

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 06000241

Date Listed: 3/8/2007

Proenneke, Richard, Site  
Property Name

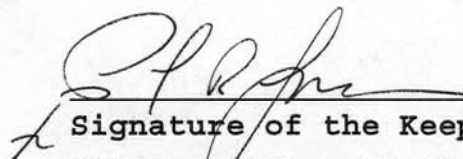
Lake & Peninsula  
County

AK  
State

N/A

Multiple Name

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

  
Signature of the Keeper

3/8/07  
Date of Action

=====

Amended Items in Nomination:

Location:

The address is amended to add: *Lake Clark National Park and Preserve*

Significance:

The period of significance is revised to read: *1967-1979*.  
[Even though Proenneke continued to reside at the cabin site until 1998, the period of his most significant (\*exceptional) contributions and associations is best marked by end dates that correspond to the publication of his biographical book *One Man's Wilderness* (1973) and broadcast of the investigative documentary *Alaska, The Closing Frontier* (1978). These two 1970s-era works ostensibly brought Proenneke's story to a broader audience establishing his position as a leading figure and icon in the Alaska conservation movement.]

U. T. M. Coordinates:

The correct U.T.M. Coordinates based on the USGS map provided should read: 5 455250 6723400

These clarifications were confirmed with the NPS FPO office.

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DISTRIBUTION:

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

06000241

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

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historic name Proenneke, Richard L., Site

other names/site number AHRS Site No. XLC-00213

=====

2. Location

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street & number southeast end of upper Twin Lakes

not for publication N/A

city or town Port Alsworth vicinity X

state Alaska code AK county Lake and Peninsula code 164

zip code 99653

PORT RIVER  
100 Cotton  
SELECT

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      nationally X statewide      locally. (     See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

*Joe Wallis*

*1-23-07*

Signature of certifying official

Date

National Park Service

State or Federal Agency or Tribal government

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

*Joan M. Antonson, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer*

*January 3, 2007*

Signature of commenting official/Title

Date

Alaska

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

X 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):                     

*[Handwritten Signature]*

*3/2/2007*

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

*[Handwritten mark]*

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form

Proenneke, Richard L., Site

Lake and Peninsula, Alaska

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5. Classification
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Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- \_\_\_ private
\_\_\_ public-local
\_\_\_ public-State
X public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- \_\_\_ building(s)
X district
\_\_\_ site
\_\_\_ structure
\_\_\_ object

Number of Resources within Property

Table with 2 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing. Rows include buildings, sites, structures, objects, and Total.

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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

100 Cotton
SELECT



6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Domestic Sub: single dwelling

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Recreation and culture Sub: outdoor recreation

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

No style

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation log

roof sod

walls log

other

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

The Richard L. "Dick" Proenneke Site is located in Lake Clark National Park and Preserve, on the southeastern shore of upper Twin Lakes, about 40 miles north of the community of Port Alsworth. The cabin is the finest example of wood craftsmanship in the Lake Clark area. According to the National Park Service Alaska Region Historical Architect, this cabin and two built by Roy Fure in Katmai National Park have the highest level and quality of wood joinery he has seen in an Alaska national park. The cabin is one of three buildings counted as contributing and fifteen identifiable features in the area associated with Proenneke during the years he constructed and lived at the site, from 1967 to 1998.

The cabin measures 10 by 12 feet and is built of peeled, round spruce logs, saddle notched at the corners. It has a gable roof of spruce poles covered by sod and moss. The cabin has three windows. One on the west

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side, measuring 23 by 14 inches, was a single thin plastic pane that is now glass. The largest window is also on the west side. It is a 26 by 30 inch glass window. The third window is on the east side, and measures 26 by 15 inches. It was a plastic pane that is now a glass window. The cabin door is a handmade Dutch door with wood hinges and a wood lock. A beach stone fireplace rises from the south wall.

Eleven feet south of the cabin is a raised log cache. It is 6 by 4 feet and built of peeled spruce logs that are saddle notched. The cache sits on 9-foot poles. Proenneke used the cache to store various dry goods including flour, candy, clothing, and aircraft parts.

Approximately 45 feet east of the cabin is a combined woodshed-outhouse. It is made of peeled spruce poles, saddle notched at the south end and nailed to corner posts at the north end. The building has a slanting shed roof. The eastern third of the shed contains a 33 inches wide outhouse with a half-moon carved in the door.

The Proenneke Site cabin, cache, and woodshed-outhouse were in need of rehabilitation in 1999. The cabin and woodshed-outhouse roofs were leaking. Rehabilitation work started in 2000 and was completed in 2003. The cabin and woodshed-outhouse roofs were removed down to the gee poles that ran from the eave logs to the ridgepole. Proenneke had covered the cabin and woodshed-outhouse with moss that he obtained within 25 yards of his site. Moss requires a great deal of moisture to sustain itself on a roof, and the relatively dry environment was not conducive to that. Over thirty years Proenneke added moss, dirt, and grass seed to his roof resulting in an amalgamated mat of all three components.

The roof rehabilitation included replacing the original tarpaper covering the gee-poles in-kind. The original vesquene lining atop the tarpaper was replaced with a more durable rubber mat. The original moss, dirt, and sod layer was placed on the rubber mat then topped with a layer of sod obtained five miles west of the site. It was believed the sod replacement would look like the amalgamated material and be more hearty and self-sustaining than moss. Sod is slightly less of a fire hazard than moss. Over the years Proenneke had roof fires caused by sparks from the stovepipe. He extinguished the fires, but they burned holes in the plastic lining and tarpaper.

Proenneke did not use flashing on the roofs and after thirty years the fascia boards had rotted. After replacing the original fascia boards with

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nearly identical ones, the decision was made to add narrow strips of sheet copper to help prolong the life of the buildings. The copper sheeting is unobtrusive. Sheet copper caps were put on the ends of each eave log, the purlins, and the ridgepole to shed moisture. Proenneke also used rectangular shaped spruce pole forms to keep the moss, dirt, and sod roofing from sliding off. The original forms were rotten and were replaced by nearly exact replicas, using the original nails to hold the poles together. In 2001 the roof on the cache was replaced. The aircraft parts are still in the cache.

After Proenneke left, the two plastic windows were frequently broken by bears. After replacing the windows once with plastic, regular window glass was installed along with a steel mullion over the large window. The mullion is nearly identical to the original window sills Proenneke hand sawed.

Proenneke lived at his site mostly full time for nearly 30 years and that kept mice, porcupines, squirrels, and bears from doing much harm to his cabin, cache, and woodshed. Since, the National Park Service presence at the Proenneke Site is generally June through mid-September and animals have more opportunities to damage the buildings.

In 2003 the cabin sill logs and the cache legs were replaced because they had begun to rot. The replacement logs are nearly identical. They are skirted with copper sheeting. The sheeting was nailed to the lower part of the log and went down seven inches into the ground to act as a barrier to burrowing mice and squirrels. The original cabin sill logs were set on a thin gravel pad on top of the ground. New sill logs were placed on twelve concrete piers to keep them off the ground. A seven inch strip of copper sheeting was nailed on the side of the sill logs, inside and outside, and then backfilled to within one inch of the top of the copper. The copper sheeting has weathered and its color blends with the color of the sill logs.

The cabin, log cache, and woodshed-outhouse are counted as contributing resources. The other fifteen identified components at the site contribute to the overall site by encompassing the most immediate and important spots or objects in the daily life of Proenneke. There are no non-contributing resources within the site boundaries.

1. The emergency food storage cache is 50 feet north of the cabin. It consists of two 5-gallon gas cans that Proenneke modified to be emergency



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food storage containers. They contained corn meal, pasta, beans, dried soup, and dried fruit. The containers were covered by black plastic and cached underneath a large white spruce tree.

2. The cool box is 15 feet north of the cabin and consists of a wooden gas box placed 2 feet underground to store perishable foodstuffs such as eggs, meat, fish, and vegetables during the warm months of the year. The box originally contained two square 5-gallon fuel cans.

3. The chair at the high water mark of the beach is 45 feet from the cabin. It sits under two (now dead) spruce trees and accords the sitter a magnificent view of the southwesterly end of upper Twin Lakes and the surrounding mountains. It was a favorite resting place for Proenneke and his guests.

4. The north rock jetty marks off the cleared beach in front of the cabin. It is 40 feet west of the cabin and during high water only a small portion of the 6 foot long-3 foot high jetty would protrude from the water. Proenneke used to bury a calibrated measuring stick at the jetty and keep track of the fluctuating lake levels.

5. The beach in front of the cabin is crescent shaped. It is 20 feet southwest of the cabin and 150 feet in length. Proenneke removed all the watermelon sized rocks from the beach and made his two jetties so he could have a rock free beach for float planes to park. Proenneke used to rake the beach to keep it neat and clean. He gathered small smooth pebbles from the beach to cover his cabin floor from time to time. He would periodically remove the pebbles from his cabin and wash and sift some on the beach before returning them to his cabin floor. Proenneke put down indoor-outdoor carpet in the cabin in 1979 to help reduce dust and moisture.

6. The 15 foot square stern Grumann canoe that Proenneke used rests 50 feet from the cabin. It had been brought to Twin Lakes by the Carrithers and was at Spike's cabin in 1965. Dick inherited the canoe and it became his only mechanical alternative means of transportation. He had a small Sears 3.5 horsepower outboard engine that he occasionally used on the canoe. Proenneke stored the canoe on the beach just below the high water mark with the pointer line tied on a willow bush.

7. The south rock jetty lies about 90 feet south of the cabin. It was made of watermelon sized rocks like the north jetty. In 1975-1976

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Proenneke would heal the floats of his yellow Piper J3-Cub on a wooden ramp on the north side of the jetty to protect it from westerly winds coming up the lake.

8. The cache II trail head begins on the north side of the south jetty about 85 feet from the cabin and runs into the woods about 100 feet where a small log, lumber, float ramp storage zone was established. The various items at the location include 2 leg hold traps hanging in a tree and a bicycle tire rim welded on a thin angle iron frame that looks like a spinning wheel but has unknown utility. All the items are either hanging from trees or leaning against spruce trees in a confined space.

9. The cache III lies 135 feet southeast of cache II and consists of a 25 foot ladder Proenneke built 36 years ago leaning against a group of spruce trees, and a large piece of canvas tied into the tree. The utility of the canvas is unknown.

10. The urination stump-waste water deposit feature is located 60 feet north of the cabin and 25 feet west of the woodshed-outhouse on a short path running north of the path that connects the cabin to the woodshed. The site consists of a low rotten spruce stump and bare gravel spot under the stump where Proenneke would micturate and where he would dump his gray water.

11. The cache IV feature is east and contiguous to the woodshed-outhouse on both sides of the trail to the Teetering Rock. Cache IV is 150 feet from the Proenneke cabin and consists of hand sawn pieces of lumber, various sapling poles, and firewood trees leaning against living spruce trees. It has blocks of firewood that Proenneke sawed at nearby locations and packed to the spot for storage. In addition, cache IV has a small pile of firewood logs 4 feet long lying across from the woodshed. The cache contains a 55 gallon barrel used to store grease and fuel for the outboard engine. There is a table made from a slabbed spruce tree burl and a wooden vice used to hold a 5 foot long rip saw for sharpening.

12. The Hope Cabin trail turn-off is 164 feet east of the Proenneke cabin and requires a left hand turn to proceed to access the Hope Carrithers cabin about 600 feet to the north. The trail continues on to the Spike Carrithers and the Dick Weisser cabins where the trail ends, about a thousand feet northeast of the Proenneke cabin.



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13. The Hope Creek bridge trail turn-off is 175 feet east of the Proenneke cabin and requires a right hand turn to access the now washed out log foot bridge Proenneke built for easy access to the country south of his site. The bridge is about 360 feet from the Hope Creek bridge turn-off.

14. The Hope Creek bridge abutment is about 400 feet southeast of the Proenneke cabin and consists of a pile of rocks on the creek bank. Proenneke placed a few small logs on the abutment to span the 20 foot wide creek. The bridge washed out about four years ago and has not been rebuilt.

15. The Teetering Rock trail runs east from the beach in front of the Proenneke cabin about .73 of a mile to a large protruding rock due east of the cabin. The rock was a favorite vantage point of Proenneke. He liked to take visitors to the rock and ask if they could gently teeter it. It is a granite glacial erratic boulder sitting on a granite outcrop. One is accorded a beautiful view of the Hope Creek delta, the lake, and surrounding mountains from the site.

FOX RIVER  
100 Cotton  
SELECT

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8. Statement of Significance  
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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)

- Conservation
- Exploration and settlement

Period of Significance 1967-1998

Significant Dates 1967  
1998

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)  
Proenneke, Richard Louis "Dick"

Cultural Affiliation Euroamerican

Architect/Builder Proenneke, Richard Louis "Dick"

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**Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)**

The Richard L. "Dick" Proenneke site is on the southeast shore of upper Twin Lakes, now part of Lake Clark National Park and Preserve. Proenneke and his construction of the cabin at the site is chronicled in the book *One Man's Wilderness* edited by Sam Keith (1973), a book that Roderick Nash, author of *Wilderness and the American Mind*, says details the "quintessential Alaskan dream" of building a log cabin and living in the wilderness. The book has sold more than 100,000 copies. Proenneke filmed and photographed his work, and kept a journal while building the cabin using only hand tools. When *One Man's Wilderness* came out, Alaska was in the midst of the "great Alaska lands debate" that pitted conservationists against developers over the disposition of more than 100 million acres of federal public lands. Proenneke's book was an eloquent statement in favor of wilderness conservation and influenced many Alaskans and Americans to support that cause. In 1978 the Public Broadcasting Service produced a NOVA program *Alaska, The Closing Frontier*, presenting the pros and cons of conserving 100 million acres of Alaska with testimony of Alaskans from all walks of life: Native Alaskans, politicians, miners, oil company representatives, Sierra Club members, big game hunting guides, and Proenneke. Proenneke received more air time than anyone else in the program. His role in the television production along with his book put Twin Lakes in people's minds and on the map, and helped make the case to National Park Service planners and the public about the worthiness of the area as a national park. In sum, Proenneke had a profound role in the state and national lands debate and helped passage of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act in 1980, when more than 100 million acres of Alaska wild lands were conserved as parks, wildlife refuges, and wild and scenic rivers, including his beloved Twin Lakes country.

Proenneke lived at the site, much of the time alone, for thirty years. The period of significance starts in 1967 when Proenneke cut the logs for his cabin at the site, and ends in 1998 when he stopped living full time at his cabin. Although the period of significance is less than fifty years ago, Proenneke is a legend through books and video productions based on his life, journals, and films. The video production, *Alone in The Wilderness* (2004), repeatedly has been shown on ninety percent of the 350 public broadcasting stations in the U.S. His cabin, although less than fifty years old, is nearly unique in the Lake Clark region and is a testament of the qualities of a highly skilled log craftsman: construction with peeled logs, closely fit corner notches, wooden door hinges, a wooden door lock, and stone fireplace. In addition, outbuildings and associated features are intact at the site.



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**Historic background**

Richard Proenneke was born in Primrose, Iowa, May 4, 1916. After spending most of his life there, he and a friend traveled across the country by motorcycle. After returning from their trip, Proenneke decided to go west and join a friend from Primrose working on a ranch. He was trucking cattle in Oregon when Pearl Harbor was bombed. Proenneke joined the Navy. Working as a carpenter's mate in the Pacific campaign, he developed rheumatic fever and was hospitalized for six months. At the end of the war, he returned to Oregon, where he took courses in heavy equipment maintenance and repair. Later he moved to Kodiak where he worked as a diesel mechanic and heavy equipment operator. He retired in 1967 and moved to Twin Lakes, a remote spot on the western edge of the Alaska Range 35 miles north of Port Alsworth on Lake Clark and about 125 miles southwest of Anchorage.

For 1,000 to 1,200 years the Lake Clark-Twin Lakes region had been home to the Dena'ina Athabascan people, and it was not until the early twentieth century that Euroamericans settled at Tanalian Point (now called Port Alsworth). Les Wernberg, a Euroamerican trapper, built what is the first documented cabin near Twin Lakes. Proenneke, who lived at Twin Lakes for thirty years, probably has spent more time there than anyone else ever.

Gale "Spike" Carrithers, a retired Naval officer, and his wife Hope from Kodiak filed applications with the U.S. Bureau of Land Management for two five acre lots at Twin Lakes on February 9, 1960. The Carrithers built a cabin there between 1961 and 1962 and later a second cabin. They invited their Kodiak friend, Proenneke, to visit them in 1962. Another friend from Kodiak, Erhardt "Dick" Weiser, applied for a small tract lease in the area in December 1960. Weiser built a small log cabin on his site in 1967. Herbert Wright of Seattle, a friend of the Carrithers and Proenneke, had filed for a small tract lease at Twin Lakes on the same day the Carrithers filed. Wright became ill with cancer. Before he died in 1967, he urged Proenneke to file for a lease and build a cabin on his site, something Proenneke decided to do.

Soon after Proenneke's introduction to Twin Lakes, Spike Carrithers had a stroke. Thereafter Hope wanted Proenneke to come to Twin Lakes with them in case Spike had another stroke while at the remote lake. Between 1963 and 1967 Spike Carrithers's health further deteriorated and he could no longer safely visit Twin Lakes. In the late 1960s or early 1970s the Carrithers sold their cabins to Bob Acheson of Kodiak, although they did not have valid titles to the lots where the cabins stood.

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In the summer and fall of 1967, Proenneke stayed at Spike's Cabin by himself and started looking for a site to build a cabin. Proenneke had seen many log cabins in Alaska and had helped Babe Alsworth build a log chicken coop with a shed-style sod roof at Port Alsworth. He wanted to see how good a cabin he could build by himself using simple hand tools. Proenneke inquired with the Bureau of Land Management in March 1967 and learned that the land around upper Twin Lakes was still open to entry. In July 1967 he cut and peeled fifty trees stacking the logs near his future cabin site at the location where Wright had urged Proenneke to build. In October 1967, Proenneke learned the land was not open for entry. Nevertheless, in May 1968 Proenneke began to build his cabin at the chosen site. He intended to document it by word, still camera, and 8mm movie camera equipped with a remote control self timer. Initially, he did not intend to live in the cabin permanently. In 1990 Proenneke told National Park Service historian Ted Karamanski,

It was just to be a cabin. I had seen and examined lots of cabins on my own . . . and just do it all . . . no chain saw, just an axe and bow saw, chisels . . . I cut these logs for the cabin in July . . . They should be cut after freeze up . . . and you don't get so much weather checking and splitting . . . I dragged them in . . . in late August, September and stacked them here on the site where the cabin is and then I went out [to Iowa] for the winter and that's when I received the bad news at Anchorage that it was closed to home sites. Then I was gonna drop it completely, then decided to put it together for pictures and make a movie of it, which I did, and it was pretty popular . . . a lot of people seen it and liked it and finally it kind of went with the book *One Man's Wilderness*, Alaska Northwest Publishing Company, 1973. . . . And so that's how I got started on this . . . living here, . . . people wondered how come they quit it if it was so good. At that time I talked it up, it was pretty nice, so I pretty near had to live up to my bragging . . . so it got kind of catching and finally it got to be that this seemed like . . . the place to be.

While there are a few cabins in the area predating Proenneke's, they served as summer and fall retreats, hunting base camps, or trapping cabins. Proenneke's was the first cabin to serve as a year round residence. Following completion of the cabin in September 1968, Proenneke remained at Twin Lakes through the winter. Each fall the next few years he went to visit his parents in Iowa, but returned to Twin Lakes with the thawing of the upper lake.



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The first documented Bureau of Land Management inspection of Proenneke's cabin was in 1984. The inspector recognized the craftsmanship of the cabin and the good faith Proenneke had made inquiring about the land being open for entry. By this time the land was part of Lake Clark National Park and Preserve. Proenneke's closest friends in the area were Babe and Mary Alsworth of Port Alsworth. Since Proenneke was concerned about the legality of his ownership of the land where his cabin stood, Mary Alsworth had filed a 15 acre Native allotment application on the site in November 1972. She claimed her initial entry on the land was July 1967 to pick berries, fish, hunt, and cut wood, and the land was not occupied or improved by any other person prior to her entry. Mrs. Alsworth thought she could claim the land as her Native allotment which would allow Proenneke to legally reside at his cabin without fear of the government prohibiting him from doing so. In March 1975 the BLM rejected Mrs. Alsworth's claim noting she failed to show that she had lived on the land for five years and that she had not demonstrated she had used the land to the exclusion of all others. Subsequently, however, the regulations were more broadly defined and Mrs. Alsworth allotment claim was reinstated in September 1981. In March 1985 the NPS challenged the BLM approval of Mrs. Alsworth's claim, alleging that Proenneke had entered the land before Mrs. Alsworth had asserted entry. Proenneke told an NPS investigator in February 1985 that he had built the cabin for himself and not for Mrs. Alsworth. He said the first winter he spent there was 1968 and that Mrs. Alsworth had only made one or two short visits there and never spent a night at Twin Lakes. Proenneke never sought Mrs. Alsworth's help in securing the land, although he later learned she had filed the claim so he could live there. Proenneke posted the four corners of the property and brushed out the survey lines. The case finally was resolved in August 1988 when Interior Department Administrative Law Judge Harvey Sweitzer ruled the land was not open to entry under the Alaska Native Allotment Act at the time Mrs. Alsworth asserted her entry.

In 1987 Proenneke applied to the National Park Service for a special use permit to continue to reside in his cabin. He was granted a five-year special use permit in April 1989 for cabin use and occupancy. Even before the permit was issued Proenneke was a volunteer-in-the-park and had been assisting park managers on various projects including search and recoveries, wildlife surveys, weather reports, park visitor services, and ranger activities. From their first meeting with Proenneke in 1979 NPS managers never considered dispossessing him from his site. Park managers realized Proenneke was an asset to the park and his rather unique lifestyle had great appeal to park visitors and those who read his book.

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In some ways the cabin Proenneke built was in keeping with other log cabins in the area, but it departed from the traditional in five major ways. First he peeled the cabin logs and seasoned them one year before construction. Most log cabins in the area were built with unpeeled green spruce logs in a hurried fashion. Second, since Proenneke used his cabin year-round, he built outbuildings that often were absent from other cabins in the area, most of which were used seasonally for trapping. Proenneke made his Twin Lakes existence "smoother" rather than "rougher," to follow camp craft guru "Nessmuk's" phrase, by having a combination outhouse and woodshed near his cabin. Most area cabins had outhouses but few had a separate woodshed; instead keeping firewood in a windbreak or under an overhanging roof usually at the front of the cabin. Like many regional rural dwellers, Proenneke built a raised log cache near his cabin to store extra clothing, food, and various other dried goods such as camera gear and aircraft manuals. Third, the Proenneke cabin had a stone fireplace. Only one other, the Kasna Creek Cabin on Kontrashabuna Lake, is known to have a masonry stone fireplace. Fourth, the Proenneke cabin is built with more care and skill than the typical log cabin in wooded locations in the Bristol Bay area. Proenneke's Dutch-door attached by wooden hinges is believed to be unique in the region. The wooden door lock took a very accomplished woodworker to design and build. The hinges and lock are testaments to Proenneke's creative genius with wood. The round corner notches used in the cabin are well above average in skill level. The lateral fits of the wall logs are very good on the Proenneke cabin, although they required chinking to fill in the spaces between wall logs. Fifth, the Proenneke cabin construction is the most thoroughly documented known in southwest Alaska. Proenneke consciously set out to leave an inclusive record of how a cabin should be built. He documented the cabin by word in his journals, used by his friend and retired teacher Sam Keith, who compiled what has become an Alaska classic, *One Man's Wilderness*, published in 1973. He also filmed his work.

Proenneke differed from most others in the area because he was not a trapper or a prospector, and only an infrequent hunter in his early Twin Lakes years. He was a writer, wildlife photographer, naturalist, and ardent hiker and mountain climber. Proenneke shot a Dall sheep ram in 1968 and a couple of caribou between 1969 and 1975 and thereafter he stopped hunting. The reasons he gave for giving up hunting reflect his growing personal environmental ethic.

I got a big ram the first winter and then another time or two I got a caribou . . . But it was a lot of meat for one guy . . . but it was

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too much, eating one animal for me so I just . . . (I was) taking pictures too. Why, I preferred the pictures over the dead animals. So I would just take pictures. And I got to feeling that all these wild animals around here was kind of the only neighbors I had . . . and a lot of them . . ., moose especially got so gentle. I just preferred to see them (animals) around rather than to---and I kind of feel like if you just study animals, . . . just watch them, you learn a lot. And if you shoot one, then you've killed your teacher right there.

As a writer Proenneke was not a wordsmith like Henry David Thoreau, John Muir, or Sigurd Olsen, yet he wrote about nature. He rarely proselytized. Proenneke's field time and patience observing wildlife made him knowledgeable about the behavior of wildlife in the area. He described in great detail his observations of wildlife behavior and the vagaries of the weather. Proenneke put into practice what Thoreau preached.

After Proenneke quit hunting the only animals he killed were an occasional porcupine caught gnawing on his cabin or on his log burl tables outside his front door. He would skin and pot roast the porcupines in a Dutch oven. He would live trap the red squirrels and relocate them to the north side of upper Twin Lakes. Proenneke called all the squirrels "Freddy" and toward the end of his tenure at Twin Lakes he said as far as he was concerned "Freddy" could have his cabin.

Proenneke's basic wilderness philosophy was that the wildlife and the lands and waters at Twin Lakes should not be impaired in any significant way because of human activities. As the 1970s evolved so too did Proenneke's encyclopedic knowledge of his environment and how fragile it was. He remarked more than once that when he moved to Twin Lakes in 1968 it was difficult to find a full curl Dall ram but after the creation of Lake Clark National Park and Preserve more and more rams were growing to maturity and full curl status within the sanctuary of the park.

During the 1970s many nationally recognized figures in the conservation movement visited the site. Proenneke hosted Mardy Murie, a founder of the Wilderness Society and widow of biologist Olaus Murie, twice in the 1970s. John Kauffmann, former assistant to National Park Service Director George B. Hartzog, Jr., moved to Alaska in the early 1970s and helped plan Lake Clark National Park and Preserve. He worked with Proenneke on a contract with the NPS for Proenneke to take wildlife movies and still photographs at Twin Lakes beginning in 1974. In 1979 Kauffmann authored a chapter on



USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form

Proenneke, Richard L., Site  
Lake and Peninsula, Alaska

Page 17

=====  
the potential Lake Clark National Park and Preserve for the National Geographic Society's *Exploring America's Backcountry*. Proenneke and his cabin were prominently featured in the book. Proenneke also shared his ideas through correspondence with nature writer Sigurd Olsen, who visited Lake Clark as part of an National Park Service planning trip in 1963 before Proenneke moved to Twin Lakes. Edgar Wayburn, president of the Sierra Club, visited Proenneke in 1976. During the height of the Alaska lands debate in 1978 the Public Broadcasting Service made a documentary, *Alaska, The Closing Frontier*, as part of its NOVA series featuring interviews with Alaskans. Proenneke was featured in the production.

Publication of *One Man's Wilderness* in 1973 brought Dick Proenneke world renown. He acquired a following of people who considered him an inspiration and a resource for local natural historical knowledge. When the area became a park and preserve, many visitors came to the park because they had read the book and wanted to meet the man who wrote it. The book was in print between 1973 and 1986, and again since 1999. About 1991 it was printed in Japanese and has sold 10,000 copies in Japan. More than 100,000 copies of the book have sold. In 1999 the book won the National Outdoor Book Award for biography and memoir. In 2006 the National Park Service published *More Readings From One Man's Wilderness: The Journals of Richard L. Proenneke 1974-1980*, edited by John B. Branson. Proenneke continues to inspire and influence people to be more caring for the environment and the creatures that share it. In 2003 videographer Bob Swerer of Colorado Springs, Colorado produced his third video about Proenneke. Entitled *Alone In The Wilderness*, it uses Proenneke's 1967-1968 film to present construction of the cabin. The video has been shown nationally on public television.

Proenneke enjoyed his life alone, but he was not a misanthrope. He liked people and had many close friends; he just did not need to live around them. He liked to hike and climb solo so he did not have to be held back by anyone, but frequently had hiking companions. He enjoyed guiding visitors to special places around Twin Lakes, such as Teetering Rock, upper Hope Creek valley, Emerson Creek waterfalls, or the sheep lick on the way to Turquoise Lake.

Proenneke expressed his personal philosophy of wilderness preservation through his writings and films of his thirty years at Twin Lakes. He became a significant voice for conservation of Alaska wild lands. He went to Twin Lakes in 1967 to see what kind of cabin he could build using materials from the area and his own ingenuity. He also wanted to study

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form

Proenneke, Richard L., Site

Lake and Peninsula, Alaska

Page 18

=====  
and learn about the wildlife, the mountains, and waters around his cabin. Proenneke's interests, talents, and circumstances made him influential in shaping and educating the public about the wisdom of conservation of our natural world. Failing health forced Proenneke to leave his cabin in 1998. He died in 2003.

FOX RIVER  
100 Cotton  
SELECT



=====

9. Major Bibliographical References

=====

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

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USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form

Proenneke, Richard L., Site  
Lake and Peninsula, Alaska

Page 20

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USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form

Proenneke, Richard L., Site

Lake and Peninsula, Alaska

Page 21

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*One Man's Alaska*, National Park Foundation, 1977.

*The Frozen North*, Bob Swerer Productions, 1999.

*There's No Place Like Twin Lakes*, NPS Lake Clark National Park and Preserve Production, 2005.

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: Lake Clark National Park and Preserve

FOOTNOTES  
100 Cotton  
SELECT

=====  
 10. Geographical Data  
 =====

Acreage of Property less than one acre

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	05	461550	6723550	3	_____	_____
2	_____	_____	_____	4	_____	_____
	_____	See continuation sheet.				

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

In the broadest sense, the site lies within a parallelogram. The site begins at a point on the beach at the northwest corner 100 feet from the Proenneke cabin proceeds east 197 feet through the spruce forest, across the Hope cabin trail, to the northeast corner. The border then proceeds 365 feet south through the forest across the Teetering Rock trail to the southeast corner at the bank of Hope Creek near the washed out Proenneke log foot-bridge abutment. The border then proceeds 440 feet west to the southwest corner of the site on the beach of the lake. The site includes the Teetering Rock trail that heads on the beach in front of the Proenneke Cabin and goes .73 miles east to the 400 pound glacial erratic boulder that sits on a granite bedrock, that was called the Teetering Rock. The site is within the boundaries shown on the attached site plan.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

The boundary includes the Proenneke cabin, cache, and woodshed-outhouse, the beach in front of the cabin, the canoe, the two rock jetties that mark the extent of the beach, the trails that emanate from the cabin, the various other small features on the site including the chair on the beach, three smaller caches and bridge abutment, and the trail to Teetering Rock. The boundary for the site was selected because it encompasses all the important historic contributing resources of the site. All together the contributing resources elucidate the immediate physical world of the Proenneke Site.



USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form

Proenneke, Richard L., Site

Lake and Peninsula, Alaska

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

name/title John B. Branson, Park Historian

organization Lake Clark National Park and Preserve

date January 2, 2007

street & number 1 Park Place telephone 907-781-2218

city or town Port Alsworth state AK zip code 99653
=====

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)

=====
Property Owner
=====

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

name Lake Clark National Park and Preserve

street & number 1 Park Place telephone 907-781-2218

city or town Port Alsworth state AK zip code 99653



## Richard Proenneke Site Log

The following information applies to all the enclosed photographs. John B. Branson took the site images in September 2004. The negatives are archived at the Lake Clark-Katmai Studies Center, 240 W. 5<sup>th</sup> Ave., Suite 236, Anchorage, Alaska 99501

View east of Proenneke cabin and cache, Roll I A.

View NE of Proenneke cabin, Roll II 13 A.

View south of Proenneke cabin, with burl tables in front of cabin, Roll II 6A.

View east of Proenneke cabin and cache, Roll II 0A.

View south of Proenneke cabin, Roll II 9A.

View north of Proenneke cabin with stone chimney, cache, and ladder on right, Roll II 12A.

View east with Proenneke cabin, cache, and wood-shed-outhouse in rear, Roll II 5A.

View south of interior of Proenneke cold box, Roll II 8A.

View south from the cover of Proenneke cold box, Roll II 7A.

View south toward Proenneke cache and ladder, Roll II 10A.

View south toward Proenneke cache and ladder, Roll II 11A.

View SE of Proenneke cache and ladder, Roll I 00A.

View west of Proenneke's woodshed-outhouse, cabin roof in background, Roll II 20A.

View of Proenneke woodshed-outhouse, and cache (right), toward the south, Roll II 15A.

View east to Proenneke woodshed-outhouse with wood storage in background, Roll II 14A.

View NW to Proenneke woodshed-outhouse, Roll II 19A.

View SW to Proenneke trail to firewood storage, woodshed-outhouse, and cabin, Roll II 21A.

View SW of Proenneke woodshed and cabin toward the SW, Roll II 16A.

View NW of Proenneke saw vise, wood storage, and fuel can cache, Roll II 17A.

View north of fork in Proenneke trail (left), to Hope Creek, and right to the Teetering Rock, Roll II 23A.

View north to south jetty, canoe, Proenneke cabin, chair, and north jetty, Roll I 22A.

View south of Proenneke beach with north jetty, canoe, and south jetty in view, Roll I 20A.

View of north jetty on the Proenneke beach looking south, Roll II 2A.

View south of the southerly Hope Creek bridge abutment, Roll I 2A.

View NE on Proenneke snow course, Roll I 25A.

View SW of Proenneke snow course, Roll I 24A.

View NE on Proenneke snow course, Roll I 1A.

View SW of Proenneke trail to woodshed-outhouse, and cabin, Roll II 22A.

View east of northerly Hope Creek bridge abutment, Roll I 4A.

View east of Teetering Rock trail, Roll I 7A.

View south of Teetering Rock trail with Upper Twin Lakes in background, Roll I 17A.

View SW of Teetering Rock trail with Upper Twin Lakes in background, Roll I 8A.

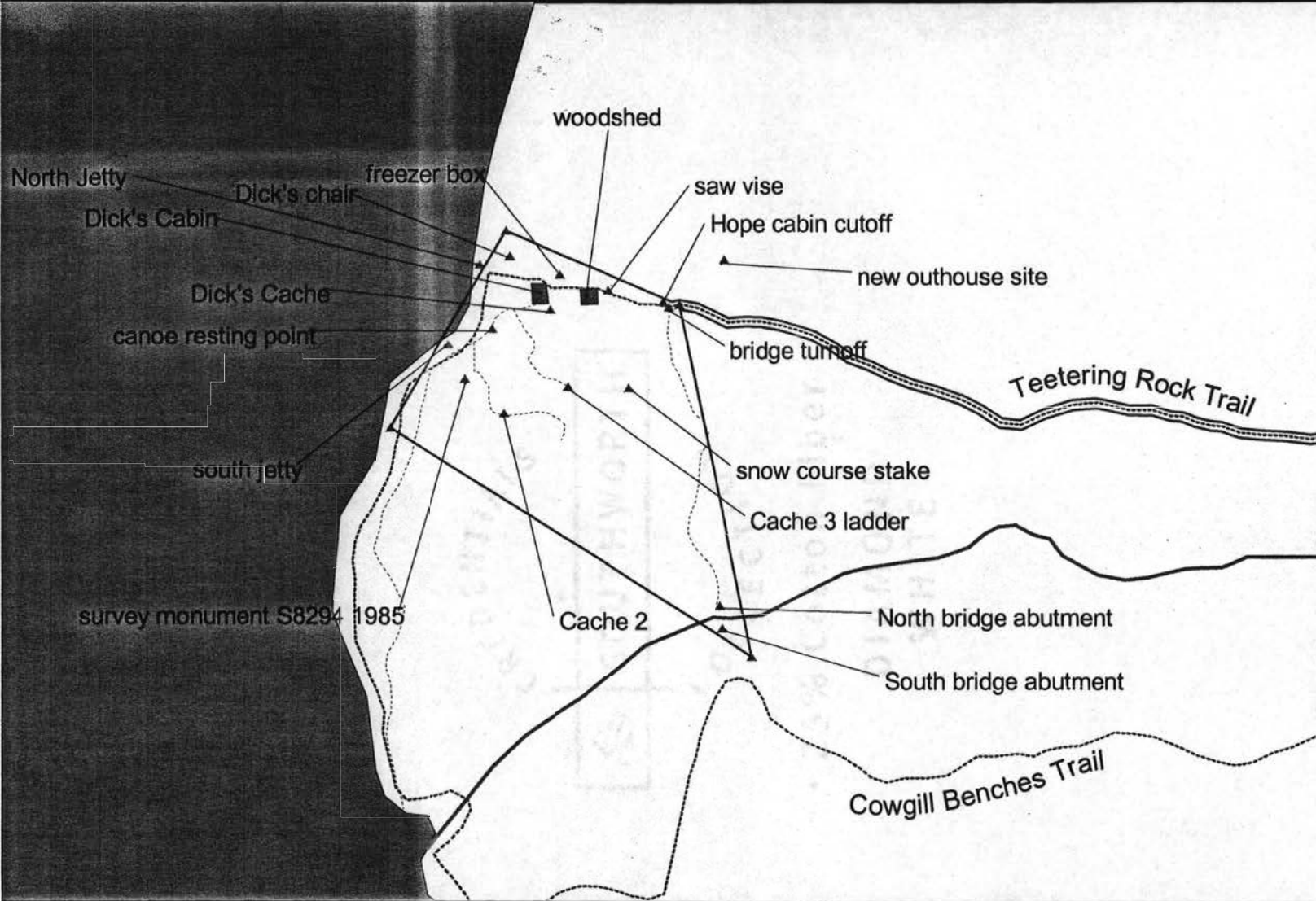
View east of the Teetering Rock with Crag Mountain in the background, Roll I 10A.

View SW of Teetering Rock, Hope Creek delta, Upper Twin Lakes, and Lower Twin Lakes in background, Roll I 12A.

View south of Teetering Rock south toward Cowgill Mountain, Roll I 14A.

# The Richard Proenneke Site

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



- ▲ Proenneke Sites
- Area of Proenneke Site
- ⋯ Proenneke Site Trails
- Proenneke Structures
- ⋯ Twin Lakes Trails
- Hope Creek
- Twin Lakes



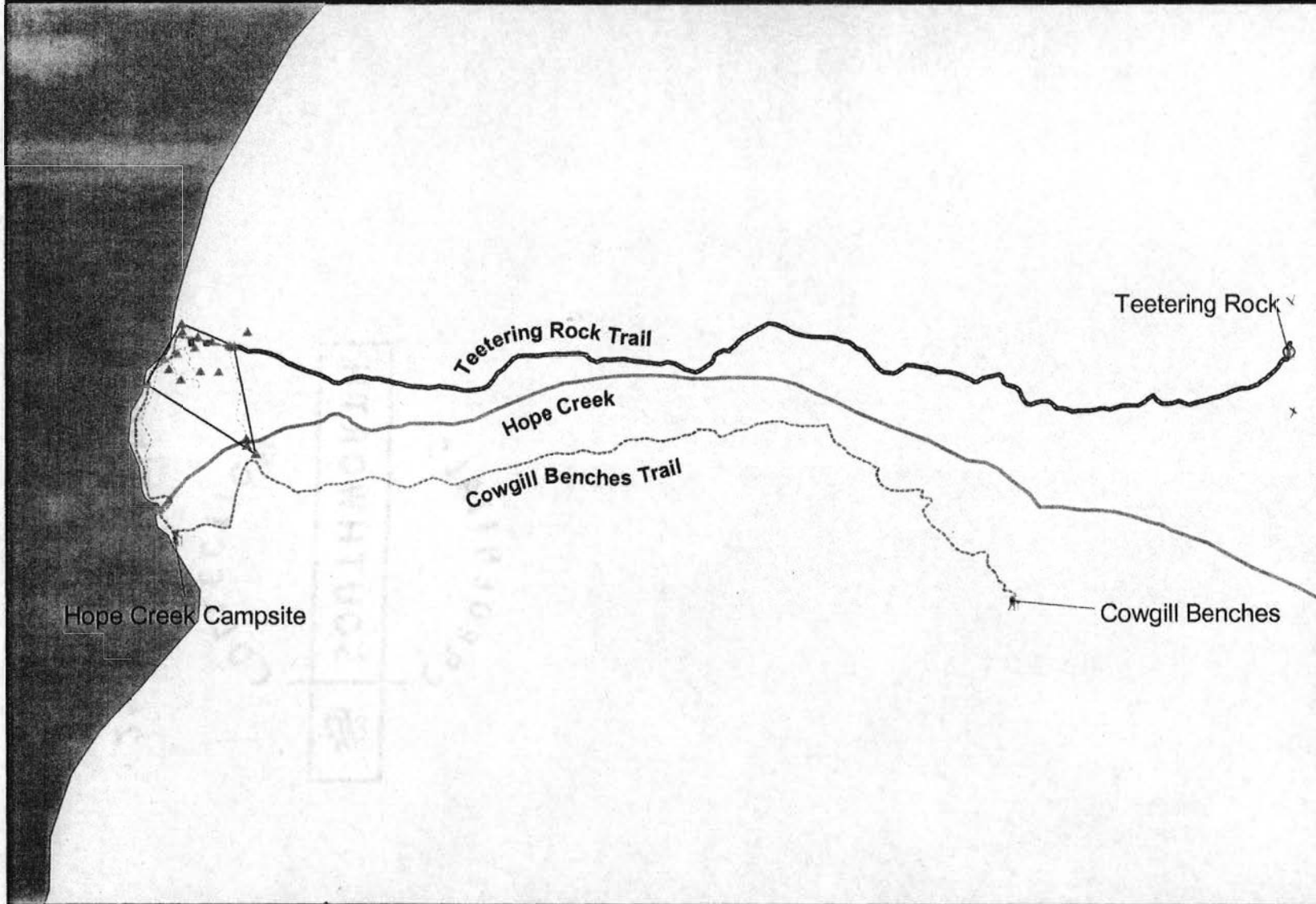
GIS Team  
Lake Clark National  
Park and Preserve

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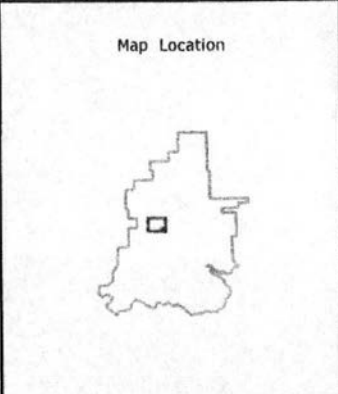
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# The Richard Proenneke Site

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



- Proenneke Sites
- Trail Features
- Proenneke Site Trails
- Area of Proenneke Site
- Twin Lakes Trails
- Hope Creek
- Twin Lakes

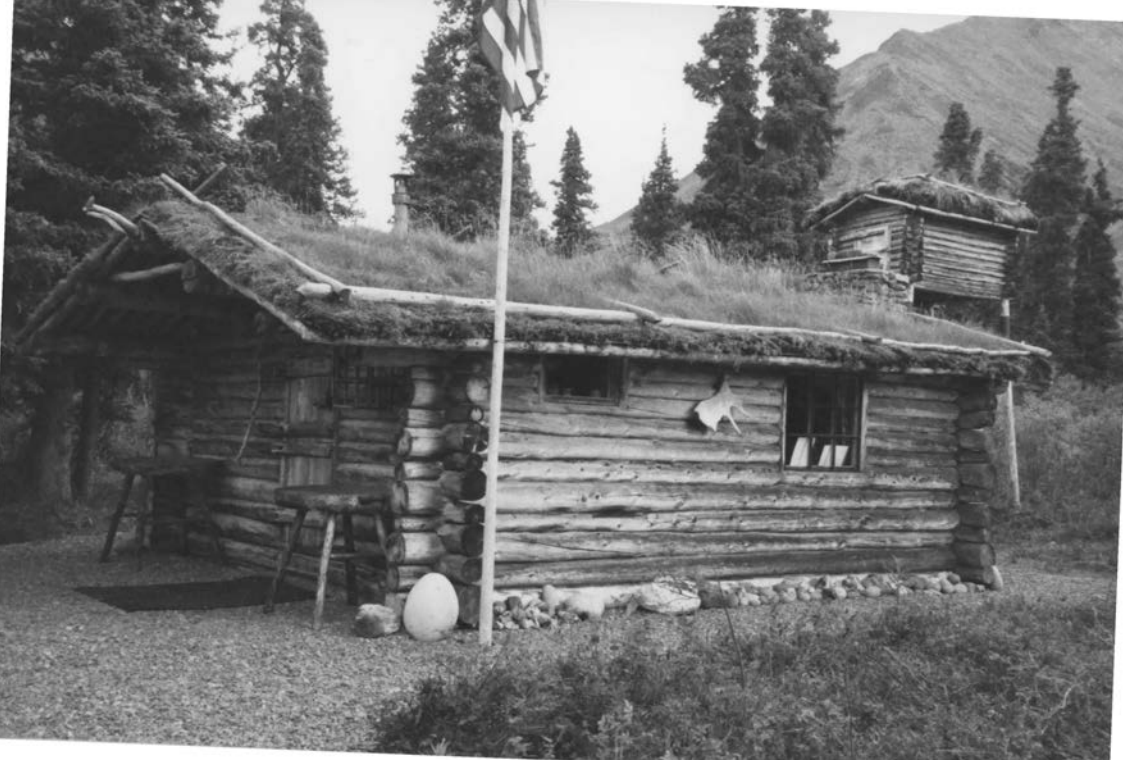


GIS Team  
Lake Clark National  
Park and Preserve

0.025 0 0.025 0.050 0.075 Miles

1 : 4,118 1 inch = 0.07 miles





Richard Proenneke Site

Lake and Peninsula

John B. Branson  
Borough,  
Alaska

Sept. 2004

Study Center, Anchorage, AK

View to the East of  
Cabin and Cache

Roll # - 1A



Richard Proenneke Site

Lake and Peninsula Bay

John B. Branson

Alaska

Sept. 2004

Study Center, Anchorage,  
AK

View NE of the Proenneke  
Cabin

Roll II 13A





Richard Proenneke Site

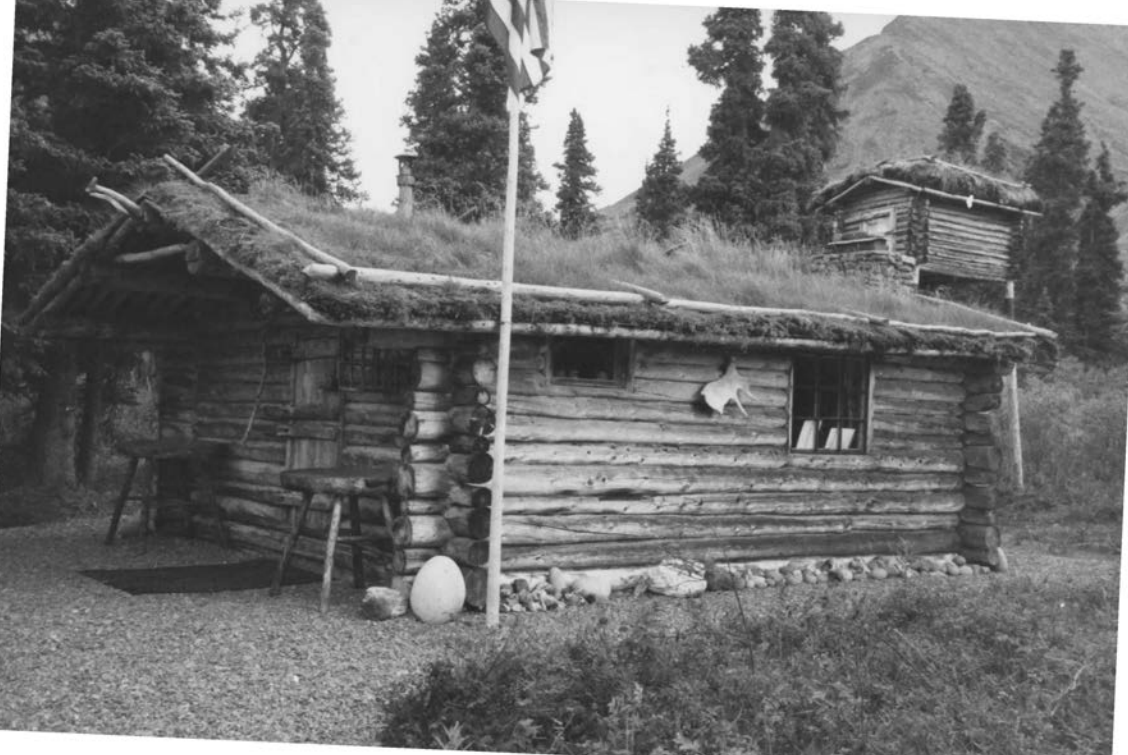
Lake and Peninsula Borough,  
John B. Branson Alaska

Sept. 2004

Study Center, Anchorage, AK

View south of the Proenneke  
cabin, with burl tables

Roll II - 6A



Richard Proenneke Site

Lake and Peninsula Boroughs

John B. Branson Alaska

Sept. 2004

Study Center, Anchorage AK

View to the east of  
cabin and cache

Roll II - OA





Richard Proenneke Site

Lake and Peninsula Borough

John B. Branson Alaska

Sept. 2004

Study Center Anchorage AK

View south of the  
Proenneke cabin

Roll II - 9A



Richard Proenneke Site

Lake and Peninsula,

John B. B ranson

Borough

Sept. 2004

alaska

Study Center, Anchorage

AK

View north of the  
Proenneke cabin with

stone chimney in

Cache log and ladder on  
night

Roll II - 12A





Richard Proenneke Site

Lake and Peninsula

John B. Branson Borough  
Alaska

Sept 2004

Study Center, Anchorage AK

View of Proenneke

Chair looking east

with cabin, cache, and  
woodshed in rear

Roll II - 5A



Richard Proenneke Site

Lake and Peninsula

John B. Branson      Boroughs  
Alaska

Sept. 2004

Study Center, Anchorage, AK

View to South of Interior  
of Proenneke Cold Box

Roll II - 8A



Richard Proenneke Site

Lake and Peninsula Borough

John B. Branson Alaska

Sept. 2004

Study Center, Anchorage, AK

View to the South of the

Proenneke Cold Box

Roll II - 7A





Richard Proenneke Site

Lake and Peninsula Borough

John B. Branson Alaska

Sept. 2004

Study Center, Anchorage, AK

View south of the

Proenneke Cache  
and Ladder

Roll II - 10 A



Richard Proenneke site

Lake and Peninsula Borough

John B. Branson Alaska

Sept. 2004

Study Center, Anchorage,  
AK

View south <sub>east</sub> of Proenneke

Cache and ladder

R011A - 11A





Richard Proenneke site

Lake and Peninsula Borough  
John B. Branson Alaska

Sept. 2004

Study Center, Anchorage AK

View SE of the Proenneke  
cache and ladder

Roll I - 00A



Richard Proenneke Site

Lake and Peninsula Borough

John B. Branson

Alaska

Sept. 2004

Study Center, Anchorage, AK

View of Proenneke wood

shed to west, cabin north

in back ground

Roll II - 20A



Richard Proenneke Site

Lake and Peninsula

John B. Branson Borough  
Sept. 2004 Alaska

Study Center Anchorage, AK

View of Woodshed-outhouse  
and cache (right) toward  
the south

Roll II - 15A





Richard Proenneke Site

Lake and Peninsula Borough  
Alaska

John B. Branson

Sept. 2004

Study Center, Anchorage, AK

View east to the wood  
shed - outhouse with wood  
storage in background

Roll II - 14A



Richard Proenneke Site

Lake and Peninsula Borough  
John B. Brunson Alaska  
Sept. 2004

Study Center, Anchorage, AK

View of Proenneke woodshed

to NW

Roll II - 19A



Richard Proenneke Site

Lake and Peninsula Borough

John B. Branson Alaska

Sept. 2004

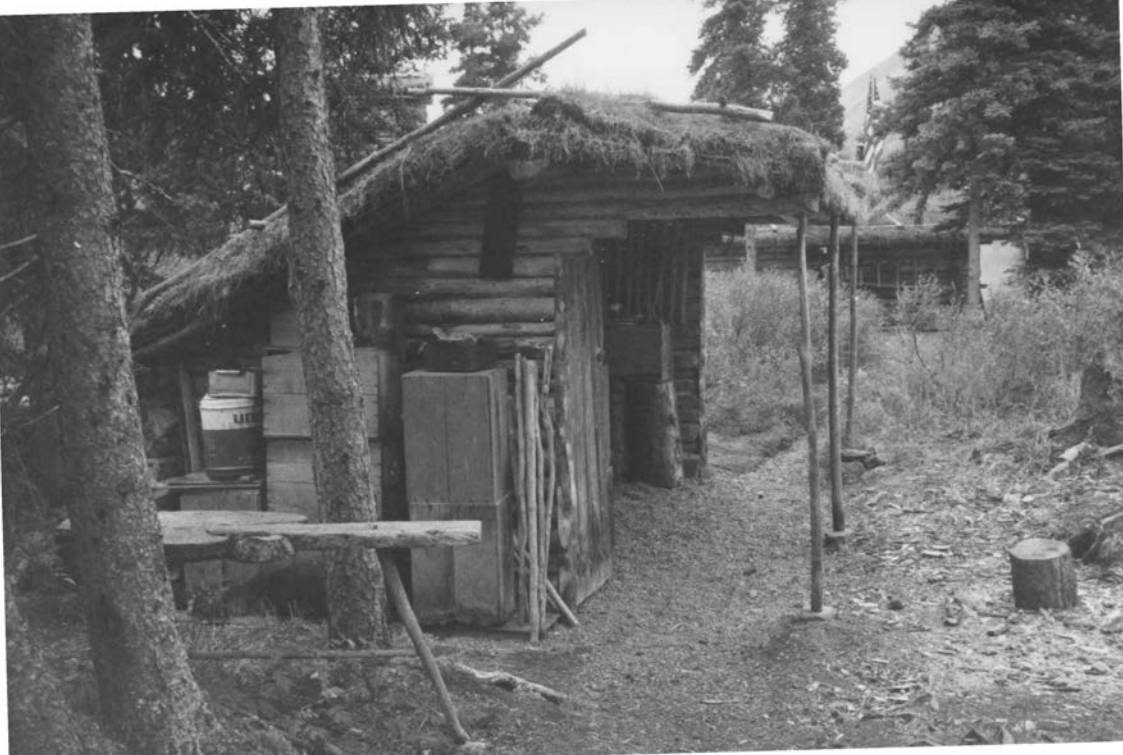
Study Center, Anchorage, AK

View of Proenneke Trail

SW to firewood storage,

woodshed and cabin

Roll II - 21A





Richard Proenneke Site

Lake and Peninsula Borough  
John B. Branson Alaska  
Sept. 2004

Study Center, Anchorage Ak

View of woodshed and  
cabin beyond toward  
the SW

Roll II - 16A



Richard Proenneke Site

Lake and Peninsula Borough  
John B. Branson Alaska

Sept. 2004

Study Center, Anchorage, AK

View to NW of sawvise,  
wood storage, and fuel  
cache

Roll II - 17A



Richard Proenneke Site

Lake and Peninsula Borough  
Alaska

John B. Branson

Sept 2004

Study Center Anchorage, AK

View north of fork in  
Proenneke trail left  
to Hope Cabin and right  
to Teetering Rock.

Red II - 23A





Richard Proenneke Site

Lake and Peninsula

Borough  
Alaska

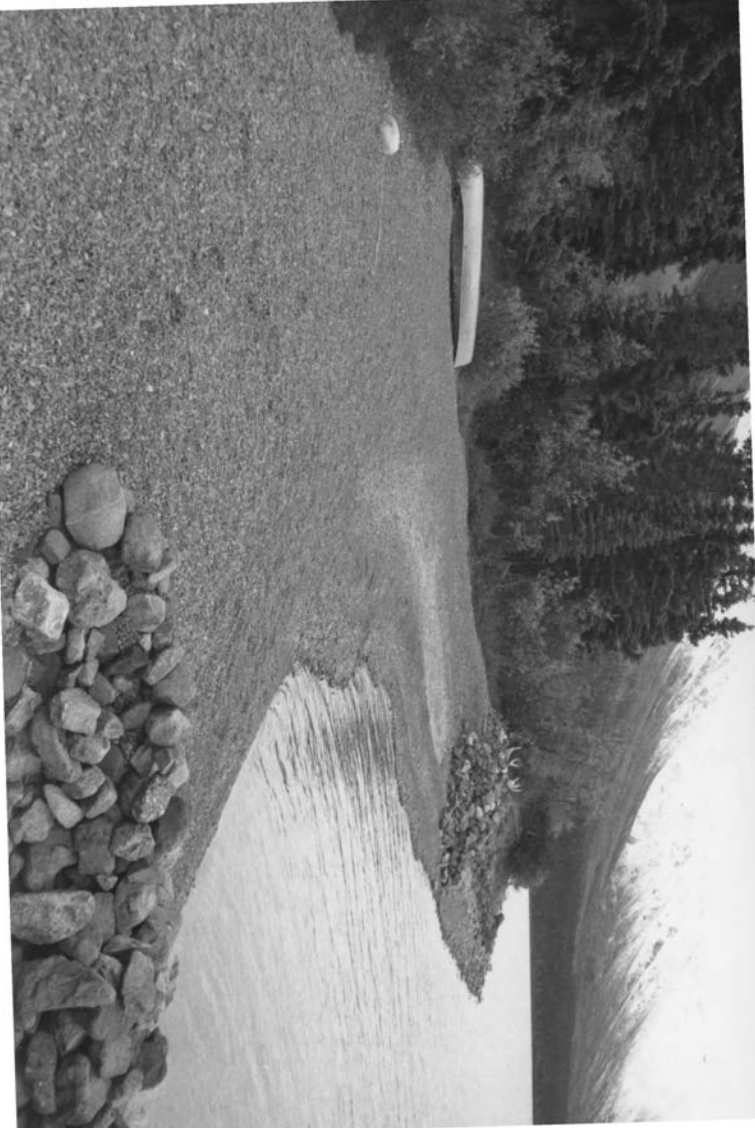
John B. Branson

Sept. 2004

Study Center, Anchorage, AK

View looking north of  
the south jetty, canoe,  
Proenneke cabin, chair,  
and north jetty,

Roll I - 22A



Richard Proenneke Site

Lake and Peninsula Borough  
Alaska

John B. Branson

Sept. 2004

Study Center, Anchorage AK

View of Proenneke Beach  
looking south with north  
jetty, canoe, and south  
jetty

Roll I - 20 A



Richard Proenneke Site

Lake and Peninsula

Borough

John B. Branson

Alaska

Sept. 2004

Study Center, Anchorage

AK

View of North jetty on

Proenneke Beach looking

South

Roll II - 2A





Richard Proenneke Site

Lake and Peninsula Borough  
Alaska

John B. Branson

Sept 2004

Study Center, Anchorage, AK

View looking South of  
South Hope Creek Bridge

Abutment

Roll I

2A



Richard Proenneke Site

Lake and Peninsula Borough  
Alaska

John B. BRANSON

Sept. 2004

Study Center, Anchorage, AK

view looking NE of  
Proenneke Snow course

Roll I - 25A



Richard Proenneke Site

Lake and Peninsula Borough  
Alaska

John B. BRANSON

Sept. 2004

Study Center, Anchorage  
AK

View looking SW of

Proenneke Snow Course

Roll I - 24A



Richard Proenneke Site  
Lake and Peninsula Borough  
John B. BRANSON Alaska

Sept. 2004

Study Center, Anchorage  
AK

View looking NE  
on Proenneke Snow  
Course

Roll I - 1A





Richard Proenneke Site

Lake and Peninsula Borough  
John B. Branson Alaska  
Sept. 2004

Study Center, Anchorage  
AK

View of Proenneke Trail  
SW to woodshed and  
cabin

Roll II - 22A



Richard Proenneke Site

Lake and Peninsula Borough  
John B. Branson Alaska  
Sept. 2004

Study Center, Anchorage Alaska

View looking east of  
North Hope Creek bridge  
abutment.

Roll I 4A



Richard Proenneke Site

Lake and Peninsula Borough  
Alaska

John B. Branson

Sept. 2004

Study Center, Anchorage, AK

View looking east of  
Teetering Rock trail

Roll I - 7A





Richard Proenneke Site

Lake and Peninsula Borough  
Alaska

John B. Branson

Sept. 2004

Study Center, Anchorage

View of Teetering Rock  
Trail with Upper Twin  
Lake in background

Roll I - 17A



Richard Proenneke Site

Lake and Peirceville Bough  
Alaska

John & B. Branson

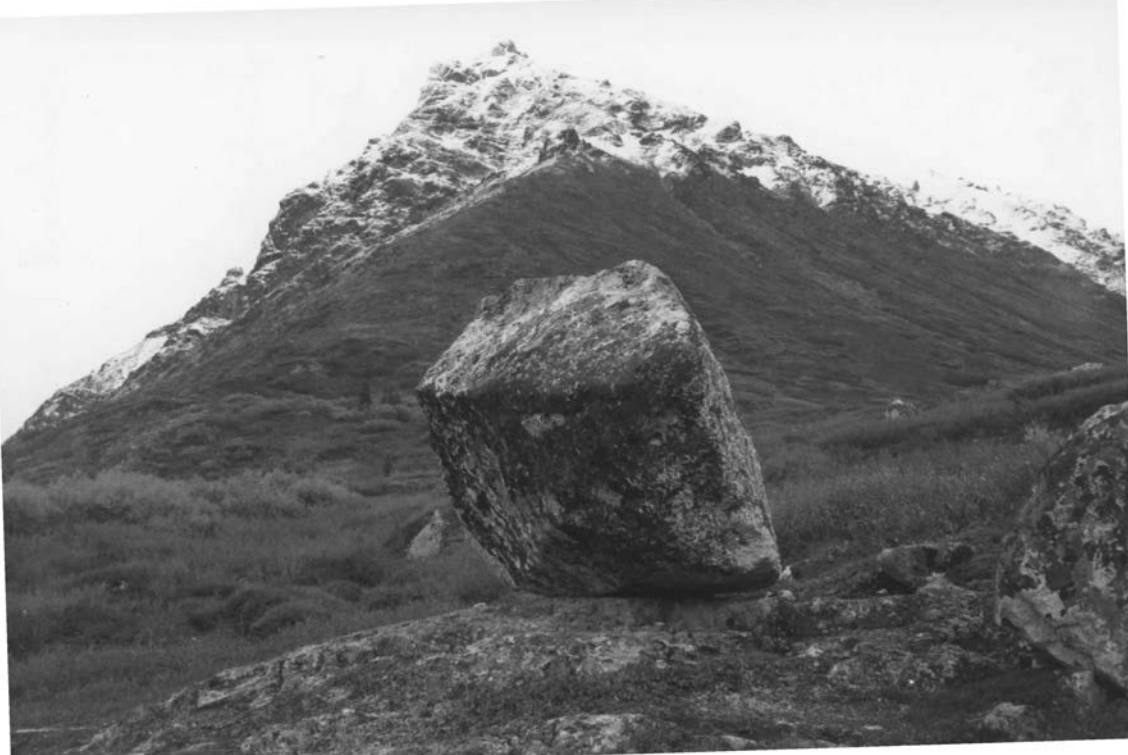
Sept, 2004

Study Center, Anchorage

View looking SW of

Tectering Rock trail with  
Upper Twin Lake in  
background

Roll I - 8A



Richard Proenneke Site

Lake and Peninsula Borough  
Alaska

John B. Branson

Study Center, Anchorage

View to the east of the

Teeetering Rock with Crag  
mt. in the rear

Roll I - 10A



Richard Provencher Site

Lake and Peninsula Borough,  
Alaska

John B. Branson

Sept. 2004

Study Center, Anchorage, AK

View looking SW of  
Teetering Rock, Hope Creek  
delta, Upper Twin Lakes,  
and Lower Twin Lakes  
in background.

Roll I - 12A





Richard Proenneke Site

Lake and Peninsula Borough  
Alaska

John B. Bramson

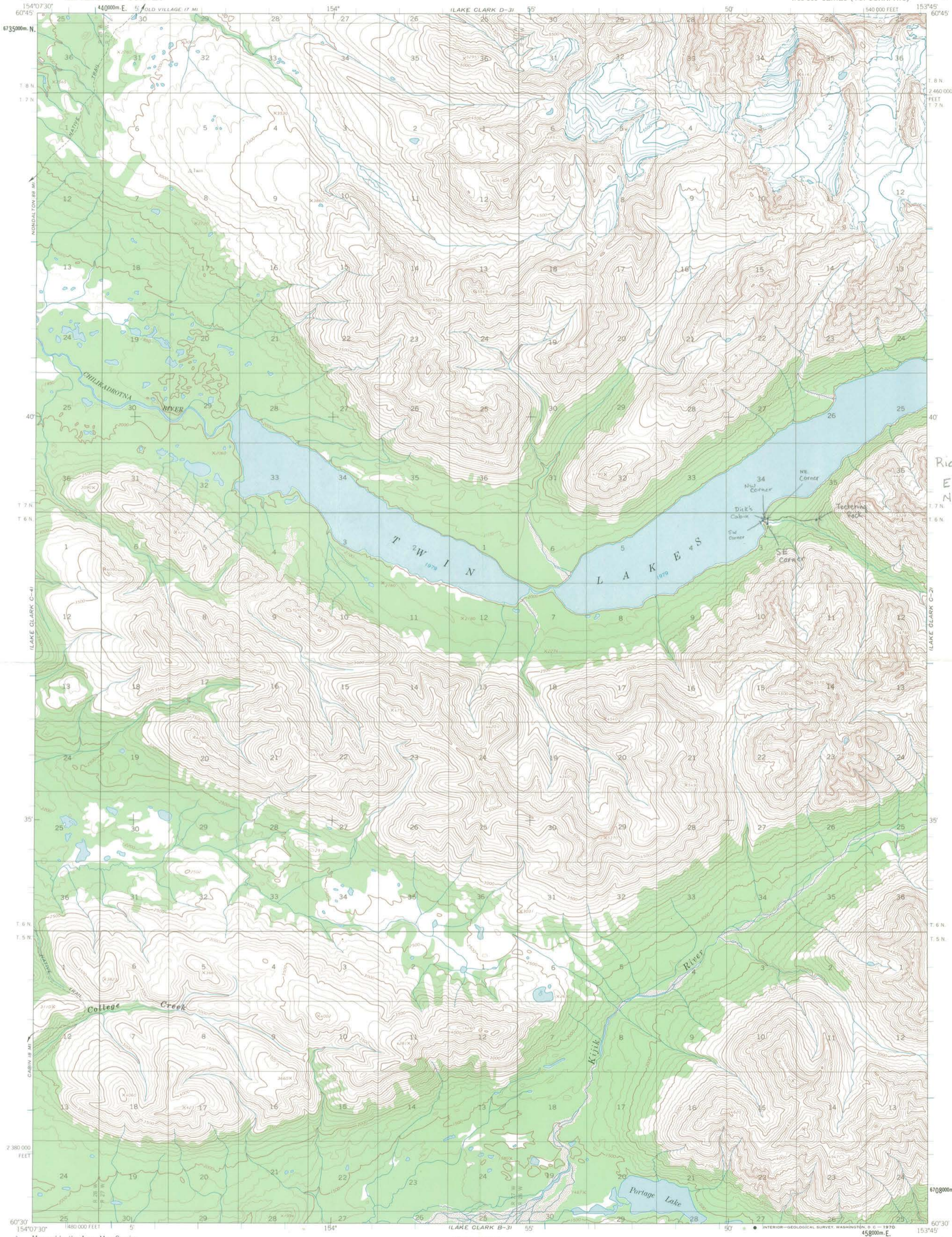
Sept. 2004

Study Center, Anchorage, AK

View looking south of  
Teetering Rock toward  
Carpill Benches and Mt.

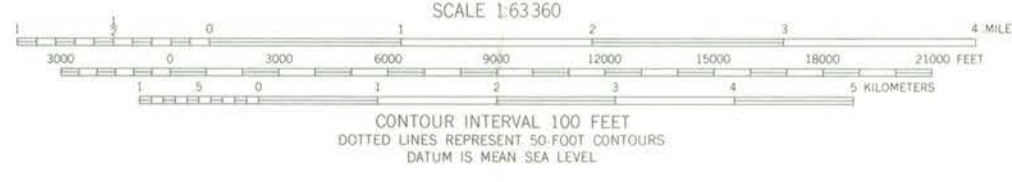
Roll I - 14 A





Richard Proenneke Site  
E05 461550  
N05 6723550

Mapped by the Army Map Service  
Edited and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USC&GS and USCE  
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs  
taken 1957, field annotated 1953-1954. Map not field checked  
Universal Transverse Mercator projection, 1927 North American datum  
10,000 foot grid based on Alaska coordinate system, zone 5  
1000 meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
zone 5, shown in blue  
Land lines represent unsurveyed and unmarked locations  
predetermined by the Bureau of Land Management  
Folio S 12, Seward Meridian



ROAD CLASSIFICATION  
Trails



LAKE CLARK (C-3), ALASKA  
N6030-W15345/15x22.5

FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
FAIRBANKS, ALASKA, 99701, DENVER, COLORADO 80225 OR WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

1954



# National Register of Historic Places

## Note to the record

Additional Documentation: 2016

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

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Proenneke, Richard L. Site (XLC-00213)
Name of Property
Lake and Peninsula Borough, Alaska
County and State
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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

**SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD**

NRIS Reference Number: 06000241

Date Listed: March 8, 2007

Property Name: Proenneke, Richard L. Site; AHRS Site No. XLC-00213 (Additional Documentation, Boundary Increase)

County: Lake and Peninsula Borough-Census Area

State: Alaska

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

**Amended Items in Nomination:**

Section 5. Classification-Contributing Resources

Thirteen features described in Section 7 of the 2007 National Register listing are hereby listed as contributing resources.

Section 5. Classification-Contributing Resources

Six features not included in the 2007 National Register listing are hereby added as contributing resources.

Section 5. Classification-Contributing Resources

Contributing feature number 2, the chair, is a replica of the original object and the former site of the chair is the contributing feature (rather than the original chair repositated at the NPS Alaska Region Curatorial Center).

Section 7. Description

Two features—the emergency food storage cache and the urination stump—are outside the 2007 National Register site boundary and are hereby removed from the site description.

Section 10. Geographical Data

The geographic coordinates of the 2007 National Register site datum is hereby revised to provide a more accurate location.



# 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 Park Service 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: Proenneke, Richard L. Site (Additional Documentation, Boundary Increase)

Other names/site number: AHRS Site No. XLC-00213

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

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

### 2. Location

Street & number: Lake Clark National Park and Preserve, southeast end of upper Twin Lakes

City or town: Port Alsworth State: Alaska County: Lake and Peninsula Borough

Not For Publication:  Vicinity:

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

I hereby certify that this    nomination    request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets    does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

   national X statewide    local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

  A XB   C   D

	<u>3/3/2016</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title: <u>NATIONAL PARK SERVICE</u>	Date
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

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In my opinion, the property <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.	
<u>Joan M. Antonson</u>	<u>21 July 2014</u>
<b>Signature of commenting official:</b>	<b>Date</b>
<u>Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer Alaska</u>	
<b>Title :</b>	<b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b>

**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

4/15/2016  
Date of Action

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

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



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**Category of Property**

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

**Total Number of Resources within the District (Includes previously listed and newly identified resources. Excludes 2 previously identified resources that are hereby removed.):**

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>3</u>	<u>          </u>	buildings
<u>9</u>	<u>          </u>	sites
<u>9</u>	<u>          </u>	structures
<u>1</u>	<u>          </u>	objects
<u>22</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RECREATION AND CULTURE: outdoor recreation

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

NO STYLE

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

Principal exterior materials of the property: WOOD

foundation: WOOD: logs

roof: WOOD, EARTH: logs, sod

walls: WOOD: logs

## Narrative Description

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### Summary Paragraph

The Richard L. Proenneke Site is located in Lake Clark National Park and Preserve, on the southeastern shore of upper Twin Lakes, about 40 miles north of the village of Port Alsworth (Attachment 1). The Richard L. Proenneke Site was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on March 8, 2007. The cabin is the finest example of wood craftsmanship in the Lake Clark area. The cabin is one of three buildings that are considered contributing resources. There are fifteen other features within the current site boundary that are associated with Proenneke during the years he lived at the site, from 1967 to 1979. This nomination identifies six (6) additional features in the area associated with Proenneke that are to be added to the National Register site (Attachment 2). This nomination also describes the boundary increase needed to include the additional features within the National Register site (Attachment 3).

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### Narrative Description

The area of the site listed in the National Register of Historic places in 2007 contains buildings, sites, and objects Proenneke constructed and used from 1967 to 1979. These features demonstrate Proenneke's superior woodworking skills and are expressions of his popularized wilderness ethic. The cabin, log cache, and woodshed-outhouse are listed as contributing resources. Fifteen (15) additional components at the site were identified as significant to the history and integrity of the site.

This nomination adds constructed and natural features located outside the original boundary of the National Register site. The amended site boundary encompasses components of the site that are important to the daily life of Proenneke. As amended, the Richard L. Proenneke site includes components 14 - 19. These components are five structures, stone levees built by Proenneke, and one natural feature, the northern bank of the Hope Creek outlet.

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The contributing resources are:

Buildings (3): cabin, log cache, woodshed-outhouse

Sites (9): chair site, beach, Hope Creek outlet, cache II, cache III, cache IV, Hope Cabin trail turn-off, Hope Creek bridge trail turn-off, Teetering Rock Trail

Structures (9) cool box, north rock jetty, south rock jetty, Hope Creek Bridge abutments, stone levee 1, stone levee 2, stone levee 3, stone levee 4, stone levee 5

Objects (1): canoe

### **The Proenneke cabin, cache, and woodshed-outhouse**

The cabin measures 10 by 12 feet and is built of peeled, round spruce logs, saddle notched at the corners (listed in the National Register March 8, 2007) (photographs 1 – 7). It has a gable roof made of spruce poles covered by sod and moss. The cabin has three windows. One on the west side, measuring 23 by 14 inches, was a single thin plastic pane that is now glass. The largest window is also on the west side. It is a 26 by 30 inch glass window. The third window is along the east wall, and measures 26 by 15 inches. It was a plastic pane that is now a glass window. The cabin door is a handmade Dutch door with wood hinges and a wood lock. A beach stone fireplace rises from the south wall (photographs 3 and 5).

Eleven feet south of the cabin is a raised log cache (photograph 8). It is 6 by 4 feet and built of peeled spruce logs that are saddle notched. The cache sits on 9-foot poles. Proenneke used the cache to store various dry goods including flour, candy, clothing, and aircraft parts.

Approximately 45 feet east of the cabin is the combined woodshed-outhouse (photographs 9 – 14). It is made of peeled spruce poles, saddle notched at the south end and nailed to corner posts at the north end. The building has a slanting shed roof. The eastern third of the shed contains a 33 inches wide outhouse with a half-moon carved in the door (photograph 11). On the north side of a trail, connecting the cabin to the woodshed-outhouse is a low rotted spruce tree stump with a bare gravel spot at its base where Proenneke would micturate and where he would dump his gray water.

The Proenneke Site cabin, cache, and woodshed-outhouse, were in need of rehabilitation in 1999. The cabin and woodshed-outhouse roofs were leaking. Rehabilitation work started in 2000 and was completed in 2003. The cabin and woodshed-outhouse roofs were removed down to the original rafters that ran from the eave logs to the ridgepole. Proenneke had covered the cabin and woodshed-outhouse with moss that he obtained within 25 yards of his site.

Moss requires a great deal of moisture to sustain itself on a roof, and the relatively dry environment was not conducive to that use. Over thirty years Proenneke added more moss, dirt, and grass seed to his roof resulting in an amalgamated mat of all three components.

The roof rehabilitation included replacing the original tarpaper covering the gee-poles in-kind. The original Visqueen lining atop the tarpaper was replaced with a more durable rubber mat. The original moss, dirt, and sod layer was put down on the rubber mat then topped with a layer of sod

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obtained five miles west of the site near a burned cabin site. The sod replacement resembles the original amalgamated material and is more resilient and self-sustaining than the moss he used in 1968. Sod was chosen rather than moss because it is slightly less of a fire hazard. Over the years Proenneke had roof fires caused by sparks from the stovepipe. He extinguished the fires, but they burned holes in the plastic lining and tarpaper.

Proenneke did not use flashing on the roofs and after thirty years the fascia boards had rotted. After replacing the original fascia boards with nearly identical ones, the decision was made to add narrow strips of sheet copper to help prolong the life of the buildings. The copper sheeting is unobtrusive. Sheet copper caps were put on the ends of each eave log, the purlins, and the ridgepole to shed moisture. Proenneke also used rectangular shaped spruce pole forms to keep the moss, dirt, and sod roofing from sliding off. The original forms were rotten and were replaced by nearly exact replicas, using the original nails to hold the poles together. In 2001 the sod roof on the cache was replaced. The aircraft parts are still in the cache.

After Proenneke left, the two plastic windows were frequently broken by bears. After replacing the windows once with plastic, glass windowpanes were installed with steel muntins in the window facing the lake. The muntins are nearly identical to the original window grille Proenneke hand sawed.

Proenneke lived at his site mostly full time for nearly 30 years and that kept mice, porcupines, squirrels, and bears from doing much harm to his cabin, cache, and woodshed. Since, the National Park Service presence at the Proenneke Site is generally June through mid-September and animals have more opportunities to damage the buildings.

In 2003 the cabin sill logs and the cache legs were replaced because they had begun to rot. The replacement logs are nearly identical. They are skirted with copper sheeting. The sheeting was nailed onto the lower part of the log and went down seven inches into the ground to act as a barrier to burrowing mice and squirrels. The original cabin sill logs were set on a thin gravel pad on top of the ground. New sill logs were placed on twelve concrete piers to keep them off the ground. A seven inch strip of copper sheeting was nailed on the side of the sill logs, inside and outside, and then backfilled to within one inch of the top of the copper. The copper sheeting has weathered and its color blends with the color of the sill logs.

### **Additional site components**

There are 13 features at the site, described in the National Register nomination in 2007, that represent important objects and locations in the daily life of Proenneke. Section 5, Classification, is amended to include these previously described components as well as six new components in the list of Contributing Resources. In total, there are three (3) buildings, nine (9) sites, nine (9) structures, and one (1) object (Attachment 3). There are no non-contributing resources within the site boundaries.

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1. The cool box (structure) is 15 feet north of the cabin and consists of a wooden gas box (or Blazo box). These boxes were manufactured to store two 10 x 10 x 12- inch (5-gallon) fuel cans. Proenneke placed the box 2 feet underground and covered it with a layer of moss for storing perishable foodstuffs such as eggs, meat, fish, and vegetables during the warm months of the year (photograph 15).
2. The chair (site) at the high water mark of the beach is 45 feet from the cabin. It sits under two (now dead) spruce trees and accords the sitter a magnificent view of the southwesterly end of upper Twin Lakes and the surrounding mountains. It was a favorite resting place for Proenneke and his guests. The original chair, handcrafted by Proenneke, is repositied at the NPS Alaska Region Curatorial Center in Anchorage (photograph 16). A hand-made replica of the chair is displayed at the original location.
3. The north rock jetty (structure) marks off the cleared beach in front of the cabin (photograph 17). It lies 40 feet west of the cabin and during high water only a small portion of the 6 foot long-3 foot high jetty would protrude from the water. Proenneke would bury a calibrated measuring stick at the jetty and keep track of the fluctuating lake levels.
4. The beach in front of the cabin (site) is crescent shaped. It is 20 feet southwest of the cabin and 150 feet in length (photograph 17). Proenneke removed all the watermelon sized rocks from the beach and made his two jetties so he could have a rock free beach for float planes to park. Proenneke used to rake the beach to keep it neat and clean. He gathered small smooth pebbles from the beach to cover his cabin floor from time to time. He would periodically remove the pebbles from his cabin and wash and sift some on the beach before returning them to his cabin floor. Proenneke put down indoor-outdoor carpet in the cabin in 1979 to help reduce dust and moisture.
5. The 15 foot square stern Grumann canoe (object) that Proenneke used rests 50 feet from the cabin (photographs 17 and 18). It had been brought to Twin Lakes by the Carrithers and was at Spike's cabin in 1965. Dick inherited the canoe and it became his only mechanical alternative means of transportation. He had a small Sears 3.5 horsepower outboard engine that he occasionally used on the canoe. Proenneke stored the canoe on the beach just below the high water mark with the pointer line tied on a willow bush.
6. The south rock jetty (structure) lies about 90 feet south of the cabin (photographs 17 and 19). It was made of watermelon sized rocks like the north jetty. In 1975-1976 Proenneke would heel the floats of his yellow Piper J3-Cub on a wooden ramp on the north side of the jetty to protect it from westerly winds coming up the lake.
7. The cache II (site) trail head begins on the north side of the south jetty, approximately 164 feet following the trail from the cabin, and runs into the woods where a small log, lumber, and float ramp storage zone was established. The various items at the location include 2 leg hold traps hanging in a tree and a bicycle tire rim welded on a thin angle iron frame that

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looks like a spinning wheel but has unknown utility (photograph 20). All the items are either hanging from trees or leaning against spruce trees in a confined space.

8. The cache III (site) lies 135 feet, following the trail from the cabin, southeast of cache II and consists of a 25 foot ladder Proenneke built 36 years ago leaning against a group of large spruce trees, and a large piece of canvas tied into the tree. The utility of the canvas is unknown.
9. The cache IV feature (site) is east and contiguous to the woodshed-outhouse on both sides of the trail to the Teetering Rock. Cache IV is 50 feet from the Proenneke cabin and consists of hand sawn pieces of lumber, various sapling poles, and firewood trees leaning against living spruce trees. It has blocks of firewood that Proenneke sawed at nearby locations and packed to the spot for storage. In addition, cache IV contains a small pile of firewood logs 4 feet long lying across from the woodshed. The cache also contains a 55-gallon barrel used to store grease and fuel for the outboard engine. There is a table made from a slab of spruce tree burl and a wooden vice used to hold a 5-foot long rip saw for sharpening.
10. The Hope Cabin trail turn-off (site) is 164 feet east of the Proenneke cabin and requires a left hand turn to proceed to access the Hope Carrithers cabin about 600 feet to the north. The trail continues on to the Spike Carrithers and the Erhardt "Dick" Weisser cabins where the trail ends, about a thousand feet northeast of the Proenneke cabin.
11. The Hope Creek bridge trail turn-off (site) is 175 feet east from the Proenneke cabin and requires a right hand turn to access the now washed out log footbridge Proenneke built for easy access to the country south of his site. The bridge is about 360 feet from the Hope Creek bridge turnoff.
12. The Hope Creek bridge abutments (structure) is about 400 feet southeast of the Proenneke cabin and consists of a pile of rocks on the north and south banks of the creek. Proenneke placed a few small logs on the abutments spanning the 20 foot wide creek. The bridge washed out about four years ago and has not been rebuilt.
13. The Teetering Rock Trail (site) runs east from the beach in front of the Proenneke cabin about 0.73 of a mile to the rock due east of the cabin. The rock was a favorite vantage point of Proenneke (photograph 21). He liked to take his visitors to the rock and ask if they could gently seesaw it. It is a 400 pound granite glacial erratic boulder sitting on a granite outcrop. One is accorded a beautiful view of the Hope Creek delta, the lake, and surrounding mountains from the site.

The following six (6) features are additions to this nomination. They represent important structures and sites in the daily life of Proenneke that pertain to Hope Creek. Hope Creek is a glacial stream with its outlet in upper Twin Lakes. From Proenneke's cabin, following the shore of upper Twin Lakes, the stream outlet is approximately 225 yards south-southwest of the cabin. From Proenneke's cabin, following the Hope Creek bridge trail, the bridge is approximately 159



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yards south-southeast of the cabin. The log bridge abutments are approximately 146 yards east of the stream outlet. There are no non-contributing resources within the amended site boundaries.

14. The Hope Creek outlet (site) was a favorite fishing location for Proenneke and visitors (photograph 22). He installed a fish trap, in the form of a trotline, near the creek's outlet. Proenneke also enjoyed watching wildlife—especially bears—utilize the creek outlet. In his journals, Proenneke refers to the creek and its outlet as a route of travel eastward towards Cowgill Benches, a source for fish, a place to land floatplanes, and he often enjoyed the sounds of the creek from his cabin.
15. Stone levee 1 (structure) is a dam Proenneke constructed, along with three to four other stone levees (site components 16 – 19,) at Hope Creek in June, 1971. Stone levee 1 is around 2 yards in length and varies from approximately 2 feet to 1 yard in width (photograph 23). At the time of construction, winter snow was melting rapidly and there was a particularly powerful rainstorm. These events contributed to a heightened water level and strong current in Hope Creek. On June 25, 1971, out of worry for the stability of his log bridge, Proenneke enforced the bridge abutments by piling rocks, “a foot or more higher” at both ends (Branson 2010:382). On the 28<sup>th</sup> of June, 1971, Hope Creek was cutting new channels near its outlet and tree branches traveling on its current continued to threaten the bridge. Proenneke countered by erecting the dam of rocks to “stop that over flow” (Branson 2010:382). By piling “big rocks first and then many loads of smaller rock” (ibid.) Proenneke managed to reduce some of the overflow. Between the 28<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of June, 1971, Proenneke continued to build and reinforce a series of stone levees.
16. Stone levee 2 (structure) was constructed immediately after stone levee 1 and is upstream of the bridge. It is over 4 yards in length and 2 feet to 1 yard in width (photograph 24). Stone levee 2 was constructed with boulders along the bank of the stream to “crowd the fast water towards the old channel” (ibid.).
17. Stone levee 3 (structure) was installed 80 yards upstream from the bridge. It is approximately 17 yards long and with a width of around 2 feet (photograph 25).
18. Stone levee 4 (structure) was built also upstream from the log bridge. Stone levees 3 and 4 may have originally been a single structure. It follows the old stream bank and is angled south and east “out into the fast water” (ibid.). It is 25 yards in length and 2 to 3 feet in width (photograph 26). In his journal Proenneke states that he used a shovel to move large submerged boulders and “with a little encouraging the channel got deeper and wider” reducing the water level at the dam (stone levee 1) thereby protecting the log bridge abutments.
19. Stone levee 5 (structure) was built on the south side of the stream across from levee 3, as “one more wing from the other side to pull [the creek] over” (Branson 2010:382). Stone

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levee 5 is approximately 35 yards long and varies from 2 to 4 feet in width (photograph 27).  
A 3.5 yard portion of this levee, on its east end, was breached by the creek.

## 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.)

Conservation  
Exploration/Settlement

**Period of Significance**

1967 - 1979

**Significant Dates**

1967  
1979

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Proenneke, Richard Louis "Dick"

**Cultural Affiliation**

Euroamerican

**Architect/Builder**

Proenneke, Richard Louis "Dick"

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph**

**Summary Paragraph of Significance**

The Richard L. Proenneke site is associated with the life of a person significant to the history of environmental conservation, exploration, and settlement in Alaska. This amendment to the original National Register nomination increases the existing area to include features that are associated with experiences Proenneke had at the site that contributed to or were expressions of his wilderness ethic and are examples of structures he installed around his cabin. The period of significance, between 1967 and 1979, begins when Proenneke began construction of the site and ends in the year after he appeared in the film *Alaska, The Closing Frontier*. Although the period of significance is less than 50 years old, the site has achieved significance from the national exposure of Proenneke's conservation ethic and his skills as an outdoorsman and woodworker through books and films.

Proenneke and his construction of the cabin at the site is chronicled in the book *One Man's Wilderness* edited by Sam Keith (1973), a book that Roderick Nash, author of *Wilderness and the American Mind*, says details the "quintessential Alaskan dream" of building a log cabin and

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living in the wilderness. The book has sold more than 100,000 copies. Proenneke filmed and photographed his work, and kept a journal while building his small log cabin, using only hand tools. When *One Man's Wilderness* came out, Alaska was in the midst of the "great Alaska lands debate" that pitted conservationists against developers over the disposition of more than 100 million acres of federal public lands. Proenneke's book was an eloquent statement in favor of wilderness conservation and influenced many Alaskans and Americans to support that cause. In 1978 the Public Broadcasting Service produced a NOVA program *Alaska, The Closing Frontier*, presenting the pros and cons of conserving 100 million acres of Alaska with the testimony of Alaskans from all walks of life: Native Alaskans, politicians, miners, oil company representatives, Sierra Club members, big game hunting guides, and Proenneke. Proenneke received more air time than anyone else in the program. His role in the television production along with his book put Twin Lakes in people's minds and on the map, and helped make the case to National Park Service planners and the public about the worthiness of the area as a national park. In sum, Proenneke had a profound role in the state and national lands debate and helped passage of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act in 1980, when more than 100 million acres of Alaska wild lands were conserved as parks, wildlife refuges, and wild and scenic rivers, including his beloved Twin Lake country.

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## Narrative Statement of Significance

### Period of Significance

Proenneke lived at the site, much of the time alone, for thirty years. The period of significance starts in 1967 when Proenneke cut the logs for his cabin at the site, and ends in 1979 shortly after the first publication of his journals *One Man's Wilderness* (1973) and the broadcast of the documentary film *Alaska, The Closing Frontier* (1978). However, Proenneke did continue to live year-round at his cabin until 1998. Proenneke is a legend through books and video productions based on his life, journals, and films. The video production, *Alone in The Wilderness* (2004), repeatedly has been shown on ninety percent of the 350 public broadcasting stations in the U.S. His cabin, although less than fifty years old, is nearly unique in the Lake Clark region and is a testament of the qualities of a highly skilled log craftsman: construction with peeled logs, closely fit corner notches, wooden door hinges, and a wooden door lock, and stone fireplace.

### History of Settlement

Richard Proenneke was born in Primrose, Iowa, on May 4, 1916. After spending most of his life there, he and a friend traveled across the country by motorcycle. After returning from their trip, Proenneke decided to go west and join a friend from Primrose working on a ranch. He was trucking cattle in Oregon when Pearl Harbor was bombed. Proenneke joined the Navy. Working as a carpenter's mate in the Pacific campaign, he developed rheumatic fever and was hospitalized for six months. At the end of the war, he returned to Oregon, where he took courses in heavy equipment maintenance and repair. Later he moved to Kodiak where he worked as a diesel

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mechanic and heavy equipment operator. He retired in 1967 and moved to Twin Lakes, a remote spot on the western edge of the Alaska Range 35 miles north of Port Alsworth on Lake Clark and about 125 miles southwest of Anchorage.

For the past 1,000 to 1,200 years the Lake Clark – Twin Lakes region had been home to the Dena'ina Athabascan people, and it was not until the early twentieth century that Euroamericans settled at Tanalian Point (now called Port Alsworth). Les Wernberg, a Euroamerican trapper, built what is the first documented cabin near Twin Lakes. Proenneke, who lived at Twin Lakes for thirty years, probably has spent more time there than anyone else ever.

Gale "Spike" Carrithers, a retired Naval officer, and his wife Hope from Kodiak filed applications with the U.S. Bureau of Land Management for two five acre lots on February 9, 1960. The Carrithers built a cabin there between 1961 and 1962 and later a second cabin. They invited their Kodiak friend, Proenneke, to visit them in 1962. Another friend from Kodiak, Erhardt "Dick" Weisser, applied for a small tract lease in the area in December 1960. Weisser built a small log cabin on his site in 1967. Herbert Wright of Seattle, a friend of the Carrithers and Proenneke, filed for a small tract lease at Twin Lakes on the same day the Carrithers filed. Wright became ill with cancer. Before he died in 1967, he urged Proenneke to file for a lease and build a cabin on his site, something Proenneke decided to do.

Soon after Proenneke's introduction to Twin Lakes, Spike Carrithers had a stroke. Thereafter Hope wanted Proenneke to come to Twin Lakes with them in case Spike had another stroke while at the remote lake. Between 1963 and 1967 Spike Carrithers' health further deteriorated and he could no longer safely visit Twin Lakes. In the late 1960s or early 1970s the Carrithers sold their cabins to Bob Acheson of Kodiak, although they did not have valid titles to the lots where the cabins stood.

In the summer and fall of 1967, Proenneke stayed at Spike's Cabin by himself and started looking for a site to build a cabin. Proenneke had seen many log cabins in Alaska and had helped Babe Alsworth build a log chicken coop with a shed-style sod roof at Port Alsworth. He wanted to see how good a cabin he could build by himself using simple hand tools. Proenneke inquired with the Bureau of Land Management in March 1967 and learned that the land around upper Twin Lakes was still open to entry. In July 1967 he cut and peeled fifty trees stacking the logs near his future cabin site where Wright had urged Proenneke to build. In October 1967, Proenneke learned the land was not open for entry. Nevertheless, in May 1968 Proenneke began to build his cabin at the chosen site. He intended to document it by word, still camera, and 8mm movie camera equipped with a remote control self-timer. Initially, he did not intend to live in the cabin permanently. In 1990, Proenneke told National Park Service historian Ted Karamanski,

It was just to be a cabin. I had seen and examined lots of cabins on my own...and just do it all...no chain saw, just an axe and bow saw, chisels...I cut these logs for the cabin in July...They should be cut after freeze up...and you don't get so much weather checking and splitting...I dragged them in...in late August, September

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and stacked them here on the site where the cabin is and then I went out [to Iowa] for the winter and that's when I received the bad news at Anchorage that it was closed to home sites. Then I was gonna drop it completely, then decided to put it together for pictures and make a movie of it, which I did, and it was pretty popular...a lot of people seen it and liked it and finally it kind of went with the book *One Man's Wilderness*, Alaska Northwest Publishing Company, 1973...And so that's how I got started on this ... living here...people wondered how come they quit it if it was so good. At that time I talked it up, it was pretty nice, so I pretty near had to live up to my bragging...so it got kind of catching and finally it got to be that this seemed like...the place to be.

While there are a few cabins in the area predating Proenneke's, they served as summer and fall retreats, hunting base camps, or trapping cabins. Proenneke's was the first cabin to serve as a year round residence. Following the completion of the cabin in September 1968, Proenneke remained at Twin Lakes through the winter. Each fall the next few years he went to visit his parents in Iowa, but returned to Twin Lakes with the thawing of the upper lake.

The first documented Bureau of Land Management inspection of the Proenneke cabin was in 1984. The inspector recognized the craftsmanship of the cabin and the good faith Proenneke had made inquiring about the land being open for entry. By this time the land was part of Lake Clark National Park and Preserve. Proenneke's closest friends in the area were Babe and Mary Alsworth of Port Alsworth. Since Proenneke was concerned about the legality of his ownership of the land where his cabin stood, Mary Alsworth had filed a 15 acre Native allotment application on the site in November 1972. She claimed her initial entry on the land was July 1967 to pick berries, fish, hunt, and cut wood, and the land was not occupied or improved by any other person prior to her entry. Mrs. Alsworth thought she could claim the land as her Native allotment which would allow Proenneke to legally reside at his cabin without fear of the government prohibiting him from doing so. In March 1975 the BLM rejected Mrs. Alsworth's claim noting she failed to show that she had lived on the land for five years and that she had not demonstrated she had used the land to the exclusion of all others. Subsequently, however, the regulations were more broadly defined and Mrs. Alsworth's allotment claim was reinstated in September 1981. In March 1985, the NPS challenged the BLM approval of Mrs. Alsworth's claim, alleging that Proenneke had entered the land before Mrs. Alsworth had asserted entry. Proenneke told an NPS investigator in February 1985 that he had built the cabin for himself and not for Mrs. Alsworth. He said that his first winter there was 1968 and that Mrs. Alsworth had only made one or two short visits there and never spent a night at Twin Lakes. Proenneke never sought Mrs. Alsworth's help in securing the land, although he later learned she had filed the claim so he could live there. Proenneke posted the four corners of the property and brushed out the survey lines. The case finally was resolved in August 1988 when Interior Department Administrative Law Judge Harvey Sweitzer ruled the land was not open to entry under the Alaska Native Allotment Act at the time Mrs. Alsworth asserted her entry.

Proenneke, Richard L. Site  
Name of Property

In 1987 Proenneke applied to the National Park Service for a special use permit to continue to reside in his cabin. He was granted a five-year special use permit in April 1989 for cabin use and occupancy. Even before the permit was issued Proenneke was a volunteer-in-the-park and had been assisting park managers on various projects including search and recoveries, wildlife surveys, weather reports, park visitor services, and ranger activities. From their first meeting with Proenneke in 1979 NPS managers never considered dispossessing him from his site. Park managers realized Proenneke was an asset to the park and his rather unique lifestyle had great appeal to park visitors and those who read his book.

### Site Construction

This amendment to the National Register nomination acknowledges Proenneke's creativity, resourcefulness, and skill with structural design and construction. Proenneke intentionally sought to build a cabin and outbuildings that were unique to the area, aesthetically pleasing, and were functional and efficient for year-round living. He also shared his construction techniques through film and journals.

In some ways the cabin Proenneke built was in keeping with other log cabins in the area, but it departed from the traditional in five major ways. First he peeled the cabin logs and seasoned them one year before construction (photographs 1 – 7). Most log cabins in the area were built with unpeeled green spruce logs in a hurried fashion.

Second, since Proenneke used his cabin year-round, he built outbuildings that often were absent from other cabins in the area, most of which were used seasonally for trapping. Proenneke made his Twin Lakes existence "smoother" rather than "rougher," to follow camp craft guru "Nessmuk's" phrase, by having a combination outhouse and woodshed near his cabin (photographs 9 – 14). Most area cabins had outhouses but few had a separate woodshed; instead keeping firewood in a windbreak or under an overhanging roof usually at the front of the cabin. Like many regional rural dwellers, Proenneke built a raised log cache near his cabin to store extra clothing, food, and various other dried goods such as camera gear and aircraft manuals.

Third, the Proenneke cabin had a stone fireplace (photographs 3 and 5). Only one other, the Kasna Creek Cabin on Kontrashibuna Lake, is known to have a masonry stone fireplace.

Fourth, the Proenneke cabin is built with more care and skill than the typical log cabin in wooded locations in the Bristol Bay area. Proenneke's Dutch-door attached by wooden hinges is believed to be unique in the region. The wooden door lock took a very accomplished woodworker to design and build. The hinges and lock are testaments to Proenneke's creative genius with wood. The round corner notches used in the cabin are well above average in skill level. The lateral fits of the wall logs are very precise on the Proenneke cabin, although they required chinking to fill in the spaces between wall logs.



Proenneke, Richard L. Site  
Name of Property

Fifth, the Proenneke cabin construction is the most thoroughly documented known in southwest Alaska. Proenneke consciously set out to leave an inclusive record of how a cabin should be built. He documented the cabin by word in his journals, used by his friend and retired teacher, Sam Keith, who compiled what has become an Alaska classic, *One Man's Wilderness*, published in 1973. He also filmed his work.

### Conservation Philosophy

Proenneke differed from most others in the area because he was not a trapper or a prospector, and only an infrequent hunter in his early Twin Lakes years. He was a writer, wildlife photographer, naturalist, and ardent hiker and mountain climber. Proenneke shot a Dall's sheep ram in 1968 and a couple of caribou between 1969 and 1975 and thereafter he stopped hunting. The reasons he gave for giving up hunting reflect his growing personal environmental ethic.

I got a big ram the first winter and then another time or two I got a caribou...But it was a lot of meat for one guy...but it was too much, eating one animal for me so I just...(I was) taking pictures too. Why, I preferred the pictures over the dead animals. So I would just take pictures. And I got to feeling that all these wild animals around here was kind of the only neighbors I had...and a lot of them..., moose especially got so gentle. I just preferred to see them (animals) around rather than to—and I kind of feel like if you just study animals, ...just watch them, you learn a lot. And if you shoot one, then you've killed your teacher right there.

As a writer Proenneke was not a wordsmith like Henry David Thoreau, John Muir, or Sigurd Olsen, yet he wrote about nature. He rarely proselytized. Proenneke's field time and patience observing wildlife make him knowledgeable about the behavior of wildlife in the area. He described in great detail his observations of wildlife behavior and the vagaries of the weather. Proenneke put into practice what Thoreau preached.

After Proenneke quit hunting the only animals he killed were an occasional porcupine caught gnawing on his cabin or on his log burl tables outside his front door. He would skin and pot-roast the porcupines in a Dutch oven. He would live trap the red squirrels and relocate them to the north side of upper Twin Lakes. Proenneke called all the squirrels "Freddy" and toward the end of his tenure at Twin Lakes he said as far as he was concerned "Freddy" could have his cabin.

Proenneke's basic wilderness philosophy was that the wildlife and the lands and waters at Twin Lakes should not be impaired in any significant way because of human activities. As the 1970s evolved so too did Proenneke's encyclopedic knowledge of his environment and how fragile it was. He remarked more than once that when he moved to Twin Lakes in 1968 it was difficult to find a full curl Dall's ram but after the creation of Lake Clark National Park and Preserve more and more rams were growing to maturity and full curl status within the sanctuary of the park.

Proenneke, Richard L. Site  
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During the 1970s many nationally recognized figures in the conservation movement visited the site. Proenneke hosted Mardy Murie, a founder of the Wilderness Society and widow of biologist Olaus Murie, twice in the 1970s. John Kauffmann, former assistant to National Park Service Director George B. Hartzog, Jr., moved to Alaska in the early 1970s and helped plan Lake Clark National Park and Preserve. He worked with Proenneke on a contract with the NPS for Proenneke to take wildlife movies and still photographs at Twin Lakes beginning in 1974. In 1979 Kauffmann authored a chapter on the potential Lake Clark National Park and Preserve for the National Geographic Society's *Exploring America's Backcountry*. Proenneke and his cabin were prominently featured in the book. Proenneke also shared his ideas through correspondence with nature writer Sigurd Olsen, who had visited Lake Clark as part of a National Park Service planning trip in 1963, before Proenneke moved to Twin Lakes. Edgar Wayburn, president of the Sierra Club also visited Proenneke in 1976. During the height of the Alaska lands debate in 1978 the Public Broadcasting Service made a documentary, *Alaska, The Closing Frontier*, as part of its NOVA series featuring interviews with Alaskans. Proenneke was featured in the production.

Publication of *One Man's Wilderness* in 1973 brought Dick Proenneke world renown. He acquired a following of people who considered him an inspiration and a resource for local natural historical knowledge. When the area became a park and preserve, many visitors came to the park because they had read the book and wanted to meet the man who wrote it. The book was in print between 1973 and 1986, and again since 1999. In the early 1990s, it was translated to Japanese and sold 10,000 copies in Japan. More than 100,000 copies of the book have sold. In 1999 the book won the National Outdoor Book Award for biography and memoir. In 2006, the National Park Service published *More Readings from One Man's Wilderness: The Journals of Richard L. Proenneke 1974-1980*, edited by John B. Branson. Proenneke continues to inspire and influence people to be more caring for the environment and the other creatures that share it. In 2004 videographer Bob Swerer of Colorado Springs, Colorado produced his third video about Proenneke. Entitled *Alone In The Wilderness*, it uses Proenneke's 1967-1968 film to present construction of the cabin. The video has been shown nationally on public television.

Proenneke enjoyed his life alone, but he was not a misanthrope. He liked people and had many close friends, he just did not need to live around them. He liked to hike and climb solo so he did not have to be held back by anyone, but frequently had hiking companions. He enjoyed guiding visitors to special places around Twin Lakes, such as Teetering Rock, upper Hope Creek valley, Emerson Creek waterfalls, or the sheep lick on the way to Turquoise Lake.

Proenneke expressed his personal philosophy of wilderness preservation through his writings and films of his thirty years at Twin Lakes. He became a significant voice for conservation of Alaska wild lands. He went to Twin Lakes in 1967 to see what kind of cabin he could build using materials from the area and his own ingenuity. He also wanted to study and learn about the wildlife, the mountains, and waters around his cabin. Proenneke's interests, talents, and circumstances made him influential in shaping and educating the public about the wisdom of conservation of our natural world. Failing health forced Proenneke to leave his cabin in 1998. He died in 2003.

Proenneke, Richard L. Site  
Name of Property

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Branson, John B.

2006 *More Readings From One Man's Wilderness: The Journals of Richard L. Proenneke 1974-1980*, National Park Service, Lake Clark National Park and Preserve, Anchorage, Alaska.

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Proenneke, Richard L. Site  
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Medred, Craig. "Spirit of the Park: Self-sufficient Proenneke roamed Lake Clark preserve for decades, making trails," *Anchorage Daily News*, July 12, 2003, p.1G, 4G.

"A Modern Day Thoreau," *Alaska Magazine*, Vol. 69, Number 7 (September 2003):78.

Porco, Peter. "Goodbye, Dick: Author, Twin Lakes legend dies at 86," *Anchorage Daily News*, April 28, 2003, p. 1B, 7B.

"Trapper Is Safe, On Way Home Now, Airmen Discover," *Anchorage Daily Times*, October 2003.

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*Alaska, The Closing Frontier*, WGBH/Nova, 1978.

*Alaska: Silence & Solitude*, Bob Swerer Productions, 1998.

*Alone In the Wilderness*, Bob Swerer Productions, 2003.

*Jay Hammond's Alaska*, Volume 111, featuring Richard Proenneke, 1993.

*One Man's Alaska*, National Park Foundation, 1977.

*The Frozen North*, Bob Swerer Productions, 1999.

*There's No Place Like Twin Lakes*, NPS Lake Clark National Park and Preserve Production, 2005.

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**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- 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: Lake Clark National Park and Preserve

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** XLC-00213

Proenneke, Richard L. Site  
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## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreege of Property (2007 National Register Nomination)** less than one acre (original district)

### UTM References (2007 National Register Nomination)

1. Zone: 05                      Easting: 461550                      Northing: 6723550

**Acreege of Property** 7.2 acres (boundary increase)

### Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (Amended Site Datum)

Latitude: 60.64499 N                      Longitude: -153.82070 E  
Datum: NAD 1983 Alaska Albers

### Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum: NAD 1983 Alaska Albers

Proenneke Cabin (Site Datum):

A. Latitude: 60.645238	Longitude: -153.821396
B. Latitude: 60.644889	Longitude: -153.799553
C. Latitude: 60.644638	Longitude: -153.817929
D. Latitude: 60.644181	Longitude: -153.817861
E. Latitude: 60.643952	Longitude: -153.819711
F. Latitude: 60.644057	Longitude: -153.820049
G. Latitude: 60.643360	Longitude: -153.821832
H. Latitude: 60.643791	Longitude: -153.822152
I. Latitude: 60.644233	Longitude: -153.822241

Proenneke, Richard L. Site  
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### Verbal Boundary Description

The northern boundary of the site, along with the boundaries around Teetering Rock trail and Teetering Rock remain unchanged from the boundary of the 2007 National Register Nomination. The boundary increase is bounded by the shore of upper Twin Lakes in the west, Hope Creek in the south, and the eastern end of stone levee 5 in the east (Attachment).

The amended site boundary begins at a point (Coordinate A) on the beach northwest of Proenneke's cabin where the chair was located (feature 2) and where there is a short trail that leads from the beach to the cabin. The boundary proceeds east for 1,421 yards (0.8 miles) following the Teetering Rock trail (and the 2007 National Register nomination boundary) to Teetering Rock (Coordinate B). The boundary forms a circle around Teetering Rock with a diameter of 13 yards. The boundary returns west along the Teetering Rock trail for 1,210 yards (0.7 miles) to the Hope Creek Bridge trail turnoff (Coordinate C). From Coordinate C, the boundary proceeds 56 yards south to the eastern end of Stone levee 5 (Coordinate D). The boundary then proceeds 114 yards west to the Hope Creek Bridge abutment on the south side of the stream (Coordinate E). From Coordinate E, the boundary follows a 24 yard segment of the 2007 National Register boundary northwest to the north side of Hope Creek (Coordinate F). From Coordinate F, the boundary follows the north bank of Hope Creek for 144 yards to the Hope Creek outlet (Coordinate G). From Coordinate G the boundary proceeds 56 yards north-northwest along the beach to Coordinate H. From Coordinate H the boundary follows the contour of the beach 54 yards northward to Coordinate I. From Coordinate I, the boundary continues along the beach and returns to the path of the 2007 National Register nomination to encompass both rock jetty features, for 142 yards, and ends at Coordinate A.

### Boundary Justification

The boundary of the proposed nomination as amended includes the original acreage listed in the National Register of Historic Places as the Richard L. Proenneke site in 2007, and adds areas to the south and east of the current boundary to include historic components not included in the original listing.

The boundary includes the Proenneke cabin, cache, woodshed-outhouse, the beach in front of the cabin, the canoe, the two rock jetties, the trailheads that emanate from the cabin, the various other small features on the site including the chair on the beach, three smaller caches, the bridge abutments and five stone levees, the Hope Creek outlet, and the trail to Teetering Rock. The boundary for the site was selected because it encompasses all the important historic contributing resources of the site. All together, the contributing resources completely elucidate the immediate physical world of the Proenneke Site.



Proenneke, Richard L. Site  
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### 11. Form Prepared By

name/title: John B. Branson, Park Historian  
organization: Lake Clark National Park and Preserve  
street & number: 1 Park Place  
city or town: Port Alsworth state: Alaska zip code: 99653  
e-mail John\_Branson@nps.gov  
telephone: 907-781-2218  
date: January 2, 2007

### Form Amended By

name/title: Rhea E. Hood, Archaeologist  
organization: Alaska Region, National Park Service  
street & number: 240 W. 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
city or town: Anchorage state: Alaska zip code: 99501  
e-mail rhea\_hood@nps.gov  
telephone: 907-644-3460  
date: October 2013

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### Additional Documentation

- Attachment 1-** Map-63,360 showing the Proenneke, Richard L. Site location  
**Attachment 2-** Map of amended NR area boundary of the Proenneke, Richard L. Site  
**Attachment 3-** Map illustrating the contributing resources of the Proenneke, Richard L. Site

- **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.

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## Photo Log

Name of Property: Proenneke, Richard L., Site

City or Vicinity: Southeast end of upper Twin Lakes

County: Lake and Peninsula Borough State: Alaska

Photographer: Jeanne Schaaf

Date Photographed: 8/24/2011

- 1 of 27. Proenneke, Richard L. Cabin, SE view of exterior, showing entryway and handmade furniture.
- 2 of 27. Proenneke, Richard L. Cabin , East view of exterior, showing windows and rock garden.
- 3 of 27. Proenneke, Richard L. Cabin, NW view of exterior, showing stonemason chimney.
- 4 of 27. Proenneke, Richard L. Cabin, West view of exterior, showing handmade ladders, window, and stovepipe.
- 5 of 27. Proenneke, Richard L. Cabin, South view of interior showing stonemason fireplace, handmade furniture and snowshoes.
- 6 of 27. Proenneke, Richard L. Cabin, SE view of interior showing handmade furniture.
- 7 of 27. Proenneke, Richard L. Cabin, NE view of interior showing stove, handmade furniture, and some personal belongings.
- 8 of 27. Elevated Cache, SE view.
- 9 of 27. Woodshed and Outhouse, East view.
- 10 of 27. Woodshed and Outhouse, South view of interior showing wood storage area and ceiling.
- 11 of 27. Woodshed and Outhouse, SE view of interior showing the outhouse entry with moon-shaped cut-out.
- 12 of 27. Woodshed and Outhouse, East view of interior showing the dividing wall between the outhouse and storage area.
- 13 of 27. Woodshed and Outhouse, South view of interior showing the outhouse seat and cover, also stored items including a hand drill.
- 14 of 27. Woodshed and Outhouse, West view.
- 15 of 27. Cool box (component 1, attachment 3), North overview.

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Photographer: Jeanne Schaaf

Date Photographed: 7/23/2009

16 of 27. Chair (component 2, attachment 3), East view. This item is currently in storage at the NPS Alaska Regional Curatorial Center in Anchorage.

Photographer: Jeanne Schaaf

Date Photographed: 8/24/2011

17 of 27. North rock jetty, (component 3, attachment 3), SW view including the Grumann canoe, raked beach front, and south rock jetty in the background.

Photographer: Jeanne Schaaf

Date Photographed: 7/23/2009

18 of 27. Grumann canoe, (component 5, attachment 3), West view of the inside of the canoe and it's the location where it's stored.

Photographer: Jeanne Schaaf

Date Photographed: 8/24/2011

19 of 27. South rock jetty, (component 6, attachment 3), SW view.  
20 of 27. Cache II, (component 7, attachment 3), East view

Photographer: Jeanne Schaaf

Date Photographed: 9/2003

21 of 27. Teetering Rock, (component 13, attachment 3), West view showing Teetering Rock in the foreground, Twin Lakes in the background, and NPS historian John Branson in the lower right corner.

Photographer: Jeanne Schaaf

Date Photographed: 8/24/2011

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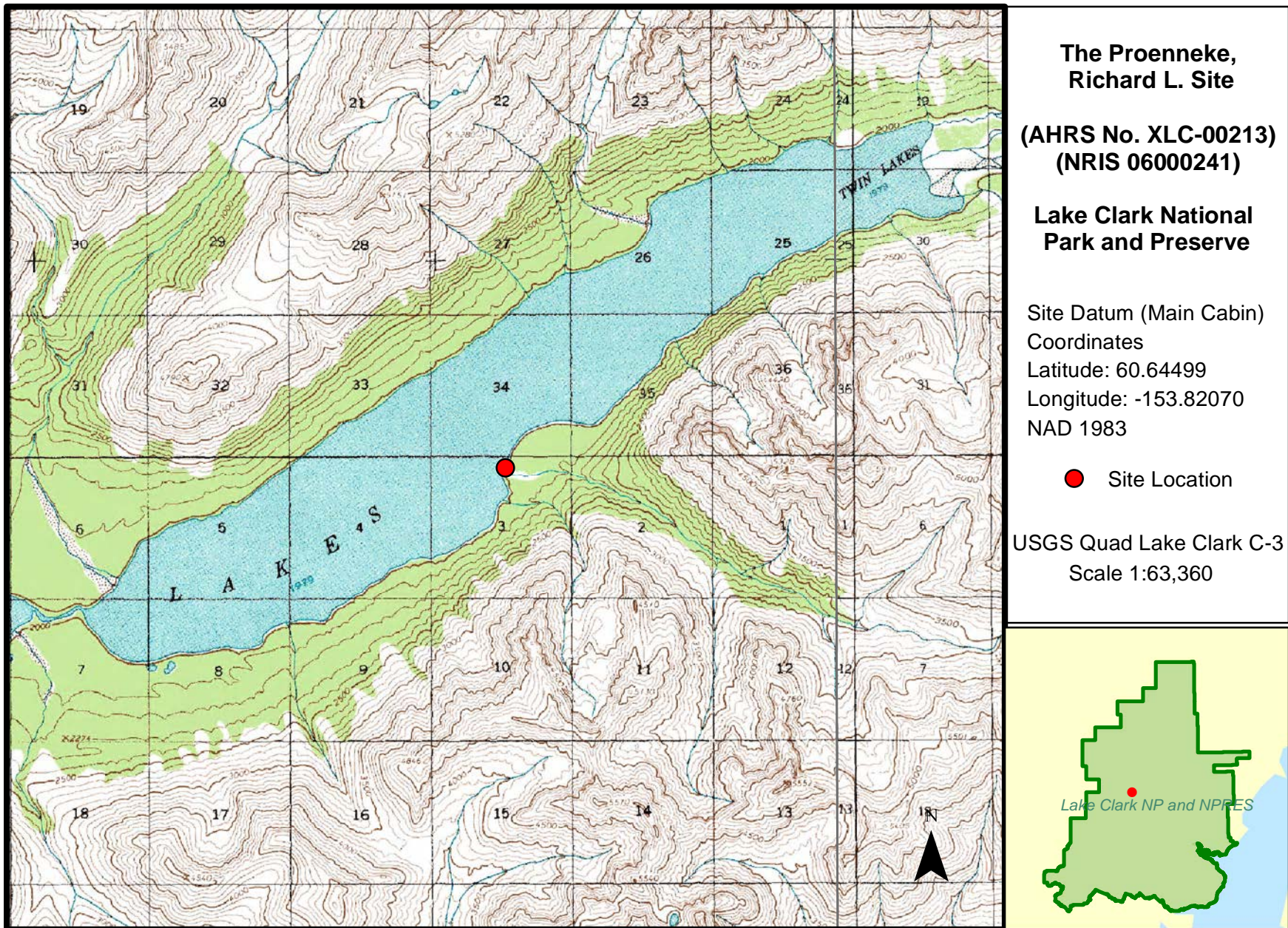
- 22 of 27. Hope Creek outlet, (component 14, attachment 3), South view of the outlet and upper Twin Lakes from the northern bank of Hope Creek.
- 23 of 27. Stone levee 1, (component 15, attachment 3), NE view of levee showing alder over-growth and field surveyor standing at the far end of the levee.
- 24 of 27. Stone levee 2, (component 16, attachment 3), NE view of levee showing field surveyor standing at its far end.
- 25 of 27. Stone levee 3, (component 17, attachment 3), South view of levee showing a perpendicular perspective of the structure and plant over-growth.
- 26 of 27. Stone levee 4, (component 18, attachment 3), West overview of levee showing plant over-growth and leaf litter covering most of the structure.
- 27 of 27. Stone levee 5, (component 19, attachment 3), East view of a portion of the levee showing plant over-growth and a channel of Hope Creek on the right.

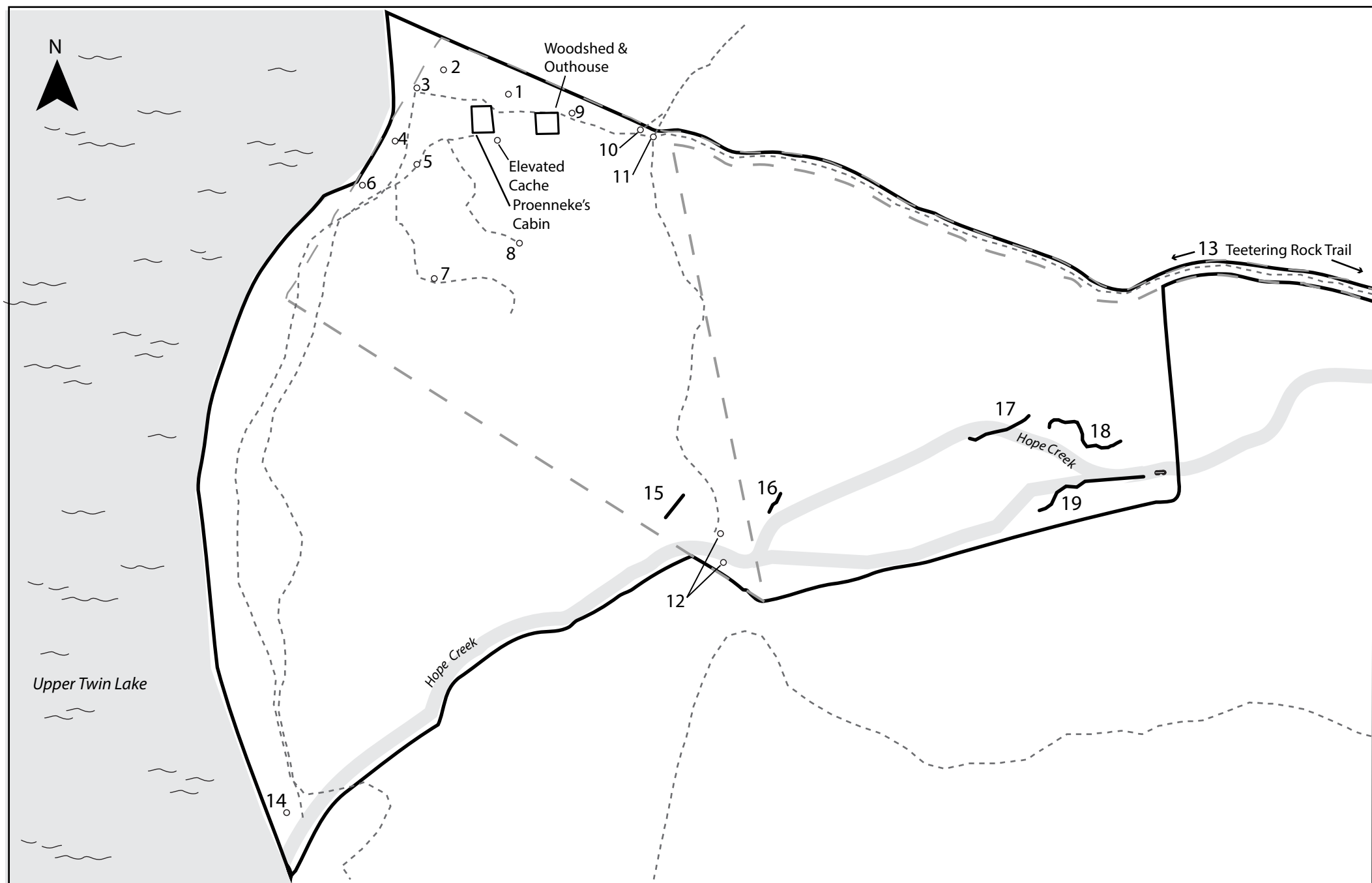
**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to 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.






Attachment 1. Location of the Proenneke, Richard L. Cabin Site.





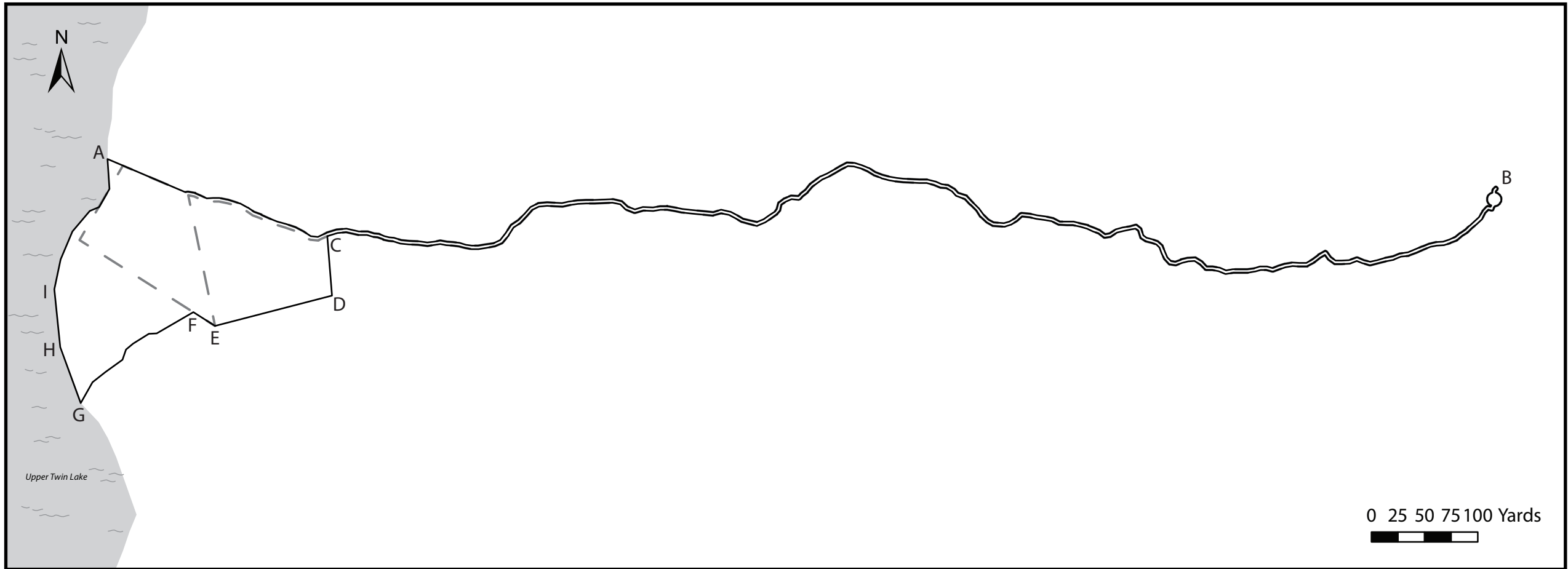
0 10 20 30 40 Yards



-  2007 NR Site Boundary
-  Site Boundary Amendment
-  Trail

- |                    |                              |                                     |
|--------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 Cool box         | 6 South rock jetty           | 11 Hope Creek bridge trail turn off |
| 2 Chair            | 7 Cache II                   | 12 Hope Creek bridge abutments      |
| 3 North rock jetty | 8 Cache III                  | 13 Teetering Rock trail             |
| 4 Beach site       | 9 Cache IV                   | 14 Hope Creek outlet                |
| 5 Canoe            | 10 Hope cabin trail turn off | 15-19 Stone levees                  |

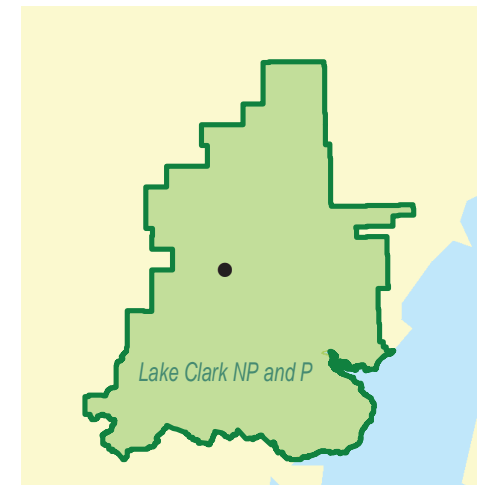




**Boundary Point      Latitude / Longitude (NAD 1983)**

A	60.645238 / -153.821396
B	60.644889 / -153.799553
C	60.644638 / -153.817929
D	60.644181 / -153.817861
E	60.643952 / -153.819711
F	60.644057 / -153.820049
G	60.643360 / -153.821832
H	60.643791 / -153.822152
I	60.644233 / -153.822241

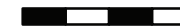
- 2007 NR Site Boundary
- Site Boundary Amendment







0 25 50 75 100 Yards



**Boundary Point**

**Latitude / Longitude (NAD 1983)**

A	60.645238 / -153.821396
B	60.644889 / -153.799553
C	60.644638 / -153.817929
D	60.644181 / -153.817861
E	60.643952 / -153.819711
F	60.644057 / -153.820049
G	60.643360 / -153.821832
H	60.643791 / -153.822152
I	60.644233 / -153.822241



2007 NR Site Boundary



Site Boundary Amendment























Let's hope  
all the hunters  
in the valley  
will be glad  
to see us come

The  
Twin Lakes  
Hilton  
on



































HILLS BROS  
COFFEE

Chevron  
Red  
80  
Gasoline

NOVA  
20

Fuel  
Combustion

CAMPLITE  
CAMP FUEL

FOR  
CAMPSTOVE, LANTERN  
AND  
CATALYTIC HEATERS

Chevron  
Gasoline

TEXACO  
OUTBOARD  
MOTOR OIL

Chevron  
Gas 80  
GASOLINE

SHEAFFER























































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 Proenneke, Richard, Site  
NAME:

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ALASKA, Lake and Peninsula

DATE RECEIVED: 3/01/06 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 3/15/06  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 3/30/06 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 4/14/06  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 06000241

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: Y  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

     ACCEPT      RETURN      REJECT                      DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RETURN

SEE ATTACHED COMMENTS

RECOM./CRITERIA RETURN

REVIEWER PAUL LUSIGNAN / M. GATES MOSE DISCIPLINE HISTORIAN

TELEPHONE 202.354.2229 DATE 4/14/06

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

# **RICHARD PROENNEKE SITE**

## **Lake and Peninsula Borough, AK**

### **National Register of Historic Places - Return Comments:**

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The current documentation is being returned for consideration of the following substantive comments related to the historic context for the property and the level of justification necessary for this less than fifty year-old property.

#### **Format**

The nomination should be reformatted to provide descriptive headers for each continuation sheet page. The current format contains run-over text from each continuation sheet printed on untitled paper. (Provide labeled continuation sheets for all pages or reformat text to fit the standard page length.)

#### **Description**

The description of the buildings and site features is excellent and well detailed

#### **Significance**

Nominations for less than fifty-year properties (Criteria Consideration G) should provide explicit justification statements regarding the "exceptional" nature of the nominated property. The current documentation provides evidence of certain unique contributions, but never provides a discrete, focused analysis of the issues of Criteria Consideration G. This is particularly acute since the period of significance goes up to the very recent past--1998.

Among the elements supporting the likely justification can include the relatively recent developmental history of Alaska and the Twin Lakes area, the rather limited scope of residents who lived and made contributions to the history of the region, and the special nature of Proenneke's contributions to the themes developed. It is important that nominations for such recent past properties provide a well developed narrative for the historic context under which the properties are nominated. While the current documentation provides a thorough picture of Proenneke's life and work at Twin Lakes/Lake Clark, it provides much less discussion of the historic contexts and themes within which the property existed (Vernacular architecture, Conservation, ...). In order to justify exceptional significance we need to understand the comparative context in which these properties and individual contributions existed.

At a minimum the nomination could use additional discrete paragraphs outlining and justifying each of the specific criteria and areas of significance outlined in the cover form and the initial significance statement paragraph. See below for additional discussion.

#### **Criterion C.**

It is unclear how the property is significant under the theme of *Landscape Architecture*. While the setting and landscape surrounding the Proenneke Cabin appears to be in excellent integrity,



there is no discussion regarding how this particular design or layout represents anything particularly significant or exceptional. How does this site differ from the physical setting and arrangement of any isolated, outback Alaska cabin? What qualities of the landscape are particularly distinctive? What is the comparative context that was used to identify this particular site. I would agree that the setting of the cabin contributes to our understanding of the lifestyle and life-ways of Mr. Proenneke and his potential quickly under Criterion A, but it is much less clear how the property represents a unique site under Landscape Architecture. The nomination can revise the documentation to delete Landscape Architecture or provide a much stronger discussion of the historic context (and comparable sites) for this area of significance. (Listing under Criterion B rather than Criterion C, would not necessarily devalue the importance of the site's landscape features to conveying the story of this pioneer settler and conservationist.)

The nomination provides no context for the evaluation of the property under the area of *Architecture*. The narrative details a few unique features (wooden door hinges, stone fireplace, peeled logs), but it really doesn't provide much justification for why these features raise this property to such exceptionally significant status within the local context. Perhaps more specific examples and better comparative documentation regarding this type of cabin/landscape, specifically for the region, should be provided in order to demonstrate how the cabin is exceptionally important in the historic context of architectural design and/or construction of wilderness log cabins. Is it a question of unique features or is it more related to the overall quality of the design that matters? Does Proenneke's work rise almost to the level of a master craftsman compared to the more efficient, utilitarian designs of other seasonal cabins? Does the fact that this is one of the most "thoroughly documented" cabins reflect more on the significance of Proenneke's contributions and writings under Criterion B than Criterion C. The comparison of this cabin to the one on Kaska Creek hints at the benefit of citing and understanding the other comparable examples in more detail than just noting "most other cabins." (Once again with a period of significance 1967-1998, the nomination requires more than just validation that the building is good representative of a type, period, or method of construction. The nomination should explicitly justify how this particular example represents an exceptional example within the comparative context of local or regional design.)

#### Criterion B.

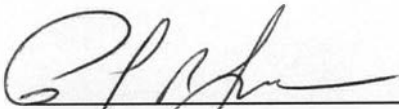
Clearly this is perhaps the strongest Criterion associated with this property and its potential for exceptional significance. It would seem appropriate when considering this theme to add *Conservation* as an area of significance to reflect Proenneke's work and contributions to environmental and nature writing. Like the other themes, however, the current nomination provides very little discussion of the broader contexts. While a detailed history of Proenneke and the property is provided, the historic context is limited. The narrative mentions that Proenneke's 1973 book and his ideas were communicated and shared by a growing number of people interested in and intimately involved in preserving the environment in Alaska and elsewhere, but the environmental movement and or the topic of nature writing is insufficiently described or discussed. The historic context must be broader and better explained to clearly demonstrate Proenneke's exceptional importance as a figure in these events.

Citing local significance for the property is a little confusing, since his real contributions would

appear to be more on a state or regional basis at a minimum. He may well be Twin Lakes' most renown historic resident, but his contributions and the impact of his exceptional life and writings were really most important to the outside world. Without the publishing of his works to a broader audience, he would have perhaps been considered nothing more than the local recluse. Hence it is important that the nomination at least address the context of environmental writing in Alaska (minimally) during the historic period documented, citing where possible contemporaries of Proenneke and assessing the relative contributions or impact he had to the community. An important aspect of Criteria Consideration G is the ability to have sufficient perspective to assess the ways in which such persons may have affected the discourse about preserving the wilderness in Alaska or beyond. [e.g. Thomas Lyon, *This Incomperable Lande: A Book of American Nature Writing*, 1989; Robert Finch, *The Norton Book of Nature Writing*, 1990.] The nomination may also be able to better address Proenneke's role in the "local" events to preserve Lake Clark as a wilderness, beyond just being someone who was present at the time and reflected a unique lifestyle.

With a stronger discussion of the historic context for conservation and a better understanding of comparable individuals and their respective impacts, it would seem likely that a case can be made for the exceptional significance of Richard Proenneke.

If you have questions regarding these comments, please contact me directly at the number listed below.



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Paul R. Lusignan, Historian  
(for) Keeper of the National Register  
(202) 354-2229

A:\proenneke.rtn



# STATE OF ALASKA

## DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

DIVISION OF PARKS AND OUTDOOR RECREATION

OFFICE OF HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY

SARAH PALIN, GOVERNOR

550 W. 7TH AVENUE, SUITE 1310  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501-3565  
PHONE: (907) 269-8721  
FAX: (907) 269-8908

January 3, 2007

Re: 3330-1-2 Proenneke, Richard L., Site (AHRS Site No. XLC-00213)

Jeanne Schaaf, Head, Cultural Resources  
Lake Clark-Katmai Studies Center, National Park Service  
240 West 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 236  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Dear Jeanne:

I reviewed the revised National Register of Historic Places documentation for the Richard L. Proenneke Site at upper Twin Lakes in Lake Clark National Park and Preserve. I concur the district qualifies for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under criterion B, for its association with the lives of persons significant in our past. I found criteria consideration G, for places less than fifty years of age, adequately addressed. The period of significance is 1967-1998, beginning the year Proenneke started construction of the cabin and ending the year he no longer lived at the site. The areas of significance are conservation and exploration and settlement. The level of significance is state.

Also, I reviewed the comments on the nomination from Paul Lusignan, Alaska reviewer at the National Register office, and find his concerns adequately addressed in the revised nomination. I have signed the form on page 2. I hope you will add the original maps and photographs and send the package to your NPS historic preservation officer to review, sign, and submit to the Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places.

If you wish to discuss the nomination or the National Register program and guidelines, I can be reached at phone 907-269-8714 or e-mail [joa@dnr.state.ak.us](mailto:joa@dnr.state.ak.us). Happy New Year.

Sincerely,



Joan M. Antonson  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

Enc.: Richard L. Proenneke Site nomination

Cc: John Branson, Lake Clark National Park and Preserve, 1 Park Pl., Port Alsworth, AK 99653



# United States Department of the Interior

## National Park Service

Lake Clark National Park and Preserve

Admin/HQ Office

240 West 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 236, Anchorage, AK 99501

Phone (907) 644-3634 Fax (907) 644-3810

Field Office

General Delivery, Port Alsworth, AK 99653

Phone (907) 781-2218 Fax (907) 781-2119



H32 (LACL-CR)

January 9, 2007

Federal Preservation Officer  
National Park Service Department of the Interior  
1849 C. Street NW (2280)  
Washington, DC 20240-0001

To The Keeper:

We have revised the enclosed National Register of Historic Places nomination for The Richard Proenneke Site at Upper Twin Lakes in Lake Clark National Park and Preserve according to the March 2006 comments received from the Federal Preservation Officer. We are submitting it for your review and hope that you will find the comments adequately addressed.

Enclosed is the revised National Register of Historic Places signed Registration Form with complete documentation including maps and 35 photographs and a copy of the SHPO review and concurrence letter. If you have any questions about the nomination, please contact Jeanne Schaaf, our Cultural Resources manager at 907-644-3640 or e-mail: [jeanne\\_schaaf@nps.gov](mailto:jeanne_schaaf@nps.gov).

Sincerely,

Joel L. Hard  
Superintendent

Enclosure

cc: w/ enclosures  
Acting Senior Historian , AKRO





# United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:

H30(2261)

JAN 23 2007

## Memorandum

To: Keeper of the National Register

From: Acting Federal Preservation Officer Joseph T. Wallis *Joe Wallis*

Subject: National Register Nomination for the Richard L. Proenneke Site, at Lake Clark National Park and Preserve

Attached please find a re-submission of the National Register nomination for the Richard Proenneke site at Lake Clark National Park and Preserve, signed by Alaska's Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer and by me. It represents our response to return comments by National Register reviewer Paul Lusignan.

Let me express my sincere appreciation of the fact that the park, Regional Office staff, and SHPO made this documentation a priority. My thanks go to everyone involved, including Jeanne Schaaf and John B. Branson of the park staff.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Attachment

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: RESUBMISSION

PROPERTY NAME: Proenneke, Richard, Site

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ALASKA, Lake and Peninsula

DATE RECEIVED: 1/23/07 DATE OF PENDING LIST:  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 3/08/07  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 06000241

DETAILED EVALUATION:

     ACCEPT      RETURN      REJECT                      DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

The Richard L. Proenneke Site is of statewide significance under National Register Criterion B in the areas of Exploration/Settlement and Conservation. Arriving in Twin Lakes in 1967 after a career in construction in the lower states and Kodiak, Alaska, Proenneke was among the first of a small wave of early residents and settlers to this remote area on the western edge of the Alaska Range. Over the next several years Proenneke endeavored to construct a year-round rustic log home for himself using simple hand tools and local materials, and to record his efforts by word and film. His cabin site represents one of the earliest extant "permanent" homes completed in this remote area. More importantly the cabin site is a clear reflection of Proenneke's unique lifestyle and perspective on wilderness preservation and conservation. An amateur writer, naturalist, and wildlife photographer, rather than the more common Alaska wilderness trapper/pro prospector, Proenneke became an iconic symbol for the emerging Alaska environmental movement. The period of his most significant (exceptional) contributions and associations was marked by the publication of his biographical journal/book *One Man's Wilderness* in 1973 and the broadcast of the documentary *Alaska, The Closing Frontier* in 1978. Both of these 1970s-efforts brought Proenneke's story to a broader audience establishing his position as a leading figure in the Alaska conservation movement, particularly as it related to the creation of reserves like the Lake Clark National Park & Preserve (1980) and other Alaska wild land debates. [Though Proenneke's renown reached a national level, the current documentation does not contain sufficient comparative analysis under the themes of late twentieth-century conservation/environmental preservation to establish exceptional national significance at this time. State level significance is established.]

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept Criterion B

REVIEWER Paul R. Lusigan DISCIPLINE HISTORIAN

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE 3/9/07

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR (Y/N)



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

PROPERTY NAME: Proenneke, Richard, Site

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ALASKA, Lake and Peninsula

DATE RECEIVED: 3/01/06 DATE OF PENDING LIST:  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 16 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 4/16/06  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST: 16

REFERENCE NUMBER: 06000241

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

The Richard L. Proenneke Site is of statewide significance under National Register Criterion B in the areas of Exploration/Settlement and Conservation. Proenneke was among the first wave of early residents to the remote Twin Lakes area on the western edge of the Alaska Range. Amateur writer, naturalist, and wildlife photographer, Proenneke became an iconic symbol for the emerging Alaska environmental movement during the 1960s and early 1970s. The property's hand-made, log cabin and its surrounding site are clear reflections of Proenneke's unique lifestyle and perspective on wilderness preservation and conservation. The current amendment revises the original 2007 nomination to acknowledge additional contributing resources identified by the NPS at the homestead site. The document also supports an increase in the previous boundaries to encompass additional features associated with Proenneke's improvement activities along Hope Creek. The SLR sheet provided with the nomination effectively highlights the specific revisions to the earlier nomination that are expanded upon in the full nomination narrative.

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept Documentation

REVIEWER Paul R. Lusignan

DISCIPLINE HISTORIC

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE 4/15/16

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y  N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR SEAN PARNELL

Department of Natural Resources

DIVISION OF PARKS AND OUTDOOR RECREATION  
Office of History and Archaeology

550 West 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 1310  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3565  
Web: <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/oha>  
Phone: 907.269.8721  
Fax: 907.269.8908

January 6, 2013

Re: 3330-3 Proenneke Site (AHRS Site No. XLC-00213)

Margaret L. Goodro, Superintendent  
Lake Clark National Park & Preserve  
240 West 5<sup>th</sup> Ave., Suite 236  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Attn: Jeanne Schaaf

Dear Jeanne:

Summer Rickman and I reviewed and discussed the National Register of Historic Places supplemental documentation prepared for the Richard L. Proenneke Site, Upper Twin Lake, Lake Clark National Park and Preserve.

As we understand it, the supplemental documentation is to more explicitly detail some features and add some to the listing and to expand the district boundaries. We had some questions about the counting of the additional small associated features. We also questioned the identification of some of them as structures. There might be a difference in definitions for the National Register program and the NPS inventory of cultural resources—I believe it is called the list of classified structures. The guidance for counting and categories for the National Register program is in Bulletin 14: Guidelines for Counting Contributing and Noncontributing Resources for National Register Documentation, 11/86 (not found on the National Register website) and in Bulletin 15: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation, section IV, specifically the second paragraph.

We think it would be more useful, and clearer, to replace the four breakdowns presented in section 6 of contributing/noncontributing properties with just the last one. Following it--or in section 7--we think there needs to be a clear, concise list. (It might differ from what is suggested here after you have considered our comments in the paragraph above.)

Buildings (3): cabin, log cache, woodshed-outhouse

Sites (2): beach, Hope Creek outlet

Structures (15): cool box, north rock jetty, south rock jetty, cache II trail head, cache III, cache IV feature, Hope Cabin trail turn-off, Hope Creek bridge trail turn-off, Hope Creek



Jeanne Schaaf  
January 6, 2013  
Page 2

Bridge abutments, Teetering Rock Trail, stone levee 1, stone levee 2, stone levee 3, stone levee 4, stone levee 5  
Objects (2): chair, canoe

We do agree the expanded boundaries are reasonable, and think the documentation establishes an association with the additional features and Proenneke. The more accurate coordinates for the district are great.

Section 8 needs to better establish how criterion C applies. The criterion has several ways it can apply, and we think the best is that the district "represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction." The widespread distribution of the book and videoproductions about Proenneke's construction of the buildings and related features at the site as an expression of his philosophy establish that it is "a significant and distinguishable entity." If you believe Proenneke's log work is that of a master, another way a property can be eligible under criterion C, the documentation needs more information to establish it is so. The method of log construction was common, and we believe quite a few people peeled the logs they used. The stone fireplace proved not be efficient. The Dutch door and chair are nice touches, but are folk elements. We think the five points presented on Section 8, pages 16-17, need to be discussed more with specific reference to National Register criterion C. Also, we did not find the statement in the summary paragraph, "the cabin is the finest example of wood craftsmanship in the Lake Clark area" supported.

One very small correction! I just worked with the family to name a small stream on Kodiak Island for Erhardt Weisser (middle of page 14), and the nomination has his name misspelled.

Thank you for sending the Proenneke district supplemental documentation to us for review. I hope the comments above are considered, followed by sending final documentation ready for our signature to us. If you or the preparer would like to discuss these comments, please contact me.

Sincerely,



Joan M. Antonson  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer



# United States Department of the Interior

## National Park Service

Lake Clark National Park and Preserve

Admin/HQ Office

240 W. 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 236, Anchorage, AK 99501

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I.A.2 (LACL)

October 21, 2013

Ms. Judith Bittner  
State Historic Preservation Officer  
Department of Natural Resources  
Office of History and Archaeology  
550 W. 7th Suite 1310  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3561

Dear Ms. Bittner:

In Compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. Sec.470f, as amended, 90 Stat. 1329), we have prepared the enclosed National Register of Historic Places Amendment for the Richard L. Proenneke Historic Site (XLC-0023). We are proposing to amend the listing as follows:

Section 5. Classification-Contributing Resources

Ten features described in Section 7 of the 2007 National Register listing are hereby listed as contributing resources.

Section 5. Classification-Contributing Resources

Six features not included in the 2007 National Register listing are hereby added as contributing resources.

Section 5. Classification-Contributing Resources

Contributing feature number 2, the chair, is a replica of the original object and this replica is the contributing feature (rather than the original chair repositioned at the NPS Alaska Region Curatorial Center).

Section 8. Statement of Significance

National Register Criterion C and the category of Architecture for Areas of Significance are hereby added.

Section 10. Geographical Data

The geographic coordinates of the 2007 National Register site datum is hereby revised to provide a more accurate location.





As per the implementation of 36 Code of Federal Regulations 60.9, we would appreciate your 45-day review and concurrence with the proposed amendments. Please return your comments to Jeanne Schaaf at 240 W. 5<sup>th</sup> Ave Suite 236, Anchorage, AK 99501. If you have any questions, please call Jeanne Schaaf, Lake Clark/Katmai Cultural Resource Manager at 907/644-3640.

Sincerely,



Margaret L. Goodro  
Superintendent  
Lake Clark National Park and Preserve

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Enclosure

cc:(w/enclosure)

Jennifer Pederson Weinberger Alaska Region Cultural Resources Team Leader

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Hood, Rhea <rhea\_hood@nps.gov>

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## Re: Resource Types--sites, structures, trails, and system of paths

1 message

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Lusignan, Paul <paul\_lusignan@nps.gov>  
To: "Hood, Rhea" <rhea\_hood@nps.gov>

Wed, Feb 12, 2014 at 10:54 AM

Rhea,

I just now looked over the original Proenneke nomination documentation again in more detail. You should be aware that at the time of listing in 2007 our office made a series of changes to the original nomination through issuance of a Supplementary Listing Record (see SLR attached). These revisions should be incorporated into any amended nomination, unless additional work is provided to address the issues.

For instance, the location for any federal property should include the specific land unit. In the case of National Parks, this is the name of the Park.

The period of significance likewise was reduced from that in the original nomination in order to zero in on the particular period of "exceptional" significance given the very recent dates associated with the property. We really were a little gun shy of taking (even for an Alaska property) the period of significance up to 10 years from the present. Proenneke's continued residence in the cabin was not deemed sufficient to merit taking the period all the way to 1998. If the revised nomination wants to try to show that Proenneke's continuing contributions to the conservation movement were just as exceptional as his earlier contributions, then that should be reflected in the narrative and scholarly literature.

Interestingly, the original nomination did not even "count" the various site components as separate resources, but merely noted them as part of the general landscape associated with Proenneke's occupation of the site. This was OK with us then, but since the revised nomination addresses all of these as separate resources that I also acceptable, and perhaps better documents the site for management purposes.

Let me know if you have any questions.

On Mon, Feb 10, 2014 at 3:48 PM, Hood, Rhea <rhea\_hood@nps.gov> wrote:

Hello Paul,

Thank you for your help and suggestions. They've been a great help and will come in handy for future forms. I agree that the chair on the beach should also be a site.

Thanks again!

Rhea

Archaeologist  
National Park Service, Alaska Region  
240 W. 5th Ave.  
Anchorage, AK 99501

907.644.3460



Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 8:00 am to 4:30 pm

On Fri, Feb 7, 2014 at 12:43 PM, Lusignan, Paul <[paul\\_lusignan@nps.gov](mailto:paul_lusignan@nps.gov)> wrote:

Rhea,

I think the draft amendment documentation does a fine job with the site. (I sure had to do a lot of reading up on Mr. Proenneke when the nomination first came in to wrap my head around the 1967-98 period of significance. Only in Alaska.)

Typical of recent National Park site nominations, the documentation accounts for every separate artifact and feature of the site/landscape. This is fine, as long as the materials are already there as part of the park inventories. If starting from scratch we might recommend that the various stone levees be counted as a single system (structure) rather than individually called out. The same for the system of trails. But since we have the documentation on each piece its fine to dissect the site into its smallest elements.

Do you think the "chair/object" should actually be characterized as the "chair site" since the actual chair there now is not historic? We normally wouldn't include furniture as an individual contributing resource, and in this case the location was an important place for socializing, but the current chair is actually non-historic.

Paul

On Fri, Feb 7, 2014 at 12:18 PM, Hood, Rhea <[rhea\\_hood@nps.gov](mailto:rhea_hood@nps.gov)> wrote:

Hello Paul,

Thank you for your prompt reply.

I've attached a draft of the NR form and feature map here. Most of the content is from the original form (R.L. Proenneke Site, NRIS 06000241).

There are 3 trail features that are listed as contributing resources (two turnouts and one trail, features 10, 11, & 13).

Thank you

Rhea

Archaeologist  
National Park Service, Alaska Region  
240 W. 5th Ave.  
Anchorage, AK 99501

907.644.3460

Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 8:00 am to 4:30 pm

On Wed, Feb 5, 2014 at 7:50 AM, Lusignan, Paul <[paul\\_lusignan@nps.gov](mailto:paul_lusignan@nps.gov)> wrote:

Rhea,

It is usually easier to treat a trail system as a single contributing resource [structure]. This assumes that the trail is a contiguous linear system. If we are talking about a series of trails heading out in

different directions from a central node, then perhaps each named trail system is its own contributing resource. Within the narrative description of the trail system resource you can elaborate on what type of physical components make up the system (trail thread, retaining walls, culverts, trail turnouts, trail head, etc.).

What is the current NR listing you are amending? I can take a look at the original documentation and perhaps give you additional guidance.

Paul

On Tue, Feb 4, 2014 at 7:13 PM, Hood, Rhea <[rhea\\_hood@nps.gov](mailto:rhea_hood@nps.gov)> wrote:

Dear Paul,

I'm currently writing an amendment for an historic property already listed on the NR. Previously, features of the site included "trail turn offs" and "trail heads" and these were described as separate from the sites and structures at the end of these little trails. All of the trails are part of a network of walking paths within the NR site's boundaries.

Some of these previously described features are going to be listed as contributing resources on the new amended form. Would you recommend that the trail turn offs and trail heads be combined into one resource- a trail system?

Thank you for your time

Rhea Hood

Archaeologist  
National Park Service, Alaska Region  
240 W. 5th Ave.  
Anchorage, AK 99501

907.644.3460

Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 8:00 am to 4:30 pm

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Paul R. Lusignan  
Historian  
National Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service  
202-354-2229, fax 202-371-2229


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Paul R. Lusignan  
Historian  
National Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service  
202-354-2229, fax 202-371-2229



—  
Paul R. Lusignan  
Historian  
National Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service  
202-354-2229, fax 202-371-2229

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 AK\_06000241.pdf  
11960K



Schaaf, Jeanne &lt;jeanne\_schaaf@nps.gov&gt;

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**Re: SHPO comments RLP boundary amendment**

1 message

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**Hood, Rhea** <rhea\_hood@nps.gov>  
To: "Schaaf, Jeanne" <jeanne\_schaaf@nps.gov>

Wed, Feb 5, 2014 at 1:47 PM

Hi Jeanne,

I heard back from the NR reviewer and he said that,

If we are talking about a series of trails heading out in different directions from a central node, then perhaps each named trail system is its own contributing resource. Within the narrative description of the trail system resource you can elaborate on what type of physical components make up the system (trail thread, retaining walls, culverts, trail turnouts, trail head, etc.).

I'm changing the trails and trail turn offs to sites instead of structures.

So , the only inconsistency I'd like to fix are the contributing resources called "cache II trail head," "cache III," and "cache IV." The items at the cache II site are emphasized in the description, not the trail turn off. I'll change the name in the NR form to "cache II" and adjust the map.

Thank you!  
Rhea

Archaeologist  
National Park Service, Alaska Region  
240 W. 5th Ave.  
Anchorage, AK 99501

907.644.3460

Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 8:00 am to 4:30 pm

On Tue, Feb 4, 2014 at 3:28 PM, Schaaf, Jeanne &lt;jeanne\_schaaf@nps.gov&gt; wrote:

Hi Rhea,

I agree about the caches as sites rather than structures. Proceed with addressing the SHPO review comments and let me know when ready to resubmit.

My Work Schedule is: M-Th 6:30a -5:00p **NOTE:** beginning Febr. 1 Mary McBurney will be the LACL Chief of Cultural Resources- 907/235-7851. I am retiring February 27 and am working on my archeology project backlog until then- my contact information remains the same.



Jeanne Schaaf, Ph.D.  
Lake Clark National Park and Preserve  
240 W. 5th Avenue Suite 236  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501  
907/644-3640 (office)

On Tue, Feb 4, 2014 at 3:26 PM, Hood, Rhea <[rhea\\_hood@nps.gov](mailto:rhea_hood@nps.gov)> wrote:

Hi Jeanne,

I made some of the corrections recommended by SHPO: In Section 6, I only use one breakdown list of the contributing/noncontributing resources; I included a clear, concise list of the the contributing resources in Section 7, and I corrected the spelling of Erhardt Weisser's name.

After reviewing NR bulletin 14, it's possible that caches II, III, and IV are not structures. I'm also uncertain about why cache II trailhead was described as the component (instead of the cache itself) while caches III and IV are components (instead of their respective trails). Also, from the descriptions, the caches might not be true structures, just piles of stored items. In Bulletin 14 it says "the term 'structure' is used to distinguish from buildings those functional constructions made usually for purposes other than creating shelter." Maybe these are better categorized as "sites"?

I emailed a reviewer at the National Register office to ask whether the "trail turn offs" and "trail heads" we have listed as contributing resources should be combined into a single contributing resource-a "system of paths"-which would qualify as a structure. It would also be a way to include descriptions of the cache piles without having to justify them as individual contributing resources. With that change, the Teetering Rock trail would be included in the system of paths and the location of the teetering rock would be a site, like the beach and Hope Creek outlet.

Rhea

Archaeologist  
National Park Service, Alaska Region  
240 W. 5th Ave.  
Anchorage, AK 99501

907.644.3460

Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 8:00 am to 4:30 pm

On Mon, Jan 13, 2014 at 11:18 AM, Schaaf, Jeanne <[jeanne\\_schaaf@nps.gov](mailto:jeanne_schaaf@nps.gov)> wrote:

Hi Rhea and Heather,

Attached are SHPO's comments on the RLP boundary amendment- I would appreciate your help in addressing the comments- criterion C was one of the originally listed criteria, so do we have to revisit that in this boundary expansion as per SHPO comment??

My Work Schedule is: M-Th 6:30a -5:00p

Jeanne Schaaf  
Chief, Cultural Resources  
Lake Clark National Park and Preserve  
240 W. 5th Avenue Suite 236



## United States Department of the Interior

### National Park Service

#### Lake Clark National Park and Preserve

##### Admin/HO Office

240 W. 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 236, Anchorage, AK 99501

Phone (907) 644-3634 Fax (907) 644-3810

##### Field Office

General Delivery, Port Alsworth, AK 99653

Phone (907) 781-2218 Fax (907) 781-2119



I.A.2 (LACL)

APR 23 2014

Ms. Joan M. Antonson  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer  
Department of Natural Resources  
Office of History and Archaeology  
550 W. 7th Suite 1310  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3561

Re: 3330-3 Proenneke Site (AHR Site No. XLC-00213)

Dear Ms. Antonson:

Thank you for your review and determination that the amendment to expand the Richard L. Proenneke Cabin Site boundaries, include additional contributing features, and correct the coordinates are reasonable. We hope we have addressed your review comments adequately and that you will forward this final package to the Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places.

Please address any comments or questions to Rhea Hood: office phone 907-644-3460, email rhea\_hood@nps.gov, or mail 240 W. 5<sup>th</sup> Ave, Anchorage, AK 99501.

Sincerely,

Margaret L. Goodro  
Superintendent  
Lake Clark National Park and Preserve

Enclosure

cc: Jennifer Pederson Weinberger  
Cultural Resources Team Leader  
NPS Alaska Region







THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR SEAN PARNELL

**Department of Natural  
Resources**

DIVISION OF PARKS  
Office of History & Archaeology

550 West 7<sup>th</sup> Ave., Suite 1310  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3565  
Main: 907.269.7621  
E-mail: [oha@alaska.net](mailto:oha@alaska.net)

July 21, 2014

Re: 3330-3 Proenneke Cabin Site (AHR Site No. XLC-00213)

Margaret L Goodro, Superintendent  
Lake Clark National Park & Preserve  
240 West 5<sup>th</sup> Ave., Suite 236  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Dear Ms. Goodro:

I have reviewed the revised National Register of Historic Places amendment to expand the Richard L. Proenneke Cabin Site boundaries and include additional contributing features. Rhea Hood considered the comments I made in my earlier review, checked with the National Register office's Alaska reviewer, and prepared a complete, good nomination. I have signed the form. You need to print the maps and photographs and put the materials on a computer disk. Then you submit the nomination package to the NPS Historic Preservation Officer (FPO) to review, sign and forward to the Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places for acceptance.

It is greatly appreciated that your staff has nominated and sought to get a number of the park's cultural resources recognized with formal listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Please accept my apology for having this on my desk for two months. It is summer in Alaska!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joan M. Antonson".

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

Enclosure: NRHP nomination

Cc (letter): Jennifer Pederson Weinberger, Cultural Resources Team Leader, Alaska Region,  
NPS, 240 West 5<sup>th</sup> Ave., Anchorage, AK 99501



# United States Department of the Interior

**National Park Service**  
**Lake Clark National Park and Preserve**  
240 West 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, suite 236  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501



1.A.2 (LACL-CR)

December 22, 2014

Dr. Stephanie Toothman  
FPO/Associate Director  
Cultural Resources  
National Park Service  
1849 C Street, NW  
Room 3128 MIB  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Dr. Toothman:

Pursuant to the Code of Federal Regulation Part 36 §63.3 and in compliance with Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. Sec. 470h-2), Lake Clark National Park and Preserve and the Alaska State Historic Preservation Officer agree that the Richard L. Proenneke Cabin Site (XLC-00213, NRIS 06000241) as amended is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The R. L. Proenneke Cabin Site is owned by the National Park Service and is within Lake Clark National Park and Preserve.

The enclosed disks contain the true and correct copy of the amended nomination for the Richard L. Proenneke Cabin Site (XLC-00213, NRIS 06000241) to the National Register of Historic Places.

The R. L. Proenneke Site is in Lake Clark National Park and Preserve, on the southeastern shore of upper Twin Lakes, about 40 miles north of the village of Port Alsworth. The R. L. Proenneke Cabin Site was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on March 8, 2007. The cabin is the finest example of wood craftsmanship in the Lake Clark area. The cabin is one of three buildings that are considered contributing resources. There are fifteen other features within the current site boundary that are associated with Proenneke during the years he lived at the site, from 1967 to 1979. This amendment to the original National Register nomination increases the existing area to include six additional features that are associated with experiences Proenneke had at the site that contributed to, or were expressions of, his wilderness ethic and are examples of structures he installed around his cabin.

The northern boundary of the site, along with the boundaries around Teetering Rock trail and Teetering Rock remain unchanged from the boundary of the 2007 National Register nomination. The boundary increase is bounded by the shore of upper Twin Lakes in the west, Hope Creek in the south, and the eastern end of stone levee 5 in the east (see National Register form attachment).

The amended site boundary begins at a point (Coordinate A) on the beach northwest of Proenneke's cabin where the chair was located (feature 2) and where there is a short trail that leads from the beach to the cabin. The boundary proceeds east for 1,421 yards (0.8 miles) following the Teetering Rock trail (and the 2007 National Register nomination boundary) to Teetering Rock (Coordinate B). The boundary forms a circle around Teetering Rock with a diameter of 13 yards. The boundary returns west along the Teetering Rock trail for 1,210 yards (0.7 miles) to the Hope Creek Bridge trail turnoff (Coordinate C). From Coordinate C, the boundary proceeds 56 yards south to the eastern end of Stone levee 5 (Coordinate D). The boundary then proceeds 114 yards west to the Hope Creek Bridge abutment on the south side of the stream (Coordinate E). From Coordinate E, the boundary follows a

**TAKE PRIDE**  
**IN AMERICA** 



24 yard segment of the 2007 National Register boundary northwest to the north side of Hope Creek (Coordinate F). From Coordinate F, the boundary follows the north bank of Hope Creek for 144 yards to the Hope Creek outlet (Coordinate G). From Coordinate G the boundary proceeds 56 yards north-northwest along the beach to Coordinate H. From Coordinate H the boundary follows the contour of the beach 54 yards northward to Coordinate I. From Coordinate I, the boundary continues along the beach and returns to the path of the 2007 National Register nomination to encompass both rock jetty features, for 142 yards, and ends at Coordinate A.

The R. L. Proenneke site is significant under Criterion B, because it is associated with the life of a person important to the history of environmental conservation, exploration, and settlement in Alaska. The period of significance, between 1967 and 1979, begins when Proenneke began construction of the site and ends in the year after he appeared the film *Alaska, The Closing Frontier*. Although the period of significance is less than 50 years old, the site has achieved significance from the national exposure of Proenneke's conservation ethic and his skills as an outdoorsman and woodworker through books and films.

We are proposing to amend the listing as follows:

**Section 5. Classification-Contributing Resources**

Thirteen features described in Section 7 of the 2007 National Register listing are hereby listed as contributing resources.

**Section 5. Classification-Contributing Resources**

Six features not included in the 2007 National Register listing are hereby added as contributing resources.

**Section 5. Classification-Contributing Resources**

Contributing feature number 2, the chair, is a replica of the original object and the former site of the chair is the contributing feature (rather than the original chair repositied at the NPS Alaska Region Curatorial Center).

**Section 7. Description**

Two features—the emergency food storage cache and the urination stump—are outside the 2007 National Register site boundary and are hereby removed from the site description.

**Section 10. Geographical Data**

The geographic coordinates of the 2007 National Register site datum is hereby revised to provide a more accurate location.

Please address any comments or questions to Rhea Hood at 907-644-3460 or rhea\_hood@nps.gov.

We request your certification that this property is entered in the National Register as amended. We hope that you will forward this final package to the Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Margaret L. Goodro  
Superintendent  
Lake Clark National Park and Preserve

Enclosure

cc: Jennifer Pederson Weinberger  
Cultural Resources Team Leader  
NPS Alaska Region



# 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: Proemike Richard L. Site (Additional Documentation, Boundary Increase)

Other name/site number: AHRS Site No. XIC-00213

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

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

## 2. Location

Street & number: Lake Clark National Park and Preserve, southwest end of inner Twin Lakes

City or town: Port Alsworth State: Alaska County: Lake and Peninsula Borough

Not For Publication:

Veracity:

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

I hereby certify that this 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 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 local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A B C D

Signature of certifying official/Title: _____	Date _____
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government _____	



Lake and Peninsula  
Barrow, Alaska  
County and State

Proppala, Richard L. Site  
Name of Property

In my opinion, the property <u>does not</u> meet the National Register criteria.	
<u>Jon H. Anderson</u>	<u>21 July 2014</u>
Signature of commenting official:	Date
<u>Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer Alaska</u>	
Title:	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

#### 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

Date of Action

#### 5. Classification

##### Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Private:

Public - Local

Public - State

Public - Federal

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Proenneke, Richard L. Site (XLC-00213)

Name of Property  
Lake and Peninsula Borough, Alaska  
County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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

**SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD**

NRIS Reference Number: 06000241

Date Listed: March 8, 2007

Property Name: Proenneke, Richard L. Site; AHRIS Site No. XLC-00213 (Additional Documentation, Boundary Increase)

County: Lake and Peninsula Borough-Census Area

State: Alaska

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

Signature of the Keeper \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Action \_\_\_\_\_

**Amended Items in Nomination:**

Section 5. Classification-Contributing Resources

Thirteen features described in Section 7 of the 2007 National Register listing are hereby listed as contributing resources.

Section 5. Classification-Contributing Resources

Six features not included in the 2007 National Register listing are hereby added as contributing resources.

Section 5. Classification-Contributing Resources

Contributing feature number 2, the chair, is a replica of the original object and the former site of the chair is the contributing feature (rather than the original chair repositied at the NPS Alaska Region Curatorial Center).

Section 7. Description

Two features—the emergency food storage cache and the urination stump—are outside the 2007 National Register site boundary and are hereby removed from the site description.

Section 10. Geographical Data

The geographic coordinates of the 2007 National Register site datum is hereby revised to provide a more accurate location.





## United States Department of the Interior

### National Park Service

Lake Clark National Park and Preserve

Admin/HQ Office

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Phone (907) 644-3626 Fax (907) 644-3810

Field Office

General Delivery, Port Alsworth, AK 99653

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1.A.2 (LACL)

February 1, 2016

Ms. Kelly Spradley-Kurowski  
Historian and Manager, National Maritime Heritage Program  
National Park Service  
1201 I (Eye) Street, NW #2261  
8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Ms. Spradley-Kurowski:

Thank you much for notifying us about the correct mailing address for National Register submissions.

The enclosed disks contain the true and correct copy of the amended nomination for the Richard L. Proenneke Cabin Site (XLC-00213, NRIS 06000241) to the National Register of Historic Places. Also enclosed is the original signature page with the Alaska SHPO's signature.

Please let me know if there's anything else you need during the review process. Once the review process is complete we would appreciate receiving a copy of the final nomination with all of the signatures.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth C. Rupp  
Cultural Resources Program Manager and Subsistence Coordinator  
Lake Clark National Park and Preserve

Enclosures




# United States Department of the Interior

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

March 3, 2016

## Memorandum

To: Acting Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places

From: Deputy Federal Preservation Officer, National Park Service 

Subject: Additional Documentation for Proenneke, Richard L. Site, Lake Clark National Park and Preserve, Lake and Peninsula Borough, Alaska

I am forwarding Additional Documentation for the Proenneke, Richard L. Site, located in Lake Clark National Park and Preserve, Alaska. The current documentation updates the resource counts and increases the boundary to include more area and resources associated with the life of Richard L. Proenneke. The Park History Program has reviewed the documentation and supports a statewide level of significance under Criterion B, with areas of significance of Conservation and Settlement. If you have any questions, please contact Kelly Spradley-Kurowski is 202-354-2266, or [kelly\\_spradley-kurowski@nps.gov](mailto:kelly_spradley-kurowski@nps.gov).