

Doyon, Ltd.: Historic and Cemetery Sites

PRELIMINARY INVENTORY

1. Site Number - GAL 4  
(The geographical feature as distinguished from the settlement.)
2. Name of Site Bishop Rock
- Variations Bishop Mountain, Yistletaw (USGS), Yesetia (Jetté), Yisitia (deLaguna), Big Mountain (Petroff), Isitiya (Zagoskin), Yesetiator (Jetté), Giant's Rock
3. Map Reference NULATO 64°49'35"N/157°22'07"W T8S/R7E
4. Land Status Within 11(a)(1)  
Not selected, ?Native allotment

COMMENTS

The story of Bishop Mountain has been part of the oral literature of the Galena and Koyukuk Indians as long as can be remembered. It was first recorded in the early 1900's by Father Julius Jette, Jesuit missionary at Nulato, and remains much the same today as it is told among the people. Briefly, the story recounts the travel of a giant man and his wife who came from the south where they were starving. Before reaching the Yukon River, the man became very tired, laid down to sleep, and never awoke. Pilot Mountain (see GAL 5) is where he laid to rest and Bishop Mountain is where he laid his pack.

In 1885, Arch bishop Seagher during his missionary travels in Alaska was murdered on this mountain, hence, the name Bishop Mountain (or Rock). A cross was erected as a memorial in the early 1900's and is maintained today.

More practically, Bishop Mountain has served as an important land mark for travellers on foot, by boat, dog team and currently snow machine. Along with Pilot Mountain, it is one of the only two areas of considerable elevation amidst a vast expanse of a flats environment.