

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED MAY 31 1977
DATE ENTERED NOV 21 1978

**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 Coal Village Site (AHRS SITE SEL-021)
AND/OR COMMON Coal Cove

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Coal Cove
CITY, TOWN Port Graham VICINITY OF Alaska at large
STATE Alaska CODE 02 COUNTY Kenai-Cook Inlet Division CODE 120

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: None

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Captain Alan R. Nash, c/o Edward H. Schwartz Jr., The National Bank of Washington
STREET & NUMBER 619 14th Street, N.W.
CITY, TOWN Washington VICINITY OF D.C.

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. District Recorder
STREET & NUMBER Box 850
CITY, TOWN Soldotna STATE Alaska

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Alaska Heritage Resource Survey (AHRS)
DATE 1970--
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Alaska Division of Parks, 619 Warehouse Drive, Suite 210
CITY, TOWN Anchorage STATE Alaska 99501

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED
 Unexcavated

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

According to a letter written January 22, 1863, by Enoch Hjalmar Furuhjelm, the Finnish mining engineer who established and supervised operations at the Coal Village site, the area was uninhabited in July of 1855 when he and his party arrived.

Furuhjelm and his men lived in tents until October, when all but Furuhjelm moved into dugouts. The mining engineer stayed on in his tent until December, when a small house for him was completed. Near Christmas, a warehouse was finished.

Open pit mining began with the first arrivals in 1855, while in 1857 a water-raising and discharging shaft was installed. In 1858, structures for the 40 horse power steam engine were completed, as were employee quarters. Furuhjelm noted in his January 1863 letter:

in 1859, when my brother Johan Hampus Furuhjelm became governor of Alaska, my report on the four years of work showed that the village contained a church, 20 various-sized dwellings, a large warehouse, two stables, an engine lathe, a sawmill, a blacksmith's shop, the mine super-structure, a kitchen, a small foundry, and some sheds;

The coal underneath this extensive settlement was found beginning with an upper layer nine to twelve feet thick at a depth of fifty to sixty feet. The initial open pit work was soon replaced with vertical shafts.

In 1860, fire destroyed the steam engine structure. No subsequent contemporary physical descriptions of the property have been found, but it is reported that in 1865 when the site was abandoned, some buildings were moved to other Russian American Company posts and others allowed to fall into ruin.

A U.S. Geological Survey geologist who visited the site in 1904 reported ruins of several buildings identified as blacksmith shop, tool house, church, cook house, and barracks of log. Hand tools, machinery, remains of a stone dock, and an abandoned mine were found.

A 1975 visit to the site, which sits atop an approximately 70 foot bench looking east to Kachemak Bay and south to Coal Cove, revealed a rather flat area covered with grass in its open areas. Much of the tract, however, has large spruce under which is deep moss with frequent patches of devil's club and berry bushes.

A survey beginning at the eastern limit of the site area as defined on the attached map located foundations of a rather large structure--approximately 18' x 20' in the approximate location of the building shown at the eastern-most limit of the attached 1860 drawing. Immediately to the north of these foundations were indications of other structures, but their plan and size were obscured by deep grass.

Between these locations and the area directly above the mine entrance shown in the drawing, many irregular depressions of unknown origin were found. Immediately above and to the north of the mine entrance at the top of the bench, a deep hole which may be the remains of a vertical shaft or open pit was found.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES July 1855-1865 BUILDER/ARCHITECT E.H. Furuhjelm
Established/Abandoned

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Significance

Coal Village Site, location of Russian mining activity on Kachemak Bay, is associated with attempts of the Russian American Company to diversify its exploitation of Alaska's resources and, in part, to make the colony self-sustaining. The priority placed on this effort is evidenced by the fact that during its existence, Coal Village was the third largest settlement in Russian America. Had the project been economically rewarding, it might have dramatically increased Russia's reluctance to relinquish her North Pacific colony; or, made that colony much more attractive to the United States' chief competitor to be Russia's successor--Great Britain.

During its active period, however, the mine on Coal Cove only supplied fuel for Russian American Company steamers and for an unsuccessful attempt to market its product in California.

Today, only structure foundations, remnants of a railway used in mine operations, and evidences of open pit and vertical shafts are visible on the flat, heavily vegetated bench looking east to Kachemak Bay and south to Coal Cove. Privately owned, the site is accessible by boat or float plane, but is not currently occupied.

Historical Background

Europeans first became aware of coal in the vicinity of Coal Cove when English voyager Nathaniel Portlock stopped here in 1786. Samples of the coal were taken aboard Portlock's ship and found to burn well. Nine years later, in 1795, Alexander Baranov, then chief factor for the Shelikov-Golikov Trading Company's Alaskan activities, experimented with coal from the same locality, possibly for use in smelters. In 1850, mining engineer (or as he was then called, geonost) Peter Doroshin, charged by the Russian American Company with finding exploitable Alaskan resources with other than furs, examined coal seams at Coal Cove. In this same investigation, Kachemak Bay, Kanikagluk Bay, Unga, Port Moller, Cape Lisburne, Korovin Bay, Sitka, Kotznahoo Inlet; but on his return to Russia in 1853, urged the Company to begin mining operations at Coal Cove.

Persuaded by Doroshin's recommendations, requirements of the Company's new steamers for coal, and a possible market in San Francisco, the Company hired Enoch Hjalmar Furuhjelm to establish and supervise the operation. The Finnish engineer was brother to Hampus Furuhjelm, already employed by the Company and to become Governor in 1859-1863.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Fedorova, Svetlana G., The Russian Population in Alaska and California Late 18th Century--1867, Richard A. Pierce and Alton S. Donnelly, eds. and trans., The Limestone Press, Kingston Ontario, Canada, 1973.

Furuhjelm, Enoch Hjalmar, letter of January 22, 1863, to an unknown uncle, appearing in "The Russian Coal Mine on the Kenai" by Richard A. Pierce, The Alaska Journal, Vol. 5, No. 2, Spring 1975, 104-108.

-continued-

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 65.1
 UTM REFERENCES

A	0,5	5 6,2 2,5,0	6,5 8,4 8,5,0	A-B	0,5	5 6,2 ⁹⁵⁰ 2,5,0	6,5 8,4 8,5,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	0,5	5 6,2 2,5,0	6,5 8,4 4,5,0	B-D	0,5	5 6,2 9,5,0	6,5 8,4 4,5,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

From the west end of the beach at Coal Cove, Port Graham, Kachemak Bay, Cook Inlet, east to the unnamed stream shown on U.S. Geological Survey map Seldovia (B-6), Alaska, 1963, 1:63, 360 including the area inland from the beach to a distance of approximately fifty yards, not to exceed boundaries of the property known as U.S. Coal Survey 315.

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 Kennedy

ORGANIZATION

Alaska Division of Parks

DATE

June 12, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

619 Warehouse Drive, Suite 210

TELEPHONE

(907) 274-4676

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

William Shanahan

TITLE

Deputy SHPO

DATE

5/26/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
 ATTEST *Bill Labovich*
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE *11/21/78*
 FEDERAL REGISTER
 DATE *Nov 20, 1978*

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Coal Village Site, Alaska

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 1 of 1

To the east on top of the bench, a small creek (not shown on the attached map) runs to the edge of the bench and drops to the beach on Coal Cove. Immediately to the east of this creek at the edge of the bench, foundations of another structure were located. A few yards to the east of these, railway tracks twenty-one inches apart and one inch high were found. Beginning in a depression on the edge of the bench that may be the remains of the incline shown in the 1860 drawing, the tracks appeared to run to the east and north through several deep holes that may be evidence of the open pits Furuhjelm described. Just before evidence of the tracks disappears in a final hole, a small midden with fire cracked rock, shells, cartridge cases, a modern debris, including clothing remnants, was found. This concluded the evidences from the Russian era located.

No current use of the property was noted, although a twelve by six log cabin with collapsed roof that does not contribute to the site's historical significance was found to the east of the mine entrance and some distance north of the edge of the bench. Bottles from the modern era, fifty-five gallon drums, and other debris indicated occupancy within the past twenty-five years. Also, outside the extreme eastern limits of the site, an otter trap was found.

Legal description: U.S. Coal Survey 315.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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In the spring of 1855, the Company bought Cyane in San Francisco, and Enoch Furuhjelm, together with the necessary mining machinery, traveled aboard her first to Sitka, then to Kenai, and finally to the site of what was to become Coal Village. His party consisted of himself, two German coal miners, a store keeper, surgeon's aide, a petty officer, fifteen army regulars, and twenty-five laborers. Among the latter were Russians, Finns, Yakuts, and Koniag. According to a January 22, 1863, letter written by Furuhjelm:

The soldiers hardly knew how to use an axe, and most of the other company workmen were hard-drinking good-for-nothings that the Company had enticed to come from St. Petersburg and Siberia to the colony.

The party arrived at Coal Cove in July of 1855. The two German miners started to open the coal layer, while the Finnish engineer busied himself with settling his men in tents and finding a suitable village site.

Early in the spring of 1856, Company vessel Astoria arrived to take on the first shipment of coal, with a ship from California following in May. Building operations stopped while Furuhjelm and his men worked to provide eight hundred tons for coal for shipment to California. This was the only coal sent there, for as the Finnish engineer was to note in 1863, the Company was too late. A demand for the fuel had arisen in California in 1850, but by the time the Company was able to supply it, alternative sources had been found.

Even though the California market was not rewarding, 2,760 tons of coal were mined from 1857 to 1860 and used in Company steamers and in workshops at Sitka. When Furuhjelm left in 1862, he was able to look back and say (in his 1863 letter):

I have further civilization and started a new industry (rational mining) in the colonies. On the spot where in 1855 I had to clear a space for my tent there is now a beautiful village with 80 to 90 inhabitants, and a steam engine indicates that there is industry there, too. In vain I tried to introduce farming there; neither barley nor rye ripened in time. On the other hand root plants thrived excellently and gave big crops without any fertilizer.

Two years after this optimistic report, however, Coal Village was abandoned by the Russian American Company, one of several unsuccessful efforts to diversify its economic activities in Alaska and a forerunner of abortive attempts to exploit Alaska's coal resources in the American period.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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Specific reasons for failure of the Coal Village project were proposed by Alaskan historian Frank A. Golder in 1916 and included the following. First, and according to Golder, foremost, a Company preoccupation with furs to the exclusion of other resources. Second, an objective of immediate profit, as contrasted with long range investment to develop the mining potential. Third, mining costs and market conditions. For while the Coal Cove coal cost about \$15 a ton to mine, it sold for only \$1.75 a ton on the San Francisco market; and on the only other likely market, Hong Kqng, Japanese coal sold at \$5, Australian at \$8, and English at \$15. Fourth, management. Siberian soldiers who made up the bulk of the work force were untrained at arrival in Coal Cove and by the time they became proficient as miners, they would return to Siberia. This problem was complicated by a lack of motivation, for the soldiers were paid by the day, not by the ton, and had no incentive to greater production.

Furuhjelm, at least, felt that these disadvantages could be overcome. After the 1860 fire, he negotiated from the Russian American Company rights to all underground resources of Alaska for seven years, the right to sell products and buy goods where he pleased, not to pay duty, hire whomever he chose, use the Company flag, cut timber and use streams. In return, he was to pay, beginning with the second year, 5% of exported products, with these fees to increase 1% per year. The lease was concluded in early 1863, but not put into effect because of uncertainty about renewal of the Company's charter.

Abandonment of the site in 1865 ended attempts of the Russian American Company to exploit the coal resources of Alaska, and the beginning of active United States' negotiations for purchase ended Furuhjelm's project to exploit the other subsurface resources.

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Coal Village Site, Alaska

CONTINUATION SHEET

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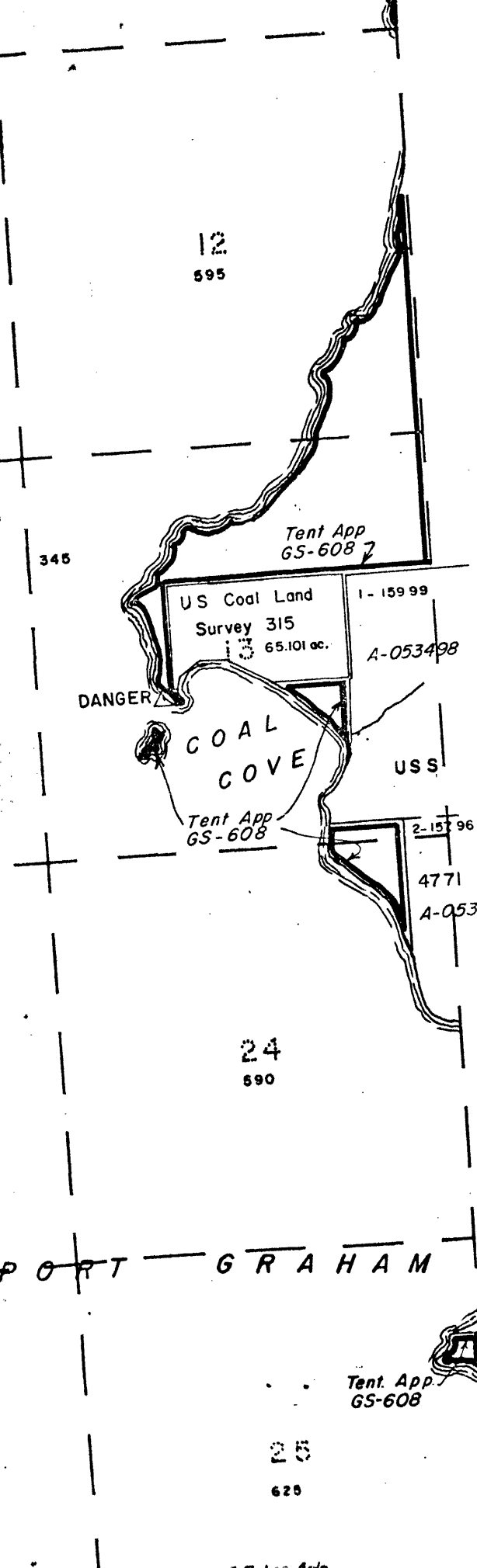
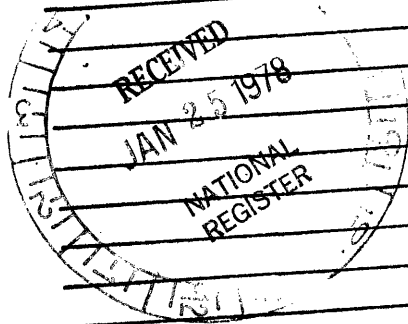
Golder, F. A., "Mining in Alaska Before 1867", in Washington Historical Quarterly, Vol. 7, No. 3, July 1916, 223-238.

Moffitt, F. H. and R. W. Stone, Mineral Resources of the Kenai Peninsula, U.S. Geological Survey Bulletin 277, Washington, 1906.

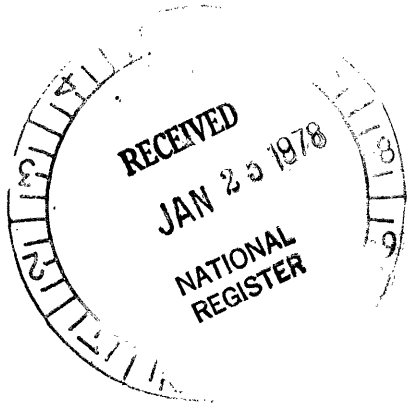
OTHER ACTIONS AFFECTING DISPOSAL
USE OF STATE LANDS.

DRAWN FROM ADL PROT. S-16-12 APPVD 10/4/78
USGS MAP SELDOVIA B-6 (1953)

USS 4771 Plat Area



NOV 21 1978



PLAT
OF
U. S. COAL LAND SURVEY No. 315

(Under Act of Congress approved April 28, 1904
Amendatory of the Act of June 6, 1900.)

OF THE
COAL CLAIM

OF
W. G. Whorf

KNOWN AS THE

PORT GRAHAM COAL CLAIM

SITUATE ON UNSURVEYED PUBLIC
LAND IN

COOK INLET RECORDING DISTRICT

DISTRICT OF ALASKA

SCALE FOUR CHAINS TO AN INCH

VARIATION 22° 30' E.

AREA 65.101 ACRES

AS SURVEYED BY
Charles S. Hubbell
U. S. Deputy Surveyor

APRIL 23-25 1908

U. S. SURVEYOR GENERAL'S CERTIFICATE

Juneau, Sitka, Alaska, August 10, 1908
The original field notes of the survey of the Coal Claim of
W. G. Whorf

known as the Port Graham Coal Claim,
situate on unsurveyed public land in Cook Inlet

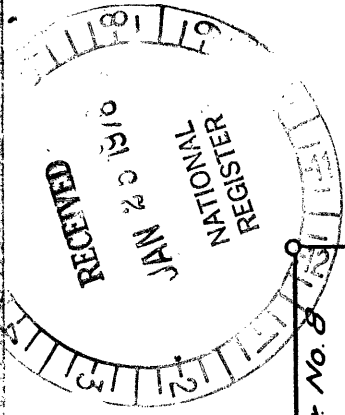
Recording District, District of Alaska, and
designated by me as U. S. Coal Land Survey No. 315
from which this plat has been made, have been examined and
approved, and are on file in this office; and I hereby certify
that they furnish such an accurate description of said claim

UNSURVEYED PUBLIC LAND

N 20.52 CHS.

To S.E. 1/4 Sec. 6, T. 5, R. 29, S. 12, 1908
IC LAND

UNSURVEYED PUBLIC LAND



UNSURVEYED PUBLIC LAND

Cor. No. 8

W 35.12 Chs.

Cor. No. 9

PORT GRAHAM COAL CLAIM
AREA 65.101 ACRES.

N 20.52 Chs.

E 14.65 Chs. Cor. No. 7

To Section 10 S. 1290 Chs.

UNSURVEYED PUBLIC LAND

S 20.48 Chs.

N 55.02 E 101.16 Chs.

Log cabin

W.C. Cor. 4

W.C. Cor. 5

Cor. No. 5

Cor. No. 3

Cor. No. 2

W.C. Cor. 3

W.C. Cor. 2

W.C. Cor. 1

W.C. Cor. 6

W.C. Cor. 7

W.C. Cor. 8

W.C. Cor. 9

W.C. Cor. 10

W.C. Cor. 11

W.C. Cor. 12

W.C. Cor. 13

W.C. Cor. 14

W.C. Cor. 15

PORT GRAHAM

Cor. No. 1

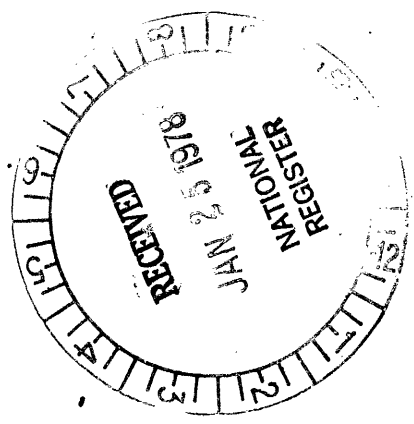
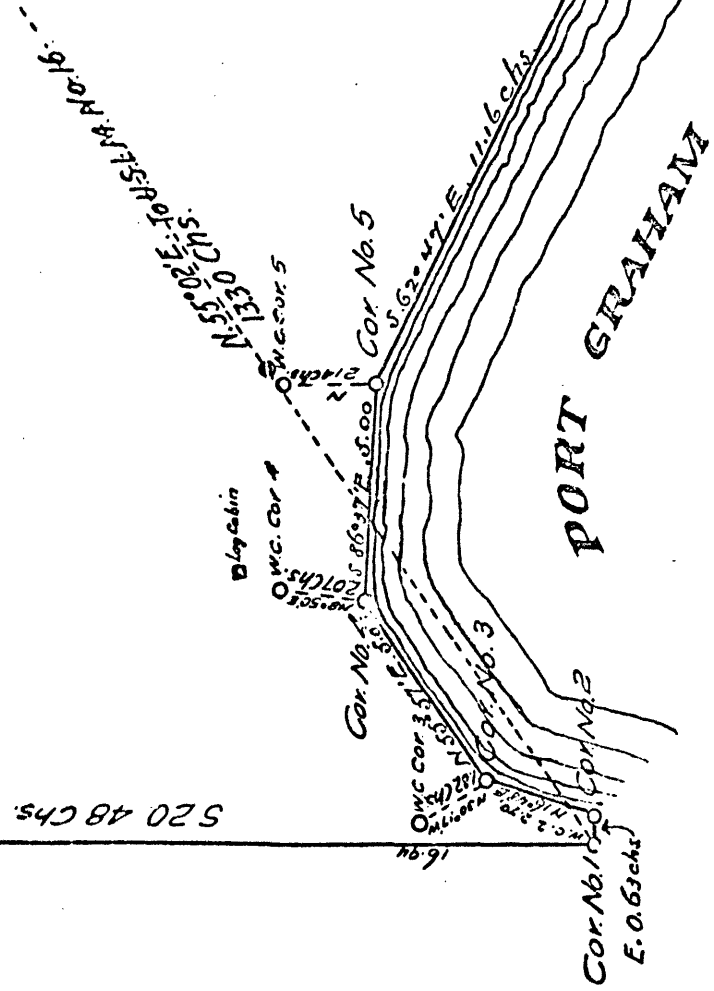
E. 0.63 Chs.

UNSURVEYED PUBL

S 20 48 Chs.

AREA 65.101 ACRES

1978



MEANDER TABLE

Cor.	To Cor.	Course	Chains
"	2	"	2.70 "
"	3	N 62° 48' E	5.00 "
"	4	N 55° 57' E	5.00 "
"	5	S 86° 37' E	11.16 "
"	6	S 62° 47' E	