

READ INSTRUCTIONS
EXP. 12/31/81

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

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

For NPS use only
received **MAR 23 1982**
date entered **MAY 7 1982**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Fairview Inn (AHR SITE NO. TAL-006)

and/or common The Fairview

2. Location

street & number Main Street

not for publication

city, town Talkeetna

vicinity of

~~Congressional district~~

state Alaska

code 02

county Matanuska-Susitna Div.

code 170

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Inn and Tavern

4. Owner of Property

name Dennis C. Freeman and Thomas Scanlon

street & number 840 E. 78th Ave.

city, town Anchorage

vicinity of

state Alaska 99502

5. Location of Legal Description.

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. District Recorder

street & number P.O. Box 860

(907) 745-3080

city, town Palmer

state Alaska 99645

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Alaska Heritage Resources Survey
title Mat-Su Cultural Resources Survey, 1981 has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1970 (907) 274-4676 federal state county local

depository for survey records Alaska Division of Parks, 619 Warehouse Drive, Suite 210

city, town Anchorage

state Alaska 99501

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Fairview Inn is a prominent landmark structure in the unincorporated Town of Talkeetna, located in the northern part of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough. Talkeetna is near the junction of the Talkeetna and Susitna Rivers, at Mile 226.7 on the Alaska Railroad. In 1920 the Talkeetna community finally became accessible by railroad; in addition to the earlier river boats and rugged winter (dog-team) trails. (Air travel was not feasible until the late 1930's). In the early 1970's the paved modern Parks Highway (Alaska 1) was completed, and an 18-mile paved road then connected Talkeetna with a major highway from Anchorage to Fairbanks. Talkeetna's half-century of isolation, however, has enabled the town to retain a pioneer rustic atmosphere -- more reminiscent of early 20th Century Interior Alaska than is afforded by few other places in the region.

Fairview Inn was built gradually between 1920 and 1923. It represents the rather stark, utilitarian frame (or log) construction, typical of most structures built along the Alaska Railroad (and other places in Alaska) between 1900 and the 1930's. The building continues to occupy original townsite Lots 20 and 21, Block 12, at the west end of Main Street. It is adjacent to the original railroad tracks and the R.R. station of Talkeetna, just across the town square to the East.

This two-story frame roadhouse-inn was originally square, measuring 36 by 36 feet. A 12 by 20 foot addition for the owner's apartment, was added to the north side of the building about 10 years ago to make it more rectangular. The exterior, over the years, has been painted and reroofed; and the entryways on the south and west sides have also been slightly altered. Comparison of Alaska Road Commission photographs from the 1920's with a contemporary view, however, indicates that window and door placements in the original structure have never changed. The north and south facades, each have four double-hung sash windows, with lintel plain-trim, evenly spaced on the second story. The east and west sides, each, have only three sash windows. Two pairs of double-hung sash windows (also with lintel plain trim) are set in both sides at the ground floor level. On the south and east facades the windows are evenly spaced with a door between them. (One original pair of windows was removed, from the north side, to accommodate the apartment addition).

The medium-hipped, pyramid roof, retains a flat area in the center -- where the single center chimney-stack protrudes. A sign: "Fairveiw Inn" in large block letters (with "bar" and "rooms" printed much smaller underneath) is on the west facade, centered between the two stories. Although not the original sign, it appears quite similar to that of the 1920's as seen in old photographs.

The interior has had modest remodelling over the years; but essentially it still follows the original, as-built, floor plan. The first floor is now divided into three large rooms: 1) the bar (formerly the lobby) on the south half, and 2) the dining room and 3) kitchen which divides the north half. A small storeroom is also located at the northeast end of the building. In the center area is a stove; and beyond this a narrow stairway leads to the second story. The second floor is divided into eight modest rooms, one bath, and a storage area -- all centered around the narrow stairway. The open attic has never been finished.

Although somewhat refurbished, all of the interior of Fairview Inn continues to be reminiscent of rural Alaskan -- a more-elaborate-than-usual roadhouse of the type that flourished in the Territory at the turn of the century; particularly with completion of the Alaska Railroad in 1923. Fairview Inn is somewhat uncommon, and atypical -- except for its time, and place -- confined for other structures associated with the building of the Alaska Railroad. It also is an excellent example of the slow emergence, from isolation, of other Interior towns and villages. Fairview Inn is definitely a significant landmark of Talkeetna. And, as such, is worthy of preservation -- and recognition as an historic building, sans architectural "finesse".

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1920-1923

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Fairview Inn since its construction, has been a significant rural Alaskan structure (typical) of the 1900's. It still remains as the focus point for the small railroad-oriented community of Talkeetna. The two-story frame structure has the utilitarian simplicity of other hotel and roadhouse buildings, especially those built along the early railroad route (but no longer extent). Although the interior has been somewhat remodelled; the exterior integrity is essentially intact. (This 1920's structure actually evokes a feeling of earlier history.) It continues to serve the local population and many visitors.

The property always has been privately owned. Since early 1970 it has been accessible not only by railroad, but also by modern highway and airplane. Fairview Inn continues to be much photographed as an "Alaskan curiosity" by tourists and other visitors (especially Mt. McKinley mountaineering groups) who come here to prepare for their assault of the highest mountain in North America -- and one of the most challenging anywhere in the world.

HISTORIC BACKGROUND

The exact date when the first white trappers and prospectors entered the wild Susitna River region is not known. Following the small 1896 gold rush to the Upper Kenai Peninsula -- when gold was first discovered along Willow, Mills and Canyon Creek tributaries of the Susitna River -- the region slowly began to open. The Susitna river valley then became part of the route into the interior, particularly those attempting to reach towering Mt. McKinley (20,320 elevation). Now the climbing of Mt. McKinley is a major industry, attracting climbing parties from all parts of the world to Talkeetna and the Fairview Inn.

The first known description of what became known as Talkeetna, was written by a pioneer American mountaineer and artist, Belmore Browne. Browne was co-leader with Herschel Parker (in 1910) on one of the first professional expedition attempts to climb tough Mt. McKinley. According to Belmore Browne:

"... the Alaska Commercial Company had just opened the new post, called Talkeetna Station, that would be supplied via the river from the old seaport of Knik . . . A man named Dyer was in charge . . ."

According to Browne:

"customers were local Indians, trappers, prospectors and gold miners working along Iron, Montana, Kashwitna, Peters and Purches Creeks." In 1912, returning through Talkeetna, Browne recorded ". . . In 1910, when the trading post built by the Alaska Commercial Company was new, there was this tiny settlement at the forks . . . but now as we trotted into the familiar clearing, the cabins stood cold and deserted . . .".

In 1914 -- with Seward and Fairbanks already selected as terminal points connecting the Gulf of Alaska with the Interior for a government-built railroad -- the Alaska Engineering Commission (AEC) picked Talkeetna for a northern district headquarters (under the Anchorage Division). Railroad construction, combined with new gold discoveries along Iron Creek, brought an influx of people. The first post office was formally opened in Talkeetna in 1916. The community soon had several new Alaska Engineering Commission buildings, two merchandise stores, and about 30 log dwellings/or tents. Residents then petitioned the Alaska Engineering Commission for a townsite survey and a lot sale. This survey was completed on September 16, 1918. But the lot auction was not held until October 16, 1919 -- after railroad track already connected Anchorage and Seward with Talkeetna. Eighty lots were sold -- 41 of which went to persons who claimed that "permanent improvements had been made on

9. Major Bibliographical References

Alaska Engineering Commission 1916-1923 The Alaska Railroad Record. (Weekly). Anchorage, Alaska.
 Capps, Stephen R. 1940 Geology of the Alaska Railroad Region. U.S. Geological Survey Bulletin 907, Washington, D.C.
 1919 Mineral Resources of the Western Talkeetna Mountains. US Geological Survey Bulletin 692, Washington, D.C.

10. Geographical Data

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Acreage of nominated property -1 acre

Quadrangle name TALKEETNA

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle scale 1:63360

UMT References

A

0	5	6	4	9	6	8	0	6	9	1	3	3	9	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing							

C

Zone		Easting				Northing							

D

Zone		Easting				Northing							

E

Zone		Easting				Northing							

F

Zone		Easting				Northing							

G

Zone		Easting				Northing							

H

Zone		Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

Lots 20 and 21, Block 12 Talkeetna Townsite
 U.S. Survey 1260

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Joan M. Antonson, Historian
Michael S. Kennedy, State Historian,
 organization AK Historical Commission
AK Division of Parks date December 1981
524 W. 4th Suite 207
 street & number 619 Warehouse Suite 210 telephone (907) 274-4676
 city or town Anchorage state Alaska 99501

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature [Signature]

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 11 Feb, 82

For NPS use only
 I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register
[Signature] date 5/7/82
 Keeper of the National Register
 Attest: _____ date _____
 Chief of Registration

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Continuation sheet

Item number 8

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their squatter's-right lots" prior to the survey. Lots 20 and 21, Block 12 (where the Fairview Inn is located) were bought in 1918 by Hall and Courtland for \$10 and \$55, respectively. Lot 21, a corner lot, was more expensive. In 1920 Talkeetna was officially designated a Railroad Station and Section House for the nearly-completed Alaska Railroad -- some three years before the golden spike" was driven by President Warren G. Harding, at Nenana, signifying completion of the railroad from Seward to Fairbanks.

Mt. McKinley and Denali National Park

Although mining, trapping, logging, hunting of big game, and some wilderness homesites would keep Talkeetna alive -- its principal income after building of the railroad, has largely centered on tourism and wilderness recreation. Mt. McKinley and Denali (formerly Mt. McKinley National Park) are prime tourist attractions (along with the rustic Alaskan character of the now-quiet town of Talkeetna itself). The Alaska Railroad, various bus tour companies and chartered airlines consider Talkeetna the most important roadstop enroute to Denali National Park. The massive twin peaks of Mt. McKinley (bulwarked with Mt. Foraker and the great upthrust of the Alaska Range) provide a spectacular backdrop setting for the rustic town -- sometimes jokingly referred to as "Alaska's largest living ghost camp". By airplane, leaving "beautiful downtown Talkeetna" and the Don Sheldon-Roy Genet dirt airstrip within sight of the Fairview Inn -- it takes but a few minutes of flying time to reach the majestic mountain mass. Indeed, the view is much more compelling from the streets of Talkeetna than when one actually reaches the Denali Park boundaries and the awesome ramparts of the towering land mass approaches to Mt. McKinley -- some 60 clean-air miles distant.

Denali (Mount McKinley) National Park -- second largest in the National Park system (with 3,030 square miles) -- is a highland on the north flank of the sweeping Alaska Range. The park entrance, reached by highway, railroad and aircraft, is 237.3 highway miles north of Anchorage, 127.6 miles south of Fairbanks; but less than 70 miles from Talkeetna. The Park contains, and is dominated by, North America's highest mountain, Mount McKinley -- of which the North summit towers 19,470 feet; and the South summit 20,320 feet.

Mount McKinley is one of the most imposing mountain massifs in the world, towering some 17,000 feet above surrounding lowlands. Due to the frequency of cloudy, rainy summer weather, however, many travelers never see the mountain during a visit in the park. During any summer season, the visitor has about a 40% chance of seeing the mountain -- and only then if he or she ventures at least 20 miles out from the park entrance area. Mount McKinley is not visible from the entrance area hotel; but is spectacular from Talkeetna!

Wildlife in the Park is protected; hunting is not allowed. Sports fishing is permitted, with no fishing license required. The wildlife consists of more than 150 varieties of birds and 37 kinds of mammals. No other U.S. national park has caribou (the native American reindeer) or Dall sheep. There are many moose, a few black bears, and a considerable number of grizzlies. Canada lynx are occasionally seen; red foxes are numerous; Parka or (Arctic Ground) squirrels are everywhere. Many travelers come to Alaska, expecting to see abundant wildlife as they drive along the highways. Some do, but the majority are disappointed. Mount McKinley National Park, however, and the entire area north of Talkeetna are places where it can almost be assured that every traveler will see wild animals in their native habitat. Bird life includes rare waterfowl, ptarmigan, shore birds and innumerable species of songbirds. Fish include the Lake, or Mackinaw Trout, grayling and Dolly Varden salmon-trout.

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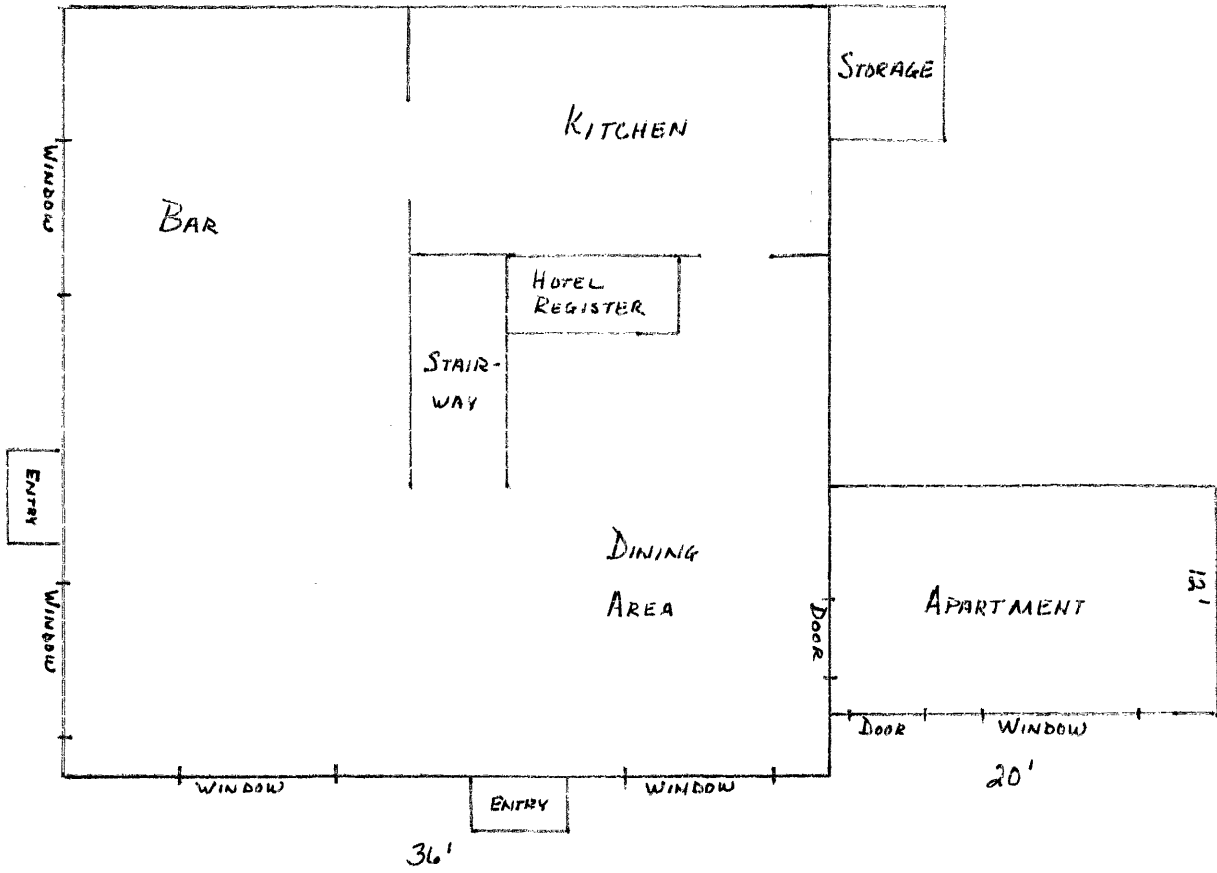
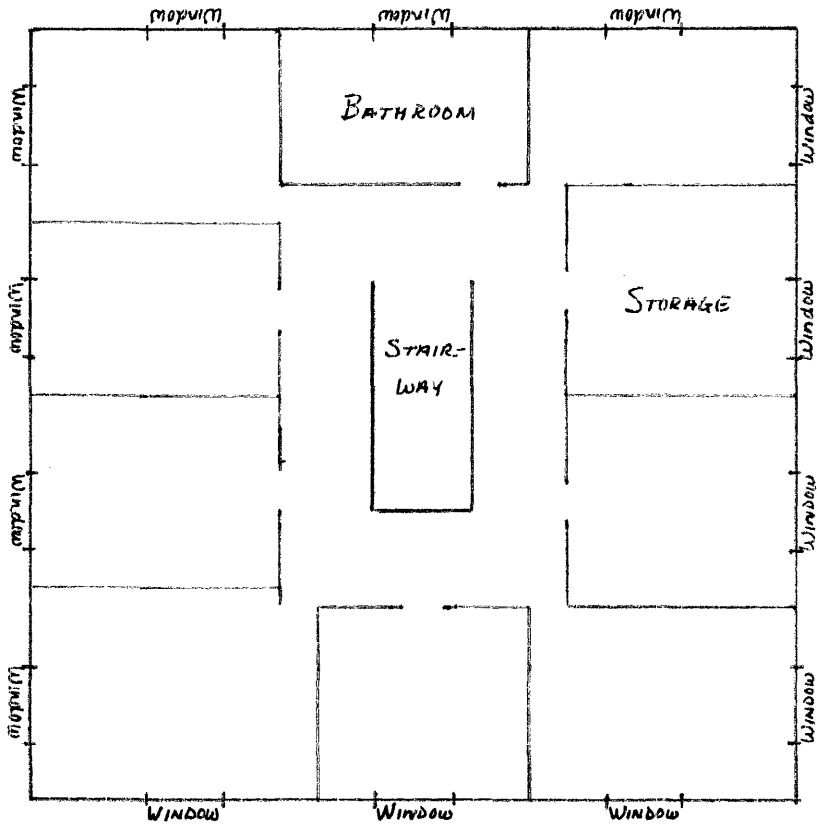
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The first European mention of the McKinley massif came from the English explorer Capt. George Vancouver. After sighting the mountain from Cook Inlet, in 1774, Vancouver referred to it as a "stupendous snow mountain." Early Russian explorers and traders called it Bolshaya Gora or "Big Mountain." The historic Indian name, "Denali" (means "the great one" or "the high one"). A move is currently under way to rename Mount McKinley; reverting back to "Mount Denali".

The first men to attain either of the McKinley summits, were members of the famous "Sourdough" party of Alaskans. They reached the North Peak (which they erroneously believed was the higher) on April 3, 1910. The first group to attain the "South" or true summit, was led by the Episcopal Archdeacon of Alaska, Hudson Stuck, accompanied by "sourdoughs" Walter Harper, Robert Tatum and Harry Karstens, on June 7, 1913. The great mountain was named in 1896 by William A. Dickey, a prospector, "after William McKinley of Ohio, who had been nominated for the presidency, and that fact was the first news we received on our way out of that wonderful wilderness." Mount McKinley National Park, the sole federal park in Alaska, was established by Congress in February 1917. Talkeetna soon served as the area's supply station; and became a popular, if somewhat isolated, summer vacation spot throughout the 1920's, 1930's and '50's. Fairview Inn, built shortly after the railroad station was established, was Talkeetna's first hotel (along with a smaller roadhouse). President Harding had his hair cut at the Fairview during his visit in 1923 to drive the gold spike signifying completion of the Alaska Railroad. Since then, during the summer and fall, hunters and fishermen have stayed at the hospitable hotel. Prospectors and miners (for the past 40 years) rented rooms in the inn. During the long winters, Fairview Inn continues to serve local purposes, as it has for almost fifty years.

This building remains the most imposing structure in the small community -- an essential part of Talkeetna's unique atmosphere. Area residents stop frequently to sit and visit in the Tavern; and guests always feel welcome. This building, in an antiquated setting, is a part of Alaska's heritage. It well meets required qualifications for the National Register of Historic Places. The most recent owners (since 1981) have been mindful of the aura of heritage significance of Fairview Inn. They now wish to perpetuate the old inn as a landmark which deserves recognition.

FAIRVIEW INN
 AHS SITE No.
 TAL-806



SITE PLAN
 J. ANTONSON
 MARCH 1977

Fairview Inn
AHRS Site No. TAL-006
Matanuska-Susitna Division
Talkeetna, Alaska

Site Plan, 1977
J. Antonson, Alaska Div. of Parks
619 Warehouse Dr., Suite 210
Anchorage, Alaska 99501