

PA0351369

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED SEP 21 1976

DATE ENTERED APR 11 1977

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

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC Pilgrim Hot Springs (AHRS SITE NO. BEN-014)
 * * Kruzgamepa
 AND/OR COMMON
 Pilgrim Springs

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Southeast bank of Pilgrim River, 8 miles East from Mile 65, Kugarock Road, Seward Peninsula
 CITY, TOWN Teller
 STATE Alaska
 VICINITY OF Alaska
 COUNTY Nome Division
 CODE 02
 CODE 180

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

3 CLASSIFICATION

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME C.J. Phillips (907) 443-2560
 STREET & NUMBER Box 370
 CITY, TOWN Nome
 STATE Alaska
 VICINITY OF Alaska 99762

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. U.S. Bureau of Land Management (907) 452-7725
 STREET & NUMBER 1028 Aurora Drive, Box 1150
 CITY, TOWN Fairbanks
 STATE Alaska 99707

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Alaska Heritage Resources Survey (AHRS)
 DATE January 27, 1975
 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Alaska Division of Parks, 323 E. 4th Avenue (907) 274-4679
 CITY, TOWN Anchorage
 STATE Alaska

7 DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

From 1900 to 1903 the homestead at Kruzgamepa was primitive: a log cabin, barn, chicken house and a few outbuildings, truckgarden, several acres of cleared cropland and a small number of farm animals (in summer) pastured in nearby meadows. With the building of a roadhouse, saloon, bathhouse; and general growth in farming and gardening it acquired much of the characteristics of a lively frontier camp, up to 1908 when the roadhouse and saloon burned. Except for the replacement roadhouse Pilgrim Springs reverted more to the pastoral scene--with modest growth in gardening and farming--until construction of the sizeable Catholic Mission started in 1919.

Although practically planned to take full advantage of the terrain and thermal features, the overall appearance was aesthetically pleasing. Several of the Mission buildings were the largest and most impressive that the orphan's had ever seen: the attractive steepled church, the massive L-shaped dormitory-school, Nun's quarters-greenhouses. In all, there were fifteen buildings, including the roadhouse converted to a laundry, bath-house, root cellar and water-tower. In addition to the backdrop of trees, fields and meadows, there were seven large gardens, a strawberry and a rubarb patch; all seemingly landscaped around the buildings and centering on the religious shrine, surmounted by a rock-garden.

The church and greenhouses were heated by the hot springs. Abundant water for every building (and irrigation) pumped by windmill at the river bank, passed through more than a mile of pipes. The water tower near the Infirmary provided pressure and additional storage. Many of the buildings were of multiple service; the church being exceptionally so. The place of worship was over the upper story; the lower floor had a large kitchen, housing and offices for all of the priests and brothers, and some dormitory space for the more mature boys in the 7th and 8th grades. Because of the thermal heating it enjoyed flush toilets. Underneath the first floor, cooled by permafrost was a wine cellar and large root cellar. All of the major buildings had inside, cold-water plumbing--a respectable luxury for that part of the world.

There is one small cemetery about 3/4 mile N.W. of the church; and an unlocated mass burial; where the frozen bodies of Mary's Igloo influenza victims were placed in the thawed spring seep by Peter Jaeger, a mail carrier.

The scene today is disheartening. Most of the structures and buildings still exist. One garden was destroyed by flooding with the highly mineralized thermal water, by the military, when they attempted to enlarge the bathing area. Most of the grounds now are overgrown with low bushes. The church is in need of interior shoring to prevent further sagging. The Nun's house, having been used most in recent years, is in good condition. Although picturesque, all the others are in various states of disrepair. The machine shop still holds the forge and an array of old tools; the largest barn has collapsed over an early model gasoline-powered tractor which appears to be in good condition. Throughout the grounds, and in one no-longer cultivated field, are a number of other farming vehicles and machines in relatively good repair.

The present owner continues to utilize Pilgrim Hot Springs for agricultural purposes.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

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

SPECIFIC DATES 1900, 1908, 1929 BUILDER/ARCHITECT multiple

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

For more than three-quarters of a century, Pilgrim Hot Springs has made contributions to Arctic life in rather unexpected areas--in agriculture, religion, education and as a thermal spa--and more typically in its association with roadhouses, a saloon and mining. In microcosm it is more reminiscent of the old Western American frontier than of Alaska. Fortuitously, some evidence remains of each level of Pilgrim Hot Springs since it was patented, as a homestead of 160 acres, in 1900.

Earlier History

This was related to the great influx of population resulting from the discovery of rich gold placers in the vicinity of Nome. Fresh produce was in great demand. The thermal features made this an oasis in a vast tundra desert, highly productive of fresh produce; as well as feed for chickens, hogs and cattle. By 1903 the homesteaders noted another demand: thermal recreation for weary miners. The homesteaders leased land for a roadhouse, saloon and bathhouse. The agrarian quiet was disrupted by the raucous revelry of miners and the fancy ladies who came in from Nome. The first roadhouse and saloon-dance hall burned in 1908. Because the peak of the mining boom had passed, a second roadhouse was more oriented to transient traffic; but the demand for foodstuff continued from the homesteader's fields and gardens.

Our Lady of Lourdes Orphanage

The tragic, 1917-18 influenza epidemic--exceptionally virulent among the Eskimos--added an uncommon overlay to the growth of Pilgrim Hot Springs. With no orphanages available, the Catholic Diocese of Nome found it necessary to build one. They purchased the homestead, remaining townsite and adjoining lands and started extensive construction under Father LaFortune and a lay-brother in 1919. In addition to on-the-site virgin timber, Father LaFortune learned of a sizeable stockpile of sawed lumber which a mining company had amassed for sluice boxes near Iron Creek. This was floated downstream to the site. With carpentry crews added, there speedily emerged a large dormitory-school house; quarters for the Sisters of Ursaline, which included an infirmary and additional classrooms; a church, which also housed a central kitchen and quarters for the priests and brothers, barns and some outbuildings. Almost all of the original farm buildings were utilized, and the roadhouse was converted to a laundry. Some of the buildings were heated with the natural hot springs, but this was vital to the greenhouses which produced throughout the year. In late spring large plantings of certain vegetables were moved to outdoor truck gardens for finish growth--7 pound turnips and 30 pound cabbages, for example. In addition to chicken, milk, butter and eggs, fresh and cured meats, wild game (particularly caribou) was quite abundant and salmon runs were heavy. Nearby Salt Lake produced varieties of whitefish, seal, and some beluga, and the nearby river, ling-cod and pike up to 30" in length. Much fish, game and meat was dried and smoked for outside markets.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bland, Laurel L., Imruk Basin Study, 1972-3; Human Environmental Resources Service, Inc.
 Arctic Native Brotherhood collection, University of Alaska, Fairbanks.
 Catholic Church records, papers and documents, Nome and Fairbanks.
 Motion Picture footage, filmed in 1941, University of Alaska archives, Fairbanks.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 317.96

UTM REFERENCES

650 7218-650 Connected UTM on map

A	0 3	5 0 3 9 1 5	7 2 1 9 4 0 9	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

As described in Patent #16021, issued to Henry Beckus, September 24, 1908, containing 317.96 acres within Section 31, Township 4 S, Range 30 W; Section 36 of T 4 S., Range 31 W; and Section 3, T. 5 S., Range 31 West, Pilgrim Springs, Alaska.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Michael S. Kennedy, State Historian

ORGANIZATION

Alaska Division of Parks

DATE

August 9, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

323 E. Fourth Avenue

TELEPHONE

(907) 274-4679

CITY OR TOWN

Anchorage

STATE

Alaska 99501

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

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

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Laurel L. Bland

TITLE

S.H.P.O.

DATE

9/16/1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

CHIEF DIRECTOR OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

4/11/79

ATTEST

Charles A. ...

DATE

3.18.77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Pilgrim Hot Springs (AHRS SITE NO. BEN-014)

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

For 20 years Pilgrim Hot Springs provided homelife, education religious and domestic training for an average of 100 orphans annually. The staff, principally priests, nuns, brothers and several native adults, averaged about 20 adults. During the period 1923-41 Pilgrim Springs was also a post-office and mining center for small mining ventures.

During the late 1930's the number of orphans continued to decline. This, coupled with a decline in Seward Peninsula population, due principally to the termination of gold mining as non-essential to World War II, brought the decision to close the orphanage. In the summer of 1941, buildings were boarded up and all children and staff departed, leaving behind only the Kakaruk family as caretakers and to tend the greenhouses and gardens, which still required as many as seven daily bush-plane flights to the Nome market during peak productivity.

In 1942-3 considerable activity returned when the church allowed use of the mission as a rest and recreation center for military forces in the area. With defeat of the Japanese in the Aleutians, troops were re-allocated to other Theaters of War. The final cadres not only departed in haste but with uncharacteristic abandon; with considerable breakage and looting. The Church never reopened the mission. It was leased for various purposes, mostly agricultural, and was finally sold to private interests.

Presently operated for agricultural use, with some use made of the thermal baths, Pilgrim Hot Springs has been essentially a ghost town for the past twenty years.

Summer - 1972

Pilgrim Hot Springs
Laurel L. Eland

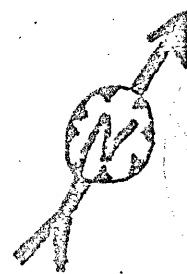
Principal buildings remaining as of 1972
mostly Our Lady of Lourdes Mission-Orphanage

wood lot

GARDEN AREA

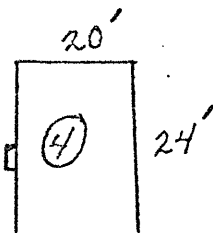
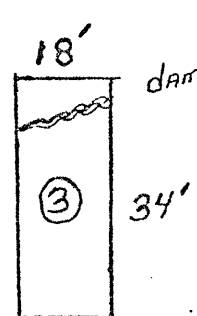
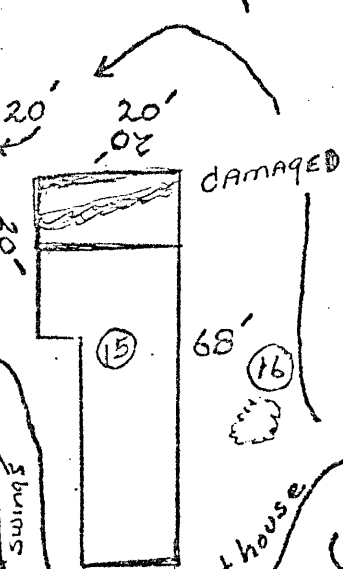
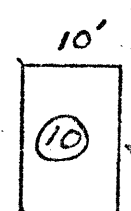
To old Dump

② 6'x6'



HEAVY over growth!
TREES etc

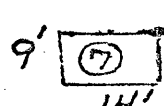
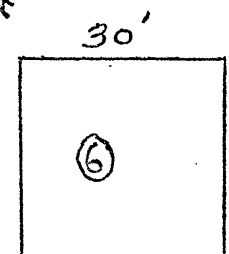
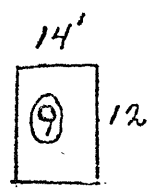
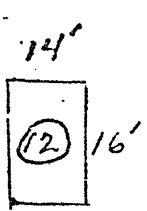
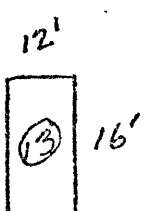
To dump!



swampy ground

GARDEN AREA

HEAVY



GARDEN AREA

(STEEP BANK)

10' High 45° (STEEP BANK)

To cemetery 1 mile

Seep stream bridge

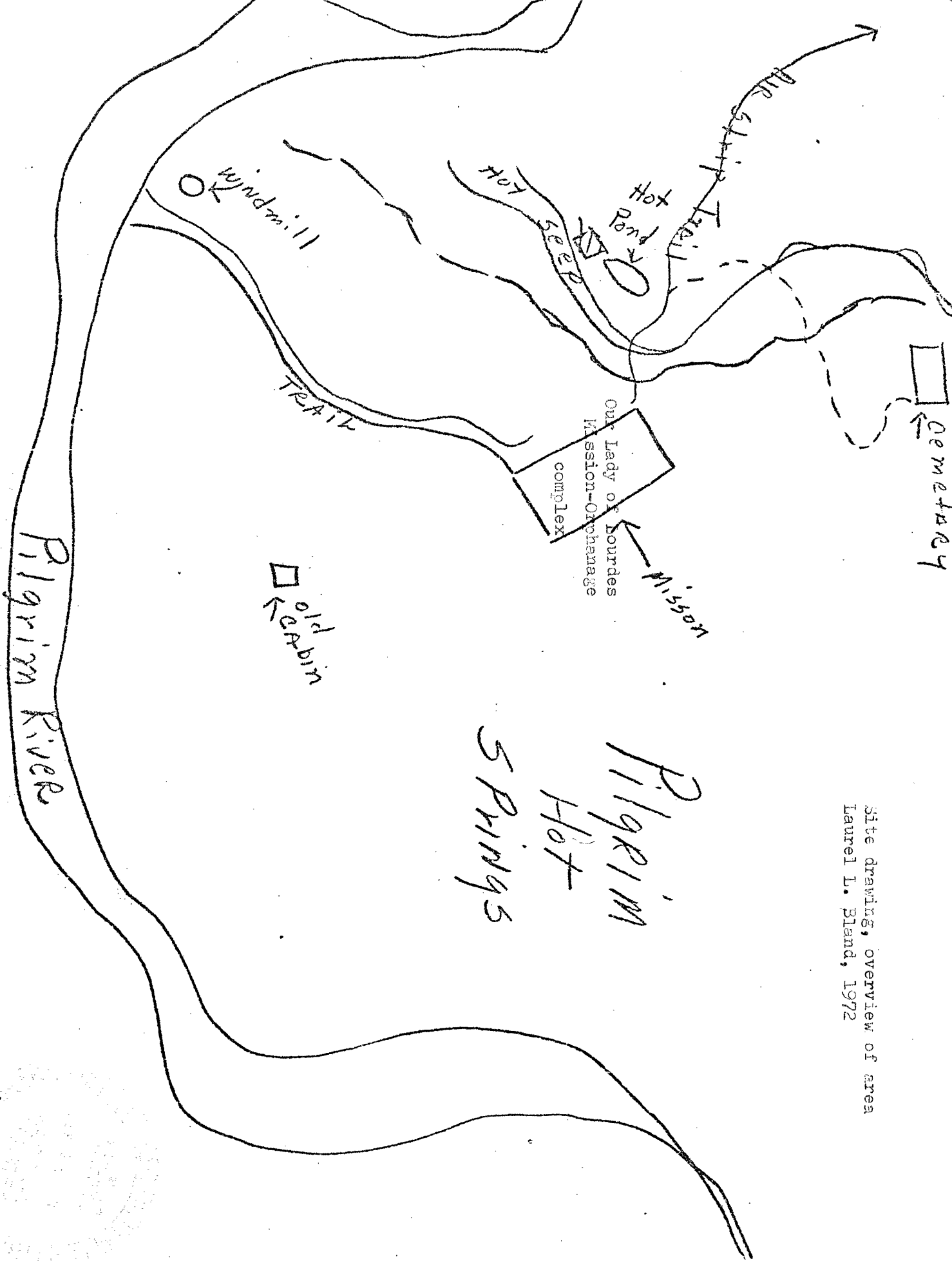
Hot Spring

DPS

- 1. HAY BARN & equipment storage
- 2. Smoke House
- 3. STABLE & livestock barn
- 4. NUNS QUARTERS & clinic
- 5. WATER TANK
- 6. Church & FATHERS' house
- 7. GREEN House

- ⑪ 2 HOLER outhouse
- ⑫ STORAGE SHED
- ⑬ Tool & machine shop
- ⑭ Ruins of storage shed
- ⑮ dormitory
- ⑯ old shrine ruins
- ⑰ Root cellar

exten dam



Site drawing, overview of area
 Laurel L. Bland, 1972

APR 11 1977