

1196

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

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historic name: Constitution Hall

other names/site number: Student Union Building
AHRS Site No. FAI-00002

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2. Location:

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street & number: University of Alaska Fairbanks campus

not for publication: N/A

city or town: Fairbanks vicinity: N/A

state: Alaska code: AK county: Fairbanks North Star code: 090

zip code: 99775

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

Joan M. Antonson 19 September 2005
Signature of certifying official 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): _____

Eden H. Beall

[Signature]
Signature of Keeper

11.3.05
Date of Action

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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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6. Function or Use
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Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Education Sub: college

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Education Sub: college

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7. Description
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Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Modern Movement

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation: concrete

Roof: asphalt

Walls: concrete

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

Constitution Hall is located at the core of the University of Alaska Fairbanks campus. When the building opened November 8, 1955, it had a cafeteria, post office, meeting areas, barber and beauty shops, and room for a student radio station. The building serves similar purposes today, although the cafeteria has moved to bigger quarters, and the campus bookstore occupies part of the basement and all of the first floor. It is surrounded by other campus buildings most constructed in the 1960s and 1970s. Its companion with association to the state's constitutional convention, Signers' Hall, is located to the southwest with the eight story Gruening Building between the two buildings. The elevated circular Constitution Plaza is directly in front of Constitution Hall. The Elmer E. Rasmuson Library and adjoining Great Hall and Fine Arts Complex are across the plaza. Wood Center stands directly behind Constitution Hall.

Originally established by Congress in 1917 as the Alaska Agricultural College and School of Mines and located near Fairbanks, the institution's name changed to the University of Alaska in 1935. The Fairbanks campus is on a hill on the west side of the community. It overlooks the Tanana Valley and is surrounded by agricultural lands and recent commercial and residential developments.

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Constitution Hall is a two story reinforced poured-in-place asymmetrical concrete building with a full basement and two extensions. A ``L'' shaped single story wraps around part of the south elevation and most of the southwest elevation. A one-story nearly square extension with a basement is attached to the rear of the building. The extensions are part of the building as constructed in the 1950s. The main building is 108'6'' by 50'6''. The roof is flat, tarred and graveled.

The exterior is highlighted by an incised grid of ``V'' channels. These 2'' by 1'' channels provide relief for thermal expansion and contraction. They also hide the seams between forms. The channels bracket doors and windows and bisect the panels above them. Elevations without windows or doors have a 4' by 8' grid pattern.

The building's façade is nine bays wide. There are eight identical bays on the right, and a wider main bay on the left. Each of the eight bays is 11' by 33', separated by projecting pilasters 1'2'' by 2'. Three banks of windows extend the width of each bay. Each bank is divided vertically into three equal window sections. Each bay has a single row of three windows at the basement level, three rows of three double-hung windows for the first floor, and two rows of three double-hung windows for the second floor. The sills of the windows at the basement level are 1' above grade; 8' above the basement floor. Concrete panels above and below each window provide infill between the pilasters.

The upper two-thirds of the main bay has a 10' by 14' window opening with 12 fixed lights in four horizontal rows of three. This window provides light for the principal stairwell between the first and second floors. The entry is in the lower third of the bay. It has two pairs of metal double doors with full length lights. The doors are flanked by half sidelights above metal wainscoting panels. A fixed transom is above the doors and sidelights. The doors, sidelights, and transoms are recessed 2'6''.

The building has an interior framework of reinforced concrete columns and beams. A central corridor along the longitudinal axis of the main block is defined by bearing walls on the basement and second floors. The vestibule is in the right third of the single story southern wing which overlaps the main bay. The wing projects 11'2'' from the main building and is 34'6'' wide. The left part of the wing's façade is divided into four wide blind bays with ``V'' channel guide work that echoes the eight bays of the main block. The south side of the wing is divided into four bays, each with a planter 3'6'' high. Above each of these are three double hung windows, identical to those on the second floor

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of the façade. A concrete panel is above each window. The panel and the window are recessed 2'6". Each bay is separated by a pilaster, 1' by 3'. The west side of the wing has no fenestration. There is, however, a 1' roof overhang. A 27' chimney divides the south elevation of the main building, and serves a fireplace inside the wing. An intake vent for the mechanical systems is off the southeast corner of the main building.

The south elevation of the main building has a single set of three awning windows on the first floor immediately left of the chimney. The third floor has two sets of three double hung windows to the left of the chimney.

The rear extension is attached to the main section of the building 22'4" from its left corner. The extension's south elevation has a horizontal band of adjoining awning windows. The sills are set 1' above grade in the right hand half of the wall. This window treatment is repeated on the second floor. A 12" by 48" metal louvered grill, 13'6" above grade, is centered in the west elevation.

The extension's north elevation has three windows, a pair of metal double doors which open onto a loading dock, and two metal vents with louvers. The lintels of the windows are 11'3" above grade. An awning window is 2'6" to the right of the corner between the extension and the block. A pair of double hung windows is 4' to the left. A second awning window is separated from the double hung windows by 4'. A 4' section of wall separates this window from a pair of metal doors with small windows. An awning is above the door, loading dock, and steps leading to them. A metal 2' by 3' vent is centered 1' above the doors. Another vent, 8" x 1'4", is centered 3'6" below the second awning window. Five steps with a metal handrail is to the right of the loading dock.

The rear elevation of the main building has two pairs of awning windows in the basement with sills 1' above grade, centered 23'6" and 36' from the southwest corner. Two pairs of double hung windows are located directly over the basement windows, with sills 8'3" above grade. Two pairs of second floor awning windows are directly above these windows, with sills set 25' above grade. A metal door with half light is 8' above grade, 2'6" from the northwest corner. The remaining double hung second floor windows overlook the rear extension, with lintels 4' below the roof slab. A set of three windows is centered 33'6" from the northwest corner and two pairs of windows are centered 51' and 62'6" from the same corner.

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The north elevation of the main building has two pairs of double hung, second floor windows, centered 21' and 30'3'' from the northeast corner. The lintels are 4' below the roof.

Inside, the cafeteria, kitchen and food storage area on the first floor have been replaced by the campus bookstore and offices. On the second floor, offices and the campus ministry offices have replaced much of the faculty dining room, but the radio studio (KSUA) still exists. The recreation room in the basement now houses the bookstore and post office. The barber shop and its art deco chair are in the former beauty parlor. The faculty lounge, with its great fireplace and hearth in the north wall of the southern wing on the first floor now houses the UAF Alumni offices and lounge. Outside, on the side where the Alumni Lounge is, are large metal letters, Constitution Hall.

The building is in its original configuration. Its exterior has been maintained, not changed. The atmosphere of the building gives the visitor the same feeling one might have experienced 50 years ago. The building has its original wood window sashes and frames. Two pairs of metal and glass vestibule doors have replaced the original three pairs of main entry doors, but similar materials were used. The building is painted a cream-tan color similar to its original color. The trim and pilasters, once dark red-brown, are now painted light blue.

In photographs it appears the grade on the façade side of the building has been elevated over time, but this is an optical illusion due to alterations to the plaza area to the front and west of the building.

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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 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):
Politics/Government

Period of Significance: 1955-1956

Significant Dates: November 8, 1955-February 6, 1956

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above):
N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Foss, Malcom & Olson Architects, Juneau
Pacific Construction Company, Fairbanks

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

One of the most historic buildings in Fairbanks, and perhaps all of Alaska, is the building known as Constitution Hall on the campus of the University of Alaska Fairbanks. In the winter of 1955-1956, 55 elected delegates from around Alaska gathered to write a constitution that would become the blueprint for the future State of Alaska. Delegate Victor Fischer remembered that all of the constitutional convention delegates convened in this building, ate together, rode the same bus, and forgot their differences. The constitution was hailed then and since as a model among state constitutions. Historians have argued that the fine work by the delegates was in fact one of the key components in Alaska actually becoming a state on January 3, 1959.

The writing of the constitution was the first use of the building, as it was literally completed the day the convention began, November 8, 1955. Delegate Fischer recalled "the noises made were appropriate for the occasion - sounds of construction could still be heard." The University of Alaska Board of Regents officially named the building "Constitution Hall" at their November 30, 1955 meeting. A bronze plaque at the front door of the building commemorates the convention, and large metal letters spelling out "Constitution Hall" are affixed to the west side of the building as instructed by the regents.

The construction costs totaled \$610,332. The Juneau architectural firm of Foss, Malcom and Olson designed the building. A Fairbanks business, Pacific Construction Company, built it under a contract let by the Alaska Public Works Agency in the summer of 1955. The building was designed as a student union facility to house a snack bar, bookstore, game room, barbershop, and a spacious lounge with television and "hi-fi" sets on the two lower floors. A cafeteria that could serve 285 students was on the second floor. On the third floor, there was a faculty lounge, student government offices, student publications, the alumni association, journalism and broadcasting faculty, and Alaska's first public radio station, KUAC-FM, which went on-air in 1962.

The period of significance is 1955-1956, when Constitution Hall was built, opened, and used for writing the State of Alaska's constitution.

Historical background

U.S. Secretary of State William H. Seward, on behalf of President Andrew Johnson, negotiated the purchase of Russian America from the Emperor of All the Russias in 1867 for \$7.2 million.

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Seward's signature on the Treaty of Cession increased the size of the United States by about one-fifth, and bequeathed to the American people a wild and scenic land with a treasure chest of resources. Henceforth Russia's vast American colony of nearly 600,000 square miles, which the United States named Alaska, would belong to the Stars and Stripes. Though some derided ``Seward's Folly'' or ``Seward's Icebox'' as a monumental mistake, Seward himself believed it was his greatest achievement. In 1869 he predicted that someday Alaska--perhaps subdivided into many states--would eventually be ready to join the other 37 states of the Union and to become ``a worthy constituency of the Republic.''

The road to statehood for Alaska would be more lengthy and torturous than anyone could have imagined. The legend of Seward's Folly persisted, and events would demonstrate successive generations in Washington, D.C. never knew what to do with the northernmost possession. In the decades after 1867 progress towards political equality and greater economic opportunity for Alaskans was torturously slow. The purchase had been Seward's brainchild, and with little political interest or reliable information about the new possession, the general public assumed the ``American Siberia'' was too cold, isolated, and remote to be of concern.

Only in 1959, after ninety-two years in a political cold freeze (during which time the 37 states of Seward's day had become 48), would Alaska finally be deemed ready to join the Union. The land that first came under the U.S. flag in the wake of the Civil War would wait until the Cold War to earn its rightful star.

Over the decades that it took to add Alaska's star to the spangled banner, few events were more critical in the achievement of statehood than the drafting of the Alaska constitution. In the winter of 1955-1956, 49 men and 6 women from across Alaska assembled in Constitution Hall on the University of Alaska campus to design the framework of the 49th State. The 55 delegates--the same number that signed the U.S. Constitution in Philadelphia in 1787--wrote a model constitution that became the blueprint of the State of Alaska, and helped prove Alaskans had the political acumen to govern themselves.

Alaska was a possession of the United States government for 91 years before it became a state, the lengthiest delay in achieving statehood of any of the 50 states. Although actions were taken towards statehood at various times after 1867, the statehood movement began in earnest with the efforts of Congressional Delegate E.L. ``Bob'' Bartlett and Territorial Governor Ernest Gruening in the 1940s, aided by inside and outside supporters.

Between 1947 and 1956, hearings on Alaska statehood were conducted on seven different occasions in Washington and three times in Alaska.

Printed records on the subject totaled over 4,000 pages. During that same period, grassroots efforts were escalating in Alaska. A group of Anchorage statehood supporters, led by Evangeline Atwood, the wife of the editor and publisher of the *Anchorage Daily Times*, organized a nonpartisan, nonprofit, territory-wide Alaska statehood association, and enlisted the assistance of George Sundborg, Sr., to produce a study of the statehood issue which was distributed throughout the territory in pamphlet form and through newspaper circulars.

The statehood effort was aided when the 1949 territorial legislature instituted territorial taxes and created the Alaska Statehood Committee. Consisting of eleven prominent Alaskans, their job was to educate the public on the merits of statehood. The committee focused on national and labor organizations, newspaper editors and state governors to support the cause. In an address to members of the Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, April 26, 1950, New Jersey Governor Alfred E. Driscoll stated, "Alaska may be considered one of the most important proving grounds for our republic. Here is an area in which we have an opportunity to put our avowed ideals of home rule and representative government to work. The most effective offensive that our nation could take in the present world crisis is for us to demonstrate its capacity for continuing growth and to further demonstrate its capacity to put its principles and ideals to work in this vast frontier land."

In fact the drive for Alaska statehood was integral to two of the main historical events of the 1950s, the Civil Rights Act and the Cold War. Granting statehood to Alaska (and Hawaii, with which it was legislatively often linked) was a key plank in the Truman Administration's civil rights program. The president thought statehood for the two territories would also be invaluable in promoting freedom around the world as an example of American idealism in action. As such Truman considered statehood for Alaska and Hawaii vital to American national security. Progress in Congress, however, was slow. This was in part because of opposition of some key southern senators, the core of the "Solid South." They feared the new states would upset the precarious balance of power in the United States Senate, and push ahead on civil rights.

When Dwight D. Eisenhower replaced Truman in the White House in 1953, Alaska's statehood chances dimmed further. The new Republican administration was less than eager to back statehood for Alaska, as it believed Alaska would be a Democratic stronghold. Instead, the administration pushed for admission of predominantly Republican Hawaii.

While the chances of statehood were stymied by partisan politics, the American public overwhelmingly favored admission. In 1955, a Gallup poll showed that 82% of Americans favored the admission of Alaska, and 32 national organizations, such as the American Legion and the American Federation of Labor, as well as about 95% of the nation's newspapers, endorsed statehood for Alaska. In an effort to revive the stalled statehood movement Alaskans pushed for a convention to draft a constitution to prove their readiness to join the union. In Fairbanks, a group of active citizens formed the Constitutional Study League, whose membership included Robert McNealy, a Fairbanks attorney and member of the territorial legislature, who eventually presented the study to the territorial legislature in 1955.

A key question was where to hold the convention. It was decided the academic atmosphere of the University of Alaska campus would prove to be an asset to the framers of the constitution. Despite being a resident of the territorial capitol of Juneau, Thomas Stewart, a former assistant attorney general and territorial legislator, argued that based on his study for the territorial legislature, the university campus was the appropriate venue for the convention. Stewart spent six weeks in early 1955 interviewing constitutional law experts at Harvard, Yale, Columbia, Princeton, Northwestern, Chicago and other universities for a study of other constitutional conventions. He also met with officers of the American Political Science Association, Institute of Public Administration in New York, National Municipal League, Public Administration Service and the Legislative Reference Service of the Library of Congress.

In particular, his meetings with Marie Katsenbaugh, a delegate to the New Jersey Constitutional Convention held at Rutgers University in 1948, convinced Stewart the university was the appropriate location. The university location was seen as a neutral ground, providing logistical ingredients and far from the political influences of the capitol at Juneau. Stewart's findings were presented to the 1955 legislature. The original version of House Bill 1 in 1955 included language to designate the state capital as the convention site. In the end, however, the Legislative Joint Committee on Statehood and Federal Relations agreed with Stewart's recommendation. Chapter 46, Session Laws of 1955 sealed the location of the convention at the University of Alaska in Fairbanks.

The bill called for a constitutional convention to convene at the University of Alaska and appropriated \$425,000 for it. The legislature determined that 75 days would be allowed for the convention. Careful timing and scheduling of the convention by

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Stewart enabled the work to be accomplished within the time frame.

Stewart met with University of Alaska President Ernest Patty and they decided that the best and most modern facility on campus, the proposed new student union building, would be the ideal location for convention. The planned building had meeting rooms, food service, and even a barber and beauty shop.

The legislature called for a statewide election to choose the 55 delegates. The election was held September 13, 1955. Out of 169 candidates, 49 men and 6 women were elected. Some candidates campaigned for the privilege to participate in this historic undertaking. The delegates had varied backgrounds from lawyers, store owners, hotel operators, fishermen, miners and housewives. Those winning seats included six individuals who were born in Alaska; the rest were all immigrants from the states and Europe. Only one Native, Frank Peratrovich, served in the delegation. At the end of the convention the delegates dubbed themselves the ``55 Club.''

Many eyes and ears focused on Constitution Hall when the convention convened on November 8, 1955. A direct line to the Associated Press and the *New York Times* was fed from Constitution Hall through the local newspaper, the *Fairbanks Daily News-Miner*, to get the news out nationally.

In his opening remarks to the delegates on November 8, former Territorial Governor Ernest Gruening (1939-1953) cited the university location as being the appropriate venue for such an event: ``There are a number of inspired actions that accompanied the creation of this Convention. Perhaps the most was selecting the University of Alaska as a site for holding it. A University is really the keeper of the soul of a modern society and if this Convention does not have and will not have a high inspirational quality it will not succeed. . . But it has that inspirational quality, and it will succeed. I recall that that thought is voiced in the anthem of my own Alma Mater, our oldest university and as the graduates leave to go into the world they sing that anthem, *Fair Harvard*, and one of its verses says, `Thou were our mother, the nurse of our souls, we were molded to manhood by thee; and freighted with treasures, with love and with hopes, thou did launch us on destiny's sea.' I think the University will play a part in launching Alaska on destiny's sea as a state.''

Valdez storekeeper and veteran territorial legislator, William A. Egan, was elected President of the Convention. In his opening remarks, he proclaimed the atmosphere of the academic setting to be ``a pleasant surprise to those accustomed to the interminable bickering of the legislature.''

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Shortly after the convention opened, a reporter for the *Fairbanks Daily News-Miner* observed, ``The building chosen specifically to house the delegates to conduct their meetings allowed delegates to be accommodated in modern quarters and promoted identification with the convention's `own' facilities.'' (November 16, 1955)

On February 6, 1956, fifty-four delegates signed the Alaska State Constitution. To accommodate a crowd of about 1,000, the official signing ceremony took place in an adjacent building on campus now known as Signers' Hall. There were 100 original signed copies. Only one copy was signed during the ceremony in Signers' Hall; the rest were signed by the delegates in Constitution Hall. The 55th delegate, R.E. Robertson refused to sign the constitution due to his protest of several issues including prohibition of fish traps, further reapportionment of the state on the basis of population, and not setting a time limit for legislative sessions. Just prior to his death in 1961, Robertson signed the document.

An executed copy of the Constitution was presented to University President Patty by Convention President Egan, with these comments: ``It will ever bring memories to each one of the delegates to this Convention of the kindness that you and your faculty and student body of the University have extended to us over the 75 days, and of the hard work and real effort that you have made each one of those days to help us make this Constitutional Convention a success. There is not enough that we could say to really express our appreciation to you and everyone else on campus for the fine job you have done for the Territory of Alaska in making your services available for all this long length of time.''

On April 24, 1956, the voters of Alaska approved the state constitution by a vote of 17,447 to 7,180. The voters also elected a delegation of three Alaska-Tennessee Plan shadow legislators to send to Washington, D.C. to lobby for statehood. The plan had been the inspiration of George Lehleitner of Louisiana, a World War II veteran who thought admitting Hawaii and Alaska was a matter of justice, fairness, and morality. Lehleitner found that Tennessee and six other territories in American history had gained entry by drafting a constitution and sending a delegation direct to Congress. Alaska-Tennessee Plan senators were William A. Egan and Ernest Gruening. The representative was Ralph Rivers, an attorney, territorial legislator and constitutional convention delegate from Fairbanks.

Meanwhile, others were working for Alaska statehood. Secretary of the Interior Fred Seaton worked to persuade President Eisenhower to back statehood. House Speaker Sam Rayburn of Texas was persuaded by Delegate Bartlett to change his mind and

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consider statehood for Alaska. Senator Lyndon B. Johnson gave Bartlett assurances that the southern coalition would not filibuster statehood bills. Edna Ferber, at the urging of Gruening, wrote a compelling novel, *Ice Palace*, which addressed Alaska's plight.

The Alaska statehood bill was finally passed by the U.S. House of Representatives on May 28, 1958, by a vote of 208-166, and by the Senate on June 30, 1958, by a vote of 64-20. On July 7, 1958, President Eisenhower signed the Alaska Statehood Act into law. Alaska voters approved the Statehood Enabling Act on August 26, 1958, by a vote of 40,452 to 8,010, a margin of six to one. Alaska's long struggle to achieve statehood culminated with the proclamation signed by President Eisenhower on January 3, 1959, that officially brought Alaska into the Union as the 49th state. For the first time since 1912, the nation added a star to the flag.

Alaska's constitution, according to House Report No. 621 of June 25, 1957, that accompanied the Act of Admission on July 7, 1958, was declared by political scientists and public administrators "to be one of the finest ever prepared." The constitution was found by Congress "to be republican in form and in conformity with the Constitution of the United States and the principles of the Declaration of Independence." The Alaska constitution was a document of 14,400 words, which the National Municipal League termed as "one of the best, if not the best, state constitutions ever written."

Alaska was a territory for 91 years. Nearly a century later, the mission of becoming an official part of the United States was achieved, thanks to the efforts of many tenacious Alaskans and influential "outside" leaders. Constitution Hall on the University of Alaska Fairbanks campus is significant to the story of Alaska's road to statehood.

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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.)

Aurora Yearbook, University of Alaska. 1956

Bowkett, Gerald E. *Reaching for a Star - The Final Campaign for
Alaska Statehood*. Fairbanks: Epicenter Press, 1989.

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Stewart, Thomas. Personal communication with author, 2005.

University of Alaska. Board of Regents minutes, November 30, 1955.

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University of Alaska, Elmer E. Rasmuson Library, Alaska and Polar Regions Department. Various collections.

U.S. Congress. House Report No. 621 of June 25, 1957; Act of Admission of July 7, 1958.

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: _____

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10. Geographical Data
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Acreage of Property: less than 1 acre

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	06	461093	7192676	3	_____	_____
2	_____	_____	_____	4	_____	_____

_____ See continuation sheet.

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

Constitution Hall is in the SE ¼ of the SW ¼ of the NE ¼ of Section 6, Township 1 South, Range 1 West, Fairbanks Meridian. It is on the University of Alaska campus.

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

The boundary encompasses the building where the delegates to Alaska's constitutional convention convened for plenary sessions. Signer's Hall is not nominated because it does not retain enough of its physical appearance in 1955. The other buildings and structures around Constitution Hall were built after 1956, but are compatible with the historic building and convey the academic setting.

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11. Form Prepared By
=====

name/title: Ann Ringstad, Associate Vice Chancellor
Terrence Cole, Professor of History

organization: University of Alaska Fairbanks

date: August 12, 2005

street & number: Signer's Hall, Room 327, P.O. Box 757510

telephone: 907-474-5922

city or town: Fairbanks state: AK zip code: 99775-7510

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Additional Documentation
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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)

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

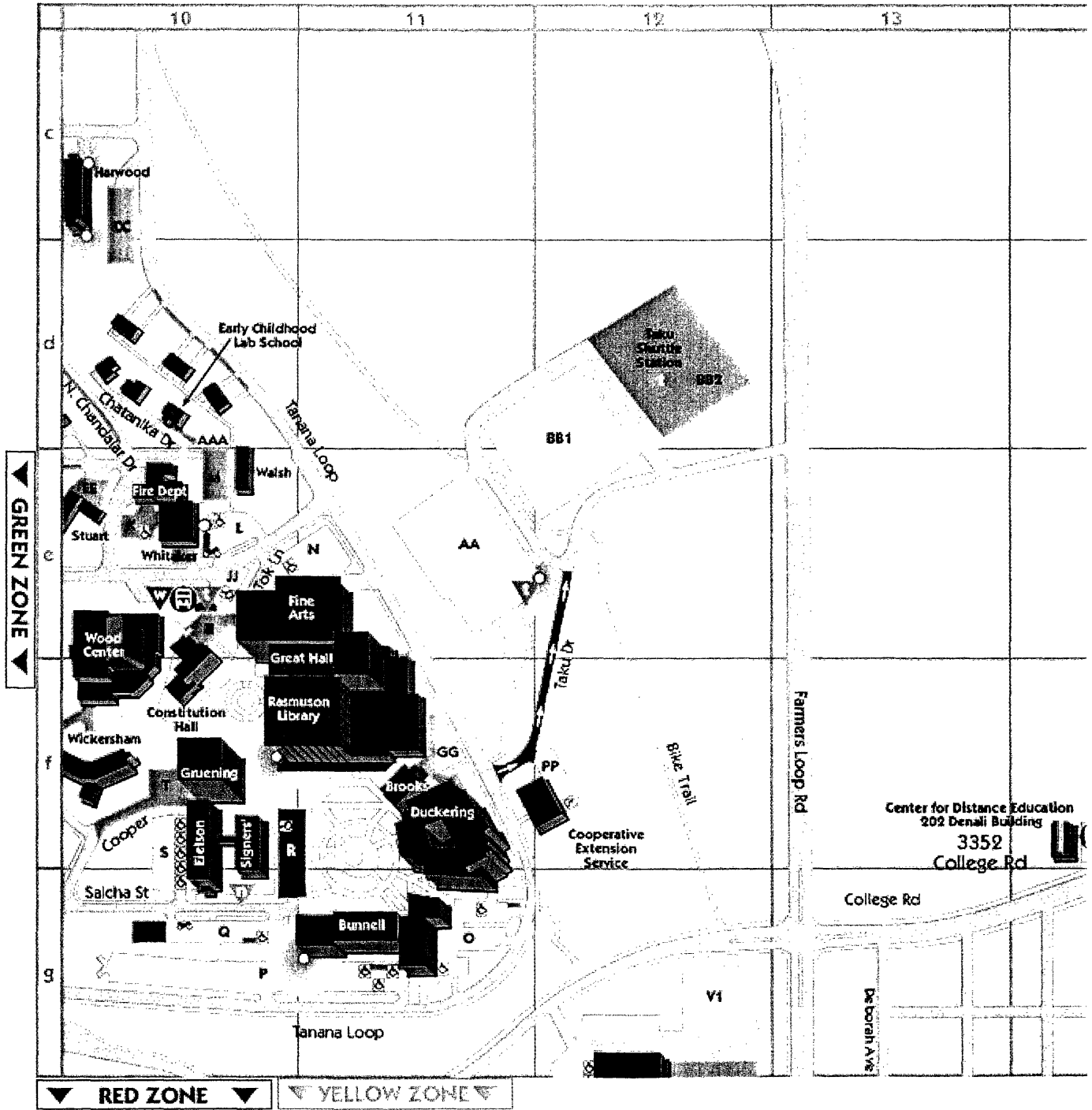
Name: University of Alaska

street & number: P.O. Box 755000 telephone: 907-474-5922

city or town: Fairbanks, Alaska 99775-7500

Photographs:

1. Constitution Hall
Fairbanks North Star, Alaska
Ann Ringstad
May 12, 2005
University of Alaska Fairbanks, P.O. Box 757510, Fairbanks,
AK 99775-7510
Looking north at front of building
2. Constitution Hall
Fairbanks North Star, Alaska
Ann Ringstad
May 12, 2005
University of Alaska Fairbanks, P.O. Box 757510, Fairbanks,
AK 99775-7510
Looking east at left side of building
3. Constitution Hall
Fairbanks North Star, Alaska
Ann Ringstad
May 12, 2005
University of Alaska Fairbanks, P.O. Box 757510, Fairbanks,
AK 99775-7510
Looking south at back elevation
4. Constitution Hall
Fairbanks North Star, Alaska
Ann Ringstad
May 12, 2005
University of Alaska Fairbanks, P.O. Box 757510, Fairbanks,
AK 99775-7510
Looking west at right side of building
5. Constitution Hall
Fairbanks North Star, Alaska
Ann Ringstad
May 12, 2005
University of Alaska Fairbanks, P.O. Box 757510, Fairbanks,
AK 99775-7510
Looking north at front of building



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Constitution Hall
Fairbanks North Star, Alaska