

NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 10-90)

OMB No. 1024-0018

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

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historic name Lake Brooks Field Laboratory

other names/site number U.S. Bureau of Fisheries Laboratory
 National Marine Fisheries Research Station
 NPS #BL-3
 AHRS Site No. XMK-124

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2. Location

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street & number

not for publication

city or town _____ vicinity King Salmon

state Alaska code _____ county Dillingham census area code 070
zip code 99613

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3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this _____ 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 _____ meets _____ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant _____ nationally _____ statewide _____ locally. (_____ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

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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

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4. National Park Service Certification

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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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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
☒ 1	☐ buildings
☐	☐ sites
☐	☐ structures
☐	☐ objects
☐	☐ Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

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

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Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Education Sub: research facility
Domestic single dwelling

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Domestic Sub: single dwelling

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Other: log cabin

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone, concrete
roof Metal
walls Wood; log
other

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

Lake Brooks Field Laboratory is located on the eastern shore of Lake Brooks, within Katmai National Park and Preserve. The building is 35 yards south of the lake's outlet into the Brooks River. It is situated among spruce, willow and other vegetation, approximately 60' back from the shore. The current building location corresponds to the original 1941 plan. The building is located within, but is not part of, the Brooks River Archaeological District National Historic Landmark (AHRS # XMK-051).

Built over a period of fifteen years, the building shape and size follow the 1941 plan. It is a cross-shaped log cabin that measures 17' x 29' with the long sides oriented north-south. The original foundation is concrete and rubble rock. Construction of the Laboratory's center section began in 1941 and was completed by 1943. World War II slowed construction and research activities. In 1947 work on the laboratory began again. The impressive stone fireplace and chimney constructed in the middle of the center section was begun in 1942 and completed in 1953.

Planned wings, measuring 14' x 21', were added to both the north and south ends of the center section by 1957. The materials and craftsmanship used in

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building the wings complements the central section so well that the entire cabin appears to have been built at the same, 1940s, time period.

ROOFS: The original roof is a Douglas fir truss rafter system. The center section gable peak is 17'8" above the ground. In both the wing additions the gable peaks are 16' above the ground. The roof over the central portion of the building and the two wings consist of a 12 and 12 pitch, which were originally covered with wood shake shingles.

WALLS: Original drawings of the structure showed vertical logs used at the base of the structure up to the sill of the existing windows. Horizontal logs were proposed from sill height to eave height and the gable ends were to be constructed of conventional wood framing with board and batten siding. The building was not constructed in this manner, although the mixing of vertical and horizontal log patterning is evident in the existing structure. The cabin was constructed of peeled round spruce logs, averaging 6" to 11" in diameter, cut on site. The 1943 center section and the north wing of the building were constructed using horizontal logs with double saddle notching. The gables were constructed with vertical logs above the horizontal log wall. The south addition was constructed using vertical logs which terminate at the roof eaves with typical sawn lumber plates that form the connection to the roof. The east, west and north gables are constructed with vertical logs. Shiplap siding was installed over the vertical logs in the south gable. Sometime after 1957, horizontal logs were added to the south gable end. The interior walls are exposed, peeled, round logs.

To enhance the building's rustic appearance, false rafter ends and purlins were part of the original plan. The false rafter ends were constructed using round logs at each rafter end. The false rafter ends were notched and attached to the milled Douglas fir rafter ends. In the center section at the gable ends, false log roof purlins were installed that extend 2'6" into the room. False purlins were also installed in the north and south wing gables.

CENTER SECTION WINDOWS: The west elevation of the center section has 3 double-hung, 6 over 6 wood sash windows that provide an excellent view of the lake. A vertically split, 2 light, fixed "casement-like" sash window is located in the gable end of the west elevation. It is believed to be a replacement of the original, which probably matched the 6 light sash window located in the gable end of the east elevation. The east elevation has double-hung, 6 over 6 light sash window on the northeast and southeast walls.

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NORTH AND SOUTH WING WINDOWS: The north wing is flanked on the east wall with a pair of double-hung, 6 over 6 light sash windows. The north wing, west elevation, has one double-hung, 6 over 6 light sash window in the south corner. There is a one light window located in the gable end. The south wing east and west walls have pairs of double-hung, 6 over 6 light sash windows, which match the north wing. The south gable end has a single 6 light, untrimmed, fixed sash. The 1941 plans depict double-hung, 6 over 6 windows at all the "as built" locations, but no gable end windows are indicated in the drawings.

DOORS: The central section of the building has a door located on the east wall and a door in the northwest wall. Both of the doors are shown in the 1941 plans. A painted 5-panel wooden door is located on the south wall of the south wing. There is a door in the north wing, west elevation, northwest section. The central section of the building has four doors, all of which were shown in the 1941 plan. Two doors open to the exterior and two interior doors open to the wing additions. The main entrance door is located in the center of the east wall of the central section. The other exterior door is located in the north west corner of the central section. The south wing has an exterior painted 5-panel wood door positioned in the south wall. The north wing has a door located in the west wall.

OTHER: The fireplace and chimney located in the middle of the center section were begun in 1942 and completed in 1953. It was constructed with local river rocks. This is the only roof penetration. The stovepipe from the wood cook stove is attached to this chimney.

MODIFICATIONS:

Modifications to the building in 1980 to eliminate bat infestation, resulted in the cutting away of the bottom chord and web members of the original roof and removal of the attic and ceiling in the center section. The roof cavity, not previously insulated, was insulated with fiberglass and covered with surfaced tongue and groove pine paneling. At this time the purlins in the main room were removed and a concrete footing was added to the basement crawl space to reinforce the original rock foundation.

In 1981, the original wood shake-shingle roof was replaced with new shakes. In 1989 the shakes were removed and a "Klip-Rib" standing seam metal roof was installed. In 1993, another bat infestation warranted the replacement of insulation, the replacement of board nailers with plywood, and the addition of metal screening to keep bats out. The metal roof was removed, stored, and reinstalled to accommodate this work. In addition, four

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vertical rotting logs on the south wing and four horizontal logs on the west end of the building were replaced. About this time, purlins in the main section were reinstalled.

The central section is divided into a kitchen area on the east end and a living room area on the west end near the large stone fireplace. The north and south wings are used as bedrooms with two bedrooms in each wing.

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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.)

- ☐ 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)

Science

Period of Significance 1941-1957

Significant Dates 1941; 1953; 1957

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

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

From 1941-1960s, the Lake Brooks Field Laboratory served as headquarters, staging area, and laboratory, for the Bristol Bay Investigation personnel of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.¹ During 1941-1957, the Laboratory was built in sections and completed, mostly based on the original plans. The Bristol Bay Investigation's consistent research philosophy and activities provided for a continuity of records, which were used to manage the Bristol Bay fisheries and to provide data for development of the North Pacific Fisheries Treaty of 1953. In addition, Laboratory personnel constructed and used the Lake Brooks weir and the Brooks Falls fish ladder for specific salmon research in the Naknek-Lake Brooks area.

The U.S. Bureau of Fisheries began to research the fish populations of the Naknek drainage during the 1920s-1930s. In 1938, Congress directed an investigation of the salmon fisheries of Bristol Bay, including the Naknek River system, in response to concerns about Japanese offshore fishing. The Lake Brooks area was selected as the headquarters for the investigation because it was centrally located in the Bristol Bay drainage, it permitted aircraft access in most weather, it had good runs of sockeye salmon, and provided a good subject area for specialized research.

The U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Construction and CCC Operations designed this log cabin in consultation with the National Park Service (NPS). The building design is considered unusual for its time as a two-page set of plans was made. The plans depict a cross-shaped structure with the central portion divided into living room kitchen and bathroom while the north wing contains two bedrooms and the south wing is designated as the laboratory. The building that was actually built resembles the plan in outline and general layout. The actual construction technique differs from the drawings as NPS architects recommended changing the direction of the log walls from vertical to horizontal for better stability. Only the south wing has vertical log construction.

¹ In 1940, the Bureau of Fisheries merged with the U.S. Biological Survey to become the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. From 1956-1970 the Bristol Bay fisheries research operated under the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries. In 1970, this agency was renamed the National Marine Fisheries Service and it became part of the new National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in the Department of Commerce.

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The building reflects the NPS "Rustic Style" that was developed and guided park development during the 1920s-40s. To fit the Rustic Style, the Laboratory building was designed to keep in scale with the surrounding landscape, and to look as if were constructed by frontier craftsmen using primitive hand tools and natural materials.

In preparation for constructing the Laboratory, the Bureau of Fisheries employees in 1940 cut logs from around the Mount Kelez area, and placed them to dry. That same summer, crews transported materials for building the cabin and the Lake Brooks fish weir from the old Fish and Wildlife station along the Naknek River (near today's King Salmon) to Brooks River. To haul materials to the Laboratory, a road was developed (that continues to be used today) from the mouth of Brooks River at Naknek Lake to the cabin site.

Summer crews worked on the Laboratory building in sections over several years. A reduction in salmon investigating activities during World War II provided the opportunity to complete the center section of the cabin, which was begun in 1941 and completed in 1943. As time permitted, personnel worked on building the fireplace and chimney, that were made entirely from the local river cobbles and boulders over a ten-year period.

The building served as an administrative center for staging local operations and for studies. Fish and Wildlife Service biological crews arrived at the station and were deployed into the area. A temporary structure, set up to the east of the Laboratory building, was also used for processing samples until the north wing addition was completed.

The Bristol Bay Investigation activities included: collecting scale samples at canneries and streams; aerial and ground surveys of spawning grounds; tagging and crowding studies; and fingerling sampling. Additional activities included tagging salmon, marking juvenile salmon, making spawning ground surveys, and performing aerial spawning ground counts of salmon, including photographic coverage of index areas in all of the major Bristol Bay watersheds.

As part of the local research activities, crews set up and removed the Lake Brooks weir, used for counting salmon, each season from 1940 to 1967, except for 1943. In 1949 and 1950, the Fish and Wildlife Service personnel created the Brooks River fish ladder. This was closed in 1979.

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The Bristol Bay Investigation gathered a wealth of salmon data. According to former Laboratory Director George Eicher, "The original purpose of the Bristol Bay Investigation was kept quiet for decades. But after the North Pacific Fisheries Treaty of the 1950s [1953] was concluded, it was revealed that our studies were mainly to provide data for the treaty base and show effects of Japanese fishing."

By 1957, personnel constructed the building's north and south wings. Completion of the wings fulfilled the original layout. Materials and craftsmanship used to complete the wings were consistent with the central section. The wings complement the central section so well that the entire cabin appears to have been built at the same, 1940s, time period.

By 1961, the Bristol Bay Investigation, now under the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, changed its research direction and expanded its activities to the entire Naknek drainage system. The Field Laboratory expanded its coordinating activities and to accommodate more personnel, built two four-room log cottages just south of the Laboratory. During the 1960s and 1970s, additional cabins, weirs, and counting fences were built within Katmai National Monument. While the agency maintained counts, studies shifted to on-the-ground experiments.

In 1974 the Laboratory was no longer staffed. The fisheries research was terminated and the building was turned over to the National Park Service. The Service has owned the building since 1979. Modifications have been made to the building for Katmai National Park and Preserve employee housing.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Evans, H. David. *Historic Structures Report BL-3, Katmai National Park and Preserve Alaska*. Anchorage: National Park Service. May 1993.

Eicher, George J. *History of the Bristol Bay Investigation: 1938-1956*. Unpublished Manuscript. Auke Bay: Bureau of Commercial Fisheries. April 25, 1967.

National Park Service. *List of Classified Structures*. Alaska Support Office. On-going.

Norris, Frank. *Isolated Paradise: Katmai National Park and Preserve Administrative History*. Anchorage: National Park Service, 1996.

Personal communication with George J. Eicher, April 22, 1999.

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

- ☐ 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: National Park Service, Alaska Support Office

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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	— — —	3
2	— — —	4
	— See continuation sheet.	

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

NW ¼, Section 7, Township 19S, R 39 W, Seward Base and Meridian. Identified on U.S.G.S. Mt. Katmai C-6, 1:63,360, quad map as a dot at the west end of the road.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

This boundary includes the original Brooks Lake Field Laboratory built on the site beginning in 1941 and completed by 1957.

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11. Form Prepared By

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name/title Janet Clemens, Historian

organization

date June 11, 1999

street & number 2515 Ingra St.

telephone (907) 272-5247

city or town Anchorage state AK zip code 99508

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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)

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form

Brooks Lake Field Laboratory

King Salmon, Alaska

Page 15

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Property Owner

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

name

street & number

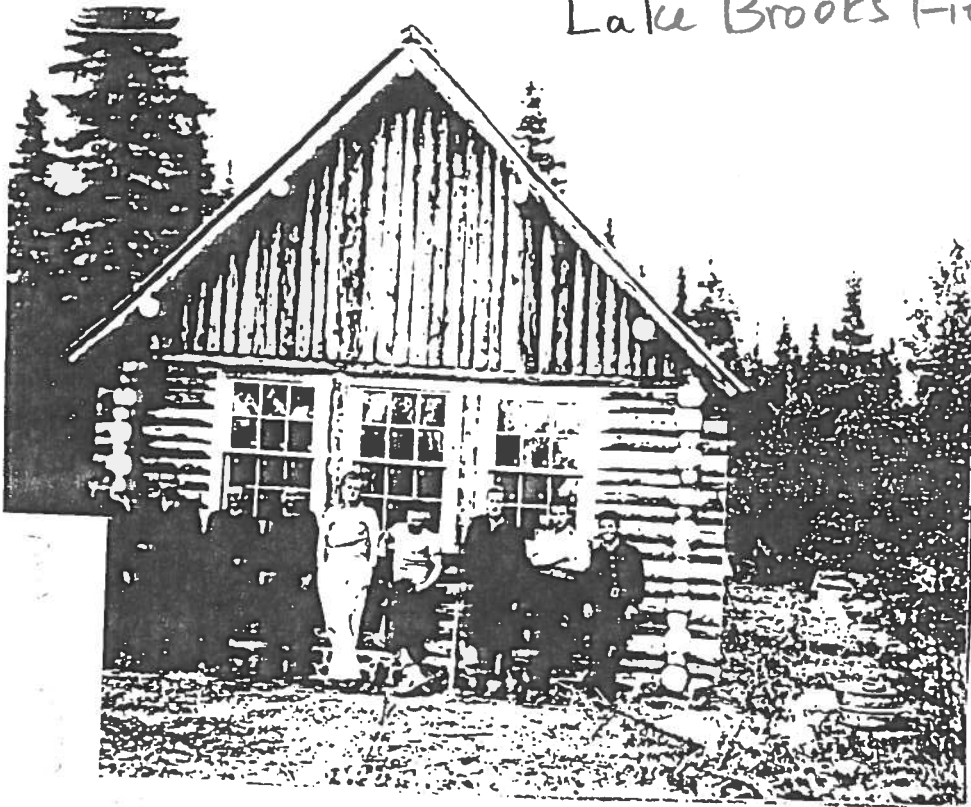
telephone

city or town _____ state _____ zip code

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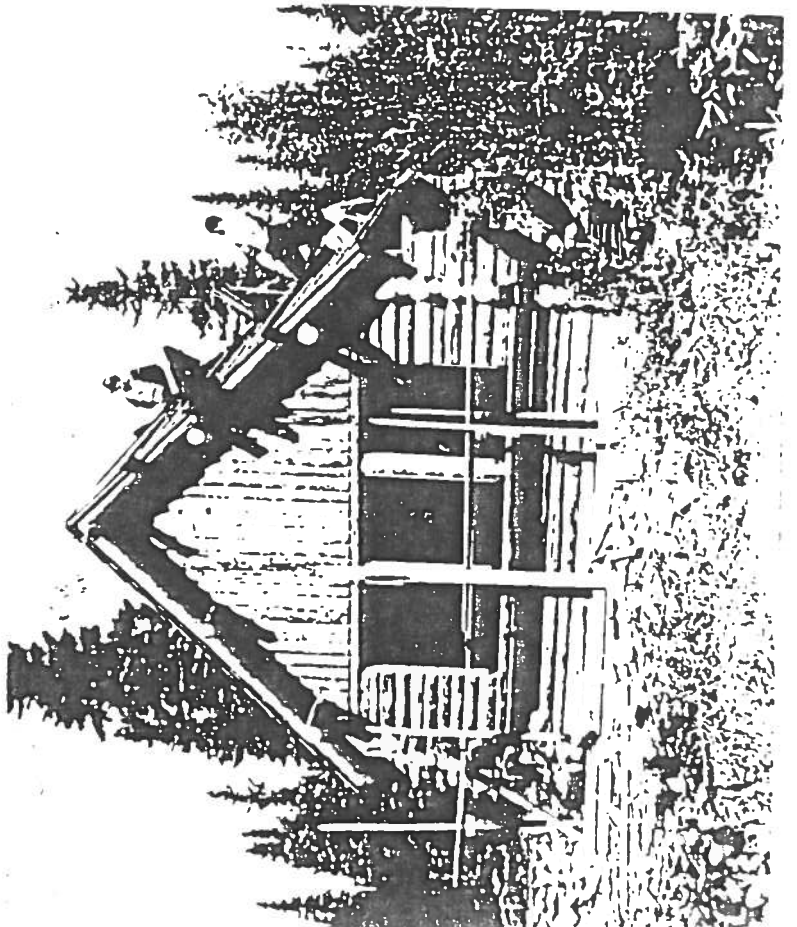
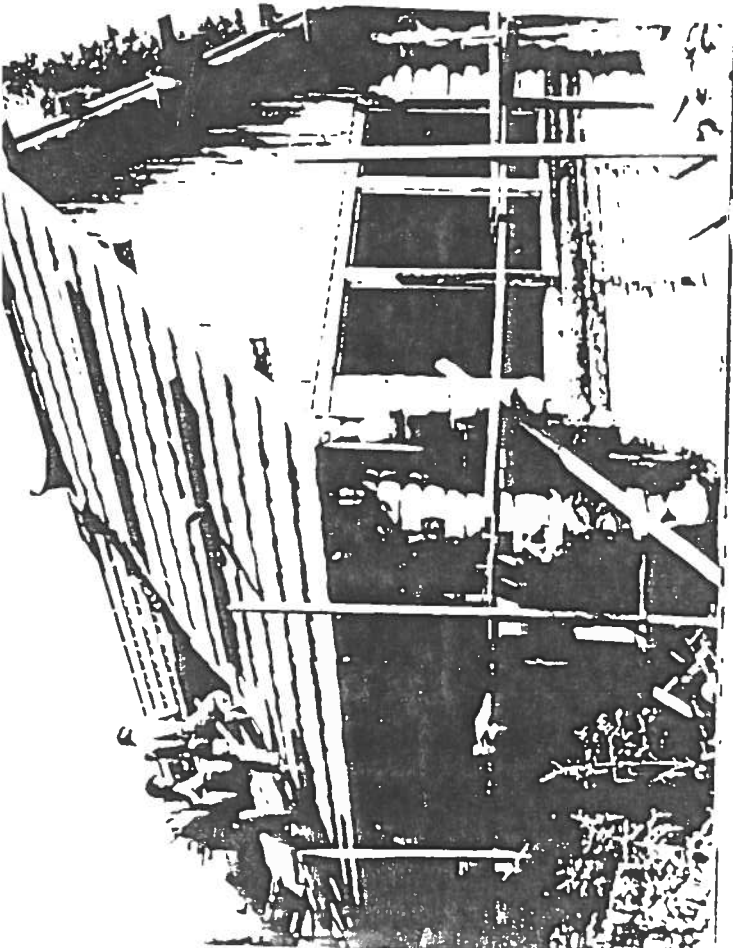
Lake Brooks Field Laboratory
BL-3

1942



West elevation of center section

W. Camp. file
D 3422
1942



STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

DIVISION OF PARKS AND OUTDOOR RECREATION
OFFICE OF HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY

F
TONY KNOWLES, GOVERNOR

3601 C STREET, SUITE 1278
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99503-5921
PHONE: (907) 269-8721
FAX: (907) 269-8908

July 1, 1999

FILE: 3130-1R NPS
3330-6 Lake Brooks Field Laboratory (XMK-124)

Deborah Liggett
Superintendent
National Park Service
Lake Clark/Katmai National Park and Preserve
4230 University Drive, Suite 311
Anchorage, AK 99508

Dear Ms. Liggett:

The State Historic Preservation Officer concurs with your finding the Lake Brooks Field Laboratory (XMK-124) eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. This eligibility is based on Criterion A; its association with development of fisheries research with a period of significance of 1941-1957.

My staff that reviewed this determination of eligibility, however, have some concerns that need to be addressed if the National Park Service proceeds to formally nominate this property for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. These concerns are:

1. The metal roof presently on the building is unsympathetic to the historic character of the building. It dominates the appearance of the building and jeopardizes its integrity for formal listing.
2. The significant dates, especially 1957, are not justified in the nomination.
3. We are aware of other properties that may be in association with this building and its historic function. These should be addressed and identified as contributing or non-contributing resources. They form part of the property's history, setting and association.
4. Photographs included in the formal nomination must follow the National Register of Historic Places guidelines. See National Register Bulletin: *How to Complete the National Register Registration Form*, page 64 "Labeling Photographs."

If you have questions or require clarification of our concerns, please contact Russ Sackett at 269-8726.

Sincerely,



Judith E. Bittner
State Historic Preservation Officer



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Lake Clark / Katmai National Park And Preserve
4230 University Drive, Suite 311
Anchorage, Alaska 99508

RECEIVED

JUN 24 1999

OHA

H4217 (KATM)

22 June 1999

Ms. Judith Bittner
State Historic Preservation Officer
Department of Natural Resources
Office of History and Archaeology
3601 C Street Suite 1278
Anchorage, AK 99503-5921

Dear Ms. Bittner:

In compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. Sec. 470f, as amended, 90 Stat. 1320), we have developed the enclosed Determination of Eligibility (DOE) for the Lake Brooks Field Laboratory (NPS BL-3; AHRs Site No. XMK-124) in Katmai National Park and Preserve. We have determined that the building is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A with Criterion Consideration G set forth in 36 CFR 60.4.

We would appreciate your 30 day review and concurrence with our recommendation of this DOE. If we receive your concurrence with the eligibility of this building, we will submit it as a full nomination and provide an electronic copy.

If you have any questions about this DOE, please call Jeanne Schaaf, Lake Clark Katmai Cultural Resources Manager at 271-1383.

Of note, SHPO reviewed a previous DOE on this building in April 1993. At that time the subject of that review letter was U.S. Bureau of Fisheries Laboratory, Katmai National Park and Preserve.

Sincerely,

Deborah Liggett
Superintendent

Enclosure

*double w/ formal
nom. w/out shingle
copy
significant dates not justified*