

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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received OCT 16 1986
date entered NOV 25 1986

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PATROL CABINS, MOUNT MCKINLEY NATIONAL PARK

Name: Toklat Ranger Station (Pearson Cabin), No. 4

Location: Near main branch of Toklat River at mile 53.8 and approximately 125' west of park road, NE 1/4, NW 1/4, Sec. 22, T. 16S., R. 13W., Fairbanks Meridian

UTM References: 05/646950/7046550 Quadrangle: Mt. McKinley (C-1),AK

Acreage and Boundary Description: Less than 1 acre Scale: 1:63,360

Nominated area includes cabin, cache, dog house and privy remains and is a 50 yard circular radius measured from the center of the cabin.

Description: Unpeeled round log walls with saddle corner notching; moss, dirt, and wood strips for chinking; exterior unpainted; low pitch gable roof of split poles, sod, shiplap, and composition rolled asphalt; exposed unpeeled log purlins; split log sheathing forms eaves overhang; gable extends over main facade to form porch supported by unpeeled vertical poles; unpeeled stacked log railing around porch; rectangular; measures approximately 10' x 12' (inside); 1 story; log foundation; multi-light windows; removable wood windows and door shutters. Alterations: new lumber and roofing paper in 1951; sill logs replaced and nearby cache reerected in 1976. Site: eight log dog houses, each divided in half, extend to the north and south of cabin; log cache on 10' high poles, 40' east of cabin; pole outhouse remains.

History and Significance: Architect: Unknown (probably none)

Construction Date: 1927 Builder: National Park Service

Located near the center of the park on a major river and overland transportation route, the Toklat Ranger Station is the oldest (and possibly the only extant) patrol cabin built totally by park rangers. The interior was finished during July 1927. In the construction of this cabin and two others built by park rangers that summer (McKinley Bar and McLeod Creek), Superintendent Harry Karstens wrote, "In this construction it was necessary for the rangers to whip-saw lumber from logs with a reconditioned crosscut saw, for doors, window frames, tables and shelves and in several cases, floors. Most of the cabins having no floors in them. All construction is necessarily crude and with no conveniences as funds were lacking . . ." Rangers built several dog houses at the Toklat Cabin in August and September 1927. Additional work was done on the cabin the following spring and summer. The summer of 1928 witnessed the construction of an outhouse and a food cache. In February 1929, a new roof of "lumber with overlapping strips" was installed.

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The Toklat Ranger Cabin is significant for its association with the history of early wildlife conservation efforts accomplished by the National Park Service in the park. In addition, this cabin is the only extant roadside cabin that retains a nearly complete ensemble of ancillary structures related to the earliest patrol activities in the park. Exterior physical integrity of both the cabin and the nearby structures has been little compromised over the years.

Photo Nos. 4-1 to 4-9