## CONFIRMATION OF CONSENTS NOMINATION

Form 10-300  UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
(July 1969)  
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM  
(Type all entries – complete applicable sections)

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

### 3. CLASSIFICATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
<th>OWNERSHIP</th>
<th>STATUS</th>
<th>ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>District</td>
<td>Public</td>
<td>□ Occupied</td>
<td>□ Restricted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site</td>
<td>Public</td>
<td>□ Unoccupied</td>
<td>□ Unrestricted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Structure</td>
<td>Public Acquisition</td>
<td>□ In Process</td>
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<tr>
<td>Object</td>
<td>Public Both</td>
<td>□ Being Considered</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate):**

- □ Agricultural
- □ Commercial
- □ Educational
- □ Entertainment
- □ Government
- □ Industrial
- □ Military
- □ Museum
- □ Private Residence
- □ Religious
- □ Scientific
- □ Park
- □ Other (Specify)  

**Transportation**  
□ Yes
□ No

**Comments**  

### 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 CODE:**  
Alaska 99501 02

### 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

**COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:**  
District Recorder  
**STREET AND NUMBER:**  
Box 707  
**CITY OR TOWN:**  
Ketchikan  
**STATE CODE:**  
Alaska 99901 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  
**DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:**  
National Park Service  
**STREET AND NUMBER:**  
801 19th Street, N.W.  
**CITY OR TOWN:**  
Washington  
**STATE CODE:**  
D.C. 20006 11
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.
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.
9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES


10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CORNER</th>
<th>LATITUDE</th>
<th>LONGITUDE</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>NE</td>
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<td>SW</td>
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LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LATITUDE</th>
<th>LONGITUDE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>35° 25' 23&quot;</td>
<td>131° 46' 17&quot;</td>
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</table>

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 8.5

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATE</th>
<th>CODE</th>
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11. FORM PREPARED BY

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

ORGANIZATION
Alaska Division of Parks

STREET AND NUMBER:
323 E. Fourth Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:
Anchorage,

STATE CODE: Alaska 99501

12. STATE LIASON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date

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 [x] Local [ ]

Name
THEODORE G. SMITH

Title
Director, Division of Parks

Date
December 23, 1970