



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR MICHAEL J. DUNLEAVY

**Department of Natural Resources**

DIVISION OF PARKS & OUTDOOR RECREATION  
Office of History & Archaeology

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<http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/oha>

March 26, 2019

File No.: 3130-1R NPS  
2018-00536

Anne Matsov, Acting Superintendent  
National Park Service  
Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park  
PO Box 517  
Skagway, AK 99840

Subject: Determination of Eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places for Canyon City Cabin (Mile 7.5) and Sheep Camp Cabin (Mile 13) of the *Chilkoot Trail and Dyea National Historic Landmark* within the Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park and Preserve

Dear Superintendent Matsov:

The Alaska State Historic Preservation Office (AK SHPO) received your letter and National Register of Historic Places (National Register) Registration Forms for the subject properties on February 15, 2019. We evaluated the determination of eligibility for each cabin based on the criteria found in the *National Register Bulletin: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation* (formerly *Bulletin 15*).

Canyon City Cabin

Constructed in 1962, this 57-year-old property was evaluated under Criterion A for its significance to the state of Alaska. The building, in its original location, retains integrity of setting and association, as a warm-up hut for hikers on the Chilkoot Trail. Although the roof has been replaced and a foundation added to prolong the life of the building, neither repair has changed the original feeling, design, materials or vernacular workmanship of the property. Therefore, we *concur* with your finding that the Canyon City Cabin is eligible under Criterion A for listing on the National Register. Before submitting the form to the National Register, we recommend that the photographs be reformatted two to a page, and the size and font of the captions standardized before submitting the form to the National Register.

Sheep Camp Cabin

Constructed in 1963, this 56-year-old property was also evaluated under Criterion A for its significance to the State of Alaska. The cabin site remains in its original location, but the Sheep Camp campground and a segment of the hiking trail were moved further inland in 2003 when the Taiya River flooded Sheep Camp. Although some of the original construction materials are still visible, but they are scattered about the site, the result of the cabin roof collapsing during the winter of 2009/2010 from a heavy snow load. The building now lacks basic structural integrity and an association with the Chilkoot Trail; its original design and vernacular workmanship are no longer recognizable. Although the forest setting is likely similar to that of the early 1960s, the collapsed cabin no longer engenders the feeling of a welcome shelter from wet weather. Because Sheep Camp Cabin has lost its structural integrity and has become a ruin, we *do not concur* with your finding that the former cabin is eligible for the National Register.

However, if some of the original construction materials could be salvaged and a new cabin constructed at the current Sheep Camp site, the intent of the original cabin could once again be realized and serve a useful purpose, as shelter from the rain and a warm place where hikers could dry their wet clothes and socialize.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Please contact Sylvia Elliott at 269-8724 or [sylvia.elliott2@alaska.gov](mailto:sylvia.elliott2@alaska.gov) if you have any questions or if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judith E. Bittner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "B".

Judith E. Bittner  
State Historic Preservation Officer  
JEB: she

3150-11-11-11



# United States Department of the Interior

## NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park  
P.O. Box 517  
Skagway, Alaska 99840

RECEIVED

FEB 15 2019

OHA

IN REPLY REFER TO: H 3019  
Canyon City & Sheep Camp State Cabins Determination of Eligibility

February 11, 2018

Ms. Judith Bittner  
State Historic Preservation Officer  
Department of Natural Resources  
Office of History and Archaeology  
550 W. 7th Avenue, Suite 1310  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3565

Dear Ms. Bittner:

Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park would like to respectfully submit to you the enclosed Determination of Eligibility (DOE) applications for the Canyon City State Cabin and Sheep Camp State Cabins.

The two state cabins remain in their original locations, retaining the original design of a one room warming area, gable roof, front porch, chimney and stove. Characteristics of the vernacular workmanship from the 1960s are integral to the buildings; saddle notches and tapered corners, original window configuration, and doors are extant. As use of the trail has increased from under 50 hikers per year in the 1970s to over 2,700 hikers in the 2017 summer season, the original association of the State Cabins as comfort stations has continued to play a central role in the experience of hiking the Chilkoot Trail.

Both DOEs were completed to support the rehabilitation and continued use of the buildings. The applications recommend that the Canyon City and Sheep Camp State Cabins be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places at the state level under Criterion A.

These applications were previously submitted in April of 2018, submittal number 2018-00538. On May 7, 2018 Susannah Dowds gratefully received feedback from Sylvia Elliott specifying the appropriate format for photographs. According to Ms. Elliott's specifications, all photographs are captioned with:

- Figure number
- Name of property
- Location
- Subject
- Date the photo was taken

As recommended, each photograph is referenced in the text in numerical order, photographs are identified in parenthetical citations and are lesser in number.

The final draft has been reviewed by Bridget Maley, historical architect contracted through the Alaska Regional Office. Additional advice from Heather Feil and Katie Wackrow of the Alaska Regional Office has

2 of 2 ~~1 of 2~~  
2018-00536



# 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: Sheep Camp State Cabin

Other names/site number: \_\_\_\_\_

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: Mile 13 Chilkoot Trail

City or town: Chilkoot Trail State: AK County: Skagway-Yakutat Division

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

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

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.		
_____ <b>Signature of commenting official:</b>		_____ <b>Date</b>
_____ <b>Title :</b>		_____ <b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b>

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**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:) \_\_\_\_\_

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Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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**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
- Site
- Structure
- Object

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
<u>1</u>	_____	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register \_\_\_\_\_

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**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Recreation and Culture: Outdoor Recreation

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Recreation and Culture: Outdoor Recreation

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Other: log cabin

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**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Wood logs

### 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.)

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### Summary Paragraph

In 1963, the State of Alaska sponsored the construction of the Sheep Camp “warm up” cabin on the newly brushed recreational Chilkoot Trail, in the Skagway-Yakutat Division of Alaska. The single story, south-facing, 27'-10" x 19'-0" log cabin is constructed of locally harvested cottonwood (*Populus balsamifera ssp. trichocarpa*), stacked horizontally and joined by saddle notches. Log ends at each corner are tapered from the ground up. Today, the Sheep Camp log cabin is a partial ruin after the gable roof collapsed under heavy snow in 2010.<sup>1</sup> The cabin interior originally consisted of a single room outfitted with wood stoves, bunks, some emergency supplies, and a small seating area.

The Sheep Camp cabin remains in its original location, located near mile thirteen on the Chilkoot Trail, situated in a clearing off the main trail near a camping area consisting of twenty-seven campsites, three composting outhouses, three canvas warming shelters, and a large warming pavilion added in 2016.<sup>2</sup> The surrounding campground, constructed concurrently in 1963 by the same State of Alaska work crews, has changed and shifted location due to flooding,

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<sup>1</sup> Aric Baldwin, Chief of Maintenance, Meeting at Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park, September 22, 2017.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.



improvements, and expansion. An outhouse that was present at the site in the 1960s is no longer extant.

The Sheep Camp State Cabin is a partial ruin. In 2010, the roof caved in due to heavy snow loads (Photograph 1). Currently, the Sheep Camp State Cabin is fenced off in the campground and the pieces of the roof system have been removed (Photograph 2). However, with future restoration of the roof, the cabin would retain its overall historic integrity in the areas of location, design, setting, feeling and association. It requires replacement materials to repair the roof and the original workmanship of the interior space has been lost (Photograph 3).

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## **Narrative Description**

### ***Site***

Situated in the Sheep Camp Campground at the northern end of the Klondike gold rush era town site of Sheep Camp, the Sheep Camp State Cabin is aligned along the historic and recreational Chilkoot Trail. The cabin remains in its original location, at approximately Mile 13 along the Chilkoot Trail.

### ***Foundation***

The cabin superstructure rests on a sleeper log foundation situated directly on grade.

### ***Historic Appearance***

During the winter of 2009-2010, the roof of the Sheep Camp Cabin collapsed under a heavy snow load. The following summer, the site was cleared and the roof cladding, sheathing, and structural systems were flown off the trail by helicopter sling loads.<sup>3</sup> Currently, the building sits as a partial ruin, fenced off from hikers and overgrown with small vegetation.

The walls of the log cabin are saddle-notched cottonwood logs varying in diameter from 11" to 16" and chinked with orange spray foam. The bottom eight courses of wall logs are extant and able to be reused, as are the windows, door, and flooring. The heating stove remains inside, but is no longer serviceable and carved graffiti is present on the interior walls. The Sheep Camp State Cabin was constructed of cottonwood (*Populus balsamifera ssp. trichocarpa*) logs, with saddle-notches and tapered log ends.

The following description is based on review of historic photographs. Given the extent of photographic evidence and the materials of the lower portion of the cabin, it could be restored in the future.

### ***Front (south) Elevation***

The Sheep Camp State Cabin was constructed as a one-story, log structure with a gable roof that extended over a south-facing front porch. The roof was clad in corrugated metal, pierced by a metal chimney. At the south facing front wall the cabin had an offset door at the east end. The door, which is still extant, is constructed of four vertical boards with Z-bracing on the exterior. The door operated on an outward swing, with metal strap hinges attached to the horizontal

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<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

members of the Z-brace. A simple sliding metal latch is likely historic. A driftwood door handle was added after 2004. The door threshold is a pressure treated 2x6' board; it is not notched into the sill log as found at the Canyon City State Cabin (Photographs 4, 5).

Opposite the door, at the west end of the front porch was a window opening. This window is a paired, six-lite, wood window with fixed sashes nailed into place with a 1x1 stop inside and out. This window measures 63.5' x 27.25' and has painted green sashes. Most of glass panes are no longer present, but the wood rails, styles and muntins are intact.

The cabin was accessed from a porch on the south façade. The porch is enclosed on three sides by a pony wall at the height of three horizontal log courses. The length of the porch measures 6'10", the width of the porch is the same as the 19' width of the cabin. The east and west pony walls of the Sheep Camp porch are not continuous with the three bottom courses of main wall logs. The porch is accessed through a 4' opening in the pony wall east of center, 2' from the east wall and 13' from the west wall. The average diameter of the logs used to construct the pony wall around the porch are smaller than the average diameter of the wall logs. Two round vertical posts that rested on the east and west ends of the pony wall supported the roof over the porch. These features were removed after the 2010 roof collapse.

#### ***Side Elevations (east and west)***

Each side elevation had a single window opening, roughly centered on these elevations. Both side elevation windows are paired six-light windows with fixed sashes nailed into place with a 1x1 stop inside and out. The windows are roughly the same size as the front window, the east measures 63 x 27.5' and the west window measures 63.25 x 27' and they have painted green sash. Most of glass panes are no longer present, but the wood rails, styles and muntins are intact.

#### ***Rear (north) Elevation***

The rear or north elevation had continuous log courses and no window openings.

#### ***Roof***

Prior to collapse, the roof had a pitch of 4:12 and consisted of 13 log purlins including the ridgepole and two plate logs. Nailed directly to the purlins was light gauge corrugated aluminum sheet roofing with two 2' wide fiberglass skylights. No sheathing boards were present. As of 2017, the only remaining parts of the roof were the fascia braces. On the Sheep Camp roof, the fascia boards at the drip edge of the roof line were braced by five, evenly spaced 2x4 fascia braces. The braces are painted green, notched to support the fascia board and nailed to the top wall log for support.

#### ***Interior***

The building interior likely consisted of one open room with a heat stove, bunk beds, and shelving. In 2007, NPS crews built an elevated floor to accommodate the slope of the cabin, caused by deteriorating logs in the walls and the slope of the ground below. Crews framed the floor using 2x6 stringers covered by ¾" plywood. A small landing at the entrance was filled with river rock to divert water away from the wood floor. The square landing, measuring 3'-2" x 3'-2", is surrounded on 3 sides by a 4" step up to the first level of the finished floor (Photograph 6). The first level of the finished floor covers the south half of the interior, 7" shiplap floorboards run

The Sheep Camp Cabin is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places at the state level under Criterion A, significant within the area of Recreation. The State Cabins at both Canyon City and Sheep Camp, built in 1962 and 1963 respectively, signaled the beginning of state and federal interest in preserving and promoting the history of the Klondike Gold Rush for tourists and recreational hikers. Situated along the Chilkoot Trail, the cabins afforded hikers the opportunity to stop, rest, and recreate as they hiked the trail. Managed jointly by the National Park Service and Parks Canada, the Chilkoot Trail is integral to the mission of both parks. Beginning with sporadic maintenance between the trailhead and Sheep Camp at mile thirteen in the early 1960s, the 33-mile Chilkoot Trail now spans the American and Canadian border, and has made significant contributions to recreational activities in the area. Between 1963 and 2012, the two state cabins served as the primary warming and resting shelters for hikers who traveled on the American side of the trail. In 2016, over 2,700 hikers hiked the entirety of the trail.<sup>4</sup> The period of significance for the Sheep Camp State Cabin is 1963, reflecting its date of construction. The building, while missing its roof, retains historic integrity of location, design, setting, feeling and association. The integrity of materials and workmanship have been somewhat impaired through the loss of the roof.

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

**Criterion A: Area of Recreation**

The Canyon City and Sheep Camp State Cabins reflect an increased governmental interest in opening a recreational trail that mirrored the journey of fortune seekers during the Klondike Gold Rush between 1896 and 1899. Constructed in 1963, the Sheep Camp Cabin was the second of the two recreational structures completed along the Chilkoot Trail.

The Chilkoot Trail has been a transportation corridor from coastal Alaska to the Interior for thousands of years. The Chilkat Tlingits first used the passage as a trading route, exchanging goods with interior Athapaskan communities. In 1897, the Chilkoot Trail rose to fame as a key route to the goldfields during the Klondike Gold Rush.<sup>5</sup> After the stampede ended in 1899, the route was rarely traveled. Recreational hikers returned in the 1960s when state and federal governments began to take interest in maintaining the Chilkoot as a recreational trail, focusing on the history of the Klondike Gold Rush.<sup>6</sup> The Chilkoot Trail has become an integral state-wide recreational resource managed jointly by Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park (National Park Service) and the Chilkoot Trail National Historic Site (Parks Canada).

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<sup>4</sup> "Monthly Public Use Report, Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park, December 2016." National Park Service, last modified 2016, <https://irma.nps.gov/Stats/SSRSReports/Park%20Specific%20Reports/Monthly%20Public%20Use>.

<sup>5</sup> Thomas F. Thornton, *Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park Ethnographic Overview and Assessment* (Anchorage: National Park Service, 2004), vi.

<sup>6</sup> Edwin C. Bearss, *Proposed Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park Historic Resource Study* (Office of History and Historic Architecture, Eastern Service Center: Washington D.C., 1970) 281, 284.

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**Period of Significance**

1963: Sheep Camp State Cabin was constructed by work crews managed by Department of Youth and Adult Authority, State of Alaska.

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**Significant Dates**

August 11, 1972: Cooperative agreement between the NPS, the BLM, and the State of Alaska stipulating that management and protection of the Chilkoot Trail would be transferred to the NPS starting in 1973

June 30, 1976: President Gerald Ford signed S. 98 into law, establishing Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park

August 12, 2002: Flooding at Sheep Camp caused a relocation of the campground during the 2003 summer season

Winter 2009-2010: Snow load caused the roof of the Sheep Camp State Cabin to collapse

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

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**Cultural Affiliation**

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**Architect/Builder**

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**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.)



In the summer of 1963, work continued farther up the trail. Major work consisted of improving the trail from Canyon City to the timberline, a mile above Sheep Camp, and constructing a shelter cabin near Sheep Camp similar in design to the one constructed the summer prior near Canyon City. A 1963 letter from forester Lawrence Dutton to Michael Leach of the Division of Lands reported on the progress of the trail work in June 1963. He noted that the Sheep Camp State Cabin was the "major effort" of the season and that the crew would use materials ordered from Haines in addition to resources found in the area to construct the cabin.

The major effort thus far this season has been concentrated in the erection of shelter cabin at the site of Sheep Camp. This cabin measures 18 feet by 22 feet [*sic*] and upon completion will be completely enclosed and roofed. Roofing will consist of corrugated aluminum which was purchased from Haines Lumber Co. at Haines, Alaska, at a total cost of \$232.40. The roofing was picked up in Haines and taken to Dyea where it was delivered to the Y&AA and packed up the trail. There will be several windows in the cabin and entry will be thru a door in the south end of the cabin. The south end will also have a porch with roof extended over it. It is planned that the porch will be supported on two small cast iron cable drums, about 12" by 18", and weighing about 75 pounds each.<sup>7</sup>

By summer's end, the trail had been improved to a standard acceptable to both the Youth and Adult Authority and the Division of Lands. During the trail construction period, about forty people had hiked over the trail.

After 1963, Y&AA work crews returned to the trail each summer for the next five years. The crews were involved in such tasks as bridge repair, maintenance of the trail tread, and the installation of mileage and directional signs. Crews camped along the trail each year until 1968; thereafter, crews from DNR's Division of Parks replaced them. Trailside markers indicating each half-mile of trail were installed in 1965; they remained until the late 1970s.

### ***Rise in Recreation and Transfer to National Park Service***

During the late 1960s and early 1970s, the Chilkoot Trail witnessed an explosion in recreational visitation, from less than 100 during the 1968 season to an estimated 1,000 during the summer of 1972. Through the 1972 season, however, there was no ranger presence on the Chilkoot. The only staff on the U.S. side during the 1969-1972 period was maintenance personnel from the Alaska Division of Parks, who spent just a few weeks on the trail each summer.

When it became clear that the yearly number of hikers would require patrols and maintenance, three government agencies were identified that could potentially manage the trail: the Alaska Department of Natural Resources; the federal Bureau of Land Management (BLM); and the federal National Park Service (NPS). The transfer of maintenance and eventually, ownership, went to the NPS. The Alaska Department of Natural Resources recognized that NPS had spent considerable effort developing the proposal for a Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park;

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<sup>7</sup> Lawrence A. Dutton, Field Forester to Michael S. Leach, Area Forester, Chilkoot Trail Inspection Report, July 5, 1963, Administrative Central Files: Maintenance and Construction Roads and Trails PCSR.FCAB1.DR2, Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park Archive, Skagway, AK.

The majority of the text for the following section, "Beginnings of the Recreational Chilkoot Trail," was extracted from *Legacy of the Gold Rush: An Administrative History of Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park* by Frank Norris, 1996 (59, 61, 64-65, 138-143).

### ***Beginnings of the Recreational Chilkoot Trail***

Local representatives had advocated for establishing national monuments in Skagway, Dyea and the Chilkoot Trail as early as the 1930s, but it was not until the 1960s that governmental funds were allocated toward improving the Chilkoot Trail. In 1961, the Division of Lands, in the Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and the state's corrections department, the Division of Youth and Adult Authority (Y&AA), cooperated to start work on a recreational Chilkoot Trail.

Work began on May 15, 1961. That day, Thomas Murton and Richard Branton of the Y&AA discussed the project with Charles Mehlert and Michael Leach of the Division of Lands in Juneau. The four traveled to Skagway, and the following day they continued on to Dyea and began flagging the proposed route. Guided by Emil Hanousek, a Dyea resident who was familiar with the trail corridor, the group hiked up the east side of the valley to the site of Canyon City, flagging as they went. The following day, they continued on to Sheep Camp. They then returned to Dyea and left the area.

The trailblazers were unsure as to whether the path they followed was the same as that followed by the gold rush stampeders. Hanousek had told them that "an old wagon road which began at Dyea and proceeded along the west bank of the river to Canyon City was, in fact, the location of the original trail." Because they had not followed that route, Leach urged that the route be re-located so as to be more historically authentic. When the work crews arrived, however, they eschewed Leach's suggestion and merely followed the flags. The route they pioneered that summer is, with minor exceptions, the same one used today.

Nine youths began work on June 9, 1961. Adults, who traveled from jails in Juneau and Ketchikan, arrived three days later. Both groups, led by Russel Lowell, completed their work by July 20. The crews had accomplished a great deal during the summer. They had brushed out a trail from the east side of the Dyea steel bridge to a point one-half mile south of Sheep Camp.

### ***State Cabins on the Chilkoot Trail***

The work accomplished on the Chilkoot Trail in the summer of 1961 proved so successful that the project was continued. In 1962, Y&AA officials hoped that the trail would be brought up to U.S. Forest Service standards. Led by Don Davis, the prisoners spent most of June and July 1962 working from a Canyon City base camp, and by the end of their season they had improved the trail as far as Canyon City. Major accomplishments included a three-mile relocation of the trail around the unsightly Hosford Sawmill site, the logging road past the mill was improved, courtesy of a rented bulldozer. Workers also erected a 27'-10" x 18'-6" ' shelter cabin near Canyon City, replaced the Slide Cemetery headboards, and cleaned up the Dyea Town Cemetery.

result in some dispersal of camping (and would certainly alleviate what may soon become a building maintenance headache), but is neither politically feasible nor, given the area's weather, necessarily recommended in the light of possible emergencies. These cabins, if they are to be maintained by the park, should be worked into the Cyclic Maintenance Program within the next two years, with special attention given to foundations and floors.<sup>8</sup>

Another maintenance report from 1979 noted that conditions were cramped, not only for hikers, but also for crews who maintained the trail.

Until the "Administrative Camp" near the Sheep Camp Ranger Station was created the crew was forced to occupy part of the visitor camping area at Sheep Camp. With very basic compliment of backcountry base-camp supplies and equipment the crew operated fairly well considering the weather conditions. The major problem is the ability to dry out at the end of normally wet working days. It is almost impossible to utilize the existing shelters during the peak visitor months (June-August). While the crew worked around the Sheep Camp area the rangers were more than helpful by sharing their already crowded ranger station. In addition to the proposed improvements of the Sheep Camp Ranger Station (three 16 x 20 platform wall-tents) two more platform wall-tents should be constructed in the immediate area to be used as storage, V.I.P. housing, and trail crew base camp for the upper canyon area. This should include a large steel storage box for tools and basic backcountry maintenance equipment.

On August 22, the crew shifted its base of operations to Canyon City. Here a spike camp was established, again in a normally highly used visitor area. Since the visitor use began to diminish by this time we were able to use the Canyon City Shelter to dry cloths [*sic*] and bedding during the day. By the 2nd week of September we more or less occupied the shelter since visitor use had reduced to less than four people daily.<sup>9</sup>

Shields also recommended that the primitive campgrounds at Canyon City and Sheep Camp be expanded. Infrastructure for hikers and maintenance crews steadily improved, with the addition of amenities at Finnegan's Point, Pleasant Camp, Canyon City, and Sheep Camp in the late 1980s and early 1990s:

- Canyon City trail crew cabin, equipment shed, and tent platforms (1981-87)<sup>10</sup>
- Finnegan's Point pit toilet (ca.1985)<sup>11</sup>
- Finnegan's Point tent platforms (1987)<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> Michael D. Shields, Trails Foreman, Skagit District to Regional Director, Pacific Northwest Region, Trip Report—Chilkoot Trail, Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park, August 7-August 14, 1978, Administrative Central Files: RG 2.06 KLGO 338, Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park Archive, Skagway, AK.

<sup>9</sup> 1979 Maintenance Report, Administrative Central Files: Maintenance and Construction Roads and Trails PCSR.FCAB1.DR2, Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park Archive, Skagway, AK.

<sup>10</sup> *Chilkoot Trail: Cultural Landscape Report Part I*, (Anchorage: Cultural Landscapes Program, Alaska, 2010), 207.

<sup>11</sup> *Chilkoot Trail: Cultural Landscape Report Part I*, 167.

<sup>12</sup> *Ibid.*, 207.

representatives of the state agency also realized that the state was unable to provide season-long protection for hikers or historical resources. Similarly, the BLM had applied for most of the land in the Taiya Valley, but recognized that the agency, like the State of Alaska, had no manpower to protect the area. Based on those assumptions, the NPS, the BLM, and the State of Alaska entered into a cooperative agreement on August 11, 1972. The agreement stated that the NPS "shall undertake to provide management and protection and do what may be necessary to administer, protect, improve, and maintain the lands and associated resources" in the Chilkoot Trail corridor. The parties maintained, however, "that this cooperative agreement shall in no way be deemed to be a transfer of title to any lands or associated resources, nor constitute in any way a disavowal or relinquishment of any right, title, or interest by any of the parties...." The agreement was to terminate "at such time as legislation is enacted to establish the proposed Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park or at such time as the parties hereto may hereafter agree." The NPS began to administer its new responsibility in the region in the summer of 1973.

The NPS chose Scott Sappington and Chuck Nelson to be its first Chilkoot Trail rangers. The two, under the guidance of Superintendent Bob Howe of Glacier Bay National Park, and assisted by local resident Robert Vaughan, began working along the trail in late May 1973 and continued their duties until late September. The two established a new ranger headquarters at Sheep Camp, which consisted of an A-frame wall tent located one-quarter mile south of the state-built cabin. They spent the summer providing guidance and information, enforcing regulations, and educating hikers on the importance of the area's historic resources. In early June 1973, the State of Alaska trail crew joined the rangers and spent the next few weeks maintaining the trail, much as they had been doing since 1969.

The following summer, the NPS rangers continued the work they had begun in 1973. In addition, they teamed up with Parks Canada trail personnel and installed a series of 24 aluminum interpretive signs. On June 30, 1976, President Gerald Ford signed S. 98, the law that established Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park.

### *Canyon City and Sheep Camp State Cabins 1976-Present*

As NPS took over management of the Chilkoot Trail, the number of hikers continued to rise and the Canyon City and Sheep Camp State Cabins served as the primary amenities on the U.S. side of the border from the early 1970s to the early 1990s. In 1978, Ed Stondall, engineer from the NPS Alaska Area Office, and Michael D. Shields, Trails Forman at North Cascades hiked the trail from August 7-14, 1978. In his report to the Director of the Pacific Northwest Region Shields noted:

At present there are two camp areas on the U.S. side of the pass (Canyon City and Sheep Camp), both showing evidence of overuse (soil compaction, loss of vegetation, depletion of firewood and cutting of green timber, etc.). The cabins at both camps encourage crowding and intense overuse of a fairly small area in their immediate vicinity; despite a surprisingly high proportion of inexperienced hikers on the trail, signing at trailheads to the effect that the cabins are nearly always full seems to have prevented most of the cabin-reliant unpreparedness normally associated with cabins and shelters in other parks. Removal of the cabins might



- Sheep Camp ranger station (1989-1990)<sup>13</sup>
- Sheep Camp trail crew and ranger supply shed (1992)<sup>14</sup>
- Pleasant Camp shelter (1993)<sup>15</sup>
- Finnegan's Point canvas warming shelter (1993)<sup>16</sup>
- Pleasant Camp pit toilet (1996)<sup>17</sup>

Warming shelters and staff accommodations improved, however the number of Chilkoot hikers continued to grow, and the state cabins remained popular resting places. In 1984, Tom Walker's *Building the Alaska Log Home* featured a photograph of the Canyon City State Cabin observing, "With the exception of some Forest Service cabins, this is probably one of the most used public cabins in Alaska."<sup>18</sup> Evidence of use remains apparent in the walls of both cabins in the form of names and dates carved into the logs in the interior of the cabin.

Records of maintenance work on the state cabins between the 1980s and the 2000s are scattered, but it is clear that both cabins required a number of repairs. However, at Sheep Camp repairs were likely made in the 1980s, as a photograph of the Sheep Camp State Cabin in 1985 showed a new support post for the roof and new logs on the western half of the porch. A flood at Sheep Camp in August of 2002 displaced a warming tent and inundated the eighteen campsites. The following summer, the trail crew rerouted the trail, and relocated the campsite out of the flood path of the Taiya River, building new tent platforms, new comfort stations, and a new warming tent. In 2004, building conservator Harrison Goodall completed a condition assessment of the Sheep Camp State Cabin. His report noted that the porch logs had been replaced and there were non-original latches on the doors. He also accurately observed that the corrugated fiberglass panels of the roof were likely to "collapse under heavy snow in some areas, especially with no sheathing boards."<sup>19</sup> The roof caved in six years later. In 2007, the floor in the Sheep Camp State Cabin was replaced. Under the direction of park preservationist Lisa Cassidy, NPS maintenance crews removed the rotted floor stringers and surface boards, building an elevated floor to accommodate the slope of the cabin, caused by the slope of the ground below and the deteriorating logs in the cabin walls.<sup>20</sup> New floor stringers, plywood and surface boards were protected from moisture by a new entrance filled with river rock. In 2016, a new open air pavilion was built at Sheep Camp to accommodate the heavily used campsite. Currently the ruins of the Sheep Camp State Cabin are blocked off in the campground and the remains of the roof have been removed.

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<sup>13</sup> Ibid., 254.

<sup>14</sup> Ibid.

<sup>15</sup> Ibid., 250.

<sup>16</sup> Ibid., 167.

<sup>17</sup> Ibid., 250.

<sup>18</sup> Tom Walker, *Building the Alaska Log Home* (Anchorage: Alaska Northwest Publishing Company, 1984), 173.

<sup>19</sup> Harrison Goodall, *Sheep Camp Cabin: Condition Assessment of Historic Cabins at Klondike Gold Rush NHP* (Langley, WA: Conservation Services, LLC, 2004), 1.

<sup>20</sup> Lisa Cassidy, "Project Completion Report: Sheep Camp Warming Cabin Floor Replacement, 2007," Administrative Central Files: 0001.004.002.002, Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park Archive, Skagway, AK.

### ***Period of Significance***

The period of significance for the Sheep Camp Cabin is 1963, reflective of its date of construction. There are no additional important dates or notable additions or alterations that would extend the period of significance.

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### ***Integrity***

The Sheep Camp State Cabin remains in the original location; it has not been moved. It retains the original basic design intent of a one-room warming hut. Characteristics of the vernacular workmanship from the 1960s are integral to the building; saddle notches and tapered corners, original window configuration, and the one door location are extant. The roof collapse of 2010 resulted in impact to integrity of materials and workmanship. However, the National Park Service has made an effort to preserve the remaining 1960s era materials. The original association of the cabin has continued to play a central role in the experience of hiking the Chilkoot Trail. Carved graffiti in the logs of the interior show the names of previous hikers and nails in the walls have been added to hang wet clothing and equipment.

As use of the trail has increased from under 50 hikers per year in 1963 to over 2,700 hikers in a summer season, the footprint of the Sheep Camp campground has increased and shifted due to use and flooding.<sup>21</sup> However, the campground and setting of the Sheep Camp cabin retains a similar feeling of camaraderie that arises from daily gatherings of backpackers who hike the trail. Overall, the Sheep Camp State Cabin retains enough historic integrity to convey its significance.

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<sup>21</sup> "Monthly Public Use Report, Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park, December 2016." National Park Service, last modified 2016, <https://irma.nps.gov/Stats/SSRSReports/Park%20Specific%20Reports/Monthly%20Public%20Use>.

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## 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.)

- 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.)

Entertainment/Recreation

north to south. Another 4" step up leads to a plywood sheet floor in the northern half of the interior space (Photograph 7).

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Bearss, Edwin C. *Proposed Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park Historic Resource Study*. Office of History and Historic Architecture, Eastern Service Center: Washington D.C., 1970.

Cassidy, Lisa. "Project Completion Report: Sheep Camp Warming Cabin Floor Replacement, 2007." Administrative Central Files: 0001.004.002.002, Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park Archive, Skagway, AK.

*Chilkoot Trail: Cultural Landscape Report Part I*. Anchorage: Cultural Landscapes Program, Alaska, 2010.

Dutton, Lawrence A., Field Forester to Michael S. Leach, Area Forester, Chilkoot Trail Inspection Report, July 5, 1963. Administrative Central Files: Maintenance and Construction Roads and Trails PCSR.FCAB1.DR2, Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park Archive, Skagway, AK.

Goodall, Harrison. *Canyon City Cabin: Condition Assessment of Historic Cabins at Klondike Gold Rush NHP*. Langley, WA: Conservation Services, LLC, 2004.

"Monthly Public Use Report, Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park, December 2016." National Park Service. Last modified 2016. Accessed November 14, 2017. <https://irma.nps.gov/Stats/SSRSReports/Park%20Specific%20Reports/Monthly%20Public%20Use>.

Norris, Frank. *Legacy of the Gold Rush: An Administrative History of Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park*. Anchorage: National Park Service, 1996.

Shields, Michael D., Trails Foreman, Skagit District to Regional Director, Pacific Northwest Region, Trip Report—Chilkoot Trail, Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park, August 7-August 14, 1978. Administrative Central Files: RG 2.06 KLGO 338, Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park Archive, Skagway, AK.

Thornton, Thomas F. *Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park Ethnographic Overview and Assessment*. Anchorage: National Park Service, 2004.

Walker, Tom. *Building the Alaska Log Home*. Anchorage: Alaska Northwest Publishing Company, 1984.

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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 Landscapes Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
  - Other State agency
  - Federal agency
  - Local government
  - University
  - Other
- Name of repository: Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** \_\_\_\_\_

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**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreege of Property** N/A, Building footprint

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- |              |            |
|--------------|------------|
| 1. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

Or

**UTM References**

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or  NAD 1983

- |            |                             |                               |
|------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Zone: 8 | Easting: 484902.0639 meters | Northing: 6613456.8165 meters |
| 2. Zone: 8 | Easting: 484906.5378 meters | Northing: 6613454.9328 meters |
| 3. Zone: 8 | Easting: 484900.1801 meters | Northing: 6613451.4008 meters |
| 4. Zone: 8 | Easting: 484905.125 meters  | Northing: 6613449.7525 meters |

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

The footprint of the Sheep Camp State Cabin comprises the boundaries of the historic property.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The Sheep Camp State Cabin remains in the same place as it did in 1963. As use of the trail has increased from under of 50 hikers per year to over 2,700 hikers in a summer season, the footprint of the surrounding campground has shifted due to flooding and expansion. The original association of the cabin as a comfort station has continued to play a central role in the experience of hiking the Chilkoot Trail.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Susannah Dowds, Archives Technician  
organization: Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park  
street & number: PO Box 517, 291 Broadway  
city or town: Skagway state: AK zip code: 99840  
e-mail susannah\_dowds@nps.gov  
telephone: 907-983-9221  
date: 2/11/18

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## 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 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: Sheep Camp State Cabin

City or Vicinity: Chilkoot Trail

County: Skagway-Yakutat Division

State: Alaska

Photographer: Susannah Dowds (unless otherwise noted)

Date Photographed: June 2017 (unless otherwise noted)

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

1 of 7. View of cabin after roof collapse, south and east façades. Unknown photographer, NPS 2010 (NPS, KLGO Maintenance Photographs).

2 of 7. View of cabin with roof removed, south and east façades.

3 of 7. View of cabin from above with roof removed.

4 of 7. View of front door.



5 of 7. Entrance to cabin.

6 of 7. Interior view of northwest corner showing walls, table, bench, and split level floor.

7 of 7. Interior view of south wall, window, doorway, dismantled stovepipe and stove.

### **List of Figures**

1 of 14. Front view, south façade. Gene Rook Collection, 1968 (NPS, KLGO, Administration Maintenance File, 02.06.338.46666).

2 of 14. Front view, south façade. Unknown photographer, NPS 1982. (NPS, KLGO Administration Maintenance File, 02.06.338.46666).

3 of 14. Front and side views, south and east façades. Unknown photographer, NPS 1990. (NPS, KLGO Administration Maintenance File, 02.06.405.47564).

4 of 14. View from the trail approaching cabin, south and east façades. Unknown photographer, NPS 2002. (NPS, KLGO Administration Maintenance File, 02.06.338.4683).

5 of 14. Front and side view, south and east façades. Harrison Goodall, Conservation Services, Site Visit, 2004.

6 of 14. Partial side view, east façade. Harrison Goodall, Conservation Services, Site Visit, 2004.

7 of 14. Roof bracket on east wall. Harrison Goodall, Conservation Services, Site Visit, 2004.

8 of 14. Chimney on east side of roof. Harrison Goodall, Conservation Services, Site Visit, 2004.

9 of 14. Back view, north façade looking northwest. Harrison Goodall, Conservation Services, Site Visit, 2004.

10 of 14. West façade. Harrison Goodall, Conservation Services, Site Visit, 2004.

11 of 14. View of interior porch, looking northwest. Harrison Goodall, Conservation Services, Site Visit, 2004.

12 of 14. Interior view of south and east walls. Harrison Goodall, Conservation Services, Site Visit, 2004.

13 of 14. Interior view of warming stove, stovepipe and east wall. Harrison Goodall, Conservation Services, Site Visit, 2004.

14 of 14. Interior view bunk frame, west and north walls. Harrison Goodall, Conservation Services, Site Visit, 2004.

## List of Maps

1 of 2: Sheep Camp State Cabin: Chilkoot Trail Location

2 of 2: State Cabins: Chilkoot Trail Location

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications 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.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.