

56-1695



NPS Form 10-900
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

OMB No. 1024-0018

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: Old Willow Community Center
Other names/site number: Alaska Heritage Resources Survey No. TYO-00361
Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

2. Location

Street & number: West Willow Community Center Circle
City or town: Willow State: AK County: Matanuska-Susitna
Not for publication: Vicinity: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 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 at the following
level(s) of significance:

___ national ___ statewide X local
Applicable National Register Criteria:
X A ___ B ___ C ___ D

<u>Joan M. Antosca, Deputy SHPO</u>	<u>18 August 2017</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
<u>Alaska</u>	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.	
Signature of commenting official:	Date
Title:	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

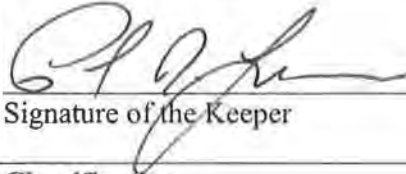
Old Willow Community Center
Name of Property

Matanuska-Susitna, Alaska
County and State

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

10/5/2017
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>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Social: meeting hall

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Social: meeting hall

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Other: log

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property:

Walls: wood, log

Roof: metal, aluminum

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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.)

Summary Paragraph

The Old Willow Community Center is located on West Willow Community Center Circle, west of the George Parks Highway, at mile 69.7 from Anchorage. The building faces the highway, and behind it is Willow Lake. The building stood several hundred feet north, where the new community center and library now stand, from the time it was completed in 1961 until 1992. The design of the 60' x 40' D-Log front gable building has stayed the same. The interior is one large room with an 8' deep stage along the west end. Repairs to the building have used materials similar to the original ones. The building retains its historic integrity of design, workmanship, materials, setting, feeling, and association. Other than the move and placement on a concrete foundation, the building has not been significantly changed. It remains on the Willow Lake shoreline and still fronts on the road and is approached as it was historically.

Narrative Description

The Old Willow Community Center stands a short distance south of the new community center and library, on the west side of the George Parks Highway at milepost 69.7. It faces the highway and behind it is Willow Lake. Construction began in 1959 and was finished in 1961. The building served Willow area residents as their community center until 1992 when it was moved several hundred feet south to make way for a new building. It continues to be used for community gatherings and general public purposes.

The building is rectangular, 60' x 40', and constructed of local rough sawn spruce lumber and six-inch three sided logs. It has a front gable corrugated aluminum roof. A metal stovepipe chimney is in the southwest corner. The gable ends are wood shingled. There are small attic access doors in both gable ends. Originally, the building was on a log pole foundation. When it was moved it was placed on a concrete block foundation and sited a quarter degree turn from its original orientation.

The primary façade has centered paired plywood doors flanked by a window on each side. Historic photos and demarcations on the logs indicate there used to be a covered porch on the front. Today there is an ADA compliant ramp on one side and small set of stairs on the other side leading to a small landing to enter the building. The two front windows were originally three light (horizontal) fixed wood windows. Today, all the windows are single pane, with false muntins on the interior of the windows that mimic the original horizontal three pane windows.

The north side of the building has four windows. Plywood covers two openings that once led to separate kitchen and bathroom buildings, added at some point after the initial construction.

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These two buildings no longer stand. Inside, the openings have been covered in sheet rock. There is no fenestration on the rear of the building. Two vertical logs divide the back wall into thirds. It is not clear if these logs are original or were added for structural support at the time of the move. The south wall has two small windows near the front of the building, then two larger windows immediately next to each other, a set of paired doors, then a single large window.

A small entry inside leads to the main room. To the south of entry is a glass display case, and to the north side is a small bar area. The floors and ceiling are plywood. The room has florescent lights. The interior walls are wood paneled. At the west end is an 8' deep stage, temporarily walled off and used for storage.

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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.)

Social history

Period of Significance

1961-1992

Significant Dates

1961, 1992

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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.)

The building of a community center is a pivotal undertaking for a new community. Although Willow started as a railroad stop in the 1920s, a community only developed after World War II when the area attracted people interested in homesteading. In the late 1950s the residents organized an association to obtain funding for a building where they could meet and gather socially. The building was completed in 1961 and served as the community center for thirty years. When plans were made to replace the building, residents banded together in 1992 to save it and continue to use it for community activities. Although much of the building's period of significance is less than fifty years ago, the building dates to the first years of the Willow community.

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

Prospectors found gold in Willow Creek in 1897. Over the next several decades, miners and freighters established and used trails from the town of Knik at the head of Cook Inlet that went along Willow Creek, crossed two other creeks, and went to the lode gold mines in the Hatcher Pass area to the east. Willow is 26 miles northeast of Knik and over the years several freighters built small cabins along the creek. The Alaska Railroad built the small Willow Station in 1920. A community did not grow around the station as ones did around Wasilla to the south and

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Talkeetna to the north. In 1940 the census reported 13 people lived in area. During World War II, the military built a radar warning station and airfield near the station.

After the war, the federal government opened the area for homesteading with generous preference provisions for veterans. In 1947 Trail's End Lodge, the first commercial venture in the area, opened near the railroad station and the next year the Willow post office. Work on the road that is now the George Parks Highway encouraged people to settle and to explore the area. Seventy miles from Anchorage, city residents started to come to hike and camp, and fish and canoe in area lakes and streams in the 1950s. The new State of Alaska and Matanuska-Susitna Borough selected land in the area in the 1960s and over the next few decades sold some to Alaskans. A number of people built homes and others built recreational cabins on the lots they obtained. The permanent population of the Willow "census designated place" grew slowly. In 1960 the Census Borough reported 78 people in the area. The permanent residents wanted a place to meet and socialize, and the railroad station was too small. In 1959 they created the Willow Area Community Organization to secure a federal grant of \$8,000 for a community center. The residents matched the grant with \$10,000 in services and donations. The one-room log community building was completed in 1961 and that year the first Willow Winter Carnival was held.

Governor Bill Egan dedicated the building in 1962, and the Matanuska-Susitna Borough recognized it as the Willow Historic Museum and Tourist Center in 1968, noting it was one of the "permanent commemorative parks, museum, and recreational facilities as lasting commemorations of the Alaska purchase and its centennial, 1867-1967."

In 1976 Alaskans voted for Willow to be their new state capital site, but six years later killed the idea. Today the community is still unincorporated. The 2010 census reported 2,102 people living in the area. The permanent residents lived in about half of the approximately 1,200 buildings counted in the area. Willow continues to be a popular recreation area for southcentral Alaska residents.

In the early 1990s plans were made for a new community center and a library on the site of the original center. A group of residents took action and petitioned to save the old building and use it for public events. It was moved a short distance south of its original site in 1992 and placed on a concrete foundation. It continues to be used for events including the annual Iditarod Sled Dog Race restart and houses the beginnings of a museum with several wildlife mounts. The Willow Area Community Organization deeded the building to the Willow Historical and Wildlife Museum in 2006, and it sits on Matanuska-Susitna Borough land. The building is locally significant as the first community building for the Willow area.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Bureau of Land Management, Alaska. *History of Alaska Homesteading: The Last Chapter in America's Homestead Experience, 1898-1988.*

Huston, Jim. Personal correspondence. June 2016.

Willow Area Community Organization (WACO): <http://www.waco-ak.org/about.php>

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 # _____

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: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): Alaska Heritage Resources Survey
(AHRs) Site No. TYO-00361

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10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property 0.06 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 61.744324 | Longitude: -150.052050 |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

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

The property is a rectangular parcel measuring 60' x 40', whose northeast corner is 260 feet directly southwest of the end of Willow Community Circle Drive and whose southwest corner is 210 feet directly southeast of the access to Willow Lake, as shown on the attached site plan.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary is the footprint of the building.

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11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Caitlan Dowling, Research Assistant
organization: Alaska Office of History and Archaeology, Department of Natural Resources
street & number: 550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1310
city or town: Anchorage state: AK zip code: 99501-3565
e-mail caitlan.dowling@alaska.gov
telephone: 907.269.8721
date: June 30, 2017

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.)

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.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Old Willow Community Center

City or Vicinity: Willow

County: Matanuska-Susitna

State: Alaska

Photographer: Summer Louthan

Date Photographed: Photos 1-3: June 21, 2017; Photos 4-5: June 2, 2016

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Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

AK_Matanuska-Susitna_Old Willow Community Center_0001, Front façade, camera facing west

AK_Matanuska-Susitna_Old Willow Community Center_0002, Front and north façades, camera facing southwest

AK_Matanuska-Susitna_Old Willow Community Center_0003, West and south façades, camera facing northeast

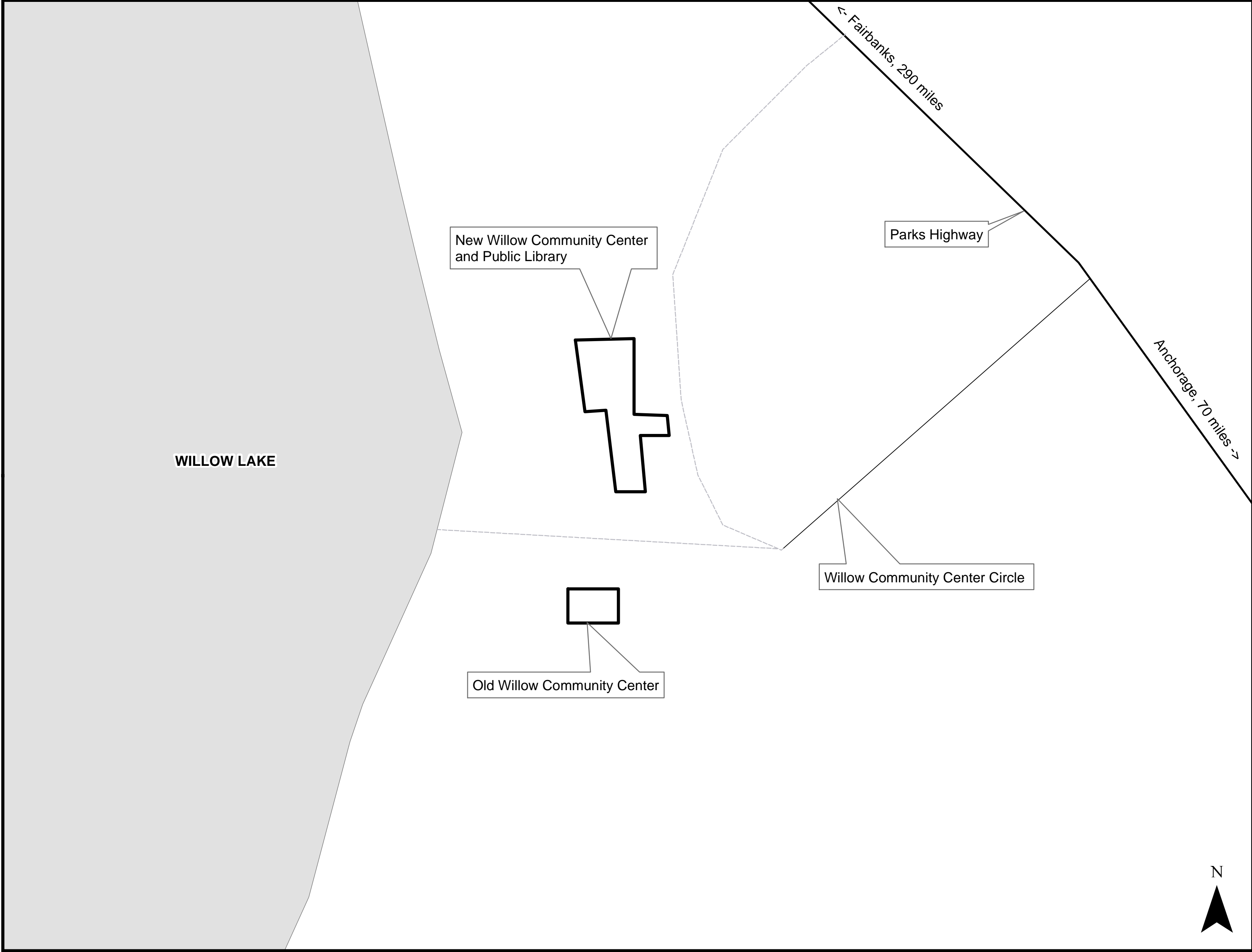
AK_Matanuska-Susitna_Old Willow Community Center_0004, Interior, camera facing east

AK_Matanuska-Susitna_Old Willow Community Center_0005, date unknown, Front façade.

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.

Old Willow Community Center Matanuska-Susitna Borough, Alaska Site Plan



AHRS #: TYO-00361 **Site Name:** Old Willow Community Center?

Site Description

The Old Willow Community Center is a log building, dedicated in 1962 to serve as a community center for the community of Willow Alaska. Built along the shore of Willow Lake, the building was moved to within sight of its original location around 1992 to construct the current Willow Community Center and Willow Library.

Location Description:

The Willow Community Center is at mile post 69.7 on the Parks Highway. The official address is West Willow Community Center Circle. Driving north on the Parks, the complex containing the Old Willow Community Center, new Willow Community Center and the Willow Library can be seen from the road on the shore of Willow Lake.

Latitude:	Longitude:	Geospatial Shape:	Resource Nature:
61.744324	-150.052050	Point	Building

USGS quad:

Tyonek C-1

MTRS:

S019N004W08

Period:

Historic

Pertinent Dates:

1962, 1968, 1992

Significance Statement: (for DOE or NRHP)

Present Condition:

Normal state of weathering, undisturbed by vandalism, construction or abnormal weathering such as flooding or earthquakes (A)

Cultural Affiliation:

Property Owner:

Acres:

.06

BIA/BLM #::

Other # (Specify):

Repository:

Accession #:

Danger of Destruction:

Comments or Additional Information

Prepared By: Caitlan Dowling

Date Prepared: June 20, 2016



WILLOW HISTORICAL AND WILDLIFE MUSEUM

WILLOW
WILLOW HISTORICAL
AND
WILDLIFE FOUNDATION
MUSEUM



WILLOW HISTORICAL and WILDLIFE MUSEUM

WILLOW
HISTORICAL
and
WILDLIFE FOUNDATION
MUSEUM







National Register of Historic Places
Memo to File

Correspondence

The Correspondence consists of communications from (and possibly to) the nominating authority, notes from the staff of the National Register of Historic Places, and/or other material the National Register of Historic Places received associated with the property.

Correspondence may also include information from other sources, drafts of the nomination, letters of support or objection, memorandums, and ephemera which document the efforts to recognize the property.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Nomination

Property Name: Old Willow Community Center

Multiple Name: _____

State & County: ALASKA, Matanuska-Susitna

Date Received:
8/21/2017

Date of Pending List:
9/19/2017

Date of 16th Day:
10/4/2017

Date of 45th Day:
10/5/2017

Date of Weekly List: _____

Reference number: SG100001695

Nominator: State

Reason For Review:

Appeal

SHPO Request

Waiver

Resubmission

Other

PDIL

Landscape

National

Mobile Resource

TCP

CLG

Text/Data Issue

Photo

Map/Boundary

Period

Less than 50 years

Accept

Return

Reject

10/5/2017 Date

Abstract/Summary
Comments:

The Old Willow Community Center is locally significant under National Register Criterion A in the area of Social History. Constructed in 1961, the one-story, rustic log building served as the community's main center of communal social and cultural activity until 1992 when it was replaced by more modern civic facilities. Within the small isolated community of Willow (1960 census-78 people) the Community Center was one of the first public buildings to be erected and it functioned as the main locus for social events for the dispersed local residents. Given the unique nature of rural Alaska's post-World War II development, and the limited availability of public infrastructure development and construction in many communities, the completion and use of this community center meets the exceptional threshold test for Criteria Consideration G. The building's relocation in 1992, only a very short distance and still along the shore of Willow Lake in the same approximate location at the commercial/civic heart of the community, retains sufficient integrity of overall setting, orientation and general location to meet Criteria Consideration B.

Recommendation/
Criteria

Accept - NR Criterion A.

Reviewer Paul Lusignan

Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2229

Date 10/05/2017

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

**ALASKA HISTORICAL COMMISSION
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
VOTING RECORD**

Date: July 17, 2017

It is moved that the Old Willow Community Center **qualifies** for the National Register of Historic Places under criterion/criteria A; criteria considerations B, G; level of significance local. The period of significance is 1961-1992 and the area of significance is social history. The property is associated with Alaska Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan theme/themes intellectual and social institutions.

Moved by: Wayne Jensen Seconded by: Michael Hawfield

Vote on motion:

IN FAVOR	OPPOSED	ABSTAIN	RESULT
Colberg		Bittner	Passed 7-0-1
Drabek			
Hawfield			Rejected
Jensen			
Poulson			Tabled
Ross			
Veltre			

If tabled or rejected, reasons or instructions on how to proceed:

Other comments:

Antonson, Joan (DNR)

From: Deborah Burlinski <debburlin@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 21, 2017 1:46 PM
To: Antonson, Joan (DNR)
Subject: Re: Mat Su Hist Pres Commission
Attachments: img20170621_13451213.pdf

Joan-attached is a copy of the minutes from the October, 2016 meeting. Let me know if there is anything else you need for the meeting.

Deborah Burlinski
Chair-Matsu Borough HPC

On Mon, Jun 19, 2017 at 11:36 AM, Deborah Burlinski <debburlin@gmail.com> wrote:
Joan-I will get them to you as soon as I have a break from meetings.

Deborah Burlinski

On Thu, Jun 15, 2017 at 9:46 AM, Antonson, Joan (DNR) <jo.antonson@alaska.gov> wrote:

Hi Deborah:

Will you please send me the minutes from the October 2016 meeting or a letter telling me the Historic Preservation Commission found the Old Willow Community Center eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places? If possible I would like to have them early next week. The property will be reconsidered by the state review board, the Alaska Historical Commission, on July 17, 2017.

Thanks.

Jo Antonson



**Matanuska-Susitna Borough
Historical Preservation Commission
Agenda Minuts
(10/18/16)**
**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
HISTORICAL PRESERVATION COMMISSION
AGENDA MINUTES
(10/18/16)**

REGULAR MEETING
Sutton Public Library, Conference Room

10/20/16
Thursday, 6:30 p.m.

In attendance: Karen Blossom, Deborah Burlinski, Mark Murray, Kenneth Ray, Lisa Schwarzburg

- I. **CALL TO ORDER-** meeting called to order by Deborah Burlinski at 6:34 p.m.
- II. **ROLL CALL/DETERMINATION OF QUORUM.** Quorum Determined.
- III. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA-** proposed by Deborah Burlinski and seconded by Mark Murray. Veterans Wall of Honor added to old business.
- IV. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES-** no minutes from the previous meeting were available. Therefore the minutes were not approved.
- V. **PERSONS TO BE HEARD-** member of the audience addressed the commission to inform us that the HPC Borough website has not been updated and does not include minutes from the last meeting or Agenda.
- VI. **CORRESPONDENCE-** email- State Historic Preservation Commission

VII. REPORTS

A. SOCIETY/GROUP REPORTS

1. **Chairperson's Report**
2. **Wasilla/Knik Historical Society-** Knik Historical Society. The summer picnic went well. Mark Murray resigned from his position as Vice President of Knik Historical Society. Not aware of future events.
3. **Tribal Cultural Reports-Knik-Chickaloon** - Angeia Wade, Chickaloon Village Cultural Tourism Manager discussed that they are working on incorporating education into the museum, and archiving documents and photos. They are bringing a tourism aspect, and Alpine is helping. The new Moose Creek Campground is complete. They are writing curriculum and working with Adelphi University at archeological sites. No new events, but they do have a facebook page

4. **Willow/Talkeetna Historical Society** – they would like to be separated on Agenda into two categories: Willow and the Talkeetna Historical Society.

5. **Palmer Historical Society** No Report

6. **Dorothy Page Museum** No Report

7. **Alpine Historical Society**-gave a brief history of the area in regards to coal as the initial focus, and are investigating other aspects of history: development of the Glen Hill Hwy that covered the train tracks, and pre-coal history. The Athabaskan focus has been minimal. Discussed the history from Jim Hitchcock and the Caribou Creek showers. Displays and workshops will begin soon, and hopefully to include the Athabaskan culture. Also displayed was a quilt from 93-year-old Anchorage resident as a gift to the Society. It was crafted by the Women's Guild Log Church in 1948-1949, and was complete in 1950, and auctioned in 1951. The quilt contains the names, family names, including dogs, of all the families of Sutton during that time period.

8. **Palmer Museum and Visitor's Center** No Report

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

I. **A. Sutton Community Hall**-Bobby Mason is in the hospital and unable to attend the meeting to give report.

B. Response to Proposed Changes To MSB 4.46-Historic Preservation Commission

Discussion included changes to other boards in the MSB: Transportation Advisory Board and the Aviation Advisory Board. There is a current Borough Ordinance proposing a change and it does not meet the guidelines to allow us to be a Certified Local Government (CLG). There is currently a public hearing scheduled in December at the borough to discuss these changes.

Deborah Burlinski proposed that we table this discussion and draft a response to the borough in response to changes on MSB 4.46. Motion was seconded by Mark Murray.

C. Talkeetna structure permit issue

Discussion on the historical character of the city and it's potential label as a historic district. Kenneth Ray brought to our attention that many of the recommendations have not been given to the assembly.

IX. Old Business

II. **A. Cottonwood Creek Grant**

A presentation of the findings from Joanna Wells, in the UAA Master's Program was given detailing the Cottonwood Creek site report, discoveries, and conclusions.

B. Willow Community Center

Presentation by Herman Spiegel and Jim Houston. The Willow log building was built by homesteaders and went through maintenance in 2006 which made it usable again. Currently the borough would like to take possession of the building as it sits on borough land.

Motion was made by Kenneth Ray to draft letter in support of the Willow Community Center to be listed on the National Register. Motion was seconded by Mark Murray. Unanimous agreement.

B. Willow Community Center

Presentation by Herman Spiegel and Jim Houston. The Willow log building was built by homesteaders, and went through maintenance in 2006 which made it usable again. Currently the borough would like to take possession of the building, as it sits on borough land.

Motion was made by Kenneth Ray to draft letter in support of the Willow Community Center to be listed on the National Registry. Motion was seconded by Mark Murray. Unanimous agreement.

X. Other Business

Veterans Wall of Honor, located in front of the hospital
Motion by Kenneth Ray to table discussion of this as a borough landmark at next meeting. Motion seconded by Debbie Burlinski

A. Dates and Locations for Future Meetings

Motion to set future meetings presented by Deborah Burlinski, seconded by Mark Murray.
Monday, November 14th at Palmer Museum at 6:30 pm
January 26, 2017 at 6:30 at the Borough Building
April 20th in Falkeetna
July 27th in Knik
October 29th in Willow
Unanimous support.

B. Kenneth Ray verbally presented his resignation from the commission. He then thanked our President, other members, and our guest speaker before leaving the room.

XII. Adjournment

Motion presented by Deborah Burlinski and seconded by Lisa Schwarzburg



MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

Office of the Borough Manager

350 East Dahlia Avenue • Palmer, AK 99645

Phone (907) 861-8689 • Fax (907) 861-8669

John.Moosey@matsugov.us

June 22, 2017

Judith E. Bittner
State Historic Preservation Officer
Office of History & Archaeology
Alaska Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation
550 W. 7th Avenue, Suite 1310
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

RECEIVED

JUN 23 2017

OHA

Re: 3330-1-1 Old Willow Community Center

Dear Officer Bittner:

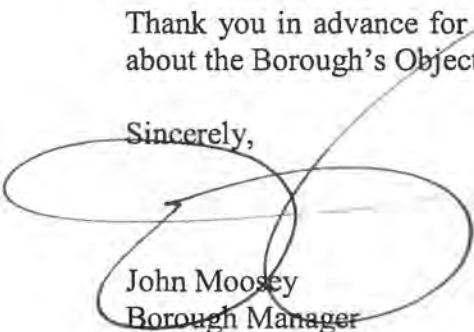
I am the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Manager. Pursuant to MSB 25.20.030, I exercise custody over all real and personal property of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough ("Borough"). The Borough OBJECTS to inclusion of the Old Willow Community Center being listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

The Old Willow Community Center building is currently located on land owned by the Borough. The land is better described as Lot 2A of the Alaska State Land Survey No. 85-88, according to Plat 90-48, recorded in the Palmer Recording District on September 26, 1990.

The Borough has sued Willow Historical and Wildlife Foundation in order to eject the Old Willow Community Center from Lot 2A because Willow Historical and Wildlife Foundation do not have permission to keep the Old Willow Community Center building on Borough property. The case number for the lawsuit is 3PA-16-02183CI and a copy of the Complaint has been attached to this OBJECTION. Inclusion in the Registry is premature in light of the Borough's lawsuit. Therefore, the State Office of History & Archeology should either continue the nomination process or DENY the listing.

Thank you in advance for your consideration and please contact me if you have any questions about the Borough's Objection.

Sincerely,


John Moosey
Borough Manager

Enclosure

cc: Vern Halter, Mayor
Assemblymember Randall Kowalke
Eileen Probasco, Planning Director
Glenda Smith, Real Property Analyst

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

STATE OF ALASKA)
) ss.
THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT)

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that on the 22nd day of June, 2017, before me, the undersigned, a Notary Public in and for the State of Alaska, duly commissioned and sworn as such, personally appeared John Moosey, known to me to be the individual named in and who executed the foregoing document, and he acknowledged to me that he signed the same as his free and voluntary act for the uses and purposes therein set forth.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I set my hand and seal the day and year last above written.



Kelly Beatriz
Notary Public in and for the State of Alaska
My Commission Expires: 3/8/2020

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE STATE OF ALASKA
THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT AT PALMER

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH,)
)
Plaintiff,)
)
v.)
)
WILLOW HISTORICAL AND)
WILDLIFE FOUNDATION,)
)
Defendant.)

RECEIVED in the TRIAL COURTS
State of Alaska Third District
at Palmer

OCT 25 2016

Clerk of the Trial Courts

By _____ Deputy

Case No. 3PA-16-02183 CI

COMPLAINT FOR EJECTMENT AND CIVIL PENALTIES

The Matanuska-Susitna Borough ("Borough") by and through counsel of record, the Borough Attorney's Office, brings this complaint to obtain an ejectment and civil penalties against the above-named defendant, Willow Historical and Wildlife Foundation ("WHWF"). In support thereof, the Borough alleges the following:

JURISDICTION

1. The Matanuska-Susitna Borough is a second class borough organized under the laws of the State of Alaska.

2. Pursuant to AS 29.35.010(7), AS 29.35.010(8), AS 29.35.010(14), AS 29.25.070(b), AS 09.45.630, MSB 1.45.010, MSB 1.45.110, MSB 23.05.050, MSB 23.05.055, and MSB 1.45.060(A), the Matanuska-Susitna Borough is authorized to maintain this action.

3. This Court has jurisdiction pursuant to AS 22.10.020(a), (c).

MSB Complaint

MSB v. Willow Historical Wildlife Foundation, 3PA-16-02183 CI Page 1 of 7

BOROUGH ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
Matanuska-Susitna Borough
350 East Dahlia
Palmer, Alaska 99645
(907) 861-8677
FAX: (907) 861-8559

ALLEGATIONS

4. MSB 23.05.050(A) contains a declaration that no person shall make unauthorized use of Borough-owned property without the written permission from the Borough manager.

5. MSB 23.05.050(B) provides that those persons violating subsection (A) will be considered in trespass and prosecuted in accordance with state and borough code of ordinances.

6. AS 09.45.630 states that a person who has a legal estate in real property and has the right to possession may bring an action to recover possession of the property with damages for withholding it.

7. The Matanuska-Susitna Borough owns real property in Willow Alaska, identified as Lot 2A of Alaska State Land Survey No. 85-88 containing 14.513 acres, more or less, according to the survey plat recorded in the Palmer Recording District on September 26, 1990, as Plat 90-48, (Lot 2A).

8. The Borough obtained Lot 2A from the State of Alaska on October 30, 1990, through Patent No. 11314.

9. On January 1, 1964, The United States of America, through Patent No. 1234506, conveyed property to the State of Alaska more particularly described as 19N04W, Seward Meridian, Alaska, Section 8: GLO Lots 1 and 2 and the NE1/4SW1/4, which included Lot 2A.

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MSB Complaint

MSB v. Willow Historical Wildlife Foundation, 3PA-16-02183 CI Page 2 of 7

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10. On February 8, 1961, Willow Civic Organization had obtained a Special Land-Use Permit, Anchorage 053697, from the U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management to keep a Willow Community Center Log Cabin ("Willow Cabin") on the South Portion of Lot 1, later re-named Lot 2A.

11. The physical address for the Willow Cabin is 23625 West Willow Community Center Circle, Willow, Alaska.

12. In 1963, the Bureau of Land Management revoked the Special Use Permit and directed the Willow Civic Organization to contact the State of Alaska because the land in question was being transferred to the State of Alaska as part of the State's selection of lands for statehood.

13. The Willow Area Civic Organization ("WACO") later obtained permits with the State of Alaska to maintain the Willow Cabin on Lot 2A.

14. When the State of Alaska transferred Lot 2A to the Matanuska-Susitna Borough through Patent No. 11314, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough entered into an agreement with WACO so that WACO could keep the Willow Cabin on Borough property.

15. In 2006, WACO transferred ownership of the Willow Cabin to the Willow Historical and Wildlife Foundation.

16. Willow Historical and Wildlife Foundation never obtained permission from the Borough to keep the Willow Cabin on Borough property.

MSB Complaint

MSB v. Willow Historical Wildlife Foundation, 3PA-16-02183 CI Page 3 of 7

17. Neither WACO nor the Willow Historical Society have any current agreements with the Borough reference the Willow Cabin located on Lot 2A.

18. The Borough first directed WHWF to remove the Willow Cabin from Borough property by letter dated February 1, 2016, by letter directed to Jim Huston, President of Willow Historical and Wildlife Foundation.

19. The correspondence to Mr. Huston, dated February 1, 2016t, conveyed to Mr. Huston that the Willow Cabin had to be removed by September 1, 2016.

20. On September 21, 2016, the Borough sent, by certified mail, a letter to Mr. Huston reminding him of the letter dated February 1, 2016, and directing the Willow Historical and Wildlife Foundation to remove the Willow Cabin by October 24, 2016, or the Borough would take action to ensure the Willow Cabin did not remain on Borough property.

COUNT I
EJECTION

21. The Matanuska-Susitna Borough incorporates the allegations contained in paragraphs 1-20.

22. Alaska Statute 09.45.630 provides that a person who has a legal estate in real property and has the right to possession may bring an action to recover possession of the property with damages for withholding it.

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23. Defendant has violated MSB 23.05.050(A) since August 2006, when the WHWF obtained ownership of the Willow Cabin and never obtained permission to keep such cabin on Borough land.

24. The Borough is entitled to an order issued under AS 09.45.630 and MSB 1.45.060 requiring the Willow Historical and Wildlife Foundation, its agents, employees, and all persons acting in concert with it, to remove the Willow Cabin from Lot 2A, more particularly described as Lot 2A of Alaska State Land Survey No. 85-88 containing 14.513 acres, more or less, according to the survey plat recorded in the Palmer Recording District on September 26, 1990, as Plat 90-48.

COUNT II
CIVIL PENALTIES

25. The Matanuska-Susitna Borough incorporates the allegations contained in paragraphs 1-24.

26. AS 29.25.070(b) and MSB 1.45.060 provide that, in addition to ejectment, each day upon which an unlawful act or condition prohibited under applicable Borough land use regulation continues is subject to a civil penalty not to exceed \$1,000 per day.

27. MSB 1.45.120(A) provides that in addition to applicable penalties and damages assessed due to violations of this code, the defendant is liable for any costs reasonably incurred by the borough in abating the violation of MSB 23.05.050, including, but

MSB Complaint

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not limited to: directly related administrative costs, attorney fees, and costs related to litigation, posting and publication of notices, process service and costs related to actions taken pursuant to MSB 1.45.110(B).

28. Alaska Statute 09.45.640 provides that the Borough is entitled to recover damages for withholding property for a term of six years before commencement of this action and for the period from commencement to the verdict.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

Therefore plaintiff Matanuska-Susitna Borough, prays for the following relief:

1. For an order requiring the defendant, Willow Historical and Wildlife Foundation, its agents, employees, and all persons acting in concert with it, to remove the Willow Cabin, particularly described as Willow Community Center Log Cabin, located at 23625 West Willow Community Center Circle, Willow, Alaska, from Matanuska-Susitna Borough property, specifically located at Lot 2A of Alaska State Land Survey No. 85-88 containing 14.513 acres, more or less, according to the survey plat recorded in the Palmer Recording District on September 26, 1990, as Plat 90-48.

2. For judgment imposing civil penalties upon the defendant of up to \$1000 per day for each day a violation of

MSB 23.05.050 is found to exist because of a failure to obtain Borough approval for use of Borough land.

3. For judgment imposing liability upon the defendant for all reasonable costs associated with the Matanuska-Susitna Borough's abatement of the violation of MSB 23.05.050.

4. For an award of attorney's fees and costs expended in this litigation.

5. For all other relief at law and equity as this Honorable Court deems appropriate in this matter.

DATED this 25th day of October, 2016.

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
Nicholas Spiropoulos
Borough Attorney

By: 

Trina Sears
Alaska Bar No. 0311065

BOROUGH ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
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THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

Department of Natural Resources

DIVISION OF PARKS & OUTDOOR RECREATION
Office of History & Archaeology

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

August 18, 2017

Re: 3330-2 Old Willow Community Center

J. Paul Loether, Keeper
National Register of Historic Places
Mail Stop 7228
1849 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20240



Attn: Paul Lusignan

Dear Paul:

Enclosed is a nomination to the National Register of Historic Places for a building in the unincorporated community of Willow in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, Alaska. Staff of my office worked with interested individuals of the organization that owns the building to prepare the National Register of Historic Places documentation. The Alaska Historical Commission, the state review board, reviewed and discussed the nomination at their July 17, 2017 meeting and determined it is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The board initially considered the nomination at their July 25, 2016 meeting and tabled it until the next meeting at which they reviewed National Register nominations. The motion to table asked for the local historic preservation commission's action on eligibility and encouraged the owners and borough representatives present at the meeting to resolve their issues.

The Matanuska-Susitna Borough is a Certified Local Government and its historic preservation commission reviewed the nomination and found it eligible as well. Minutes from the commission's meeting are included with the nomination package.

Before both Alaska Historical Commission meetings, the owner of the building received a letter about the National Register of Historic Places program with information on the results of listing and an invitation to review the nomination package and comment. The Matanuska-Susitna Borough, owner of the land where the building sits also received program information and were invited to review the materials and comment. The Office of History and Archaeology, Alaska Department of Natural Resources, issued statewide press releases with specific mention of the National Register nomination review before the meetings. The building owners and Matanuska-Susitna Borough had representatives at the Alaska Historical Commission meeting, and the borough's letter opposing listing the building in the National Register is included with the nomination materials.

Paul Loether

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August 18, 2017

At their July 17, 2017 meeting Alaska Historical Commission members determined the Old Willow Community Hall is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under criterion A for its association with the social history of the unincorporated community of Willow. They determined the criteria consideration for moved buildings and for buildings less than fifty years old had been adequately addressed. Commission members said the property is associated with the Alaska historic preservation plan's theme of community development. The period of significance for the property is 1961-1992, for the years the hall was the primary public and civic building for the community. Commission members said the hall is of local significance. I have reviewed the documentation, and concur with the determination of the Alaska Historical Commission.

If you have any questions regarding this nomination please contact Joan (Jo) Antonson, State Historian, at e-mail jo.antonson@alaska.gov or phone 907.269.8714.

Sincerely,



Judith E. Bittner

State Historic Preservation Officer

enclosures: 2 disks with registration form, maps, 5 photographs, Alaska Historical Commission and Matanuska-Susitna Borough Historic Resources Commission voting records, letter from Matanuska-Susitna Borough