NPS Form 10-900OMB No. 1024-0018
(Rev. 10-90)

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 Aniakchak Bay Historic Landscape District

other names/site number Aniakchak Bay House Pits (Alaska Heritage Resources Survey #SUT-016); NPS Clearance No. 001-87-ANIA

2. Location

street & number Aniakchak National Preserve not for publication ____

city or town Chignik vicinity x (50 miles northeast)

state Alaska code AK county (Dillingham Census Area) code 070

zip code 99564

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this_____ 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 _____ locally. (_____ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Rowland Bowen 12/23/96
Signature of certifying official Date

National Park Service
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): _____		
_____	for Barbara A. Fifield Signature of Keeper	2/14/97 Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)
_____ private
_____ public-local
_____ public-State
__x__ public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)
_____ building(s)
__x__ district
_____ site
_____ structure
_____ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
3		buildings
7		sites
		structures
		objects
10		Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register n.a.

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:	Sub:
domestic	camp
domestic	village site
agriculture-subsistence	fishing facility or site

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat:	Sub:
domestic	camp
landscape	unoccupied land
landscape	park

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)
no style

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation	earth, wood
roof	wood, metal/steel
walls	earth, wood, metal/steel
other	

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

Adjacent to the mouth of the Aniakchak River, on the Alaska Peninsula in southwest Alaska, are located a bunkhouse, two standing outbuildings, six barabaras (semi-subterranean residences), the remains of several fish-drying racks, a prehistoric campsite, the roped remains of a fish trap, and the collapsed remains of a bunk scow. Historic integrity is maintained throughout the nominated district. No intrusions are present, and the entire district offers a cultural setting directly related to the areas of significance noted in Section 8. Physical features, however, are concentrated in three areas within the district (Map 1). The remains of the fish trap are located in Area A, near the mouth of an unnamed stream one-half mile upstream from the present river mouth. The splintered remains of the bunk scow are found in Area B, near the north end of Ark Island, the local designation for the small island located one-half mile south of where the river debouches into Aniakchak Bay (Photo 1). All of the other remains are in Area C, which is located on low ground, within one-half mile east of the river mouth (Photo 2). In addition to these three areas, the district contains four other zones where historic fish traps were once located, but no known remains exist from the traps today, except for the one identified above (Photo 3). The area is defined by its concentration of fisheries activities and facilities. Fishing or fish processing has taken place throughout the nominated district, while areas beyond the designated boundaries have witnessed few or none of these activities.

A bunkhouse, the most substantial feature in the district, stands in area C, 300 yards east of the river mouth and 50 yards inland from the mean high tide line (Map 2). An outbuilding is located nearby (Photo 4). Seventy-five to 100 yards west-southwest of the bunkhouse are located five barabaras; they are surrounded by another outbuilding, a prehistoric campsite and the remains of several fish-drying racks. A sixth barabara is located 100 yards east of the bunkhouse.

This historic landscape district is located on the north shore of Aniakchak Bay, fifty miles northeast of Chignik (Map 3). On the Pacific side of the Alaska Peninsula, conditions are generally unfavorable for settlement. It is windy and treeless throughout the peninsula, and in the vicinity of the bay rainfall probably averages over 100 inches per year. Waters in the area are often rough and storm-tossed, making navigation in small boats hazardous; low cloud ceilings, which are common throughout the year, make airplane takeoffs and landings difficult or impossible. No roads are found within 30 miles of the river mouth.

Near the Aniakchak River mouth, however, is a small area where plentiful natural resources are found in close proximity to favorable dwelling sites. The river offers one of the most plentiful salmon runs between Chignik and Cook Inlet. Because the river is flowing south when it debouches into the Pacific, and because a rock ridge (visible only at low tide) connects the mainland and Ark Island, the most favorable fishing sites are found southwest of the mouth and on Ark Island.

The most suitable sites for human habitation are found east of the river's mouth. The bay's sinuous northern shore and Ark Island provide a modicum of protection from the wind and waves. A large berm, located just north of the high tide line, parallels the coast for over a hundred yards, and between the berm and an adjacent hill is located a well-drained, wind-protected swale. Two small, unnamed streams just east of the berm provide a seasonal source of fresh water. Both berm and swale are enswathed in a two- to four-foot growth of beach grass and parsnip each summer, and berries of various species grow in the vicinity.

Native settlers constructed barabaras at the site during the historic period (Photo 5). These dugout dwellings, found throughout western Alaska and the Alaska Peninsula, are traditionally constructed with an earthen floor, timbered bracing and an arched sod roof. Most house one or two families. The remains of the largest barabara near the Aniakchak River mouth measure approximately 11' x 12' and are 2½ feet deep; within it are found the remains of a doorway (rather than the traditional cold-trap tunnel entry), milled supporting poles, a wood stove, shiplap lumber once used for the walls and roof, and tar paper and asphalt shingles from the former roof (Photos 6 and 7). A second, slightly smaller (8' x 10') barabara has many of the same features, although roof materials are missing. The barabara east of the bunkhouse is smaller yet; its dimensions are 6' x 8', and contains only a few timbers (Photo 8). The three remaining features are barabara-sized depressions devoid of cultural materials; they were definitely created by humans, but cannot be positively identified as houses.

Two other features related to Native occupation of the site have been identified. First, a prehistoric site of unknown extent is located atop the coastal berm just east of a barabara. The excavation of two test pits revealed a number of large, flat, water-worn cobbles which overlaid a substantial, inch-thick layer of charcoal. A more extensive investigation may reveal more extensive site deposits. Second, scattered poles interspersed through the area testify to the recent use of fish drying racks by area Natives (Photos 9 and 10).

The largest feature in the district is the bunkhouse (Map 4). The building is generally L-shaped, the apex of the "L" being at the northeast corner (Photo 11). There is a small, shed-roof extension projecting east from its northeastern corner (Photo 4), and a small, low-roofed storage shed extending west from the south wing (Photo 12).

The northern end of the structure, which includes the main living quarters, is rectangular; its dimensions are 28'2" x 14'0" (Photo 13). A southern wing, which encloses the foyer or vestibule, is 14 feet wide and extends 14'2" from the main living quarters. A continuation of the southern wing, also 14 feet wide, extends for another 12 feet. That continuation now serves as a deck. The extension at the northeastern corner is 9 feet wide and extends 6 feet east from the cabin. South of the shed extends a 5' x 6' latticework of floor joists, now overlain by scrap corrugated metal. The shed extending west from the foyer is 4'9" wide and extends 2'8" west from the wing; its flat roof rises four feet off the ground.

The building is constructed of platform, dimensional wood framing. The wood foundation consists of a 3" x 8" pad, overlain by identically-cut posts and girders. The roof is a simple intersecting gable sheathed with galvanized, corrugated steel underlain by open framing. The floors are wood joists sheathed with tongue and groove number one clear redwood plank flooring. The outside walls are sheathed with the same type of corrugated steel as the roof. The ceiling and interior walls, where original, are sheathed horizontally with the same redwood tongue and groove planking found on the floor. The wall separating the entry from the main room, however, is sheathed with makeshift materials, mostly corrugated metal. Several window openings exist, each measuring 38" high and 31" wide.

The bunkhouse retains a considerable degree of integrity, even though it has been unmaintained for more than 50 years. The use of high-quality construction materials, the durability of the wood foundation, and excellent workmanship seen throughout have resulted in a structure which, even today, is remarkably stable and impervious to the elements. The roof, for instance, has required only slight repair work in recent years. The flooring in the main room is of fairly high quality and, despite settling problems, both the floor and underlying foundation are remarkably level in comparison with those in similar structures of that age.

Despite the structure's overall stability, several portions of it have shown obvious signs of deterioration. The most significant attrition has taken place at the end of the south wing, where the roof and walls have been removed, leaving only the existing deck. The interior wall which separated the deck from the vestibule has also been missing for many years, leaving the vestibule open to the elements (Photo 14). Not surprisingly, therefore, the floor in the long-exposed vestibule is in poor condition and dips slightly to the northeast. The exposed deck, which dips to the north, suffers from both rot and broken planks around its perimeter. To

prevent further deterioration, the vestibule floor has recently been overlain with plywood sheets; the old interior wall has been recently replaced with a makeshift wall of 2' x 8' plywood sheets overlaying exposed 2" x 4" studs (Photo 12).

Other signs of deterioration are peripheral in nature. For instance, the north wall of the shed in the northeastern corner is missing. Much of the interior sheathing on the south wall, east wall and ceiling of the main living area has been removed, apparently as fuel for heating and cooking. Some of the underlying studs are also missing. The building's original fenestration has been completely removed. Most of the windows have been replaced in recent years with impromptu wood framing and plastic, but the south-facing window in the main living area has recently been replaced with a glass substitute. The original doors have also been removed, and have been replaced with makeshift substitutes. Both roof and walls are rusted and are pockmarked with bullet holes; some have been patched with electrical and silver duct tape.

Approximately five yards north-northeast of the bunkhouse is a small shed. This simple flat-roofed structure is composed of a frame of wooden timbers upon which corrugated metal sheathing has been installed for the walls and roof (Photo 15). The building is in poor condition; portions of the roof are missing, revealing a deteriorated framework of milled lumber, and its eastern wall, where the only door and window are located, has separated from the roof and is listing outward.

An outhouse is located 85 yards west-southwest of the bunkhouse (Photo 16). It is on the crest of the beach berm and in the midst of the row of barabaras. This 4'1" x 3'11" shed-roofed building, which opens to the west, is of wood-frame construction sheathed with corrugated metal on its walls and roof. It is in deteriorated condition. The structure, which has been moved at least once, is bare to the point of nonfunctionality; neither a toilet platform nor a privy hole is in evidence. The walls and roof are relatively intact, although small openings on several walls expose potential users to the elements.

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)

__x__ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

__x__ 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.

__x__ 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 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)

archeology/prehistoric
archeology/historic-aboriginal
ethnic heritage/Native American
maritime history
exploration/settlement

Period of Significance c. 1600 - 1940

Significant Dates 1917
1924
1930

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
Father Bernard R. Hubbard, S.J.

Cultural Affiliation Eskimo (unknown subgroup)
Eskimo (Koniag)

Architect/Builder unknown

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

Summary

The area surrounding the mouth of Aniakchak Bay is significant for several reasons. The river provides one of the best fish runs along the Pacific side of the Alaska Peninsula, and the north shore of Aniakchak Bay, just east of the river mouth, provides one of the most equable habitation sites for miles in either direction. The combination of fishing resources, a sheltered location and the presence of fresh water has attracted people to the area for hundreds if not thousands of years. That cultural continuity extended as late as the 1940s; the site has continued to be used more recently, although to a lesser extent.

Limited archeological investigations in the area suggest that the first known form of settlement took place between 1575 and 1655 A.D. This is one of the few known prehistoric sites on the central Alaska Peninsula. By the early twentieth century Koniags had established a settlement (probably a seasonal camp) at the site, and had erected the first of several barabaras. Native Americans continued to inhabit the site on a seasonal basis into the 1940s. Although little is known about the physical extent or cultural complexity of aboriginal impacts, their longtime presence in an otherwise inhospitable region warrants significance. Furthermore, it is highly likely that continued site investigations will yield additional information important in both prehistoric and historic contexts.

In 1917 non-Natives began commercial fishing operations at the river mouth when the Columbia River Packers Association (CRPA) established fish traps. The company soon recognized that the bay offered some of the best trap sites along the Pacific side of the Alaska Peninsula; as a result, the company operated traps in the bay for most of the next thirty years. In order to maintain its operations, the CRPA stationed crews near the river mouth; they lived in poorly-situated quarters until the company constructed a bunkhouse about 1924. The bunkhouse, which still stands, is one of the most substantial commercial fisheries outbuildings in Alaska, and is one of the few remaining Alaska bunkhouses located outside of a cannery complex. It is probably the largest building within a forty mile radius, and is a prominent historical focal point in the 602,779-acre Aniakchak National Monument and Preserve. Both the bunkhouse and the rest of the area help commemorate a distinctive period of Alaska's maritime history, an era in which the fishing industry was dominated by Outside ownership and traps were the primary method for capturing fish.

The area gained new significance in the summer of 1930, when the area was used as a base of operations for one of Rev. Bernard Hubbard's most significant Alaska explorations. From the late 1920s through the 1940s Hubbard's explorations, described in films, books and lectures, made him world famous and made Alaska familiar to a wide audience. Hubbard was a volcanologist

and glaciologist whose annual trips to Alaska offered the excitement of exploration as well as the accomplishments of geological research. Although he explored much of Alaska, Aniakchak caldera was one of his favorite destinations, an area he visited repeatedly and discussed at length.

Historic Context

Little was known about the Pacific side of the Alaska Peninsula before European explorers arrived in the area. Limited investigations into the prehistory of the Alaska Peninsula suggest that an unknown group of Eskimos--perhaps Pacific Yupik, Central Alaskan Yupik, or some intermediate linguistic form--were replaced by the 1850s by Aglurmiut (Aglegmiut) Eskimos, who moved southward from the Kuskokwim delta. The new group, however, did not migrate all the way south to the Aniakchak area.[1] Archeologist Don Dumond and linguist Michael Krauss have each located the Eskimo-Aleut linguistic boundary in the Port Moller area, approximately 100 miles southwest of Aniakchak Bay.[2] Dumond identifies historic Natives of the area between Chignik and the Katmai country as being Peninsula Eskimo, while Krauss refers to them as either Alutiiq or Sugpiaq, both forms of self-identification for Pacific Eskimo. Jeff Leer, a linguist, has divided the Alutiiq into Koniiag, who inhabit the Alaska Peninsula from Chignik northward, and Chugach, who live on Prince William Sound and the Kenai Peninsula.[3] Although academics consistently suggest Koniag origins, today's local (Chignik area) residents consider themselves to be of Aleut origin.[4]

While a clear boundary between Eskimo and Aleut languages appears to have been established during the late prehistoric period, no such boundary appears to exist between the material cultures of the two groups. Archeological investigations have produced three schools of thought. Proponents of one school suggest that an apparent boundary between technological traditions may have existed quite close to the linguistic boundary noted above.[5] Others have concluded that sometime after AD 1000, a broad cultural zone was established on the central peninsula in which the technological elements of Eskimo and Aleut cultures were combined by the

---

[1] Roger Harritt, "A Model for Analysis of Late Prehistoric Occupation of the Naknek Region, Southwest Alaska," in Robert Shaw, Roger Harritt and Don Dumond, ed., The Late Prehistoric Development of Alaska's Native People, Aurora (Alaska Anthropological Association, Monograph Series No. 4), 1988, 199. Svetlana G. Fedorova, in The Russian Population of Alaska and California, Late Eighteenth Century to 1867 (trans. and ed. by R. A. Pierce and A. S. Donnelly [Kingston, Ont., Limestone Press, c. 1973], 162) indicates that in the 1820s, Alaska Peninsula Natives were known only as "Peninsula Eskimos." Her map is based on one published in Wendell H. Oswalt, Alaskan Eskimos (San Francisco, Chandler, 1967), 7. Also see R. E. Ackerman and L. Ackerman, "Ethnoarchaeological Interpretations of Territoriality and Land Use in Southwest Alaska," Ethnohistory 20 (1973), 315-334.

[2] Don E. Dumond, "Archaeology on the Alaska Peninsula: The Naknek Region, 1960-1975," University of Oregon Anthropological Papers 21 (Eugene), 1981, Fig. 1.1.; Michael E. Krauss, "Native Peoples and Languages of Alaska" [map], 2nd edition (Fairbanks, University of Alaska, Native Language Center, 1982).

[3] Jeff Leer, in A Conversational Dictionary of Kodiak Alutiiq (Fairbanks, University of Alaska, Alaska Native Language Center, 1978, 1-4) notes that although older Natives consider themselves Sugpiaq, Alutiiq is the currently preferred term. They have also been called Suk Eskimo, Pacific Gulf Eskimo, Sugcestun and Chugach Eskimo.

[4] Alaska Department of Community and Regional Affairs, "Community Profile" for Chignik, December 1982.

[5] D. E. Dumond, L. Conton and H. Shields, "Eskimos and Aleuts on the Alaska Peninsula: A Reappraisal of Port Moller Affinities," Arctic Anthropology 12 (1975), 52-53.

inhabitants to form a unique new assemblage.[6] Still others feel that because of ecological stress, many parts of the peninsula were devoid of inhabitants during portions of the late prehistoric period; at other times the boundary may have shifted up and down the peninsula.[7] Archeologist Donald Clark agrees with the disparity between language and other culture traits, noting that "Koniag speech is Eskimoan but physical anthropologists have identified physical traits which suggest racial strains other than Eskimo in ancestral Koniag remains."[8]

Conclusions about the area's prehistory are by necessity quite tentative, due to the paucity of archeological survey data.[9] More survey work is needed, in Aniakchak Bay and elsewhere on the central Alaska Peninsula. Several authorities have suggested that the shores of Aniakchak Bay supported a prehistoric Native settlement, but no historical records or conclusive ethnographic evidence indicate the existence of such a village.[10] Survey work offers the possibility of corroborating those suggestions, while providing additional data on the length of settlement in the area, the cultural affiliation of its residents, the sophistication of its material culture and related characteristics.

When Europeans began exploring the margins of Alaska in the mid-eighteenth century, the Native inhabitants of the central Alaska Peninsula became witnesses to their meanderings. But the isolated, fog-shrouded, storm-tossed coast was ignored by most European explorers. The only early explorers to come close to the coast were Captain Aleksei Chirikof, part of Vitus Bering's expedition, and Captain James Cook, leading his third expedition. In early August of 1741, Chirikof sailed down the coast and landed on Chirikof Island, 80 miles southeast of Aniakchak Bay. In June 1778, the two ships commanded by Captain Cook passed within 50 miles of the bay.[11]

The fur-trading promyshlenniki began flocking into Russian America shortly after the Bering-Chirikov voyage. These hunters initially captured the sea otter on their own, but soon began

---

[6] A. P. McCartney, "Prehistoric Cultural Integration along the Alaska Peninsula," Anthropological Papers of the University of Alaska 16 (1), 1974, 59-84, as quoted in Roger Harritt, "Historic Structure Assessment Report, Bunkhouse, Aniakchak National Monument and Preserve, Archeology Section," unpublished draft report, NPS, Alaska Regional Office, June 1987, [3].

[7] David R. Yesner, "Cultural Boundaries and Ecological Frontiers in Coastal Regions; An Example from the Alaska Peninsula," in S. W. Green and S. M. Perlman, ed., The Archaeology of Frontiers and Boundaries, (New York, Academic Press, 1985), 81-84.

[8] Donald W. Clark, "Pacific Eskimo Encoded Precontact History," in Shaw, Harritt and Dumond, 211.

[9] Harritt, 1987, [1].

[10] Donald Orth, in Dictionary of Alaska Place Names, USGS Professional Paper 567, second edition (Washington, GPO, 1971, 79) lists Aniakchak as an "Eskimo camp or settlement" which in 1925 was "occupied only by a trapper's cabin." He does not, however, specify a location of the camp or source for his information. Walter R. Smith ("Aniakchak Crater, Alaska Peninsula," Shorter Contributions to General Geology, 1923-1924, USGS Professional Paper 132 [Washington, GPO, 1925], 143) notes a trapper's cabin, but it was "built near the lagoon at Aniakchak Bay," and was thus five miles southwest of the mouth of the Aniakchak River.

[11] Alfred Hulse Brooks, Geography and Geology of Alaska, A Summary of Existing Knowledge (Washington, GPO, 1906), 109; National Park Service, Alaska History, 1741-1910, The National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings, Theme XXI, Political and Military Affairs, 1865-1910, Special Study (Washington?, the author, 1961), 14-15; George A. Parks, comp., "Early Exploratory Routes, Alaska" [map], c. 1930, in University of Washington, Special Collections (hereafter referred to as UWSC).

to enlist the aid of Natives, either through simple trading relationships or by slavery and the use of brute force. Through the use of such tactics, they decimated the otter population wherever they went. Starting at the western end of the Aleutian Islands, they quickly moved east and before long set their sights on the mainland.[12] In 1763, they reached Kodiak Island. By the mid-1770s the Russians had founded a permanent settlement at Illiuliuk (Unalaska), and by 1784 they had established a second settlement at the southern end of Kodiak Island.[13]

From their island bases, the Russian fur hunters extended their hunting and trading operations to the mainland.[14] Using Native hunters the same way as in the Aleutians, the Russians enjoyed a booming fur trade along the Pacific side of the Alaska Peninsula from the mid-1760s through the 1780s. By the 1790s the area's sea otter population was largely depleted. After the boom had subsided, the newly-established Russian America Company formed cooperative trading relationships with the subdued Natives. The hunting pressure decreased to the point that the otter harvest remained at or near a sustained level for decades to come.[15]

The Russian demand for sea otters forced many Natives to abandon their traditional villages and move to purchasing depots, which were located near the Russian artels (fur hunting outposts).[16] Kaluiak, a Kaniagmiut village on Anchorage Bay, near Chignik Lagoon, may have been decimated during this period.[17] But because of the Russians were afraid of Native attacks, no known artels were established on the mainland between Chignik and the Katmai country.[18] The only permanent fur trading camp the Russians established in the area was Sutkhvin, a short-lived camp on Sutwik Island, which operated at some point between 1770 and 1800.[19] During the first half of the eighteenth century most maps and accounts failed to identify any settlements along the Pacific side of the central Alaska Peninsula. Two villages, however, may have existed: Kujulik, on the shores of Kujulik Bay (Map 3), and Kaluiak.[20]

---

[12] Merry Allyn Tuten, A Preliminary Study of Subsistence Activities on the Pacific Coast of the Proposed Aniakchak Caldera National Monument, Cooperative Park Studies Unit, Occasional Paper No. 4 (Fairbanks, University of Alaska, 1977), 16-18; NPS, 1961, 12.

[13] Vasilii Nikovaevich Berkh, "Chronological History of the Discovery of the Aleutian Islands," (St. Petersburg, 1823), in Melvin Ricks, ed., The Earliest History of Alaska (Anchorage, Cook Inlet Historical Society, 1970), 18; Anatole Senkevitch, Jr., "The Early Architecture and Settlements of Russian America," in S. Frederick Starr, ed., Russia's American Colony (Durham, Duke University Press, 1987), 149; Hector Chevigny, Russian America, The Great Alaskan Adventure (New York, Viking Press, 1965), 42, 54.

[14] James W. VanStone, ed., Russian Exploration in Southwest Alaska: The Travel Journals of Petr Korsakovskiy (1818) and Ivan Ya. Vasilev (1829), trans. by David H. Kraus (Fairbanks, University of Alaska Press, c. 1988), 5.

[15] Alaska Dept. of Community and Regional Affairs, "Chignik Lagoon" Community Profile (Iliamna/Alaska Peninsula Region), December 1982; Tuten, 16-17.

[16] Fedorova, 200.

[17] Alaska Department of Community and Regional Affairs, "Chignik" Community Profile, December 1982; Clark, 1984, 186.

[18] Fedorova, 128; Petr Aleksandrovich Tickhmenev, The Historical Review of the Formation of the Russian-American Company and Its Activity Up to the Present Time, trans. by Dimitri Krenov (Seattle, WPA, 1939-40), I/35, from Tuten, 16.

[19] Fedorova, 112.

[20] Tuten, 22, 25; Clark, 1984, 186.

By the 1820s the Russians had begun a systematic investigation of the Alaska Peninsula coast. By 1827, when Adam Johann von Krusenstern published his well-known Atlas de l'Ocean Pacifique, many of the capes, peaks and islands along the Pacific coast had been named. One of the only named indentations was Aniakchak Bay, listed as "Baie Amah-chack."[21] In 1831-32, Ensign Ivan Iakovlevich Vasil'ev of the Imperial Russian Navy mapped the Pacific Coast from Cook Inlet to Cape Kumliun (Map 3). The results of the survey work, which was published in 1836,[22] were corroborated in the 1840s by the expeditions of Lindenberg and Kashevarov. In the late 1860s the compiled data were copied onto U.S. Coast Survey charts; they served as the standard for area navigation until well into the twentieth century.[23]

The changeover in control to the United States, in 1867, brought few immediate changes to the central Alaska Peninsula. The only promising activity was the fur trade. In order to serve area fur traders the Alaska Commercial Company established stores near Mitrofania, just south of Chignik, and Sutkum Village, on Sutwik Island, beginning in 1880. Few pelts were available, however, and by 1897 both stores had closed.[24]

The first large-scale migration of non-Natives to the area arrived in pursuit of the salmon resource. Because of the depletion of the salmon runs along the Sacramento and Columbia rivers, salmon packers began to eye the rich waters off Alaska, and in 1878 they opened the first canneries. The earliest installations were located in southeastern Alaska. The number of canneries grew quickly, both in numbers and in their geographical extent, during the next several years. By 1882, a cannery was established in Cook Inlet, in Central Alaska, and two years later one opened on Bristol Bay, in Western Alaska. Each of these plants proved to be the harbinger of many such facilities that would be founded over the coming decades.[25]

---

[21] Orth, 16-17, 79. As part of the application which the Koniag Incorporated Regional Native Corporation provided to the U.S. Bureau of Land Management for a 240 acre Cemetery/Historical Site (Case File AA 011774), the "Statement for Site #71" (p. 2) noted that "the village of Kujulik was first recorded on Russian Hydrographic Department charts as 'Kizhulik'. Ales Hrdlicka noted in 1930 an uncertainty about the location of the abandoned village. He was uncertain as to whether it was actually located in Kujulik Bay, or was in Aniakchak Bay. It may be that there was actually a village in each bay area, and that one is previously recorded."

[22] W. R. Smith and Arthur A. Baker, "The Cold Bay-Chignik District," Mineral Resources of Alaska, Report on Progress of Investigations in 1922, USGS Bulletin 755 (Washington, GPO, 1924), 151-52; Orth, 41-42, 79; M. D. Teben'kov, Atlas of the Northwest Coasts of America, trans. and ed. by Richard A. Pierce (Kingston, Ont., Limestone Press, 1981), 60; Richard A. Pierce, Russian America: A Biographical Dictionary (Fairbanks, Limestone Press, 1990), 518-519.

[23] In 1847, a Russian Hydrographic Department chart labelled the bay "Zal[iv] Aniakshak," while the first map known to label the bay "Aniakchak" was published in 1869. Teben'kov, Atlas of the Northwest Coasts of America, 60; Orth, 79; U.S. Coast Survey, "Alaska and Adjoining Territory" [map], 1869, UWSC.

[24] Tuten, 28-29; U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, "Alaska and Adjoining Territory" [map], 1887, UWSC. Robert P. Porter, Dept. of the Interior, Census Office, Report on the Population and Resources of Alaska at the Eleventh Census: 1890 (Washington, GPO, 1893), 73, also indicated a "Sutkum Village" on Sutwik Island.

[25] MacDonald, Lewis G., "Chronological History of Salmon Canneries in Central Alaska," Alaska Department of Fisheries Annual Report 3 (1951), 71-84; Jefferson F. Moser, "The Salmon and Salmon Fisheries of Alaska; Report of the Alaskan Salmon Investigations of the United States Fish Commission Steamer Albatross in the 1900 and 1901," Bulletin of the U.S. Fish Commission 21 (Washington, GPO, 1902), 173-398.

Before long, industry officials cast their eyes on the Pacific Coast of the Alaska Peninsula. The first cannery founded on the peninsula was situated in Chignik Lagoon. In 1889, three salmon packing plants were established there because the run of red salmon, or "redfish," was consistently one of the strongest in the District of Alaska. In 1892 the three canneries consolidated into one, which operated under the auspices of the Alaska Packing Association.[26]

The first Chignik canneries employed a fleet of gillnetters and purse seiners to harvest the catch. Under that system the yield increased each of the first three years. For the next four years, the harvest from that plant averaged well over 50,000 cases per year.[27] Seiners and gillnets, however, were difficult to operate in the shallow, murky waters of the lagoon.[28] During the 1890s, therefore, the canneries increasingly came to rely on pile traps, which were known at the time as "pound nets." Crude forms of traps had existed in Alaska for thousands of years, and commercial pound nets had been used when the first canneries were established in the late 1870s. The modern stationary trap, however, was not introduced until the 1890s.[29] Traps were useful because they were efficient and relatively inexpensive, and because the labor costs for their operation were relatively low.

In Chignik Lagoon, traps were introduced during the same period that two new packers entered the competitive arena, and the combined efforts of those companies began to test the ecological limits of the resource. In 1896, the Hume Brothers and Hume Company and the Pacific Steam Whaling Company constructed new canneries in the area, and by the following summer the three companies had established a total of 23 traps in and around the lagoon. As in the rest of Alaska, the packers continued to use some seiners and gill nets. Unlike other Alaska areas, however, most fish in and around Chignik Lagoon were caught in traps.[30] Jefferson Moser, an inspector for the U.S. Fish Commission, noted in the summer of 1897 that

> it is evident to anyone who examines Chignik Lagoon during the packing season that the place is overfished. All kinds of [fishing] practices are resorted to, and the

---

[26] In 1888, the salmon fishery began at Chignik when 2,160 barrels of salted salmon were packed. Willis H. Rich and Edward M. Ball, "Statistical Review of the Alaska Fisheries, Part II: Chignik to Resurrection Bay," Bulletin of the Bureau of Fisheries 46, Bureau of Fisheries Document No. 1102 (Washington, GPO, 1931), 645; MacDonald, 73; Lidia L. Selkregg, ed., Alaska Regional Profiles: vol. III, Southwest Region (Anchorage, Alaska Environmental Information and Data Center, 1974-76), Fig. 159.

[27] In 1891, one of the Chignik canneries was operated by the Alaska Packers Association; the following year by the Alaska Packing Association, and from 1893 to the 1970s the Alaska Packers Association. Pat Roppel, Salmon From Kodiak: An History of the Salmon Fishery of Kodiak Island, Alaska (Anchorage, Alaska Historical Commission Studies in History No. 216, 1986), 34; Richard A. Cooley, Politics and Conservation; the Decline of the Alaska Salmon (New York, Harper and Row, 1963), 43-48; Laurence Freeburn, "The Silver Years of the Alaska Canned Salmon Industry; an Album of Historical Photos," Alaska Geographic 3 (Anchorage, Alaska Northwest, c. 1976), 22.

[28] C. A. Halvorsen, Supt. Chignik Cannery, APA to APA (Headquarters), San Francisco, November 26, 1934; C. Mathews, Supt. Alitak Station, APA to APA (Headquarters), San Francisco, November 27, 1934; William Timson, Pres. of APA to A. J. Dimond, Territorial Delegate, April 19, 1933; all in Alaska Packers Association Collection (hereafter referred to as APA Collection), Box 6 (II/2).

[29] H. C. Scudder, "The Alaska Salmon Trap: Its Evolution, Conflicts, and Consequences," Alaska State Library Historical Monographs, No. 1 (Juneau, Dept. of Education, 1970), 1-3; Cooley, 45.

[30] Scudder, 9.

> overtaxed stream must suffer by this excessive fishing. The traps are so close together and occupy so much of the channel that they look almost like barricades.[31]

The number of traps in the lagoon remained high after the turn of the century, causing government personnel to warn against the consequences of overfishing the area. In 1904, agent Howard Kutchin noted that "this region is the marvel of Alaska salmon fisheries on account of the multiplicity of traps in the river." Returns, however, proved resilient. This resiliency was possible because canneries, in good years, needed to operate only a few of their traps in order to provide all the fish they needed.[32]

The operation of three canneries, all of which depended upon the red salmon of Chignik Lagoon, ultimately proved to be too much for the available resource. In 1904, one of the three canneries was forced to close. Six years later the Columbia River Packers Association (CRPA) emerged as a new competitor, constructing a cannery at the head of Anchorage Bay. It staked a few traps in the lagoon, but unlike its competitors it chose to diversify its trap sites. By 1913 it had established a trap in Hook Bay, the first trap outside of Chignik Bay.[33]

The following year brought the inauguration of Territorial trap licensing and the imposition of a license fee.[34] More important, the three canneries operating that year (the Alaska Packers Association, the Northwestern Fisheries Company, and the CRPA) agreed on a communal fishing contract. This contract provided that regardless of the number of fish captured in the various companies' traps, the three would share equally in the total catch. Having thus removed the incentive for overfishing, two-thirds of the traps were closed, and a sense of stability began to emerge in the Chignik fishery.[35] The three canneries operating in 1910 continued as the only ones in the area for the next twenty years, and the number of traps (almost all of which

---

[31] Jefferson F. Moser, "The Salmon and Salmon Industries of Alaska, Report of the Operations of the U.S. Fish Commission Steamer Albatross for the Year Ending June 30, 1898," in Bulletin of the U.S. Fish Commission 18 (Washington, GPO, 1899), 165, 171. Because of the dangers of overfishing, and because high construction costs kept the ownership of trap sites in the hands of a few large companies, traps were outlawed elsewhere along the Pacific Coast early in the twentieth century. In Alaska, however, traps remained until statehood in 1959. Cooley, 31-32.

[32] Moser, 1902, 218; Howard M. Kutchin, Department of Commerce and Labor, "Report on the Salmon Fisheries of Alaska, 1904" (Washington, GPO, 1905), 13.

[33] MacDonald, 74-75; Roppel, 27; Kutchin, 1903 (p. 12) and 1904 (p. 13). Alaska Packers Association, "Map of Chignik Lagoon, Approximate Size and Location of Traps in 1913," in APA Collection, Box 104; Rich and Ball, 1931, 645.

[34] Scudder, 13, 19. The legality of the territory to impose taxes was hotly contested by the trap operators. No fees were collected until they were demanded by George Grigsby, Territorial Counsel, in 1917. Only later did the U.S. Supreme Court establish the uncontested right for the Territory to assess fees on fish trap licenses.

[35] The dramatic drop in the number of Chignik Lagoon traps from 1913 to 1914 did not, however, result in a corresponding reduction in the fish yield, because many of the eliminated traps were either "dummy traps" or were the more marginal producers. Scudder, 8, 15; Rich and Ball, 1931, 645; Northwestern Fisheries Co., Alaska Packers Association and Columbia River Packers Association, "Chignik Fishing Contract," 1924 through 1930.

were pile traps) operating in and adjacent to Chignik Bay consistently ranged between eight and twelve.[36]

The first fish trap established in Aniakchak Bay was an indirect result of the communal fishing contract. Contract language gave the two oldest packers in the Chignik area--Northwestern Fisheries Company and the Alaska Packers Association--preference in retaining their trap locations in Chignik Lagoon. With few traps in the lagoon, the Columbia River Packers Association was forced to rely on other locations. As returns from the next two decades were to show, the company was largely successful in its search for new sites.[37]

Archeology/Prehistoric: Early Eskimo Settlement

As noted above, several authorities have suggested that the area surrounding the mouth of the Aniakchak River supported a prehistoric settlement. No known historical records or ethnographic evidence, however, verify the existence of a village.[38] As noted in Section 7, brief archeological testing revealed an assemblage of rocks and charcoal which appears to have been used at some time between 1575 and 1655 A.D. Evidence gathered from the rock assemblage suggests that the site was used for salmon harvesting and possibly sea mammal hunting. Considering the site's advantages -- its location at the mouth of a salmon stream, the year-round availability of fresh water, and the modicum of protection from winds -- it is not surprising that evidences of long-term settlement are found. The site is one of the few evidences of prehistoric activity to have been thus far located on the central Alaska Peninsula.

Archeology/Historic Aboriginal: Koniag Subsistence Camp

The extent of aboriginal activity surrounding the mouth of the Aniakchak River during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries is largely a matter of conjecture, but its existence is undeniable. By the early twentieth century Koniags had established a settlement, probably a seasonal hunting and fishing camp, at the site. They had also erected the first of several barabaras. Most if not all of the barabara sites predate 1917, the year commercial fishing activities commenced in the area. The Aniakchak River mouth is thus one of a handful of known settlement sites known to have existed during this period along the Pacific side of the central Alaska Peninsula.

By the summer of 1930, photographs from the Hubbard expedition showed two well-maintained barabaras at the site that were apparently being used on a seasonal basis. The barabaras were

---

[36] Ward Bower, Dept. of Commerce, Bureau of Fisheries, Alaska Fisheries and Fur-Seal Industries (Washington, GPO, 1914-1929 editions). After 1914, the number of traps in the Chignik district often exceeded twelve, but several traps (such as those in Aniakchak Bay) were located outside of Chignik Bay. The Chignik District, like most of the rest of the Central Alaska fishery, relied heavily on pile traps, while in the more protected waters of southeastern Alaska, the floating trap became increasingly common after 1907. Floating traps were prohibited in the Chignik area after 1926.

[37] NWF, APA and CRPA, "Chignik Fishing Contract," 1924; Bower, 1914-1916 editions.

[38] Donald Orth, in Dictionary of Alaska Place Names, USGS Professional Paper 567, second edition (Washington, GPO, 1971, 79) lists Aniakchak as an "Eskimo camp or settlement" which in 1925 was "occupied only by a trapper's cabin." He does not, however, specify a location of the camp or source for his information. Walter R. Smith ("Aniakchak Crater, Alaska Peninsula," Shorter Contributions to General Geology, 1923-1924, USGS Professional Paper 132 [Washington, GPO, 1925], 143) notes a trapper's cabin, but it was "built near the lagoon at Aniakchak Bay," and was thus five miles southwest of the mouth of the Aniakchak River.

used until the 1940s.[39] Traditional use of the site took place as late as 1973, when Natives dried fish at the site. At that time, the largest barabara still retained its roof, and a series of poles used for drying salmon surrounded the dwelling.[40]

By 1987, a site investigation revealed six known or apparent barabara sites. Materials found within two of the barabaras (milled lumber, asphalt shingles, galvanized nails) corroborate what was shown in the 1930 photographs, and are thus known to be used during the historic period.[41] But information gathered from ecologically similar sites elsewhere on the Alaska Peninsula suggests that any or all of the barabara sites may have been used for hundreds if not thousands of years before European contact began. If occupied simultaneously, the barabaras could have housed a village of up to 25 people.[42] The barabaras are typical of those used by the Pacific Eskimo, and bear some relation to similar dwellings traditionally constructed by Aleut or other Eskimo groups.[43]

Ethnic Heritage/Native American: Life on Aniakchak Bay

Those who used to live in the vicinity of Aniakchak Bay have provided rich accounts of their subsistence lifestyle. Before 1917, when trap gangs first appeared at the river mouth, local residents probably spent long periods of time at the site. Available for harvest in the local area was a wide variety of local game, including pink salmon, caribou, ptarmigan, rabbits and ducks. Berries supplemented their diet during the summertime. The arrival of the trap gangs appears to have halted summer residence at the site; subsistence hunting, however, may have continued for decades to come.

Between the two world wars, most if not all who lived at the camp were wintertime trappers and their families. Most were local (Chignik) Natives, or were married to Natives. Depending on the length of the season, they arrived in October or November and stayed until late February, March or April; they moved up the Aniakchak River valley or along the coastline in search of mink, otter, red fox, wolverine, lynx and wolf.

One of the first trappers to live at the river's mouth was Adolph Von Hemmel. He was followed by John Hillborn and Henry Erikson, both Chignik residents, who lived in the two largest

---

[39] Harritt, 1987, [3]; Bernard R. Hubbard, S.J., "A World Inside a Mountain," National Geographic 60 (September 1931), 324; Frank and Penny Starr, "End of Season Report, Aniakchak National Monument and Preserve," September 1988," H3. Freeburn (p. 16) noted that "for many years, into the 1930s, many of the native settlements along the Alaska Peninsula...included the picturesque old barabaras, half underground with a driftwood shell supporting an insulating roof and walls of sod."

[40] Keith Trexler (photographer), ARO Interpretation Division Photograph Collection, Nos. 5463-22 and 5463-32, July 17, 1973.

[41] Harritt, "Historic Structure Assessment Report, Bunkhouse, Aniakchak National Monument and Preserve, Archeology Section" (draft), ARO-RCR, June 1987.

[42] NPS, "Archeological Clearance Survey Form," #001-87-ANIA, 1987, 2.

[43] Margaret Lantis, "Aleut," in David Damas, ed., Handbook of North American Indians, vol. 5, Arctic (Washington, Smithsonian Institution, 1984), 167; Donald W. Clark, "Pacific Eskimo: Historical Ethnography," in Damas, ed., 191, 194; James W. VanStone, "Mainland Southwest Alaska Eskimo," in Damas, ed., 226-228; and Ernest S. Burch, Jr., "Kotzebue Sound Eskimo," in Damas, ed., 307-308.

barabaras during the 1930s and early 1940s.[44] Erikson lived immediately northwest of the present-day outhouse, while Hillborn's residence was immediately west of Erikson's. Clemens Grunert Sr., another trapper, lived for awhile in the bunkhouse, but found it difficult to heat and thereafter moved to a nearby barabara.[45]

After World War I, the Aniakchak camp was never more than a seasonal home. One of the three Chignik villages remained the permanent place of residence. Some people returned to Aniakchak several years in succession, but others moved on to other areas along the Pacific coast or to Bristol Bay. By all accounts the trapping life was hard, and by the 1940s falling fur prices and an increased standard of living among local residents discontinued the practice.[46] Erikson and Hillborn ceased trapping in the area by 1943, but Grunert stayed on, taking up residence in the former Hillborn barabara. In 1948 or 1949, however, a bear drove him from his home, disturbing it in the process. Grunert did not reside at the site again.[47]

Maritime History: Fish Traps and Bunkhouse Construction

During the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries Natives apparently hunted and fished near the mouth of the Aniakchak River on a seasonal basis. Commercial fishermen, meanwhile, were stationed in and around Chignik Bay, fifty miles to the southwest. As noted above, however, events such as the advent of the contract fishing contract, and the growing acceptance among the public of salmon varieties other than sockeye, encouraged canneries to investigate the salmon resources outside of Chignik Bay.

The coastline northeast of Chignik offered a large number of bays and coves with potential as fish trap sites. Some of the most promising sites were located in Aniakchak Bay. While not as rich as Chignik Lagoon, this area was advantageous because the Aniakchak River, over 25 miles long, offered the most extensive drainage system on the Pacific Coast between Chignik Lagoon and the Katmai country.[48] The correspondingly low stream gradient, moreover, offered high quality salmon habitat. While Chignik Bay and Chignik Lagoon runs featured red salmon, the streams in and around Aniakchak Bay attracted primarily pink salmon, with smaller runs of red, coho and chum salmon.[49] While species other than red salmon were not considered of commercial value before 1910, concerted efforts made over the next several years helped provide a market for these species. A second reason for the development of fish traps in the area, therefore, was to satisfy the increasing demand for alternative salmon varieties.[50]

---

[44] Hillborn wrote an article of his experiences (Hillborn, 12-13); Henry Erikson's daughter, Viola (Erikson) Grunert, was born in the barabara (Louisa Anderson, interview by Sande Faulkner, May 4, 1988).

[45] Tuten, 32, 34; Clemens Grunert, Sr., Chignik Lagoon, telephone interview by the author, September 19, 1990.

[46] Tuten, 34.

[47] Tuten, 32; Alec Pedersen, telephone interview by the author, September 19, 1990; Grunert interview.

[48] Selkregg, Fig. 159.

[49] Rich and Ball, 1931, 646.

[50] Willis H. Rich and Edward M. Ball, "Statistical Review of the Alaska Salmon Fisheries, Part I: Bristol Bay and Alaska Peninsula," Bulletin of the Bureau of Fisheries 44, Document 1041 (Washington, GPO, 1928), 42. Before World War I, little demand existed for pink and chum salmon. In 1900, "dog salmon" were regarded as waste, and a decade later certain canneries paid fishermen seven to eight times more for sockeye salmon than for pink salmon. Moser,

During World War I, the demand for salmon of all types increased dramatically. The U.S. Food Administrator issued a statement noting that "of the fresh foods, the fish industry alone has the opportunity greatly to increase production, for the crop is inexhaustible." Given this mandate, conservation controls were relaxed and many new traps were established throughout Alaska. Between 1914 and 1918, the number of traps more than doubled, from 240 to 552.[51]

In response to these trends, the Columbia River Packers Association drove the first trap in Aniakchak Bay in 1917. It was located at perhaps the best legally permissible site in the bay --approximately 2000 feet southwest of the mouth of the Aniakchak River (Map 5).[52] The trap, pilings and all, was probably removed at season's end, then rebuilt the following spring.[53] As with other Alaska trap locations, the site was not purchased, that right having never been awarded to Alaska trap operators. Through the concept of user rights, however, the rights to the site became firmly established over time. The fish trap license and tax served as de facto deeds of ownership.[54]

In 1919 the CRPA moved the trap approximately 1000 feet southwest from its 1917 location. The company also installed a second, shorter trap that year; the trap was anchored at the south end of so-called Ark Island near the river mouth, and projected west toward the shore-based trap. Together, the two traps blocked over half of the area surrounding the Aniakchak River mouth. In order to house the trap watchman, a small bunk scow was installed at the north end of the island. One or both of the traps was renewed the following year.[55]

Catch figures show that the Aniakchak Bay traps were consistently successful. Each year through 1920 they caught over 48,000 fish of all species, and in 1918 the total exceeded 235,000. Pink salmon constituted the greatest single species captured, and as may be expected considering their two-year life cycle, they predominated during two of the four seasons. During the other two seasons, reds and chums comprised a majority of the total salmon catch.[56]

1902, 218; Cooley, 40-41.

[51] Scudder, 9, 15-16.

[52] Rich and Ball, 1931, 646; Harold H. Waller, "Map of Fish Trap Location, Territorial License No. 19-085, Situated North End Aniakchak Bay on Small Island, Alaska Peninsula, Alaska," Columbia River Packers Association, October 14, 1919, in CRPA Collection. This is the first source known to have named the Aniakchak River.

[53] Freeburn, 12; Rich and Ball, 1931, 646. War Department regulations and the Chignik area agreement both required the CRPA to remove its traps each year. Because of the area's isolation, however, the company often failed to removed the Aniakchak traps. After 1932 the same traps, under APA management, were apparently replaced each spring. J. S. Osmund, CRPA, Chignik, to F. Barker, Vice President, CRPA, Astoria, Ore., April 14, 1925; Osmund to Barker, January 25, 1927; Osmund to Barker, April 19, 1927; Barker to W. B. Wootton, April 27, 1927; all in CRPA collection; Aubin Barthold, APA, Seattle to A. K. Tichenor, APA, San Francisco, November 2, 1943, in APA Collection, Box 7 (II/3/3).

[54] Cooley, 33.

[55] Waller, 1919 map; Scudder, 15; Rich and Ball, 1931, 646. The trap locations were well within the legal limits of the period, which specified that all traps had to be at least 500 yards away from any red salmon stream less than 500 feet wide, and also had to be at least 100 yards endwise from any other trap.

[56] Most traps needed a yield of just 40,000 fish per year to pay for themselves. Rich and Ball, 1931, 646, 649; Bernice Trakowski, "Fish Trap Patrol," Alaska Sportsman 19 (February 1953), 7.

After World War I, the Alaska salmon catch fell dramatically, and as a consequence the number of territorial fish traps fell as well, from a high of 552 traps in 1918 to 180 traps three years later. While the decline in the Alaska fishery was, to a certain extent, attributable to a general economic downturn, overfishing and a glut in the market for cheaper salmon grades were also to blame. Following those trends, the Aniakchak Bay fish traps that had been active in 1917-1920 were not renewed, and no known traps existed there for the next three years. Because most fish in the Chignik region continued to be caught in traps, commercial fishermen probably ignored Aniakchak Bay between 1921 and 1923. Most other people did as well. The area was still considered to be so remote that the current U.S. Coast Pilot could offer "no accurate information...about the bays between Port Wrangell [40 miles northeast of Aniakchak Bay] and Chignik Bay."[57]

The area, however, was by no means devoid of activity, because trappers began to filter in. It is not known when they first entered the area, but most were Chignik residents who trapped during the wintertime (principally December and January) for fox, mink, ermine and wolverine.[58] At least two lived at the mouth of the Aniakchak River, and most if not all visited the site during their meanderings. By the early 1920s, it was reported that "several trappers operate inland from the heads of some of the bays along the Pacific coast."[59] Within the Aniakchak River drainage, trappers explored and identified Albert Johnson Creek, Cape Horn, Mystery Creek and Hidden Creek.[60] Their tread upon the land, however, was light. They created few if any lasting trails, and apparently none knew of the existence of Aniakchak Caldera before 1922.

Adolf Van Hammel, C. W. Olsen, Charles Weidemann, and Albert Johnson were the four white trappers active in the 1920s; a Native named Shurka also trapped at that time. Most continued for years to come. Shurka lived in the barabara immediately southeast of the present outhouse; Van Hammel lived "at the mouth of the Aniakchak River"[61] and trapped the coastline. Olsen lived at the head of Amber Bay and trapped the interior lowlands. Weidemann had two cabins: one on the edge of the lagoon adjoining the western shore of Aniakchak Bay, the other midway to the caldera.[62] Albert Johnson, known as an "old trapper" in 1922, located his cabin some five miles west of the bay, near the creek which bears his name.[63]

Interest in salmon fishing in Aniakchak Bay and elsewhere in the territory soon revived, but under an stronger regulatory structure. The major salmon packers had been hurt deeply by the postwar salmon crash, and they also recognized that increased fishing efforts were not resulting in proportionally increased yields. They therefore began to accept the first strong fishing regulations. Packers, of course, had long been aware of the consequences of

---

[57] Scudder, 10; U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, U.S. Coast Pilot, Alaska, Part II: Yakutat Bay to the Arctic Ocean, first edition (Washington, GPO, 1916) 157.

[58] John Hillborn, "Chignik Trapper," Alaska Sportsman 3 (December 1937), 12-13.

[59] Smith and Baker, 164.

[60] Orth, 62, 419, 430, 668; Smith and Baker, 164.

[61] Tuten, 32.

[62] Ibid. Helen Neilson, a local resident, called the trappers Adolph Von Hemmel, Charlie Olsen or "Ball-Eyed Charlie," and Charlie Weederman.

[63] Smith and Baker, 154, Pl. XII; Orth, 62; Smith, 143. Russell Knappen, who visited the area in 1925, noted that "during the winter a few white men and a number of natives make a living by trapping along the valley bottoms and on the Meshik River flats." Russell Knappen, "Geology and Mineral Resources of the Aniakchak District, Alaska," Mineral Resources of Alaska, 1926, USGS Bulletin 797-F (Washington, GPO, 1929), 167.

overfishing, but until the 1920s they had successfully resisted all attempts at strong regulation.[64] The regulations promulgated in the early 1920s were arbitrated by the U.S. Department of Commerce, but to a large extent they were a form of self-regulation. They were designed to not only guarantee a long-term salmon resource, but to maintain the power of the large canneries over Alaska salmon production. The ramifications of those regulations played a major role in the development of the Aniakchak Bay fishery.

Those calling for regulation called for a legislative solution. But Secretary of Commerce Herbert Hoover, who was overseer of the Bureau of Fisheries, recognized that passage of legislation mandating conservation might take too long. As an alternative, therefore, he requested that President Warren Harding use his executive authority to create Fishery Reserves as a means of temporary conservation.[65]

The first such reserve was the Alaska Peninsula Fisheries Reservation, established on February 17, 1922. The Chignik District, which included Aniakchak Bay, was one of five included in the reservation. The reservation system effectively prevented the entry of new packers into the Alaska Peninsula, and also prohibited the transport of salmon from one district to another. The CRPA, as a longtime operator in the Chignik area, had no trouble in obtaining a permit. That permit, however, specified the size of the allowed pack and the extent of fishing operations to be allowed. It effectively prevented the company from establishing new trap locations.[66]

Despite the constraints, the large canneries supported the system, because they saw it as an avenue by which they could create a private monopoly -- the so-called "Fish Trust." Territorial Delegate Dan Sutherland, recognizing the inequities of the new system, allied himself with the smaller packers and resident fishermen in the fight for repeal. Secretary Hoover, the original promulgator of the reservation system, had intended it only a temporary conservation measure, and soon recognized its inequalities. Combined with Sutherland's haranguing, it soon became apparent that an alternative solution was necessary.[67]

In June 1924, Congress emerged with a bill designed to eliminate earlier abuses. The so-called White Act replaced the reservation system with a more equitable open-entry system, administered by the Secretary of Commerce. For the first time, the Secretary possessed the power to regulate the fish catch, the types of gear allowed, the length of fishing season, or other measures needed to protect the long term health of the resource. Provisions for the Chignik area included the limitation of the season to the period from June 15 and September 10. More important, the Act's repeal of the reservation system allowed for the development of new trap sites.[68]

The elimination of the reservation system, combined with nationwide prosperity, boded well for the Alaska salmon industry. One aspect of that prosperity was the resurgence in the number of

---

[64] Scudder, 9; Carol Burkhart, "Economic Delusions: Alaska's Salmon Crisis of the 1920s," unpublished mss., University of Alaska-Anchorage, April 1990, 4.

[65] Burkhart, 5-6.

[66] [U.S. Bureau of Fisheries,] "Alaska Peninsula Fisheries Reservation" [map], 1922, UWSC; Ernest Gruening, The State of Alaska (New York, Random House, 1954), 263; Rich and Ball, 1928, 51; Burkhart, 9.

[67] Burkhart, 9-12; Cooley, 97.

[68] Burkhart, 13-14; Rich and Ball, 1928, 52; Bower, 1924, 82. The 1924 regulations were revised in December 1928 to allow an extended fishing season, from June 1 to October 1; it is unknown whether that extended the time in which the Aniakchak traps operated. Bower, 1928, 205.

fish traps, from a 1921 nadir of 180 to over 400 just two years later. For the next four years, the number of traps continued to climb, to an all-time high of 799 traps in 1927, and stayed close to that level through 1930.[69]

Boom times in the salmon industry were reflected in the re-establishment of fish traps in Aniakchak Bay. Four traps were installed by the end of the decade (Map 5). In 1924, the CRPA drove the "Aniakchak" trap (later called the "Beach" trap) along the western shore of the bay, in the same area where the 1917-1920 traps had been driven. This trap continued to be used for over a decade. As with many fish traps, its location varied somewhat from year to year.[70] It moved as far south as the mouth of Aniakchak Lagoon in 1927. Beginning the next year, however, new regulations called for trap sites to be located within a limited zone. Regulations for the "Beach" trap called for it to be located in a zone "500 yards southerly of the mouth of the Aniakchak River and extending southerly for a distance of 5000 feet."[71] Available records suggest that the trap captured almost 150,000 fish in 1924, and slightly over 50,000 the following year. Having largely depleted the run, production for the rest of the decade slumped to only about 10,000 fish per year. After 1932, yields rose again, the annual catch often exceeding 60,000. The trap remained in operation until 1937.[72]

Two years after the Beach trap was driven, the CRPA drove a second Aniakchak trap along the bay's northern shore.[73] The "Rocky Point" trap, which was installed about three miles east of the river's mouth in early June 1926, proved to be very well situated for capturing salmon.[74] The trap collected an astonishing 169,910 fish in its first year of operation, but in so doing, it may well have crippled fish runs for years to come. In 1927, the trap was moved west to the nearby point of land, and was moved back to near its former location the following season. Returns for the 1927 and 1928 seasons, however, showed that only about 5000 fish were caught

---

[69] Scudder, 9; Cooley, 48.

[70] Rich and Ball, 1931, 646; U.S. Bureau of Fisheries, "List of Traps in Alaska", 1925; U.S. Bureau of Fisheries, "Location of Traps in Alaska Other Than Southeast," 1926-1958; both in Box 16, Fisheries Research Data Files, 1904-1960, RG 22, Federal Records Center (hereafter abbreviated as FRC) Anchorage. Maps showing traps include J.S. Osmund, CRPA, Sebastopol, Calif. to F. Barker, CRPA, Astoria, January 8, 1926, in CRPA Collection; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Engineers' Office, Juneau, "Fish Trap Locations in the Territory of Alaska, Sheet #27", 1927 and USBF, "Chignik Traps 1928" (overprint of USC&GS map 8802). The last two are in Box 347, Fisheries Research Data Files, 1904-1960, RG 22, FRC Anchorage.

[71] U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Fisheries (Ward Bower, Agent), Alaska Fishery and Fur-Seal Industries: 1928 (Washington, GPO, 1929), 206. In June 1930, a photograph taken at the mouth of the Aniakchak River (Bernard Hubbard, "A World Inside a Mountain," National Geographic 60 [September 1931], 324), shows a trap-driving crew working immediately south of the river mouth, while a USGS map (Sutwik Island C-5, 1:63,360 scale, 1963) suggests that the "Beach" trap may have been driven up to two miles south of the river mouth.

[72] Rich and Ball, 1931, 646; A. K. Tichenor, "Short History of Chignik Trap Situation," November 23, 1934, in APA Collection, Box 6 (II/2).

[73] CRPA management noted in a January 1926 letter that "we also ordered the piles for the new location at Aniakchak, 60 pcs. 60s [60-foot timbers], 50 pcs. 50s, and 40 pcs. 40s." Fred Barker to J. S. Osmund, January 22, 1926; Osmund to Barker, May 23, 1926; Osmund to Barker, June 6, 1926; all in CRPA collection.

[74] J. S. Osmund to Fred Barker (map), January 8, 1926; Osmund to Barker, January 25, 1927; Osmund to Barker, April 19, 1927; all in CRPA Collection.

each year. The damage had been done, and the trap location was abandoned after the 1929 season.[75]

Two other traps soon followed the "Rocky Point" trap. In 1928, CRPA personnel drove the "Pinnacle" trap at the southwest end of the bay. This proved to be the longest lasting of the Aniakchak Bay traps. It was licensed to operate annually from 1928 to 1949. Its actual operations, somewhat more limited, were from 1928 through 1942, except 1940, and from 1945 to 1947.[76] Although officially located southeast of the lagoon, this trap appears to have moved northward sometime after the closure of the "Beach" trap, and by the late 1930s was located within a half mile of the mouth of the Aniakchak River.[77] In 1929 the company located yet another trap, situated along the rugged, reef-encrusted southern shore of the bay. This site was apparently unsuccessful, and was not driven after the 1930 fishing season.[78]

The bunkhouse at the north end of Aniakchak Bay was built at about the same time that fish traps were re-established. Although the first evidence of its construction dates from January 1926,[79] it was probably built in 1924, when the CRPA established its "Aniakchak" trap.

The cabin site offered many advantages. Its location behind the grassy beach berm and at the base of a hill helped shield it from the area's heavy winds. The nearby stream guaranteed a source of fresh water. The cove fronting the cabin was not fully protected from area winds, but the site was the best available in the immediate vicinity.[80] The bunkhouse was sufficient to watch over all four of the bay's fish traps; a glance from the cabin allowed the crew, in good weather, to keep an eye out for activity taking place anywhere in the bay. Because the

---

[75] J. S. Osmund to Fred Barker, January 8, 1926; Osmund to Barker, January 25, 1927; both in CRPA Collection. A. K. Tichenor, 1934, APA Collection. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers map, 1927; USBF map, 1928. In December 1928, the U.S. Bureau of Fisheries issued revised regulations for the Chignik area which prohibited the establishment of a fish trap at the "Rocky Point" site. There is no evidence, however, that the government played a role in the CRPA termination of its use of the site. Bower, 1928, 206; Dept. of Commerce, "Laws and Regulations for the Protection of Fisheries in Alaska" (Department Circular 251), 15th edition, 1928, 15, in APA Collection, Box 10 (IV/2).

[76] In 1943-44, a series of amendments to the fishing regulations mandated the closure of "several traps in the Alaska Peninsula... in accordance with the concentration of the industry in nucleus plants," which included the two Aniakchak traps. In 1948-49, the trap was licensed but not operated. Aubin Barthold, APA, San Francisco to Ward T. Bower, USF&WS, Chicago, June 10, 1943, and A. K. Tichenor, APA, San Francisco to Aubin Barthold, APA, Seattle, November 1, 1944, both in APA Collection, Box 7 (II/3/3); Clarence J. Rhode, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to Department of Taxation, Territory of Alaska, Juneau, February 15, 1949, in Box 327, Fisheries Research Data Files, 1904-1960, RG 22, FRC Anchorage.

[77] Alec Pedersen interview; Clemens Grunert, Sr. interview.

[78] U.S. Bureau of Fisheries, "Location of Traps in Alaska Other Than Southeast," 1924-1958, in Box 16, Fisheries Research Data Files, 1904-1960, RG 22, FRC Anchorage. In 1926, the law mandated an increased lateral distance between traps, from 600 yards to one mile. Though this law was openly defied elsewhere in the territory, the Aniakchak Bay traps were well within the legal limits. The lack of competition brought on by the communal contract doubtless played a role in keeping the traps within legal strictures. Scudder, 15, 17.

[79] Osmund to Barker, January 8, 1926, CRPA Collection. The following year, an unknown watchman inscribed "May 11 to Sept. 30, 1927 - 132 days in camp" on one of the cabin's inside walls. George Stroud and Lynn Fuller, "End of Season Report, Aniakchak National Monument and Preserve," September 1983, 7.

[80] Stroud and Fuller, 1983, 2; NPS, 1987, 1.

bunkhouse was located some distance away from the company traps, crew members reached the traps on a five-ton gas-powered launch, which was moored at a dock on the lee (western) side of Ark Island.[81] Crewmen travelled to Ark Island by walking across a connecting rock ridge which was exposed at low tide.

The bunkhouse appears to have been built in two stages. Judging by roof, foundation and floor details, the main living area and foyer were built at the same time, probably during the spring of 1924. The room south of the foyer, of which only the deck remains, was probably built later, perhaps in the late 1920s or early 1930s. The reason for erecting the additional room is unclear; it was probably expanded when additional trap sites, located at the south end of Aniakchak Bay, demanded a larger trap gang.

Each of the three rooms served a distinct purpose. The main room at the north end functioned as a barracks for the trap gang, and was filled with two rows of double bunks divided by a central corridor. The room south of the foyer was used as a galley, a large stove dominating the room. The foyer itself was probably used as a dining room, while the shed northeast of the bunkhouse probably housed a generator.[82]

It appears that the Aniakchak Bay bunkhouse was one of the largest and most substantial buildings erected by a packing company outside of a cannery complex. As a rule, packing companies did not construct bunkhouses away from cannery sites; the only outbuildings many built were small floating trap shacks (also called wannigans), along with shore-based camps which consisted of one or more wood-walled tents. The CRPA probably chose to construct a high quality bunkhouse at the site for two reasons: the area was isolated (from both the cannery and the company's remaining fish traps), and the area's notoriously poor weather often prevented crew members from obtaining supplies for an extended period.

Although fish traps elsewhere in Alaska were maintained by one- or two-person crews, the Aniakchak Bay crew usually numbered between twelve and twenty men. Most lived along the Pacific Coast during the winter, probably near Astoria or San Francisco, and came north in April with the cannery crews. The men, many of whom were of Scandinavian descent, often returned season after season. No company records are available to identify the bunkhouse crews; therefore, scattered inscriptions on the bunkhouse walls are the only source for their names.[83]

Trap crews were necessary in order to keep the traps clear of kelp and other debris, to prevent damage by seals and sea lions, to close the traps during weekly closed periods, to prepare them for brailing (loading) into cannery tenders, and to guard against pirates. As one former watchman has noted, "there is something to worry about every minute of the day."[84] In Aniakchak Bay, pirates were not much of a problem,[85] but the brailing of anywhere from two to

---

[81] Trakowski, 7; Grunert interview.

[82] Grunert interview.

[83] Pedersen interview; Grunert interview. Three names of probable crewmen were inscribed on the cabin walls: George Bonitad of Seattle, at the cabin in 1928; a man known only as Fred, who stayed in 1929; and Ray Knutson, a Dillingham resident, who stayed in 1945.

[84] Stan Lilian, "Fish-Trap Patrol," Alaska Sportsman 6 (March 1940), 14; W. R. Monrean, "Nightmare on a Fishtrap," Alaska Sportsman 22 (March 1956), 17.

[85] In southeastern Alaska, an ongoing piracy problem mandated two-person crews. Chignik's isolation, combined with the communal fishing contract, effectively eliminated the threat of piracy. Scudder, 10-12; Donald H. Bates, Jr., "Salmon in the Trap," Alaska Sportsman 16 (May 1950), 10; V. A. Eberhart, "The Fish Pirates," Alaska Sportsman 17 (May 1951), 6-11, 44; J. S. Osmund to Fred Barker, July 18, 1926, in CRPA Collection.

four traps kept the crew busy. Members of the Aniakchak Bay trap gang left the West Coast for Alaska in late March or early April; upon arrival at the Chignik cannery, they began their season's work by preparing and hanging the wire for the company's various traps. They arrived at the bunkhouse in mid-May, a week or two before the salmon run commenced, and helped drive trap pilings. The crew stayed until the trap was disassembled in late August. they then removed the pilings to a protected pile rack before returning to Chignik and points south.[86]

The re-establishment of fish traps brought a renewed traffic of fishing schooners and cannery tenders to the bay. By 1926, the Coast Pilot reported that "the channel between Kumlik Island [east of the south end of Aniakchak Bay] and the mainland is apparently clear and is constantly used by the cannery tenders when running between Aniakchak Bay and Chignik."[87] Tenders arrived "every few days" in 1930; in the late 1930s, tenders such as the Unga or the Semidi came either every day or every other day.[88]

During the 1930s and 1940s few changes took place in the location of Aniakchak Bay fish traps. As a general rule, two traps operated each summer. In 1937, the CRPA closed its "Beach" trap along the western shore, but the same year the APA constructed a new trap at the southeast end of the bay, approximately one mile south of Elephant Head Point. This site, officially called the Cape Kumlik trap, was driven in an area of rugged relief prone to particularly rough sea conditions. Although it was relatively difficult to build and maintain, it was so successful that it operated through the 1949 season, later than any other in Aniakchak Bay.[89]

Control of the traps gradually changed during the decade preceding World War II. In 1932, many of the Alaska canneries were forced to close, and as part of the trend the three Chignik canneries were combined under the auspices of the Alaska Packers Association. The APA, which had been operating a plant built in 1889, moved its operations that spring from Chignik Lagoon to the CRPA plant on Anchorage Bay, which had been built in 1910. Four years later, the APA purchased the CRPA plant.[90] The plant consolidation left the CRPA without a cannery, but it continued to own three trap sites, two of which were located in Aniakchak Bay. Rather than lose its trap revenues, it leased its traps to the Alaska Packers Association. In 1932, therefore, the APA attained de facto control of the CRPA traps.[91]

---

[86] J. S. Osmund, CRPA, Chignik, telegram to Fred Barker, CRPA, Astoria, June 13, 1925; Barker to Wootton, April 27, 1927; J. F. Murphy to R. E. Robertson, August 18, 1928; all in CRPA Collection; Bates, 7; Alec Pedersen interview.

[87] U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, U.S. Coast Pilot, Alaska, Part II: Yakutat Bay to the Arctic Ocean, second edition (Washington, GPO, 1926), 172. The publication did not report a detailed description of Aniakchak Bay until after World War II. Ibid., fifth edition (Washington, GPO, 1947), 281.

[88] Smith, 143; Hubbard, 1931, 322; Pedersen interview; Grunert interview.

[89] This trap, like the "Pinnacle" trap, was also closed during the 1943 and 1944 seasons. A. K. Tichenor, APA, San Francisco to Aubin Barthold, APA Seattle, November 3, 1943, in APA Collection, Box 7 (II/3/3); Bower, 1937-1946 editions; Seton H. Thompson, Dept. of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, Alaska Fishery and Fur-Seal Industries, (Washington, GPO, 1947-1949 editions).

[90] Bower, 1932, 26; Gerald A. Estep, "Chignik," Alaska Sportsman 4 (September 1938), 14. Lewis MacDonald, on page 75 of his chronology, incorrectly states that the CRPA plant was transferred to the APA in 1941.

[91] A. K. Tichenor, "Traps Owned by Alaska Packers (Operated and Leased) and Traps Operated for Other Companies in 1934," APA Collection, Box 6 (II/2).

On April 20, 1940, the Alaska Packers Association purchased the fish trap sites it had been maintaining for the CRPA for the previous eight years. The purchase included one Aniakchak Bay trap, the "Pinnacle" trap, which dated from 1928. As the new owner, the APA paid the license fees from 1940 until the sites were abandoned. But government authorities, for reasons of legal continuity, continued to label the sites as CRPA traps.[92]

Beginning in 1930, as noted above, Aniakchak Bay fish traps began to close. Like those found throughout the territory, some traps closed because they had depleted a local fish run, and others were established in poor locations and were thus unprofitable. The passage of the White Act, in 1924, and the regulations that followed it had resulted in the modification of the most abusive practices related to the fish trap, but fish trap remained as one of the most significant and effective harvesting methods.

As the 1930s wore on, however, the fish trap as an institution came under increasing attack. Alaska residents began to recognize to an increasing degree that the cheaply-maintained, efficient fish trap was the cornerstone of a system in which a small cabal of outside packers were able to capture a large majority of territory's salmon stocks. Perceiving that traps were both depleting the resource and preventing the territory from achieving economic independence, Alaskan interests began to militate for their elimination, and in 1935 territorial delegate Anthony Dimond submitted the first bill outlawing fish traps. For decades afterwards the battle was joined, the Bureau of Fisheries and the large packers arguing for the continuation of the traps and the Alaska legislature, the delegate and resident fishing interests calling for their abolition.[93] Those who advocated the prohibition of traps won small victories during the twenty-year period after Dimond submitted his bill; the result of those victories was that the number of traps gradually decreased, those remaining being the most profitable. The controversy was not resolved until 1958, when the passage of the Alaska Statehood bill ensured the elimination of fish traps.

The reasons behind the closure of fish traps in Aniakchak Bay appear to have followed territory-wide patterns. Traps in the bay closed in 1930, 1931, 1938, 1948 and 1950. Harvest figures suggest that it was a substandard catch which forced the closures of 1930 and 1931; these years were also times of significant, overall reductions in the number of Alaska fish traps.[94] Traps that closed in later years apparently did so in response to governmental pressures to rationalize the number of trap sites. Considering that both the Columbia River Packers Association and the Alaska Packers Association (the successor to the CRPA in the Chignik district) had more productive trap sites in and around Chignik Lagoon, it is not surprising that the two companies gave up on Aniakchak Bay trap sites first.

The ongoing reduction in the number of Alaska fish traps eventually resulted in the elimination of the bunkhouse crews at Aniakchak Bay. They remained through the 1930s, perhaps longer. One resident remembered that a 1940 fisherman's strike prevented staffing that summer, after which crews did not return. Another resident, however, clearly recalled that crews worked as late as the summer of 1947.[95] Considering the year of the fishermen's strike and the two-year gap during World War II, crews appear to have resided at the cabin for either sixteen or twenty-one seasons. Whatever the year, crews disassembling the "Beach" trap moved the pilings to a pile

---

[92] [Transfer Agreement, CRPA to APA], April 20, 1940, in CRPA Collection; U.S. Bureau of Fisheries, "Location of Traps in Alaska Other Than Southeast," in Box 16, Fisheries Research Data Files, 1904-1960, RG 22, FRC Anchorage.

[93] Burkhart, 4, 13-16; Cooley, 96-101, 138-147, 172-173, 182-183.

[94] The number of Alaskan fish traps dropped from an all-time high of 799 in 1927 to a 1932 level of 343. Julius A. Krug (Sec. of Interior) to Sen. Arthur H. Vandenberg, June 11, 1947, in Box 2, Fisheries Research Data Files, 1904-1960, RG 22, FRC Anchorage.

[95] Pedersen interview; Grunert interview.

rack located on the left bank of the Aniakchak River, one-quarter mile up from its mouth. Still in evidence at that site are the pilings removed that year.[96]

In the years since the last Aniakchak Bay fish traps were removed, the cabin has been used by a smattering of trappers, gatherers, fishermen, hunters and recreation seekers. One such user was Alec Pedersen, who operated out of cabins in the upper Aniakchak River valley; Pedersen used the bunkhouse on his way to and from Chignik.[97] Otherwise, however, few used the cabin. Trapping in the present Monument and Preserve was revived only in the 1970s, and gatherers have been limited to occasional groups of berry pickers.[98] Fishing, however, has remained a major activity. A number of commercial fishermen, using purse seiners, have fished in the bay. Some fishermen tend to frequent the south side of the bay and thus avoid the cabin area, but enough are attracted to the Aniakchak River salmon run that the Alaska Department of Fish and Game has occasionally stationed stream guards to prevent boats from fishing too close to the river mouth.[99]

Little is known about the extent of hunting that has taken place in the Aniakchak River drainage. Local residents have hunted in the area for decades, chiefly for caribou and moose, and they continue to do so. Outsiders, however, have been attracted to the area only recently. A few early sportsmen had a high regard for the Alaska Peninsula because of its excellent brown bear, moose and caribou populations. But most of them were attracted to other parts of the peninsula. Few of the early guides hailed from Chignik; thus few sport hunters became familiar with the Aniakchak area.

In the early 1960s, brown bears on the Alaska Peninsula began to be hunted on an increasing basis. The coast northeast of Chignik received a smattering of those hunters during both spring and fall opening seasons. One local guide, Alec Pedersen, began to use the cabin in conjunction with his hunts in 1950; a decade later, he obtained permission to use the cabin from the Alaska Packers Association. Other local guides have also used the cabin. In addition, two hunting lodges in the vicinity have attracted a small number of Outside sportsmen, and occasionally visit the cabin. National Park Service rangers stationed at the bunkhouse note that hunters sometimes visit during the August caribou hunt; bear hunters also visit during the fall.[100]

Exploration/Settlement: Father Hubbard Visits the Site

By 1930, as noted above, the mouth of the Aniakchak River had been utilized as an aboriginal fishing grounds for centuries, and commercial fishermen had been active for over a decade. The

---

[96] Pedersen interview.

[97] Pedersen interview; Stroud and Fuller, 1983, 9-10.

[98] Alaska Planning Group, Aniakchak Caldera National Monument, Final Environmental Impact Statement (Washington?, GPO?, October 1974), 74; Tuten, 34. Graffiti on the cabin walls indicate several visits by Ray Melekind and Rock Harris during the late 1960s and 1970s, and numerous visitors since the mid-1970s.

[99] Alaska Department of Community and Regional Affairs, "Community Profiles" for Chignik, Chignik Lagoon and Chignik Lake, December 1982; Trexler photos; Stroud and Fuller, 1983, 5, 6; Starr and Starr, H1-H4; Pedersen interview.

[100] Tuten, 34, 38; Ernest P. Walker, Report of the Executive Officer to the Alaska Game Commission, 1925 through 1936 editions; Alaska Planning Group, 1974, 77, 80, 82, 92; Stroud and Fuller, 1983, 6; National Park Service, Final Environmental Impact Statement and Wilderness Recommendations for Aniakchak National Monument and Preserve (Denver, the author, c. 1988), 14; Becharof National Wildlife Refuge, "Annual Narrative Report, Calendar Year 1979," 9 (in files of U.S. Bureau of Fish and Wildlife, Alaska Regional Office).

outside world, however, was scarcely aware of the existence of the Aniakchak area. Aniakchak Caldera, now the focal point of one of the country's largest units in the National Park Service, was not discovered by non-Natives until 1922, and the isolation of the area was so great that all but the most spectacular events would be known only within a relatively limited area.

Two events in the early 1930s, however, conspired to expose a wide spectrum of the North American populace to the Aniakchak area. In 1930, Reverend Bernard R. Hubbard, S.J., a geologist, made his first trek to Aniakchak Caldera. He, fellow professor Roderick Chisholm, and three student assistants (James Barron, Charles Bartlett, and Kenneth Chisholm) comprised the first scientific party to investigate the caldera since a U.S. Geological Survey party, under the direction of Rufus Harvey Sargent and Walter Ray Smith, had reported the existence of the formation eight years earlier. During the 1930 trip, Father Hubbard found that the caldera was alive with volcanic activity--"the largest active crater in the world," he noted. He also found a profusion of plant and animal life within the crater. He soon told the world about his discoveries in articles he wrote for the Saturday Evening Post, National Geographic Magazine and the New York Times. Meanwhile, he made plans to return the following summer.

By remarkable coincidence, however, his return to the Aniakchak area took place during the same month that a major eruption took place. In May 1931 Half Cone, a cinder cone located within the caldera, began a series of explosions which darkened the surrounding skies for weeks.[101] Major eruptions took place on May 1, May 11 and May 20, with intermittent activity during the interim. The eruptions, which were considered moderate in comparison to those that had taken place at nearby volcanoes,[102] covered the Chignik area with half an inch of ash. Light ash fell up to 300 miles away. Due to their isolation, however, the eruptions received scant attention in the state and national press.[103]

Father Hubbard heard reports about the ongoing eruption, and shortly after he arrived at Chignik, he and a group of students headed for the caldera in order to describe the changes that the blast had brought to the once-lush landscape. They traveled by boat from Chignik to Kujulik Bay, just south of Aniakchak Bay, and then proceeded overland to the crater. They spent several more weeks there, and Hubbard took several flights over the volcanic terrain. The following summer Hubbard flew into the caldera again. He landed on Surprise Lake and explored the immediate area, but avoided the Aniakchak coast.[104] He continued to publish his findings in the New York Times and the Saturday Evening Post, and in 1932 his first book, Mush, You Malemutes!, described those experiences, To entertain popular audiences he joined the lecture

---

[101] M. Woodbridge Williams, "Aniakchak: Kingdom of Genesis," National Parks and Conservation Magazine 49 (June 1975), 8; "Aleutian Eruptions 1930-1932," The Volcano Letter 375 (March 3, 1932), 1-3; Bernard R. Hubbard, S.J., Mush, You Malemutes! (New York, America Press, 1932), 55-57.

[102] Howard A. Powers, "Alaska Peninsula - Aleutian Islands," in Howel Williams, ed., Landscapes of Alaska, Their Geologic Evolution (Berkeley, Univ. of California Press, 1958), 64-65.

[103] Seattle Times, May 2, 1931, 1; May 4, 1931, 2; Seward Daily Gateway, May 2, 1931, 8; May 14, 1931, 1; Anchorage Daily Times, May 4, 1931, 1; May 14, 1931, 1.

[104] Hubbard, 1932, 55-68; Hubbard, 1935, 1-16. Several accounts of the 1931 expedition have been recorded, including Douglas, 1932; William Regan, personal interview by Julie O'Keefe, February 8, 1965; William Regan, [Untitled 1931 diary], unpublished mss., University of Santa Clara archives; William V. Regan, "Alaska Diary," Santa Clara Magazine 29 (Summer 1987), 10-17; Chisholm, Kenneth, Guide to the Kenneth Chisholm Papers/ Photographs, including Alaska Expeditions with Father B.J. [sic] Hubbard, 1930-1938, unpublished mss., Alaska Historical Library, c. 1974.

circuit and issued the first of several films; to inform the geological community, he presented scientific aspects of his investigations at academic conferences.

The area surrounding the mouth of the Aniakchak River was an important stopping point during the 1930 expedition. In order to reach the caldera, he and his party travelled by cannery tender from Chignik to the river mouth. The party remained here for a short time in order to pack a motorboat for the upriver trip; Hubbard, meanwhile, photographed the historic barabaras east of the river mouth, and described "a salmon trap at the end of Aniakchak Bay" (probably the so-called "Beach" trap). After exploring the caldera, the party returned to the site several weeks later where, by good fortune, a CRPA tender awaited. In the three articles he wrote which included his visit to the river mouth, Hubbard emphasized the wild, primeval character of the area, a mood he conveyed in his descriptions of "the desolate shores of Aniakchak Bay" in "a country that had the dreamy quality of a scene done in pastels."[105]

Hubbard, a Jesuit priest, wrote some of his most memorable work on the Aniakchak country. A University of Santa Clara geologist, he spent summer field seasons in Alaska beginning in 1927. During his early career he gave little regard for publicizing his travels. As his career unfolded, however, he found that he had apt talents in describing his adventures to the non-scientific community. During the early 1930s, when he undertook his investigations of Aniakchak Caldera, the self-styled "the glacier priest" launched into an increasingly public arena. He became a lecturer, author and film producer, and maintained each of those roles through the remainder of the decade. His three best-selling books and his popular articles contributed little to the scientific literature, but played an important role in bringing Alaska into the consciousness of the American public.

Hubbard's Aniakchak adventures also helped cement his long-standing interest in volcanology. His first Alaska explorations concerned the Juneau Icefield, but a visit the following year to the devastated landscapes of the Katmai country intrigued him so much that he returned in 1929.[106] Perusing the geological literature, he encountered recently published USGS reports on Aniakchak and Veniaminof craters, and as he noted, "with these sources of information and Mr. Sargent's map, [I] determined upon a thorough exploration of the craters."[107] The volcanoes of the Alaska Peninsula continued to absorb his research activities until 1935; most of his research efforts after that time were in fields other than geology.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

---

[105] Hubbard, 1930, 8-9; Hubbard, 1931, 322, 324, 342-343; Barrett Willoughby, "The Moon Craters of Alaska," Saturday Evening Post 203 (December 13, 1930), 10. In 1930 there were not one but three salmon traps in Aniakchak Bay. The party returned by boating down the lower Aniakchak River, but they had little time to provide additional descriptions of the cabin area.

[106] Bernard R. Hubbard, S.J., Cradle of the Storms (New York, Dodd, Mead, 1935), 186; Hubbard, 1932, 71-73, 138-139.

[107] Bernard R. Hubbard, S.J., "Exploring the Alaskan 'Moon Craters'," New York Times, October 12, 1930, V/8. The only known sources about Aniakchak previous to 1930 were those by Baker and Smith (1924), Smith (1925) and Knappen (1929) of the USGS, and a brief description of the area in a leading travel publication ("An Extinct Crater on the Alaskan Peninsula," Travel 45 [September, 1925], 46). The "Mr. Sargent" he referred to was R. H. Sargent, topographer for both the 1922 and 1925 expeditions.

Ackerman, R. E. and L. Ackerman, "Ethnoarchaeological Interpretations of Territoriality and Land Use in Southwest Alaska," Ethnohistory 20 (1973), 315-334.

Alaska Department of Community and Regional Affairs, "Community Profile" for Chignik, Chignik Lagoon and Chignik Lake (Iliamna/ Alaska Peninsula Region), December 1982.

Alaska Packers Association, "History, 1928-1934," in APA Collection, Box 2 (I/2).

Alaska Planning Group, Aniakchak Caldera National Monument, A Master Plan (Washington, NPS), December 1973.

Alaska Planning Group, Aniakchak Caldera National Monument, Final Environmental Impact Statement (Washington?, GPO?), October 1974.

"Aleutian Eruptions 1930-32," The Volcano Letter 375 (Hawaiian Volcano Observatory, National Park, Hawaii), March 3, 1932.

Anchorage Daily Times, May 4, 1931, 1; May 14, 1931, 1.

Bates, Donald H., Jr., "Salmon in the Trap," Alaska Sportsman 16 (May, 1950), 6-11.

Berkh, Vasilii Nikovaevich, "Chronological History of the Discovery of the Aleutian Islands," (St. Petersburg, 1823), in Melvin Ricks, ed., The Earliest History of Alaska (Anchorage, Cook Inlet Historical Society), 1970.

Bower, Ward, Dept. of Commerce, Bureau of Fisheries, Alaska Fisheries and Fur-Seal Industries (Washington, GPO), 1914-1939 editions.

Brooks, Alfred Hulse, Geography and Geology of Alaska, A Summary of Existing Knowledge (Washington, GPO), 1906.

Burch, Ernest S., Jr., "Kotzebue Sound Eskimo," in David Damas, ed., Handbook of North American Indians: vol. 5, Arctic (Washington, Smithsonian Institution, 1984), 303-319.

Burkhart, Carol, "Economic Delusions: Alaska's Salmon Crisis of the 1920s," unpublished mss., University of Alaska-Anchorage, April 1990.

Chevigny, Hector, Russian America, The Great Alaskan Adventure (New York, Viking Press), 1965.

Chisholm, Kenneth, Guide to the Kenneth Chisholm Papers/Photographs, including Alaska Expeditions with Father B.J. [sic] Hubbard, 1930-1938, unpublished mss., Alaska Historical Library, c. 1974.

Clark, Donald W., "Pacific Eskimo Encoded Precontact History," in Robert Shaw, Roger Harritt and Don Dumond, ed., The Late Prehistoric Development of Alaska's Native People, Aurora (Alaska Anthropological Association, Monograph Series No. 4), 1988, 211-223.

Clark, Donald W., "Pacific Eskimo: Historical Ethnography," in David Damas, ed., Handbook of North American Indians: vol. 5, Arctic (Washington, Smithsonian Institution, 1984), 185-197.

Cooley, Richard A., Politics and Conservation; the Decline of the Alaska Salmon (New York, Harper and Row), 1963.

Directory Co., Kriss Kross City Directory of Anchorage, 1958 (Anchorage, the author), c. 1957.

Douglas, Robert Dick, In the Land of the Thunder Mountains: Adventures with Father Hubbard Among the Volcanoes of Alaska (New York, Brewer, Warren and Putnam), 1932.

Dumond, Don E., "Archaeology on the Alaska Peninsula: The Naknek Region, 1960-1975," University of Oregon Anthropological Papers 21 (Eugene), 1981.

Dumond, Don E., L. Conton and H. Shields, "Eskimos and Aleuts on the Alaska Peninsula: A Reappraisal of Port Moller Affinities," Arctic Anthropology 12:1 (1975), 49-67.

Eberhart, V. A., "The Fish Pirates," Alaska Sportsman 17 (May 1951), 6-11, 44.

Estep, Gerald A., "Chignik," Alaska Sportsman 4 (September 1938), 14-15, 18, 20.

"An Extinct Crater on the Alaskan Peninsula," Travel 45 (September 1925), 46.

Fedorova, Svetlana G., The Russian Population of Alaska and California, Late Eighteenth Century to 1867, trans. and ed. by R. A. Pierce and A. S. Donnelly (Kingston, Ont., Limestone Press), c. 1973.

Freeburn, Laurence, "The Silver Years of the Alaska Canned Salmon Industry; an Album of Historical Photos," Alaska Geographic 3 (Anchorage, Alaska Northwest), c. 1976.

Gruening, Ernest, The State of Alaska (New York, Random House), 1954.

Harritt, Roger, "Historic Structure Assessment Report, Bunkhouse, Aniakchak National Monument and Preserve, Archeology Section," unpublished draft report, NPS, Alaska Regional Office, June 1987.

Harritt, Roger, "A Model for Analysis of Late Prehistoric Occupation of the Naknek Region, Southwest Alaska," in Robert Shaw, Roger Harritt and Don Dumond, ed., The Late Prehistoric Development of Alaska's Native People, Aurora (Alaska Anthropological Association, Monograph Series No. 4), 1988, 189-210.

Hillborn, John, "Chignik Trapper," Alaska Sportsman 3 (December 1937), 12-13.

Hubbard, Bernard R., S.J., Cradle of the Storms (New York, Dodd, Mead), 1935.

Hubbard, Bernard R., S.J., "Exploring the Alaskan 'Moon Craters'," New York Times, October 12, 1930, V/8.

Hubbard, Bernard R., S.J., Mush, You Malemutes! (New York, America Press), 1932.

Hubbard, Bernard R., S.J., "A World Inside a Mountain," National Geographic 60 (September 1931), 317-345.

Knappen, Russell, "Geology and Mineral Resources of the Aniakchak District, Alaska," in Mineral Resources of Alaska, 1926, USGS Bulletin 797-F (Washington, GPO, 1929), 161-223.

Kutchin, Howard M., Report on the Salmon Fisheries of Alaska (Washington, GPO), 1901 through 1905 editions.

Lantis, Margaret, "Aleut," in David Damas, ed., Handbook of North American Indians: vol. 5, Arctic (Washington, Smithsonian Institution, 1984), 161-184.

Leer, Jeff, A Conversational Dictionary of Kodiak Alutiiq (Fairbanks, University of Alaska, Alaska Native Language Center), 1978.

Lilian, Stan, "Fish-Trap Patrol," Alaska Sportsman 6 (March 1940), 14-15, 20-25.

Lyle, William M., "Geology and Mineral Evaluation of the Aniakchak River Drainage, Alaska Peninsula" (Alaska Division of Geological and Geophysical Surveys, Open File Report No. 26), 1973.

MacDonald, Lewis G., "Chronological History of Salmon Canneries in Central Alaska," Alaska Department of Fisheries Annual Report 3 (1951), 71-84.

McCartney, A. P., "Prehistoric Cultural Integration Along the Alaska Peninsula," Anthropological Papers of the University of Alaska 16 (1), 1974, 59-84.

Martin, George C., "The Outlook for Petroleum Near Chignik," in Mineral Resources of Alaska, 1923, USGS Bulletin 773 (Washington, GPO, 1925), 209-213.

Monrean, W. R., "Nightmare on a Fishtrap," Alaska Sportsman 22 (March 1956), 16-19, 34-35.

Moser, Jefferson F., "The Salmon and Salmon Fisheries of Alaska, Report of the Operations of the U.S. Fish Commission Steamer Albatross for the Year Ending June 30, 1898, in Bulletin of the U.S. Fish Commission 18 (Washington, GPO, 1899), 1-178.

Moser, Jefferson F., "The Salmon and Salmon Fisheries of Alaska; Report of the Alaskan Salmon Investigations of the U.S. Fish Commission Steamer Albatross in 1900 and 1901," Bulletin of the U.S. Fish Commission 21 (Washington, GPO, 1902), 173-398.

National Park Service, Alaska History, 1741-1910, The National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings, Theme XXI, Political and Military Affairs, 1865-1910, Special Study (Washington?, the author), 1961.

National Park Service, "Archeological Clearance Survey Form," #001-87-ANIA, 1987.

National Park Service, Final Environmental Impact Statement and Wilderness Recommendations for Aniakchak National Monument and Preserve (Denver, the author), c. 1988.

National Park Service, "Historic Structure Assessment Report, Bunkhouse, Aniakchak National Monument and Preserve" (draft), ARO-RCR, in progress.

National Park Service, The National Parks: Index 1989 (Washington, USDI), 1989.

New York Times, November 6, 1930, 27.

Orth, Donald, Dictionary of Alaska Place Names, USGS Professional Paper 567, second edition (Washington, GPO), 1971.

Oswalt, Wendell H., Alaskan Eskimos (San Francisco, Chandler), 1967.

Polk, R. L. and Co., Polk's Tacoma City Directory, 1921 and 1924 editions.

Porter, Robert P., Department of the Interior, Census Office, Report on the Population and Resources of Alaska at the Eleventh Census: 1890 (Washington, GPO), 1893.

Powers, Howard A., "Alaska Peninsula - Aleutian Islands," in Howel Williams, ed., Landscapes of Alaska, Their Geologic Evolution (Berkeley, Univ. of California Press, 1958), 61-75.

Regan, William, [Untitled 1931 diary], unpublished mss., University of Santa Clara Archives.

Regan, William V., "Alaska Diary," Santa Clara Magazine 29 (Summer 1987), 10-17.

Rich, Willis H. and Edward M. Ball, "Statistical Review of the Alaska Fisheries, Part I: Bristol Bay and Alaska Peninsula," from Bulletin of the Bureau of Fisheries 44, Document No. 1041 (Washington, GPO, 1928), 41-95.

Rich, Willis H. and Edward M. Ball, "Statistical Review of the Alaska Fisheries, Part II: Chignik to Resurrection Bay," from Bulletin of the Bureau of Fisheries 46, Document No. 1102 (Washington, GPO, 1931), 645-654.

Roppel, Pat, Salmon from Kodiak: An History of the Salmon Fishery of Kodiak Island, Alaska (Anchorage, Alaska Historical Commission Studies in History No. 216), 1986.

Scudder, H. C., "The Alaska Salmon Trap: Its Evolution, Conflicts and Consequences," Alaska State Library Historical Monographs, No. 1 (Juneau, Dept. of Education), 1970.

Seattle Times, May 2, 1931, 1; May 4, 1931, 2.

Selkregg, Lidia L., ed., Alaska Regional Profiles: vol. III, Southwest Region (Anchorage, Alaska Environmental Information and Data Center), 1974-76.

Senkevitch, Anatole, Jr., "The Early Architecture and Settlements of Russian America," in S. Frederick Starr, ed., Russia's American Colony (Durham, N.C., Duke University Press), 1987.

Seward Daily Gateway, May 2, 1931, 8; May 14, 1931, 1.

Smith, Walter R., "Aniakchak Crater, Alaska Peninsula," in Shorter Contributions to General Geology, 1923-1924, USGS Professional Paper 132 (Washington, GPO, 1925), 139-145.

Smith, Walter Ray, "Notebook ASmII, Cold Bay Oil Field, Alaska," unpublished field notebook, USGS Collection.

Smith, W. R. and Arthur A. Baker, "The Cold Bay-Chignik District," in Mineral Resources of Alaska, Report on Progress of Investigations in 1922, USGS Bulletin 755 (Washington, GPO, 1924), 151-217.

Starr, Frank and Penny, "End of Season Report, Aniakchak National Monument and Preserve," September 1988.

Stroud, George and Lynn Fuller, "End of Season Report, Aniakchak National Monument and Preserve," September 1983.

Stroud, George and Lynn Fuller, "End of Season Report, Aniakchak National Monument and Preserve," September 1984.

Teben'kov, Capt. M. D., Atlas of the Northwest Coasts of America, trans. and ed. by R. A. Pierce (Kingston, Ont., Limestone Press), 1981.

Thompson, Seton H., Dept. of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, Alaska Fisheries and Fur-Seal Industries (Washington, GPO), 1947-1949 editions.

Tickhmenev, Petr Aleksandrovich, The Historical Review of the Formation of the Russian-American Company and Its Activity Up to the Present Time, trans. by Dimitri Krenov (Seattle, WPA), 1939-40.

Tichenor, A. K., "Fish Caught in Traps," in APA Collection, Box 6 (II/2).

Tichenor, A. K., "Short History of Chignik Trap Situation," November 23, 1934, in APA Collection, (II/2).

Tichenor, A. K., "Traps Owned by Alaska Packers (Operated and Leased) and Traps Operated for Other Companies in 1934," APA Collection, (II/2).

Trakowski, Bernice, "Fish Trap Patrol," Alaska Sportsman 19 (February 1953), 6-13, 33.

Tuten, Merry Allyn, A Preliminary Study of Subsistence Activities on the Pacific Coast of the Proposed Aniakchak Caldera National Monument, Cooperative Park Studies Unit, Occasional Paper No. 4 (Fairbanks, University of Alaska), 1977.

U.S. Bureau of Fisheries, "List of Traps in Alaska" and "Location of Traps in Alaska Other Than Southeast," both in Box 16, Fisheries Research Data Files, 1904-1960, RG 22, Federal Records Center, Anchorage.

U.S. Dept. of Commerce, "Laws and Regulations for the Protection of Fisheries in Alaska" (Department Circular 251), 15th edition, 1928, in APA Collection, Box 10 (IV/2).

U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, Annual Report, 1924 and 1925 editions (Washington, GPO), 1925/1926.

U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, U.S. Coast Pilot, Alaska, Part II: Yakutat Bay to the Arctic Ocean, first edition (Washington, GPO), 1916.

U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, U.S. Coast Pilot, Alaska, Part II: Yakutat Bay to the Arctic Ocean, second edition (Washington, GPO), 1926.

U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, U.S. Coast Pilot, Alaska, Part II: Yakutat Bay to the Arctic Ocean, fifth edition (Washington, GPO), 1947.

VanStone, James W., "Mainland Southwest Alaska Eskimo," in David Damas, ed., Handbook of North American Indians: vol. 5, Arctic (Washington, Smithsonian Institution, 1984), 224-242.

VanStone, James W., Russian Exploration in Southwest Alaska: The Travel Journals of Petr Korsakovskiy (1818) and Ivan Ya. Vasilev (1829), trans. by David H. Kraus (Fairbanks, University of Alaska Press), c. 1988.

Walker, Ernest P., Report of the Executive Officer to the Alaska Game Commission, 1925-1936 editions.

Williams, M. Woodbridge, "Aniakchak: Kingdom of Genesis," National Parks and Conservation Magazine 49 (June 1975), 4-9.

Williss, G. Frank, "Do Things Right the First Time": The National Park Service and the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980 (Washington?, NPS), September 1985.

Willoughby, Barrett, "The Moon Craters of Alaska," Saturday Evening Post 203 (December 13, 1930), 10-11, 48, 50, 53, 56.

Yesner, David R., "Cultural Boundaries and Ecological Frontiers in Coastal Regions; An Example from the Alaska Peninsula," in Stanton W. Green and Stephen M. Perlman, eds., The Archaeology of Frontiers and Boundaries (New York, Academic Press, 1985), 51-91.

Previous documentation on file (NPS)
_____ 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
__x__ State Historic Preservation Office
_____ Other State agency
__x__ Federal agency
_____ Local government
_____ University
_____ Other
Name of repository: NPS, Alaska System Support Office, Cultural Resource files

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approximately 2100 acres (450 acres on land, 1,650 on water)

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	04	593250	6292600	3	04	588550	6287675
2	04	594200	6291000	4	04	588475	6292500

___ See continuation sheet.

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

[See Map 1.] Beginning on the left bank of the Aniakchak River, at the northernmost portion of the "tidal flat" area approximately one mile west-northwest of the mouth of said river and located in the NE¼ of the NW¼ of Section 35, T39S, R52W, SM; then north from the riverbank to the 100-foot contour line; then in a generally easterly and southeasterly direction along the 100-foot contour line, for approximately a mile, to its intersection with the unnamed southward flowing stream (shown on the "Sutwik Island D-5" USGS quadrangle) located in Section 36 of the same township; then southeast (135 degree azimuth) approximately 200 yards until the high tide line is reached; then generally southeasterly along the high tide line for approximately 1½ miles to the southernmost point of land in Section 31, T39S, R51W; then in a generally west-southwest line across Aniakchak Bay for slightly over three miles to the point where the south end of Section 3, T40S, R52W meets the high tide line; then approximately 1¼ miles north-northeast along the coast to the point where Sections 2 and 3 of T40S, R52W meet the high tide line; then due north along that section line for slightly less than a mile to the left bank of the Aniakchak River; then in a generally easterly and northeastern direction along that bank for approximately one-half mile to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

The area enclosed within the historic landscape district contains many elements that pertain to fishing and fish processing, on both subsistence and commercial levels. Within the district are three loci where physical reminders of those activities are present, along with residences associated with those activities. The district also contains four zones where fish traps were historically located. Both the river and bay, moreover, contain some of the most productive fish habitat on the central Alaska peninsula. The countryside surrounding the landscape district contains few if any physical reminders of fishing or fish processing activities. While several other areas along the bay shore have supported fish trap sites, all are spatially separated from the trap sites that operated within the landscape district.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Frank B. Norris, historian

organization National Park Service date November 1, 1996

street & number 2525 Gambell St. telephone (907) 257-2685

city or town Anchorage state Alaska zip code 99503-2892

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

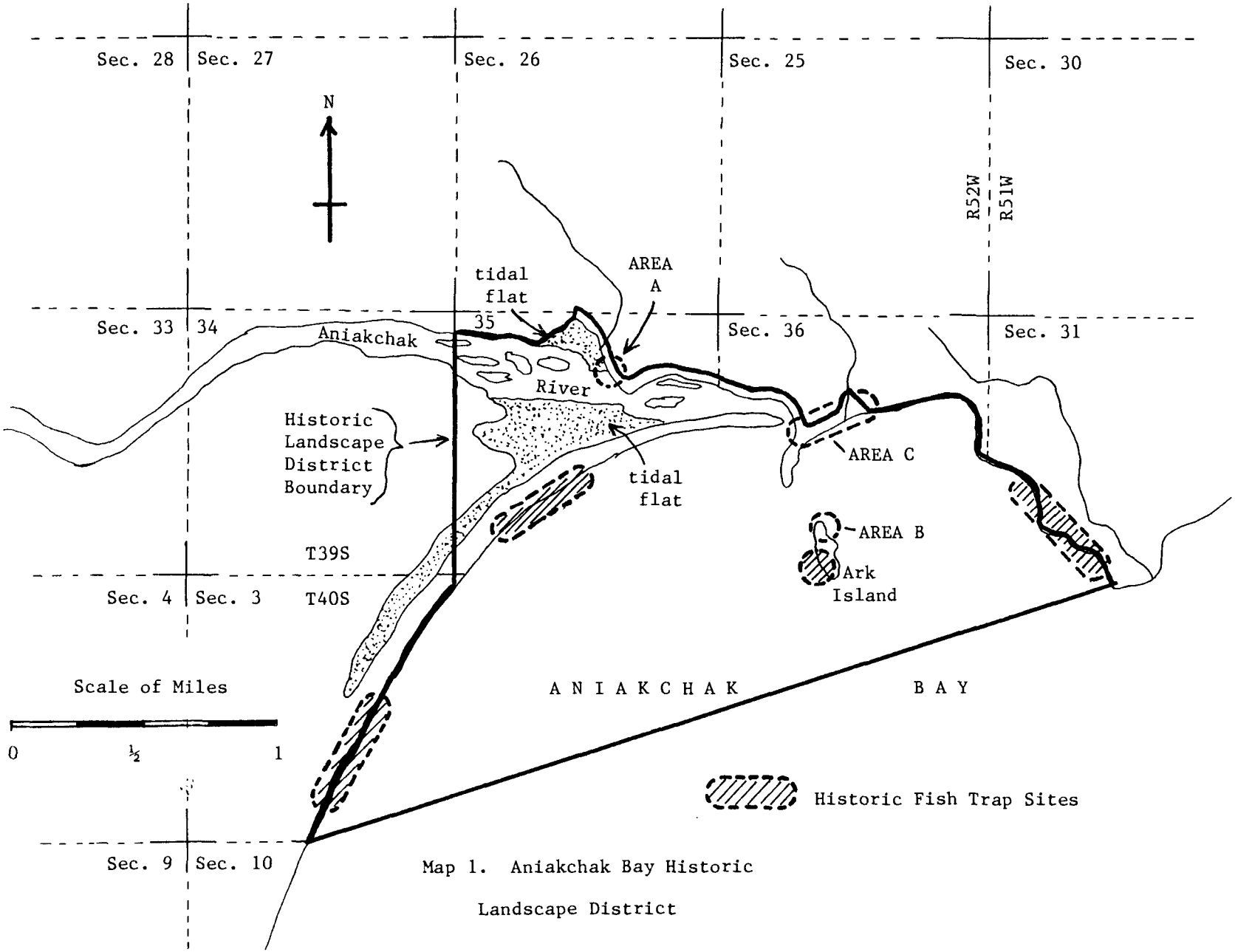
(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)
name _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

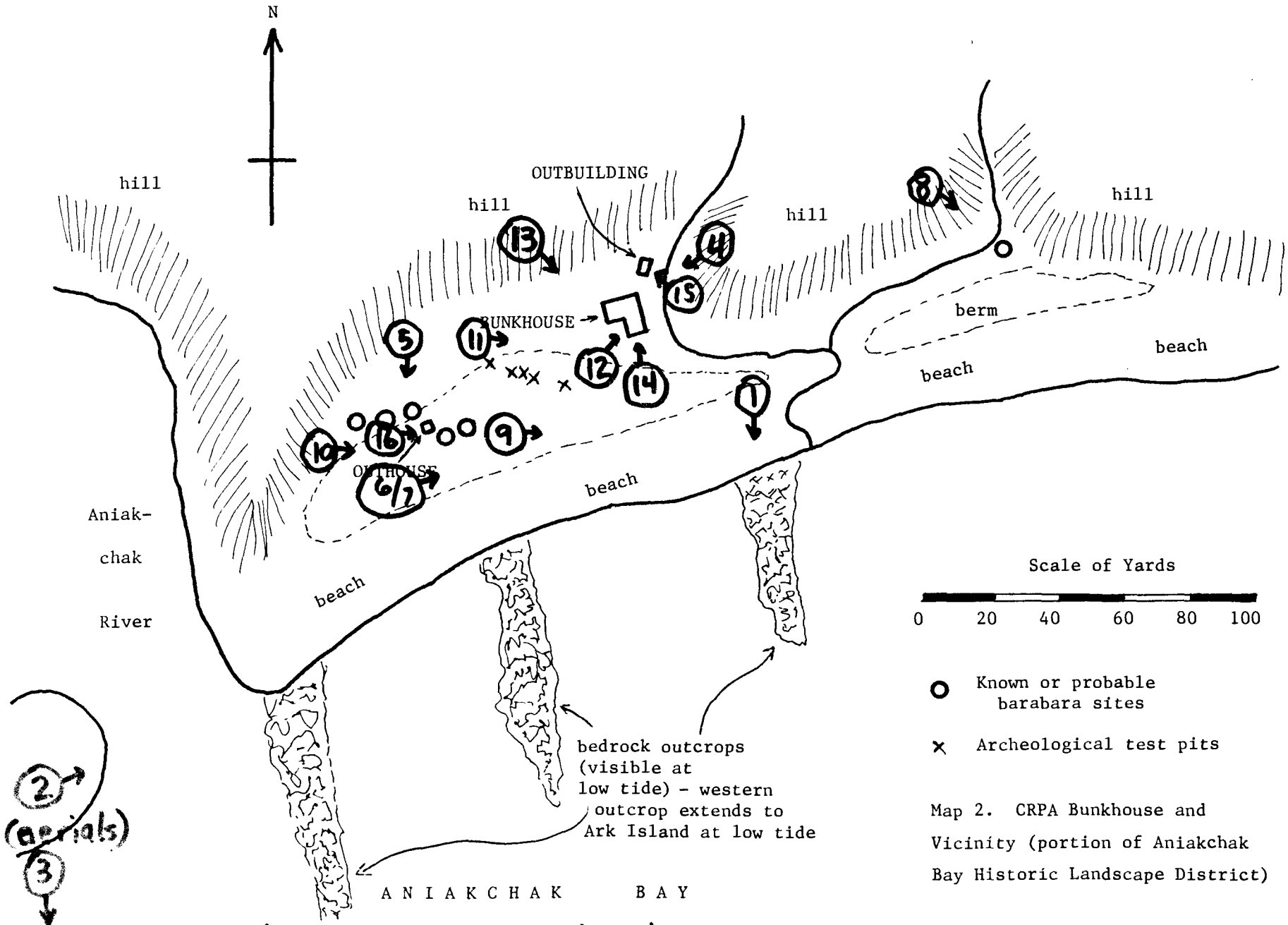
city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

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. 470 et seq.).

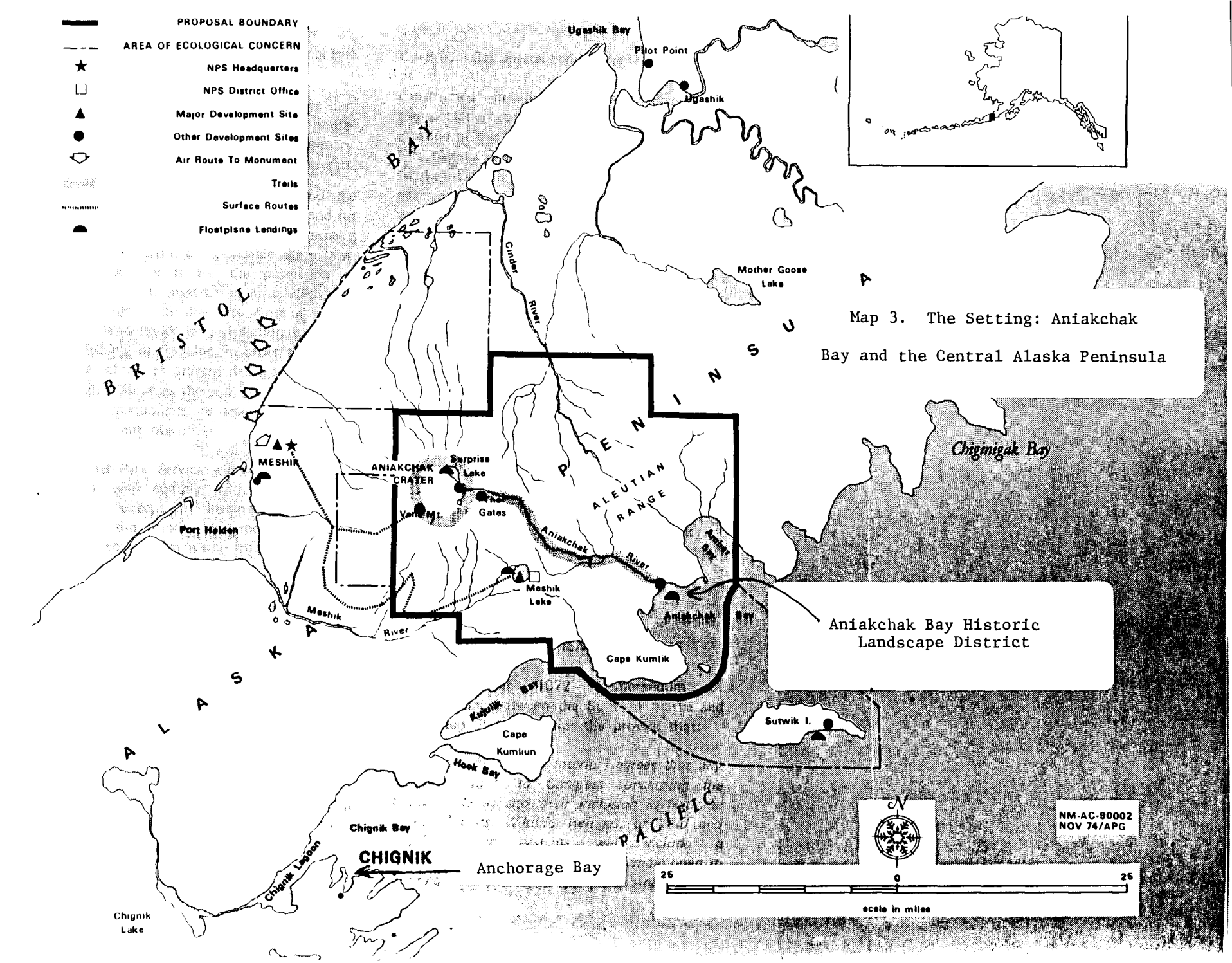
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.



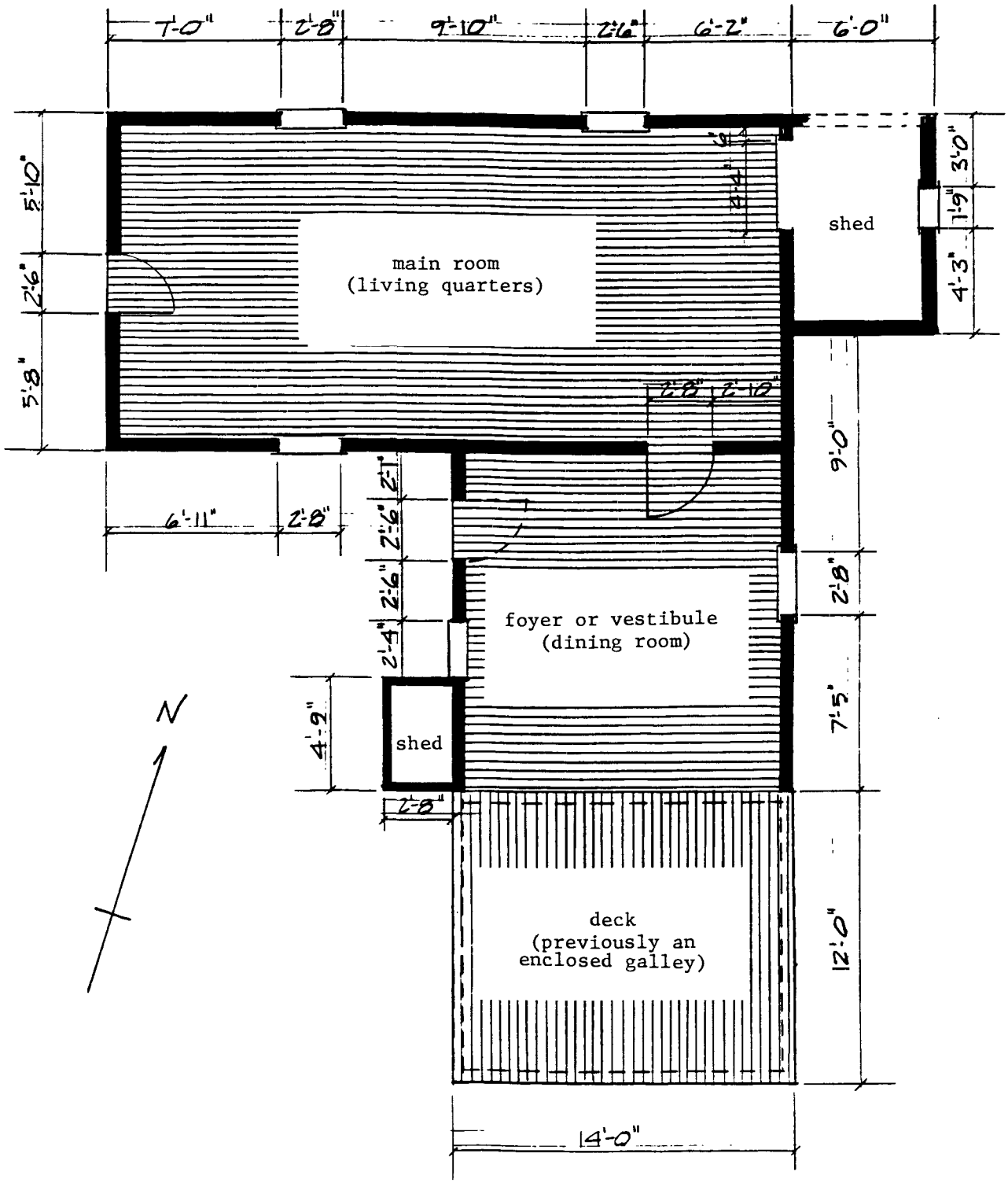
Map 1. Aniakchak Bay Historic Landscape District



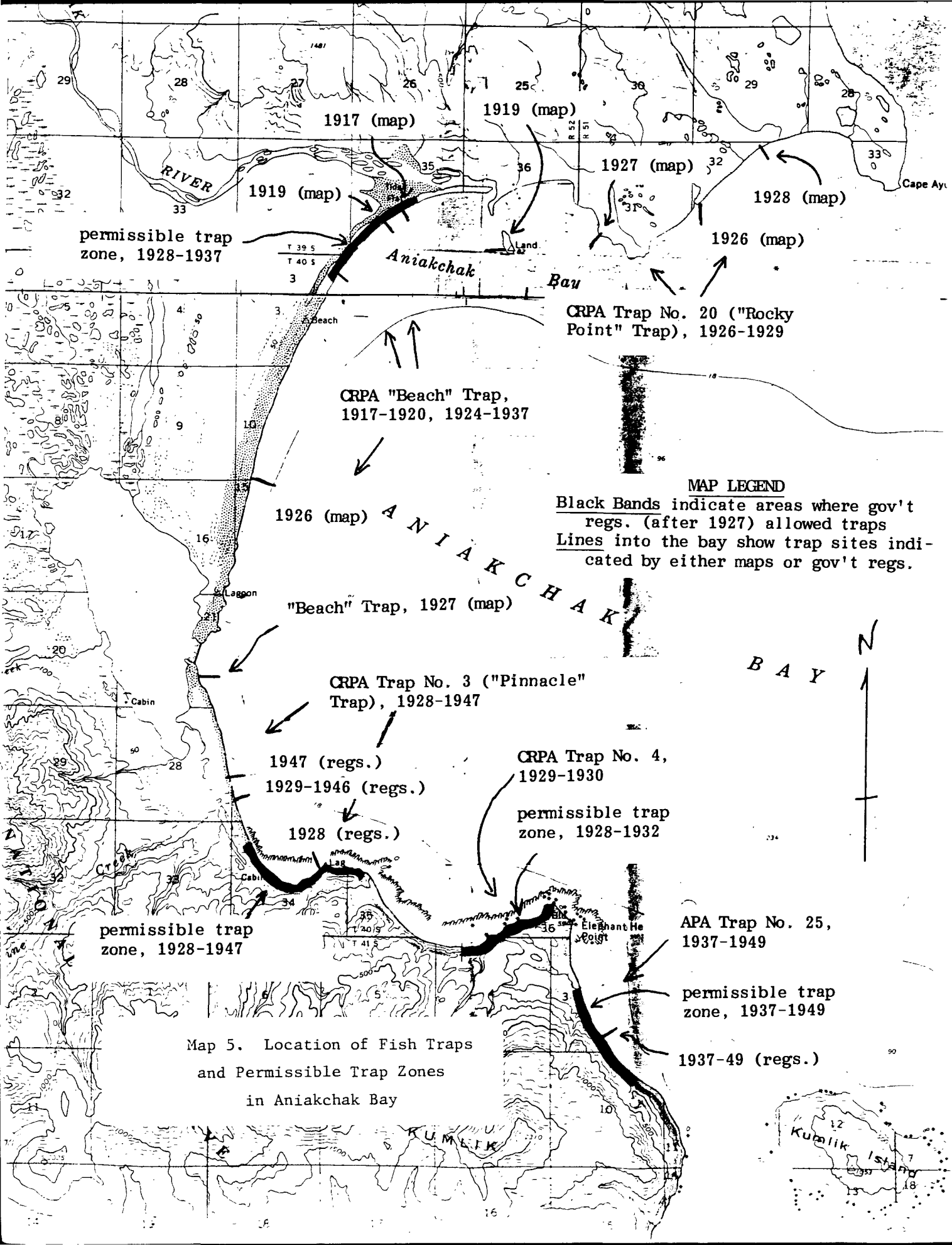
Map 2. CRPA Bunkhouse and Vicinity (portion of Aniakchak Bay Historic Landscape District)



Map 3. The Setting: Aniakchak Bay and the Central Alaska Peninsula



Map 4. Floor Plan of CRPA Bunkhouse (Area C) of Aniakchak Bay Historic Landscape District



MAP LEGEND

Black Bands indicate areas where gov't regs. (after 1927) allowed traps

Lines into the bay show trap sites indicated by either maps or gov't regs.

Map 5. Location of Fish Traps and Permissible Trap Zones in Aniakchak Bay

NPS Form 10-900-a
(8-86)

OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 97000016 **Date Listed: 2/16/97**

Aniakchak Bay Historic Landscape District | Dillingham | AK
Property Name | County | State

N/A
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

for Barbara J. Fitt — 2/18/97
Signature of the Keeper **Date of Action**

==========

Amended Items in Nomination:

Significance:
This District is eligible under Criteria A and D. Although Hubbard was an important explorer, the case is not made for eligibility under Criterion B.

The District is eligible at the State level of significance.

Classification:
There are 3 contributing buildings and 8 contributing sites. The 8 sites are the 6 barabaras, 1 prehistoric campsite, and 1 fishtrap.

Description:
The following information clarifies the description of the resources.

Revisions in the first sentence of the first paragraph of Sec. 7: in line 2, the correct text should be "two standing outbuildings, the remains of six barabaras (semi-subterranean

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD
NRIS Reference Number: 97000016 **Date Listed: 2/16/97**
Aniakchak Bay Historic Landscape District **Dillingham** **AK**
Property Name **County** **State**

Amended Items in Nomination:
PAGE 2 OF 2

residences), a prehistoric campsite, ..." because, as noted on the top of the second page in Sec. 7, some of the barabaras at the site are simply holes in the ground, whereas a true barabara is covered by sod, supported by poles, and suitable for family residential purposes.

In Area A are found the remains of a fish trap; this consists of a bundle of 15-20 pilings bound together by decayed rope netting. This is located near the mouth of an unnamed stream on the north (left) bank of the Aniakchak River, one-half mile upstream from its mouth.

There's not much left of the bunk scow--just scattered bits of wood in the nooks and crannies of a bare, exposed island. It is not, therefore, considered a contributing resource.

The Aniakchak Bay shoreline contains four other zones where historic fish traps were once located (Map 5), but there are no known remains of any except the one described above (Photo 3)"

This information was checked with or provided by Frank Norris (NPS), author of the nomination.

DISTRIBUTION:
National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)