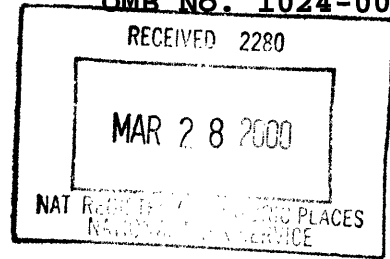


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

424



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 How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. 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. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

=====

1. Name of Property

=====

historic name Harry A. Johnson Trapline Cabin

other names/site number Harry's Lower Cabin

AHRS Site No. SEW-00948

=====

2. Location

=====

street & number n/a

not for publication n/a

city or town Hope vicinity X

state Alaska code AK county Kenai Peninsula code 122

zip code 99605

3. 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature]
Signature of certifying official

March 13, 2000
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature]
Signature of commenting or other official

Jan. 14, 2000
Date

Alaska State Historic Preservation Officer

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. 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):

[Signature] 5/5/00

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form

Harry A. Johnson Trapline Cabin

Kenai Peninsula, Alaska

=====
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

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u> 1 </u>	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<u> </u>	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<u> </u>	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
<u> </u>	<input type="checkbox"/> 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 (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) n/a

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form

Harry A. Johnson Trapline Cabin

Kenai Peninsula, Alaska

=====
6. Function or Use
=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Domestic Sub: camp

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Vacant/not in use Sub: _____

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

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

n/a

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation log
roof composition roofing
walls log
other _____

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

The Harry A. Johnson trapline cabin is in the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge. It is about fifteen miles southwest of the small community of Hope at the north end of the Kenai Peninsula. Deep in the mountains, the cabin stands thirty feet south of the bank of an unnamed creek in a small clearing surrounded by mixed spruce and birch trees.

Johnson's trapline cabin is a one and one-half story log building, about 14 by 11 feet, with a steep gabled roof. The logs are hand-hewn and squared with full dovetail notching. The logs are typically 7½ inches at the butts and 6½ inches at the tips. The gable walls are framed and sheathed with rough cut lumber. Each of the east and west elevations (side walls) has ten courses of logs; each of the north and south elevations (gable ends) has nine courses of logs. The sill logs rest on grade. The log walls are caulked with moss and oakum then covered with rough cut pieces of wood.

The gabled roof is eleven and a half feet high. The roof structure consists of rafters on 24 inch centers supported by the wall plate logs and ridgeboard. The rafters extend a foot beyond the walls. Originally, rough cut 2 by 6s were placed on approximately sixteen inch centers perpendicular to the rafters and covered by wood shingles. Presently, the decking is rough cut lumber covered with green rolled roofing.

The front elevation has board and batten doors centrally placed in the ground floor and gable wall. A shed roofed porch extends three feet beyond

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form

Harry A. Johnson Trapline Cabin

Kenai Peninsula, Alaska

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)

- X 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.) n/a

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
B removed from its original location.
C a birthplace or a grave.
D a cemetery.
E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
F a commemorative property.
G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Social history

Period of Significance 1926-1948

Significant Dates 1926

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) n/a

Cultural Affiliation n/a

Architect/Builder Johnson, Harry A.

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form

Harry A. Johnson Trapline Cabin

Kenai Peninsula, Alaska

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9. Major Bibliographical References
=====

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Alaska Road Commission. Annual reports, 1909-1921. Copies in files of Alaska Office of History and Archaeology, Anchorage.

Allen, Lois H. Alaska's Kenai Peninsula. n.d.

Barry, Mary. A History of Mining on the Kenai Peninsula. Revised edition. Anchorage: MJP Barry, 1997.

Buzzell, Rolfe G. and J. David McMahon. Cultural Resources Survey of the Seward Highway Milepost 50-65.5, Kenai Peninsula, Alaska. Report Number 2. Anchorage: Alaska Office of History and Archaeology, 1986.

Cook, Linda and Frank Norris. A Stern and Rockbound Coast, Kenai Fjords National Park Historic Study. Anchorage: National Park Service, 1998.

Miller, Billy. Personal communication, May 22, 1999.

Olthuis, Diane. Goldpan, Trapline and Camera, The Harry A. Johnson Album. Hope, Alaska: Timbers, Tails and Yarns, 1997.

Petersen, Elsa, editor. A Larger History of the Kenai Peninsula. Sterling, Alaska: Walt and Elsa Petersen, 1983.

U.S. Census. 1910, 1920, 1930.

- 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
___ X Federal agency
___ Local government
___ University
___ Other

Name of repository: _____

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form

Harry A. Johnson Trapline Cabin

Kenai Peninsula, Alaska

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10. Geographical Data
=====

Acreage of Property less than one

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	<u>06</u>	<u>339573</u>	<u>6738981</u>	3	_____	_____
2	_____	_____	_____	4	_____	_____
	<u>See continuation sheet.</u>					

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

The SE ¼ of the SE ¼ of the SE ¼ of the NE ¼ of Section 27, Township 8N, Range 4W, Seward Meridian.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary includes the trapline cabin historically used by Harry A. Johnson.

=====
11. Form Prepared By
=====

name/title Rogan Faith, ACC Historian

organization Alaska Office of History and Archaeology

date January 10, 2000

street & number 3601 C St., Suite 1278

telephone 907-269-8721

city or town Anchorage **state** AK **zip code** 99503-5921

=====
Additional Documentation
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Submit the following items with the completed form:

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

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Harry A. Johnson Trapline Cabin

Kenai Peninsula, Alaska

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the wall. It is diagonally braced at its ends with 3 by 8s that run from the outer edge of the porch to the lower log courses of the elevation. Rough cut lumber partially sheaths the ends of the porch.

The rear and right elevations of the cabin are plain. The left elevation originally had a nine light single sash window centrally placed. The bottom sill is 23½ inches above the ground. Around the lower half of the window is a one foot wide bib of flattened aviation gas cans.

The interior is a single room with a loft at the north end. The loft is accessed through a square opening about three feet from the north wall. The plank floor is chinked with moss and oakum. The interior wall height is seven feet.

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Harry A. Johnson Trapline Cabin
Kenai Peninsula, Alaska

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Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

The Harry A. Johnson trapline cabin exemplifies isolated shelters built and used by people who chose to live on the edge of civilization. Johnson built the log cabin on the northern Kenai Peninsula about twenty miles southwest of Hope in 1926. He used the cabin at least until 1948 for trapping, fur farming, and his photography work. It was not his residence, but he stayed at it for short periods fairly regularly.

Historic background

Between 1896 and 1923, thousands of people came to Alaska's Kenai Peninsula to search for gold or to build a railroad. The few who stayed can be divided into those who built the towns and villages and those who avoided them. Harry A. Johnson came in 1904 to work on the Alaska Central Railway and stayed for sixty years. For most of his years, he lived in the mountains at the north end of the peninsula. His lifestyle included subsistence hunting, trapping, mining, seasonal work with the railroad or the Alaska Road Commission or longshoring on the docks in Seward, and wildlife photography. Typical of many, he needed a multiplicity of skills to maintain the lifestyle he wanted. The trapline cabin was not his residence. He stayed at it for short periods when he needed to work in the area. He used the trapline cabin from 1926 at least until 1948.

Johnson, a thirty year old blacksmith from Erie, Pennsylvania, arrived at Seward, Alaska, in 1904 to work for \$2.75 to \$5.00 daily building a railroad from the tidewater port to the interior. He hired on as a member of a meat hunting crew. The Alaska Central went broke in 1908, and its successor, the Alaska Northern, did the same in 1911. Johnson by then was working at a logging camp at Bird Creek on the north side of Turnagain Arm. He also supported himself trapping and selling furs to a shop in Seward. On occasion, he prospected for gold. In 1911, he found a two foot vein laden with particles of gold in Lechner Gulch leading into Ptarmigan Lake just north of Seward. Later, Johnson sold wildlife photographs to a souvenir shop in Seward.

By 1920, the U.S. Government was building a railroad and using the Alaska Central tracks. At that time, Johnson was one of ten residents of Moose Pass, twenty nine miles north of Seward. The roughly five hundred square miles northwest of Seward were home to about ninety people, and the mountains between Moose Pass and Hope had an estimated forty to fifty permanent residents. In 1921, Johnson moved to a cabin he built near Resurrection Creek, eighteen miles south of Hope.

In 1926, Johnson built a log trapline cabin on an unnamed creek one winter day's walk (about six miles) southwest of his home. The cabin allowed him to expand the area he used for trapping, maintain a fenceless fur farm, and photograph animals rarely seen in more heavily traveled areas. His photographs required an especially quiet area as he never used a telephoto lens and had to wait until the animals felt safe enough to approach his camera. In his photos of a porcupine, lynx, or ermine, one could count the

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Harry A. Johnson Trapline Cabin

Kenai Peninsula, Alaska

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hairs and clearly see the eyes. Ed Fortier, editor of several Alaskan publications from 1946 until the 1970s, called him "our best wildlife photographer of his era."

Even the most reclusive answered the call in World War II. In Seward in 1944, Johnson worked as a freight checker for the U.S. Army Transport Service. His sharp memory and perfect record keeping helped locate three hundred pounds of film featuring secret American bases in the Aleutians. Johnson recalled a box, not on the bill of lading, that he had written a description of along with the destination. From his information the box was found on an Army transport.

After the war, Johnson became less reclusive, sought out contacts, and allowed his trapline cabin to be used by others for wildlife photography and for hunting. In 1948, he acquired land and built a home in Moose Pass. No one knows when he last used the trapline cabin but he still returned to the mountains and trapped in the 1950s. He died, ninety years old, in Seward in June 1965.

People like Harry A. Johnson made an important contribution to Alaska. They explored remote areas and lived a self-sufficient life. They built what they needed to maintain themselves and their lifeways. Johnson's trapline cabin is a good example on the Kenai Peninsula of the early 1900s remote Alaskan lifestyle.

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Harry A. Johnson Trapline Cabin

Kenai Peninsula, Alaska

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Property Owner
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(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

street & number 1011 East Tudor Road

telephone 907-786-3542

city or town Anchorage **state** AK **zip code** 99503

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Harry A. Johnson Trapline Cabin

Kenai Peninsula, Alaska

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

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Photograph identification
=====

1. Harry A. Johnson Trapline Cabin
Kenai Peninsula, Alaska
Gary Titus
March 1996
Kenai National Wildlife Refuge, P.O. Box 2139, Soldotna, Alaska 99669
looking south at façade of the cabin
2. Harry A. Johnson Trapline Cabin
Kenai Peninsula, Alaska
Gary Titus
March 1996
Kenai National Wildlife Refuge, P.O. Box 2139, Soldotna, Alaska 99669
looking southwest principally at the east elevation of the cabin
3. Harry A. Johnson Trapline Cabin
Kenai Peninsula, Alaska
Gary Titus
March 1996
Kenai National Wildlife Refuge, P.O. Box 2139, Soldotna, Alaska 99669
looking north at the rear of the cabin
4. Harry A. Johnson Trapline Cabin
Kenai Peninsula, Alaska
Gary Titus
March 1996
Kenai National Wildlife Refuge, P.O. Box 2139, Soldotna, Alaska 99669
looking east at the west elevation of the cabin
5. Harry A. Johnson Trapline Cabin
Kenai Peninsula, Alaska
photographer unknown
date of photo unknown
Hope and Sunrise Historical Society, P.O. Box 88, Hope, Alaska 99605
looking southwest at the east elevation and façade of the cabin