

RECEIVED 2280

JUN 26 2001

NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

938

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

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

=====  
1. Name of Property  
=====  
historic name Spring Creek Lodge

other names/site number AHRS No. ANC-01109

=====  
2. Location  
=====  
street & number 18939 Old Glenn Highway

not for publication N/A  
city or town Chugiak vicinity N/A  
state Alaska code AK county Anchorage code 020  
zip code 99567



**USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form**

Spring Creek Lodge

Anchorage, Alaska

=====  
**5. Classification**  
=====

**Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)**

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property (Check only one box)**

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**

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

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**   0  

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

**USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form**

Spring Creek Lodge  
Anchorage, Alaska

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

**Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)**

Cat: Commerce Sub: Restaurant  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)**

Cat: Domestic Sub: Single family dwelling  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

**Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)**

No style

**Materials (Enter categories from instructions)**

foundation concrete  
roof asphalt shingles  
walls log  
other \_\_\_\_\_

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

The log building at 18939 Old Glenn Highway operated from 1949 to 1969 as a popular restaurant known as the Spring Creek Lodge. It is at mile 20½ on the east side of the Old Glenn Highway, also called the Palmer Highway, about halfway between the communities of Anchorage and Palmer in southcentral Alaska. The lodge was one of the first buildings in the community of Chugiak. In 1975 Chugiak was incorporated into the new Municipality of Anchorage. The owner closed the lodge in 1969 when the new Glenn Highway bypassed it.

Construction of Spring Creek Lodge began in 1948. The one story building has a T shaped plan with a shallow cross-gable roof. It is built of peeled logs. The logs are milled on two sides to provide level surfaces for stacking them. The logs retain round ends that extend a foot past the corners. A butt joint is used to join the logs at the corners. The gable ends have split log vertical siding applied over milled wood framing. The building's main section measures 20 by 36 feet. The kitchen and storeroom section, added on the back of the building in 1950, measure 10 by 24 feet. The lodge is on a poured concrete foundation. Over the main part of the building there is a gable roof with the ridge running generally east to west. The smaller area to the rear has a gable roof with the ridge running perpendicular to the other, generally north to south. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles placed over a wood roof deck. There is a sheet metal chimney in the southeast corner of the former dining room and a sheet metal flue located over the furnace in the addition.

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form

Spring Creek Lodge

Anchorage, Alaska

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)

- X 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.) N/A

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

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Exploration/settlement

Period of Significance 1949-1950

Significant Dates 1949

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder Haik, Vernon

**USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form**

Spring Creek Lodge

Anchorage, Alaska

=====
**9. Major Bibliographical References**
=====

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

Cochrane, Marjorie. *Between Two Rivers: The Growth of Chugiak-Eagle River*. Second edition. Anchorage, Alaska: A.T. Publishing, 1997.

Haik, Vernon. Transcript of interview with JoAn Haik Paden, 1980. Copy provided by author.

Hanson, Diane K. *Archaeological Survey Along the Old Glenn Highway Right-of-Way Eagle River-Chugiak, Alaska*. Anchorage, Alaska: Office of History and Archaeology for the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, 1999.

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

- X State Historic Preservation Office
Other State agency
Federal agency
Local government
University
Other

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form**

Spring Creek Lodge

Anchorage, Alaska

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

**Acreage of Property** less than 1

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

	<b>Zone</b>	<b>Easting</b>	<b>Northing</b>	<b>Zone</b>	<b>Easting</b>	<b>Northing</b>
1	06	368354	6808680	3	_____	_____
2	_____	_____	_____	4	_____	_____
	<u>See continuation sheet.</u>					

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

U.S. Survey 3064: the southeast ¼ of the southeast ¼ of the northwest ¼ of Section 16, Township 15N, Range 1W, Seward Meridian.

**Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)**

The boundary encompasses only the building historically known as Spring Creek Lodge, at the request of the owners.

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

**name/title** William and Dixie Waddell, Owners

**organization** \_\_\_\_\_

**date** July 31, 2000

**street & number** 18915 Old Glenn Highway

**telephone** (907) 688-2610

**city or town** Chugiak      **state** AK      **zip code** 99567

**USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form**

Spring Creek Lodge  
Anchorage, Alaska

Page 5

=====  
The main entry faces north and opens directly onto a narrow parking area. There is another exterior door in the south, or rear, of the building. Small areas of wood decking, approximately five feet square, are at the front and back entrances.

There are four pairs of matching nine-light casement windows in the main section of the lodge: two are centered flanking the main door in the front elevation, and each of the gable ends has a centered pair. The windows have an interior casement that is hinged at the side jamb and opens inward to swing against the wall. The exterior casement is hinged above and swings out like an awning. Windows in the back part of the building are of several types. There are two small three-light casement windows on the east side of the building. Both are hinged at the head to swing out. There are two casement windows, one a single-light the other a multi-light, on the west side of the building. Both are hinged at the top and swing out.

The lodge is now used as a residence. The exterior of the cabin has not been significantly altered since construction, and the interior has been altered only minimally. There have always been buildings around the lodge. The Haiks' frame house is approximately two hundred feet to the east on the slope above the lodge. Directly behind the lodge is a wood frame building that the Haiks used as an auxiliary kitchen that is now a residence. Also on the property today are another cabin, a mobile home, three storage buildings, a retail sales building, a workshop and dog kennels. The spring and the creek for which the property was named still run through the property. At the request of the owners, the nomination is only for the lodge building.

**USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form**

Spring Creek Lodge  
Anchorage, Alaska

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

Spring Creek Lodge, opened on Memorial Day 1949, was a pioneer business and important local gathering place during the early years of the community of Chugiak, located about twenty miles north of downtown Anchorage. Vernon Haik staked a homestead at the site along the Glenn Highway (Palmer Highway) in 1947, and with his wife Alma and children, moved to it. From the start, the Haiks planned to open and operate a roadside stop. Located about mid-way between the communities of Anchorage and Palmer, for twenty years Spring Creek Lodge served meals to travelers and local residents. It was a popular destination for Anchorage residents, especially on Sundays. Local residents gathered at the lodge for several community organizing meetings. Virtually unaltered, although used as a residence today, Spring Creek Lodge reflects the explosive growth of the greater Anchorage area during the post-World War II era. Although the building was a restaurant until 1969, the period of significance is ended in 1950, fifty years ago, when both sections of the building were completed.

**Background**

Vernon and Alma Haik moved to Alaska in 1936 to homestead in the Matanuska Valley but found no suitable land available. They left Alaska during World War II, but returned in 1946 after hearing about construction work at Fort Richardson. Vernon found work as a surveyor. He staked a homestead beside the Glenn Highway (Palmer Highway) and began work on a house. The site was named for a spring on top of a hill back of the house and its creek that ran across the property. Later additions to the original 40 acre homestead expanded the property to 71 acres.

Work on the restaurant started in 1948 after the house was built. Vernon and several friends hauled logs from Goat Creek just south of the Knik River, fifteen miles north of the lodge site. Spring Creek Lodge opened on Memorial Day 1949. Known for Alma's homemade bread and pies--particularly the banana cream pies made with cream from the Matanuska Valley and bananas flown in from Seattle, the lodge became a popular spot for local residents to gather and it drew crowds of Sunday diners from Anchorage. A number of engagements and weddings took place at the lodge. The Haiks operated Spring Creek Lodge until 1962. They left Alaska in 1966.

Initially the lodge had an apartment-sized gas stove, and later in the first season of operation, a propane refrigerator. Until the refrigerator was acquired, the meat and milk were stored in a large crock in the creek. Gas lanterns and candles lit the lodge until a noisy five kilowatt generator on wheels was acquired. The next year, Matanuska Electric reached the area. One the first things added at the lodge after the electricity was installed was an ice cream cabinet from the Matanuska Milk Company. A few years after the Haiks staked their homestead the U.S. Bureau of Public Roads paved the highway.

The families in the community--the Haiks, Paul and Margaret Swanson, Les and Dorothy Fetrow, Cloyce and Justine Parks, Jim and Marie McDowell, Henning

**USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form**

Spring Creek Lodge

Anchorage, Alaska

Page 8

=====  
and Ruth Johnson, and another family--met at the lodge to choose a name for their community. Henning Johnson submitted the name Chugiak that he said meant "place of many places" in the local Chugach Athabaskan language. The group adopted the name and built a community hall a half mile from Spring Creek Lodge. Another early community project was to install a telephone system to connect the scattered families.

Gene Beckvar purchased the lodge from the Haiks and operated it for a short time. He sold it in 1967 to Richard Farrens who operated it until 1969. The lodge closed in 1969 when construction of the new Glenn Highway bypassed it. The lodge is now a private residence. The exterior has not been altered since the Haiks added the kitchen and storeroom in 1950, and the interior very little.

**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** William and Dixie Waddell

**street & number** 18915 Old Glenn Highway

**telephone** (907) 688-2610

**city or town** Chugiak **state** AK **zip code** 99567  
=====

**USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form**

Spring Creek Lodge

Anchorage, Alaska

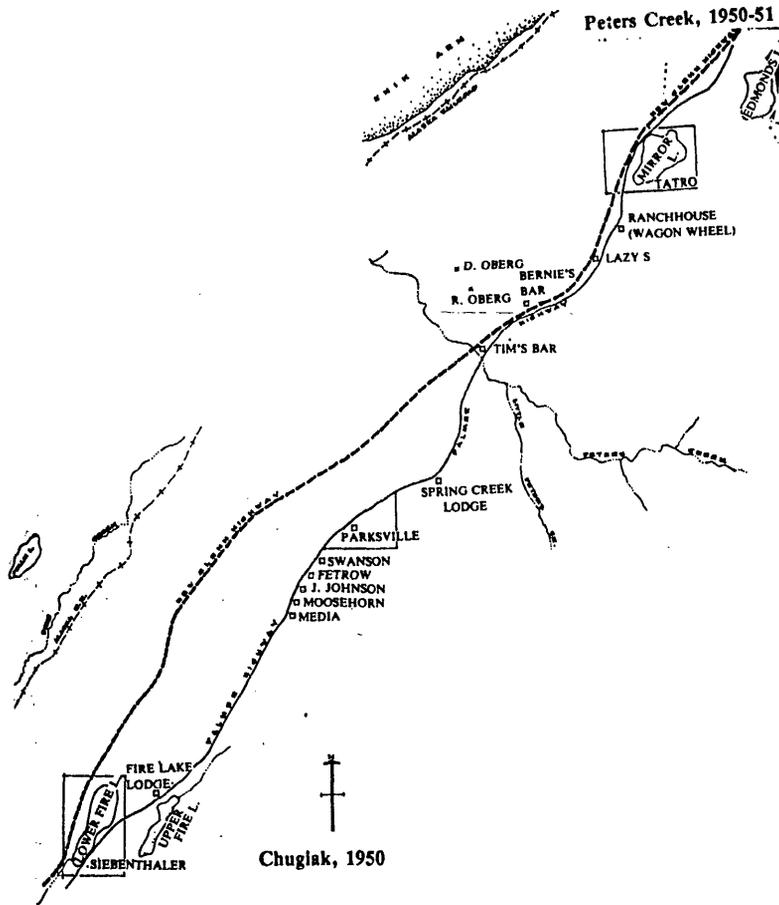
Page 12

---

**Photograph identification**

1. Spring Creek Lodge  
Anchorage, Alaska  
Dixie Waddell  
August 20, 2000  
18915 Old Glenn Highway, Chugiak, Alaska 99567  
Looking south at front facade of lodge
2. Spring Creek Lodge  
Anchorage, Alaska  
Dixie Waddell  
August 20, 2000  
18915 Old Glenn Highway, Chugiak, Alaska 99567  
Looking southeast at north and west sides of lodge
3. Spring Creek Lodge  
Anchorage, Alaska  
Dixie Waddell  
August 20, 2000  
18915 Old Glenn Highway, Chugiak, Alaska 99567  
Looking west at east elevation of lodge
4. Spring Creek Lodge  
Anchorage, Alaska  
Unknown  
1949  
18915 Old Glenn Highway, Chugiak, Alaska 99567  
Looking southeast at lodge in 1949
5. Spring Creek Lodge  
Anchorage, Alaska  
Unknown  
1950s  
18915 Old Glenn Highway, Chugiak, Alaska 99567  
Looking southeast at lodge

Spring Creek Lodge  
Anchorage, Alaska



From Marjorie Cochrane, Between Two Rivers: The Growth of Chugiak-Eagle River (1997), page 53.