

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Reception Building
Name of Property
Valdez-Cordova, Alaska
County and State
80004566
NR Reference Number

State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
I hereby certify that this ___ additional documentation ___ move X removal
___ name change (additional documentation) ___ other
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.

Joan M. Antonson, Deputy SHPO, Alaska

21 February 2019

Signature of Certifying Official/Title:

Date of Action

Joan M. Antonson, Deputy SHPO
Alaska State Historic Preservation Office

National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:
___ entered in the National Register
___ determined eligible for the National Register
___ determined not eligible for the National Register
X removed from the National Register
___ additional documentation accepted
___ other (explain:)

[Signature]
Signature of the Keeper

4/26/2019
Date of Action

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Reception Building
Name of Property Valdez-Cordova, Alaska
County and State 80004566
NR Reference Number

Alaska Historic Preservation Office

Request for Removal for the National Register of Historic Places

Reception Building (NRIS 80004566)

Cordova, Alaska



Reason for removal:

The property has ceased to meet the criteria for listing because the qualities which caused it to be listed have been lost or destroyed (36 CFR 60.15)

Dates and Nature of change:

Demolished, January 9, 2019

Comments:

The Reception Building was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on April 9, 1980, for its association with Link Wahn and commerce between 1908 and 1924 in the town of Cordova, that flourished with construction and operation of the Copper River and Northwestern Railway and the associated Kennecott Copper Mine. The lot without the building does not exhibit these associations.

Attached is an article from *The Cordova Times*, January 11, 2019, the local newspaper with details about the building's history and the reasons for demolition.

A letter to the owner of the property and the mayor of the City of Cordova was sent January 18, 2019, regarding removing the property from listing in the National Register and providing them with the opportunity to comment. Neither party commented. A copy of the letter is attached.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED FEB 8 1980

DATE ENTERED

APR 9 1980

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Reception Building (AHRS SITE NO. COR-115)

AND/OR COMMON

Reception Saloon

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Second and B Streets

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN Cordova

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Alaska, at large

VICINITY OF

STATE Alaska

CODE
02

COUNTY Cordova-McCarthy Div.

CODE
080

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 type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Clifford W. Collins (907) 424-7401

STREET & NUMBER P.O. Box 698

CITY, TOWN Cordova

VICINITY OF

STATE Alaska 99574

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. District Recorder (907) 424-7417

STREET & NUMBER P.O. Box 696

CITY, TOWN Cordova

STATE Alaska 99574

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Alaska Heritage Resource Survey (AHRS) (907) 274-4676

DATE February 10, 1978 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Alaska Division of Parks, 619 Warehouse Dr., Suite 210

CITY, TOWN Anchorage STATE Alaska 99501

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input 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

The Reception Building (as it has always been known) is a long, narrow structure which cuts noticeably into the hillside at the rear and along the B Street side. It fully occupies the corner lot facing 2nd Street and is central to the historic business district. The strongly rectangular, two-story structure, measures 25' wide and 100' long. Of frame construction throughout, it retains the original horizontal shiplap siding, with endboard joints and corners. The roof is flat and tarred, with wooden eaves; the eave trim is boxed, with decorated cornice and plain frieze.

The original first floor front was highly distinctive; representing an inset porticoed gallery, supported by four columns. Just to the right of this (on the B Street side) was a large, black, plate-glass window with the word RECEPTION embossed in gold leaf. When prohibition, in 1918, caused closure of the saloon, the spacious front section was converted into two apartments. This singular architectural feature suffered accordingly. The portico space was unimaginatively brought out flush to the front, with a central entrance door framed only by two plate glass windows. The attractive, embossed glass nameplate was replaced by a conventional and smaller windowlight.

Other than this, the building has had no alteration except of a cosmetic nature. The original exterior paint is believed to have been a pleasant pastel color with white trim on the endboards, cornices and window sills. Over the years this style has been reversed; with the siding re-painted white (or off-white) and the trim always of darker colors. The building still retains its boardwalk at front and side; one of the very few still existing in Cordova.

When Link Waln sold the building in 1941 it was in prime condition. A photograph even 20 years later, indicates it as still well kept-up. Since that time, however, it has gradually deteriorated. At present, and for more than a decade, there has been no occupancy other than the front portion of the main floor. This now comprises two offices for Mr. Collins and his son Phil.

The present owner, the Cordova Historical Society, and others are anxious to further stabilize, and if possible, restore, this landmark structure as an important vestige of the place that once envisioned itself as destined to be "the Pittsburgh of the North."

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

Built 1908

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

O.W. (Link) Wahn
Bill Williams

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Reception Building epitomizes the first decade of the founding and dynamic growth of Cordova; resulting from the exploitation of the rich Kennecott Copper Mines and the building of the spectacular Copper River & Northwestern Railroad to haul the concentrated ores. It commemorates Link Wahn, a pioneer who contributed to Alaska's commercial history. This also is one of the oldest and most representative surviving business buildings in the place called "OMAR", immortalized by Rex Beach's novel The Iron Trail.

Historical Background

In 1908, with the certainty that the Morgan-Guggenheim interests would make Cordova into a major Alaskan city--if not "the Pittsburgh of the North" as proclaimed by the most ardent promoters--this would be, at the least, a new seaport, Cordova offered long-range hopes for development of industries based on copper, oil, coal, timber, transport, and fisheries. Thus in 1908, a new, and much larger townsite adjoining the rail headquarters (which in the preceding three years, Mike Heney had superimposed on the fishing Village of Eyak) was opened. Lots sold like hotcakes. Sourdoughs and entrepreneurs from all over Alaska converged here on a scale previously equalled only at Skagway and Nome. But for the most part, the men and women who came here were of a different breed. They had witnessed the boom and the bust cycle of the goldcamps; the disillusionment of back-breaking toil. Many had married or brought their families to Alaska. Almost all had moved up from "mushing and mucking" to trades, small businesses and the professions. They yearned for stability.

Typical of such men was Owen Webster Wahn--always called "Link". Born of pioneer stock in Iowa in 1864, Link grew up and reached maturity on the Wyoming frontier near Buffalo. With the first word of the sensational Klondike gold strike he was on his way to Dawson, but (as with a high percentage of the 60,000 who converged there) he was disappointed. In 1899 he came down-river to the new gold camp of Nome, arriving in time to mine the beach placers; and with sufficient success to enable the purchase of a saloon at Unalaska. Unalaska in 1900 was a thriving port, the midway fueling stop for ships plying between Seattle, Nome and St. Michaels, (for the Yukon River trade). Link Wahn soon met and married Sophie Reinken, and a family ensued. After 1905, as the gold strikes appeared to have run their course and business began declining at Unalaska, he watched, with more than passing interest, developments in the "railroad race" in the Gulf of Alaska. The timing of his arrival at Cordova was not accidental. He sold the Unalaska saloon, booked the earliest passage possible and arrived with his family and their belongings early in the summer of 1908.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

(See Continuation Sheet)

UTM NOT VERIFIED

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY -1
 QUADRANGLE NAME Cordova (C-5) QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:63 360

UTM REFERENCES

A	0, 6	5, 6, 8, 5, 2, 5	6, 7, 1, 3, 4, 2, 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

All of Lot 16, Block 10, facing 2nd Ave., and extending along B Street as shown on 1912 Townsite Plat; also as located on SANDBORN MAP, Cordova, August 19, 1927.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Philip Collins (907) 274-4676
 Assisted by: Michael S. Kennedy, Historian
Alaska Div. of Parks, Anchorage

ORGANIZATION Cordova Historical Society DATE March 1, 1978

STREET & NUMBER P.O. Box 138 TELEPHONE (907) 424-7401

CITY OR TOWN Cordova STATE Alaska 99574

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL X

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 William Stanshe
 TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer DATE 1/21/80

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

W. Ray Luce DATE 4/9/80
 TO: KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: Kristin O'Connell DATE 4/9/80
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED FEB 8 1980

DATE ENTERED

APR 9 1980

Reception Building (AHRS SITE NO. COR-115)

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1 of 2

Waln purchased a lot, and in partnership with a man named Bill Williams--as the city rose around them--speedily opened the Reception Saloon (and Apartment). This building quickly became a landmark in the community described as: "populous and prosperous, with two daily newspapers, a gravity water system, electric lights and telephones, substantial business and office structures, a bank and two fine Hotels." Although the boom aspect waned with completion of the railroad in 1911, many more residences, two theaters, a hospital, schools and another bank had been built when the population peaked, at 5,000, in the early 1920's.

During these years Link Wahn remarried, served on the city council, helped organize, and became an officer of the local chapter of the Pioneers Of Alaska. With the coming of prohibition in 1918, Bill Williams sold his interest in the Reception Building to Link; who then remodeled the saloon portion into apartments. (The most drastic alteration that the building would experience). Wahn also began managing the Windsor Hotel that year.

Although Cordova's smelting industry never materialized, this was compensated by the development of nine canneries in the vicinity. But closure of the Kennecott mines in 1938; soon followed by abandonment of the Copper River & Northwestern Railroad, proved a severe blow to the community.

Now 77 years of age, with the world at war and his family grown, Link Waln sold his interests in Cordova and moved to El Monte, California. His successor at the Reception Building was Frank Iverson of McCarthy, who had witnessed that town rise and fall with the fortunes of Kennecott and the railroad. Iverson managed the Reception, successfully, for several years; but thereafter a series of owners allowed it to decline. Even after the fire of 1963, which destroyed almost half of the business district (including many of the most historically significant) the Reception owner failed to take advantage of the situation.

The Reception had deteriorated to the point of condemnation when acquired by present owner, Cliff Collings in 1973. He has since provided essential stabilization and now strives for "final recognition and restoration of this structure as a vital step in the preservation of Cordova's heritage."

APR 6 1980

APR 9 1980

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

FOR HCRS USE ONLY

RECEIVED FEB 8 1980

DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Reception Building (AHRS Site No. COR-115)

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2 of 2

With the recent loss of the LeFevre building, by snowfall, after it had been stabilized and was awaiting recognition on the National Register; and late in 1979 a city ruling has placed an even more significant structure, Hegg's Photo Gallery, on the endangered list, it is now imperative that the Reception Building be saved. If Hegg's studio is lost, Reception becomes the final structural link remaining of early-day Cordova.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED FEB 8 1980

DATE ENTERED

APR 9 1980

Reception Building (AHR SITE NO. COR-115)

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1 of 1

Janson, Lone, The Copper Spike, Northwest Pub. Co., Anchorage, 1975.

Beach, Rex, The Iron Trail, Harper, N.Y., 1913.

Harrison, E.S., AlaskaYukon Magazine, 1909, 1910, Seattle; also Alaska Almanac, 1909.

Pratt, Lee C., The Alaska Yearbook, 1928 Ed., Pub., The Alaska Weekly, Seattle, Washington.

Lower Copper & Chitina Rivers: Resource Study, ADP, Hist. & Arch. Series 5, Anchorage, August 1974.

Newspaper Files, Cordova: Alaska Times; Alaskan; Daily Alaskan; Daily Herald.

Correspondence, Cecil Wahn, Redmond, Washington, 1978-79, ADP Files.

THE O'NEILL GO'ING



SANDBORN MAP
CORDOVA
AUG. 1927

RECEPTION BLDG

B ST.

ON NATIONAL REGISTER

FEDERAL AV

2ND AVE



APR 9 1980

Reception Building
Cordova, Alaska, 1909

206.

CORDOVA, ALASKA. OCT - 1909.

E. J. Hege

SOURCE: Robert D. Monroe, Spec Collections Div., Univ of Wash Libraries,
SCattle, Wash 98195 14 Sept 1977

APR 9 1980



McCarthy Division



FEB 8 1980

1. Side and front profile, looking south.



2. Front of bldg. looking South

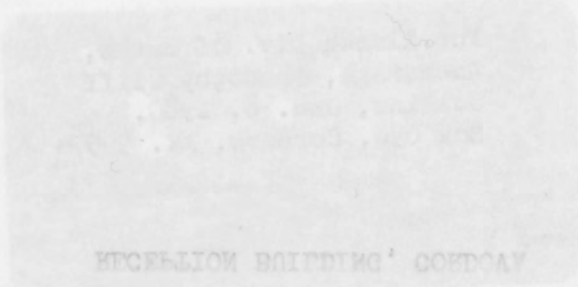
For Alaska Div. of Parks,
Anchorage, Photos by Cliff
Collins, Jan. 8, 1980.
Box 698, Cordova, Ak. 99574

3330-1

RECEPTION BUILDING, CONRAD, ALASKA JAN 20, 1980

Handwritten signature or name

FEB 8 1980

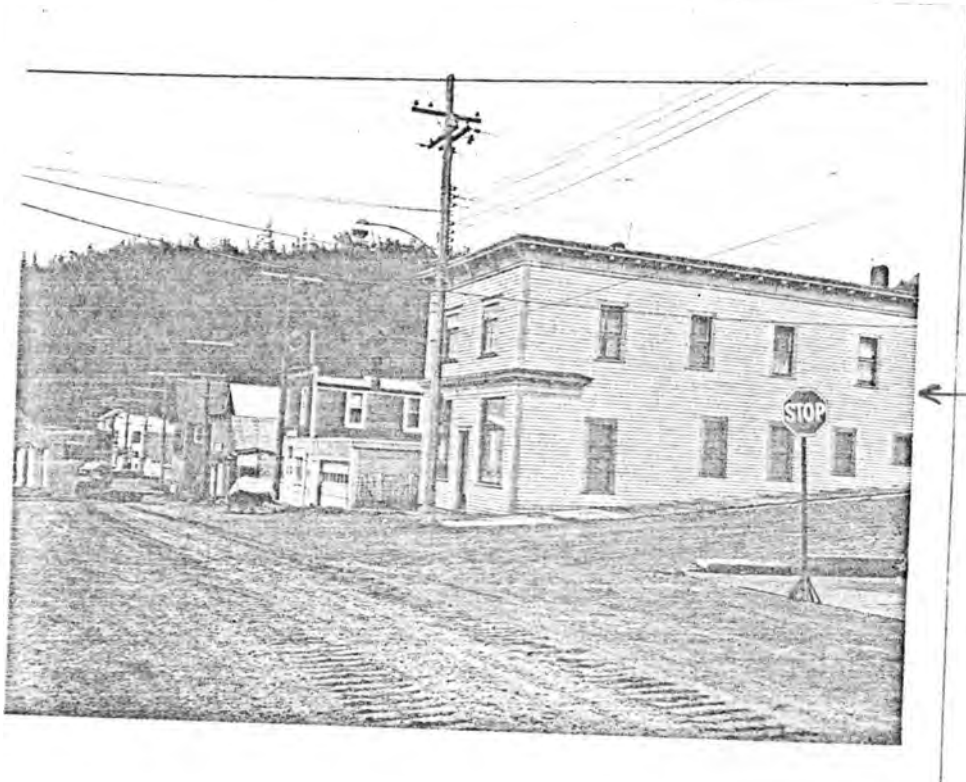


EXCELLENCE SHIPPING COMPANY

APR 9 1980

3. RECEPTION BUILDING, CORDOVA

FEB 8 1980



← Reception Bldg.

1908-11 bldgs on 2nd Street

Cordova, Alaska

McCarthy Division Neg. No. 2435

Charles W. Snell

July 6, 1961

Negative or photo, National Park Service
San Francisco Regional Office

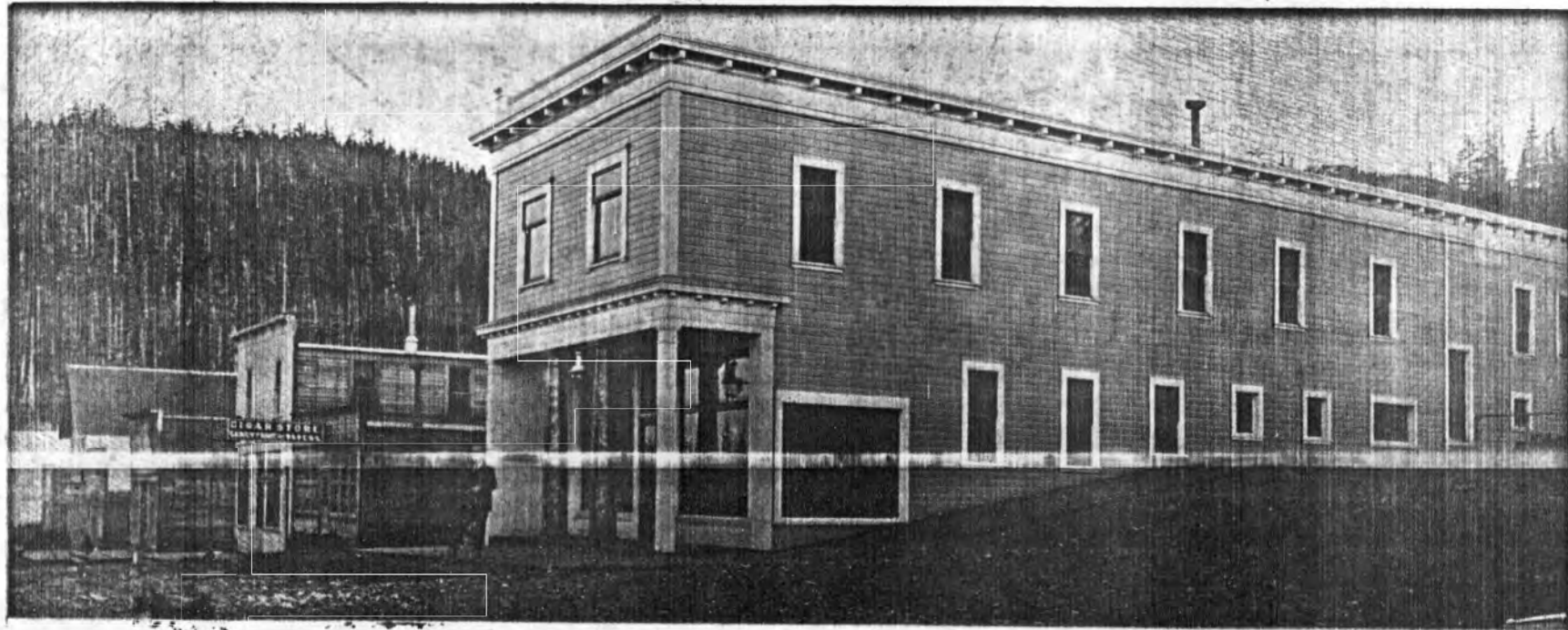
4.

RECEPTION BUILDING, CORDOVA (AHRS SITE NO. COR-115)

FEB 8 1980

Division of Parks

JAN 10 1980



Reception (Saloon) Building
Ca. 1909-10. From an early photo
(not identified: Probably Hegg)
Submitted by Cliff Collins, owner.

Model 6 637

APR 9 1980

Reception Building
(AHRs Site No. COR-115)

UTM Reference: Zone 6

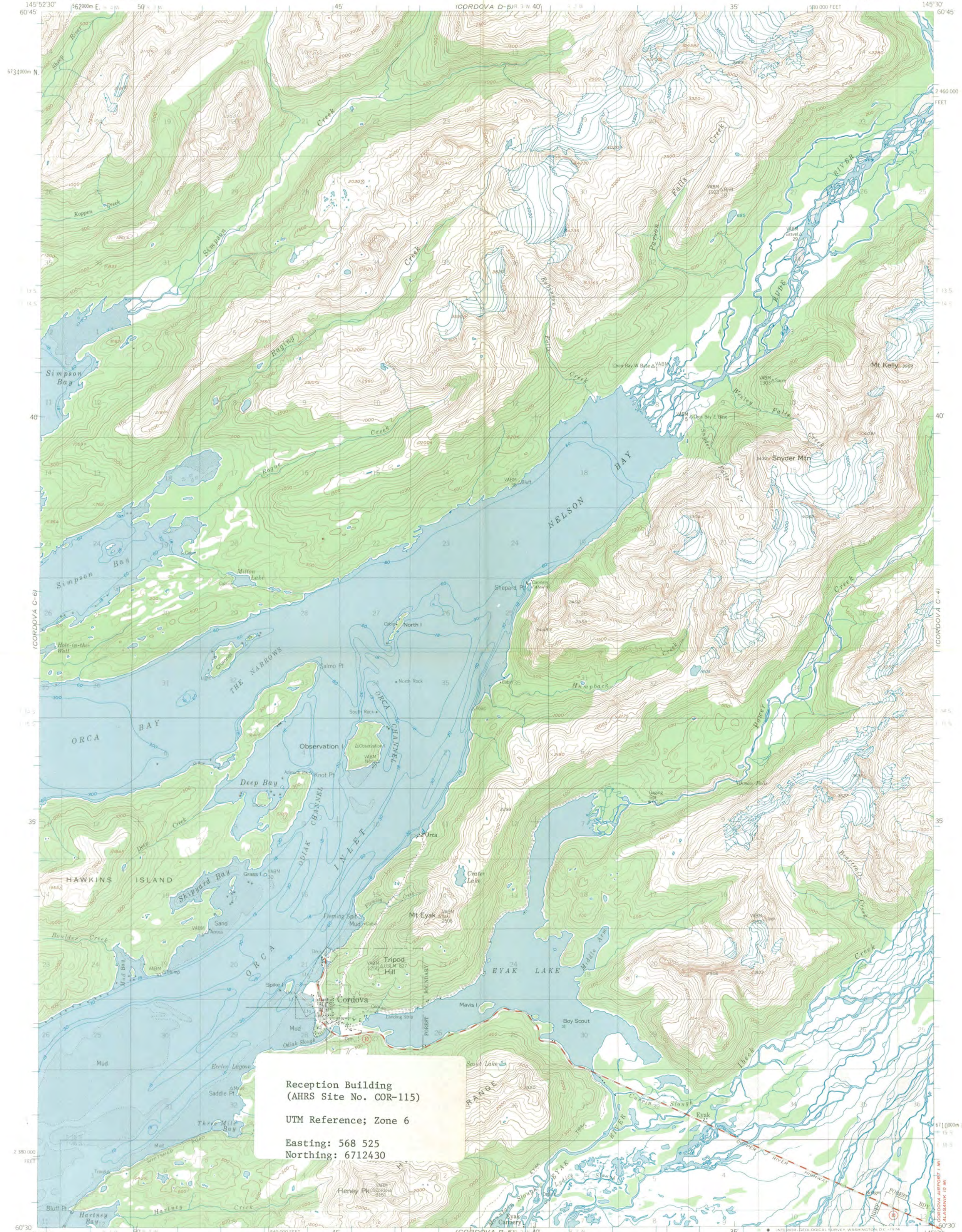
Easting: 568 525
Northing: 6712430

CORDOVA (C-5) QUADRANGLE
ALASKA
1:63 360 SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

CORDOVA D-6
CORDOVA C-6
CORDOVA B-6
CORDOVA A-6

CORDOVA D-4
CORDOVA C-4
CORDOVA B-4
CORDOVA A-4



Reception Building
(AHRs Site No. COR-115)
UTM Reference; Zone 6
Easting: 568 525
Northing: 6712430

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
taken 1950, field annotated 1951. Map not field checked

Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS
Charts 8520, 8525, and 8551 (1:200,000 scale)
This information is not intended for navigational purposes

Universal Transverse Mercator projection, 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Alaska coordinate system, zone 3
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 6, shown in blue

Land lines represent unsurveyed and unmarked locations
determined by the Bureau of Land Management
Folio CR-5, Copper River Meridian

Entire land area is within the Chugach National Forest except
Cordova exclusion area and Cordova Airport withdrawal area
Swamps, as portrayed, indicate only the wetter areas,
usually of low relief, as interpreted from aerial photographs



CONTOUR INTERVAL 100 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL
DEPTH CURVES IN FEET-DATUM IS MEAN LOWER LOW WATER
SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER
THE AVERAGE RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 10 FEET

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Medium duty — Light-duty
Unimproved dirt — State Route

CORDOVA (C-5), ALASKA
N6030-W14530/15X22.5

1951
MINOR REVISIONS: 1975

FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99701, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

APR 9 1980



National Register of Historic Places
Memo to File

Correspondence

The Correspondence consists of communications from (and possibly to) the nominating authority, notes from the staff of the National Register of Historic Places, and/or other material the National Register of Historic Places received associated with the property.

Correspondence may also include information from other sources, drafts of the nomination, letters of support or objection, memorandums, and ephemera which document the efforts to recognize the property.

15 day

Property Reception Building

80004566

State AK - Cordova - McCarthy Division Working Number 2-8-80 429

TECHNICAL

CONTROL

Photos 3
Maps 1

HISTORIAN

Frame commercial building constructed in 1909 during boom period of railroad building. Originally housing a saloon and apartments, it was converted wholly to residential use during Prohibition. With imminent demolition of Hagg's Photo Gallery this will be only resource from early period in central Cordova.

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

*Accept
O'Connell
4/9/80*

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____

Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

National Register Write-up _____
Federal Register Entry 2-3-81

Send-back _____
Re-submit _____

Entered APR 9 1980

To:

State Historic Preservation Officer
Alaska Division of Parks
323 E. Fourth Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

From: Clifford W. Collins

P.O. Box 698

Cordova, Alaska 99574

Subject: Reception Building



I am the owner of the above mentioned property and I understand that it has been proposed for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. I have been provided with, have read, and understand literature explaining the National Register program and the effect on property if it is entered in the National Register of Historic Places.

As the owner of the property, I: (DO)
concur with the proposed nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

Clifford W. Collins
(Property Owner's Signature)

3-1-78
(Date)

over →



APPENDIX B

Architectural Design Guide

STATE OF ALASKA

JAY S. HAMMOND, Governor

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

DIVISION OF POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING

Phone 465-3512

Pouch AD - Juneau 99811

April 25, 1978

William S. Hanable, Chief
History and Archaeology
Division of Parks
Department of Natural Resources
619 Warehouse Drive
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Subject: Cordova Reception Bldg.
Historical Site
State I.D. No. 78031501



Dear Mr. Hanable:

The Alaska State Clearing House has completed review on the subject project.

The State Clearinghouse has no comment on this project.

This letter will satisfy the review requirements of the office of Management and Budget Circular A-95.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jerry S. Madden".

Jerry Madden
State-Federal Coordinator

JM/cz

3330-4
(Reception Bldg)
w

Cordova Historical Society

P.O. Box 391
Cordova, Alaska 996574

DECEMBER 14, 1979

Division of Parks

DEC 17 1979

WILLIAM S. HANABLE
STATE PRESERVATION OFFICER
DIVISION OF PARKS
STATE OF ALASKA
619 WAREHOUSE DRIVE, SUITE 210
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501.

DEAR MR HANABLE:

THE MEMBERS OF CORDOVA HISTORICAL SOCIETY WERE VERY UPSET TO HEAR THE RECEPTION APT. BUILDING WAS NOT ELIGIBLE FOR NOMINATION TO THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES.

WOULD IT BE POSSIBLE TO RESUBMIT THIS REQUEST AT THE NEXT MEETING OF THE STATES ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND JUST POSSIBLY THEY MIGHT GIVE IT FURTHER CONSIDERATION.

HOPING YOU WILL DO YOUR UTMOST FOR US IN THIS MATTER.

SINCERELY,

Arvid B. Sandstrom

CORDOVA HISTORICAL MUSEUM



HISTORIC SITES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
 VOTING RECORD Juneau, January 14-15, 1980

Move Reception Building, AHRS Site No. COR-115 be nominated to
 the National Register of Historic Places.

(Moved by: Richard Engen)

Motion Seconded by: Marian Johnson

Motion to amend (if any) _____

Motion to amend (if any) seconded by: _____

Vote on motion:

IN FAVOR	ABSTAIN	OPPOSED	RESULT
Blahuta	0	0	Passed <u>6-0*</u>
Crittenden			Rejected <u>0</u>
Engen			Tabled <u>0</u>
Shinkwin			
Johnson			
D'Arcy			

*Passed unanimously



HISTORIC PRESERVATION MATERIAL
Transmittal Inventory, National Register



January 18, 1980

(Date)

TO: Keeper of the National Register
440 G Street, N.W.
U.S. Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C., 20243

1. Form 10-300, National Register Nomination AHRS SITE No. COR-115
Reception Building, Cordova, Alaska
2. Photographs of Property: 1. Side and front profile, looking south, 1980.
2. Front of building, 1980, looking south. 3. Snell, NPS, 1961. (copy)
4. As built, 1909/10 (copy, Collins).
3. Property Maps, Drawings: U.S.G.S. Quad Cordova (C-5) 1:63 360;
Sandborn Map, 1927, showing site location.
4. Voting Record, State Historic Sites Advisory Committee. Date: January 15, 1980
Approved 6-0 (None abstaining)
5. Other Enclosures: Owner's consent; State Clearinghouse approval; Letter,
Cordova Historical Society, 12/14/79; SHPO to Cordova Historical Society,
12/18/79, re: 12 month waiver.

STATE OF ALASKA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF PARKS, Office of History & Archaeology
619 Warehouse Drive, Suite 210
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

YP

CLIFFORD W. COLLINS
P.O. Box 698
Cordova, Alaska 99574

*listed 4/9/80
Cordova - McCarthy Div
AK*

March 10, 1980

Carol D. Shull
Acting Keeper of the National Register
Heritage Conservation & Recreation Service
U. S. Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C 20240

Reference: 661

Dear Ms. Shull:

This is in reply to the letter outlining consideration of the Reception Building in Cordova, Alaska for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

The building is our property. We understand the provisions and requirements of the National Register program and do wish the property to be listed in the Register. We gave our approval to this some time ago. A copy of our original approval is in the files of the State of Alaska, Historical Preservation Office.

Sincerely yours,
Clifford W. Collins
Clifford W. Collins

WPC

THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

DATE REC'D **MAR 14 1980**

_____ INDIVIDUAL RESPONSE (ATTACHED)

_____ INFORMATIVE MATERIAL SENT

_____ TELEPHONE CALL (ATTACHED)

DATE ACTION TAKEN _____

INITIALS _____

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ALASKA

STATE

Date Entered APR 9 1980

Name

Location

Reception Building

Cordova
Cordova-McCarthy Division

Also Notified

Honorable Mike Gravel

Honorable Ted Stevens
Honorable Don Young

State Historic Preservation Officer
Mr. William S. Hanable
Chief of History and Archeology
Division of Parks
Department of Natural Resources
619 Warehouse Avenue, Suite 210
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

NR Byers/bjr 4/16/80

For further information, please call the National Register at (202)343-6401.

Cordova Chronicles: Another historic landmark is gone

110-year-old Remy's Florist is demolished

By **Dick Shellhorn** - January 11, 2019



On Jan. 8, 2019, while waiting for another dump truck to arrive, Wilson Construction Manager John Baenen confers with excavator operator Gene Wooden, while Mike Glasen examines what is left of the Reception Building. (Photo by Dick Shellhorn/The Cordova Times)

While the fate of the Cordova House remains uncertain, the demise of another local landmark is complete. Wilson Construction made short order of the building that once housed Remy's Florist, demolishing the 110-year-old structure in just two days.

Operating under clear skies and bitter temperatures, an excavator began tearing the old Reception Building down at daybreak on Jan. 7, 2019, and by late in the day only the front face and the north wall were still

standing. Several Wilson dump trucks were busy hauling off loads of debris, and by mid-day on Jan. 8 cleanup of the foundation was almost complete.



By late afternoon on Jan. 7, 2019, much of the demolished Reception Building had been hauled away in Wilson Construction dump trucks. (Photo by Dick Shellhorn/The Cordova Times)

“The cold weather actually made it much easier,” Wilson mechanic Terry Phillips said. “We didn’t have to deal with icy streets alongside the building, which would have been quite a challenge.”

The speed with which the structure came down surprised many on-lookers, who also expressed dismay.

“It’s a sad day,” said Nicole Nothstine, who was on her way to pick up her children at Mt. Eccles when school was out at 3:30 p.m. “There goes more another piece of Cordova history.” Ironically, her husband Tom was one of the truck drivers hauling it off.



The historic Reception Building gets demolished. (Photo by David Little/for The Cordova Times)

Located on the corner of Second Street and Browning Avenue, the building dates back to 1908 and the birth of Cordova. The long rectangular two-story structure was built in the summer of that year for “Link” Waln and J. Williams to house the Horseshoe Saloon, which was famous for a warm reception to thirsty workers building the Copper River and Northwestern Railway.

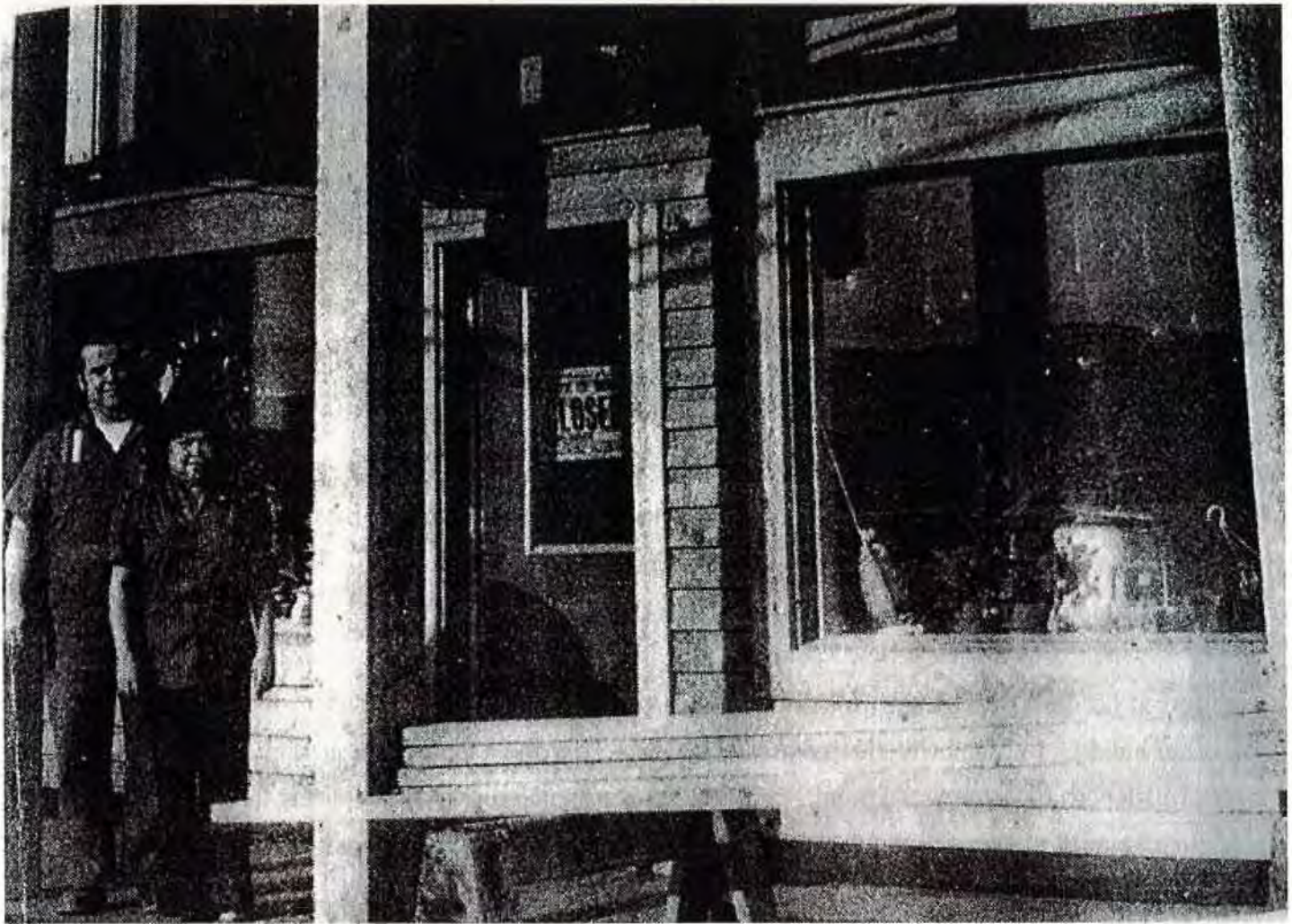
Carpenters at Cordova’s fledging townsite had to be experts at tossing up saloons, as it seems that nearly every other building in the newly-cleared area was a pub. This one had an extra attraction, namely an upstairs full-length hall that was a popular place for parties and dances. Anticipating large crowds, workers placed heavy support beams on the floor of the dance hall, which were discovered when remodeling was being done 80 years later.

Waln became sole owner of the 25-foot-wide by 100-foot-long building from 1918 to 1941. He was a pioneer Alaskan who came north during the Klondike Gold Rush, and eventually found success mining gold in Nome, using profits from that enterprise to purchase a saloon in Unalaska. After settling in Cordova, he became a founder of the local Cordova Pioneer Igloo.

When Prohibition caused closure of the saloon in 1918, the building was converted to apartments, and the distinctive original front with columns and black plate glass windows was removed.

A series of owners followed Wain and allowed the building to decline. The building was on the brink of condemnation when acquired by Cliff Collins in 1973, who went about stabilizing and repairing the facility. He used it as a location for Collins Insurance Agency, while his son Phil operated Sea Land Shipping in the same location.

In 1983, Bill and Remy Johnson bought the aging building and opened a gift and floral shop on the bottom floor, while moving into an apartment in the back of the lower floor.



Bill and Remy Johnson, who spearheaded remodeling and repair of the Reception Building, pose near the entrance to Remy's Gift and Floral Shop in August 1984. (The Cordova Times file photo, 1984)

“We bought it partly because it will make a nice place for our flower shop,” said Remy in Nov. 22, 1984 Cordova Times article. She added, of the restoration work ahead, especially for the second floor, which had been unoccupied for over 10 years, “It’s for Cordova ... for the next generation.”

The building had been placed on The National Register of Historic Places in 1980 and received a grant from the State Office of History and Archeology in 1983 to help efforts to stabilize and restore the building. Part of this grant required replacing the decorated cornices and front columns to match the original design of the building front. Eventually, the Johnsons had the building completely repaired, including three apartments upstairs as well as family quarters downstairs. Remy's shop was a going concern, providing flowers for all occasions, and sweet treats for youngsters dropping by.

When Bill and Remy retired and moved south eight years ago, they retained ownership of the building, with Mike and Linda Glasen operating and maintaining the apartments.

Eventually, aging and elements took their toll. The big windstorm of January 2018 caused major damage to the roof, compounded by more structural problems and leaks in storms this fall.

"It took considerable time to settle the insurance claims to the roof and ensuing water damage in the interior," said Mike Glasen, who watched the demolition from the parking lot of another Cordova Historical Building Site, the former Post Office and Court House, now home of the U.S. Forest Service. "Just recently, the building was condemned, so it had to be torn down."

There are no current plans for the land after the structure is removed.

"Right now, it's one step at a time," Glasen said.

At least he won't have to deal with vehicles sliding down notoriously steep and sometimes icy Browning Avenue.



From left, Mike Glasen and his nephew Xavier Burgerman stand in front of the Road Closed sign on Browning Avenue late on Jan. 7, 2019. Glasen and his wife Linda have been caretakers of the Reception Building since Remy and Bill Johnson left in 2010. (Photo by Dick Shellhorn/The Cordova Times)

“More than once cars have skidded down the hill and crashed into the side of the building,” said Glasen. “It looks like they’ll have a clear landing area now.”

Glasen did keep the building’s Historic Landmark Plaque and will be mailing it down to Bill and Remy. “They were very proud of all they did to restore the building and have many fond memories of their time in Cordova.”



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**

GOVERNOR MICHAEL J. DUNLEAVY

Department of Natural Resources

DIVISION OF PARKS & OUTDOOR RECREATION
Office of History & Archaeology

550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1310
Anchorage, AK 99501-3565
907.269.8721

<http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/oha>

January 18, 2019

Re: 3330-3 Reception Building, Cordova

Clay Koplín, Mayor
City of Cordova
P.O. Box 12100
Cordova, Alaska 99574

Rodney and Remedios Johnson
P.O. Box 1150
Cordova, Alaska 99574

COPY

Dear Mayor Koplín and Mr. & Mrs. Johnson:

I was very sorry to learn the Reception Building at the corner of 2nd Street and Browning Avenue, Cordova, was torn down last week.

Because the building no longer stands it has ceased to meet the criteria for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The empty lot does not exhibit an association with Link Wahn and commerce in Cordova between 1908 and 1924, the associations made in the National Register documentation for the building. This letter is to advise you that in accord with the National Historic Preservation Act and 36 CFR 60.15, I am writing to the Keeper of the National Register asking that the property be removed from the list.

If you wish to comment on this proposed action, your notarized written comments must be submitted to me within fifteen days of receipt of this letter. I will forward any comments received to the Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places.

If you have any questions regarding this proposed action, please write to me at the address above, at jo.antonson@alaska.gov, or call 907.269.8714.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Joan M. Antonson in cursive.

Joan M. Antonson
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

Cc: Cordova Historic Preservation Commission, Nancy Bird, nbird5800@gmail.com



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**

GOVERNOR MICHAEL J. DUNLEAVY

Department of Natural Resources

DIVISION OF PARKS & OUTDOOR RECREATION

Office of History & Archaeology

660 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1310

Anchorage, AK 99501-3565

907.269.8721

<http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/oha>



February 21, 2019

Re: 3330-3 Reception Building (NRIS 80004566)

Joy Beasley, Keeper
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
1849 C St NW, Mail Stop 7228
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Ms. Beasley:

The Reception Building in Cordova, listed in the National Register of Historic Places on April 9, 1980, was torn down on January 8, 2019. Sadly, I am enclosing a request for removal of the property from the National Register. The building was nominated for its association with Link Wahn and commerce between 1908 and 1924 in the town of Cordova, that flourished with construction and operation of the Copper River and Northwestern Railway. The lot without the building does not exhibit the associations.

I have written to the owner of the property and the city government regarding the pending action and providing them with the opportunity to comment. A copy of the letter is also enclosed.

If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact me at the address above or jo.antonson@alaska.gov or phone 907.269.8714.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joan M. Antonson".

Joan M. Antonson
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

Attachments: newspaper article, letter to owner and local government officials

Cc: Cordova Historic Preservation Commission, Nancy Bird, nbird5800@gmail.com

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: 3/22/2019 Date of Pending List: 4/5/2019 Date of 16th Day: 4/22/2019 Date of 45th Day: 5/6/2019 Date of Weekly List:

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

Accept Return Reject 4/26/2019 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments:

Recommendation/ Criteria

Reviewer *Alyssa Hernandez* Control Unit Discipline _____

Telephone _____ Date 4/26/2019

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.