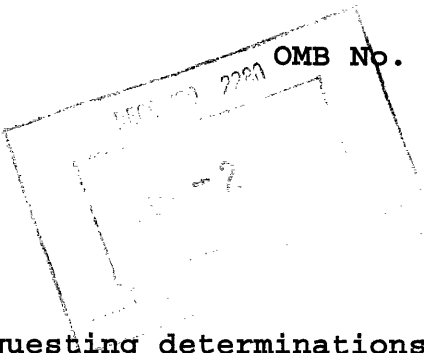


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



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.

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1. Name of Property

=====

historic name Tryck, Blanche and Oscar, House

other names/site number AHRS Site No. ANC-00764

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2. Location

=====

street & number North Knik Street, between the Parks Highway/Alaska Railroad and East Herning Avenue

not for publication N/A

city or town Wasilla

vicinity N/A

state Alaska code AK county Matanuska-Susitna code 170 zip code 99654

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Tryck House
Matanuska-Susitna, 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. Buttner
Signature of certifying official

July 29, 2004
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

Edson H. Beall 9/5/04

other (explain): _____

[Signature]
Signature of Keeper Date of Action

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5. Classification

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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> 1 </u>	<u> </u> buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
<u> 1 </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

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6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: domestic Sub: single dwelling

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: vacant/not in use Sub: _____

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

no style

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation concrete
roof metal
walls wood
other _____

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

The Tryck House sits on a 50 by 190 foot lot in the original Wasilla townsite. The house faces south and is on a hill overlooking North Knik Street. Main Street, formerly the town's commercial avenue, is the next block to the east. The Alaska Railroad is to the south as is the Parks Highway. The house was the first residence in the new town of Wasilla established in 1917.

The Tryck House is a single story, frame house with a modified rectangular plan, a gable roof, back porch, and root cellar. It measures 21 by 30 feet. The gable roof is corrugated iron with rain gutters which supplied rain water to a barrel for laundry and bathing. The foundation is concrete. The five windows are pane glass. A root cellar beneath the kitchen provided cool storage. The attic has an external access. The chimney is of brick and mortar. The house is framed with rough cut spruce lumber and sided with six inch weatherboard and overlap siding. There are two doors. One door enters the kitchen. This entry has a small covered porch. The other door enters a hallway that joins the living room.

The house has a single bedroom and closet, living room, entry hall, dining room and kitchen. The interior walls are covered with cheesecloth and paper. The floors are painted wood or covered with linoleum. Wood stoves heated the house.

The yard historically had a garden, wood shed, outhouse and well. The yard was enclosed with a wire fence. The lot has a number of large birch trees. The garden and open yard are now overgrown. The outhouse has been removed and the well has been filled for safety reasons.

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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)

Exploration/settlement

Period of Significance 1917-1954

Significant Dates 1917

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Tryck, Oscar; Tryck, Blanche

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder unknown

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Tryck House

Matanuska-Susitna, Alaska

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Bagoy, John P. *Legends & Legacies, Anchorage 1910-1935: Remembering Our Buried Past.* Anchorage, Alaska: Privately printed, 2001.

Cole, Vickie, et al., *Knik Matanuska Susitna: A Visual History of the Valleys.* Palmer: Matanuska-Susitna Borough, 1985.

Tryck, Charles. Personal communication, August 2002.

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

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

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Tryck House
Matanuska-Susitna, Alaska

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10. Geographical Data
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Acreage of Property less than one acre

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

Zone Easting Northing		Zone Easting Northing	
1	<u>06 370377 6829834</u>	3	_____
2	_____	4	_____
_____ See continuation sheet.			

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Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)
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The Tryck House stands on Lot 1, Block 3, Wasilla Townsite. The lot is 190 feet long in a north-south direction and 50 feet wide in an east-west direction. The lot is .22 acres and rectangular in shape.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The nominated property includes the lot that Oscar Tryck bought in 1917. This encompasses the house placed on the site in 1917, a small woodshed, and the yard. The outhouse no longer stands, the well has been filled, and the yard and garden are overgrown.

=====
11. Form Prepared By
=====

name/title Keith Tryck

organization

date July 21, 2004

street & number 3060 Admiralty Bay Drive telephone (907) 245-4500

city or town Anchorage state AK zip code 99515

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The house has not been occupied since 1964, the year Oscar Tryck died. It is structurally sound. The roof has deteriorated as the galvanized surface has worn. The house has been altered very little since its construction. Electricity was installed in the early 1940s. A fire in the 1970s caused minor damage to the exterior on the west side and smoke damage to some interior surfaces. The windows are boarded.

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

The Blanche and Oscar Tryck House was the first residential building in the town of Wasilla. In 1917 the Alaska Engineering Commission, a federal government agency, platted a townsite at the junction of the railroad it was building from tidewater to the interior of Alaska and the wagon trail that linked the Cook Inlet port of Knik with the gold mines in the Talkeetna Mountains. Oscar Tryck bought a lot at the Wasilla public land auction that year and moved his house to the site from Knik, twelve miles southwest. The small frame house is one of only a few of its age, size, and scale that remain in the community. It has hardly been changed. Blanche and Oscar Tryck lived out their lives in the small town of Wasilla. They were active in the new community. Blanche Tryck worked to get a public school open and Oscar Tryck built area roads and airfields. It is difficult to travel in the Matanuska Valley today without traveling over a road Oscar Tryck pioneered. The period of significance for the Tryck House ends in 1954, fifty years ago.

Although moved to its present location, the criteria consideration for moved buildings is not applied because the property is being nominated for its association with its current location. The house has stood at its present site since 1917, for more than eighty years.

Background

The Tryck House originally stood at Knik, a small town twelve miles southwest of its current location in Wasilla. Knik was at the head of Cook Inlet. It flourished in the early 1900s as a supply town for the Iditarod gold mines to the north and west and for the gold and coal mines in the Talkeetna Mountains to the east and north. Oscar Tryck purchased the house in 1916 when he moved to Knik with his wife Blanche and infant son William from gold fields in interior Alaska.

Oscar Tryck was born in Sweden in 1879 and moved with his parents to the United States in 1881. He and his brother left Michigan and headed west, reaching Skagway, Alaska, in 1903. They went to the Klondike and found work in the mines. They moved to Rampart and Tanana in interior Alaska working as woodcutters and freighters. In 1906, Tryck began freighting with horses out of Fairbanks and on the Richardson Trail. During this period he also mined with partners on Tenderfoot Creek near Fairbanks. In 1911, gold discoveries at Ruby on the lower Yukon River lured Tryck to that area. With his team of four draft horses, he built the road from the Ruby camp to the mines. On Trail Creek, Tryck found gold and staked claims. In 1914, he returned to Michigan to marry Lillian Blanche Tipping. They returned to Ruby and worked the claims until 1916. A son, William, was born in 1915.

In 1916, the Trycks moved from Ruby to Knik in southcentral Alaska. Oscar had been hired as superintendent at the Independence Mine in the Willow Creek mining district. Oscar had worked for large mining companies in Michigan and had worked with the Independence Mine's general manager, Robe, at Ruby. He was

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not satisfied with conditions at the mine, however, and got a job working for the Alaska Road Commission.

The Alaska Engineering Commission, in 1917, platted a townsite at the junction of the railroad it was building from tidewater to the interior and the Carle wagon road that linked the port and supply town of Knik with the gold mines in the Talkeetna Mountains, including the Independence. Named Wasilla, the town would become a railroad station and supply center for the Willow Creek Mining District and farms in the area. The town of Knik was bypassed by the railroad and replaced by Wasilla as a supply center. Tryck purchased a lot for \$130.00 at the Wasilla townsite auction held June 20, 1917. He dismantled his Knik house and moved it the twelve miles to the new town. It was the first house to stand in Wasilla. Moving buildings was common in Alaska where milled lumber, pane glass windows, and manufactured building materials were expensive. The house had no running water, was lighted by kerosene and gasoline lamps until the early 1940s, and was heated by wood stoves. The Tryck's son Charles was Wasilla's first born in 1919.

Blanche Tryck had been a teacher in Michigan and worked tirelessly to get a public school opened in Wasilla. Initially the community just had a grade school, but in 1933 a high school was added. Orah Dee Clark, a renowned Anchorage educator, spent her first winter in Alaska living at the Tryck home and teaching in Wasilla. Blanche served as clerk of the school board. Oscar was also active in school affairs and he too served as clerk of the school board. Blanche helped found the community's first women's club, taught Sunday school, and participated in community events typical for a small town.

Oscar was the Alaska Road Commission's road superintendent for the Matanuska Valley-Willow Creek mining district until 1936. He maintained and improved the trails to the Willow Creek gold mines. He built roads to the Lucky Shot, the Marion Twin, Fern and other mines. He oversaw construction of Bogard road, the Trunk road, the Matanuska-Palmer road, the Wasilla-Matanuska road, the Wasilla-Palmer road, and the loop road to Eklutna off the Anchorage-Palmer Highway. The trails became wagon roads and later were improved for automobiles and trucks. Oscar Tryck also built the Wasilla airfield, two airfields at the Lucky Shot Mine, and one near the Independence Mine. His house served as his office. It is hard to drive through the Matanuska Valley today without using one of the roads Tryck pioneered.

Blanche Tryck died in 1936. Oscar Tryck continued to live in the house until he died in 1964. The house has not been occupied since Oscar's death. Little altered, the house stands near Wasilla's city center. It is one of the few reminders of the first years of the small town of Wasilla, before it boomed as a bedroom community for the city of Anchorage in the 1970s.

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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)

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

name Charles W. Tryck and William O. Tryck

street & number 1801 West 13th Street telephone (907) 277-2204

city or town Anchorage state AK zip code 99501

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

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. Tryck House
Matanuska-Susitna, Alaska
John Breiby
April 10, 2003
Office of History and Archaeology, Alaska Department of Natural
Resources, 550 West 7th Ave., Suite 1310, Anchorage, Alaska 99501
Looking north at front entrance of house

2. Tryck House
Matanuska-Susitna, Alaska
John Breiby
April 10, 2003
Office of History and Archaeology, Alaska Department of Natural
Resources, 550 West 7th Ave., Suite 1310, Anchorage, Alaska 99501
Looking west at house, arctic entry leads to the kitchen

3. Tryck House
Matanuska-Susitna, Alaska
John Breiby
April 10, 2003
Office of History and Archaeology, Alaska Department of Natural
Resources, 550 West 7th Ave., Suite 1310, Anchorage, Alaska 99501
Looking east