



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
ANCSA OFFICE
P.O. BOX 6688
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99502

HERRY
IN REPLY REFER TO:

February 2, 1983

CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED
CERTIFIED NO. P 200 165 322

Mr. Charlie Johnson, President
Bering Straits Native Corporation
P. O. Box 1008
Nome, Alaska 99762

Dear Mr. Johnson:

Enclosed is a copy of the completed report of the Bureau of Indian Affairs investigation of Bering Straits Native Corporation's application for a historical place under Section 14(h)(1) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.

The historical place is designated as:

Old Woman Mountain
Historic Place
BLM #AA-10692
Approximately 95.8 acres
Certified Eligible

An appeal from this decision may be taken to the Interior Board of Land Appeals in accordance with Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 4, Subpart E, as revised. If an appeal is taken, the notice of appeal must be filed in the Juneau Area Office of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, P. O. Box 3-8000, Juneau, Alaska, 99802, within thirty (30) days of the receipt of this decision. Do not send the appeal directly to the Interior Board of Land Appeals. The appeal and case history will be sent to the Board by the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

The regulations also require the appellant to serve a copy of the notice of appeal and all other documents filed in the appeal on the Regional Solicitor Alaska Region, U. S. Department of the Interior,

ANCHORAGE, AK

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1000

Page 2

Mr. Charlie Johnson

2 February 1983

701 "C" Street, Box 34, Anchorage, Alaska 99513. To avoid summary dismissal, there must be a strict compliance with the regulations.

Sincerely,

L. P. Cooper, Jr.
Director

Enclosure

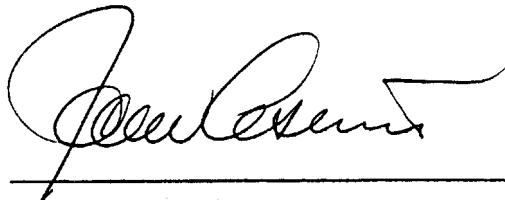
cc: Mr. Bruce Ream, CPSU
Mr. Bob Faithful, Conveyance Management, BLM
✓ Mr. Dave Dapkus, Unalakleet Wild and Scenic River
Management Plan, ADO, BLM

OLD WOMAN MOUNTAIN
BERING STRAITS NATIVE CORPORATION
BLM #AA-10692

CERTIFICATE OF ELIGIBILITY

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 Eligibility to the Bering Straits Native Corporation for the Old Woman Mountain Site (AA-10692) as a historical place for the following reasons:

1. Extensive field investigation by BIA/ANCSA personnel found concrete evidence supporting the claim of a historical place.
2. The site is associated with cultural events that made a significant impact on the pre-history and history of the Eskimo people of Western Alaska.
3. The site has excellent archeological and anthropological research potential that may yield information important to the history of the Western Alaska Eskimo.



Area Director

Date: 3 August, 1982.

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CLAIMS EXAMINER'S CERTIFICATE

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

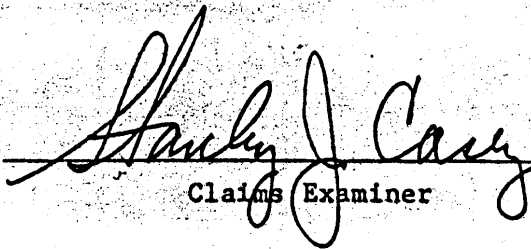
That I prepared this report of the field investigation from data supplied by field investigators, archeologists, their field notes and research;

That the conclusions contained are an accurate report of my findings;

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

Certified this 21st day of June, 1982

By: _____


Claims Examiner

Reviewed and approved by: _____


ANCSA Projects Officer

Date: 30 June, 1982

CLAIMS EXAMINERS REPORT

OLD WOMAN MOUNTAIN

SEALASKA CORPORATION

BLM #AA-10692

I. FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Bering Straits Native Corporation is a Native regional corporation organized in accordance with 43 CFR 2650. (Exhibit 2)
2. The Corporation authorizes an individual to file its applications in accordance with 43 CFR 2650.2. (Exhibit 2)
3. The application was received in the proper office Bureau of Land Management Anchorage, Alaska, within the required time by 43 CFR 2652.2. (Exhibit 2)
4. The Corporation included a statement of significance in accordance with 43 CFR 2653.5. (Exhibit 2)
5. The site is marked on United States Geological Survey (USGS) 1:63,360 quadrangle map Norton Bay (A-2), in accordance with 43 CFR 2653.5. (Exhibit 1)
6. The site is accessible by boat or by seaplane.
7. The site is described by a legal description. (Exhibit 1)

The site is more specifically described in metes and bounds as follows:

PARCEL A

Beginning at the point of beginning (POB), latitude 64°00'58"N., longitude 159°48'32"W., designated as Corner 1 (C-1), marked with two 5/8 inch aluminum alloy rods extending above the ground, aluminum site tag attached, referenced to the following:

Reference A: S. 36°W. to Old Woman Mountain located in the W $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ Section 15, T. 17 S., R. 6 W., KRM, Alaska;

Reference B: S. 86°E., 26 feet to a 6 inch diameter, blazed, 60 feet tall, birch tree;

Reference C: S. 42°E., 21 feet to a 5 inch diameter, blazed, 30 feet tall, willow tree;

Thence S. 44°W., 57 feet to Corner 2 (C-2), marked with a 5/8 inch aluminum alloy rod extending above ground;

Thence southeasterly along the meander of the left bank of a stream, 591 feet to Corner 3 (C-3) marked with an aluminum alloy rod extending above the ground;

Thence N. 14°E., 599 feet to Corner 4 (C-4) marked with two 5/8 inch aluminum alloy rods extending above the ground;

Thence northwesterly along the meander of the left bank of a stream, 880 feet to the POB.

The site described contains approximately 5.6 acres.

PARCEL B

Beginning at the point of beginning (POB) which is on the left bank of an off-shoot of Old Woman River southwest of Parcel A, site AA-10692, designated as Corner 1 (C-1), marked with a 5/8 inch aluminum alloy rod extending above the ground, referenced to the following;

Reference A: S. 40°W. to Old Woman Mountain located in Section 15, T. 17 S., R. 6 W., KRM, Alaska;

Reference B: N. 74°W. to Old Woman River;

Thence N. 78°W., 239 feet to Corner 2 (C-2), marked with a 5/8 inch aluminum alloy rod extending above the ground;

Thence southeasterly 204 feet, then northeasterly 180 feet, along the meander of a stream to the point of beginning.

The site described contains approximately .2 acre.

PARCEL C

Beginning at the point of beginning (POB) which is the north-eastern corner of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ Section 15, T. 17 S., R. 6 W., KRM, designated as Corner 1 (C-1) which is unmonumented;

Thence N. 90°W., 1980 feet to Corner 2 (C-2) which is unmonumented;

Thence S. 0°W., 1980 feet to Corner 3 (C-3) which is unmonumented;

Thence N. 90°E., 1980 feet to Corner 4 (C-4) which is unmonumented;

Thence N. 0°E., 1980 feet to the POB.

The site described contains approximately 90 acres.

10. BIA field investigators located the site to be within the area described by the Corporation. (Exhibit 1)
11. The site is not within 2 miles of the boundary of any home rule or first class city.
12. BIA field investigators marked the corners of the site in accordance with 43 CFR 2653.5. (Exhibit 1)
13. BIA field investigators examined the site in 1980. (Exhibit 1)
14. CPSU archeologists investigated the site in 1980. (Exhibit 1)
15. BIA field investigators took photos of the site. (Exhibit 1)
16. The Corporation, CPSU, and BIA agree on the site location.
17. The Corporation is required to maintain and preserve the site solely as a historical place.
18. Based upon research, interviews, and archeological findings, CPSU's recommendation indicates that the site is eligible as a historical place. (Exhibit 3)
19. Based upon field examination, research, and the CPSU report, BIA has determined that Old Woman Mountain Site does exist and is eligible 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 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 of a cemetery site or a historical place.

III. RECOMMENDATION

1. It is recommended that BIA issue a Certificate of Eligibility for Old Woman Mountain Site as a historical place.

CERTIFICATE OF REVIEW

I, James L. Welsch, certify the following to be true to the best of my knowledge and belief:

That the field investigator conducted the investigation here described;

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

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

That the field investigator's summary of his investigation accurately reflects the results of the field examination as required by CFR 43 2653.5.

Certified to this 21 day of June, 1982.

By: James L. Welsch
Name

Supervisory Realty Specialist
Title

CERTIFICATION OF INVESTIGATOR

I, Lou Ann Gagne', hereby certify the following to be true to the best of my knowledge and belief:

That I conducted the investigation hereinafter described;

That I prepared the hereinafter report of said investigation from my observations, interviews, field notes, photographs, and research before, during, and after my field examination;

That the information hereinafter contained is an accurate report of my investigation and findings;

That I believe my conclusions and recommendations are valid for the reason stated in said report.

Certified to this 11th day of August, 1980.

By: Lou Ann Gagne'
Name

Field Investigator
Title

REPORT OF INVESTIGATION
FOR
OLD WOMAN MOUNTAIN
BERING STRAITS NATIVE CORPORATION
BLM #AA-10692

I. PURPOSE AND AUTHORITY

The purpose of this report is to set forth investigative findings from the ANCSA Projects Office examination of the Bering Straits Native Corporation application for Old Woman Mountain as a historical place.

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

Departmental Release Number 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 Projects Office is delegated the authority and responsibility to conduct field investigation 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

Bering Straits Native Corporation (BSNC) applied for Old Woman Mountain as a historical place on December 15, 1975, in compliance with regulations of Section 14(h)(1) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA).

BSNC claimed a tract of land including Section 15 and Section 22, T. 17 S., R. 6 W., Kateel River Meridian (KRM), Alaska. BSNC marked the site location on United States Geological Survey (USGS) quadrangle, 1:63,360, Norton Bay (A-2), Alaska, 1953.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) preadjudicated the application and assigned it case file number AA-10692. BLM then forwarded the application to the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)-ANCSA Projects Office for field investigation.

The Statement of Significance filed with the application states that the site 1) was used as a landmark; 2) is included in the oral literature; and 3) contributed to the early Alaskan communication system.

The site is significant as an important communications link between Norton Sound villages. It was used by dog mushers and as a telegraph relay. Trapping was carried on there as well as hunting. The Old Woman Mountain summit was used as a game lookout.

The Old Woman cabin is intersected by the historic Kaltag Portage. The trail passes directly beside the remains of the old cabin. Before the cabin existed, and before white men had entered the area, trade was carried on between the Indians of the subarctic boreal forest and the Eskimos of the coast and lower Unalakleet River.

The Indians relied predominantly on salmon as a staple with caribou, bear, beaver, muskrat and birds of importance (Loyens 1966: 36). The Eskimos followed a small sea mammal subsistence pattern, dependent on the sea to provide a variety of seal and beluga, while they also utilized the inland environment for caribou, fish, migratory waterfowl, ptarmigan, rabbits and squirrel (Ray 1975: 104). The different environments occupied by these two groups provided different products which were exchanged via the Kaltag Portage. (Andrews and Koutsky 1975: 921).

The Russian-American fur trading companies used the Kaltag trail to expand their trade and to destroy the native monopoly on fur trade. Following the era of trade, the Kaltag was used by dog-mushing mailmen.

At first, mail was sent and received by whatever transportation means possible. During the summer, steamers carried mail while in the Winter overland routes, such as Kaltag Portage, were utilized to deliver mail to the news-hungry miners. (Andrews and Koutsky 1979: 923).

As mail was a slow, lugubrious means of communication the U.S. Army Signal Corps began construction of the Washington-Alaska Military Cable and Telegraph System (WAMCATS). The line was completed from St. Michael to Unalakleet across the Kaltag Portage. (Andrews and Koutsky 1975: 942).

Part of the telegraph line passed directly through the Old Woman site. "From Kaltag to Unalakleet the historic trail and telegraph route can be observed. It is assumed that virtually all the telegraphic wire and the supporting tripods have been removed or have rotted away." (Anonymous, WAMCATS pub). However, telegraph wire as well as glass conductors were found on the Old Woman site by the survey crew and archeologists.

"Between Kaltag and Unalakleet some remains of the old telegraphic relay stations and line cabins are believed to exist. At other roadhouse locations decaying remnants of log structures have been reported." (WAMCATS)

Old Woman cabin was used as a mail carriers cabin on the route from Kaltag to Unalakleet, a distance of approximately 60 miles by the old route. The cabin was used by mail carriers until the advent of air travel around the late 1920's or early 1930's. The mail carriers' sled dogs were housed in the dog barn, located approximately 400 feet from the cabin in order to take advantage of the timber in that area for building. The mail carrier cabin had two rooms and

is said by the informant/guide to possibly have been a telegraph station at one time for telegraph lines that stretched up the Yukon River. Until the advent of the telegraph, the mail carrier dog teams passed through every week. The trip to Unalakleet from Old Woman took 8 to 9 hours. There were relay cabins at 10 mile intervals between Unalakleet and Kaltag.

One mail carrier was named John Summer; a German with an Indian wife from Nulato. The last mail contractor to occupy the cabin was Herbert Klemetson, a Lapplander who had purchased the cabin for \$10.

The U.S. Army had a station in the Old Woman area approximately 100 years ago. The army was there to observe the presence of foreign peoples in the area, such as the Russians (Wassilee Eakon, June 24, 1980).

Longstanding Russian occupation of the area is well documented:

...a Russian-American trading post was established by Vasily Malakov at Nulato on the Yukon, 35 miles above Kaltag, the eastern terminus of the portage. As long as the Kaltag Portage remained undiscovered, the Russian trading posts, located at Nulato, Unalakleet and St. Michael, could not intercept the Native trade. In February, 1838, Malakhov crossed part of the Kaltag Portage from Unalakleet to the Yukon terminating at an Indian village 28 miles below Kaltag. On a second journey the next fall, Malakhov again was guided by a Lower Koyukon Indian trader along a portion of the portage route, this time terminating 42 miles below Kaltag on the Yukon. Malakhov grew suspicious and succeeded in calculating the actual route of the portage which terminated near Kaltag. Finally in January 1843, Lt. L.A. Zagoskin determined for the Russian-American Company the shortest and most practical route between Unalakleet and Yukon River--the traditionally native-used Kaltag Portage. This achievement allowed the Russians to efficiently transport along the portage the furs which they intercepted at the Nulato post only 35 miles above

Kaltag. However, native trade still continued and the Russians were only partially successful in breaking the native monopoly (Michael 1967: 38, 82, 141).

The Old Woman site was used as a hunting ground. Moose were spotted from the summit of Old Woman Mountain and the hunting camp was at the base of the eastern slope. It is said that an old woman was killed at the base of that slope by an avalanche as well as an army man, years later. Native tales relate stories of ghosts inhabiting Old Woman cabin. The ghost of the old woman reportedly has the ability to change her shape and take the form of various animals (Henry Nashalook, Unalakleet, Alaska, June 13, 1980). The ghost, it is said, comes around midnight in the dark. However, if one gets to the cabin before dark the ghost will not be bothersome (Wassilee Eakon, Old Woman Mountain, Alaska, June 24, 1980).

At least one other ghost has been encountered at the Old Woman cabin. An Eskimo speaking ghost saved Stanton Katchatag from freezing to death by repeatedly shouting in Stanton's ear, "Wake up or you're going to freeze to death!" (Stanton Katchatag, June 9, 1980).

Fur animals trapped in the area included mink, marten, wolverines, wolves, and beaver. Elk and black bear were hunted (Wassilee Eakon June 24, 1980).

Winter trails between villages on Norton Sound, between Unalakleet and Kaltag, along the Yukon and in the McGrath area are frequently used by local residents on snow machines to reach other settlements, hunting areas, and trap lines (WAMCATS).

III. INVESTIGATIVE FINDINGS

Field investigation of Old Woman Mountain was conducted on July 1, 1980, by BIA-ANCSA Field Investigators, Lou Ann Gagne and Steve

Christy. Cooperative Park Studies Unit (CPSU) Archeologists, Pat Frankish and Bill Sheppard, provided technical assistance. Local resource person, Wassilee Eakon, provided assistance in locating and identifying the site on June 24, 1980.

Site boundaries were determined by all personnel following a transected reconnaissance of the site. At the completion of the reconnaissance, any observations pertinent to the site were discussed and the site boundaries mutually agreed upon.

The site was found to lie within $S\frac{1}{2}SE\frac{1}{4}NE\frac{1}{4}$, $N\frac{1}{2}NE\frac{1}{4}SE\frac{1}{4}$, $S\frac{1}{2}NW\frac{1}{4}SE\frac{1}{4}$, $SE\frac{1}{4}NE\frac{1}{4}SW\frac{1}{4}$, $E\frac{1}{2}SE\frac{1}{4}SW\frac{1}{4}$, $SW\frac{1}{4}SE\frac{1}{4}$ Section 15, T. 17 S., R. 6 W., Kateel River Meridian (KRM), Alaska.

The land is flat in this area. There are several oxbow lakes formed by meandering streams. Old Woman River, like the Unalakleet River into which it flows, is a meandering river. Old Woman cabin is slumping into a meander of Old Woman River and is on a point of land that has been cut-off to the south by an old oxbow lake that has rejoined Old Woman River.

Old Woman Mountain (ele. 825 feet) is southwest of the cabins and the site survey. It is the only prominent topographic feature in the area except for a 605 foot peak, one mile to the east. Only Old Woman Mountain could be seen from the Point of Beginning (POB) as the river is wooded with spruce and willows. Tundra and tall grasses predominate the ground vegetation.

Between the cabin and the dog barn (approximately 400 feet to the northeast) there were found remnants of the telegraph line.

A piece of wire, apparently part of a trap line, was found on the site between the cabin and the dog barn.

Land use conflicts affecting the Old Woman site are: Public Land Order 5654, withdrawal public purpose, Unalakleet River, affecting

Section 15; Public Land Order 5250, Aid of Legistration and classification, Unalakleet River, affecting Section 15.

The site is divided into three parcels. Parcel A, containing the dog barn, is the largest of the parcels. Parcel B is a small (.2 of an acre) parcel, containing the musher cabin. Parcel C encloses Old Woman Mountain and was not surveyed on the ground due to its great size. Legal descriptions for the parcels are in Appendix B.

IV. SUMMARY

The Old Woman site AA-10692, located along the Kaltag Portage, has been well used throughout history by 1) the Indian-Eskimo subsistence traders; 2) Russian-American fur trade in the 1830's; 3) mail mushers of the late 1800's; 4) the turn of the century telegraph route; and 5) hunters and trappers up to the present day.

The remnants of the mail mushers' cabin and Old Woman cabin were found to be located beside the Kaltag trail. Remnants of a telegraph line were found on the site.

Historically, the summit of Old Woman Mountain has been used as a lookout for spotting game, particularly moose. There are legends connected with Old Woman Mountain regarding the ghosts of people that died in avalanches there.

A reasonable buffer zone has been included in the site survey to include all of the cultural features such as cabin, dog barn and telegraph remnants within the boundaries.

Old Woman Mountain site, located along the historic Kaltag Portage, was used by both indigenous Natives and by peoples of European descent. The Old Woman dog musher cabin served as an important link in the route from Kaltag, through Unalakleet to Nome. The telegraph line which had been thought to be completely destroyed or removed is still found on the Old Woman site.

Native lore commemorates Old Woman Mountain, those who died on its slopes, and those that are said to inhabit the site of the mushers cabin in spirit form.

The site as surveyed and protracted comprises approximately 95.8 acres (Parcels A, B, and C), including the buffer zone provided for in Title 43, Code of Federal Regulations.

APPENDIX B
LEGAL DESCRIPTION
BLM #AA-10692
PARCEL A

A parcel of land located within $S\frac{1}{2}SE\frac{1}{4}NE\frac{1}{4}$, $N\frac{1}{2}NE\frac{1}{4}SE\frac{1}{4}$ Section 15, T. 17 S., R. 6 W., Kateel River Meridian (KRM), Alaska. The site is more specifically described as follows:

Beginning at the point of beginning (POB), latitude $64^{\circ}00'58''N.$, longitude $159^{\circ}48'32''W.$, designated as Corner 1 (C-1), marked with two 5/8 inch aluminum alloy rods extending above the ground, aluminum site tag attached, referenced to the following:

Reference A: S. $36^{\circ}W.$ to Old Woman Mountain located in the $W\frac{1}{2}SE\frac{1}{4}$ Section 15, T. 17 S., R. 6 W., KRM, Alaska;

Reference B: S. $86^{\circ}E.$, 26 feet to a 6 inch diameter, blazed, 60 feet tall, birch tree;

Reference C: S. $42^{\circ}E.$, 21 feet to a 5 inch diameter, blazed, 30 feet tall, willow tree;

Thence S. $44^{\circ}W.$, 57 feet to Corner 2 (C-2), marked with a 5/8 inch aluminum alloy rod extending above ground;

Thence southeasterly along the meander of the left bank of a stream, 591 feet to Corner 3 (C-3) marked with an aluminum alloy rod extending above the ground;

Thence N. $14^{\circ}E.$, 599 feet to Corner 4 (C-4) marked with two 5/8 inch aluminum alloy rods extending above the ground;

Thence northwesterly along the meander of the left bank of a stream, 880 feet to the POB.

The site described contains approximately 5.6 acres.

APPENDIX B
LEGAL DESCRIPTION
BLM #AA-10692
PARCEL B

A parcel of land located within $S\frac{1}{2}SE\frac{1}{4}NE\frac{1}{4}$, $N\frac{1}{2}NE\frac{1}{4}SE\frac{1}{4}$ Section 15, T. 17 S., R. 6 W., Kateel River Meridian (KRM), Alaska. The site is more specifically described as follows:

Beginning at the point of beginning (POB) which is on the left bank of an off-shoot of Old Woman River southwest of Parcel A, site AA-10692, designated as Corner 1 (C-1), marked with a 5/8 inch aluminum alloy rod extending above the ground, referenced to the following;

Reference A: S. 40°W. to Old Woman Mountain located in Section 15, T. 17 S., R. 6 W., KRM, Alaska;

Reference B: N. 74°W. to Old Woman River;

Thence N. 78°W., 239 feet to Corner 2 (C-2), marked with a 5/8 inch aluminum alloy rod extending above the ground;

Thence southeasterly 204 feet, then northeasterly 180 feet, along the meander of a stream to the point of beginning.

The site described contains approximately .2 acre.

APPENDIX B
LEGAL DESCRIPTION
BLM #AA-10692
PARCEL C

A parcel of land located within $S\frac{1}{2}NW\frac{1}{4}SE\frac{1}{4}$, $SE\frac{1}{4}NE\frac{1}{4}SW\frac{1}{4}$, $E\frac{1}{2}SE\frac{1}{4}SW\frac{1}{4}$, $SW\frac{1}{4}SE\frac{1}{4}$ Section 15, T. 17 S., R. 6 W., KRM, Alaska. The site is more specifically described as follows:

Beginning at the point of beginning (POB) which is the northeastern corner of the $SE\frac{1}{4}NW\frac{1}{4}SE\frac{1}{4}$ Section 15, T. 17 S., R. 6 W., KRM, designated as Corner 1 (C-1) which is unmonumented;

Thence N. 90°W., 1980 feet to Corner 2 (C-2) which is unmonumented;

Thence S. 0°W., 1980 feet to Corner 3 (C-3) which is unmonumented;

Thence N. 90°E., 1980 feet to Corner 4 (C-4) which is unmonumented;

Thence N. 0°E., 1980 feet to the POB.

The site described contains approximately 90 acres.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

BLM #AA-10692

Andrews, Elizabeth and Kathryn Koutsky

Ethnohistory of the Kaltag Portage, West Central Alaska, Proceedings of the First Conference of Scientific Research in the National Parks, 1979.

Washington-Alaska Military Cable and Telegraph System (WAMCATS), From Alaska Resource Library, Federal Building, Anchorage, Alaska.

APPENDIX C
SURVEY FORMAT
BLM #AA-10692

This survey was conducted on July 1, 1980, following a transected reconnaissance of the site. BIA-ANCSA personnel determined the site boundaries.

All true bearings were obtained with a Silva Ranger 15-T compass declinated 21° east. All distances were measured with a 100 foot Lufkin fiberglass tape.

The corners of the site were marked with 5/8 inch aluminum alloy rods driven to the point of resistance with sufficient portion extending above ground as monuments. Each monument has been cited and described in Appendix B.

APPENDIX F

OLD WOMAN

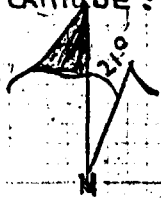
AA10692

JUNE 30 and July 1, 1980

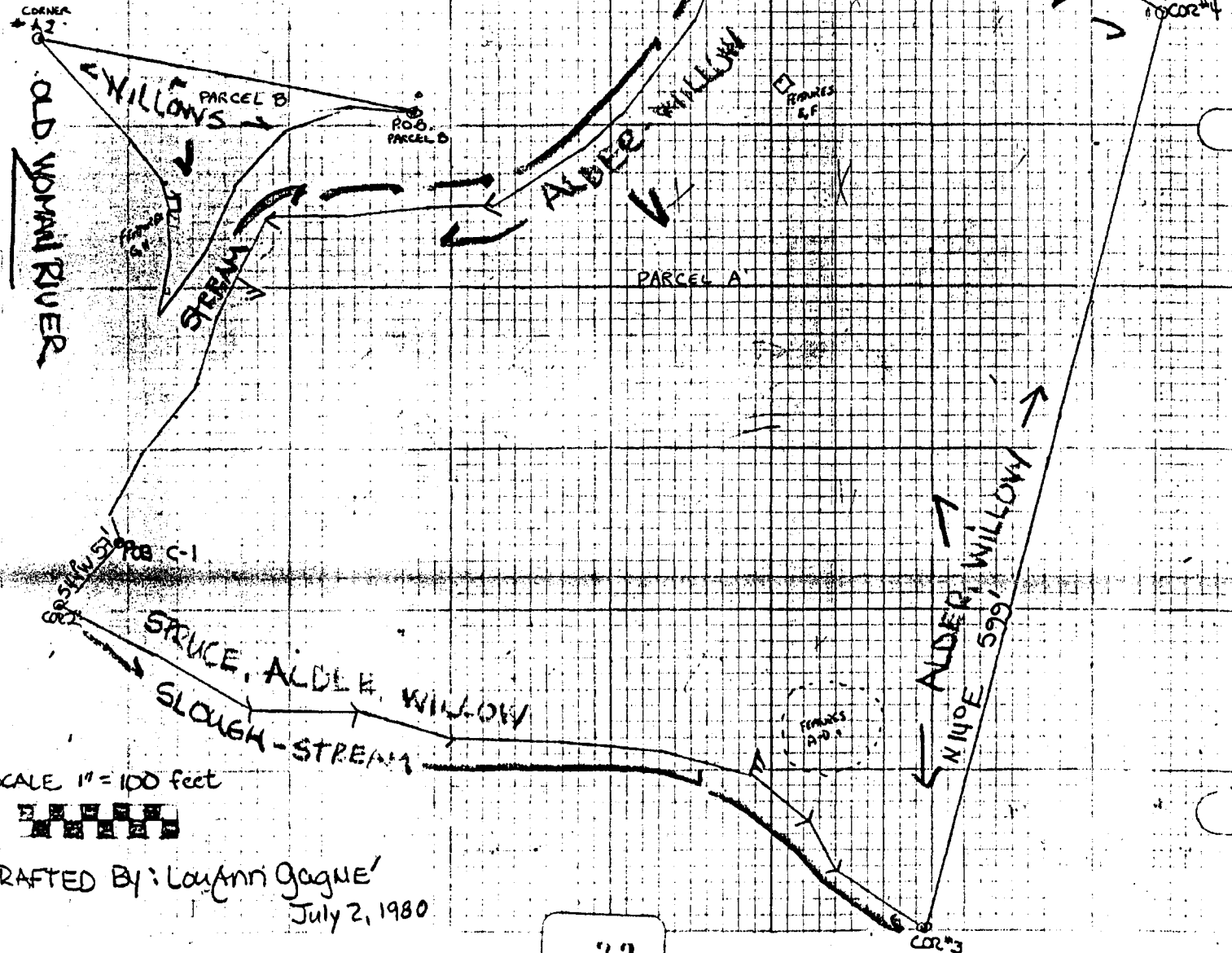
THE APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF THE SITE EQUALS: 5.8 ACRES

POB LONGITUDE: 159°48'32"

POB LATITUDE: 64°00'58"



- FEATURES:
- A, B, D, F - pits
 - C - WOOD BURNING STOVE
 - E - DOG BARN
 - G - MAIL CARRIERS CABIN
 - H - REMAINS OF TELEGRAPH POLE



SCALE 1" = 100 feet



DRAFTED BY: LouAnn Gagne
July 2, 1980

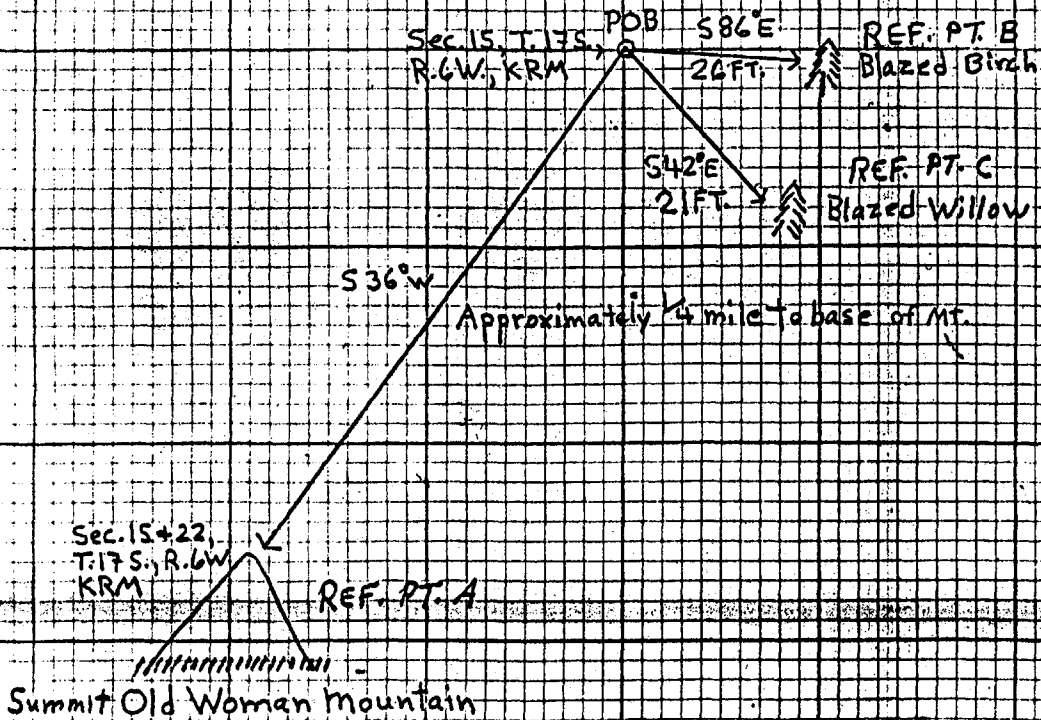
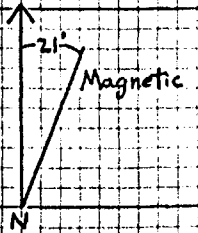
Appendix E

OLD WOMAN MT.
POB MAP
AA-10692
B.S.N.C.

POB LONGITUDE: $159^{\circ}48'32''$

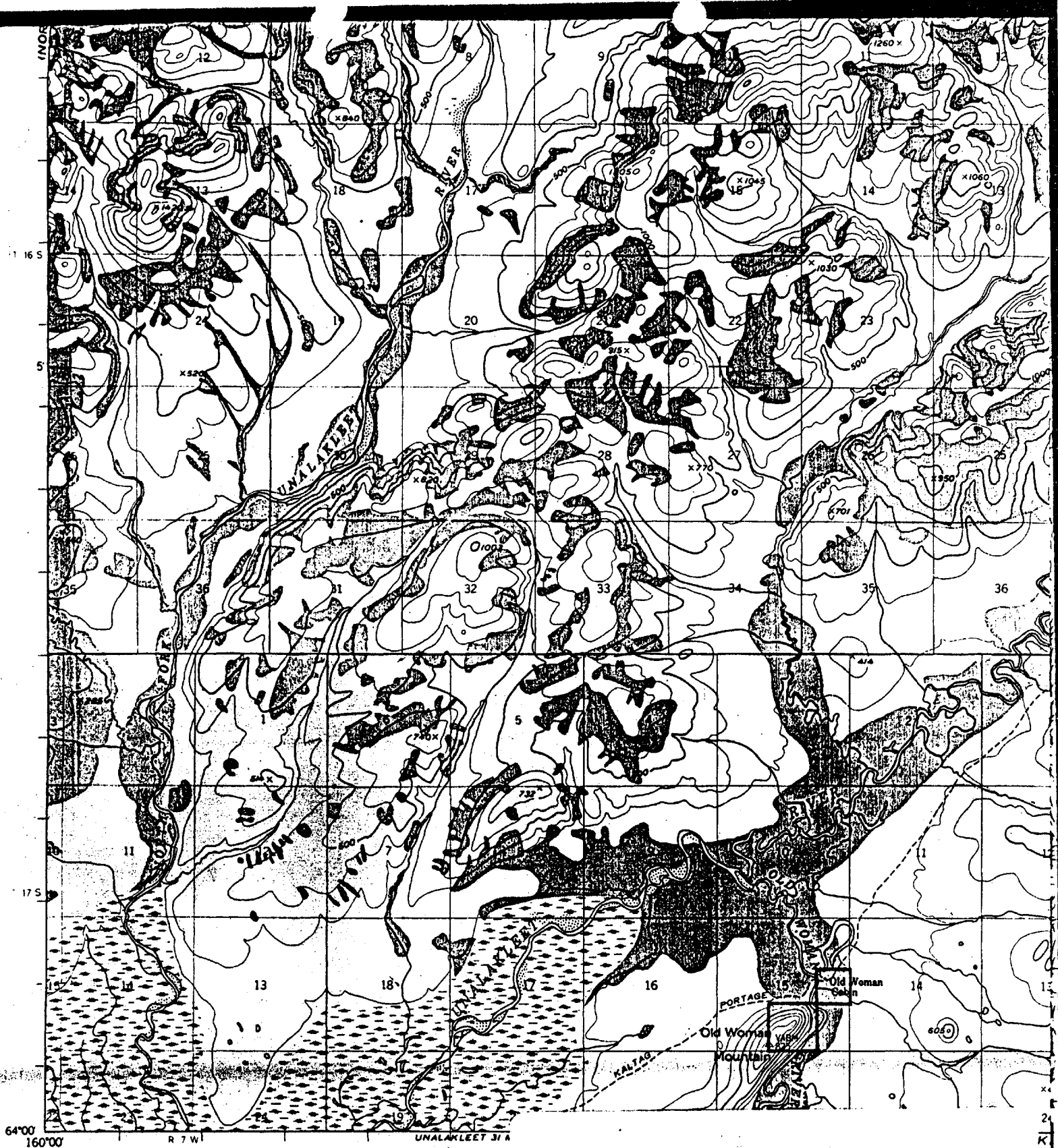
POB LATITUDE: $64^{\circ}00'58''$

Map: 1:63360, Norton Bay (A-2),
Alaska, 1953



- NO SCALE -

S. CHRISTY
July 2, 1980



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USC&GS and USCE

Topography from aerial photographs by photogrammetric methods 1959. Aerial photographs taken 1952, 1955, and 1957 field annotated 1953. Map not field checked

Universal Transverse Mercator projection
1927 North American datum
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 4, shown in blue

Land lines represent unsurveyed and unmarked locations predetermined by the Bureau of Land Management
Folios K-12 and K-17, Kateel River Meridian

Swamps, as portrayed, indicate only the wetter areas, usually of low relief, as interpreted from aerial photographs

Old Woman Mountain
BLM #AA-10692
 $S\frac{1}{2}SE\frac{1}{4}NE\frac{1}{4}$, $N\frac{1}{2}NE\frac{1}{4}SE\frac{1}{4}$, $S\frac{1}{2}NW\frac{1}{4}SE\frac{1}{4}$,
 $SE\frac{1}{4}NE\frac{1}{4}SW\frac{1}{4}$, $E\frac{1}{2}SE\frac{1}{4}SW\frac{1}{4}$, $SW\frac{1}{4}SE\frac{1}{4}$
Section 15, T. 17 S., R. 6 W.,
Kateel River Meridian, Alaska
Berina Straits Native Corporation

APPENDIX G
BLM #AA-10692
PHOTOGRAPHY RECORD FORM

PHOTOGRAPHER(S): L. Gagne

ROLL(S)#: 1

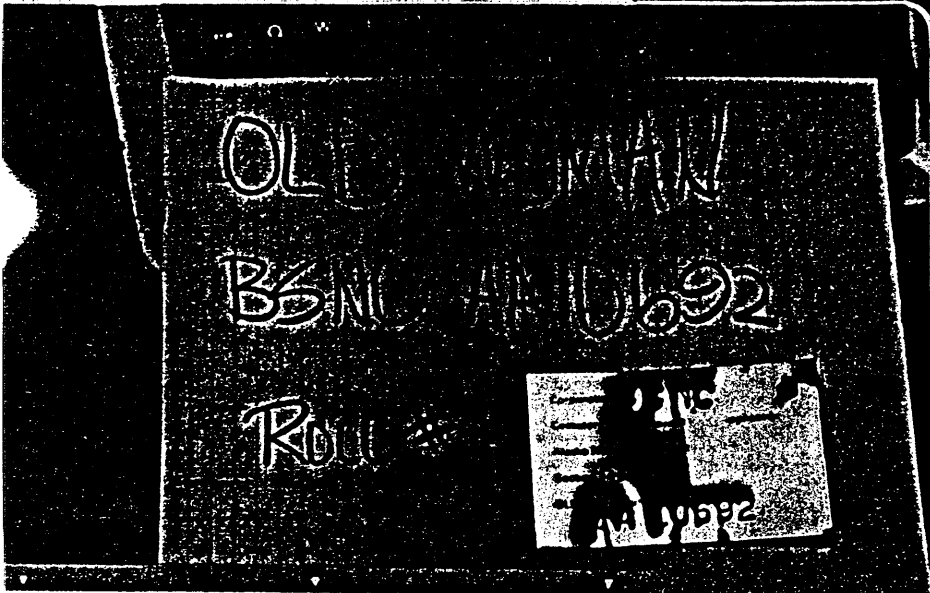
DATE(S): June 29, 1980

FRAME #	VIEW	INFORMATION
1		Site Identification
2		Rock cairn atop Old Woman Mt.
3	N	Parcels A & B from summit of, Old Woman Mountain (View #1)
4	N	Parcels A & B from summit of Old Woman Mt. (View #2)
5		Stone arrangement on summit of Old Woman Mt.
6		Inscription on Old Woman cabin reads: OLD WOMAN-8 MILES TO UNALAKLEET
7		Site ID

APPENDIX G
BLM #AA-10692
PHOTOGRAPHY RECORD FORM

PHOTOGRAPHER(S): S. Christy
 ROLL(S)#: 1
 DATE(S): July 1, 1980

FRAME #	VIEW	INFORMATION
8	S.36°W.	From POB to Old Woman Mt.
9	NW	From POB to mushers cabin
10	S.86°E.	Blazed willow
11	S.42°E.	Blazed willow
12	S.44°W.	POB to C-2
13	E	Meander from C-2
14	N.14°E.	C-3 to C-4
15	S.32°E.	Mushers cabin (Old Woman cabin)
16	N.6°E.	Mushers cabin (Old Woman cabin)
17	S.36°W.	Mushers cabin and Old Woman Mt. in background
18	N.78°W.	Corners A-1 to A-2
19	S.50°E.	Dog Barn
20	Aerial	Old Woman cabin, view north
21	Aerial	Old Woman cabin, view east
22	Aerial	Dog Barn, view south
23	Aerial	Dog Barn, view west



#1 Site identification



#2 Rock cairn atop Old Woman Mt.

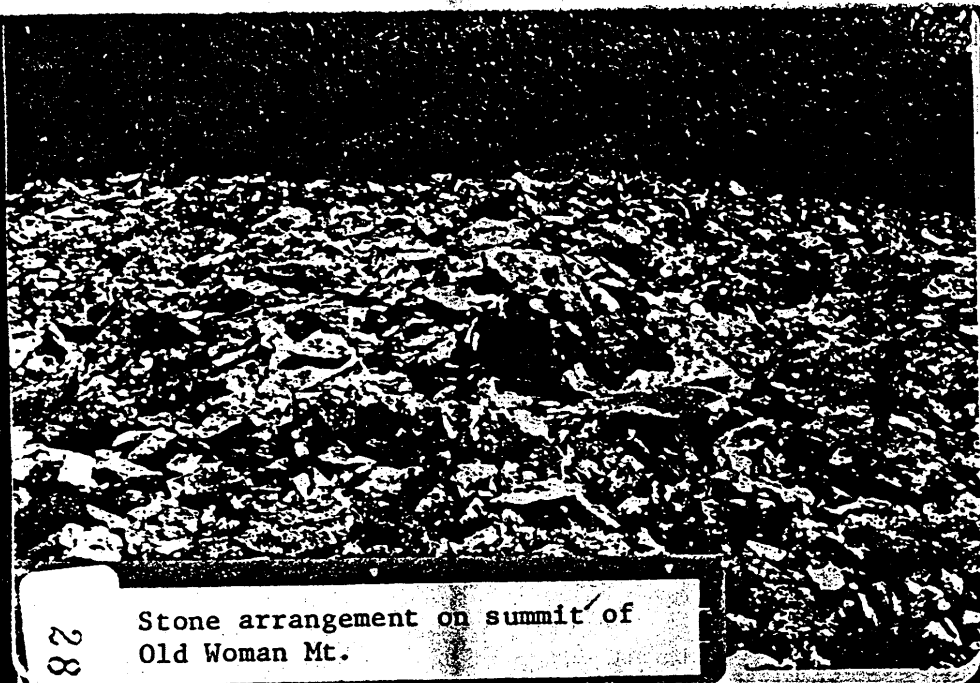


#3 Parcels A & B from summit of Old Woman Mt. (view #1)



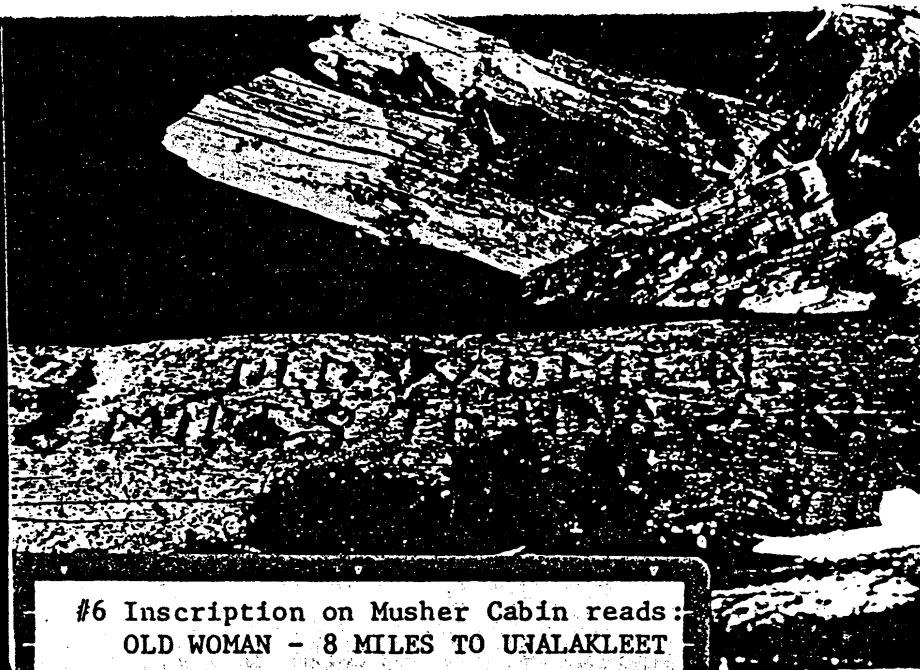
#4 Parcels A & B from summit of Old Woman Mt. (view #2)

27

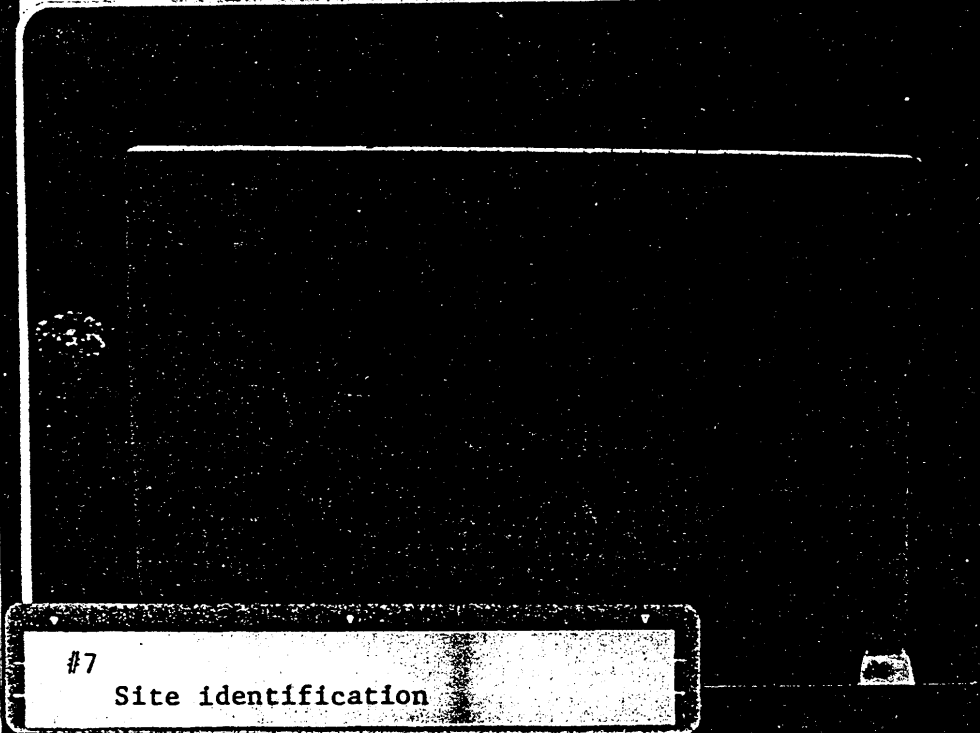


28

Stone arrangement on summit of
Old Woman Mt.

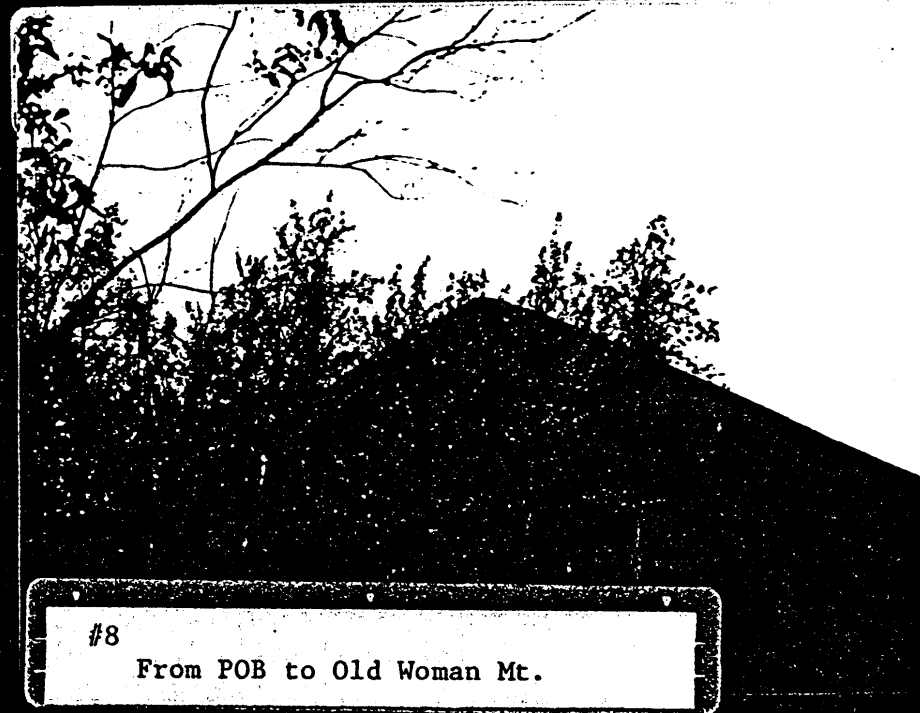


#6 Inscription on Musher Cabin reads:
OLD WOMAN - 8 MILES TO UNALAKLEET



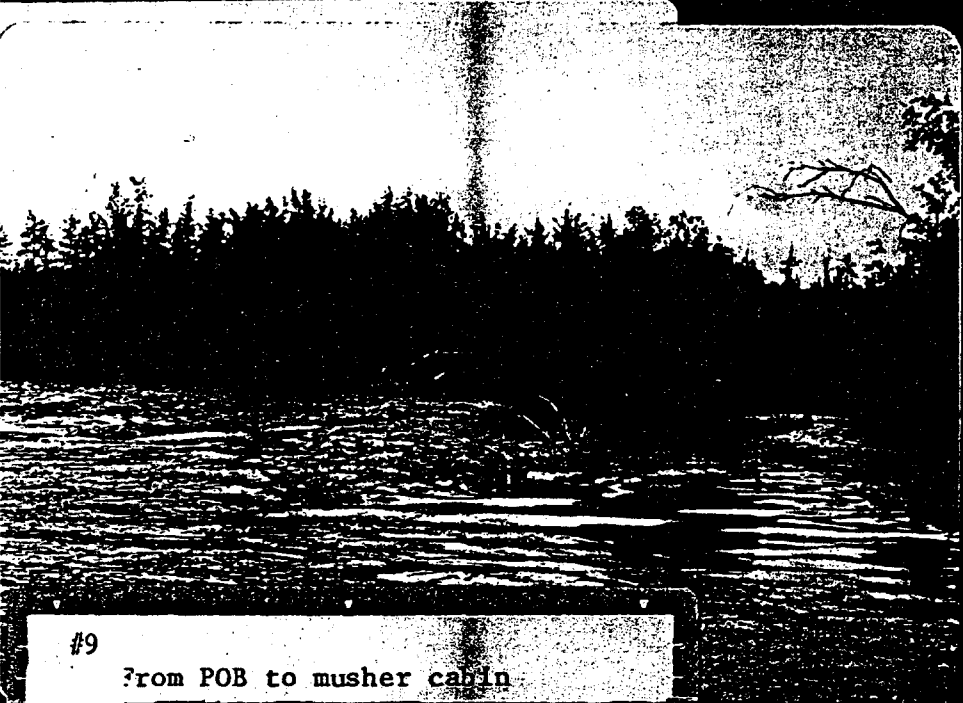
#7

Site identification



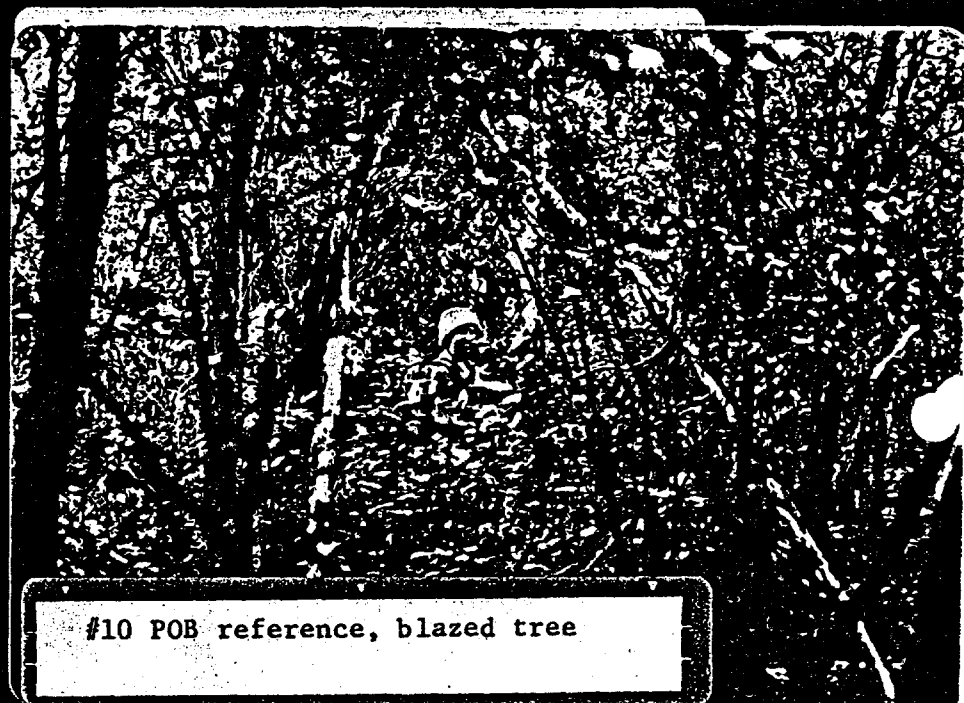
#8

From POB to Old Woman Mt.

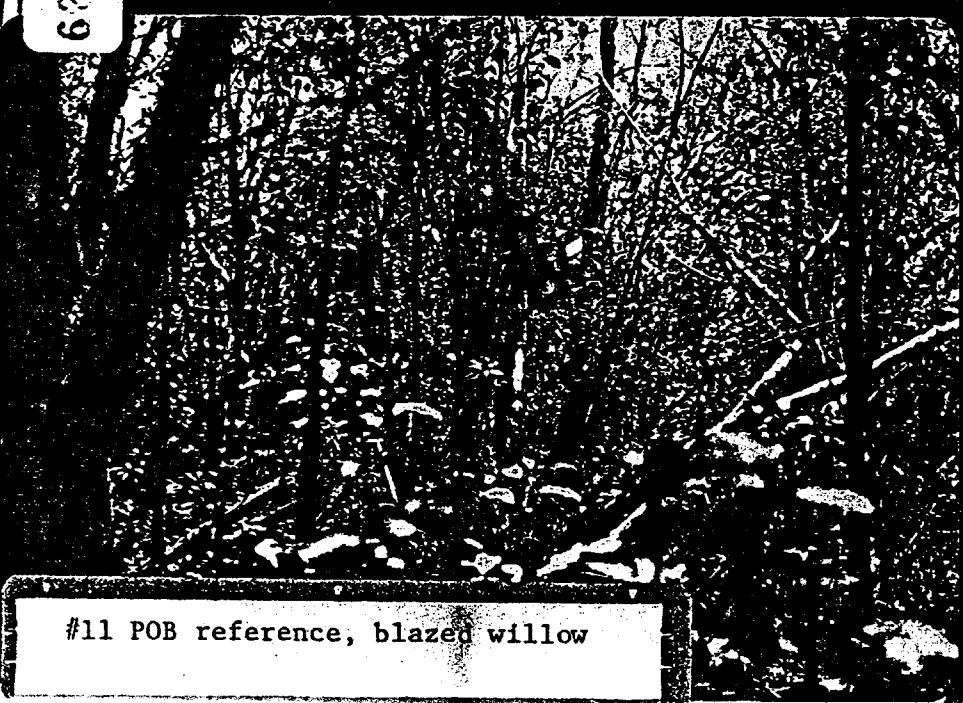


#9

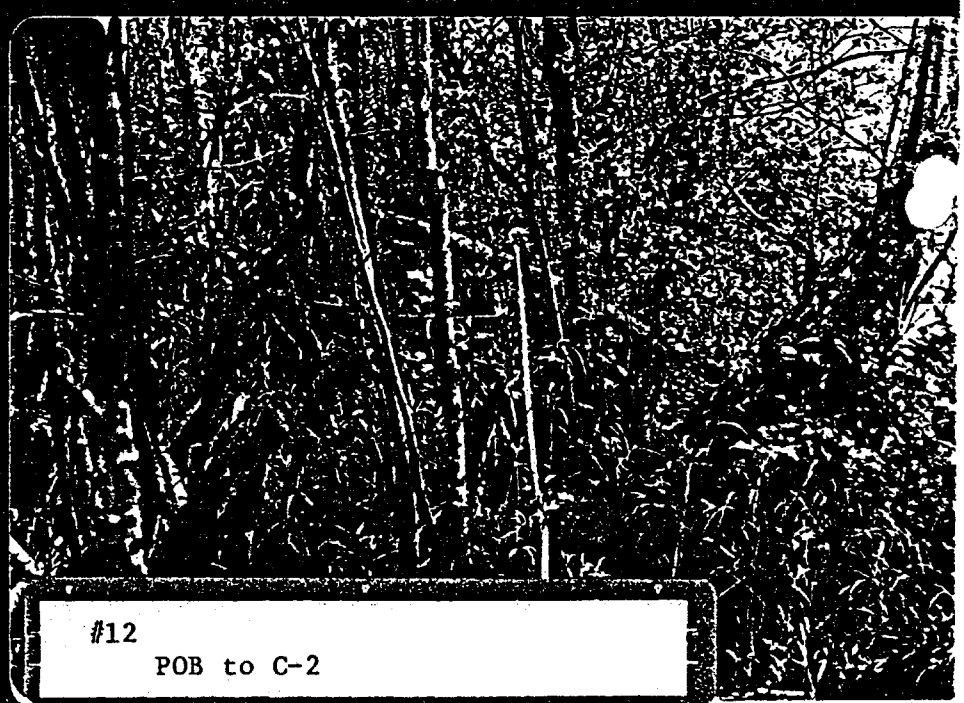
From POB to musher cabin



#10 POB reference, blazed tree

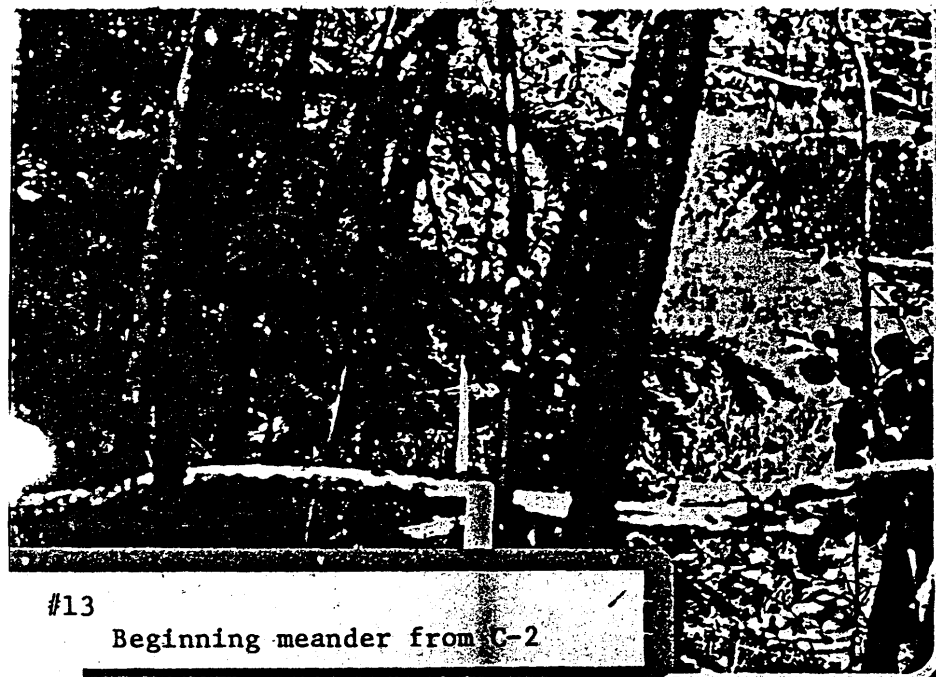


#11 POB reference, blazed willow



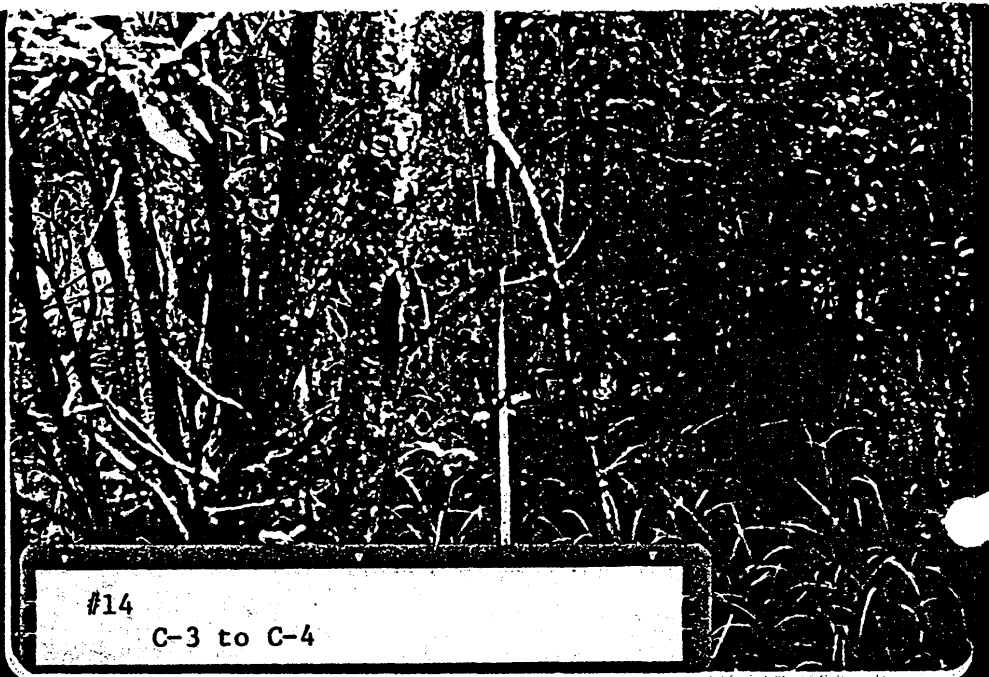
#12

POB to C-2



#13

Beginning meander from C-2



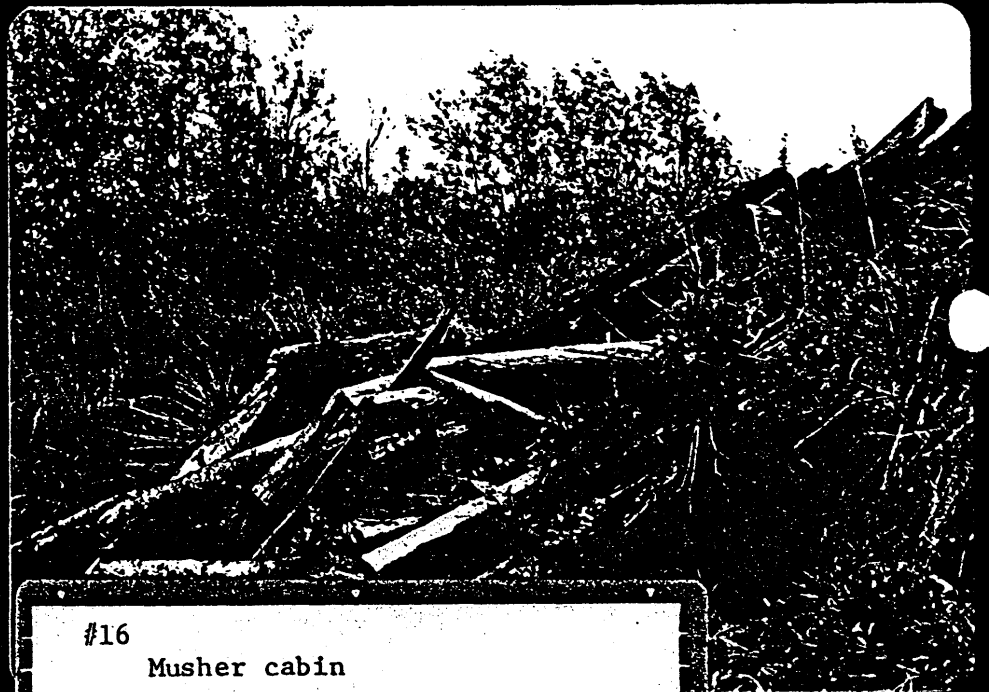
#14

C-3 to C-4



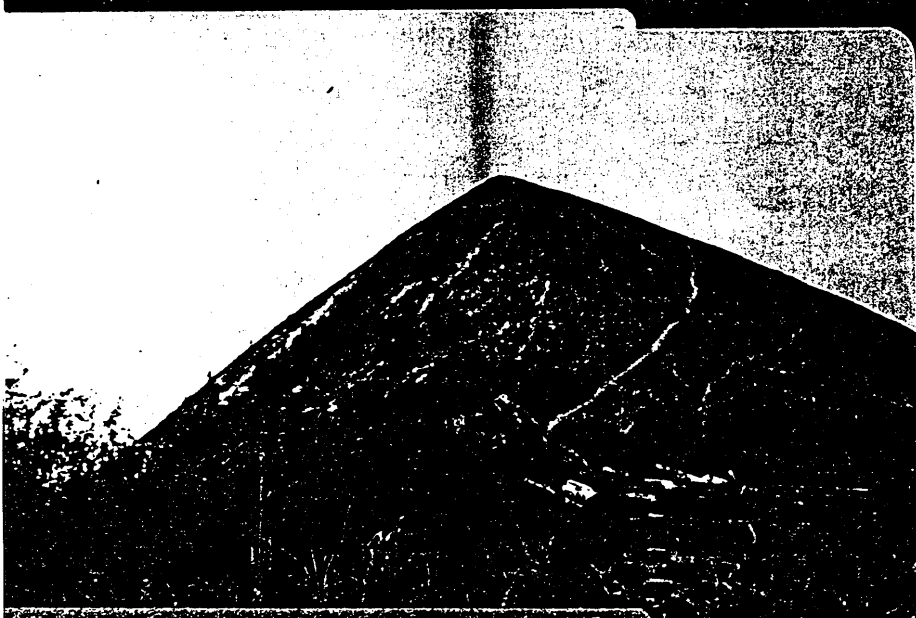
#15

Musher Cabin



#16

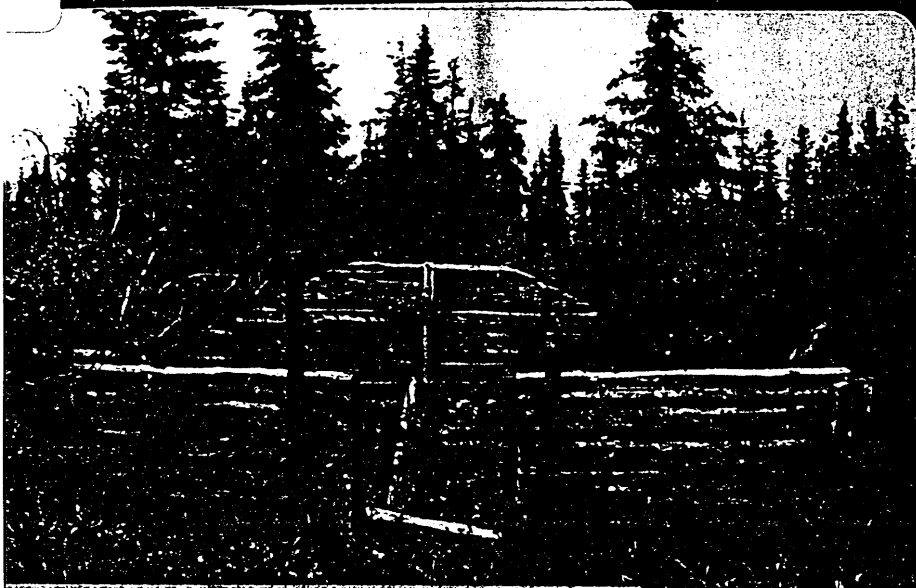
Musher cabin



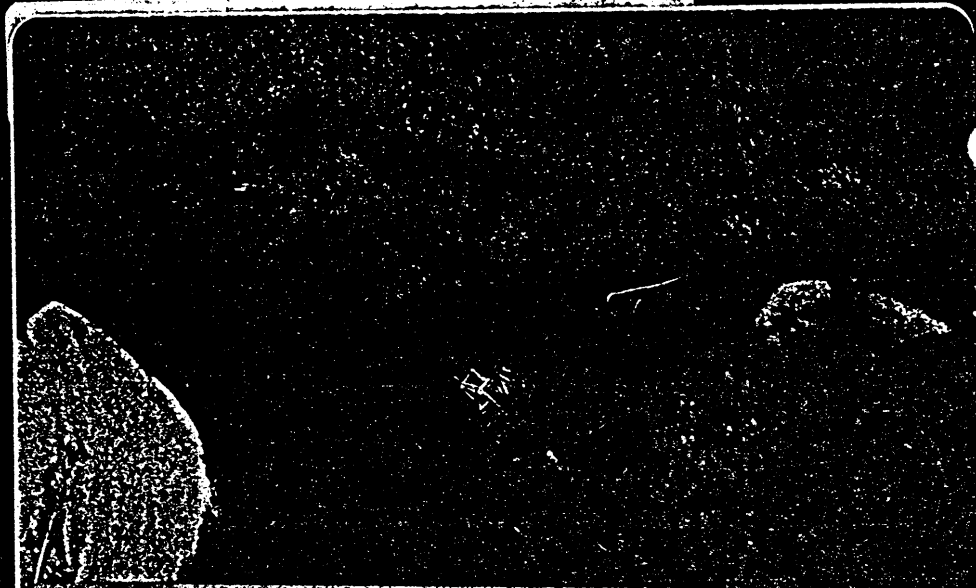
7 Musher cabin and Old Woman Mt.
in the background



#18
Corners A-1 to A-2



#19
Dog Barn



#20 Aerial: Musher Cabin, view
north

1 Aerial: Musher Cabin, view
east

64
30

#23 Dog Barn, view west

#22 Dog Barn, view south

AA-10692¹⁸

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

RECEIVED
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

FORM APPROVED
OMB NO. 42-R1652

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

Serial Number
AA10688-1

INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE

1. Name: **BERING STRAITS NATIVE CORPORATION**
P. O. BOX 1008
NOME, ALASKA 99762

Address (include zip code):

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)

T175 R6W
Section 15 all
Section 22 all

ALASKA
DEC 18 8 07 AM '75

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

Norton Bay (A-2), Alaska

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

4. Indicate land use and occupancy Occupied Unoccupied

Mining Claim Native Use
 Entryman Other (specify)

5. Indicate Entitlement (acres)	Total Entitlement	Previously Filed	This Application
<i>unoccupied</i>			

6. Give numerical preference, if selection application is filed pursuant to Sec. 2652.3(f) of the regulations

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

I 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.

John S. Anderson (Signature) *Pres. Bering Straits LLC* (Title) *12/15/75* (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.

NAME: Old Woman Mountain

SIGNIFICANCE: Old Woman Mountain is significant for three reasons; its use as a landmark, its inclusion in the oral literature and its contribution to the early Alaskan communication systems.

Old Woman Mountain has been used continuously by the people in the area as a landmark. Rising to a height of 1,400 feet, the mountain stands alone in the Unalakleet river flats, providing both direction and orientation to travelers on the Unalakleet river valley.

Recorded in the oral literature are two stories about the mountain. The first story explains how the mountain was named to commemorate an old woman who died as a result of an avalanche. The second story ominously warns that a person who climbs to the summit will sicken and die.

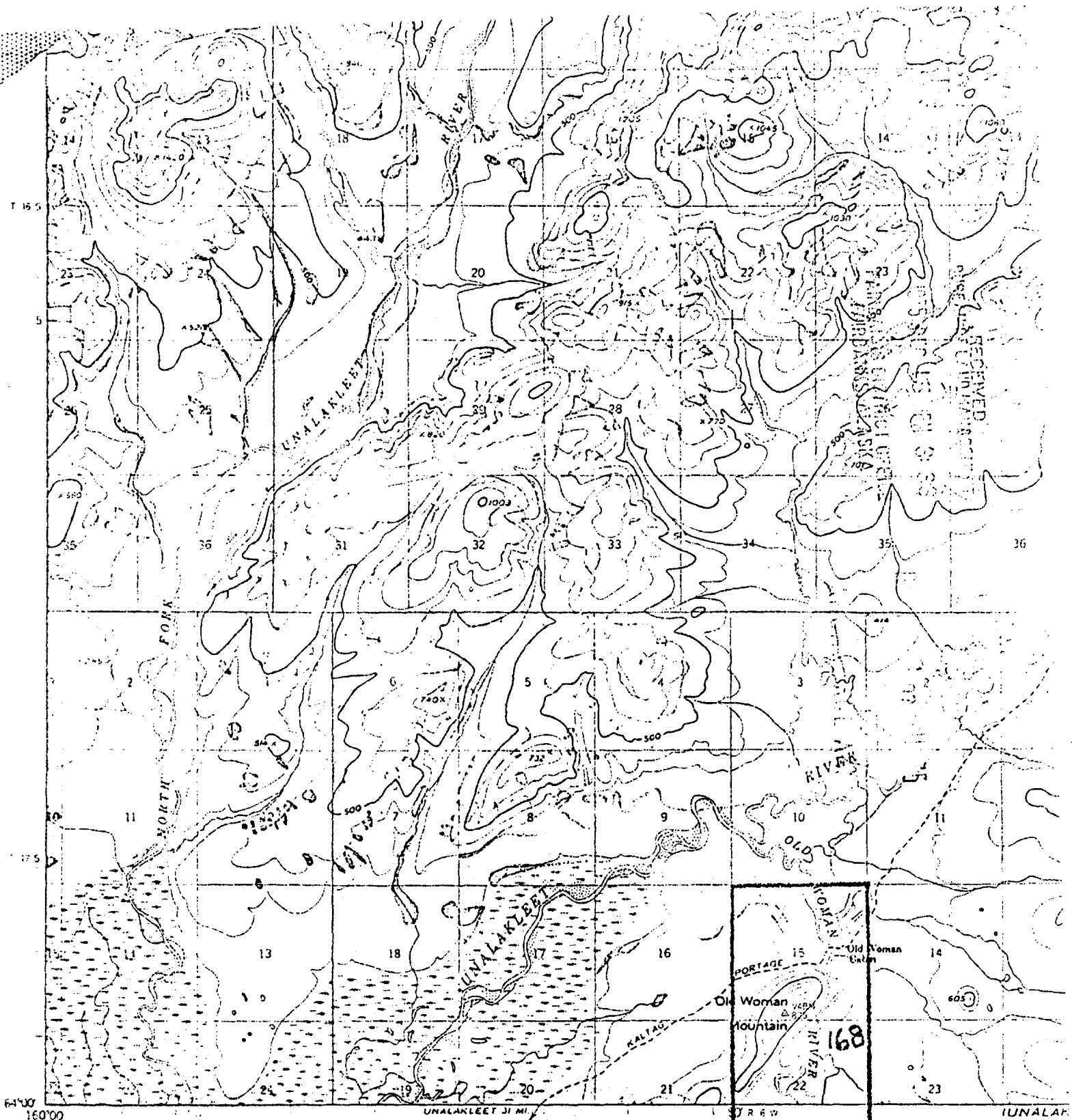
The third significant feature of Old Woman Mountain is its role in the early communications network. Located near the base of the Mountain is Old Woman cabin which was used as a resting place by the dog mushing mail carriers of the early 20th century. At the peak of the mountain is a telegraph station which linked the village of Unalakleet with other parts of the state.

More information on Old Woman mountain and its significance will be attached to this statement at a later date.

RECEIVED
BUREAU OF ORIENTAL RESEARCH
975 APR 15 11 30 AM
FARMERS DISTRICT OFFICE
FAIRBANKS, ALASKA

RECEIVED
BUREAU OF ORIENTAL RESEARCH
975 APR 15 11 30 AM
ANCHORAGE AK.
DEC 17 9 07 AM '75

AA1069



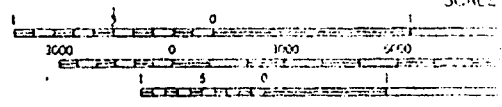
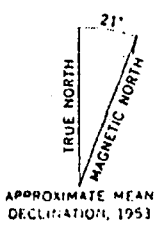
3 Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
 Control by USC&GS and USCE

Topography from aerial photographs by photogrammetric methods 1959. Aerial photographs taken 1952, 1955, and 1957. Field annotated 1953. Map not field checked.

Universal Transverse Mercator projection
 1927 North American datum
 1000 meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 4, shown in blue

Land lines represent unsurveyed and unmarked locations predetermined by the Bureau of Land Management Folios S-12 and K-17, Katoj River Meridian

Swamps as contrasted, and in only the wetter areas, usually of low relief, as interpreted from aerial photographs



CONTOUR UNIT DATUM IS M

FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
 FAIRBANKS, ALASKA DENVER, CO
 A FOLDER INSCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS

AA1069A-1



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Anthropology and Historic Preservation
Cooperative Park Studies Unit
University of Alaska
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

IN REPLY REFER TO:

March 18, 1981

Larry Cooper
Bureau of Indian Affairs
ANCSA Projects Office
P.O. Box 42267
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Dear Mr. Cooper:

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

Old Woman Mountain I AA10682

As required by the ANCSA 14(h) Rules and Regulations (43 CFR 2653.5) the Anthropologists from the Cooperative Park Studies Unit, representing the National Park Service, have surveyed and documented the site in the

field, gathered ethnohistoric information from knowledgeable local residents and researched archival and library sources.

The research staff has assessed the evidence for significance and on the basis of their research found that this site meets the criteria for significance as stated in the Rules and Regulations.

More in-depth information about the site and its significance appears in the National Register nomination form on file with this office, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the State Historic Preservation Officer's Office and the appropriate Native Corporations.

Sincerely yours,

Zorro A. Bradley
Chief, Anthropology and
Historic Preservation
Cooperative Park Studies Unit

AB/im
enclosure



Site Name: Old Woman Mountain AA10692

Anthropologist: William L. Sheppard, Cooperative Park Studies Unit (CPSU),
University of Alaska, Fairbanks.

Old Woman Mountain qualifies under the Rules and Regulations (43 CFR 2653.5) for ANCSA 14(h)(1) selection by Bering Straits Native Corporation. The site is located about 50 km east-northeast of Unalakleet, Alaska. CPSU field investigation of the site was conducted June 30, July 1, and August 6, 1980, in cooperation with BIA-ANCSA field personnel. The site is divided into three parcels: A, B, and C. Parcels A and B contain features associated with the site's use as a shelter cabin and mail carrier's cabin. The most important features in this area were the collapsed remains of the mail carrier's cabin and the somewhat better preserved remains of a dog barn, located not far from the mail carrier's cabin. Our field investigation also revealed several pits and a cast iron stove clustered in the southeast corner of Parcel A. These are believed to be associated with the site's use as a telegraph station. This area was tested, yielding remains that indicate an 1890 date or later. Parcel C includes the northern slopes and summit of Old Woman Mountain. In this area we found 12 features related to the use of the mountain top as a hunting lookout. Additionally, at the base of the mountain we found a recent moose hunting campsite.

Old Woman Mountain is intimately associated with the history of Kaltag Portage. The Kaltag Portage was a traditional travel route between Unalakleet on the Norton Sound coast and Kaltag in the interior. Trade along this route was very important to both the Eskimos and Indians because it enabled each side to obtain products that were otherwise not available in their own environment. During the historic period it became a route along which more exotic goods were

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exchanged, such as Siberian reindeer hides, tobacco and iron. Thus, the Kaltag Portage had inter-regional as well as local importance to Eskimos and Indians in western Alaska. In later years, the Kaltag Portage has had continued importance as a telegraph and mail route and as a segment of the well-known Iditarod Trail.

Historical records suggest that Old Woman Mountain was a traditional stopping place for Native travelers along the Kaltag Portage. Early European explorers were guided across the portage by Eskimos and Indians and several reported camping at Old Woman Mountain on their way. In early 1843, Zagoskin camped in the vicinity of the latter-day cabin. Zagoskin recorded a vivid description of the mountain which he called by the Indian name, Tsytyska and also the Russian name, Veselaya. The fact that the place already had a Russian place name indicates that the site may already have been important to the Russian traders in St. Michael and Nulato. In November 1866, Frederick Whymper and other members of the Western Union Telegraph Expedition camped near Old Woman Mountain. A year later, William Dall, another member of the expedition, again camped at Old Woman Mountain. Pere Julius Jetté, a missionary in Nulato, noted that the Indians described Old Woman Mountain as a stopping place on the portage. Old Woman Mountain did not have the importance of nearby Ulukuk Village as a way station for travelers, but it does seem to have been a place people knew about and used when circumstances required it.

When the government located a telegraph station at Old Woman Mountain, it formalized the site's role in Kaltag Portage travel. Between late October 1900 and late March 1901, a contingent of the U.S. Signal Corps labored to build a telegraph line between Unalakleet and Old Woman Mountain. The Old Woman site for a station was apparently planned in advance. One of the first uses of the

newly constructed telegraph line was to report the death of Pvt. Watson in an avalanche at Old Woman Mountain, an event that figures in stories told about the mountain. It is not clear when the telegraph station was last used, although it was in use when Hudson Stuck stopped there in 1915.

Concurrent with the completion of the Unalakleet-Old Woman leg of the telegraph line, a man named Samuelson built a cabin at Old Woman Mountain. This probably was the mail carrier's cabin there. It was used for almost 30 years, until the beginning of air mail service in western Alaska. During this period and afterward, the cabins at Old Woman Mountain made the location an important way station for portage travelers as well as hunters and trappers.

Outside of the historical dimension, Old Woman Mountain is associated with stories and religious beliefs of Eskimos and Indians. The mountain was originally named after an old woman who perished in an avalanche on the eastern slope of the mountain and is said to continue to haunt the mountain today. One Unalakleet man told us that the woman's spirit had the ability to transfer itself into animals and other forms. Similarly, Jetté recorded that the mountain's name may have been related to an Indian myth about an old woman who could transform herself into a bear (the name, Sestsika, means a brown, black bear). The Signal Corps Private, who died at Old Woman Mountain, is also said to haunt the area, although more benevolently. According to Jetté, there was a religious aspect to Old Woman Mountain. He noted that some Indians would make offerings of food to a mysterious being when they passed the mountain.

The people of Unalakleet have used Old Woman Mountain for a variety of subsistence activities throughout this century. One of the most important functions has been as a fall moose hunting site. Hunters would use the mountain top as a lookout, spot moose in the valley below, and either camp on the

mountain top or at its base. This use has continued throughout the memory of one of the oldest residents in Unalakleet. Hunters and trappers have also used the old mail carrier's cabin and dog barn as base camps for activities around the mountain. Today they still camp nearby.

Old Woman Mountain fulfills the definition of a "historical place" as set forth in the Rules and Regulations (43 CFR 2653.0-5(b)). The site forms a distinguishable tract of land that is associated with events that have made significant contributions to the history of the people of Bering Strait, that is associated importantly with Native historical or cultural events or persons, and that was subject to sustained historical Native activity. Further, Old Woman Mountain possesses integrity of location, setting, feeling and association.

Old Woman Mountain is significant in two areas as outlined by the Rules and Regulations (43 CFR 2653.5). (1) Old Woman has outstanding and demonstrably enduring symbolic value in the traditions and cultural beliefs and practices of Alaskan Eskimos (43 CFR 2653.5(d)(2)). The use of Old Woman Mountain is intimately associated with the history of the Kaltag Portage, a trade and travel route that has been important to the people of western Alaska for hundreds of years. Old Woman Mountain is also associated with several myths and stories. These associations point toward the site's importance in the spiritual and cosmological beliefs of the people of this area. Old Woman Mountain has also been an important subsistence site for many years and continues to be important to the people of Unalakleet today. (2) Old Woman Mountain has yielded and is demonstrably likely to yield information important to the history of the Norton Sound area. The site has already provided information about historic use of the Kaltag Portage and about the mythological history of the Unalakleet area.

The historic remains at Old Woman Mountain, as well as potential subsurface remains, may contribute further to the history of this area.

Because Old Woman Mountain has significance and meets the criteria for 14(h)(1) sites as defined by the Rules and Regulations, it qualifies as a historic site and should be certified for selection by Bering Straits Native Corporation under ANCSA 14(h)(1).

William J. Stegman 3-23-81

ABBREVIATED ANCSA 14(h)(1) SITE SURVEY FORM

Anthropology and Historic Preservation
Cooperative Park Studies Unit
University of Alaska
Fairbanks, Alaska

I. SITE NO.

- A. BLM Serial No. AA10692
B. State AHRS No. _____
C. Other, specify BSNC 168

II. SITE NAME

- A. Common Old Woman Mountain
B. Native Sestsika (Jette ms)
C. Non-native _____
D. Variations _____
E. Translation large black bear
or bear guts

III. SITE LOCATION

- A. Regional Corporation Bering Straits Native Corporation
B. TWP * RANGE * SECTION * MERIDIAN * _____;
* 1/4 of the * 1/4 of the * 1/4 of Section *
C. USGS Quad Norton Bay A-2
D. Longitude/Latitude Longitude 159°48'32" Latitude 64°00'58"
Map Scale: 1:63,360
E. How the site was reached: Helicopter

IV. LAND STATUS

- A. Within 11 (a) (1)
B. Regional Deficiency
C. D-1
D. Existing Wildlife Refuge
E. Existing National Forest
F. Additions to Wildlife Refuge
G. D-2
1. Proposed Park
2. Proposed Wild
and Scenic River?
3. Proposed Forest
4. Proposed Wildlife
Refuge
H. Other, specify _____

V. ENVIRONMENT

A. Description of site setting, landforms and other topographic features.
Old Woman Mountain is 1 km south of the mouth of Old Woman River, approximately 50 km (air distance) east-northeast of the village of Unalakleet. The site includes two topographically distinct segments divided into three parcels, A, B and C. Parcels A and B are on the east side of Old Woman River, about 200 m northeast of the mountain. This area averages not more than 2 m above the river level and is generally uniform topographically. A drainage channel flows north-east from the river toward an oxbow remnant north of the site. This channel (see continuation sheet)

*Parcels A & B: S 1/2, SE 1/4, NE 1/4; N 1/2, N 1/4, SE 1/4 Sec. 15, T 17S, R 6W.

Parcel C: S 1/2, NW 1/4, SE 1/4; SE 1/4, NE 1/4, SW 1/4; E 1/2, SE 1/4, SW 1/4; SW 1/4, SE 1/4 Sec. 15, T 17S, R 6W, Kateel River Meridian.

B. Ecosystem

1. Moist Tundra 2. Wet Tundra 3. Alpine Tundra (Parcel C)
4. High Brush 5. Coastal Western Hemlock-Sitka Spruce Forest
6. Bottomland Spruce-Poplar 7. Low Brush, Muskeg, Bog
8. Upland Spruce Hardwood 9. Lowland Spruce-Hardwood
(Parcels A and B)

This refers to a named ecosystem as indicated on the Joint Federal-State Land Use Planning Commission Map. If the site is located within an ecosystem which is like a small island within an area of another major ecosystem, this should be noted.

C. Site Vegetation- Parcel A is dominated by black spruce and alders and willows interspersed in varying ratios. Areas along the borders of watercourses are dominated by alders and willows. In three areas of the site where cultural activity has taken place, the ground is covered with tall disturbance grasses and young black spruce that clearly represent second growth. In other areas where the spruce forest is approaching "climax," very little vegetation is found underneath the trees.

Old Woman Mountain is vegetated with an alpine tundra community composed almost entirely of lichens. A few places on the summit support larger vegetation such as

VI. SITE DESCRIPTION (see continuation sheet)

A. Type

1. Archeological-Precontact
2. Archeological-Postcontact
3. Other, specify myth or story site

B. Definition

1. Village 10. Signal Site (Navigational Landmark)
2. Camp
3. Single dwelling 11. Trail
4. Cache 12. Mining Camp
5. Single non-dwelling 13. Battle Site
6. Homestead 14. Material Source (flint, red paint, copper, etc.), specify
7. Lookout
8. Cemetery
9. Sacred Place 15. Site associated with stories (other than cemetery)
16. Other, specify (caribou fence, fish weir, mail cabin, reindeer herder's cabin, ceremonial grounds, roadhouse, fur farm, cave, trade route, pictograph, petroglyph, etc.) mail cabin/shelter cabin, telegraph station

C. Description of Features and Structures at the Site

1. House pits

2. Cache pits--Three pits were found that represent either cache or disposal pits. One pit is questionable as to human origin.
Feature A: 4 m long by 1.5 m wide by 60 cm deep. Looks man made, but no direct evidence.

CONTINUATION SHEET

Item No. V, A and V, CPage No. 1

(Description-V, A-cont.)

divides Parcels A and B. Also in the northern section of this area, a creek flows northwest along the edge of Parcel A, intersecting the abovementioned drainage channel at the northern-most point of the site. To the south, another creek flows into Old Woman River from the southeast marking the southern boundary of Parcel A. Parcel B is essentially an island of higher ground segregated from other areas of higher ground on the north by an intermittent flood channel and on the south and east by the active channel flowing to the northeast. Old Woman River is steadily eroding away the bank on its west side.

The northeast end of Old Woman Mountain constitutes Parcel C. This includes the mountaintop and slopes as well as portions of the east and west banks of Old Woman River. Old Woman Mountain is a narrow ridge about 600 m wide that extends north from Uluqsruq Mountain. It rises about 200 m above the level of Old Woman River. The north and east faces are steep talus slopes, while the western slopes are much more gradual. The summit lies near the northern end with the mountaintop forming a narrow table sloping north and west.

(Site Vegetation-V, C-cont.)

small willows, dwarf birch, and grasses. The "biomass" of the lichen community varies a great deal depending on the slope and shelter from wind. The west side of the mountain supports the most robust community, while the ground cover on the top of the mountain is much thinner. The steep slopes on the east face support virtually no vegetation.

CONTINUATION SHEET

Item No. VI,C-2

Page No. 1

(Cache Pits, cont.)

Feature B: 1.6 m long by 70 cm wide by 40 cm deep.

Feature D: 1 m long by 70 cm wide by 55 cm deep.

(For further description, see other continuation sheets)

C. Description of Features and Structures at the Site(cont'd.)

3. Middens
4. Flake scatter
5. Above-ground structures
- Feature E: Dog barn constructed of logs, 5.1 m square, originally about 2.5 m tall, contains seven stalls for dogs.
- Feature G: Mail carrier's cabin/shelter. Constructed of logs, 5 m long, minimum 3 m wide, minimum 2 m tall. Cabin is being eroded into Old Woman River.
6. Cemetery
7. Other - Feature C: Cast iron stove. Associated with features A,B&D.
 - Feature H: Possible telegraph pole. Dimensions uncertain. Associated with feature
 - Possible submerged bridge remains, no feature number. Approximate dimensions 1 by 3
 Made of two parallel logs. (see cont. sheet)

VII. CONDITION OF SITE

A. Present Use (indicate all that apply)

1. Community residences
2. Family residences
3. Individual residence
4. Subsistence
5. Mining
6. Religious
7. Continuous
8. Seasonal
9. Occupied
10. Unoccupied
11. Other, specify _____

B. Disturbance by Cultural Activity

1. Construction
2. Pot-hunting or unsystematic artifact collecting
3. Vandalism
4. Reuse of Materials
5. Archeological excavation or testing
6. Other _____

C. Disturbance by Natural Processes

1. Ruined or deteriorated structures (weathering)
2. Erosion
3. Deposition
4. Channel shifting
5. Other _____

CONTINUATION SHEET

Item No. VI,C-7Page No. 1

(Other, cont.)

Parcel C features

- A₂ - Recent hearth with scatter of debris surrounding it.
- B₂ - Small wind shelter, 3 m by 1 m, consists of a slightly hollowed area on the lee side of a willow thicket with rocks piled on the north and east sides.
- C₂ - Rock cairn, 40 cm tall, 75 cm wide, several tin cans shoved inside cracks. Possibly USGS reference point.
- D₂ - Small fire-reddened area, approx. 30 cm diameter.
- E₂ - Watch post or lookout seat, consists of a shallow hollowed area, 1 m diameter.
- F₂ - Watch post, hollowed area 1 m by 2 m, rocks piled 20 cm high along all sides.
- G₂ - Small cairn, possibly a seat, approx. 30 cm base 15 cm high.
- H₂ - Small cairn virtually identical to G₂.
- I₂ - Watch post, shallow hole 50 cm diameter, rocks piled around the edge.
- J₂ - Small hole or watch post similar to I₂ except 30 cm diameter and several meters from slope edge.
- K₂ - Identical to J₂.
- L₂ - Hearth area: shallow, hollow, 3 m diameter; firewood and tin cans around perimeter, fire-reddened area in center.
- M₂ - Moose hunting camp, consists of hearth, possible wall tent frame, and large debris scatter; located at base of east slope.

- D. Probable Future Destruction or Disturbance
 1. Yes 2. No 3. Cultural 4. Natural

Additional Comment

About one half of feature G₁ has been carried away by the river and the remainder is immediately threatened.

VIII. SUBSURFACE TESTING

- A. Test
 1. Yes 2. No
- B. Accession No. AA10692-1 (Contains several unprovenienced items from one shovel probe.)
- | | |
|--|---|
| C. Method | D. Findings |
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> test pit | 1. <input type="checkbox"/> features |
| 2. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> shovel probe* | 2. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> artifact |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> auger core | 3. <input type="checkbox"/> sterile |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> other _____ | 4. <input type="checkbox"/> other _____ |

*Feature D was tested by shovel probe with positive results.

Feature F - Circular pit, 1 m diameter, 35 cm deep. Associated with Feature E. Features

A, B and D were concentrated in one area in association with Feature C.

IX. SURFACE COLLECTIONS

- A. Collection
 1. Yes 2. No
- B. Accession No. _____

X. EVALUATION

- A. Cultural-Temporal Placement
1. Cultural Affiliation (if known)
 - a. Eskimo, specify Unaligmiut, Malimiut, Qawiaramiut
 - b. Indian, specify Portage Indians - Koyukon sub-group
 - c. Aleut, specify _____
 - d. Non-native, specify U.S. Signal Corps, American and Lapp mail carriers
 2. Time Placement (if known)
 - a. 1920-1950
 - b. 1900-1919
 - c. 1850-1899
 - d. 1800-1849
 - e. 1700-1799
 - f. 1400-1699
 - g. Other, specify _____
 3. Evidence for Time Placement (state geological evidence, botanical evidence, cultural evidence, etc.)

Historical records and information supplied by knowledgeable elders from Unalakleet.

B. Major Economic Activity

1. Hunting
2. Fishing
3. Trapping
4. Reindeer herding
5. Mining
6. Other, specify camping site
7. None
8. Unknown

C. Ethnographic Summary

PLEASE NOTE

Some of the information in this section comes from taped interviews made for the CPSU-AHP 14(h)(1) Project. Researchers gathered this material to document site significance and local history as required under provisions of ANCSA 14(h)(1). Interviewees made these tapes with the understanding that the tapes were not for publication or general circulation; according to the Privacy Act of 1974, transcripts or notes made directly from the tapes cannot be used outside the 14(h)(1) Program without permission from CPSU and from those interviewed.

Old Woman Mountain has been used throughout this century for a variety of subsistence activities, all of which represent enduring site features. One of the most important uses has been as a fall moose hunting site. Hunters will spot moose from the mountain top and then stalk the animals in the valley below. Sometimes the hunters will camp on the mountain top, but most of the time they camp at the base of the mountain. People from Unalakleet also have hunted bear and a variety of furbearers near the mountain. In the past, these hunters often used the mail carrier's cabin or the dog barn as a camp. Today, they camp nearby. Besides using the old cabins as hunting camps, these structures have a long history of use as shelter cabins for travelers.

Another important aspect of this site is its association with stories and myths. The mountain was originally named after an old woman who perished in an avalanche on the eastern slope and is said to continue to haunt the area. Some people say the woman was an Eskimo, others maintain she was an Indian. One man told us that the woman's spirit has the ability to transform itself into animals and other forms. In 1901 a soldier stationed at Old Woman Mountain died in an avalanche in the same location. This man is also said to haunt the place, although his spirit seems to have benevolent aspects, including saving a man from freezing to death at Old Woman cabin by waking him up. Koutsky (1975) reported that she was told that it was death to climb to the top of Old Woman Mountain. Actually, this appears to be a story associated with a nearby hill, Old Woman's Baby. In the past, it is said that a noxious gas emitted from the top of the hill would kill any people who climbed to the summit. Now, it is apparently safe to climb the hill.

Historical records referring to Old Woman Mountain have significant time depth. In early 1843 Zagoskin camped in the vicinity of the latter day cabin location, on the right bank of Old Woman River. He considered the mountain interesting enough to record its description in his journal. He refers to the mountain as Tstsytseka, a name given to it by the Indians after the nearby Unalakleet River, and also by the Russian name, Vesalaya (Zagoskin 1967). In November 1866, Frederick Whymper and other members of the Western Union Telegraph Expedition camped near Old Woman Mountain. Whymper referred to the mountain as Versola Sofka (Whymper 1868); a year later, W.H. Dall, another member of the expedition, again camped at this spot. From an earlier visit Dall recorded a description of the mountain almost identical to Zagoskin's (Dall 1970). The repeated use of this locality by early explorers guided by Natives suggests that it may have been a common camping site for people in the area.

(see continuation sheet)

CONTINUATION SHEET

Item No. X,3-CPage No. 1

(Ethnographic Summary, cont.)

Jette recorded Old Woman Mountain in his manuscript, On the Geographical names of the Ten's (Jette n.d.). He notes two very interesting things. First, he records the locality as a stopping place for travelers on the portage, which would tend to confirm the contention that Old Woman was a traditional stopping place. Second, he notes that there were religious or mythological associations with the site. One person Jette talked to implied that the name of the site was related to a myth about an old woman who was changed into a bear. This is interesting in light of the transformational aspect at least some Eskimos have given to the old woman ghost. He also wrote that some individuals would make offerings to a mysterious being when they passed Old Woman Mountain.

Between late October 1900 and late March 1901, a contingent of the U.S. Signal Corps labored to construct a telegraph line between Unalakleet and Old Woman Mountain. The site at Old Woman Mountain was apparently planned in advance as a station. Interestingly, one of the first uses of the newly constructed telegraph line was to report the death of Private Watson in the April 2 avalanche, an event that later figured importantly in the mythology associated with the mountain (Bureau of Education 1901). Although it is not clear when the telegraph line was last used, explorer-priest Hudson Stuck wrote of visiting the station in operation during the winter of 1915. Oddly, Stuck noted a structure on the mountain top, something that is neither recalled by local people or evidenced by any remains (Stuck 1916).

Concurrent with the completion of the Unalakleet-Old Woman leg of the telegraph line, a man named Samuelson built a cabin at Old Woman (Bureau of Education 1901). This probably represents the first mail carrier's cabin at Old Woman Mountain. The main run along this route was operated on a low-bid contract basis. A series of cabins were constructed between Unalakleet and Kaltag, their use depended on the distance the mail carrier could travel by daylight during the winter months. In the late 1920s, the dog team mail run across the Kaltag Portage was discontinued with the advent of reliable air transport in western Alaska (Koutsky and Andrews 1979). According to a local resource person in Unalakleet, the last mail carrier was a man named Klemetsen, a Lapp.

XI. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- A. Date(s) visited 6/24,30; 7/1; 8/6/1980
- B. Field Investigator William Sheppard
- C. Others present at site (affiliation and title) P. Frankish, B. Davidson-
CPSU Field Assistants: L. Gagne, S. Christy, J. Heinen--BIA Field Investi-
gators
- D. Form prepared by William Sheppard
- E. Previous Excavations

NONE

- F. Previous Collections

NONE

G. Bibliographic References

Dall, Willaim H.

1970 Alaska and its Resources. Arno Press, Inc., New York.

Jette, Pere Julius

n.d. On the Geographical Names of the Ten's. Ms. Oregon Prvince
Archives, Gonzaga University, Spokane.

Koutsky, Kathryn and Elizabeth Andrews

1979 Ethnohistory of the Kaltag Portage, West Central Alaska. In 1979
Proceedings of the 1st Conference on Research in the National Parks,
Vol. 2, pp. 921-924. U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington.

Stuck, Hudson

1916 Ten Thousand Miles with a Dogsled. Chas. Scribners Sons, New York.

Whymper, Frederick

1868 Travel and Adventure in the Territory of Alaska. John Murrary,
London.

Zagoskin, L.A

1967 Lieutenant Zagoskin's Travels in Russian America, 1842-1844.
Edited by Henry N. Michael. Arctic Institute of North America,
Anthropology of the North, Translations from Russian Sources No. 7,
University of Toronto Press, Toronto.

G. Bibliographic References (cont'd.)

XII. MAPS AND BOUNDARIES

A. Boundary Justification

Most boundaries of Parcels A and B were natural boundaries created by water channel that coincide with the distribution of cultural materials and evidence of use areas. The boundary between Corners 3 and 4 of Parcel A was designed to include the limits of cultural activity in the eastern part of the site and does not represent a clear-cut natural boundary, such as a waterway. The northern boundary of

B. Site Map (attached)

(see continuation sheet)

C. U.S.G.S. Map showing site location (attached)

CONTINUATION SHEET

Item No. XII,APage No. 1

(Boundary Justification, cont.)

Parcel B was placed north of a natural boundary, the intermittent drainage channel referred to in Sec. VI to place the POB and Corner A-2 on stable ground.

The Aliquot Part description of Parcel C was written to include the northern summit area of the mountain that has been subject to sustained use and the eastern face that is associated with important events. BIA Sup. Fld. Invest. W. Wolf was aware of legal limitations in the Aliquot Part survey and therefore a greater-than-necessary area was included with some incidental areas.

Although the BSNC application nominates "Old Woman Mountain," other information in the application, as well as important cultural and historical associations between the mountain and cabin areas, led us to combine the two within our survey.

XIII. PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD

A. Date 6-30, 7-1-80

B. Roll No. 1 of 3

C. Frame No., Direction of View, Photo Content

<u>FRAME NO.</u>	<u>DIRECTION OF VIEW</u>	<u>PHOTO CONTENT</u>
1.		Panoramic shots from the top of Old Woman Mountain
2.	"	
3.	"	
4.	"	
5.	"	
6.	"	
7.	"	
8.	"	
9.	"	
10.	"	
11.	"	
12.	I.D. SHOT	
13.	Close-up	Cable insulator and attaching peg.
14.	247° True	Feature A
15.	273°	Feature B
16.	Close-up	Feature C
17.	"	"
18.	312°	Feature D
19.	130°	Feature E
20.		

D. Remarks (time of day, weather, other things affecting photos)
6 to 30, sunny; 7 to 1 overcast

XIII. PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD

A. Date 7-1-80B. Roll No. 2 of 3

C. Frame No., Direction of View, Photo Content

<u>FRAME NO.</u>	<u>DIRECTION OF VIEW</u>	<u>PHOTO CONTENT</u>
I.		
	Close-up	Inside of dog barn , Feature E
2.	"	"
3.	"	Lettering on wall of Feature F
4.	"	"
5.	"	Possible sunken bridge
6.	155° True	Feature G
7.	347°	"
8.	Close-up	Inscription on log of Feature G
9.		Pat Frankish working
10.		AERIALS
11.		"
12.		"
13.		"
14.		"
15.		"
16.		"
17.		"
18.		"
19.		"
20.		

D. Remarks (time of day, weather, other things affecting photos)
Overcast

XIII. PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD

A. Date 8-6-80

B. Roll No. 3 of 3

C. Frame No., Direction of View, Photo Content

<u>FRAME NO.</u>	<u>DIRECTION OF VIEW</u>	<u>PHOTO CONTENT</u>
I.	I.D. SHOT	
2.	Close-up	Feature A ₂
3.	"	"
4.	"	Feature B ₂
5.	"	"
6.	"	Feature C ₂
7.	"	Feature E ₂
8.	"	Feature F ₂
9.	"	Feature G ₂
10.	"	Feature H ₂
11.	"	Feature I ₂
12.	"	Feature J ₂
13.	"	Feature L ₂
14.		
15.		
16.		
17.		
18.		
19.		
20.		

D. Remarks (time of day, weather, other things affecting photos)
Very bad wind, rain and cold, and cold, wet photographer

LM 5062

KODAK SAFETY FILM 5062

KODAK SAFETY FILM 5062

KODAK SAFETY FILM 5062

KODAK



1A → 2 → 2A → 3 → 3A → 4 → 5 → 5A → 6

SAFETY FILM 5062

KODAK SAFETY FILM 5062

KODAK SAFETY FILM 5062

KODAK SAFETY FILM 5062



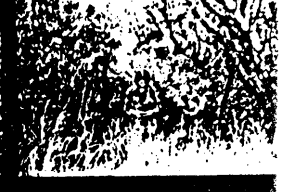
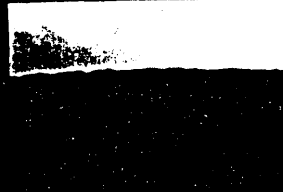
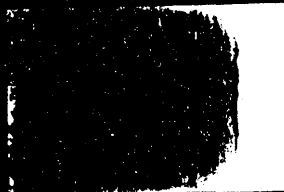
6A → 7 → 7A → 8 → 8A → 9 → 9A → 10 → 10A → 11

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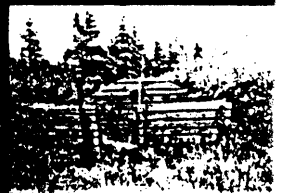


11A → 12 → 12A → 13 → 13A → 14 → 14A → 15 → 15A → 16

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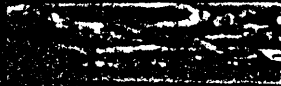
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FILM 5062

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→2

→2A

→3

→3A

→4

1 8 8

→5

→5A

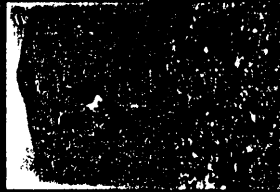
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→7

→7A

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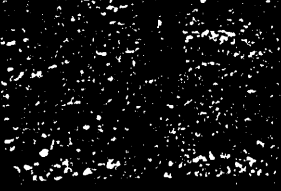
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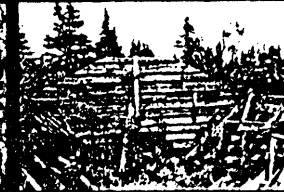
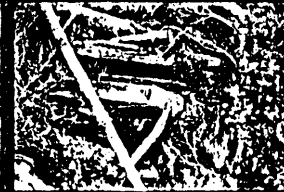
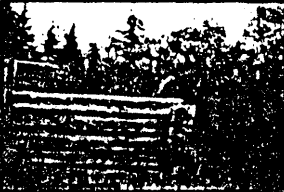
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→1A →2

→2A →3

→3A →4

→4A →5

→5A →6

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→8A →9

→9A →10

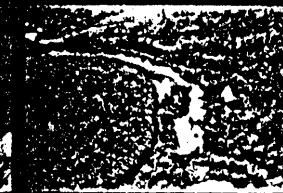
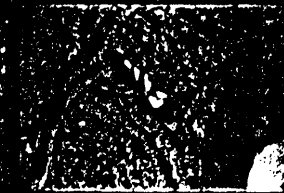
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→14A →15

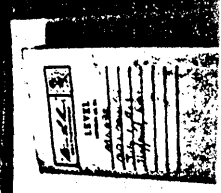
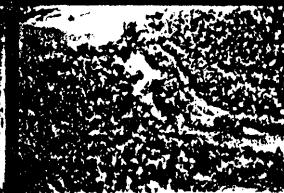
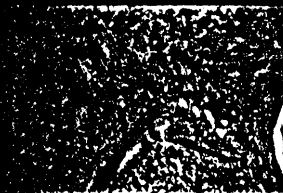
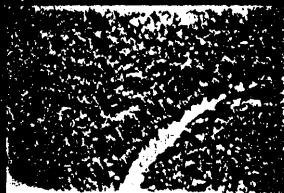
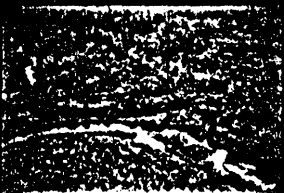
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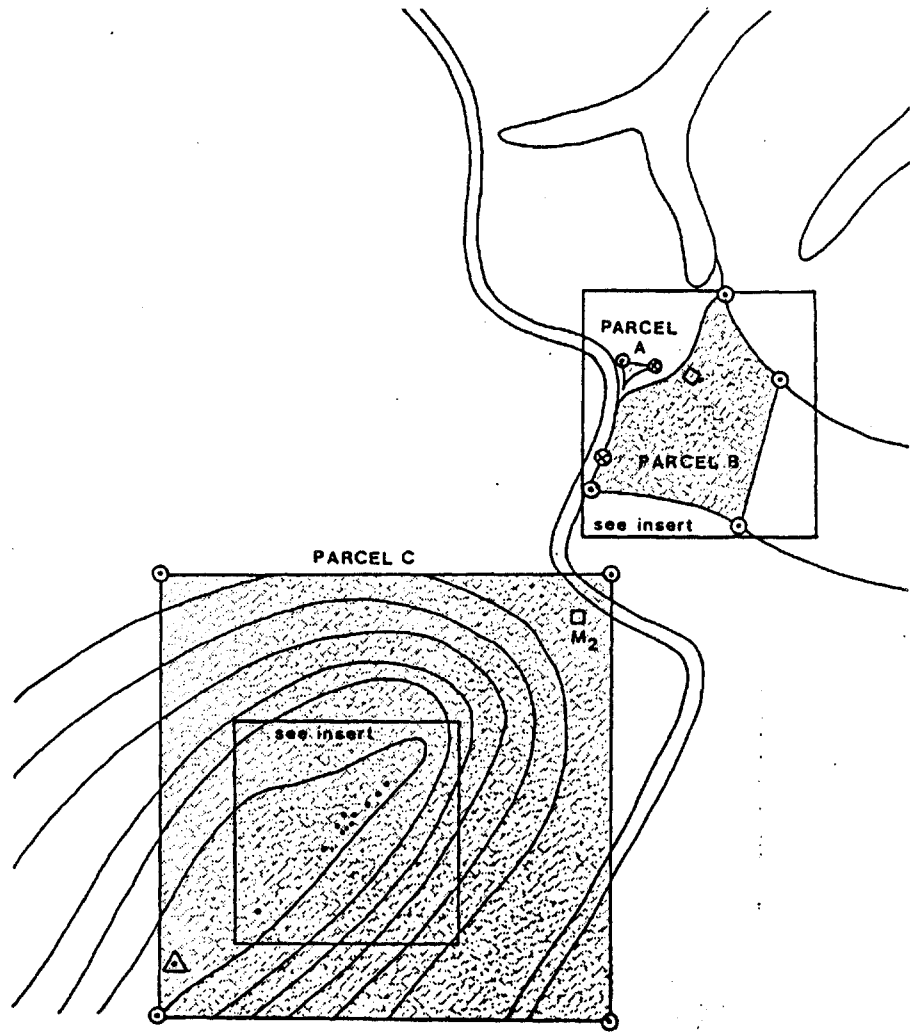
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→17A →18

→18A →19

→19A →20

→20A



△ USGS benchmark

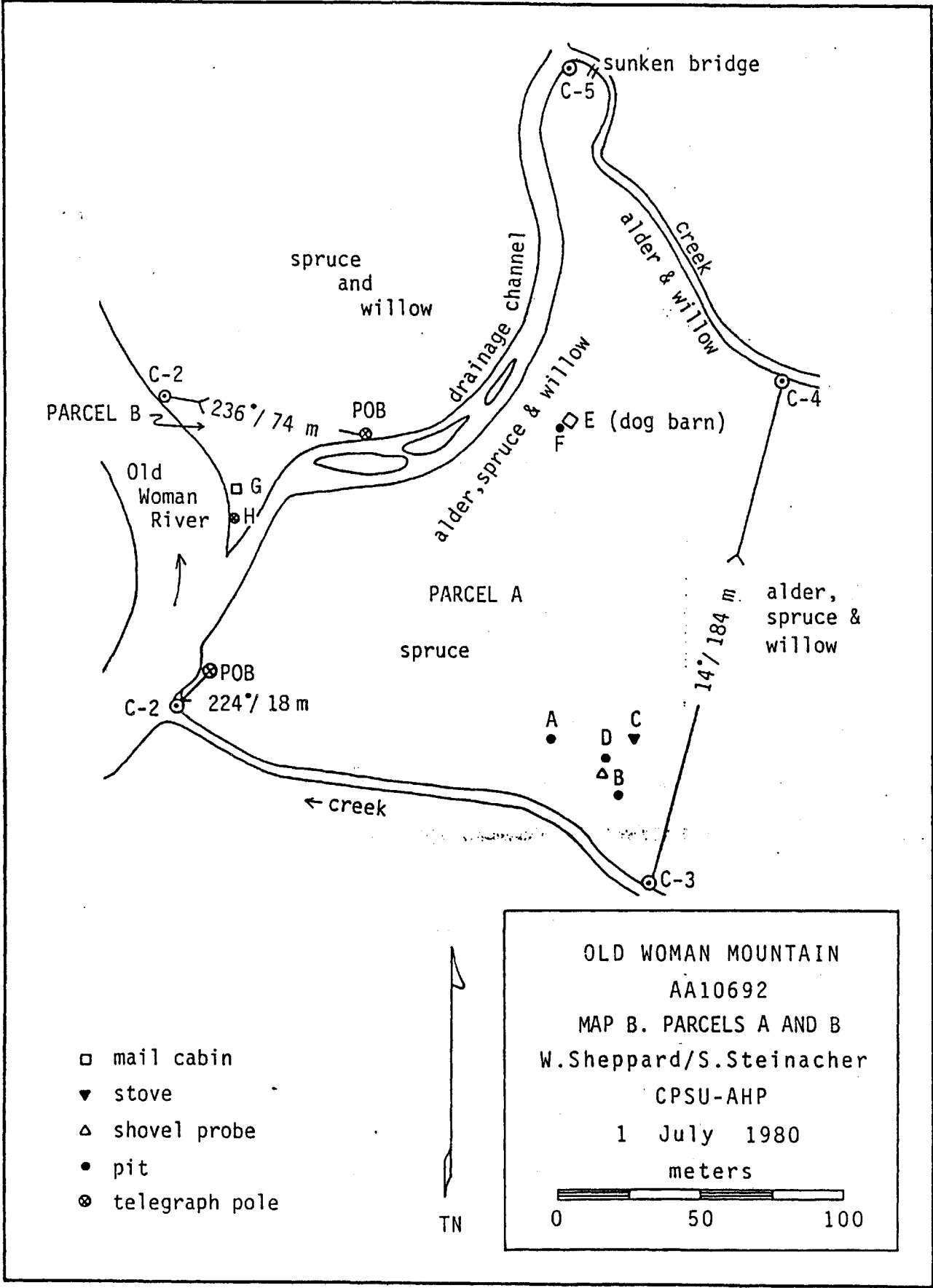
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U.S. Department of Interior,
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 Fairbanks, Alaska.

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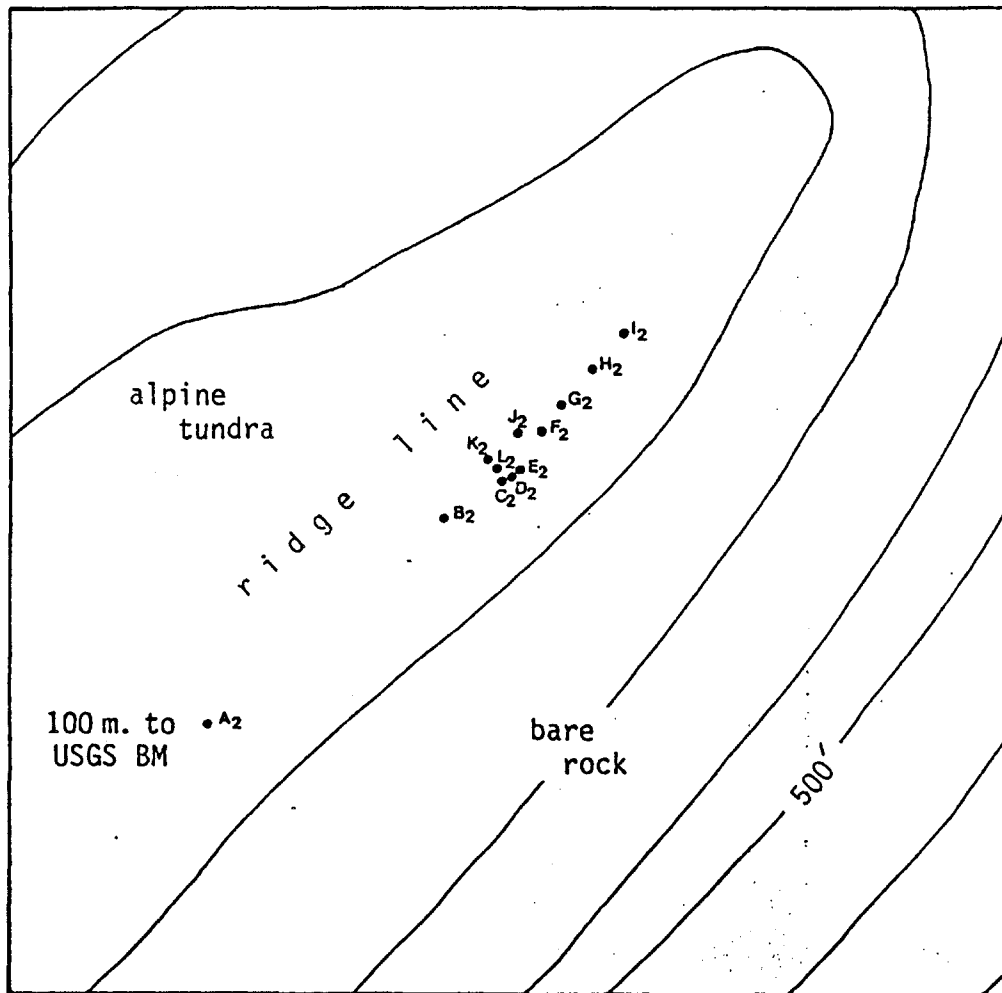
OLD WOMAN MOUNTAIN
 AA10692
 MAP A. ENVIRONMENT
 W. Sheppard/S. Steinacher
 CPSU-AHP
 1 July 1980
 meters

A horizontal scale bar is located at the bottom of the text box. It is marked with '0', '200', and '400' meters.



- mail cabin
- ▼ stove
- △ shovel probe
- pit
- ⊗ telegraph pole

OLD WOMAN MOUNTAIN
 AA10692
 MAP B. PARCELS A AND B
 W. Sheppard/S. Steinacher
 CPSU-AHP
 1 July 1980
 meters



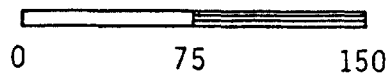
contour interval 100 feet

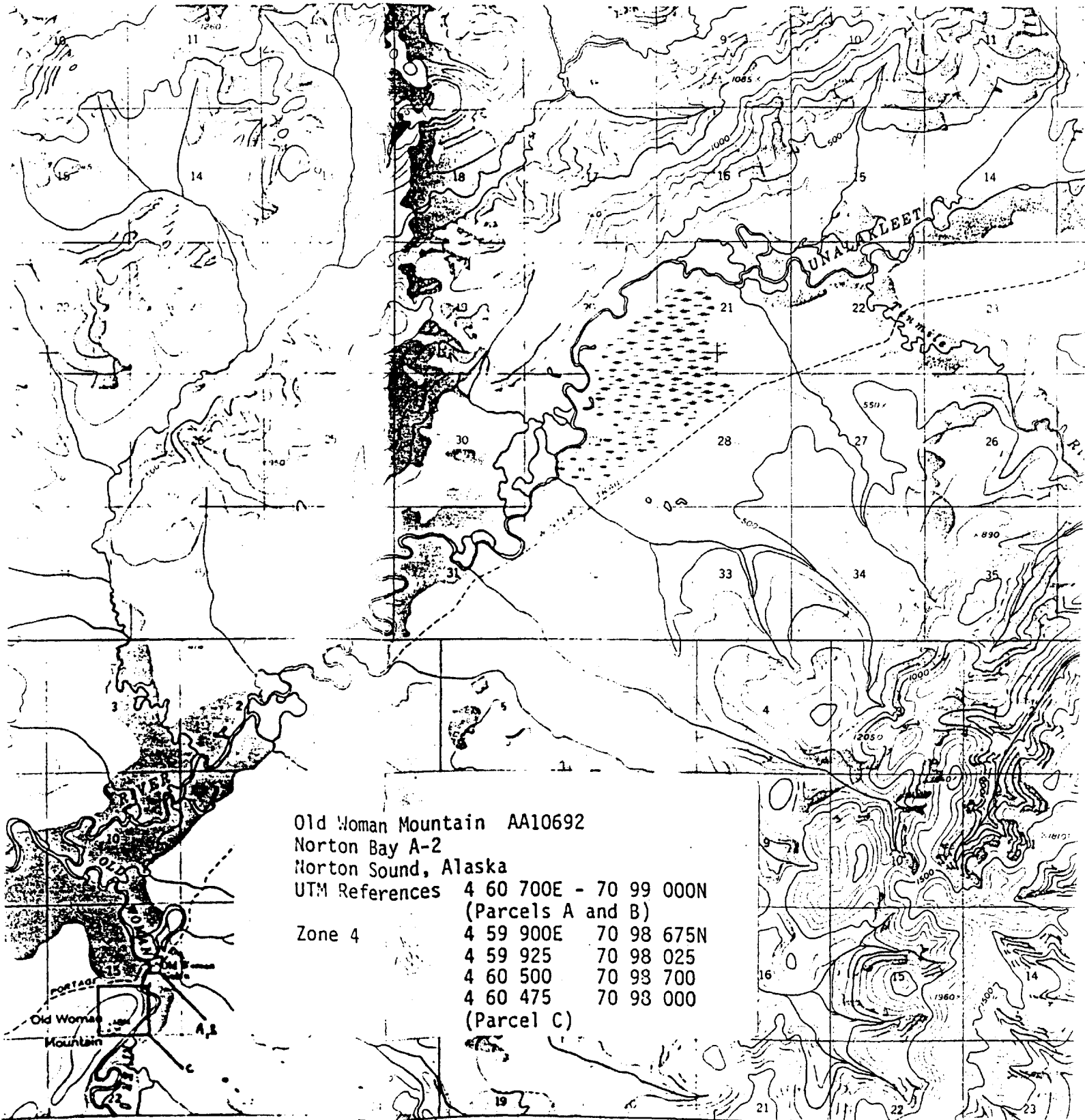
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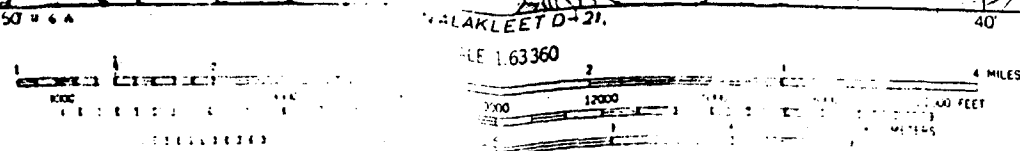


OLD WOMAN MOUNTAIN
AA10692
MAP C. PORTION OF PARCEL C.
W. Sheppard/S. Steinacher
CPSU-AHP
1 July 1980
meters





Old Woman Mountain AA10692
 Norton Bay A-2
 Norton Sound, Alaska
 UTM References 4 60 700E - 70 99 000N
 (Parcels A and B)
 Zone 4 4 59 900E 70 98 675N
 4 59 925 70 98 025
 4 60 500 70 98 700
 4 60 475 70 98 000
 (Parcel C)



UTH RANGE 6 WEST OF THE KATEEL RIVER

