### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

#### 1. Name of Property

historic name Bly, The Dr. Elmer, House

other names/site number Bly House, The Point, AHRS Site No. XLC-00160\_

2. Location

street & number N/Acity or town Port Alsworthstate Alaska code AKcounty Lake and Peninsula code 164

#### not for publication <u>N/A</u> vicinity <u>N/A</u> zip code 99653

#### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this  $\underline{\times}$  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  $\underline{\times}$  meets \_\_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant \_\_\_\_\_ nationally \_\_\_\_\_ statewide  $\underline{\times}$  locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

allis 3/2/06

Signature of certifying official

National Park Service

State or Federal agency and bureau

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

M.S Silli

Signature of commenting or other official

9-2-05

Dai

<u>Alaska State Historic Preservation Officer</u> 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	K.Boall	4.12.06	
Signature of Keeper	Date of Action		
Ugiginatalio or neopoli			
5. Classification			
Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)			

n

- \_\_\_\_ private
- \_\_\_\_ public-local
- \_\_\_\_ public-State
- X public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- X building(s)
- \_\_\_\_ district
- \_\_\_ site
- \_\_\_\_ structure
- \_\_\_\_ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing Noncontributing

- \_1\_\_\_\_buildings
- \_\_\_\_\_ sites
- \_\_\_\_\_ structures
  - \_\_\_\_ objects
- <u>1</u> <u>0</u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register  $\underline{0}$ 

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

#### 6. Function or Use

Histo	ric Functions (Enter categ	ories froi	m instructions)
Cat:	Domestic	Sub:	Single dwelling
	Commerce/trade		Professional

<b>Current Functions (Enter</b>	categories from instructions)
Cat: <u>Domestic</u>	Sub: Institutional housing

### 7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions) <u>No style</u>

Materials (Enter categories from instructions) foundation <u>Wood</u> roof <u>Metal</u> walls <u>Log</u> other \_\_\_\_\_

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

The Dr. Elmer Bly House is a 23' by 37' one-and-a-half story log building on the shore adjacent to the protected waters of Hardenburg Bay in Lake Clark. The house sits on a short point of land extending into the bay. It is part of the community of Port Alsworth within the Lake and Peninsula Borough in southwestern Alaska, about 140 miles northeast of King Salmon and 150 miles southwest of Anchorage. The house faces southwest and is shaded by white spruce and white birch trees. The waters of Hardenburg Bay surround it on three sides, and its land side faces Tanalian Mountain to the east. The screened-in porch/arctic entry on the front of the house measures 10' by 13' and is within 20 feet of the high water mark of the bay. A north facing cellar entrance, about 8' by 8', is within 18 feet of the high water mark of the bay.

The Bly House is now part of a National Park Service compound that contains a floatplane base with a dock and fueling station, a small boat dock, boats, and permanent and seasonal wall tents used for housing. A small wooden framed fire cache is about 50 feet south of the Bly House. The docks, fuel tanks, housing, wall tents, and storage sheds are located immediately to the east and north of the Bly House. The closest feature is a sewage lift station pump house that is seven feet from the east wall of the Bly House. These NPS support facilities are not historic and do not contribute to the historic context of the Bly House.

About 1947 or 1948 Babe Alsworth encouraged Doc Bly to file on a small point of land east across Hardenburg Bay from the Alsworth homestead. According to a long-time resident, Alsworth wanted Bly to file on the property to prevent a potential rival air taxi operator from filing on the point. Bly moved his Dillingham dental office to Lake Clark. The Bly House was built between 1947 and 1951. Norm Stadem of Levelock stated he received dental care from Doc Bly in the house in 1947. Babe Alsworth's son John stated the Bly House took several years to complete.

### 8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register	Criteria (Mark "x" in one or r	more boxes for the criteria	qualifying the property for	National Register
listing)				-

_X	_ 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) <u>Exploration / Settlement</u>

Period of Significance 1947-1954

Significant Dates 1947

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation Euroamerican

Architect/Builder Bly, Elmer; Thompson, Joe

### 9. Major Bibliographical References

### BOOKS AND PERIODICALS

Branson, John B., BRISTOL BAY, ALASKA FROM HINTERLANDS TO TIDEWATER: A GRASSROOTS PICTORIAL 1885-1965, National Park Service, Anchorage, 1998.

CHELAN VALLEY MIRROR, "Dr. E.L. Bly died Thursday in Chelan," October 6, 1966, p.8.

Denison, Floyd, interview with Sara Hornberger, 9-26-84.

Eliot, Charles W., JOHN GILLEY of BAKER'S ISLAND, Eastern National Park and Monument Association in cooperation with Acadia National Park, National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior.

Hirschmann, Fred, editor, LAKE CLARK-LAKE ILIAMNA COUNTRY, The Alaska Geographic Society, Anchorage, 1986.

Hoagland, Alison K., A SURVEY OF THE HISTORIC ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCES IN LAKE CLARK NATIONAL PARK AND PRESERVE, National Park Service, Historic American Buildings Survey, Anchorage, 1982.

Hornberger, Sara, "Overview of Historic Contact In The Lake Clark Study Area," in LAKE CLARK SOCIOCULTURAL STUDY: PHASE I, 1986, Linda J. Ellanna, editor, Lake Clark National Park and Preserve, Anchorage, 1986.

Osgood, Wilfred H., "Lake Clark, A Little Known Alaskan Lake," NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC MAGAZINE, XV (August 1904), pp. 327-331.

Vandenbergh, Lydia and Earle G. Shettleworth, REVISITING SEAL HARBOR AND ACADIA NATIONAL PARK, Arcadia Publishing, Dover, New Hampshire, 1997.

## INTERVIEWS AND DOCUMENTS

Glen Alsworth, interview, 3-7-03. John Alsworth, interview, 3-7-03. Mary Alsworth, interview, 1974-1993. Andrew Balluta, interview, 6-27-02. Craig Coray, interview, 2-25-03. Margaret Clum, interview, March 2003. Paul Haertel, interview, 2003. Bella Hammond, interview, 3-15-03. Oren Hudson, interview, 2002. Martin Johnson, interview, 7-23-94. Jonah E. Kackley, probated will, 8-10-55, Alaska State Archives, Juneau Carolyn Bly Matti, interview, 9-22-02. Frank Moore, interviews, 1982 to present.

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section \_\_\_\_\_ The Dr. Elmer Bly House \_\_\_\_\_ name of property \_\_\_\_\_ Lake and Peninsula, Alaska \_\_\_\_\_ county and State

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 3.94

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

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 Northing
 Zone Easting Northing

 1
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 0427734
 6674786
 3

 2
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 See continuation sheet.
 \_\_\_\_\_\_4
 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_4

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

The Elmer Bly House is located in the NE ¼ of the NW ¼ of the SW ¼ of Section 3, Township 1N, Range 21W, Seward Peninsula.

Boundary Justification

The boundary encompasses the house on Hardenburg Bay historically associated with Dr. Elmer Bly. Associated buildings and structures, including the outhouse, generator shed, dock, and stairs between the dock and house no longer stand.

#### 11. Form Prepared By

name/title John B. Branson, Historian

organization <u>Lake Clark National Park and Preserve</u> date <u>9-01-2005</u> street & number <u>One Park Place</u> telephone <u>907-781-2111</u>

city or town Port Alsworth state AK zip code 99653

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section <u>7</u> <u>The Dr. Elmer Bly House</u> name of property <u>Lake and Peninsula, Alaska</u> county and State

Doc Bly, an excellent woodworker, designed the house and Joe Thompson cut the white spruce logs for it along the shores of Lake Clark. Bly's daughter, Carolyn Matti says when speaking of his carpentry skills his favorite saying was "fit to a frog's eyebrow." The logs were three-sided on the Alsworth sawmill by Mike Vandegrift, Joe Thompson, and Doc Bly. Thompson was the primary builder of the Bly House. Bly did much of the finish work. Around the same time, these three men and others milled white spruce logs into lumber to construct the Alsworth home. A home movie of Doc Bly and others sawing the logs is in the possession of a Bly granddaughter, Ann Ringstad, in Fairbanks. (This movie might be a copy of a similar movie held by the Alsworth family and the NPS.)

Mike Vandergrift, Babe Alsworth's Minnesota-born aircraft mechanic, who has been called by a local resident a "mechanical genius," made a bi-metal wood-burning furnace to stand in the full basement of the Bly House. The furnace was made from two 55 gallon fuel drums welded together and surrounded by a metal jacket designed to maximize radiant heat. The house had a masonry chimney. A brown colored granite stone fireplace was built in the living room. The stone was gathered near the house in a small niche of Hardenburg Bay known locally as Pike Bay. The chimney rested on a concrete slab on the earthen cellar floor. As it turned out, the 6-inch flue was not large enough to draw adequately causing the chimney to smoke. Doc Bly was very disappointed and consequently did not use the fireplace often.

The house rested on log pilings set under each corner and at regular intervals under the sill logs into the gravel. A hand-dug basement allowed for a six-foot high ceiling with horizontal spruce planks held in place by vertical spruce posts forming cellar walls. The cellar was accessed from the north side of the house through a double-door connected by a 6-foot passageway between the basement and the outside. The house had a well dug in the basement floor under the cellar stairs. The well had a pump and water was held in a holding tank in the basement. A water jacket was used in the wood cook stove to supply hot water. The house was plumbed with running hot and cold water to kitchen and bathroom sinks, a concrete bathtub with shower nozzle, and a flush toilet. The waste-water was drained by a metal pipe into a homemade wooden septic tank within 50 feet of the house.

A small log outhouse located about 80 feet northeast of the cellar entrance was part of the property but is no longer extant. The Bly House was wired for electricity powered by a small gasoline generator housed in a generator shed, no longer standing, approximately 40 feet northeast of the cellar door.

The original roofing was 90 weight rolled asphalt roofing set on top of locally sawed boards one inch thick of varied widths between 4 and 12 inches. The chimney rose above the east side of the roof two feet above the ridge line.

Originally there were two pane windows on the lower story of each side of the Bly House and a smaller window in at least one gable end. Former owner, Allen Woodward, recalls only a window in the eastern gable end. Former NPS carpenter Jack Ross says both gables had windows. There are no historic photographs known to verify either contention. The windows on the south, southeast, and northeast sides were approximately 43 inches by 55 inches.

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 The Dr. Elmer Bly House name of property Lake and Peninsula, Alaska county and State

There was a smaller window, about 23 inches by 31 inches, in the bathroom on the northeast side of the house. Jack Ross says by the early 1980s the original windows were replaced with Anderson windows that did not have individual panes. He says little or no alteration was made to the original window openings.

Joe Thompson and/or Doc Bly made a small set of log stairs facing southeast from the high water mark on the bay shore to access the water. A short low 3-foot wide log dock extended about 10 feet from the end of the stairs into Hardenburg Bay. The dock was supported on log footings.

Doc Bly made all the cupboards in the house using wooden 10-gallon gas boxes. The re-use of the wooden gas boxes was common in early twentieth century Alaska and was referred to as "Alaska Chippendale." He also carved flowerpots from spruce burls and made model boats.

Once the house was completed, Doc Bly set up his dentist office in one of the rooms. Prior to that he saw patients in the Alsworth's first house across the bay. Bly's office had a dental chair and a wood and glass bureau for his instruments. All these accouterments were retained by the owner who bought the house. The bureau is now used by Anchorage dentist, Dr. Jerry Stranik to store his instruments.

Originally Babe Alsworth flew patients to Doc Bly. According to Alsworth's son, Glen, the U.S. Public Health Service decided to fly dental patients to Alaska Native Health Service hospitals in Dillingham and Anchorage using larger air carriers. Apparently due to lack of communication, Bly never knew why Alsworth stopped flying dental patients to him and since there were no roads connecting area villages it was difficult for the dentist to sustain his business at Port Alsworth. Some local dental patients came by boat, dog team, and small aircraft.

Several local informants who were at Port Alsworth at the time allege that on July 4, 1953, Doc Bly's grandchildren started a major forest fire around the house while playing with Roman candles. *1* The fire spread to the east beyond Tommy Creek to the western flank of Copper Mountain almost to Current River ten miles to the east. It spread to the south and burned a considerable area on the west and north side of Tanalian Mountain and jumped the Tanalian River. Initially a number of local women such as Mary Alsworth fought the fire. Bush pilot Oren Hudson flew in fire fighters from Nondalton. Local Port Alsworth residents, Joe Thompson and Ray Brower, also fought the fire. Strong winds fanned the flames and a backfire lit to prevent the Bly House from burning nearly got away, but the house was saved. Mike Vandegrift drove the Alsworth grader, that was pulled by the D-4 Cat operated by summer visitor Ray Woodward, to construct a fire break running approximately from the present site of Lake Clark Inn on Hardenburg Bay to Dry Creek and quite possibly saving the Alsworth homestead from the fire. After about a week the fire was contained, but hot spots continued to smolder until fall rains put them out.

After the fire Doc Bly ceased spending much time at Lake Clark as his wife, Maize, preferred living in Anchorage. Bly sold the house to Anchorage resident and Lake Clark summer resident Allen Woodward in 1957. Except for

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

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summer use, no one lived in the Bly House after Woodward purchased it. The Blys retired to Chelan, Washington, in 1954, and Doc Bly died in 1966.

In 1953 Doc Bly had encouraged Woodward's father Earl, a resident of Winnimucca, Nevada, to file on a piece of land 100 yards southeast of the point and to build a log house on it. Since Allen Woodward was a World War II veteran he filed on the site under the Veterans Benefit Program and once he obtained it he relinquished it to his father. Earl Woodward hired Joe Thompson to cut logs the winter of 1953-1954 for the new cabin. The spring of 1954 Allen and Earl Woodward assisted by King Salmon FAA worker, Phil Chatlain, began to build the cabin. The single story log house was completed by the summer of 1955. Earl Woodward wintered there the winter of 1955-1956. Interestingly, it was a very cold winter with the highlight being his taming of a wolverine that would pay periodic visits to the cabin and take food from his hand. During the summer of 1955 Earl and Claire Woodward were living in a canvas wall tent. After it burned down, Doc Bly urged them to move into his house until their cabin was completed. As it turned out, the senior Woodwards began summering in the Bly House, continuing to do so until 1978. Their son Allen spent some time in the new cabin but most of his summer vacations and weekends were spent across Lake Clark at his Priest Rock cabin. In 1957 Doc Bly sold his house to Allen Woodward.

In August 1979, while Lake Clark Park was in National Monument status, Allen Woodward sold the Bly House to the National Park Service. In 1980, NPS carpenters Frank Moore, Mike Tripp, and Jack Ross began a major two-year renovation of the house. Moore and Tripp worked on the foundation and roof while Ross did the interior finish work. The roof and the foundation badly needed restoration. It was found that the outhouse and cesspool were polluting the well in the cellar of the Bly House so they were removed. The nearby 8 by 10 foot log slab-sided generator shed built by Doc Bly and the Kato gasoline powered 5-8 hp 1500-2000 watt generator inside the shed were badly deteriorated and were removed.

The NPS plan was to modernize the interior so it could be used as the park's first field headquarters while maintaining the historic integrity of the exterior. The Bly House emerged from the overhaul with new electrical and plumbing systems, a new foundation and upgraded cellar, extended eaves, and a new green metal roof with an aluminum ridge cap, a new front porch, new cellar double-doors, and new windows. The exterior wall logs were oiled. The original eaves had begun to rot, so the carpenters cut back the rotten eave roof boards and then extended the eave to better shed water away from the building. With the exception of the porch stairs and metal roofing, one is hard pressed to discern any appreciable change in the exterior appearance of the Bly House.

About 1958, Earl Woodward removed the rotten dock and built a 20 foot long floating dock supported by empty air tight 55 gallon fuel drums. After the NPS acquired the property, they dismantled the decayed Woodward dock and built a new floating dock. The original stairs were about 15 feet from the southeast porch stairs and entrance to the house. The stairs are no longer extant. The NPS constructed a new dock and access stairs where Bly had them.

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Originally, the front porch had two sets of stairs opposite one another, one pointing northwest and the other southeast. The porch stairs facing southeast were retained. The northwest stairs were removed and the door opening became part of the wall. The porch is now screened on three sides.

The log interior walls were furred out with 2 x 6 planks and 6 inches of fiberglass insulation and a vapor barrier were added. The walls were then covered with knotty pine paneling or sheet rock. The kitchen was upgraded with new cupboards and a new sink, and the wood-burning cook stove was replaced with a propane range. By 1980 the fireplace was sinking below the living room floor and it was removed. The fireplace was replaced with a thin stone hearth with a wood burning heater. The rock and concrete chimney is falling apart and poses a fire danger. The water treatment system in the cellar needs to be removed. Egress windows in the three bedrooms are needed. The cellar stairs need to be replaced. The front porch steps need to be replaced because they are beginning to rot.

The exterior of the Bly House maintains its historic integrity, particularly its shape, log construction, and window openings. The building maintains its historic setting and relation to the bay and the surrounding woods. NPS facilities built around the structure are in keeping with historic activities.

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

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

## SIGNIFICANCE

The Elmer Bly House is one of the two oldest occupied buildings remaining at Port Alsworth, and the only house retaining its historic integrity. The house, built between 1947 and 1951, reflects early Euroamerican settlement in the remote Lake Clark area. Doc Bly's house began the "rusticator" settlement pattern at Lake Clark. Doc Bly, by profession a dentist, built a second home at Lake Clark and opened a dental office there. He intended to spend at least summers at Lake Clark, working as a dentist and pursuing his hunting and fishing interests. His house is in the log building tradition at Lake Clark that started in the early twentieth century and is characterized by use of logs without corner notching. The period of significance starts when Doc Bly came to Lake Clark and ends in 1954 when he left Alaska.

## HISTORIC BACKGROUND

Elmer Bly was born in Iowa in 1886. He married May Elizabeth "Maize" Shabot (1892-1968) in 1916 and graduated from Marquette University School of Dentistry about 1920. Bly conducted a dental practice around Stanley and Ladysmith, Wisconsin before moving to Alaska in the early 1940s to work on the Alcan Highway. Later in the 1940s and early 1950s he practiced dentistry in Cordova, Dillingham, Anchorage, and Port Alsworth. Babe Alsworth met Doc Bly in Dillingham in the mid-1940s and brought him to Lake Clark. By the late 1940s Doc Bly had his "shingle" up on one of the Alsworth's first buildings at what would become known as Port Alsworth. According to the doctor's daughter, Carolyn Bly Matti, Doc Bly encouraged the Alsworths to name their new post office site Port Alsworth, which was done in 1951. Babe Alsworth aided Bly, flying patients from surrounding Native villages to Lake Clark where Doc Bly would treat them. Among his patients still living are Norm Stadem from Levelock, Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Drew from Iliamna, and Craig Coray from Lake Clark, presently all living in Anchorage, and Bella Hammond of Lake Clark. Doc Bly and his wife maintained their permanent home in Anchorage and he had a dental office there.

The style of the Bly House is associated with the kind adopted by the first permanent Euroamerican settlers, Doc Dutton and Joe Kackley, at Tanalian Point, now Port Alsworth. The original one-and-a-half story Dutton-Kackley House was built sometime between 1912 and 1921. Dutton and Kackley's houses were of logs apparently two-sided and possibly three-sided that were hewn or whipsawed or a combination of both techniques. The logs were spiked into vertical planks at the corners. During the winter of 1938-1939 the first Dutton-Kackley House burned. Its replacement, built during the summer of 1939, was the same style but the logs were milled on three-sides using Charlie Denison's nearby steam powered sawmill. Like the second Dutton-Kackley House, the Bly House is built with milled three-sided logs. The Bly logs were milled on Babe Alsworth's sawmill, the third area sawmill. Unlike the Dutton-Kackley houses, the Bly House corners were held together by spikes driven into each round of logs. Still, the Bly House continued the local Lake Clark building tradition of using logs without corner notching as the primary

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building material and method. It is likely that Bly House builder, Joe Thompson, had helped build the second Dutton-Kackley House. Thompson was hired by almost everyone around Tanalian Point-Port Alsworth, including Babe Alsworth, as he was known as a superb woodsman.

The Lake Clark area had been home to the Kijik band of Dena'ina Athapaskan Indians for at least 900 years when American prospectors from the gold rush to Cook Inlet started coming to Lake Clark in the late 1800s. J. W. Walker's camp near the mouth of the Tanalian River was documented by USGS explorers G.C. Martin and F.J. Katz in 1909. Walker did not stay at Tanalian very long, but two partners, Otis M. "Doc" Dutton and Jonah E. "Joe" Kackley, are considered the first permanent Euroamericans to put down roots at what is now called Port Alsworth. In addition to Dutton and Kackley, the Trefon Balluta's, a Dena'ina family from Telaquana lived at the site in the early 1900s. The early residents traveled by boat, dog sled, and on foot. Port Alsworth now depends on air transportation. Pioneering aviator, Matt Nieminen, made the first landing at Dutton and Kackley's place in 1930. Pilot Oscar Winchell flew in the first air freight for Dutton and Kackley in 1932, landing on the ice in front of the house. Jim Kennedy was the first resident bush pilot living at Lake Clark between 1935 and the early 1940s.

Babe and Mary Alsworth bought the Kennedy cabin on the north side of Lake Clark in 1942. Discovering that it was impractical to operate an air taxi off the rough beach in front of the Kennedy place, the Alsworths moved to Hardenburg Bay in 1944 and filed for a 160 acre homestead. The move signaled a change and the small village of Tanalian Point began a rapid transition to the aviation center Port Alsworth. By 1945 Alsworth had a short landing strip and the bay lent itself perfectly to floatplane operations. Babe Alsworth brought Doc Bly to Hardenburg Bay about 1945-1947. Doc Bly had a successful dental practice in Anchorage and a passion for hunting and fishing. The two interests led Doc Bly to build a log house and try to establish a seasonal dental practice at Port Alsworth. There were too few patients to make his Port Alsworth practice pay its own way and Mrs. Bly preferred her home in Anchorage, so the doctor's Port Alsworth time was more recreational than professional. The claim that Doc Bly is Lake Clark's first "rusticator" is based on the fact that he was the first person with a professional university degree to build a second home at Lake Clark and to spend as much of his leisure time as possible pursuing his hunting and fishing interests there. Today there are at least twenty people who qualify as "rusticators" living all or part of the year at Lake Clark.

In 1957, Doc Bly sold the property to Allen Woodward. Bly left Alaska in 1954 and died in Chelan, Washington in 1966. Lake Clark National Park was established in 1980, many years after other "rusticators" built second homes along its shores. The Woodward family sold the Bly House to the National Park Service in 1979. It was adapted for use as a field headquarters with some space for employee quarters.

Doc Bly' house is one of the two oldest occupied buildings, and least altered, on Lake Clark. It was built during the same time the Babe and Mary Alsworth House was built. The Alsworth House has undergone extensive remodeling and its outside appearance has been drastically altered. Except for the removal of the north facing stairs from the front

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porch and a metal roof replacing the original rolled roofing, the outside appearance of the Bly House is essentially as it was when completed.

## ENDNOTE

*1*. Doc Bly's daughter, Carolyn Matti and her son, Jerry, were at Port Alsworth on July 4, 1953 and maintain the fire started when a plane flying low showered the dry forest east of the Bly House with sparks. Long time local bush pilots Oren Hudson and Glen Alsworth maintain they have never heard of a plane flying by and accidentally igniting a forest fire. Another veteran bush pilot, Dave Wilder, however, states that in the 1970s he was flying from Iliamna to Nondalton when a hot broken piece of the muffler fell off and started a small forest fire which was quickly extinguished. The 1953 fire did not burn any structures.

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Ann Bly Ringstad, letter, 2-27-03. Jack Ross, interview, 3-12-03. Norm Stadem, interview, 10-02. Allen Woodward, interviews, 1976 to present. Claire Woodward, interviews, 1975-1983. Earl Woodward, interviews, 1975-1983.

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
- <u>X</u> Federal agency
- \_\_\_\_ Local government
- \_\_\_\_ University
- \_\_\_\_ Other

Name of repository: Bureau of Land Management, Anchorage, Alaska

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section \_\_\_\_\_

The Dr. Elmer Bly House name of property Lake and Peninsula, Alaska county and State

### **Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

#### Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

#### 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 Lake Clark National Park and Preserve

street & number One Park Place telephone 907-781-2218\_\_\_\_\_

city or town Port Alsworth state Alaska zip code 99653

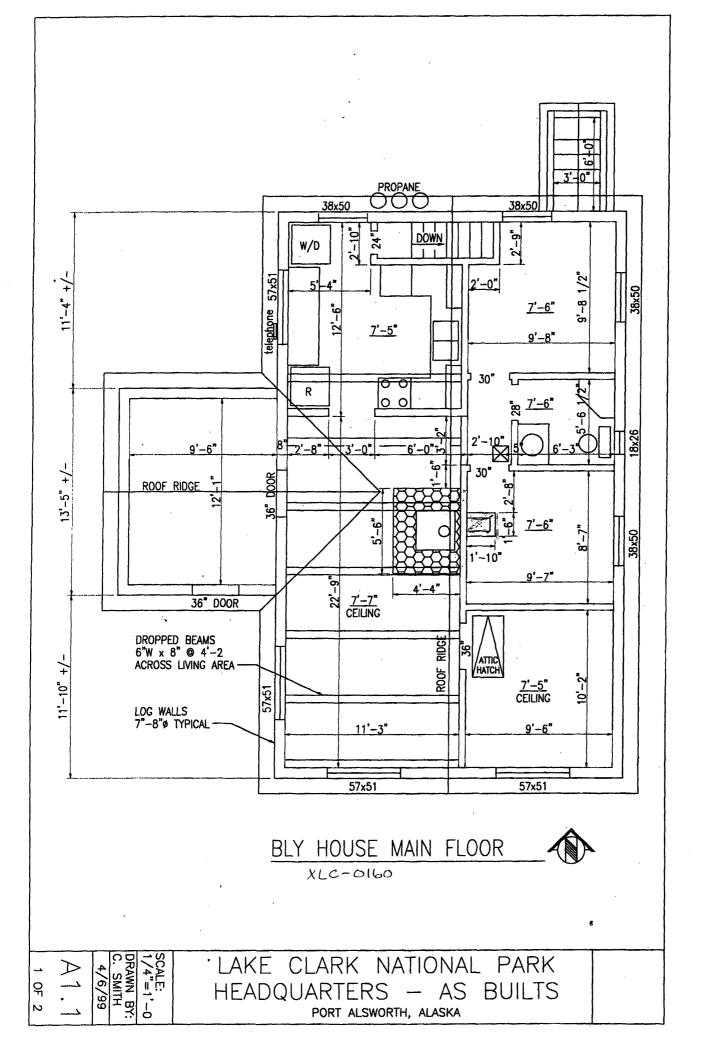
# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section \_\_\_\_\_

The Dr. Elmer Bly House name of property Lake and Peninsula, Alaska county and State

## **Photographs**

Photo #	Property Name	Location	Photographer	Photo Date	Negative	Description
					Location	
1	Elmer Bly	Port Alsworth, AK	Ann Bly	Late	LAKA Study	View of house
	House		Ringstad	1940s	Ctr.	from Lake Clark
					H-1946	
2	Elmer Bly	Port Alsworth, AK	Ann Bly	Late	LAKA Study	View of house
	House		Ringstad	1940s	Ctr.	with float plane &
					H-1944	beach
3	Elmer Bly	Port Alsworth, AK	unknown	Late	LAKA Study	View of house
	House			1940s	Ctr.	with float plane
4	Elmer Bly	Port Alsworth, AK	Ann Bly	Late	LAKA Study	Front view of
	House		Ringstad	1940s	Ctr.	house
					H-1943	
5	Elmer Bly	Port Alsworth, AK	unknown	Late	LAKA Study	Front view of
	House			1940s	Ctr.	house (dark)
6	Elmer Bly	Port Alsworth, AK	J. Tobey	July 2001	LAKA Study	Front view of
	House				Ctr.	house
					LACL01:3:1:5	
7	Elmer Bly	Port Alsworth, AK	J. Tobey	July 2001	LAKA Study	Front view of
	House				Ctr.	house
					LACL01:3:1:6	



#### The Dr. Elmer Bly House Photographic Log

The following information applies to all the enclosed photographs. John B. Branson took the house images in September 2005. The negatives are archived at the Lake Clark-Katmai Studies Center, 4230 University Drive, Suite 311, Anchorage, Alaska 99508.

- 1. View east to Dr. Bly House and front porch, Roll I 32A.
- 2. View east to Dr. Bly House and front porch, Roll I 30A.
- 3. View east to Dr. Bly House and front porch, Roll I 21A.
- 4. View southeast to Dr. Bly House front porch, Roll I 23A.
- 5. View east to close-up of Dr. Bly House porch and wall, Roll I 4A.
- 6. View east to corner of Dr. Bly House and entrance to cellar, Roll I 22A.
- 7. View southeast to Dr. Bly House wall and entrance to cellar, Roll I 7A.
- 8. View southeast to entrance to Dr. Bly House cellar, Roll I 24A.
- 9. View south to Dr. Bly House wall and roof of cellar entrance, Roll I 25 A.
- 8. View west to Dr. Bly House wall, Roll I 35A.
- 9. View west to Dr. Bly House corner, Roll I 12A.
- 10. View west to Dr. Bly House wall, Roll I 11A.
- 11. View northwest to Dr. Bly House wall, Roll I 13A.
- 12. View north to Dr. Bly House wall and main entrance, RollI 14A.
- 13. View northwest to Dr. Bly House porch and entrance, Roll I 15A.
- 14. View northwest to Dr. Bly House porch and entrance, Roll I 17A.