

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

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

=====

1. Name of Property

=====

historic name Talkeetna Historic District

other names/site number AHRS Site No. TAL-033

=====

2. Location

=====

street & number N/A

not for publication N/A

city or town Talkeetna

vicinity N/A

state Alaska

code AK

county Matanuska-Susitna

code 170

zip code 99676

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.)

Julie E. Bettner
Signature of certifying official

March 16, 1993
Date

Alaska
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
___ See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
___ See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain): _____

Robert D. Lee 4/26/93

for 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>13</u>	<u>13</u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>13</u>	<u>13</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 1

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

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form

Talkeetna Historic District

Matanuska-Susitna, Alaska

=====
6. Function or Use
=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>Domestic</u>	Sub: <u>Single dwelling</u>
<u>Commerce/Trade</u>	<u>Restaurant</u>
<u>Education</u>	<u>School</u>

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>Domestic</u>	Sub: <u>Single dwelling</u>
<u>Commerce/Trade</u>	<u>Restaurant</u>
<u>Recreation and Culture</u>	<u>Museum</u>

=====
7. Description
=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

No style

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation sill logs, concrete
roof metal
walls log
wood
other N/A

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

Talkeetna is an unincorporated community of 250 residents in southcentral Alaska approximately 115 miles north of the city of Anchorage. Because of its convenient location near the confluence of the Talkeetna, Susitna, and Chulitna rivers, Talkeetna became a supply station for prospectors who found gold in nearby Cache Creek in 1906. In part because of the river access, the Alaska Engineering Commission (AEC) selected Talkeetna in 1916 for a railroad construction camp. The AEC surveyed a townsite in 1918 and held an auction to sell lots in 1919. Talkeetna did not grow as large or as fast as other towns platted by the AEC such as Anchorage, Wasilla, or Nenana. Talkeetna never formally incorporated.

After railroad construction, Talkeetna, 226 miles from the southern terminus at Seward and 259 miles from the northern terminus at Fairbanks, had a railroad station as opposed to a section house meaning that it was a regular stop. Over the years, a number of miners built their winter residences, most of them small log cabins, in Talkeetna. The Fairview Inn and Nagley's Store opened in 1920. The community had no church buildings, social halls, or public buildings aside from the railroad station, and until the mid-1930s there was no school. Talkeetna had a post office, U.S. Commissioner, and Deputy Marshal, but none in its own building. Because of miners' pressure for access to their mines, the Alaska Road Commission (ARC) had an office in Talkeetna.

=====
8. Statement of Significance
=====

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

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

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

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

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Exploration/Settlement

Period of Significance 1917-1942

Significant Dates 1917

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

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder N/A

=====

9. Major Bibliographical References

=====

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

- 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:

=====

10. Geographical Data

=====

Acreeage of Property 6.4 acres

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	05	649530	6913455	2	05	649740	6913455
3	05	649740	6913260	4	05	649530	6913260

See continuation sheet.

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

The Talkeetna Historic District is shown as the dotted line on the accompanying site map dated August 27, 1992. It includes portions of blocks 2, 3, 10, 11, 12, and 13 in Township 26, Range 5 West within Section 24, Seward Meridian.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries include all of the residences and commercial buildings with historic integrity that reflect the early settlement of Talkeetna.

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form

Talkeetna Historic District

Matanuska-Susitna, Alaska

Page 16

=====
11. Form Prepared By
=====

name/title Fran Seager-Boss, Archaeologist
Lawrence Roberts, Historian
organization Matanuska-Susitna Borough **date** August 31, 1992
street & number 350 E. Dahlia Ave. **telephone** (907) 745-9859
city or town Palmer **state** Alaska **zip code** 99645

Assisted by Connie Conley-Harding, Student Intern, Office of History and Archaeology, Alaska Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation, P.O. Box 107001, Anchorage, Alaska 99510, 907-762-2622

=====

The historic district includes thirteen contributing buildings. These properties reflect Talkeetna's history as a small village. The most prominent buildings are the Fairview Inn (listed in the National Register in 1982), Nagley's Store, Talkeetna Schoolhouse, and Frank Lee Cabin. Three of the contributing properties date from the late 1910s, five from the 1920s, and five from the 1930s. Severe river bank erosion in 1949 took twelve acres of the Talkeetna townsite including two blocks of Main Street. Several buildings near the boat landing, one of them Nagley's Store, had to be relocated.

All of the buildings in Talkeetna are architecturally plain, representing no recognized architectural style. The residences in the historic district are small, most with one or two rooms. The buildings, along with the district's setting, are representative of early twentieth century rural Alaskan building types and town planning.

Thirteen non-contributing buildings are within the district boundaries. They are consistent in design, material, and scale, and are compatible with the contributing buildings. Several of the non-contributing buildings are more than fifty years old, but do not have an association with their present location during the period of significance.

Contributing Structures:

1. **Fairview Inn** (AHRS Site No. TAL-006, listed in the National Register May 7, 1982). Ben Nauman built this two-story, undecorated, frame hotel between 1920 and 1923. The original building is 36' x 36'. A one story 24' x 12' addition on the building's north side replaced a smaller one built in 1939 as private living quarters by the owners, John and Nola Campbell. A second addition, 16' x 8', is on the west end of the north side. The building has painted drop siding.

The south and east elevations, the main facades, each have a single wood door flanked by a pair of 1/1 double hung sash windows with plain trim on the first floor. The east elevation's door is protected by a gable overhang supported by brackets; the south elevation's door is protected by a gable porch. The second floor of the east elevation has three evenly spaced 1/1 double hung sash windows. The south elevation's second floor has four 1/1 double hung sash windows evenly spaced. The building's west elevation has a small horizontally-sliding single light window that has replaced an original window, and an boarded entry.

The north elevation has two additions. The 1939 addition extends from the left side of the elevation approximately 24 feet. This addition's gable roof covers one of the original 1/1 double hung sash windows in the north elevation of the main building. Original 1/1 double hung sash windows flank each side of the addition's roof. This addition's east elevation has two separate doors centrally placed with 1/1 double hung sash windows on either side. A plain gable opening exists in the north elevation.

=====

The medium-hipped pyramid roof has a flat area at the ridge where the chimney stack protrudes. In 1991, the owners replaced the rolled roofing with corrugated metal roofing.

A sign, similar to the original one, hangs on the east facade centered between the two stories. Printed in large block letters is "Fairview Inn" with "Bar" and "Rooms" printed in smaller letters underneath.

2. Nagley's Store (B&K Trading Post) (AHRS Site No. TAL-017). Horace W. Nagley disassembled a building constructed around 1912 at Susitna Station, barged it to Talkeetna and reassembled it around 1920. The original full log building measures 25' x 35'. It has mortise and tenon construction. At an unknown date, Nagley added a one story 20' x 25' log addition with a shed roof on the rear for more store space. Later, a second one-story log extension 29' x 25' was added to the rear of the first addition for storage.

In 1945, Nagley moved the store from the west end of town to its present location because of river bank erosion. Upon relocation, Nagley built a frame addition measuring 14' x 35' on the west side. In recent years, owners have built two smaller frame additions onto the west addition, each with drop siding and shed roofs. The addition that fronts on Main Street measures 11' x 8', the one behind it measures 8' x 6'. Corner boards on all additions complement the original building. All roofs have sheet metal coverings. The northwest addition completes the main (north) facade facing Main Street. The smaller addition to the southwest side of the west addition provides a closed-in entrance. The front porch with decking area extends the full width of the north elevation.

The north elevation of the original building has a centrally located two panel, six light door flanked by paired two light single sash fixed windows. The upper lights of these windows are divided by mullions in a diamond pattern. The north gable of the original building has two 2/2 double hung sash windows evenly spaced. The north elevation of the western shed addition has a two panel, four light door on the left with a double light single sash horizontally-sliding window centrally placed. The addition to the right of this shed addition mirrors the shed's fenestration on a smaller scale.

The east elevation of the original building has a boarded up window at each end and a boarded up door in the center. The east elevations of both of the south additions are plain. The original building's south gable contains a 2/2 double hung sash window. The addition's south elevation has a double door on the left side. The addition's west elevation has a door in the right side and a central boarded up window to the right.

When Nagley sold his store in 1951 to Barrett and Kennedy, they changed the name of the store to B&K Trading Post.

3. Frank Lee Cabin (Talkeetna Roadhouse) (AHRS Site No. TAL-008). In 1917, Frank Lee, a freighter, built a two and one-half story gabled log

=====

cabin with boxed corners for his personal residence. In 1944 it became a roadhouse. The original structure measures 21' x 32'. The building's main facade faces north onto Main Street. This facade has a full porch protecting the central entry. Four light single sash windows flank the entry. Above the porch roof, the second floor has two single light sash windows. The gable wall is sheathed with board and batten siding. The only fenestration on the building's west elevation is a 6/6 double hung sash window in the left side of the first floor.

A 26' x 48' frame shed addition with drop siding and a corrugated metal roof is on the building's east side. This addition extends the length of the original cabin. It has a nine light fixed single sash window and a door along the north elevation. The east elevation of this addition has three evenly spaced nine light fixed single sash windows and a door in the left corner.

There are two additions on the back of the original building. The first is a frame, one and one-half story, 20' x 34' building with shiplap siding. This building, built for the Civil Aeronautics Administration, was moved and attached to the roadhouse at an unknown date. The second rear addition measures 20' x 16' and matches the first addition in material and design. Along the east elevations of both additions are five evenly spaced six light awning windows. The west elevations of the additions have a sequence of a six light single sash window at the left end, a door, four single sash six light windows evenly spaced, and a door at the right end. The south elevation of the original building has a single light fixed sash window on the left side of the first and second floors. The south elevation of the addition has a boarded up gable opening and a single light, single sash, horizontally-sliding window in the center on the first floor.

4. **Frank Lee Barn** (AHRS Site No. TAL-056). Also in 1917, Frank Lee constructed a two and one half story, 16' x 22' barn. It has full logs and double saddle notched corners. Its gable walls are framed with vertical wood siding. The medium pitched gabled roof is covered with corrugated metal. On the north facade is a double-hinged wood barn door. The west elevation has two single sash four light horizontally-sliding windows in the center of the first floor. The second floor log joists penetrate the east and west elevations. The east and south elevations are plain. The barn has settled and the lower courses of logs are deteriorating. It is currently used for storage.

5. **Talkeetna Schoolhouse (Talkeetna Museum)** (AHRS Site No. TAL-025). The Territory of Alaska constructed the school in 1936. The one and one-half story, 30 x 37' structure had one large classroom on the first floor and living quarters for the teacher on the second. The main facade (north elevation) has a 4'2" x 5'3" covered porch at the left end that is accessed by exterior stairs. To the right of this entry are two fixed single sash six light windows evenly spaced. The gable has two 6/6 double hung sash windows evenly spaced. The east elevation has a six light single sash fixed window at the left end. Centrally placed in the right side of the east elevation is a sequence of one 6/6 double hung sash window, three 6/6

=====

double hung sash windows set side-by-side, and one 6/6 double hung sash window. A shed dormer with three single sash six light windows placed side-by-side extends from the gable roof ridge. Around 1939, the school got a 28' x 12' shed roof addition on the south end. This addition has two fixed single sash six light windows evenly spaced on its east elevation. The addition's west elevation has two large 6/6 double-hung sash windows and two smaller six light single sash windows. This elevation has an outside staircase to the second floor apartment and a second entrance to the classroom. A shed dormer containing two single sash six light windows extends from the gable ridgeline. On the south elevation of the original building, the upper floor has two 6/6 double hung windows. The addition's south elevation is plain.

In 1974 the Talkeetna Historical Society acquired the school for a museum.

6. **Ole Dahl Cabin (1)** (AHRS Site No. TAL-022). Built around 1918, this one story, 13' x 15' full log cabin has V notched corners and rolled roofing. In the 1970s, the Talkeetna Historical Society moved the cabin across the street from the back of Dahl's lot to its present location just west of the museum. The north facade is the main elevation and has a door just right of center. The ridge pole, purlins and wall plate logs extend three feet beyond the front wall providing an overhang over the entry. The east elevation is plain. A single light single sash fixed window is just left of center in the west elevation, and another is towards the right hand side of the south elevation.

7. **David St. Lawrence Cabin (Harry Robb Cabin)** (AHRS Site No. TAL-019). Built around 1920 by a freighter, David Lawrence, the building is a two and one-half story log cabin with squared V notching and covered box corners. The building measures 15' x 20' and has a gable roof covered with corrugated metal. Protected by a small gable overhang supported by brackets, a two panel door is on the right side of the east elevation. A six light single sash window is centrally placed in the east gable wall. Centered in the north elevation is a six light single sash horizontally sliding window. The south elevation is identical to the north. Ceiling joists extend through the north and south walls approximately two feet above the windows. After 1940 the new owner, Harry Robb, added a roughed sawed 15' x 11' one-and-a-half story frame shed addition on the rear. The addition has doors on the left and right sides and a six light single sash window in the center of the gable wall. The cabin has been empty since Robb's death in the 1970s.

8. **Helmer Ronning Cabin (Denali Dry Goods)** (AHRS Site No. TAL-029). Helmer Ronning, a Norwegian master carpenter, trapper, and miner, built this one-and-one-half story 31' x 18' medium pitched gabled log cabin around 1930. The cabin has dove-tailed corners locked with dowels and pegs and covered by cornerboards. The north or main facade fronts on Main Street. This elevation has a three panel, single light door on the left side protected by a small gabled porch. To the right of the door is an 1/1 double hung sash window. The gable wall has a double single light single sash horizontally-sliding window. The west and east elevations have

=====
windows at each end. The roof forms an open cornice on both these elevations. A 10' x 18' addition and 6' x 10' lean-to extend from the rear of the cabin. The cabin is now a store. In the southeast corner of the lot stands an outhouse also of log construction with dovetailed corners.

9. **Ole Dahl Cabin (2)** (AHRS Site No. TAL-027). Norwegian-born Ole Dahl, a railroad surveyor, miner, and trapper, built this cabin around 1920 after he got married. The one-and-one-half story cabin has square notched corners and measures 20' x 26'. It has an open porch across the north elevation that fronts on Main Street. The porch is railed, with an entrance in line with the cabin's front door. A small gable roof is centered over the center of the porch in contrast to the porch's main shed roof. Matching 8/1 sash windows are on either side of the north elevation's door. A smaller 8/1 double hung sash window is in the center of the gable wall. The ground floor west elevation has one 8/1 double hung sash window on the right. Matching windows are on the left and right sides of the east elevation. There is a 9' x 20' addition on the south side of the cabin. A detached 12' x 24' shed is off the southwest corner of the building. The cabin is still a private residence.

10. **Tom Weatherell Cabin** (AHRS Site No. TAL-030). Tom Weatherell, a miner and store employee of Horace Nagley, hired Helmer Ronning to help him build this cabin around 1921. It is a one- and-one-half story full log cabin. The logs are fastened with dowels and pegs and enclosed with boxed corners. The original cabin is 25'2" x 19'2" and has a hipped roof with a hipped dormer on the main facade. The original rolled roofing has been covered with metal roofing. A block chimney extends from the upper third of the western slope of the roof. The south elevation, the main facade, fronts on Main Street and has an enclosed porch cut into the right corner. To the left of this porch, just left of facade centerline, is an 8/1 double hung sash window. An eight light single sash window is in the dormer. The east elevation has a large twelve light single sash window defining the porch area and an 8/1 double hung sash window just right of the elevation's centerline. In 1939, the owner built a 10' x 14' frame addition with shiplap siding and half hipped gabled roof onto the cabin's north side. The east elevation of this addition has a five panel door. The west elevation has 8/1 double hung sash windows at each end of the main building; the addition's west elevation is plain. The north elevations of the original building and the addition are plain. A second addition on the north side has been removed. The cabin is unoccupied.

11. **Mike Trepte House** (AHRS Site No. TAL-053). In 1937, Mike Trepte, a placer miner, built this one and one-half story building. The original frame house is 18' x 26'6" with shiplap siding and cornerboards. Its main facade faces south to Main Street. It has a small open gabled porch to the right of center of the original building, with two new nine light single horizontally-sliding sash windows to the left. The opening in the gable is boarded up. A small 4' x 8' shed roof addition extends off the north side. A 17' x 14' addition, built about 1967 on the east elevation, created an "L" shaped building. The east and south elevations of this addition have pairs of new sixteen light single sash windows. The opening in the

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form

Talkeetna Historic District

Matanuska-Susitna, Alaska

Page 10

=====
addition's gable is boarded up. North and west elevations are plain. A detached shed stands on the northwest corner of the property. The house continues to be a private residence.

12. **Red John Cuculich Cabin** (AHRS Site No. TAL-054). Red John, a Czechoslovakian immigrant and area miner, built this cabin in 1938. It is a one story 16' x 20'6" hand-hewn square notched log cabin with a gable roof. The front facade, which faces south, has a wood door on the right with a nine light fixed sash window on the left. A four light fixed sash window is centrally placed in the east elevation. There is a 7' x 16' addition on the north elevation. The addition has a single light fixed sash window in its west elevation. In 1992 corrugated metal roofing was put over the gabled roof's original rolled roofing. A small open wood shed with metal roofing is on the west elevation. The cabin is now used as a shed.

13. **Black John Zulich Cabin (B&B Office/Twister Creek Fuel)** (AHRS Site No. TAL-048). John Zulich, a Czechoslovakian immigrant who mined the Cache Creek district, built a one and one-half story full log cabin with square notched corners around 1930. It measured 16' x 20'6". Originally, a porch extended out from the cabin's main facade (east elevation), formed by the gabled roof extending beyond the facade and supported by four evenly spaced log columns. The porch has recently been enclosed, but the additions are in keeping with the general architecture of the cabin and could be removed. The cabin's south elevation has a new double horizontally-sliding single light single sash window centrally placed. The west elevation has an original four light single sash window in the gable wall. The north elevation is covered by an eight inch wide T-111 sided frame shed addition extending the length of the building. This addition's north elevation contains two single light horizontally-sliding sash windows placed at each end. A similar window is centrally placed in the addition's east elevation.

Non-Contributing properties:

14. **Trailer.** Contemporary, non-historic appearance.

15. **Shed.** Frame; construction date unknown.

16. **Collapsed shed.** Log; construction date unknown; in ruins.

17. **Curry Building** (AHRS Site No. TAL-059). In the 1950s, the owners moved this single story frame building from Curry Station, on the Alaska Railroad about 40 miles north of Talkeetna, to its present location on Talkeetna's Main Street. Now a deli, relocation and remodeling have destroyed the building's historical integrity.

18. **River Trips Building.** This is a small frame building on a post foundation with a large front porch. It was built within the last five years. The building's appearance is sympathetic to the historic district.

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form

Talkeetna Historic District

Matanuska-Susitna, Alaska

Page 11

=====
19. **Three River Gas Station.** This large two story log sided building is of recent construction. Its appearance is not sympathetic to the historic district.

20. **Log cabin.** This is a small, one room, full log cabin located behind the roadhouse. Constructed in the mid-1960s, the owners moved it to this location during the late 1970s. Its appearance is sympathetic to the historic district.

21. **Bikes, Flights, Etc.** This is a small one-story frame building constructed during the 1990s. Its appearance is sympathetic to the historic district.

22. **Roberta Sheldon House.** This is a small frame house built in the mid-1950s. It has a shed located behind it. The appearance of the two buildings is sympathetic to the historic district.

23. **National Park Service Ranger Station.** This is a small one room cabin of full log construction built during the 1980s. Its appearance is sympathetic to the historic district.

24. **Private residence.** This is a large two story full log cabin of recent construction. Its appearance is sympathetic to the historic district.

25. **Talkeetna Station** (AHR Site No. TAL-014). This railroad station replaced one that burned in 1933. To avoid razing, the Talkeetna Historical Society moved the station from the railroad tracks south and west to its present location behind the museum. Although more than fifty years old and associated with the history of Talkeetna, the loss of direct association with the railroad tracks has destroyed the station's historic integrity.

26. **Talkeetna Station House** (AHR Site No. TAL-058). To avoid razing, the Talkeetna Historical Society moved this house from its location adjacent to the railroad south and west to its present location behind the museum. Although more than fifty years old and associated with the history of Talkeetna, the loss of direct association with the railroad tracks has destroyed the building's historic integrity.

=====

Narrative Statement of Significance

Talkeetna, a small unincorporated community at the confluence of the Chulitna, Talkeetna, and Susitna rivers in southcentral Alaska began as a supply station for miners and trappers in 1910. Talkeetna means "River of Plenty" and comes from the Tanaina Indian language. In 1916, the Alaska Engineering Commission, constructing the Alaska Railroad, selected Talkeetna for a district construction headquarters. A post office opened that year, and the construction camp and first permanent buildings stood the next year. The Alaska Engineering Commission surveyed a townsite in 1918 and sold eighty lots in 1919. After the railroad was completed, the town continued to exist, but it did not grow as fast or as much as others surveyed by the Alaska Engineering Commission. During the 1920s and 1930s, Talkeetna was a small community of miners and trappers who built small cabins, many of them log, for their winter residences. The miners worked the Yentna District which included Cache Creek, Peters Creek, Dutch Hills, and Dollar Creek. Mining also took place east of Talkeetna in the Iron Creek-Talkeetna River area and northeast in Broad Pass. The town had several inns and general stores, but through the 1920s its only public building was the railroad station. Talkeetna had no churches, social halls, or fire department. A school was not opened until 1935. Thirteen buildings from Talkeetna's early years contribute to the district. The three oldest contributing buildings in the district date from 1917 when railroad construction started. Five of the properties date from the 1920s and five from the 1930s. One of these, the Fairview Inn was listed on the National Register on May 7, 1982. Together, the historic properties reflect a 1920s-1930s, small supply town in Alaska. The period of significance for the Talkeetna Historic District ends in 1942 when World War II directly impacted Alaska and President Franklin D. Roosevelt ordered gold mines, considered non-essential to the war effort, to close. Several buildings in the district have been relocated, because of riverbank erosion or threatened destruction, but they are within the townsite boundaries.

Prospectors discovered gold in Cache Creek in 1906, and within a couple of years miners frequented Talkeetna for supplies and winter shelter. In 1910, the Alaska Commercial Company opened a small supply station, "Talkeetna" at the confluence of the Chulitna, Talkeetna, and Susitna rivers for Cache Creek, Peters Creek, and Broad Pass miners and trappers. Boats with supplies from Susitna Station brought goods to the site, and a small village started. The supply station closed by 1912.

In 1915, President Woodrow Wilson's selection of the Susitna River and Broad Pass route for the Pacific-to-Tanana River railroad the federal government planned to build revived Talkeetna. The Alaska Engineering Commission, created to build the railroad, chose Talkeetna as a district construction headquarters and built warehouses, bunkhouses, and offices. Upon hearing the news, some people such as Frank Lee, a freighter, and H.W. Nagley, a merchant, hurried to the site and started businesses. A post office opened in 1916. At the request of the Talkeetna Commercial Club, the Alaska Engineering Commission surveyed a townsite in September 1918. Talkeetna residents purchased eighty townsite lots at an auction in October

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form

Talkeetna Historic District

Matanuska-Susitna, Alaska

Page 14

=====
1919. Individuals claiming preference rights, because they had made permanent improvements to lots prior to the townsite survey, purchased nearly half of the lots. After railroad construction, the Alaska Railroad established a station, as opposed to a section house or flag stop, at Talkeetna. The station meant that Talkeetna was a regular, scheduled stop on the Alaska Railroad, supplies were available year-round, and seven men had regular employment.

Although it never legally incorporated as a town, Talkeetna was the town for miners who worked in the Yentna, Iron Creek, and Broad Pass districts during the 1920s and 1930s. Miners such as Helmer Ronning, Mike Trepte, and Red John Cuculich built cabins in Talkeetna, worked their claims in the summer months, and trapped for furs during the winter. In 1921 there were twenty-four mining operations in the Yentna district near Talkeetna, most with hydraulic plants. In 1933, twenty-nine mining camps operated. Eight tractors freighted out of Talkeetna "night and day" in 1936.

The 1920 U.S. Census reported Talkeetna's population as 70, 53 males and 17 females. Of the 53 men, 33 were single, 11 married, 2 divorced, 2 widowed, and 5 under age 16. The average adult male was 46 years old. Of the men, 19 were miners or prospectors, 5 were trappers, 7 worked for the railroad, and 22 worked in commercial occupations. Of the females, 11 were married women, 1 widowed, and 5 under age 16. The average age of the adult females was 35 years old. Occupations for women were not given. The 1930 census reported 89 residents in Talkeetna, and the 1940 census reported 136 residents.

In 1920, the Alaska Road Commission (ARC) opened an office in Talkeetna. The Talkeetna road crews built and maintained 22 miles of wagon road, 20 miles of sled road, and 16 timber bridges. For some ARC employees, such as the "Colonel" and Ole Dahl, Talkeetna continued to be home after the ARC office closed in 1932. The Alaska Railroad, Alaska Road Commission, U.S. Commissioner, Deputy U.S. Marshal, and Post Office were the only government entities with offices in Talkeetna. Not until 1935, did the Territory of Alaska open a school in Talkeetna. For the first two school years, classes were held in Frank Lee's cabin. In 1936, the \$6,000 schoolhouse opened.

Shortly after the U.S. entered World War II, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order L-208 closing all mines non-essential to the war effort. It was the end of an era for Talkeetna. Few mines reopened for any length of time after the war because of high labor costs and the low fixed price for gold. In the 1940s bush pilots moved to Talkeetna. The town became, and continues to be, the departure point for mountain climbers attempting to ascend Mount McKinley.

A road now reaches Talkeetna. A number of buildings in town, however, remain from the 1910s, 1920s, and 1930s that convey the sense of a small early twentieth century Alaskan village.

=====
Major Bibliographic References

Alaska Engineering Commission. Alaska Railroad Record. June 1917-November 19, 1919.

Alaska Magazine. January 1985, Vol. 51, No. 1, pp. 14-15.

Alaska Road Commission. Annual Reports. 1920-1939.

Browne, Belmore. The Conquest of Mt. McKinley. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1956.

Campbell, Nola H. Talkeetna Cronies. Privately printed, 1974.

----- Talkeetna Echoes. Privately printed, 1984.

Knik Matanuska Susitna: A Visual History Of The Valleys. Sutton, Alaska: Bentwood Press, 1985.

Rollins, Alden M. Census Alaska: Numbers Of Inhabitants, 1792-1970. Anchorage, Alaska: University of Alaska Anchorage Library, 1970.

Talkeetna Museum. Papers.

The Alaska Sportsman. May 1950, p. 22.

United States Geological Survey. Bulletin No. 534. The Yenta District, Alaska. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1913.

Wilson, William H. Railroad In The Clouds: The Alaska Railroad In The Age Of Steam, 1914. Boulder, Colorado: Pruett Publishing Co., 1977.

Wolfe, Dorothy Trepte. Papers. Talkeetna Museum.

Interviews:

Hampton, Paula. Talkeetna Roadhouse, Talkeetna, Alaska. September 13, 1990.

Leavitte, Ken. Talkeetna Leather Works, Talkeetna, Alaska. September 13, 1990.

Martin, Eleanor Trepte. Personal communication. 1991.

Sheldon, Roberta. Personal communication. 1991.

Stevens, Myron. Personal communication. 1991.

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form

Talkeetna Historic District

Matanuska-Susitna, Alaska

Page 18

=====
Photograph identification:

1. Fairview Inn (AHR Site No. TAL-006), Talkeetna Historic District
Matanuska-Susitna, Alaska
Fran Seager-Boss
1991
Cultural Resources Division, Matanuska-Susitna Borough, 350 E. Dahlia Ave., Palmer, Alaska 99645
Looking west at east facade
2. Nagley's Store (AHR Site No. TAL-017), Talkeetna Historic District
Matanuska-Susitna, Alaska
Fran Seager-Boss
1991
Cultural Resources Division, Matanuska-Susitna Borough, 350 E. Dahlia Ave., Palmer, Alaska 99645
Looking southwest at front of building
3. Talkeetna Schoolhouse (AHR Site No. TAL-025), Talkeetna Historic District
Matanuska-Susitna, Alaska
Fran Seager-Boss
1991
Cultural Resources Division, Matanuska-Susitna Borough, 350 E. Dahlia Ave., Palmer, Alaska 99645
Looking northwest at front of building
4. Frank Lee Cabin (AHR Site No. TAL-008), Talkeetna Historic District
Matanuska-Susitna, Alaska
Fran Seager-Boss
1991
Cultural Resources Division, Matanuska-Susitna Borough, 350 E. Dahlia Ave., Palmer, Alaska 99645
Looking southeast at front of building
5. Frank Lee Barn (AHR Site No. TAL-056), Talkeetna Historic District
Matanuska-Susitna, Alaska
Fran Seager-Boss
1991
Cultural Resources Division, Matanuska-Susitna Borough, 350 E. Dahlia Ave., Palmer, Alaska 99645
Looking northeast at southwest corner of barn
6. David St. Lawrence Cabin (AHR Site No. TAL-019), Talkeetna Historic District
Matanuska-Susitna, Alaska
Fran Seager-Boss
1991
Cultural Resources Division, Matanuska-Susitna Borough, 350 E. Dahlia Ave., Palmer, Alaska 99645
Looking northwest at south and east facades

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form

Talkeetna Historic District

Matanuska-Susitna, Alaska

Page 19

-
7. Tom Weatherell Cabin (AHR Site No. TAL-030), Talkeetna Historic District
Matanuska-Susitna, Alaska
Fran Seager-Boss
1991
Cultural Resources Division, Matanuska-Susitna Borough, 350 E. Dahlia Ave., Palmer, Alaska 99645
Looking north at front facade
 8. Mike Trepte House (AHR Site No. TAL-053), Talkeetna Historic District
Matanuska-Susitna, Alaska
Fran Seager-Boss
1991
Cultural Resources Division, Matanuska-Susitna Borough, 350 E. Dahlia Ave., Palmer, Alaska 99645
Looking north at front facade
 9. Mike Trepte House (AHR Site No. TAL-053), Talkeetna Historic District
Matanuska-Susitna, Alaska
Fran Seager-Boss
1991
Cultural Resources Division, Matanuska-Susitna Borough, 350 E. Dahlia Ave., Palmer, Alaska 99645
Looking west at new east wing
 10. Ole Dahl Cabin (2) (AHR Site No. TAL-027), Talkeetna Historic District
Matanuska-Susitna, Alaska
Fran Seager-Boss
1991
Cultural Resources Division, Matanuska-Susitna Borough, 350 E. Dahlia Ave., Palmer, Alaska 99645
Looking southeast at front and west sides of building
 11. Red John Cuculich Cabin (AHR Site No. TAL-054), Talkeetna Historic District
Matanuska-Susitna, Alaska
Fran Seager-Boss
1991
Cultural Resources Division, Matanuska-Susitna Borough, 350 E. Dahlia Ave., Palmer, Alaska 99645
Looking northeast at front of cabin
 12. Black John Zulich Cabin (AHR Site No. TAL-048), Talkeetna Historic District
Matanuska-Susitna, Alaska
Fran Seager-Boss
1991
Cultural Resources Division, Matanuska-Susitna Borough, 350 E. Dahlia Ave., Palmer, Alaska 99645
Looking northwest at front and south facades

- =====
13. Fairview Inn (AHRs Site No. TAL-006), Talkeetna Historic District
Matanuska-Susitna, Alaska
Fran Seager-Boss
1991
Cultural Resources Division, Matanuska-Susitna Borough, 350 E. Dahlia
Ave., Palmer, Alaska 99645
Looking west down Main Street
14. Talkeetna Historic District (AHRs Site No. TAL-033)
Matanuska-Susitna, Alaska
Fran Seager-Boss
1991
Cultural Resources Division, Matanuska-Susitna Borough, 350 E. Dahlia
Ave., Palmer, Alaska 99645
Looking southwest along Main Street
15. Talkeetna Historic District (AHRs Site No. TAL-033)
Matanuska-Susitna, Alaska
Fran Seager-Boss
1991
Cultural Resources Division, Matanuska-Susitna Borough, 350 E. Dahlia
Ave., Palmer, Alaska 99645
Looking northeast along Main Street, Tom Weatherell cabin at left

=====

Additional Documentation

=====

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

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

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

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

=====

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 93000321 Date Listed: 4/26/93

Talkeetna Historic District
Property Name

Matanuska-Susitna AK
County State

N/A
Multiple Name

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

for Antonson of Bee
Signature of the Keeper

4/20/93
Date of Action

=====

Amended Items in Nomination:

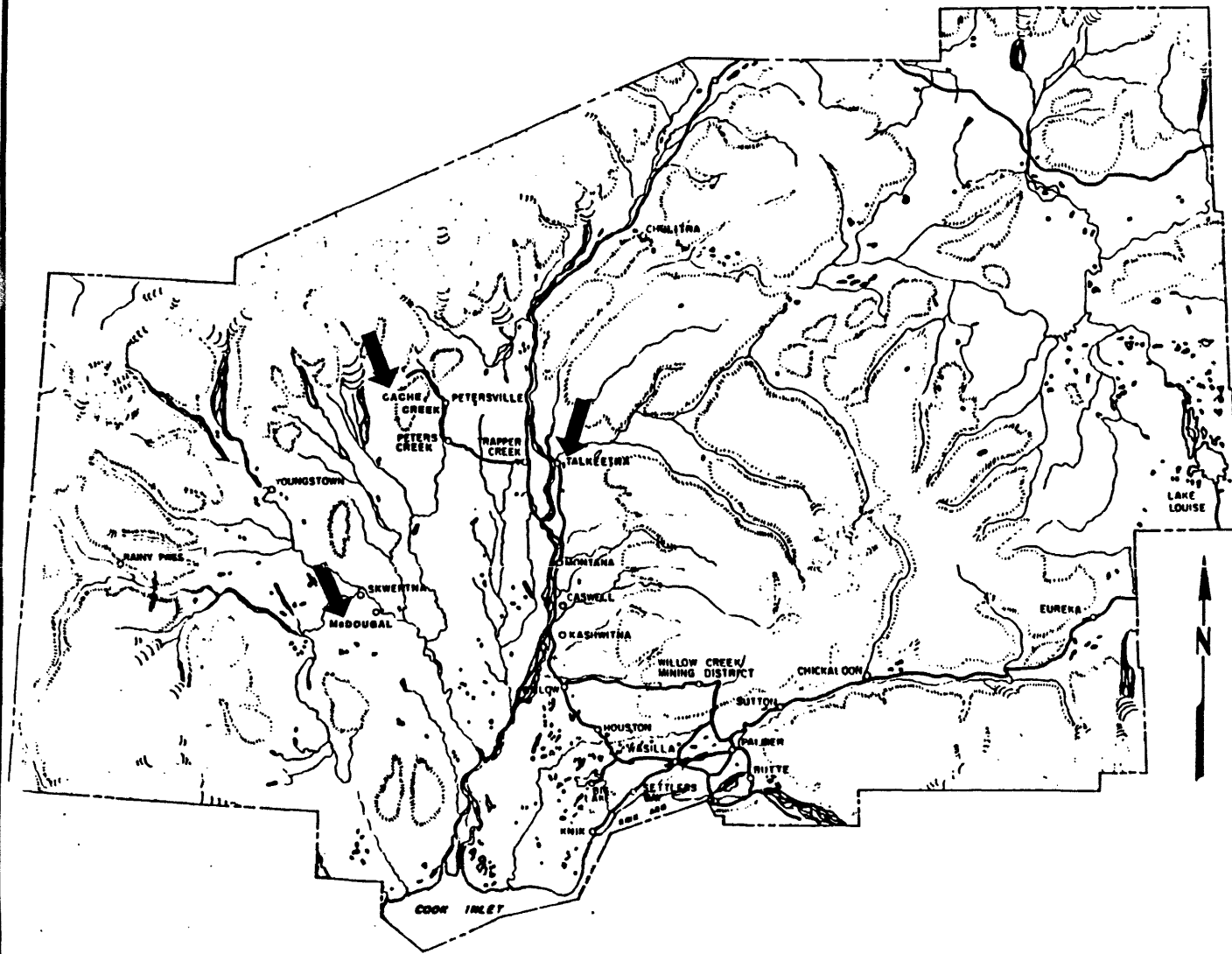
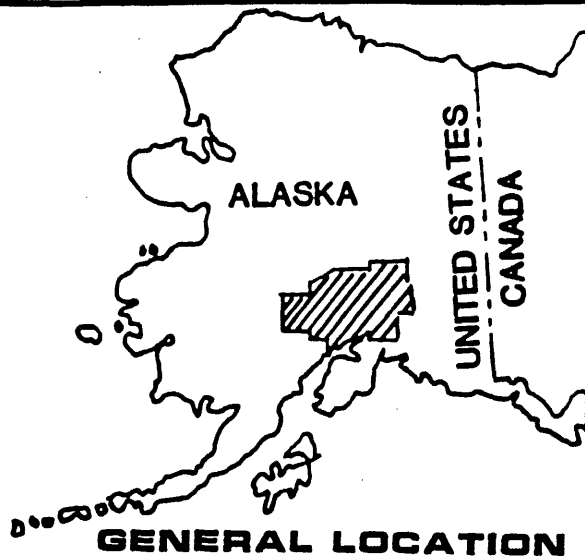
Statement of Significance: Criteria Consideration B is removed.

Additional Documentation: The scale for the sketch map is 1" = 235'.

This information was confirmed with Jo Antonson of the Alaska State historic preservation office.

DISTRIBUTION:
National Register property file

TALKEETNA & THE GOLD MINING DISTRICTS

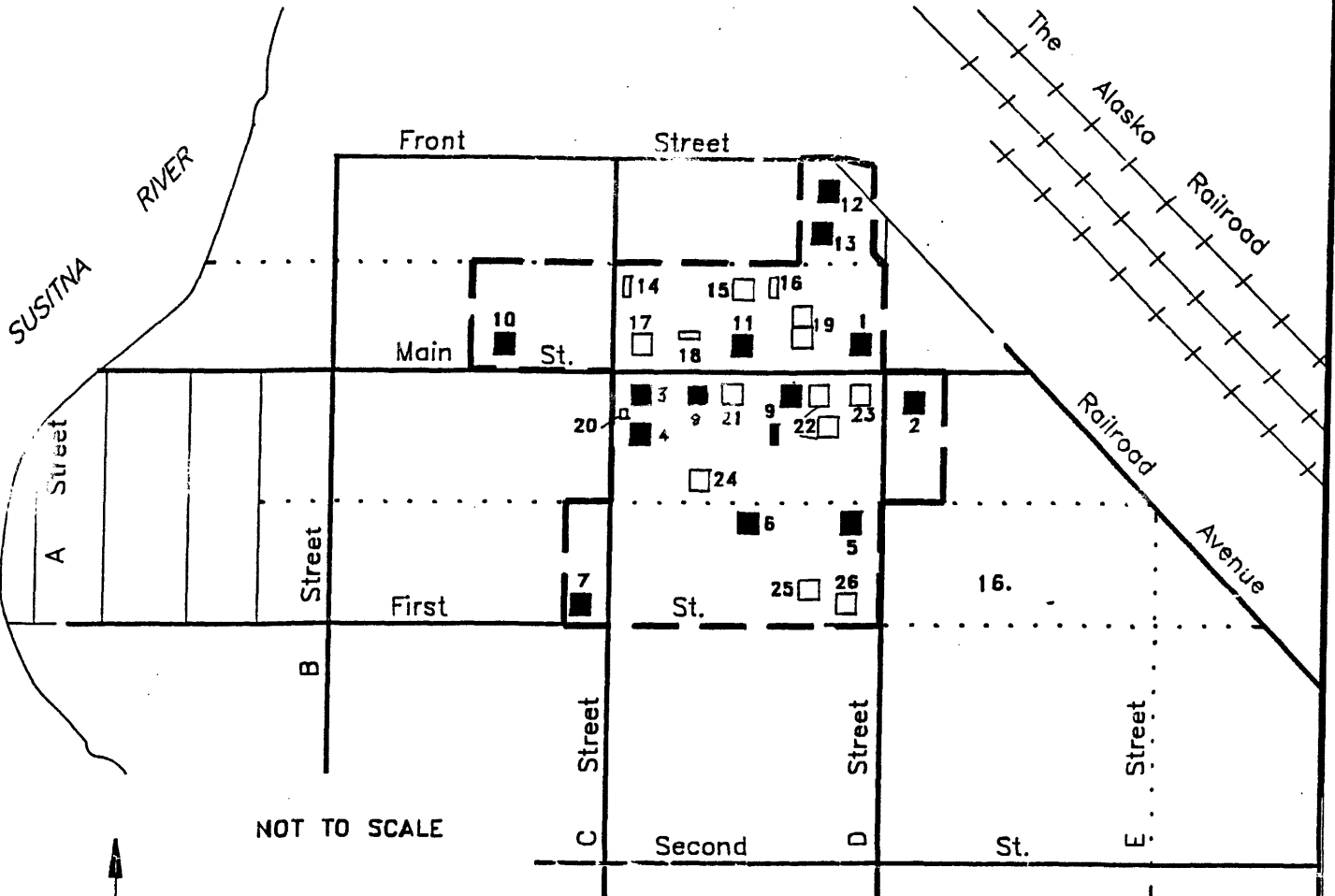


TALKEETNA HISTORIC DISTRICT

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH, ALASKA

AHRS SITE NO. TAL-033

- BOUNDARY
- CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURES
- NON-CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURES
- ALLEY
- ROADS



NOT TO SCALE

■ Contributing Buildings

1. Fairview Inn
2. Nagley's Store
3. Frank Lee Cabin
4. Frank Lee Barn
5. Talkeetna Schoolhouse
6. Ole Dahl Cabin (1)
7. David St. Lawrence Cabin
8. Helmer Ronning Cabin
9. Ole Dahl Cabin (2)
10. Tom Weatherall Cabin
11. Mike Trepte House
12. Red John Cuculich Cabin
13. Black John Zulich Cabin

□ Non-Contributing Buildings

14. Trailer
15. Shed
16. Collapsed Shed
17. Curry Building
18. River Trips Building
19. Three Rivers Gas Station
20. Log Cabin
21. Bikes, Flight, Etc.
22. Roberta Sheldon House
23. National Parks Service Ranger Station
24. Private Residence
25. Talkeetna Station
26. Talkeetna Station House