

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUN 13 1978
DATE ENTERED	NOV 14 1978

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

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Teeland's Country Store (AHRS SITE NO. ANC-114)

AND/OR COMMON  
Herning's, Knik Trading Co.

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER Mile 42 George Parks Highway and Knik Road NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN Wasilla VICINITY OF Alaska, at large  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE Alaska CODE 02 COUNTY Matanuska-Susitna Div. CODE 170

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

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

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Julian E. Mead (907) 376-5333

STREET & NUMBER  
P.O. Box 240

CITY, TOWN Wasilla VICINITY OF Alaska 99687  
STATE

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. District Recorder (907) 745-3080

STREET & NUMBER  
Box 1008

CITY, TOWN Palmer STATE Alaska 99645

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE Alaska Heritage Resources Survey (AHRS)

DATE 1 August 1976  
\_FEDERAL  STATE \_COUNTY \_LOCAL (907) 274-4679

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Alaska Division of Parks, 619 Warehouse Ave., Suite 210

CITY, TOWN Anchorage STATE Alaska 99501

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

At the intersection of The Alaska Railroad and a government constructed wagon road that led to the Willow Creek Mining District from the supply station at Knik, the Alaska Engineering Commission laid out a townsite, Wasilla, in 1917. The town along the railroad would supply the mining region and farmers in the area--replacing Knik, and more important, would encourage new development.

One of the first to move to the new townsite was O. G. Herning who had opened a general supply store in Knik in 1905. When the railroad route bypassed Knik Herning perceived that activity would shift. At the public auction in Wasilla Herning purchased a lot in the new townsite along the government wagon road and in the center of the site. The small log structure he moved to the site from Knik in 1917 reportedly is the structure now attached to the back of the general store and leased at present for use as a bookstore.

The same year, 1919, construction of a corrugated sheet metal structure began. The rectangular building originally measured 23 by 75 feet, built on a cement foundation, and typical of most early Alaskan commercial buildings, was functional rather than ornate. The front, along the government wagon road had large windows and a narrow wood porch, with the door in the center. Inside glass cupboards and shelves lined the walls and filled the center of the room. Towards the rear a stairway led to the second floor. Behind this main room Herning later added a small area for an office. On the northwest end of the building a storage room, uninsulated, was tacked on, accessible from the main room by double doors. The second floor or attic, about six feet high, served as another storage area.

Walter Teeland purchased the business in 1947 and owned and operated it until 1973 when he sold the operations to Julian E. Mead, the present owner. During the 1940's some refurbishing was done. A new stairway to the second floor was built along the rear wall of the main room, the old staircase removed and a beam installed down the center of the room that extended from the front of the building to the rear because the structure was sagging. A new addition was added to the back, used as an office, and Herning's old office was converted into shelf space. A new entrance, on the north side, was also installed. Customers entered a small uninsulated, rough wood entry room, and turned right to enter the store.

Mead has made additional changes. The uninsulated shed has been rebuilt and insulated for the liquor business that Mead added. The double doors from the main room were removed and shelves added. The original wood was turned to the unpainted side and reused. "Knik Trading Company" markings were still visible on some of the boards. Upstairs, the area has been partitioned. To the left of the stairway, above Herning's office, is Mead's office. To the right the first room is a carpeted panelled room with a pool table. The area over the front of the building has not been remodelled and continues to be used for storage.

Wood floors, shelves, glass cabinets and wood tables are still in the store. The Mead's are consciously attempting to maintain the historic atmosphere of the structure and to continue to operate the business as "just a country store."

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
__PREHISTORIC	__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	__COMMUNITY PLANNING	__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	__RELIGION
__1400-1499	__ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	__CONSERVATION	__LAW	__SCIENCE
__1500-1599	__AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	__LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE
__1600-1699	__ARCHITECTURE	__EDUCATION	__MILITARY	__SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
__1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER
__1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1917

BUILDER/ARCHITECT O.G. Herning, Knik Trading Co.

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Teeland's Country Store, originally opened as the Knik Trading Company in the town that was then the boom town, Knik, has operated in the railroad-created town of Wasilla since the town lots were sold in 1917. The original small log building that was moved to Wasilla from Knik in 1917 reportedly still stands, presently leased and used as a bookstore. The building that owner O. G. Herning constructed the same year, 1917, continues to be used as a general supply store. Over the years additions and refurbishing have been done to maintain the structure and the business. One of few remainders of small businesses that flourished in the small Alaska communities during the first half of the twentieth century, Teeland's General Store continues to serve area residents and travellers as in the past and at its original location. Purchased by Julian E. Mead in 1973, the owner operates the building and is committed to preserving the historic character of the structure and business.

## HISTORIC BACKGROUND

From about 1898 to 1917, before the Alaska Railroad created Wasilla, a town at the head of Cook Inlet, Knik, was the supply center for the Willow Creek Mining District, transshipment point for the Turnagain Arm Mining District, and terminus for trails to the Interior of Alaska. Knik's importance diminished when the Alaska Engineering Commission selected a route that bypassed the town. A short distance east of Knik the Commission established a construction camp, then a town named Wasilla. Rather than to Knik and overland by rough trails, supplies were shipped to Seward then inland by rail to Wasilla, for the Willow Creek district, and to Fairbanks.

O. G. Herning established a general supply store, the Knik Trading Company, in Knik in 1905. When the railroad auctioned lots in the new Wasilla townsite in 1917 he purchased one in the center of town that was along the wagon road that had been built from Knik to the Willow Creek mines. That same year he moved a small log building from Knik to Wasilla and opened for business. The country store, known as Herning's, flourished and operations continually expanded. The log building, reportedly leased and operated as a bookstore off the back of the general store, was replaced with the corrugated metal structure, still used, the first year.

Walter Teeland purchased the business in 1947 and renamed the store Teeland's, the name it is known by today. He sold the operation in 1973 to Julian E. Mead, the present owner. Mead has expanded the business into liquor sales, and to accomodate this new line remodelled a storage area. To the extent possible, however, Mead has attempted to maintain the store's historic atmosphere. No longer the only grocery store in Wasilla, today Teeland's is more properly termed a convenience store.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Alaska Engineering Commission: The Alaska Railroad Record, Anchorage, 1915-1923.  
 McKinney, Virginia. "From Valley Village to Supermarket Suburb." Alaska Industry,  
 Vol. VIII, No. 11, November, 1976.  
 Potter, Louise, A Study of a Frontier Town in Alaska, Wasilla to 1959.  
 Vermont: The Thetford Center, 1963.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	0,6	37,0	550	5,00	6,8	2,9	880	B							
	ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING					ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING			
C								D							

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Block 1, Lot 18 Wasilla Townsite

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Joan M. Antonson

ORGANIZATION

Alaska Historical Commission

DATE

15 March 1977

STREET & NUMBER

3211 Providence Drive

TELEPHONE

(907) 274-4679

CITY OR TOWN

Anchorage

STATE

Alaska 99503

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

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

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*William Monahan*

TITLE

SHPO

DATE

6/2/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

*Charles Adams*

DATE

11-14-78

ATTEST

*Margaret S. [Signature]*

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

11-13-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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Teeland's Country Store (AHRS SITE NO. ANC-114)

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1 of 1

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One of few remaining country stores from the many that flourished throughout Alaska prior to World War II, and operating in a typical early Alaskan commercial structure, Teeland's catches some of the atmosphere of old Alaska.

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SUPPLEMENTAL AND ADDENDA    TEELAND'S COUNTRY STORE    (ANC-114)

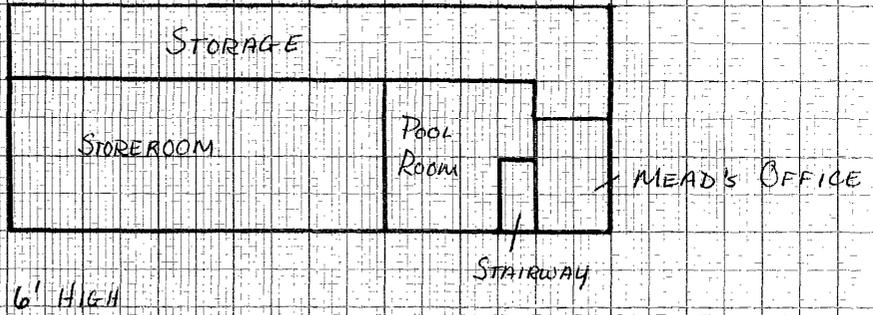
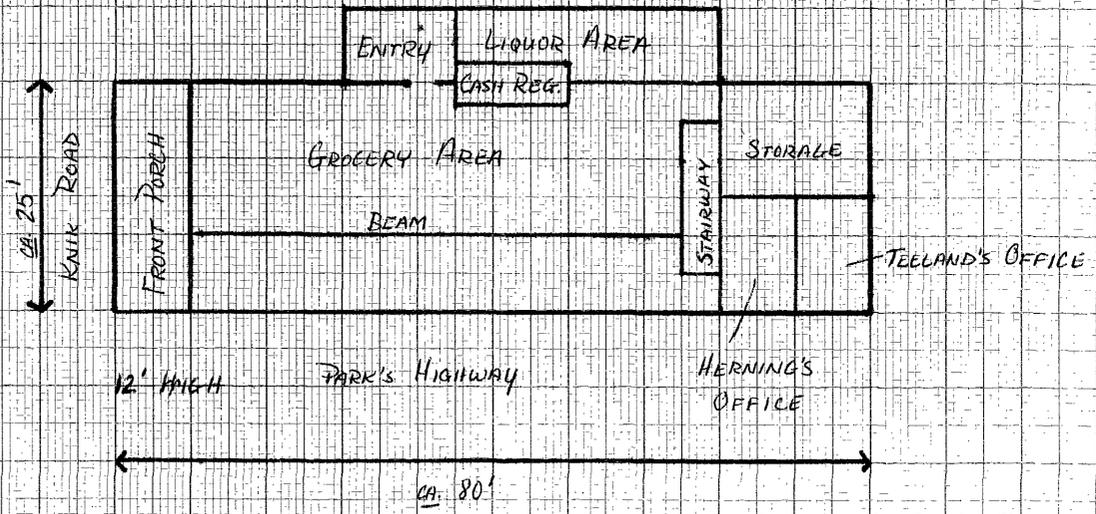
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

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4. Julian E. Mead is President of Alyeskan General Enterprises, Inc., present owner. Mailing address and telephone remain unchanged.
  
  7. Paragraph 2, final sentence should read: The small log structure he moved to the site from Knik in 1917 is the structure now attached to the back of the store.  
Paragraph 3, first sentence, change 1919 to 1917.  
Paragraph 4, first sentence, change 1973 to 1972.
  
  8. The date, 1973, in both first and 4th paragraph should be corrected to 1972.

TEELAND'S COUNTRY STORE  
AHRS SITE No. ANC-114  
FLOOR PLAN



J. ANTONSON  
MARCH 1977

46 1510

