

CULTURAL RESOURCES

III. C. 3. Cultural Resources

3. Cultural Resources:

Prehistoric Record

Kodiak Island Archipelago: Archeological research in the Kodiak Island area has revealed an extensive prehistoric occupation, extending nearly 6,000 years into the past. This archeological sequence represents a succession of maritime hunting and food gathering cultures. The sequence can be outlined as follows:

- Koniag Phase
 - A.D. 800-1300 to contact
- Kachemak Tradition
 - 1500 B.C. to A.D. 1000
 - Three Saints Bay Phase
 - Old Kiavak Phase
- Ocean Bay II Phase
 - 4600 B.C.
- Ocean Bay I Phase
 - 6500 to 6000 B.C.

The Ocean Bay I Phase is represented by test excavations at Ocean Bay and at the mouth of the Afognak River and on the Alaska Peninsula. The salient feature of this phase is an overwhelming reliance on flaked stone.

The Ocean Bay II Phase follows directly from Ocean Bay I. It is characterized by a great amount of stone flaking which appears to have replaced the slate working of the previous Ocean Bay I phase. The Ocean Bay II inventory emphasizes pointed implements including numerous long spear or lance points, and large, broad-stemmed and unstemmed double-edged knives.

The Kachemak Tradition follows the Ocean Bay Tradition. The question of continuity between these two traditions is at present unresolved, but it is thought to have involved the influence of new people due to the considerable number of differences between the assemblages. The Kachemak Tradition consists of a series of sequential phases or stages which became progressively more elaborate through two and a half millenia. The earliest Kachemak people had a simple implement kit. They flaked and ground stone, but their techniques and styles differed from those of the preceding tradition. The most distinctive implements of the early phase include a plummet-style stone weight grooved about one end, an archaic-appearing toggle harpoon head and labrets. Later in the first to second millenium B.C. (during the Old Kiavak Phase), the traditional material culture became more complex, but there was little elaboration of implements and art. Late Kachemak people developed both personal adornment and art, indicated by beads, pendants, figurines, labrets, incised designs on ground slate points, and massive pecked stone lamps with carved human and animal figures. They left evidence of their varied practices of treatment of the dead, including cut and drilled human bones, artificial eyes, and probable cannibalism.

Directly following the Kachemak Tradition is the Koniag Phase. The Koniag culture has been traced to the historic contact horizon of the Koniag Eskimo. The major differences between the implements of the Koniag and preceding Kachemak people are at the attribute stylistic level.

The changes that took place between the Koniag Phase and Kachemak Tradition appear to be too extensive to be explained simply as the result of ongoing change and development. These changes are interpreted as being due to a strong influence from an outside area, possibly involving some population movement, which appears to have resulted in a reworking of cultural values (Clark, 1965, 1966, 1974, 1975a, and b).

Because of the maritime orientation of the occupants of the Kodiak area, most habitation sites are located at the edge of the sea, usually on low, unconsolidated deposits. Many sites are undergoing marine erosion, resulting from subsidence that has followed several major earthquakes.

Most prehistoric sites on Kodiak are found close to the water's edge in projected areas where the inhabitants could pursue sea mammals, catch birds, fish in the ocean, and gather shellfish. Sites are occasionally located inland along major spawning streams. Sites are also occasionally found on offshore rocks and islets which served as refuges or "fortresses."

Alaska Peninsula: Archeological research on the northern Pacific shore of the Alaska Peninsula indicates that the coast of the Shelikof Strait/Katmai National Monument harbors an archeological sequence that spans several millenia, nearly 6,000 years. This sequence appears to be substantially different from that of the interior and west coast of the peninsula. The 6,000-year sequence on the Pacific shore of the Alaska Peninsula shows many similarities to the Kodiak prehistoric record. At certain times the sequences are closely related, although at other times there is a considerable amount of divergence.

The two separate archeological sequences developed for the northern Alaska Peninsula are thought to represent separate cultures, each having adapted to a distinctive ecological zone. Archeological sites on the Pacific shore appear to be situated to facilitate the hunting of sea mammals. This coast has an abundant sea mammal resource, and its fjorded, ice-free shore made it an ideal habitation area for prehistoric hunters. In contrast, the northwest coast of the peninsula, a major salmon breeding system, is the southernmost area that receives the winter drift-ice from the Bering Sea.

The archeological sequence for the Pacific coast of the northern Alaska Peninsula has been formulated as follows:

- Kukak Mound Phase
 - A.D. 1000 - 1400
- Kukak Beach Phase
 - A.D. 500 - 1000
- Takli Cottonwood Phase
 - A.D. 200 - 500
- Takli Birch Phase
 - 1500 - 800 B.C.
- Takli Alder Phase
 - 4000 - 3000 B.C.

This sequence is based on the excavation of several sites at Kukak Bay and Takli Island. All of the sites are located on the coast and consist of middens and house depressions. Artifact assemblages in the earlier phases are characterized by a predominance of chipped stone artifacts.

In the earlier phases, there appears to be little correspondence between assemblages from the Naknek drainage and the Pacific coast of the Alaska Peninsula. However, by A.D. 500 there appeared to be such great similarity between the Brooks River Falls and Kukak Beach assemblages, and it is thought the people of the Naknek drainage had actually taken up residence on the Pacific Coast. This continuity is also seen to a much lesser degree between the Brooks River Wier and Takli Cottonwood phases. While there continues to be a similarity in sequences across the Alaska Peninsula, this does not extend across Shelikof Strait to Kodiak Island until the beginning of the Koniag tradition (see fig. II.F.3.-1; Dumond, 1971; Clark, 1963).

The east side of the Cook Inlet region was inhabited by people coming across from the Alaska Peninsula, but also received immigration from Athabaskan people in the Alaska mainland coming down the Kenai Peninsula. The region has numerous cultural resources. The best known are in the vicinity of Kachemak Bay and the Kenai Peninsula. These resources are both prehistoric and historic.

Historic Period: The historic period of Kodiak began in 1784 when the Russian fur post was founded at Three Saints Bay by Gregor Shelekov.

Koniag habitat and lifeway are considerably different from the more northerly Eskimo groups. The Koniag have adapted to a rich environment with a relatively temperate climate. They subsisted primarily on sea mammals, but also utilized anadromous fish and depended on the littoral zone for a variety of invertebrates. Land hunting did not play a significant role in their economy.

The seasonal round of the Koniag was reflective of their maritime orientation. Their main or winter village sites were located in coves or on the protected sides of small islands situated in the outer parts of large bays. One of the more important considerations in the location of a village was the proximity of shallow waters with a rich intertidal zone. In the summer the Koniag moved to salmon fishing camps, usually at streams that had runs of several species of salmon. At certain seasons, small family groups or men only moved to small hunting camps. The settlement types of the Koniag therefore were main villages (winter, permanent, or year-round villages), salmon fishing camps (sometimes combined with winter villages), hunting camps, and refuges or defensive sites (Clark, 1974a).

Koniag houses, or barabaras, were well adapted to their environment and are one of the most common indicators of both historic and prehistoric occupation of an area. Remains of Koniag villages are found in the form of shallow depressions and occasionally even surface timbers throughout the Kodiak Island Archipelago (AEIDC, 1975).

National Register of Historic Places: Sites in the western Gulf of Alaska have been identified by the State Historic Preservation Officer as on or eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Parks, Heritage Resource Survey (1980) for other sites in process. A complete computer list is available at the state Historic Preservation Office. Card files are available for detailed bibliography of each site. These are:

- (a) Selenie Lagoon Sel-064
- (b) AHRS Site Kod 207 (Russian Kiln Site)
- (c) Erskine House Kod-123 (Baranof Warehouse)
- (d) Fort Abercrombie State Historic Site Kod-137
- (e) Fort Tidball Historic Site
- (f) Three Saints Bay Kod-124 Archeological District
- (g) Holy Resurrection Church Kod-195
- (h) Afognak Archeological District AFG-001
- (i) Archeological Site AFG-001
- (j) Archeological Site 49 MK 10
- (k) Kaguyak Village Site AFG-043
- (l) Kukak Village Site
- (m) Takli Island Archeological District
- (n) Alaska Heritages, RS, KOD-011

Sites included on the National Register of Historic Places are protected by the Archeological Resources Protection Act of 1979, which prohibits the indiscriminate damaging or destruction of the nation's cultural resources. AHRS Site Kod, 207 or the Russian Kiln, Site is located on Long Island off the eastshore of Kodiak Island. This is one of the few historic sites associated with brickmaking which was a subsidiary industry of the Russian American Company. The 3,000 to 6,000 bricks that were produced annually were used as a ballast in the company's ships, in the construction of stoves used to heat employee quarters, and in bathhouses. This site is considered to be significant for its contribution to the industrial history of Alaska. Due to subsidence from the 1964 earthquake, the site is eroding from tidal erosion, and brick debris is scattered along the beach (ADNR, 1974).

Afognak Archeological District is located on the southeastern shore of Afognak Island at the mouth of the Afognak River. The district has been occupied for the past 6,000 years and has contributed greatly to the understanding of

the prehistory of the Kodiak Island archipelago. Afognak Village was inhabited until the 1964 earthquake and its remains consist of houses, house remains, and cemeteries. Several of the earlier Koniag phase middens are eroding into the ocean and river (ADNR, 1974).

Archeological Site 49 MK 10 is located at the mouth of the Dakovak River on the Pacific shore of Katmai National Monument. The site consists of 12 house depressions and a midden deposit which lie on sandy beach ridges on both sides of the Dakovak River. Although the site has not yet been tested, it is thought to be of prehistoric occupation and has the potential of contributing to knowledge of the prehistory of the northern Pacific coast of the Alaska Peninsula. This site is especially significant because it is the only site in the area which appears to be located to take advantage of a salmon stream; other known sites are situated to exploit principally maritime and littoral resources (ADNR, 1974).

Kaguyak Village Site is located on the Pacific shore of the Alaska Peninsula in Katmai National Monument. The remains of the village are scattered along two beach ridges for at least 150 m and are from 20 to 30 feet above sea level. Rectangular, semi-subterranean, multiple-room Eskimo house depressions and a Russian Orthodox Church and graveyard represent a historic occupation of the site. It is known from historical documents the village was inhabited in 1835 and was abandoned in 1912 when Mt. Katmai erupted. It is thought the village was established by the Russian American Company to house native hunters at a locale where they could easily exploit the rich sea otter population. The presence of the church suggests the Russians attached some significance to the village. An older prehistoric occupation of the site is indicated by numerous single room, oval-shaped house depressions, and the remains of a kashim or communal structure (ADNR, 1974).

Kukak Village Site is located at the entrance to Kukak Bay on the Pacific shore of the Alaska Peninsula in Katmai National Monument. The site lies on a low beach terrace and consists of at least 89 house depressions and two midden deposits. This village is known to have been occupied in 1835 and was abandoned in 1912 with the Mt. Katmai eruption. Testing of the site has resulted in the definition of four cultural components, ranging from a historic Koniag component to an unnamed component that resembles assemblages from the Takli Island Archeological District. The significance of the Kukak Village Site lies in its potential to contribute to knowledge of the prehistory of the area (ADNR, 1974).

Takli Island Archeological District consists of Takli Island and two smaller islets which lie off the Pacific shore of Katmai National Monument. The district is comprised of 11 sites which appear to be located to exploit the abundant sea mammal population. The substantial semi-subterranean houses suggest that the area received regular seasonal use. Surveying and testing have been done in the district, and

the sites are thought to represent three phases, Takli Alder, Birch, and Cottonwood, which date roughly from 4,000 B.C. to A.D. 500. This site will contribute to knowledge of the early prehistoric occupation of the area. The site is exposed to tidal erosion, and several sites are currently being eroded (ADNR, 1974).

Historic sites on the National Register in the Cook Inlet region are KEN-036 Russian Orthodox Church, KEN-043 Moose River, SEL-001 Yukon Island, SEL-022 Coal Village, SEL-033 Chugachik Island, SEL-041 Fox Farm, and SEL-064 Selenie Lagoon. The Anchorage area, which has 259 historic sites and some archeological sites, will be affected by population increase more than by water and environmental causes. These are listed by reference to ANC-001 to 251 on the Heritage Resource File, Division of Park, file computer programs. Sixteen of these are National Register sites, all of which date after 1800.

Under section 14(h)(1) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, each regional corporation may apply for the conveyance of historic and cemetery sites. Cook Inlet Region, Inc., Chugach Natives, Inc., and Koniag, Inc., have applied for a number of sites under this section, as can be seen in graphic 1. All sites which are transferred to the regional corporations under section 14(h)(1) will be considered as eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places, as agreed by the Department of the Interior, the National Advisory Council for Historic Preservation, and the Alaska State Historic Preservation Officer.

Marine Archeology: Eustatic sea-level changes over the past several millennia have caused the coastline of both the Kodiak Island Archipelago and the adjacent Alaska Peninsula to vary greatly. At the lower sea stands, it is possible that early peoples could have occupied lands which are presently submerged. It appears that potentially valuable archeological evidence could remain on the seafloor (USDI, 1975).

Large tidal currents in the Cook Inlet/Shelikof Strait make the probability of surviving sites underneath the water much lower than in less dynamic areas. This is discussed in more detail in the impact sections IV.A.2.j. through IV.A.6.j.

In addition to submerged archeological sites, numerous shipwrecks lie on the seafloor. In the early Russian period, an average of nine ships a year were sent out of Russia to the Aleutians and Kodiak, and three of every nine were lost. These losses were attributed to poor marine engineering coupled with unpredictable winds, frequent sea storms, and general ignorance of climatic conditions and navigational hazards in the coastal areas and shoal waters.

Historic Shipwrecks: The shipwrecks in table III.C.3.-1 in the Cook Inlet/Shelikof Strait area of the Alaska Route, C.L. Andrews, 1964 are worthy of mention as potential discoveries. The tidal currents probably have wrecked many of these, but some may remain submerged.

Table III.C.3.-1
Historic Shipwrecks

Year Lost	Name	Where Lost	Value of Hull and Cargo When Lost
1867	Bark Washington	Cook Inlet	\$ 50,000
1878	Schooner St. George	Kodiak Island	25,000
1888	Bark Julia Foard	Karluk	42,000
1890	Bark Corea	Cook Inlet	51,000
1891	Schooner Sadie F. Caller	Chignik	56,000
1895	Ship Raphael	Karluk	54,000
1895	Launch Annie May	Karluk	1,300
1898	S.S. Anita	Cook Inlet	1,000
1899	Launch Karluk	Karluk	5,250
1900	Bark Merom	Karluk	64,000
1905	Bark Servia	Karluk	205,000
1905	Gas S. Anglo Saxon	Chignik	8,000
1906	Bark Nicholas Thayer	Kodiak Island	20,000
1906	Schooner Excelsior	Nelson Lagoon	23,000
1907	Ship John Currier	Nelson Lagoon	145,000
1907	Bark Servia	Karluk	205,000
1909	S.S. Uyak	Karluk	20,000
1909	Scow Camilla A.	Chignik Bay	15,000
1910	S.S. Farallon	Iliamna Bay	80,000
1911	Ship Jabez Howes	Chignik	105,000
1911	Schooner Jessie Minor	Nelson Lagoon	12,000
1914	Bark Gay Herd	Chignik Bay	44,000