

**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) Windy Creek Ranger Cabin, No. 7

Location: 6 miles by trail west of Cantwell (Parks Highway); south of Windy Creek, SW 1/4, SE 1/4, Sec. 14, T. 17S, R. 8W, Fairbanks Meridian

UTM References: 06/399040/7035610

Quadrangle: Healy (B-5), 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: Peeled, round logs with saddle notching; battered log ends; sawn wood strips over oakum for chinking; exterior walls unpainted; medium pitch gable roof sheathed with adjacent poles, then sod, then galvanized corrugated steel; gable extends beyond main facade to form porch supported by vertical corner posts; rectangular; measures approximately 12' x 14' (inside); 1 story; sill log foundation; 6-light windows with wide board surrounds; removable wood window and door shutters. Alterations: section of metal roof (1959); periodic repair of porch posts (1961, 1965); new plywood flooring (1977); portions of metal roof replaced (1985). Siting: original cabin remains and cache ruins northeast of cabin; dump site 125' north of cabin on slough.

History and Significance:

Architect: Unknown (probably none)

Construction Date: 1931

Builder: National Park Service

The Upper Windy Creek Ranger Cabin was one of four boundary cabins built in 1931. Located on the east park boundary near the bank of Windy Creek, this cabin superseded an earlier more primitive cabin erected nearby in 1924. (Early park ranger Grant Pearson stayed at this cabin in 1926 on his first winter patrol in Mount McKinley National Park. In 1931, Superintendent Pearson reported that the roof of this aged cabin had caved in.) Chief Ranger Louis Corbley and Ranger Pearson cut and hauled logs for the new Windy Creek Cabin to the site by dog teams in March 1931. By the end of June the cabin was completed. Actual construction of the cabin is believed to have been accomplished by contracted labor (possibly "two old Swedes"). Park rangers used this cabin frequently throughout the 1930's while patrolling park boundaries for illegal hunters and trappers. Although little used after the onset of World War II, the cabin needed minimal work in 1949. The cabin has experienced few exterior alterations.

The Upper Windy Creek Ranger Cabin and site are visual testimony to the winter ranger patrol activities that played a critical role in the park's early efforts to protect and conserve wildlife.

Photo Nos. 7-1 to 7-5