

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

**DIVISION OF PARKS AND OUTDOOR RECREATION
OFFICE OF HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY**

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May 26, 1999

FILE: 3130-1R Bureau of Land Management

SUBJECT: Rohn CCC Cabin (MCG-019)

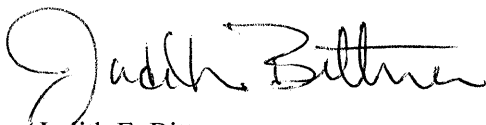
Donna Redding
Archaeologist
Bureau of Land Management
Anchorage Field Office
6881 Abbott Loop Road
Anchorage, AK 99507

Dear Ms. Redding:

The State Historic Preservation Officer concurs with your finding the proposed repair to the Rohn CCC Cabin's roof and sill log will have no adverse effect on elements that make the property eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. This concurrence is based on the sill log and roofing replacements be in-kind. I suggest, however, that you replace the sill log with a new log that contains no more the 19% moisture to ensure that it will not wrack, twist or split after placement.

If you have questions, contact Russ Sackett at 269-8726.

Sincerely,



Judith E. Bittner
State Historic Preservation Officer

JEB/rhs

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BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT



United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
ANCHORAGE DISTRICT OFFICE
6881 Abbott Loop Road
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99507

8100(042)

Judith E. Bittner
State Historic Preservation Officer
DNR/ Division of Parks & Outdoor Recreation
Office of History & Archaeology
3601 C Street - Suite 1278
Anchorage, Alaska 99503-5921

Dear Ms. Bittner:

Our office is submitting the attached determination of eligibility to you for review. This property, the Rhon CCC cabin (McG-019), is located at the confluence of the south fork of the Kuskokwim and the Tatina Rivers in T. 26 N., R. 22 W. section 33, Seward Meridian.

We have determined that this property is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and possibly under Criteria C and would like to request a decision regarding the eligibility of this property from your office within thirty days. We would also at this time like to request concurrence for repair work to be done in the near future. A bear has damaged two of the three cabin windows. We propose to replace all three windows with wooden frame windows and wooden shutters. The floor also needs repair. Because the sill logs rest directly upon the ground, some frost heaving, rot, and animal damage has occurred resulting in holes and uneven flooring. The current floor and windows are not original. We would like to request that plywood, even though not an original material, be permitted to be installed over the existing floor to repair the holes and keep the cabin usable.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at 267-1341.

Sincerely,

Donna Redding
Anchorage District Archaeologist

1 enclosure
cc: Mike Zaidlicz (AK-042)

DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY
OF THE ROHN 'CCC' CABIN (MCG-019)
TATINA RIVER, ALASKA

DESCRIPTION

The Rohn CCC cabin is a small (12' x 16'), rectangular, one room log cabin located at the confluence of the south fork of the Kuskokwim and the Tatina Rivers. It is nestled in the woods just off the northeast end of the airstrip in T. 26 N., R. 22 W. section 33, Seward Meridian. The cabin has a simple gable roof covered with flattened blazo cans. The log walls were flattened on the inside by adze and are double saddle notched. The side logs and the roof extend approximately five feet from the front wall creating a covered storage area at the front of the cabin. Two small, fixed pane windows are situated opposite each other in the center of each long wall. A third small fixed pane window is centered in the back wall. Sill logs rest directly upon the ground.

SIGNIFICANCE

Correspondence between the Chief Engineer and the Superintendent of the Alaska Road Commission shows that in July of 1938 funding for an airfield at the Tatina River would not be forthcoming. The Chief engineer suggested that the CCC could do it. Later that year this suggestion was more urgently made because the condition of the existing airstrip hindered the rescue effort for Glenn Day, a lost pilot. The assembled rescuers were able to take off in only one direction and thus were limited in the time they were actually able to search for him. At this point a shelter cabin was also planned for this site. By November 1939 a CCC crew had constructed the airstrip and cabin (National Archives RG #30 ARC project correspondence 1916-1959).

Although not directly associated with the historic Iditarod Trail, this cabin represents a historical continuity of transportation through Rainy Pass and is representative of early Alaskan aviation and this mode of travel which essentially put the Iditarod trail as a primary travel route to rest. As such this cabin would qualify as eligible under Criteria A. The cabin continues in its historic function-- modern use of the Iditarod Trail through this area utilizes this cabin as both a check point during the sled dog race, and as a shelter cabin for snowmobilers following the trail as well as pilots flying through the pass. The Rohn CCC cabin may also be eligible under Criteria C as an example of the type of architecture and workmanship produced in Alaska by the CCC which figures as a historical entity associated with the American Depression, its aftermath, and the New Deal.