

IDT-007

MOUTH OF BIG CREEK
DOYON, LIMITED
BLM #AA-12369

CERTIFICATE OF INELIGIBILITY

MOUTH OF BIG CREEK

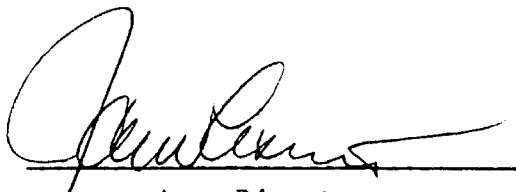
DOYON, LIMITED

BLM #AA-12369

I, Jacob Lestenkof, Area Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs, pursuant to the authority vested in me by 43 CFR 2653.5(h), hereby issue a Certificate of Ineligibility to Doyon, Limited, for Mouth of Big Creek (BLM #AA-12369) as a historical place for the following reasons:

1. Extensive field investigation by BIA personnel failed to find any evidence supporting a claim of a Native historical place.
2. The site is not associated with any event or person of known significance in the history of the Alaska Native peoples.
3. This site does not meet the criteria for selection as a Native historical place as required by 43 CFR 2653, et seq.

This certificate and accompanying report will be submitted to the Bureau of Land Management which, pursuant to 43 CFR 2653.5(k) and (l), will issue an appealable decision on the application.


Area Director

Dated: 13 Aug, 1984

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DOYON, LIMITED
BLM #AA-12369

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CLAIMS EXAMINER'S CERTIFICATE

MOUTH OF BIG CREEK

DOYON, LIMITED

BLM #AA-12369

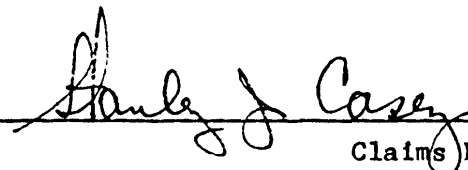
I, Stanley J. Casey, hereby certify the following to be true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief:

That I reviewed this report of the field investigation and data supplied by field investigators, archeologists, their field notes, and research;

That the conclusions contained in the Claims Examiner's report are based on an accurate analysis of my findings;

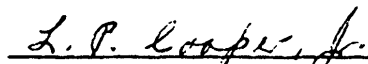
That my recommendations are valid and consistent with the guidance contained in 43 CFR 2650, et seq.

Certified this 29th day of March, 1984



Claims Examiner

Reviewed and approved by:



Claims Examining Officer

Date: 29 March, 1984

CLAIMS EXAMINER'S REPORT

FOR

MOUTH OF BIG CREEK

DOYON, LIMITED

BLM #AA-12369

I. FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Doyon, Limited, is a Native regional corporation organized in accordance with 43 CFR 2650. (Exhibit 2)
2. The Corporation authorized an individual to file its applications in accordance with 43 CFR 2650.2. (Exhibit 2)
3. The Corporation included a statement of significance in accordance with 43 CFR 2653.5(f). (Exhibit 2)
4. The site is marked on United States Geological Survey (USGS) quadrangle map, 1:63,360, Iditarod (D-1) in accordance with 43 CFR 2653.5(f). (Exhibit 1)
5. The site is not within 2 miles of the boundary of any home rule or first class city.
6. BIA field investigators examined the site in 1981. (Exhibit 1)
7. CPSU archeologists investigated the site in 1981. (Exhibit 1)
8. The Corporation, CPSU, and BIA agree on the site location.
9. Based upon field examination, research, and the CPSU report BIA has determined that Mouth of Big Creek is ineligible for certification as a historical place.

II. CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. An eligible Native regional corporation can select lands pursuant to Section 14(h)(1) of ANCSA.
2. A Native regional corporation can authorize an individual to file its applications for Section 14(h)(1) selections.
3. An application for a Section 14(h)(1) selection can be amended.
4. BIA can modify the boundaries of a cemetery site or a historical place.
5. A historical place selection in a national forest can be granted.
6. BIA can consult other Federal agencies on Section 14(h)(1) selections.
7. BIA shall confirm the existence of a cemetery site or a historical place.
8. BIA can issue a certificate of eligibility or ineligibility for a cemetery site or a historical place.

III. RECOMMENDATION

1. It is recommended that BIA issue a certificate of ineligibility for Mouth of Big Creek as a historical place for the following reasons:
 - A. Extensive field investigation by BIA personnel failed to find any evidence supporting a claim of a Native historical place.

B. The site is not associated with any event or person of known significance in the history of the Alaska Native peoples.

C. This site does not meet the criteria for selection as a Native historical place as required by 43 CFR 2653, et seq.

APPENDIX A
CERTIFICATE OF REVIEW
MOUTH OF BIG CREEK
DOYON, LIMITED
BLM #AA-12369

I, Gene A. Smerchek, certify the following Section 14(h)(1) report to be true to the best of my knowledge and belief:

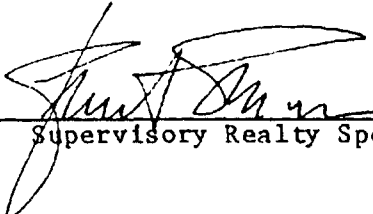
That the field investigators conducted the investigation hereinafter described;

That the report of this investigation was prepared from observations, interviews, field notes, photographs, and research before, during, and after the field examination;

That I reviewed the information hereinafter contained and found it to be an accurate report of the investigation;

That the field investigator's summary of this investigation accurately reflects the findings of the field examination required by 43 CFR 2653.5(h).

Dated: MAR 29 1984 .



Supervisory Realty Specialist

APPENDIX B
REPORT OF INVESTIGATION
FOR
MOUTH OF BIG CREEK
DOYON, LIMITED
BLM #AA-12369

I. . PURPOSE AND AUTHORITY

The purpose of this report is to set forth investigative findings from the ANCSA Office examination of the Doyon, Limited, application for Mouth of Big Creek as a historical place.

Section 14(h)(1) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA), Public Law 92-203, as amended, authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to convey fee title to existing cemetery sites and historical places to the appropriate regional corporation.

Departmental Releases 1666, 230 DM 1, and 10 BIAM 3.1 delegate to the Area Director the authority to certify the existence of cemetery sites and historical places under Section 14(h)(1) of ANCSA.

The ANCSA Office is delegated the authority and responsibility to conduct field investigations of the sites selected, to prepare reports of those investigations, and to make recommendations as to certification in accordance with 43 CFR 2653.5.

II. BACKGROUND

Doyon, Limited, applied for Mouth of Big Creek as a historical place on June 28, 1976, in compliance with regulations of Section 14(h)(1) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA).

A tract of land was claimed including: SE $\frac{1}{4}$ T. 32 N., R. 37 W., Seward Meridian (SM), Alaska. Doyon, Limited, marked the site location on United States Geological Survey (USGS) quadrangle map, 1:63,360, Iditarod (D-1), 1954 (minor revisions 1966).

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) preadjudicated the application and assigned it case file number AA-12369. BLM then forwarded the application to the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) ANCSA Office for field investigation.

According to Doyon, Limited, the site near Mouth of Big Creek contains a semi-subterranean house pit, and is probably identified with the same Native band as Mouth of Fourth of July Creek.

Native informant Ann Demientieff of McGrath said mail carriers stopped at Mouth of Big Creek overnight enroute to Pitka Fork or Iditarod, using a nearby winter trail. Demientieff said there is an overland summer trail leading to Vinisale.

Cooperative Park Studies Unit (CPSU) Archeologist Alice J. Lynch indicated that Big Creek Roadhouse was operated by a white man from about 1911 to 1918 when the winter trail was moved away from Big Creek.

Deacon Deaphon, approximately 90 years old, of Deacon's Landing, Kuskokwim River, remembers a trading post operated by a white man in the early 1900's. He confirms existence of a mail trail to Iditarod and Flat. The carriers stopped at Big Creek. He remembers many different people ran the roadhouse, perhaps a year at a time. According to Deaphon, no Natives lived in Big Creek until the traders left, when mainly trappers lived there or people who used it as shelter while traveling on the trail to Iditarod and Flat.

There were no apparent conflicts with this site as applied for, which lies within public domain.

III. INVESTIGATIVE FINDINGS

Field investigation of Mouth of Big Creek was conducted on June 18, 1981, by BIA Field Investigators Jim Sykes and Patti Hughes. Cooperative Park Studies Unit (CPSU) personnel Alice J. Lynch, Elizabeth Andrews, Frank Broderick, and Martha McCollough, provided technical assistance. The site was located earlier on June 15, 1981, by BIA Field Investigators Jim Sykes and Patti Hughes with the aid of local informant Ann Demientieff.

As a result of the field investigation, the site was found to lie within the $W\frac{1}{2}NE\frac{1}{4}SW\frac{1}{4}$, $E\frac{1}{2}NW\frac{1}{4}SW\frac{1}{4}$, $NE\frac{1}{4}SW\frac{1}{4}SW\frac{1}{4}$, $NW\frac{1}{4}SE\frac{1}{4}SW\frac{1}{4}$ Section 24, T. 32 N., R. 38 W., Seward Meridian (SM), Alaska. This is outside the applied-for area.

The site is located on the west bank of the Takotna River, just north of the Mouth of Big Creek. Most of the area is comprised of fairly open tundra sprinkled moderately with black spruce.

The main use area, 100 yards north of Big Creek, is grassy with some low shrubs. A large birch and spruce stand lies north of the main use area; alders grow along the banks of Big Creek. Most of the area is covered with moss or lichen.

A transected reconnaissance of the site revealed a main area of use near the edge of the Takotna River, approximately 300 feet down-river from the mouth of Big Creek. A semi-subterranean house pit was found with one edge lying on the eroded riverbank. One vertical log still stood; all others had fallen in. Berms of the pit were still visible and a rusty crosscut saw was found within the pit.

Cooperative Park Studies Unit archeologists surveyed the river-bank, (which now forms one edge of the house pit), finding charcoal approximately 32 inches from the top of the soil on the bank.

Immediately south of the house pit is what remains of an underground storage cache. Some timbers which lined the cache are visible.

Approximately 25 feet to the southwest are the remains of a crib, or aboveground cache. South of the house pit, a rusted barrel, rusted stove, and unrusted washtub were found. Many rusted tin cans were found in the surrounding area, along with wooden crate slats, a variety of bottles, and a porcelain dish.

Large numbers of sawed tree stumps were found in the birch and spruce stand approximately 300 feet to the north of the main use area. In that same tree stand, remains of canvas and logs from a tent frame were found.

According to Native informant Ann Demientieff, a roadhouse was still standing at Big Creek as late as 1938.

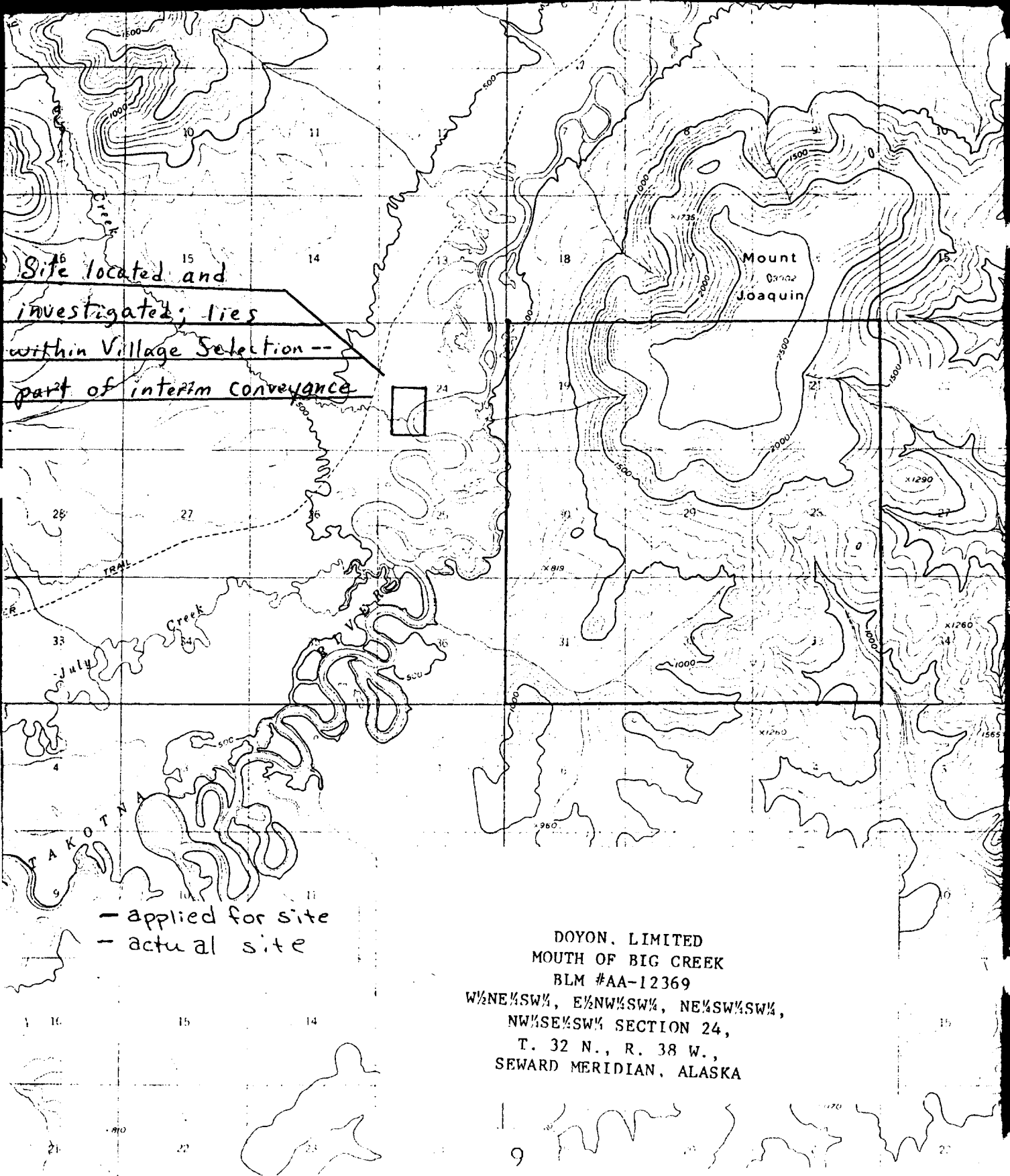
No present use of the site was indicated by investigation. However, the site lies within Village Selection F-14942-A, which was part of Interim Conveyance No. 327, dated June 11, 1980.

IV. SUMMARY

Field investigation of Mouth of Big Creek on June 18, 1981, revealed a semi-subterranean house pit and associated caches, both above and below ground. Large amounts of cultural debris were found (mainly rusted cans), and remains of a frame tent in a wooded area. Parts of the area contained saw or axe cut stumps.

The site as located lies within Village Selection F-14942-A, which was part of Interim Conveyance No. 327, dated June 11, 1980.

APPENDIX C
QUAD (AREA) MAP



ENDIX A

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

FORM APPROVED
OMB NO. 42-R1652

Serial Number

12369

REGIONAL CORPORATION SELECTION APPLICATION
Act of December 18, 1971 (43 U.S.C. 1601)

INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE

1. Name Doyon, Limited	Address (include zip code) First and Hall Streets Fairbanks, Alaska 99701
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2. Specify type of selection

Surface and subsurface estate (43 CFR 2652)

Subsurface estate only (Lieu Selections; 43 CFR 2652)

Surface and subsurface estate (Cemetery Sites; 43 CFR 2653)

Surface and subsurface estate (Historical Places; 43 CFR 2653)

3a. Give written legal description of lands requested (attach separate sheet, if necessary)

Certain available public lands as defined by Section 3(e) and withdrawn pursuant to Section 14(h)(1) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. These lands are described in more detail in Appendice A attached. Included in the selection are any and all lands listed in Appendice A as exclusion because of alleged valid existing rights, if such alleged rights are subsequently determined to be invalid, as evidenced by a denial of title thereto by the United States.

b. List U.S.G.S. quadrangle maps used to portray requested lands

Iditarod D-1

c. Have you attached a copy of each map? Yes No

d. Indicate land use and occupancy Occupied Unoccupied

Mining Claim Native Use

Entryman Other (specify)

Indicate Entitlement (acres)	Total Entitlement 2 Million acres more or less	Previously Filed	This Application
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e. Give numerical preference, if selection application is filed pursuant to Sec. 2652.3(f) of the regulations

f. Authority for signature Attached Previously filed in Serial No.

CERTIFY That the statements made herein are true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief and are made in good faith.

 Land Selection Agent JUN 28 1970

(Signature) (Title) (Date)

Title 18 U.S.C. Section 1001, makes it a crime for any person knowingly and willfully to make to any department or agency of the United States any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or representations as to any matter within its jurisdiction.

APPENDIX B

Doyon, Ltd.: Historic and Cemetery Sites

PRELIMINARY INVENTORY

1. Site Number - MGR 41
2. a. Indian Name of Site _____
b. English Name of Site Mouth of Big Creek
c. Variations _____

3. Map Reference IDITAROD T32N/R37W SE $\frac{1}{4}$

4. Land Status D-1

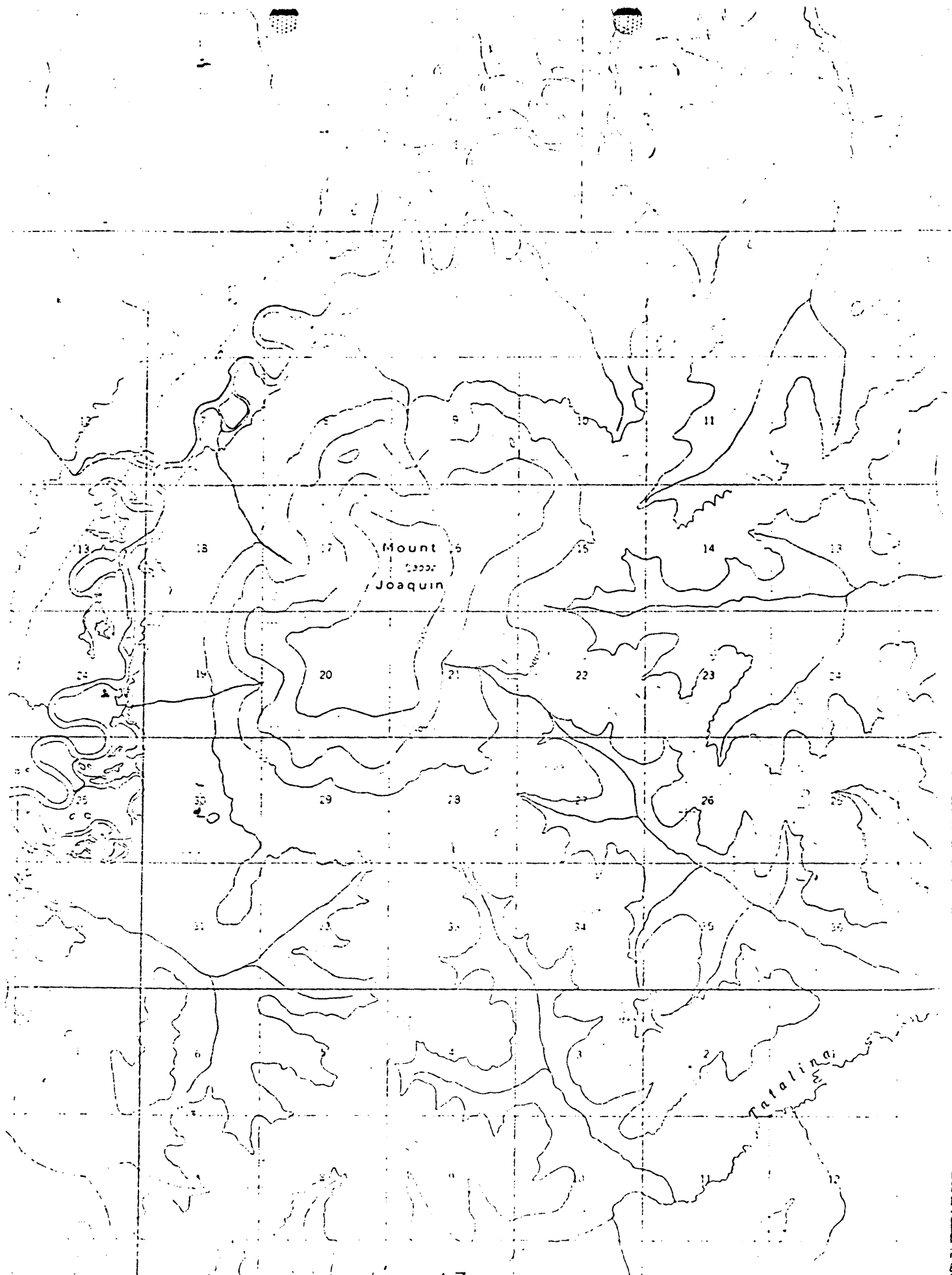
COMMENTS

The reported location of a semisubterranean house pit. This probably dates from the late 18th or early 19th century, and the site was, no doubt, occupied by the band identified with Fourth of July Creek Village.

prepared by:

W. J. ...
National ...
Dept. of ...
University ...
1970

Legal Reference Act of December 10, 1971 (43 U.S.C. 1601)		File Code 26505	Serial Number 2111301
Name and Mailing Address Doyon, Limited First and Hall Streets Fairbanks, Alaska 99701			
Description of Land MGR 41 Mouth of Big Creek Iditarod T 32N R 37W SM SE $\frac{1}{4}$			
DATE OF ACTION		ACTION TAKEN	
July 6, 1976	Application received		1b



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MGIC 41

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APPENDIX A

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Alaska Regional Office
540 West Fifth Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

IN REPLY REFER TO:

A44 (ARO-PCR)

3 MAR 1983

Mr. Larry P. Cooper, Jr., Director
ANCSA Projects Office
Bureau of Indian Affairs
P.O. Box 6688
Anchorage, Alaska 99502

Dear Mr. Cooper:

Enclosed is the National Park Service, Cooperative Park Studies Unit (CPSU) submission of our findings regarding the below listed site for the Bureau of Indian Affairs' final certification document.

AA-12369

Big Creek

As required by the ANCSA 14(h) rules and regulations (43 CFR 2653), the Anthropologists from the Cooperative Park Studies Unit, University of Alaska, Fairbanks, representing the National Park Service, have conducted field surveys, gathered ethnohistoric information from knowledgeable local residents, and researched archival and library sources.

The research staff has assessed the evidence available and on the basis of their research and negative evidence are of the opinion that this site does not meet significance criteria or qualify under the rules and regulations (43 CFR 2653.5) as a 14(h)(1) selection. Supporting documentation, as available, has been previously sent to your office.

By copy of this letter, this concludes the National Park Service's consultation for this site as required by regulation.

Sincerely,

William C. Welch

William C. Welch
Associate Regional Director
Planning, Recreation, and Cultural Resources

Enclosure

cc:
Bruce Ream, CPSU, Fairbanks
Regional Archeologist, Alaska Region
(Contracting Officer's Representative)
File X Contract CX-9000-9-E060



UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA, FAIRBANKS
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

September 13, 1982

Larry Cooper, Director
ANCSA Projects Office
Bureau of Indian Affairs
P.O. Box 6688
Anchorage, Alaska 99502

Dear Mr. Cooper:

Enclosed are Field Survey forms for ANCSA 14(h)(1) sites on the 1981 field schedule. Several of the sites required additional effort to assure a correct determination of eligibility status was made. I sincerely hope the delay had not caused your office any undue difficulty.

Enclosed are site for:

Chugach Natives Inc.

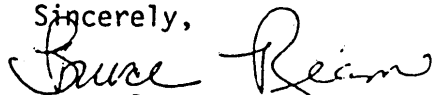
AA 11044	Unakwik Inlet
AA 10981	Point Pellew
AA 12578	Shady Cove
AA 10986	Pigot Bay
AA 10753	South Bay Site
AA 10757	Nauaquaq

Doyon Limited

AA 12335	Nixon Creek Village
AA 12369	Big Creek
AA 12355	Mouth of Bonasila River

If I can be of further assistance, please let me know.

Sincerely,


Bruce Ream
Acting Director, CPSU

enclosure

BAR:vai

ANCSA 14(h)(1) SITE SURVEY FORM
 Revised 1981 Format
 Anthropology and Historic Preservation
 Cooperative Park Studies Unit
 University of Alaska
 Fairbanks, Alaska

I. SITE NO.

A. BLM Serial No. AA 12369
 B. State AHRS No. 1DT-007
 C. Other, specify _____
 D. Regional Corporation
 Name Doyon, Ltd.

II. SITE NAME

A. Common Big Creek
 B. Native _____
 C. Non-native _____
 D. Variations _____
 E. Translation _____

III. SITE SURVEY

A. Date(s) visited 6-18-81
 B. Researcher Elizabeth Andrews
 C. Others present at site (affiliation and title) A.J. Lynch - CPSU; F. Broderick - CPSU; M. McCullough - CPSU; P. Hughes - BIA J. Sikes - BIA
 D. How site was reached Helicopter

IV. SITE LOCATION

A. USGS Quad Iditarod Map Scale: 1:250,000
 B. Longitude _____ Latitude _____

C. UTM zone _____ Easting _____ Northing _____

D. USGS 15 Minute Series D-1 Map Scale: 1:63,360

E. Legal description
T32N, R 38W sec. 24 Seward Meridian
SE 1/4 of NW 1/4 of SW 1/4

F. Aerial photo reference: _____

G. Additional locational information This site was investigated as AA 12369. subsequent information indicates that this is not a native settlement. AA 12369 is located upriver near Waldren Fork. That location is now on state patented land and thus renders the site ineligible for selection under ANCSA 14(h)(1) rules and regulations 43 CFR 2653.5.

Lawrence R. Green
 PROJECT LEADER

ADDENDUM

MOUTH OF BIG CREEK
DOYON, LIMITED
BLM #AA-12369

Doyon, Limited, was notified of the preliminary decision that Mouth of Big Creek was ineligible as a Native historical place on April 3, 1984, and was requested to provide additional comments and information that might have a bearing on this decision. Doyon, Limited, has failed to respond to this request within the sixty (60) day time period agreed upon in the Memorandum of Agreement between the National Park Service and the Bureau of Indian Affairs.