

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number _____ Page 1

Supplementary Listing Record

NRIS Reference Number: RS100002107

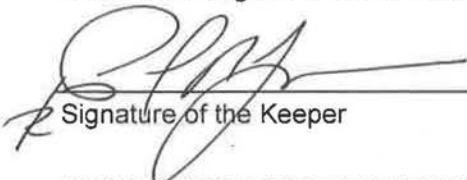
Date Listed: 07/30/2018

Property Name: Hammond, Jay and Bella, Homestead

County: Lake and
Peninsula

State: AK

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


Signature of the Keeper10/4/2018
Date of Action

=====

Amended Items in Nomination:

Significance:

Significant Person. The documentation is amended to delete Bella Hammond as a significant person under Criterion B.

[The current documentation provides only a very limited discussion of her contributions and does not justify her individual significance under Criterion B or Criteria Consideration G. While Bella's role as First Lady of Alaska, the first Alaska Native to have that position, and an avid conservationist are noteworthy, insufficient documentation or context is provided in the current nomination to support her significant place in modern Alaska history. Justifying significance under Criterion B and Criteria Consideration G requires a much stronger threshold and level of documentation. Bella's partnership with Jay Hammond and her role in developing the cabin homestead and furthering conservation causes are best conveyed at this time through Criterion A. Additional specific documentation regarding Bella's career and contributions set in context with period history, and/or references to objective scholarly evaluations of her significance to Alaska history can be provided at a later date in order to attempt to support additional NR significance. There may also be additional areas of significance that serve to more directly tie Bella's contributions to the property (Conservation, Ethnic Heritage, Social History, etc.), rather than Politics/Government, which is most directly associated with her husband, Gov. Hammond.

Period of Significance. The Period of Significance is revised to read: 1952-2005.
(continued)

(continued)

[This period corresponds with the earliest development of the homestead site by the Hammond family and the death and burial of Jay Hammond at the homestead site in 2005.]

Criteria Consideration G. The property meets Criteria Consideration G for properties less than fifty years old. While the establishment of the Hammond Homestead began in the 1950s, much of the extant construction on site and the years of peak occupation by Jay and Bella Hammond fall into the more recent era up to Jay's death in 2005. The Homestead is of exceptional significance in conveying the unique twentieth century history of Alaska settlement and politics. The Hammonds were among the first of the early phase of recreational cabin builders in the Lake Clark area, taking advantage of long-standing homesteading laws to claim property along the lake's north shore. Jay Hammond, as a local and state legislator, and later as state governor (Alaska's fourth), played an extremely important role in the protection of Alaska's rich natural resources and public lands. The establishment of the Alaska Permanent Fund during his administration is seen as an exceptional moment in Alaska history as were his efforts to protect and open up Alaska's rich, natural resource areas to the public, in particular the Bristol Bay area. According to Nobel Prize-winning economist Vernon Smith, the Permanent Fund serves as "a model governments all over the world would be wise to copy." As a pilot program, economists have recommended the Alaska solution for resource-rich, poverty-ridden countries around the globe.

While there may exist additional historic properties in Alaska associated with Jay Hammond, the Lake Clark area was perhaps the most treasured of his homes, serving not only as a place of permanent residence during his later years, but also an important venue through which he could reconnect directly with the Alaska environment, a place of escape from the trappings of day-to-day government and politics during his career, a place where dealing with such elemental concerns as the crafting of shelter, hunting, fishing and writing could help recharge his mental well-being, and the place he wished to be buried. The property is also the most closely associated with his later writings and media work, which are considered to have provided exceptional insight into early Alaska history, politics, conservation, and environmental history. The property perhaps also has the longest direct association with Hammond rather than transitional sites with brief periods of use (Governor's mansion, office, other residences). While there is not a wealth of objective scholarly reference to Hammond's career at this point, particularly given his relatively recent death, his contributions are widely respected in the state. Much of Alaska's political and governmental history is contained within the recent past, thus somewhat moderating the threshold for meeting Criteria Consideration G.

The ALASKA SHPO was notified of this amendment.

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file

Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. 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.

1. Name of Property

Historic name:

Jay and Bella Hammond Homestead

Other names/site number:

Jay Hammond Complex, Hammond Homestead

Name of related multiple property listing:

2. Location

Street & number: North shore of Lake Clark

City or town: Port Alsworth State: Alaska

County: Lake and Peninsula Borough

Not For Publication: ☐

Vicinity: ☒

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 at the following level(s) of significance:

 national X statewide local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A X B X C D

Joan M. Antonson Deputy SHPO

11 June 2018

Signature of certifying official/Title:

Date

Alaska

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

Jay and Bella Hammond Homestead
Name of Property

Lake & Peninsula Borough
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In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official:

Date

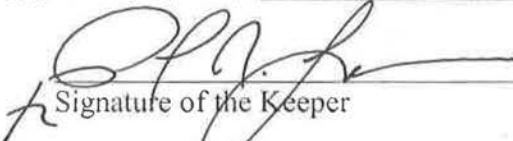
Title:

State or Federal agency/bureau
or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- ☒ entered in the National Register
___ determined eligible for the National Register
___ determined not eligible for the National Register
___ removed from the National Register
___ other (explain:)


Signature of the Keeper

7/30/2013
Date of Action

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(s) ☐

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>3</u>	<u> </u>	buildings
<u>4</u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u>16</u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u>1</u>	objects
<u>23</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Domestic - single dwelling

Domestic - secondary structure

Domestic - camp

Funerary – graves/burials

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Domestic - single dwelling

Domestic - secondary structure

Funerary – graves/burials

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Other

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Wood/Log, Stone/Granite, Stone/Shale,
Synthetics/Fiberglass, Wood/Shake, Asphalt, Glass, Ready Roof

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Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The core of the Jay and Bella Hammond Homestead encompasses 10 acres of a 126-acre homestead located on the north shore of Lake Clark in western Alaska, about nine miles northeast of the community of Port Alsworth. Jay applied for the homestead in 1952 and received patent to it in 1958. The core has the buildings and structures built and used by the Hammonds over the years and is what is nominated.

The homestead core is a cleared area, surrounded on three sides by boreal forest and to the south is Lake Clark. The view to the south is of the lake and 3,600 to 6,100-foot high mountains, one with three hanging glaciers. The homestead's buildings and structures straddle the mouth of Miller Creek. The homestead's landscape is a harmonious blend of lake shore, rushing creek, and rustic log buildings. The homestead has 24 cultural resources, most are log and stone buildings and structures, but there are sites associated with Dena'ina people who lived by the creek in the early twentieth century. There are 23 contributing resources. The 1 non-contributing object is a recently installed solar panel.

The principal building is the log, stone, and glass family home. Other resources include a log steam bath, a combination log generator shed and woodshed, a wood framed shop and warehouse, and a concrete root cellar. There is a 29-foot-long bridge, supported by two formidable stone masonry piers that spans Miller Creek and unites the buildings on both sides of the creek. On the northeast side of the creek is a log smoke house-meat house, a caretaker's log house, a cabin of one of the Hammonds' daughters, storage shed, greenhouse, vegetable garden, Jay Hammond's grave, and the three sites associated with the Dena'ina people. The property retains integrity; changed through the years as it became the Hammonds' permanent residence.

The main house (Feature 1) is a round-log building shaped like a modified cross. It has a twin gable roof covered with cedar shakes. The wall logs are peeled white spruce, beautifully fitted through Norwegian scribing (chinkless joinery). The logs are saddle notched, and the external logs are tapered in the chalet style. The foundation of the house is beach stone masonry. The interior is divided into eight areas: an enclosed or "arctic" entry, a dining area, kitchen, living room, bathroom, two bedrooms, and solarium. Exposed timber beams, wooden barrels, built-in bookcases, and handcrafted cabinets lend a rustic ambiance to the cabin, while four skylights and the glass enclosed solarium ensure a bright open feeling that is rarely achieved in log structures.

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Shortly after filing for the homestead in 1952, Jay Hammond and his neighbor in Naknek, Jimmy Drew, cut about 80 cabin logs, built the foundation piers, laid the sill logs, and built walls four or five rounds high. Drew's mother, Alexandra Trefon, a Lake Clark Dena'ina, was a sister of brothers Gabriel and Wes Trefon, who each had built cabins at the mouth of Miller Creek and lived there seasonally between circa late teens and 1940.

In 1956, Hammond built more of the cabin.¹ In the late 1950s or early 1960s, brothers Jim and Tom Stanton from Ohio, who Hammond met in Naknek, built the masonry fireplace and chimney and added more rounds of wall logs. Hammond hired long-time Lake Clark resident Joe Thompson and Nondalton residents Sam Alexie and Johnny Kankanton to cut more cabin logs.² Thompson had been one of the two primary buildings of the Alsworth homestead across the lake, Mike Vandegrift the other. Vandegrift, too, was involved in construction at the Hammond homestead and sometime between 1960 and 1961, Vandegrift and his wife, Viola began living in the Hammond's caretaker's cabin (Feature 10).³ Vandegrift finished the work inside the main cabin where the purlins and ridgepole meet the ceiling tongue and groove boards and built the concrete masonry cap on the chimney. Hammond worked on the cabin as time allowed, and the family lived in it part of the winter of 1965-66.⁴

In the early 1980s, Monroe Robinson built the masonry rock and log dining room and the log arctic entry that opens to a large masonry back porch. The eaves overhang the entrance by 7 feet and cover a 5-foot 3-inch beach stone open porch. A year or so earlier, John Branson, then Hammond's caretaker, Richard L. Proenneke, George Hornberger, and Bill Baechler cut the logs for the expansion. Branson assisted Robinson in the construction as needed. In 1986, Hammond and his nephew David McRae built the three-foot high stone masonry walls for a solarium on the west end of the house. Two builders from Anchorage, whose names are no longer recalled, erected the glass walls and roof on top of the masonry walls. The 13-foot by 15-foot-5-inch solarium was a place where Jay Hammond liked to write, no doubt inspired by the breath-taking vistas of a 6,000-foot unnamed mountain across the lake. Bella Hammond nurtured her many vibrant house plants in the solarium.⁵ The cabin was finally completed in the early 1990s when brothers Chris and Art Mannix of Talkeetna built a large second bedroom on the south side of the house.

About 20 feet north of the back porch is a crescent-shaped stone masonry flower bed (Feature 8) that is approximately 3 feet high, 4 feet wide and 20 feet long. It was built by Hammond, with assistance from McRae, in the late 1980s.⁶

Due west of the main cabin thirty feet is the steam bath (Feature 2). This 8-foot by 16-foot white spruce, round log structure features chalet style tapered saddle-notched log construction. It has a

¹ Jay Hammond, interview with Ted Karamanski, August 8, 1990.

² *Ibid.*, personal interview with George Alexie and John B. Branson, August 25, 2015.

³ Telephone interview with Larry Nicholson and John B. Branson, August 7, 2015.

⁴ Various personal conversations with Jay S. Hammond and John B. Branson, 1969-2005.

⁵ Personal interviews with Heidi Hammond and John B. Branson, August 10, 2015. February 8, 2016.

⁶ *Ibid.*

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gable roof covered by cedar shakes. The steam bath rests on concrete piers. Ralph Nabinger and Branson, with guidance from Proenneke and contributions by Jay Hammond, built the log steam bath in 1976. In the early 1980s Robinson built a beautiful beach stone step into the steam bath. The steam bath is similar to those built by the Yup'ik people of southwestern Alaska and is a cultural connection with Bella Hammond's Alaska Native heritage.

Twenty-eight feet west of the steam bath is a 44-foot x 20-foot wood frame building used as warehouse and shop (Feature 3). Robinson built it in 1969, and he and Branson enlarged it in the late 1970s. The structure rests on concrete piers. The walls are sheets of T1-11. The gable roof is covered with asphalt rolled roofing.⁷

Twenty feet north of the workshop is another outbuilding, a log generator shed-woodshed (Feature 4). Robinson, Branson, and Hammond built it in 1982 with assistance on the rafters by Proenneke. It rests on concrete piers. The 10-foot 8-inch by 11-foot 9-inch white spruce log generator shed and 10-foot 8-inch by 19-foot 5-inch woodshed with open sides share a gable cedar shake roof.

Thirty feet west of the generator shed is a 16-foot by 29-foot wood frame garage (Feature 5). Hammond with the assistance of Mark Mullins built it in the late 1980s. It sits on a concrete pad. The walls are T1-11. Its gable roof is plywood covered by a "rapid roof" lamination.⁸

Thirty feet north of the garage is a root cellar dug into the side of an ancient beach terrace and constructed of unfinished concrete (Feature 6). Hammond, Branson, and Mullins built it in 1984. It extends 14 feet 2 inches into the hill and is covered by earth.

Fifty feet northeast of the root cellar is an auxiliary or second woodshed, 10-foot by 20-foot, built of vertical peeled spruce logs and rough sawed slabs but mostly the walls are open (Feature 7). The woodshed is on concrete piers. Hammond and Branson built it in 1983-1984. The woodshed is open on the south side. Its shed roof is covered by asphalt rolled paper.

Miller Creek divides the homestead in half. The northeast and southwest portions of the complex were initially joined by a rustic 29-foot trussed log bridge built by Robinson, assisted by Branson in 1978 and 1979. It was built of 10-inch to 16-inch diameter white spruce logs and secured on a masonry stone 8-foot wall on the west side of the creek and a much shorter masonry stone abutment on the east side. It rotted and was replaced by a spare temporary deck resting on two I-beams (Feature 9). In May 2016 Hammond's grandson, Jay Stanford, had a serious accident when the tractor he was driving pulling a trailer load of firewood broke through the rotten bridge planking. Stanford was pinned in the tractor seat a few feet above the creek for more than an hour before being rescued. After the accident, David McRae and Jon Anderson installed new heavy plank decking on the bridge.

⁷ Radio interview with Monroe Robinson and John B. Branson, August 17, 2015.

⁸ Personal interview with Mark Mullins and John B. Branson, August 21, 2015.

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Starting in the late 1970s and continuing into the mid-1980s beach cobbles in chain-link wire baskets known as gabions were placed as flood control measures on the lower western bank of Miller Creek where it runs close to the main homestead buildings. These have kept Miller Creek within its channel.

Approximately 60 feet northeast of the bridge is a combination log smoke-meat house sitting on concrete piers (Feature 14). The structure is used to smoke fish and hang big game meat. The 8-foot by 8-foot structure is built with saddle notched logs four feet high and T1-II panels covering the screened walls above the logs. The roof is covered by cedar shakes. The logs were cut by Branson, and Hammond and Branson completed the structure between 1976 and 1978.

Forty feet east of the smokehouse is the old root cellar (Feature 20) that was built by Vandegrift and Larry Nicholson in the early 1960s. The root cellar was built of logs with a galvanized stove vent protruding from the roof which was covered with soil and sod. Branson rebuilt the root cellar in 1978-1979 because the original was rotten. By the mid-1980s Hammond had completed his new concrete root cellar (Feature 6).

Due west of the smokehouse, 125 feet up a slight rise, is the caretaker's cabin (Feature 10). The core of this building is a 13-foot by 15-foot log cabin built by Hammond and Tom Meyer, the son-in-law of Lake Clark pioneer Brown Carlson, in the mid to late 1950s. It was built of spruce logs which were nailed to corner boards, the typical, if unartful method of much log construction at Lake Clark. John Coray cut the logs near Portage Creek and sold them to Hammond. The floor and roof boards were sawed on Charlie Denison's sawmill near Port Alsworth. (An alternative account has John Coray building the cabin with Hammond helping. Meyer died in 1956 or 1957 and Coray in 1959, making it impossible to verify the information.)⁹

Originally, the one-room cabin sat on the west side of Miller Creek, approximately where the sauna is now. A flood in 1971 swept the cabin off its footings and unceremoniously deposited it at the mouth of the creek. That same fall local resident Chuck Hornberger, using a bulldozer, hauled the cabin from the lake to a safe spot off the flood plain on the east bank of Miller Creek. He placed the cabin on concrete piers. It was renovated in the mid-1970s by Hammond, Vandegrift, and Branson. The caretaker's cabin was the first completed building at the homestead.¹⁰ In the late 1970s and early 1980s, a new addition, roughly 15-feet by 15-feet, with a skylight and an arctic entry was added to the caretaker's cabin by Robinson and Branson. It is of log construction with saddle-notched logs nestled snugly atop one another thanks to Norwegian scribing. The structure has a twin gable roof covered by cedar shakes. A stone masonry foundation, built by Robinson, supports the enlarged cabin, and a large stone masonry front step, built by Branson, provides ingress and egress.

⁹ Anne Coray, e-mail to John B. Branson, February 10, 2016; Jay Hammond, interview with Ted Karamanski, August 8, 1990.

¹⁰ Personal interview with Chuck Hornberger, December 30, 2005; Larry Nicholson, *op. cit.*

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Approximately 9-feet west of the cabin is a log woodshed, open at the southwest end. It rests on concrete piers and has a shed roof covered by asphalt rolled roofing paper. It was built in 1976 by Branson (Feature 11).

Up a short steep bank is a former beach ridge from when Lake Clark was at a much higher level where there now is a 50 by 50 foot vegetable garden (Feature 12). It is about twenty feet northeast of the caretaker's cabin. The cultivated plot formerly was larger and enclosed by a spruce pole fence, that rotted and has been removed. The fence was constructed in the manner of a Russell Fence developed by ranchers and farmers in Washington, northern Idaho, Montana, and British Columbia to keep moose out of their fields. The fence was built by Branson in the mid to late 1970s. The land was cleared chiefly by Branson at Jay Hammond's direction between 1975 and 1980 with limited assistance from Proenneke. The garden is protected from the prevailing east wind by a hedge row of low spruce trees that Mullins planted in the late 1980s.

Approximately 45-feet due east of the garden is the goat barn (Feature 22). A log lattice fence, 15-feet by 11-feet, adjoins the 12-foot by 12-foot log barn. The barn sits on concrete and stone piers. Its logs are saddle notched at the corners. The barn has a shed roof covered by sod. The goat barn and fence were built by Branson in about 1979 and 1980 for his two goats. The fence is badly rotted.

About 300 feet east of the goat barn is the Heidi Hammond Cabin (Feature 24). The cabin was laid out by Heidi and Jay Hammond in 1978 or 1979. The dimensions are 24 feet by 32 feet with an attached 10 foot by 30 foot kitchen. There are two doors, one to the north and one to the west. There are sky lights in the kitchen and main area. There are picture windows in the south wall of the main area, smaller windows in the west and north walls of the kitchen, and a small window in the east wall. There is a 12-foot plank deck on the south side of the house. Branson helped the Hammonds set the five-gallon gas can piers and fill them with concrete. In the fall of 1979 Robinson assisted Branson placing the sill logs on the piers and Jack Ross helped Branson notch the floor joists into the sill logs. In 1982 Branson and Heidi worked on a few lower wall logs, and through the rest of the 1980s the cabin construction was done by Jay Hammond, Heidi Hammond, Art and Chris Mannix, David McRae, and Lee Fink and completed in the early 1990s.

Heidi Hammond recalled the remainder of her cabin's construction history:

After the Mannix's [sic] put the roof on, Dad [Jay Hammond] did most of the finishing work on the interior. He put in the kitchen cabinets, pine floor in the main area and loft, linoleum in the kitchen and windbreak, and the ladder stairs to the loft. (Whenever I called out there, Mon [Bella Hammond] would always say, 'Your Dad is working on your cabin again while the rest of this place is falling apart.' She was being facetious I'm sure, but it was her way of saying he was spending a lot of time there.) I did most of the tongue and groove pine ceiling. He and I reinforced the front footings with 55 gallon drums, stones, and cement, probably in the late 90s. In the early 2000s Dad and David [McRae] added the deck. David and I replaced one of the front windows that had fogged

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up in 2015. A few years ago, 2012, Jay [Stanford] started hauling large stones to place around the base of the cabin to hide the kitchen footings.¹¹

This cabin is a contributing resource because Jay Hammond's influence and workmanship is seen throughout the cabin from his initial design, to the saddle notches with the lateral grooved wall logs, to the sky lights, cedar shake shingles, and interior finish work.

About 35-feet north of the garden is an approximately 600-gallon redwood water tank (Feature 15). The tank originally was used at the Bumble Bee salmon cannery in South Naknek to blue-stone linen salmon nets. By the 1960s the tanks were no longer in use since monofilament nets did not require the weekly washing the linen nets had. The redwood tanks were given away by the cannery. The tank was given to Hammond by his friends, Roy and Harriet Smith, who were the cannery watchmen in the 1960s and 1970s.¹² It was disassembled and flown to the homestead by Hammond in the late 1970s to store cold creek water. The creek water would warm up during the day and then be used to water the vegetable garden in the evening. The water tank rests on a log platform that rises six feet above grade and was built by Hammond and Branson in the late 1970s or early 1980s. Twenty feet north of the tank is a small shed-greenhouse and a greenhouse. A solar panel used to supply domestic electricity sits twenty feet north of the water tank (Feature 16). The solar panel is the non-contributing object on the homestead.

The storage shed-greenhouse is 12-feet by 12-feet at the base and of wood frame construction (Feature 18). This dual-purpose shed was built by Hammond in the early 1980s and rests on concrete pads. The north wall slopes at approximately a 65-degree angle to meet a short wood deck flat roof. The sloped wall is made of clear plastic to admit light to the interior. The other walls are enclosed by TI-11 sheets.

The greenhouse is 10 feet south of the shed-greenhouse (Feature 17). It rests on a gravel pad. It is covered by clear plastic sheeting and is 10-feet by 10-feet. It was built by Hammond and his grandson, Jay Stanford, in the early 2000s.¹³ In 1980, this location was the site of the first greenhouse built on the Hammond Homestead by Robinson and Branson.¹⁴ The lower three feet was made of logs with round notches, and fiberglass sheeting was used for the higher walls and roof. By the late 1990s, it was badly rotted and was removed. The current greenhouse was built on the site.

Approximately 75-feet north of the second greenhouse is the grave of Jay Hammond (Feature 19). Hammond died on August 2, 2005. The grave is slightly raised above grade and is covered with neatly placed beach stone. From the grave one can look to the southwest and see the greenhouse, solar panel, water tank, garden, barn and caretaker's cabin, and the slope disappearing down the hill toward Miller Creek and the Hammond's beloved log home.

¹¹ Heidi Hammond, e-mail to John B. Branson, October 25, 2017.

¹² Heidi Hammond, *op. cit.*

¹³ Heidi Hammond, *op. cit.*; Bill Trefon Sr., Personal conversations with John B. Branson, 1999-2015.

¹⁴ Tom Walker, *Building the Alaska Log Home*. Anchorage: Alaska Northwest Books, 1984.

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The eastern portion of the original 126-acre homestead was encumbered by a conservation easement owned by The Nature Conservancy on June 3, 1992. In 1999 a land exchange was proposed to the National Park Service by the Hammond Family so they could potentially make some minor developments on a small portion of the encumbered land. The land exchange was completed by the family and the National Park Service in 2008. The National Park Service agreed to relinquish a portion of the 1992 conservation easement in exchange for a new conservation easement on a portion of Bella Hammond's neighboring Native allotment and a cultural easement on the entire 126-acre Hammond homestead. Part of the process included a cultural resources survey of three sites with Lake Clark Dena'ina cabin remains and associated graves. In the early twentieth century, the east side of the mouth of Miller Creek or Nan Qelah meaning "where there is moss" was an important fall-winter trapping camp for the Dena'ina.¹⁵ The survey documented the cabins and three graves of the Trefon and Balluta families. The mouth of the creek was a trailhead for the Telaquana Trail, a 50-mile long route used until the 1940s by the Lake Clark Dena'ina to connect with villages in the Nushagak and Kuskokwim drainages to the north.¹⁶

It was not until the creation of Lake Clark National Park and Preserve in 1980 and completion of a sociocultural study in 1984-1986 led by University of Alaska anthropologist Linda J. Ellanna working with Lake Clark Dena'ina elders and National Park Service ranger Andrew Balluta identified the mouth of Miller Creek as the trailhead for the Telaquana Trail. The Hammonds had cut firewood and cabin logs, picked berries, and hunted small game on the lower reaches of the Telaquana Trail but only in the 1990s did they come to realize its significance.

The Lake Clark Dena'ina and Jay and Bella Hammond had a mutually respectful relationship. Prior to putting the cultural easements into effect, the Hammonds gave the Lake Clark Dena'ina carte blanche to visit and tend the graves. The Hammonds always welcomed Sophie Austin and her son Andrew Balluta, who was born in his parents', Anton and Sophie's cabin at Miller Creek. Members of the Bill Trefon family were told they could visit their family graves anytime. In June 1974 there were two Russian Orthodox wooden crosses visible, but as of 2017 only one wooden cross was discernable.

Tract 1 is the Wassillie Trefon Cabin (Feature 23) site. It lies at the easternmost extent of the Hammond cultural easement. The easement is to preclude any future land disturbance of the Wassillie and Mary V. Trefon Cabin remains. The late Lake Clark Dena'ina elder, Bill Trefon was born there in March 1939. The protected site is 85 by 133 feet.¹⁷

¹⁵ Linda J. Ellanna and Andrew Balluta, *Nuvendaltin Quht'ana The People of Nondalton*, Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1992, 175.

¹⁶ Various documents from the Hammond Land Exchange, Lands Division, National Park Service, Alaska Region Office, Anchorage; Linda J. Ellanna, and Priscilla Russell Kari, James Kari, and Andrew Balluta et al. "Lake Clark Sociocultural Study, Phase One." Chapter 7, 7-40, and A-30, United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Lake Clark National Park and Preserve, 1986.

¹⁷ Various personal conversation with Bill Trefon, Sr. and John B. Branson, 1999-2015; *Alaska Dispatch News*, William Trefon, Sr., March 25, 2016, B-3.

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Tract 2 contains Dena'ina graves (Feature 21). It is about 30-feet southeast of the goat barn and the protected parcel is 32 by 60 feet. It is thought to contain the remains of three members of the Trefon-Balluta family who died during the first few decades of the twentieth century. The late Bill Trefon said he recalled hearing that a grandparent and a sibling are buried at the site.¹⁸

Tract 3 is for the Gabriel Trefon and Anton Balluta cabin sites. (Feature 13) The sites lie about 15 feet and 25 feet respectively north of the eastern bridge abutment and Miller Creek. The cabins were occupied in the fall and winter circa 1918 to 1932 by Gabriel and Katherine Trefon and children and his second cousin Anton Balluta and his wife Sophie Hobson and their children. The Trefon cabin remains have partly fallen into the creek, yet about 80 percent of them are extant as of the fall of 2017. The site extends 70 by 105 feet.¹⁹ The Balluta cabin remains are 8-feet southwest of the caretaker's cabin and about 10 feet north of the Trefon Cabin. By August 2015 it had completely fallen into Miller Creek, and in 2017 no cabin remains were visible. The site was the birthplace of the late Andrew Balluta in 1930, an important Lake Clark Dena'ina cultural bearer and revered elder and the first Alaska Native National Park Service Ranger.²⁰

The Jay and Bella Hammond Homestead represents construction activity dating from 1952 to the early 1990s. The complex was designed by Jay Hammond and built by him, Jimmy Drew, Jim and Tom Stanton, Tommy Meyer, John Coray, Monroe Robinson, Art and Chris Mannix, John Branson, Mike Vandegrift, Larry Nicholson, Mark Mullins, David McRae, and Jay Stanford among a few others. All the buildings and structures are maintained and in excellent condition. The homestead has integrity of location, setting, design, and materials. The logs and stone are from the surrounding area. The expert workmanship and the sense of feeling of Jay and Bella Hammond's tastes and values are evident. The homestead exudes an authentic association with the Hammonds and their presence can be felt when walking around the site.

¹⁸ *Ibid.*, various conversations with John Branson, 1999-2015.

¹⁹ Andrew Balluta, interviews with John B. Branson, November 28, 1997 and May 12, 1998.

²⁰ *Ibid.*

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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 grave
- ☐ D. A cemetery
- ☐ E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- ☐ F. A commemorative property
- ☒ G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Exploration/settlement

Politics/government

Architecture

Period of Significance

1952-2017

Significant Dates

1952, 1984

Significant Person(s)

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Jay and Bella Hammond

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Jay Hammond

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Jay and Bella Hammond Homestead is significant under Criterion A as one of the only two patented homesteads in western Alaska's Lake Clark area, an awesomely beautiful but remote and rugged area. The buildings at the homestead tell how people lived outside of Alaska villages and towns in the late twentieth century. The period of significance starts when Jay Hammond, living in Naknek to the west, staked the homestead in 1952 and started to build on it. The period of significance continues to 2017, ending when Bella Hammond had to move from the homestead for medical reasons. The homestead is significant under Criterion B for its association with Jay and Bella Hammond, both of whom made significant contributions to Alaska, particularly in politics and government. Jay Hammond was an organizer of the Bristol Bay Borough, Alaska's first borough to incorporate in 1962, and later served as mayor. In 1959, Hammond was a member of the first Alaska State Legislature, as a representative, and later he served in the legislature as a senator. In 1974, he was elected Alaska's fourth governor, and in 1978 was re-elected. From the time he staked the homestead, his intention was to make it the family's permanent home. Bella Hammond was the first Alaska Native to be First Lady of Alaska. During their years in Juneau, Bella made sure they vacationed annually at the homestead. After Jay's second term ended, the Hammonds moved to the homestead. Jay wrote about it in his memoirs and is buried on the property. Bella stayed at the homestead until 2017.

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During the years it was their primary residence, 1982-2017, both actively continued to address Alaskan issues. The homestead is significant under Criterion C because the buildings and structures reflect the work of local craftsmen skilled in log and stone masonry, represent mid-twentieth century remote Alaska log buildings, and are constructed with locally available materials. The Jay and Bella Hammond Homestead relates directly to a legendary Alaskan couple. The homestead is of state significance. The homestead was staked and patented more than 50 years ago and from that time the Hammonds intended it would be their permanent residence although they did not move there until Jay completed his second term as governor. The first building was started shortly after he filed for the homestead, and buildings continued to be added over the years. Jay's grave along with those of several others are on the property. The Hammonds respected the graves and cabin sites of the Lake Clark Dena'ina who lived on their property before they did.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

People have lived at least seasonally on the shores of Lake Clark for at least 4,000 years. Lithic artifacts found on the Jay and Bella Homestead indicate people of the Norton cultural tradition lived there between 1000 B.C. and 800 A.D. Albert B. Schanz, the individual credited with describing, mapping and naming the lake in 1890, noted that Dena'ina Athapaskan people lived at the lake and knew it as Qizhjeh Vena, "place people gathered." Schanz, however, named the lake for John W. Clark, a fur trader from Nushagak. He described the area as the "Switzerland of the north".

Brown Carlson was the first Euroamerican to build a cabin on the lake shore between 1904 and 1906, and J. W. Walker, Otis M. Dutton, Joe Kackley, and W. H. Miller and his wife Jennie between 1907 and 1911. These former Bristol Bay fishermen and prospectors accessed the area by boat or by foot and lived subsistence lifestyles there. The creek that bisects the Hammond homestead is named for the Millers. After Miller's widow moved to Iliamna in 1911, Trefon Balluta, sons Gabriel and Wassillie and cousin Anton built cabins near the mouth of Miller Creek. They lived in them, at least seasonally, until the early 1940s.

In the early 1930s aviation made it easier to reach the area. At the time five white men and approximately 68 Dena'ina people lived around Lake Clark. Bush pilot Leon "Babe" Alsworth and his wife Mary homesteaded by the lake in 1944 and founded today's Port Alsworth. They had built a 1,500-foot runway by 1945. After World War II, Alaska had grown in population and many people were interested in moving to the territory, especially with good paying jobs available on Cold War military construction projects. Word spread of the scenic beauty of the Lake Clark area, the annual runs of red salmon, and the mountain sheep, bear, moose and caribou there. Veterans and pilots, including Jay Hammond, were attracted to the area to hunt and fish and for the scenery. In 1950, Jay Hammond, then an employee of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, landed at Miller Creek for the first time. He filed for a homestead two years later, and received his patent in 1958. Shortly after filing, Hammond operated part of his Naknek-based sport hunting and fishing guide business from Lake Clark. While the area was open for

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homesteading, only three settlers formally filed. J. W. Walker filed for a homestead at Tanalian Point in 1912, but moved before completing the process. Alsworth filed in 1949 and received patent to 158 acres, and Jay Hammond. Others in the area filed for 5-acre recreational sites or simply squatted on the land.

Jay Hammond was elected to represent the people of southwestern Alaska in the first Alaska State Legislature that convened in 1959. He served six years in the House of Representatives and rose to positions of minority and majority whip before he became the mayor of the Bristol Bay Borough in 1965. A year later he returned to the Legislature as a senator, and was majority whip and eventually president of the Senate. In 1972, when his district was drastically reapportioned, he chose not to run for reelection and again became mayor of the Bristol Bay Borough.

A small but persistent group of supporters got Hammond to agree to run for governor in 1974. "I had absolutely no expectation of winning," he later wrote. "I thought I would make a few speeches, exhaust my pitifully few campaign funds and go home." He had only three percent name recognition among Alaskan voters, and he was opposed by two former governors in the Republican primary, including Walter J. Hickel who was a former U.S. Secretary of the Interior. Yet Alaskans identified with the bush pilot politician who campaigned in a plaid shirt and peppered his speeches with colorful anecdotes and phrases. He defied conventional wisdom by declaring himself an environmentalist concerned about the future of Alaska's natural resources. In a hard fought race he upset the popular incumbent governor, William A. Egan, by a margin of 287 votes.²¹

While he was governor, Hammond could only get to the homestead a few weeks a year, but Bella made sure he did. He relished beginning new construction projects when he was there. He wrote that after working a full day on a log building or masonry project he had the satisfaction of being able to see his progress. The projects he began during his years as governor were completed by craftsmen he hired: brothers Jim and Tom Stanton, Monroe Robinson, Art and Chris Mannix, Richard Proenneke, and John Branson.²² Their work on the buildings and structures, combined with the design and workmanship of Jay Hammond, make the homestead one of best examples of a rural log complex standing in the Bristol Bay region. Alison K. Hoagland, architectural historian and author of *Buildings of Alaska* (1982), wrote:

While wood-frame construction became more common after the Second World War, the log building tradition was never lost. Log structures from the 1950s, 60s, and 70s are common, and in some cases exhibit a much finer craftsmanship than the historic buildings. The Jay Hammond House at Miller Creek and the Dick Proenneke Cabin at Twin Lakes are two extremely well crafted log buildings.

The Hammond homestead has eight log structures that are distinguished by the harmonious use of stone with the logs. The buildings combine Euroamerican and Yup'ik values, the latter manifested in the log steam bath house.

²¹ Jay S. Hammond, various personal conversations with John B. Branson, 1969-2005.

²² Jay S. Hammond, interview with Ted Karamanski, August 8, 1990.

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Jay Hammond was a popular governor. He was reelected in 1978 by the largest margin of any governor. He also has the distinction of being the only Alaskan governor never to be defeated at the polls. He steered a middle course between those who would "lock up" the state's resources and those who would, in his words, "develop for the sake of development." Hammond advocated for smart growth with respect to development of Alaska's natural resources. He said all development projects must have three attributes: be a fiscally sound business investment for the state, pay its own way, and not degrade the environment.

Through a unique but eminently logical combination of fiscal conservatism and resource conservation he determined the "use of our resources which will insure that our nonrenewable resources are developed when they can offer long-term benefits to all Alaskans, and that our renewable resources be maintained so there is a continual base for Alaska's economy." Hammond was well aware of Alaska's boom-bust historical cycles. He made the cornerstone of his program the establishment of an economic structure that could sustain the state after oil revenues ran out. Instead of letting runaway government expenditures continue to eat up the state's oil revenues, Hammond successfully got the State of Alaska to create, in 1976, the Alaska Permanent Fund. The idea was to create a reserve of the one-time oil revenues for the future of the state. To protect the fund from the grasp of the state legislature, Hammond proposed distributing an annual dividend from the interest to each citizen. Thus each Alaskan had a personal stake in protecting the fund and seeing it grow. In 1982, each Alaskan received their first \$1,000 check from the state. The unprecedented Permanent Fund and dividend programs were condemned as "socialism" by some and cursed as "crude capitalism" by others. Yet the fund has become a safe "nest egg" for Alaska's future, and the dividend annually injects as much as \$200 million into Alaska's economy.²³ In other accomplishments as governor, Hammond successfully got the State of Alaska to buy back Kachemak Bay oil leases, and to establish the 1.7-million-acre Wood-Tikchik Lakes State Park in southwest Alaska.

Bella Hammond was the first indigenous First Lady of Alaska. Her skills in subsistence living combined with her comfort in urban environments were hailed. While Jay was governor, Bella was diagnosed with breast cancer and underwent treatment, speaking openly about it and promoting checkups for early detection. Bella is recognized by Alaskans as a role model, particularly for young Alaska Native women.

When Jay left office in December 1983, the Hammonds retired to their Lake Clark homestead. He later wrote, "Unlike politicians proud of having come up from a log cabin to a fine mansion, I went from a mansion to a fine log cabin in 1982—and felt blessed." He also wrote "Bella and I try to spend as much time as possible at the lake except when we fly to our 'city house' in the little coastal village of Naknek for the annual commercial salmon run." Years earlier, they said the Naknek house was an economic necessity but their hearts were at their Lake Clark homestead.

²³ Hammond, *Bush Rat Governor*, 251-266.

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Due to his popularity in the state, Jay was recruited after retiring to host a TV show, "Jay Hammond's Alaska," which featured the remarkable people and places of "the Great Land." He remained a public figure fully engaged in state issues until his death in 2005. Hammond wrote a regular op-ed column in the *Anchorage Daily News* on Alaskan issues. He advocated for preservation of the Alaska Permanent Fund and for prudent fiscal and budgetary policies in the Alaska state government. From the mid-1980s into the 1990s, Hammond served on the board of directors of the National Audubon Society. In 1990 the Hammond Family entered into a conservation easement with the Nature Conservancy on 66 acres of the homestead.

Hammond became involved in advocating for responsible resource development in the Bristol Bay region to preserve its world famous wild salmon runs in the early 2000s. Specifically, Hammond wrote and publicly spoke out against development of the proposed Pebble copper and gold prospect, because he believed it would degrade the Bristol Bay ecosystem that sustains its salmon habitat. He maintained that the paltry severance tax on the state's mineral resources would not justify the certain destruction of habitat of the renewable Bristol Bay salmon stocks.²⁴ After her husband's death in 2005, Bella spoke out in opposition to the proposed mine. As a life-long Bristol Bay resident Bella fished both commercially and for subsistence most of her life. She had personal interest in preserving the salmon habitat. In 2017 Bella had to leave the homestead for medical reasons.²⁵

The Jay and Bella Hammond homestead represents post-World War II settlement around Lake Clark, tells of two significant Alaskans, and exemplifies rural Alaska construction using local materials. From the 1950s to the 1990s buildings were added as the Hammonds made the homestead their primary residence. As individuals and as a couple the Hammonds represent Alaskans who lived in the territory and saw through the early years of Alaska as a state. They were participants in charting Alaska's future, especially through the first years after North Slope oil was discovered.

²⁴ Jay S. Hammond, various conversations with John B. Branson, 1969-2005.

²⁵ Bella G. Hammond, various conversations with John B. Branson, 1969-2016.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

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-----. *Tales of Alaska's Bush Rat Governor: The Extraordinary Autobiography of Jay Hammond, Wilderness Guide and Reluctant Politician.* Fairbanks and Seattle: Epicenter Press, 1994.

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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 # _____
☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☐ State Historic Preservation Office
☐ Other State agency
☒ Federal agency
☐ Local government
☐ University
☐ Other
Name of repository: Lake Clark National Park and Preserve

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): Alaska Heritage Resources Survey
(AHRs) XLC-00269

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 10 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)

Datum if other than WGS84: NAD 83 Alaska Albers Uncorrected
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

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Boundary Point	Longitude	Latitude
A	-154.160384	60.322079
B	-154.162201	60.323782
C	-154.158283	60.324975
D	-154.157308	60.324277
E	-154.158480	60.323767
F	-154.158939	60.323335
G	-154.158740	60.322800

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

☐ NAD 1927 or ☐ NAD 1983

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

The Jay and Bella Homestead is located within Township 3N, 29W, Section 28. The boundary is an irregular 10-acre polygon. The coordinates of the boundary are GPS Uncorrected NAD 83 Alaska Albers, and the boundary points are keyed to the map on page 30.

The boundary begins at point A (-154.160384/60.322079) on the north shoreline of Lake Clark. From there, the boundary strikes 710 feet northwest, crossing Miller Creek, to meet with point B (-154.162201/60.323782) on the forested hillside. From point B, the boundary extends through the forest 840 feet northeast to meet with point C (-154.158283/60.324975) above the Wassillie Trefon Cabin Site. The boundary then travels southeast for approximately 300 feet to meet point D (-154.157308/60.324277) on the shoreline of Lake Clark. From point D, the boundary follows the mean high water line which is also the tract boundary line until the boundary crosses Miller Creek and continues to meet once again with point A. Points E (-154.158480, 60.323767), F (-154.158939, 60.323335), and G (-154.158740, 60.322800) are representative data points related to significant direction changes in the tract boundary data from the NPS Land Status GIS dataset but the true boundary should follow the mean high water line of Lake Clark between points D and A crossing Miller Creek 100 feet downstream (to the east) of the bridge.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary contains all known historic features associated with Jay and Bella Hammond from the time the staked the land for a homestead until 2017 when Bella had to move away. The boundaries include sites and graves of Dena'ina people who lived at the mouth of Miller Creek during the early 1900s. The Hammonds knew of the sites and respected them.

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11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Ted Karamanski, Historian, John B. Branson, Historian, Dinah Gewalt,
Historical Landscape Architect, T. Fielding Link, Historical Landscape Architect
organization: National Park Service, Lake Clark National Park and Preserve
street & number: One Park Place
city or town: Port Alsworth state: AK zip code: 99653
e-mail: john_branson@nps.gov
telephone: 907-781-2134
date: October 31, 2017, revised June 5, 2018

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Map 1 - Context Map

Map 2 - Primary Land Ownership Context Map, 2017

Map 3 – 1992 Conservation Easement Context Map

Map 4 – 2008 Conservation Easement Context Map

Map 5 - Cultural Easement Context Map

Map 6 – Jay and Bella Hammond Homestead Site Map

Map 7 – Jay and Bella Hammond Homestead Aerial Site Map

Map 8 - Jay and Bella Hammond Homestead Feature List

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

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Photo Log

Name of Property: Jay and Bella Hammond Homestead
City or Vicinity: Lake Clark National Park and Preserve
County: Lake and Peninsula Borough
State: Alaska
Photographer: John B. Branson
Date Photographed: July 21, 2015 and September 19, 2017

Photo 1 of 26: Hammond Cabin (1), sunroom (L) and bedrooms (R), view N
Photo 2 of 26: Hammond Cabin (1), living room (L), kitchen and living room (R), view S
Photo 3 of 26: Hammond Cabin (1), Jay Hammond bedroom, view NW
Photo 4 of 26: Hammond Cabin (1), Jay Hammond bedroom (L) and living room (R), view NW
Photo 5 of 26: Hammond Cabin (1), sunroom (L) and bedrooms (R), view NE
Photo 6 of 26: Hammond Cabin (1), Arctic entry (L), dining room and Bella Hammond bedroom (C), and sunroom (R), view SE
Photo 7 of 26: Hammond Cabin (1), Arctic entry (L), dining room and kitchen (R), view SE
Photo 8 of 26: Hammond Cabin (1), living room (L), kitchen (C), and back porch (R), view S
Photo 9 of 26: Smokehouse (14), view E
Photo 10 of 26: Generator Shed-Woodshed (4), view S
Photo 11 of 26: Warehouse and Shop (3), view SW
Photo 12 of 26: Garage (5), view W
Photo 13 of 26: Root Cellar (6), view N
Photo 14 of 26: Auxiliary Woodshed (7), view NE
Photo 15 of 26: Bridge over Miller Creek (9), with smoke-meat house, right rear, view NE
Photo 16 of 26: Masonry Flower Bed (8), view W
Photo 17 of 26: Steam Bath (2), view W
Photo 18 of 26: Steam Bath (2), view SW
Photo 19 of 26: Woodshed (11), view N
Photo 20 of 26: Vegetable Garden (12), view W
Photo 21 of 26: Solar Panel (L) (16), Green House (C) (17), and Storage Shed (R) (18), view S
Photo 22 of 26: Water Tank (L) (15), Storage Shed (18), Green House (17) and Solar Panel (R) (16), view NW
Photo 23 of 26: Jay Hammond Grave (19), view N
Photo 24 of 26: Barn with Fence (22), view E
Photo 25 of 26: Caretaker's Cabin (10), view NE
Photo 26 of 26: Heidi Hammond Cabin (24), view NE

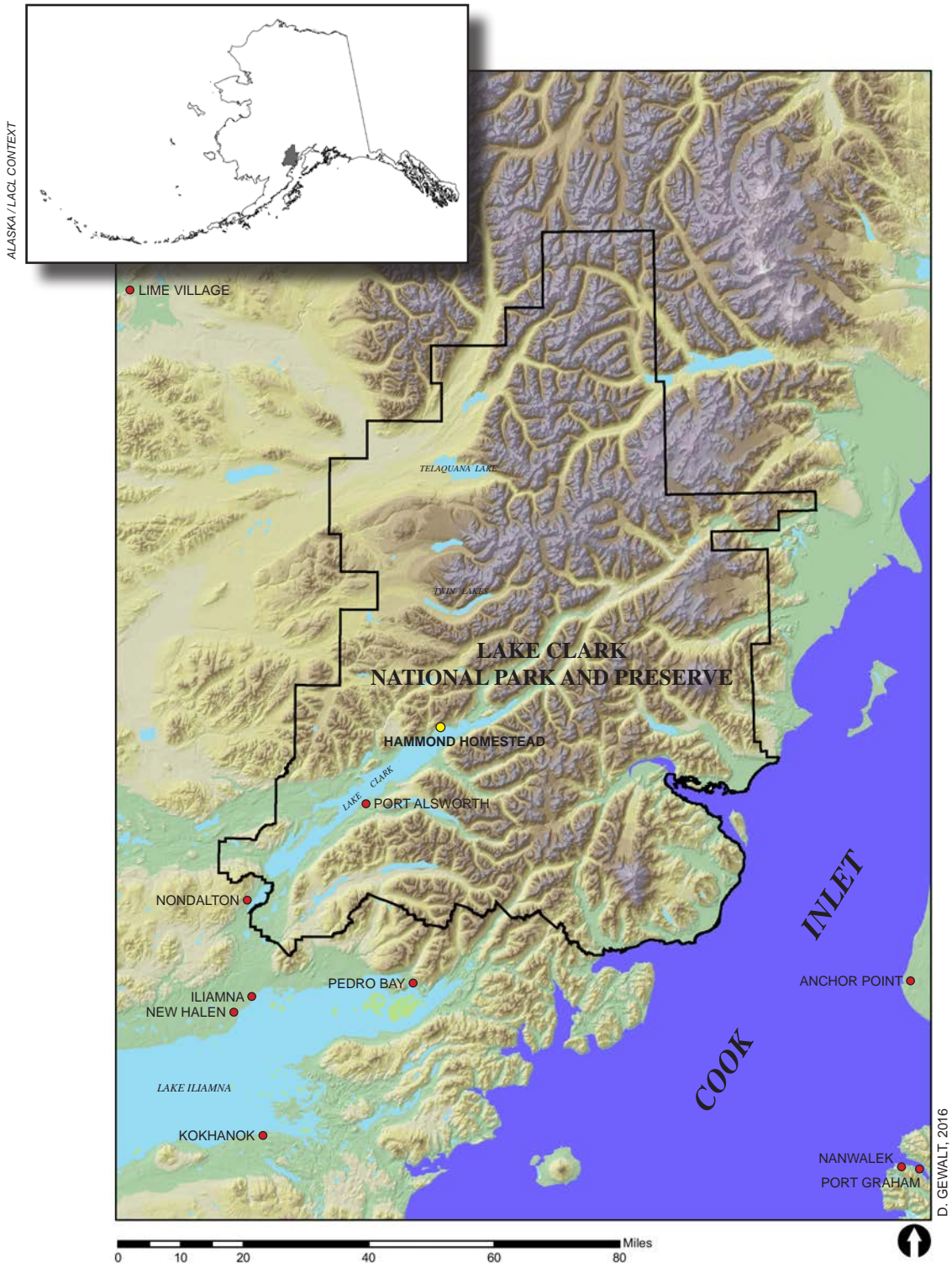
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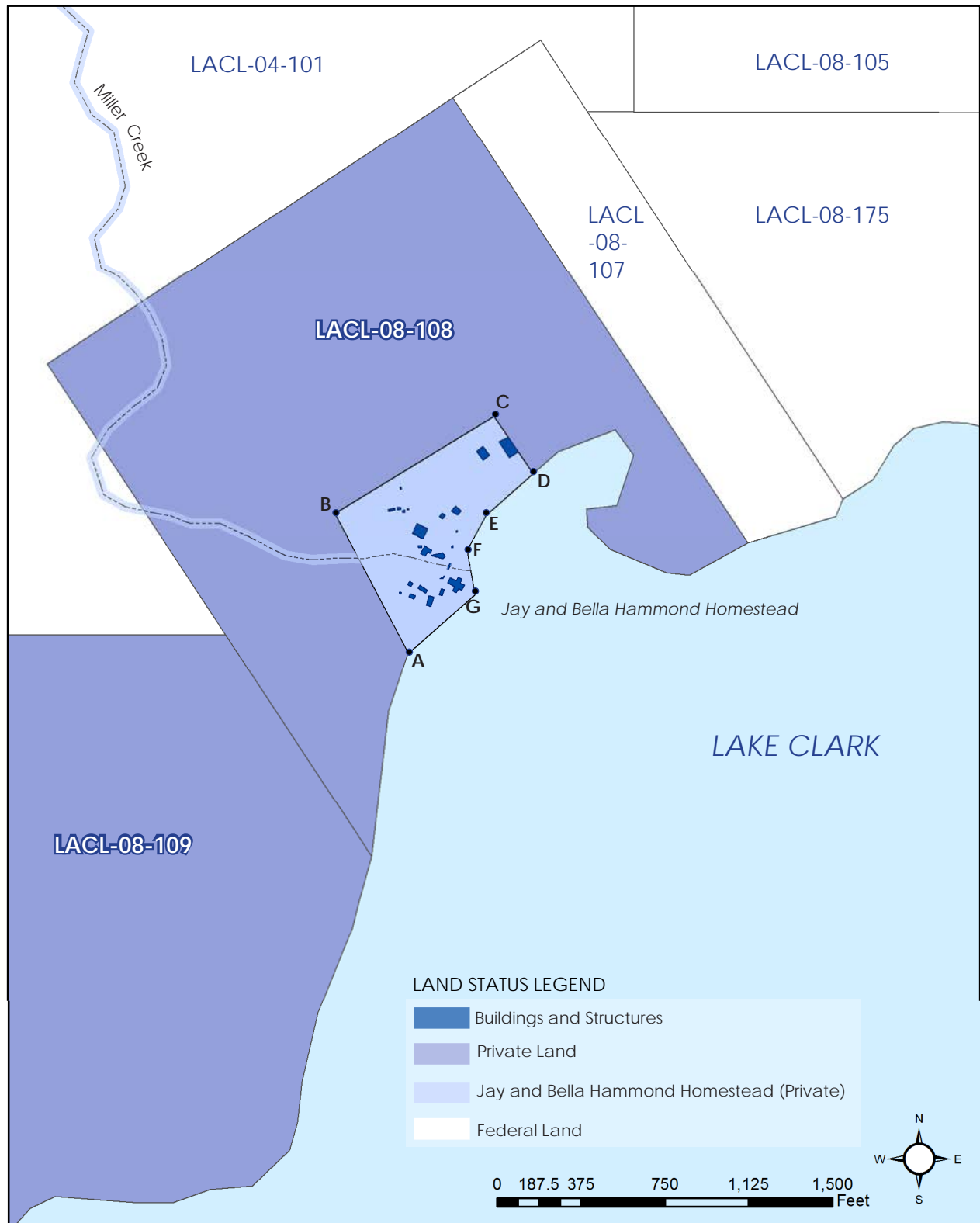
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Context Map:

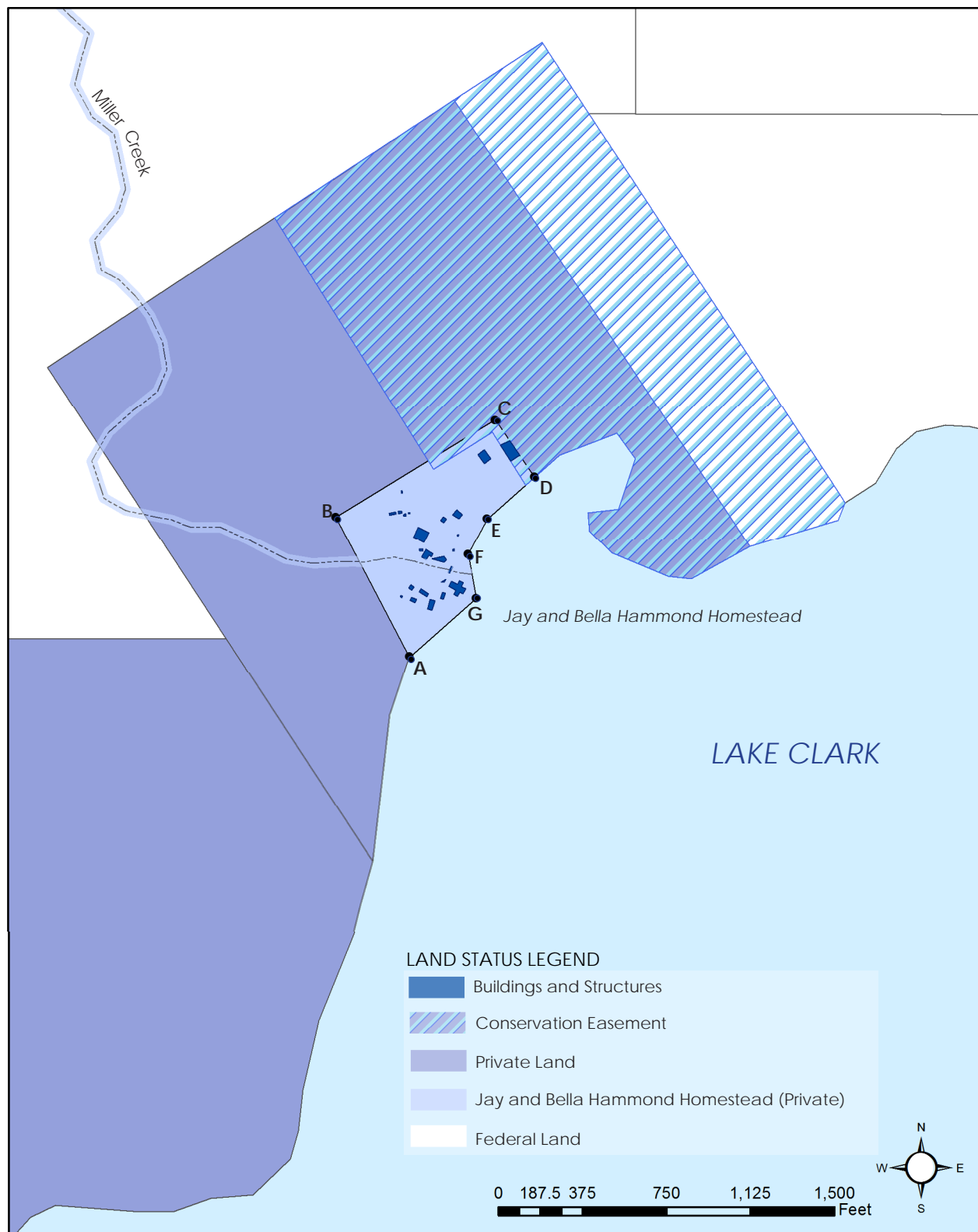


Primary Land Ownership Context Map, 2017:



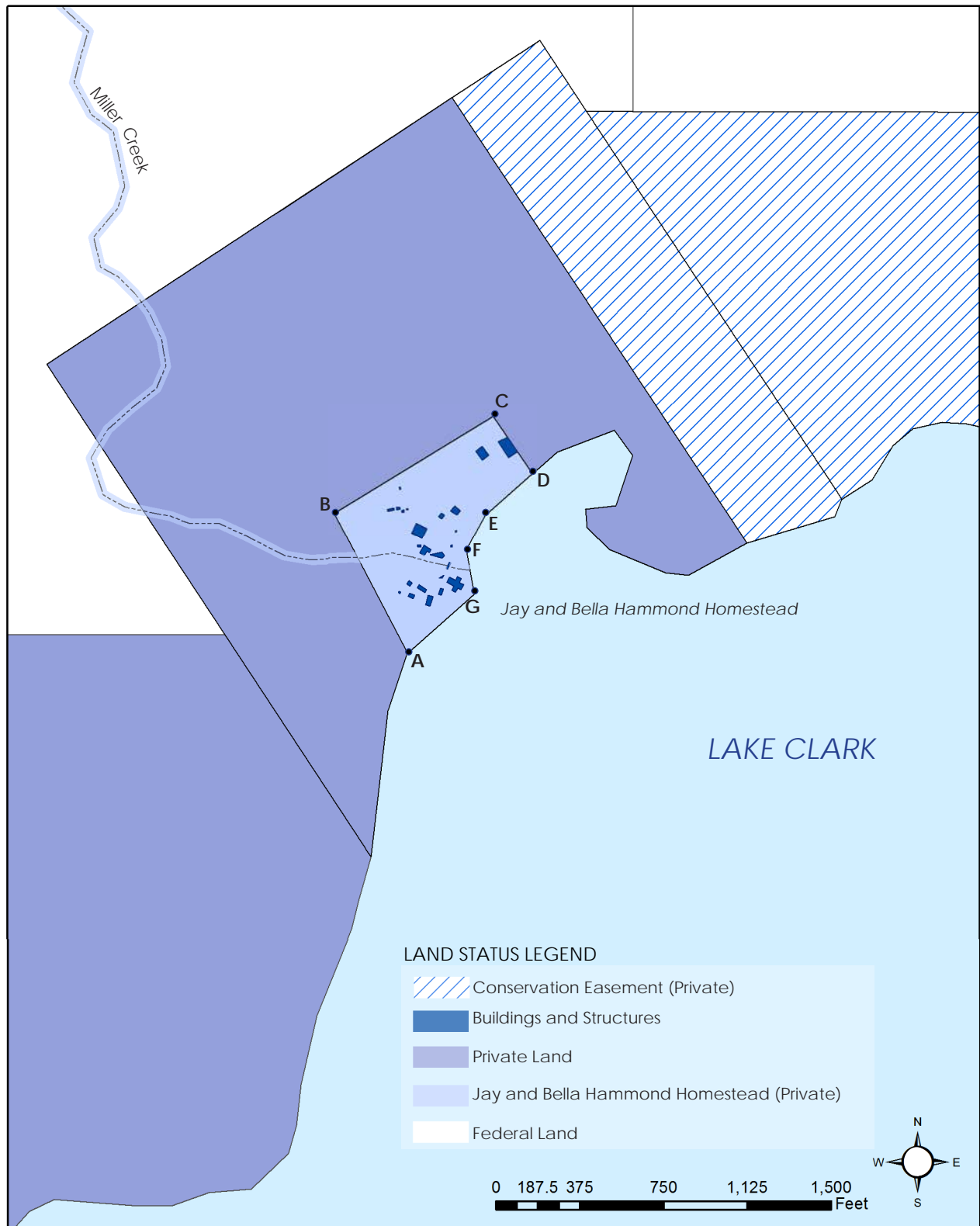
GPS Uncorrected NAD 83 Alaska Albers / D.Gewalt, 2016 / F. Link, 2017
 Source: NPS Land Status GIS Data, 2017

1992 Conservation Easement Context Map:



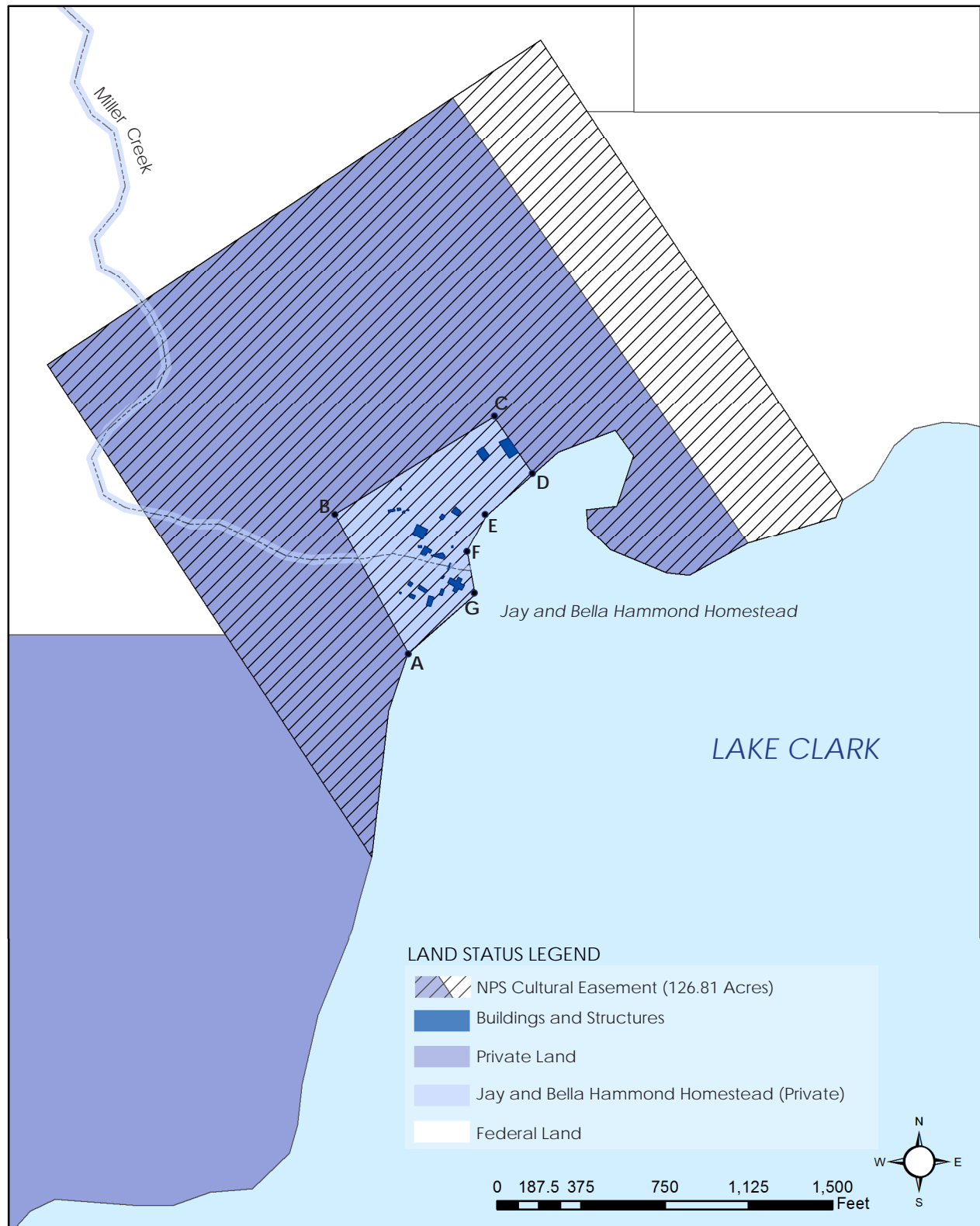
GPS Uncorrected NAD 83 Alaska Albers / D.Gewalt, 2016 / F. Link, 2017
Source: NPS Land Status GIS Data, 2017

2008 Conservation Easement Context Map:



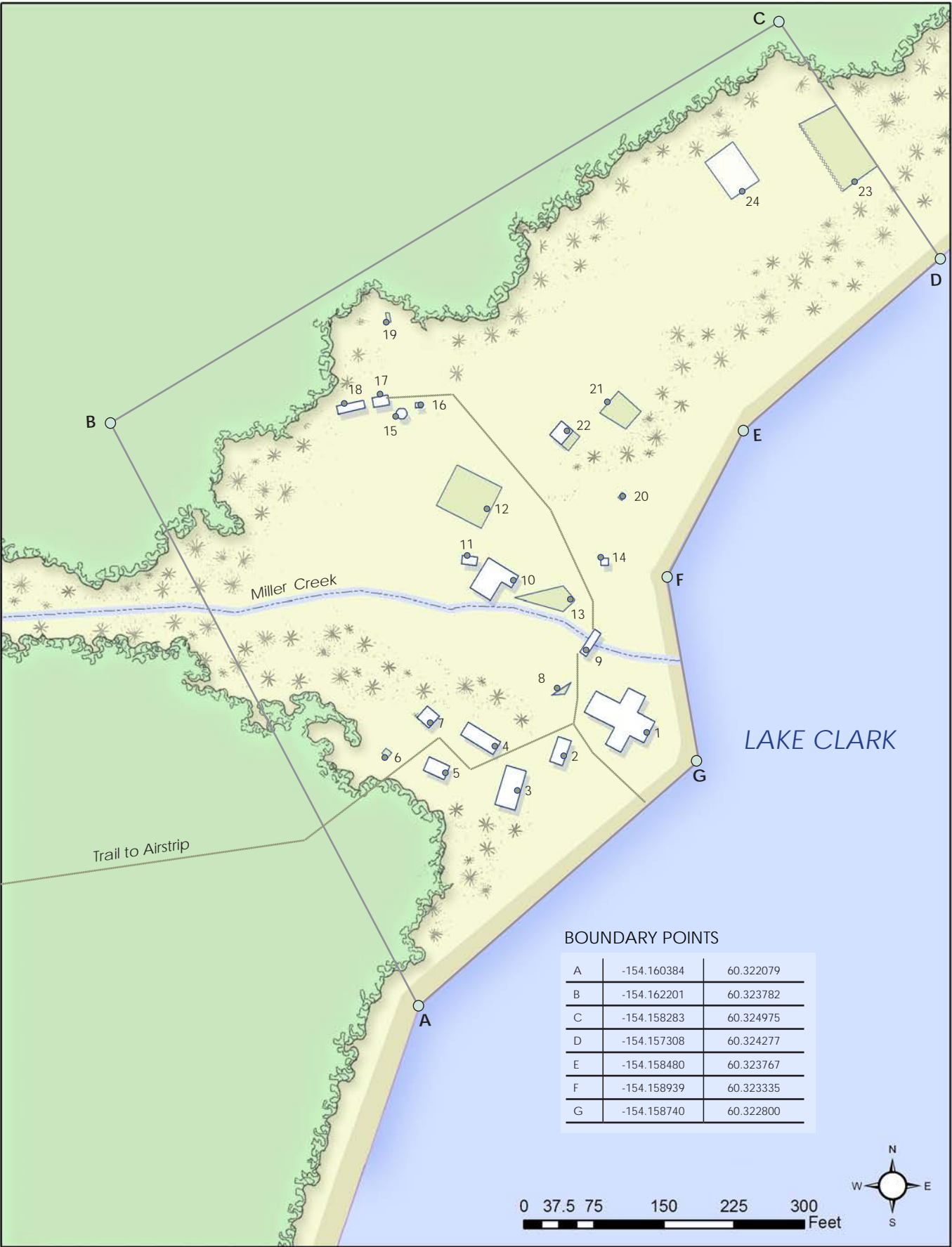
GPS Uncorrected NAD 83 Alaska Albers / D.Gewalt, 2016 / F. Link, 2017
 Source: NPS Land Status GIS Data, 2017

Cultural Easement Context Map:



GPS Uncorrected NAD 83 Alaska Albers / D.Gewalt, 2016 / F. Link, 2017
 Source: NPS Land Status GIS Data, 2017

Jay and Bella Hammond Homestead Site Map:



GPS Uncorrected NAD 83 Alaska Albers / Boundary Area: 10 Acres / D.Gewalt, 2016 / J. Rose & F. Link, 2017

Jay and Bella Hammond Homestead Aerial Site Map:



Jay and Bella Hammond Homestead Feature List:

Feature #	Feature Name	Longitude	Latitude	Contributing	Feature Type
1	Hammond Cabin	-154.159198	60.322924	Contributing	Building
2	Steam Bath	-154.159558	60.322825	Contributing	Structure
3	Warehouse and Shop	-154.159945	60.322718	Contributing	Structure
4	Generator Shed-Woodshed	-154.160029	60.322862	Contributing	Structure
5	Garage	-154.160288	60.322774	Contributing	Structure
6	Root Cellar	-154.159197	60.323571	Contributing	Structure
7	Woodshed	-154.160338	60.322924	Contributing	Structure
8	Masonry Flower Bed	-154.159545	60.323003	Contributing	Structure
9	Bridge	-154.159382	60.323143	Contributing	Structure
10	Caretaker's Cabin	-154.159959	60.323328	Contributing	Building
11	Woodshed	-154.160096	60.323381	Contributing	Structure
12	Vegetable Garden	-154.159942	60.323569	Contributing	Site
13	Tract 3 (Gabriel Trafon- Anton Balluta Cabin Sites)	-154.159601	60.323327	Contributing	Site
14	Smokehouse	-154.159298	60.32338	Contributing	Structure
15	Water Tank	-154.160437	60.323815	Contributing	Structure
16	Solar Panel	-154.160414	60.323832	Noncontributing	Object
17	Greenhouse	-154.160558	60.323852	Contributing	Structure
18	Storage Shed	-154.160925	60.323801	Contributing	Structure
19	Jay Hammond Grave	-154.160597	60.324067	Contributing	Structure
20	Old Root Cellar	-154.160582	60.322818	Contributing	Structure
21	Tract 2 (Trefon-Balluta Cemetery)	-154.159194	60.323821	Contributing	Site
22	Barn with Fence	-154.159601	60.323779	Contributing	Structure
23	Tract 1 (Wassillie Trefon Cabin)	-154.157834	60.324537	Contributing	Site
24	Cabin	-154.158542	60.324519	Contributing	Building





















































National Register of Historic Places
Memo to File

Correspondence

The Correspondence consists of communications from (and possibly to) the nominating authority, notes from the staff of the National Register of Historic Places, and/or other material the National Register of Historic Places received associated with the property.

Correspondence may also include information from other sources, drafts of the nomination, letters of support or objection, memorandums, and ephemera which document the efforts to recognize the property.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Resubmission

Property Name: Hammond, Jay and Bella, Homestead

Multiple Name:

State & County: ALASKA, Lake and Peninsula

Date Received:
6/13/2018

Date of Pending List:

Date of 16th Day:

Date of 45th Day:
7/30/2018

Date of Weekly List:

Reference number: RS100002107

Nominator: State

Reason For Review:

☐ Appeal

☐ SHPO Request

☐ Waiver

☒ Resubmission

☒ Other

☐ PDIL

☐ Landscape

☐ National

☐ Mobile Resource

☐ TCP

☐ CLG

☒ Text/Data Issue

☐ Photo

☐ Map/Boundary

☒ Period

☒ Less than 50 years

☒ Accept

☐ Return

☐ Reject

7/30/2018

Date

Abstract/Summary
Comments:

The Jay and Bella Hammond Homestead is of statewide significance under National Register Criteria A, B and C in the areas of Exploration/Settlement, Politics/Government, and Architecture. Consisting of 24 resources arrayed along the northern shoreline of Lake Clark in the vicinity of Miller Creek, the homestead district is dominated by well-crafted log and stone buildings and structures built between 1952 and the late 1990s. The district reflects the earliest era of recreational cabin construction around Lake Clark.

The Dena'ina lived along the lake and carried out a subsistence lifestyle for thousands of years before Euro-American settlers first came to the area around 1900s (see sites #13, 21, 23). Drawn to local mineral resources and the areas other natural resources, turn-of-the-century settlement was scattered across the landscape, largely in isolated cabin sites or small communities with a subsistence-based local economy. With the advent of commercial aviation to the area in the 1930s, ostensibly to service local mining claims, the areas around the lake become open to increased settlement. During the 1950s, with the post-war economic boom, recreational cabins began to develop along the lake shore--built by sport fisherman and hunters, many of whom were affluent businessmen and government employees--significantly changing the economic base of the Lake Clark area. The homestead patented by the Hammond family is illustrative of the first phase of such recreational cabin developments on the Lake.

The handsome, rustic style log designs of the homestead's main house and numerous outbuildings reflected both the common vernacular building traditions of isolated Alaska utilizing locally available materials, as well as the new wealth of their builders. Whereas

earlier local construction provided rudimentary, quickly erected shelter, the log construction of the post-war era more often employed highly skilled craftsmen, quality materials, and modern amenities. Time also became a luxury as construction did not have to fit a single seasonal cycle, but could be spread over a number of summer building seasons, or in the case of the Hammond complex, decades. The resulting architecture is of high aesthetic quality and craftsmanship.

While the buildings the Hammonds built were in keeping with other log cabins in the area, they departed from the traditional in several ways. The peeled and seasoned logs, often kept stored on site for several seasons before being used in construction differed from most of the earlier log cabins built in the area with unpeeled green spruce logs in an often hurried fashion. Second, since the family intended the cabin to be used year-round at some point, they built numerous outbuildings that were absent from other cabins in the area which were used seasonally. Indoor plumbing also became a fixture of later recreational homestead efforts rather than separate outhouses. Third, the Hammond cabin had a stone fireplace and a glass solarium addition, relatively modern fixtures for wilderness cabins. The care and skill brought to the construction of the Hammond buildings marked a significant evolution of vernacular log design in Alaska's remote natural areas.

The well-preserved character of the Hammond complex serves as testament to the continued efforts of the family to maintain and augment the site over the years of occupancy by Jay and Bella Hammond, as well the wealth of experienced local craftsmen who assisted in its construction. The Hammond Homestead is among the more substantial of the early post-war recreational cabin complexes and is an exceptional example of local log design.

The property is directly associated with exceptionally significant Alaska politician Jay Hammond, who served in numerous state and local positions including two-terms as Alaska governor. A dedicated conservationist, Jay Hammond defied the conventional patterns of party politics to serve as an influential governor, early in the history of Alaska as a state. Hammond's wife Bella, a Native Alaskan (the first to serve as First Lady) significantly supported Jay's efforts and conservation ethic and was responsible for much of the homestead's ongoing development. Jay Hammond, as a local mayor, state legislator and later as state governor, played an extremely important role in the protection of Alaska's rich natural resources. The establishment of the Alaska Permanent Fund during his administration is seen as an exceptional moment in Alaska history as were his efforts to protect and open up Alaska's rich, natural resource areas to the public, in particular the Bristol Bay area and Lake Clark. According to Nobel Prize-winning economist Vernon Smith, the Alaska Permanent Fund served as "a model governments all over the world would be wise to copy." As a pilot program, economists have recommended the Alaska solution for resource-rich, poverty-ridden countries around the globe.

While there may exist additional historic properties in Alaska associated with Jay Hammond, the Lake Clark property is exceptionally significant under Criterion B, as perhaps the most valued of his homes, serving not only as a place of permanent residence during his later years, but also an important venue through which he could reconnect directly with his beloved Alaska environment, a place of escape from the trappings of day-to-day government and political pressures during his extensive career in public office, a venue for his later significant conservation writing, and a place where dealing with such elemental concerns as the crafting of shelter, hunting, and fishing significantly benefited his mental well-being. While there is not a wealth of objective scholarly references to Hammond's career, particularly given his relatively recent death, his contributions and writings are widely respected in the state, where much of Alaska's political and governmental history is contained within the recent past.

Recommendation/ Criteria Accept National Register Criteria A, B & C

Reviewer Paul Lusignan

Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2229

Date 7/30/2018

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : **Yes**

ALASKA HISTORICAL COMMISSION
VOTING RECORD FOR NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY AND DISTRICT NOMINATIONS

Date: December 6, 2017

It is moved that the **Jay and Bella Hammond Homestead qualifies** for the National Register of Historic Places

criterion/criteria: **A, B, C**

criteria consideration/considerations: **G**

level of significance: **state**

period significance: **1952-present**

areas of significance: **politics/government, exploration/settlement, architecture**

The property is associated with Alaska Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan theme/themes **exploration and settlement, government, architecture.**

Moved by: **Michael Hawfield** Seconded by: **Wayne Jensen**

Vote on motion:

IN FAVOR	OPPOSED	ABSTAIN	RESULT
Drabek		Bittner	Passed 5-0-1
Hawfield			
Jensen (architect)			Rejected
Poulson			
Veltre			Tabled

If tabled or rejected, reasons or instructions on how to proceed:

Other comments:

The architect on the Alaska Historical Commission concurred with nominating the homestead under criterion C.

Ms. Judy Bittner, Deputy Coordinator
Department of Natural Resources
Chief of History and Archeology
Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation
550 W. 7th Ave., Suite 1310
Anchorage, AK 99501-3561

RECEIVED
MAY 04 2015
OHA

April 22, 2015

Dear Ms. Bittner,

In the summer of 1990, Dr. Theodore J. Karamanski, a professor of history at the University of Chicago Loyola, was hired by the NPS Alaska Regional Office to conduct research and writing on 16 properties within the boundaries of Lake Clark National Park and Preserve. The professor recommended that 11 of those properties be nominated to the National Register of Historic Places. The Jay Hammond Complex on the north shore of Lake Clark was among those recommended for the National Register.

My late husband, Jay, and I both fully cooperated with Professor Karamanski in his work documenting the history of our homestead. Jay even sat for an oral history interview with the professor. However, nothing further was done by the National Park Service because the property was on private property and it was less than 50 years old.

About seven years ago the NPS decided to put forward a Multiple Property nomination for the Richard L. Proenneke Site, the Allen Woodward Cabin at Priest Rock on Lake Clark, and the Jay Hammond Complex, based on a common theme of World War II veterans who were pilots and post war settlers on Lake Clark. That nomination has been completed by former NPS historian Katie Ringsmuth but not yet submitted to your office for a Determination of Eligibility.

I have no objection to the staff at Lake Clark National Park and Preserve updating the draft nomination from the 1990 version, completing the National Register of

Historic Places Nomination for the Jay Hammond Complex, and submitting it to your State Office of Historic Preservation for a Determination of Eligibility.

We understand that the nomination will first be reviewed by you and welcome your role in the long established process before the nomination is submitted by Lake Clark National Park and Preserve to the Keeper of the National Register in Washington, DC for final determination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bella Hammond". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Bella Hammond



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

Department of Natural Resources

DIVISION OF PARKS & OUTDOOR RECREATION
Office of History & Archaeology

550 West 7th Ave., Suite 1310
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3565
907.269.8721
<http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/oha>

January 10, 2018

Re: 3330-2 Jay and Bella Hammond Homestead

J. Paul Loether, Keeper
National Register of Historic Places
Mail Stop 7228
1849 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Attn: Paul Lusignan

Dear Paul:

The two disks enclosed contain a true and correct copy of the National Register of Historic Places nomination for the Jay and Bella Hammond Homestead at Lake Clark in the Lake and Peninsula Borough, Alaska.

Staff of my office worked with Lake Clark National Park and Preserve staff who worked with the property owner, Bella Hammond, to prepare the National Register of Historic Places documentation. The Alaska Historical Commission, the state review board, reviewed and discussed the nomination at their December 6, 2017, meeting and determined the homestead is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The homestead is not in the boundaries of one of Alaska's Certified Local Governments.

Before the Alaska Historical Commission meeting, the owner of the property received a letter about the National Register of Historic Places program with information on the results of listing and an invitation to review the nomination package and comment. The authors of the nomination received copies of the letter also. The Office of History and Archaeology, Alaska Department of Natural Resources, issued a statewide press release with specific mention of the National Register nomination review before the meeting. Borough officials also were notified. A letter from the owner concurring with the nomination, though several years old, is attached.

At their December 6, 2017 meeting Alaska Historical Commission members determined the Jay and Bella Hammond Homestead is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under criteria A, B, and C. It is eligible under criteria A for its association with the early settlement around the lake that started after World War II when the Bureau of Land Management made land in the area available for homesteading; under B



Paul Loether

Page 2

December 20, 2017



for association with Jay Hammond, a prominent Alaska politician from the 1950s to 1990s, and Bella Hammond, first Native Alaskan to serve as the state's First Lady; and under C for the unique log and stone construction of the homestead buildings. They determined criteria consideration F, for buildings less than fifty years old, had been adequately addressed. Commission members said the property is associated with the Alaska historic preservation plan's themes of early exploration and settlement, government, and architecture. The period of significance for the property is 1952-present, starting when the application for the homestead and construction started, and continuing to the present because Bella Hammond still maintains the homestead. Commission members said the homestead is of state significance, and the best property in Alaska associated with the Hammonds. I have reviewed the documentation, and concur with the determination of the Alaska Historical Commission.

If you have any questions regarding this nomination please contact Joan (Jo) Antonson, State Historian, at e-mail jo.antonson@alaska.gov or phone 907.269.8714.

Sincerely,

Judith E. Bittner

State Historic Preservation Officer

enclosures: 2 disks with registration form, maps, photographs, Alaska Historical Commission voting record, letter from owner; and print copy of signature page

cc: John Branson, Lake Clark National Park and Preserve, One Park Place, Port Alsworth, AK 99653

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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. 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.

1. Name of Property

Historic name:

Jay and Bella Hammond Homestead

Other names/site number:

Jay Hammond Complex, Hammond Homestead

Name of related multiple property listing:

2. Location

Street & number: North shore of Lake Clark

City or town: Port Alsworth State: Alaska

County: Lake and Peninsula Borough

Not For Publication: ☐

Vicinity: ☒

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 at the following level(s) of significance:

 national X statewide local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A X B X C D

Joan M. Anderson, Deputy SHPO

10 January 2018

Signature of certifying official/Title:

Date

Alaska

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

Jay and Bella Hammond Homestead
Name of Property

Lake & Peninsula Borough
County and State

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official:

Date

Title :

**State or Federal agency/bureau
or Tribal Government**

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- ___ entered in the National Register
___ determined eligible for the National Register
___ determined not eligible for the National Register
___ removed from the National Register
___ other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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(s) ☐

Jay and Bella Hammond Homestead
Name of Property

Lake & Peninsula Borough
County and State

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>3</u>	<u> </u>	buildings
<u>4</u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u>16</u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u>1</u>	objects
<u>23</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Domestic - single dwelling

Domestic - secondary structure

Domestic - camp

Funerary - graves/burials

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Domestic - single dwelling

Domestic - secondary structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Other

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Wood/Log, Stone/Granite, Stone/Shale,
Synthetics/Fiberglass, Wood/Shake, Asphalt, Glass, Ready Roof

Jay and Bella Hammond Homestead
Name of Property

Lake & Peninsula Borough
County and State

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The core of the Jay and Bella Hammond Homestead encompasses 8 acres of a 126-plus acre homestead on the north shore of Lake Clark in western Alaska. Buildings and structures straddle the mouth of Miller Creek. Jay Hammond applied for the homestead in 1952 and received patent to it in 1958. The landscape is a harmonious blend of lake shore, rushing creek, and mostly rustic log buildings. Northeast of the buildings is an extensive field that gives way to a boreal forest. The Hammond Homestead has 24 resources, most are log and stone buildings and structures; 23 contributing, including sites associated with Dena'ina people who lived there in the early twentieth century. The 1 non-contributing object is a recently installed solar panel.

The principal resource is the log, stone, and glass family home. Other resources include a log steam bath, a combination log generator shed and woodshed, a wood framed shop and warehouse, and a concrete root cellar. There is a 29-foot-long bridge, supported by two formidable stone masonry piers that spans Miller Creek and unites the buildings on both sides of the creek. On the northeast side of the creek is a log smoke house-meat house, a caretaker's log house, storage shed, greenhouse, vegetable garden, Jay Hammond's grave, and the three sites associated with the Dena'ina people. The property retains integrity; changed in modest ways since 1952 because of the inexorable march of time and the decaying of wood.

The main house (Feature 1) is an exquisitely crafted round-log building shaped like a modified cross. The logs are peeled white spruce, beautifully fitted through Norwegian scribing (chinkless joinery). The logs are saddle notched, and the external logs are tapered in a "chalet style." The foundation of the house is beach stone masonry. The interior is divided into eight areas: an enclosed or "arctic" entry, a dining area, kitchen, living room, bathroom, two bedrooms, and solarium.

Exposed timber beams, wooden barrels, built-in bookcases, and handcrafted cabinets lend a rustic ambiance to the cabin, while four skylights and the glass enclosed solarium ensure a bright open feeling that is rarely achieved in log structures. In 1952 or 1953, Jay Hammond and his neighbor in Naknek, Jimmy Drew, cut about 80 cabin logs, built the foundation piers, laid the sill logs, and built walls four or five rounds high. Drew's mother, Alexandra Trefon, a Lake Clark Dena'ina, was a sister of brothers Gabriel and Wes Trefon, who each built cabins at the mouth of Miller Creek and lived there seasonally between circa late teens and 1940.

Jay and Bella Hammond Homestead

Name of Property

Lake & Peninsula Borough

County and State

In 1956, Hammond built more of the cabin.¹ In the late 1950s or early 1960s, brothers Jim and Tom Stanton from Ohio, who Jay Hammond met in Naknek, built the masonry fireplace and chimney and added more rounds of wall logs. Hammond worked on the cabin as time allowed when he could fly to Lake Clark from his Naknek home. By September 1965, the Hammonds could spend four months away from their home in Naknek. They lived in the Lake Clark house part of the winter of 1965-66 and went to California and Texas for a vacation.² Some winters the Hammonds spent in Juneau where Jay was a member of the State House or State Senate.

In the late 1950s, Hammond hired Nondalton residents Sam Alexie and Johnny Kankanton to cut additional cabin logs, and in the early 1960s, he hired long-time Lake Clark resident Joe Thompson to cut even more cabin logs.³

Sometime between 1960 and 1961, Mike Vandegrift and his wife, Viola, who had helped build Babe and Mary Alsworth's homestead at Port Alsworth, began living in the Hammond's caretaker's cabin (Feature 10).⁴ While there, Vandegrift finished the work inside the main cabin where the purlins and ridgepole meet the ceiling tongue and groove boards and built the concrete masonry cap on the chimney. In the early 1980s, Monroe Robinson built the masonry rock and log dining room and the log arctic entry that opens to a large masonry back porch. The eaves overhang the entrance by 7 feet and cover a 5-foot 3-inch beach stone open porch. A year or so earlier, John Branson, then Hammond's caretaker, Richard L. Proenneke, George Hornberger, and Bill Baechler cut the logs for the expansion. Branson assisted Robinson in the construction as needed.

In 1986, Hammond and his nephew David McRae built the three-foot high stone masonry walls for a solarium on the west end of the house. Two builders from Anchorage, whose names are no longer recalled, erected the glass walls and roof on top of the masonry walls. The 13-foot by 15-foot-5-inch solarium was a place where Jay Hammond liked to write, no doubt inspired by the breath-taking vistas of a 6,000-foot unnamed mountain across the lake. Bella Hammond nurtured her many vibrant house plants in the solarium.⁵

The house has a twin gable roof covered with cedar shakes. The cabin was finally completed in the early 1990s when brothers Chris and Art Mannix of Talkeetna built a large second bedroom on the south side of the house.

About 20 feet north of the back porch is a crescent-shaped stone masonry flower bed (Feature 8) that is approximately 3 feet high, 4 feet wide and 20 feet long. It was built by Hammond, with assistance from David McRae, in the late 1980s. It is a testament to Hammond's skills as a stone mason.⁶

¹ Jay Hammond, interview with Ted Karamanski, August 8, 1990.

² Various personal conversations with Jay S. Hammond and John B. Branson, 1969-2005.

³ *Ibid.*, personal interview with George Alexie and John B. Branson, August 25, 2015.

⁴ Telephone interview with Larry Nicholson and John B. Branson, August 7, 2015.

⁵ Personal interviews with Heidi Hammond and John B. Branson, August 10, 2015. February 8, 2016.

⁶ *Ibid.*

Jay and Bella Hammond Homestead

Name of Property

Lake & Peninsula Borough

County and State

Due west of the main cabin thirty feet is the steam bath (Feature 2). This 8-foot by 16-foot white spruce round log structure features chalet style tapered saddle-notched log construction. It has a gable roof covered by cedar shakes. The steam bath rests on concrete piers. Ralph Nabinger and John Branson, with guidance by Richard L. Proenneke and contributions by Jay Hammond, built the steam bath in 1976. In the early 1980s Monroe Robinson built a beautiful beach stone step into the steam bath. The steam bath is the most notable Yup'ik architectural feature on the homestead and signifies the cultural connection with Bella Hammond's Alaska Native heritage imparted in the architecture on the homestead. The nightly steam bath in villages throughout southwestern Alaska is an ongoing manifestation of strength and resiliency of Alaska Native culture. Log steam baths are common in many upriver Bristol Bay Native villages.

Twenty-eight feet west of the steam bath is a 44-foot x 20-foot wood frame building used as warehouse and shop (Feature 3). Monroe Robinson built it in 1969, and he and Branson enlarged it in the late 1970s. The structure rests on concrete piers. The walls are sheets of T1-11. The gable roof is covered with asphalt rolled roofing.⁷

Twenty feet north of the workshop is another log outbuilding, the generator shed-woodshed (Feature 4). Robinson, Branson, and Hammond built it in 1982 with assistance on the rafters by Proenneke. It rests on concrete piers. It is two buildings: a 10-foot 8-inch by 11-foot 9-inch white spruce log generator shed, and a 10-foot 8-inch by 19-foot 5-inch woodshed with open sides, but they share a gable cedar shake roof.

Thirty feet west of the generator shed is a 16-foot by 29-foot wood frame garage (Feature 5). Hammond with the assistance of Mark Mullins built it in the late 1980s. It sits on a concrete pad. The walls are T1-11. Its gable roof is plywood covered by a "rapid roof" lamination.⁸

Thirty feet north of the garage is a root cellar dug into the side of an ancient beach terrace and constructed of unfinished concrete (Feature 6). Hammond, Branson, and Mullins built it in 1984. It extends 14 feet 2 inches into the hill and is covered by earth.

Fifty feet northeast of the root cellar is an auxiliary or second woodshed, 10-foot by 20-foot, built of vertical peeled spruce logs and rough sawed slabs but mostly the walls are open (Feature 7). The woodshed is on concrete piers. Hammond and Branson built it in 1983-1984. The woodshed is open on the south side. Its shed roof is covered by asphalt rolled paper.

Miller Creek divides the homestead in half. The northeast and southwest portions of the complex were initially joined by a rustic 29-foot trussed log bridge built by Monroe Robinson, assisted by Branson in 1978 and 1979. It was built of 10-inch to 16-inch diameter white spruce logs and secured on a masonry stone 8-foot wall on the west side of the creek and a much shorter masonry stone abutment on the east side. It rotted and was replaced by a spare temporary deck resting on two I-beams (Feature 9). In May 2016 the Hammond's grandson, Jay Stanford, had a

⁷ Radio interview with Monroe Robinson and John B. Branson, August 17, 2015.

⁸ Personal interview with Mark Mullins and John B. Branson, August 21, 2015.

Jay and Bella Hammond Homestead
Name of Property

Lake & Peninsula Borough
County and State

serious accident when the tractor he was driving pulling a trailer load of firewood broke through the rotten planking on the bridge. Stanford was pinned in the tractor seat a few feet above the creek for more than an hour before being rescued by mechanic John Lorentzen from Port Alsworth. After the accident, David McRae and Jon Anderson installed new heavy plank decking on the bridge.

Starting in the late 1970s and continuing into the mid-1980s beach cobbles in chain-link wire baskets known as gabions were placed as flood control measures on the lower western bank of Miller Creek where it runs close to the main homestead buildings. Over the years John Branson, brothers Leon and Sig Alsworth, and Mark Mullins worked on the project and it has kept Miller Creek within its channel.

Approximately 60 feet northeast of the bridge is a combination log smoke-meat house sitting on concrete piers (Feature 14). The structure is used to smoke fish and hang big game meat. The 8-foot by 8-foot structure is built with saddle notched logs four feet high and T1-11 panels covering the screened walls above the logs. The roof is covered by cedar shakes. The logs were cut by Branson and Hammond, and Branson completed the structure about 1976-1978.

Forty feet east of the smokehouse is the old root cellar (Feature 20) that was built by Mike Vandegrift and Larry Nicholson in the early 1960s. The root cellar was built of logs with a galvanized stove vent protruding from the roof which was covered with soil and sod. Branson rebuilt the root cellar in 1978-1979 because the original was rotten. By the mid-1980s Hammond had completed his new concrete root cellar (Feature 9).

Due west of the smokehouse, 125 feet up a slight rise, is the caretaker's cabin (Feature 10). The core of this building is a 13-foot by 15-foot log cabin built by Hammond and Tom Meyer, the son-in-law of Lake Clark pioneer Brown Carlson, in the mid to late 1950s. It was built of spruce logs which were nailed to corner boards, the typical, if unartful method of much log construction at Lake Clark. John Coray cut the logs near Portage Creek and sold them to Hammond after he decided not to build near Portage Creek. The floor and roof boards were sawed on Charlie Denison's sawmill near Port Alsworth. (An alternative account has John Coray building the cabin with Hammond helping. Meyer died in 1956 or 1957 and Coray in 1959, making it impossible to verify the information.)⁹

Originally, the one-room cabin sat on the west side of Miller Creek, approximately where the sauna is now. A flood in 1971 swept the cabin off its footings and unceremoniously deposited it at the mouth of the creek. Local resident Chuck Hornberger hauled the cabin by a Caterpillar bulldozer to the east bank of Miller Creek and during the mid-1970s renovated it. Aside from the first root cellar that Vandegrift and Larry Nicholson built in 1966 about 100-feet beyond the east bank of Miller Creek, the caretaker's cabin was the first building associated with the Hammond Homestead. Today the cabin is on concrete piers.¹⁰

⁹ Anne Coray, e-mail to John B. Branson, February 10, 2016; Jay Hammond, interview with Ted Karamanski, August 8, 1990.

¹⁰ Personal interview with Chuck Hornberger, December 30, 2005; Larry Nicholson, *op. cit.*

Jay and Bella Hammond Homestead
Name of Property

Lake & Peninsula Borough
County and State

In the late 1970s and early 1980s, a new addition, roughly 15-feet by 15-feet, with a skylight and an arctic entry was added to the caretaker's cabin by Robinson and Branson. It represents a much higher level of log construction with saddle-notched logs nestled snugly atop one another thanks to Norwegian scribing. The structure has a twin gable roof covered by cedar shakes. A stone masonry foundation supports the enlarged cabin and a large stone masonry front step provides ingress and egress and a sense of solidity.

Approximately 9-feet west of the cabin is a log woodshed, open at the southwest end. It rests on concrete piers and has a shed roof covered by asphalt rolled roofing paper. It was built in 1976 by Branson (Feature 11).

Up a short steep bank is a former beach ridge when Lake Clark was at a much higher level where a 50x50 foot vegetable garden is situated (Feature 12). It is about twenty feet northeast of the caretaker cabin. The cultivated plot formerly was much larger and enclosed by a spruce pole fence, but the fence rotted and has been removed. The fence was constructed in the manner of a Russell Fence developed by ranchers and farmers in Washington, northern Idaho, Montana, and British Columbia to keep moose out of their fields. The Russell Fence was built by Branson in the mid to late 1970s. The land was cleared chiefly by Branson with limited assistance by Richard Proenneke. The garden is now protected from the prevailing east wind by a hedge row of low spruce trees that Mark Mullins planted in the late 1980s.

Approximately 45-feet due east of the garden is the goat barn (Feature 22). A log lattice fence, 15-feet by 11-feet, adjoins the 12-foot by 12-foot log barn. The barn sits on concrete and stone piers. Its logs are saddle notched at the corners. The barn has a shed roof covered by sod. The goat barn and fence were built by Branson in about 1979 and 1980 for his two goats. The fence is badly rotted.

About 300 feet east of the goat barn is the Heidi Hammond Cabin (Feature 24). The cabin was laid out by Heidi and Jay Hammond in 1978 or 1979. The dimensions are 24x32 with an attached 10x30 kitchen. There are two doors, one to the north and one to the west. There are two sky lights, one in the kitchen ceiling and one in the main area ceiling. There are picture windows in the south wall of the main area and smaller windows in the west and north walls of the kitchen. There is one small window in the east wall. There is a 12-foot plank deck on the south side of the house facing toward Lake Clark. Branson helped the Hammonds set the five-gallon gas can piers and fill them with concrete. The fall of 1979 Monroe Robinson assisted Branson placing the sill logs on the piers. That same fall Jack Ross helped Branson notch the floor joists into the sill logs. In 1982 Branson and Heidi worked on a few lower wall logs. During the rest of the 1980s the cabin construction was done by Jay Hammond, Heidi Hammond, Art and Chris Mannix, David McRae, and Lee Fink. In the early 1990s the cabin roof was completed by log smiths Art and Chris Mannix of Talkeetna.

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Heidi Hammond recalled the remainder of her cabin's construction history:

After the Mannix's [sic] put the roof on, Dad [Jay Hammond] did most of the finishing work on the interior. He put in the kitchen cabinets, pine floor in the main area and loft, linoleum in the kitchen and windbreak, and the ladder stairs to the loft. (Whenever I called out there, Mon [Bella Hammond] would always say, 'Your Dad is working on your cabin again while the rest of this place is falling apart.' She was being facetious I'm sure, but it was her way of saying he was spending a lot of time there.) I did most of the tongue and groove pine ceiling. He and I reinforced the front footings with 55 gallon drums, stones, and cement, probably in the late 90s. In the early 2000's Dad and David [McRae] added the deck. David and I replaced one of the front windows that had fogged up in 2015. A few years ago, 2012, Jay [Stanford] started hauling large stones to place around the base of the cabin to hide the kitchen footings.¹¹

This cabin is a contributing resource because Jay Hammond's influence and workmanship is seen throughout the cabin from his initial design, to the saddle notches with the lateral grooved wall logs, to the sky lights, cedar shake shingles, and interior finish work. Jay Hammond was involved in all stages of the construction of Heidi's cabin from the layout on the ground to the roof.

About 35-feet north of the garden is an approximately 600-gallon redwood water tank (Feature 15). The tank originally was used at the Bumble Bee salmon cannery in South Naknek to blue-stone linen salmon nets. By the 1960s the tanks were no longer in use since monofilament nets did not require the weekly washing the linen nets had. The redwood tanks were given away by the cannery. The tank was given to Hammond by his friends, Roy and Harriet Smith, who were the cannery watchmen in the 1960s and 1970s.¹² It was disassembled and flown to the homestead by Hammond in the late 1970s to store cold creek water. The creek water would warm up during the day and then be used to water the vegetable garden in the evening. The water tank rests on a log platform that rises six feet above grade and was built by Hammond and Branson in the late 1970s or early 1980s. Twenty feet north of the tank is a small shed-greenhouse and a greenhouse. A solar panel used to supply domestic electricity sits twenty feet north of the water tank (Feature 16). The solar panel is a non-contributing object on the homestead.

The storage shed is 12-feet by 12-feet at the base and of wood frame construction (Feature 18). This dual-purpose shed was built by Hammond in the early 1980s and rests on concrete pads. The north wall slopes at approximately a 65-degree angle to meet a short wood deck flat roof. The sloped wall is made of clear plastic to admit light to the interior. The other walls are enclosed by TI-11 sheets.

The greenhouse lays 10-feet south of the storage shed (Feature 17). It rests on a gravel pad. It is covered by clear plastic sheeting and is 10-feet by 10-feet. It was built by Hammond and his

¹¹ Heidi Hammond, e-mail to John B. Branson, October 25, 2017.

¹² Heidi Hammond, *op. cit.*

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grandson, Jay Stanford, in the early 2000s.¹³ In 1980, this location was the site of the very first greenhouse built on the Hammond Homestead by Robinson and Branson.¹⁴ The lower three feet was made of logs with round notches, and fiberglass sheeting was used for the higher walls and roof. But by the late 1990s, it was badly rotted and was removed. The new greenhouse was built on the site.

Approximately 75-feet north of the second greenhouse is the grave of Jay Hammond (Feature 19). Hammond died August 2, 2005. The grave is slightly raised above grade and is covered with neatly placed beach stone. From the grave one can look to the southwest and see the greenhouse, solar panel, water tank, garden, barn and caretaker's cabin, and the slope disappearing down the hill toward Miller Creek and the Hammond's beloved Lake Clark log home.

The eastern portion of the original 126-acre homestead was encumbered by a conservation easement owned by The Nature Conservancy on June 3, 1992. In 1999 a land exchange was proposed to the National Park Service by the Hammond Family so they could potentially make some minor developments on a small portion of the encumbered land. Eventually in 2008, the Hammond Land Exchange was completed by the family and the National Park Service. The National Park Service agreed to relinquish a portion of the 1992 conservation easement in exchange for a new conservation easement on a portion of Bella Hammond's neighboring Native Allotment and a cultural easement on the entire 126-acre Hammond homestead. Perhaps the most significant outcome of this agreement, from the perspective of the National Park Service, was the identification and protection of three cultural tracts containing important Lake Clark Dena'ina fall-winter cabin remains and associated graves under the auspices of the new cultural easement. In the early twentieth century, the east side of the mouth of Miller Creek or Nan Qelah meaning "where there is moss" was an important main fall-winter trapping camp for the Lake Clark Dena'ina.¹⁵ Specifically the site contained three winter cabins and at least three graves of the Trefon and Balluta Families. In addition, other Dena'ina travelers passed through the site, in winter or summer, as it was a trailhead for the Telaquana Trail, the 50-mile long main route to the north used by the Lake Clark Dena'ina connecting with kindred villages in the Nushagak and Kuskokwim drainages until the 1940s.¹⁶

It was not until the creation of Lake Clark National Park and Preserve in 1980 that the location and importance of the Telaquana Trail became widely known. This was a result of the Sociocultural Study in 1984-1986 led by University of Alaska Fairbank anthropologist Linda J. Ellanna working with Lake Clark Dena'ina elders and National Park Service ranger Andrew

¹³ Heidi Hammond, *op. cit.*

¹⁴ Tom Walker, *Building the Alaska Log Home*. Anchorage: Alaska Northwest Books, 1984.

¹⁵ Linda J. Ellanna and Andrew Balluta, *Nuvendaltin Quht'ana The People of Nondalton*, Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1992, 175.

¹⁶ Various documents from the Hammond Land Exchange, Lands Division, National Park Service, Alaska Region Office, Anchorage; Linda J. Ellanna, and Priscilla Russell Kari, James Kari, and Andrew Balluta et al. "Lake Clark Sociocultural Study, Phase One." Chapter 7, 7-40, and A-30, United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Lake Clark National Park and Preserve, 1986.

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Balluta that illuminated the fact that during the 20th century the mouth of Miller Creek was the trail head for the Telaquana Trail which was the most important trail connecting Lake Clark with villages at Telaquana and the Stony River. The Hammonds used the immediate area around the mouth of Miller Creek for their homestead and cut firewood and cabin logs, picked berries and hunted small game on the lower reaches of the Telaquana Trail but it was not until the 1990s that they fully realized the significance of the Telaquana Trail. It was in the early 1990s that Jay Hammond drove five miles through the woods on a trail that generally followed the Telaquana Trail to Miller Lake.

The Lake Clark Dena'ina and Jay and Bella Hammond have had a mutually respectful relationship. Prior to the cultural easements being put into effect in 2008 the Hammonds gave the Lake Clark Dena'ina carte blanche to visit and tend the graves. The Hammonds always welcomed Sophie Austin and her son Andrew Balluta, who was born in his parents', Anton and Sophie's cabin, at Miller Creek. The Hammonds informed members of the Bill Trefon Family that they could visit their family graves anytime they wished. In June 1974 two Russian Orthodox wooden crosses were visible, but as of 2017 they are no longer discernable.

Tract 1 is the Wassillie Trefon Cabin (Feature 23) site. It lies at the easternmost extent of the Hammond cultural easement. The easement is designed to preclude any possible future land disturbance of the Wassillie and Mary V. Trefon Cabin and associated structural remains. It is the birthplace of the late Lake Clark Dena'ina elder, Bill Trefon in March 1939. The protected site is 85x133 feet.¹⁷

Tract 2 contains Dena'ina graves (Feature 21). It is about 30-feet southeast of the goat barn and the protected parcel is 32x60 feet. It is thought to contain the remains of three members of the Trefon-Balluta family who died during the first 40 years of the twentieth century. The late Bill Trefon said he recalled hearing that a grandparent and a sibling were buried at the site.¹⁸

Tract 3 is the third cultural easement for the Gabriel Trefon and Anton Balluta cabin remains. (Feature 13) The cabin sites lie about 15-feet and 25-feet respectively north of the eastern bridge abutment and Miller Creek. The cabins were occupied in the fall and winter circa 1918-1932 by Gabriel and Katherine Trefon and children and his second cousin Anton Balluta and his wife Sophie Hobson and their children. Due to relentless running of Miller Creek, the Gabriel Trefon Cabin remains have partly fallen into the creek, yet about 80 percent of the cabin remains are extant as of the fall of 2017. The site extends 70 x 105 feet.¹⁹

The Anton Balluta Cabin remains lay 8-feet southwest of the caretaker's cabin and about 10 feet north of the Gabriel Trefon Cabin. By August 2015, it appears to have completely fallen into Miller Creek. When last surveyed, in the spring of 2017, no cabin remains were visible. The site was the birthplace of the late Andrew Balluta in 1930, the first Native Alaskan National Park

¹⁷ Various personal conversation with Bill Trefon, Sr. and John B. Branson, 1999-2015; *Alaska Dispatch News*, William Trefon, Sr., March 25, 2016, B-3.

¹⁸ *Ibid.*, various conversations with John Branson, 1999-2015.

¹⁹ Andrew Balluta, interviews with John B. Branson, November 28, 1997 and May 12, 1998.

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Service ranger and writer. He was an important Lake Clark Dena'ina cultural bearer and revered elder.²⁰

The Jay and Bella Hammond Homestead represents construction activity dating from 1952 to the early 1990s. The complex was designed by Jay Hammond and built by Hammond, Jimmy Drew, Jim and Tom Stanton, Tommy Meyer, John Coray, Monroe Robinson, Art and Chris Mannix, Monroe Robinson, John Branson, Mike Vandegrift, Larry Nicholson, Mark Mullins, David McRae, and Jay Stanford among a few others. All the buildings and structures are in excellent condition.

Returned

²⁰ *Ibid.*

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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 grave
- ☐ D. A cemetery
- ☐ E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- ☐ F. A commemorative property
- ☒ G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Exploration/settlement

Politics/government

Architecture

Period of Significance

1952-present

Significant Dates

1952

Significant Person(s)

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Jay and Bella Hammond

Cultural Affiliation

Euroamerican

Bering Sea Yup'ik

Architect/Builder

Jay Hammond

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Jay and Bella Hammond homestead, staked in 1952, is significant under Criterion A as one of the first homesteads in the Lake Clark area. Jay Hammond staked it in 1952 and the period of significance starts then and continues to the present, with Bella Hammond still living there. The homestead is significant under Criterion B for its association with Jay and Bella Hammond, both of whom made significant contributions to Alaska in politics and government. Jay Hammond was an organizer of the Bristol Bay Borough, Alaska's first borough to incorporate in 1962, and later served as its mayor. Earlier, in 1959, Hammond was a member of the first Alaska State Legislature, as a representative, and later he served as a state senator. In 1974, he was elected Alaska's fourth governor, and in 1978 was re-elected. Bella Hammond was highly respected as First Lady of Alaska and the first Alaska Native (Yup'ik) in the position. During their years in Juneau, the Hammonds vacationed at the homestead, and after Jay completed his second term as governor returned to live there. Jay died in 2005, and Bella is still active addressing Alaskan issues today. The district is significant under Criterion C because the buildings reflect the work of craftsmen, highly skilled in log and stone masonry, who constructed them, including Jay Hammond. He, in fact, was the primary architect and builder. The buildings

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exhibit a combination of Euroamerican and Bristol Bay Yup'ik values. The Jay and Bella Hammond Homestead relates directly and personally to a legendary Alaskan couple, and is of state significance.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Jay Hammond, living in Naknek, was elected to represent the people of southwestern Alaska in the first Alaska State Legislature that convened in 1959. He was an independent for two years before joining the Republican Party. After serving six years in the House of Representatives and rising to positions of minority and majority whip in 1965 he became the mayor of Bristol Bay Borough. A year later he returned to Juneau as a senator. He became majority whip and eventually president of the Senate. His term in the Senate ended in 1972, when his district was drastically reapportioned and he chose not to run for reelection. The Bristol Bay Borough once again chose Hammond to be mayor.

A small but persistent group of supporters appealed to Hammond and got him to agree to run for governor in 1974. "I had absolutely no expectation of winning," he later wrote. "I thought I would make a few speeches, exhaust my pitifully few campaign funds and go home." He had only three percent name recognition among Alaskan voters, and he was opposed by two former governors in the Republican primary, including Walter J. Hickel who was a former U.S. Secretary of the Interior. Yet Hammond had strong grassroots support. Alaskans identified with the bush pilot politician who campaigned in plaid shirt and who peppered his speeches with colorful anecdotes and phrases. He defied conventional wisdom by declaring himself an environmentalist concerned about the future of Alaska's natural resources. In a hard fought campaign he upset the popular incumbent governor, William A. Egan, by a margin of 287 votes. Hammond's triumph was particularly noteworthy because it occurred in 1974, the year the Democrats nationwide enjoyed an almost unbroken string of victories due to the Watergate scandal.²¹

While he was governor, Hammond could only fly to Lake Clark a few weeks a year. Yet he relished beginning new construction projects when he was there. He appreciated the change of pace at his Lake Clark homestead. He wrote that after working a full day on a log building or masonry project he had the satisfaction of being able to see his progress, a contrast with the reoccurring nature of many of the political issues he faced daily as governor. Hammond took great satisfaction from working with his hands, and it rejuvenated his mind and body, thus enabling him to go back to Juneau and govern the state of Alaska. The projects he began during those years, such as the sauna and the enclosed entry on the cabin, were completed by craftsmen he hired. Among those responsible for some of the fine woodwork done at the complex were brothers Jim and Tom Stanton, masons and log builders, Monroe Robinson, and two of Lake Clark's finest axe men, Richard Proenneke and John Branson.²²

²¹ Jay S. Hammond, various personal conversations with John B. Branson, 1969-2005.

²² Jay S. Hammond, interview with Ted Karamanski, August 8, 1990.

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Jay Hammond was a popular governor. He steered a middle course between those who would "lock up" the state's resources and those who would, in his words, "develop for the sake of development." Hammond advocated for smart growth with respect to development of Alaska's natural resources. He said all development projects must have three attributes: be a fiscally sound business investment for the state, pay its own way, and not degrade the environment. Through a unique but eminently logical combination of fiscal conservatism and resource conservation he determined the "use of our resources which will insure that our nonrenewable resources are developed when they can offer long-term benefits to all Alaskans, and that our renewable resources be maintained so there is a continual base for Alaska's economy." Hammond was well aware of Alaska's boom-bust historical cycles. He made the cornerstone of his program the establishment of an economic structure that could sustain the state after oil revenues ran out. Instead of letting runaway government expenditures continue to eat up the state's oil revenues, Hammond created, in 1976, the Alaska Permanent Fund. The idea was to create a reserve of the one-time oil money for the future of the state. To protect the fund from the grasp of the state legislature, Hammond proposed distributing an annual dividend from it to each citizen. Thus each Alaskan had a personal stake in protecting the fund and seeing it grow. In 1982, each Alaskan received their first \$1,000 check from the state. The unprecedented program was condemned as "socialism" by some and cursed as "crude capitalism" by others. Yet it has become a safe "nest egg" for Alaska's future. The dividend is a significant economic development tool which annually injects as much as \$200 million into Alaska's economy.²³ In other accomplishments as governor, Hammond successfully got the State of Alaska to buy back Kachemak Bay oil leases, and to establish the 477 million-acre Wood-Tikchik Lakes State Park in southwest Alaska. Hammond believed in conserving important Alaskan resources.

Hammond was reelected in 1978 by the largest margin of any governor. He also has the distinction of being the only Alaskan governor never to be defeated at the polls.

When he left office, Hammond and his wife Bella retired to their Lake Clark homestead which became their permanent residence for the first time. Due to his enduring popularity in the state, he was recruited to host a TV show, "Jay Hammond's Alaska," which featured the remarkable people and places of "the Great Land." For the last 20 years of his life he remained a public figure fully engaged in state issues. Hammond wrote a regular op-ed column in the *Anchorage Daily News* on topical economic and environmental issues affecting Alaska. He advocated for preservation of the Alaska Permanent Fund, for prudent fiscal and budgetary policies in the Alaska state government, and for conservation issues.

In the mid-1980s, Hammond was asked to join the board of directors of the National Audubon Society and he served into the 1990s. In 1990 the Hammond Family entered into a conservation easement with the Nature Conservancy on 66-acres of the original homestead.

In the early 2000s, Hammond became involved in advocating for responsible resource development in the Bristol Bay region to preserve its world famous wild salmon runs.

²³ Hammond, *Bush Rat Governor*, 251-266.

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Specifically, Hammond wrote and publicly spoke out against development of the proposed Pebble copper and gold prospect, because he believed it would degrade the Bristol Bay ecosystem that sustains its salmon habitat. He maintained that the paltry severance tax on the state's mineral resources would not justify the certain destruction of habitat of the renewable Bristol Bay salmon stocks.

Approximately a month before Hammond died, on July 6, 2005, he gave a speech in Anchorage celebrating the 25th anniversary of the signing of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, introducing former President Jimmy Carter who was giving the keynote address. Hammond turned the old criticism of himself and President Carter as "locking up" Alaska on its head, telling the audience that what President Carter did when he signed the ANILCA law on December 2, 1980 was to, "lock open" Alaska wildlands for the American people, for all time. In speaking that day, Hammond displayed his wit, wisdom, and political courage.²⁴

Since her husband's death on August 2, 2005, Bella Hammond has been more active advocating for preservation of the salmon-rich Bristol Bay region from hard rock mining. She wrote an op-ed piece for the *Anchorage Daily News* and has spoken publicly in defense of Bristol Bay salmon in opposition to the development of the Pebble prospect. As a life-long Bristol Bay resident Bella fished commercially for most of her life, and always for subsistence in Bristol Bay and at Lake Clark. She has a personal interest in seeing that Bristol Bay, of which Lake Clark is an important part, salmon habitat is protected.²⁵

²⁴ Jay S. Hammond, various conversations with John B. Branson, 1969-2005.

²⁵ Bella G. Hammond, various conversations with John B. Branson, 1969-2016.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

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----- *More Tales From Alaska's Bush Rat Governor: Chips from the Chopping Block.* Fairbanks and Seattle: Epicenter Press, 2001.

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Nicholson, Larry. Telephone interview with John B. Branson, August 7, 2015.

Robinson, Monroe, "Truss Log Bridge," *Fine Woodworking* (March-April 1982).

----- Radio interview with John B. Branson, August 17, 2015; other conversations 1978-present.

Walker, Tom. *Building the Alaska Log Home.* Anchorage: Alaska Northwest Books, 1984.

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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 # _____
☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☐ State Historic Preservation Office
☐ Other State agency
☒ Federal agency
☐ Local government
☐ University
☐ Other
Name of repository: Lake Clark National Park and Preserve

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): Alaska Heritage Resources Survey
(AHRs) XLC-00269

10. Geographical Data

Acres of Property 10 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)

Datum if other than WGS84: NAD 83 Alaska Albers Uncorrected
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

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Boundary Point	Longitude	Latitude
A	-154.160384	60.322079
B	-154.162201	60.323782
C	-154.158283	60.324975
D	-154.157308	60.324277
E	-154.158480	60.323767
F	-154.158939	60.323335
G	-154.158740	60.322800

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

☐ NAD 1927 or ☐ NAD 1983

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

The Jay and Bella Homestead is located within Township 3N, 29W, Section 28. The boundary is an irregular 10-acre polygon. The coordinates of the boundary are GPS Uncorrected NAD 83 Alaska Albers, and the boundary points are keyed to the map on page 30.

The boundary begins at point A (-154.160384/60.322079) on the north shoreline of Lake Clark. From there, the boundary strikes 710 feet northwest, crossing Miller Creek, to meet with point B (-154.162201/60.323782) on the forested hillside. From point B, the boundary extends through the forest 840 feet northeast to meet with point C (-154.158283/60.324975) above the Wassillie Trefon Cabin Site. The boundary then travels southeast for approximately 300 feet to meet point D (-154.157308/60.324277) on the shoreline of Lake Clark. From point D, the boundary follows the mean high water line which is also the tract boundary line until the boundary crosses Miller Creek and continues to meet once again with point A. Points E (-154.158480, 60.323767), F (-154.158939, 60.323335), and G (-154.158740, 60.322800) are representative data points related to significant direction changes in the tract boundary data from the NPS Land Status GIS dataset but the true boundary should follow the mean high water line of Lake Clark between points D and A crossing Miller Creek 100 feet downstream (to the east) of the bridge.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary contains all known historic features associated with the Jay and Bella Hammond Homestead.

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11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Ted Karamanski, Historian, John B. Branson, Historian, Dinah Gewalt,
Historical Landscape Architect, T. Fielding Link, Historical Landscape Architect
organization: National Park Service, Lake Clark National Park and Preserve
street & number: One Park Place
city or town: Port Alsworth state: AK zip code: 99653
e-mail: john_branson@nps.gov
telephone: 907-781-2134
date: October 31, 2017

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Map 1 - Context Map

Map 2 - Primary Land Ownership Context Map, 2017

Map 3 - 1992 Conservation Easement Context Map

Map 4 - 2008 Conservation Easement Context Map

Map 5 - Cultural Easement Context Map

Map 6 - Jay and Bella Hammond Homestead Site Map

Map 7 - Jay and Bella Hammond Homestead Aerial Site Map

Map 8 - Jay and Bella Hammond Homestead Feature List

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

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Photo Log

Name of Property: Jay and Bella Hammond Homestead
City or Vicinity: Lake Clark National Park and Preserve
County: Lake and Peninsula Borough
State: Alaska
Photographer: John B. Branson
Date Photographed: July 21, 2015 and September 19, 2017

Photo 1 of 26: Hammond Cabin (1), sunroom (L) and bedrooms (R), view N
Photo 2 of 26: Hammond Cabin (1), living room (L), kitchen and living room (R), view S
Photo 3 of 26: Hammond Cabin (1), Jay Hammond bedroom, view NW
Photo 4 of 26: Hammond Cabin (1), Jay Hammond bedroom (L) and living room (R), view NW
Photo 5 of 26: Hammond Cabin (1), sunroom (L) and bedrooms (R), view NE
Photo 6 of 26: Hammond Cabin (1), Arctic entry (L), dining room and Bella Hammond bedroom (C), and sunroom (R), view SE
Photo 7 of 26: Hammond Cabin (1), Arctic entry (L), dining room and kitchen (R), view SE
Photo 8 of 26: Hammond Cabin (1), living room (L), kitchen (C), and back porch (R), view S
Photo 9 of 26: Smokehouse (14), view E
Photo 10 of 26: Generator Shed-Woodshed (4), view S
Photo 11 of 26: Warehouse and Shop (3), view SW
Photo 12 of 26: Garage (5), view W
Photo 13 of 26: Root Cellar (6), view N
Photo 14 of 26: Auxiliary Woodshed (7), view NE
Photo 15 of 26: Bridge over Miller Creek (9), with smoke-meat house, right rear, view NE
Photo 16 of 26: Masonry Flower Bed (8), view W
Photo 17 of 26: Steam Bath (2), view W
Photo 18 of 26: Steam Bath (2), view SW
Photo 19 of 26: Woodshed (11), view N
Photo 20 of 26: Vegetable Garden (12), view W
Photo 21 of 26: Solar Panel (L) (16), Green House (C) (17), and Storage Shed (R) (18), view S
Photo 22 of 26: Water Tank (L) (15), Storage Shed (18), Green House (17) and Solar Panel (R) (16), view NW
Photo 23 of 26: Jay Hammond Grave (19), view N
Photo 24 of 26: Barn with Fence (22), view E
Photo 25 of 26: Caretaker's Cabin (10), view NE
Photo 26 of 26: Heidi Hammond Cabin (24), view NE

Jay and Bella Hammond Homestead
Name of Property

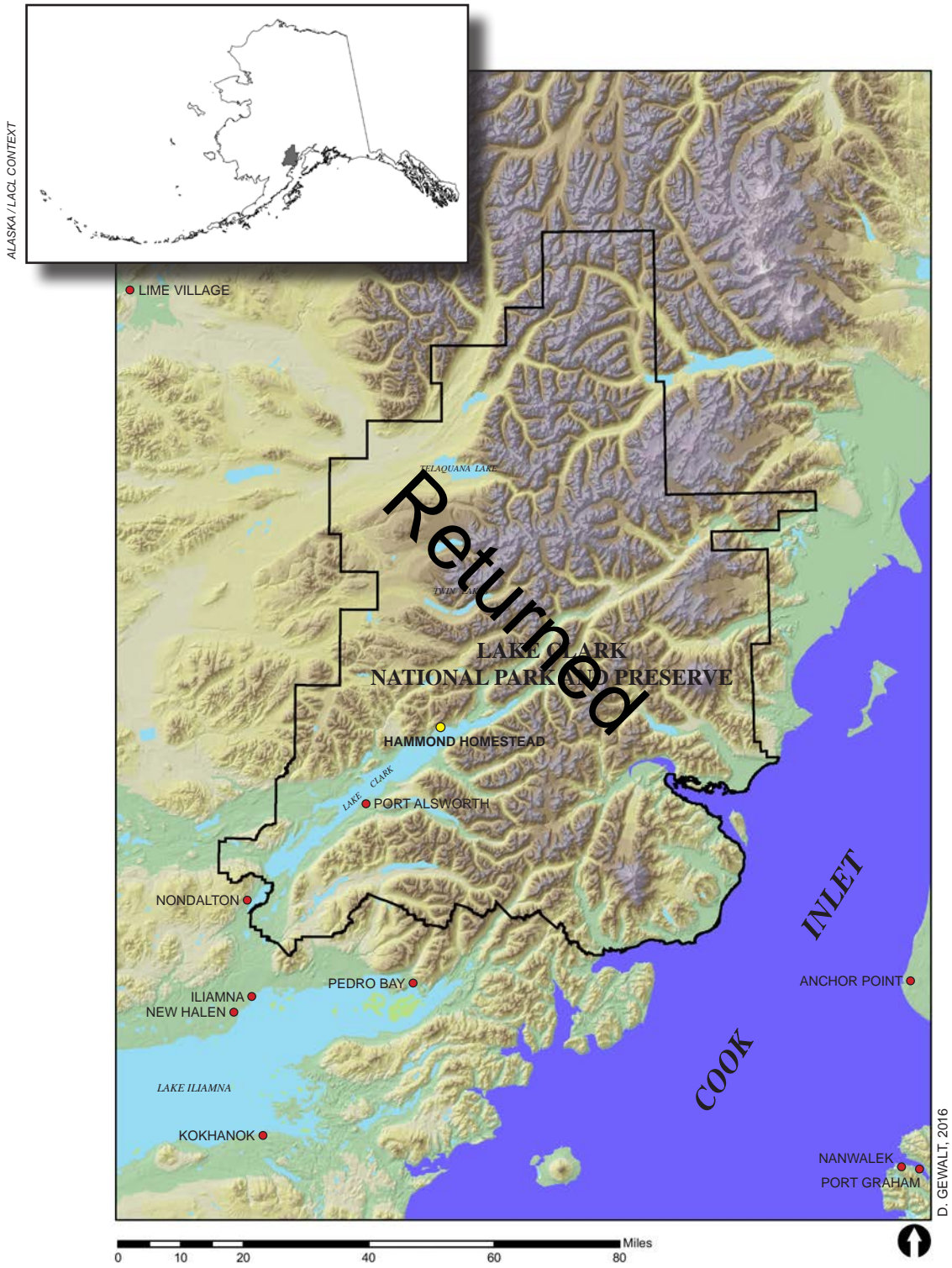
Lake & Peninsula Borough
County and State

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

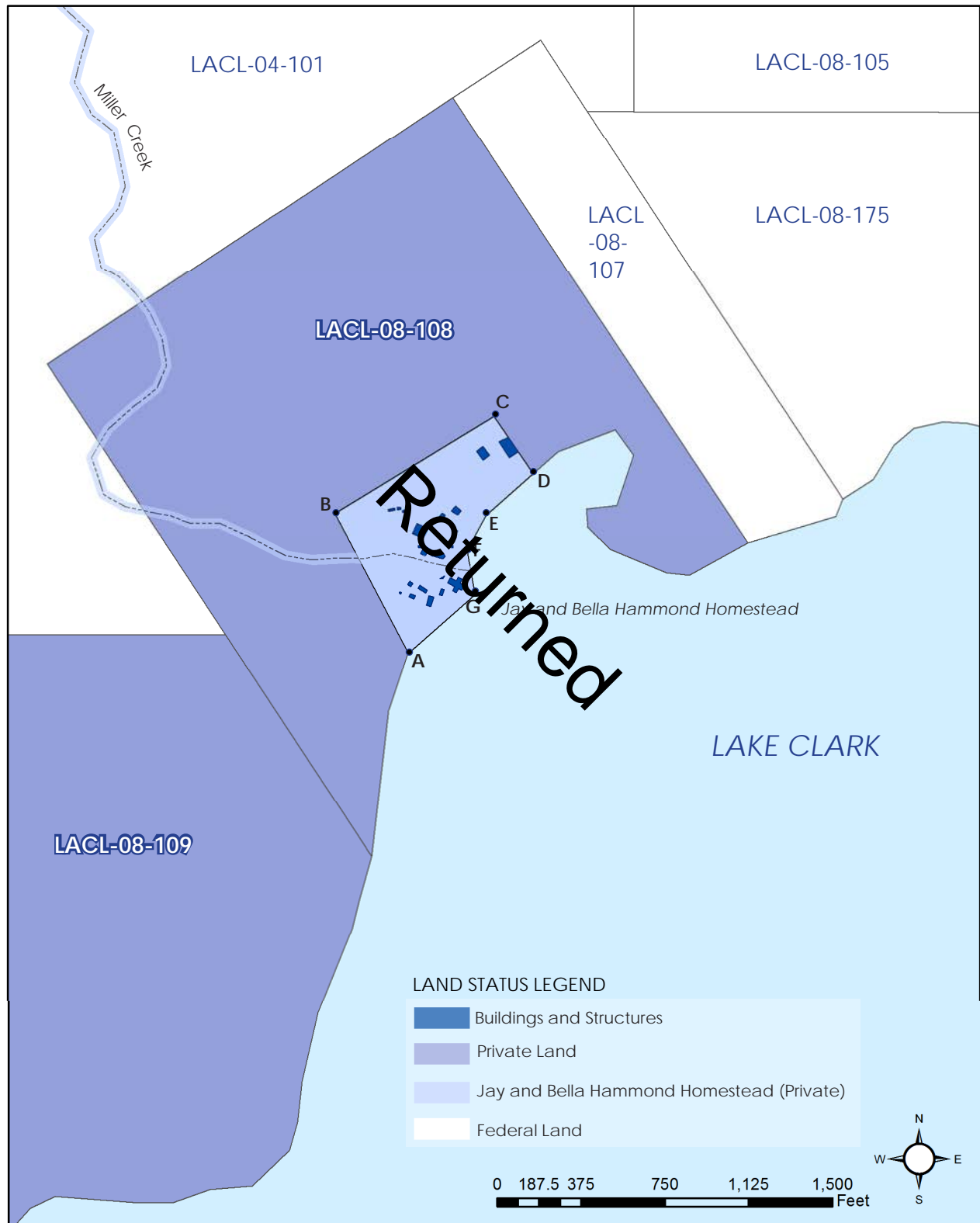
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Returned

Context Map:

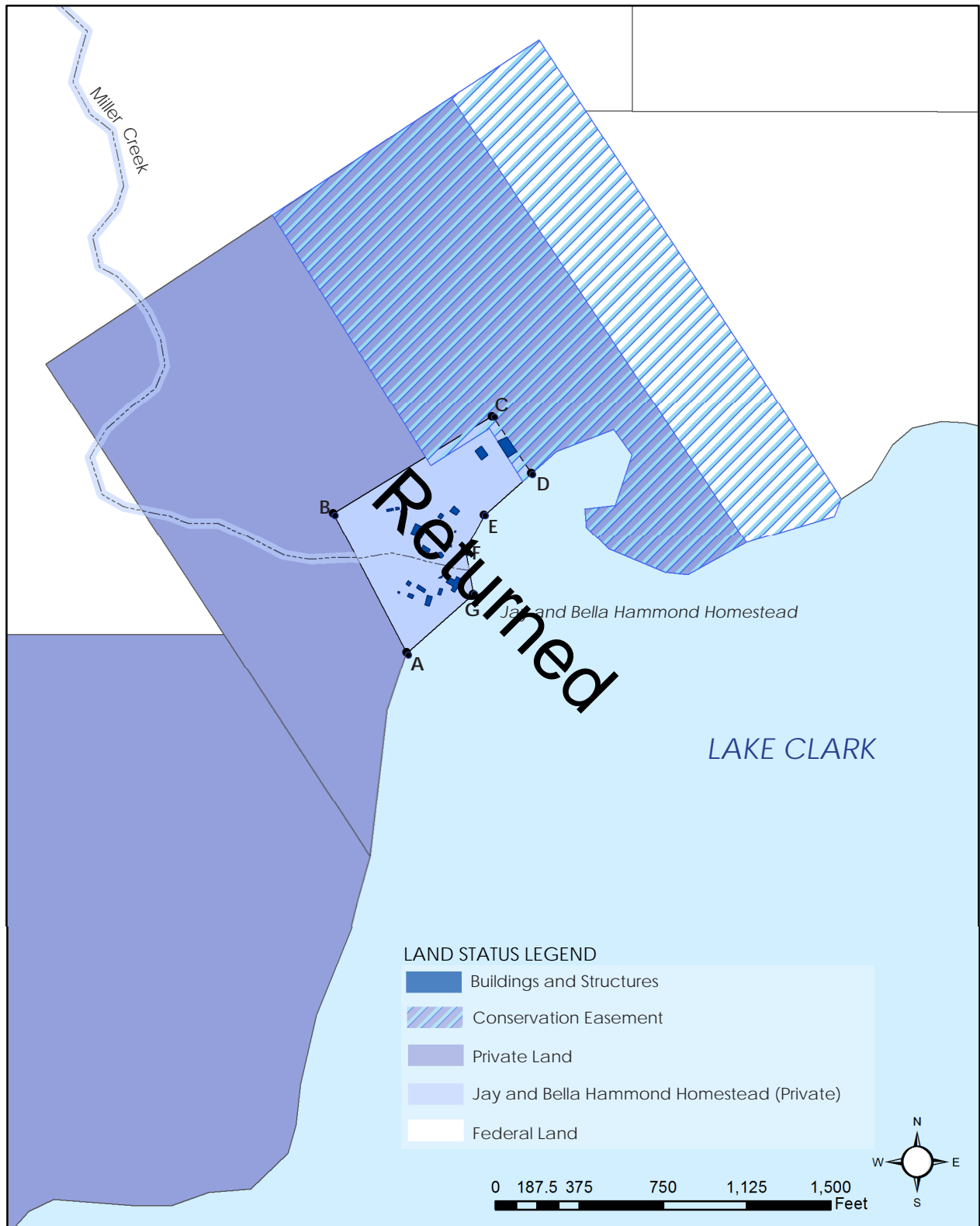


Primary Land Ownership Context Map, 2017:



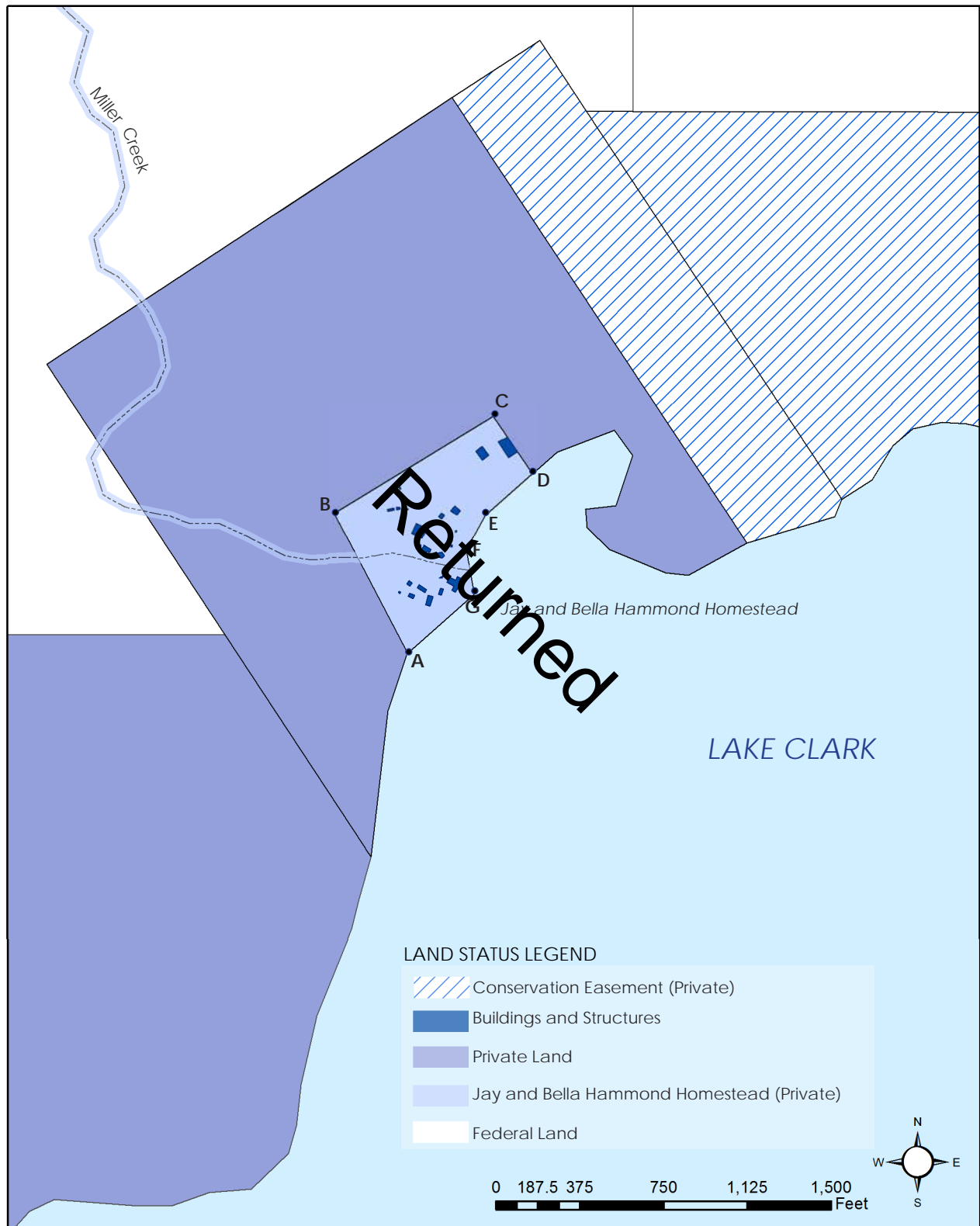
GPS Uncorrected NAD 83 Alaska Albers / D.Gewalt, 2016 / F. Link, 2017
 Source: NPS Land Status GIS Data, 2017

1992 Conservation Easement Context Map:



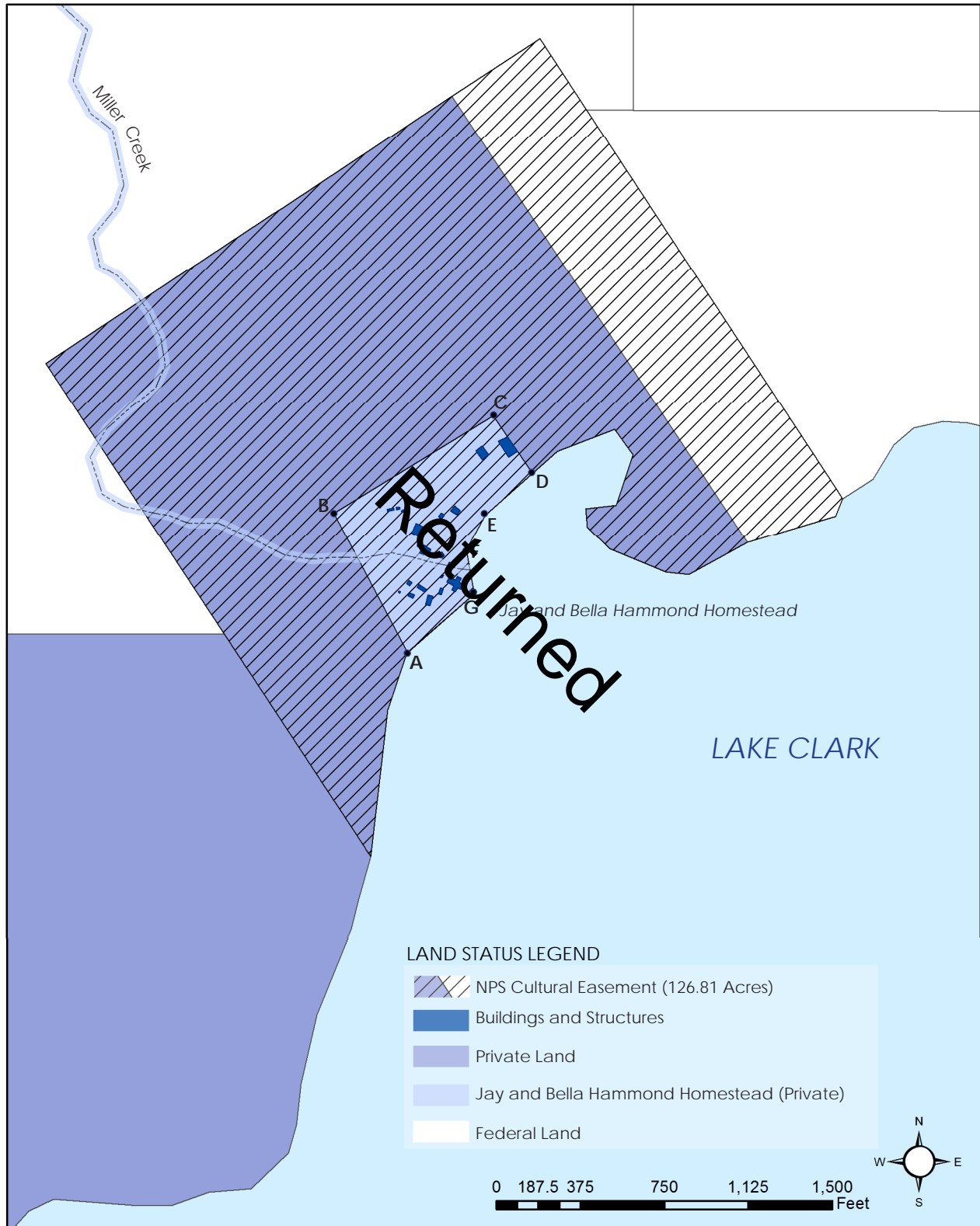
GPS Uncorrected NAD 83 Alaska Albers / D.Gewalt, 2016 / F. Link, 2017
 Source: NPS Land Status GIS Data, 2017

2008 Conservation Easement Context Map:



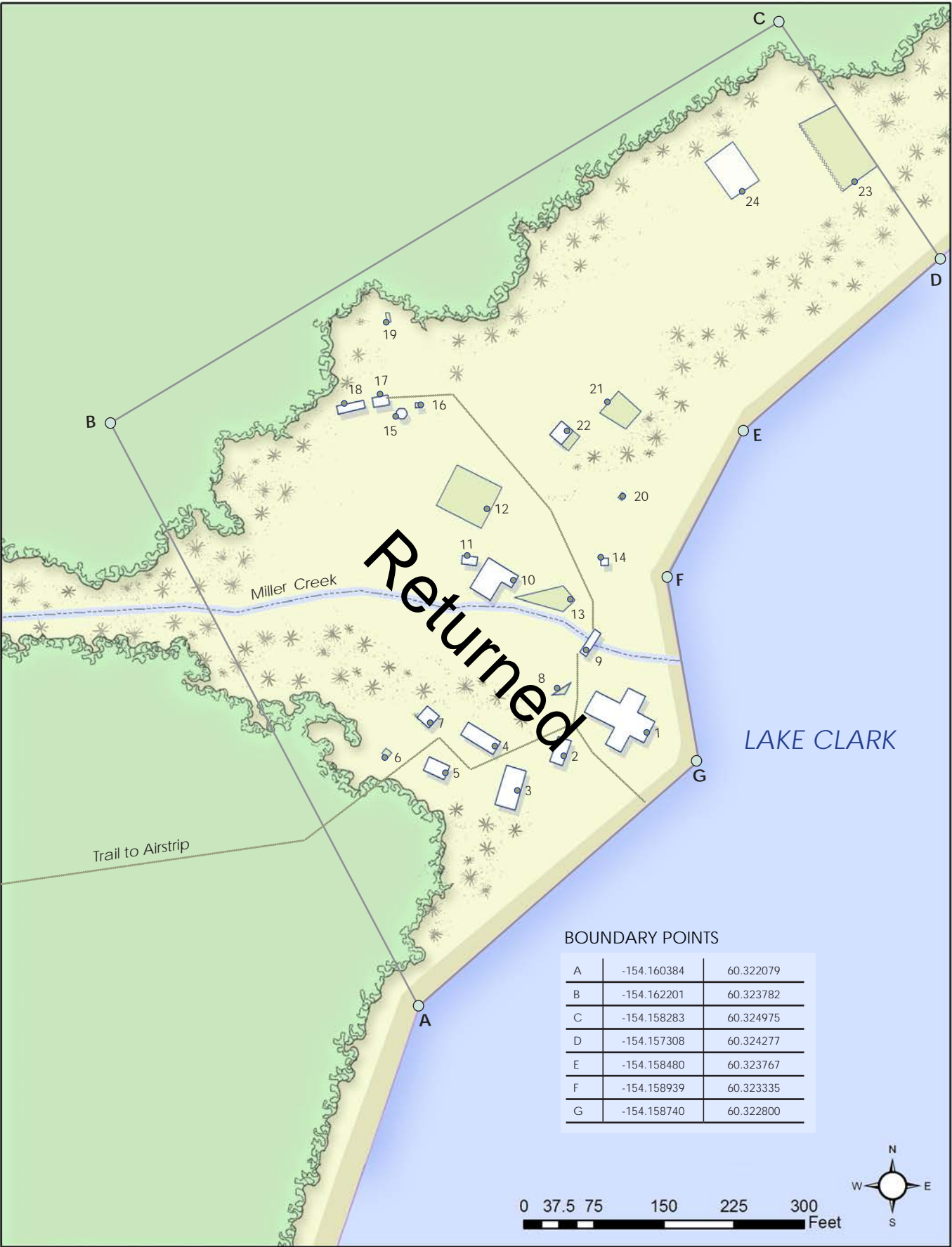
GPS Uncorrected NAD 83 Alaska Albers / D.Gewalt, 2016 / F. Link, 2017
 Source: NPS Land Status GIS Data, 2017

Cultural Easement Context Map:



GPS Uncorrected NAD 83 Alaska Albers / D.Gewalt, 2016 / F. Link, 2017
 Source: NPS Land Status GIS Data, 2017

Jay and Bella Hammond Homestead Site Map:



GPS Uncorrected NAD 83 Alaska Albers / Boundary Area: 10 Acres / D.Gewalt, 2016 / J. Rose & F. Link, 2017

Jay and Bella Hammond Homestead Aerial Site Map:



GPS Uncorrected NAD 83 Alaska Albers / J. Rose, 2017

Jay and Bella Hammond Homestead Feature List:

Feature #	Feature Name	Longitude	Latitude	Contributing	Feature Type
1	Hammond Cabin	-154.159198	60.322924	Contributing	Building
2	Steam Bath	-154.159558	60.322825	Contributing	Structure
3	Warehouse and Shop	-154.159945	60.322718	Contributing	Structure
4	Generator Shed-Woodshed	-154.160029	60.322862	Contributing	Structure
5	Garage	-154.160288	60.322774	Contributing	Structure
6	Root Cellar	-154.159197	60.323571	Contributing	Structure
7	Woodshed	-154.160338	60.322924	Contributing	Structure
8	Masonry Flower Bed	-154.159545	60.323003	Contributing	Structure
9	Bridge	-154.159382	60.323143	Contributing	Structure
10	Caretaker's Cabin	-154.159959	60.323328	Contributing	Building
11	Woodshed	-154.160096	60.323381	Contributing	Structure
12	Vegetable Garden	-154.159942	60.323569	Contributing	Site
13	Tract 3 (Gabriel Trafon- Anton Balluta Cabin Sites)	-154.159601	60.323327	Contributing	Site
14	Smokehouse	-154.159298	60.32338	Contributing	Structure
15	Water Tank	-154.160437	60.323815	Contributing	Structure
16	Solar Panel	-154.160414	60.323832	Noncontributing	Object
17	Greenhouse	-154.160558	60.323852	Contributing	Structure
18	Storage Shed	-154.160929	60.323801	Contributing	Structure
19	Jay Hammond Grave	-154.160594	60.324067	Contributing	Structure
20	Old Root Cellar	-154.160582	60.322818	Contributing	Structure
21	Tract 2 (Trefon-Balluta Cemetery)	-154.159194	60.323821	Contributing	Site
22	Barn with Fence	-154.159601	60.323779	Contributing	Structure
23	Tract 1 (Wassillie Trefon Cabin)	-154.157834	60.324537	Contributing	Site
24	Cabin	-154.158542	60.324519	Contributing	Building

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Nomination

Property Name: Hammond, Jay and Bella, Homestead

Multiple Name:

State & County: ALASKA, Lake and Peninsula

Date Received:
1/11/2018

Date of Pending List:
1/29/2018

Date of 16th Day:
2/13/2018

Date of 45th Day:
2/26/2018

Date of Weekly List:

Reference number: SG100002107

Nominator: State

Reason For Review:

☐ Appeal

☐ SHPO Request

☐ Waiver

☐ Resubmission

☐ Other

☐ PDIL

☐ Landscape

☐ National

☐ Mobile Resource

☐ TCP

☐ CLG

☒ Text/Data Issue

☐ Photo

☐ Map/Boundary

☐ Period

☒ Less than 50 years

☐ Accept

☒ Return

☐ Reject

2/26/2018 Date

Abstract/Summary

Return

Comments:

The current nomination is being returned for substantive revisions related to the documentation. Reconsideration will be completed upon correction of the items noted below and resubmission of the required materials to the National Park Service. The current nomination fails to sufficiently justify the National Register eligibility of the property under National Register Criteria A, B or C, and does not meet Criteria Consideration G.

See attached comments.

Recommendation/ Criteria RETURN

Reviewer Paul Lusignan

Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2229

Date 2/26/2018

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : YES see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.

JAY & BELLA HAMMOND HOMESTEAD

Lake and Peninsula Borough, ALASKA

National Register of Historic Places - Return Comments:

The current nomination is being returned for substantive revisions related to the documentation. Reconsideration will be completed upon correction of the items noted below and resubmission of the required materials to the National Park Service. The current nomination fails to sufficiently justify the National Register eligibility of the property under National Register Criteria A, B or C, and does not meet Criteria Consideration G.

Significance

The supporting documentation in the current narrative focuses almost solely on the background and career of Jay Hammond. Little to no discussion is presented regarding the context for the settlement and development of the Lake Clark area as a resort/vacation home destination. The justification for Criterion A (Exploration/Settlement) is limited to the single statement--*The Jay and Bella Hammond homestead, staked in 1952, is significant under Criterion A as one of the first homesteads in the Lake Clark area.* There is no discussion provided regarding the history of the Lake Clark area. Who settled there? Why? When? Why is it considered an important region? Without context, the fact that the Hammonds were early (seasonal) residents is rather meaningless. The nomination must provide sufficient contextual information to assess the significance of the community and the significance of the Hammond's contributions to that history. (Also note, merely staking the property and applying for a patent in the 1950s when actual "settlement" on the site did not occur until the later 1960s, must be taken into consideration.)

Likewise, the nomination provides no context to support the architectural significance of the property under National Register Criterion C (Architecture). Discussion of Criterion C is limited again to an opening statement in the introduction. The nomination lacks any contextual information regarding log or vacation architecture in Alaska or the Lake Clark area. Yes, the buildings were built by craftsmen knowledgeable about log and stone, but why is that of National Register significance? Are there specific aspects of the buildings' designs that merit recognition? What was the history of such efforts locally? Who were these craftsmen? Visually, the buildings appear quite notable, but that is insufficient for National Register eligibility by itself. In particular, while certain buildings were started in the "historic" period greater than 50 years ago, much of the local design and construction work was either begun or completed in the less than 50 year period requiring justification as exceptional under Criteria Consideration G. In cases where the majority of the extant resources are 50 years or older, exceptional significance may not be required for single isolated contributing resources, but when a large percentage of the extant buildings date to or were completed in the more recent past, Criterion Consideration G must be explicitly justified and documented in the nomination.

(Lake Clark and the area surrounding the Lake Clark National Park and Preserve may be well known to Native Alaskans and NPS staff, but nominations cannot assume reader's share that same knowledge, thus the need to directly address context in all nominations.)

Criterion B

The current nomination is based largely on the property's association with Jay and Bela Hammond (Criterion B, Politics/Government). While Jay Hammond's contributions to Alaska history are well documented, in order to establish exceptional significance under NR Criterion B and Criteria Consideration G, the nomination must identify and assess other resources associated with the significant individual(s), particularly those that may be more or less directly associated with their productive careers. The nomination cites Politics/Government as the specific area of significance under Criterion B, which then calls into question whether this part-time vacation home is the best extant resource to convey that particular aspect of Hammond's career and contributions. Have other properties associated with the Hammonds been identified? Bristol Bay Borough? Naknek? Juneau? Governor's Mansion? That is not to say that more than one property cannot be significant for association with a particular person, but the specific

contributions of that place to that person's career must be assessed? What about the Lake Clark property makes it particularly important to understanding the man and his contributions? Was it more than just a part-time, vacation/retirement home? In what way? Once again the nomination runs into the issue of justifying the property's "exceptional" significance under Criteria Consideration G since it appears that the majority of the Hammond's direct association with the site occurred in the more recent past (permanent retirement home c. 1980+; first vacationed in home circa 1967). In assessing the Lake Clark property it may be worth looking to additional areas of significance as well. There may be additional areas that serve to more directly tie Jay Hammond's contributions to the property—including *Conservation*, as the nomination hints at Hammond's post-political pursuits. Again, as much of this work post-dated the 50 year mark very specific statements regarding justification under Criteria Consideration G and exceptional significance will be necessary.

In accessing Criteria Consideration G and exceptional significance, the introduction of objective scholarly opinions are often quite useful and necessary. Have biographers provided assessments of Hammond's later career, or the value attributed to Lake Clark in that career?

At this time, there is simply insufficient discussion of Bella Hammond's career or contributions to merit inclusion under Criterion B and Criteria Consideration G; certainly not enough to merit taking the period of significance up to the present. In almost all cases Criterion B is not applied to living persons, and never in associations up to the present day. Critical objectivity is almost impossible in such circumstances. Once again, objective scholarly opinions of Bela Hammond's contributions, if available, might assist in better assessing the National Register potential.

Period of Significance

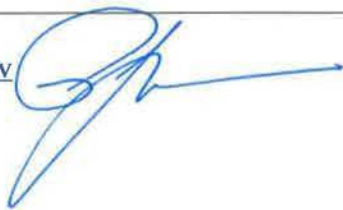
The Period of Significance for historic resources is seldom if ever taken up to the present, and certainly not based solely the fact that a long term resident is still living there. In rethinking the nomination it may be more appropriate to consider ending the period of significance at the end of major construction at the site, or the termination of Jay Hammond's active career. Changes to the period of significance may dictate corrections to the nomination's resource count and the categorization of contributing and non-contributing resources.

Cultural Affiliation

The Cultural Affiliation block is left blank except for nominations under Criterion D.

If you have questions regarding these comments, please contact me directly at the number or e-mail listed below.

Paul R. Lusignan, Historian
(202) 354-2229 Paul_lusignan@nps.gov



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THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

Department of Natural Resources

DIVISION OF PARKS & OUTDOOR RECREATION
Office of History & Archaeology

550 West 7th Ave., Suite 1310
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3565
907.269.8721
<http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/oha>

June 11, 2018

Re: 3330-2 Jay and Bella Hammond Homestead

Paul Lusignan, Alaska Reviewer
National Register of Historic Places
Mail Stop 7228
1849 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20240



Dear Paul:

The two disks enclosed contain a true and correct copy of the revised National Register of Historic Places nomination for the Jay and Bella Hammond Homestead at Lake Clark in the Lake and Peninsula Borough, Alaska. Your comments dated February 26, 2018, were considered, and John Branson, one of the authors of the nomination, worked with Joan (Jo) Antonson, program manager on my staff, to revise the nomination.

The Jay and Bella Hammond Homestead is nominated for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under criteria A, B, and C. It is eligible under criteria A for its association with the early settlement around the lake and is one of only two patented homesteads established when the land was open for staking; under B for association with Jay Hammond, a prominent Alaska politician from the 1950s to 1990s, and Bella Hammond, first Native Alaskan to serve as the state's First Lady; and under C for the unique log and stone construction using local materials in construction of the buildings and structures. Criteria considerations C and G are addressed. The areas of significance are exploration/settlement, politics/government, and architecture. The period of significance for the property is 1952-2017, starting when construction at the homestead started, and ending in 2017 when Bella Hammond had to move from the homestead for medical reasons. The homestead is of state significance. It is the best property in Alaska to associate with the Hammonds.

If you have any questions regarding this nomination please contact Joan (Jo) Antonson, State Historian, at e-mail jo.antonson@alaska.gov or phone 907.269.8714.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Judith E. Bittner".

Judith E. Bittner
State Historic Preservation Officer

enclosures: 2 disks with registration form, maps, photographs, Alaska Historical Commission voting record, letter from owner; and print copy of signature page