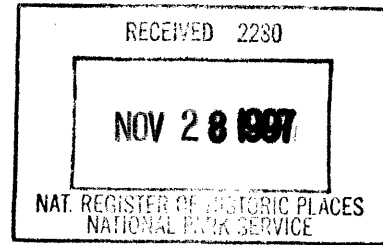


1585

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



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 Sourdough Inn

other names/site number New Sourdough Hotel
AHRS Site No. FYU-006

=====

2. Location

=====

street & number First and Sled streets

not for publication N/A

city or town Fort Yukon vicinity N/A

state Alaska code AK county Yukon-Koyukuk code 290

zip code 99740

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.)

Judith Betton
Signature of certifying official
Alaska

November 20, 1997
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of commenting or other official Date

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):

Edson H. Beall 12/30/97

Beall Signature of Keeper Date of Action

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form

Sourdough Inn
Yukon-Koyukuk, Alaska

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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>	<u> </u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	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

Sourdough Inn
Yukon-Koyukuk, Alaska

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6. Function or Use

=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: commerce/trade Sub: restaurant
domestic hotel

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: commerce/trade Sub: restaurant
domestic hotel

=====

7. Description

=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

no style

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation _____
roof metal
walls wood
other _____

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

Located approximately five miles north of the Arctic Circle, Fort Yukon sits on the north bank of the Yukon River just south of the Porcupine River's confluence. Fort Yukon is a small community of approximately 600 people. The town's layout is in a semi-grid pattern, governed by the meanders of the river. The Sourdough Inn is on the northwest corner of First Avenue and Sled Road, facing the Yukon River. The core of the Sourdough Inn was originally a building at the Gold Rush army post, Fort Egbert, at Eagle. In 1926, John Olson bought the building and floated it 250 miles down the Yukon River to its present location.

The Sourdough Inn is a balloon-framed, three story building measuring approximately 24 feet by 48 feet. In the 1970s a two story addition was added on the back. The building has a gable roof with wall dormers centrally placed on either side. The exterior walls have shiplap siding and the roof has corrugated galvanized metal roofing. The third floor of the building is tucked beneath the gable roof. The front elevation is a false front, added to the building after its move. An entryway is centrally placed in the first floor with large eight light windows on either side. The second floor has a door centrally placed that provided access to a porch roof that formerly extended the width of the building. Two four over four double hung sash windows are evenly spaced on either side of the door. The third floor has two four over four double hung sash windows centrally placed. A flag pole is mounted between these two windows and extends approximately 12 feet above the false front.

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)

- 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)

commerce

Period of Significance 1926-1947

Significant Dates 1926

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder unknown

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Sourdough Inn
Yukon-Koyukuk, Alaska

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Carroll, Richard, Jr., II. Personal communication.

Carroll, Richard, Sr. Personal communication.

Hardy, John and June. Personal communication.

Peter, Susie. Personal communication.

Scott, Elva. Personal communication.

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

Name of repository: _____

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Sourdough Inn
Yukon-Koyukuk, Alaska

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property less than one acre

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	06	576850	7383625	3	_____	_____
2	_____	_____	_____	4	_____	_____
See continuation sheet.						

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

The property occupies a lot that measures 100 by 120 feet at the northwest corner of Sled and First streets in Fort Yukon.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary includes the lot the building has occupied since its move to Fort Yukon in 1926.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Cora Stewart

organization Owner

date October 15, 1997

street & number P.O. Box 109

telephone _____

city or town Fort Yukon state AK zip code 99740

Property Owner

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

name Cora Stewart

street & number P.O. Box 109

telephone _____

city or town Fort Yukon state AK zip code 99740

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Sourdough Inn
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The right elevation has four double hung four over four sash windows evenly spaced along the second floor's length. A kitchen vent fan is on the first floor. A double four over four sash window is in the third floor dormer. The left elevation has five four over four sash windows on the second floor and a double four over four sash window in the third floor dormer. The first floor has a double single light fixed sash window in the rear and an arctic entry to the left of the window.

Only the gable wall of the original building is visible on the rear elevation. The rest is covered by the addition. The gable wall has a paired 4/4 double hung windows centrally placed. The addition extends approximately 15 feet beyond the building's length and is 24 feet wide. It is wood sided. The shed roof has corrugated metal roofing. The side walls each have modern sliding windows in the first and second floors. The back elevation has a sliding window in the second floor and a door in the first. Towards the left end of the elevation a 10" diameter chimney comes out of the wall and extends above the roof line.

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

In 1926, John Olson purchased an abandoned Army building at Fort Egbert near Eagle, moved it to Fort Yukon, and converted it into a hotel known as the Sourdough Inn. Fort Yukon was, and continues to be, the largest community in the Yukon Flats area of northern interior Alaska. It is a predominantly Native community and is located above the Arctic Circle. For years the Sourdough Inn was the only frame building and the only commercial lodging establishment in the community. In addition to visitors, local people have always gathered at the hotel. Except for a brief period in the 1940s when it was used as a school, the building has been a hotel since 1926. It has also served as a post office and a library. The period of significance ends in 1947, fifty years ago.

Historic background

The Hudson's Bay Company established a trading post at the junction of the Porcupine and Yukon rivers in 1847. They named the post Fort Yukon. Gwich'in Athapaskans brought furs from the vast lowlands of the Yukon Flats and the rolling hills of the Chandalar, Sheenjek, Porcupine, and Black river valleys to trade with the British. Although the Russians knew about the post and believed it was in their territory, they did not challenge its existence. After the Americans purchased Alaska in 1867, the U.S. Army sent Lt. Patrick Henry Ray to ask the British to leave, which they did peacefully, relocating at Rampart House up the Porcupine River at the 141st meridian in Canada. Alaska Commercial Company traders took over the British post. In 1898 a post office opened and has operated continuously since that time.

The U.S. Army established several posts along the Yukon River in the late 1890s-early 1900s to maintain order after the Klondike Gold Rush started. One post was near the Alaska-Canada border, named Fort Egbert. Fort Yukon's Sourdough Inn was built in 1900 as officer's quarters at the post. After the post closed, the government sought other official uses for the post buildings, then offered the others to the general public.

John Olson bought the officer's quarters in 1926 for \$10,000. He and his friend Andrew Johnson (or brother Axel Johnson) dismantled the building and floated it in five large pieces down the Yukon River. Three pieces were brought to Fort Yukon. The other parts, reportedly, were lost of river bars as they travelled downstream. Olson's property in Fort Yukon was about 200 yards from the river. There was a road in front of his property that led to the Northern Commercial Company store and the docks used by local people and trappers. Using the parts of the building, Olson constructed a hotel, restaurant and bar that opened in 1928. People said the move and labor cost \$8,000. For many years, the building was the only wood frame one in Fort Yukon.

Olson tried for a number of years to sell the building, a finally got \$5,000 for it. At a later date, Peter Lord bought the property and used the front bedrooms for his family. Other rooms were rented and he sold

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Sourdough Inn
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food and had card games downstairs. In 1970, John and June Hardy ran the inn. John Hardy worked for the school district. June Hardy, her two sons, and a good crew fed and housed Bureau of Land Management survey and fire crews throughout the summer.

Local people have used the inn for dances and potlatches. A former closet on the ground floor served for a time as a post office with an outside entrance. Later shelves were installed and it served as a library. In the 1940s the building was used as a school until the Territory of Alaska built a new school a block down the street.

Fort Yukon receives its freight by airplane or boat. Everyone in town still comes to the riverfront when the river breaks up in the spring, and later, to meet the first barge. The people pass the Sourdough Inn to get to the barge landing, and many stop for a hamburger or french fries as part of their trip. Congressman Don Young's house is two blocks from the inn. The Sourdough Inn continues to be an important place in Fort Yukon for residents. Since 1926 it has offered food and lodging for visitors, and for most of those years it was the only year-round hotel in the community.

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Yukon-Koyukuk, 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

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1. Sourdough Inn
Yukon-Koyukuk, Alaska
Cora Stewart
January 17, 1997
P.O. Box 109, Fort Yukon, Alaska 99740
looking northeast at the front and left elevations of the inn

2. Sourdough Inn
Yukon-Koyukuk, Alaska
Cora Stewart
January 17, 1997
P.O. Box 109, Fort Yukon, Alaska 99740
looking southwest at the right and rear elevations of the inn