

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: Rose Building

other name/site number: AHRS Site No. FAI-280

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2. Location

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street & number: 520 Church Street

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Fairbanks

vicinity: N/A

state: AK county: Fairbanks North Star code: 090 zip code: 99701

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3. Classification

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Ownership of Property: private

Category of Property: building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	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 M. E. Bettner   
Signature of certifying official

27 March 92   
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.

Anthony J. Lee

5/11/92

determined eligible for the National Register

See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

for  Signature of Keeper

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

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 6. Function or Use  
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Historic:	<u>commerce/trade</u>	Sub:	<u>restaurant</u>
			<u>specialty store</u>
Current:	<u>vacant/not in use</u>	Sub:	<u>N/A</u>

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 7. Description  
 =====

 Architectural Classification: no style

 Other Description: N/A

Materials:	foundation	<u>concrete</u>
	roof	<u>metal</u>
	walls	<u>log, wood frame</u>
	other	<u></u>

 Describe present and historic physical appearance.  See continuation sheet.

The Rose Building is believed to have been built around 1912 in the community of Chena, located at the confluence of the Chena and Tanana Rivers, approximately eight river miles southwest of the city of Fairbanks. Between 1925 and 1927, the building was moved to its present location at 520 Church Street in Fairbanks. It is a good example of a log commercial building in Fairbanks.

In the 1920s, the Rose Building was a three story log building that measured 50 feet long (east/west) by 36 feet wide. The third story is tucked under a steep gabled roof. To increase that floor's interior space, small shed dormers were centrally placed in the south and north elevations. The building was constructed of full logs with vertical corner boards. The gabled ends are 2 x 6 frame construction with shiplap siding. The roof has 2 x 8 rafters placed on 24 inch centers that are exposed externally. The rafters are covered with wood sheathing and corrugated metal roofing.

The south elevation, parallel to the Chena River a block away, is the main facade. On the ground floor there are two doors placed at the right end, a single door in the center, and a single door at the left end. Between the doors are storefront windows. These windows consist of four lights with the bottom two approximately twice as high as the top two. The second floor has four sets of two 1/1 double-hung sash windows that are side by side. These are placed asymmetrically and do not relate to openings in the wall below. The third floor has a centrally placed shed dormer that has three 1/1 double hung sash windows placed side by side. At present, two of the windows are missing.

The original west elevation (gabled end) has a large storefront window to the right of center on the ground floor, two sets of two 1/1 double-hung sash windows placed side by side at one-third points on the second floor, and two 1/1 double hung sash windows spanning the gable wall's centerline on the third floor. Small metal vents are centrally located above each of the gable wall windows. The original east elevation appears to have been similar to the west.

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

Applicable National Register Criteria: A, C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

Areas of Significance: commerce  
architecture

Period(s) of Significance: 1925-1942

Significant Dates: 1925

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: N/A

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.  
X See continuation sheet.

The Rose Building, moved from the dying neighboring community of Chena to Fairbanks in 1925, is associated with the development of the interior Alaska city during the 1920s. For more than fifty years, the Rose Building has stood on its present location in downtown Fairbanks and has been used for commercial purposes. It is a representative regional example of large-scale log construction during the early twentieth century. It is also the last log commercial building in Fairbanks that is still used for its original purpose.

The Alaska Railroad connecting Fairbanks with a year-round port was completed in 1923. Although the selection of Fairbanks as the northern terminal was never in doubt, it was the death knell for the community of Chena eight river miles away. Many businessmen moved buildings from Chena to Fairbanks. In 1925, the three-story Rose Building was moved from Chena to a lot adjacent to the new railroad depot and used as a restaurant.

Fairbanks economically declined during the 1910s, but the railroad, the new Alaska Agricultural College and School of Mines (today's University of Alaska Fairbanks) that opened in 1922, and the arrival of the Fairbanks Exploration Company (F.E. Co.) to undertake large-scale gold mining in 1924, revived the town's economy. Shortly, Fairbanks would become the center for aviation in northern Alaska as well.

By 1925, the F.E. Co., a subsidiary of the United States Smelting Refining and Mining Company, had become the largest contributor to the economy of interior Alaska, a position it held until the outbreak of World War II. The company started construction of its central offices, machine shop, and

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 9. Major Bibliographical References  
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See continuation sheet.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.  
 previously listed in the National Register  
 previously determined eligible by the National Register.  
 designated a National Historic Landmark  
 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_  
 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary location of additional data:

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

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 10. Geographical Data  
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Acreage of Property: less than one acre

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing      Zone Easting Northing

A	<u>06</u>	<u>465885</u>	<u>7191345</u>	B	_____	_____	_____
C	_____	_____	_____	D	_____	_____	_____

\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: \_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

The Rose Building is located on Lot 1, Block 3 of the Fairbanks North Addition. This lot is bounded to the east and south by Illinois Street, to the west by the Daily News-Miner parking lot and to the north by an open lot.

Boundary Justification: \_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

The boundary includes the lot that has been the building's historic Fairbanks location and measures 75 by 50 feet.

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 11. Form Prepared By  
 =====

Name/Title: John Reeves, President

Organization: Historic Alaska Properties, Inc.      Date: August 6, 1991

Street & Number: P.O. Box 81941      Telephone: 907-457-6058

City or Town: Fairbanks      State: AK      ZIP: 99708

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

OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7

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The building's original north elevation had a door in the center and a door on the left side of the first floor. Original window configuration on the first floor is unknown. The type and placement of the second floor windows mirror those of the south elevation. The small shed dormer in the center of the third floor has one 1/1 double hung sash window. A six-inch diameter metal chimney penetrates the gable roof just to the right of the dormer. Two porches were added to the north elevation when the building was placed on its lot in Fairbanks. A small open porch was built off the central door. A larger porch enclosed the door on the left side.

Between 1949 and 1959 three alterations were made to the building. A wood frame two-story addition measuring 12 feet by 36 feet was attached to the east elevation, covering all but the gable wall. This addition has a flat roof and wood siding. The addition's north elevation has a 1/1 double hung sash window centrally placed on the second floor. On the east elevation, three windows are evenly spaced along the second floor. The addition's south elevation has a door on the left side and a large single pane window on the right side of the first floor. This large window is square except for the northeast corner which is rounded.

The second alteration is a lean-to addition along the north elevation that incorporated the two porches added in 1925. The wood frame lean-to has shiplap siding and a corrugated metal roof.

The third addition is a wrap-around wood canopy on the south and west elevations. This canopy is supported by chains attached to the building at the top of the walls.

The additions do not interfere with the original architecture of the building. The exterior of the building is being renovated to its 1940s appearance. The interior has been gutted and will be rehabilitated for commercial uses.

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(8-86)

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Section number 8

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warehouse complex in 1926 at a site only a few blocks away from the Rose Building. Businesses in the Rose Building flourished.

Over the years the Rose Building housed a variety of successful commercial ventures, among them a restaurant, barber shop, and hardware store. The City of Fairbanks surveyed the Garden Island vicinity where the Rose Building stands in 1934. Louis Rose, for whom the building is named, acquired the property in October 1938. Today, the Rose Building is the only remaining log commercial building in Fairbanks.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number   9  

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Cole, Terrence. Ghosts of the Gold Rush: A Walking Tour of Fairbanks.  
Revised edition. Fairbanks, Alaska: Tanana-Yukon Historical Society,  
1987.

Matheson, Janet. Fairbanks: A City Historic Building Survey. Fairbanks,  
Alaska: City of Fairbanks, 1985.

Naske, Claus-M. and Ludwig J. Rowinski. Fairbanks: A Pictorial History.  
Norfolk, Virginia: The Donning Company, 1981.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number Photograph identification

- =====
1. Rose Building (AHR Site No. FAI-280)  
Fairbanks, Alaska  
Russ Sackett  
January 1992  
Office of History and Archaeology, P.O. Box 107001, Anchorage, Alaska  
99510  
Looking north at the main elevation
  2. Rose Building (AHR Site No. FAI-280)  
Fairbanks, Alaska  
Russ Sackett  
January 1992  
Office of History and Archaeology, P.O. Box 107001, Anchorage, Alaska  
99510  
Looking east at the west side of the building
  3. Rose Building (AHR Site No. FAI-280)  
Fairbanks, Alaska  
Russ Sackett  
January 1992  
Office of History and Archaeology, P.O. Box 107001, Anchorage, Alaska  
99510  
Looking south at the rear of the building
  4. Rose Building (AHR Site No. FAI-280)  
Fairbanks, Alaska  
Russ Sackett  
January 1992  
Office of History and Archaeology, P.O. Box 107001, Anchorage, Alaska  
99510  
Looking west at the east side of the building

United States Department of the Interior  
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National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

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SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 92000444 Date Listed: 5/11/92

Rose Building  
Property Name

Fairbanks North Star      AK  
County                              State

N/A  
Multiple Name

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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.

*for* *Austinnette Alsea*  
Signature of the Keeper

5/12/92  
Date of Action

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Amended Items in Nomination:

Statement of Significance: Under criteria considerations (exceptions), B is checked.

The period of significance is amended to read: 1912-1942.

This information was confirmed with Jo Antonson of the Alaska State Historic Preservation Office.

DISTRIBUTION:  
National Register property file  
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)