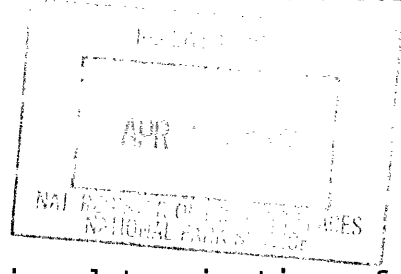


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



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 Kanski's

other names/site number Big Skookum, Devil's Mountain Lodge
AHRS Site No. NAB-100

=====
2. Location
=====
street & number Mile 42 Nabesna Road

not for publication N/A
city or town Slana vicinity X
state Alaska code AK county Valdez-Cordova code 261
zip code 99586

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.)

Signature of certifying official

Date April 8, 1997

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):

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

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Kanski's

Valdez-Cordova, 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> 3 </u>	<u> </u> buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
<u> 3 </u>	<u> </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

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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 restaurant

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

no style

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation log
roof metal
walls wood, log
other

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

Kanski's is located just south of Skookum Creek at mile 42 of the Nabesna Road, approximately two miles north of the Nabesna Mine and 42 miles south of Slana and the Tok Cutoff. Constructed in 1934 by Steve Kanski, the property had a cabin, bunkhouse, and storage building adjacent to the Nabesna Road. Kanski was a blacksmith at the Nabesna Mine, and he and his wife provided food and lodging for visitors to the mine, mail carriers, and road construction and maintenance workers. The lodge closed during World War II at the same time the mine shut down. The property came under the ownership of Henry Boyden, caretaker for the mine, who used it as his residence until 1957 when it was sold to the current owners.

The Kanski cabin is a two story rectangular building measuring approximately 20 feet by 25 feet. An enclosed porch adds six feet to the front and a shed addition adds twelve feet to the back of the building. The building's core has a gable roof of corrugated galvanized metal. The walls are square-notched unpeeled round logs chinked with burlap. The left (south) elevation has two evenly spaced openings on the first floor, one with a six light fixed sash window the other a replacement single sash window, and one six light fixed sash window centrally placed on the second floor. There is also a single sash window in the shed addition on this side. The right elevation has two evenly spaced six light fixed sash windows in the core of the cabin and a double six light window in the shed addition. The front facade has a one story, wood frame enclosed porch covering it. The porch walls up to the window sills are constructed of wood from dynamite cases used at Nabesna Mine. Above the sills are horizontal boards. There are two sets of paired windows on each side of

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.

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)

commerce

Period of Significance 1934-1943

Significant Dates 1934

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder Kanski, Steve

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Kanski's

Valdez-Cordova, Alaska

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Alaska Road Commission. Annual reports, 1930-1940. On file at the Office of History and Archaeology, Anchorage, Alaska.

Ellis, Ethel Lorene. Personal communication. August 12, 1993. Notes on file at the Office of History and Archaeology, Anchorage, Alaska.

Hunt, William R. Mountain Wilderness: Historic Resource Study for Wrangell-St. Elias National Park & Preserve. Anchorage, Alaska: National Park Service, 1991.

McMahan, Dave. Field notes. August 7, 1993. On file at the Office of History and Archaeology, Anchorage, Alaska.

Naske, Claus-M. Paving Alaska's Trails: The Work of the Alaska Road Commission. Lanham, Maryland: University Press of America, 1984.

Sackett, Russ. Field notes. 1983. On file at the Office of History and Archaeology, Anchorage, Alaska.

Wayland, Russell G. Geology of the Nutzotin Mountains, Alaska. U.S. Geological Survey Bulletin 933-B. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1943.

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: _____

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Kanski's

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	07	396950	6917840	3	_____	_____
2	_____	_____	_____	4	_____	_____
See continuation sheet.						

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

The property is in the northwest corner of the SW 1/4 of the SW 1/4 of the SW 1/4 of Section 10, Township 7N, Range 13E, Copper River Meridian. It sits immediately south of Skookum Creek at mile 42 of the Nabesna Road.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary encompasses the three buildings historically associated with the Kanski home and bunkhouse.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Thelma Shrank

organization N/A

date February 18, 1997

street & number SR 380

telephone 907-822-3426

city or town Gakona state AK zip code 99586

Property Owner

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

name Ethel Lorene Ellis

street & number Mile 42 Nabesna Road

telephone 907-822-3426

city or town Nabesna state AK zip code 99586

=====
the six light door. The porch has a hipped asphalt roof. The front gable wall of the cabin's core has a six light fixed sash window centrally placed. The rear elevation has the one-story shed addition. There are no windows in the addition's rear wall. The rear gable wall has a six light fixed sash window centrally placed. The shed roof is corrugated galvanized metal. The foundation consists of logs resting on grade. Inside, the first floor has a sitting room, a dining room, a kitchen in the original cabin, and a newer kitchen in the shed. Two bedrooms are on the second floor.

A one story bunkhouse, measuring approximately 14 and a half feet by 21 feet, sits behind and to the right of the cabin. It has a shed roof of corrugated galvanized metal. The walls are double notched, horizontal peeled round logs. The front facade has one six light fixed sash window between two five panel entry doors. There are sets of steps leading to each door. The left elevation has a six light window. A one-story addition, adding seven feet to the bunkhouse, is on the rear. It is constructed of horizontal planks salvaged from packing crates. The left elevation of this addition has a plank door. The bunkhouse sits on a post foundation. The original barrel stove remains inside.

The storage building is about thirty feet east of the cabin. It is a one story building measuring approximately 14 feet by 23 feet. It has a gable roof of corrugated galvanized metal. The walls are square notched full peeled logs chinked with moss. The front facade has a hinged board and batten door, almost half the width of the building, and a five panel door. There is a six light fixed sash window in the rear elevation. The other elevations are plain. The building sits on a sill log foundation and inside the floor is dirt.

The buildings have been maintained and continue to be used.

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

Kanski's cabin, bunkhouse, and storage building exemplify life in a remote area of Alaska during the 1930s. They were part of a small community that developed near the end of the Nabesna Road and Skookum Creek, closely associated with the Nabesna Mine (listed in the National Register of Historic Places on May 25, 1979). In 1934, shortly after the Nabesna Road was completed providing an economical freight route for the mine, Steve Kanski, a blacksmith employed at the mine, built the three buildings. The Kanskis provided food and lodging for visitors to the mine, freighters, mail carriers, and road workers until the mine closed in 1943. The business supplemented Steve Kanski's mine salary.

Historic background

Prospectors found gold on Jacksina Creek at the headwaters of the Nabesna River in 1899. The Royal Gold Mining Company developed twenty-eight claims in the area, and in 1905, hauled in a three stamp mill to crush the ore. Mining continued on a small scale until 1929 when the Nabesna Mining Corporation organized and acquired a large number of claims in the area. It expanded mining operations, employed sixty to seventy men, and appealed to the Alaska Road Commission for construction of a road that would connect the area with the Richardson Highway, the main--and virtually only--road in southcentral and interior Alaska at the time.

The Alaska Road Commission began construction of the 42-mile Nabesna Road in 1933 and completed it in 1934. The road connected with another road that served miners in the Chistochina area, today known as the Tok Cutoff. It was 105 miles between the Richardson Highway and the Nabesna Mine. Before the road was completed, freight had to be hauled during the winter months by tractors and horse-drawn bobsleds often following stream beds.

After the road was completed, Steve Kanski built a cabin for his family, a bunkhouse, and a storage building two miles north of the mine at the intersection of Skookum Creek and the road. Kanski worked as a blacksmith for the mine. The mine had bunkhouses for single men. Workers with families built cabins along Skookum Creek. A small community of cabins, a trading post, four houses of prostitution, and Kanski's bunkhouse grew at the site. Mrs. Kanski served travellers and raised the couple's children. Only a few of the buildings built around Skookum Creek still stand today. Kanski's are the only ones in good condition and largely unaltered.

In its 1936 report, the Alaska Road Commission reported that the Nabesna Road could be used summer and winter, but it was always a primitive access road. Most of the freighters, mail carriers, road workers, and visitors to the mine spent the night at Kanski's bunkhouse. The business supplemented Kanski's mine salary. Although a pioneer access road, the road was heavily used. In 1940, the Alaska Road Commission reported Nabesna Mine had transported 73,000 tons of ore valued at \$1,869,296 over the route.

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In 1942, President Roosevelt issued Executive Order 208 ordering all mines in the United States not essential to the war effort to close. When the Nabesna Mine shut down, the Kanskis closed their bunkhouse and left the area. Henry Boyden, caretaker for the mine, became the owner of the buildings. He lived at the site until 1957 at which time the current owners acquired the property. The State of Alaska continues to maintain the Nabesna Road for access to homesteads, hunting, and subsistence areas. The current owners use Kanski's buildings for their guiding, bed and breakfast, and air taxi service.

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(8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

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National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Photograph identification

- =====
1. Kanski's (AHR Site No. NAB-100)
Valdez-Cordova, Alaska
Dave McMahan
August 7, 1993
Office of History and Archaeology, 3601 C St., #1278, Anchorage,
Alaska 99503-5921
Looking west at the front of Kanski's cabin
2. Kanski's (AHR Site No. NAB-100)
Valdez-Cordova, Alaska
Dave McMahan
August 7, 1993
Office of History and Archaeology, 3601 C St., #1278, Anchorage,
Alaska 99503-5921
Looking south at Kanski's cabin
3. Kanski's (AHR Site No. NAB-100)
Valdez-Cordova, Alaska
Dave McMahan
August 7, 1993
Office of History and Archaeology, 3601 C St., #1278, Anchorage,
Alaska 99503-5921
Looking east at Kanski's cabin
4. Kanski's (AHR Site No. NAB-100)
Valdez-Cordova, Alaska
Dave McMahan
August 7, 1993
Office of History and Archaeology, 3601 C St., #1278, Anchorage,
Alaska 99503-5921
Looking northeast at Kanski's cabin
5. Kanski's (AHR Site No. NAB-100)
Valdez-Cordova, Alaska
Dave McMahan
August 7, 1993
Office of History and Archaeology, 3601 C St., #1278, Anchorage,
Alaska 99503-5921
Looking west at the bunkhouse

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Valdez-Cordova, Alaska

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

OMB No. 1024-0018

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National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Photograph identification

6. Kanski's (AHR Site No. NAB-100)
 Valdez-Cordova, Alaska
 Dave McMahan
 August 7, 1993
 Office of History and Archaeology, 3601 C St., #1278, Anchorage,
 Alaska 99503-5921
 Looking south at the bunkhouse

7. Kanski's (AHR Site No. NAB-100)
 Valdez-Cordova, Alaska
 Dave McMahan
 August 7, 1993
 Office of History and Archaeology, 3601 C St., #1278, Anchorage,
 Alaska 99503-5921
 Looking west at the storage building