

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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Item number Inventory

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PATROL CABINS, MOUNT MCKINLEY NATIONAL PARK

Name: Sanctuary River Cabin, No.: 31

Location: On Sanctuary River at Mile 22.7 and approximately 75' south of the park road. NE 1/4, NW 1/4, Sec. 10, T. 14S., R. 10W., Fairbanks Meridian.

UTM References: 06/377970/7068250

Quadrangle: Healy (C-5), AK

Acreage and Boundary Description: Less than 1 acre Scale: 1:63,360

Nominated area is a 50 yard circular radius measured from the center of the patrol cabin.

Description: Log walls hewn flat on three sides; single and double square corner notching; oakum and burlap chinking; exterior unpainted; medium pitch gable with wood shakes; exposed purlins and rafters; gable extends beyond main facade to form porch supported by peeled logs; peeled log tie beam and radiating supports under porch gable; rectangular; measures approximately 14' x 16' (interior); 1 story; 12"x12" pressure treated timber foundation; multi-light windows; attached wood window shutters. Alterations: shake roof in 1979; restoration in 1984 involving installation of new foundation timbers and in-kind replacement of bottom two rounds of logs, flooring, and shutter door.

Site: Outhouse 50' east of cabin; tool box and storage shed near north wall of cabin.

History and Significance:

Architect: Unknown

Construction Date: 1926

Builder: Alaska Road Commission
and National Park Service

Located 10 miles west of the Savage River Cabin, the Sanctuary River Cabin was constructed by the Alaska Road Commission in 1926. That year the Road Commission cleared, grubbed, and graded an additional 12 miles of park road to mile 22, the site of the Sanctuary Cabin. The cabin formed the nucleus of a temporary summer road construction camp. In winter, park rangers used the cabin for overnight stops on their extended dog sled patrols into the park. After the winter of 1925-26, this cabin probably replaced an earlier more primitive cabin used by rangers on patrols, that was located about five miles south of the Road Commission Sanctuary Cabin. Noted wildlife biologist Adolph Murie began his field work investigating the wolf-Dall sheep relationship in the park from this cabin in the summer of 1939.

The Sanctuary River Cabin is significant for its association with the history of transportation and wildlife conservation in the park. It has maintained substantial exterior integrity over the years.

Photo Nos. 31-1 to 31-7.