

PH0054763

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Alaska
COUNTY: Third Judicial District
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE SEP 6 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:
Chilkat Oil Company Refinery Site

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
-Mile 4, Katalla Road

CITY OR TOWN:
Vicinity of Katalla Vicinity

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:

STATE: Alaska CODE: 02 COUNTY: 2 with central Third Judicial District CODE:

3. CLASSIFICATION

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

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
U. S. Forest Service, Chugach National Forest

STREET AND NUMBER:
121 W. Fireweed Lane, Suite 201

CITY OR TOWN: Anchorage STATE: Alaska CODE: 02

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER:
323 E. 4th Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Anchorage STATE: Alaska CODE: 02

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

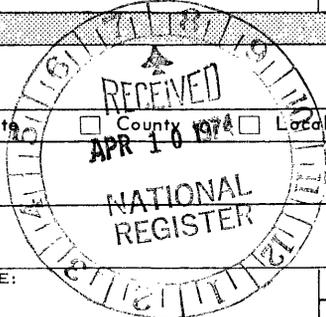
TITLE OF SURVEY:
None

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:



STATE: _____

COUNTY: _____

ENTRY NUMBER: _____

DATE: _____

FOR NPS USE ONLY

Senators: Mike Gravel/Ted Stevens
Congressman: Don Young

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7 DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The site of the Chilkat Oil Company refinery is at the head of Katalla Slough, a salt water arm of Katalla Bay. The bay is about 110 miles west of Mt. St. Elias and 20 miles southeast of the mouth of the Copper River. Nearby lowlands are covered with spruce, fir, and hemlock, while the valley of the Katalla River is a luxuriant, grass covered meadow.

Historical photos (ca. 1925-1928) show a warehouse, tank house, still house, running house, coal oil house, residence, condensing house, and trackage of the horse-drawn tram that carried supplies in the oil field. An undated plan, believed to have been prepared about 1922, also shows these structures.

Today only ruins are evident. A 1972 examination of the site revealed only one standing structure--a steel storage tank, and a jumble of collapsed buildings, oil field hardware, etc.

Aliquot Parts Description: CRM; T19S, R5E, Sec. 36, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 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/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Historically, men's interest in Alaska has been stimulated by her resources whether mineral or living. The State's history can be traced by various attempts to exploit this potential wealth, including the vast reservoirs of petroleum. The site of the Chilkat Oil Company Refinery, the first such petroleum processing plant in Alaska is therefore associated with events that have contributed to the broad pattern of the Forty-ninth State's history.

Although it is unclear when the first well to be serviced by the Chilkat Refinery was drilled, it is known that the first well in the Katalla area was drilled in 1902. A strong flow of gas bubbles to the surface of the Katalla River, widespread seepages, and exposed joints of shale beds oozing petroleum had guided oil seekers to the region.

A series of dry and producing wells were drilled in the general area by prospectors during the next eight years and by 1910 several wells had tapped the Katalla reservoir. In 1911, the Chilkat Oil Company began construction of a refinery to service wells on its 151 acre patented claim. Eventually, thirteen wells producing about 1,000 barrels a month were pumped by steam through a short pipeline which carried the oil to the refinery site at the head of Katalla Slough.

A simple fire-still process produced marketable products as reflected in a 1921 oil sales statement:

gasoline - 51,671 gallons
 distillate - 248,212 gallons
 diesel oil - 8,289 gallons
 kerosene - 8,814 gallons

All production was run into 100-gallon steel barrels and sold along the Alaskan coast to operators of boats, canneries, and mines. A 50-ton boat carried a load of sixty 100-gallon drums to Cordova and other points once a week.

In 1933, however, a fire partially destroyed the refinery and production stopped. Since then no oil from Katalla has been marketed, but the refinery remains, oil field equipment, and seep puddles remain to mark the site of Alaska's first refinery.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

George, H. C.
 1922 "Preliminary Report on the Alaska Oil Fields", U. S. Bureau of Mines ms.
 Greely, A. W.
 1925 Handbook of Alaska: its resources, products, and attractions in 1924, 1970 reprint of 3rd ed.
 Martin, G. C.
 1904 "Petroleum fields of Alaska and the Bering River field" in Contributions to Economic Geology 1903, U. S. Geological Survey Bulletin 225 - continued -

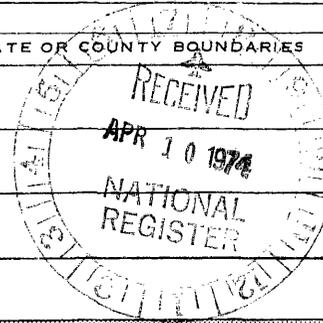
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	60° 11' .21.39 N	144° 27' 05.44 W		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	60° 11' .21.39 N	144° 26' 49.76 W				
SE	60° 11' .16.17 N	144° 26' 49.76 W				
SW	60° 11' .16.17 N	144° 27' 05.44 W				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 10.0

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



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: William S. Hanable, Historian

ORGANIZATION: Alaska Division of Parks DATE: _____

STREET AND NUMBER: 323 E. 4th Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Anchorage STATE: Alaska CODE: 02

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

Owner notified

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

Title State Historic Preservation Off.

Date _____

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

A. R. Montross
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 9/6/74

ATTEST:
Charles H. ...
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 9.6.74

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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Alaska	
COUNTY Third Judicial District	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	SEP 6 1974

(Number all entries)

9-1

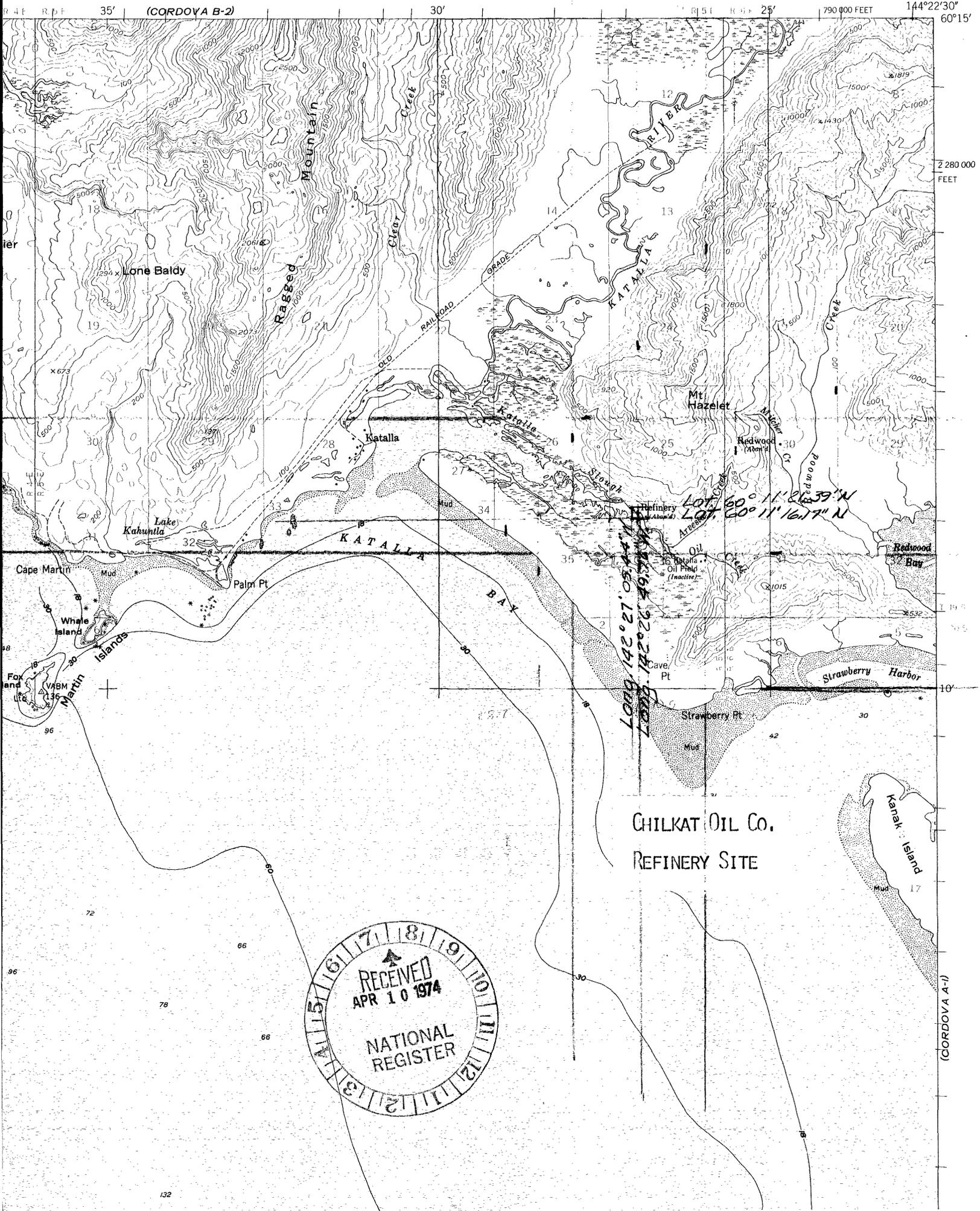
1905 "Notes on the petroleum fields of Alaska" in Report on Progress of Investigations of Mineral Resources of Alaska in 1904, U. S. Geological Survey Bulletin 259.

Ray, Joan Alita

1971 "Alaska's First Oil Refinery-1911" in The Alaskana, Vol. 1, No. 3, April 1971.

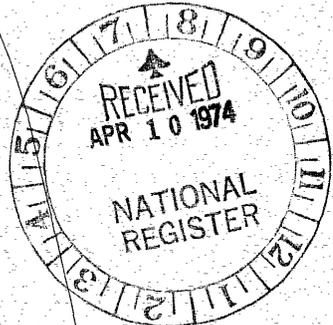


(COR)



Lot 60° 11' 21.59" N
Lot 60° 11' 16.17" N
Long 142° 27' 05.44" W
Long 142° 25' 49.51" W

CHILKAT OIL CO.
REFINERY SITE



(CORDOVA A-1)