

424

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM



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1. Name of Property

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historic name: Curry Lookout

other name/site number: Camp Regalvista

AHRS Site No. TAL-001

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2. Location

=====

street & number: Mile 137.2 Parks Highway

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Talkeetna

vicinity: X

state: AK

county: Matanuska-Susitna

code: 170

zip code: 99676

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3. Classification

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Ownership of Property: public-state

Category of Property: building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing

Noncontributing

1

buildings

sites

structures

1

0

objects

Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. See continuation sheet.

Judith Bittner
Signature of certifying official

19 March 1992
Date

Alaska
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain): _____

Antonieta Lee

4/27/92

for Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

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 6. Function or Use
 =====

Historic:	<u>recreation and culture</u>	Sub:	<u>outdoor recreation</u>
	<u>domestic</u>		<u>camp</u>
Current:	<u>landscape</u>	Sub:	<u>park</u>
	<u> </u>		<u> </u>
	<u> </u>		<u> </u>

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

Architectural Classification: no style
Other Description: N/A

Materials:	<u>foundation</u>	<u>N/A</u>	roof	<u>wood</u>
	<u>walls</u>	<u>wood</u>	other	<u>N/A</u>

Describe present and historic physical appearance. **See continuation sheet.**

Curry Lookout stands atop Curry Ridge at an elevation of 2,559 feet. It is 20 miles northeast of Talkeetna and 2.6 miles west of mile 248.5 of the Alaska Railroad where a depot and hotel named Curry formerly stood. The suspension bridge across the Susitna River to access the ridge from Curry no longer exists. Curry Lookout, now within Denali State Park, can be reached by hiking approximately three miles east from the park's Troublesome Creek trailhead at mile 137.2 of the Parks Highway.

The 140 square foot shelter is a wood framed hexagonal building that stands ten feet tall at its tent roof peak. It has no foundation. Each side is six and a half feet in width with an eave height of approximately eight feet. Five of the six sides are identical. Each has two four-light single sash fixed windows placed side-by-side. The windows define two bays in each elevation. There is a dividing jamb between the two windows that extends above and below the windows. Both the head and sill lines are carried around to all elevations forming belt courses. Each bay has vertical 1 x 3" tongue and groove siding below the windows, and the same siding diagonally placed to form a herringbone pattern above the windows. The sixth side has a single wood door. The door is constructed of vertical 1 x 3" tongue and groove wood and is braced by wood forming a "Z" pattern on the inside.

The tent roof is wood sheathed. At the top is a flagpole. Steel cables attached to the base of the flagpole are guided through block saddles towards the eave of every other roof panel and lead to deadmen that secure the building.

On the inside, the framing and siding are exposed. The only embellishment to the interior is a wood bench along the walls.

The shelter has not been altered since its construction. It has suffered from lack of maintenance, resulting in a number of window panes broken, deterioration of roofing, and weathering of the wood. Over the years visitors have carved initials, names, and dates into the wood. Curry Lookout maintains its historic integrity and its association and feeling for its location, materials, and craftsmanship.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: locally

Applicable National Register Criteria: A

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

Areas of Significance: entertainment/recreation

Period(s) of Significance: 1923-1942

Significant Dates: 1923

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: The Alaska Railroad

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

X See continuation sheet.

Curry Lookout is a survivor from the time when railroads and steamboats were the means by which tourists reached Alaska. The Alaska Railroad built the hexagonal shelter known as Curry Lookout atop Curry Ridge, at an elevation of 2,559 feet, in 1923. The lookout was constructed to be a shelter cabin for Curry Hotel patrons who rode horses or hiked to the ridge to see an impressive view of Mount McKinley to the northwest and spectacular panorama views of the Talkeetna Mountains and the Alaska Range.

The Alaska Railroad built the Curry Hotel, at mile 248.5, in March 1923, the year the railroad was completed. Curry was one of the regular overnight stops on the railroad between Seward and Fairbanks. By 1925, tourists stopped in increasing numbers for a day or more. Guests at the hotel could either hike or ride horses from the lodge, cross a pedestrian suspension bridge over the Susitna River, and then follow the five-mile Meadow Lake trail to Curry Ridge. From the ridge, one could see Mt. McKinley to the northwest, other mountains of the Alaska Range to the north, and the Talkeetna Mountains to the east. Curry Lookout was built on top of the ridge as a warm-up shelter for visitors. Visitors to the hotel could also take gas cars to nearby fishing streams, play tennis or three holes of golf, and enjoy a small swimming pool. The hotel expanded in 1926 and again in 1935. It served as a rest and recreation camp for military personnel stationed in Alaska during World War II. Although the railroad no longer stopped for the night at Curry after the war, special trains from Anchorage and Fairbanks brought people to Curry for winter and summer recreation.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property: less than one acre

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A	<u>05</u>	<u>648985</u>	<u>6946740</u>	B	_____	_____	_____
C	_____	_____	_____	D	_____	_____	_____

____ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: ____ See continuation sheet.

The SW 1/4 of the NE 1/4 of the NW 1/4 of Section 7, Township 29N, Range 4W, Seward Meridian

Boundary Justification: ____ See continuation sheet.

The boundary includes the lookout cabin, the only building in the area, that stands at elevation 2,559 feet in the southwest corner of Curry Ridge.

11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: David Porter and Dave Johnston, Park Rangers

Organization: Alaska Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation

Street & Number: P.O. Box 107001 Telephone: (907) 762-2600

City or Town: Anchorage State: AK ZIP: 99510-7001

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

OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8

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On April 9, 1957, fire destroyed the hotel. It was not rebuilt and recreational visits to Curry stopped. The pedestrian suspension bridge no longer stands, making access to the lookout from the railroad impossible. During the 1970s, the Parks Highway, following the west side of Curry Ridge, opened. Denali State Park, encompassing Curry Ridge, was created in 1970. Several trails reach the ridge from park campgrounds. Road access has brought hikers once again to Curry Ridge. The hikers continue to use Curry Lookout, although deteriorated, for shelter from the wind, rain, and snow.

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

OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 9

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Antonson, Joan M. Office of History and Archaeology, Alaska Division of
Parks and Outdoor Recreation. Personal communication, June 1990.

Colby, Merle E. A Guide to Alaska. (New York: Macmillan, 1939).

Prince, Bernadine LeMay. The Alaska Railroad. 2 vols. (Anchorage: Ken
Wray's Print Shop, 1964).

NPS Form 10-900-2
(8-86)

OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

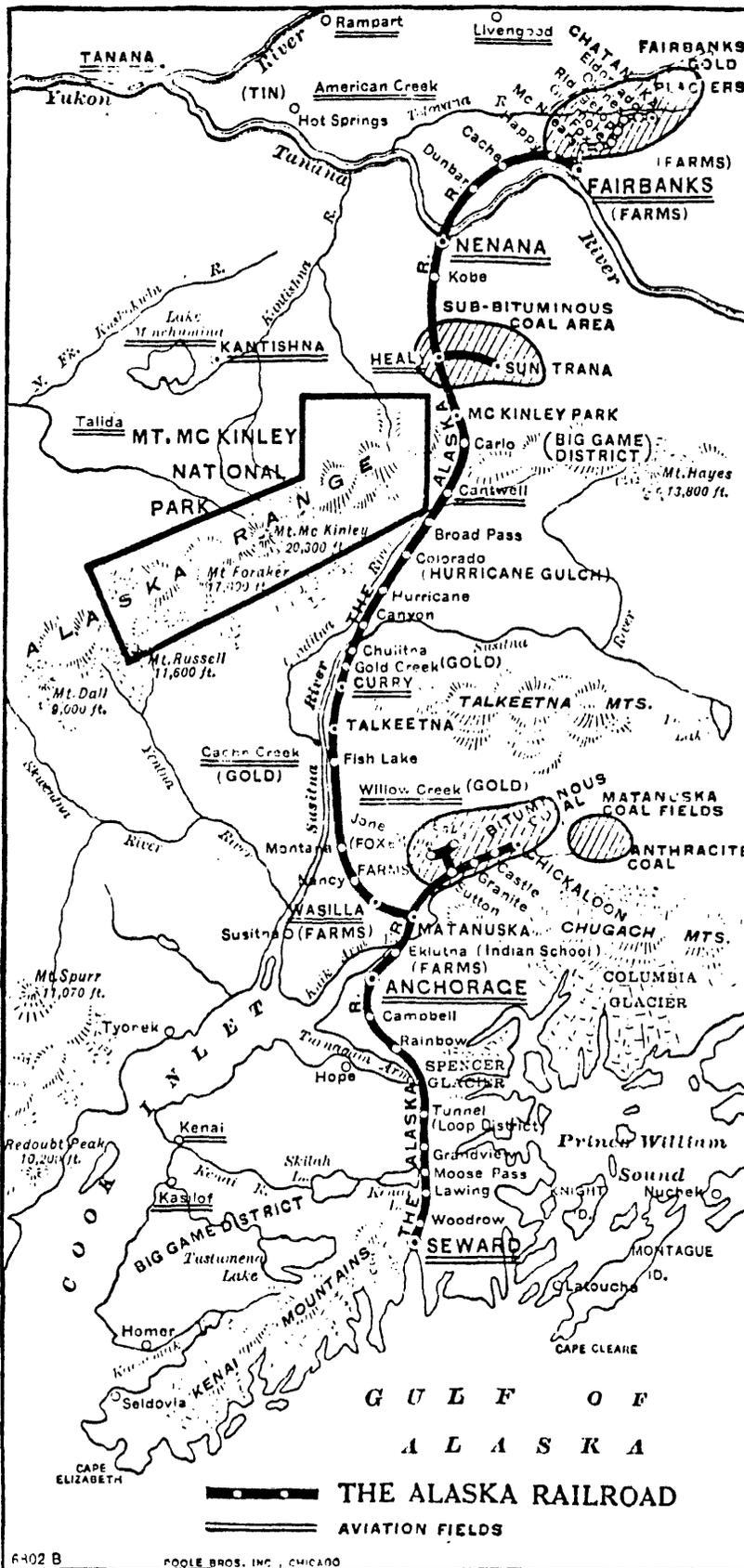
Section number Photograph identification

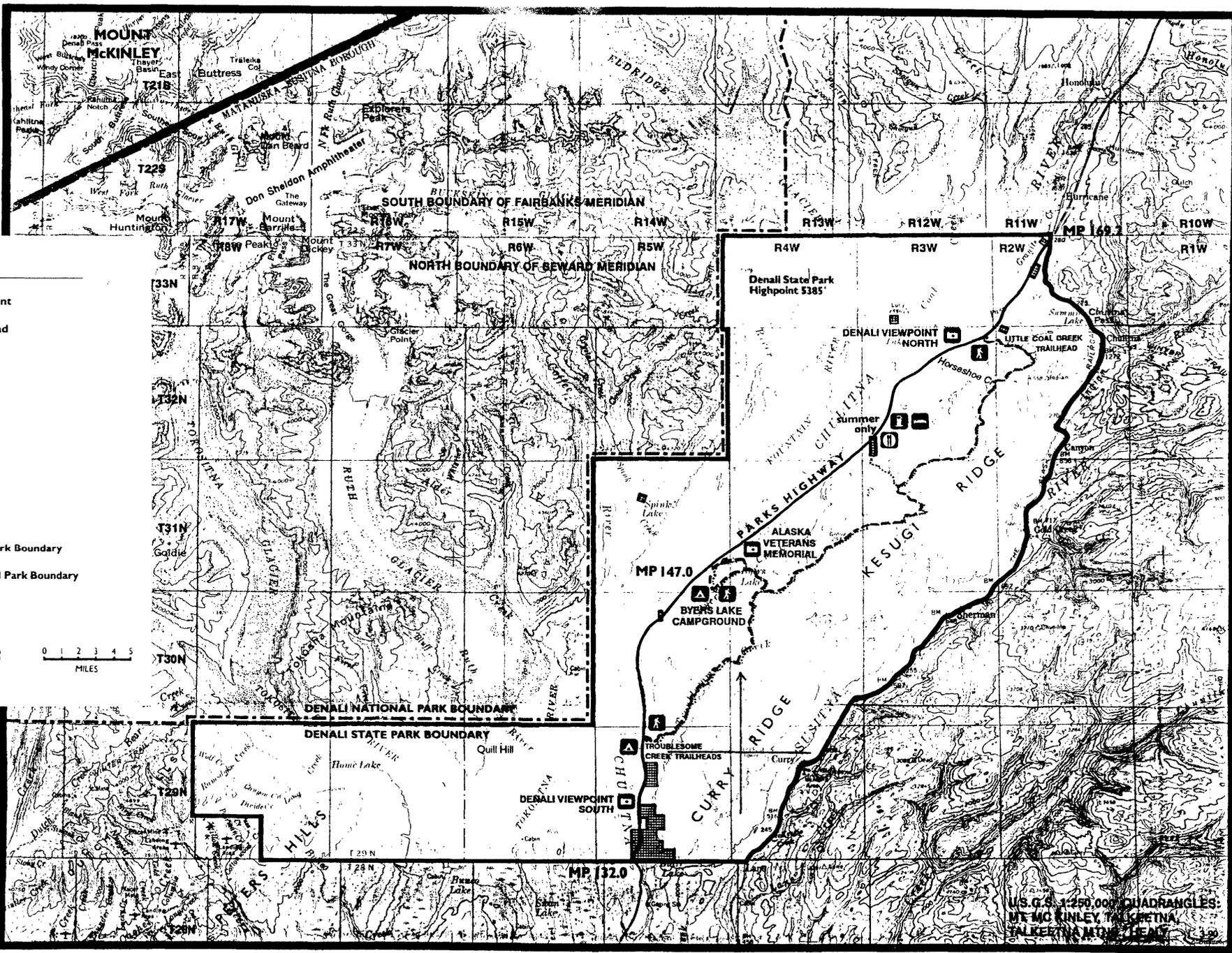
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1. Curry Lookout (AHRS Site No. TAL-001)
Denali State Park, Alaska
Alaska Railroad
1949
Anchorage Museum of History and Art, 121 West 7th Avenue, Anchorage,
Alaska 99501
Looking northwest at Curry Lookout

2. Curry Lookout (AHRS Site No. TAL-001)
Denali State Park, Alaska
Dave Johnston
1990
Alaska Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation, P.O. Box 107001,
Anchorage, Alaska 99510-7001
Looking west at Curry Lookout

Curry Lookout (AHR Site No. TAL-001)
 vicinity of Talkeetna, Alaska
 map from Bernadine Prince, The Alaska
 Railroad (1960); Curry is roughly in
 the center of the map





- LEGEND**
- Scenic Viewpoint
 - Hiking Trailhead
 - Trail Route
 - Campground
 - Food Service
 - Gas Station
 - Lodging
 - Private Land
- MP 132.0 Milepost
- Denali State Park Boundary
 - Denali National Park Boundary



U.S.G.S. 1:250,000 QUADRANGLES:
MT. MC KINLEY, TALKEETNA,
TALKEETNA MOUNTAIN

Curry Lookout
AHRs Site No. TAL-001
Matanuska-Susitna, Alaska