

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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. 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.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Wassillie Trefon Dena'ina Fish Cache

Other names/site number: Trefon Fish Cache, Trefon Cache, Alaska Heritage Resources

Survey #XLC-00251

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: Lake Clark National Park and Preserve, One Park Place

City or town: Port Alsworth State: AK County: Lake and Peninsula Borough

Not For Publication:

Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this ___ 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 ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national x statewide ___ local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A ___ B X C ___ D

<u>Robert M. [unclear], Chief Historian</u>		<u>DFPO 4/18/2013</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title:		Date
<u>National Park Service</u>		
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government		

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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. 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.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Wassillie Trefon Dena'ina Fish Cache

Other names/site number: Trefon Fish Cache, Trefon Cache, Alaska Heritage Resources

Survey # XLC-00251

Name of related multiple property listing:

NA

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: Lake Clark National Park and Preserve, One Park Place

City or town: Port Alsworth State: AK County: Lake and Peninsula Borough

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this ___ 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 ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national X statewide ___ local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A ___ B X C ___ D

<p style="text-align: center;">_____ Signature of certifying official/Title:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">_____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Date 4/17/13</p>
---	---

Wassillie Trefon Dena'ina Fish Cache

Lake and Peninsula
Borough, Alaska
County and State

Name of Property

In my opinion, the property <u> x </u> meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.	
<u>Joan M. Antonson</u>	<u>21 September 2012</u>
Signature of commenting official:	Date
<u>Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer</u>	<u>Alaska</u>
Title :	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. 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
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)

Jon Edson H. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

6.5.13
Date of Action

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
-

Wassillie Trefon Dena'ina Fish Cache

Lake and Peninsula
Borough, Alaska
County and State

Name of Property
Site

Structure

Object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing

Noncontributing

buildings

sites

Fish Cache

structures

objects

1

Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Commerce/trade/agriculture

Subsistence/storage

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Landscape/park.

Wassillie Trefon Dena'ina Fish Cache

Lake and Peninsula
Borough, Alaska
County and State

Name of Property

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Vernacular architecture

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: __wood__

Foundation: log

Walls: log

Roof: wood and sod

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Wassillie Trefon Dena'ina Fish Cache stands about 30 meters (100') from the Lake Clark National Park and Preserve Visitor Center at Port Alsworth, Alaska. The cache is situated in an opening surrounded on three sides by a grove of birch, cottonwood and willow trees. There is also a small interpretive sign 20' south of the cache which informs park visitors of its cultural and historic significance. There is one Dena'ina fish drying rack within 15' of the cache, which would have been a typical juxtaposition found at Dena'ina fish camps in earlier times. The Trefon Fish Cache is a small log food storage structure sitting on top of four posts that are 1 meter 42 centimeters (4' 8") off the ground. The wall logs have been hewed flat with an axe and are held together with dovetail notches. The posts have been especially formed to prevent small animals such as mice and dogs from climbing into the cache to plunder the foodstuffs stowed inside. The gable roof is covered with sod. Access is by a notched log ladder 1 meter 70 centimeters (5' 6") high, leaning against the front platform providing entry through a small plank hatch 57 centimeters wide by 78 centimeters high (22" by 30 1/2"). The small front platform is a continuation of the cache floor extending past the door and made of 8 centimeters (3") diameter

Wassillie Trefon Dena'ina Fish Cache

Lake and Peninsula
Borough, Alaska
County and State

Name of Property

white spruce poles notched into the sill logs. The platform is as wide as the interior of the cache and extends out 54 centimeters (21'') and aids one entering and exiting the interior of the cache. The Trefon Cache is made of white spruce, *Picea glauca*. The Dena'ina word for the tree is *ch'vala* or tree, indicating the high regard the Dena'ina had for white spruce. [Priscilla Russell Kari, *Tanaina Plantlore*, National Park Service: Anchorage, 1987, 28-30] The cache's exterior measurements are 2 meters 83 centimeters long (9' 2'') by 2 meters 67 centimeters wide (8' 8''). The interior walls are 80 centimeters (31 1/2 '') from the eve log to the floor while the gable ends measure 1 meter 39 centimeters from the ridge pole to the floor (55''). The floor is made of hewn white spruce poles approximately 10-12 centimeters (4-5 inches) in diameter notched into the sill logs. Overall the Trefon Fish Cache is approximately 56 square feet. The cache was built about 1920 on Lake Clark at the Trefon family fall-winter hunting and trapping camp at *Nan Qelah* or "mossy place," now known as Miller Creek. The site was 3 miles east of historic Kijik village. It was a trailhead for the Telaquana Trail, a 50-mile long trail connecting historic Kijik village with Telaquana village. Mr. Trefon believes his father was aided in the construction of the cache by his father, Trefon Balluta (1858-1925?) and his older brother Gabriel Trefon (1897-1963). The Trefon brothers were known as expert practitioners of Dena'ina woodcraft and building techniques. [Mary Alsworth, conversations, 1992] The cache was used primarily to store dried salmon for human consumption and for sled dog food, however, occasionally dried moose meat was stored in the cache. On one occasion a brown bear smelled the dried moose meat and chewed and clawed a lower wall log in an attempt to gain access to the meat. The scarred and weathered logs offer mute testimony of the bear's power in his futile efforts to breach the stoutly built cache.

Narrative Description

The Trefon cache is a model for a younger generation of Dena'ina builders and scholars who want to examine traditional Dena'ina woodcraft and architecture and replicate it for educational and practical reasons.

The white spruce was a very fine building material as it was relatively light and easily worked, yet quite strong. White spruce made excellent resilient and stout log caches, strong enough to deter brown bears and secure enough to keep mice and dogs from wasting the dried fish. White spruce protected from moisture will last at least 100 years, if exposed to moisture it will rot in less than 25 years. [Babe Alsworth, 1973-1992]. To prevent dry salmon from becoming moldy while stored in a cache its walls and floor had spaces between the logs and poles to allow for the free flow of air. In addition, spruce boughs were also laid on the cache floor so the bundles of fish would be cushioned and have an air flow under them to prevent souring and mold growing on the dry fish.

With one of its many moves the cache was re-roofed with sawed one inch boards and a new full sized 2x4 ridge pole. The cache originally had four rafters. The lumber had been sawed on Charlie Denison's steam powered sawmill located on Lake Clark near Tanalian Point, know now as Port Alsworth. The roof was covered with tin shingles that were originally flattened 5 gallon

Wassillie Trefon Dena'ina Fish Cache

Lake and Peninsula
Borough, Alaska
County and State

Name of Property

fuel cans which became ubiquitous in the 1930s around southwestern Alaska with the widespread use of aircraft. Like many other Nondalton people Wassillie Trefon worked with Charlie Denison sawing lumber and that is how he obtained boards from Denison for the roof and door. The last cache door was made of plywood and not well fitted, when it was put on the cache is not recalled, but likely in the late 1950s or 1960s.

Helen Beeman Denison, the wife of Charlie Denison, kept daily journals while living in on Lake Clark from 1945 to 1952. She made frequent mention of Wassillie Trefon working with Denison on the sawmill:

9-22-1950 "Hauled up 120 logs for Macy, Wass T. & H. Balluta"

9-24-1950 "Started on Wass T. 's logs."

9-25-1950 "Sawed for Wass T. all day."

9-26-1950 "Finished Wass T. 's logs. Sawed wood."

9-27-1950 "Planned lumber for Wass T. & H. Balluta."

Mr. Trefon is certain that his father obtained the sawed lumber for cache roof and for the ridge pole from the Denison sawmill.

In 1958 Wassillie Trefon was drowned while commercial fishing in Kvichak Bay, however, his family continued to reside in Nondalton and to use the fish cache at their summer fish camp. In the mid-1960s the gas can shingle roof began to leak so Henry Trefon, Wassillie and Mary Trefon oldest son, covered the older roof with sheet aluminum, thus assuring its continued viability, even though the cache now spanned five decades of existence and normally would have been rotten at that age. [Bill Trefon, conversation, August 18, 2010]

In August 2004, park personnel and Nondalton villagers moved the cache from its position of sitting on four 55 gallon drums to a one ton truck. The truck was driven onto a small barge and transported up Lake Clark from the Trefon Fish Camp on the Newhalen River to Port Alsworth. At Port Alsworth the truck was driven off the barge to an open shed near the park Visitor Center and the cache was unloaded and stowed under the shed roof.

In 2005 historic architect Grant Crosby from the Alaska Support Office in Anchorage surveyed the Trefon Fish Cache and wrote a detailed restoration plan. In 2006 Steve Hobson, Jr. was hired to restore the Trefon Cache. Mr. Hobson is considered the foremost traditional Dena'ina wood worker from Nondalton and his sister is married to Mr. Trefon.

Mr. Hobson restored the cache after consulting Mr. Trefon about its original appearance and subsequent changes it underwent at Horseshoe Bend and Nondalton Fish Village. In addition, he was guided by Mr. Crosby's work plan. The basic idea was to restore the cache to what it looked like when it was built by Wassillie Trefon at Miller Creek circa 1920. For example, we knew the original cache did not have a plywood door as it did when the National Park Service took custody of it. Therefore we consulted elders such as Andrew Balluta, books such as *The Ethnography of the Tanaina* by Cornelius Osgood and historic photographs and came up with the rough sawed one inch spruce boards held in place with a wooden bar. The photographs were not

Wassillie Trefon Dena'ina Fish Cache

Lake and Peninsula
Borough, Alaska
County and State

Name of Property

close enough, Andrew Balluta was not sure so we decided to go with Osgood's traditional Dena'ina cache door which was used before metal hinges became widely available at Lake Clark.

First Mr. Hobson deconstructed the cache from the roof to the sill logs, since there were no nails or spikes below the roof, it was not a difficult task. The aluminum roofing was removed, next the square tin gas can shingles were removed and finally the boards were taken off. The boards were mostly decayed and would not have supported a sod roof like the original covering. The roof boards had been the only nailed items in the cache, having been nailed to the top of the eve logs and the ridgepole. The intact tin shingles were saved for interpretive purposes.

The logs comprising the two gable ends were attached together in an ingenious way by having a 3.08 centimeter (2'') slot cut out from just below the ridge pole to the top of the front and rear eave logs. The slot was very narrow at its bottom and wider toward the surface. A hewed stick, narrow at the bottom and wider at the surface was hammered into the slot and it held the entire gable end rigid and no nails or spikes were required. Mr. Hobson removed one of the hewed sticks and inadvertently broke it and the other was fragile so he replaced them with two of his own construction that are very similar to the originals. The original sticks were retained as educational specimens.

The wall logs were all sound except the two sill logs which had rot on each end and they were replaced with new hand hewn sills by Mr. Hobson so as to be sure to carry the additional weight produced by the heavier roof. The gable ends both consisted of 3 short hewn logs. The walls from the eaves to the sills both had five logs per side. The total number of logs in the cache walls was 26 of which only the sills were new, all others, 24 of them are original. The original sill logs were saved as prime examples of superior woodworking with an axe.

Mr. Hobson made four traditional log posts for the cache to rest on. The posts were cut in a special way to make it difficult if not impossible for small animals to climb up to reach the protected foodstuffs. The posts stand 1 meter 42 centimeters (4' 7.9'') above the ground. About 86 centimeters (2' 9.9'') above the ground the post is reduced in diameter from approximately 31 centimeters (1' 3.4'') to about 15 centimeters (6'') in diameter and then it abruptly reverts to its natural diameter for the last 46 centimeters (1' 6.11'') of its height. The abrupt junction of the reduced diameter and the natural diameter creates an impediment that discourages mice and other small animals from climbing.

The door was based on documentation from Cornelius Osgood's book *The Ethnography of the Tanaina*. "A small entrance is cut in the front wall of the [cache]. This may be closed by a plank door held in place by a cross bar." [p 66] Since the door on the Trefon Cache in 2004 was made of plywood and was hinged with two mismatched steel hinges it was obvious it was not original. A new door was constructed as Mr. Hobson had seen other Nondalton elders build when he was a youngster in the 1940s and 1950s. The door was held in place with a spruce pole bar. In the dog sled era large numbers of dogs were staked out around the Fish Camp and they acted as a

Wassillie Trefon Dena'ina Fish Cache

Lake and Peninsula
Borough, Alaska
County and State

Name of Property

deterrent to bears and wolverines and enabled people to build their fish caches at the convenient height of four (1 meter 22 centimeters) to five feet (1 meter 52 centimeters) off the ground.

When the Trefon Fish Cache was removed from Nondalton Fish Camp to Port Alsworth it was sitting on four 55 gallon steel drums therefore it was necessary to build a ladder for access. After consultation with elder Andrew Balluta, who like Mr. Trefon was born at the Miller Creek in the 1930s, but in 1930, recommended the cache be about 4 feet (1 meter 42 centimeters) off the ground. Mr. Hobson constructed a traditional Dena'ina notched log ladder.

Over time, some of the wall logs had shifted out of alignment and therefore the historic architect recommended mounting 8 steel stabilizers on the interior corners, top and bottom, to tighten up the structure and they were put in place. The roof support system was entirely new and consisted of a spruce log ridgepole and three pole rafters on each side of the ridge. The rafters were sheathed with rough sawed white spruce 1" boards and covered with two courses of tarpaper and topped with a solid rubberized covering. The roof was then covered with local sod squares in keeping with Mr. Trefon's recollection of stories told to him by elders of the original cache appearance at Miller Creek.

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.

Wassillie Trefon Dena'ina Fish Cache

Lake and Peninsula
Borough, Alaska
County and State

Name of Property

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture _____

Ethnic Heritage- Native American _____

Dena'ina Athabascan _____

Period of Significance

1920-1961 _____

Significant Dates

1920, 1961 _____

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Wassillie Trefon Dena'ina Fish Cache

Lake and Peninsula
Borough, Alaska
County and State

Name of Property

Cultural Affiliation

Dena'ina Athabascan

Architect/Builder

Wassillie Trefon

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Trefon Cache is significant under Criteria A and C. It is a unique resource as it is a largely intact example of a well-crafted traditional piece of Dena'ina vernacular architecture with a documented builder and concise history of its use since about 1920. The Wassillie Trefon Fish Cache is the last best example of the traditional Dena'ina Athabascan fish cache in the Lake Clark-Iliamna area. Indeed, it is very likely to be the best example of a southwestern Alaska Native log cache extant in the entire Bristol Bay region. [Hjalmer Olson, telephone conversation, September 4, 2010]. While this kind of log fish cache formerly was ubiquitous in Dena'ina and inland Yup'ik villages, hunting and trapping camps and summer fish villages they have now largely disappeared from the scene. No doubt there are a few caches extant, but most of those would be in a state of neglect and decay. The type of construction of the Wassillie Trefon cache is that of a hand hewn square notched log building. Log houses and cabins were generally built with the same kind of modified dove-tail notching that characterizes the square notch. The elevated log fish cache was very common in nineteenth century Bristol Bay upland villages for the preservation of large numbers of dried salmon many of which were dog fish which meant they were for consumption by sled dogs. The species of this kind of salmon was the most common *Oncorhynchus nerka* also known as red or sockeye salmon. Under criterion C Wassillie Trefon was acknowledged to be a master woodworker by his peers and the present generation in Nondalton in the art of traditional Dena'ina woodcraft. Wassillie Trefon built all his own log houses and caches for his family at Miller Creek, Tanalian Point, Old Nondalton and Nondalton. He built plank skiffs from lumber he sawed both with a whip saw and by assisting Charlie Denison on his steam powered sawmill on Lake Clark. Study of the cache construction will yield important Dena'ina wood working techniques and methods. The cache was built without nails or spikes. A tightly grooved vertical stick was hammered into a groove running the height of the inside of the gable end providing the rigidity keeping the gable logs together. In effect, the Trefon cache is a kind of blueprint for a basic traditional Dena'ina structure that will inform subsequent generations on the details of a once common but now largely extinct local way of secure food storage and preservation from the rigors of the environment, be those challenges mold, mice or brown bears.

Wassillie Trefon Dena'ina Fish Cache

Lake and Peninsula
Borough, Alaska
County and State

Name of Property

Period of Significance

The period of significance was when the Trefon cache was used for its original purpose as a secure dried fish storage shed circa 1920 to 1961.

Criteria Considerations

The cache was donated to the park in 2004 by Mr. and Mrs. Bill Trefon, Sr. whose father, Wassillie Trefon, (1898-1958) built the cache. Ethnographer Cornelius Osgood quoted a nineteenth century born Dena'ina informant as saying; "In the Clark Lake area ... 'fish caches were neatly built of hewn logs and planks.'" [Cornelius Osgood, *The Ethnography of the Tanaina*, Human Relations Area Files Press, New Haven, 1966, 66] The Trefon Cache is the quintessential Dena'ina fish cache in existence. According to noted linguist, Dr. James Kari, the Lake Clark Dena'ina might have used very old Dena'ina words *dehi* or *chu* or "one that is covered" to describe caches like the Trefon Cache. Nondalton elder Gladys Evanoff states elevated caches were called *deh'i udeq'dez*, or "cache that is up high." [James Kari, *Dena'ina Topical Dictionary*, Alaska Native Language Center, University of Alaska, Fairbanks, 2007, 227; Karen Evanoff, e-mail November 3, 2010].

The Wassillie Trefon Fish cache was removed from its original location because the Trefon family moved to Nondalton and disassembled the cache and set it up on the banks of the Newhalen River, at the location of their summer fish camp. The Trefons valued the fish cache and realized that its continued utility was needed for the same reasons it had been built, namely as a secure dried fish storage structure. The cache is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places because of its significant architectural values. The cache is a rare example of traditional Dena'ina design and construction; none like it are known to exist in such a fine state of preservation. The cache has been restored in Dena'ina territory and its present location lends itself to continued protection and availability for study and viewing. The location of the cache near the Port Alsworth Visitor Center is less than one mile away from cache builder's home in the early twentieth century at Tanalian Point, the original name for what is now officially known as Port Alsworth. The cache lies about 2,000 feet from the waters of Lake Clark. Historically, the cache was located much closer to the waters of Lake Clark or the Newhalen River, for example, it was about 100 feet away from the Newhalen River when it was last used by the Trefon Family at the Nondalton Fish camp. Wassillie Trefon spent much of his youth and early adulthood at Tanalian Point. It is highly appropriate that the Wassillie Trefon Fish cache has been restored at Port Alsworth because when the cache was built in 1920 at Was Trefon's hunting camp at Miller Creek, eleven miles north of Tanalian Point, his family home was Tanalian Point. And so the cache has come full circle and is emblematic of the peripatetic nature of the Lake Clark Dena'ina and their caches and log homes during much of the twentieth century. Interestingly enough, for the past several years the cache donors, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Trefon have lived at Port Alsworth right next to Wassillie Trefon's boyhood home at Tanalian Point (Port Alsworth). In the final analysis the cache is where it is because it is not reasonable to expect it to survive any other place than where it is on park property, under the watch eyes of the

Wassillie Trefon Dena'ina Fish Cache

Lake and Peninsula
Borough, Alaska
County and State

Name of Property

National Park Service. This is the reason the donors gave the cache to Lake Clark National Park and Preserve, to preserve, protect and interpret it for future generations of visitors.

Wassillie Trefon was an expert woodsman, well-practiced in all the traditional Dena'ina woodworking craft that were still part and parcel of most Dena'ina men born in the late nineteenth century. Both he and his older brother Gabriel were known as very capable of building any kind of structure or ad hoc skin boat in the Dena'ina tradition of masters of woodcraft. Another brother, Alex Trefon, born in 1912, was also known in the Lake Clark-Iliamna area as a superb woodworker. The Trefon boys must have learned their woodworking skills from their father Trefon Balluta. The Trefon Cache is a fine example of Wassillie Trefon's skill level and as such is one of the few historic examples of the traditional Dena'ina style extant. In addition, Steve "Butch" Hobson Jr. who did the restoration of the cache, is considered by most to possess the highest level of traditional woodworking skills of anyone in the village of Nondalton.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

With the arrival of prospectors in the early twentieth century, Dena'ina in the Lake Clark-Iliamna area dried red salmon and tied them into bundles of 40 fish for storage in fish caches, such as the Trefon Fish Cache. They sold and traded the bundles of dried fish to prospectors who used them to feed their sled dogs. Lake Clark Dena'ina also sold bundles of dry fish to Hans Seversen who ran the most important trading post in the Lake Clark-Iliamna area. Seversen, in turn, sold the bundles of fish to his customers, including prospectors and other winter travelers.

Colonel A.J. Macnab and Frederick K. Vreeland of New York City were at Lake Clark on a big game hunt the summer of 1921. They began hiking up the Telaquana Trail from Miller Creek on August 29, 1921 and Macnab wrote: "We find ... the old trail at the mouth of the creek where there is an old cabin and two well-built caches—empty." On August 31 Colonel Macnab again mentions the cache: "We reach the mouth of the creek [Miller Creek] ... store our surplus stuff in a well-built cache on stilts back of the cabin ..." [A.J. Macnab, "Diary of an Alaskan Sheep Hunt," *Lake Clark-Iliamna, Alaska 1921: The Travel Diary of Colonel A. J. Macnab*, Alaska Natural History Association, Anchorage, 1996, 40] It would seem probable that one of the caches described by Colonel Macnab was the Trefon Fish Cache because the Trefon family began using Miller Creek as a hunting camp and as jumping off place for their fall hunting and winter trapping on the Telaquana Trail after prospector W.H. Miller died about 1910.

The many moves of the Trefon Fish Cache were not out of the ordinary, but rather was a traditional pattern from at least the early American period for the Lake Clark Dena'ina Athabascan people. After the measles-influenza pandemic hit historic Kijik Village on Lake Clark in 1902 the surviving Dena'ina moved 25 miles southwest to establish Old Nondalton Village on Sixmile Lake by 1909. When the surviving "families moved, they dismantled the logs

Wassillie Trefon Dena'ina Fish Cache

Lake and Peninsula
Borough, Alaska
County and State

Name of Property

from most of their dwellings and floated them to the new village.” [Ellanna-Balluta, *The People of Nondalton*, 64]

Wassillie Trefon's father and mother, Trefon Balluta and Mary Ann Trefon, began their married life at Telaquana Village, fifty miles north of Lake Clark, in the late 1890s. But as many of the more far-flung Dena'ina villages were abandoned in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries Dena'ina people concentrated their populations at Old Iliamna, historic Kijik, Old Nondalton, and Stony River, the Trefon Balluta family was part of that dynamic.

The Trefon-Ballutas lived at historic Kijik in 1900. In 1910 they lived at Old Iliamna so their oldest son, Gabriel, could attend school. In about 1912 they became the first Dena'ina family to live at Tanalian Point. In 1920 they still lived at Tanalian Point. After Wassillie was married in the mid-1930s he dismantled his log house at Tanalian Point and transported the logs to Old Nondalton and rebuilt it. By the 1940s the Trefon family had largely left Tanalian Point, except for fall fishing, for Nondalton. [Linda J. Ellanna, *Lake Clark Sociocultural Study, Phase I*, U.S. National Park Service, *Lake Clark National Park: Anchorage*, 1986, 4-43] In 1944-1945 Wassillie Trefon moved his family three miles west on Sixmile Lake to present-day Nondalton, as did most all the residents of Old Nondalton. Old Nondalton was a difficult place to live because when the lake level dropped in the fall, boats could only be accessed by walking through mud and present-day Nondalton had a superior beach on which to leave skiffs.

The Inland Dena'ina people have long seemed to have been willing and able to move houses and villages as circumstances dictated. For example, the Kijik National Historic Landmark is considered to be the largest intact Athabascan archeological site in Alaska. It is located three miles west of the mouth of Miller Creek where Wassillie Trefon built his fish cache, and consists of about 20 separate clusters and solitary semi-subterranean house depressions spread over more than 2,500 acres. There are about 270 documented Dena'ina house depressions. [Anne Worthington, *A Guide To Dena'ina House Depressions At Kijik National Historic Landmark*, Anchorage: United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1996] The site represents Dena'ina life on Lake Clark for approximately the past 1,000 years. Elders say their ancestors moved their homes after they cut all the firewood trees immediately adjacent to their villages. The hunter gatherer economic model also lent itself to seasonal mobility or a seasonal nomadism in which people traveled to where the needed resources were concentrated in order to survive in a demanding climate. In 1926 there was a very poor return of red salmon to Lake Clark so Gabriel Trefon led his family 70 miles north to Telaquana Lake where he had been born and knew there would be a sufficiency of salmon to feed his family and their dogs for the year. In the late 1930s Gabriel Trefon decided to move three miles west of Old Nondalton to the location of present-day Nondalton because the location was more advantageous for boat storage and access to both the trading post at Iliamna and the Bristol Bay commercial fishing industry. During the early to mid-1940s other residents of Old Nondalton moved down to the new village and Old Nondalton like historic Kijik village 30 years earlier was gradually abandoned. Thus Inland Dena'ina people moved their residences and villages for a variety of reasons, namely to leave the scene of a devastating epidemic, to more readily obtain firewood, to have a superior physical location for their village and to more readily access trading and employment

Wassillie Trefon Dena'ina Fish Cache

Lake and Peninsula
Borough, Alaska
County and State

Name of Property

opportunities. [Linda J. Ellanna and Andrew Balluta, *The People of Nondalton*, Smithsonian Institution Press: Washington, D.C., 1992, 58, 64, 76, 80, 81, 280].

Therefore, it not unusual for the Trefon family to move their residences and their structures, such as their log houses and caches, depending on their circumstances in their lives in a time of significant change facing themselves and the fellow Dena'ina. The twentieth century Dena'ina people were highly mobile and the Trefon family epitomized that fact. With the growth of physical amenities in the 1960s and 1970s more people got part time electrical power from personal generators and eventually full time power from the Iliamna, Newhalen Nondalton Electric Cooperative by 1983. With full time electric power came the widespread of use of freezers in Nondalton and the diminution of the importance of traditional hewn log fish caches. Instead of storing dried salmon in the fish caches Nondalton people froze the dry fish in their freezers or stored them in their windbreaks since they were now dealing with hundreds rather than thousands as in the sled dog days.

In addition, by the late 1970s the fact that like most of the people in Nondalton the Trefon family no longer kept a dog team meant they annually dried far fewer salmon than they previously had during the dog sled era. So although the freezer was far smaller than the Trefon Fish Cache they no longer needed the cache to store their year's supply of dried salmon for dog food. Thus in 2004 Mr. Trefon approached the National Park Service about donating the cache to be restored at the Visitor Center at Port Alsworth. In fact the Trefon cache was the last most intact Dena'ina fish cache extant in and around Nondalton and its fish village. The cache might be the last of the traditional log fish caches in the entire Bristol Bay region, a region formerly known for its ubiquitous log caches.

In his book *Shelters, Shacks and Shanties, and How to Build Them*, Daniel C. Beard, "Father of the American Boy Scout movement," described the "Susitna" cache which looks very much like the Trefon Cache except it is much higher. He also documented a "Fred Vreeland" cache that employed posts similar to the Trefon Cache. Vreeland was Colonel Macnab's traveling partner to Lake Clark in 1921 and along with Belmore Browne and Herschel Parker had first hand experience observing Dena'ina architecture at Lake Clark and Cook Inlet and likely were Beard's sources of information. [Daniel C. Beard, *Shelters, Shacks and Shanties and How to Build Them*, The Lyons Press: Guilford, Connecticut, 1999, 79-82, 191-194].

The Dena'ina were known to have developed the bark lined underground fish caches in the pre-historic times, but once the Russians and Kamchedal from the Kamchatka Peninsula introduced them to steel axes, adzes and saws and dovetail notches they began to build above ground log caches such as the Trefon Cache in the early historic period say 1790 to 1820, but probably more so after 1820 when the Dena'ina-Russian warfare abated and the fur trade was in full force. Ivan Petroff mentioned the kind of log work the Dena'ina built in his 1884 book about Alaska, in conjunction with the Tenth Federal Census. [Ivan Petroff, *Alaska, Its Population, Industries, and Resources*, Department of the Interior, U.S. Census Office: Washington, 1884, 163]

Wassillie Trefon Dena'ina Fish Cache

Lake and Peninsula
Borough, Alaska
County and State

Name of Property

Moreover, any historic photographs from western Alaska taken in the late nineteenth or early twentieth centuries of Alutiiq, Yup'ik or Athabaskan settlements always showed raised log caches. [Ann Fienup-Riordan, *The Way We Genuinely Live*, University of Washington Press: Seattle, 2007, 186, 272] Traditionally crafted log caches are no longer seen in contemporary villages because people got rid of their dog teams when they acquired snow machines in the late 1970s. Village wide electricity has also enabled people to run freezers to store dried and smoked salmon for human consumption rather than store them in a traditional log fish cache. In recent conversations with a number of people in various Bristol Bay villages it appears there are no longer any viable log caches extant.

Folklorist /cultural anthropologist Susan W. Fair wrote an article "Story, Storage, and Symbol: Functional Cache Architecture, Cache Narratives, and Roadside Attractions" about the likely background and likely origins of Alaska Native caches. "Elevated cache types include log or plank cache, open racks, platform caches, and tree caches. The high cabin-on-post cache was probably not an indigenous form among either Eskimos or Athabascans... Cabin-on-post caches are thought to have appeared in the 1870s, but the date may have been earlier, especially on the Kenai Peninsula, ... at Fort Yukon, and on the Seward Peninsula, all of which were frequented by traders from various nations. In the subarctic, high caches may not have been constructed until the arrival of the Western Union Telegraph Expedition in the mid-1860s, after which the structures were first portrayed in carved ivory, particularly on pipes made for sale. ... The cabin-on-post form may thus have been introduced by early traders, miners, or missionaries, who would have brought with them memories of the domestic and storage structures constructed in their homelands." [Susan W. Fair, "Story," 167, 169-170]

The Lake Clark Dena'ina are an important band of the Dena'ina Indians of south central and southwestern Alaska. The Dena'ina bands apparently entered the Cook Inlet Basin and the Lake Clark region more than 1,000 years ago from the interior of Alaska. When Captain James Cook encountered the Dena'ina on Cook Inlet in 1778 they also occupied the Susitna River drainage, the Kenai Peninsula, the northeastern part of Iliamna Lake, Lake Clark, the upper Mulchatna River, Whitefish and Telaquana Lakes, and the Stony River country. This was a huge land mass under Dena'ina hegemony from Cook Inlet on the east, to the Bristol Bay uplands to the southwest and the headwaters of the Kuskokwim River to the north.

Some Dena'ina fish caches were larger than the Trefon cache and were supported by six posts instead of four to hold the extra weight. During the period 1880 to 1920 when many prospectors were traveling through Dena'ina country searching for gold by dog sled they purchased large numbers of dried red salmon for dog food. The Dena'ina made bundles of 40 dried salmon and stored them in their caches and perhaps that was the reason the large six-leg cache was developed. In such cases, a Dena'ina family might put up 2,500 to 3,000 dried red salmon in a large cache. Or an individual might build two caches close together as Pete "Fedja" Delkittie did on the Newhalen River in the 1920s or 1930s.

In 1966 James W. VanStone excavated a Dena'ina fish cache at the Kijik Fish Camp, which was abandoned between 1902 and 1909. The cache was probably built in the late nineteenth century

Wassillie Trefon Dena'ina Fish Cache

Lake and Peninsula
Borough, Alaska
County and State

Name of Property

as only one cache leg was still standing when it was documented. Its similarities with the Trefon cache are many and it is worth quoting Dr. VanStone's description as a means of comparison with the Trefon cache:

In its manner of construction, this cache, which was 2.75 m. square and rested on four posts, one of which was still standing at a height of 1.40 m. above the ground, appears to resemble almost exactly the type described by Osgood. One notable feature, somewhat more elaborate than Osgood's description, is the construction of the posts on which the cache stood. They have an overhang about half way up, presumably to prevent small animals from climbing into the structure and getting at the materials stored there. At the top of these posts is a concave notch into which were fitted the four poles which formed the square floor and on which the superstructure of the cache rested. The floor itself appears to have been constructed of narrow poles with the bark removed placed at internals to allow for ventilation. Since many pieces of cut birch bark were found lying directly on these poles, it may be that the bark were found lying directly on these poles, it may be that the floor was covered with this material. On the other hand, the birch bark may have fallen in from the roof which was almost certainly covered with it.

The four walls of the cache were constructed of wide, hewn log planks, notched at the end. ... the side walls were simply halved logs, some as much as 35 cm. wide, with the flat side facing in and the ends carefully notched. The end planks had been skillfully hewn and those at the front of the structure were as much as 42 cm. in width. The gabled sections at each end were grooved for vertical supports which may have run from the floor of the cache to the roof.

The structure almost certainly had an inverted V-shaped roof with a single ridge pole and short poles, like those used for the floor, running from the top wall log to the ridge. ... As we have noted, the roof of the cache was almost certainly covered with birch bark and perhaps also sod. ... The predominant impressions created by the remains of this cache are of solidity, weight, and permanence. [James W. VanStone and Joan B. Townsend, *Kijik: An Historic Tanaina Indian Settlement*, Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, 1970, 200-201]

The VanStone description of the Kijik Lake Fish Camp Dena'ina fish cache sounds very similar to the Trefon fish cache, and conforms with Cornelius Osgood's description of Lake Clark Dena'ina fish caches as being "neatly built of hewn logs and planks." [Cornelius Osgood, op. cit., 66]

Other caches were also higher, especially if they were located in a remote area only visited in the winter for trapping and in that case they could be 9 or 10 feet off the ground. In one such

Wassillie Trefon Dena'ina Fish Cache

Lake and Peninsula
Borough, Alaska
County and State

Name of Property

example, a cache attributed to Ben Trefon, Sr., Wassillie Trefon's nephew, on the middle Mulchatna River downstream from the Chilikadrotna River, spikes were driven diagonally down the four cache legs and sticking out to deter climbing wolverines or black bears from reaching the raised cache.

The main tool used to construct the cache was the axe to hew the logs flat and a hand saw to cut the dove tail notches. Axes would have been the most prized trade good a late eighteenth or early nineteenth century Dena'ina could own. When the Lake Clark Dena'ina obtained axes and saws is not known for certain, but they probably had their first contact with Russian fur hunters, the promyshlenniki, in the 1790s. But by the mid-nineteenth century both tools would have become available to the Lake Clark Dena'ina as a result of the fur trade. Both the Russian America Company and its successor the Alaska Commercial Company were trading furs for manufactured goods, such as axes, with Dena'ina at Kenai, Iliamna, Tyonek, Katmai Bay and Nushagak all during the life of Trefon Balluta. A Russian trade axe head was discovered by Brown Carlson, Wassillie Trefon's brother-in-law, in his garden at Portage Creek village on Lake Clark five miles east of Miller Creek sometime between 1905 and 1960. [Craig Coray, 1976]. The axe appears very similar to a style from the early nineteenth century Russian post at Sitka, although it is possible to be of American or British origin. [Carl P. Russell, *Firearms, Traps, & Tools of the Mountain Men*, University of New Mexico Press, Albuquerque, 1977, 294-296.]

The origin of the above ground log fish cache is thought to be derived from the Russian influence as they had such structures apparently were common in Siberia. Once the Dena'ina obtained steel wood working tools they very quickly learned how to skillfully ply them to enhance their way of life. One of the leading scholars of Dena'ina ethnography, Alan Boraas of Kenai Peninsula College provides some context to the fish cache. "The various dovetail notches were certainly introduced by Russians [and Russian Finns]. An interesting connection is that the 1787 Russian post of Redoubt St. George at the mouth of the Kasilof [River] had about 40 employees of whom about half were identified as Kamchedal, probably famous for their above ground caches and the culture was otherwise very similar to the Dena'ina (Raven mythology, clans, primary reliance of salmon) so the initial stimulus may have come from them as well as Russians." [Alan Boraas, e-mail message, 8-20-10]

Wassillie Trefon Dena'ina Fish Cache

Lake and Peninsula
Borough, Alaska
County and State

Name of Property

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Babe Alsworth, conversations, 1973-1992.

Mary Alsworth, conversations, 1974-1992.

Daniel C. Beard, *Shelters, Shacks and Shanties*, The Lyons Press, Guilford, Connecticut, 1999.

Alan Boraas, e-mail message, August 20, 2010.

Helen Beeman Denison, diaries, 1945-1952.

Grant Crosby, "Dena'ina Cache Condition Assessment," National Park Service, Anchorage, 2007.

Linda J. Ellanna and Andrew Balluta, *The People of Nondalton*, Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, D.C., 1992.

Linda J. Ellanna, Lake Clark Sociocultural Study, Phase I, U.S. National Park Service, Lake Clark National Park and Preserve, Anchorage, Alaska 1996.

Karen Evanoff, e-mail message, November 3, 2010.

Susan W. Fair, "Story, Storage, and Symbol: Functional Cache Architecture, Cache Narratives, and Roadside Attractions," *Exploring Everyday Landscapes*, University of Tennessee Press, Knoxville, 1997.

Steve Hobson, Jr., conversations, 2004 to present.

James Kari, e-mail message, August 20, 2010.

James Kari, *Dena'ina Topical Dictionary*, Alaska Native Language Center, Fairbanks, 2007.

James Kari and James A. Fall, *Shem Pete's Alaska: The Territory of the Upper Cook Inlet Dena'ina*, University of Alaska Press, Fairbanks, 2003.

Priscilla Russell Kari, *Tanaina Plantlore: An Ethnobotany of the Dena'ina Indians of Southcentral Alaska*, Alaska Native Language Center, University of Alaska, National Park Service, Anchorage, 1987.

Wassillie Trefon Dena'ina Fish Cache

Lake and Peninsula
Borough, Alaska
County and State

Name of Property

Molly Lee and Gregory A. Reinhardt, *Eskimo Architecture: Dwelling and Structure In The Early Historic Period*, University of Alaska Press and University of Alaska Museum, Fairbanks, 2003.

A.J. Macnab, "Diary of an Alaskan Sheep Hunt," *Lake Clark-Iliamna, Alaska 1921: The Travel Diary of Colonel A.J. Macnab*, Alaska Natural History Association: Anchorage, 1966.

Hjalmer Olson, telephone conversation, September 4, 2010.

Cornelius Osgood, *The Ethnography of the Tanaina*, Human Relations Area Files Press: New Haven, 1966.

Ivan Petroff, *Alaska: Its Population, Industries, and Resources, The Tenth Census of the United States, 1880*, Department of the Interior, U.S. Census Office: Washington, D.C., 1884.

Ann Fienup-Riordan, *The Way We Genuinely Live: Masterworks of Yup'ik Science And Survival*, University of Washington Press: Seattle, 2007.

Carl P. Russell, *Firearms, Traps, & Tools of the Mountain Men*, University of New Mexico Press: Albuquerque, 1977.

Bill Trefon, Sr., conversations 1992 to present.

James W. VanStone and Joan B. Townsend, *Kijik: An Historic Tanaina Indian Settlement*, Fieldiana: Anthropology Vol. 59, Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, 1970.

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 # _____

recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Wassillie Trefon Dena'ina Fish Cache

Lake and Peninsula
Borough, Alaska
County and State

Name of Property

Primary location of additional data:

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): Alaska Heritage Resources Survey No. XLC-00251

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than 1 acre

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: _____ Longitude: _____

2. Latitude: _____ Longitude: _____

3. Latitude: _____ Longitude: _____

4. Latitude: _____ Longitude: _____

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

1. Zone: UTM5 Easting: 426631 Northing: 6674157

2. Zone: Easting: Northing:

3. Zone: Easting: Northing:

4. Zone: Easting: Northing:

Wassillie Trefon Dena'ina Fish Cache

Lake and Peninsula
Borough, Alaska
County and State

Name of Property

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

The Wassillie Trefon Dena'ina Fish Cache is located about 30 meters (100 feet) from the Lake Clark National Park and Preserve Visitor Center at Port Alsworth, Alaska. The cache is in an opening surrounded on three sides by a grove of birch, cottonwood and willow trees. There is one fish rack, about 4.57 meters (15 feet) southwest of the cache. There also is a small interpretive sign with text and photographs about the cache 6.1 meters (20 feet) to the southwest of the cache.

The boundary of the nominated property is limited to the land surrounding the cache and the immediate area on which it stands. It is located in the NW ¼ of the SW ¼ of Section 4, Township 1 North, Range 29 West, Seward Meridian.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary includes only the open area immediately surrounding and including the cache of this property. The 28 foot by 40 foot plot is surrounded by trees on three sides which sets it off from its surroundings. The cache stands more or less in the center of the opening fringed by the trees and imparts a most rustic indigenoussness aura, harking back to a bygone era.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: John B. Branson, Park Historian
organization: Lake Clark National Park and Preserve
street & number: One Park Place
city or town: Port Alsworth state: AK zip code: 99653
e-mail: john_branson@nps.gov
telephone: 907/781-2134
date: April 15, 2013

Wassillie Trefon Dena'ina Fish Cache

Lake and Peninsula
Borough, Alaska
County and State

Name of Property

Additional Documentation

- Figure 1: Map showing location of the Wassillie Trefon Dena'ina Fish Cache.
- Figure 2: Sketch Map showing Lake Clark National Park and Preserve's Visitor Center and relative location of the Libby's No. 23 boat exhibit and the Wassillie Trefon Dena'ina Fish Cache exhibit.

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: The Wassillie Trefon Dena'ina Fish Cache

City or Vicinity: Port Alsworth

County: Lake and Peninsula Borough
Photographer: John B. Branson

State: AK

Date Photographed: 2008-2010, 2013.

Wassillie Trefon Dena'ina Fish Cache

Lake and Peninsula
Borough, Alaska
County and State

Name of Property
DESCRIPTION

Wassillie Trefon Fish Cache
Port Alsworth
Lake and Peninsula Borough
Alaska
John B. Branson
3-28-13
Lake Clark National Park and Preserve
One Park Place
Port Alsworth, Alaska 99653
Photo 1 (Trefon Cache-0001)
South side, camera facing north

Wassillie Trefon Fish Cache
Port Alsworth
Lake and Peninsula Borough
Alaska
John B. Branson
10-19-10
Lake Clark National Park and Preserve
One Park Place
Port Alsworth, Alaska 99653
Photo 2 (Trefon Cache-00002)
South side, camera facing north

Wassillie Trefon Fish Cache
Port Alsworth
Lake and Peninsula Borough
Alaska
John B. Branson
10-19-10
Lake Clark National Park and Preserve
One Park Place
Port Alsworth, Alaska 99653
Photo 3 (Trefon Cache-0003)
West side, camera facing east

Wassillie Trefon Fish Cache
Port Alsworth
Lake and Peninsula Borough
Alaska
John B. Branson

Wassillie Trefon Dena'ina Fish Cache

Lake and Peninsula
Borough, Alaska
County and State

Name of Property

10-19-10

Lake Clark National Park and Preserve
One Park Place
Port Alsworth, Alaska
Photo 4 (Trefon Cache-0004)
East side, camera facing west

Wassillie Trefon Fish Cache
Port Alsworth
Lake and Peninsula Borough
Alaska
John B. Branson
7-31-08
Lake Clark National Park and Preserve
One Park Place
Port Alsworth, Alaska 99653
Photo 5 (Trefon Cache-0005)
South side, camera facing north)

Wassillie Trefon Fish Cache
Port Alsworth
Lake and Peninsula Borough
Alaska
John B. Branson
2-4-09
Lake Clark National Park and Preserve
One Park Place
Port Alsworth, Alaska 99653
Photo 6 (Trefon Cache-0006)
South side, camera facing north

Wassillie Trefon Fish Cache
Port Alsworth
Lake and Peninsula Borough
Alaska
John B. Branson
3-29-13
Lake Clark National Park and Preserve
One Park Place
Port Alsworth, Alaska 99653
Photo 7 (Trefon Cache-0007)
North side (exterior) camera facing south

Wassillie Trefon Dena'ina Fish Cache

Lake and Peninsula
Borough, Alaska
County and State

Name of Property

Wassillie Trefon Fish Cache
Port Alsworth
Lake and Peninsula Borough
Alaska
John B. Branson
10-13-10
Lake Clark National Park and Preserve
One Park Place
Port Alsworth, Alaska 99653
Photo 8 (Trefon Cache-0008)
North side (interior) camera facing north

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Wassillie Trefon Dena'ina Fish Cache and Libby's No. 23 Bristol Bay double-ender

Lake Clark National Park & Preserve
Cultural Resources Team



Legend

● Property location

Wassillie Trefon Dena'ina Fish Cache
UTM Zone 5 426631 E 6674157 N

Libby's No. 23 Bristol Bay double-ender
UTM Zone 5 426620 E 6674133 N



0 0.5 1 Miles



Scale 1:63,360

USGS Quad Lake Clark A-4



Figure 1. Location of Wassillie Trefon Dena'ina Fish Cache and Libby's No. 23 Bristol Bay double-ender at Port Alsworth, Alaska.

















UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Wassillie Trefon Dena'ina Fish Cache

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ALASKA, Lake and Peninsula

DATE RECEIVED: 4/19/13 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 5/17/13
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 6/03/13 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 6/05/13
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 13000348

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 6.5.13 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

**Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places**

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service

Lake Clark National Park and Preserve

Admin/HQ Office

240 W. 5th Avenue, Suite 236, Anchorage, AK 99501

Phone (907) 644-3634 Fax (907) 644-3810

Field Office

General Delivery, Port Alsworth, AK 99653

Phone (907) 781-2218 Fax (907) 781-2119



1.A.2 (LACL)

April 17, 2013

Bob Sutton
Chief Historian
National Register Program
National Park Service
1201 I (Eye) Street NW, #2261
8th Floor
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. Sutton:

Enclosed please find the nomination for Wassillie Trefon Dena'ina Fish Cache in Lake Clark National Park and Preserve. We have addressed your review comments as per your letter dated January 28, 2013 and are re-submitting the nomination with all required attachments. The State Historic Preservation Officer has requested a copy but said she does not need to sign the revised nomination, consistent with advisement we received April 12, 2013 from Ms. Spradley-Kurowski (that the revision involving no boundary change does not have to go back to SHPO for signature).

If you have any questions about the nomination, please contact Jeanne Schaaf, our Cultural Resources Manager at (tel) 907-644-3640 or e-mail: jeanne_schaaf@nps.gov.

Sincerely,

Margaret L. Goodro
Superintendent

Enclosure

cc:

Jennifer Pederson Weinberger, Cultural Resources Team Leader, ARO
State Historic Preservation Officer





United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240



April 18, 2013

Memorandum

To: Acting Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places

From: Deputy Federal Preservation Officer, National Park Service *Robert H. [Signature]*

Subject: National Register Nomination for Wassillie Trefon Dena'ina Fish Cache,
Lake Clark National Park and Preserve, Alaska *4/18/2013*

I am forwarding the National Register nomination for the Wassillie Trefon Dena'ina Fish Cache in Lake Clark National Park and Preserve. The Park History Program has reviewed the nomination and found the property eligible under Criteria A and C, with areas of significance of Ethnic Heritage and Architecture.