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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.

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1. Name of Property  
=====  
historic name Chistochina Trading Post

other names/site number Chistochina Roadhouse  
AHRS Site No. GUL-044

=====  
2. Location  
=====  
street & number Mile 32 Tok Cutoff/Glenn Highway

not for publication N/A  
city or town Gakona vicinity X  
state Alaska code AK county Valdez-Cordova code 261  
zip code 99586

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination \_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant \_\_\_ nationally \_\_\_ statewide X locally. ( \_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Judith S. Bettner  
Signature of certifying official

May 5, 1997  
Date

Alaska  
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

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

Edson H. Beall 6-13-97

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

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

=====  
5. Classification  
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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  

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USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form

Chistochina Trading Post

Valdez-Cordova, Alaska

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Commerce/Trade Sub: Restaurant

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Commerce/Trade Sub: Restaurant

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

No style

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation log

roof metal, asphalt

walls log

other

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

Chistochina Trading Post is located at mile 32 of the Tok Cutoff (formally the Glenn Highway), a road that connects the Richardson Highway at Gakona with the Alaska Highway at Tok. About a half mile south of the trading post is the Copper River and about five miles northeast is the Chistochina River.

The 30 feet by 30 feet roadhouse is constructed of hand hewn, three sided butt jointed logs. It has a corrugated metal gable roof with a closed cornice. Its west elevation has an open, hipped-roof porch that is a few feet shy of extending the entire length of the elevation. A door is in the center, with a paired 1/1 double hung sash window on the right and an infilled entry on the left. The second floor has three single sash windows not quite evenly spaced.

The right elevation of the roadhouse has two 1/1 double hung sash windows, one centrally spaced and the other evenly spaced to the left. A third window is obscured by a log addition that covers the back third of the first floor. Three casement windows are evenly spaced in the second floor. The one story addition measures 12 by 15 feet. It is constructed of three sided butt-jointed logs and has a corrugated metal shed roof. The addition has a T1-11 sided arctic entry on the right side that is of frame construction. The addition and its arctic entry each have fixed single sash windows centrally placed in the west elevation. The shed addition and its associated arctic entry were added after 1981. The south elevation of the addition has a paired six light sliding sash window that is partially obscured by the arctic entry on its right end. The arctic entry has a door

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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.) 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)

commerce

Period of Significance 1931-1947

Significant Dates 1931

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder unknown

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form

Chistochina Trading Post  
Valdez-Cordova, Alaska

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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

Alaska Northwest Publishing Company. *The Milepost*. 1951-1960.

Alaska Road Commission. Annual reports. Copies in the files of the Office of History and Archaeology, Anchorage, Alaska.

Joe, Bell. Interview with Geoffrey T. Bleakley, September 16, 1995. Copy of tape at the Office of History and Archaeology, Anchorage, Alaska.

Justin, Jack. Personal communication, July 7, 1993. Information at the Office of History and Archaeology, Anchorage, Alaska.

Moffit, Fred H. *Headwater Regions of the Gulkana and Susitna Rivers Alaska*. U.S. Geological Survey, Bulletin 498. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1912.

Neeley, Sy. Personal communication, July 26, 1993. Information at the Office of History and Archaeology, Anchorage, Alaska.

Orth, Donald J. *Dictionary of Alaska Place Names*. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1967.

Peck, Paul. "Chistochina--A Roadhouse," *Alaska Magazine* (October 1981):19-21.

Quirk, William A. III. *Historical Aspects of the Building of the Washington D.C.-Alaska Military Cable and Telegraph System, with Special Emphasis on the Eagle-Valdez and Goodpaster Telegraph Lines 1902-1903*. Fairbanks, Alaska: U.S. Bureau of Land Management, 1974.

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: \_\_\_\_\_

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Chistochina Trading Post

Valdez-Cordova, Alaska

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	06	619080	6939460	3	_____	_____
2	_____	_____	_____	4	_____	_____
	See continuation sheet.					

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

The property is located in the SE 1/4 of the NW 1/4 of the NE 1/4 of Section 16, Township 9N, Range 4E, Copper River Meridian, as shown on U.S. Survey No. 3347 Alaska, dated August 13, 1954.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary includes the lodge that has historically served area residents and travellers as Chistochina Trading Post.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Deborah A. Smith and Joan M. Antonson

organization Office of History and Archaeology

date February 24, 1997

street & number 3601 C Street, Suite 1278

telephone 907-269-8714

city or town Anchorage state AK zip code 99503

Property Owner

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

name Sarah J. Endres

street & number Mile 32 Tok Cutoff

telephone 907-822-3366

city or town Gakona state AK zip code 99586

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Chistochina Trading Post

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centrally placed in the south elevation. The east elevation of the addition is plain and the arctic entry has a fixed single sash window placed just right of center. The roadhouse's rear elevation has a pair of single sash windows to the left of center and paired 1/1 double hung sash windows to the right of center on the first floor. The second floor has two single sash windows in line with the first floor windows. The first floor of the left elevation of the roadhouse is obscured by the addition that connects the roadhouse with the bar and cafe. The second floor has a 2-3/1 double hung sash windows on either side of center. There is a square, concrete block chimney just left of center on the exterior of the gable wall.

Sy Neeley recalled that the second floor had his parent's bedroom, a suite with a double and single bed, and two bunkrooms. The first floor had the kitchen, dining room and lobby area. Groceries were stored in the basement where there was a hand water pump and a fifty gallon barrel wood stove.

A log building used as a bar and cafe measures 25 by 60 feet and has a gable roof. The front elevation faces north. An addition extends across the front. The addition's roof is a shallow shed that meets the garage's gable slope just above the eave. The gable roof has asphalt shingles. The bar and cafe's front elevation has, beginning at the right-hand end, three picture windows, a personnel door with a shed roof arctic entry, then two more picture windows. The right elevation has an 1/1 double hung sash window centrally placed in the gable wall. A small log entry addition extends west, covering the northern half of the first floor elevation. Just to the right of this addition is an air conditioning unit that is mounted on the wall with a personnel door to its right. A second, framed entry addition extends from the first entry. This has T1-11 siding and only has a personnel door centrally placed in west elevation. The rear elevation's left half is covered by the addition that connects the building with the roadhouse. A wall dormer with a personnel door extends from the gable roof towards the right end of the rear elevation. Access to this door is by means of a free standing stair to a landing, all supported by 4 by 4 foot posts. The left elevation has an 1/1 double hung sash window centrally placed in the gable wall and 3 similar windows evenly spaced along its length.

A single story addition connects the roadhouse and the bar and cafe. Red and Sandy James, owners of the roadhouse between 1968 and 1979, constructed it. The addition is of frame construction with slab siding to imitate logs. It has a low gable roof covered with roofing felt. The rear elevation has two 1/1 double hung sash windows evenly spaced along the length of the elevation, and the front elevation has a door in the center and a large single sash window on the right.

The first floor wall of the roadhouse was not removed when the addition connecting it with the bar and cafe was built. Changes to the roadhouse do not dominate the historic appearance.



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

Chistochina Trading Post has offered lodging, food and supplies for area residents, visiting hunters and travelers in interior Alaska at least since the early 1930s. The date of construction of the roadside stop has not been decisively determined, but it was characterized in the early 1950s editions of *The Milepost*, a guide to Alaska's highways, as "the first of the old-time establishments on this route." The then owners, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Neeley, were described as "pioneer owners and operators." The roadside stop is on the south side of the Tok Cutoff (officially the Glenn Highway), initially a gravel wagon road connecting area mines with the Richardson Highway to the west, and since the mid-1940s connecting the Richardson and Alaska highways. Few of the old roadside stops, such as Chistochina, spaced about thirty miles apart along Alaska's primitive roads, still stand. The period of significance for Chistochina Trading Post ends in 1947, fifty years ago.

**Historic background**

Prospectors discovered gold in the Chistochina River in 1899. To reach their claims, prospectors travelled from Valdez by way of the Copper River until the U.S. Army constructed the Trans-Alaska Military Road (really a trail) from Valdez to Eagle in 1899. The Army telegraph, the Washington-Alaska Military and Telegraph System (WAMCATS) followed the trail to connect Fort Egbert at Eagle with Fort Liscum at Valdez. After completing the line, the Army established a telegraph station with a horse barn and dog quarters in the Chistochina area. Several people recount that the telegraph station was by Sinona Creek, a half-mile south of the confluence of the Chistochina and Copper rivers. Around 1903, area Natives established Chistochina village in the vicinity. The U.S. Geological Survey reported the Chistochina Mining District had produced a total of \$1,500,000 in gold by 1910. The same report said between forty and fifty men worked mines in the area.

Beginning work at Gulkana on the Richardson Highway, the Alaska Road Commission began to improve the old Valdez-Eagle trail to wagon road standard in the mid-1920s for better access to the Chistochina Mining District and after large scale gold mining started east of Chistochina at Nabesna. They rerouted the road in places away from the Copper and Chistochina rivers. By 1929 motor vehicles could use the gravel road in dry weather to Chistochina, and in 1930 the Alaska Road Commission constructed a bridge spanning the Chistochina River to the east. In 1934 the Alaska Road Commission changed the name of its project 65A from Gulkana-Chistochina Branch to Gulkana-Nabesna Road. The Alaska Road Commission report for 1936 noted that a 106 mile gravel road opened for "continuous summer traffic" after ten years of construction.

As commercial aviation expanded, the Alaska Road Commission started constructing air strips around the territory in 1929. They constructed one at Chistochina by 1932. That winter, pilot Bob Reeve used the air strip when flying supplies from Valdez to miners in the Chistochina and Nabesna

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Chistochina Trading Post  
Valdez-Cordova, Alaska

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areas. A biography of Reeve recounts that he warmed the oil for his plane on the stove at Chistochina Roadhouse. This is believed to be the Chistochina Trading Post because of its location just east of the airstrip.

Jack Justin, a local resident, recalls that the Native village moved from its original location to Chistochina in 1927 when the road was surveyed. He recalls that Earl Hirst, a Copper River basin prospector and trader since 1917, ran the local trading post at that time, and a Scandinavian named John Paulson who moved to Gakona had operated it earlier. Bell Joe, another long-time resident, says Chistochina Trading Post was built in 1927 by Hirst. Sy Neeley, whose parents and then he owned and operated the trading post from 1945-1955 and 1956-1981, says that it opened in 1931. According to Neeley, the store, a one and a half story log building, was built that year and torn down in 1959. The lodge, still standing, was started in 1931 and completed in 1933. O.A. Nelson of Chitina financed its construction.

Paul Peck, who stayed at the lodge while on a sheep hunting trip, wrote in an article published in *Alaska Magazine* in 1981 that the original lodge was built on the old Valdez-Eagle Trail in 1926 and moved to its present location in 1937. He wrote, "Much of the original building was incorporated into the new one." Although a section of the Valdez-Eagle Trail is a short distance south of the roadhouse, no other source corroborates Peck's information.

Chistochina was the first community travellers and freighters reached on the Gulkana-Nabesna Road after leaving the Richardson Highway. Built to "wagon road standard," travel over the Gulkana-Nabesna Road took time. During the 1930s, freighters took a welcome break at Chistochina Trading Post. The next stop, Slana, was another thirty miles away. In addition to serving as a regular stop for freighters hauling supplies to Nabesna during the 1930s, the trading post was a place for area Natives to sell furs and purchase supplies. After the Army completed the pioneer road now known as the Alaska Highway in 1942, the Alaska Road Commission built a road from Slana to Tok connecting with the Gulkana-Nabesna Road, that eliminated some seventy miles between the Alaska and Richardson highways for travelers to Anchorage and Valdez. The route is commonly called the Tok Cutoff, but it is officially part of the Glenn Highway.

After World War II, road crews worked on the pioneer Alaska Highway so it could be opened to the public. The Tok Cutoff saw increased use. The Neeley's added gas pumps and a garage to their trading post and lodge in 1945 and offered limited garage services to meet travelers needs. Red and Sandy James, who purchased the property from the Neeley's in 1981, connected the lodge with a bar and cafe building on the site where the garage once stood.

Although the garage and store buildings no longer stand, the lodge does, and Chistochina Trading Post continues to serve local residents and travelers.

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Chistochina Trading Post

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(8-86)

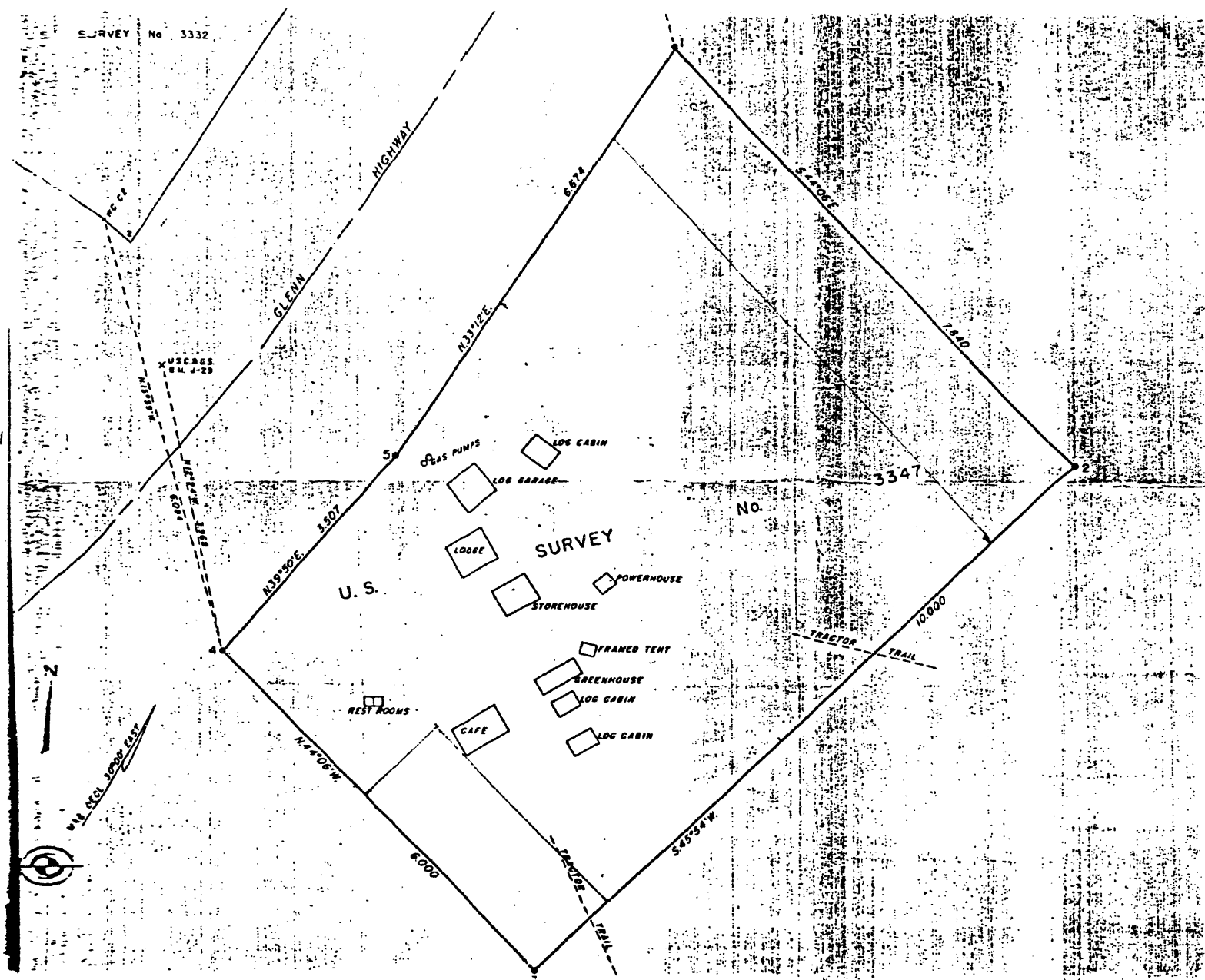
=====  
OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section photograph identification  
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1. Chistochina Trading Post  
Valdez-Cordova, Alaska  
Rolfe Buzzell  
June 18, 1996  
Office of History and Archaeology, 3601 C St., #1278, Anchorage,  
Alaska 99503-5921  
looking southeast at the front of the lodge
2. Chistochina Trading Post  
Valdez-Cordova, Alaska  
Rolfe Buzzell  
June 18, 1996  
Office of History and Archaeology, 3601 C St., #1278, Anchorage,  
Alaska 99503-5921  
looking southeast at the front of the lodge, connecting addition and  
cafe on left
3. Chistochina Trading Post  
Valdez-Cordova, Alaska  
Rolfe Buzzell  
June 18, 1996  
Office of History and Archaeology, 3601 C St., #1278, Anchorage,  
Alaska 99503-5921  
looking southwest, lodge on the right
4. Chistochina Trading Post  
Valdez-Cordova, Alaska  
Kathryn Sherburne  
February 20, 1993  
6711 Mink Ave., Anchorage, Alaska 99504  
looking northeast at the rear elevation of the lodge



U.S. SURVEY  
No. 3347 ALASKA

SITUATED

ON THE EASTERLY SIDE OF THE GLENN HIGHWAY  
AT CHISTOCHINA STATION

AREA: 6.78 ACRES

Latitude 62°33'55" N. Longitude 144°39'40" W.

(as based upon the plat of U. S. Survey No. 3332)

AT CORNER NO. 1

Surveyed By

HAROLD RADCLIFFE, CARTOGRAPHER (CADASTRAL)

AUGUST 13, 1954

Under Special Instructions  
Dated June 8, 1954  
and Approved June 11, 1954

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
Washington, D.C. February 11, 1955

This plat is strictly conformable to the approved field notes, and the survey, having been correctly executed in accordance with the requirements of law and the regulations of this Bureau, is hereby