

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 OCT 24 1985  
DATE ENTERED NOV 29 1985SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Chisana Historic District

AND/OR COMMON

Shushana, Chathanda City or Johnson City

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

An irregular cluster of structures extending westward approximately one fourth mile from the southeast end of the Chisana airstrip and parallel to Johnson Creek.

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Chisana

VICINITY OF

000

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Alaska

02

Southeast Fairbanks Div. 240

**3 CLASSIFICATION****CATEGORY**☒ DISTRICT☐ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT**OWNERSHIP**☐ PUBLIC☐ PRIVATE☒ BOTH**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED**STATUS**☒ OCCUPIED☒ UNOCCUPIED☒ WORK IN PROGRESS**ACCESSIBLE**☐ YES: RESTRICTED☒ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO**PRESENT USE**☐ AGRICULTURE☐ MUSEUM☒ COMMERCIAL☒ PARK☐ EDUCATIONAL☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ RELIGIOUS☐ GOVERNMENT☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ MILITARY☐ OTHER:**4 AGENCY**

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve

STREET &amp; NUMBER

P.O. Box 29

CITY, TOWN

Glennallen

VICINITY OF

STATE

Alaska

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Magistrate's Office

STREET &amp; NUMBER

State Office Building

CITY, TOWN

Fairbanks

STATE

Alaska

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Alaska Heritage Resource Survey NAB-042

DATE

1984

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR

SURVEY RECORDS Office of History and Archeology, State Parks

CITY, TOWN

Anchorage

STATE

Alaska

## 7 DESCRIPTION

### CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT  
☒ GOOD  
☒ FAIR  
☒ DETERIORATED  
☒ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

### CHECK ONE

☒ UNALTERED  
☒ ALTERED

### CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Chisana historic district is comprised of 20 historically significant log structures. Most of the structures date from the winter of 1913-14, others from the post-1930 period when the airstrip was built and gold market prices jumped from \$20/ounce to \$32/ounce, and the post-1950 period and the growth of hunting guide service companies. The log structures reflect interior Alaska and Yukon Territory building practices with their extended roof beams and porches. Some log cabins have built-up berms which keep cold air from seeping inside. The extreme temperatures of 50 degrees below or more required other heat saving techniques in chinking, chimney and stove placement, and outhouses.

The former street grid pattern can still be discerned though the line of log structures has been depleted. The remaining structures were built to house a variety of gold rush businesses, government offices, and residences, but were abandoned by World War I, and after World War II were re-used for big game hunting lodge operations. The enclave of structures is surrounded by a spruce forest. The south edge of the townsite has been eroded by Johnson Creek, a broad, braided stream draining the Gold Hills area and emptying into the Chisana River. The log community is in stark contrast to its wilderness setting, under the towering Wrangell Mountains (elevation of up to 16,390 feet). The population varies with the seasons from 6 to 26 (approximately); the community is one of four small villages within the 12 million acre Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve.

The gold rush era log cabins retain their integrity, though most are being used for guide service functions or as summer residences. Changes include metal roofs (from blazo cans to aluminum and tar) instead of sod, new foundations (one of cement) instead of bare logs on tundra, and metalbestos stove pipe. Wood heat is still used, but small solar cells power batteries for lights and radios. Chisana is without electricity, telephone, sewer system, or water works. The airstrip or a difficult pack horse trail are the town's link to the nearest town, Glennallen, over 100 miles to the west. Thus any introduction of non-indigenous materials is costly. All structures within the Chisana historic district are built of local timber. The National Park Service has plans to rehabilitate several structures for park use.

### BUILDINGS AND SITES CONTRIBUTING TO THE CHARACTER OF THE DISTRICT (see map):

- A. U.S. Commissioner's Court: ca. 1913-14, log cabin, one-story, gabled roof. In fair condition. ca. 1960 small addition to west wall and wood plank roof added. Vacant. Rehabilitation planned by the National Park Service.
- B. U.S. Commissioner's Residence: ca. 1913-14, log cabin, one-story, gabled roof. In fair condition. ca. 1960s wood plank roof added. Vacant. Rehabilitation planned by the National Park Service.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

- C. Women's Jail: ca. 1913-14, log cabin with a porch facing east and a gabled roof. Roof deteriorating. Rehabilitation planned by the National Park Service.
- D. Saloon: ca. 1913-14, log cabin with a small porch facing east and a gabled roof with a second (ca. 1960) roof covering it. In poor condition.
- E. Earl Herst Cabin: ca. 1913-14, log cabin, gabled roof. In fair condition.
- F. Historic Post Office: ca. 1913-14, log cabin, 1 1/2 stories high with cold cellar and a gabled roof. Recently refurbished.
- G. Cache: ca. 1913-14, log cabin, one-story high with gabled roof. Recently refurnished.
- H. Blacksmith's Shop: ca. 1913-14, log cabin, one-story high with gabled roof. In poor and deteriorating condition.
- I. First N.P. Nelson Cabin: ca. 1913-14, log structure with three connecting rooms and a gabled roof.
- J. Sidney "Too Much" Johnson Cabin: ca. 1913-14, log structures with gabled roof, cold cellar, and storm porch. In fair condition.
- K. Lou Anderton Barn and Corral: ca. 1930, log structure. Vacant.
- L. Second N.P. Nelson Residence: ca. 1930, log structure with gabled roof and a cold cellar. Recently refurbished.
- N. Log Shed: ca. 1930.
- O. Old Cache: ca. 1913-14, log structure, one-story, gabled roof. In fair condition.
- P. Mercantile, now Wrangell R Ranch Cookhouse: ca. 1913-14, log structure, gable roof and porch. Refurbished with concrete foundation and cellar.
- Q. Storage Shed: ca. 1930, log structure with gable roof.
- R. Garage: ca. 1930, log structure with gable roof.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

- S. Mail Cabin: ca. 1930, log structure with gable roof.
- T. Log Residence: ca. 1930, log structure with gable roof.
- W. Billy James Residence Cabin: ca. 1913-14, log structure with a gabled roof. Good condition.

Additionally, four Native grave houses are located on a ridge northwest of town. The site of a Native village is below (south) the ridge (all outside historic district and across air field). Ahtna Native Corporation plans to nominate site to the National Register.

NON-CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURES

- M. Cabin under construction.
- U. Smokehouse (n.d., recent). Log structure with gable roof.
- V. Meat cache (n.d., recent).
- X. Shower and laundry (n.d., recent). Log structure with gable roof.
- Y. Sawmill (n.d., recent). Machinery from ca. 1940, rough cut, sawmill. Powered by Willy's jeep motor.
- Z. Bunkhouse (n. d., recent). Log structure with gable roof.



# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1913-1935 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Various

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The cluster of 20 log cabins in the Chisana historic district stand as the best reminder of the log communities of gold rush Alaska. The "Shushana" stampede of 1913 typified the small scale gold rushes prevalent during Alaska's gold rush era. The resultant log community of Chisana grew to a reported 400 log cabins, and at that time claimed to be the largest log cabin community in Alaska if not in North America (according to at least one over zealous gold rush editor). Chisana was like most gold rush camps that grew and prospered for a season or two then declined to a meager existence or abandonment. A surprising number of the remaining log cabins are associated with the characters of gold rush boom towns: prospector, dog musher, merchant, saloon man, and the keeper of law and order. The district remains as a cohesive log village that represents vernacular log-building techniques in the Alaska and Yukon Territory region.

## History

During May 1913, Billy James, his wife, Matilda Wales, and Nels P. "North Pole" Nelson discovered placer gold in Bonanza Creek. Nelson traveled to Dawson for grub and sparked the rush. An estimated 2,000 headed for the diggings that summer. A fleet of small steamboats left Dawson and Fairbanks and ran up the Tanana and White Rivers to the strike; White Pass and Yukon route officials promoted a cross country route for stampedeers from the Yukon Territory via Whitehorse; but the eventual dominant route was from Shushana Junction (now McCarthy) on the Copper River and Northwestern Railway across the Wrangell Mountains by trail some 80 miles to the diggings via the Scolai Pass or Nizina-Chisana Glaciers, two of the most rugged routes ever crossed by a gold stampede.

The stampedeers staked the creeks for 25 miles around Gold Hill, while merchants platted three townsites. Chisana townsite (also called Chathanda City and Johnson City) became the dominant community after a miners' meeting moved the U.S. Commissioner's and recorder's office and post office to the new town in September 1913. Log cabins went up quickly during the fall and winter. The growth of Chisana was as much a result of the mining decline of Nome, Fairbanks, and Dawson as the belief that the new gold fields would be permanent and extensive. Only the tributaries of Glacier and Bonanza Creeks, however, proved productive. The population quickly dropped and by 1920 the census taker found only 148 residents in the vicinity. In 1939 the post office closed.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Knute Peterson, When Alaska Was Free (New York, 1977)  
Newspapers, 1913-1915; Chitina Leader, Cordova Daily Alaskan, Fairbanks Weekly Times, Dawson Daily News, Skagway Alaskan.  
Oral interviews: Neil Finnesand, stampede participant, August 1983; Ivan Thorall, long-time resident, July 1982, June 1983; Terry Overly, long-time resident, June 1983; Ray McNutt, long-time resident, July 1982, June 1983.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 30

UTM REFERENCES

A N,W 4,4,5 2,0,0 6,8 8,1 8,5,0  
ZONE EASTING NORTHING  
C S,W 4,4,5 2,0,0 6,8 8,1 6,5,0

B N,E 4,4,5 8,0,0 6,8 8,1 8,5,0  
ZONE EASTING NORTHING  
D S,E 4,4,5 8,0,0 6,8 8,1 6,5,0

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See continuation sheet.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
NA			

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
-------	------	--------	------

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Robert L. Spude, Regional Historian and Michael Lappen, Historian.

ORGANIZATION

Alaska Regional Office, National Park Service

DATE

May 1984

STREET & NUMBER

2525 Gambell Street, Room 107

TELEPHONE

907/261-2638

CITY OR TOWN

Anchorage

STATE

Alaska

## 12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES ☒

NO ☐

NONE ☐

*Timothy A. Smith, Deputy*  
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

*William B. Bushong*

TITLE

*Chief Historian, National Park Service*

DATE

*10/14/85*

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*William B. Bushong*

DATE

*11/29/85*

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

Of the reported 400 cabins of 1913-14, only a handful remain. Fortunately, some of these are associated with prominent gold rush participants. North Pole Nelson, one of the discoverers, went on a fling "outside," squandered his gold, and came back to spend a half century looking for another strike. Two of his cabins stand in Chisana -- one built ca. 1913-14, the other in the 1930s. His ashes were buried in 1960 by local miners on top of King Mountain nearby. Nelson's partner, Billy James and James' wife, Matilda Wales, also lost their money and lived in a cabin adjacent to North Pole's. The partners, however, spent much of their time in suits over mining ground or Chisana property. James, a veteran of the Klondike and a half dozen other gold rushers died in 1957, 20 years after Matilda.

On First Avenue is the cabin of Sidney "Too Much" Johnson, the dog sled freight and express musher who carried goods and 200 pounds of mail from the railroad 73 miles over frozen rivers, the Nizina and Chisana Glaciers, up the Whiskey Hill grade, and down into Chisana. Johnson received his nickname from his penchant to unload freight on the glacier when the weight got to be "too much." Nelson, James, and Johnson, symbolize Alaska, its sourdough miner and its musher; Matilda represents the little recognized woman's role in Alaska history.

Other structures dating from the rush include typical gold rush businesses: post office, blacksmith shop, saloon, and mercantile. These were part of Chisana's business district: a row of mercantiles, restaurants, barbers, harness, tin and assay shops, saloons, and other mining camp enterprises on "First Avenue." Fires and flooding have taken most of these structures, but the semblance of a street can be seen from the old post office to the present Wrangell R ranch cookhouse (historic mercantile).

Law and order was present early in Chisana and physical reminders are still present in the U.S. Commissioner's buildings. The White River district commissioner rushed to the diggings with the stampedeers but lost his job when the office was renamed Chisana. Chisana's first commissioner was Anthony J. Dimond, a miner turned lawyer. Tony Dimond established the presence of law and order with the help of veteran Deputy U.S. Marshal Frank H. "Al" Hoffman. A stampeeder from Nome, Anthony McGettigan, became Dimond's assistant and recorder.

During the winter of 1913-14, a two-story "federal building" (no longer standing) was constructed, two jails built (one for men, the other for women), and log residences occupied. Dimond left with the "bust" in the summer of 1914. He later became prominent in politics as Alaska's sole delegate to Congress (1933-44). Hoffman and McGettigan remained. Following two short term appointees, McGettigan became commissioner. He served the

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

community for 25 years (1914-39) as recorder or commissioner, or postmaster (Chisana's last) and sometimes miner. In 1943, on a walk to his mining claims, he was attacked by a bear -- only a boot and the stub of a leg were later found.

Three structures associated with law and order remain -- the later U.S. Commissioner's Court (which may have been Deputy Marshal Hoffman's residence), U.S. Commissioner's residence (reportedly Dimond's and later McGettigan's), and women's jail. Wooden details on the Commissioner's buildings and the women's jail show outstanding log craftsmanship, from hand carved wooden door knobs and hinges to decorative diamond-shaped, wood details around window trim. Unfortunately, the early Chisana records were destroyed by fire. Thus building histories can only be pieced together from period newspapers and the reminiscences of old timers.

A Native village was adjacent to the town (no structures remain). Four Native graves with their Russian Orthodox crosses and small grave houses stand on a rise overlooking the town. The vacant townsite area includes historical archeology potential.

With the construction of the airstrip ca. 1930, new buildings were built at the town's eastern end. An airstrip extension in 1956 and the introduction of fly-in hunting and guide services, brought about preservation of buildings through use. Isolation has saved Chisana from modern intrusions. A walk through the cluster of log structures gives one the sense of scale and ambience of a typical Alaskan gold mining camp's first season of growth.

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

The historic district is within an unsurveyed township; the verbal description follows local landmarks. The southern boundary follows the north bank of Johnson Creek and the northern boundary follows, in part, the southwestern and northeastern edge of the Chisana airfield. From the northeast corner of the airfield an extension line of the northern boundary leads due east some 400 feet to a corner point on an imaginary north-south line (this line is the historic district eastern boundary); the eastern boundary extends approximately 500 feet from the northeast corner point south to Johnson Creek and is located in order to include all historic structures within the district (as noted on the map). From the southeastern corner at Johnson Creek, the southern boundary follows Johnson Creek some 2,500 feet due west to an imaginary north-south line which is parallel to the eastern boundary, and extends from the southwest corner on Johnson Creek 1,000 feet due north to the northwest corner point. From the northwest corner point the remaining portion of the northern boundary extends approximately 1,500 feet to the Chisana airfield. The western boundary is to include all known structures or structural remains. And the northern boundary, in main, is to be parallel to the former grid system and be north of all known structures or structural remains.



U.S. Commissioner's Court  
Chisana Historic District  
Chisana, Alaska  
Jet Lowe, 1982, HABS, view north







First N.P. Nelson Cabin  
Chisana Historic District  
Chisana, Alaska  
Jet Lowe, 1982, HABS, view south



Left to right  
Herst cabin, U.S. Comm. Ct.,  
U.S. Comm. residence (rear)  
Chisana Historic District  
Chisana, Alaska  
Jet Lowe, 1982, HABS, view southeast



Post Office and Cache  
Chisana Historic District  
Chisana, Alaska  
Jet Lowe, 1982, HABS, view northwest



Chitina Alaska

Chitina, Alaska. Ca. 1933

please credit

Anchorage Historical and  
Fine Arts Museum  
121 WEST 7TH AVENUE  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501

CHITINA TIN SHOP, Right Center

W.A. Koeniger

B 71.X.5.32

Chitina Tin Shop (AHRS VAL-049)

DOE

JUN 11 1979

Chitina, Alaska, *Valley, Chitina, Whittier Division*

Photo by: Anchorage Historical and Fine Arts Museum

Negative: Anchorage Historical and Fine Arts Museum

Railroad and business district, Chitina,  
1933, Tin shop in upper right foreground  
between two larger buildings.

Photo: VAL-049-1

APR 25 1979

172







Aerial view, Chisana Historic District  
Chisana, Alaska  
Jet Lowe 1982, HABS, view SW  
Chisana Glacier moraine upper left  
Johnson Creek and Chisana River



Women's Jail

Chisana Historic District

Chisana, Alaska

Jet Lowe, 1982, HABS

View east, interior

*note diamond shaped details near window*



Women's Jail

Chisana Historic District

Chisana, Alaska

Jet Lowe 1982, HABS, view northwest





U.S. Commissioner's Court  
Chisana Historic District  
Chisana, Alaska

Jet Lowe, 1982, HABS, view southwest  
interior





Herat cabin

Chisana Historic District

Chisana, Alaska

Jet Lowe, 1982, HABS, view north

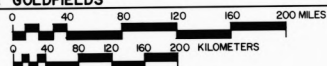
# CHISANA

THE DOCUMENTATION OF THE U.S. COMMISSIONER'S COURT, RESIDENCE AND WOMEN'S JAIL IN CHISANA HISTORIC DISTRICT, WHICH IS WITHIN WRANGELL-ST. ELIAS NATIONAL PARK AND PRESERVE, WAS UNDERTAKEN BY THE HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY (HABS), A DIVISION OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE. THE PROJECT WAS EXECUTED UNDER THE GENERAL DIRECTION OF ROBERT J. KAPSCH, CHIEF OF HABS/HAER, AND JOHN COOK, ALASKA REGIONAL DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE. RECORDING WAS CARRIED OUT DURING THE SUMMER OF 1982 BY ROBERT SPUDE, PROJECT DIRECTOR, STEVEN PETERSON, HISTORICAL ARCHITECT, JOHN LOWE III, PHOTOGRAPHER, AND MICHAEL LAPPEN AND DANIEL TAYLOR, HISTORIANS, WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE WRANGELL-ST. ELIAS NATIONAL PARK AND PRESERVE STAFF.

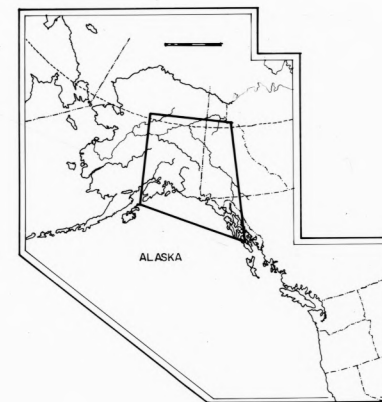
DURING THE FINAL YEARS OF THE ALASKA GOLD RUSH, PETER "NORTH POLE" NELSON AND BILLY JAMES DISCOVERED GOLD ON BONANZA CREEK, SEVEN MILES EAST OF CHISANA. THIS DISCOVERY IN THE SPRING OF 1913 SPURRED NEARLY 5000 SOURDOUGHS TO STAMPEDE INTO THE WRANGELL MOUNTAINS REGION AND TO DEVELOP THE SETTLEMENT OF CHISANA WHICH BECAME THE REGIONAL COMMERCIAL AND SOCIAL CENTER. TONY DIMOND, A VALDEZ LAWYER AND MINER, WAS APPOINTED CHISANA'S FIRST U.S. COMMISSIONER. GOVERNMENTAL PROPERTY COMPRISED THE COMMISSIONER'S HOME, THE COURTHOUSE AND THE MEN'S AND WOMEN'S JAILS, THE LATTER UNUSUAL IN ALASKA IN 1913. THE HUMBLE STRUCTURES REFLECT THE INTRODUCTION OF LAW AND ORDER IN EARLY FRONTIER SETTINGS.

## STAMPEDE ROUTES TO THE CHISANA GOLDFIELDS

SCALE: 1" = 40 Miles



STEAMBOAT  
RAILROADS  
TRAILS



DRAWN BY: STEVEN M. PETERSON 1982

NATIONAL ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING RECORD  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NAME AND LOCATION OF STRUCTURE

CHISANA

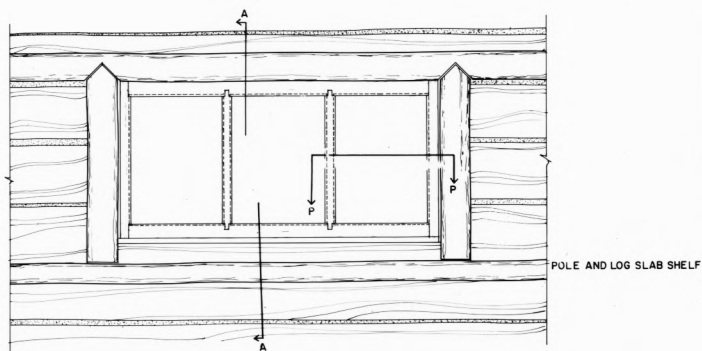
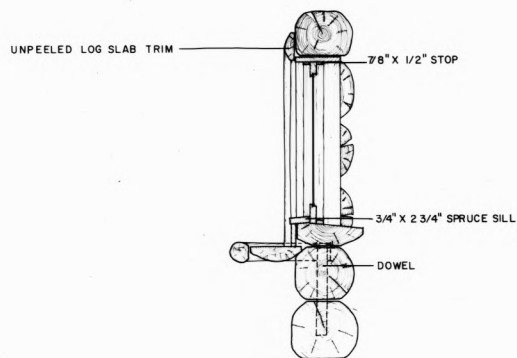
WRANGELL-ST. ELIAS NATIONAL PARK AND PRESERVE

SURVEY NO.

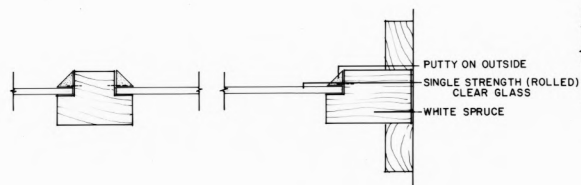
AK-9

HISTORIC AMERICAN  
BUILDINGS SURVEY  
SHEET 1 OF 8

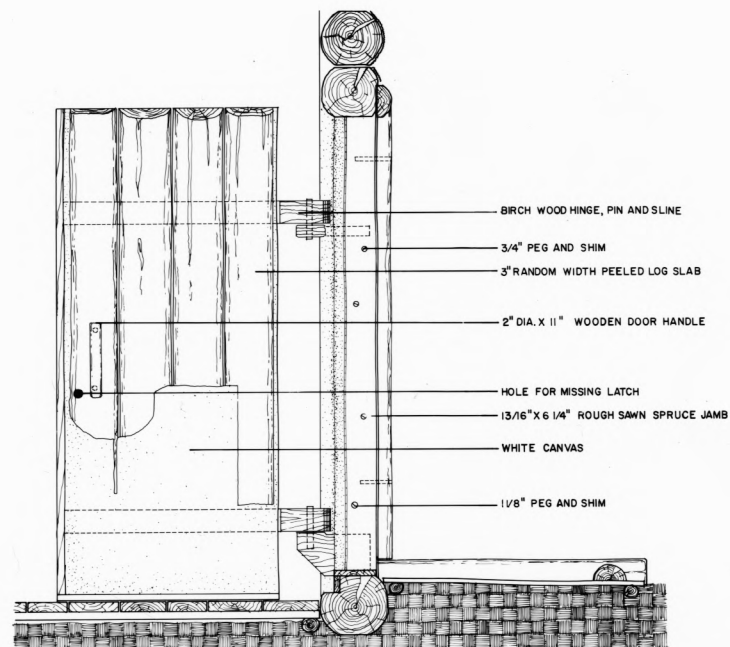
ALASKA



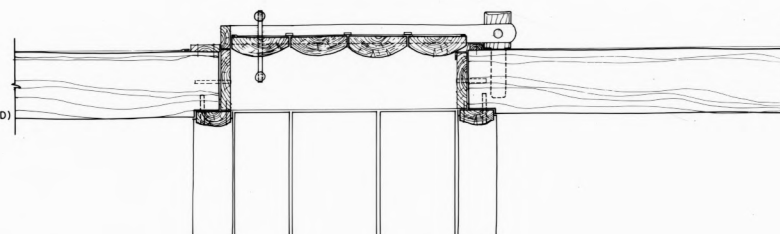
**WINDOW ELEVATION**  
SCALE: 1 1/2" = 1'-0"



**WINDOW SECTION**  
FULL SCALE



**DOOR ELEVATION**  
SCALE: 1 1/2" = 1'-0"



**SECTION—DOORWAY**  
SCALE: 1 1/2" = 1'-0"

BLACK, 2 PLY ROLLED ROOFING  
1" x 8" ROUGH SAWN DECKING

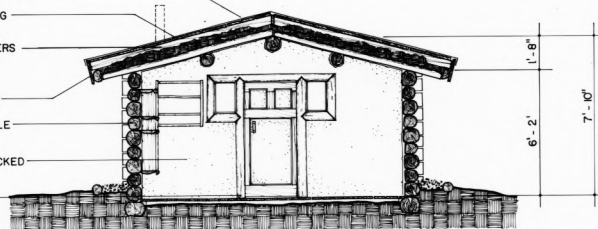
2" x 4" ROUGH SAWN RAFTERS  
AT 2'-5" O/C - NOTE: MAY  
BE A LATER ADDITION

1" x 12" ROUGH SAWN FACIA

7 TO 9" LOGS WITH SADDLE  
NOTCH CORNERS

WHITE TENT CANVAS TACKED  
TO WALLS AND CEILING

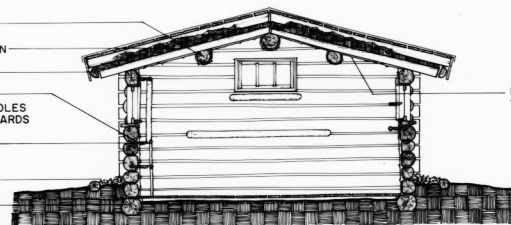
UNPEELED LOG SLAB  
TRIM



### SECTION A - A

SCALE: 3/8" = 1' - 0"

8 TO 10" LOG PURLINS  
MOSS AND SOD INSULATION  
7" SPLIT LOG FACIA  
INTERIOR LOG SURFACES  
CHUNKED WITH MOSS, 1" POLES  
AND BLAZO-FUEL BOX BOARDS  
LOG SLAB AND POLE  
FRAME SHELVEING  
8" GRAVEL BED  
SILL LOGS ON GRADE



### SECTION B - B

### MATERIAL NOTES:

#### MAIN CABIN:

WALLS - 7" TO 9" UNPEELED LOGS, INTERIOR FACE HEWN TO FACILITATE DRYING WHEN CONSTRUCTED. LOGS ARE CHUNKED WITH 1/2" STICK POLES, PARTS FROM BLAZO WOODEN FUEL BOXES, AND MOSS. SURFACE IS COVERED WITH DARK GREEN BURLAP WHICH IS STRETCHED AND TACKED TO SURFACE. LOGS JOINED WITH A SADDLE NOTCH.

FLOOR - 1" X RANDOM WIDTH (7" TO 9") ROUGH SAWN PLANKING WHICH IS NAILED TO WOODEN STRINGERS (AT 2'-6" ON CENTER) THAT REST ON GRADE. NO EVIDENCE OF ANY FLOOR COVERING.

CEILING - SAWN SPRUCE SLAB CEILING, RESTS ON 9" AVERAGE LOG PURLINS. THE CEILING AND PURLINS ARE COVERED WITH DARK GREEN BURLAP. MOSS AND SOD ON TOP OF CEILING PROVIDES 5" OF INSULATION. IN LATER YEARS A NEW ROOF WITH 2" X 5" RAFTERS, 1" X 8" ROUGH SAWN PLANKING AND A ONE-PLY ROLLED ROOF COVERING WERE ADDED.

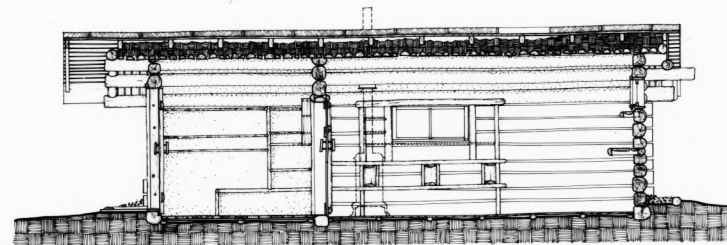
#### FRONT ENTRY:

WALLS - 7" TO 9" UNPEELED LOGS FOR BOTTOM THREE LOGS. (NOTE: AT A LATER PERIOD THE WALLS WERE TOTALLY ENCLOSED WITH 8" LOGS AND HUDSON BAY CORNERS. CONSTRUCTION INDICATES THAT THE FRONT ENTRY ORIGINALLY SERVED AS AN OPEN PORCH.)

INTERIOR SURFACE HAS BEEN HEWN FLAT TO FACILITATE DRYING AND COVERED WITH A HEAVY WEIGHT WHITE CANVAS COVERING.

FLOOR - 1" X RANDOM WIDTH (7" AVERAGE) ROUGH SAWN PLANKING. A SECOND SURFACE OF SIMILAR PLANKING HAS BEEN ADDED ON THE EAST 1/2 OF THE ENTRY FLOOR. NO EVIDENCE OF ANY FLOOR COVERING.

CEILING - SAME CONSTRUCTION AS IN MAIN CABIN. INTERIOR SURFACE COVERED WITH WHITE CANVAS.



### SECTION C - C

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NAME AND LOCATION OF STRUCTURE

CHISANA

U.S. COMMISSIONER'S RESIDENCE

SHEET NO.

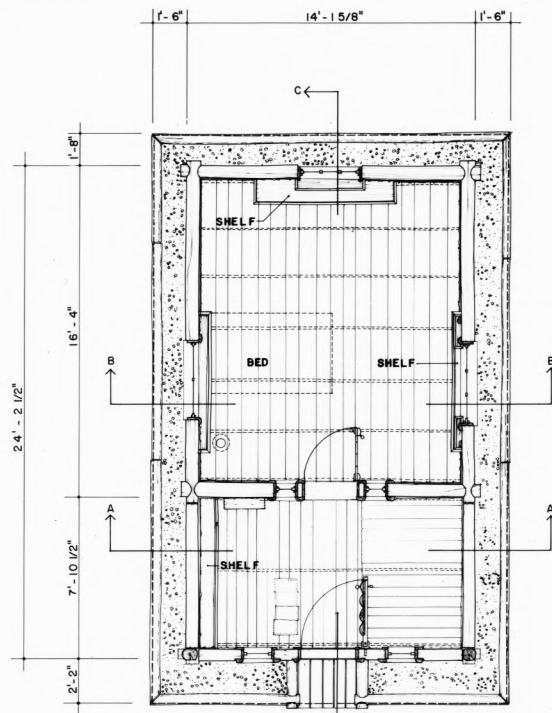
AK-98

HISTORIC AMERICAN  
BUILDINGS SURVEY

PAGE 6 OF 8 SHEETS

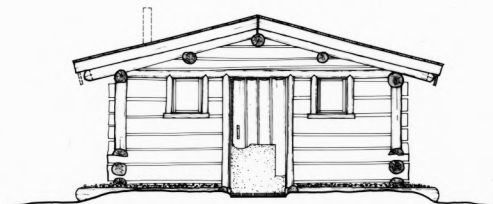
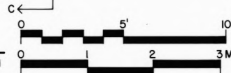
ALASKA

WRST

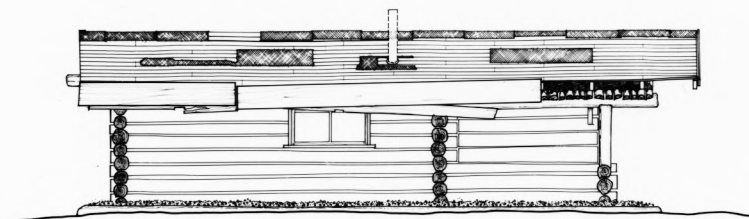


PLAN

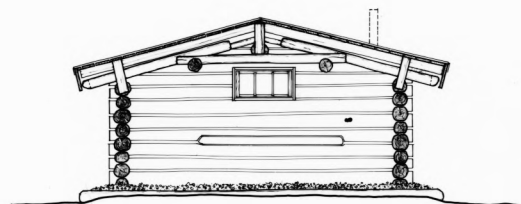
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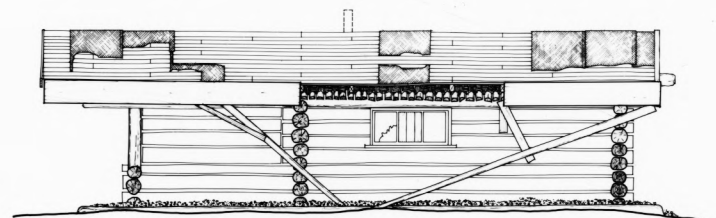
SOUTH ELEVATION



WEST ELEVATION



NORTH ELEVATION



EAST ELEVATION

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

WRST

NAME AND LOCATION OF STRUCTURE  
CHISANA RESIDENCE  
U.S. COMMISSIONER'S

ALASKA

SURVEY NO.  
AK-98

HISTORIC AMERICAN  
BUILDINGS SURVEY  
SHEET 8 OF 8 SHEETS

# MATERIAL NOTES:

## ORIGINAL BUILDING:

WALLS- 9" TO 11" LOGS, UNPEELED WITH "V" NOTCH AT THE CORNERS. INTERIOR SURFACES HEWN TO FACILITATE DRYING WHEN CONSTRUCTED. INTERIOR DOOR AND WINDOW TRIM PAINTED DARK EMERALD GREEN. NO INDICATION OF INTERIOR WALL COVERING.  
FLOOR- 1 1/4" X RANDOM WIDTH (7 1/2" TO 10") ROUGH SAWN SPRUCE PLANKING NAILED TO LOG STRINGERS AT 3'9" ON CENTER. STRINGERS LOCATED ON GRADE. NO INDICATION OF ADDITIONAL FLOOR COVERING.  
ROOF- AS INDICATED ON DRAWINGS.

## FRONT ADDITION:

WALLS- 5 1/2" LOGS, UNPEELED WITH HUDSON BAY CORNERS. CHINKED WITH MOSS, INTERIOR SURFACE HEWN, NO COVERINGS.  
FLOOR- SAME AS MAIN CABIN. SOME REMOVED WITH DIRT EXPOSED.  
ROOF- SAME AS MAIN CABIN.

## WEST ADDITION:

WALLS- 5" PEELED LOGS, SADDLE NOTCHED CORNERS, CHINKED WITH MOSS, NO INTERIOR COVERINGS.  
FLOOR- 1" X RANDOM WIDTH (6" AVERAGE) ROUGH SAWN PLANKING ON LOG STRINGERS AT 3'0" ON CENTER. THE STRINGERS REST ON GRADE. NO OTHER FLOOR COVERINGS ARE EVIDENT.  
ROOF- 5" LOG RAFTERS AT 1'4" ON CENTER, COVERED WITH RANDOM WIDTH, ROUGH SAWN SPRUCE PLANKING COVERED WITH TWO LAYERS OF ROLLED ROOFING. SOD ADDED ON TOP FOR INSULATION PURPOSES.

NOTE: THE 5" LOG ADDITION WAS CONSTRUCTED IN THE 1960'S. THE SECOND ROOF OVER THE MAIN CABIN WAS ALSO ADDED AT THAT TIME.

BLACK, 2 PLY ROLLED ROOFING  
OVER RANDOM WIDTH PLANKING  
5" LOG RAFTERS AT 2'4" O/C

5" AVERAGE LOG DIAMETER  
PINNED WITH STEEL SPIKES

BLACK, 2PLY ROLLED ROOFING  
1"X RANDOM WIDTH PLANK ROOF  
8" TO 12" LOG PURLINS  
2 1/2" x 4" RAFTERS AT 3'5" O/C,  
ROUGH MILLED SPRUCE FRAMING  
(NOT ORIGINAL)

5" OF SOD/MOSS INSULATION  
OVER 3 TO 6" SPLIT LOG  
CEILING

CHINKED WITH SOD/MOSS

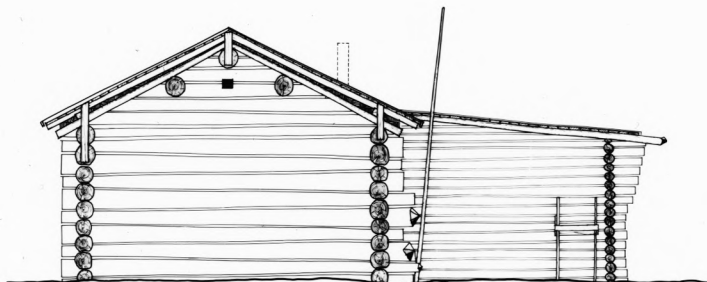
9 TO 11" LOGS, UNPEELED  
WITH "V" NOTCHED CORNERS  
AND PEGGED WITH WOODEN  
DOWELS

## SECTION A-A

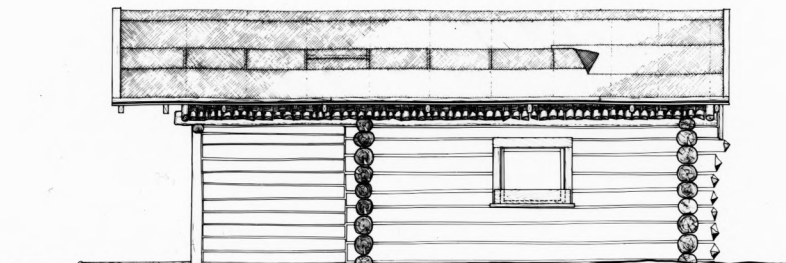
SCALE 3/8" = 1' - 0"

## SECTION B-B





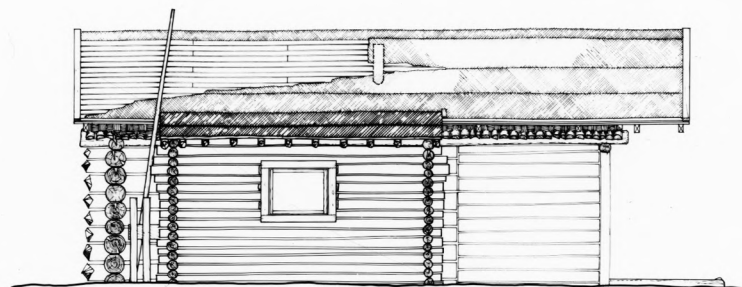
NORTH ELEVATION  
SCALE = 3/8" = 1'-0"



EAST ELEVATION

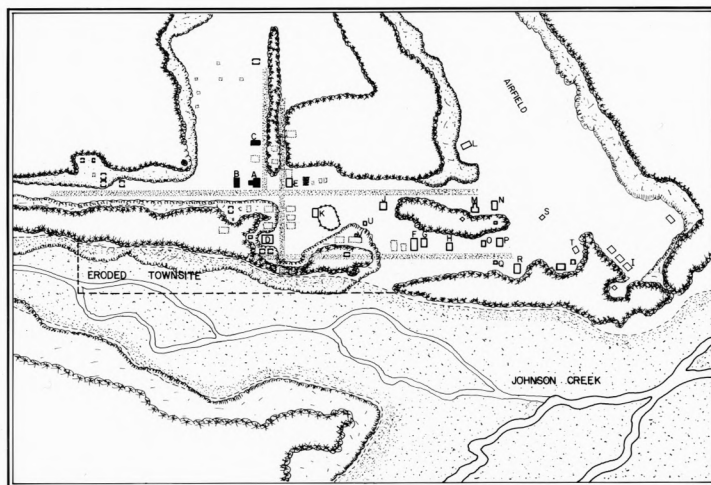


SOUTH ELEVATION

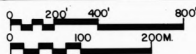


WEST ELEVATION





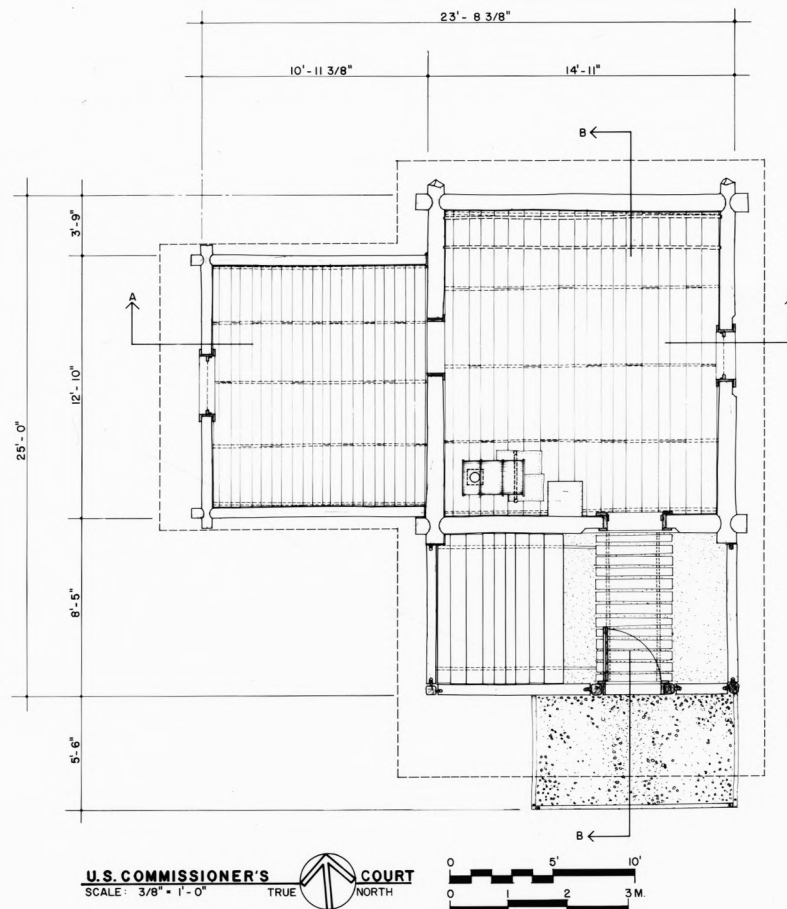
**CHISANA SITE PLAN**  
SCALE: 1" = 200'



**LEGEND**

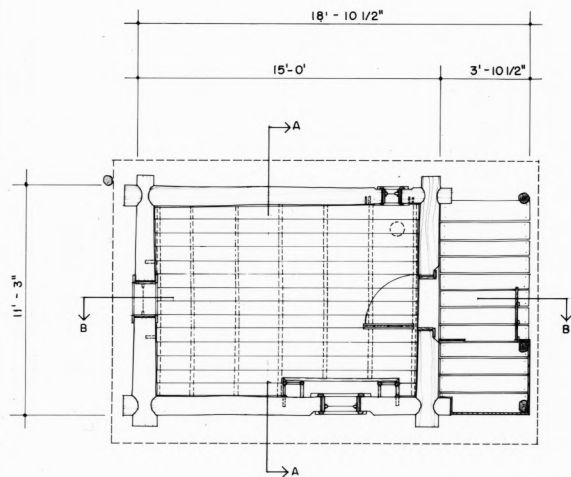
- A. U.S. COMMISSIONER'S COURT
- B. U.S. COMMISSIONER'S RESIDENCE
- C. WOMEN'S JAIL
- D. SALOON
- E. EARL HERST CABIN
- F. OLD POST OFFICE
- G. CACHE
- H. BLACKSMITH'S SHOP
- I. FIRST N.P. NELSON CABIN
- J. TOO MUCH JOHNSON CABIN
- K. LEW'S BARN AND CORRAL

- L. SECOND N.P. NELSON CABIN
- M. RAY McNUTT - UNFINISHED CABIN
- N. RAY McNUTT - STORAGE SHED
- O. RAY McNUTT - OLD CACHE
- P. RAY McNUTT - COOKHOUSE
- Q. RAY McNUTT - STORAGE SHED
- R. RAY McNUTT - GARAGE
- S. RAY McNUTT - MAIL CABIN
- T. RAY McNUTT - RESIDENCE
- U. SMOKEHOUSE
- V. MEAT CACHE



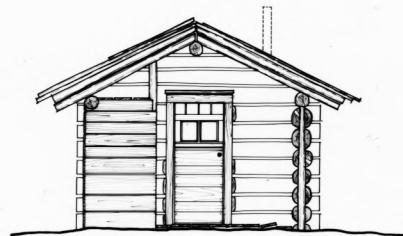


TRIM LINE

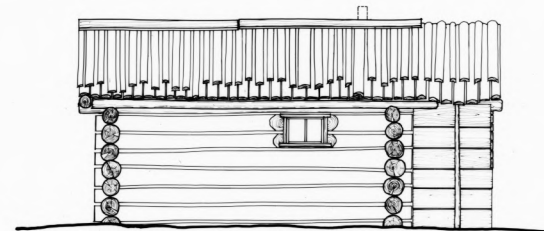


PLAN

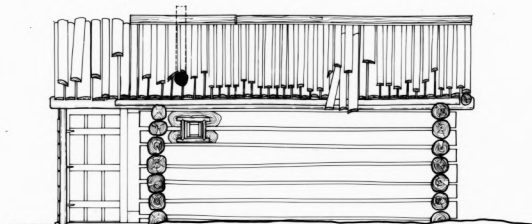
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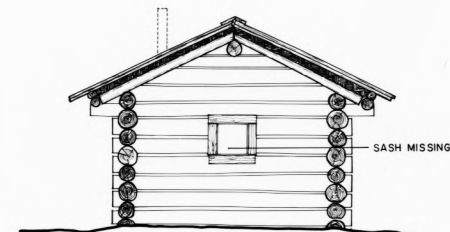
EAST ELEVATION



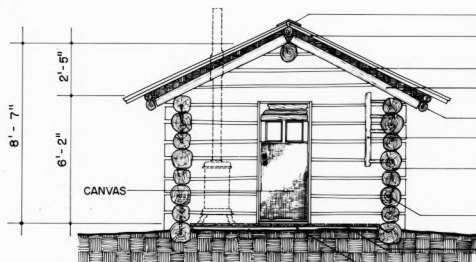
SOUTH ELEVATION



NORTH ELEVATION

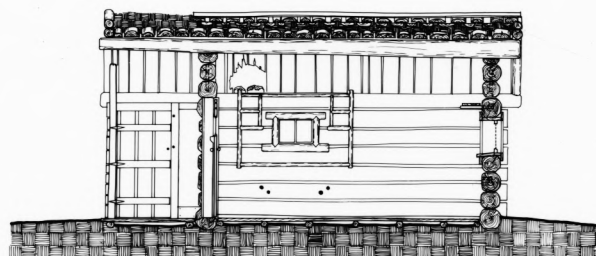


WEST ELEVATION



SECTION A-A

- 1"x5" ROUGH SAWN RIDGE CAP
- RANDOM WIDTH & THICKNESS LOG SLAB PLANKING
- 5" OF MOSS/SOD
- SPLIT LOG CEILING WITH 12" AVERAGE WIDTH
- 5" LOG POLES, PEGGED
- 2" LOG POLE & SLAB SHELVES PEGGED INTO WALLS
- 9" TO 12" LOG WALLS, SADDLE NOTCHED CORNERS. ONLY THE EAST ELEV HAS PEELED LOGS
- PEG HOLES FROM REMOVED WALL FURNITURE
- 1"x RANDOM WIDTH (8") PLANK FLOORING
- LOG STRINGER, ON GRADE



SECTION B-B

DESIGNED BY: STEVEN M. PETERSON, 1982

NATIONAL ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING RECORD  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NAME AND LOCATION OF STRUCTURE  
CHISANA  
WOMEN'S JAIL

SERVICE NO.  
AK-9C

HISTORIC AMERICAN  
BUILDINGS  
SHEET 6 OF 8

STATE OF ALASKA