroamerican settlers, Doc Dutton and Joe Kackley, at Tanalian Point, now Port Alsworth. The original one-and-a-half story Dutton-Kackley House was built sometime between 1912 and 1921. Dutton and Kackley's houses were of logs apparently two-sided and possibly three-sided that were hewn or whipsawed or a combination of both techniques. The logs were spiked into vertical planks at the corners. During the winter of 1938-1939 the first Dutton-Kackley House burned. Its replacement, built during the summer of 1939, was the same style but the logs were milled on three-sides using Charlie Denison's nearby steam powered sawmill. Like the second Dutton-Kackley House, the Bly House is built with milled three-sided logs. The Bly logs were milled on Babe Alsworth's sawmill, the third area sawmill. Unlike the Dutton-Kackley houses, the Bly House corners were held together by spikes driven into each round of logs. Still, the Bly House continued the local Lake Clark building tradition of using logs without corner notching as the primary

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Ann Bly Ringstad, letter, 2-27-03.
Jack Ross, interview, 3-12-03.
Norm Stadem, interview, 10-02.
Allen Woodward, interviews, 1976 to present.
Claire Woodward, interviews, 1975-1983.
Earl Woodward, interviews, 1975-1983.

Previous documentation on file (NPS) N/A
 preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
 previously listed in the National Register
 previously determined eligible by the National Register
 designated a National Historic Landmark
 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data
 State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other

Name of repository: Bureau of Land Management, Anchorage, Alaska

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Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Lake Clark National Park and Preserve

street & number One Park Place telephone 907-781-2218

city or town Port Alsworth state Alaska zip code 99653

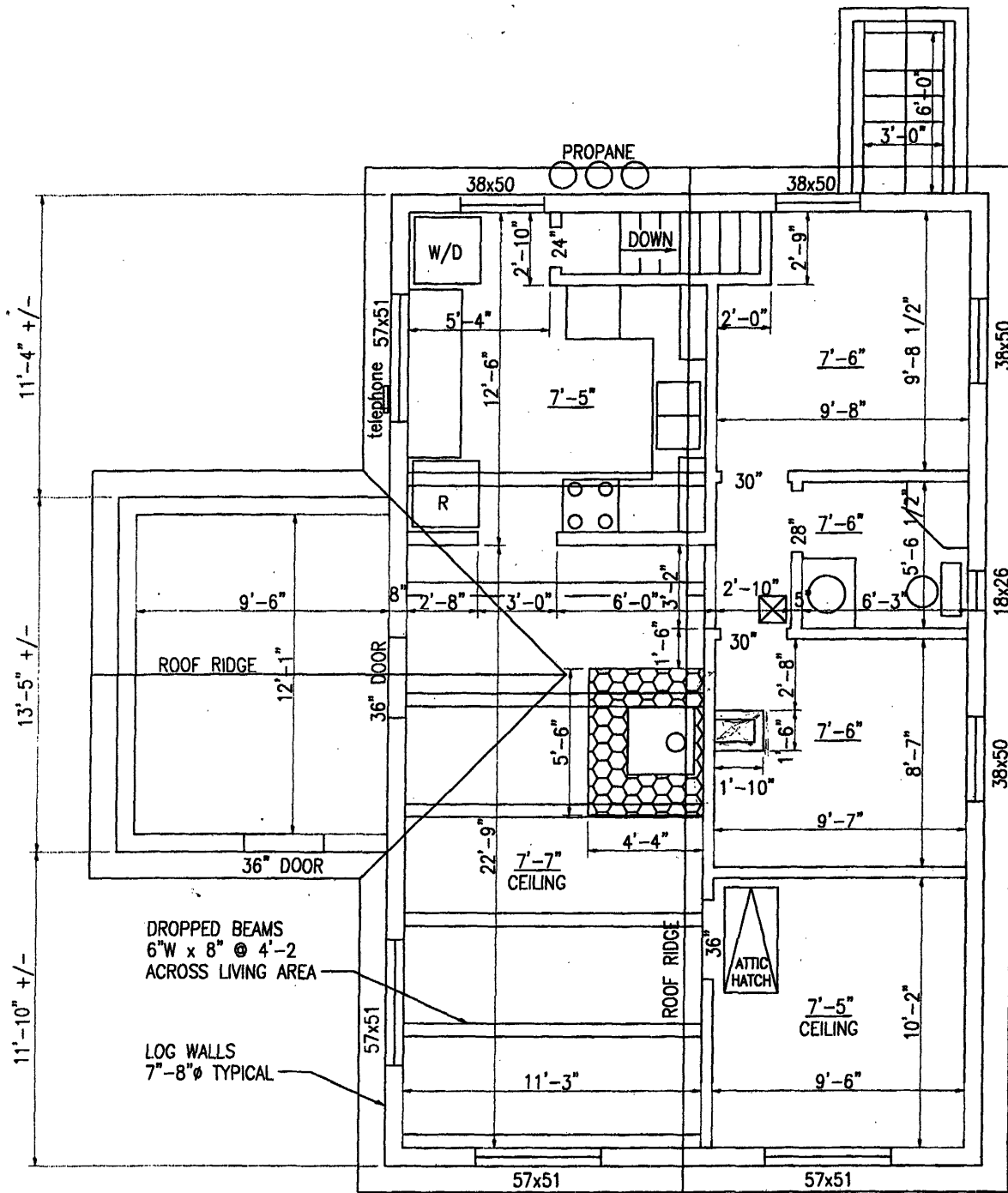
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Photographs

Photo #	Property Name	Location	Photographer	Photo Date	Negative Location	Description
1	Elmer Bly House	Port Alsworth, AK	Ann Bly Ringstad	Late 1940s	LAKA Study Ctr. H-1946	View of house from Lake Clark
2	Elmer Bly House	Port Alsworth, AK	Ann Bly Ringstad	Late 1940s	LAKA Study Ctr. H-1944	View of house with float plane & beach
3	Elmer Bly House	Port Alsworth, AK	unknown	Late 1940s	LAKA Study Ctr.	View of house with float plane
4	Elmer Bly House	Port Alsworth, AK	Ann Bly Ringstad	Late 1940s	LAKA Study Ctr. H-1943	Front view of house
5	Elmer Bly House	Port Alsworth, AK	unknown	Late 1940s	LAKA Study Ctr.	Front view of house (dark)
6	Elmer Bly House	Port Alsworth, AK	J. Tobey	July 2001	LAKA Study Ctr. LACL01:3:1:5	Front view of house
7	Elmer Bly House	Port Alsworth, AK	J. Tobey	July 2001	LAKA Study Ctr. LACL01:3:1:6	Front view of house



BLY HOUSE MAIN FLOOR

XLC-0160



SCALE:
1/4" = 1'-0"
DRAWN BY:
C. SMITH
4/6/99

LAKE CLARK NATIONAL PARK
HEADQUARTERS - AS BUILT
PORT ALSWORTH, ALASKA

The Dr. Elmer Bly House Photographic Log

The following information applies to all the enclosed photographs. John B. Branson took the house images in September 2005. The negatives are archived at the Lake Clark-Katmai Studies Center, 4230 University Drive, Suite 311, Anchorage, Alaska 99508.

1. View east to Dr. Bly House and front porch, Roll I 32A.
2. View east to Dr. Bly House and front porch, Roll I 30A.
3. View east to Dr. Bly House and front porch, Roll I 21A.
4. View southeast to Dr. Bly House front porch, Roll I 23A.
5. View east to close-up of Dr. Bly House porch and wall, Roll I 4A.
6. View east to corner of Dr. Bly House and entrance to cellar, Roll I 22A.
7. View southeast to Dr. Bly House wall and entrance to cellar, Roll I 7A.
8. View southeast to entrance to Dr. Bly House cellar, Roll I 24A.
9. View south to Dr. Bly House wall and roof of cellar entrance, Roll I 25 A.
8. View west to Dr. Bly House wall, Roll I 35A.
9. View west to Dr. Bly House corner, Roll I 12A.
10. View west to Dr. Bly House wall, Roll I 11A.
11. View northwest to Dr. Bly House wall, Roll I 13A.
12. View north to Dr. Bly House wall and main entrance, RollII 14A.
13. View northwest to Dr. Bly House porch and entrance, Roll I 15A.
14. View northwest to Dr. Bly House porch and entrance, Roll I 17A.