

CONFIRMATION OF CONSENSUS NOMINATION

PH0121134

Form 10-300  
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Alaska	
COUNTY: Gateway Borough	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 70-10-02-0003	DATE 10/27/70

1. NAME

COMMON:  
Totem Bight State Historic Site

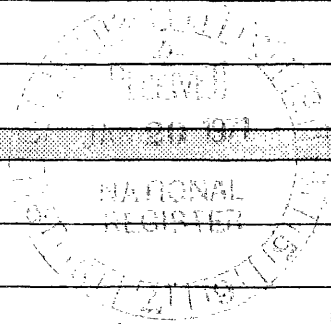
AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Mud Bight Village

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Mile 10.5, North Tongass Highway

CITY OR TOWN:  
Ketchikan vic, 5 miles NW

STATE: Alaska      CODE: 02      COUNTY: Gateway Borough      CODE:



3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input checked="" 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)
			Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
State of Alaska - Division of Parks

STREET AND NUMBER:  
323 E. Fourth Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Anchorage      STATE: Alaska 99501      CODE: 02

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
District Recorder

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Box 707

CITY OR TOWN: Ketchikan      STATE: Alaska 99901      CODE: 02

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: The National Survey of Historic Sites & Bldgs., Theme XVI, Indigenous Peoples and Culture, Special Study: Alaska Aboriginal Culture

DATE OF SURVEY: 1962       Federal     State     County     Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
National Park Service

STREET AND NUMBER:  
801 19th Street, N.W.

CITY OR TOWN: Washington      STATE: D.C. 20006      CODE: 11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:  
COUNTY:

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ENTRY NUMBER: 70-10-02-0003  
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7 DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

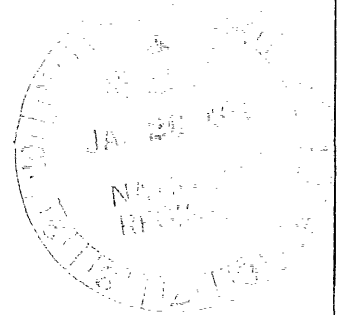
This state wayside includes a replica community house and an array of thirteen totem poles carved in Haida and Tlingit styles. Location is that of a traditional Indian campsite.

The house represents early nineteenth century aboriginal chieftains' dwellings; the low oval entrance is typical, but a carved column against the house front is a more recent innovation. The facade with stylized raven is unusual. Only a few buildings were so decorated. A man, wearing a spruce root hat with crest design, sits with cane in hand on each front corner post.

Inside is one large room with a central square firepit, around which is a planked platform that would have served as living quarters for several families, each allotted its own space but sharing the common fire. Three carved houseposts at the east end are part of the essential supporting structure.

Thirteen poles are on the site. Only one, a halibut perched horizontally atop a bare pole, is an old original. Charles Brown, of Saxman, designed and carved the houseposts, facade, entry pole (Wandering Raven), and the pole on the point in front of the house. John Wallace, of Hydaburg, created the Master Carpenter and Man Captured by Otters poles. Others (Sea Monster, Howkan Eagle, Black Fish, Raven at the Head of the Nass, Kats Bear Wife, Thunderers, and Thunderbird-Whale monuments) are copies of originals.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input checked="" 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

This replica of a nineteenth century aboriginal community house and its accompanying totem art provide, in situ, an excellent opportunity for interpretation of period social customs, technology, and art. It is one of three such structures in existence.

Almost Romanesque in bulk, massive beams and members of the dwelling give indication of a highly sophisticated indigenous culture, adept in building skills and aesthetic representation of folkways.

Although the thirteen poles are predominately copies of nineteenth century originals, they are important both as reflections of an earlier era's art and of styles of the best carvers of the 1940 period. In addition to intrinsic value, the totem poles in combination with the community house and natural setting convey an aura appropriate to historic record of Southeast Alaska Indian society, technology and art.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

1. Alaska Aboriginal Culture, Theme XVI, Indigenous Peoples and Cultures, The National Park Service (Washington: 1962).
2. Garfield, Viola E. and Lynn A. Forrest, The Wolf and the Raven: Totem Poles of Southeastern Alaska, University of Washington Press (Seattle and London: 1961).
3. Keithahn, Edward L., Monuments in Cedar: The Authentic Story of the Totem Pole, Roy Anderson (Ketchikan: 1945).
4. Wallen, Jane with Joe Clark and Wilson Duff, Totem Pole Survey of Southeastern Alaska - Report of Field Survey and Follow-Up Activities June - October 1969, The Alaska State Museum (Juneau: 1969).

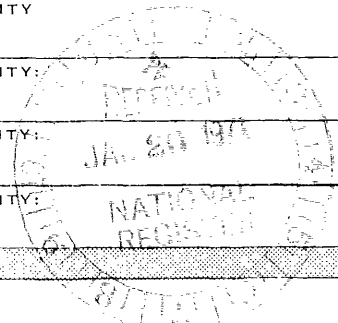
**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

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	° ' "	° ' "		55° 25' 23"	131° 46' 17"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **8.5**

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: **Dec. 23, 1970**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**323 E. Fourth Avenue**

CITY OR TOWN: **Anchorage,**      STATE: **Alaska 99501**      CODE: **02**

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION      NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

<p>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:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/>    State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>    Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name <u><i>Theodore G. Smith</i></u> <b>THEODORE G. SMITH</b></p> <p>Title <u>Director, Division of Parks</u></p> <p>Date <u>December 23, 1970</u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p>_____ <i>Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</i></p> <p>Date _____</p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p><u><i>William Hanable</i></u> <i>Keeper of The National Register</i></p> <p>Date _____</p>
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS