

PH036183x

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED JUL 13 1977

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC AND/OR COMMON
Creamer's Dairy (AHRS Site FAIR-85)
Hinckley's Dairy

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Between Farmer's Loop and College Road
CITY, TOWN Fairbanks VICINITY OF Alaska
STATE Alaska CODE 02 COUNTY Fairbanks Division CODE 090

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Multiple Ownership Polaris Investment Company
STREET & NUMBER 427 First Avenue (Wallace F. Burnett, Thomas J. Miklautsch & Cliff Burglin)
CITY, TOWN Fairbanks VICINITY OF Alaska STATE Alaska 99701

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Fairbanks Recording District
STREET & NUMBER 602 Barnette
CITY, TOWN Fairbanks STATE Alaska

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Alaska Heritage Resource Survey (AHRS)
DATE May 20, 1975
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Alaska Division of Parks
CITY, TOWN 323 East 4th Avenue STATE Anchorage, Alaska
Senators: Ted Stevens/Mike Gravel; Congressman: Don Young

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Upon arriving in Fairbanks in 1904 Charles Hinckly built a log barn from trees felled locally, and opened his dairy business. Whether this first barn, ~~was~~ built to house his cows, was on the site of the present Creamer "home site" or on a site near the present center of Fairbanks, at 55-4th Avenue, is not yet ascertained. It does appear that by the end of his first summer in Fairbanks Hinckly had moved his operations to the present property, away from the centre of the boom town area. Hinckly recorded his Patent to the first 327.42 acres on February 10, 1917, though the actual transaction probably transpired on an earlier date.

In 1938, eleven years after Charles A. Creamer succeeded to his brother-in-law's interests, Creamer built a modern dairy barn of Gothic proportions, measuring 36 by 110 feet. This imposing structure still stands, and is the dominating visual feature of the group of farm buildings, imposing its pleasant bulk upon the scene which the barn identifies unmistakably as a dairy. The barn was designed for use of electric milking machines, and fitted with conveniences such as central heat and humidity controls. Foreign visitors here during World War II were startled by the immaculate black and white buildings -- complete to Iowa-type lightning rods -- when they expected to find only Eskimos and glaciers in the Alaskan interior.

The Creamer Dairy buildings that remain were constructed at various times, beginning early in the Twentieth Century, and the later-constructed buildings probably were built over earlier structures. The surviving structures include the original two-story frame house, a bunkhouse and a business office, with garage attached, the remains of the old boiler house that heated the buildings from a wood stove, and the large gambrel-roofed barn. These buildings are typical of those built and used over the past three-quarters of a century. On the following page is a sketch map of the present structures.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1904-1965

BUILDER/ARCHITECT C. T. Hinckley/C. A. Creamer

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This is the only group of pioneer dairy farm buildings surviving in the interior of Alaska. This was the first horizontally organized dairy farm established in the interior of Alaska, and was operated by members of one family from about 1903 until operations ceased in 1965.

The dairy was established by Charles T (or F) Hinckley, a native of Rockford, Illinois, where he was born in 1872. Hinckley had brought ten cows to Nome in 1900. Planning to capitalize on the human needs of those caught up in the gold fever, he set up a dairy in that Gold Rush boom town. In the spring of 1903 he gave up this enterprise in Nome and transported his family and three best cows 1280 miles to Fairbanks on board the first Yukon River steamer of the season, selling milk en route to pay for the trip. The first location of his dairy in Fairbanks was in the camp itself, with transfer to the present location soon afterwards. He soon encountered and hired Charles A. Creamer, a 14-years old member of a pioneer family that also had recently arrived in Fairbanks. Creamer later would marry into Hinckley's family and succeed him as owner-operator of the dairy farm.

Fairbanks was a Gold Rush boom town. Thousands of miners overran the forest-covered hills and sluiced the valleys for the precious yellow metal, as they had done during the preceding seasons at Dawson and at Nome. Fairbanks quickly became a wide-open town. Dance halls, saloons, gambling emporiums, and expensive restaurants, vied with each other to part the miners from their gold nuggets. Hinckley's dairy business thrived and expanded. Fairbanks was, however, a Gold Rush camp with a difference. While many of the goldmining camps of the period were little more than temporary way stations of life for the squadrons of gold seekers, Fairbanks from its start was more of a family and home town than were the other gold-precipitated communities of the Northland. Some of the men who had pioneered the Forty Mile, Circle, Dawson, and Nome, came to Fairbanks, took steady jobs, and settled down, giving the town a tone of comparative moral sobriety. This early developed into a permanent community and its inhabitants early developed the amenities of community life, while other gold camps were primarily transitory in their existence and organization.

During the initial boom milk sold in Fairbanks for one dollar a quart, though rumor in Seattle had the price at five dollars. Even at this price, dairying was untried and speculative in interior of Alaska. All hay, grain and mill feed was imported

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Alaska Directory and Gazeteer, 1934-35. SEattle: Alaska Directory Co, 1935.

Burton, Wayne E, Creating a Northern Agriculture: II. Historical Perspectives in Alaska Agriculture. Fairbanks: University of Alaska Institute of Agricultural Sciences, Bull No 43, July 1975.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Twelve Acres

UTM REFERENCES

CA	0,6	46,50,1,9	7,19,32,9,7	DB	0,6	46,50,2,1	7,19,35,1,5
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
AD	0,6	46,52,4,4	7,19,35,1,3	BD	0,6	46,52,4,1	7,19,32,9,4
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Commencing at the South section Corner common to Section Thirty-three(33) and Thirty-four (34), Township One (1) North, Range One (1) West, on the Fairbanks Base Line; thence South 89°55' East along the Fairbanks Base Line, a distance of 670.00 feet to the Southwest Corner of the Tract herein described and point of beginning; thence South 89°55' East along the Fairbanks Base Line, a distance of 730.00 feet to the Southeast Corner of the Tract

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Alfred Mongin
Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION Alaska Division of Parks DATE October 22, 1975

STREET & NUMBER 343 East Fourth Avenue TELEPHONE (907) 274-4676

CITY OR TOWN Anchorage STATE Alaska 99501

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE *Russell Cabell*

TITLE SHPO

DATE 1/28/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

ATTEST: *Wm. S. ...* DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION DATE 7-18-77

... KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER DATE 6-1-77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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Creamer's Dairy (AHRS Site FAIR-85)

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 4 PAGE two

Present Owners of the Property are:

Clifford C. Burglin
Wallace F. Burnett
Thomas J. Miklautsch
Trading as:
Polaris Investment Company
427 First Avenue
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

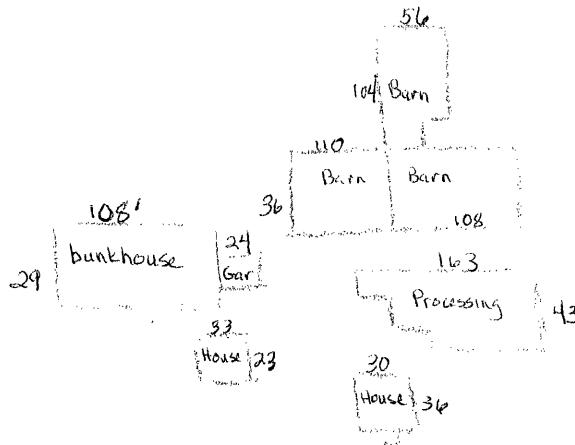
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DATE ENTERED	APR 10 1977

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE two



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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE two

from Seattle, transported 2500 miles on the Pacific Ocean and the Bering Sea to the head of river navigation at St. Michael, then by sternwheeler steamers another 1150 miles to Fairbanks on the banks of the Chena River. Consequently, hay sold for \$120 per ton, oats, \$140, and mill feed for \$120. In addition to the cost of feed, farm help was another pressing problem in operating a dairy. Men out of work hired on as milkers, stablemen and deliverymen, only to desert their jobs at each new rumor of a gold strike. One of the first employees hired by Hinckley was fifteen years old Charles A. Creamer.

Young Creamer had arrived in Juneau with his mother and two sisters in 1897. They had followed his father and uncle, who had preceded them and were making their stake from the Gold Rush by working as freighters and teamsters along the Chilkoot Trail. The family came from Redding, California, where Charles had been born in 1889. This family was representative of the westward moving "manifest destiny" frontier American. In the Eighteenth Century the family ancestors had been in the Connecticut Militia in the Revolutionary War, moved to War Bonus lands in Ohio after the War, moved on several generations later to Colorado and California, and made the last big migration to Alaska in 1897.

Charlie Creamer's uncle was killed in a shipboard explosion during the Yukon Gold Rush. His father moved his family successively to Skagway, Dyea, Dawson, and, in 1904, to Fairbanks, where Charlie went to work, on a sometime basis, for Hinckley. The family lived that first winter in a tent, and the Creamer children attended a school in a structure where the Northward Building is now. Charlie attended school irregularly. He took advantage of every opportunity to work on the trail with his father, freighting to Dyea, shipping to Tacoma, bringing cattle in from the states over the White Pass Railway, and barging them down the Yukon. He stated that he spent much time as chambermaid for cattle and horses, cleaning up barns and putting in fresh sawdust. He worked occasionally for Hinckley, and continuously with cattle and horses.

After service in World War I, Charlie traveled around the mid-west, still in uniform, and then back to central Alaska. Hinckley's sister-in-law, Rosanna Goldman, operated a grocery store in Fairbanks. She and Creamer were married in Tacoma, Washington, in 1920. Her parents lived in Tacoma, and she disposed of her Fairbanks store, and the couple operated a chicken farm near Tacoma from 1920 to 1927. Feeling the beginnings of the depression in 1927, they took a large shipment of chickens and eggs to Fairbanks, where they relocated. They sold their cargo for from ten to sixty times the price available in Tacoma. Creamer went to work for his brother-in-law, who wished to retire from the dairy farm. Creamer purchased the farm assets for \$6,000, which he borrowed from a Fairbanks merchant, Billy McGrath.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE three

About 1908 Creamer began helping Hinckley clear his fields for grain cultivation. He noticed and commented upon the spring bird migrations, and observed their return each spring as the clearing and cultivation continued. Following acquisition of the farm in 1927 he increased the attractiveness of the area to the migrating birds. He cleaned the barn daily and saved the sweepings -- primarily oats and barley -- to lay out in spring to attract the migrating birds. He never ceased to wonder that these tiny creatures would find their way back to his land each spring at the same time, coming from places half way round the globe.

In 1938 he built his big new modern barn, installing the latest in dairying equipment, and continued until 1965 to provide fresh dairy products, including ice cream, to central Alaska. Mrs. Creamer died in October 1965, when Mr. Creamer was 76 years of age. A few months after her death, he sold off his herd of 101 cows for the meat and closed down the dairying operation. He had outlasted all his competition by working at his craft, together with his wife, seven days a week without a vacation for 38 years. He had made maximum utilization of all the products and by-products of the farm. But the loss of his wife and partner, coupled with advancing age, drew the curtain on this unique enterprise and upon the dairy farming of this unique family. First Hinckley, and then the Creamers,, for sixty-one years in Fairbanks, worked productively in a small family enterprise now overtaken by changing times.

In 1969 the State of Alaska purchased all the Creamer land that had been the ~~spring~~ visiting grounds for the birds. In 1949 Mr. and Mrs. Creamer had given their only child, George Donald, an undivided 1/3 interest in their properties. After selling the state the conservation acreage, the Creamers -- father and son -- sold the balance of the property, including the dairy buildings, to a group of Fairbanks businessmen, who are named in Item #4.

Mr. Creamer was a Member of Pioneers of Alaska, Fairbanks Igloo #4. He spent the balance of his life in the Fairbanks Pioneer Home, where he died in December 1975.

The major Creamer Dairy buildings still stand. They represent pioneering Tanana Valley agriculture and the "fairy godfather" to the migrating birds that still pause here each Spring in their flight North. This farm preserves physical evidence of the pastoral quality of life here during the recent but much different formative period of the Fairbanks community, of the Tanana Valley, and of central Alaska.

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Creamer's Dairy (AHRS Site FAIR-85)

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE

two

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10

PAGE two

herein described; thence due North a distance of 716.05 feet to the North-east Corner of the Tract herein described; thence North $89^{\circ}55'$ West along a line parallel to the Fairbanks Base Line, a distance of 730.00 feet to the Northwest Corner of the tract herein described; thence due South, a distance of 716.05 feet to the point of beginning.

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Creamer's Dairy (AHRS Site FAIR-85)

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 11 PAGE two

and

Ms. Nancy Murphy
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
1300 College Ave
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701 telephone: 452-1531