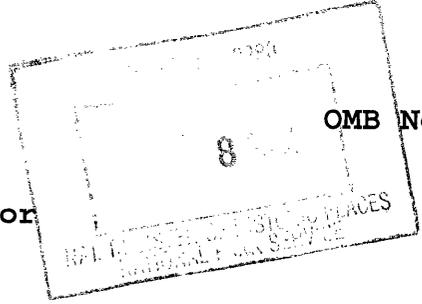


NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 10-90)

OMB No. 1024-0018



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 How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. 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. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

=====
1. Name of Property
=====

historic name Civil Works Residential Dwellings

other names/site number Brown's Point Cottages
Corps of Engineers Houses
AHRS Site Nos. ANC-00048 and ANC-01205

=====
2. Location
=====

street & number 786 and 800 Delaney Street not for publication N/A

city or town Anchorage vicinity N/A

state Alaska code AK county Anchorage code 020 zip code 99501

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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 _____ nationally _____ statewide X locally. (_____ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Judith E. Bettner
Signature of certifying official

June 4, 2004
Date

Alaska
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property _____ meets _____ does not meet the National Register criteria. (_____ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
_____ See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the
National Register
_____ See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the
National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain): _____

Edson B. Beall 7/21/07

Edson B. Beall
Signature of Keeper
7/21/07
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

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u> 2 </u>	<u> </u> buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
<u> 2 </u>	<u> 0 </u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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

=====
6. Function or Use
=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: domestic Sub: institutional housing

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: domestic Sub: single dwelling

=====
7. Description
=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

no style

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation concrete

roof metal

walls wood

other _____

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

The two Civil Works Residential Dwellings, locally known as the Brown's Point cottages, are located at 786 and 800 Delaney Street in the Government Hill neighborhood located about a half mile north of downtown Anchorage. The J.B. Warrack Company of Seattle constructed the houses for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 1941. They were built to house the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers area engineer and his commissioned assistant. The critical shortage of suitable housing in Anchorage with the World War II buildup in Alaska spurred their construction.

Major B.B. Talley, the area engineer, selected the design. He had lived in a similarly designed house while at Mud Mountain Dam near Fort Lewis, Washington. With the exception of insulating the structures with rock wool, the houses are duplicates of the Mud Mountain Dam house. The cost to construct the two houses totaled \$28,723.00. The two houses are side-by-side mirror images of one another.

The cottages face west and sit on a bluff overlooking Knik Arm, the northern extension of Cook Inlet. Each has a spectacular view of Mount Susitna and the Port of Anchorage. Today, a small city park named Brown's Point Park is just south of the houses. The Government Hill neighborhood is to the east. The Port of Anchorage is to the north. To the south, the Alaska Railroad yards and Ship Creek separate the neighborhood from downtown Anchorage. To the east is Elmendorf Air Force Base, originally Fort Richardson.

Each house is a one-story frame building with an interior chimney, concrete foundation and basement, and metal-covered gable roof. Wide clapboard siding

=====
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.) N/A

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

military

Period of Significance 1941-1943

Significant Dates 1941

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
Talley, Brigadier General Benjamin B.

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
J.B. Warrack Company

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form

Civil Works Residential Dwellings
Anchorage, Alaska

Page 9

=====

9. Major Bibliographical References

=====

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Atwood, Evangeline. *Anchorage, Star of the North*. Tulsa, Oklahoma: Continental Heritage Press, 1982.

Barry, Mary J. *Jack and Nellie Brown: Pioneer Settlers of Anchorage, Alaska*. Anchorage: MJP Barry, 2000.

Carberry, Michael E. and Donna L. Lane. *Patterns of the Past*. Anchorage, Alaska: Municipality of Anchorage, 1988.

Cook, Linda et al. *Elmendorf Air Force Base, Volume I: Historic Context of World War II Buildings and Structures*. Anchorage, Alaska: National Park Service, 1999.

Gerjevic, Sandi. "Points of Contention," *Anchorage Daily News*, June 2, 2002:D1.

Hilscher, Herbert H. "Is There Still Time to do the Job?," *Alaska Life Magazine*, August 1940:3, 11.

Lane, Donna. *Government Hill Historic Resource Survey*. Manuscript on file at the Alaska Office of History and Archaeology, Anchorage, 1985.

Rennick, Penny, editor. "War Brings Growth" in *Anchorage, Alaska Geographic*, 23:1 (1996):34-44.

Talley, Benjamin B. Letter to Lyman L. Woodman, February 14, 1972. In files of Bobbie Bianchi, Anchorage, Alaska.

Talley, Benjamin B. and Virginia M. "Building Alaska's Defenses in World War II," in Fern Chandonnet, editor, *Alaska at War, 1941-1945*. Anchorage: Alaska at War Committee, 1995, pp. 59-65.

Tower, Elizabeth. *Anchorage: From Its Humble Origins as a Railroad Construction Camp*. Fairbanks, Alaska: Epicenter Press, 1999.

=====
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 # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: Anchorage Historic Properties, Inc.

=====
10. Geographical Data
=====

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing		Zone Easting Northing	
1	<u>06 345023 6791423</u>	3	_____
2	_____	4	_____

____ See continuation sheet.

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

Lots 4 and 5, Tract C, U.S. Survey 3458 A and B, North, Addition #7, Townsite of Anchorage.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The nominated property includes the two houses located at 786 and 800 Delaney Street and the lots historically associated with them.

=====
11. Form Prepared By
=====

name/title J. P. LaCas, Intern

organization Office of History and Archaeology, Alaska Department of Natural Resources

date November 1, 2002

street & number 550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1310 telephone (907) 269-8721

city or town Anchorage state AK zip code 99501

=====
Additional Documentation
=====

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

=====
Property Owner
=====

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Municipality of Anchorage (land leased from Alaska Railroad Corporation)

street & number P.O. Box 196650 telephone (907) 343-4365

city or town Anchorage state AK zip code 99519-6650

=====
sheaths each house, with vertical scalloped edged siding on the gable walls. Each cottage measures 25' x 48' and has 1,136 square feet of living space and an attached single car garage. The southern cottage is at 786 Delaney Street. The northern cottage is at 800 Delaney Street.

The front façades of the houses face west. Both have gable roofed arctic entries on the façade. The entry to the southern cottage is near the southern end of the façade, and the entry to the northern cottage is near the northern end of the façade. The roofs of the arctic entries extend below the main roof. A single light panel door accessed by a semicircular concrete step is centrally placed in the arctic entry. Large single pane windows that go from the roof to the floor flank the arctic entries. Originally these windows were 15 light fixed pane windows. There are two other window openings on the facades, on the back wall of each garage.

The garages face east and are recessed from the east elevation of the houses. The garage doors are tri-fold and open horizontally. A personnel door is between the house and garage. There is a small multi-paned window in the gable wall adjacent to each personnel door. Each house has a multi-pane window with decorative shutters at the gable end of the garage. A straight paved driveway extends from each garage to Delaney Street; originally the driveways were dirt.

The other windows on the houses are double hung sash with various light arrangements. The window openings have not been altered since construction. Window shutters have been moved from the façade to the eastern elevation at some point in the past. The houses retain their original location and appearance. They exhibit the size, scale and massing of much of the housing in Anchorage during the 1940s.

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form

Civil Works Residential Dwellings
Anchorage, Alaska

Page 7

=====
Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Built in 1941 for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers top officers in Anchorage, the Civil Works Residential Dwellings are a reminder of the huge military involvement in Anchorage that began during World War II. The houses are associated with Captain (later Brigadier General) B.B. Talley who was in charge of all of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers construction projects in Alaska between 1941 and 1943. World War II caused the city of Anchorage to grow rapidly. Of interest, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers did not build the Civil Works houses on Fort Richardson but, at the invitation of the Alaska Railroad general manager, in the Government Hill area. The land chosen for the houses offers a panorama of the Upper Cook Inlet, including Mount Susitna and the Alaska Range. The period of significance starts when Talley and his wife moved into one of the houses in 1941 and ends when he left Anchorage in 1943. The houses represent the impact on the Anchorage home front during World War II. They are among few properties in the city built during the World War II era that hardly have been altered.

Background

Captain Benjamin B. Talley came to Alaska in September 1940 to supervise construction of an airfield at Yakutat for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. After completing that assignment, he was reassigned as Alaska Area Engineer. He moved to Anchorage on January 7, 1941. Talley supervised construction of Fort Richardson and Elmendorf Field at Anchorage, Ladd Field near Fairbanks, airfields at Umnak and Adak in the Aleutians, and the base and airfield at Annette Island in Southeast Alaska.

Following the attack on Pearl Harbor December 7, 1941, Talley became officer-in-charge of military construction in Alaska. He oversaw the work of 14,000 troops in the Army's engineering units in the Aleutians. In addition to the airfields and bases, Talley supervised the construction of a railroad spur to connect the Alaska Railroad with a deep water port on Prince William Sound, Whittier, and construction of a freight depot there. His responsibilities eventually included twenty-eight of a total of thirty-nine wartime construction projects around Alaska. In mid-June 1943, Talley, then a lieutenant colonel, left Alaska to assist with D-Day preparations in Europe. The Aleutian Campaign, to retake the Alaska islands of Kiska and Attu from the Japanese, was almost won.

In 1940 Anchorage was a small town with a population of approximately 4,000. The military build up during World War II caused a population explosion. Over a two-year period 20,000 construction workers arrived in Anchorage. Soldiers were forced to live in tents throughout the fall 1940 until barracks were built. Anchorage lacked the infrastructure for a large population.

Because of the lack of housing, Talley had the two houses built on Delaney Street to house his family and the Resident Engineer of Fort Richardson. He later recalled that Colonel Otto Ohlson, General Manager of the Alaska

=====
Railroad, told him the railroad owned the land and recommended the site. Talley did not believe anything was put in writing. Captain Craig Smyser was the Resident Engineer and lived in the second house. Talley selected the design for the houses. He had lived in a similarly designed house while at Mud Mountain Dam near Fort Lewis, Washington. Allowing no changes to the design, the construction took place between April and July 1941. That December a mobile radar was placed in the yard. Talley moved the men sleeping in pup tents monitoring the radar to the basement of his house until the station was moved.

Captain and Mrs. Talley entertained many officers who visited Alaska at the house on Delaney Street. General Simon B. Buckner, in charge of the Alaska Defense Command (all Army, Army Air Corps, and Navy forces in Alaska), was a frequent guest. After the Battle of Attu to retake it from the Japanese in 1943, the Corps of Engineers reassigned Talley, now a major, to Europe where he was involved in the D-Day landing on Omaha Beach at Normandy.

The houses stand at Brown's Point, named in honor of Jack and Nellie Brown who arrived in the area in 1912. Jack was employed by the U.S. Forest Service and surveyed the first homestead in the Anchorage area. Brown's Point Park was dedicated to the Browns in 1960 and lies to the south of the southernmost cottage (786 Delaney Street). Because of this association, the houses are locally referred to as the Brown's Point Cottages. Many Anchorage residents know the cottages and associate them with the Government Hill neighborhood.

The Alaska Railroad owns the land where the houses sit. Between April 29, 1941 and August 1, 1980 the property was leased at no cost to the Corps of Engineers. The Corps housed employees there during this time. For a while the houses were unoccupied and fell into disrepair. In October 1997, the railroad gave the houses to the Municipality of Anchorage. The city currently rents them to individuals.

The two houses stand, little altered from their 1941 appearance. They are important, and among few reminders in Anchorage of the World War II era that dramatically changed the community. After the war, Anchorage continued to grow rapidly, first as the military expanded its presence as part of the Cold War defense, then as headquarters for oil companies after commercial deposits were discovered in the 1950s on the Kenai Peninsula and in Cook Inlet, and in 1968 on the North Slope.

General Talley returned to live in Alaska in the 1960s. He died in the 1990s. The Civil Works Residential Dwellings are the World War II properties still standing most directly associated with him in Anchorage where he had his headquarters.

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form

Civil Works Residential Dwellings
Anchorage, Alaska

=====
Section Photograph identification
=====

1. Civil Works Residential Dwellings
Anchorage, Alaska
J. P. LaCas
May 2002
Alaska Office of History and Archaeology, 550 West 7th Ave., #1310,
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
Looking northwest, 786 Delaney Street on left and 800 Delaney Street on
right

2. Civil Works Residential Dwellings
Anchorage, Alaska
J. P. LaCas
May 2002
Alaska Office of History and Archaeology, 550 West 7th Ave., #1310,
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
Looking southwest at the east elevation of 786 Delaney Street house

3. Civil Works Residential Dwellings
Anchorage, Alaska
J. P. LaCas
May 2002
Alaska Office of History and Archaeology, 550 West 7th Ave., #1310,
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
Looking northeast at the façade of the 786 Delaney Street house

4. Civil Works Residential Dwellings
Anchorage, Alaska
J. P. LaCas
May 2002
Alaska Office of History and Archaeology, 550 West 7th Ave., #1310,
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
Looking north at façade of the 800 Delaney Street house

5. Civil Works Residential Dwellings
Anchorage, Alaska
J. P. LaCas
May 2002
Alaska Office of History and Archaeology, 550 West 7th Ave., #1310,
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
Looking northwest at the east elevation of the 800 Delaney Street house

JSDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form

Civil Works Residential Dwellings

Anchorage, Alaska

Page 13

=====

Section Photograph identification

=====

- 5. Civil Works Residential Dwellings
Anchorage, Alaska
Unknown
1941
Anchorage Museum of History and Art, 121 West 7th Ave., Anchorage, Alaska
99501
Looking north, 786 Delaney Street house on left and 800 Delaney Street
house on right