

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

Historical Preservation Commission Agenda

Edna DeVries, Mayor

Bert Verrall - Chair
Andrew Schweisthal
Karla McBride
Kevin Toothaker – Vice Chair
Fran Seager-Boss
Janet Kincaid
Vivian Smith

Paul Clark – Staff



Michael Brown, Borough Manager

PLANNING & LAND USE DEPARTMENT
Alex Strawn, Planning & Land Use Director
Jason Ortiz, Planning & Land Use Deputy
Director
Wade Long, Development Services Manager
Fred Wagner, Platting Officer

DSJ (Main Borough) Building, Assembly Chambers
350 E. Dahlia Ave
Palmer, AK 99645

December 18, 2025
REGULAR MEETING
6:00 p.m.

IN-PERSON:

DSJ (Main Borough) Building, Assembly
Chambers
350 E. Dahlia Ave
Palmer, AK 99645

REMOTE PARTICIPATION VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS:

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 278 812 348 962 95
Passcode: dw7uW2Yu

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. ROLL CALL – DETERMINATION OF QUORUM
- III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
- IV. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

- A. February 6
- B. April 25

V. LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

"We acknowledge that we are meeting on traditional lands of the Dena'ina and Ahtna Dene people, and we are grateful for their continued stewardship of the land throughout time immemorial."

- VI. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (*three minutes per person, for items not scheduled for public hearing*)
- VII. HISTORICAL SOCIETY/MUSEUM UPDATES
- VIII. STAFF/AGENCY REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS
 - A. Staff Report – Paul
 - 1. Historic Preservation Plan Updates & Timeline
 - B. DePriest Family Farm NR Nomination Presentation – Katie Walenta
- IX. NEW BUSINESS
 - A. DePriest Family Farm NR Nomination Review Discussion
 - B. Expiring Terms and Officer Elections for 2026
 - C. Historic Preservation Plan –
 - 1. Historic Themes Confirmation & Date Ranges
 - 2. Goals/Objectives/Strategies Confirmation
 - D. HPC role/desire in responding to Section 106 consultation opportunities
 - 1. Talkeetna communications tower
 - 2. Alaska Railroad (ARRC Mile 281) Hurricane Operations Support Facility
 - E. Scheduling 2026 Meetings (Dates and Locations)
- X. MEMBER COMMENTS
- XI. ADJOURNMENT

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
Historical Preservation Commission
Regular Meeting: February 6, 2025
DSJ Building, Room 203/TEAMS
Minutes

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Bert Verrall called the meeting to order at 6:01

II. ROLL CALL – DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

Present:

Bert Verrall
Andrew Schweisthal
Kevin Toothaker
Fran Seager-Boss
Janet Kincaid
Vivian Smith

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

FS moved to approve the agenda as written; JK seconded
No objection, motion passed unanimously

IV. LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

BV read land acknowledgement:

"We acknowledge that we are meeting on traditional lands of the Dena'ina and Ahtna Dene people, and we are grateful for their continued stewardship of the land throughout time immemorial."

V. ELECTIONS

A. Chair

JK nominated Bert Verrall for Chair VS seconded; BV accepted the nomination.
No objection, motion passed unanimously

B. Vice Chair

JK nominated Kevin Toothaker for Chair, VS seconded; KT accepted the nomination.
No objection, motion passed unanimously

VI. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (*three minutes per person, for items not scheduled for public hearing*)

Sue Deyoe – Formar Director Telkeetna Historical Society

Maria Lewis – CLG grant coordinator

Jesse Depriest – DePriest Family Trust

Anne Depriest - DePriest Family Trust

VII. HISTORICAL SOCIETY/MUSEUM UPDATES

BV – Meeting March 6th Rebarch

- Palmer 90th brings the community around something positive in 1935; everybody is talking about it. Mary Joe Parks

SD – Telkeetna Museum gets half a million to revitalize the building, the schoolhouse listed on the NRHP

VIII. STAFF/AGENCY REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS

A. Staff Report – Maggie

John DePriest – DePriest Family Trust arrived at 6:11pm

B. Certified Local Government Grant Presentation – DePriest Family Trust

Jessie DePriest – Presentation on Barn

FS – Made comments on nominating the entire property and not just the barn

**BV made a motion support the DePriest Family Trust CLG grant application: FS seconded
No objection, motion passed unanimously**

C. National Heritage Area – Fran Seager-Boss had discussion

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. HPC Vacancy

B. Scheduling 2025 Meetings

April 24, 2025 @ Knik – Maggie works with KT to secure a spot

C. Commission Participation at DOT&PF Meeting to Negotiate a Programmatic Agreement – Commission does not plan on attending

X. MEMBER COMMENTS

JK – Thank you and DePriest Family

FS – Talked about concerns about West-Su

KT – Shared sort Dena'ina story

AS – Thanks Sue, Maria, and the DePriest family

XI. ADJOURNMENT

AS moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by KT

No objection, motion passed unanimously

Adjourned at 7:23pm

DRAFT

People needing reasonable accommodation to participate in a Historical Preservation Commission Meeting should contact the borough ADA Coordinator at 861-8404 at least one week in advance of the meeting.

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
Historical Preservation Commission
Regular Meeting: April 24, 2025
Knik Historical Museum/TEAMS
Minutes

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Bert Verrall called the meeting to order at 6:00

II. ROLL CALL – DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

Present:

Bert Verrall
Kevin Toothaker
Fran Seager-Boss
Janet Kincaid

Absent:

Andrew Schweisthal
Vivian Smith

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

KT moved to approve the agenda as written; FS seconded
No objection, motion passed unanimously

IV. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

JK moved to approve the agenda as written; FS seconded
No objection, motion passed unanimously

V. LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

"We acknowledge that we are meeting on traditional lands of the Dena'ina and Ahtna Dene people, and we are grateful for their continued stewardship of the land throughout time immemorial."

VI. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (*three minutes per person, for items not scheduled for public hearing*)

VII. HISTORICAL SOCIETY/MUSEUM UPDATES

Knik Museum Opens May 1

Knik Museum - 3rd Sunday in June picnic activities and food

Palmer High School All Alumni Potluck - June 29 at the Train Depo

Fran Seager-Boss Presentation on the Glen Highway for Sutton Historical Society - June 28

Antique Car Show at Sutton-Alpine Historical Park July 19 11am - 4pm

VIII. STAFF/AGENCY REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS

A. Staff Report

IX. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Scheduling 2025 Meetings – Sutton Library in September, Wasilla Library Wasilla Museum
- B. Certified Local Government grant 2026
- C. Office of History and Archaeology Workshop Overview
- D. Lajat (Scout Ridge) Update
- E. Current Valley Projects

X. MEMBER COMMENTS

XI. ADJOURNMENT

FS moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by KT

No objection, motion passed unanimously

Adjourned at 7:20pm

People needing reasonable accommodation to participate in a Historical Preservation Commission Meeting should contact the borough ADA Coordinator at 861-8404 at least one week in advance of the meeting.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION SERIES



Series No. 13

Office of History and Archaeology
Alaska Department of Natural Resources
550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1310
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3565
(907)269-8700
dnr.oha@alaska.gov
<http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/oha/>



Revised May 2018

GUIDELINES FOR CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT (CLG) REVIEW OF NOMINATIONS TO THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

One of the responsibilities of a local historic preservation commission, required to be a Certified Local Government for historic preservation programs, is to serve as a reviewer of nominations to the National Register of Historic Places for properties within the local jurisdiction. The local commissions review comments and vote on determination of eligibility for listing, which becomes part of the package formally submitted to the Keeper of the National Register. The local commission also serves as a forum for property owners and interested individuals to discuss the property and the program and is to solicit comments from local tribal entities.

The local historic preservation commission is to determine if a property meets established criteria and retains enough physical integrity to warrant inclusion in the national list of properties worthy of preservation. The commission member's review prepared documentation to determine if it establishes that the district, site, building, structure or object is significant in American history, architecture, archaeology or culture. A property can be of local, state or national significance. The documentation also must establish that the property has integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association, and its appearance is similar to that during its period of significance.

The CLG has 60 days to respond to a request from the Office of History and Archaeology, unless it requests additional time. After the local commission considers a nomination, its comments and record of action are to be provided in writing to the OHA. The minutes of the meeting can be sent, a form can be created, or a letter can be written. The local commission's action regarding eligibility needs to reference the appropriate criteria for evaluation, indicate that any criteria considerations have been adequately addressed, and note the period and areas of significance.

The National Register criteria for evaluation include:

- A. The property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. The property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. The property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction.
- D. The property has yielded, or may be likely to yield information important to prehistory or history.

For a property nominated for its architecture, the architect on the local historic preservation commission, or consultant, must agree the property is eligible for listing under that criterion. For a property nominated for its archaeological potential, the archaeologist on the commission, or consultant, must agree the property is eligible for listing under that criterion.

Cemeteries, birthplaces, properties owned by religious institutions or used for religious purposes, properties that have been moved, reconstructed properties, commemorative properties, and those less than 50 years old need to meet special criteria considerations. The National Register documentation must specifically address any consideration that applies. Properties in these categories will qualify for the National Register if they are integral parts of districts that meet the criteria above, or if they meet the following:

- A. A religious property deriving primary significance from architectural or artistic distinction or historical importance.
- B. A property moved from its original location, but significant primarily for its architectural value, or which is the surviving building or structure most importantly associated with a historic person or event.
- C. A birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance if there is no appropriate site or building directly associated with his or her productive life.
- D. A cemetery which derives its primary significance from graves of persons of transcendent importance, from age, from distinctive design features, or from association with historic events.
- E. A reconstructed building when accurately executed in a suitable environment and presented in a dignified manner as part of a restoration master plan, and when no other building or structure with the same association has survived.
- F. A property primarily commemorative if design, age, tradition, or symbolic value has invested it with its own historical significance.
- G. A property achieving significance within the past 50 years if it is of exceptional importance.

An owner might oppose a property's listing regardless of its significance, usually because of a fear of being unable to develop or use the property as desired. Some owners might want a property listed that does not have sufficient historical significance, usually to take advantage of certain tax incentives and grant programs. Such factors are not to be taken into consideration by the local historic preservation commission. The commission's responsibility is to apply professional, technical standards in an unbiased fashion to determine if properties meet the uniform national criteria. Local historic preservation commissions are encouraged to make determinations on National Register eligibility using contexts they have established.

Sources for additional information:

How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation
How to Complete the National Register Registration Form
Manual for State Historic Preservation Review Boards

HISTORIC PRESERVATION SERIES



Series No. 6

Office of History and Archaeology
Alaska Department of Natural Resources
550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1310
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3565
(907)269-8700
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<http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/oha/>



Revised May 2018

The National Register of Historic Places Nomination Process

1. **Owner**, consultant, or interested individual submits to the Office of History and Archaeology (OHA) completed:
 - a) Nomination form
 - b) Black & white photographs with no labels or markings in ink on them (on front or back)
 - c) Site plan
2. If the property is within on of OHA's **Certified Local Governments**, the CLG's preservation commission reviews the nomination and:
 - a) Solicits comments on the nomination
 - b) Finds the nomination eligible for the register and forwards voting record and comments to the OHA
 - c) Requests more information as needed and forwards voting record and comments to the OHA
 - d) Determines the property not eligible for the register and forwards voting record and comments to the OHA
3. **Office of History and Archaeology (OHA)** reviews the nomination through the State Historic Preservation Office, looking particularly for:
 - a) Completeness
 - b) Physical description
 - c) Period of significance
 - d) Level of significance
 - e) Statement of significance
 - f) Historic content
 - g) Special criteria considerations
 - h) Relation to the Alaska Historic Preservation Plan
4. **Thirty days** prior to the Alaska Historical Commission (state review board) meeting the following should occur:
 - a) Owner advised of meeting and given opportunity to review and comment on nomination
 - b) Appropriate local government officials given opportunity to comment on nomination
5. **Alaska Historical Commission** (meets three times a year)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**National Register of Historic Places Registration Form**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Tiny Moose Dairy _____

Other names/site number: DePriest Farm (Current), Tract 88 of 1935 Matanuska Colony _____

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A _____

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: 16020 E Outer Springer Loop _____

City or town: Palmer _____ State: Alaska (AK) _____ County: Matanuska-Susitna Borough _____

Not For Publication: ☐ Vicinity: ☐**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this _____ nomination _____ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property _____ meets _____ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

_____national _____statewide _____local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

_____A _____B _____C _____D

Signature of certifying official/Title:**Date**_____
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

Name of Property _____

County and State _____

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official:

Date

Title :

**State or Federal agency/bureau
or Tribal Government**

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- ___ entered in the National Register
___ determined eligible for the National Register
___ determined not eligible for the National Register
___ removed from the National Register
___ other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Private:

☒

Public – Local

☐

Public – State

☐

Public – Federal

☐

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

Building(s)

☒

District

☐☐

Name of Property _____

County and State _____

Site

Structure

☐

Object

☐

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing

5

Noncontributing

buildings

sites

structures

objects

Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

AGRICULTURE / SUBSITENCE: Agricultural Outbuilding

DOMESTIC: Single dwelling

AGRICULTURE / SUBSITENCE: Storage

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

AGRICULTURE / SUBSISTENCE: Agricultural Outbuilding

WORK IN PROGRESS / DOMESTIC: Single dwelling

Name of Property

County and State

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

OTHER _____

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property:

Historic Foundation - Barn (WOOD), Farmhouse (CONCRETE), Shop (Concrete), Loafing Shed (N/A), Free Stall Barn (N/A), Silo (CONCRETE)

Historic Walls - Barn (LOG/WOOD), Farmhouse (WOOD), Shop (WOOD), Loafing Shed (WOOD / TIN), Free Stall Barn (WOOD / TIN), Silo (STEEL)

Historic Roof - Barn (TIN), Farmhouse (ASPHALT), Shop (TIN), Loafing Shed (TIN), Free Stall Barn (TIN), Silo (STEEL)

Historic Other - N/A

Current Foundation - Barn (WOOD), Farmhouse (CONCRETE), Shop (CONCRETE), Loafing Shed (WOOD), Free Stall Barn (N/A), Silo (CONCRETE)

Current Walls - Barn (LOG, WOOD), Farmhouse (WOOD), Shop (WOOD), Loafing Shed (WOOD), Free Stall Barn (Wood / Tin), Silo (STEEL)

Current Roof - Barn (TIN), Farmhouse (TIN), Workshop (TIN), Loafing Shed (TIN), Silo (STEEL)

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

Name of Property

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Summary

Tiny Moose Dairy (now known as DePriest Farm) is a 9.39 acre farm parcel abutting 50.72 acres of pasture land. Tiny Moose Dairy sits on the NE intersection of E Outer Springer Loop and E Rocky Pt. in Palmer, Alaska. With a population of just over 5,800 people, Palmer, Alaska is an agricultural hub nestled between the Talkeetna Mountains to the north and the Chugach Mountains to the south and east. Palmer exhibits a preserved landscape of early- to mid-20th century agricultural architecture, the legacy of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's 1935 "New Deal Act" and resulting Matanuska Colony project. The town attracts tourists and artists drawn to Palmer's unique agricultural history and picturesque farms set against the backdrop of the Talkeetna and Chugach Mountains. One of the most reproduced images of agricultural architecture in Palmer is of the Tiny Moose Dairy property.

Tiny Moose Dairy was established in 1956 after Raymond "Ray" DePriest and his wife Rose Marie "Tiny" DePriest purchased the property from his father, Linnus McKinley "Skeeter" DePriest with his wife, Louise. Tiny Moose Dairy played a pivotal role in turning Palmer, Alaska into the dairy hub it remained throughout the 1950s, 60s, and 70s. The property contains seven resources, 86% classified as contributing resources. Contributing resources include an original Matanuska Colony barn (c. 1935), an expanded Matanuska Colony farmhouse with a nuclear fallout shelter (c. 1935, c. 1959), a heifer loafing shed (c. 1935), a shop (1966), a silo (c. 1970), and a free stall barn (c. 1970), all of which were present during and instrumental to the operations of Tiny Moose Dairy. There is one non-contributing resource (14%), a pole barn that is less than 50 years old. All resources are included within the property boundaries of the farm. Since 1935, the primary function of the property has been agriculture. The farm buildings and structures remain largely unaltered since their construction, with exceptions being necessary repairs or changes reflecting historic trends in the region throughout the period of significance (1956-1985). Overall the farm buildings appear as they did throughout the period of significance, and the farm retains all seven aspects (location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association) of historic integrity.

The Tiny Moose Dairy property relevant to this nomination includes four separate land parcels (60.11 acres total), with all of the contributing resources on the first parcel (Parcel ID 21865). The first parcel (21865) neighbors Raymond DePriest Jr.'s property (Parcel IDs 74215, 74994) to the north, abuts pasture land (Parcel ID 43370) to the east, and is bound by E Rocky Point Dr. to the south and E Outer Springer Loop to the west. The second parcel (Parcel ID 43370) is pasture land bound by E Lawalter Rd. to the north and E Rocky Point Dr. to the south, neighboring Ron and Ann Marie Svedin's property (Parcel IDs 545201, 545200) to the east and Ray DePriest Jr.'s property to the west (Parcel ID 74994), and abutting additional pasture land (Parcel ID 81107) to the east and parcel 1 (Parcel ID 21865) to the west. The third parcel (Parcel ID 81107) is pasture land bound by E Lawalter Rd. to the north and E Rocky Point Dr. to the south, neighboring Ron and Ann Marie Svedin's property (Parcel IDs 545201, 545200) to the north, John DePriest's property to the east (Parcel ID 34691), and abutting parcel two (Parcel ID 43370) to the west. The fourth parcel (Parcel ID 38535) is pasture land bound by the Matanuska River to the east and E Rocky Point Dr. to the south, and neighboring John DePriest's property (Parcel IDs 34691, 27480) to the north and west. Maps are included in the accompanying documentation (see Figures 1-3).

The layout of the buildings on the farm is such that the farmhouse sits on the western edge of the property along E Outer Springer Loop, and all of the contributing outbuildings (original Colony barn, heifer loafing shed, shop, silo, and free stall barn) sit to the south and east. The original Colony barn is approximately 190' east from the farmhouse. The heifer loafing shed is approximately 150' south from the

Name of Property

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farmhouse. The shop is approximately 98' east from the farmhouse. The silo and the free stall barn are approximately 162' east of the farmhouse. During the period of significance, there was also a milking barn south of the farmhouse.

Original Matanuska Colony Barn (c. 1935 - Contributing)

Figures # [5-10]

In 1934, during the height of the Great Depression, President Franklin D. Roosevelt announced his intention to establish the Matanuska Colony, wherein 203 hard-hit families from upper Midwestern states would be offered land, loans, and materials to establish an agricultural community in Alaska. Among these provisions were the Colony barns, which were all constructed from the same plan drafted by Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA)-employed architect, David Williams (1890 - 1962). The Tiny Moose Dairy property was Tract 88 of the Matanuska Colony, belonging initially to the Sullivan family (See Figure 4). The Colony barn was not originally on Tract 88, and was dragged, likely using either a team of horses pulling the barn on rolling logs or skid trees, or a bulldozer, from original Matanuska Colony tract 90 (Lepak family) in or around 1959. Moving barns around the Matanuska Valley has been common practice since the Colony era. As such, the move reflects the historic trends of the region and has not altered the historic integrity of the property.

The Colony barns, including the one currently sitting on the Tiny Moose Dairy property, were all drafted from the same plan — 32' square and 32' high, with a gambrel roof. The plans were created with subsistence farming in mind and proved to be too small for a practical farming business. The Matanuska colonists were allowed to deviate from the provided plans so long as they did not exceed the budget. Many families extended their barns, as is the case with the barn on the Tiny Moose Dairy property. This barn has been extended to be 47' long. It is believed that the extension was either included in the original construction of the barn (1935) or put on shortly thereafter because the cupola is centered on the 47' long barn. It would have been a pain for anyone to remove the cupola and recenter it. As such, it is likely the original constructors always intended for the barn to be 47' long.

The 15' extension is a single, open bay with a cut-out on the west elevation and is utilized for storing hay bales. Inside the original 32' x 32' section of the barn are two stories, the second of which is a hay loft accessible by a ladder on the northernmost end of the barn. According to the Colony barn plans provided by FERA, there would have initially been two ladders used to access the hay loft. On the ground level, there are three bays, two of which are animal stalls and one of which is open. The barn has retained the same layout as in the FERA plans with the exception of the horse stalls. FERA-provided plans indicate that the horse stalls would be separated into two, where currently there is a single horse stall without separation. The hay loft is a single open, elevated storage platform and has not changed since original construction.

Like all Colony barns, this barn is constructed from local spruce logs from the ground up to 10' high, and lumber frame from 10' up to the roof. The extension is also constructed from lumber frame. The log-frame method of construction involved stacking three-sided spruce logs with false notched corners. The gambrel roof is tin and does not have a "hip." The standard Matanuska Colony barn plans include a "hip" roof. The barn does not have a structural system beyond the stacked logs. There are no beams holding Colony barn roofs up the roof in the middle and there is no proper foundation, meaning most Colony barns have collapsed or experienced significant damage. The barn on the Tiny Moose property is in better condition than most of the Colony barns in the Matanuska Valley.

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The barn has 14, 9-pane windows, four (4) each on the east and west elevations, two (2) on the north elevation, and four (4) on the south facade. There is an 8' x 8' door on the south facade of the barn on the ground level. There is also a 3-and-a-half x 4 foot door on the south facade of the barn on the second floor used for sending hay down a shoot. There is one cupola in the center of the barn roof.

The barn is red, as it was throughout the period of significance. There is a gutter for collecting cow manure that runs parallel to the cow stall, and is original to the barn.

Although it remains one of the best-preserved Colony barns in the region, being such an important structure to the workings of Tiny Moose Dairy took its toll on the barn. In the decades after the period of significance, the logs began rotting along the base and, without a proper foundation, the building was at risk of total collapse. In June 2024, the DePriest family jacked up the barn and filled in the gravel underneath. They replaced some of the rotting logs along the base, installed vertical beams on the outside of the walls, secured the beams with chains and turnbuckles as a temporary stabilizer, and repainted the iconic red. The efforts bought the building some time, but the barn ultimately needs to be lifted and placed on a proper concrete foundation to be preserved for future generations. Photos of the barn prior to and after the restoration are included in the accompanying documentation. The barn is still primarily composed of its original materials and the restoration did not impact its location; design, feeling, and workmanship; and association with the dairy industry in Palmer throughout the period of significance. As such, the changes did not alter the historic integrity of the building.

Extended Farmhouse with Nuclear Fallout Shelter (c. 1935, c. 1959 - Contributing)
Photos # [11-14]

The farmhouse is a single dwelling around which all of Tiny Moose Dairy's operations circulated throughout the period of significance. Ray and Tiny DePriest raised 10 of 11 children in the house, all of whom contributed to the work of the dairy farm. The farmhouse was constructed in or around 1935 by transient workers for the Sullivan family who resided on Tract 88 of the Matanuska Colony. The farmhouse is a 32' by 38' four (4) bedroom, two (2) bathroom house with a basement and a nuclear fallout shelter. Upon entry through the front door is a small enclosed front porch that leads to a hallway. The hallway provides access to a stairwell, bathroom, and two bedrooms. The first floor flows sequentially in a counterclockwise orientation from the kitchen to the living room to the dining room with the main hallway dividing the kitchen, dining, and living room from a stairwell, bathroom, and two bedrooms. Another stairway is located directly opposite the front door and provides access to the basement. On the second floor are two bedrooms, one on the north side of the home, and one on the south side, separated by a small hallway and attic spaces. The stairway into the basement enters into a central room that provides access to a furnace room, bathroom, bedroom, cellar / nuclear fallout shelter. The nuclear fallout shelter is constructed from a steel cylindrical barrel vault ceiling covered in concrete and dirt. Overall, the house contains 13 rooms. Regarding the functions of the rooms, it is important to note that the first floor bedroom on the north side of the house was used as a play room throughout the period of significance. Additionally, the nuclear fallout shelter was used primarily as a cellar for storing canned goods.

The house is constructed from FERA-provided lumber using a light-frame construction method. This is evidenced by wood removed from the interior of the house during a restoration project begun in 2025. The back side of the wood reads "F.E.R.A. Palmer, Alaska." Due to deterioration, some of the original lumber has been replaced. The house has a primary gable roof with an asymmetrical shed roof extension

Name of Property

County and State

projecting from the east slope to cover the extension, all of which is tin. The foundation is constructed from concrete. The roof would have originally been asphalt shingle, which is still visible under the tin in the entryway of the home.

There are four (4) windows on the south facade, three (3) with six (6) panes and one with twelve panes. There are three (3) windows on the east elevation, one with a single pane, two with multiple panes. There are four (4) windows on the north elevation, one with a single pane, two with twelve panes, and one with six panes. There are three (3) windows on the west elevation, all three with twelve panes. There is one door to enter the house on the south facade of the house, to its easternmost edge. One brick chimney on the south facade of the house begins at the ground level and protrudes from the west roof slope.

The cement foundation and second story of the exterior are painted red to match the barn and shed.

After purchasing the property in 1956, Ray DePriest expanded the original Colony farmhouse to include one additional bedroom and a full bathroom with two sinks on the ground level, a basement, and nuclear fallout shelter, the architecture of which memorializes the interconnected histories of the Cold War and Alaska dairy. It is believed that the extension was constructed in 1957 or 1958 as a photo from 1958 includes the extension (see Figure 11). Constructing the basement would have involved digging around the base of the house, bracing the house, lifting the house with jacks, digging underneath, laying the foundation for the basement, and setting the house back down. As so many Colony structures were moved around the Matanuska Valley throughout the 20th century, Ray DePriest would have been familiar with standard techniques for lifting / moving a home. The nuclear fallout shelter was built in the 1960s after the primary basement extension was already completed. The construction involved excavating the ground, laying the cement foundation and walls, installing the cylindrical cement roof, and re-covering the structure with the excavated earth. The one additional bedroom built on the ground level was constructed using lumber and the light-frame method involved in the original portion of the home. The windows installed by Ray DePriest Sr. were all single panes. From outside the house, it is evident which section is original and which section is the expansion by whether the window has multiple panes.

After the period of significance, in 2010, a wheelchair ramp was constructed on the east side of the house to assist Ray DePriest's mobility. The family will likely remove the temporary structure, but it is visible in photos included in the accompanying documentation. In 2025, the house required complete electrical rewiring, plumbing updates, and proper insulation to mitigate risk of fire, water damage, or other deterioration due to extreme weather. Interior walls were removed to allow access to wires and pipes. Sheetrock will be installed following the completion of all electrical, plumbing, and insulation work, meaning the interior walls will no longer be primarily original materials. During this project, it was discovered that some of the removed lumber was stamped with "F.E.R.A. Palmer, Alaska" on the back side. Select pieces of FERA lumber were saved and will be reinstalled with the stamp facing out as a nod to the house's history. Additionally, the original wood floors are still intact and will be preserved. The exterior of the house is still representative of its appearance throughout the period of significance. The restorations did not impact its location; overall design, feeling, and workmanship; and association with the dairy industry in Palmer. As such, the changes did not alter the historic integrity of the building. This project is a work in progress.

Heifer Loafing Shed (c. 1935 - Contributing)

Photos # [15]

Name of Property

County and State

The heifer loafing shed is a single-story agricultural outbuilding that was constructed by transient workers for the Sullivan family in or around 1935. It is a 50' by 50'-pole barn structure. The building has a single, open bay that was used to shelter cows from the elements throughout the period of significance. The shed is constructed from vertical posts set 3 feet into the ground, perlin lumber, with a tin, gable roof. The shed does not have a foundation. The shed has tin siding on the north and west elevations, and is open to the south and east. The shed is currently used for storing hay bales. The structure has remained relatively unchanged since its construction and retains all seven aspects of historic integrity.

Shop (c. 1966 - Contributing)

Photos # [16-17]

The shop is an agricultural outbuilding constructed in 1966 by Ray DePriest, with the help of several neighbors, to aid the operations of a growing dairy farm. The shop measures 32' by 64'. The building is a single story. There is one bay on the south half of the building that is enclosed on all four walls. In this bay, the cement floor includes handprints of the DePriest family dated 1966, confirming the construction year of the shop. There is another bay on the north half of the building that is open on the west facade. This open section is used for storing hay. The building has a tin, shed roof sloping down to the east. The building sits on a concrete foundation and the walls are constructed from lumber using a light-frame construction technique. Tin siding runs along the south and east elevations of this section from the ground to the roof. There are no windows in the building. There are two doors on the west facade. One standard swinging human door and one large double barn door that rolls on a track.

The exposed lumber that is not wrapped in tin siding is painted red to match the barn and farmhouse. The double barn door is painted brown.

In March 2025, the DePriest family installed all new electrical wiring and lighting to adhere to safety standards, mucked out the shop floor, repainted the interior, repaired the leaky roof, and repainted the double barn door. The building has not been otherwise altered since 1966 and, as such, has retained its historic integrity.

Free Stall Barn (c. 1969 - Contributing)

Photos # [18-19]

The free stall barn, colloquially called the "long barn," is an agricultural outbuilding constructed in 1969 by contracted local construction brothers, Vic and Ken Loyer, for the purpose of housing and feeding a rapidly expanding herd. The building is 120' by 62' with a single story and a single bay. Throughout the period of significance, the barn contained approximately 100 stalls and now contains approximately 60. The year "1969" is etched into a concrete basin in the barn, confirming the construction year of the building. The barn is constructed from lumber using the light-frame method, and has a flat tin roof and tin siding. The south facade of the barn is completely open for free movement of the cows. There are three window openings on the west elevation. The roof is currently vulnerable to lifting from strong wind storms and, as such, is tamped down with tires. With the exception of the approximately 30 pipe separation panels removed from the west side, the barn remains as it was throughout the period of significance, retaining its historic integrity.

Herd King Silo (c. 1970 - Contributing)

Photos # [20]

Name of Property

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Prior to 1970, Tiny Moose Dairy relied on wooden silos requiring manual labor to distribute the silage. In or around 1970, to modernize his rapidly growing dairy operation, Ray DePriest contracted Vic and Ken Loyer to build a "Herd King" silo in concert with the free stall barn. Inside the structure is an auger system that runs horizontally and circularly inside the silo circumference while being lifted for filling or lowered for emptying. It is thus capable of distributing silage laterally inside the silo to and from the center. The silage would be collected by a conveyor and auger system to be transported to the free stall barn. This technology was pivotal in modernizing and improving the efficiency of Tiny Moose Dairy's operations to keep pace with the milk demands of the region. The silo is made from steel. There is a cement foundation beneath the structure with a silage discharge conveyor tunnel running from the foundation center towards the free stall barn. The silo structure has a steel, conical roof. There are multiple small hatch doors along the height of the silo with an attached ladder system for access. Although they are currently nonfunctioning, the silo, as well as the auger system, remain as they were throughout the period of significance, thus retaining historic integrity.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

☒

A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

☐

B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

☒

C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

☐

D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

☐

Name of Property _____

County and State _____

- ☐ A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- ☐ B. Removed from its original location
- ☐ C. A birthplace or grave
- ☐ D. A cemetery
- ☐ E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- ☐ F. A commemorative property
- ☐ G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EXPLORATION / SETTLEMENT

AGRICULTURE

MILITARY

Period of Significance

1935-1985

Significant Dates

1935 - Beginning of the Matanuska Colony / construction of original barn, farmhouse and heifer loafing shed

1946 - Linnus McKinley and Louise DePriest purchase the farm

1957 - Ray and Tiny DePriest purchase the farm and move in with two of their future eleven children. Tiny Moose Dairy begins operations.

1958 - Ray DePriest constructs the addition to the farmhouse

1966 - Construction of the shop

1969 - Construction of the free stall barn

Name of Property

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1970 - Construction of the "Herd King" silo
1985 - Last milking in November 1985 / end of Tiny Moose Dairy operations.

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Williams, David _____
DePriest, Raymond Sr. _

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Tiny Moose Dairy property is significant under Criteria A and C, in the areas of exploration / settlement, agriculture, and military. The property played a pivotal role in two distinct eras of Alaska history, both the Matanuska Colony project (1935) and the Cold War-era military expansion and coinciding dairy boom in Palmer (1956-1985). Thus, the property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history (Criteria A). The property's association with these events is supported by oral histories, photos, newspaper articles, and financial documentation. Further, the property contains one of the best preserved Colony barns in the region, standing as an embodiment of the distinctive characteristics of the Matanuska Colony architecture. Additionally, the property's architecture, principally the silo with the auger system and the farmhouse's nuclear fallout shelter, reflect a type of building unique to the period of significance, thus embodying the distinctive characteristics of a period (Criteria C).

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

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1935 - 1944

Exploration / Settlement (Criteria A)

As a part of his sweeping Depression-era “New Deal” policies, President Franklin D. Roosevelt moved families off of government provided relief and into “resettlement communities.” Overseen by the Resettlement Administration, Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA), and the Farm Security Administration, the Matanuska Colony was one such community. The project relocated 203 families from hard-hit Minnesota, Michigan, and Wisconsin to the Matanuska-Susitna Valley in 1935 to develop an agricultural community. These families selected to resettle by social workers were primarily of Scandinavian ethnicity, thought to be suited to withstanding the cold Alaskan temperatures. Families were also selected based on their farming abilities and secondary abilities (such as carpentry), and possession of a “rugged, pioneering spirit.” One such family included 3-year-old Rose Marie “Tiny” DePriest (maiden name Vickaryous) (1932-2022) who would go on to establish Tiny Moose Dairy with her husband in 1957.

The conditions throughout the first two years of the colony were unimaginably harsh and many families were asked to leave or left of their own accord. Those who stayed lived in tent cities while establishing their homesteads on whichever tract of land they drew from a hat. The Tiny Moose Dairy property sits on original Matanuska Colony tract 88, belonging, initially, to the Sullivan family. The government provided the “colonists” with loans to purchase land, building materials, and other necessities. Of the 203 original Colony families, nearly a third left. The Vickaryous family remained, as did the Sullivan family. Tragically, Carl Francis Sullivan committed suicide somewhere in either the late 1930s or early 1940s, leading the Alaska Rural Rehabilitation Corporation (ARRC) to assume ownership of the property.

Despite challenges and tragedies, the Colony project succeeded in establishing an agricultural community in the Matanuska Valley, of which the Tiny Moose Dairy property was a part.

Agriculture (Criteria A)

The federal government initially envisioned the Colony to be reliant on subsistence farming wherein families would produce all they needed, with some surplus for commercial sale. Given the economic hardship that brought the families to the Colony, many had dreams of commercial farming well beyond the scope of subsistence farming. Farmers were required, in accordance with the conditions set forth by FERA, to sell all goods to the Matanuska Valley Farmers Cooperative Association (MVFCA) (est. 1936). In 1936, “Matanuska Maid” was chosen as the brand name for all MVFCA dairy products, and would go on to be an iconic, thriving label until December 2007 (See Figure 21). In its first year of milk production, the cooperative processed most of its milk into butter, reporting sales of 6,458 lbs of butter. By 1940, there was enough surplus milk to begin bottling and selling it in Anchorage, marking a significant step toward the commercial farming enterprise of which many Colony farmers dreamed. By 1943, Matanuska Maid’s sales topped \$1 million. As all Colony farmers were required to sell to the MVFCA, any farmer in the region contributed to the overarching history of the dairy cooperative.

Military (Criteria A)

While the Matanuska Colony was one of approximately 100 “New Deal” resettlement communities, it followed a very different pattern than the majority, for two primary reasons. First, unlike most communities

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where families only had to travel a short distance to resettle, the Matanuska Colony required people to travel thousands of miles before beginning the work of establishing a homestead in Alaska. Second, there was not a large population of out-of-work farmers or sharecroppers in the region, and thus the federal government's motivation for establishing a community in Alaska was not about providing dire relief to nearby individuals. Rather, "from the Department of the Interior's perspective, an increase in Alaska's population would help the territory to become economically self-supporting. At the same time, the War Department was looking to bolster Alaska's defenses in response to Japan's increasingly aggressive expansion. In planning for a build-up of military personnel, the development of large-scale farming in the Territory would provide a more reliable and secure food source." From the beginning of the Matanuska Colony in 1935, the stories of agriculture and defense in Alaska were intertwined.

In 1940, Fort Richardson Army Base was established adjacent to Anchorage, thereby opening up a new market for MVFCA products. Dairy products were the most profitable goods for the cooperative, with the military consistently being one of the Matanuska Maid's best customers.

Exploration / Settlement (Criteria C)

It was during these first two years of the Matanuska Colony (1935-1936) that the original Colony barn, farmhouse, and heifer loafing shed were constructed. The Sullivan Colony barn burned down in 1949 (see Figure 22) and, as such, the Colony barn currently standing was dragged to its current location from a neighboring farm (Tract 90, Lepak). The Lepak Colony barn was also constructed during those first two pivotal years of the Colony.

Both the Colony barn and the farmhouse on the Tiny Moose Dairy property were constructed from standardized plans provided by FERA-employed architect, David Williams (1890-1962). Williams had been employed by the Federal Emergency Relief Administration when he became fascinated by the idea of creating a colony in the Alaskan wilderness, making him one of the principal minds behind the project. While the standardized nature of his buildings makes them highly distinguishable throughout the Matanuska Valley, it also meant that any issue with the buildings plagued nearly every family.

The barns proved too small for commercial farming purposes, as Williams designed them with subsistence farming in mind. As such, Colony barn extensions are as ubiquitous with the period as the barns themselves. Another issue with the Williams plan is that the barns lacked central support beams, meaning most of the barns in the Valley have collapsed or are nearing collapse (See Figures 23 and 24). Barns that have been preserved and listed on the National Historic Register include the Bailey Colony barn and the Rebarchek Colony barn (See Figure 25). While the Tiny Moose barn needs to be lifted and set on a proper foundation, it is still one of the best preserved examples of the Matanuska Colony / David Williams barn in the region.

The Colony farmhouse faced similar issues. Families were allowed to choose from one of five standardized plans. Many families wanted to alter the provided plans to better suit their needs, such as adding a full basement rather than just a small cellar. The required adherence to the plans was a point of contention, particularly when the families were willing to build these changes themselves. Ultimately, Colony families were allowed to deviate from the plans so long as they remained within budget. These budgetary constraints meant that though the farmhouses had a certain degree of variation, they are still relatively similar, bearing the recognizable architecture of the Colony period.

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Agriculture (Criteria C)

The heifer loafing shed was not constructed from a FERA-provided plan, but still stands as a recognizable type of building used for agricultural purposes during the Colony era.

1945 - 1954

Agriculture (Criteria A)

Between 1943 and 1948, gross sales of all MVFCA products tripled. Dairy continued to be the most significant output of the cooperative. This fast growing industry was an enticing reality for any prospective dairy farmer, including Linnus McKinley "Skeeter" DePriest (1898 - 1976). At the end of World War II, Skeeter, along with his wife, Louise and their son, Raymond (1928 - 2016), all lived in Nome, Alaska, where Skeeter was employed as a part of the Lend-Lease program. After the war ended, Skeeter missed the boat returning to the States. He decided to remain in Alaska and purchase the property that would go on to become the Tiny Moose Dairy. The family purchased the farm for \$6,061.21 on April 11, 1946 (See Figures 26 and 27). The family began the hard work of establishing a dairy operation on the property, and began contributing to the success of the Matanuska Maid (See Figures 28 and 29).

The region's dairy industry continued to grow. In a 1952 edition of the Valley Settler, news on the use of surge milking machinery was published. "Back in 1945 an article appeared in the Surge News on 15 Surge users living in Alaska's famed Matanuska Valley. Seven years later, those Surge users have increased to around 45 and these dairy farmers are expanding their herds." One of many articles of its type, the news speaks to the trend of rapid technological advancement and herd expansion in the Matanuska Valley to keep up with demands. In 1954, the Matanuska Maid had outgrown its Palmer processing plant and moved to a new processing plant in Anchorage to provide reconstituted milk to the military.

As the DePriest family worked to grow their farm, they invested in new technology and expanded their herd alongside regional trends.

Not only did the dairy industry have a major financial impact on the Matanuska Valley, but it also seeped into every facet of the region's culture. The DePriests contributed to this culture more broadly, exemplified by several key instances.

The logo for Matanuska Maid is "Anuska," a skater dressed in a hooded fur parka. Each year at the state fair, a "Miss Matanuska" was crowned. In or around 1950, Tiny was "Miss Matanuska," and is in a photo wearing the hooded fur parka, posing with Matanuska Maid products, likely because Matanuska Maid sponsored the contest. (See Figure 30).

Military (Criteria A)

Skeeter DePriest was brought to Alaska by the Lend-Lease program, a World War II-era deferred payment system wherein the United States supplied Allied nations with weapons, aircraft, and raw materials. During this time, military activity in Alaska surged as the territory became a strategic outpost for defending the Pacific. In 1950, the Korean War broke out, spurring further investment in Alaska's air technology. Priority was placed on defending the "polar approaches." Throughout this growth period, both

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the dairy and military sectors mutually reinforced each other, with dairy feeding military personnel and the military being one of the Matanuska Maid's best customers. Each dairy farmer in the region, including Skeeter, contributed to this interconnected history.

Agriculture (Criteria C)

While the DePriest family worked to establish a dairy operation on their newly purchased property, their efforts were met with some challenges, one of which occurred in 1949 when the first Colony barn on the property caught fire (See Figure 22). Nevertheless, the family persisted, succeeding in establishing and growing their dairy farm.

1955 - 1964

Agriculture (Criteria A)

The dairy farm run by Skeeter and Louise was thriving by the mid-1950s, leading Skeeter to be recognized in the Anchorage Daily as one of the dairy farmers operating the "better farms" of the area (See Figure 29). With an eye toward the future of the farm, the couple sold the property to Skeeter's son, Raymond Sr., and his wife, Tiny, in or around 1957 / 1958. It was then that the property became the Tiny Moose Dairy. The name was a combination of Tiny's nickname and Ray's nickname, "Moose." The DePriest family contributed to the broad trend of history by keeping pace with herd expansion and dairy technological advancement to fulfill milk demands. There are records of Raymond Sr. paying back ARRC loans for machinery and cattle. (See Figures 31 and 32).

In 1964, an earthquake disrupted milk production and processing all throughout the Matanuska Valley. The earthquake delayed a modernization and expansion project to the Matanuska Maid distribution facility. It also temporarily disrupted milk production on the Tiny Moose farm. While Tiny tended to terrified children, Ray ensured the safety of his family and cattle. A large generator was used to supply electricity for milking and water to the herd.

Military (Criteria A)

In 1957, the total milk requirements of the Department of Defense in Alaska were 276,361 gallons. Tiny Moose Dairy was providing 5,530 gallons of milk to the Matanuska Maid every week, which would have been equal to 2% of the Alaska Department of Defense's monthly requirements. Providing the required milk to the military was a group effort, which is why dairy became so prominent in the Valley. Even so, Raymond Sr. was continually distinguished from his peers in the region (See Figure 33). In 1960, the military switched to the use of fresh milk, requiring even more rapid herd expansion and modernization in the region to fulfill military demands. Tiny Moose Dairy rose to the challenge (See Figure 34).

Agriculture (Criteria C)

As their dairy operation was growing, so was their family and, in 1959, Raymond Sr. and Tiny expanded the farmhouse to include two additional bedrooms and a full basement. While being in proximity to a rapidly expanding military presence was good for business, it was not without its concerns. At some point in the 1960s, a nuclear fallout shelter was installed in the basement. The fallout shelter represents a type of building unique to the period of significance.

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Based on oral history provided by the eldest daughter of Raymond Sr. and Tiny, the colony barn was moved from the Deland farm (Tract 90, Lepak) in or around 1950, replacing the first Colony barn that burned down a decade earlier. This is the Colony barn that remains on the property to this day. It was common practice to move buildings around the Valley. This move demonstrates the regional trend of repurposing existing agricultural outbuildings.

1965 - 1974
Agriculture (Criteria A)

The dairy industry continued to grow to meet military demands, leading the Matanuska Maid to expand its facilities in 1965 (See Figure 35). Tiny Moose expanded alongside the cooperative.

Daily life on the farm looked different for each member of the family, but everyone pitched in. For Ray, daily life involved overseeing everything on the dairy farm, from ensuring his children were awake to milk the cows, to fixing and maintaining equipment, to managing the finances. For the children who grew up on Tiny Moose Dairy's property, the days began before the sun came up. The children were responsible for completing the morning and evening milkings on a 12-hour schedule, in time for the daily milk truck pick-up. Between milkings, the children attended school. With such a busy morning, their first meal was a cup of milk before heading to the barn followed by a quickly eaten bowl of hot oatmeal while getting to the bus. For Tiny, each new day required feeding ten children, a husband, and several hired workers. Moreover, she was responsible for the schedule that kept everything running smoothly. This was an incredible amount of labor for one woman, but she had help from her older children, her mother, and hired neighbor girls.

Agriculture (Criteria C)

Tiny Moose Dairy's expansion led to the construction of three new buildings, the shop (1966), the free stall barn (1969), and the "Herd King" silo (1970). The shop was a vital addition to the farm's operations, allowing the family to perform farm maintenance / construction projects in a designated space. Similarly, the free stall barn allowed the herd to grow, housing over 100 cows in individual stalls.

In particular, the "Herd King" silo represented a major technological advancement for the farm. It automated the process of feeding the more than 100 cows in the free stall barn. Silage was transported via conveyor belt from the silo to the freestall barn. While an incredible advancement, the auger / conveyor system could be a dangerous machine from which the children were warned to stay away.

The shop, free stall barn, and silo are all types of buildings specific to the period of significance and agricultural purposes they fulfilled.

1975 - 1985
Agriculture (Criteria A)

The Matanuska Maid continued to thrive until 1983, when national grocery retailers flooded the market with heavily discounted "outside" milk, leading to the Matanuska Maid to declare bankruptcy. The last milking for Tiny Moose Dairy was in November 1985. Tiny Moose Dairy's years of growth and eventual

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discontinued operations align with those of the Matanuska Maid, demonstrating the contributions of Tiny Moose to the broad patterns of Alaska dairy history.

To this day, the farm stands as such a living monument to both Colony architecture and Palmer's dairy heyday that painters and photographers consistently reproduce images of the property. The farm was included in the National Geographic "America the Beautiful" series.

Significance

The property is significant both architecturally and historically. Architecturally, the farm is a monument to the distinct type and method of construction employed exclusively within the Matanuska Colony. It is also a monument to the technological advancement required of the dairy industry in Palmer to keep pace with military milk demands amidst the Cold War. Relating to the broader strokes of Palmer's history, the farm reflects the deep interconnection between the U.S. military and agricultural advancement, as these sectors mutually reinforced one another throughout the period of significance. As such, the farm is not only a product of its time, but also a key contributor to the success of agriculture in the region.

Name of Property

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

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Palmer Museum. Courtesy: Museum of Alaska Transportation and Industry, ARRC Collection, Alaska State Museum in Juneau.

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
☐ previously listed in the National Register
☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☐ State Historic Preservation Office
☐ Other State agency
☐ Federal agency
☐ Local government
☐ University
☐ Other
Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property

Parcel 1 - 9.39 acres, Parcel 2 - 19.24 acres, Parcel 3 - 24.55 acres, Parcel 4 - 6.93 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

Name of Property

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Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

☐ NAD 1927 or ☐ NAD 1983

Parcel 1 - Historic Buildings

1. Zone: 6V	Easting: 389149	Northing: 6828919
2. Zone: 6V	Easting: 389173	Northing: 6829315
3. Zone: 6V	Easting: 389352	Northing: 6829108
4. Zone: 6V	Easting : 389352	Northing: 6828905

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

The boundaries of the Tiny Moose Dairy property are shown by the blue and red lines on the accompanying map. The blue lines outline the parcel on which all of the relevant buildings are located. The red lines outline additional parcels.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries of the Tiny Moose Dairy are the legal parcel boundaries.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: DePriest Family Trust _____
organization: _____
street & number: PO Box 4261 _____
city or town: Palmer _____ state: Alaska _____ zip code: 99645 _____

Name of Property

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e-mail _____

telephone: (402) 739-7607 _____

Date: October 31, 2025 _____

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo

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date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Tiny Moose Dairy

City or Vicinity: Palmer, AK

County: Matanuska-Susitna Borough

State: AK

Photographer: Primary Photographer - Gerry DePriest

Date Photographed: Listed in log

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo 1 of 37 (AK_Mat-Su Borough_Tiny Moose Dairy_0001)

Tiny Moose property boundaries (Parcel 1 - 21865, Parcel 2 - 43370, Parcel 3 - 81107, Parcel 4 - 38535). Map generated using Mat-Su Borough Parcel Viewer. Palmer, AK. 2025.

Photo 2 of 37 (AK_Mat-Su Borough_Tiny Moose Dairy_0002)

Tiny Moose farm site map (Parcel 1 - 21865). Map generated using Mat-Su Borough Parcel Viewer. Palmer, AK. 2025.

Photo 3 of 37 (AK_Mat-Su Borough_Tiny Moose Dairy_0003)

Boundaries of Parcel 1 (21865) where all historic buildings are located. Map generated using Mat-Su Borough Parcel Viewer. Palmer, AK. 2025.

Photo 4 of 37 (AK_Mat-Su Borough_Tiny Moose Dairy_0004)

Original map of Matanuska Colony tracts. Matanuska Valley, AK. 1935.

Photo 5 of 37 (AK_Mat-Su Borough_Tiny Moose Dairy_0005)

The standardized Matanuska Colony barn plan designed by David Williams. Matanuska Valley, AK. 1935. Page 1 of 2.

Photo 6 of 37 (AK_Mat-Su Borough_Tiny Moose Dairy_0006)

The standardized Matanuska Colony barn plan designed by David Williams. Matanuska Valley, AK. 1935. Page 2 of 2.

Name of Property

County and State

Photo 7 of 37 (AK_Mat-Su Borough_Tiny Moose Dairy_0007)

The principal facade of the Matanuska Colony barn on the Tiny Moose Dairy property. Facing north. Palmer, AK. 2024. Photographer: Jesse DePriest.

Photo 8 of 37 (AK_Mat-Su Borough_Tiny Moose Dairy_0008)

The Matanuska Colony barn on the Tiny Moose Dairy property. Facing south. Palmer, AK. 2024.

Photo 9 of 37 (AK_Mat-Su Borough_Tiny Moose Dairy_0009)

The Matanuska Colony barn on the Tiny Moose Dairy property prior to 2024 restoration efforts. Facing south. Palmer, AK. 2024.

Photo 10 of 37 (AK_Mat-Su Borough_Tiny Moose Dairy_0010)

The Matanuska Colony barn on the Tiny Moose Dairy property following 2024 restoration efforts. Facing southwest. Facing south. Palmer, AK. 2024.

Photo 11 of 37 (AK_Mat-Su Borough_Tiny Moose Dairy_0011)

The principal facade of the farmhouse on the Tiny Moose Dairy property. Palmer, AK. 1959.

Photo 12 of 37 (AK_Mat-Su Borough_Tiny Moose Dairy_0012)

The Tiny Moose Dairy property prior to the Colony barn move and after the farmhouse extension. Palmer, AK. 1958.

Photo 13 of 37 (AK_Mat-Su Borough_Tiny Moose Dairy_0013)

The extended farmhouse amid 2025 restoration efforts. Facing north. Palmer, AK. 2025.

Photo 14 of 37 (AK_Mat-Su Borough_Tiny Moose Dairy_0014)

FERA-provided lumber removed from the farmhouse amid 2025 restoration efforts. Palmer, AK. 2025.

Photo 15 of 37 (AK_Mat-Su Borough_Tiny Moose Dairy_0015)

The principal facade of the heifer loafing shed. Facing northwest. Palmer, AK. 2025.

Photo 16 of 37 (AK_Mat-Su Borough_Tiny Moose Dairy_0016)

The principal facade of the shop. Facing east. Palmer, AK. 2025

Photo 17 of 37 (AK_Mat-Su Borough_Tiny Moose Dairy_0017)

The footprints of Gerry DePriest from 1966 in the floor of the shop. Palmer, AK. 2024.

Name of Property

County and State

Photo 18 of 37 (AK_Mat-Su Borough_Tiny Moose Dairy_0018)

The principal facade of the free stall barn on the Tiny Moose Dairy property. Facing east. Palmer, AK. 2025.

Photo 19 of 37 (AK_Mat-Su Borough_Tiny Moose Dairy_0019)

The construction date etched into concrete in the free stall barn. Palmer, AK. 2025.

Photo 20 of 37 (AK_Mat-Su Borough_Tiny Moose Dairy_0020)

The principal facade of the herd king silo. Palmer, AK. 2025.

Photo 21 of 37 (AK_Mat-Su Borough_Tiny Moose Dairy_0021)

The Matanuska Maid brand. Anchorage, AK. 1957.

Photo 22 of 37 (AK_Mat-Su Borough_Tiny Moose Dairy_0022)

The Sullivan Colony barn fire. Palmer, AK. 1949.

Photo 23 of 37 (AK_Mat-Su Borough_Tiny Moose Dairy_0023)

The collapsed Colony barn on historic tract 134. Palmer, AK. 2004.

Photo 24 of 37 (AK_Mat-Su Borough_Tiny Moose Dairy_0024)

The collapsed Colony barn on historic tract 194. Palmer, AK. 2005.

Photo 25 of 37 (AK_Mat-Su Borough_Tiny Moose Dairy_0025)

The Rebarchek Colony barn on the Alaska State Fair Grounds. Palmer, AK. 2022.

Photo 26 of 37 (AK_Mat-Su Borough_Tiny Moose Dairy_0026)

The deed for the farm (Linnus McKinley DePriest). Palmer, AK. 1946. Page 1 of 2.

Photo 27 of 37 (AK_Mat-Su Borough_Tiny Moose Dairy_0027)

The deed for the farm (Linnus McKinley DePriest). Palmer, AK. 1946. Page 2 of 2.

Photo 28 of 37 (AK_Mat-Su Borough_Tiny Moose Dairy_0028)

Linnus McKinley DePriest working with rented horse / equipment. Palmer, AK. c.1949.

Photo 29 of 37 (AK_Mat-Su Borough_Tiny Moose Dairy_0029)

Name of Property

County and State

Linnus McKinley DePriest Recognized as a Dairy Farmer Operating a Better Farm (Top Right).
Anchorage, AK. 1956.

Photo 30 of 37 (AK_Mat-Su Borough_Tiny Moose Dairy_0030)
Tiny DePriest, winner of the Miss Matanuska contest, dressed as the Matanuska Maid. Palmer, AK. c.
1950.

Photo 31 of 37 (AK_Mat-Su Borough_Tiny Moose Dairy_0031)

Chattel mortgage logs. Palmer, AK. 1957. Page 1 of 2.

Photo 32 of 37 (AK_Mat-Su Borough_Tiny Moose Dairy_0032)

Chattel mortgage logs. Palmer, AK. 1957. Page 2 of 2.

Photo 33 of 37 (AK_Mat-Su Borough_Tiny Moose Dairy_0033)

Newspaper article referencing Raymond DePriest. Palmer, AK. 1960.

Photo 34 of 37 (AK_Mat-Su Borough_Tiny Moose Dairy_0034)

Raymond DePriest milking cows. Palmer, AK. 1959.

Photo 35 of 37 (AK_Mat-Su Borough_Tiny Moose Dairy_0035)

Valley Cooperator article. Palmer, AK. 1969.

Photo 36 of 37 (AK_Mat-Su Borough_Tiny Moose Dairy_0036)

Ann Marie Svedin (DePriest), eldest daughter of Ray and Tiny DePriest, in front of the Tiny Moose Dairy
sign. Palmer, AK. 1968.

Photo 37 of 37 (AK_Mat-Su Borough_Tiny Moose Dairy_0037)

Tiny Moose Dairy. Palmer, AK. 1977.

Name of Property

County and State

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for nominations to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.). We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for each response using this form is estimated to be between the Tier 1 and Tier 4 levels with the estimate of the time for each tier as follows:

- Tier 1 – 60-100 hours
- Tier 2 – 120 hours
- Tier 3 – 230 hours
- Tier 4 – 280 hours

The above estimates include time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and preparing and transmitting nominations. Send comments regarding these estimates or any other aspect of the requirement(s) to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive Fort Collins, CO 80525.

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH DIRECTORY OF ORGANIZATIONS

Historical Preservation Commission

Board Exp

Kincaid	Janet		Board Position	HIS Member 1		
Company Representing				Term	3/1/2022	to 12/31/2027
PO Box 118			Type of Term	2	Full	
Palmer	AK	99645-0118	Member			
Home	(907) 745-3855	Work	(907) 745-3330	Cell		
		E-mail	akjanet@mtaonline.net			

Schweisthal	Andrew		Board Position	HIS Member 2		
Company Representing				Term	3/6/2018	to 12/31/2026
5442 N Stefan Ln			Type of Term	3	Full	
Palmer	AK	99645	Member			
Home	(907) 230-2106	Work		Cell		
		E-mail	andrewschweisthal@yahoo.com			

McBride	Karla		Board Position	HIS Member 3		
Company Representing				Term	6/17/2025	to 12/31/2027
PO Box 520824			Type of Term	1	Full	
Big Lake	AK	99652	Member			
Home	(907) 232-2803	Work		Cell		
		E-mail	karlamcbridealaska@gmail.com			

Toothaker	Kevin		Board Position	HIS Member 4		
Company Representing				Term	12/17/2019	to 12/31/2027
1000 E Chugach View Dr			Type of Term	3	Full	
Wasilla	AK	99654	Member			
Home	(907) 521-9088	Work	(907) 521-0377	Cell		
		E-mail	kevin.toothaker@gmail.com			

Smith	Vivian	L	Board Position	HIS Member 5		
Company Representing				Term	1/17/2023	to 12/31/2025
4901 N Werner Rd			Type of Term	1	Full	
Palmer	AK	99645	Member			
Home		Work	(907) 357-6121	Cell	(907) 841-9851	E-mail
		viviansmith907@outlook.com				

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH DIRECTORY OF ORGANIZATIONS

Historical Preservation Commission

Board Exp

Seager-Boss	Fran		Board Position	HIS Member 6		
Company Representing				Term	2/6/2018	to 12/31/2026
PO Box 873281			Type of Term	3	Full	
Wasilla	AK	99687	Member			
Home	(907) 982-0709	Work		Cell		E-mail fseagerboss@mtaonline.net

Verrall	Bert		Board Position	HIS Member 7		
Company Representing				Term	1/1/2024	to 12/31/2026
6480 N Farm Loop Rd			Type of Term	1	Full	
Palmer	AK	99645	Member			
Home		Work	(907) 761-6202	Cell	(907) 354-3798	E-mail brvak@yahoo.com

Information Contact	Cultural Resources Division
Total Board Members	7 members
Meeting Schedule	(Please check the Notice of Public Meetings schedule at: www.matsugov.us/publicmeetings for meeting information.)
Meeting Location	
Board Notes:	<p>OR 22-015: IM 22-025 Amended code (Establishment and Purpose, Meetings, Definitions, Composition.) The commission shall consist of seven citizens of the borough who have demonstrated an interest, competence, or knowledge in the historical and cultural foundations of the borough and the state, which includes Alaska Native traditional knowledge bearers who are members of federally recognized tribes within the borough. To the extent available in the borough, the mayor shall appoint, subject to confirmation by the assembly, citizens with professional expertise in the disciplines of architecture, history, architectural history, planning, archaeology, or other historic preservation related disciplines, such as urban planning, American studies, American civilization, cultural geography, or cultural anthropology.</p> <p>(Ord. 22-015, § 2, 2022; Ord. 07-161, § 2, 2007; Ord. 04-080, § 33, 2004; Ord. 98-018AM, § 2, 1998; Ord. 96-114AM, § 2, 1996; Ord. 94-001AM, § 5 (part), 1994; Ord. 84-34, § 25 (part), 1984)</p>

DRAFT Mat-Su Borough Historic Preservation Plan - version 12.04.25

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Executive Summary

Historic preservation can be a powerful tool in helping communities understand their collective past and make informed choices for the future. It allows the celebration of unique, vibrant aspects of the community for both residents and visitors. Preservation and engagement with the past can be an economic driver, a tool for healing, an educational opportunity, and more. The Mat-Su Borough residents are proud of our unique heritage, longevity, and resilience. Historic preservation helps reflect this pride of place.

The purpose of the Mat-Su Borough Historic Preservation Plan is to identify and reflect the public's current interests and priorities regarding historic preservation and outlines strategies to achieve the identified goals. An updated plan also facilitates the Borough's continued participation in the Certified Local Government (CLG) program, which allows our local government to participate in federal and state historic preservation funding and programs. The current Mat-Su code does not include requirements for historic preservation, and there are no requests in this plan to change that. Instead, the plan seeks to highlight the benefits of historic preservation and identify ways the Borough and partners can work together to achieve locally led efforts. The plan is also meant to guide the Historical Preservation Commission's program of work, through which the public, staff, and Assembly can seek guidance and information regarding preservation.

The plan outlines the basics of historic preservation, the legal framework at each level of government that supports preservation work, and how the Mat-Su, as a CLG, fits into that picture. It outlines the history of historic preservation as found in codes and ordinances and highlights preservation accomplishments in the Borough. As mentioned above, this plan has been shaped by individuals and organizations in our community who are passionate about protecting cultural resources and identifying, sharing, and celebrating the stories of our region. It explains how public engagement has informed the next steps outlined in the plan, which include goals, objectives, and strategies to support the historic preservation community in the Mat-Su.

Finally, the appendices provide more detailed information for those interested in past historic preservation projects in the Mat-Su, resources for learning more, and ways to get involved in the future.

Acknowledgments

This plan would not have been possible without the stakeholders and interested citizens of the Mat-Su Borough. Thank you to all the local organizations and individuals who provided crucial insight and feedback on the importance of historic preservation (need to list these names). A special thanks to the HPC for their ongoing work. Thank you to Information

Insights and Dowl for their work on this plan’s Phase I and Phase II, respectively. **We should also acknowledge the Mat-Su Borough staff and HPC members who led the project.**

Introduction

Most people, from lifelong Alaska residents to tourists, realize that the place we live is unique. Alaska is different than much of the United States in its climate, landscapes, and the lifestyles of its residents. Within Alaska, the Mat-Su Borough has a special combination of history and culture not found anywhere else in our state. The Dene tribes, indigenous to most of the region that now makes up the Mat-Su Borough, have one of the oldest continuous cultures on earth, with a language and a sense of identity spanning at least 13,000 years. The waves of Russian, Euro-American, and American immigrants who began arriving in the 1800s added their own elements to the region’s story: exploration, agriculture, gold rushes and oil booms, and many other threads that weave together here. Every community in the Borough provides a unique perspective of our history to residents and visitors through physical evidence, including archaeological and historic sites, historic buildings and structures, districts and landscapes, and places associated with traditional cultural practices

But our uniqueness is also fragile. The Mat-Su is the fastest-growing region in Alaska and one of the fastest-growing in the United States, and it’s also very transient, with thousands of people moving in and out each year. With so much demographic change and development, it can be easy for new residents to lose – or never gain – a sense of place in the same way as long-time residents. We want to ensure not only can we keep those connections to our unique history but also offer new residents and future generations the same opportunity to become rooted in this place. Residents here recognized how important preserving history is in 1987, when they first voted to empower the Borough government to play a leading role in local historical preservation. The decisions that are made now regarding preservation will shape what it means to be a Mat-Su resident now and in the future. The purpose of this plan is to identify and reflect the public’s priorities regarding historic preservation, and to strategically guide collaborative activities to protect, share, and celebrate the cultures, histories, and special places of the Mat-Su Borough.

What is Historic Preservation and Why Is It Important?

The National Park Service describes historical preservation as “a conversation with our past about our future. It provides us with opportunities to ask, ‘What is important in our history?’ and ‘What parts of our past can we preserve for the future?’”, spurring the curiosity to explore a place more deeply (www.nps.gov). Historic preservation involves cultural resources, which refer to tangible or intangible things that hold significance to a community’s heritage, traditions, history, or identity. These can include historical sites, buildings, artifacts, landmarks, practices, customs, languages, and oral traditions contributing to a community’s cultural fabric. Through historic preservation, individuals

can explore history from diverse perspectives, pose varied questions about the past, and gain new insights into history and human identity. It serves as a crucial method for conveying an understanding of the past to future generations. The Nation's history has many facets, and preservation helps tell these stories. Sometimes, historic preservation involves celebrating events, people, places, and ideas; other times, it can consist of recognizing moments in history that can be painful or uncomfortable to recognize.

Historic preservation is a conscious decision to keep those meaningful places and objects in their original states, to the greatest extent possible, while still meeting the needs of today's population. Through preservation work, we maintain our physical connection to the past, by seeing the places and objects that filled it, reading and hearing the stories of the people who inhabited it, and learning about the events that shaped landscapes and communities over many generations. Preservation of historic places gives community members a visual link to how the Mat-Su Borough and the communities within it were formed, offering a tangible record of the intentions and lives of those who came before us.

Historic preservation can be a powerful tool in helping communities understand their collective past and make informed choices for the future. It allows the celebration of unique, vibrant aspects of the community for both residents and visitors. Preservation and engagement with the past can be an economic driver, a tool for healing, an educational opportunity, and more. The community should be proud of its unique heritage, longevity, and resilience. These traits will be reflected in an updated HPP.

Overview of National and State Preservation Programs

At the federal level, historic preservation is overseen by the National Park Service in the U.S. Department of the Interior. The National Park Service works with states, tribal partners, local governments, non-profit organizations, and individuals to assist in guiding historic preservation efforts. The framework for historic preservation in the United States was established in the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966. A decade later, Congress created the Historic Preservation Fund to help implement the vision laid out in the NHPA.

Although a federal law, the NHPA identified that historic preservation would be implemented at all levels of government to be effective, especially at the state level. Importantly, it includes regulations for State Historic Preservation Programs, including the duties of the State Historic Preservation Officer. These state programs administer federal preservation programs, including activities such as nominating properties to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), participating in the project review process to protect cultural resources (often called the Section 106 process), and reviewing projects that are seeking certification for federal tax breaks. The NRHP is a federal program that recognizes and protects sites, buildings, districts, and objects of historical, cultural, and architectural

significance. Being listed in the NRHP helps preserve these places and may make them eligible for funding and tax incentives.

In Alaska, the SHPO is housed in the Office of History and Archaeology (OHA), under the State Division of Parks within the Department of Natural Resources. According to their website (<https://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/oha/>), the mission of the OHA and SHPO are to “provide programs to encourage the preservation and protection of the archaeological, historic, and architectural resources of Alaska.” OHA staff administer federal Historic Preservation Fund grants, provide technical expertise in historic preservation, and work with Certified Local Governments. They also develop and update the Alaska State Historic Preservation Plan; the current draft plan is titled Saving Our Past: For A Resilient Future (2025-2034). OHA also maintains the Alaska Heritage Resource Survey database (AHRS) which serves as a data repository for reported cultural resources across the state. Because some of those sites are sensitive, the survey is not publicly accessible. The Alaska Historical Commission is the citizen review board for state history policy and recommends National Register nominations and Historic Preservation Fund grant awards.

The Mat-Su participates in the preservation structure through its status as a Certified Local Government (CLG). A Certified Local Government (CLG) is a local government certified by the state to participate in federal historic preservation funding and programs. Requirements include having a historic preservation commission, a historic preservation plan, and local review process for projects that may have an impact on historic resources. It also provides access to grant dollars to assist in preserving, protecting, and educating the public about cultural resources.

Legal Framework

The following section provides an overview of federal laws, state statutes, and Borough code the guide historic preservation activities.

Federal Laws

1906

The American Antiquities Act

The American Antiquities Act, signed into law in 1906, grants the U.S. President the authority to designate national monuments on federal lands to protect significant archaeological, cultural, and natural sites. The Act was the first federal legislation aimed at preserving historic landmarks and objects of scientific interest. It also prohibits the destruction or alteration of such sites without proper permission, marking a key step in the development of the nation's historic preservation policies.

1935

The Historic Sites Act

The Historic Sites Act of 1935 established the National Historic Landmarks program and set the foundation for preserving the nation's historic sites. It declared that it is the policy of the U.S. government to preserve and maintain historically significant sites, buildings, and objects for public education and enjoyment. The Act also created the National Park Service's role in identifying, evaluating, and protecting these resources, marking a pivotal moment in the development of federal preservation efforts.

1956

The Federal Highway Aid Act

The Federal Highway Aid Act, particularly through its later amendments, requires that transportation projects funded by federal highway grants consider the impact on cultural resources, including historic sites and landmarks. Under Section 4(f) of the act, transportation projects must avoid or minimize harm to publicly owned parks, recreation areas, wildlife refuges, and historic sites. This provision ensures that federal highway development takes cultural and historical preservation into account, promoting a balance between infrastructure development and the protection of significant cultural resources.

1966

National Historic Preservation Act

The National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966 established a national policy to preserve the historical and cultural heritage of the United States. It created the National Register of Historic Places, a list of significant sites, buildings, and districts, and established the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation to review federal preservation efforts. The Act also requires federal agencies to consider the impact of their projects on historic properties, ensuring that preservation is integrated into government planning and development activities.

1966

The Department of Transportation Act of 1966 established the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) and outlined its mission to ensure a coordinated and efficient transportation system. The Act's Declaration of Purpose emphasized the need for safe, efficient, and accessible transportation across the nation. Section 4(f) of the Act specifically protects public parks, recreation areas, wildlife and waterfowl refuges, and historic sites from being adversely affected by federal transportation projects, requiring agencies to avoid or minimize impacts on these resources whenever possible.

1969

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 requires federal agencies to assess the environmental impacts of their proposed actions, including effects on cultural

resources. Specifically, NEPA mandates that agencies consider how their projects may affect historic sites, archaeological resources, and cultural landscapes. Through the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process, agencies must evaluate and disclose potential harm to these resources and explore alternatives to mitigate or avoid negative impacts on cultural heritage.

1971

The Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA)

The Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) of 1971 was a landmark law that resolved land claims by Alaska Native groups and provided compensation for lands taken by the U.S. government. The Act created 12 regional corporations and over 200 village corporations, which were given land and financial resources to support economic development and self-determination for Native communities. ANCSA also extinguished most Native land claims in exchange for title to land, cash payments, and other benefits, while recognizing the rights of Alaska Natives to their cultural heritage.

1974

Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act

The Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974, also known as the Moss-Bennett Act, mandates that federal agencies ensure the preservation of archaeological and historic sites that may be affected by federal projects. It requires agencies to conduct surveys and assessments to identify sites of cultural or historical significance before undertaking development or construction. The Act also allocates funding for the preservation of such sites and emphasizes the importance of protecting archaeological resources from destruction.

1978

American Indian Religious Freedom Act

The American Indian Religious Freedom Act (AIRFA) of 1978 protects the rights of Native Americans to practice their traditional religions. It ensures access to sacred sites, freedom to use religious objects and materials, and the ability to engage in ceremonial practices. The Act acknowledges the importance of preserving cultural and spiritual practices and encourages federal agencies to respect and accommodate these religious freedoms in their policies and actions.

1979

Archaeological Resources Protection Act

The Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) of 1979 is a federal law designed to protect archaeological sites and resources on public and Native American lands. It prohibits the excavation, removal, or destruction of archaeological resources without proper permits and establishes penalties for violations. The Act also sets guidelines for the

lawful excavation and management of archaeological sites, aiming to prevent looting and unauthorized activities that harm cultural heritage.

1987

Abandoned Shipwreck Act

The Abandoned Shipwreck Act of 1987 grants the federal government the authority to manage abandoned shipwrecks on submerged lands in U.S. waters. It allows states to claim ownership of shipwrecks within their waters, provided they meet specific criteria, and emphasizes the preservation of shipwrecks as important historical and cultural resources. The Act also facilitates cooperation between federal, state, and local governments in the protection and management of these maritime heritage sites.

1990

Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act

The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of 1990 requires federal agencies and museums to return Native American human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, and cultural patrimony to their respective tribes or descendants. The law provides a process for tribes to assert claims for repatriation and mandates that these items be protected from illegal excavation or sale. NAGPRA also promotes consultation between Native American communities, museums, and federal agencies to ensure the respectful handling of Native cultural materials.

Alaska State Laws

1971

The Alaska Historic Preservation Act

The Alaska Historic Preservation Act of 1971 was enacted to establish a framework for preserving the state's historical and cultural resources. It created the Alaska Office of History and Archaeology and authorized the state to identify, evaluate, and protect historic properties. The Act also encourages cooperation between state and federal agencies, local governments, and Alaska Native communities to safeguard historic sites and landmarks across the state.

1980

The Historic District Revolving Loan Fund

The Historic District Revolving Loan Fund, established in 1980, provides low-interest loans to property owners in designated historic districts to assist with the rehabilitation and preservation of historic buildings. The fund is designed to encourage the restoration of these properties while maintaining their historical integrity. As loans are repaid, the funds are reinvested into future preservation projects, creating a sustainable source of financial support for historic preservation efforts.

Mat-Su Borough Code

Chapter 1.10.160 gives the Borough powers to “preserve, maintain, and protect historic sites, buildings, and monuments situated within the borough.” (Ord. 94-001AM, § 2 (part), 1994; Ord. 87-7, § 2, 1987)

Chapter 4.46 establishes the Historical Preservation Commission (HPC) and defines its purpose, functions, and composition. This section underwent revisions in 2022 to update the role and functions of the HPC.

4.46.010 ESTABLISHMENT AND PURPOSE

In order to comply with the Certified Local Government Program of the National Historic Preservation Act, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough has established a historical preservation commission. The purpose of the commission is to encourage, participate, and coordinate historic preservation activities within the borough, to provide local government involvement in regional and state-wide historic preservation efforts, and to advise and report to the assembly as outlined in the functions listed below.

4.46.020 FUNCTIONS

(A) The commission Shall

- (1) advise the assembly in identifying, protecting, preserving, and interpreting cultural resources within the borough that are of archaeological, historical, cultural, scientific, or geographic importance;
- (2) develop and maintain an inventory of cultural resources within the borough;
- (3) – (7) *[Repealed by Ord. 22-015, § 2, 2022]*
- (8) recommend to the assembly a local historic preservation plan providing for the identification, protection, management, and interpretation of cultural resources within the borough;
 - (a) The preservation plan shall be compatible with the Alaska Historic Preservation Plan.
 - (b) The preservation plan will be reviewed by the commission annually and updated every five to ten years to reflect: newly identified cultural resources; changes to local, state, and/or federal laws that affect cultural resources within the borough; and any other relevant information regarding cultural resources within the borough;
- (9) review and make recommendations to the assembly regarding local projects that might affect properties identified in the historic preservation plan;
- (10) receive, review, and recommend to the assembly nominations for listing borough cultural resources on the National Register of Historic Places; and

(11) review and recommend certified local government grant applications and/or grant applications from the Matanuska-Susitna community.

4.46.030 COMPOSITION

The commission shall consist of seven citizens of the borough who have demonstrated an interest, competence, or knowledge in the historical and cultural foundations of the borough and the state, which includes Alaska Native traditional knowledge bearers who are members of federally recognized tribes within the borough. To the extent available in the borough, the mayor shall appoint, subject to confirmation by the assembly, citizens with professional expertise in the disciplines of architecture, history, architectural history, planning, archaeology, or other historic preservation-related disciplines, such as urban planning, American studies, American civilization, cultural geography, or cultural anthropology.

Timeline of Mat-Su Borough Codes for Historic Preservation

1982 - 1987

The Mat-Su Historic Preservation Commission was established in 1982 through an Ordinance of the Assembly ([Serial No. 1982-14](#)), which laid out the functions of the Commission (Matanuska Susitna Borough 1982). These functions were to:

- A. Advise the Assembly in the identification of buildings, sites and landmarks and writings and objects within the Borough that are of historic, cultural or geographic importance;
- B. Develop and maintain an inventory of landmarks, historical buildings and sites and writings and objects within the Borough;
- C. Advise the Planning Commission on planning in connection **with** historic preservation.
- D. Advise the Borough and private property owners on restoration and maintenance of historical buildings, sites and landmarks and writings and objects.
- E. Coordinate, assist and aid in the planning of historical preservation and restoration projects in the Borough.
- F. Recommend to the Assembly buildings, sites and landmarks and writings and objects of historical, cultural or geographic significance in the Borough for designation as historical landmarks by the U.S. or State governments and seek approval from City Councils within cities.
- G. Recommend to the Assembly historical preservation and restoration programs and site improvements to be implemented by or supported by the Borough.

The Assembly passed Resolution Serial No. 1984-154 in 1984 to include a ballot initiative for historic preservation (Matanuska Susitna Borough 1984). The initiative, Proposition 2, was passed by voters in 1985. Ordinance of the Assembly Serial No. 1987-07, authorizing

the Borough to “exercise the areawide power to preserve, maintain and protect historic sites, buildings and monuments situated within the borough, as approved by the voters.” Following the addition to the Borough’s code, the Mat-Su became one of the first local governments in Alaska to achieve CLG status under the National Historic Preservation Act.

As a requirement of CLG status, HPC drafted a historic preservation plan, adopted by the Assembly in 1987. The goal of the plan was to conserve important historic and prehistoric resources, including artifacts, archaeological sites, buildings, writings, and oral histories within the Mat-Su to benefit those in the present and future. Four objectives specifically called out in the 1987 plan were:

- Identification of Cultural Resources
- Evaluation of Cultural Resources for the National Register of Historic Places
- Registration of Cultural Resources for the National Register of Historic Places
- Protection of Cultural Resources

2002 - Present

In 2002, the Borough received funding through the CLG program to update its HPP. Many of the additions to the updated plan focused on codifying a legal framework for reviewing actions related to designated cultural resources. The updated plan was submitted to the assembly for approval but was not adopted (Matanuska Susitna Borough 2003). The 1987 plan was incorporated by reference as part of the Mat-Su Borough Comprehensive Plan, which was adopted in 2005.

In 2007, the Assembly passed Title 27: Subdivisions, which was added to the Borough Code (Title 27) in 2007 (Matanuska Susitna Borough 2007). The title codified the authority of the Borough to review platting applications and included a review of cultural resources prior to plat approval for new subdivisions. During the period when Title 27 was active, the Historical Preservation Commission would forward their recommendations to the Mat-Su Planning Department, and the Cultural Resources Division would complete surveys on the land to identify cultural resources before plat approval. Title 27 was repealed in 2012 and replaced with Title 43 (Serial No. 11-072) (Matanuska Susitna Borough 2011).

In 2017, the Borough began a comprehensive review of all boards and commissions. As a result of this review, the HPC’s functions were revised in 2022 through ordinance 22-015 to focus on meeting the Borough’s responsibilities as a Certified Local Government.

Historic Preservation Accomplishments in the Mat-Su Borough

Evidence of Mat-Su's successful tenure as a CLG is apparent throughout the region. For example, visits to the streets of Talkeetna, hikes at Independence Mine, events in Colony barns, and concerts on the lawn of the Palmer Ale House showcase the ongoing preservation work that keeps p of the community's heritage alive in daily life.

The HPC began establishing an inventory of cultural resources in the Mat-Su. The first CLG grant received in 1987 was \$8,050 to survey and evaluate cultural resources across the Borough. Properties on that list were evaluated for their unique attributes to determine if they were significant and required preservation. Properties that were determined significant and became eligible for inclusion into the NRHP. Some of these properties include the Knik-Rainy Pass Trail, Knik River Highway Bridge, Katie Wade Homestead, and the Benteh Village Site. Eleven cultural resources were listed on the NRHP, the first being Colony properties like the Bailey Colony Farm, the Berry House, and the Matanuska Colony Community Center.

One of the most significant benefits of being a CLG is the ability to apply for funds that support preservation work. The Mat-Su is one of the most active CLGs in the state regarding applying for and receiving grant dollars to complete projects, with continued public interest in such work. The Borough has received 43 CLG Grants since 1987, equaling \$743,225. Most grants (19) have gone to cultural resource survey efforts, followed by planning (8), education (6), predevelopment and development (4), NRHP Nominations (3), and training (3). Development and predevelopment grants equaled a total of \$200,000. NRHP Nomination grants have equaled \$20,099. Appendix B provides a full list of CLG grants awarded to the Mat-Su.

Grant Category	Number of Projects	Amount
Development/Predevelopment	4	\$200,000
Education	6	\$70,163
National Register of Historic Places Nomination	4	\$38,099
Planning	8	\$175,388
Survey and Inventory	19	\$260,205
Training	3	\$17,370
Total		\$761,225

Some notable success stories directly supported by these grants include the stabilization and rehabilitation of the Rebarchek Colony Farm, the restoration of the Old Willow

Community Center, the installation of interpretive signs in Wasilla, and the advancement of the Willow, Houston, and Susitna Preservation Plans.

The Rebarchek Colony Farm is a historic agricultural site that dates to the early 20th century. Originally part of the Matanuska Valley Colony Project, the farm significantly influenced the region's agricultural development. The site features historic buildings and structures, reflecting the area's pioneer farming history. Efforts to stabilize and rehabilitate the farm focused on preserving its historical significance while ensuring the longevity of its physical structures for future generations. The farm is currently used for exhibitions and experimental farming.

The Old Willow Community Center features a museum that safeguards the area's rich history. This facility is a vital asset to the local community and tourists, offering a space for education and connection. Recent rehabilitation efforts have focused on maintaining the integrity of the building, ensuring it remains both safe and accessible for all who visit.

The Wasilla Cultural Resource Interpretive Signs offer visitors an educational glimpse into the area's rich cultural and historical heritage. These signs highlight significant local landmarks, Native Alaskan history, and the development of Wasilla as a key community in the Matanuska-Susitna Valley. By showcasing the region's history through informative displays, the interpretive signs aim to foster a deeper understanding and appreciation of Wasilla's cultural significance for both residents and visitors. These examples effectively demonstrate how funding through these grants supports a wide range of community goals.

Current Inventory of Cultural Resources in the Mat-Su Borough

As mentioned above, the Alaska Heritage Resources Survey (AHRS) serves as the central data repository for reported cultural resources across the state. Access to AHRS is restricted to help protect identified cultural resources, so just a summary of sites and inventories is listed here.

Sites: 782 AHRS sites are listed in the MSB including 25 sites eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places, 1 contributing property, and 3 that are pending consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office. There are 29 sites listed on the National Register of Historic Places within the Mat-Su Borough. These sites are shown in the table below, and more information for each site is available in the [National Register Database](#).

City

Street & Number

Property Name

Bailey Colony Farm	Palmer	3150 N. Glenn Hwy.
Berry House	Palmer	5805 N. Farm Loop Rd.
Campbell House	Palmer	1540 Inner Springer Loop
Cunningham-Hall Pt-6,Nc-692W	Palmer	S of Palmer at Mile 40, Glen Hwy.
Curry Lookout	Talkeetna	Atop Curry Ridge, Mile 137.2, Parks Hwy.
Fairview Inn	Talkeetna	Main St.
Herried House	Palmer	4400 N. Palmer--Fishook Hwy.
High Ridge	Palmer	9721 East Hilscher Hwy.
Hyland Hotel	Palmer	333 W. Evergreen
Independence Mines	Palmer	W of Palmer Mi. 1.5 Sunshine Rd., or mi. 215.3 Alaska
Kirsch's Place	Talkeetna	Railroad
Knik Site	Wasilla	About 15 mi. SW of Wasilla, Knik Rd. Roughly bounded by S. Colony, E. Firewood, S. Eklutua, E. Elmwood, S. Denali and a line
Matanuska Colony Community Center	Palmer	N of properties on E. Dahlia
Old Willow Community Center	Willow	W. Willow Community Center Cir.
Palmer Depot	Palmer	AK 1 Mi. 39.9 Glenn Hwy., across from State
Patten Colony Farm	Palmer	Fairground
Puhl House	Palmer	13151 E. Scott Rd.
Rebarchek, Raymond, Colony Farm	Palmer	S of Palmer off Glenn Hwy.
Sutton Community Hall	Sutton	Jonesville Rd. Roughly from First St. S down D St. to the
Talkeetna Airstrip	Talkeetna	Susitna R. Roughly bounded by C, First, D and Front
Talkeetna Historic District	Talkeetna	Sts.
Tangle Lakes Archeological District (Boundary Decrease)	Glennallen	Address Restricted
Teeland's Country Store	Wasilla	Mile 42 George Parks Hwy. and Knik Rd. North Knik St., bet. the Parks Hwy/Alaska RR
Tryck, Blanche and Oscar, House	Wasilla	and E. Herning Ave.
United Protestant Church	Palmer	S. Denali and Elmwood Sts.
Wasilla Community Hall	Wasilla	215 Main St.
Wasilla Depot	Wasilla	Parks Highway and Knik Rd.
Wasilla Elementary School	Wasilla	Off AK 3
Whitney Section House	Wasilla	3400 W. Neuser Dr.

Investigations: 561 investigations are recorded in the AHRS, including 407 literature reviews (including national register nominations), 125 reconnaissance surveys (including aerial/windshield surveys, remote sensing, architectural, and pedestrian surveys), 18

intensive surveys (testing for DOE and NRHP), and 7 mitigation reports (monitoring and data recovery).

Updating the Mat-Su Historic Preservation Plan

The Purpose & Need for a Plan Update

One of the key functions of the HPC is to develop and recommend a Historic Preservation Plan to the Assembly. Mat-Su's current plan, adopted in 1987, was designed to support the Borough's growth. However, it's likely that the Mat-Su region today would be unrecognizable in some respects to those who developed the 1987 HPP. With the fastest growing population in Alaska for multiple decades and the subsequent developments in our infrastructure and economy, the Borough's historic preservation needs and priorities have changed. A significant amount of work has also been accomplished since the first plan was adopted nearly 40 years ago, as described earlier in this plan. With continued support from the local community, and with consideration to anticipated rapid population growth and change in the region, we have created a plan shaped by the priorities of individuals and organizations involved in historic preservation and cultural resource management across the Borough. The updated plan reflects the public's goals for preservation work and outlines strategies to achieve these goals.

A Plan Reflecting Today's Mat-Su Borough (formerly titled "Demographics" - need to summarize)

Including population demographics in the HPP might appear unconventional; however, demographics serve as the framework of history, outlining and connecting the narratives that this plan aims to safeguard and honor. Examining census data and related statistics reveals the presence of forgotten towns, some of which have vanished entirely, while others persist as neighborhood names within larger cities that absorbed them. These records also capture the rise and fall of industries, such as by the emergence of occupations like automobile and airplane mechanics in the early 1900s, and the disappearance of roles such as "airplane navigators" after the 1950s due to advancements in computerized systems. Furthermore, demographic data highlight waves of new residents, often characterized by shared age or ethnic traits, drawn by global phenomena such as the allure of gold or the geopolitical pressures of the Cold War, which drew immigrants to Alaska.

Current population demographics provide insight into the diverse composition of Mat-Su Borough residents and serve as a tool to evaluate whether their histories are being appropriately preserved and celebrated. For instance, are we addressing the unique needs and technological preferences of school-aged children, young adults, and seniors? A rise in the school-aged population might encourage the development of historic preservation initiatives, such as creating lesson plans and digital resources for local schools.

Conversely, a senior-majority population could direct attention to near-term objectives, such as installing interpretive signage in walkable outdoor areas with resting spots to enhance accessibility and engagement.

At the beginning of 2024, the population of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough was estimated to exceed 116,000 residents (State of Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, 2024). Over the 20-year period from 2000, with a population of 59,322, to 2020, when the population reached 107,081, the Borough experienced remarkable growth, adding 47,759 residents (U.S. Census Bureau, 2002; U.S. Census Bureau, n.d.). This trend positioned the Mat-Su Borough as the fastest-growing region in Alaska during that timeframe and among the most rapidly expanding areas in the United States.

While this growth has been ongoing for over two decades, the population density has historically remained low, preserving the Borough's predominantly rural character. However, within the last 15 years, population growth has reached a density sufficient to form a continuous urban community centered around Palmer and Wasilla. This development marks a significant shift in the Borough's history, with the emergence of substantial urban and suburban spaces.

In 2000, fewer than 3,500 residents of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough were aged 65 or older, representing less than 6 percent of the population (U.S. Census Bureau, 2002). Today, that figure has risen to over 16,200 residents, accounting for more than 14 percent of the population (U.S. Census Bureau, n.d.). This represents the largest number and highest proportion of seniors in the Borough's history.

Historically, the factors that attracted new residents to the Mat-Su Borough primarily appealed to working-age individuals who often arrived with their immediate families. These include gold rushes, railway construction, military settlements, and the pipeline era. While some remained in the Borough post-retirement, demographic trends indicate that many from previous generations chose to retire elsewhere after achieving financial success in the Mat-Su. However, current trends reveal that while the Borough continues to draw young families, it has also become an increasingly desirable destination for seniors seeking to enjoy their retirement years.

During public outreach events conducted for the HPP, residents consistently emphasized that fostering a sense of community is the most important aspect of cultural preservation. However, it is not only residents who benefit. Each year, hundreds of thousands of visitors play a key role in supporting the local economy while demonstrating a strong interest in cultural preservation.

In the summer of 2016, approximately 348,000 visitors from outside Alaska spent at least one day in the Mat-Su region. In addition, an estimated 309,000 Alaskan residents from other parts of the state also visited during the same period. Together, these 657,000 visitors generated approximately \$258 million in direct spending, averaging \$393 per person (Alaska Travel Industry Association, 2017). Although more recent data is unavailable, it is reasonable to assume that these figures have increased, considering the resurgence in statewide tourism following the travel disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Mat-Su region's natural landscapes, recreational opportunities, and diverse wildlife serve as significant attractions. However, cultural preservation also plays a foundational role in many recreation opportunities. Iconic events like the Iditarod, the broader practice of dog mushing, backcountry aviation, historic gold mines, and the distinct character of downtown Talkeetna all rely heavily on preservation to remain vibrant and attractive to visitors. Cultural tourism is an essential pillar of the region's broader tourism industry.

Understanding the demographics of the Mat-Su Borough, its residents, and visitors is essential. While this plan focuses on preserving the past, its purpose is to serve the current population's needs. Demographic data are crucial for setting informed goals and objectives that address community needs while maximizing the efficiency of public resources. Importantly, the culture experienced daily within the Mat-Su holds intrinsic value and is a significant draw for visitors worldwide. Beyond its local importance, cultural preservation generates substantial economic benefits, reinforcing the need for sustained support.

The Plan Update Process

To ensure the updated plan reflected community interests and priorities for historic preservation, the Mat-Su Borough designed a process driven by public participation. During the initial phase in 2020-2021, Mat-Su Borough staff partnered with a contractor, Information Insights, to gather input from key stakeholders, and the public more broadly, to guide the formation of the plan's vision, goals, and objectives. Approximately fifty stakeholders and members of the public participated in this process. The planning team conducted interviews with ten stakeholders, which included representatives from tribal organizations, local government, interest groups, museums, and historical societies. The first phase also included stakeholder surveys and virtual public meetings, as well as digital engagement through a website, social media posts, email outreach, and electronic flyers.

Interviews

Interviewees

Alpine Historical Society	Nancy Dryden (President)
Chickaloon Village Traditional Council	Jessica Winnestaffer, (Environmental Stewardship Director)
Palmer Historical Society	Sheri Hamming (President)
Palmer Museum of History and Art	Sam Dinges (Executive Director)
Mat-Su Convention and Visitors Bureau	Bonnie Quill (President and CEO)
Mat-Su Historical Preservation Commission	Fran Seager-Boss
Museum of Alaska Transportation and Industry	Sherry Jackson (Executive Director)
Talkeetna Historical Society and Museum	Sue Deyoe (Executive Director)
Wasilla Museum and Visitor Center	Bethany Buckingham Follett (Curator)
Wasilla-Knik Historical Society	Linda Frey (Co-Secretary)
Willow Historical and Wildlife Foundation	Madeline Gocke (President)

Interviewees were asked about which histories in the Mat-Su they were most familiar with; histories they believed to be well-represented in planning, preservation, and education throughout the Borough and those that may be underrepresented; and challenges that prevent Borough residents from fully realizing the potential of historic preservation. The following is a summary of what emerged from these interviews:

- Historic preservation promotes a deeper understanding of and connection to the region. History tells a story. It creates a sense of place and connects people to each other and the land through shared understanding and experience. This fosters a sense of collective identity and stewardship.
- History gives our past a future.
- What we're living through will be something that people want to know about one hundred years from now.
- We will face adversity and come through it as others did before us. We will have our own stories to tell.
- Healing happens through understanding and acknowledgment of shared histories.
- Understanding histories is part of a healing process for tribal citizens and an important part of the healing process for the community to help move beyond stereotypes and preconceptions.

The people, places, stories, and events that are important to the Borough's history:

- Natural history and the arrival of people 14,000 years ago
- Alaska Native heritage and continued culture, including the Dena'ina, Ahtna, and Alutiiq

- Transportation, including river travel, the Iditarod Trail, mushing, and the railroad
- Mining for gold and coal
- Smallpox epidemic
- Russian in-migration
- Agriculture, including homesteading, the Colony Project, and the Matanuska Experiment Farm
- Numerous other site-specific histories across the region

The best-represented historical contexts include Palmer’s history and the Colony Project, Talkeetna, agriculture, the Iditarod, dog mushing, and historic buildings in the Mat-Su. The underrepresented historical contexts include Indigenous histories, colony histories outside of the Palmer area, pre-colony history in Palmer, and homesteading.

Following the interviews, two rounds of stakeholder surveys and public meetings gathered input from a larger pool of people. The first survey looked at respondents’ familiarity with historic preservation planning as a concept and with previous preservation planning efforts in the Mat-Su. It also asked about stakeholder priorities for historic preservation planning going forward. Responses were combined with information gathered from the interviews and helped inform the framework for the stakeholder meetings.

Three meetings were held virtually to draft a vision, mission, and goals and then receive feedback on those. Nineteen individuals representing various organizations and groups participated in the first meeting, where they engaged in a series of activities and brainstorming exercises to help articulate goals. The emerging concepts included a need for broader education, cultural recognition, and celebration and preservation of specific sites. These ideas were later integrated into the draft vision, mission, goals, objectives, and strategies. Stakeholders also discussed specific needs within the region and their ideas for historic preservation activities, including continued coordination of stakeholders and innovative ideas for public education.

The second meeting and survey focused on refining the draft vision, mission, and goals. When asked to prioritize the drafted goals, the top four goals that emerged from the survey were:

- Elevate Alaska Native presence and histories across the region,
- Support existing and emerging historic preservation efforts,
- Promote collaboration and share resources,
- Identify and preserve cultural resources and landscapes.

With the draft vision, goals, objectives developed, eighteen individuals participated in the last stakeholder meeting that focused on identifying strategies needed to achieve the

stated objectives. After reviewing each objective, a discussion generated additional action steps.

Phase II

The second phase of the planning process took place in 2022-2024 to identify possible data gaps, continue public and Mat-Su Borough leadership engagement, and better understand the priorities and needs of stakeholders involved in historic preservation throughout the region to finalize goals, objectives and strategies. Historic themes were also developed based on the collected input from the entire planning process.

One virtual and two in-person meetings were held. A survey was then created and shared with area stakeholders to reach a wider audience. Some of the ideas that surfaced during the public meetings are as follows:

- More strategy on soliciting funds for structure preservation
- Support in the National Heritage Area designation
- Increased interest in making materials publicly available
- Increased interest in having a central database for materials from here and their current locations, both local and nationally

Survey

The survey questions included respondents' priorities over the next ten years, historical information their organization would like to share, requests for assistance in making information more publicly accessible, and feedback on the outline of the plan. Responses were received from:

- Alaska Association for Historic Preservation
- Mat-Su College Alvin S Okeson Library
- Palmer Historical Society / Colony House Museum
- Pinochle Trail Museum
- Talkeetna Historical Society

Survey feedback regarding the direction of the plan included the following:

- Ensure a focus on ways to cultivate a sense of identity for our whole community
- A return of the Cultural Resources Division at the Mat-Su
- Additional work that promotes area history in the tourism industry
- Increased promotion and support of local organizations coordinating their efforts

Most respondents' priorities were geared toward increasing their organization's ability to reach the public, possibly through upgrades and modernization of collections, including physical or digital resources (archived photos, newsletters, websites, museums with

physical collections and buildings) and interactive resources (such as guided tours or school-based educational opportunities).

When discussing assistance needs, participants noted that they would like more access to information regarding indigenous histories (oral, written, and more). They also widely noted needing assistance with receiving grant dollars for work on both archives and physical structures. It was a common theme that many resources provided to the public could use upgrading. Therefore, assistance from well-trained professionals either on a paid basis (funded with grants) or volunteer basis (perhaps from the Mat-Su Borough and other organizations) would be valued.

Historic Themes of the Mat-Su Region

This section provides a brief overview of the history of the Mat-Su Borough from its earliest inhabitants to the present. Some of these themes have been extensively researched and shared with generations of residents, while others have received less attention, leaving much to be explored and uncovered. This information is intended to be a starting point for further exploration by researchers and to support further development of historic contexts for preservation efforts throughout the Borough.

1. Peopling the Mat-Su

1.1 Ancient: Archaeological Traditions in the Mat-Su

The earliest evidence of human habitation in Alaska dates back more than 14,000 years. However, within the boundaries of the modern Mat-Su Borough, human presence began around 12,000 years ago following the retreat of massive glacial systems. These early inhabitants utilized the Chulitna, Matanuska, and Susitna rivers for travel and subsistence, leaving behind a legacy of stone tools that serve as vital archaeological indicators of their existence (Wygall & Krasinski, 2019).

1.1.1 American Paleo-Arctic Tradition (11,000 B.P. - 5,500 B.P.)

The American Paleo-Arctic tradition represents one of the earliest known cultural phases in Alaska. Characterized by a mobile lifestyle centered on big-game hunting, this tradition includes the 'Denali Tool Complex,' which features microblades, burins, and bifacial knives. Sites associated with this tradition are commonly found along high ridges and river terraces in the Mat-Su, particularly around the Tangle Lakes region (Dixon et al., 1985; Wygall, 2010).

1.1.2 Northern Archaic Tradition (5,500 B.P. - 2,500 B.P.)

Succeeding the Denali Complex, the Northern Archaic tradition introduced new technologies such as notched projectile points, signaling an adaptation to broader subsistence strategies including salmon fishing. Artifacts from this period reflect a transition from big-game specialization to diversified hunting and gathering practices, often found in more forested and aquatic-rich environments (Reger & Wygal, 2016).

1.1.3 Alutiiq/Sugpiaq People

The Alutiiq, or Sugpiaq, people represent one of the first identifiable coastal cultures in Southcentral Alaska. Originally centered on maritime subsistence, the Alutiiq extended inland into Cook Inlet and the Mat-Su region approximately 3,000 to 1,000 years ago. This inland movement led to the emergence of the Kachemak tradition, a subculture that adapted to terrestrial environments and freshwater resources. Kachemak sites are known for specialized fishing tools and more permanent housing structures, distinguishing them from earlier nomadic cultures (Workman & Workman, 2010). The term 'Riverine Kachemak' is used for Alutiiq groups that settled along river corridors such as the Susitna, showcasing a unique adaptation to inland environments (Schneider, 2013).

1.2 Indigenous: Dene-Speaking Peoples

Two Dene-speaking Athabaskan groups traditionally inhabited the Mat-Su region: the Ahtna and the Dena'ina. These groups practiced a semi-sedentary lifestyle with seasonal mobility dictated by the availability of resources. Social structures were matrilineal and clan-based, with long-standing oral traditions and extensive place-naming practices that demonstrate a deep-rooted connection to the land (de Laguna & McClellan, 1981).

1.2.1 Ahtna

The Ahtna people occupied the Copper River Basin and adjacent parts of the Mat-Su. Their use of native copper set them apart as exceptional metalworkers among indigenous North Americans. The Western Ahtna were known for their mobility, following caribou and salmon migrations, and maintained cultural and linguistic ties with the neighboring Dena'ina (Kari & Fall, 2003).

1.2.2 Dena'ina

The Dena'ina are unique among Northern Athabascans for occupying coastal territories and utilizing marine resources, including salmon and beluga whales. Technological innovations such as the fish weir and underground storage pits enabled them to settle in more permanent villages. Salmon, a cultural keystone species, shaped Dena'ina social organization and seasonal subsistence rounds (Fall, 1987; Garibaldi & Turner, 2004).

2. Change: Contact with Western Cultures

The Dena'ina and Ahtna peoples encountered Western influences in three primary phases as described by anthropologist James Fall (1987): incipient-early contact, contact-traditional, and government-commercial. These phases cover the introduction of trade goods, missionary activities, and the eventual influx of American settlers following Alaska's purchase by the United States.

2.1 Early Euro-American Contact

European contact began with Captain James Cook's expedition in 1778, which found Dena'ina already in possession of Russian trade items. Russian fur traders subsequently attempted to establish dominance through trade and coercive tribute systems, provoking resistance from Native groups. The Dena'ina notably destroyed several Russian forts, asserting their territorial control and limiting Russian influence in the Mat-Su (Boraas, 1998). These conflicts eventually gave way to a more stable trade relationship, setting the stage for later cultural exchange.

2.2 Russian Orthodoxy

Russian Orthodoxy entered Upper Cook Inlet in the 1840s and became the first Christian denomination to engage with the Dena'ina. The religion was often accepted due to its spiritual compatibility and minimal interference with indigenous customs. Orthodox chapels were built in Native villages, and while few priests learned local languages, Native interpreters facilitated religious practice (Znamenski, 1998). This religious shift marked the beginning of a transformation in Native spiritual and cultural life.

2.3 Diseases and Demographic Impacts

The introduction of diseases such as smallpox and influenza had devastating effects on indigenous populations. The 1836–1840 smallpox epidemic alone reduced Dena'ina numbers by nearly 50%, followed by recurring outbreaks into the 20th century. These losses fundamentally altered village life and led to population consolidations in places like Tyonek and Eklutna (Langdon, 2002).

2.4 Early American Settlement

Following the 1867 Alaska Purchase, American settlers introduced a new wave of cultural, economic, and legal systems. Despite their deep local knowledge, Alaska Natives were disenfranchised and excluded from land claims and homesteading. Early settlement in the Mat-Su was characterized by cooperation as well as inequality, with many Natives aiding newcomers while being denied property and voting rights (Fall, 1987).

3. Western Exploration in the Mat-Su

American interest in the Mat-Su region increased with the discovery of gold in the late 19th century. Early government expeditions, including those led by Captain Edwin Glenn in 1898 and 1899, explored potential travel corridors into Alaska's interior. These missions mapped key river systems and mountain passes with the help of Native guides and were instrumental in opening the region to further exploration and eventual settlement (Brooks, 1907).

Non-governmental exploration also played a significant role. Prospectors, traders, and local residents ventured deep into the Mat-Su's remote areas, many of whom left little record of their presence. One of the more well-known outcomes of early exploration was the naming of Denali, North America's highest peak, by prospector William Dickey in 1896. These exploratory efforts laid the groundwork for the Willow Creek Mining District and future economic development in the borough.

4. Developing the Mat-Su Economy

Economic development in the Mat-Su Borough evolved from indigenous trade networks to a diversified economy. Historically, Ahtna and Dena'ina communities engaged in seasonal trade of furs, copper, and other resources. Russian and later American fur trading intensified these exchanges, although often to the detriment of Native subsistence practices.

Homesteading, agriculture, and the establishment of the Matanuska Colony in the 1930s brought new economic models and land use patterns. The federal government encouraged settlement and farming through land grants, transforming the Palmer area into an agricultural hub. Meanwhile, mining, tourism, and eventually oil development became pillars of the modern Mat-Su economy (Fall, 1987).

5. Transportation Networks in the Mat-Su

Transportation played a pivotal role in the development of the Mat-Su region. Traditional Native trails and waterways were initially the primary means of movement. These were later expanded into wagon roads, railways, and highways by the U.S. government and private companies.

The completion of the Alaska Railroad in 1923 and the later construction of the Parks and Glenn Highways connected the Mat-Su more directly to Anchorage and the Interior. This infrastructure enabled the movement of goods and people, supporting settlement, commerce, and tourism. Aviation also became a key feature in accessing remote areas of the borough.

6. Modern Influences: Patterns of Development & Demography across the Mat-Su

The demographic and cultural landscape of the Mat-Su Borough region changed significantly during the 20th century. Major developments such as the construction of the Alaska Railroad and the establishment of the Matanuska Colony contributed to the formation of key population centers. Post-World War II investments and infrastructure, such as the Parks Highway and the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS), spurred further growth (Hunsinger, Howell, & Sandberg, 2012). Along with these major infrastructure projects, the availability of homesteading greatly increased the amount of private landownership in the region in the early and mid-20th century, and continues to influence how land is developed.

These developments led to a rapid population increase, especially from the 1970s onward. While the population of Anchorage has stabilized or declined in recent decades, the Mat-Su has experienced continual growth, reflecting its increasing role as a commuter and residential area for Southcentral Alaska.

6.1 Native Populations

Prior to Western contact, the Mat-Su was home to an estimated 3,000 Dena'ina and Ahtna inhabitants. Epidemics and land dispossession sharply reduced these numbers. Over time, many Native communities consolidated into central villages such as Tyonek and Eklutna. Today, tribal organizations like the Chickaloon Village Traditional Council and Knik Tribal Council represent diverse Alaska Native populations in the borough (U.S. Census Bureau, 2020).

6.2 Military Influence and Activity Across the Mat-Su

Although the Mat-Su Borough has had limited direct military infrastructure, nearby military developments have influenced the region. Military roads and airfields constructed during World War II contributed to local economic growth and helped establish long-term connectivity.

7. Shaping the Political Landscape

The Matanuska-Susitna Borough was formally established in 1963 and incorporated in 1964, providing a structure for local governance. Subsequent decades have seen the creation of city and tribal governments, public utilities, and regional planning organizations to manage rapid population growth and development.

Federal legislation like the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) and the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) reshaped land ownership, resource

management, and tribal governance, granting new economic opportunities and preserving Native cultural practices (Kari & Fall, 2003).

7.2 (something about place names?)

Place names throughout the Mat-Su Borough, whether those of natural features or human-created places, reflect the people and events throughout the region's history.

Vision, Goals, Objectives, and Strategies for 2026-2036

Introduction

While the goals, objectives, and strategies outlined in this plan are modest and focused on achievable actions within the next decade, numerous opportunities for additional funding exist that could support more comprehensive versions of these goals.

Community members who advocate for historic preservation, whether as part of organizations, groups, or as individuals, are encouraged to contact the Mat-Su Planning Division or the Mat-Su HPC for further information or guidance. To support preservation efforts, these entities can advise on local and individual incentives, such as low-interest loans and small grants.

The Mat-Su region features a distinctive and remarkable history that resonates with both Alaskans and visitors alike. This plan aims to ensure the continued success of the CLG grant program, which provides essential funding for preservation initiatives shaped by community input.

Vision

Across Alaska's Matanuska-Susitna Borough, the rich, interconnected history of the region is preserved, accessible, and celebrated. Shared understanding and experience of the Borough's unique history creates a sense of place that connects people to each other and to the land.

Goal: Celebrate Cultural Heritage and Continue Learning

Elevate Less Known / Unknown Histories and Foster Connection to Place & Belonging in the Mat-Su Borough

Objective 1: Improve Plans & Knowledge

- Strategy 2.1: Update the Borough's Historic Preservation Plan, including the Historic Contexts, on a regular 10-year cycle to incorporate new information and address evolving community needs and priorities.

- Strategy 2.2: Continuously gather new data and perspectives to enrich the historical themes section, drawing from contributions by individuals, local organizations, and preservation partners.
- Strategy 2.3: Integrate academic research and encourage the development of narratives highlighting lesser-known histories.
- Strategy 2.4: Ensure inclusive planning efforts by engaging stakeholders, including tribal citizens.

Objective 2: Incorporate Historical and Multicultural Uses in Maps and Signage

- Strategy 2.1: Update Borough maps, publications, and signage (e.g., interpretive, educational, wayfinding) to include traditional names and uses, such as trails and landscapes for hunting and fishing. Collaborate with tribal citizens to implement these updates.
- Strategy 2.2: Support the use of established traditional place names through the geographic place names process (maybe add “particularly where features are currently not named in USGS records”)

Goal: Increase Public Awareness of Historic Preservation Across the Mat-Su

Enhance access and visibility of information to increase public awareness of the Mat-Su Borough’s cultural resources.

Objective 1: Improve digital access to historic preservation materials and stories

- Strategy 3.1: Digitize Borough archives and collaborate with tribal councils to showcase preservation-related projects.
- Strategy 3.2: Re-publish or digitize existing Borough materials, such as posters and books, for online access.
- Strategy 3.3: Compile and host state and federal resources about Mat-Su histories on the Borough’s website.
- Strategy 2.1: Increase public engagement in historic preservation by:
 - Maintaining a dedicated page on the Borough’s website to highlight preservation work funded by CLG grants.
 - Including a historic preservation section in the Borough Planning Department's monthly newsletter, inviting community feedback.

Objective 2: Enhance Tourist Connections to Mat-Su History

- Strategy 2.1: Compile and maintain an up-to-date directory of museums, cultural centers, and public sites. Share this information through the Mat-Su Convention and Visitor Bureau and the Borough website.
- Strategy 2.2: Utilize grant funding to create new, community-supported signage highlighting historically significant locations.
- Strategy 2.3: Reassess and update the feasibility study for designating the Mat-Su Borough as a National Heritage Area to unlock additional funding opportunities.

Objective 3: Facilitate Information and Resource Sharing

- Strategy 3.1: Identify and showcase successful examples of historic preservation in the Mat-Su Borough, such as the pedestrian experiences in Palmer and Talkeetna.
- Strategy 3.2: Highlight Mat-Su-based preservation achievements in the State Historic Preservation Office's monthly *Heritage* newsletter and Preservation Alaska's quarterly *Preservation Notes* newsletter.
- Strategy 3.3: Promote free training resources like the National Preservation Institute's online courses (e.g., *Finding New Sources of Funding in Challenging Times: An Introduction*).

Goal: Increase Community Participation and Collaboration

Facilitate the sharing of information and support community-led historic preservation initiatives.

Objective 1: Fulfill CLG Responsibilities

- Strategy 1.1: Respond to community requests for preservation assistance as resources allow.
- Strategy 1.2: Encourage the HPC to submit nominations for the NRHP through the State.
- Strategy 1.3: Develop and publish a step-by-step guide, supported by the HPC, to assist the public in nominating properties to local, state, or federal registers.
- Strategy 1.4: Expand the Borough's HPC webpage by including links to state and federal resources for property nominations and information on available grant funding for preservation projects.

Objective 2: Provide Community Education Opportunities

- Strategy 2.1: Continue leveraging CLG grant funding to support training and educational initiatives in historic preservation.
- Strategy 2.2: Develop networking opportunities for individuals involved in historic preservation to foster collaboration, mutual support, and the creation of publicly accessible resources.
- Strategy 2.3: Organize an annual online preservation forum hosted by the Mat-Su Borough and the HPC to discuss current and future preservation projects and provide public engagement opportunities.
- Strategy 2.4: Apply for CLG grant funding to support customized group training sessions tailored to the community's preservation needs, utilizing resources like the National Preservation Institute's offerings.

Objective 3: Promote Volunteer Engagement in Historic Preservation

- Strategy 3.1: Empower the HPC to coordinate volunteer opportunities with museums and organizations to digitize archival materials such as photos, maps, and interviews.
- Strategy 3.2: Advertise volunteer opportunities through the Borough's established communication channels to reach broader audiences.

Objective 4: Expand Awareness of Funding Sources and Preservation Incentives

- Strategy 4.1: Broaden applications for preservation grants and actively communicate funding opportunities to the public, such as CLG grants, National Park Service grants, tax incentives, and benefits tied to National Heritage Area designation.
- Strategy 4.2: Continue submitting CLG grant applications on behalf of area projects proposed by community members and organizations.

Goal: Preserve and Protect Known Cultural Resources

Support previous and existing historic preservation efforts to safeguard cultural and historical resources.

Objective 1: Integrate Historic Preservation into Regional and Local Planning

- Strategy 1.1: Encourage project and planning staff to consult the Alaska Heritage Resources Survey, the National Register of Historic Places, and the Alaska RS 2477 Map for listed sites during reviews of platting actions and other land use considerations.

Objective 2: Document Existing Cultural Resources

- Strategy 2.1: Compile comprehensive data on known historic buildings, sites, and cultural use areas, including maps, photos, interviews, and research.
- Strategy 2.2: Consolidate the Alaska Heritage Resources Survey (AHRs) and local resources data into a geospatial inventory of cultural resources.

Objective 3: Preserve Lands to Protect Historical Character

- Strategy 3.1: Explore the use of conservation easements to safeguard heritage lands, such as farmsteads and trails.
- Strategy 3.2: Prioritize the placement of new parks or public use areas in proximity to significant cultural resources.

Goal: Discover and Document Cultural Resources

Identify, preserve, and celebrate cultural resources and landscapes.

Objective 1: Identify Undocumented Cultural Resources

- Strategy 1.1: Conduct systematic surveys through volunteer-driven archaeological and architectural efforts.
- Strategy 1.2: Partner with the State Historic Preservation Office to perform cultural surveys on Borough-owned land.
- Strategy 1.3: Review historical maps and publications to uncover potential locations of undocumented cultural resources.

Objective 2: Promote Appropriate Treatment of Newly Discovered Cultural Resources

- Strategy 2.1: Collaborate with industrial training schools to provide training for heavy equipment operators on recognizing cultural resources during excavation activities.
- Strategy 2.2: Provide interested landowners contact details for external cultural resource survey services to aid resource identification and preservation efforts.

Appendices

Appendix 1: References

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Garibaldi & Turner (2004)

Znamenski (1998)

Langdon (2002)

Brooks (1907)

Dixon et al. (1985)

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Schneider (2013)

Hunsinger, Howell, and Sandberg (2012)

Appendix 2: Mat-Su, local organizations

<partners section?>

Appendix 3: Past Certified Local Government Grants

Project	Grant Category	Year	Amount
Evaluation of Historic Sites in Palmer	Survey and Inventory	1987	8,050
Survey of Historic Sites in the Matanuska Coal Field	Survey and Inventory	1988	14,684
Talkeetna Evaluation of Historic Sites	Survey and Inventory	1989	7,475
The Settlement and Economic Development of Alaska's Matanuska-Susitna Valley Multiple Property National Register Nomination	National Register of Historic Places Nomination	1989	7,472
Talkeetna Historic District National Register Nomination	National Register of Historic Places Nomination	1990	3,500
Major Coal Towns of the Matanuska Valley: A Pictorial History and Educational Curriculum	Education	1990	10,983
Homestead Sites in the Matanuska-Susitna Area Survey and Inventory	Survey and Inventory	1991	6,269
Evaluation of Sites Chickaloon and Carle Wagon Trails	Survey and Inventory	1992	11,110
Historic Preservation in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Slide Show	Education	1992	8,300
Homestead Sites in the Matanuska-Susitna Area Survey and Inventory	Survey and Inventory	1993	6,500
Archaeological Survey of Chief Wasilla's House Site	Survey and Inventory	1994	16,777
Archaeological Survey and Inventory	Survey and Inventory	1995	9,800
Survey, Evaluation, and Inventory of Old Knik Townsite 1997	Survey and Inventory	1997	7,357
Survey, Evaluation, and Inventory of Old Knik Townsite 1998	Survey and Inventory	1998	12,642
Survey, Evaluation, and Inventory of Old Knik Townsite 1999	Survey and Inventory	1999	18,300

National Alliance of Preservation Commissions Forum	Training	2014	2,595
Survey, Evaluation, and Inventory of Old Knik Townsite 2000	Survey and Inventory	2000	14,255
Survey, Evaluation, and Inventory of Old Knik Townsite 2001	Survey and Inventory	2001	13,400
Matanuska Colony Community Center Historic District Interpretive Signs and Brochure	Education	2001	4,500
Certified Local Government Workshop	Training	2001	9,478
Historic Preservation Plan and Ordinance Review for the Matanuska-Susitna Borough	Planning	2002	16,500
Matanuska Colony Community Center Historic District Interpretive Signs and Brochure. Phase II, 2003.	Education	2003	17,800
Old Knik Townsite Interpretive Signs	Education	2003	8,580
Planning Preservation of the Palmer Historic District: Building the Future, Preserving and Enhancing the Matanuska Colony Historic District	Planning	2004	16,500
Planning for Protection of Palmer's Historic District: Matanuska Colony Historic District Design Guidelines	Planning	2005	15,444
National Heritage Areas Designation Study 2005	Planning	2005	15,444
National Heritage Areas Designation Study 2007	Planning	2007	16,500
Willow, Houston, and Susitna Historic Preservation Plans	Planning	2008	20,000
City of Wasilla Historic and Prehistoric Sites Survey	Survey and Inventory	2009	24,562
Palmer Agricultural Research Station Housing draft National Register nomination	National Register of Historic Places Nomination	2010	9,127
Knik Pool Hall Report	Development/Predevelopment	2010	25,000
Wasilla Interpretive Signs	Education	2011	20,000

Middle Susitna Archaeological Survey and Inventory	Survey and Inventory	2012	20,000
Cottonwood Creek Archaeological District: Survey and National Register nomination	Survey and Inventory	2013	20,000
Fish Creek Townsite Survey and Inventory	Survey and Inventory	2014	12,964
Cottonwood Creek Archaeological District: Survey and National Register nomination	Survey and Inventory	2015	26,060
National Alliance of Preservation Commissions Forum	Training	2017	5,297
Rebarcheck Farm colony house stabilization	Development/ Predevelopment	2018	25,000
Updated Historic Preservation Plan, Phase I	Planning	2019	25,000
Settlers Bay Coastal Park Cultural Resource Survey	Survey and Inventory	2019	10,000
Old Willow Community Center Rehabilitation	Development/ Predevelopment	2020	70,000
Rebarchek Colony Farm Rehabilitation	Development/ Predevelopment	2021	80,000
Historic Preservation Plan, Phase II	Planning	2022	50,000
DePriest Family Farm National Register Nomination	National Register of Historic Places Nomination	2025	18,000
Total			761,225

Appendix 4: National / Federal Partners

Advisory Council on Historical Preservation <https://www.achp.gov>

Preserve America Program <https://www.achp.gov/preserve-america>

National Conference of State Historical Preservation Officers <https://ncshpo.org>

National Alliance of Preservation Commissions <https://napcommissions.org>

Main Street America [Main Street America: Home](#)

Appendix 5: Potential Funding Sources

National Park Service, National Trust for Historical Preservation

- NPS – funded by the Historical Preservation Fund – established in 1977, provides financial assistance to States, Tribes, territories, local governments, and non-profits and is managed by the National Park Service Grants Division. Funding comes from Outer Continental Shelf oil and gas lease revenues, not tax dollars, and has culminated in more than \$2 billion committed to preservation projects.

Tribal Heritage Grant Program [Tribal Heritage Grants - Historical Preservation Fund \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](#)

- This program provides grants to Federally recognized Indian Tribes, Alaskan Native Villages and Corporations, and Native Hawaiian Organizations for cultural and Historical preservation projects that protect their unique cultural heritage and traditions. This can include projects aimed at protecting oral histories, plant and animal species important to tradition, sacred and Historical places, and the establishment of Tribal Historical preservation offices.

Native American Grave Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) Grant Program [Grant Opportunities - Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](#)

- The Native American Grave Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) requires museums and federal agencies to return specific cultural items to lineal descendants and outlines the process to do so. It requires that federal agencies plan for situations occurring on federal land in which these specific items might be disturbed. The grants available through NAGPRA aim to increase the number of successful returns of Native American human remains and cultural items. There are two types of grants available; one for consultation and documentation and one for repatriation activities.

Underrepresented Communities Grant Program [Underrepresented Communities Grants - Historical Preservation Fund \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](#)

- This program funds projects that help diversify the listings submitted to the National Register of Historical Places. The funds can be used for surveys and inventories, as well as the development of the nominations.

History of Equal Right Grant Program [History of Equal Rights - Historical Preservation Fund \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](#)

- This grant broadly funds preservation efforts for sites that relate to the struggle to achieve equal rights in America. These grants are not limited to any specific group and aim to fund the widest range of projects possible. Projects can include physical preservation work, pre-preservation planning activities for currently listed or sites determined eligible for National Register of Historical Places or National Historical Landmark status.

Paul Bruhn Rural Revitalization Grant Program [Paul Bruhn Historical Revitalization Grants Program - Historical Preservation Fund \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](#)

- This unique program provides recipients with funds to support programs designed by those recipients to direct funding to other sub-awardees in the community. The program is for buildings in rural communities. The primary grantee is responsible for building a program that determines the eligibility of buildings and resources. The intention is to give communities the ability to determine their own processes and priorities and to build a framework for future preservation efforts. Capacity building.

Save America's Treasures Grant Program [Save America's Treasures Grants - Historical Preservation Fund \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](#)

- This grant program helps preserve nationally significant historical properties and collections. \$300 million has been awarded since 1998.

National Trust for Historical Preservation

National Trust Preservation Funds [Find Funding: National Trust Grant Programs | National Trust for Historical Preservation \(savingplaces.org\)](#)

- Funding is intended to encourage preservation at the local level by supporting on-going preservation work and by providing seed money for preservation projects to nonprofit organizations and public agencies.

Cynthia Woods Mitchell Fund for Historical Interiors [Cynthia Woods Mitchell Fund for Historical Interiors: Guidelines & Eligibility | National Trust for Historical Preservation \(savingplaces.org\)](#)

- The purpose is to assist in the preservation, restoration, and interpretation of Historical interiors.

Hart Family Fund for Small Towns [Hart Family Fund for Small Towns: Guidelines & Eligibility | National Trust for Historical Preservation \(savingplaces.org\)](#)

- This grant is intended to encourage preservation at the local level by providing seed money for preservation projects in small towns with populations of 10,000 or less. The funds may go to training for technical expertise needed for specific projects or to educating the public on concepts and techniques.

Johanna Favrot Fund for Historical Preservation [Johanna Favrot Fund for Historical Preservation: Guidelines & Eligibility | National Trust for Historical Preservation \(savingplaces.org\)](#)

- These funds aim to save Historical environments, foster an appreciation of our nation's diverse cultural heritage, and preserve and revitalize the livability of our nation's communities.

Backing Historical Small Restaurants <maybe good for roadhouses?> [Backing Historical Small Restaurants | National Trust for Historical Preservation \(savingplaces.org\)](#)

- These grants assist small and Historical restaurants with money going towards rejuvenating, innovating and expanding their business so that their legacies can endure. This program demonstrates that preservation can invigorate local economies while serving the communities they anchor.

National Fund for Sacred Place [National Fund for Sacred Places | National Trust for Historical Preservation \(savingplaces.org\)](#)

- This program is a collaborative effort between Partners for Sacred Places and the National Trust for Historical Preservation, which aims to help communities protect and preserve their historical houses of worship.

Historical Tax Credit [Historical Tax Credits | National Trust for Historical Preservation \(savingplaces.org\)](#)

- This federal tax credit is the most significant investment the federal government makes toward preserving historical buildings. It can assist in revitalizing communities and help spur economic growth. It's also net positive for the Treasury, returning \$1.20 in tax revenue for every dollar invested. The National Trust supports those credits as well as State Tax Credits, although the State of Alaska does not have any.

_____ Previous version of goals, objectives, and strategies (as of 10.1.25) _____

Goal: Embrace Identity

Elevate Less Known / Unknown Histories and Foster Belonging in the Mat-Su Borough

Objective 1: Incorporate Historical and Multicultural Uses in Maps and Signage

- Strategy 1.1: Update Borough maps, publications, and signage (e.g., interpretive, educational, wayfinding) to include traditional names and uses, such as trails and landscapes for hunting and fishing. Collaborate with tribal citizens to implement these updates.

Objective 2: Broaden Public Participation in Historic Preservation and Land Use Planning

- Strategy 2.1: Increase public engagement in historic preservation by:
 - Maintaining a dedicated page on the Borough's website to highlight preservation work funded by CLG grants.
 - Include a historic preservation section in the Borough Planning Department's monthly newsletter, inviting community feedback.
- Strategy 2.2: Ensure inclusive planning efforts by engaging stakeholders, including tribal citizens.

Objective 3: Celebrate the Mat-Su's Rich Cultural Heritage

- Strategy 3.1: Enhance access to Borough archives by digitizing and collaborating with tribal councils to showcase preservation-related projects.
- Strategy 3.2: Re-publish and digitize existing Borough materials, such as posters and books, for online access.
- Strategy 3.3: Compile and host state and federal resources about Mat-Su histories on the Borough's website.

Goal: Create Community

Enhance access and visibility to increase public awareness of the Mat-Su Borough's cultural resources.

Objective 1: Strengthen Community Engagement and Education

- Strategy 1.1: Digitize the Borough's archives and ensure public accessibility.
- Strategy 1.2: Continue leveraging CLG grant funding to support training and educational initiatives in historic preservation.
- Strategy 1.3: Develop networking opportunities for individuals involved in historic preservation to foster collaboration, mutual support, and the creation of publicly accessible resources.

Objective 2: Enhance Tourist Connections to Mat-Su History

- Strategy 2.1: Compile and maintain an up-to-date directory of cultural resources, including museums, cultural centers, and public sites. Share this information through the Mat-Su Convention and Visitor Bureau and the Borough's website.
- Strategy 2.2: Utilize grant funding to create new, community-supported signage highlighting historically significant locations.
- Strategy 2.3: Reassess and update the feasibility study for designating the Mat-Su Borough as a National Heritage Area to unlock additional funding opportunities.

Objective 3: Promote Volunteer Engagement in Historic Preservation

- Strategy 3.1: Empower the HPC to coordinate volunteer opportunities with museums and organizations to digitize archival materials such as photos, maps, and interviews.
- Strategy 3.2: Advertise volunteer opportunities through the Borough's established communication channels to reach broader audiences.

Goal: Create Opportunity

Facilitate the sharing of information and support historic preservation initiatives.

Objective 1: Integrate Historic Preservation into Regional and Local Planning

- Strategy 1.1: Encourage planning staff to consult the Alaska Heritage Resources Survey and the National Historical Register for listed sites during reviews of platting actions and other land use considerations.
- Strategy 1.2: Provide interested landowners contact details for external cultural resource survey services to aid resource identification and preservation efforts.

Objective 2: Ensure Up-to-Date Preservation Planning Documents

- Strategy 2.1: Update the Borough's HPP on a regular 10-year cycle to address evolving community needs and priorities.
- Strategy 2.2: Continuously gather new data and perspectives to enrich the historical themes section, drawing from contributions by individuals, local organizations, and preservation partners.

Objective 3: Fulfill CLG Responsibilities

- Strategy 3.1: Respond to community requests for preservation assistance as resources allow.
- Strategy 3.2: Encourage the HPC to submit nominations for the NRHP through the State.
- Strategy 3.3: Develop and publish a step-by-step guide, supported by the HPC, to assist the public in nominating properties to local, state, or federal registers.
- Strategy 3.4: Expand the Borough's HPC webpage by including links to state and federal resources for property nominations and information on available grant funding for preservation projects.

Goal: Preserve What We Have

Support existing and emerging historic preservation efforts to safeguard cultural and historical resources.

Objective 1: Facilitate Information and Resource Sharing

- Strategy 1.1: Identify and showcase successful examples of historic preservation in the Mat-Su Borough, such as the pedestrian experiences in Palmer and Talkeetna.
- Strategy 1.2: Organize an annual online preservation forum hosted by the Mat-Su Borough and the HPC to discuss current and future preservation projects and provide public engagement opportunities.
- Strategy 1.3: Highlight Mat-Su-based preservation achievements in the State Historic Preservation Office's monthly *Heritage* newsletter and Preservation Alaska's quarterly *Preservation Notes* newsletter.

Objective 2: Foster Collaborative Educational Opportunities

- Strategy 2.1: Promote free training resources like the National Preservation Institute's online courses (e.g., *Finding New Sources of Funding in Challenging Times: An Introduction*).
- Strategy 2.2: Apply for CLG grant funding to support customized group training sessions tailored to the community's preservation needs, utilizing resources like the National Preservation Institute's offerings.

Objective 3: Expand Funding Sources and Preservation Incentives

- Strategy 3.1: Broaden applications for preservation grants and actively communicate funding opportunities to the public, such as CLG grants, National Park Service grants, tax incentives, and benefits tied to National Heritage Area designation.
- Strategy 3.2: Continue submitting CLG grant applications on behalf of area projects proposed by community members and organizations.

Goal: Discover More

Identify, preserve, and celebrate cultural resources and landscapes.

Objective 1: Maintain and Enhance Historic Contexts

- Strategy 1.1: Update historic context themes in conjunction with the Historic Preservation Plan every 10 years, incorporating new information to reflect evolving understanding.
- Strategy 1.2: Integrate academic research and encourage the development of narratives highlighting lesser-known histories.

Objective 2: Document Existing Cultural Resources

- Strategy 2.1: Compile comprehensive data on known historic buildings, sites, and cultural use areas, including maps, photos, interviews, and research.
- Strategy 2.2: Consolidate the Alaska Heritage Resources Survey (AHRS) and local resources data into a geospatial inventory of cultural resources.

Objective 3: Identify Undocumented Cultural Resources

- Strategy 3.1: Conduct systematic surveys through volunteer-driven archaeological and architectural efforts.
- Strategy 3.2: Partner with the State Historic Preservation Office to perform cultural surveys on Borough-owned land.
- Strategy 3.3: Review historical maps and publications to uncover potential locations of undocumented cultural resources.

Objective 4: Promote Appropriate Treatment of Cultural Resources

- Strategy 4.1: Collaborate with industrial training schools to provide training for heavy equipment operators on recognizing cultural resources during excavation activities.

Objective 5: Preserve Land to Protect Historical Character

- Strategy 5.1: Explore the use of conservation easements to safeguard heritage lands, such as farmsteads and trails.
- Strategy 5.2: Prioritize the placement of new parks or public use areas in proximity to significant cultural resources.



2121 West Chandler Boulevard, Suite 108, Chandler, Arizona 85224 - 480.850.0575 - www.trileaf.com

November 14, 2025

Matanuska-Susitna Borough Historic Preservation Commission

Attn: Mr. Bert Verrall, Chairperson
6480 N Farm Loop Road
Palmer, Alaska 99645
Phone: (907) 761-6202
Email: brvak@yahoo.com

RE: **Atlas Tower – Talkeetna / Client# ATA0041 – Trileaf Project #773512**
Talkeetna Spur Road, Talkeetna, Alaska 99676
Matanuska-Susitna Borough, Talkeetna A-1 NE, AK Quadrangle (USGS)
Latitude: 62° 11' 45.44" N, Longitude: 150° 3' 27.70" W

Dear Mr. Verrall:

Trileaf Corporation is in the process of completing a NEPA Review at the referenced property. Our client proposes to construct a 125-foot-tall self-support lattice telecommunications tower within a proposed 50-foot by 50-foot lease area. A proposed 20-foot-wide access and utility easement will extend north then east away from the lease area along an existing dirt access road, terminating at Talkeetna Spur Road. This site is located within a forested hillside. The antenna will be licensed by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

Our investigation includes determining if the site is contained in, on or within the viewshed of a building, site, district, structure or object, significant in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering or culture, that is listed, or eligible for listing on the State or National Registers of Historic Places, or located in or on an Indian Religious Site.

Trileaf is requesting information regarding this tower's potential effect on Historic Properties. All information received will be forwarded to the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) as part of the Section 106 review process. *Additionally, this invitation to comment is separate from any local planning/zoning process that may apply to this project.*

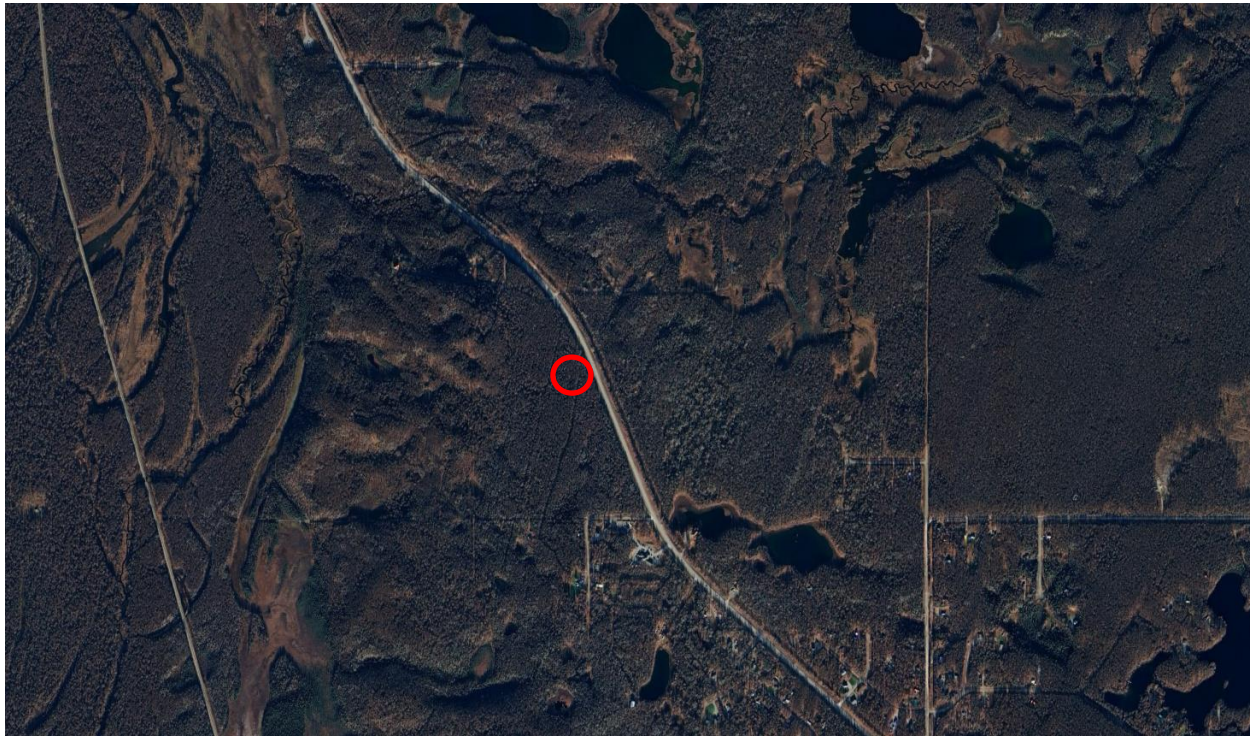
If you wish to comment or be considered a consulting party, please respond within thirty (30) days of the date of this letter. If a response is not received within thirty (30) days, it will be assumed that you have no objections to this undertaking. A site topography map and aerial photograph are enclosed for your reference.

Please call me at (480) 850-0575 or email r.honeycutt@trileaf.com if you need additional information or have any questions. Thank you for your assistance in this regard.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Randi Honeycutt", is written over a light green circular background element.

Randi Honeycutt
Project Scientist II



Site Location & Surrounding Properties



Site Location

Easement

Aerial Photographs (2022)

Atlas Tower – Talkeetna
 Talkeetna Spur Road
 Talkeetna, Alaska 99676

 **TRILEAF**
 environmental architecture engineering

Talkeetna A-1 NE, AK Quadrangle, Alaska (2023)

Contour Interval = 10 Feet

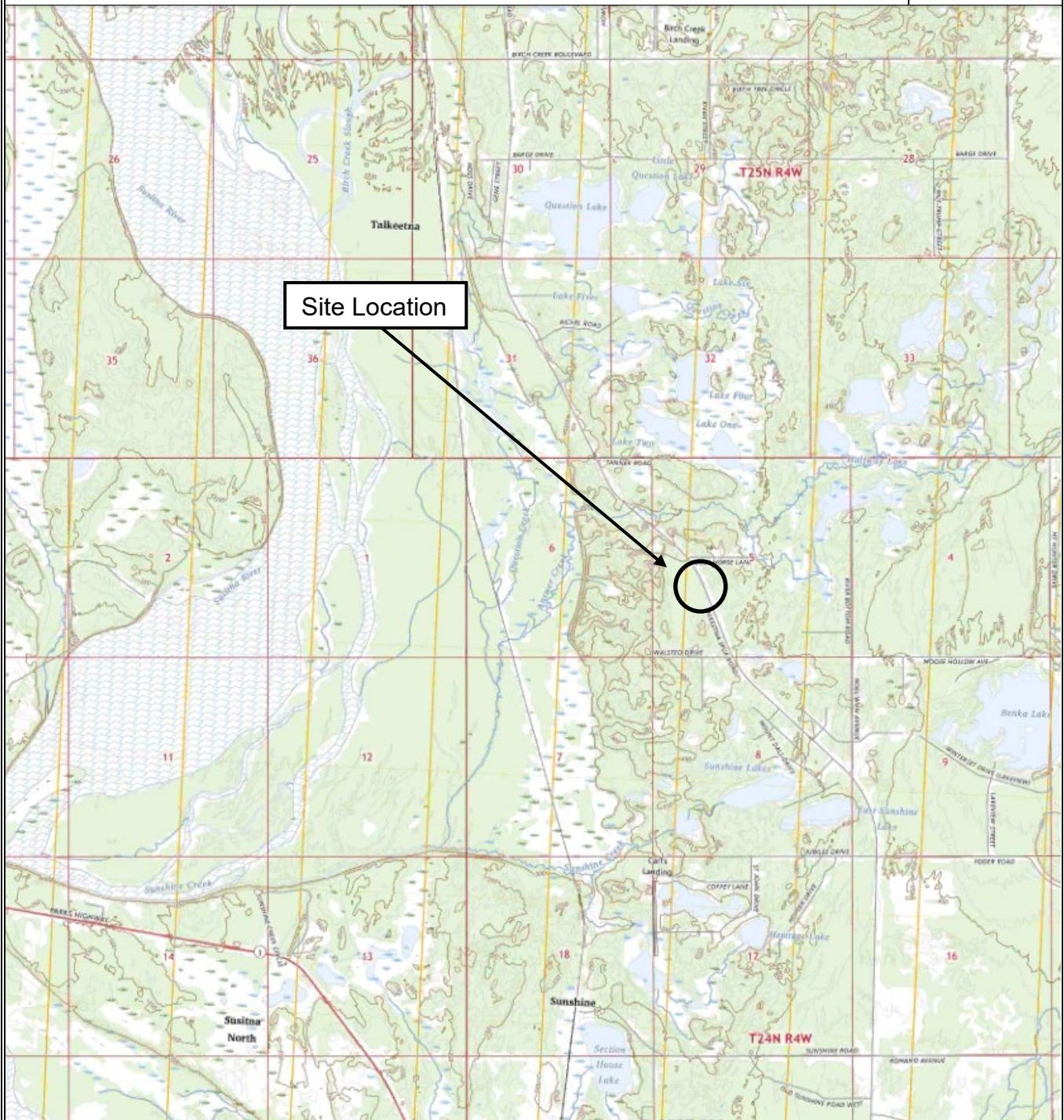
Scale 1 Inch = ~2,000 Feet

Latitude: 62° 11' 45.44" N, Longitude: 150° 3' 27.70" W

Township: T24N Range: R4W Section: S5



North



Site Vicinity Map

Atlas Tower – Talkeetna

Talkeetna Spur Road

Talkeetna, Alaska 99676

 **TRILEAF**
environmental architecture engineering

SITE NAME:	TALKEETNA - ALT 2
PROJECT DESCRIPTION:	PROPOSED TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITY
TOWER TYPE:	125' SELF SUPPORT TOWER
SITE ADDRESS:	TALKEETNA SPUR RD TALKEETNA, AK 99676 (MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH)
AREA OF CONSTRUCTION:	2,500 ± SQ. FT. (LEASE AREA)
ZONING:	N/A
PARCEL #:	224N04W05C001

PROJECT INFORMATION

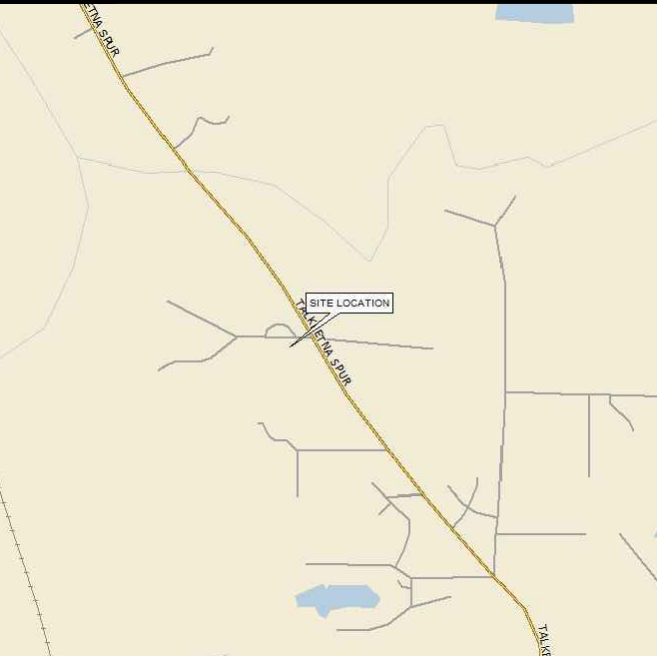
LATITUDE N 62° 11' 45.44" (NAD '83) *

LONGITUDE W 150° 03' 27.7" (NAD '83) *

GROUND ELEVATION 427.0 (NAVD88) *

* INFORMATION PROVIDED IS OBTAINED FROM GOOGLE EARTH AND TO BE USED FOR REFERENCE ONLY.

SITE COORDINATES



LOCATION MAP

TEDE VESTERNS ANCHORAGE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT-
TAKE W NORTHERN LIGHTS BLVD AND W BENSON BLVD TO AK-1 N, HEAD NORTHWEST ON
POSTMARK RD/SATELLITE DR TOWARD TM WARDLEIGH DR, CONTINUE TO FOLLOW POSTMARK RD
DR, TURN RIGHT ONTO LAKE HOOD DR, TURN RIGHT ONTO W NORTHERN LIGHTS BLVD
CONTINUE ONTO W BENSON BLVD, FOLLOW AK-1 N AND AK-3 N TO TALKEEETNA SPUR RD IN
SUSITNA NORTH, TURN LEFT ONTO AK-1 N, USE THE RIGHT 2 LANES TO TURN RIGHT ONTO E 6TH
AVE, CONTINUE ONTO AK-1 N E 5TH AVE, CONTINUE TO FOLLOW AK-1 N, CONTINUE ONTO AK-3 N
TURN RIGHT ONTO TALKEEETNA SPUR RD'

DRIVING DIRECTIONS

ATLAS TOWER



**SITE NAME: TALKEETNA - ALT 2
TALKEETNA SPUR RD
TALKEETNA, AK 99676
(MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH)**

CALL FOR UNDERGROUND UTILITIES PRIOR TO DIGGING

(800) 478-3121

EMERGENCY:

CALL 911



Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

ALL WORK AND MATERIALS SHALL BE PERFORMED AND INSTALLED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CURRENT EDITIONS OF THE FOLLOWING CODES AS ADOPTED BY THE LOCAL GOVERNING AUTHORITIES. NOTHING IN THESE PLANS IS TO BE CONSTRUED TO PERMIT WORK NOT CONFORMING TO THE LATEST EDITIONS OF THE FOLLOWING:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. INTERNATIONAL BUILDING CODE (2021 EDITION) | 4. NATIONAL ELECTRIC CODE (2020 EDITION) |
| 2. INTERNATIONAL CODE COUNCIL | 5. LOCAL BUILDING CODE |
| 3. ANSI/TIA/EIA-222-H | 6. CITY/COUNTY ORDINANCES |

CODE COMPLIANCE

CONSTRUCTION OF A TELECOMMUNICATION FACILITY, CONSISTING OF ANTENNAS & ASSOCIATED APPURTENANCES ON A PROPOSED SELF SUPPORT TOWER, FENCED COMPOUND & SERVICE EQUIPMENT FOR FUTURE CARRIERS. NO WATER OR SEWER IS REQUIRED.

1. FACILITY DESIGNED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH REGULATIONS.
2. THIS IS AN UNMANNED FACILITY WHICH WILL NOT REQUIRE ANY WATER OR SEWER FACILITIES.
3. TRAFFIC WILL CONSIST ONLY OF MAINTENANCE PERSONNEL, VISITING THE SITE APPROXIMATELY TWICE A MONTH.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION & NOTES

[illegible]

INDEX OF SHEETS

PLANS PREPARED BY:

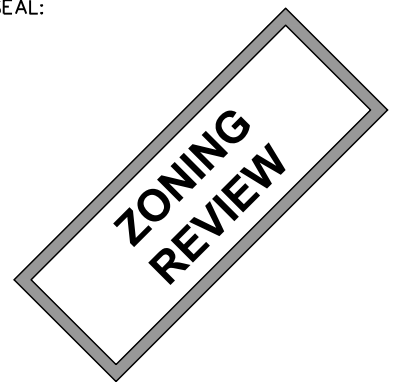


4570 IVY STREET, UNIT B-100
DENVER, CO 80216
OFFICE: (303) 566-9914
www.tepgroup.net

O	07-22-25	ZONING
REV	DATE	ISSUED FOR:

DRAWN BY: KSN	CHECKED BY: KES
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SEAL:



SEAL:

SHEET NUMBER:

T-1

REVISION:

0

TEP #:350763.1132532

TEP is a family of companies licensed to provide different services in different jurisdictions. Depending on the jurisdiction, professional engineering and land surveying services are provided by TEP OpCo LLC, a Delaware limited liability company. TEP professional limited liability company. General contractor services are provided by TEPGB OpCo LLC, a Delaware professional limited liability company. Additional information can be obtained from the company.

LEGEND

PARENT PROPERTY LINE

ADJACENT PROPERTY LINE

PROPERTY CORNER

EASEMENT/LEASE CORNER

EXIST. METER

EXIST. TRANSFORMER

EXIST. UTILITY POLE

EXIST. TELCO PEDESTAL

EXIST. CONTOUR LINE

EDGE OF PAVEMENT

OVERHEAD WIRE

BURIED FIBER

GAS LINE

RIGHT-OF-WAY

FENCE

EXISTING TREE LINE

TOWER SETBACKS

PROPERTY LINE	REQUIRED	PROPOSED
NORTH	TBD	1171'-4"±
EAST	TBD	243'-11"±
SOUTH	TBD	1577'-1"±
WEST	TBD	1112'-2"±

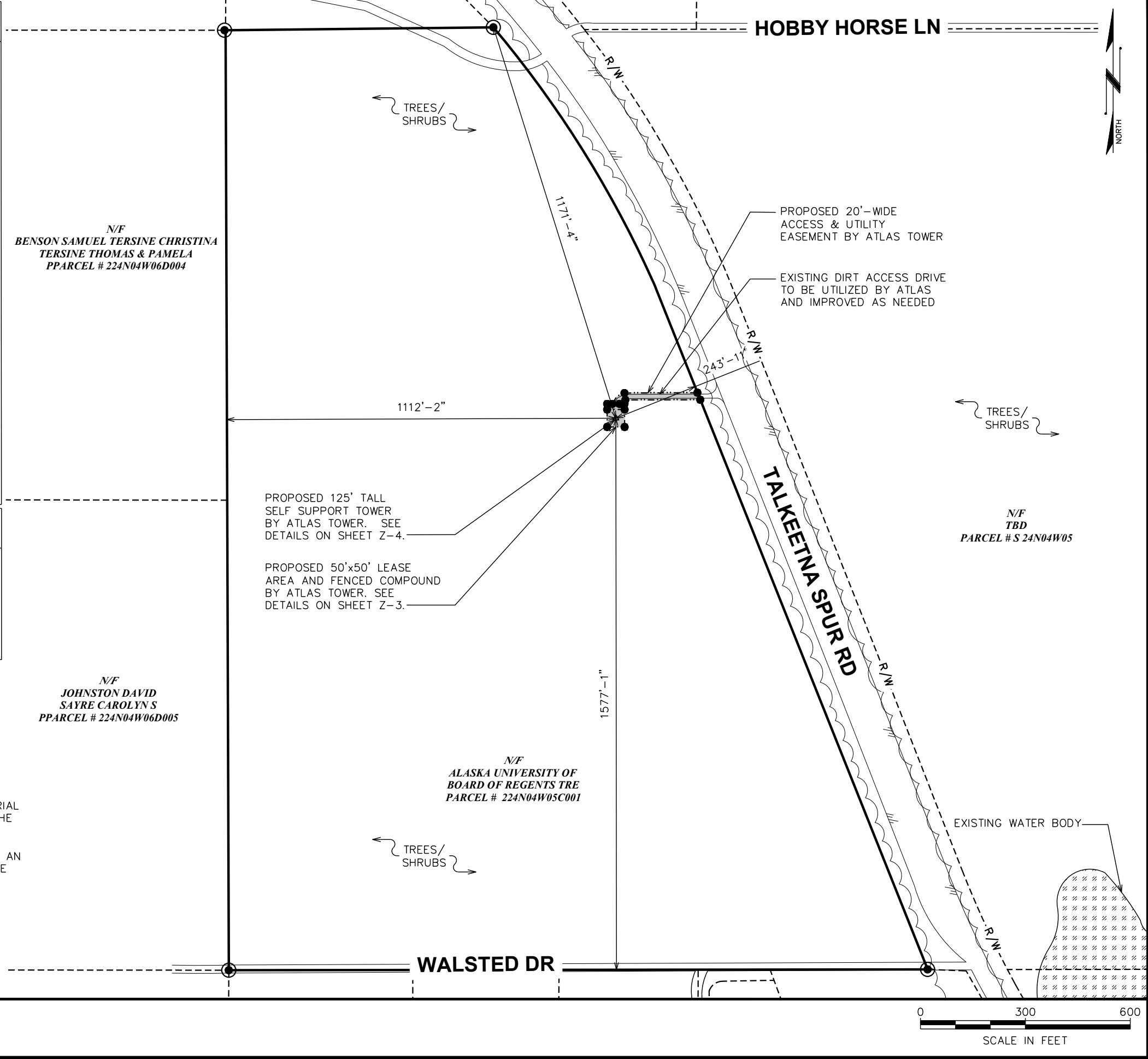
NOTES:

1. SITE PLAN WAS PREPARED USING AERIAL IMAGERY & GIS INFORMATION FROM THE JURISDICTION.FOR CORRECTIVE ACTION PLEASE CONTACT TEP.

2. THE TOWER IS LOCATED IN ZONE "X", AN AREA DETERMINED TO BE OUTSIDE THE 0.2% ANNUAL CHANCE FLOODPLAIN ACCORDING TO FEMA FLOOD MAP 02170C3510F, DATED SEPTEMBER 27, 2019.

AREA PLAN

SCALE: 1" = 300'



PROJECT INFORMATION:

TALKEETNA - ALT 2

TALKEETNA SPUR RD
TALKEETNA, AK 99676
(MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH)

PLANS PREPARED FOR:

ATLAS TOWER

2500 30TH ST, SUITE 304
BOULDER, CO 80301
Office: (303) 448-8896

PLANS PREPARED BY:

TEP

4570 IVY STREET, UNIT B-100
DENVER, CO 80216
OFFICE: (303) 566-9914
www.tepgroup.net

SEAL:

ZONING REVIEW

O	07-22-25	ZONING
REV	DATE	ISSUED FOR:

DRAWN BY: KSN

CHECKED BY: KES

SHEET TITLE:

AREA PLAN

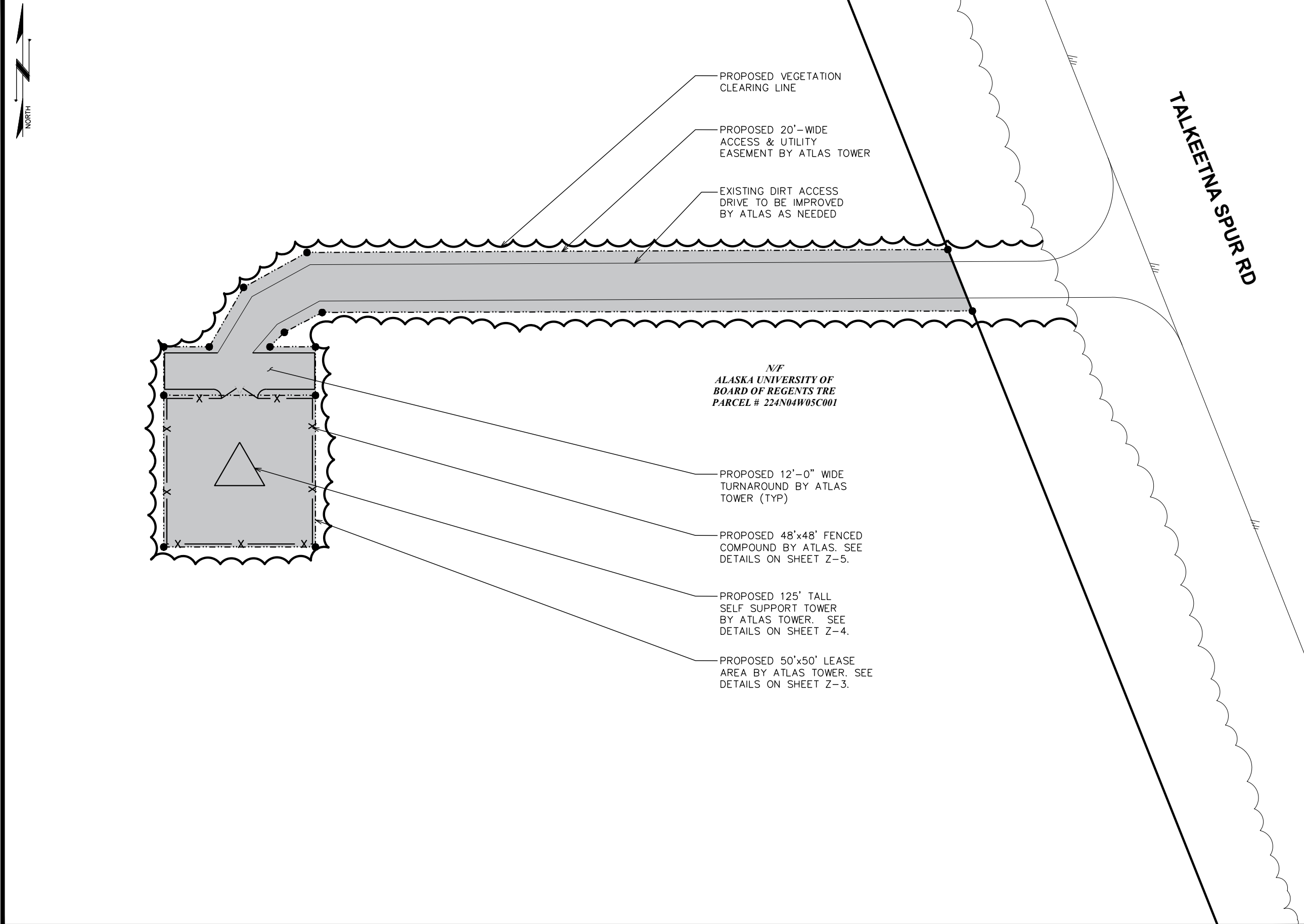
SHEET NUMBER:

Z-1

REVISION:

0

TEP#:350763.486204



PROJECT INFORMATION:

TALKEETNA - ALT 2

TALKEETNA SPUR RD
TALKEETNA, AK 99676
(MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH)

PLANS PREPARED FOR:

ATLAS TOWER

2500 30TH ST, SUITE 304
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SEAL:

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O	07-22-25	ZONING
REV	DATE	ISSUED FOR:

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SHEET TITLE:

SITE PLAN

SHEET NUMBER:

Z-2

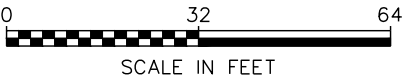
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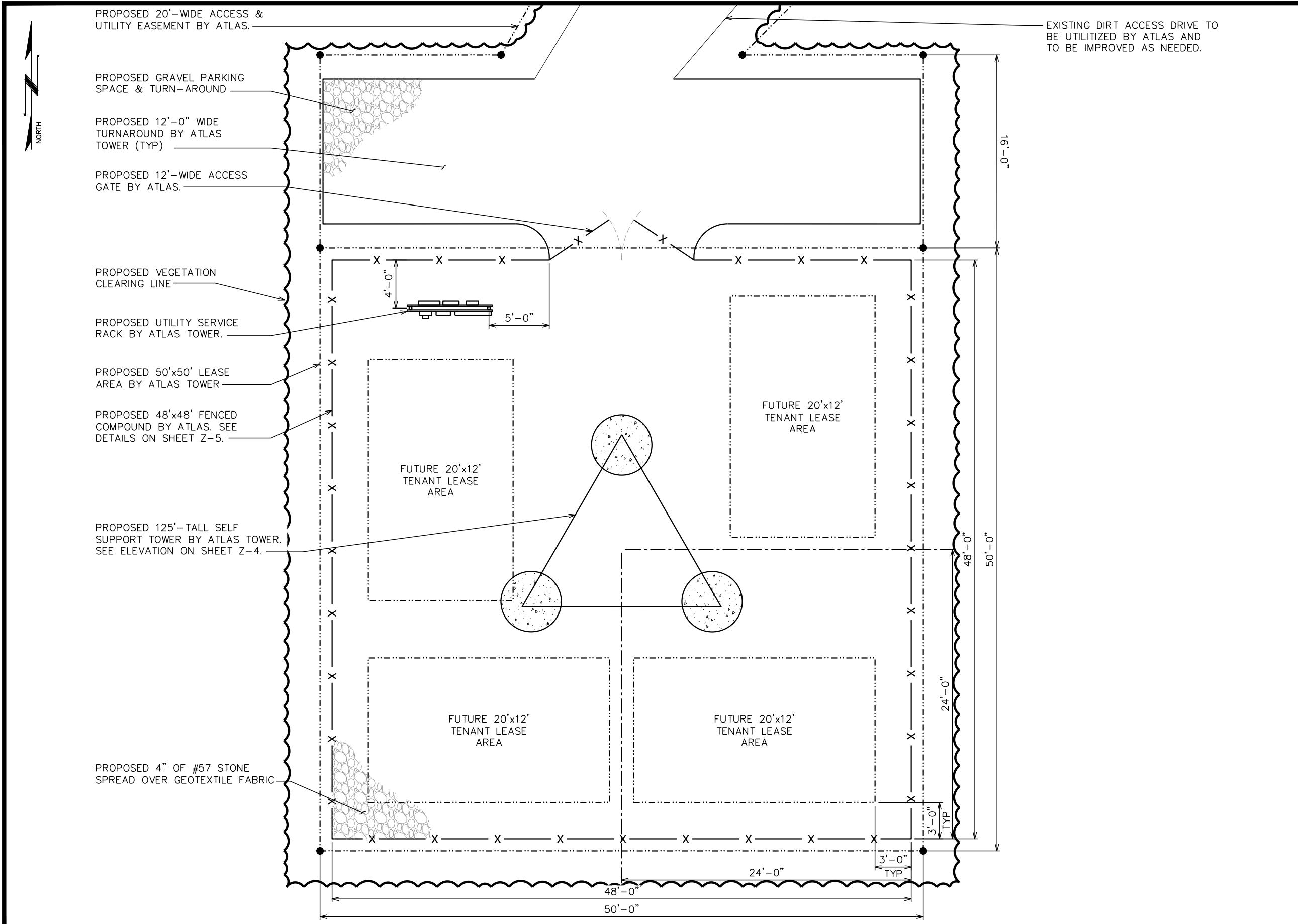
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TEP#:350763.486204

SITE PLAN

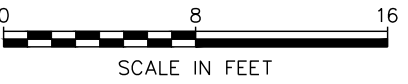
SCALE: 1/32" = 1'-0"





COMPOUND DETAIL

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



PROJECT INFORMATION:

TALKEETNA - ALT 2

TALKEETNA SPUR RD
TALKEETNA, AK 99676
(MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH)

PLANS PREPARED FOR:

ATLAS TOWER

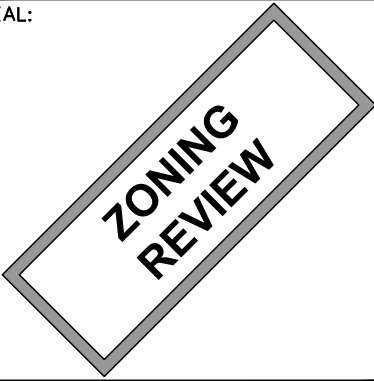
2500 30TH ST, SUITE 304
BOULDER, CO 80301
Office: (303) 448-8896

PLANS PREPARED BY:



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DENVER, CO 80216
OFFICE: (303) 566-9914
www.tepgroup.net

SEAL:



O	07-22-25	ZONING
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DRAWN BY: KSN CHECKED BY: KES

SHEET TITLE:

**COMPOUND
DETAIL**

SHEET NUMBER:

Z-3

REVISION:

0

TEP#:350763.486204

125'-0"±
T/TOWER

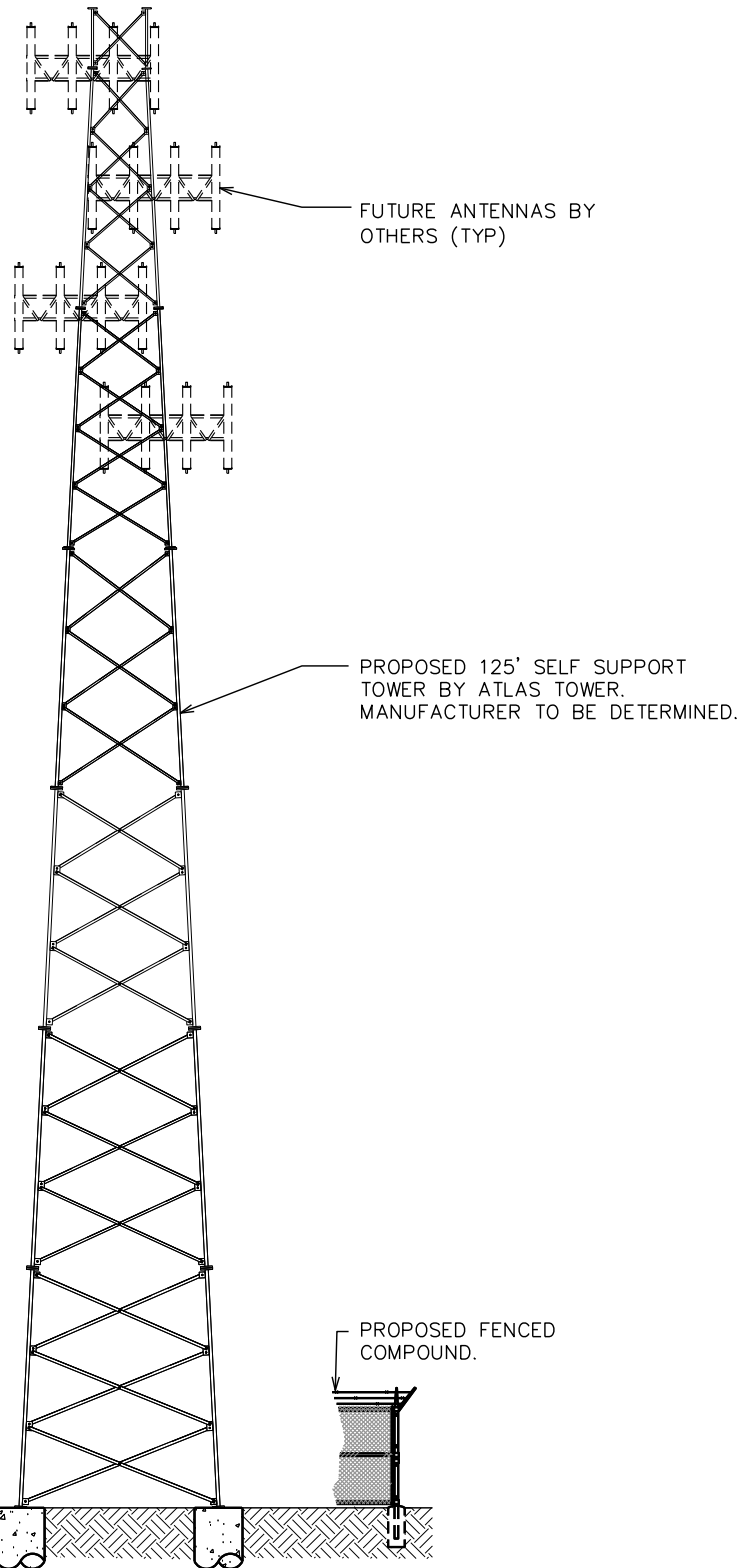
120'-0"±
CL/FUTURE ANTENNAS

110'-0"±
CL/FUTURE ANTENNAS

100'-0"±
CL/FUTURE ANTENNAS

90'-0"±
CL/FUTURE ANTENNAS

0'-0" (REF)
T/ GRADE



FUTURE ANTENNAS BY
OTHERS (TYP)

PROPOSED 125' SELF SUPPORT
TOWER BY ATLAS TOWER.
MANUFACTURER TO BE DETERMINED.

PROPOSED FENCED
COMPOUND.

NOTES:

1. TOWER TO REMAIN GALVANIZED COLOR.
2. TOWER SHALL BE LIT ONLY IF REQUIRED BY THE FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION.
3. PROPOSED COAX ROUTED UP TOWER USING WAVEGUIDE LADDER.
4. TOWER TO INCLUDE SAFETY CABLE. DO NOT INCLUDE SAFETY CLIMB MECHANISM.
5. TOWER EQUIPMENT LOADING AND CENTERLINES ARE SHOWN FOR REFERENCE ONLY AND ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.
6. TOWER TO BE CONSTRUCTED WITH BREAKPOINT DESIGN TECHNOLOGY. THE BREAKPOINT LEVEL OF THE STRUCTURE IS TO BE FIFTY-PERCENT OF THE TOWER STRUCTURE HEIGHT.

PROJECT INFORMATION:

TALKEETNA - ALT 2

TALKEETNA SPUR RD
TALKEETNA, AK 99676
(MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH)

PLANS PREPARED FOR:

ATLAS TOWER

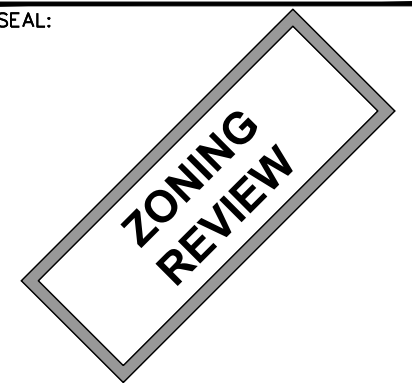
2500 30TH ST, SUITE 304
BOULDER, CO 80301
Office: (303) 448-8896

PLANS PREPARED BY:



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DENVER, CO 80216
OFFICE: (303) 566-9914
www.tepgroup.net

SEAL:



O	07-22-25	ZONING
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DRAWN BY: KSN CHECKED BY: KES

SHEET TITLE:

TOWER ELEVATION

SHEET NUMBER:

Z-4

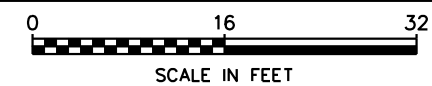
REVISION:

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TEP#:350763.486204

TOWER ELEVATION

SCALE: 1/16" = 1'-0"



PLACARD NOTE:

CONTRACTOR TO INSTALL PLACARD ON FENCE, AT EYE LEVEL, IN A VISIBLE LOCATION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH MSB 17.67.090 (C)(1)

STRETCHER BARS FULL HEIGHT NOT LESS THAN $\frac{3}{16}$ " x $\frac{3}{4}$ " MIN. CROSS SECTION ON ALL GATES AND POSTS

PROPOSED PLACARD. SEE NOTE THIS SHEET.

1 $\frac{3}{8}$ " O.D. PLUNGER ROD

STYMILOCK TO BE ATTACHED TO GATE FRAME

GALV/ 3 STRANDS OF 12 GA. BARBED WIRE WITH 4 POINT BARBS @ 5" O.C.

1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " BRACE SCH40 PIPE

10'-0" O.C. MAX.

5'-0" O.C. MIN.

3" SCH40 PIPE CORNER & GATE POST

$\frac{3}{8}$ " STEEL TRUSS ROD WITH TURNBUCKLE AT ALL GATE CORNERS, GATE & END PANELS.

1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " SCH40 BRACE PIPE USED ON CORNERS & WHERE FENCE IS 3 SPANS OR LESS

TENSION BAR

2 $\frac{1}{2}$ " SCH40 PIPE INTERMEDIATE POST

$\frac{3}{8}$ " BRACE ROD

HORIZ. & VERT. PIPE JOINED W/ LINE RAIL CLAMP

9 GA. 2"x2" FENCE FABRIC

2" OF GRAVEL AT BOTTOM OF HOLE

12'-0" (CENTERED ON FENCE LINE)

10'-0" (MAX)

2'-0" FOR ALL POST IN ROCK MIN. 3'-6" FOR ALL POSTS IN SOIL OR 6" BELOW FROST LINE—WHICHEVER IS GREATER

PROPOSED STYMILOCK

(6) PADLOCK MULTI-LOCK (BY STYMILOCK) WITH ATLAS APPROVED COMBINATION LOCK

3-STRAND BARBED WIRE AT FENCE & GATE

1'-0"

TOP RAIL

CHAIN-LINK FENCE FABRIC

LINE POST 10' O.C. MAX

4" LAYER OF #57 GRADATION TO EXTEND 12" OUTSIDE OF COMPOUND

FINISH GRADE

DRILLED PIER 3000 PSI CONCRETE

4" LAYER OF #57 GRADATION

GEOTEXTILE FABRIC

FILL MATERIALS DEPTH VARIES

FINISHED GRADE

METAL GATE DETENT INSTALL W/ SLOT PARALLEL TO FENCE

CONCRETE

13"

VARIES

24"

10"

CONCRETE DEPTH IS TO BE 24" OR BEDROCK, WHICH EVER IS DEEPER.

GATE DETENT DETAIL

SCALE: N.T.S.

GATE STOP/KEEPER DETAIL

SCALE: N.T.S.

FENCE / BARBED WIRE ARM DETAIL

SCALE: N.T.S.

PROJECT INFORMATION:

TALKEETNA - ALT 2

TALKEETNA SPUR RD
TALKEETNA, AK 99676
(MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH)

PLANS PREPARED FOR:

ATLAS TOWER

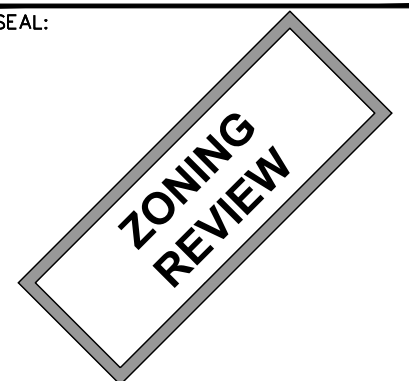
2500 30TH ST, SUITE 304
BOULDER, CO 80301
Office: (303) 448-8896

PLANS PREPARED BY:



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SHEET TITLE:

FENCE DETAILS

SHEET NUMBER:

Z-5

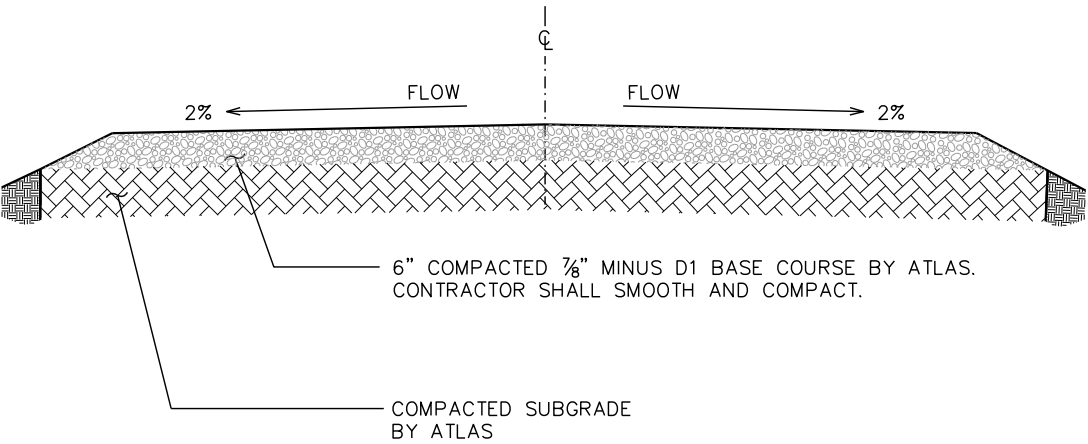
REVISION:

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TEP#: 350763.486204

NOTE:

ROAD TO BE DESIGNED IN ACCORDANCE
WITH M.S.B. 11.12.060 LOW VOLUME
DRIVEWAY STANDARDS

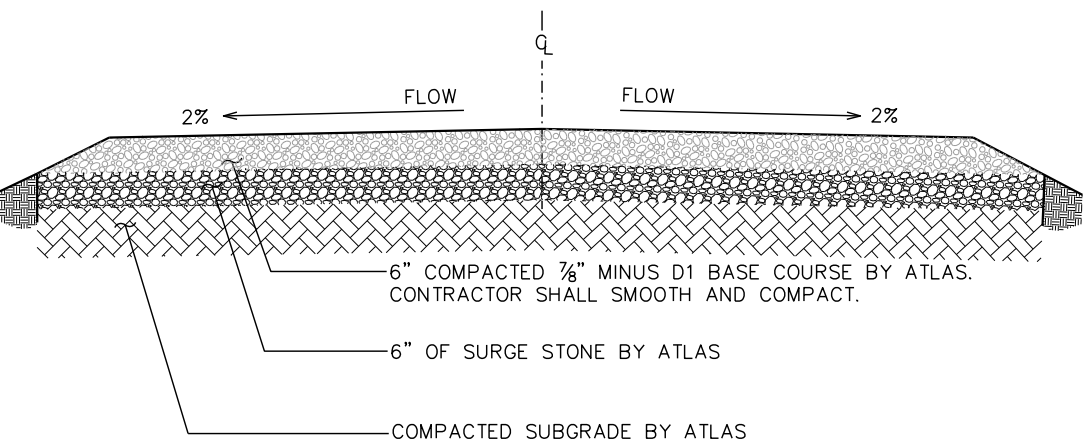


STANDARD ROAD SECTION (GOOD SUBGRADE)

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

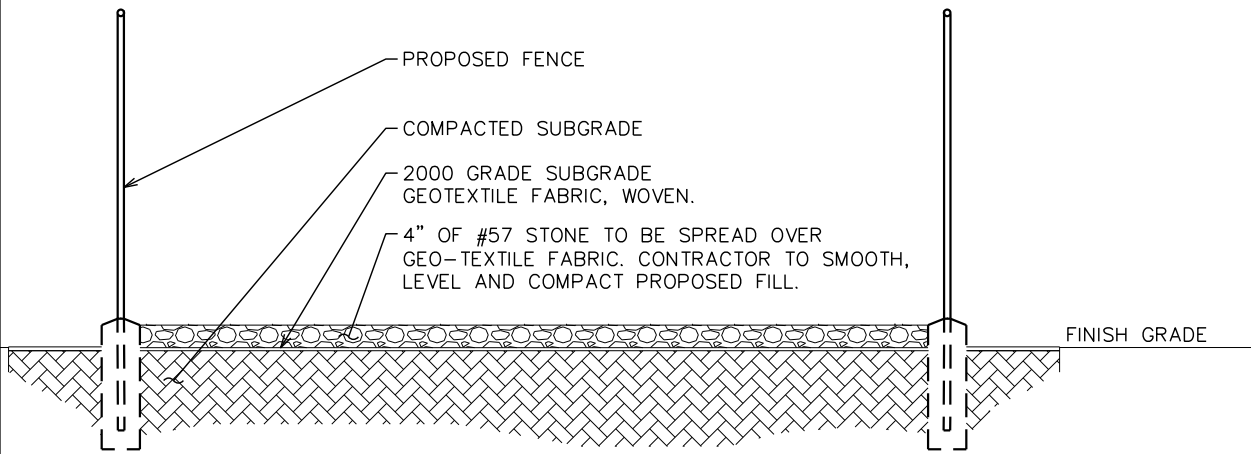
NOTE:

ROAD TO BE DESIGNED IN ACCORDANCE
WITH M.O.A. 11.12.060 LOW VOLUME
DRIVEWAY STANDARDS



STANDARD ROAD SECTION (POOR SUBGRADE)

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



COMPOUND SECTION VIEW

SCALE: N.T.S.

PROJECT INFORMATION:

TALKEETNA - ALT 2

TALKEETNA SPUR RD
TALKEETNA, AK 99676
(MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH)

PLANS PREPARED FOR:

ATLAS TOWER

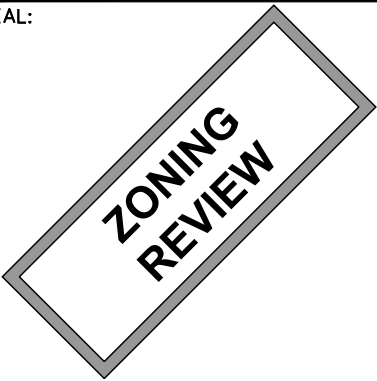
2500 30TH ST, SUITE 304
BOULDER, CO 80301
Office: (303) 448-8896

PLANS PREPARED BY:



4570 IVY STREET, UNIT B-100
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SEAL:



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DRAWN BY: KSN CHECKED BY: KES

SHEET TITLE:

DRIVEWAY DETAILS

SHEET NUMBER:


Z-6

REVISION:



0


TEP#:350763.486204

- ALL SIGNS TO BE HUNG ON FENCE USING HOG RINGS OR ALUMINUM FENCE TIES. ZIP TIES OR REBAR WIRE WILL NOT BE ACCEPTABLE
- THE RED WARNING SIGN SHALL BE PLACED ON THE TOWER, IDEALLY AT THE BASE OF THE SAFETY CLIMB.

NOTICE	
	Transmitting Antenna(s)
	Radio frequency fields beyond this point MAY EXCEED the FCC General Population exposure limit
	Obey all posted signs and site guidelines.
	STATE: _____ SWITCH: _____ SITE ID: _____ SECTOR / NODE: _____

11.5"

 WARNING	
	<p>Transmitting Antenna(s)</p> <p>Radio frequency fields beyond this point EXCEED the FCC Occupational exposure limit.</p> <p>Obey all posted signs and site guidelines.</p> <p>STATE: _____ SWITCH: _____</p> <p>SITE ID: _____</p> <p>SECTOR / NODE: _____</p>

PROJECT INFORMATION: <div style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">TALKEETNA - ALT 2</div> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;"> TALKEETNA SPUR RD TALKEETNA, AK 99676 (MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH) </div>		
PLANS PREPARED FOR: <div style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">ATLAS TOWER</div> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 20px;"> 2500 30TH ST, SUITE 304 BOULDER, CO 80301 Office: (303) 448-8896 </div>		
PLANS PREPARED BY: <div style="text-align: center;">  <div style="margin-left: 10px; font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">TEP</div> </div> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 20px;"> 4570 IVY STREET, UNIT B-100 DENVER, CO 80216 OFFICE: (303) 566-9914 www.tepgroup.net </div>		
SEAL: <div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 20px; transform: rotate(-15deg); width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> <div style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">ZONING REVIEW</div> </div>		
O	07-22-25	ZONING
REV	DATE	ISSUED FOR:
DRAWN BY: KSN		CHECKED BY: KES
SHEET TITLE: <div style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">SIGNAGE DETAILS</div>		
SHEET NUMBER: <div style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">Z-7</div>		REVISION: <div style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">0</div>



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Transit
Administration**

REGION X
Alaska, Idaho, Oregon,
Washington

915 Second Avenue
Federal Bldg. Suite 3192
Seattle, WA 98174-1002
206-220-7954
206-220-7959 (fax)

November 24, 2025

Bert Verrall
Chair
Matanuska-Susitna Borough, Historic Preservation Commission
350 East Dahlia Avenue
Palmer, Alaska 99645

**Subject: Alaska Railroad Corporation
Hurricane Operations Support Facility Project
National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106
Consultation Initiation**

Dear Mr. Verrall:

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA), in cooperation with Alaska Railroad Corporation (ARRC), is proposing a future operations support facilities facility (OSF) on ARRC's Hurricane Reserve Land, south of Cantwell, Alaska. ARRC intends to apply for federal funds administered by FTA for the Project, making it an undertaking subject to the provisions of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (Section 106), and its implementing regulations at 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 800. This letter initiates Section 106 consultation, and requests feedback on the proposed Area of Potential Effects (APE) and proposed preliminary investigations.

Project Location and APE

The Project is located on ARRC's Hurricane Reserve Land, Parks Highway Milepost 171, approximately 38 miles southwest of Cantwell, Alaska. The 21.8 acre APE for this project encompasses all potential areas being considered for project activities, including preliminary investigations and eventual construction activities. The APE is located entirely within the ARRC's Hurricane Reserve Land. Attachment A shows the project location and proposed APE.

Preliminary Investigations

To help inform preliminary engineering of the Project, the ARRC proposes site investigations including geotechnical investigations, wetlands delineation survey, cultural resource investigations, and other surveys within the APE:

- Geotechnical drilling would drill, sample, and backfill up to 13 soil borings to a maximum circumference of 6 to 8 inches and a maximum depth of 150 feet. To provide access for drilling equipment, the project would clear a pathway measuring approximately 12 feet wide

and up to 2,800 feet long (approximately 0.77 acres total). The proposed borehole locations and access pathways are shown in Attachment A.

- The wetlands delineation survey would include shovel testing and data collection to support a formal jurisdictional determination.
- ARRC proposes to conduct cultural resources investigation within the proposed project areas, as required.
- ARRC proposes to conduct other survey-level analysis work, as necessary. These other studies would not involve ground disturbing activities.

Identification of Resources

In support of FTA's regulatory obligations under Section 106, ARRC reviewed various cultural resources databases to identify potential historic properties within the proposed APE. Sources consulted include the Alaska Heritage Resources Survey (AHRS) database, reports from previous cultural resource investigations, Alaska's Digital Archives, the Revised Statute 2477 trail database, the online NRHP database, the Web Atlas of Alaska Native Traditional Place Names, the ARRC engineering library, historic aerial imagery, and U.S. Geological Survey topographic maps. As a result of this research, no known sites were identified within the proposed APE.

Request for Feedback

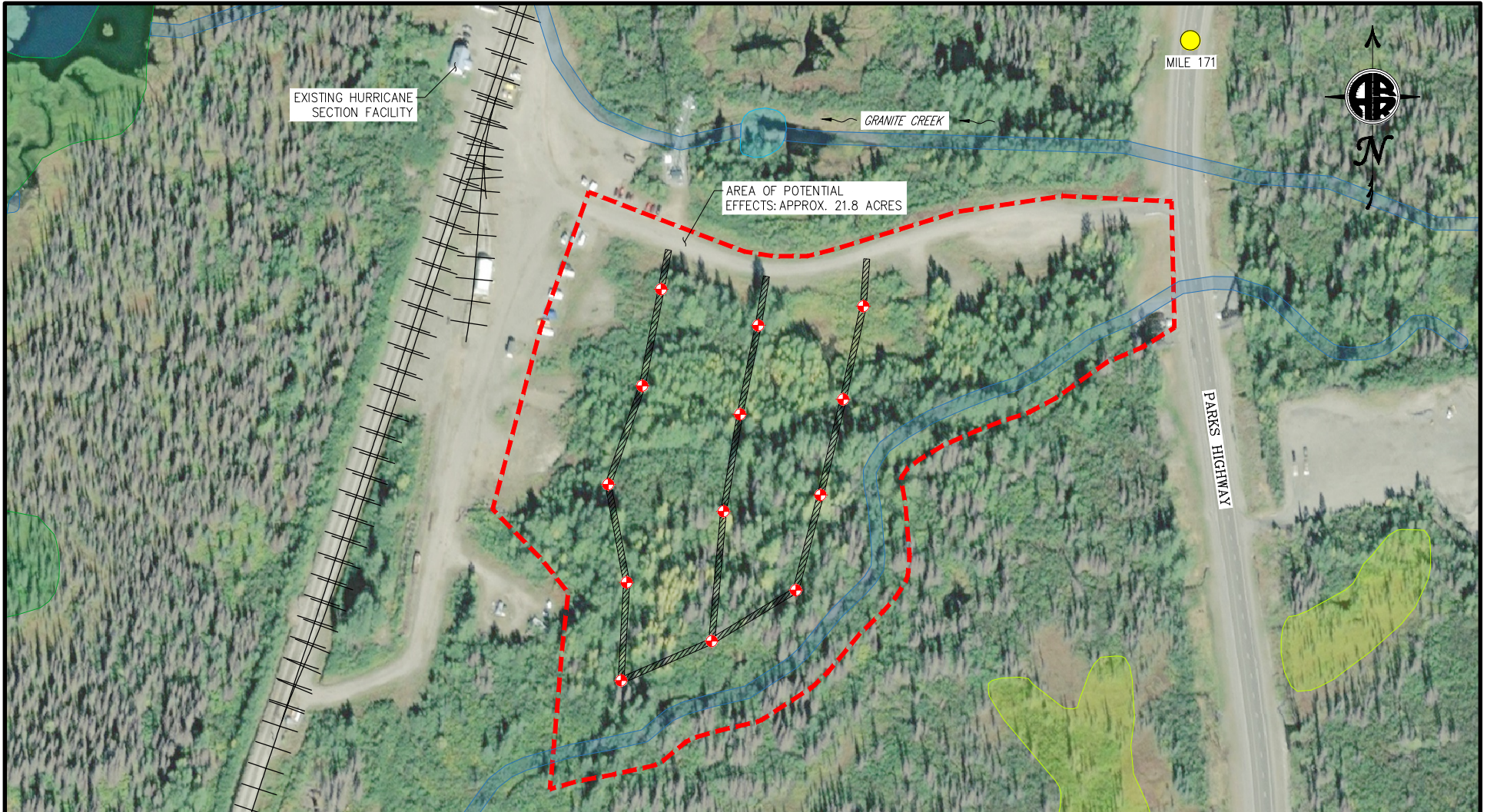
Pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800, FTA invites your comments on the proposed APE and proposed investigations within 30 days of receipt of this letter. Should you require additional information or have questions, please contact Barney Remington at barney.remington@dot.gov.

Sincerely,

Susan K. Fletcher, P.E.
Regional Administrator

Attachment A – *Hurricane OSF Project Location and APE*

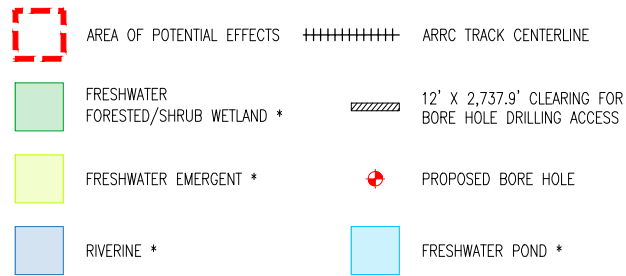
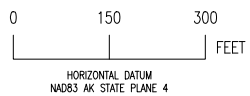
DRAWING LOCATION: P:\PROJECTS\01 PROJECTS\06 FACILITIES AND DEPOTS\SECTION SUPPORT IMPROVEMENTS\HURRICANE\01 ENGINEERING\19 NEPA\HURRICANESECTION_APE.DWG



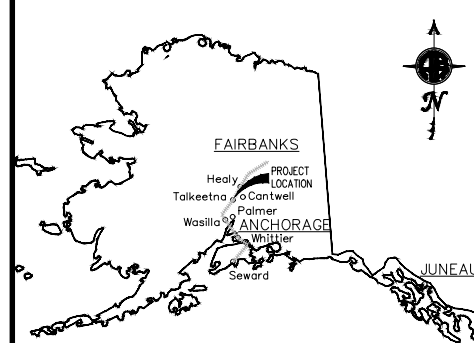
HURRICANE SECTION

VICINITY MAP/PROJECT VICINITY

LAT: 62.9753 N, LONG: 149.6370 W



ENTIRE AREA SHOWN IS WITHIN ARRC ROW AND RESERVE. ARRC BOUNDARY LINE IS OUTSIDE OF THE VIEW.
* WETLANDS SHOWN WERE CAPTURED FROM THE USFWS' NATIONAL WETLANDS INVENTORY.



APPLICANT: ALASKA RAILROAD CORPORATION

PERMIT NO: TBD

WATERWAY: N/A

LOCATION: SEC 27, T22S, R11W, FM

SHEET 1 OF 1

DATE: July 29, 2025