

CONFIRMATION OF CONSENSUS NOMINATION

PH0054798

Form 10-300  
(Dec. 1968)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

STATE: Alaska	
COUNTY: Kodiak Borough	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
10.10.02.0002	10/17/70

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Fort Abercrombie State Historic Site

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Miller Point - Approximately five miles from Kodiak

CITY OR TOWN:  
Kodiak Island

STATE Alaska	CODE 02	COUNTY: Kodiak Borough	CODE
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**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/>	Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes: Restricted <input type="checkbox"/>
Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/>	Private <input type="checkbox"/>	Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>	No: <input type="checkbox"/>
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/>	Government <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Park <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Comments <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>
Educational <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input type="checkbox"/>	
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>	

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNERS NAME:  
State of Alaska - Division of Parks

STREET AND NUMBER:  
323 E. Fourth Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Anchorage	STATE: Alaska	CODE 99501	CODE 02
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**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Alaska Division of Lands

STREET AND NUMBER:  
323 E. Fourth Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Anchorage	STATE Alaska	CODE 99501	CODE 02
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APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 180

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
None

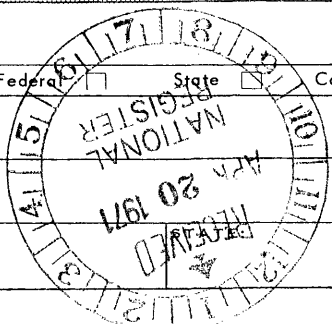
DATE OF SURVEY: \_\_\_\_\_

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: \_\_\_\_\_

STREET AND NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY OR TOWN: \_\_\_\_\_

STATE:  Federal  State  County  Local



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**7. DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	Excellent <input type="checkbox"/>	Good <input type="checkbox"/>	Fair <input type="checkbox"/>	Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/>	Ruins <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unexposed <input type="checkbox"/>
INTEGRITY	(Check One)		(Check One)			
	Altered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unaltered <input type="checkbox"/>	Moved <input type="checkbox"/>	Original Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Concrete beds for gun emplacements, massive fragments of shattered steel, cavernous magazines, and building foundations are all that remain of this World War II site.

The terrain is almost a stereotype of that suitable for a coastal fortification--a high headland with commanding view of straits and bays. Dense, mature spruce stands provide natural camouflage.

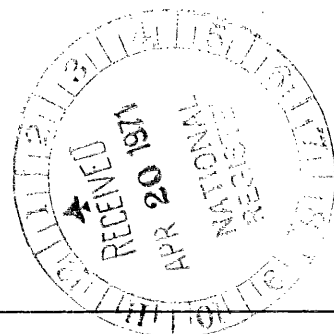
One of the first, and therefore secret radar installations, little is known of Fort Abercrombie's wartime appearance. Surviving inventories of property and equipment can, however, be correlated with remaining vestiges for identification.

Concrete and steel remains of two barbette-mounted cannons whose fields of fire included Narrow Strait are, along with the emplacement magazine sitting behind them, dominant features of the site. The forty foot steel tower that served as the Battery Commander's station has long since become scrap. Only its footings are still visible, as is the shell of the once vital plotting center. Two enormous reserve magazines sit well down on the inshore slope of the headland, insulated from each other by the bulk of Miller Point.

Dense vegetation isolates the historic zone from the picnic tables, fireplaces, etc., of an overnight wayside.

Evidences of vandalism, including litter and defacement, are plentiful in all site areas.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Pre-Columbian       16th Century       18th Century       20th Century   
 15th Century       17th Century       19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/>	Education	<input type="checkbox"/>	Political	<input type="checkbox"/>	Urban Planning	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/>	Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/>	Religion/Phi-	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Historic	<input type="checkbox"/>	Industry	<input type="checkbox"/>	losophy	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____
Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Invention	<input type="checkbox"/>	Science	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____
Art	<input type="checkbox"/>	Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sculpture	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____
Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/>	Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Social/Human-	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____
Communications	<input type="checkbox"/>	Literature	<input type="checkbox"/>	itarian	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____
Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Theater	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____
		Music	<input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

Although less than fifty years old, Fort Abercrombie is representative of North Pacific shore defense installations between 1941-1945 and is significant in Alaskan history for this reason. Association is especially poignant because of the close geographical relationship to scenes of battle for control of the Aleutian Chain.

The Miller Point area was initially withdrawn as a military reservation by Executive Order in 1941. By November of that year Headquarters Battery of the 250th Coast Artillery Regiment had been established at the location; on November 11 an order directed that the post be continually manned. On what has become known as Pearl Harbor Day, a battalion observation post (evidently a radar surveillance site) was established on the headland. Shortly thereafter Battery G of the 250th set up a searchlight position below the seacliff's edge.

The spring of 1942 was busy at Miller Point. Engineers explored the area prior to installation of gun emplacements. After survey and test hole drilling, two 8-inch naval guns were mounted at the site. There were rare armaments for coastal defense installations. Relics of World War I, they had been supplanted even during that conflict by more modern weapons.

(continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

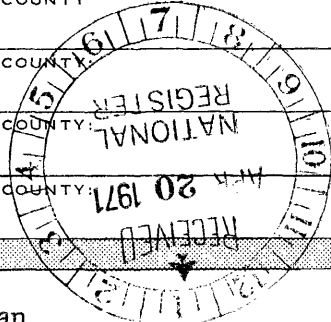
Diary of the Second Battalion (Reinforced), 250th Coast Artillery (TD), 1940-1941 and 1942; Record Group 407, National Archives, Washington, D.C.  
 Lewis, Emanuel Raymond, Seacoast Fortifications of the United States: An Introductory History, Smithsonian Institution Press (City of Washington: '70)  
 Local Harbor Defense Board Proceedings, April 8 and August 20, 1942; Record Group 77, National Archives, Washington, D.C.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	57° 50' 18" N	152° 21' 45" W		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	57° 50' 18" N	152° 20' 36" W		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	57° 49' 43" N	152° 21' 45" W		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	57° 49' 43" N	152° 20' 36" W		° ' "	° ' "	

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
 William S. Hanable, State Park Historian

ORGANIZATION: Alaska Division of Parks

DATE: Jan. 6, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER:  
 323 E. Fourth Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Anchorage

STATE: Alaska 99501

CODE: 02

12 STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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

National  State  Local

Name: Theodore G. Smith  
 THEODORE G. SMITH

Title: State Liaison Officer for Historic Preservation

Date: January 6, 1971

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Ernest A. Ramsey  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: OCT 14 1971

ATTEST:  
William Hanable  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: OCT 7 1971

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Alaska	
COUNTY	
Kodiak Borough	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
70.10.02.0002	10/27/70

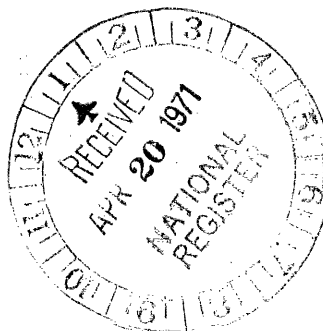
(Number all entries)

8. Statement of Significance (continued)

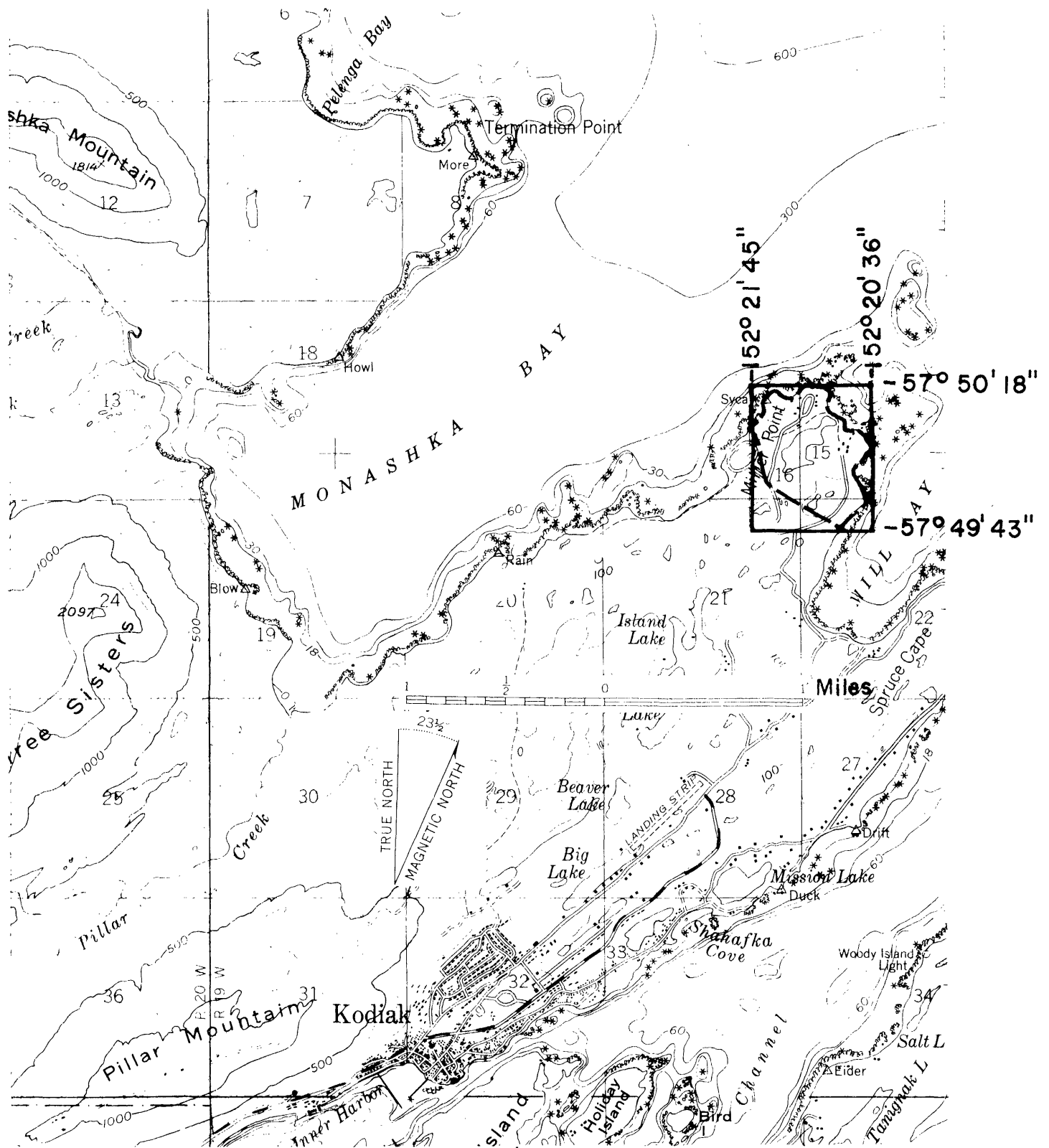
In 1943, a War Department Order designated the Miller Point area as Fort Abercrombie, in honor of Lieutenant William H. Abercrombie, noted explorer of Alaska in the late nineteenth century.

The post was deactivated in 1945, and during the late 1940's remaining armaments were destroyed with explosives. Nearly a quarter of a century later the site was transferred to Alaska's Division of Lands for development as a State wayside by the Parks and Recreation Section.

Fort Abercrombie fired no shots in anger, and few in practice. But its ruins are material <sup>remnants</sup> ~~remnants~~ of a time that anticipated and saw foreign invasion of American soil; they have an aura of historicity that conveys the location's significance in State history.



Alaska Division of Parks  
 (Based on USGS Kodiak 1952)



FORT ABERCROMBIE HISTORIC SITE