

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

617

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: Sutton Community Hall

Other names/site number: AHRS Site No. ANC-01529

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: west side of Jonesville Road, about 1/4 mile north of the road's intersection with the Glenn Highway

City or town: Sutton State: Alaska County: Matanuska-Susitna

Not For Publication: Vicinity: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 X 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 X 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 X local
Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A B C D

<u>Jean M. Antonson, Deputy SHPO</u>	<u>9 July 2013</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
<u>Alaska</u>	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

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

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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:)

Ver Colson H. Beall 8.27.13
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
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u> </u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Social: meeting hall

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Vacant/not in use

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

No style

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: cement block foundation, metal roof, wood walls

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

The Sutton Community Hall is located between the Jonesville Road and Eska Creek less than a quarter of a mile north of the Glenn Highway. The one-story front gable wood-frame building measures 40 by 70 feet. At an undetermined time an addition was put on the north end of the west elevation. The original building is on a concrete block foundation and has a full basement.

The building was constructed in 1927 as a mess hall and dormitory for the Eklutna Hydroelectric Project (about 30 miles from Sutton). It was moved to Sutton in 1954. A local land owner dedicated the land to the community as long as the building was maintained and available for community use. The Sutton Community Council and Sutton Activities Coordination Board now own the building. Area residents used the hall for social, recreational, educational and political activities from 1956 until 1998. The building, not in use at present and in need of rehabilitation, has been little changed since 1954. The grounds around the building, used for a parking area are overgrown.

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Narrative Description

The Sutton Community Hall is between mileposts 52 and 72 of the Glenn Highway, 11 miles northeast of the City of Palmer, in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough. The community is unincorporated. In 2010, 1,447 people lived in the area, a little over a third of them in a radius of a mile of the community hall.

The building that became the community hall was constructed in 1927 and used as a mess hall and dormitory at the Eklutna Hydroelectric Project (about 30 miles from Sutton) until 1930. It was moved to Sutton in 1954. A local land owner, Phil O'Neill, dedicated the land to the community as long as the building was maintained and available for community use. Residents used the hall for social, recreational, educational, and political activities from 1956 until 1998. In December 2004 the O'Neill heirs quitclaimed the land to Hobbs Industries, Inc., and it is now owned by the Sutton Community Council and Sutton Activities Coordination Board.

The one-story front gable wood-frame building measures 40 by 70 feet. At an undetermined time an addition was put on the north end of the west elevation. The original building is on a concrete block foundation and has a full basement. A front gable arctic entry was added on the west end of the front, or north elevation, in the 1960s. Another arctic entry was placed in the center of the south elevation, also in the early 1960s. There is a shed awning with diagonal supports over a door in the center of the east elevation. Several elevations are covered with asphalt shingles, and one elevation is covered with vertical board and batten wood siding. The windows are wood framed and the single pane glass intact is not original. The windows appear to have been regularly spaced on each elevation and only on the north elevation does it appear a window opening has been changed. The exterior doors are metal and are not original. The gable roof has a 3/12 pitch. It is now covered with sheet metal roofing.

The interior is a single large room with a kitchen area in the northeast corner, two restrooms in the southeast corner, and a stairway to the basement and door to the addition in the northwest corner. The lighting was updated in 1976 and the walls and ceiling covered with sheetrock around the same time. Both arctic entries have closets. There is a second stairway to the basement that is accessed from outside the building at the southwest corner.

Community groups cleared around the exterior and created areas for parking and outdoor activities in the mid-1970s. Bingo, turkey shoots, community breakfasts and dinners, and other fund raisers were held over the years to pay the bills. In the early 1970s the local 4-H Club applied and received two grants for a total of \$5,000 to repair the wiring, replace lights, install linoleum in the back half of the room, replace the outside steps, and landscape the site. During the 1980s, the Civic Club received block grant funds to sheetrock the walls, add bathrooms, cover the roof, and carpet the hall. Community members used and maintained the building until 1999. Since, the residents have missed having a community hall. The school is not available during the school day or after six p.m. The library can accommodate twenty people at most.

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Residents would like to restore the building and use it as the community did in the past. Today, several windows are boarded and the grounds are overgrown.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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(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

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Social history

Period of Significance

1954

Significant Dates

1954

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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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.)

The Sutton Community Hall is significant to the people living in the Sutton, Eska and Jonesville areas, eleven miles east of the City of Palmer in southcentral Alaska. The residents worked together in 1954 to find a site and a building, build a foundation, and move the building to have a gathering place. For over forty years after it was moved to the site in 1954, the Sutton Community Hall was used by residents as a social hall, public meeting site, place to vote, and emergency shelter. The hall represents the start of a community and was important in development of civic life for area residents. The period of significance is 1954, the year the hall opened at Sutton.

The criteria consideration for moved buildings does not apply because the building is being nominated for its significance at its current site which happened more than fifty years ago.

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

People came to the Sutton area in southcentral Alaska around 1918 to work at coal mines started when the Alaska Railroad's Matanuska Branch spur line to the area was constructed. The name Sutton is after a local homesteader. The railroad spur went from the main line, that is about twenty miles west of Sutton, through the Sutton area, to the U.S. Government's coal mine at Chickaloon about fifteen miles east of Sutton. In addition to the area's few small coal mining operations near Sutton, between 1920 and 1922 the federal government built and operated a coal washery there. In 1922 the government closed the Chickaloon coal mine and stopped using the washery, and most of the small private operations closed as well. The railroad stopped using the spur line in the early 1930s.

Some years later, between 1941 and 1945, Sutton was one of the major camps during construction of the Glenn Highway. People moved to the area to provide services for the construction workers. The highway incorporated the old railroad bed. The road, along with a need for coal at the Fort Richardson / Elmendorf Field opened during World War II and for the growing city of Anchorage, revived coal mining in the area. A post office opened at Sutton in 1948. The privately owned Evan Jones, Jonesville, and Eska coal mines operated until 1968 when the military bases converted their power systems from coal to oil.

In the 1950s there was no place between miles 52 and 72 of the Glenn Highway for area residents to meet or hold community activities. The residents found an available building at Eklutna, about 30 miles away, that had been a dormitory for workers on the Eklutna Hydroelectric Project from 1927 to 1930. A Sutton resident, Phil O'Neill, offered a piece of his land for the proposed community hall. When they finished their shifts at the mine, residents, among them Chuck Shaver, Chuck Baim, Paul Johnson, John Leppanen and Harvey Hiber,

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hauled water from the coal mines and mixed concrete by hand in boxes they built to construct a concrete basement and foundation for the building. Women provided food for the workers. When the basement and foundation were complete, the building was moved to the site in two pieces. The men built a small addition and stairs to the basement where there was a storage room and two-seater indoor privy. The main room on the first floor was open with a kitchen area at one end.

Charles (Chuck) Baim helped raise money to fund the project. He asked the Evan Jones Coal Company owners to allow miners to buy shares in the project for \$100 a share and have payments deducted from their paychecks. The shares were due to be paid back with interest in ten years, but at that time the mine was closing and those holding shares forfeited collection of their money.

It soon became apparent an organization to oversee the hall was necessary. In 1957, the Alpine Civic Club organized as a non-profit social and civic corporation. Original members included Charles Baim, Yolanda Baim, Pat Boyle, Darrell Callison, Ruth Callison, Richard Diedrich, James Harris, Elvera Hiber, Edna Johnson, George Johnson, Rodney Johnson, Florence Killian, Oliver Killian, Letha Kruscavage, Daisy Kudlecek, William Kudlecek, Eino Kuoppala, Florence Mayr, Walter Mayr, Harvey Meyers, Rosetta Meyers, Donnis Michaels, Gloria Michaels, Jean O'Neill, Phil O'Neill, Shirley Sorenson, Primo Tirapelli, Betty Tucker, Robert Tucker, Catherine Wansor, and Charles Wansor.

Over the years, residents went to the hall to vote. They held community meetings. Educational activities took place in the hall before Sutton Elementary School was built in 1987. The hall served as headquarters for the community school programs. Community college classes, gymnastics, martial arts, hunter safety, baton, dance and music classes were held there. Youth had retreats there. Local organizations including the Alpine Civic Club and Community Council, 4-H, Girl Scouts, and Boy Scouts used the building. Residents exercised and roller skated at the hall. Fairs, the annual Sutton Days celebration, festivals, concerts, church services and vacation Bible schools, garage sales, trade fairs, bingo and card games all happened at the hall. When travelers were stranded or groups visited, they slept in the hall. The building was used for weddings, funerals, birthday parties, and other celebrations.

Community members maintained the building until 1999. Bingo, turkey shoots, community breakfasts and dinners, and other fund raisers were held over the years to pay the bills. In the early 1970s the local 4-H Club applied and received two grants for a total of \$5,000 to repair the wiring, replace lights, install linoleum in the back half of the room, replace the outside steps, and landscape the site. During the 1980s, the Civic Club received block grant funds to sheetrock the walls, add bathrooms, cover the roof, and carpet the hall.

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The hall has not been replaced with another building. Area residents are interested in repairing the building to return it to use.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Alpine Civic Club. Constitution and bylaws. 1957.

Cole, Vickie, et al, *Knik, Matanuska, Susitna: a visual history of the valleys*. Sutton, Alaska: Bentwood Press, 1985.

The Frontiersman. Various issues, 1952-1959.

Mielke, Coleen. Matanuska Susitna Valley: Learning aBout Our Earliest Residents. 2004.
http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~coleen/matanuska_susitna.html

Shaver, Chuck. Interview, 2005.

Simonds, William Joe. The Eklutna Project. Manuscript, 1995.
<http://www.usbr.gov/history/eklutna.htm>

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

N/A

- 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: Alpine Historical Society, Sutton, Alaska

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Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): AHRS No. ANC-01529

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property .6 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

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: 06 | Easting: 399815 | Northing: 6848328 |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

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

The property is located in the NW ¼ of the SE ¼ of the NW ¼ of Section 27, Township 19N, Range 3E, Seward Meridian. Starting at the NW 1/16 corner of Section 27; going east 310 feet, then south 130 feet to the Alaska Railroad right-of-way boundary, then west along the railroad boundary for 120 feet, then west 240 feet, then north along Eska Creek for 179 feet to the point of beginning. The boundary contains 26, 085 square feet.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary encompasses the building and the site that now has a parking area and yard that has historically been associated with the community hall.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Roberta Mason
organization: Sutton Community Council
street & number: P.O. Box 271
city or town: Sutton state: Alaska zip code: 99674-0271
e-mail _____
telephone: 907-745-1007
date: August 1, 2005 (reviewed and revised August 2012 and July 2013)

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.)

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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: Sutton Community Hall

City or Vicinity: Sutton

County: Matanuska-Susitna State: Alaska

Photographer: Sarah Wilson, Alaska Office of History & Archaeology

Date Photographed: August 2012

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

1. Looking southwest at front of hall
2. Looking west
3. Looking east
4. Looking northwest

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.).

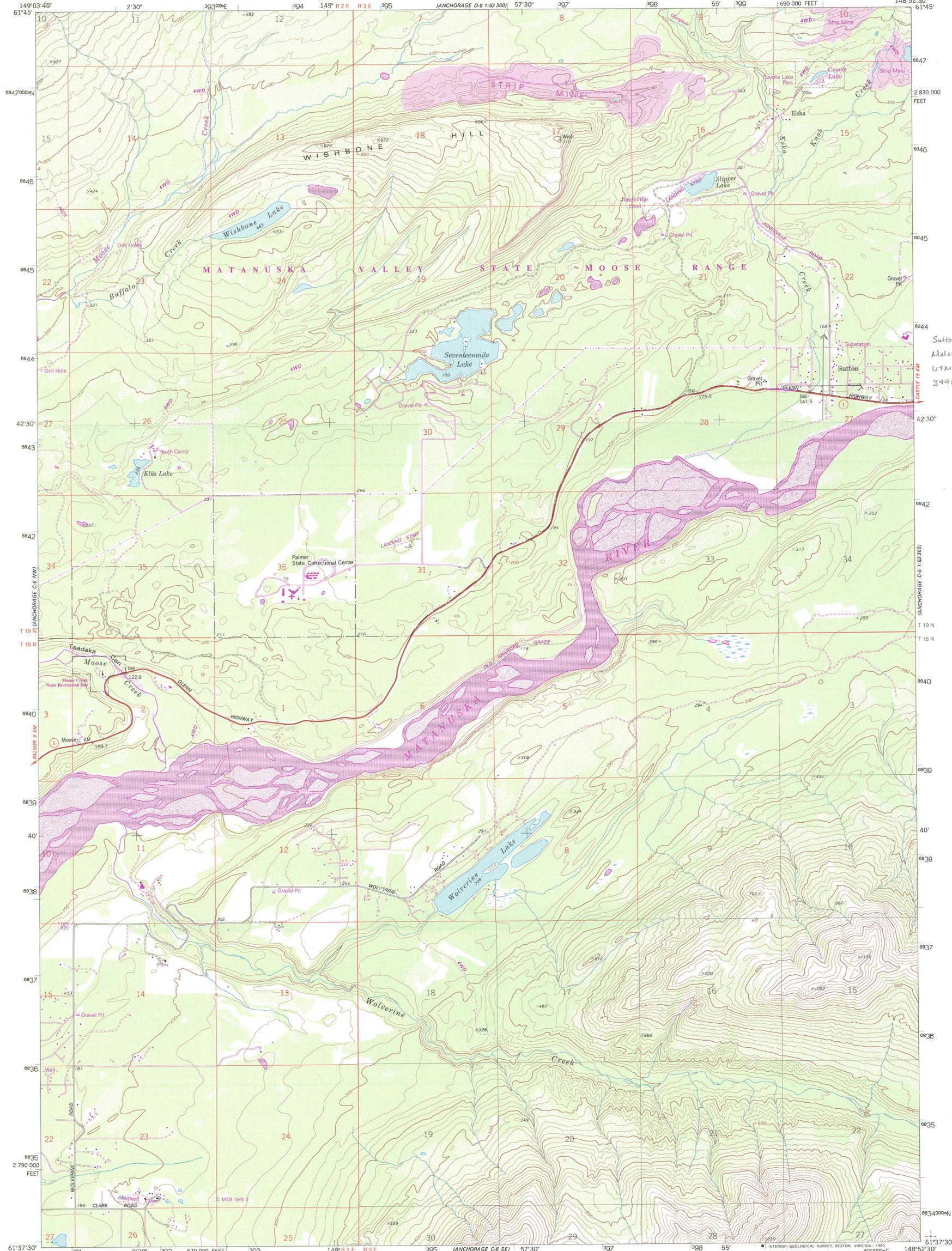
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form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

ANCHORAGE D-6
1:63 360

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

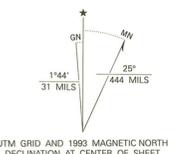
ANCHORAGE (C-6) NE QUADRANGLE
ALASKA-MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
1:25 000-SCALE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
NE/4 ANCHORAGE (C-6) 1:63 360-SCALE QUADRANGLE

ANCHORAGE D-6
1:63 360



Sutton Community Hall
Matanuska-Susitna, Alaska
UTM Zone 06
399815 E 6848328 N

Produced by the United States Geological Survey
Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA and USCE
Compiled from aerial photographs taken 1972. Revisions shown in purple and woodland compiled from aerial photographs taken 1990 and other sources and has been field checked. Map edited 1993
Conflicts may exist between some updated features and previously mapped contours
1927 North American Datum (NAD 27). Projection and blue 1000-meter ticks: Universal Transverse Mercator, zone 6
10000-foot ticks: Alaska Coordinate System, zone 4
North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83) is shown by dashed corner ticks. The values of the shift between NAD 27 and NAD 83 for 7.5-minute intersections are given on this map
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map
Gray land lines represent unsurveyed and unmarked locations predetermined by the Bureau of Land Management, Folio S-1, Seward Meridian
Swamps, as portrayed, indicate only wetter areas, usually of low relief, as interpreted from aerial photographs



CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 METERS
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
CONTROL ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.1 METER
OTHER ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST METER
To convert meters to feet multiply by 3.2808
To convert feet to meters multiply by 0.3048

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99701; DENVER, COLORADO 80225; OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, hard surface	Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Secondary highway, hard surface	Unimproved road
	State Route

ANCHORAGE (C-6) NE, ALASKA
NE/4 ANCHORAGE (C-6) 1:63 360-SCALE QUADRANGLE
61148-F8-TM-025
1979
REVISED 1993

ANCHORAGE C-6 NE
ISBN # 0607013230 AK 025
9 780607 013238 TM







