July 12, 1984

Terry O'

Thanks for your patience on the Rohn River Roadhouse nomination form.

I think your depth of research is impeccable and your description section sets out the sequence of facts very well; all this is very important in the objective, rational evaluation of the present existing physical remains.

Your very objective data and its clear presentation (you've done a very fine job of integrating the INHT Plan data, Lynch's report and your own experience) leads me to conclude that the 1924 fire destroyed the Rohn River Roadhouse and that the historic association with the gold rush is gone. This is called "loss of integrity" and means that the orignial fabric of the structure is gone. Such loss of integrity leads to a conclusion "not eligible to the National Register" because the existing remains are no longer associated with the gold rush, but with a different and later time.

I don't know if the newer structures have a historical value of their own. I'd say Carlson's cabin(s) seem to be unassociated with the theme transportation, instead they are shelter for a trapper on his trapline rounds. Was Carlson an important person in history? If so, is the cabin the best representation of his life and times? There's some indication in Lynch that most of these structures were in poor (roof fallen in) or worse (roof and walls collapsed) condition.

I get the impression that the CCC cabin is separated from the area that the roadhouse once occupied and that its this CCC cabin that is used as a checkpoint in the sled dog race. If that is the case, then there's the potential for a new theme developing: shelter cabins. The difficulty here is that we need to wait out the 50-year rule before we'll know if that cabin will eventually become historical.

One further comment, I found references to HABS records (INHT Plan) and photos/drawings (INHT Plan; AJ Lynch Ms), I'd like to see them and any nomination should include those records.

Thanks for the opportunity to review this, you've done a lot of very good work.

Beth