United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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PATROL CABINS, MOUNT McKINLEY NATIONAL PARK

Name: Upper East Fork Cabin, No. 29

Location: Near East Fork of Toklat River at Mile 43 and approximately 200 yards south of park road, SE 1/4, NE 1/4, Sec. 1, T. 16S., R. 12W., Fairbanks Meridian

UTM References: 06/362000/7050610 Quadrangle: Healy (C-6), AK

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

Nominated area is a 50 yard circular radius measured from the center of the cabin.

Description: Log walls hewn flat on three sides; single and double square corner notching; oakum and burlap chinking; exterior stained (?); medium pitch gable with wood shakes; fascia board across peeled pole rafter ends; gable extends beyond main facade to form porch supported by vertical log posts; log tie beam with radiating support posts in porch gable; rectangular; measures 14'7" x 16'1" (inside); 1 story; log foundation; single fixed light windows, removable and hinged wood window and door shutters; Alterations: shake roof in 1979; recent windows, door, and framing; new shutters; walls painted recently. Site: outhouse up slope to the east approximately 40'; storage shed near north wall of cabin; recent small log cabin 100' away.

History and Significance:

Construction Date: 1929 (?)

Architect: Unknown

Builder: Alaska Road Commission and National Park Service

In 1929, the Alaska Road Commission completed construction of the Upper East Fork Cabin at Mile 43 on the trans-park road. Like the three 14' x 16' cabins before it built at 10-mile intervals, the Upper East Fork Cabin and its complement of temporary tents served as the base for the 1930 season's road construction activities. As eally as 1922, a tent at the East Fork River provided shelter for rangers on their winter patrols of the park. From 1929 to the early 1940's, the East Fork Cabin served as a ranger patrol stopover place. Noted wildlife biologist Adolph Murie, who conducted extended studies of wolves in the park, used the cabin as his base of operations during the summers of 1940 and 1941.

The Upper East Fork Cabin is significant for its historical association with the development of an important transportation route in the park and because it represents the National Park Service's early efforts in Alaska to conserve wildlife.

Photo Nos. 29-1 to 29-7