

PH0054810

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Alaska
COUNTY: Mat-Su Borough
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE JUL 24 1973

1. NAME

COMMON:
Knik Site

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Mile 20, Knik Road

CITY OR TOWN:
Knik

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:

STATE: Alaska CODE: 02 COUNTY: Mat-Su Borough

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Matanuska-Susitna Borough (Museum) Joe Reddington, Sr. (cabin)

STREET AND NUMBER:
Box B Knik Road

CITY OR TOWN: Palmer STATE: Alaska CODE: 02

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
District Recorder

STREET AND NUMBER:
Box 860

CITY OR TOWN: Palmer STATE: Alaska CODE: 02

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

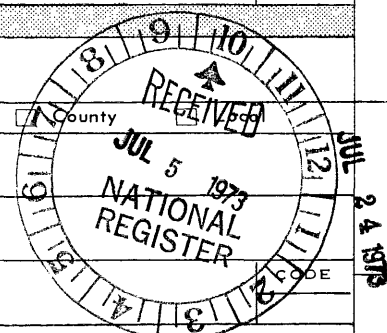
TITLE OF SURVEY:
None

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:



Senators: Mike Gravel/Ted Stevens; Congressman: Don Young

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)				
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins
	(Check One)		(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Only two structures remain from the era when Knik was the largest community on Cook Inlet. These are what is now the Knik Museum, a two-story balloon frame building that once served as a roadhouse and later a store, and a small log cabin.

The first floor of the museum is furnished with period objects, while the second is used to display equipment, etc., associated with sled dog transport and racing. The cabin is used as a storage building by a Knik resident. Both buildings have been altered a little but still reflect their period of construction.

The area of the site has, however, been considerably altered by recent road construction which now cuts the museum and cabin off from the shore of Cook Inlet and the old cemetery.

This nomination includes only the area of the museum and cabin.

Aliquot Parts Description: SM, T16N, R3W, Sec. 24, E ^{1/2} NW ^{1/4} SW ^{1/4} SE ^{1/4} and W ^{1/2} NE ^{1/4} SW ^{1/4} SE ^{1/4}.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian;	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1898-1919**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

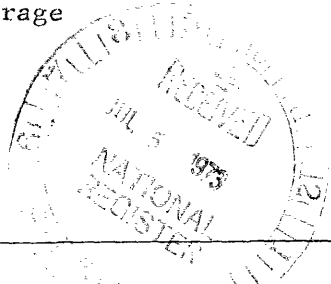
SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Knik, a site associated with transportation patterns in Alaska prior to railroad construction, is a significant regional example of this facet of the State's history.

From about 1898 until 1919, when the Alaska Railroad opened a townsite at Wasilla, Knik served as a trading and transportation center for the gold and coal mining regions of southcentral Alaska. During this time, Knik was the distribution point for water-borne freight transshipped to Cook Inlet mining towns such as Hope and Sunrise and the hub of trails such as: the Watson Coal Trail (Knik to the Moose Creek mines via Cottonwood); the Blakely Trail (Knik to Susitna Station); the Klondike and Boston Company summer trail (Knik via the beach to Cottonwood and then to Grubstake Gulch); the Klondike and Boston Company winter trail (via Knik, Three-mile, and Big Lakes to Grubstake Gulch);, the Carle Road (to the gold fields east of Hatcher Pass); and the Dalton Trail (branching from Carle Road as it entered Little Susitna Canyon and then east to the coal mines). In 1911, Knik also became a waystation on the Iditarod Trail (Seward to Nome via Iditarod). Travel was so heavy that in one week on November 1911 more than 120 mushers passed through Knik and out from Iditarod. Inbound freight and gold seekers to the Innoko-Iditarod fields passed outbound shipments such as the 1916 "Iditarod Gold Team" with 3,400 pounds of gold hauled by 46 dogs.

Knik's role as a transshipment point for water-borne freight all but ended when the Alaska Railroad reached the site of Anchorage and goods began to be shipped to Seward by steamship and from there to inland points by rail. This occurred in 1916. Then, as the railroad was extended north, Knik also lost its usefulness as a trail head to the Matanuska, Susitna and Innoko River valleys.

In August of 1919 when, as noted, the railroad reached Wasilla and a townsite was established there, gold and mail teams came to meet the train at that point. Knik was virtually abandoned and many buildings, as well as people, moved either to Wasilla or Anchorage



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Potter, Louise
1967 Old Times on Upper Cook's Inlet, the Book Cache, Anchorage

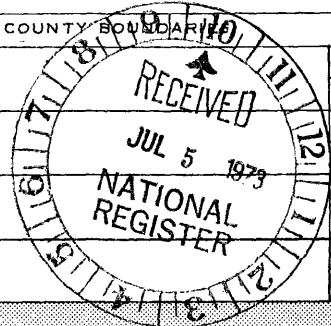
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 ' "	0 ' "		61° 27' 29"	149° 43' 41"	
NE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SW	0 ' "	0 ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 9

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARY:

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
William S. Hanable, Historian

ORGANIZATION: Alaska Division of Parks DATE: March 5, 1973

STREET AND NUMBER:
323 E. 4th Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Anchorage STATE: Alaska CODE: 02

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION **NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

Owner notified

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name Theodore G. Smith
Theodore G. Smith

Title State Liaison Officer

Date 6/26/73

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Robert W. Utley
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 7/24/73

ATTEST:

[Signature]
Keeper of The National Register

Date 7/23/73

ANCHORAGE

50 (ANCHORAGE C-8)

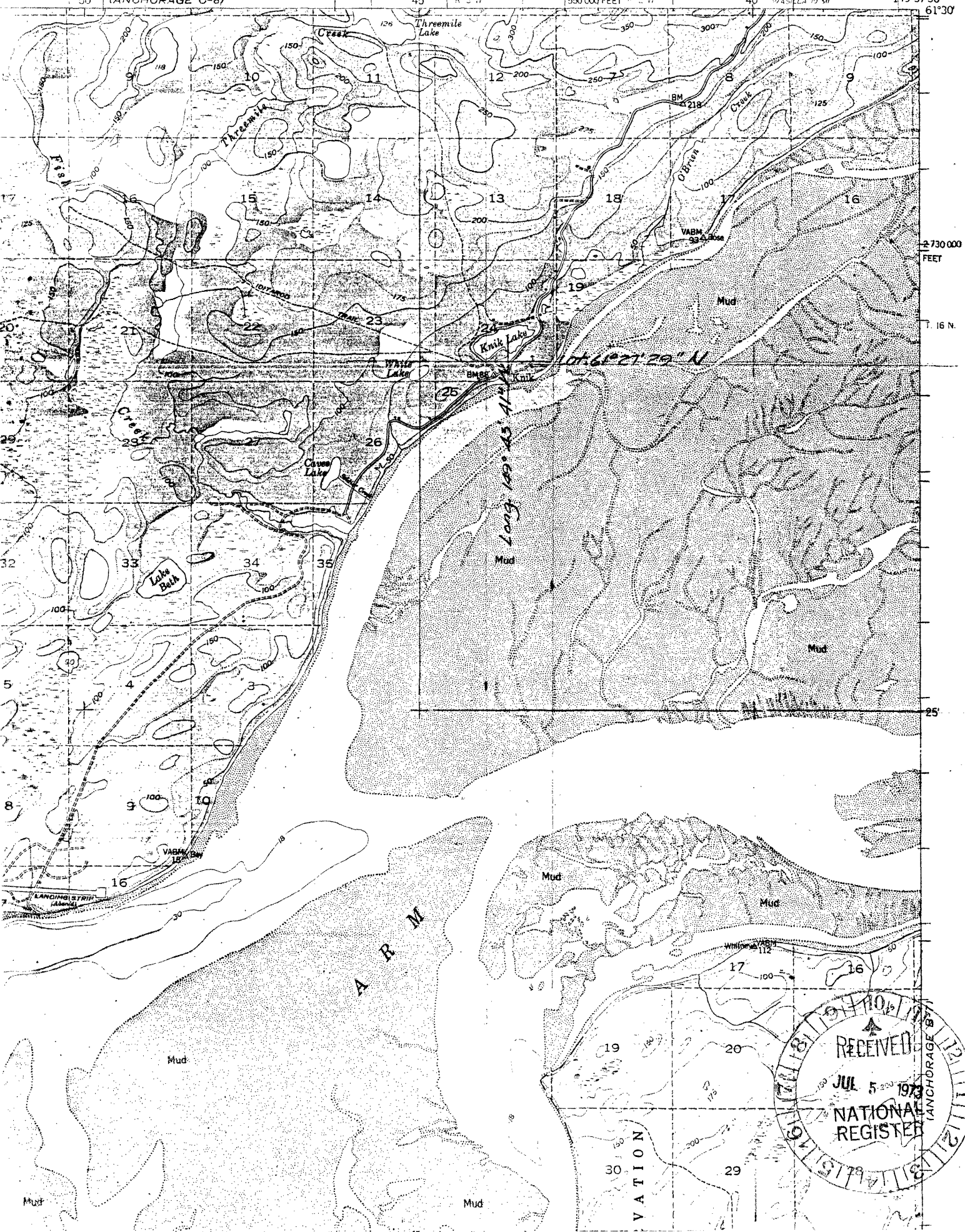
45

550 000 FEET

40

149°37'30"

61°30'



2 730 000
FEET

16 N.

25'

A R M



VATION