

Form No. 10-300 (Rev. 10-74)

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
 INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

RECEIVES

DATE ENTERED

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

NAME

HISTORIC

Seward, Fort, William H. (AHR Site No. SKG-001)

AND/OR COMMON

Chilkoot Barracks

LOCATION

STREETS, NUMBER

Port Chilkoot

CITY, TOWN

Haines

STATE

Alaska

_JJ VICINITY OF

CODE

02

_NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Alaska

COUNTY

Haines Division

CODE

100

HCLASSIFICATION

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

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

.Alaska Indian Arts, Inc. (907) 766-2160

STREET & NUMBER

Box 271, Port Chilkoot

CITY, TOWN

Haines

VICINITY OF

STATE

Alaska 99827

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

District Recorder

STREETS NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Rov

STATE

Haines

Alaska 99827

REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Alaska Heritage Resource Survey (AHRs)

DATE

1970

—FEDERAL —STATE —COUNTY —LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Alaska Division of PayTca. 323 Raa<-

CITY, TOWN

Anchorage

STATE

Alaska 99501

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1 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Initially, Fort William H. Seward adjoined the Tlingit village, Chilkat, astride a portage between Chilkoot and Chilkat Inlets. Although the location has not changed, surroundings have, and the fort lies a half mile south of the City of Haines, on Portage Cove, a peninsula about one mile wide. A road runs between the town and fort site.

Constructed between 1902 and 1904, Fort William H. Seward was comprised of about 85 frame buildings placed around a central parade ground. The 30ft cwas a typical infantry post of the period, although no fortifications were ever erected. Additional land was withdrawn by Executive Orders over the first ten years for clay and water reserves. In 1909, the fort encompassed about 4,410 acres.

Shortly after 1945, Fort Seward was deactivated and the land and buildings were sold to the Port Chilkoot Company. With the intent of developing a resort town, the firm took over the barracks and officers quarters, converting them into hotels, recreation centers, museums, and residences for members of the company. One officers' building has been converted into a rest home.

Today, several buildings have been added to the complex. A building moved to the site functions as a performing arts center, and two buildings have been constructed to depict a Chilkat tribal community house and gold rush era construction. On the periphery of the former military reserve a few modern private residences have been erected. However, a few original frame ' buildings, such as the officers' quarters, remain in good condition on their original sites. Although altered, these buildings together with the original location serve as an interesting example of an early twentieth century military installation.

W. P. Richardson, began in July, 1902, and was completed two years later. The name, Fort William H. Seward, in honor of the Secretary of State who negotiated the purchase of Alaska in 1867, was decreed by William H. Taft, then Secretary of War, on March 3, 1904. A typical infantry post of the period, the post was comprised of 85 frame buildings around a square parade ground. Of interest, no fortifications were ever erected at Fort Seward. Three companies of the Third Infantry under the command of Colonel Thomas C. Woodbury, formerly stationed at Camp Skagway, were the first occupants of the fort from July to November 5, 1902.

By Executive Orders on November 21, 1902, November 27, 1905, and April 23, 1909 the original tract was enlarged and land was designated for

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DATE ENTERED

Seward, Fort, William H.

(AHR5 SKG-001)

CONTINUATION SHEET _____ ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 1 of 1 _____

clay and water reserves. By 1909 the fort encompassed about 4,410 acres. Another government decree, on December 13, 1922, changed the name of the fort to Chilkoot Barracks after the local Indians and in commemoration of one route that many pioneers travelled to settle in Eastern Alaska.

Between 1921 and 1925 all military posts in Alaska, except Fort Seward, were abandoned and remained unoccupied until World War II. Total troop strength in Alaska in 1927 was 255: 14 officers and 241 enlisted men. In December 1939, 11 officers and 286 enlisted men, armed with .45 caliber pistols and 1903 Springfield rifles, were stationed at the Fort Seward garrison. Transportation was limited to one small tugboat.

Fort Seward was deactivated shortly after 1945, and the land and buildings, sold to the Port Chilkoot Company.

The property was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on April 11, 1972.

