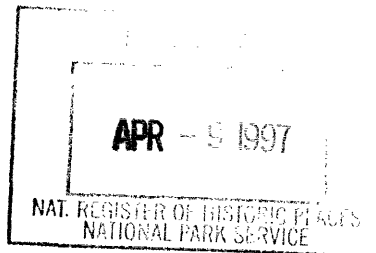


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

=====

1. Name of Property

=====

historic name Bettles Lodge

other names/site number AHRS Site No. BET-100

=====

2. Location

=====

street & number Bettles Field

not for publication N/A

city or town Bettles vicinity N/A

state Alaska code AK county Yukon-Koyukuk code 290

zip code 99726

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form

Bettles Lodge
Yukon-Koyukuk, Alaska

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ___ nationally ___ statewide X locally. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Judith E. Bettner
Signature of certifying official

April 3, 1997
Date

Alaska
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
___ See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the
National Register
___ See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the
National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain): _____

Carol D. Shull 5-8-97

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form

Bettles Lodge
Yukon-Koyukuk, Alaska

=====
5. Classification
=====

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u> 2 </u>	<u> </u> buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
<u> 2 </u>	<u> 0 </u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form

Bettles Lodge
Yukon-Koyukuk, Alaska

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: domestic Sub: hotel
commerce/trade restaurant

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: domestic Sub: hotel
commerce/trade

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

other

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete
roof asphalt
walls log, wood

other _____

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

Bettles Lodge is located on the south bank of the upper Koyukuk River in the southern foothills of the Brooks Range, approximately 25 miles north of the Arctic Circle and approximately 180 miles northwest of Fairbanks. It is on the east side of the Bettles Airport towards its northern end. The community is accessible by air year-round and boat in the summer. Its only overland access is a trail to two other isolated villages, Allakaket and Anaktuvuk Pass.

The first Wien Alaska Airlines station and lodge, constructed in 1948, is a small, single story, gable roofed, wood frame building sided with corrugated metal sheeting. It measures approximately 18 feet by 28 feet with the long axis parallel to the airstrip. The front (wall facing airport) has an arctic entry at its left end and a four lite single sash window just right of center. The left elevation has a four lite single sash window centrally placed. The back elevation is plain. A five panel wood door is centrally placed in the right elevation. Still used, the building has two rooms. The exterior appearance has not changed since the building's construction.

Construction of the second, larger and more permanent lodge was completed in 1951. This lodge is a two story log building with a shallow gable roof. It is immediately adjacent to the airport. Measuring approximately 32 feet by 58 feet, it has its long axis perpendicular to the runway. The front elevation has three six lite single sash windows evenly spaced on the second floor. The original entry was flanked by similar windows evenly spaced on the first floor. In 1984, an enclosed porch was added that

=====
8. Statement of Significance
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Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.) N/A

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

exploration/settlement
commerce

Period of Significance 1948-1951

Significant Dates 1948, 1951

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

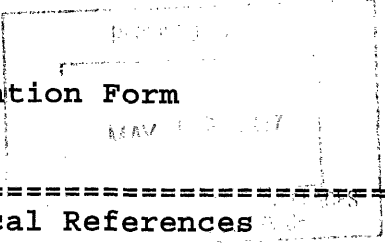
N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder Killen, Warren
Evans, Wilfred

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form

Bettles Lodge
Yukon-Koyukuk, Alaska



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9. Major Bibliographical References

=====

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

----- . *The Wilderness Guide*. 7th edition. Bellevue, Washington: Vernon Publications Inc., 1993.

Fison and Associates. Bettles/Evansville Community Profile. June 1987. Report on file at the Office of History and Archaeology, Alaska Department of Natural Resources.

Musser, John and Rhoda. August 29, 1995 letter. In files of the Office of History and Archaeology, Alaska Department of Natural Resources.

Orth, Donald J. *Dictionary of Alaska Place Names*, 1967

Previous documentation on file (NPS) N/A

___ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.

___ previously listed in the National Register

___ previously determined eligible by the National Register

___ designated a National Historic Landmark

___ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____

___ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

X State Historic Preservation Office

___ Other State agency

___ Federal agency

___ Local government

___ University

___ Other

Name of repository: _____

=====

10. Geographical Data

=====

Acreage of Property less than one

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	05	564900	7422900	3	_____	_____
2	_____	_____	_____	4	_____	_____
	___ See continuation sheet.					

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

The boundary of Bettles Lodge, encompassing the two historic buildings, is shown as the dotted line on the accompanying site map.

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form

Bettles Lodge
Yukon-Koyukuk, Alaska

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Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary encompasses the first and second buildings that have been historically associated and known as Bettles Lodge.

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11. Form Prepared By

=====
name/title Dan and Lynda Klaes

organization Bettles Lodge

date February 18, 1997

street & number P.O. Box 27

telephone 907-692-5111

city or town Bettles state AK zip code 99726

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Additional Documentation

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Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

=====
Property Owner

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

name Dan and Lynda Klaes

street & number P.O. Box 27

telephone 907-692-5111

city or town Bettles state AK zip code 99726

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form

Bettles Lodge
Yukon-Koyukuk, Alaska

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covers the first floor of the front facade. The right and left elevations originally had four one lite single sash windows evenly spaced on both the first and second floors. An exit door replaced one of the windows on the second floor of the right elevation, and a door was added in the middle of the first floor of that elevation. The second floor door is accessed by wood stairs. In 1970, two-thirds of the first floor of the left elevation was covered by a single story log addition. Originally, the rear elevation was similar to the front elevation. The log addition on the left elevation wraps around the building to cover two-thirds of the rear elevation as well. A wood frame shed has been added to the kitchen addition. Inside, the lodge has six double rooms and four apartments. All of the additions are sympathetic to the original architecture of the lodge.

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form

Bettles Lodge
Yukon-Koyukuk, Alaska

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

The first and second Bettles Lodges are considered the initial buildings of a significant community established in the late 1940s to facilitate transportation in interior Alaska. The U.S. Navy constructed a large airstrip in the southern foothills of the Brooks Range in 1945 as a refueling point and emergency landing site for pilots flying between the city of Fairbanks and the Naval Petroleum Reserve 4 then being explored. After the war, Wien Alaska Airlines expanded its services in rural northern and western Alaska. In 1948, James L. "Andy" Anderson became the Wien Alaska Airlines manager at Bettles. For the airline, he oversaw construction and operated the lodge and airline office at the airstrip. The first facility was built in 1948, and the larger, log lodge in 1951. Since its establishment, Bettles Lodge has provided meals and accommodations year-round and has served as an informal community center as a small rural community--only incorporated in 1985--grew around it. Almost fifty years old, the lodge buildings are significant as the first buildings in a growing community that has become the air transportation hub for Alaska's northern interior.

Historic background

The original Bettles is an abandoned site known as Old Bettles. Gordon C. Bettles established a trading post at a site about seven miles downriver from the present Bettles site in 1899 to supply miners working gold claims in the area. The site was the northernmost limit barges could travel on the Koyukuk River. A post office operated there from 1901 to 1956. Several families built homes around the post, and in the late 1930s-early 1940s a small airstrip was constructed.

In 1945, the U.S. Navy built a larger airstrip seven miles upriver from Old Bettles as an intermediate stop for airplanes traveling between Fairbanks and the Naval Petroleum Reserve 4 then being explored. Located about halfway between Fairbanks and Barrow, Bettles was a refueling point and an emergency airfield. The Civil Aeronautics Administration (CAA), forerunner of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), moved its communications installation from Old Bettles to the larger airstrip in 1948.

James L. "Andy" Anderson became the Wien Alaska Airlines manager at Bettles in 1948. The airline was undertaking an expansion program to improve services to rural Alaska. Along with managing Wien Airlines' operations and working as a pilot, Andy and his wife Hannah opened Bettles Lodge and airline office adjacent to the airstrip for the company in 1948. The first lodge was a small two-room building built by Warren Killen. Shortly after completion of it, the Andersons hired Wilfred Evans, who had a sawmill near the airstrip which he called Evansville, to construct a more permanent building. The much larger, two story log lodge opened in 1951. The Andersons operated the lodge for Wien Alaska Airlines until 1956. Andy Anderson later became president of the airline.

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Bettles Lodge
Yukon-Koyukuk, Alaska

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Bettles Lodge was the first of several lodges and airline offices opened around Alaska by Wien Alaska Airlines. It is the only one built in interior Alaska. Wien Airlines flew large aircraft to Bettles' all-weather airport from Fairbanks. There freight and mail were transferred to small aircraft for flights to rural villages including Anaktuvuk Pass, Wiseman, Allakaket, Hughes, recreation sites in the Brooks Range, and places along the Arctic coast.

No longer owned by Wien Alaska Airlines, Bettles lodge continues to serve as the informal terminal for the airstrip. In addition to providing lodging and meals year-round for visitors, the lodge is one of the largest private employers and serves as a community gathering place for local residents. A post office opened at the lodge in 1950. It had the first public telephone in the area, in fact the only one until the mid-1970s. As work opportunities at Bettles increased and river transportation diminished, the people from Old Bettles and Evansville relocated near the north end of the airfield. By 1953 Old Bettles was virtually a ghost town. A state operated public school opened at Bettles in fall 1956. Today Bettles is an incorporated community with a permanent population of almost one hundred.

The U.S. Geological Survey used Bettles Lodge as a base camp when conducting mineral surveys and mapping in the central Brooks Range in the early 1950s. The lodge provided fuel, lodging, and meals for crews building, then maintaining, Cold War facilities, among them Distant Early Warning stations, north of the Brooks Range. Later, the lodge was used by exploration teams looking for oil on the North Slope. It has occasionally served as a base for smoke jumpers fighting wildfires in the area.

The number of sport hunters, fishers, and backpackers going to remote areas of the Brooks Range started to increase in the 1950s. In 1980 the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act created Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve to the north of Bettles. Local tradition holds that the boundaries for the park were drawn and mapped by government and private sector individuals sitting at a table in Bettles Lodge. The lodge served as the headquarters for the controversial park until the National Park Service moved into its own facility in 1986.

Bettles residents hold that both of the Bettles Lodges were the first buildings in the community. The buildings are the central focus for the community that is the air transportation hub for the northern interior of Alaska.

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form

Bettles Lodge
Yukon-Koyukuk, Alaska

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NPS Form 10-900-a
(8-86)

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OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Photograph identification
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1. Bettles Lodge (AHRS Site No. BET-100)
Yukon-Koyukuk, Alaska
Dan Klaes
August 1995
P.O. Box 27, Bettles, Alaska 99726
Looking southeast at front of 1951 lodge building
2. Bettles Lodge (AHRS Site No. BET-100)
Yukon-Koyukuk, Alaska
Dan Klaes
August 1995
P.O. Box 27, Bettles, Alaska 99726
Looking northeast at right elevation of 1951 lodge building
3. Bettles Lodge (AHRS Site No. BET-100)
Yukon-Koyukuk, Alaska
Dan Klaes
August 1995
P.O. Box 27, Bettles, Alaska 99726
Looking northwest at rear elevation of 1951 lodge building
4. Bettles Lodge (AHRS Site No. BET-100)
Yukon-Koyukuk, Alaska
Dan Klaes
August 1995
P.O. Box 27, Bettles, Alaska 99726
Looking southwest at left elevation of 1951 lodge building
5. Bettles Lodge (AHRS Site No. BET-100)
Yukon-Koyukuk, Alaska
Dan Klaes
August 1995
P.O. Box 27, Bettles, Alaska 99726
Looking southeast at front of 1948 lodge building
6. Bettles Lodge (AHRS Site No. BET-100)
Yukon-Koyukuk, Alaska
Dan Klaes
August 1995
P.O. Box 27, Bettles, Alaska 99726
Looking northeast at right elevation of 1948 lodge building

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Bettles Lodge
Yukon-Koyukuk, Alaska

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NPS Form 10-900-a
(8-86)

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OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Photograph identification
=====

7. Bettles Lodge (AHRS Site No. BET-100)
Yukon-Koyukuk, Alaska
Dan Klaes
August 1995
P.O. Box 27, Bettles, Alaska 99726
Looking northwest at rear of 1948 lodge building

8. Bettles Lodge (AHRS Site No. BET-100)
Yukon-Koyukuk, Alaska
Dan Klaes
August 1995
P.O. Box 27, Bettles, Alaska 99726
Looking southwest at left elevation of 1948 lodge building

Bettles Field Runway

BETTLES LODGE
AHRs Site No. BET-100
Yukon-Koyukuk, Alaska
Site Plan

Scale: 1" = 75 feet

