Form No. 10-306 (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED MAY 15 1987
DATE ENTERED OCT 23 1987

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Mount McKinley National Park Headquarters District

AND/OR COMMON
Denali National Park and Preserve Headquarters

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
Mile 3.4, McKinley Park Highway — NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN
Denali National Park and Preserve — VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
000

STATE: Alaska — CODE: 02 — COUNTY: Yukon-Koyukuk Div. — CODE: 290

3 CLASSIFICATION

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

4 AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: *(If applicable)*
Alaska Regional Office, National Park Service

STREET & NUMBER
2525 Gambell Street

CITY, TOWN
Anchorage — VICINITY OF

STATE
Alaska

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Bureau of Land Management, Alaska State Office

STREET & NUMBER
701 C Street

CITY, TOWN
Anchorage

STATE
Alaska

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
"List of Classified Structures", Denali National Park and Preserve

DATE
1981 — X FEDERAL — STATE — COUNTY — LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
Alaska Regional Office, National Park Service

CITY, TOWN
Anchorage

STATE
Alaska

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
__EXCELLENT	__DETERIORATED	__UNALTERED	X ORIGINAL SITE
X GOOD	__RUINS	X ALTERED	__MOVED DATE_____
__FAIR	__UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

7. DESCRIPTION

Summary: The Mount McKinley National Park Headquarters Historic District is situated approximately three miles from the eastern entrance of Denali National Park and Preserve on the 90-mile park highway. Irregular in shape, the approximately 11.91-acre district occupies a natural, gently sloping forested terrace just north of Hines Creek, a tributary of the Nenana River. The Historic District encompasses 18 buildings and a network of narrow connecting roads. In keeping with the National Park Service philosophy of rustic (or nonintrusive) architecture, the physical features of the majority of buildings in the District reflect a conscious attempt to harmonize with their natural surroundings through the use of building materials and techniques indigenous to interior Alaska and through sensitive siting. Horizontal log (or log veneer), vertical log plank, board and batten, and clapboard siding are used predominantly on exterior walls. Logs or rough sawn lumber, characteristically exposed under the eaves or at the ends of gable roofs, serve to emphasize the rustic qualities of buildings. The contributing buildings in the District were erected between 1926 and 1941. Fourteen buildings maintain significant exterior integrity and contribute to the ambience of the District. Four are considered noncontributing structures due to their recent construction, loss of physical integrity, and/or their nonrustic architectural features.

Rustic Style Building Design: In exterior design, materials, and siting the ensemble of Headquarters buildings clearly exhibits tenets of the rustic style adopted and fully developed by the National Park Service between 1916 and the early 1940s. Reflecting the National Park Service attempts to design and construct buildings that harmonized with the surrounding environment and used local building traditions, the majority of Headquarters buildings utilize materials and techniques indigenous to interior Alaska. Logs were used predominantly to construct the exterior walls of Headquarters buildings. When suitable logs were unavailable, rough-sawn or machine rounded planks (simulating logs) were used on building exteriors, either alone or in combination with the log framing, to create a rustic effect. Design details such as saddle corner notching and exposed roof rafters and purlins contribute further to the rustic appearance of Headquarters buildings. At the same time, certain building

Alaska Heritage Resource Survey (AHRS No. HEA-147)
07/10/78
Office of History & Archaeology
Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation
State of Alaska
PO Box 107001
Anchorage, Alaska 99510-7001

techniques reveal awareness of local craft traditions practiced by miners and hunters in the region. (This is particularly true of the oldest buildings in the Headquarters Historic District.)

Headquarters buildings are relatively small in scale. Buildings rarely exceed 40 feet in width and most are no more than one and one-half stories in height. In one instance (No. 102) the siting of a two-story building against a small hillside effectively reduces the overall sense of height.

Finally, the rustic philosophy of nonintrusive building is evident in the overall spatial distribution and siting of buildings and roads in the Headquarters Historic District. Beginning in the early 1930s when National Park Service landscape architects became increasingly involved in the planning of Headquarters, it appears that an effort was made to minimize the impact of built features on the landscape. Excluding the tight concentration of buildings at the hub of the District, buildings are separated by considerable distances and surrounded by undisturbed stands of trees. Only native plant materials border buildings and walkways. Roads in the district are narrow and often follow the natural contour of the land.

Appearance During Period of Significance: Between 1926 and 1941 the physical appearance of Headquarters evolved. Between the fall of 1925 and the end of 1927, no less than nine structures were constructed along the park highway and a short stub road which now serves as the main access road into the district. Buildings were typically small, horizontal log cabins capped with low pitch gable roofs of rough sawn lumber covered with tar paper. One building, the Office Building (No. 22), is the sole survivor of this early period of vernacular buildings that closely resembled those built by local miners, trappers, and hunters.

An era of landscape architect designed buildings began in 1928. That year, two buildings (Nos. 101 and 106) were erected alongside the main road into Headquarters. (The Warehouse [No. 101] was among the first and is now the oldest extant landscape architect-designed building at Headquarters.) Both buildings

repeated design characteristics and materials used in the first generation of Headquarters buildings: each was one story in height, had a gable roof initially sheathed with tar paper, and was built of horizontal peeled logs. Building construction escalated in the late 1920s and through the mid-1930s. Most buildings constructed at Headquarters between 1929 and 1937 were designed by National Park Service architects. All were built in the rustic architectural mode typified by a heavy reliance on peeled logs, either for entire walls or wall framing, rough-sawn board-and-batten siding, and roof designs that revealed structural rafters and purlins under the eaves and in the gable ends. Six buildings from this period of exuberant growth and development are extant. Most are sited on or near the principal Headquarters road, which by 1937 formed the backbone of building development.

The final era of development at Headquarters witnessed the construction of five major buildings, the relocation of one, and the establishment of the pattern of roads that presently exists in the district. All five buildings built between 1938 and 1941 are attributed to National Park Service architects. The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) provided labor for new construction, for the relocation of one building, and for the construction of new roads at Headquarters. Great variety exists in the design and building materials used during this last period of building: two frame structures sheathed with clapboard siding were completed in 1938; the following year a combination log and stone veneer building and a reinforced concrete structure were completed. The substantial completion of an all log building in 1941 coincided with the close of the National Park Service's adherence to the rustic concept.

Headquarters Since the 1940s: The Headquarters Historic District has undergone relatively few changes since its period of historical significance. Building development at Headquarters entered a period of dormancy during and after World War II. The 1950s saw a renewal of changes, both unplanned and planned. In 1950, a substantial log and frame employees' quarters just west of the main park road burned. That year, the Office Building (No. 22) was relocated to the utility area, and two years later it was moved to its present location. The Garage and Repair Shop (No. 102) received a major addition in 1955. The 1950s also

witnessed the relocation of the superintendent's garage (No. 50) to its present site just south of the Garage and Repair Shop. Beginning in the 1960s, new construction accomplished under the National Park Service Mission 66 building program took place largely outside the Headquarters District. Inside the District during the 1960s and early 1970s only two minor buildings were removed. Most recently, changes inside the district boundaries are limited to the introduction of one building (No. 123) and the construction of new additions onto the Garage and Repair Shop. Only minor road changes likewise have occurred since the mid-1960s. Two short sections of road were abandoned; however, they exist as cleared openings and are currently used as pedestrian walkways.

Boundary Description and Justification: The Mount McKinley National Park Headquarters Historic District encompasses less than ten acres. Boundaries are tightly drawn around the greatest concentration of significant cultural features that, combined, establish an integrity of feeling and association at Headquarters. Since the strong relationship between the natural and built environment reflects both the rustic design concepts that guided the development of Headquarters and the functional requirements of the occupants at Headquarters in the 1930s, the District boundaries embrance small areas of the natural setting. The District boundaries have been selected for reasons of visual impact as well as historical patterns of use which both exerted a great influence on the history of Headquarters during the period of significance.

The extreme northern boundary of the District follows the 2,130 foot contour, a few feet upslope from building Nos. 111 and 22 (the first two Headquarters' administration buildings) and extends eastward to the entrance of the residential loop road. Here, the boundary turns southward and follows a line ten feet east of the curvilinear residential road initially established by the CCC at the time residence buildings Nos. 12, 13, and 23 were constructed. Just east of the Barn (No. 106), the boundary takes in an area historically used as a horse corral.

The boundary around the southern portion of the district follows a line 10 feet from the eastern and western edges of the dog kennel

road and along the 2,060-foot contour just south of building No. 105 and the dog kennels at the south. Here, the land drops precipitously. Since 1938, when the kennels were established by the CCC, both park personnel and visitors have traveled the loop kennels road to care for and observe the sled dogs. The semi-wooded area encircled by and bordering the road, although not actively used historically, has functioned passively as a buffer between the greatest concentration of human activity at Headquarters and the sights, sounds, and smells of the park kennel operation. The area encompassed by the dog kennel road is less than one acre.

From the juncture of the kennel road and the east-west service road, the District boundary runs east to the northwest corner of the parking area, then directly north. Building No. 141 is outside the District due to its recent move to the site and its noncompatible design. The small area inside the district and north of No. 21 is primarily wooded but broken by an open space, which, until a 1950 fire, was the site of a major building at Headquarters. In addition, this area provides a visual edge at the historically significant entrance into Headquarters that dates from 1926. The boundary curves eastward a few feet to exclude a parking area expanded to its present size in the last two decades then north and northwest to the point of beginning.

Contributing/Noncontributing Buildings: Mount McKinley National Park Headquarters Historic District is comprised of 14 contributing resources and 4 noncontributing resources. One significant building has noncontributing additions projecting from one wall. All 14 contributing resources in the Headquarters Historic District were constructed during the 15-year period of historical significance, 1926 to 1941. Noncontributing buildings or additions were constructed since 1941, or were built during the period of significance but have experienced a considerable loss of physical integrity. Each building included in the district is keyed by building number to an accompanying map of the Headquarters District. Photographs depicting individual buildings and significant vistas are appended.

Contributing Buildings

No. 22: Office Building. 1926; architect unknown; built by park personnel. Horizontal, peeled log exterior walls with double square corner notching; painted dark brown; 20'6" x 19'6"; one story; gable roof with ribbed metal sheathing; no foundation; six-light, paired windows. Alterations: building moved in 1950 and again in 1952; log walls peeled, porch reconstructed; recent frame board and batten, shed roof addition on rear, north elevation; exterior walls painted. (Photo No. 22-1).

No. 101: Warehouse. 1928; designed by National Park Service; built by park personnel. Walls of horizontal, peeled logs; 32' x 32'; 1 1/2 stories; gable roof with wood shakes; poured concrete foundation; single light windows; two pedestrian doors on west elevation. Alterations: tar paper replaced by metal roofing in early 1950s; wood panel infill of garage door opening on south wall; new pedestrian doors on west wall; new foundation and interior rehabilitation in 1982; recent addition of wood shakes on roof; exterior walls painted. (Photo No. 101-1 to 101-3.)

No. 106: Barn. 1928-1929; National Park Service probable architect; park personnel probable builders. Horizontal, peeled log walls with saddle and dovetail corner notching; painted dark brown; 19'3" x 42'; one story; gable roof with wood shakes; no foundation; multi-light casement windows on south elevation only; pedestrian door on west wall. Alterations: log addition on east wall in early 1930s; windows added in late 1940s; recent small board and batten addition on rear, east wall; recent addition of wood shakes on roof; exterior walls painted. (Photo No. 106-1 to 106-5.)

No. 105: Dog Feed Cache and Sled Storage. 1929-1930; designed by National Park Service; park personnel probable builders. Peeled log frame with reversed board-and-batten siding; painted dark brown; main portion, 14'10" x 24'10"; 1 1/2 stories; gable roof; two smaller adjoining sections are one story with shed roofs; all roofs sheathed with wood shakes; concrete slab foundation under two portions; six-light casement windows; solid wood doors on north elevation. Alterations: building moved in 1938; shed roof

addition on west wall of central portion in 1976; recent replacement of metal roof with wood shakes; exterior walls painted. (Photo No. 105-1, 105-2.)

No. 110: Electric Light Plant (Power House). 1930-1931; architect unknown; park personnel probable builders. Horizontal, peeled log and poured concrete (lower one-third) wall construction; saddle corner notching with sawn and battered log ends; painted dark brown; 14' x 16'; one story; gable roof sheathed with wood shakes; concrete foundation; eight-light casement windows; pedestrian door on west elevation. Alterations: replacement of single garage door with pedestrian door; replacement of corrugated metal roof with wood shakes; exterior walls painted. (Photo Nos. 110-1 to 110-3.)

No. 103: Garage. 1931; designed by National Park Service; built by park personnel and contracted labor. Peeled log frame with vertical board-and-batten exterior walls; painted dark brown;. 25' x 42'2"; one story; salt-box type roof with wood shakes; concrete slab foundation under portions; six-light casement windows; pedestrian door (east elevation) and single garage door (west elevation). Alterations: infill of garage doors on south wall between 1950 and mid-1960s; interior repartitioning in late 1970s and in 1984; recent shake roof; exterior painted. (Photo Nos. 103-1 to 103-3.)

No. 112: Comfort Station. 1932; designed by National Park Service; park personnel probable builders. Peeled log and reverse board-and-batten exterior walls; painted dark brown; 16'6" x 10'; one story; gable roof with rolled composition roofing; poured concrete foundation under one portion; small glass louvered windows. Alterations: window and door modification c.1967; concrete foundation poured under entire building and board-and-batten addition on north wall in 1985-86; recent picture window added on east wall; exterior walls painted. (Photo Nos. 112-1 to 112-3.)

No. 107: Boiler House. 1932; architect unknown; built by park personnel. Horizontal peeled log (upper portion) and poured concrete (lower portion) wall construction; saddle corner notching; painted dark brown; 25'8" x 19'; one story; gable roof with wood shakes; concrete foundation; six-light casement windows; single door on south elevation. Alterations: recent replacement of tar paper and corrugated metal roofing with wood shakes; exterior walls painted. (Photo Nos. 107-1, 107-2.)

No. 21: Rangers' Dormitory. 1934-1935; designed by National Park Service; built by park personnel and contracted labor. Horizontal peeled logs with saddle notching (ground floor) and vertical rounded planks over frame construction (second floor); log ends sawn and battered; painted dark brown; 34' x 34'; two stories; gable roof with wood shakes; poured concrete foundation with daylight basement; single light casement and picture windows; doors on east and west elevations. Alterations: interior alterations beginning in 1954; recent placement of multi-light windows with single pane casement windows; introduction of three picture windows on ground floor; wood shakes instead of original metal roof; exterior walls painted. (Photo Nos. 21-1 to 21-4.)

Nos. 12 and 13: Employee Residences. 1938; designed by National Park Service; built by Civilian Conservation Corps. Frame construction with clapboard siding (lower portion) and vertical board-and-batten siding (upper portion); painted dark brown; 25' x 26'10"; two stories; gable roof with wood shakes; concrete foundation with daylight basement; horizontal three- and four-light sash windows. Alterations: interior repartitioning of both in 1954 and recent remodeling; introduction of second floor fire escapes on rear, south walls; replacement of multi-light sash window on No. 12 with picture window; modification of ground floor porches on both; exterior walls painted since 1963; replacement of metal roofing with wood shakes. (Photo Nos. 12/13-1 to 12/13-4.)

No. 111: Superintendent's Garage. 1939; designed by National Park Service; built by Civilian Conservation Corps. Horizontal peeled log walls above poured concrete with stone veneer exterior walls; log portion painted dark brown; L-shape; measures 24'6" x 33'6" and 15'6" square; one story; intersecting gable roof with corrugated metal sheathing; concrete slab foundation; 12-light sash windows. Alterations: compatible addition constructed on west wall in 1943; infill of garage doors on east elevation; and interior repartitioning in 1943; interior remodeling in 1960 and early 1980s; new metal roof installed 1984. (Photo Nos. 111-1 to 111-3.)

No. 102: Garage and Repair Shop (Machine Shop and Garage). 1939; designed by National Park Service; built by Civilian Conservation Corps. Reinforced concrete wall construction with horizontal wood siding in gable ends; painted dark brown; 46' x 30'; two stories; gable roof with wood shakes; reinforced concrete foundation; multi-light casement windows; three vehicle bays and pedestrian door on north facade. Alterations: major concrete block addition

or west wall in 1955, this addition extended to the west in 1981; both recent additions are noncontributing elements. (Photo Nos. 102-1 to 102-3.)

No. 23: Employee's Residence. Substantially completed 1940-1941; designed by National Park Service; built by Civilian Conservation Corps, Alaska Road Commission, park personnel, and contracted labor. Horizontal peeled log walls (ground floor) and frame construction with vertical log planks (upper half-story); corners saddle notched with log ends sawn and battered; painted dark brown; 46'6" x 28'; 1 1/2 stories; steeply pitched gable roof with one shed roof dormer and two gable roof porches, all sheathed with ribbed metal; poured concrete foundation with daylight basement; one-over-one double-hung sash windows. Alterations: interior remodeling in early 1950s and in 1975. (Photo Nos. 23-1 to 23-3.)

(Additional information about each contributing building may be found in Mount McKinley Headquarters District, Historic Structure Report, by David Snow and Gail Evans (1986).

Noncontributing Buildings

No. 50: Superintendent's Garage (early 1930s). Moved since 1966 and possibly before. (Photo No. 50-1.)

No. 96: Storage Shed. (platform only, c. 1955; roof and walls since 1979).

No. 118: Equipment Storage (1955); Paint Shop (1980); Fire Engine Storage (1981). (Photo No. 101-1.)

No. 123: CCC Infirmary (c. 1938). Substantially altered and relocated. (Photo No. 123-1.)

No. 217: Employee Garage (mid-1950s). (Photo No. 217-1.)

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
__PREHISTORIC	__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	__COMMUNITY PLANNING	__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	__RELIGION
__1400-1499	__ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	X CONSERVATION	__LAW	__SCIENCE
__1500-1599	__AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	__LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE
__1600-1699	X ARCHITECTURE	__EDUCATION	__MILITARY	__SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
__1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER
__1800-1899	__COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
X 1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	X OTHER (SPECIFY)
1926-1941		__INVENTION		Recreation

SPECIFIC DATES 1926-1941 BUILDER/ARCHITECT NA

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

8. SIGNIFICANCE

Summary: The 11.91-acre Mount McKinley National Park Headquarters District is historically significant since it illustrates the presence and early growth of the National Park Service in the State of Alaska. The National Park Service was established for the stated purpose of conserving areas of outstanding national beauty and wildlife and for providing outdoor recreational opportunities to the American public. The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), a Depression-era program whose life extended from 1933 to 1942, contributed greatly to the expansion and development of the Headquarters District in the late 1930s. Throughout the nation and locally at Mount McKinley National Park, the CCC facilitated and enhanced the efforts of the National Park Service. The Mount McKinley National Park Headquarters District, whose period of historical significance is identified in this nomination as the years extending from 1926 to 1941, visually represents the two historical themes of conservation and recreation.

Architecturally, the design, construction materials, and siting of buildings in the Headquarters District are good representative examples of the National Park Service philosophy of rustic style architecture during its zenith and last period of expression.

The Headquarters District possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, and feeling and association. Of the eighteen buildings in the District, only four are noncontributing resources. Fourteen buildings contribute to the sense of time and place of the Headquarters District.

Criterion A. The Mount McKinley National Park Headquarters District achieves historical significance for its strong association with the National Park Service and the CCC, who, together, advanced the conservation and recreation movements in

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 11.91

UTM REFERENCES

	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
A	06	403100	7067300	B			
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary of the Mount McKinley National Headquarters District is irregular in shape and tightly drawn around the greatest concentration of cultural features (consisting of buildings, roads, and the immediately surrounding natural environment which has visually impacted the district during the period of historical significance), The district embraces 11.91 acres and includes areas on both the north and the south of the park highway. It is located in NW 1/4, NW 1/4, Sec. 8, T.14S., R.7W., Fairbanks Meridian (see district map and detail description included in this nomination).

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
N/A			
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE: Gail Evans, Historian

ORGANIZATION: Alaska Regional Office, National Park Service

DATE: December 1985

STREET & NUMBER: 2525 Gambell

TELEPHONE: (907) 261-2638

CITY OR TOWN: Anchorage

STATE: Alaska

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES X NO ___ NONE ___

Judith E. Bittner

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is ___National ✓State ___Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE Edwin C. Bearss

TITLE Chief Historian

DATE May 7, 1987

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Amy Schlagel

DATE Oct 23, 1987

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST: DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

GPO 899-214

Alaska and locally in the remote interior portion of the state. As agents of the furtherance of conservation and recreation, the National Park Service and the CCC were primarily responsible for the early physical devleopment of the Mount McKinley National Park Headquarters District that took place between 1926 and 1941. In 1985, the physical appearance and character of the Headquarters District shows minimal alteration since that time, thus it visually recalls this fifteen-year period of historical significance.

Establishment of Mount McKinley National Park. The creation of Mount McKinley National Park reflected America's heightened concern for conservation, which captured the support of Progressive-era government leaders in the first two decades of the twentieth century. Carved out of the great wilderness of interior Alaska, the establishment of Mount McKinley National Park epitomized the primary mission of the National Park Service, established in 1916. Under the leadership of its first two directors, Stephen Mather (1916-1929) and Horace Albright (1929-1933), the dual concepts of conservation of the natural environment and the promotion of outdoor recreation emerged as the dominant management direction of the early national park movement.[1] Often compared to the scenic splendor of the Alps and Himalayas, many early park supporters ranked McKinley alongside Yellowstone, Yosemite, and the Grand Canyon in its supremacy in world scenery.[2] Largely in response to the committed efforts of influential East Coast conservation organizations,[3] on February 26, 1917, Congress established by act (39 Stat. 938) a park approximately 2,200 square miles in area. It encompassed the crest and northern slopes of the central Alaska Range and featured 20,320-foot Mount McKinley, the loftiest mountain in North America, as the principal scenic attraction.[4] In addition to preserving the natural scenery, the park aimed at protecting the game ranges of the prolific herds of caribou and Dall sheep presumably threatened by the encroachment of market hunters and the advancement of civilization prompted by the construction of the Alaska Railroad. Finally, park advocates argued that the park's establishment would encourage economic development of interior Alaska by stimulating travel and tourism in this remote undeveloped area of the state.[5] The passage of legislation creating the park was significant: Mount McKinley National Park

became the first national park in Alaska, and it was second only to Yellowstone in size.[6]

Early Years. Administration of Alaska's first national park came slowly. No appropriation of money was initially provided for the development and protection of the park.[7] It was not until 1920 that $8,000 was granted to establish an administrative area, to pay the salary of a superintendent and assistants, and to purchase and maintain a dog team.[8] The following year, forty-year-old Henry P. Karstens assumed the position of park superintendent.[9] Working with one ranger, Superintendent Karstens at first administered to park needs from Nenana, a small town over fifty miles north of the park boundary. Upon his arrival there in mid-1921, the Nenana Daily News assuredly announced:

> Of great importance to Interior Alaska is the arrival of Harry P. Karstens, newly appointed superintendent of Mt. McKinley National Park . . . [His] coming marks the beginning of a new epoch in the history of Interior Alaska, for [he is] here to blaze the trails for thousands of tourists who even now are waiting an invitation to visit America's largest [sic] National Park and one of the world's scenic wonders.[10]

In the summer of 1922, coinciding with the near completion of the Alaska Railroad, Superintendent Karstens moved park headquarters to McKinley Park railroad station near the east boundary of the park. During the next three years, Harry Karstens carried out the duties of park superintendent from a small enclave of log and frame buildings near the railroad depot and situated on the banks of a nearby creek.

A New Park Headquarters, 1925-1928. The severe cold and dampness of the creek channel, periodic flooding, and finally a fire that denuded the surrounding landscape, probably all contributed to the relocation of park headquarters in the fall of 1925 to its present site.[11] Situated in a sheltered forest of spruce, birch, and cottonwood approximately two miles west of the McKinley Park Station, the establishment of the new park headquarters occurred simultaneously with the construction of the first summer tourist camp inside the park. Beginning in 1925, the Savage River Camp, consisting of a neatly arranged ensemble of wall tents,[12] induced hardier visitors to travel into the park on horses owned and

operated by the camp concessionaire. With the gradual influx of summer tourists came new responsiblities for park personnel, added to those of wintertime game protection.

Reflecting this increase in recreational use of the park, the size of both the park staff and the headquarters area gradually expanded. Between 1925 and early 1928, new buildings were added to the initial small cluster of log and frame structures. By mid-1927, park headquarters consisted of no less than nine structures plus 800 lineal feet of road.[13] The superintendent's office and park staff residence cabins fronted on the park road, while the utility buildings were located to the rear (south) and accessed by the headquarters stub road. Since no money was allocated for building construction during the first three years after headquarters was relocated, most of the materials used for construction were salvaged from abandoned railroad construction camp buildings and timber in the nearby forests. Park rangers accomplished all building construction.[14]

Years of Expansion, 1928-1937. The year 1928 marked a turning point in the development and growth at park headquarters. Visitor attendance in the park continued to rise with the introduction of new concession operated automobile stages and the expansion of facilities at Savage River Camp. In addition, the ongoing construction and improvements of the park road allowed for the establishment of small tent camps spaced about sixteen miles apart and extending into the center of the park.[15] Demands on the park rangers, and especially Superintendent Karstens, increased correspondingly with the increase in recreational use of the park. Additionally, the Park Service itself insisted upon greater accountability of park operations. Chafing under new bureaucratic responsibilities, Harry Karstens resigned as superintendent in the fall of 1928.[16] That same year, Mount McKinley National Park received its first allotment of funds for building construction in the history of the park.

The arrival of Superintendent Harry Liek in December, 1928 ushered in a decade of steady growth and development of the park. During this ten-year period, construction and maintenance of the road made steady progress. By 1938, the road extended and was suitable

for vehicular travel for ninety miles into the park from the Alaska Railroad.[17] In the mid-1930s, a new airplane field was completed at Savage River Camp.[18] Facilities provided by the park's sole concessionaire, the McKinley Tourist and Transportation Company, correspondingly improved and expanded during the 1930s. Although visitation declined in the early 1930s due to depressed economic conditions in the United States, the total number of visitors recorded during the 1937 travel season reached 1,073, the largest attendance attained in the history of the park to date.[19] The park administrative staff and rangers were kept busy year round facilitating the concession-operated recreational activities in summer and providing protection of wildlife against poachers in winter. In mid-1937, the management of the park was assumed by seven permanent employees and a total operating budget of $150,050.[20]

As the hub of all administrative and management activities for the park, the heightened development activity reflected not only the increased recreational use of the park, but the general expansion of the National Park Service in the 1930s. As a result of an executive order issued by President Franklin Roosevelt in 1933, the agency expanded multifold in the number of areas administered and in personnel. Park units jumped from 67 to 137, and Park Service employees quadrupled immediately after the agency reorganization.[21] Park Service officials, and particularly the Branch of Plans and Design, became increasingly involved in the planning and development of park facilities especially at park headquarters. Thomas Vint, head of the Service's landscape division, visited the park on an inspection trip in 1929.[22]

Planning for the overall placement of roads and buildings at headquarters began as early as 1928: in March that year, the superintendent noted that "all future development about headquarters will be influenced by the proper placing of these buildings and the space reserved for future construction."[23] An official master plan for the headquarters area was completed by the mid-1930s.[24] In early 1937, the Branch of Plans and Design produced a master plan for the entire park that included detailed maps and descriptions of existing and proposed buildings at park headquarters.[25]

This was a period of robust building construction. Beginning in 1928, an average of two major buildings a year were started at headquarters. Construction peaked in 1935 when, according to Superintendent Harry Liek, "the largest building program in the history of the park took place the past year when two of the finest buildings in the interior of Alaska were constructed at park headquarters, consisting of an eight room rangers' quarters and a five room employee's residence."[26] With the completion of these two buildings, the headquarters was comprised of eighteen buildings. As headquarters physically expanded, the focus of activities shifted from the park road to the short headquarters road begun in the mid-1920s.[27] The exuberance in building construction abruptly halted in 1937: that year the park received no appropriation for physical improvements.[28]

Influence of the Civilian Conservation Corps. In a bold effort to curb the epidemic proportions of the nation's worst economic depression, newly inaugurated President Franklin Roosevelt initiated a wide array of New Deal emergency work relief programs. The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) more than any other New Deal program had the greatest impact on the long-term development of conservation and recreation-oriented projects in national park areas. At the program's peak size in 1935, the National Park Service employed a total of 126,000 CCC supervisors and enrollees.[29]

The significance of the CCC in national history, as well as Park Service history, is great. During its years of existence from 1933 to 1942, the program provided work for 5 percent of the total United States male population. In the first three months of its establishment, the CCC accomplished the greatest peacetime mobilization of American youth ever experienced by the United States. The CCC was largely responsible for the coordination and development of a nationwide state parks program. Work visible to the public, such as new trails, campground facilities, and vista clearings contributed to the increase in park visitation by 25 to 50 percent. Park Service officials have claimed that the CCC advanced both forest conservation and recreational park development by ten to twenty years.[30]

Due to the influence of the CCC, the hiatus in building construction at park headquarters lasted only briefly. On May 20, 1938, a full company of 200 CCC enrollees and 12 supervisory personnel arrived in the park. Immediately, the corpsmen began constructing CCC Camp Denali, located only a few hundred yards north of headquarters.[31] Even before the summer building season was half over, the CCC was well along with several projects in the park, including fire hazard reduction, telephone line maintenance, landscaping at the new McKinley Park Hotel, and maintenance and improvement of the park highway. Most of their efforts, however, focused on the headquarters area. Throughout the summer, the CCC labored on sewer and water line construction, road construction and obliteration, and building relocation and new construction. By early November when the last contingent of corpsmen left the park, two 2-story employee residences were completed. Additionally, the CCC was responsible for moving the dog kennels to their present location and building loop roads that accessed the new dog kennel and residential areas at headquarters.[32]

A second full company of CCC enrollees returned to Camp Denali the following April. Major projects undertaken at headquarters during the summer of 1939 included the construction of a two-story reinforced concrete garage and repair shop and a log and stone veneer garage at the superintendent's residence. Before summer's end, the CCC completed the installation of underground drainage ditches and power and telephone lines at headquarters.[33] Within a month after the departure of Superintendent Harry Liek from the park, newly appointed Superintendent Frank T. Been observed in June 1939: "the CCC Company assigned to the park is an asset of inestimable value as accomplishments are possible which would take years through regular appropriations.[34]

The expense of transportation to Alaska was the apparent reason for the disapproval of the park's request for a CCC company after 1939. Even without a CCC camp in the park, their influence continued to be felt. Through the CCC operation of the Alaska Fire Control Service, sufficient building logs were provided for the construction of a new residence.[35] In April 1940, the logs arrived by freight car and were on the ground at the building site.[36] Without qualified park personnel, adequate funds for hiring skilled labor, or available local workmen due to the

pre-World War II labor shortages, construction of the new log residence progressed slowly.[37] Finally, by mid-1941, both exterior and interior work on the new residence were substantially completed.[38]

Following the completion of this residence at headquarters, major building construction was curtailed during World War II. With only a few exceptions, the resumption of major construction activity which began in the early 1950s took place largely outside the historic Headquarters District. Changes that have occurred in the historic District at headquarters are primarily limited to building interiors or are compatible in exterior design and materials. Interior and minor exterior alterations that have taken place over time reveal the evolution in building uses and advancing technology which characterizes this building enclave as a dynamic administrative area.

Criterion C: The Mount McKinley National Park Headquarters District is eligible for the National Register since it embodies distinctive characteristics of a type, period, and method of construction. In addition, it represents, as a whole, a distinguishable entity. The Headquarters District clearly represents the rustic architectural style, adopted and developed by the National Park Service during the first twenty-five years of the agency's existence. Moreover, the District illustrates the evolution of the rustic style over a twelve-year period (1928-1940) from which time the extant National Park Service-designed buildings date. Finally, the grouping of features and relationships among those features in the Headquarters District possesses a coherence that makes it an identifiable historic environment.

Distinctive Characteristics of the Rustic Style. The total ensemble of buildings and the articulated spaces between these features visually expresses the philosophy of the rustic style. A growing cognizance of the ills provoked by the country's increasingly mechanized, industrialized society in the late 1800s which gave rise to a new romanticism about untouched natural environments, provided fertile ground for the emergence of the rustic style. Beginning in the early 1880s, summer resorts built by wealthy Easterners in New York's Adirondack Mountains achieved

an ornate "high style" architecture through the use of logs, poles, and branches in large mansion-like dwellings. The incorporation of native materials in buildings and their integration with the landscape was fostered by early professional associations between landscape architects and architects such as Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr., and H. H. Richardson. Harmony between buildings and their surrounding landscapes was of paramount concern to the early practitioners of the rustic style.

The adoption of this nonintrusive design philosophy by the National Park Service after its creation in 1916 was natural. Many of the grand western parks inherited by the Service were renowned for their superlative natural scenery. In addition, the tradition of buildings constructed of natural local materials had already been firmly established by concessionaires who constructed tourist facilites in Yellowstone, Grand Canyon, Glacier, Mount Rainier, and Crater Lake before the birth of the National Park Service. In these and other early parks and monuments, although no one architectural style predominated, the most aesthetically appropriate buildings successfully harmonized with their natural setting. Early National Park Service landscape architects strove to continue the subordination of buildings and other improvements to their natural surroundings through thoughtful design, selection of materials that blended with their setting, and careful site selection and landscaping. As noted by William Tweed in his 1978 (revised) monograph on rustic architecture in the Park Service, the agency, in 1918, articulated its commitment to the nonintrusive philosophy in its first "Statement of Policy":

> In the construction of roads, trails, buildings, and other improvements, particular attention must be devoted always to the harmonizing of these improvements with the landscape. . . All improvements will be carried out in accordance with a preconceived plan developed in special reference to the preservation of the landscape . . . .[39]

This, then, became the guiding tenet of the rustic style embraced by the National Park Service in its effort to reconcile the need for physical improvements and the agency's mandate to protect and preserve areas of outstanding natural beauty.

At the Headquarters District adherence to the aesthetic ideals of the rustic philosophy are clearly evident. The design and materials utilized in the Headquarters Historic District successfully capture the National Park Service landscape architects' conscious effort to design buildings that harmonize with the natural setting.

Evolution of the Rustic Style. The greatest number of buildings designed by the National Park Service in the Headquarters District were produced by the Branch of Plans and Design between 1927 and 1935, a period of full development of the rustic style by the National Park Service.[40] The period from 1935 to 1942 was marked by expanding institutional growth and operations in the Park Service, which produced changing perceptions of what park architecture should be and brought about the decline of the rustic style. This era was characterized by the utilization of contemporary building materials and methods, the gradual incorporation of modern architectural styles, and uneven quality and diversity.[41]

This final phase in the evolution of the National Park Service rustic style is well represented by five buildings designed and constructed at park Headquarters between 1938 and 1941. Four of the five are notably different in design, scale, and materials. One building is entirely of reinforced concrete, and two others incorporate beveled wood siding on the exterior walls producing an effect of simplicity and structural honesty. The influence of modern architectural styles popular outside the Park Service is clearly evident. Workmanship is uneven, reflecting decreased development funds which restricted hiring skilled labor, and the increased influence of architectural styles outside the Park Service. This last generation of buildings at Headquarters, plus its predecessor, together visually illustrate the development of the rustic style of architecture by the Park Service from its years of maturity to its decline.

Significant and Distinguishable Entity. As a group, the buildings, roads, spaces between buildings, and the natural setting in the Headquarters District are a significant and distinguishable entity. The existing character of cohesiveness reflects the efforts of Park Service landscape architects to

develop plans aimed at preserving the landscape as well as meeting the functional needs of those who occupied the headquarters area during the period of significance.

INTEGRITY: The Headquarters District, as a whole, retains the physical characteristics it possessed during its period of significance, thus visually conveys its association with significant historical patterns.

LOCATION: The layout of buildings and roads in the district has remained at its original location at mile two on the park road. Although two individual buildings in the district have been moved since their construction, they are contributing resources. The Dog Feed Cache (No. 105) was moved to its present location by the CCC in 1938, during the period of significance. The Office Building (No.22) was moved twice (1950 and 1952), yet its present location retains its original forested setting and orientation to the park road. Both former sites of the Office Building are contained in the district. The present site of the Office Building has been the site of Headquarters buildings since about 1930.

DESIGN: The overall pattern and linkage of cultural features included in the nominated district has remained intact since the late 1930s. Individual contributing buildings have undergone some change in design due to additions and alterations to the exterior, but these are in keeping with the original design, relatively minor (small in scale), inconspicuous (made to the rear of buildings), or are reversible (window and door treatment). The pattern and width of roads is consistent.

SETTING: The district retains its original physical surroundings. The gently sloping terrain, forested setting, and density of buildings in the district is unchanged since the period of significance.

MATERIALS: The combination of physical elements employed in buildings and roads is relatively unaltered. Logs, log framing,

and wood planking have remained the essential building materials. Where materials dating from the period of significance have been changed (noteably on roofs, in areas of infill, and log caulking) new materials introduced are generally in harmony with the original rustic building materials. Most roads in the district have been resurfaced. The loop road linking the dog kennels area to the rest of the district remains unpaved.

WORKMANSHIP: The wide range in the quality of workmanship represented by the fourteen contributing buildings in the district has generally been respected. Although buildings are not especially noted for the sophisticated quality of workmanship since many were constructed by unskilled laborers (noteably park managers and CCC enrollees), the aesthetic principles of the period of significance have been perpetuated on building exteriors.

FEELING AND ASSOCIATION: The district, as a whole, successfully evokes the historic sense and associative visual qualities present during the period of significance.

ITEM 8. Cont'd.

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13. "Mount McKinley National Park" (Superintendent's Annual Report), Fiscal Year 1927, Naturalists' Study Collection, Denali National Park and Preserve, hereafter cited as "NSC, DENA."

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15. Ibid.

16. Memorandum from Chief Naturalist to the Park Files regarding Superintendents of Mount McKinley National Park and Denali National Park and Preserve, 21 January 1981; taped interview with Fritz Nyberg: both in NSC, DENA.

17. "Superintendent's Annual Report, Fiscal Year 1939, Mount McKinley National Park," NSC, DENA.

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23. Ibid., March 1928, NSC, DENA.

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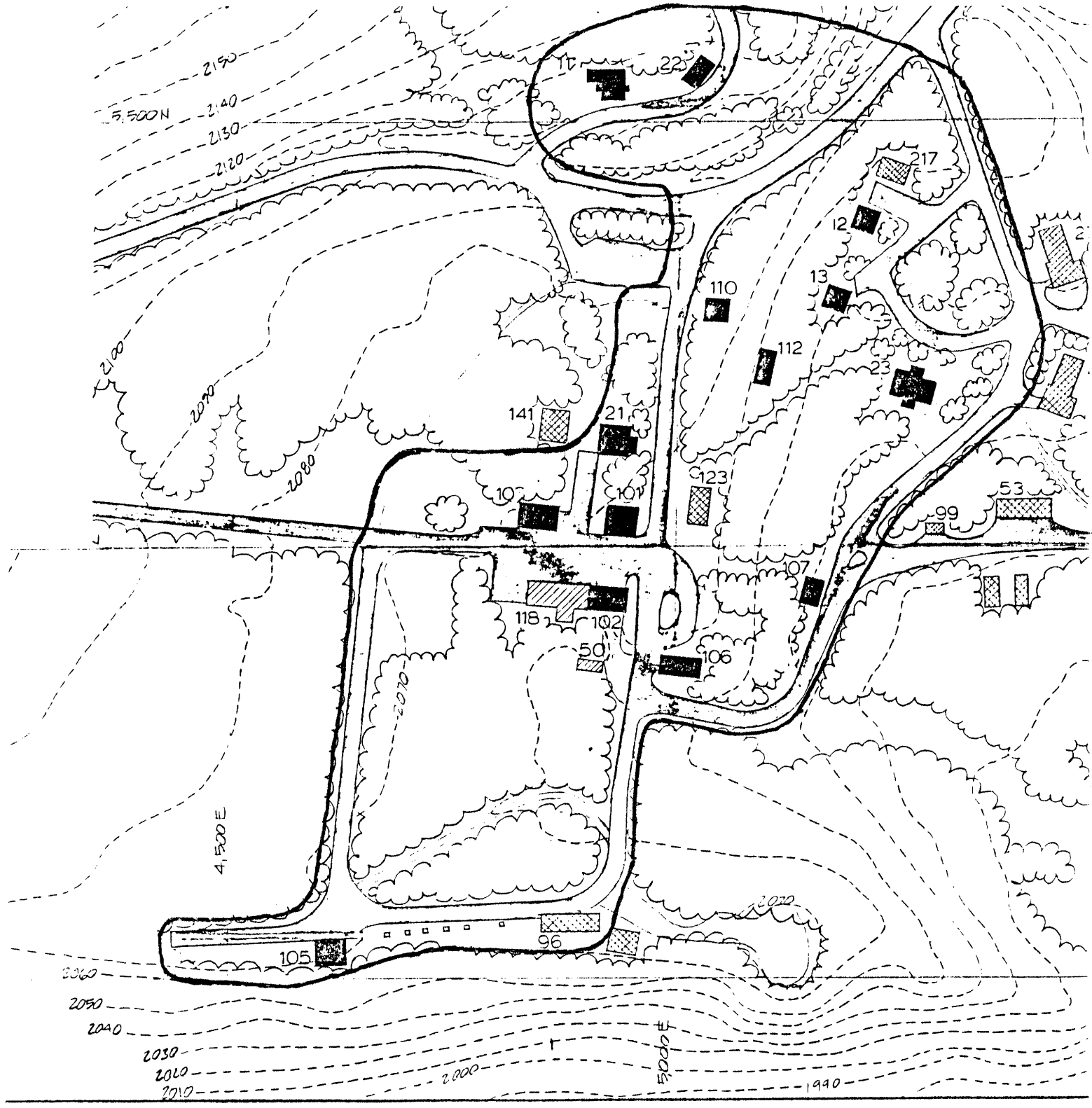

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- CONTRIBUTING HISTORIC
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