

P140351377

SENATORS: TED STEVENS/MIKE GRAVEL; CONGRESSMAN: DON YOUNG  
 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
 RECEIVED JUL 6 1976  
 DATE ENTERED SEP 28 1976  
 DATA SHEET

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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

## 1 NAME

HISTORIC  Snow Creek Placer Claim, No. 1 (AHRS Site NOM-039)

AND/OR COMMON

Snow Gulch Discovery Claim

## 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

*N of Nome at*  
 Snow Gulch

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE Nome

VICINITY OF

Alaska

STATE

Alaska

CODE

02

COUNTY

Nome Division

CODE

180

## 3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

## 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Maurice Kelliher

STREET & NUMBER

Box 281

CITY, TOWN

Nome

VICINITY OF

Alaska

STATE

99762

## 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
 REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

District Recorder

STREET & NUMBER

Box 431

CITY, TOWN

Nome

Alaska

STATE

99762

## 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Alaska Heritage Resource Survey (AHRS)

DATE

October 21, 1975

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
 SURVEY RECORDS

Alaska Division of Parks, 323 E. 4th Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Anchorage

Alaska

99501

# 7 DESCRIPTION

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

---

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Snow Creek is a short and often dry tributary of Glacier Creek, which runs between Mount Brynteson to the north and Bonanza Hill to the south into the Snake River; which flows south to Norton Sound on the Bering Sea. On Glacier Creek above its confluence with Snow Creek, and up Snow Creek to its source, is Mineral Survey No. 715. Here from the confluence, extending 1345 feet up Snow Creek with a width of 635 feet, is Snow Creek Placer No. 1.

In 1900, Alfred H. Brooks, U.S. Geological Survey, Described the area as follows in his (with G.B. Richardson and A.J. Collier) Reconnaissances in the Cape Nome and Norton Bay regions, Alaska:

"Snow Gulch is the only tributary of Glacier Creek which has thus far produced gold. It joins Glacier Creek about 3 [2] miles from Snake River. Its source lies in a shallow basin, which is gravel filled, while its lower course is through a rather sharply cut gorge; the total length is about a mile.

The bed rock near the mouth of Snow Gulch is chloritic schist, and the strikes are about at right angles to the course of the stream. Near its head some blue limestones are exposed. A quartz vein near the divide has been found to carry some gold. The gravels are 3 or 4 feet in thickness and are chiefly quartz and mica schist.

Its topographic form makes Snow Gulch almost ideal for the concentration of gold. In point of fact it has proved the richest stream of its size so far discovered, for in the two seasons that it has been worked it has produced upward of a million dollars. At present the stream gravels have been practically all worked over, so that the gulch has reached its maximum production."

Two years later, in 1903, the Geological Survey reported a force of men about one-half mile above the mouth of the creek shovelling gravels into sluice boxes. These were supplied with water by a short ditch from Glacier Creek. Snow Creek, and its gulch, had some of the richest placers on the peninsula, but these were all but exhausted by 1903.

Today, the area reflects many scars from the mining activity and debris from the period. Evidence of cuts, ditches, and severe disturbance of the surface of the earth are plentiful. The current owner actively mines the claim with sluice box and dam, an effort that is completely compatible with the historical character of the claim.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY (Mining)	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES

September 20, 1898

BUILDER/ARCHITECT  
(Location)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

## Significance

The Snow Creek Placer Claim No. 1, was the second of three located (Lindblom on September 19, Snow Creek on September 20, and Anvil Creek Discovery on September 22) in 1898. This resulted in Alaska's greatest gold rush, both in terms of yield and number of people involved. The claim itself was one of the richest in the Seward Peninsula; although it was substantially exhausted by 1903. Word of the discovery reached Council to the north and on October 18, 1898, the Cape Nome Mining District was organized, with claims filed on 7,000 acres. By 1900, \$2,800,000 had been produced in the district. The following year, more than one-third of all whites in Alaska were in the region. Production reached its peak in 1906 when some \$7,500,000 worth of gold was recovered, but declined thereafter, as did Nome's population, which by 1910 was reduced to 2,600. Mining, however, continues to this date to be a principal activity in the Nome area.

## Historical Background

Council City on the Niukluk was founded in the summer of 1898 as the first mining camp on the Seward Peninsula and from there prospectors continued to seek gold. That fall, three Scandinavians--Jafet Lindeberg, Erik Lindblom and John Brynteson--went up the Snake River, testing its tributaries; and then followed Glacier Creek east to Anvil Creek and returned to the sea along Anvil Creek. According to the Book of Records for the Cape Nome Mining District, they discovered the Erik Lindblom Placer Claim on Mountain Creek on September 19, 1898, the Snow Creek Claim on September 20, and the Anvil Creek Discovery Claim on September 22.

The Scandinavians extracted \$1,800 in gold from Snow Creek and Anvil Creek with crude equipment; word spread, and forty miners from Council rushed to the new strike. As word spread, men came from St. Michaels, Circle, and Eagle and by May of 1899 Nome had a population of 250. Placers produced \$2,800,000 in 1899 and in the fall the population had risen to 3,000. By January of 1900, 4,500 claims were recorded in the Nome district.

Word of the strikes reached the outside world in the fall of 1899. By the summer of 1900 Nome's population was 12,488--a third of all whites recorded in Alaska by the U.S. Census.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Collier, Arthur J., et al., the Gold Placers of Parts of Seward Peninsula, Alaska, U.S. Geological Survey Bulletin 328, 1908.  
 Brooks, A.H., A description of the methods of placer mining, U.S. Geological survey Bulletin 314, 1913.  
 Record Book of the Cape Nome Mining District Organized October 15, 1898, in files of the District Recorder, Nome, Alaska -continues-

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 19.5

UTM REFERENCES

A	<u>  3  </u>	<u>480724</u>	<u>7163222</u>	B	<u>  3  </u>	<u>480516</u>	<u>7163575</u>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	<u>  3  </u>	<u>4806188</u>	<u>7163663</u>	D	<u>  3  </u>	<u>4810814</u>	<u>7163327</u>

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

All that area within the boundary of No. 1 on Snow Creek Placer Claim, Mineral Survey 715, Alaska.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Michael S. Kennedy, State Historian

ORGANIZATION

Division of Parks

DATE

October 3, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

323 East 4th Avenue

TELEPHONE

272-4401, EXT 225

CITY OR TOWN

Anchorage, 99501

STATE

Alaska

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL X

STATE     

LOCAL     

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. Owner notified.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*William Minabe*

TITLE Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE June 29, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

9/28/98

ACTING DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
 ATTEST

DATE

9/27/94

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JUL 6 1976
DATE ENTERED SEP 28 1976

Snow Creek Placer Claim, No. 1 (AHRN NOM-039)

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2 of 2

By 1902, most worked placer claims were exhausted and mining companies with capital and expensive machinery took over. Production peaked in 1906 as Nome had grown into a city with schools, theater, banks, churches, and paved streets.

After 1906 the population decreased dramatically, falling to 2,600 by 1910. During the boom era, from 1899 to 1910, \$46,436,500 were yielded by the Nome mining activity.

Thus, the Snow Creek Placer Claim No. 1 (registered as "No. 1 on Snow Creek Placer Claim") was a part of the stimulus for Alaska's greatest gold rush.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

<b>FOR NPS USE ONLY</b>
RECEIVED JUL 6 1976
DATE ENTERED SEP 22 1976

Snow Creek Placer Claim, No. 1 (AHRS NOM-039)

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

---

Snell, Charles W., "Special Report on the Anvil Creek Gold Discovery Site near Nome, Alaska, together with a brief history of gold mining and mining rushes in Alaska, 1965-1910", ms. prepared for Western Regional Office, National Park Service, July 1965, in files of the Alaska Division of Parks.

Brooks, A.H., Richardson, G.B. and Collier, A.J. "A Reconnaissance of the Cape Nome and adjacent gold fields..." U.S. Geological Survey, Washington D.C. (1900) Pub. 1901.

# SECTION 26 TOWNSHIP 10 SOUTH RANGE 34 WEST OF THE KATEEL

GRAM NO. K14-6

64°36'02.530"  
165°23'54.156"

1.51N 57P

197' L

Snow Creek Placer Claim

T 10S  
R 34W  
Sec 26

Mineral Survey 715

MS 403  
31.799 AC

31

1.56  
Snow Creek

Glacier Creek

62 (2)

US 1/4 3-1/4

No. 1 on Snow Creek  
Placer Claim  
19.5 ac.

SNOW  
GLACIER  
MS 405  
MS 406  
MS 407  
MS 408  
MS 409  
MS 410  
MS 411  
MS 412  
MS 413  
MS 414  
MS 415  
MS 416  
MS 417  
MS 418  
MS 419  
MS 420

F09113  
R/W

No. 1 on Snow Creek Disc. Cl.  
Map drawing, Mineral Survey  
715.

JUL 6 1976 HRS, NOV-039

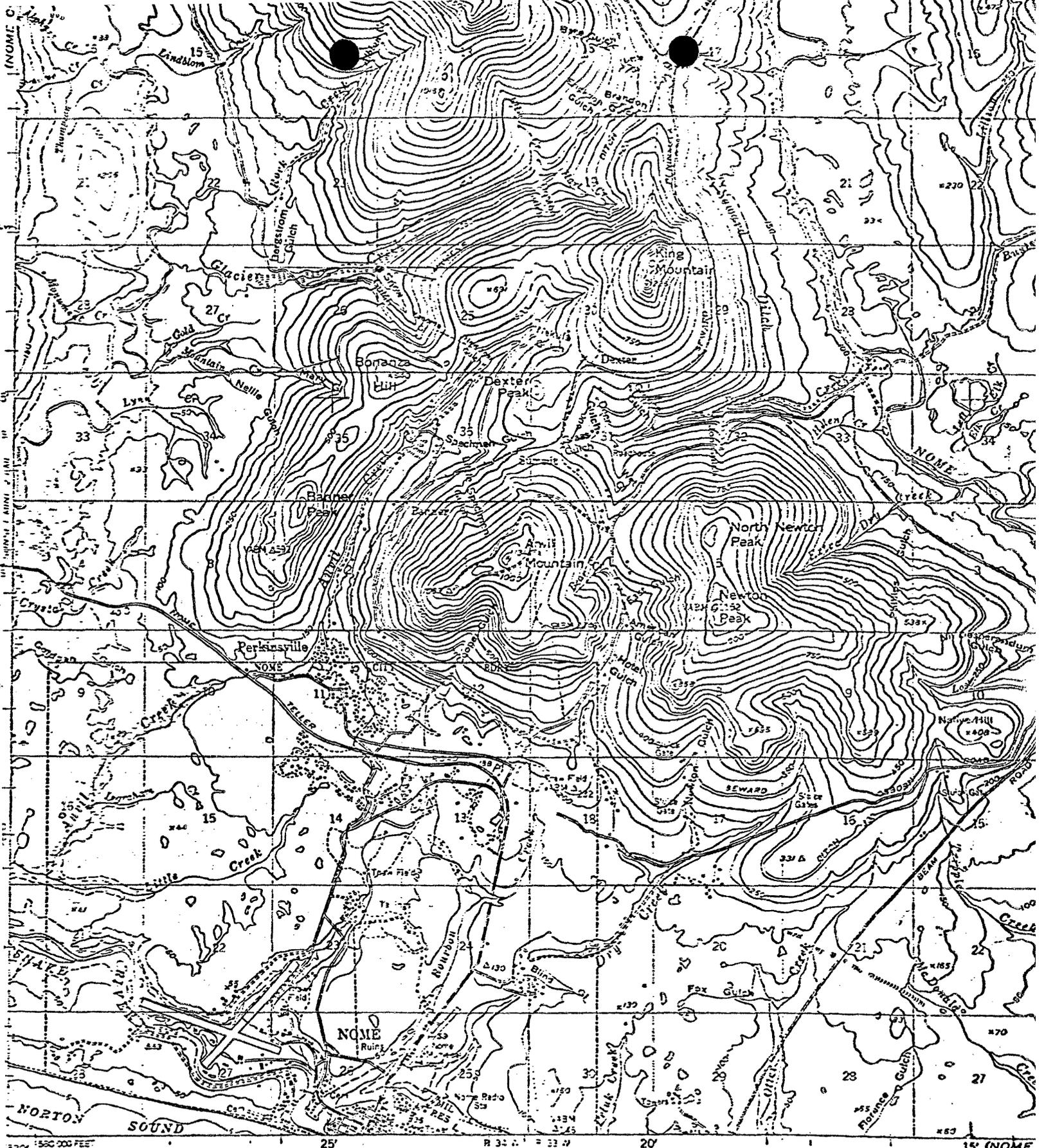
25

A. 480

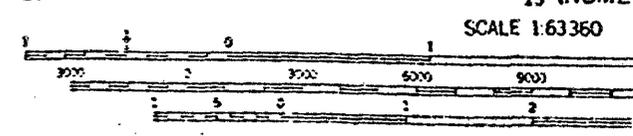
26

A. 473

MS 1149



1:500,000 FEET  
 Mapped by the Army Map Service  
 Published for civil use by the Geological Survey  
 Control by USCGS and USCE  
 Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs  
 taken 1950. Map not field checked  
 Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS Survey  
 7344 (1950). This information is not intended for  
 navigational purposes  
 Universal Transverse Mercator projection, 1927 North American datum  
 10,000-foot grid based on Alaska coordinate system, zone B  
 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
 zone 3, shown in blue



CONTOUR INTERVAL 5'  
 DASHED LINES REPRESENT 25-FT  
 DATUM IS MEAN SEA  
 DEPTH CURVES IN FEET - DATUM IS  
 SHORELINE 3'-6" REPRESENTS THE APPROX  
 THE AVERAGE RANGE OF TIDE IF  
 FOR SALE BY THE GOVERNMENT