Google automatically generates html versions of documents as we crawl the web.

Page 1

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

UNITED STATES DEPARTWBW OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS OSFONLY

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

RECEIVES

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOWTO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

NAME

HISTORIC

Seward, Fort, William H. (AHRS Site No. SKG-001) AND/OR COMMON

Chilkoot Barracks

LOCATION

STREETS. NUMBER

_NOT FOR PUBLICATION Port Chilkoot CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT CITY. TOWN Haines JJ VICINITY OF Alaska

COUNTY CODE STATE CODE Haines Division Alaska 100 02

HCLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESEN	PRESENT USE		
_ DISTRICT	_ PUBLIC	OCCUPIED	—AGRICULTURE	-MUSEUM		
— BUILDING(S)	^-PRIVATE	_ UNOCCUPIED	^.COMMERCIAL	_PARK		
—STRUCTURE	_BOTH	—WORK IN PROGRESS	X_EDUCATIONAL	—PRIVATE RESIDENCE		
	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	_ENTERTAINMENT	-RELIGIOUS		
_OBJECT	_IN PROCESS	X-YES RESTRICTED	—GOVERNMENT	SCIENTIFIC		
	—BEING CONSIDERED	— YES UNRESTRICTED	—INDUSTRIAL	_TRANSPORTATION		
		NO	_MILITARY	_OTHER		

VICINITY OF

OWNER OF PROPERTY

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

Box 271, Port Chilkoot CITY. TOWN

Alaska 99827

STATE

Haines

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE. STREETS NUMBER

REGISTRY OF DEEDS.ETC.

District Recorder

ROV STATE

Haines Alaska 99827

REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Alaska Heritage Resource Survey (AHRS)

DATE

1970 —FEDERAL -2J6TATE —COUNTY —LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Alaska Division of PayTca. 323 Raa<-

CITY. TOWN

STATE

Anchorage Alaska 99501

134

Page 2 1 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE	
-EXCELLENT	_DETERIORATED	UNALTERED	X.ORIGINAL SITE	
X.GOOD	_RUINS	2LALTERED	_MOVED	DATE
EAID	UNEVROCED			

——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 3foftcwasatypical 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 Additional land was withdrawn by Executive Orders over the first ten years for clay and water reserves.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.

Page 3 El SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE	CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	
—PREHISTORIC	_ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	_COMMUNITY PLANNING	—LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	—RELIGION
— 1400-1499	_ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	—CONSERVATION	—LAW	—SCIENCE
—1500-1599	_AGRICULTURE	—ECONOMICS	_LITER ATURE	—SCULPTURE
— 1600-1699	_ARCHITECTURE	—EDUCATION	X-MILITARY	—SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
— 1700-1799	—ART	—ENGINEERING	MUSIC	—THEATER
— 1800-1899	—COMMERCE	-EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	—PHILOSOPHY	—TRANSPORTATION
X1900-	_COMMUNICATIONS	_INDUSTRY	—POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	_OTHER (SPECIFY)
		INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1902-1945

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Significance

Established by Executive Order on December 31, 1898, Fort William H. Seward, known then as Haines Mission, was the last of a series of eleven military posts established in Alaska during the territory's gold rushes between 1897 and 1904. Founded for the purpose of preserving law and order among gold seekers, the site also provided a U.S. military presence in Alaska during boundary disputes with Canada. Fort Seward was not permanently garrisoned until April, 1902 and from 1904 to 1945 the fort's role was that of a routine military post. Between 1925 and 1940 the fort was the only active military establishment in Alaska. Shortly after the fort was deactivated in 1945-1946, the land was sold to a private enterprise, the Port Chilkoot Company. Today an entertainment area, easily accessible from the City of Haines, is operated by Alaskan Indan Arts, Ins. at the post site arid open to the public.

Historical Background

For several months during 1898 an finoffieiaT::Array, post operated at Haines Mission. The location was selected because traffic over three trails, the ChiUcoot, Chilkat, and White Pass, that led to the gold fields, could simultaneously be observed. The War Department decided to turn the post into a permanent fort, and by Executive Order set aside 1,280 acres. Construction at the fort, supervised by Colonel

Water Prichardson, began in July, 1902, and was completed two years 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



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NFS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

DATE ENTERED

Seward,	Fort,	William	Η.

(AHRS SKG-001)

CONTINUATION	SHEET	ITEM NUMBE	R	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 claiber 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.