Theme: 1

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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
Anangula Archaeological Site (AHRS SAM-012)
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION
STREET & NUMBER
Ananiuliak Island
CITY, TOWN
Nikolski
STATE
Alaska
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
X NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CODE COUNTY
02 Aleutian Islands Div.

3 CLASSIFICATION
CATEGORY
_ DISTRICT
_ BUILDING(S)
_ STRUCTURE
X SITE
_ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP
X PUBLIC
_ PRIVATE
_ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION
_ IN PROCESS
_ BEING CONSIDERED

PRESENT USE
_ AGRICULTURE
_ COMMERCIAL
_ EDUCATIONAL
_ ENTERTAINMENT
_ GOVERNMENT
_ INDUSTRIAL
_ MILITARY
_ TRANSPORTATION
_ SCIENTIFIC

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY
NAME
Aleutian National Wildlife Refuge
STREET & NUMBER
P. O. Box 5251
CITY, TOWN
Adak
STATE
Alaska
VICINITY OF
98791

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Alaska State Office
U.S. Bureau of Land Management
STREET & NUMBER
555 Cordova Street
CITY, TOWN
Anchorage
STATE
Alaska

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
TITLE
Alaska Heritage Resource Survey (AHRS)
DATE
June 9, 1971
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
Alaska Division of Parks, 323 East 4 Avenue
CITY, TOWN
Anchorage
STATE
Alaska
Anangula is located on a small island (Ananiuliak) off the southwestern tip of Umnak and is separated from the National Landmark of Chaluka by a mere 4.5 miles geographically but over 4,000 years temporally. It is within the Aleutian Islands which during the Pleistocene formed the southern margin of the Bering Land Bridge and of that entire landmass, this coasted area maintained the most constant climate and best year around food supply (Black 1974a: 127). Occupied during a time of rapidly rising sea level from a low of perhaps -100 meters, it was not destroyed by the sea owing to a unique local geographic situation. Strandflats, which provide abundant food resources of invertebrates making up the great midden accumulations of more recent Aleutian sites, are felt to have been in an initial stage of formation when Anangula was occupied (Black 1974b: 280).

At this time, the village of Anangula was possibly still connected to Umnak Island, forming the northern cape of Nikolski Bay and overlooking the first deep, ice free pass between the Bering Sea and the Pacific Ocean. The nutrient-rich waters provided a lush habitat for sea mammals including whales, fish and birds, while rich salmon streams existed in the vicinity. Immediately below and above the archaeological remains, which are entirely lithic, are ash falls, demonstrating that active volcanic eruptions played a role in the life of the ancient inhabitants. Black (1974a: 127) suggests that one of the catastrophic eruptions of Okmok Volcanoe may have induced the Aleuts of Anangula to migrate west and thus begin the peopling of the central Aleutians.

Site Type: Based on the clustering houses, concentration of tools, and other factors it is suggested that this site represented a large and permanent village (Aigner 1974: 15).

Cultural Group: No data from physical anthropology nor linguistics can be applied in this instance. It seems most reasonable on the basis of geographic location to assign Anangula to ancestral Aleuts.

Dates of Occupations: A large cluster of radiocarbon dates places this site at c. 8400 years ago. Although the extensive artifact count might argue for a long period of occupation, volcanic evidence and the thin cultural stratum argue for a relatively brief occupation of from c. 500 years (Aigner 1974: 15) to less than 100 years (Black 1974b: 269).

Present Condition: Coastal erosion has caused some destruction on both north and south shores but the estimated extent is still some 75-100 by 300-400 meters consisting of an occupational stratum commonly 1-3 cm thick at a depth of over two meters below the surface.
SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD
- PREHISTORIC
- 1400-1499
- 1500-1599
- 1600-1699
- 1700-1799
- 1800-1899
- 1900-

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW
- ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC
- ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC
- AGRICULTURE
- ARCHITECTURE
- ART
- COMMERCE
- COMMUNICATIONS
- COMMUNITY PLANNING
- CONSERVATION
- ECONOMICS
- EDUCATION
- ENGINEERING
- EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT
- INDUSTRY
- INVENTION
- LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
- LAW
- LITERATURE
- MILITARY
- MUSIC
- PHILOSOPHY
- POLITICS/GOVERNMENT
- RELIGION
- SCIENCE
- SCULPTURE
- SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
- THEATER
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER (SPECIFY)

SPECIFIC DATES 6400 B.C.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Significance

Anangula is the oldest coastal site known for Beringia as of 1975, dating to c. 8400 radiocarbon years ago. The site was occupied during the Hypsithermal, a period of warmer and drier climate than prevails at present, and just prior to a plus two meter high stand of sea level between 8000 and 3000 years ago. Most, and possible all, other archaeological sites located on the coast and occupied before 8000 B.P. have thus been lost by erosion.

Ananiuliak Island is under the control of the Aleutian Nat'l Wildlife Refuge with public access unrestricted. Ananiuliak Island is located four and one half miles northwest of the village of Nikolski.

Background

Lamellar flakes and polyhedral cores found from a surface collection in 1938 led, after the recovery of similar artifact types in the Denbigh Flint complex levels at Iyatayet, to further investigations (Laughlin & Marsh 1954) but it was not until 1962 that the deeply buried cultural layer was located and one radiocarbon date obtained which hinted at great age (McCartney & Turner 1966). In 1969 a multidisciplinary project designed to study the Aleut population and its adaptation to this ecosystem was initiated to cover Nikolski Bay's 8000 year history to the present day. This study included geology and other disciplines relevant to the period of the Bering Land Bridge (Aigner 1974).

This site is significant in terms of New World Origins. The recovered lithic materials bear little resemblance to contemporaneous sites in the interior of Alaska and elsewhere. Early regional diversity in implement manufacture suggests that some of the inhabitants of Beringia were adapted to interior hunting and others to maritime hunting with Anangula exemplifying the latter. The Aleuts were able to maintain continuity in subsistence activities because the coastal ecosystem did not change drastically (except for its increase in total area) during the Holocene.
### MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Aigner, Jean S.

Black, Robert F.
1974a "Geology and Ancient Aleuts, Amchitka and Umnak Islands, Aleutians."

### GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY</th>
<th>47</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**UTM REFERENCES**

```
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
A 0 2 6 3 9 6 0 7 4 0 7 9
B 0 2 6 1 4 0 6 5 4 1 5 8 7 2
C 0 2 6 4 0 2 4 3 5 1 7 3 2 9 2
D 0 2 6 3 9 5 1 9 5 1 8 7 3 8 2 1 8
```

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

The south end of Ananiuliak Island is within the boundary as indicated on the enclosed map. The four corners of the property lie offshore in Nikolski Bay.

---

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATE</th>
<th>CODE</th>
<th>COUNTY</th>
<th>CODE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>STATE</td>
<td>CODE</td>
<td>COUNTY</td>
<td>CODE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**FORM PREPARED BY**

**NAME / TITLE**

Karen Wood Workman, State Archaeologist

**ORGANIZATION**

Alaska Division of Parks

**STREET & NUMBER**

323 East 4 Avenue

**TELEPHONE**

(907) 272-4401

**CITY OR TOWN**

Anchorage

**STATE**

Alaska

---

**STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NATIONAL</th>
<th>STATE</th>
<th>LOCAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

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.

**FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE**

**TITLE**

**DATE**

---

**FOR NPS USE ONLY**

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

**DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

**ATTEST:**

**KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER**

---
The unique lithic technology yields information on manufacturing procedures and some biological information such as determination of right or left handedness in the making of burins. More than 30,000 artifacts have been recovered and in certain areas artifact density is c. 500 per cubic meter. Eight apparently contemporaneous houses have been sampled or excavated completely. The houses were semi-subterranean, apparently single family, c. 3 x 5.5 meters, with root entry and subfloor storage pits.

Preservation of the site will be served best by scientific excavation. The Ananiuliak Island Archaeological District was entered in the National Register March 24, 1972.
Anangula Archaeological Site (AHRS SAM-012)

ARCTIC ANTHROPOLOGY 11(2): 126-140.


Laughlin, William S. and G. H. Marsh

McCortney, Allen P. & Christy G. Turner II