

Senator Ted Stevens; Mike Gravel; Congressman Don Young

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DN10679984

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED FEB 24 1977

DATE ENTERED DEC 15 1977

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES - COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC **KK** Wasilla Depot (AHRs Site No. ANC-088)

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Alaska Railroad Mile 159.8, junction of Parks Highway
and Knik Road

CITY/TOWN

Wasilla

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Alaska, at large

STATE

Alaska

CODE

02

COUNTY

Mathuska-Susitna Division

CODE

170

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME The Alaska Railroad, U.S. Department of Transportation

STREET & NUMBER PO Box 7-2111 (907) 265-2411

CITY/TOWN

Anchorage

VICINITY OF

STATE
Alaska

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC The Alaska Railroad, U.S. Department of Transportation

STREET & NUMBER PO Box 7-2111

CITY/TOWN

Anchorage

STATE
Alaska

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Alaska Heritage Resource Survey (AHRs)

DATE

August 14, 1975

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

Alaska Division of Parks, 323 E. 4th Avenue

CITY/TOWN

Anchorage

STATE
Alaska

DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Plans for this structure were approved in August 1917, and it was completed with some modifications in details in October or November 1917. It appears today essentially as it did when originally constructed. It was built as a one-story rectangular frame building. It measures 33 x 52 feet, with a 12 foot wide bay on the south side and an 11'8" bay on the track (north) side. A low hipped roof with unadorned overhanging eaves on all four sides is topped by a cupola centered on the peak, capped by a flag pole.

The bay facing the tracks contained the office and ticket counter. Clockwise from that point, the building is divided to provide for a waiting room, two bedrooms, a bathroom, kitchen, pantry, living room, and another storage room.

This arrangement was supplemented by an unusual amount of wall space devoted to windows. The west end of the building, with the least fenestration of any of the walls, has two five pane bottom-hinged windows, each opening into a main storage space. Each of the outside rooms of the structure has at least one window, while the waiting room is lighted by six, the ticket office by five, and the living room by four.

The main railroad storage room is entered from the outside through a double batten door, while access to the other interior spaces is through single batten doors with half-glass panels that enter the waiting room, the living room, and the kitchen, respectively.

Unfold inside

*Leavenworth
12/5/17*

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW					
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHAEOLOGY PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHAEOLOGY HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES Built: 1917

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Office of F. Mears
Alaska Engineering Commission

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Significance

The Wasilla Depot is significant as a symbol of the Alaska Railroad, catalyst of the community's development. The section of Alaska centering upon the present town of Wasilla possessed high potential for economic activity, due to its location in an area of arable land and mineral resources. The Alaska Engineering Commission designated this depot site to provide the transportation facility required for exploitation of these attributes.

Historical Background

A townsite was established where the depot would be built, centering at the intersection of the railroad and the old wagon road. The wagon road was a Government-constructed road from Knik to the Willow Creek gold mines.

Up to the time of railroad construction and the building of this depot, there were only a few farms in the area. This was due to the difficulty of travel and transportation to the coast. For the same reason, in 1910, only one quartz gold mine was operating successfully, even though the Willow Creek mining district had been prospected for nearly two decades, and several rich gold deposits had been located.

The completion of the railroad to this point on its route north opened the region effectively to human economic activity. It provided effective and practical transportation for people, freight, and for the limited markets available along the railbelt. This depot has performed its function continuously since its construction.

See continuation sheet

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED OCT 31 1977
DATE ENTERED DEC 15 1977

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Wasilla Depot (AHRS SITE NO. ANC-688)

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1 of 1

Significance

Gold discoveries in the Klondike, Nome, Tanana Valley and Iditarod regions brought large numbers of people to Alaska beginning in 1897. The solution for transporting people and supplies to these isolated locations year-round at a realistic cost seemed to be a railroad that would connect an ice-free port on the southern coast with the interior. Failures by private enterprises to establish such routes multiplied. The federal government was finally convinced to finance construction of a railroad. In 1914 President Woodrow Wilson selected the Seward to Fairbanks route, and construction began the following year. Several construction camps, including Anchorage, Palmer, Wasilla and Nenana appeared to be potential economic centers. In the Wasilla area prior to construction of the railroad few farms existed because of transportation difficulties. For the same reason only one quartz gold mine was successfully operating in 1910, although the Willow Creek district had been prospected nearly two decades before and several rich gold deposits located.

Wasilla Depot was built in 1917 and a townsite surveyed around the station site. On June 20, 1917 the Alaska Engineering Commission auctioned townsite lots. Settlement and development of the region have grown slowly, but continuously, since completion of the railroad. The railroad has provided effective, practical transportation for people and freight. The depot, unaltered, still performs its original functions, although a highway and air transportation have assumed much of the railroad's business.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Alaska Railroad, The: Probing the Interior", ms. in Alaska Division of Parks files, by Charles M. Brown. October 1975.

Alaska Railroad Record.

Engineering Department Plan Files, Alaska Railroad Headquarters, Anchorage, Alaska.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

APCEAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY -1

UTM REFERENCES

A 10 61 17 44 0 16 82 91 80 0
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []
 ZONE EASTING NORTH.NG
 C [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []
 D [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Not Applicable

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME: TITLE

Alfred Moncin, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Office of History & Archaeology, Alaska Division of Parks Dec 30, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

323 E. 4th Avenue

(907) 274-4679

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Anchorage

Alaska

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL ✓

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Russell Cabell

TITLE

SHIPO

DATE

2/8/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

W. J. ...

DATE

12/16/77

ATTEST

Charles ...

LEADER

12-8-77

KEEPER OF ORIGINAL RECORDS