

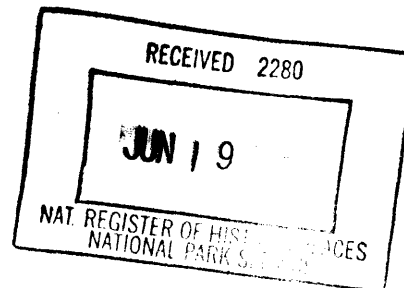
NPS Form 10-900  
1024-0018  
(Rev. 10-90)

*Sub  
Rev  
per  
Fred*

OMB No.

814

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 Talkeetna Airstrip  
=====

historic name \_\_\_\_\_  
other names/site number Talkeetna Village airstrip (co-listed with the privately owned and remodeled "Don Sheldon Hangar" as site TAL-038); town maps also refer to this area as 'D' Street

=====  
2. Location  
=====

street & number Block 15, Lots 1,2,13,&14; Block 16, Lot 1; Block 17, Lot 3; Block 18, Lots 7&8; Block 19, Lots 7&8; Sec.25, Lots 10,15,17,23 &24

not for publication           

city or town Talkeetna, Alaska  
vicinity           

state Alaska code AK county Matanuska-Susitna code 170  
zip code 99676

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form

(Property Name) Talkeetna Airstrip

(County and State) Matanuska-Susitna Borough, Alaska

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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 meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

John J. Douglas

6/14/02

Signature of certifying official

Date

Preservation Officer, Bureau of Land Management

State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Judith E. Buttner

May 3, 2002

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):

Signature of Keeper

8/2/02

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

**USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form**

(Property Name) Talkeetna Airstrip

(County and State) Matanuska-Susitna Borough, Alaska

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=====**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**

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

**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**

(Property Name) Talkeetna Airstrip

(County and State) Matanuska-Susitna Borough, Alaska

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

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

Cat: Transportation Sub: air-related  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

Cat: Transportation Sub: air-related  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

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

N/A

**Materials (Enter categories from instructions)**

foundation N/A  
roof N/A  
walls N/A  
other N/A

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

The Talkeetna Airstrip is a grass and gravel airstrip located on public land near the town of Talkeetna, Alaska. It is virtually unchanged since its construction. The strip is oriented north-south and measures 1,800 by 30 feet. Its northern half passes between two areas of private residences where owners sometimes park their planes. The southern half of the strip is surrounded by wooded public lands with the Susitna River at its southernmost end. The airstrip is co-listed with the "Don Sheldon Hangar" as site TAL-038 in the Alaska Heritage Resource Survey files. The hangar is privately owned, recently remodeled and is not being nominated.

Talkeetna is a small town located at the confluence of the Talkeetna and Susitna Rivers approximately 90 miles north of Anchorage. Prior to European contact the site is reported to have been a Tanaina village (Orth 1967:945) although archaeological evidence has been obliterated by subsequent settlement. Russian maps from as early as 1845 identify the Susitna and Talkeetna Rivers. But the area was not explored until 1886 when prospectors began to look for gold in the Cache Creek, Iron Creek, and Broad Pass districts (Matanuska-Susitna Borough 1985:145). A settlement at Talkeetna quickly became a major supply center for the miners. Supplies were first shipped to Talkeetna by steamer and when the railroad opened for traffic in 1920 they were shipped by rail. Once in Talkeetna, however, the supplies to the mines had to be shipped overland on mired and rutted trails. Early aviation quickly took up supplying the nearby mines. In 1937 an Executive Order signed by Franklin D. Roosevelt designated public land near the village for aviation-field purposes. During the postwar period aviation has made Talkeetna the major point of departure for mountain climbers attempting to ascend Mount McKinley and other places in the Alaska Ranger (Greiner 1974).

**USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form**

(Property Name) Talkeetna Airstrip

(County and State) Matanuska-Susitna Borough, Alaska

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=====  
**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)**

- 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.)**

- 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)**

Transportation  
Other

**Period of Significance** 1940-1951

**Significant Dates** N/A

**Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)**  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation** Euro-American

**Architect/Builder** Civilian Aeronautics Administration

**USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form**

(Property Name) Talkeetna Airstrip

(County and State) Matanuska-Susitna Borough, Alaska

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

The Talkeetna Airstrip has played an important role in Talkeetna's economic development and in the aviation history of southcentral Alaska. A 1937 Presidential Executive Order set aside lots for the Alaska Road Commission to build an "aviation field". In 1939-1940 the strip was constructed by the Civil Aeronautics Administration. Don Sheldon was one of the young work crew members. When he left Alaska to serve in WWII he also learned to fly. When he returned to Talkeetna in 1948 Sheldon began a bush aviation business and earned a reputation as one of Alaska's best pioneer aviators (Yarborough 1986).

Bush pilots such as Haakon Christensen, Cliff Hudson, Don Sheldon and others used the Talkeetna airstrip as a base of operations. They provided communication and transportation services for local miners and trappers, big game hunters, and the growing numbers of mountain climbers drawn to the area. The airstrip continues to be used today, although the state of Alaska built a larger runway east of Talkeetna where most of the aviation traffic now occurs.

The Talkeetna Airstrip is an important cultural feature in Alaska's aviation history. Aviation in general played an extremely significant role in modern Alaskan history as air travel opened up previously remote and inaccessible areas of the state. Bush pilots became, and continue to be, the subject of myth and legend for their flying exploits under tough and often dangerous conditions. The air strip's period of significance ends at fifty years ago even though some of the same activities which have made it significant still continue. These activities are not in themselves exceptionally significant enough to justify extending the period of significance beyond the limit of 50 years ago.

Because of its contribution to the economic development of Talkeetna as a center of supply and departure point to the surrounding backcountry, the airstrip meets Criteria A of the National Register Criteria for evaluation. Further, the airstrip retains integrity of location, design, setting, workmanship, feeling, and association. The strip has remained in the same location and has been virtually unchanged since its construction. It is partially surrounded by the historic town of Talkeetna which was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1994. The Talkeetna airstrip was originally considered as a contributing element as a part of the Historic District. However, its period of significance is later than that of the Historic District so it is being nominated as a separate entity.

**USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form**

(Property Name) Talkeetna Airstrip  
(County and State) Matanuska-Susitna Borough, Alaska  
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=====  
**9. Major Bibliographical References**  
=====

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

Bureau of Land Management  
n.d. Case file AA-56215. Department of Interior, Anchorage Field Office, Anchorage, Alaska

Greiner, James  
1974 Wager with the wind. Rand McNally and Co., Chicago.

(see continuation sheet)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS)**

- 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:** BLM Anchorage Field Office, Cultural Resources files and casefile AA-56215

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

Acreage of Property 19.95

**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	<u>5</u>	<u>6335700</u>	<u>6913125</u>	3	<u>5</u>	<u>6335700</u>	<u>6912900</u>
2	<u>5</u>	<u>6335700</u>	<u>6913000</u>	4	<u>5</u>	<u>6335700</u>	<u>6912775</u>
	<u>See continuation sheet.</u>						

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

The airstrip runs from first Street south down D Street to the Susitna river in the village of Talkeetna. The legal description is:

T. 26 N., R.5 W. USS 1260  
. Block 15, Lots 1,2,13,&14; Block 16, Lot 1; Block 17, Lot 3; Block 18, Lots 7&8; Block 19, Lots 7&8; and Sec.25, Lots 10,15,17,23 &24

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

The airstrip is still on lands originally withdrawn by Executive Order 7783 and is still used as an air field with little to no modification except erosion at the river end.

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(Property Name) Talkeetna Airstrip

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NPS Form 10-900-a  
(8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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

**name/title** Donna Redding  
Anchorage Field Office Archaeologist

**organization** Bureau of Land Management, Anchorage Field Office

**date** February 28, 2001

**street & number** 6881 Abbot Loop Road

**telephone** (907)267-1341

**city or town** Anchorage **state** AK **zip code** 99507

=====  
**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** \_\_\_\_\_

**street & number** \_\_\_\_\_

**telephone** \_\_\_\_\_

**city or town** \_\_\_\_\_ **state** \_\_\_\_\_ **zip code** \_\_\_\_\_  
=====



**USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form**

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**(8-86)**

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**United States Department of the Interior**  
**National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**  
**CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Section**   9  

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Bibliographic References continued

Matanuska\_Susitna Borough

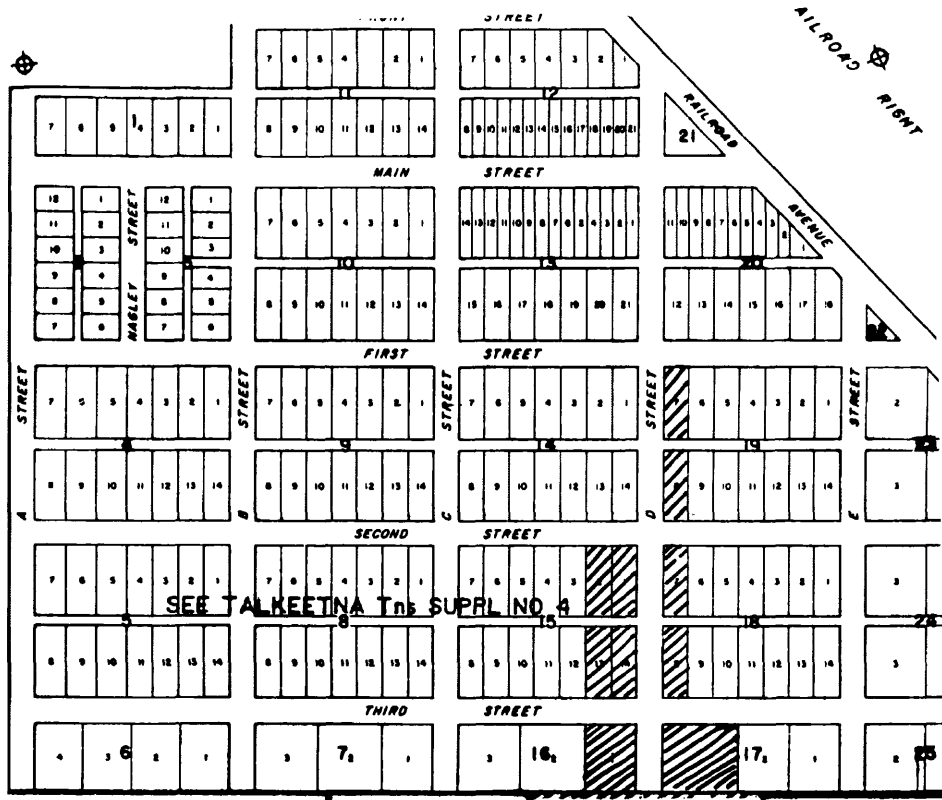
1985 Knik-Matanuska-Susitna, a visual history of the valleys.  
Bentwood Press, Sutton, Alaska.

Orth, Donald J.

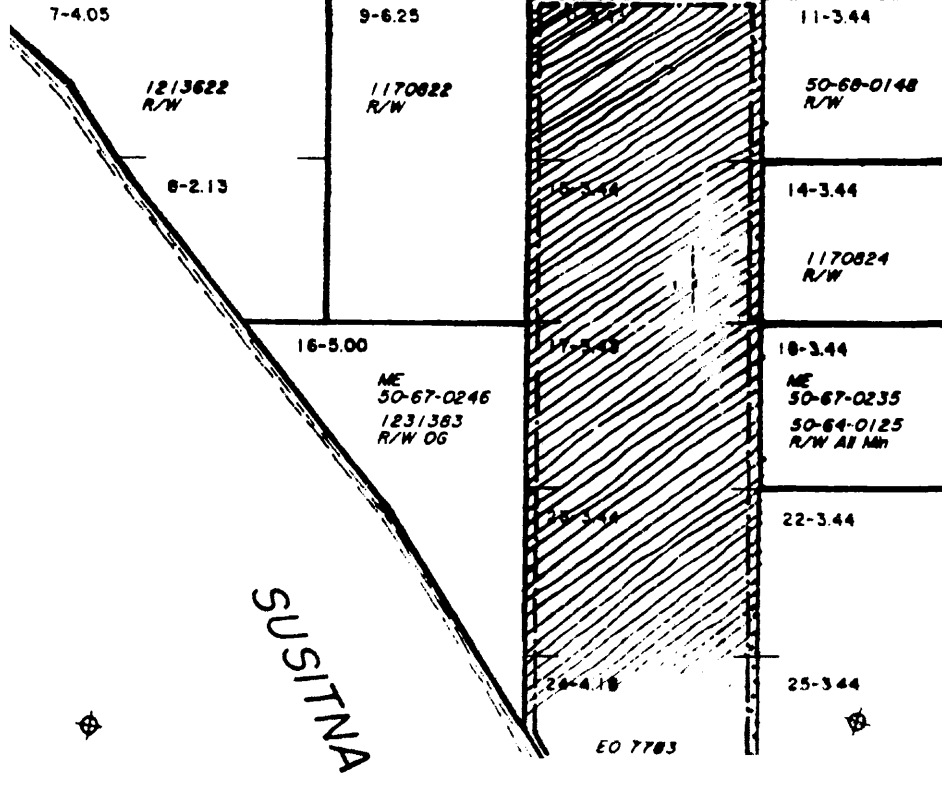
1967 Dictionary of Alaska place names. Geological Survey Professional  
Paper 567. United States Government Printing Office, Washington.

Yarborough, Linda Finn

1986 Archeological survey of the proposed drainfield for the Talkeetna  
sewer project. Report submitted to the Matanuska-Susitna  
Borough.



SEE TALLEETNA TNS SUPPL NO 4



Plat of original Talkeetna airfield withdrawal (Shaded area)



Aerial view of Talkeetna Airstrip

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

**SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD**

NRIS Reference Number: 02000814

Date Listed: 8/2/02

Talkeetna Airstrip  
Property Name

Matanuska-Susitna  
County

AK  
State

N/A  
Multiple Name

-----  
This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

*[Handwritten Signature]*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper

8/2/02  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

=====

Amended Items in Nomination:

Significance:

The correct level of significance is: *local*

*Other* is deleted as an area of significance.  
[The appropriate area of significance is: *Transportation*]

*Euro-American* is deleted under Cultural Affiliation  
[The Cultural Affiliation block is only completed for nominations under Criterion D.]

U. T. M Coordinates:

The correct Easting coordinates for the property are all: 6 4 9 7 0 0

Verbal Boundary Description:

The private hangar is not included within the boundaries and is not a component of this nomination.

This information was confirmed with the BLM Alaska offices.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)