

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JUN 16 1976
DATE ENTERED NOV 21 1976

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 ~~***~~ Lindblom, Erik, Placer Claim (AHRs SITE NOM-038)

AND/OR COMMON
E.O. Lindblom Placer Claim

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
Mary Gulch, Mountain Creek, West of Bonanza Hill

CITY, TOWN Nome VICINITY OF Alaska
STATE Alaska COUNTY CODE 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	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<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 Unknown, Title Search continuing. See Item 7.

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN STATE

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. District Recorder

STREET & NUMBER Box 431

CITY, TOWN STATE Nome Alaska

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 STATE Anchorage Alaska

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Snake River is one of several streams running from the mountains of the Seward Peninsula into Norton Sound on the Bering Sea. About five and one-half miles inland, the Snake is joined from the east by Mountain Creek. This small and often dry tributary flows into the Snake from the slopes of Bonanza Hill. At the one-hundred foot control level in the mouth of the Mary Gulch, is Mineral Survey No. 710, which includes the Erik Lindblom Placer Claim.

This claim, like several others, is on what is known as the Third Beach, which marks the furthest inland encoachment of the sea in the Nome area but is now some seventy-nine feet above sea level. The third beach is composed principally of gravel or sandy gravel with coarse boulders on schist bedrock on which are a few limestone beds.

A repetition of the same succession of events that led to burial and preservation of the third beach resulted in a high concentration of valuable minerals by ocean waves with the concentrate left on the beach, which became the principal producer of gold in the region.

Today, the area has returned to its natural state, although much debris remains from the mining era--mining equipment, domestic implements--but nothing distinguishes the Erik Lindblom Placer Claim from the surrounding landscape.

SPECIAL NOTE CONCERNING OWNERSHIP

Research in the District Recorder's Office, Nome, Alaska; and in the records of the Fairbanks District, U.S. Bureau of Land Management; and in the Division of Lands, State of Alaska; has failed to reveal ownership of this property. Last indication of ownership was the Pioneer Mining Company, over 50 years ago. As a result, public notice of intent to nominate was published in the NOME NUGGET. This elicited no response. If ownership is determined, this information will be submitted.

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 checked="" 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	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES September 19, 1898 (Location: BUNDR/ARCHITECT)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Significance

The Erik Lindblom Placer Claim was the first of three located (Lindblom on September 19, Snow Creek on September 20, and Anvil Creek Discovery on September 22) in 1898 that resulted in Alaska's greatest gold rush, both in terms of yield and number of people involved. Word of the discovery reached Council to the north, and on October 18, 1898, the Cape Nome Mining District was organized and claims filed on 7,000 acres. By 1899, \$2,800,00 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 and 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 Lindenberg, 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; work spread, and forty miners from Council rushed to the new strike. As word spread, men came from St. Michael, Circle, and Eagle and by May of 1899 Nome had a population of 250. Placers produced \$2,800,00 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.

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. - continued-

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 17.3

UTM REFERENCES see attached supplemental sheet.

A	0,3	4 7,9 ⁴⁵⁰ 459	7,1 6,2 ²⁵⁰ 325	B	0,3	4 7,9 ⁴⁵⁰ 825	7,1 6,2 ¹⁵⁰ 164
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	0,3	4 7,9 ³⁵⁰ 759	7,1 6,2 ¹⁵⁰ 018	D	0,3	4 7,9 ³⁵⁰ 392	7,1 6,2 ²⁵⁰ 137
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

All that area within the boundary of the Erik Lindblom Placer Claim, Mineral Survey 710, Alaska, at the 100 feet contour level in Mary Gulch from which Mountain Creek flows, as described page 6, Record Book, Cape Nome Mining District.

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

William S. Hanable

ORGANIZATION

Alaska Division of Parks

DATE

October 8, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

323 E. 4th Avenue

TELEPHONE

(907) 272-4401 - Ext. 243

CITY OR TOWN

Anchorage

STATE

Alaska

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Russell Cahiel

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

6/10/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Attest: DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

11/21/96

ATTEST:

Charles D. ...

DATE

11.15.76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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September 19, 1898 (Location) Lindblom, Erik, Placer Claim

CONTINUATION SHEET (AHS NOM-038) ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2 of 2

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

By 1902 readily worked placer claims were exhausted and mining companies with capital and expensive machinery took over. Production peaked in 1906, as Nome grew into a city with schools, theaters, 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 Erik Lindblom Placer Claim on Mountain Creek was a part of the stimulus for Alaska's greatest gold rush, although nine years after its discovery, the U.S. Geological Survey reported that no mining had been done along the creek even though a prospect well and preparations to work one claim had taken place in 1904.

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2 of 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.

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Lindblom, Erik, Placer Claim (AHRS SITE NON-038)

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10

PAGE 2 of 2

LATITUDE

LONGITUDE

64°35'10.564

165°25'55.030"

SW COR SEC 26

GEOD DIST = 378 FT

MEAN BRG = S 42°15'00.000"E

64°35'07.810"

Y=7162136.52

165°25'49.209"

X=479392.16

COR 2 MS 710

03 U.T.M.

GEOD DIST = 1267.7 FT

MEAN BRG = S 72°34'60.000"E

64°35'04.076"

Y=7162018.43

165°25'21.505"

X=479759.91

COR 1 MS 710

03 U.T.M.

GEOD DIST = 525 FT

MEAN BRG = N 23°46'00.000"E

64°35'08.805"

Y=7162164.39

165°25'16.659"

X=479825.35

COR 5 MS 710

03 U.T.M.

GEOD DIST = 1312.8 FT

MEAN BRG = N 66°33'60.000"W

64°35'13.943"

Y=7162325.92

165°25'44.248"

X=479459.43

COR 4 MS 710

03 U.T.M.

NOTE: GEODETIC POSITIONS ARE BASED UPON SCALED BEARING & DISTANCE
FROM BLM PROT DIAGRAM NO. K14-6 (LAND & MINERAL TITLES)

U.T.M. COORDINATES ARE IN METERS
(1 meter = 3.280833333 feet)

26

A-473

T 10 S R 34 W of Katad River Mendenhall AK.

Mineral Survey 710

E.O. Lindblom Claim

MS 710
35.555 Ac

B-2

MC 13
D/C

Mary

Gulch

S42°15'E
378'

Sec
35

N 35° 10' 56 1/2" E
S 25° 55' 03 1/2" W

Lindblom, Erik, Placer Claim
AERS SITE NO. NOM-038
Plat Map, Mineral Survey 710

JUN 16 1979

NOV 9

MS 775
31.085 Ac

MS 718
0.511 Ac
1113924
R/W

SNOW
MS 2105
D/C

Gulch

C-20

C-5