

71

REPORT OF INVESTIGATION
FOR
TAPQAQ
BERING STRAITS NATIVE CORPORATION
BLM F-21945

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
ANCSA OFFICE
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

CERTIFICATE OF ELIGIBILITY
FOR
TAPQAQ
BERING STRAITS NATIVE CORPORATION
BLM F-21945

I, Jacob Lestenkof, Area Director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), pursuant to the authority vested in me by 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 2650 hereby issue a Certificate of Eligibility to Bering Straits Native Corporation for Tapqaq (BLM F-21945) as a historical place and cemetery site for the following reasons:

1. Field investigation was conducted by BIA personnel who found substantial evidence to support the claim for a Native historical place and cemetery site.
2. Investigators located a number of archeological features including house pits and graves that indicated the site was in use prior to the 1880s.
3. Tapqaq meets the criteria for qualification as a Native historical place and cemetery site as required by 43 CFR 2650, et seq.

This certificate and accompanying report will be submitted to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) which pursuant to 43 CFR 2650 will issue an appealable decision on the application.



Area Director

Dated: _____

18 Dec 87

CLAIMS EXAMINER'S CERTIFICATE
FOR
TAPQAQ
BERING STRAITS NATIVE CORPORATION
BLM F-21945

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 3rd day of August, 1987

Stanley J. Casey
Claims Examiner

Reviewed and approved by:

L. P. Cooper, Jr.
Claims Examining Officer

Dated: 03 August 1987

CLAIMS EXAMINER'S REPORT
FOR
TAPQAA
BERING STRAITS NATIVE CORPORATION
BLM F-21945

I. PREFACE

1. Bearing Straits Native Corporation is a Native regional corporation organized in accordance with 43 CFR 2650.
2. The corporation authorized an individual to file its applications in accordance with 43 CFR 2650.
3. The corporation included a statement of significance in accordance with 43 CFR 2650.
4. The site is marked on United States Geological Survey (USGS) quadrangle map, Solomon (C-4), Alaska, in accordance with 43 CFR 2650.
5. The site is within the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge, Bering Sea Unit.
6. Bureau of Indian Affairs field investigators marked the corners of the site in accordance with 43 CFR 2650.
7. Bureau of Indian Affairs field investigators examined the site in 1984.
8. Based upon field examination and research, BIA has determined Tapqaa is eligible for certification as a Native historical place and cemetery site.

II. CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. An eligible Native regional corporation can select lands pursuant to Sec. 14(h)(1) of Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA).
2. A Native regional corporation can authorize an individual to file its applications for Sec. 14(h)(1) selections.
3. An application for a Sec. 14(h)(1) selection can be amended.
4. Bureau of Indian Affairs can modify the boundaries of a cemetery site or a historical place.
5. A historical place or cemetery site selection in a national forest or a national wildlife refuge can be granted.
6. Bureau of Indian Affairs can consult other federal agencies on Sec. 14(h)(1) selections.
7. Bureau of Indian Affairs shall confirm the existence of a cemetery site or a historical place.

III. FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Bureau of Indian Affairs archeologists found substantial evidence to support the claim for a Native historical place and cemetery site including house pits and graves.
2. The deteriorated condition of the house pits and graves indicates the site had been used and occupied prior to turn of the century.
3. Local Native oral history and documented history by Russian and Euro-American explorers establish the time of occupancy prior to the contact period in the nineteenth century.

4. Tapqag meets the criteria for qualification as a Native historical place and cemetery site as required by 43 CFR 2650, et seq.

IV. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended BIA issue a Certificate of Eligibility for Tapqag as a Native historical place and cemetery site in conformance with 43 CFR 2650, et seq.

ARCHEOLOGIST'S CERTIFICATE OF REVIEW

FOR

TAPQAQ

BERING STRAITS CORPORATION

BLM F-21945

I, Kenneth L. Pratt, certify the following Sec. 14(h)(1) report to be true to the best of my knowledge and belief:

That BIA ANCSA archeologists 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 summary of this investigation accurately reflects the findings of the field examination required by 43 CFR 2650.

Kenneth L. Pratt

Archeologist

Date 27 July 1987

ABSTRACT

Tapqaq (BLM F-21945) is located on the Norton Sound coast about 43 kilometers (km) west of Golovin, Alaska. Bering Straits Native Corporation has applied for this site as a historical place.

After field examination, the legal description for the parcel of land including this site was found to be different from that on the original application encompassing a smaller area of land. The applicant has been advised of the need for an amendment to this application. The site is included within three parcels of land.

Archeologists identified a total of 75 cultural features. These features represent occupations of the site in the early historic or prehistoric, late historic and modern periods of Bering Strait history. The site is also preserved in the oral traditions of the Bering Strait region.

There appear to be no factors significantly affecting the integrity of this site. It is associated with a significant event in Bering Strait history, the 1918 influenza epidemic. Tapqaq can also provide information important to understanding Bering Strait history and culture. The oral traditions preserved about this site are indicative of a sustained symbolic importance in the minds of Bering Strait people.

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REPORT OF INVESTIGATION
FOR
TAPQAAQ
BERING STRAITS NATIVE CORPORATION
BLM F-21945

I. INTRODUCTION

Purpose and Authority

The purpose of this report is to set forth investigative findings from the ANCSA Office examination of the Bering Straits Native Corporation application for "Taapqaaq" (Site 172) as a historical place.

Section 14(h)(1) of 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 Sec. 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 the investigations and to make recommendations as to certification in accordance with 43 CFR 2650.

Site Application

Bering Straits Native Corporation applied for "Taapqaaq" (Site 172) as a historical place on December 5, 1975, in compliance with regulations of Sec. 14(h)(1) of ANCSA. The application area was marked on USGS quadrangle map, 1:63,360, Solomon (C-4), Alaska (Appendix). A tract of land was claimed including secs. 6 and 7, T. 11 S., R. 26 W., Kateel River Meridian (KRM), Alaska.

The BLM preadjudicated the application and assigned it case file F-21945. They then forwarded the application to the BIA ANCSA Office for field investigation.

Location, Dates of Investigation and Personnel

The site was located on August 7, 1984, by William Sheppard (Lead Archeologist). It is located in the SW4NW4 sec. 5, and the S2NE4, E2SW4, N2SE4, SW4SE4 sec. 6, T. 11 S., R. 26 W., KRM, Alaska, and appears to be in conflict with Native Allotments F-16365 and F-14125, as well as Village Selection F-14956-A2.

The field investigation was conducted on August 10, 1984, by David Staley, Pat McCoy, Frank Broderick and Marjorie Connolly (Archeologists). Tapqaaq¹ is a village site that consists of 75 cultural features and other miscellaneous historic debris.

Transportation to and from the site was by helicopter.

¹ Underscored Native names and words reflect spellings provided or approved by the Alaska Native Language Center (ANLC), University of Alaska, Fairbanks.

Disposition of Materials

This report is based on a report written by William Sheppard. All field notes, field survey forms, taped interviews, interview notes, maps, photographs and other collected information associated with this Sec. 14(h)(1) investigation are maintained in the administrative files of the BIA ANCSA Office in Anchorage, Alaska.

II. INVESTIGATIVE FINDINGS

Environmental Setting

Tapqaq (BLM F-21945) is located on the Norton Sound coast 43 km west of Golovin, Alaska. The site (Photographs 1 and 2) lies near the middle of a 25 km stretch of coastline that is characterized by high rocky cliffs rising above narrow, sandy beaches. Tapqaq is situated at the mouth of Topkok River (Topcock Creek) which empties into the sound between Topkok Head to the west and an unnamed point to the east. Low hills with elevations up to 150 meters (m) surround the site increasing gradually in elevation to the north. Most of the area surrounding Tapqaq is covered with tussocky, moist tundra with extensive growths of willows and alders along drainage channels and on some hillslopes. Very exposed areas are vegetated with a lichen-dominated alpine tundra.

Tapqaq (Figure 1) is divided into three parcels, each in a different physiographic context. Parcel A consists of a 300 m long beach ridge and the lower slope of the hillside to the west. The beach ridge is covered with lush growths of disturbance grass. Where the beach ridge ends and elevations begin to gradually rise, the vegetation grades into moist, tussocky tundra interspersed with patches of willows. The beach ridge now encloses a sizeable lagoon. This is a recent feature, as the USGS quadrangle map, 1:63,360, for this area (based on 1950 photogrammetry) shows only Topkok River and its confluence with Rock Creek.

Parcel B encompasses a small point southwest of Parcel A and the slopes above it. The point is an irregular, 3-pronged protrusion connected with the slopes above by a narrow bridge of land. Vegetation in this area consists of dense growths of disturbance grasses. From the aforementioned land bridge to the

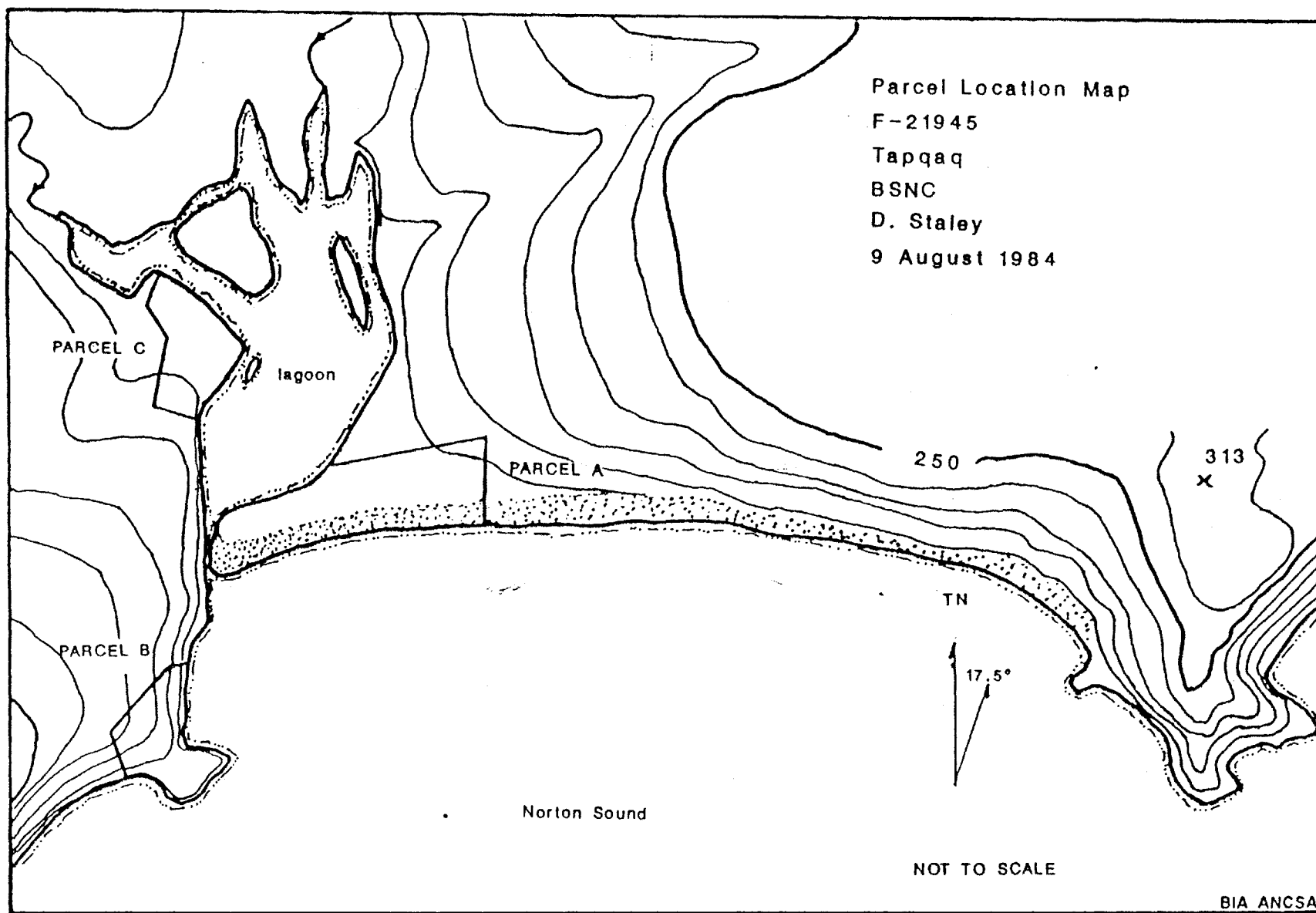


Figure 1. Parcel Location Map

west, the slopes rise very steeply and then become more moderate on a barren, rocky slope covered with alpine tundra. This parcel is surrounded on all but the northwest side by steep cliffs.

Parcel C is located on the northwest side of the modern lagoon. This area is not topographically distinct, consisting of an area of mixed willow and alder thickets as well as grass on very minimal slopes.

Site Background

Written Historical Accounts

There is a paucity of early accounts on Tapqaq. Although Ethnographer Edward W. Nelson traversed the coast of Norton Sound between Golovin Bay and Nome, he did not mention this community in his text. He does, however, show the location of "Tup-ka-ak" on his map of Bering Strait (1899:Plate II). The first specific mention of Tapqaq comes with the 1880 census which reported the village to have a population of 15 (US Census Office 1884). The 1890 census² indicates Tapqaq had a population of 51 including 27 males and 24 females (US Census Office 1893). The census further indicates the village had 28 foreign inhabitants, but does not clarify exactly what "foreign" means. According to Donald J. Orth, (author of Dictionary of Alaska Place Names (1967:978) Arthur Gibson's 1908 "Map of Seward Peninsula" shows a "Topkok Roadhouse" at this site. A mining camp was established there in 1900. Virginia Doyle Heiner (1977:160-162) regards the name Tapqaq as being interchangeable with a nearby mining site named Bluff, but it is obvious the information she sites for "Topkok," including references to a post office active there until 1923, relates to Bluff.

² The northern Norton Sound data for this census came from Nelson.

Oral History

Dorothy Jean Ray (1971:10) describes "Tapkak" as being a small area and old village near Solomon, translating the name as "sandy beach" and elsewhere as "sandy straight line beach" (Ray 1964:71). The name has been translated to the author of this report as meaning more precisely "beach ridge." Although the site is applied for under the name "Taapqaaq," the correct Inupiaq orthography for this word is Tapqaaq. As Ray (1971:10) points out, this is a relatively common place-name, and variants of it are found several places in Norton Sound.

Bering Straits Native Corporation's application (Appendix) for this site describes the following story associated with the site. It is said,

. . . a beautiful woman . . . [from] Tapqaaq . . . refused to marry any of the . . . [local] men and secretly married a whale. . . [and] gave birth to a . . . whale-like creature. . . frightened [villagers] tied [the creature] . . . to a . . . rock [that became] . . . groove[d] . . . from . . . [its struggles].

The application says the rock is still visible at the site and may in fact describe the 3-fingered peninsula in Parcel B.

A similar version of the same story was told at the 1980 Bering Strait Elders' Conference. This version mentions there were two families living at Tapqaaq with only one daughter between them. When the young woman gave birth to the whale child, her grandfather tied the creature to the rocks with walrus skin. The animal swam away in the spring and returned every spring thereafter, becoming something of a pet to the villagers.

Another story the elders told about Tapqaaq recounted how a mother saved the lives of her children during a famine there by cutting off pieces of her tongue and cooking it into a broth.

In addition to the stories about this site, the elders described Tapqaaq as an old village and fishing site that was within their memory the home of an Eskimo reindeer herder named Tatigrak and another man named Frank Cook.

Kathryn Koutsky was told the area near Topkok Head was a place where people drove rabbits off the cliff and collected the bodies below (1981:32).

A man who ran the mail along this part of Norton Sound coast said the site was abandoned when he began running the mail in 1924, apparently wiped out by the 1918 influenza epidemic.

Site Description

Field Approach

The features in Parcel A (Figure 2) were mapped and described from a series of eight datums, each approximately 100 m apart. The datums were designated as being east or west in reference to a primary datum (Datum 0). Two datums were established west of Datum 0 and five to the east. The features mapped within a 50 m radius of each datum are defined as an area, for example Area I West.

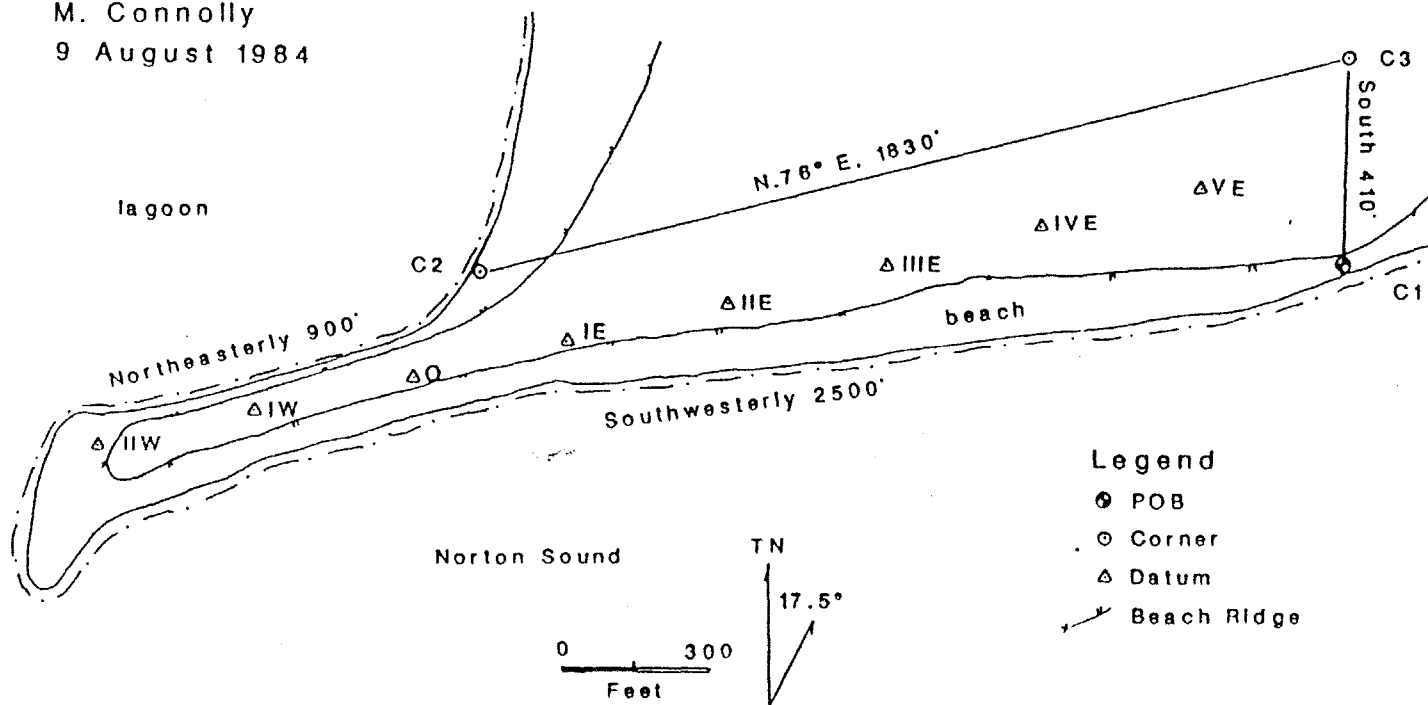
In Parcel B, features were also mapped and described from datums, but in this case, only two datums were used, one in the upper portion of Parcel B and one on the point. As Parcel C only had three widely separated features, mapping was done in reference to the parcel's corners.

Surface Remains

As mentioned in the environmental setting section, Tapqaq is divided into three parcels. Although there is some overlap, all three areas possess relatively distinct sets of features.

Parcel A contains 37 cultural features representing at least three periods of use. Modern remains are located in Areas II West, and I and II East. This includes a set of features comprising a fish camp at the western end of the parcel, a recent cabin and various other camping debris. Less recent, but

Parcel A
 F-21945
 Tapqaq
 BSNC
 M. Connolly
 9 August 1984



Legend

- POB
- Corner
- △ Datum
- Beach Ridge

Figure 2. Parcel A Map

probably post-1918 features include a log cache in Area II West, a standing cabin in Area I West, and possibly log caches in Areas I and II East. Features dating to earlier periods include the remains of aboveground log structures, semisubterranean dwellings, and one or two aboveground graves found in Areas O and I West; as well as Areas I, II and V East. The grave or graves in Area V East probably represent the remains of the log crib style burials also seen at Chiugaq to the east. This style of burial was noted by Nelson (1899:319-320) when he visited this area in the late 1800s. Figure 3 is schematic diagram of this type of grave.

Some of the depressions in Area I West and in Area O are obviously the outlines of aboveground structures; while others are so indistinct, they could either be highly weathered cabin outlines or semisubterranean structures. The heavily decomposed state of features in Area I West and Area O is not necessarily indicative of age since this is the lowest and most exposed part of the beach ridge, thus most susceptible to wind as well as wave erosion. Despite the relative differences in weathering of the features in Parcel A, there is no evidence any of these features are other than historic.

Parcel B is divided into two sections. Area I, located in the upslope portion of the parcel, includes a total of 12 features. All of these features are arrangements of stone; four are clearly graves. It is not unlikely a substantial portion of the remaining features are also graves. This style of burial was observed by Nelson (1899:320) above the village at Sledge Island and in a similarly isolated context by Collins (Notes 1929:9), probably above the village of Iknitug.

The lower part of Parcel B, Area II includes 23 features. All but two of these are depressions. There is little evidence of historic activity directly associated with these depressions. The only historic artifact noted in association with a depression was a cast-iron stove part found in Feature C. The remaining two features in this area are a grave and a log structure built over the cave at the western end of the peninsula. The grave is apparently a very deteriorated example of the crib style grave discussed earlier. Based on preservation and materials used, the log structure is probably considerably more recent than the other features in Area II. The cave appears to have been used as a storage area.

Schematic Diagram of Common Grave Type

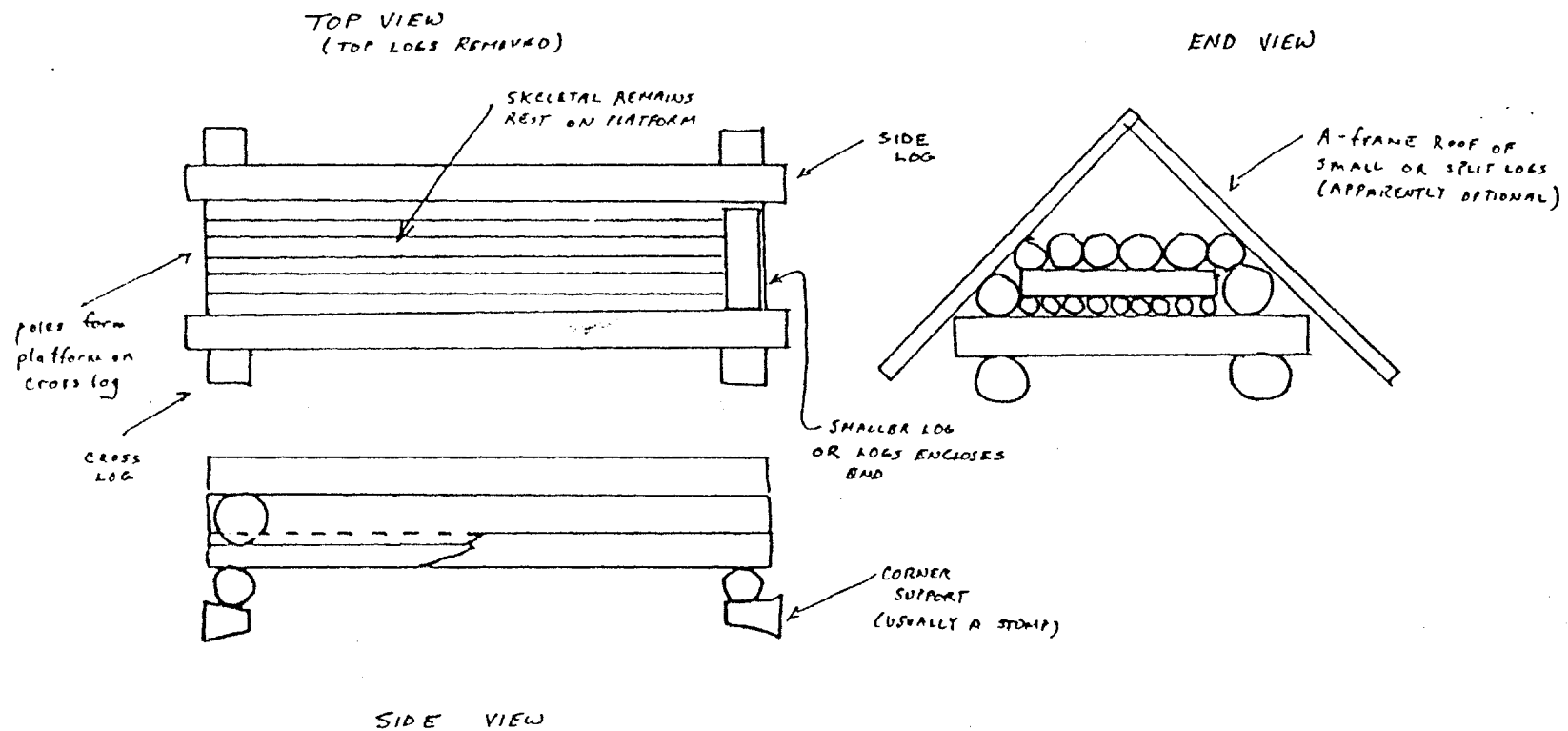


Figure 3. Schematic Diagram of Common Grave Type

Parcel C contains only three features. The main feature in this area, the collapsed wooden structure, is likely the roadhouse indicated on a 1908 map by Arthur Gibson (Orth 1967:978). Feature B is also historic, given the association of milled lumber with the feature, but may only be a campsite. The last feature has no historic materials associated with it; but given its proximity to the other features, it is probably contemporaneous with the nearby features.

Finally, it is possible some cultural features may be inundated by the lagoon.

Description of Cultural Remains

Parcel A, Area I West

Feature A - is a standing cabin (Figure 4) measuring 3.6 m long x 3.25 m wide x 2.4 m high at the peak and 1.7 m high at the eaves. The cabin is built of primarily driftwood and scrap lumber nailed to a milled lumber frame. The west wall is composed entirely of logs nailed to corner posts. The roof is constructed out of galvanized metal sheeting. Sod is piled along the east and west walls. The north wall is lined with a log crib filled with sod. Windows are located in the north, east and west walls.

Feature B - is an indistinct oval depression measuring 8.2 m long x 6 m wide x 40 centimeters (cm) deep.

Feature C - is an indistinct oval depression measuring 6.6 m long x 5.3 m wide x 30 cm deep. Logs lie inside the northeast and west edges of the depression, one of which is notched. A 35 cm high post is located at the southern end.

Feature D - is a 4 inch (in.) x 4 in. post. It is 90 cm tall.

Parcel A, Area IW
 F-21945
 Tapqaq
 BSNC
 D. Staley
 9 August 1984

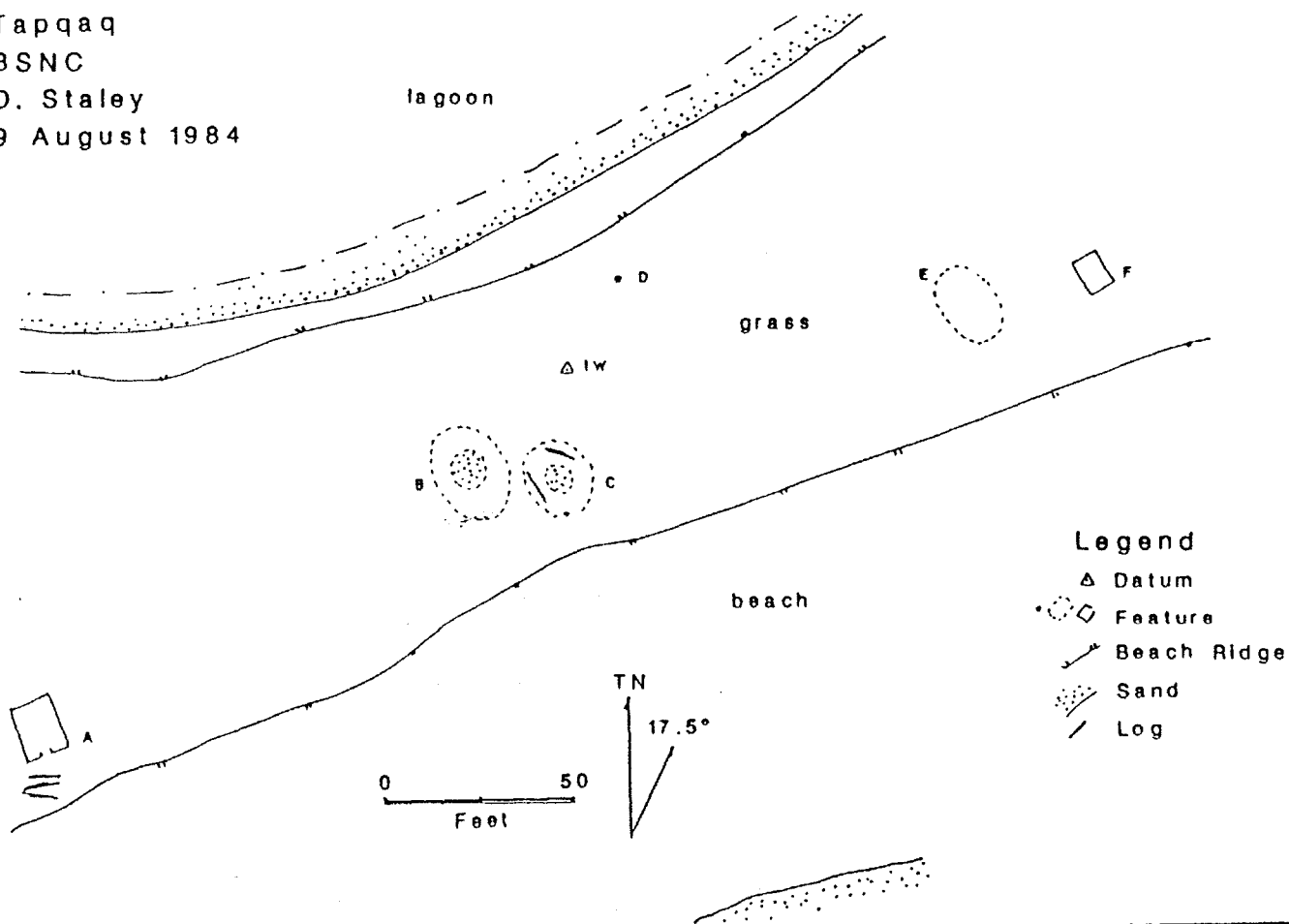


Figure 4. Parcel A, Area I West Map

Feature E - is an indistinct oval depression measuring 6.6 m long x 3.9 m wide x 50 cm deep. A log scatter lies along the east side of the depression.

Feature F - is a log structure outline measuring 3.1 m long x 2.7 m wide. One log course remains on the north, south and west walls; two log courses are preserved on the east wall. The log ends were cut with a saw.

Parcel A, Area II West

Feature A - is a log cache (Figure 5) measuring 3.65 m long x 2.85 m wide x 1.7 m high at the entrance and 70 cm high at the eaves. The doorway, centered in the south wall, is 90 cm high x 75 cm wide. The walls consist of 10 logs that are corner notched on the top and bottom. The center roof beam is notched on the top wall log. The roof is composed of driftwood planks covered with tar paper. Interior walls are flattened with an axe. Benches are built in along the east and west walls. A cast-iron "shepherd's" stove was found on one of the benches.

Feature B - is a corrugated metal outhouse measuring 1.25 m long x 1 m wide x 0.8 m high.

Feature C - is composed of three notched posts of drying racks. The posts are about 1 m high. The distance from Post 1 to Post 2 is 5.1 m to the southwest and to Post 3 is 4.7 m to the west.

Feature D - consists of notched posts from drying racks. The three posts are about 1 m high. The distance from Post 1 to Post 2 is 2.6 m to the south and to Post 3 is 4.1 m to the west.

Parcel A, Area IIW
F-21945
Tapqaq
BSNC
F. Broderick
9 August 1984

Legend

- △ Datum
- Feature
- × Tripod
- × Stake/Post
- Beach Ridge
- Sand

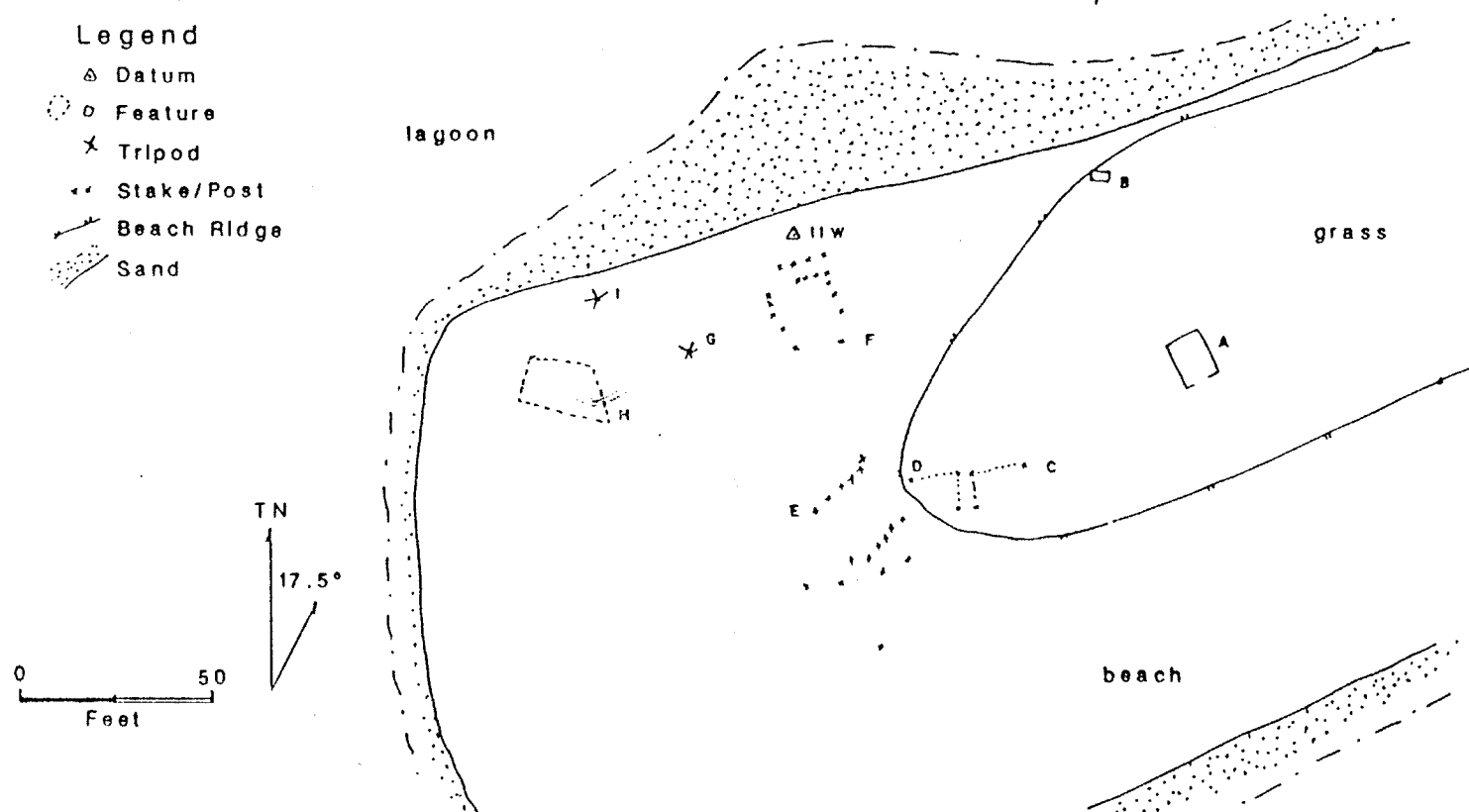


Figure 5. Parcel A, Area II West Map

Feature E - is a line of four driftwood posts associated with an outline of tent stakes. The line of posts is 8.7 m long; the outline is 5.45 m long x 4.9 m wide. The posts are between 1.4 m and 2.3 m tall. The tent stakes, north of the poles are arranged in two lines. The stakes are 35 cm to 85 cm tall and 60 cm to 1.6 m apart.

Feature F - is an outline of driftwood tent stakes. The overall dimensions are 7.1 m x 4.7 m.

Feature G - is a tripod-like arrangement of four driftwood posts measuring 4 m tall x 1.4 m wide.

Feature H - consists of three connected drying racks with overall dimensions of 6.4 m in length x 2.35 m in width. The poles average 1.7 m in height and 10 cm to 15 cm in diameter. The drying racks are covered with corrugated metal sheeting.

Feature I - is a driftwood tripod measuring 1.8 m in diameter and 85 cm in height with a hook made from a coat hanger suspended from the center.

Parcel A, Area 0

Feature A - is an indistinct oval depression (Figure 6) with two associated depressions measuring 5.8 m long x 4.7 m wide x 55 cm deep.

Feature A2 - is a circular depression measuring 1 m in diameter and 30 cm in depth.

Feature A3 - is a circular depression measuring 1 m in diameter x 30 cm in depth.

Feature B - is a post measuring 55 cm in height and 15 cm in diameter.

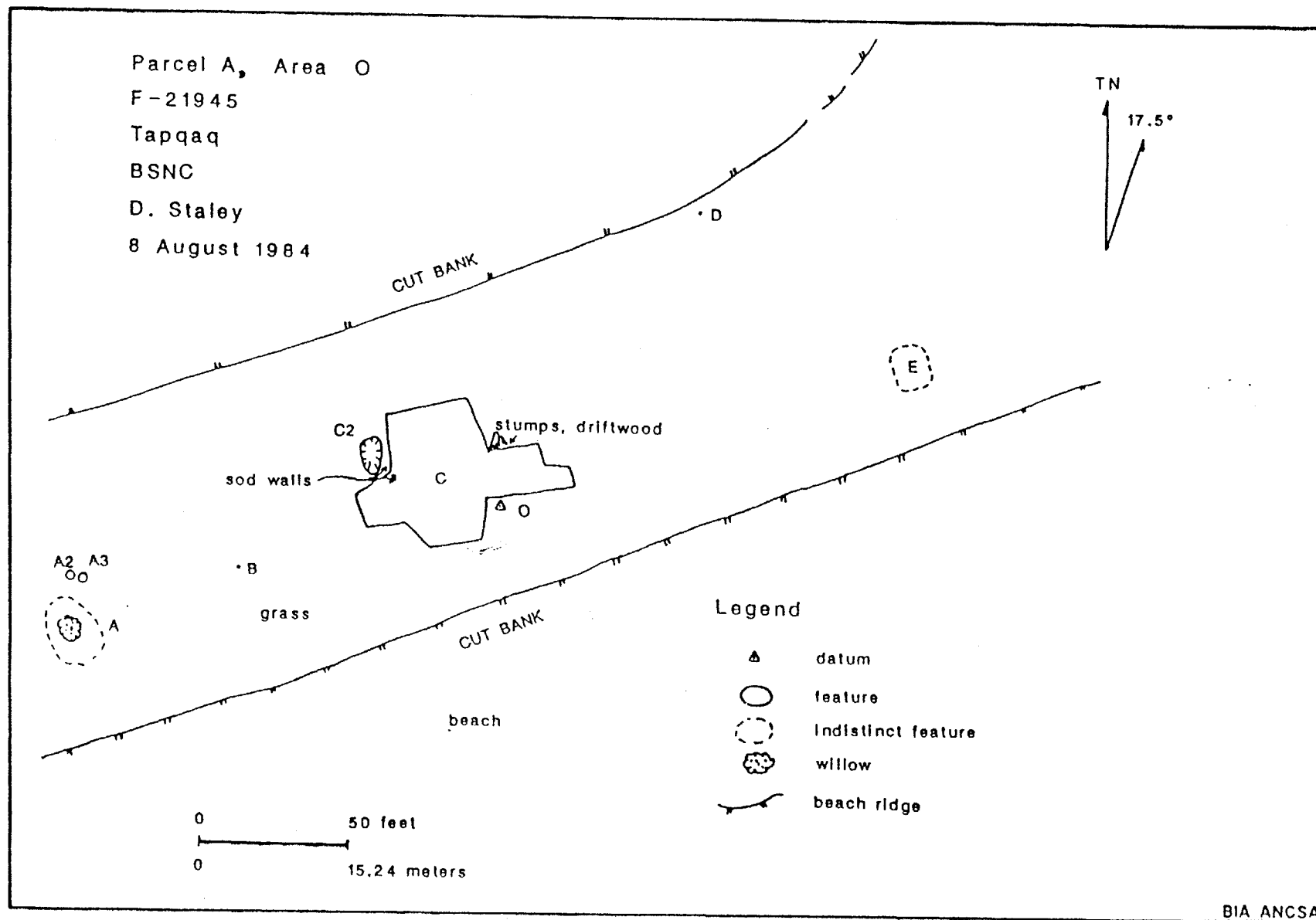


Figure 6. Parcel A, Area O Map

Feature C - is a large irregular depression with one associated depression. Overall dimensions are 20.6 m in length x 15 m width. Piled sod layers are visible along the north berm.

Feature C2 - is an oval depression measuring 3 m long x 2 m wide x 1.5 m deep.

Feature D - is a post that is 1.22 m in length x 10 cm in diameter x 1.15 m in height.

Feature E - is an indistinct rectangular depression measuring 4 m long x 3.5 m wide. A deteriorated scatter of worked logs lies over the depression. The log ends are chopped to a point or beveled.

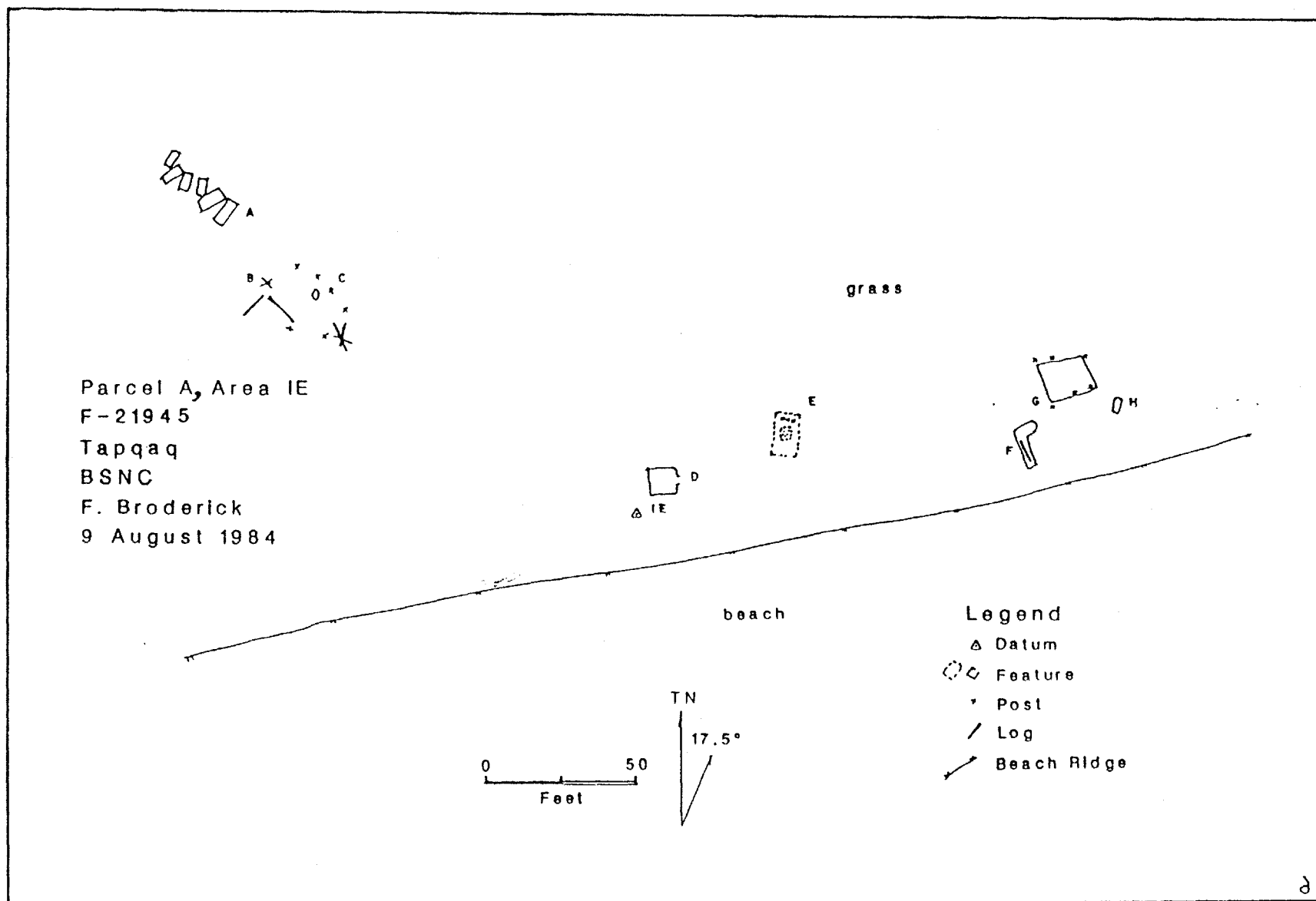
Parcel A, Area I East

Feature A - is a lumber scatter (Figure 7) measuring 9.3 m in length x 4 m in width, consisting of various types of milled lumber including a plywood sheet with 2 x 4s nailed to it.

Feature B - is a wooden tripod measuring 1.9 m across the base; it is 1 m high.

Feature C - is a possible tent or sauna area that is 6.7 m long x 4.3 m wide consisting of an irregular pattern of posts that measures up to 67 cm tall. A Chevron fuel can, a bucket full of rocks and a pile of driftwood are associated with the posts.

Feature D - is a log cabin or cache (Photograph 3) that measures 2.8 m long x 2.55 m wide. The doorway is centered in the east wall and is 85 cm wide. Logs are notched on the top and bottom with an axe; their average diameter is 16 cm. Split driftwood logs are nailed to the north and to the south walls, as well as to the roof. Inside is a large crosscut saw.



Feature E - is an indistinct rectangular depression measuring 4.3 m long x 2.5 m wide. Two cut posts and a stump are located in the north end of the depression.

Feature F - is a distinct L-shaped depression with overall dimensions of 4.3 m long x 2.5 m wide x 45 cm deep. The long axis of the L-shape is 1.2 m wide; the short axis is 1 m wide.

Feature G - is a distinct rectangular depression measuring 5.1 m long x 4.8 m wide at the west end, 4.2 m wide at the east end and 65 cm deep. There are a series of 80 cm to 1.15 m high stakes around the outside edges of this depression. A 55-gallon (gal.) drum lies in the northwest corner of the depression.

Feature H - is a distinct rectangular depression that is 1 m long x 60 cm wide x 40 cm deep.

Parcel A, Area II East

Feature A - is a distinct rectangular depression (Figure 8) measuring 3.1 m in length x 2 m in width x 65 cm in depth.

Feature B - is an irregular depression measuring 5 m in length x 2.8 m in width x 25 cm to 35 cm in depth—possibly a sod removal area. The south end forms a distinct rectangle that is 1.3 m wide x 90 cm long.

Feature C - is an outhouse hole that is 1 m in diameter.

Feature D - is a collapsed cabin measuring 9 m in length x 5.8 m in width x 70 cm in height. This is apparently a corner-notched log structure with a split-log roof over a central roof beam. Sod is piled around the outside of the structure. The interior consists of two roughly equal-sized rooms.

Parcel A, Area IIE
F-21945
Tapqaq
BSNC
F. Broderick
9 August 1984

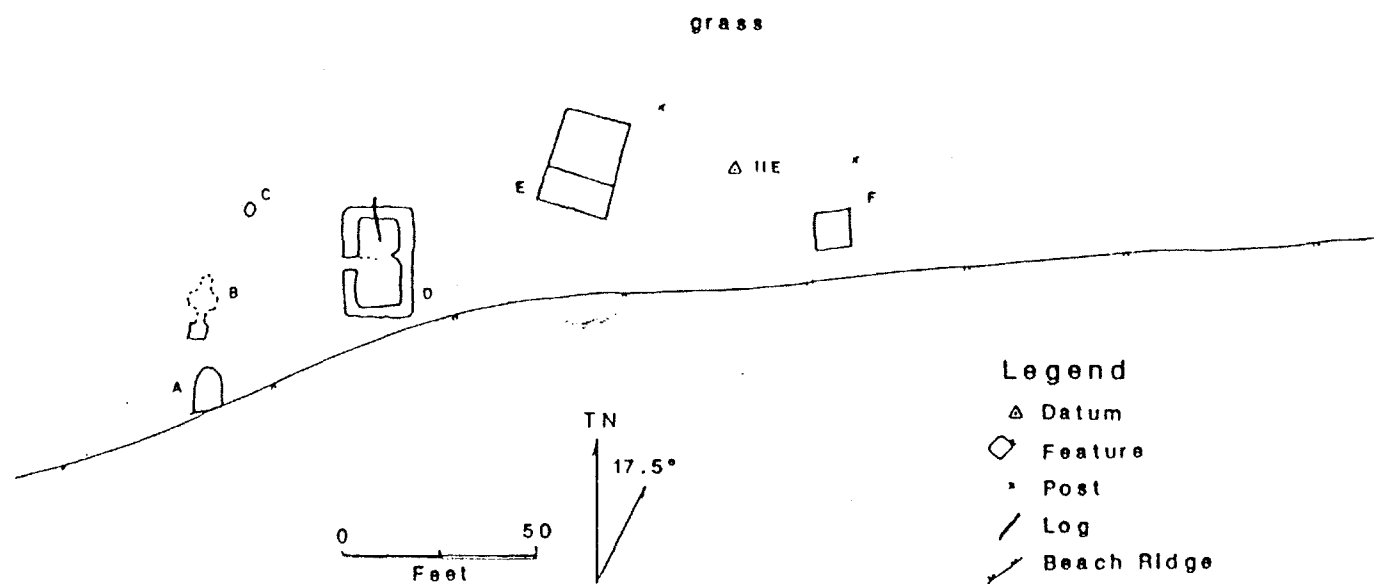


Figure 8. Parcel A, Area II East Map

Feature E - is a modern cabin.

Feature F - is a log cache that is 3 m in length x 2.9 m x in width x 1.7 m in height at its peak. The doorway is located in the south wall. Five courses of saw-cut, axe-notched logs remain on the west wall and four on the east wall. The roof was constructed of poles laid over a central roof beam.

Feature G - is a possible telegraph pole.

Parcel A, Area III East

Feature A - is a telegraph pole.

Parcel A, Area IV East

Feature A - is a possible grave (Figure 9). Overall dimensions are 4 m long x 2.6 m wide. A shallow depression lies in center of the feature. The north and east edges are marked by logs. Several driftwood stumps are scattered around the features along with a scapula--possibly from a seal.

Feature B - is a grave or graves (Photograph 4). Overall dimensions are 2.8 m long x 2.5 m wide. Skull and fragments of long bone are visible. Logs are scattered south of the graves.

Feature C - is a log structure measuring 4.2 m long x 4.1 m wide. Only the lower courses of logs are preserved. Notches were saw cut. Milled 1 x 6 boards are visible inside the feature. A short distance away are 9 unnotched 16 cm to 35 cm diameter logs.

Parcel A, Area IV E
 F-21945
 Tapqaq
 BSNC
 F. Broderick
 9 August 1984

Legend

- △ Datum
- Feature
- Calrn
- * Skeletal Remains
- Post
- Log

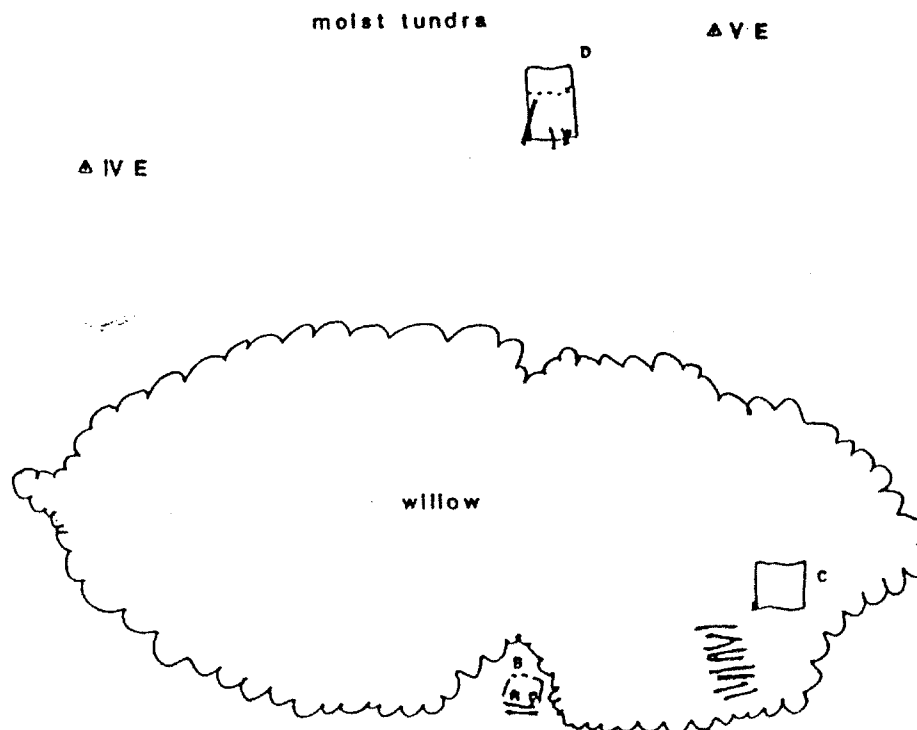
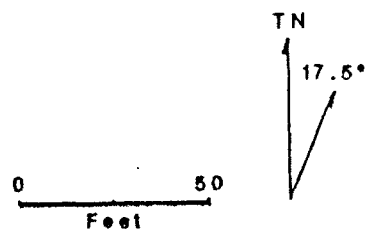


Figure 9. Parcel A, Area IV East Map

Feature D - is the possible remains of a cabin measuring 5.8 m long x 4 m wide, consisting of a rectangular outline of logs. Another possible cabin outline lies near this feature and measures 4.8 m long x 3.6 m wide.

Parcel A, Area V East

Feature A - is a telegraph pole.

Parcel B, Area I

Feature A - is a grave (Figure 10) with overall dimensions of 2 m in length x 2 m in width. This feature consists of a rectangular arrangement of rock slabs and deteriorated wood. One bone is exposed.

Feature B - is a cairn. This feature consists of a 20 cm high stack of smaller flat rocks that support a larger, 80 cm long slab.

Feature C - is a grave (Photograph 5) with overall dimensions of 2 m x 1.5 m and consists of a 30 cm high, loosely arranged pile of rock slabs. A femur is visible within the pile.

Feature D - is a possible grave. Overall dimensions are 2.8 m x 2 m; it consists of an oval arrangement of rock slabs and decomposed wood surrounding a slightly hollowed area.

Feature E - is a concentration of large rocks and decomposed wood that measures 2.8 m in diameter.

Feature F - is a grave. Its overall dimensions are 2.5 m x 1.7 m; it consists of a rectangular arrangement of rock slabs and charred wood filling the interior of a slight depression. Two vertebrae are visible--possibly those of an adolescent.

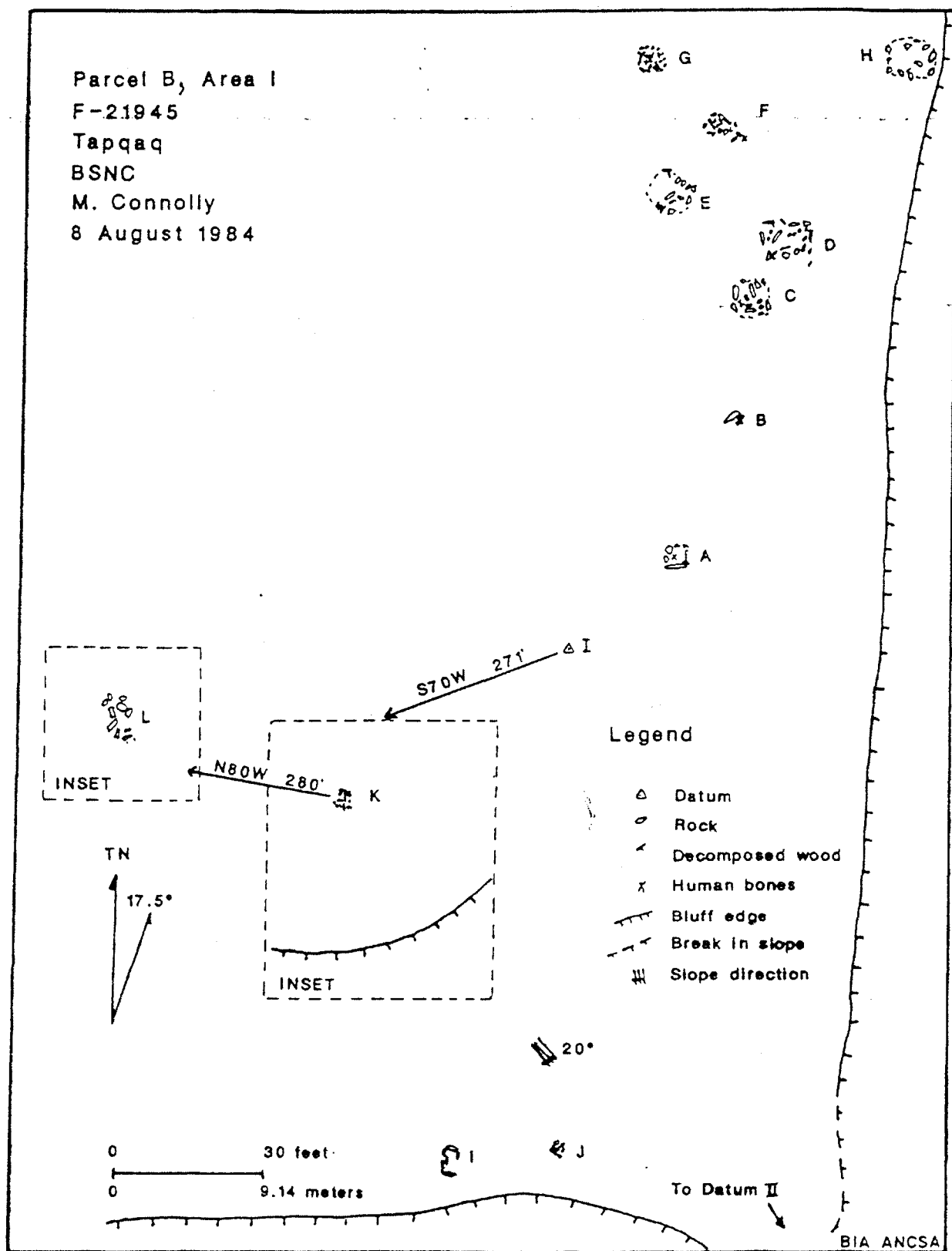


Figure 10. Parcel B, Area I Map

Feature G - is a grave measuring 1.5 m in diameter, consisting of a 25 cm high rock cairn. The skull, ribs and vertebrae of a small child are visible in the interior.

Feature H - is a possible grave. Its overall dimensions are 2.5 m x 1.5 m, and it consists of an oval arrangement of rock slabs.

Feature I - is a stone-lined depression. Its overall dimensions are 1.2 m x 70 cm x 25 cm deep, consisting of a rectangular depression lined with vertically embedded rock slabs around almost the entire perimeter.

Feature J - is a rock cairn measuring 1 m in diameter and 40 cm in height.

Feature K - is a rock cairn with overall dimensions of 2 m x 1 m. An irregular arrangement of rocks with slabs stacked three tiers high lies at one end.

Feature L - is an irregular, rock arrangement that is 1.5 m in diameter consisting of rocks piled up to 60 cm high.

Parcel B, Area II

Feature A - is a disintegrated grave (Figure 11) with overall dimensions of 2.5 m x 2 m consisting of a rectangular scatter of rocks, driftwood stumps and logs. Vertebrae are visible within the scatter.

Feature B - is a distinct rectangular depression that measures 4.4 m long x 3.9 m wide x 1.2 m deep.

Feature C - is an indistinct depression measuring 4.3 m long x 1.9 m wide x 90 cm deep. A cast-iron stove is embedded in the center of the depression.

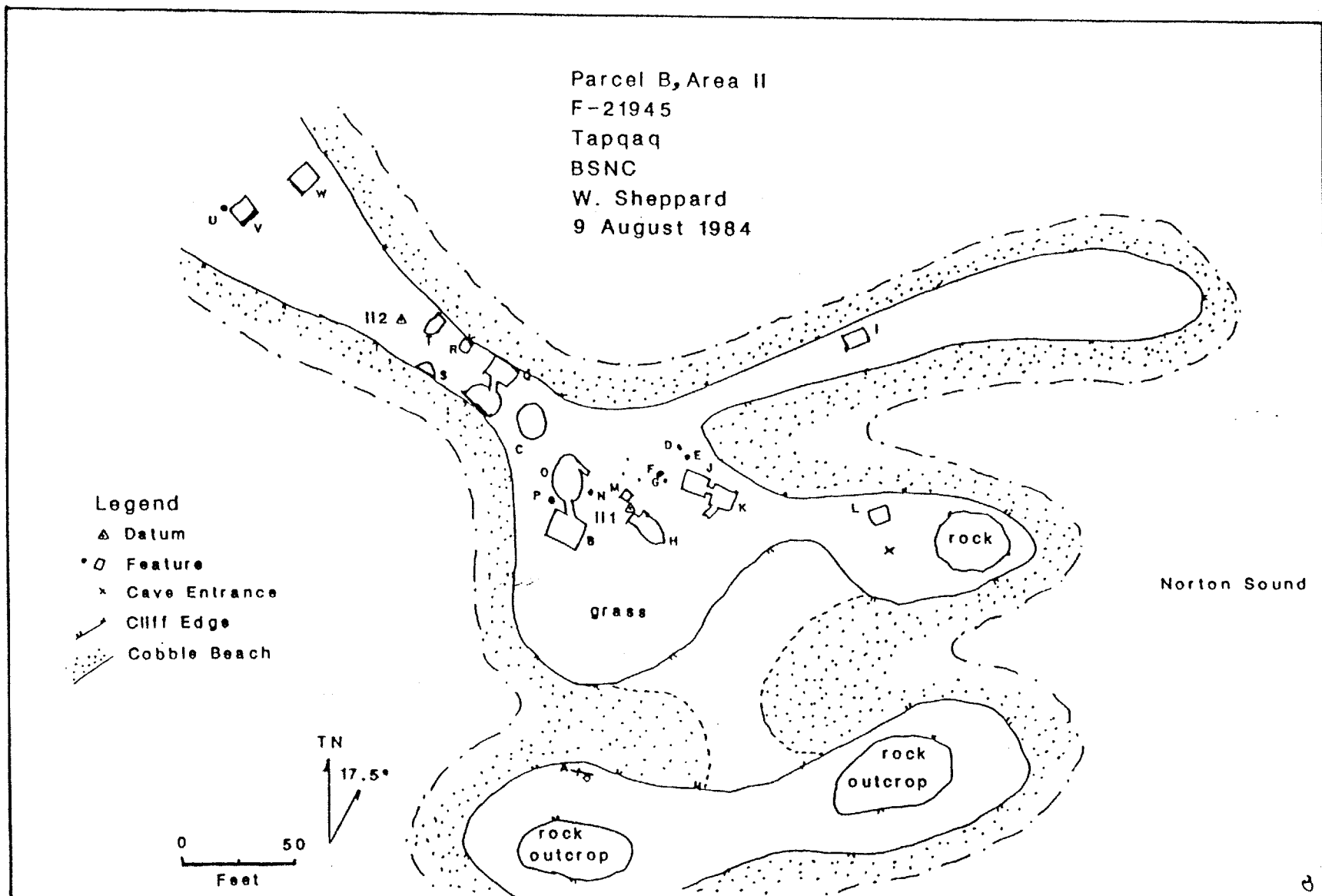


Figure 11. Parcel B, Area II Map

- Feature D - is a circular depression with rock slabs on the north side that measures 80 cm in diameter x 50 cm in depth.
- Feature E - is a circular depression measuring 90 cm in diameter x 60 cm in depth.
- Feature F - is a circular depression that is 70 cm in diameter x 50 cm in depth.
- Feature G - is a circular depression measuring 65 cm in diameter x 40 cm in depth. The remains of four wooden posts are located just west of Features F and G.
- Feature H - is an oval depression that measures 4.6 m long x 2.6 m wide x 70 cm deep. Two possible entryways are located at right angles to each other at the northwestern end of the feature. There is an indistinct possible addition to this feature on the north side.
- Feature I - is a rectangular depression measuring 5.3 m long x 2.8 m wide x 70 cm deep.
- Feature J - is an indistinct rectangular depression that is 5.4 m long x 2.9 m wide x 75 cm deep. A passageway which measures 2 m long x 1 m wide connects this depression with Feature K.
- Feature K - is a rectangular depression measuring 3.4 m long x 3.2 m wide x 80 cm deep. A possible entryway which measures 2.7 m long x 1.4 m wide extends from the southwest corner.
- Feature L - is a log structure over a vertical cave (Photograph 6) entrance that measures 2.1 m long x 2 m wide. A possible 85 cm wide entrance is located on the west side. The walls are composed of sawn 20 cm to 25 cm diameter logs, originally probably 6 courses high. Most logs were notched only on top with round, axe-cut notches. The north and south walls have interior notches holding

two beams that cross these structure, probably for supporting a half roof. Milled lumber flooring is laid across the logs directly above the cave entrance. There is a 1 m square hole in the floor with a 2 x 4 ladder leading into the cave. The cave contains numerous mammal bones including a whale scapula and vertebra. The cave has three chambers; the one of main chamber has a an entrance on the north side that has been blocked with logs and rocks. The main chamber is entered from the south side, or by ladder through the ceiling. The southern room has no outside entrance.

Feature M - is a rectangular depression that measures 1.6 m long x 1.5 m wide x 40 cm deep. A driftwood post stands in the northwest corner.

Feature N - is a small circular depression that measures 1.1 m in diameter x 85 cm in depth. Sod layers and charcoal are visible in the wall of the depression.

Feature O - is an indistinct depression measuring 6 m long x 3.1 m wide x 1.5 m deep. A possible passageway joins this feature to Feature B. A trench extends from the north end of the depression, southeast. Both sides of the trench are lined with driftwood posts.

Feature P - is a circular depression measuring 1.6 m in diameter x 90 cm in depth.

Feature Q - is an indistinct rectangular depression measuring 3.9 m in length x 3.5 m in width x 60 cm in depth. A 1.1 m long passage connects the depression above with a 2.45 m wide remnant, another depression that is partially eroded along the bluff edge.

Feature R - is a partially intact depression measuring 2.5 m in length x 1.8 m in width x 60 cm in depth. The north side of the depression has eroded away.

Feature S - is a partially intact depression measuring 2.6 m in length x 70 cm in width x 60 cm in depth. A post stands on the east side. Most of the western half of the depression has eroded away.

Feature T - is a partially intact depression that measures 2.7 m long x 2.2 m wide x 50 cm deep. The eastern end of the depression has eroded away.

Feature U - is a rectangular depression that is 1.2 m long x 50 cm wide x 40 cm deep.

Feature V - is a rectangular depression measuring 3.5 m long x 3.5 m wide x 70 cm deep.

Feature W - is a rectangular depression that measures 3.6 m long x 3.2 m wide x 90 cm deep.

Parcel C

Feature A - is a collapsed wooden structure (Photograph 7) 16.5 m long x 6.95 m wide (Figure 12). It was constructed of 6 x 8 milled timbers. The structure was divided into two rooms. The northern room was 6.95 m wide x 12 m long. The outside entrance was in the east wall of this room. The southern room was 4.5 m long x 5 m wide. The structure was painted blue and yellow. The building was constructed with spikes rather than notches. The roof was covered with tar paper. Artifacts associated with this structure included a teakettle, a stovepipe and a cast-iron stove door.

Feature B - is a mound with a very indistinct log outline measuring 4.7 m long x 3.7 m wide x 80 cm high. Nearly decomposed logs form a roughly square outline on top of the mound. Milled 1 x 9 lumber is also present.

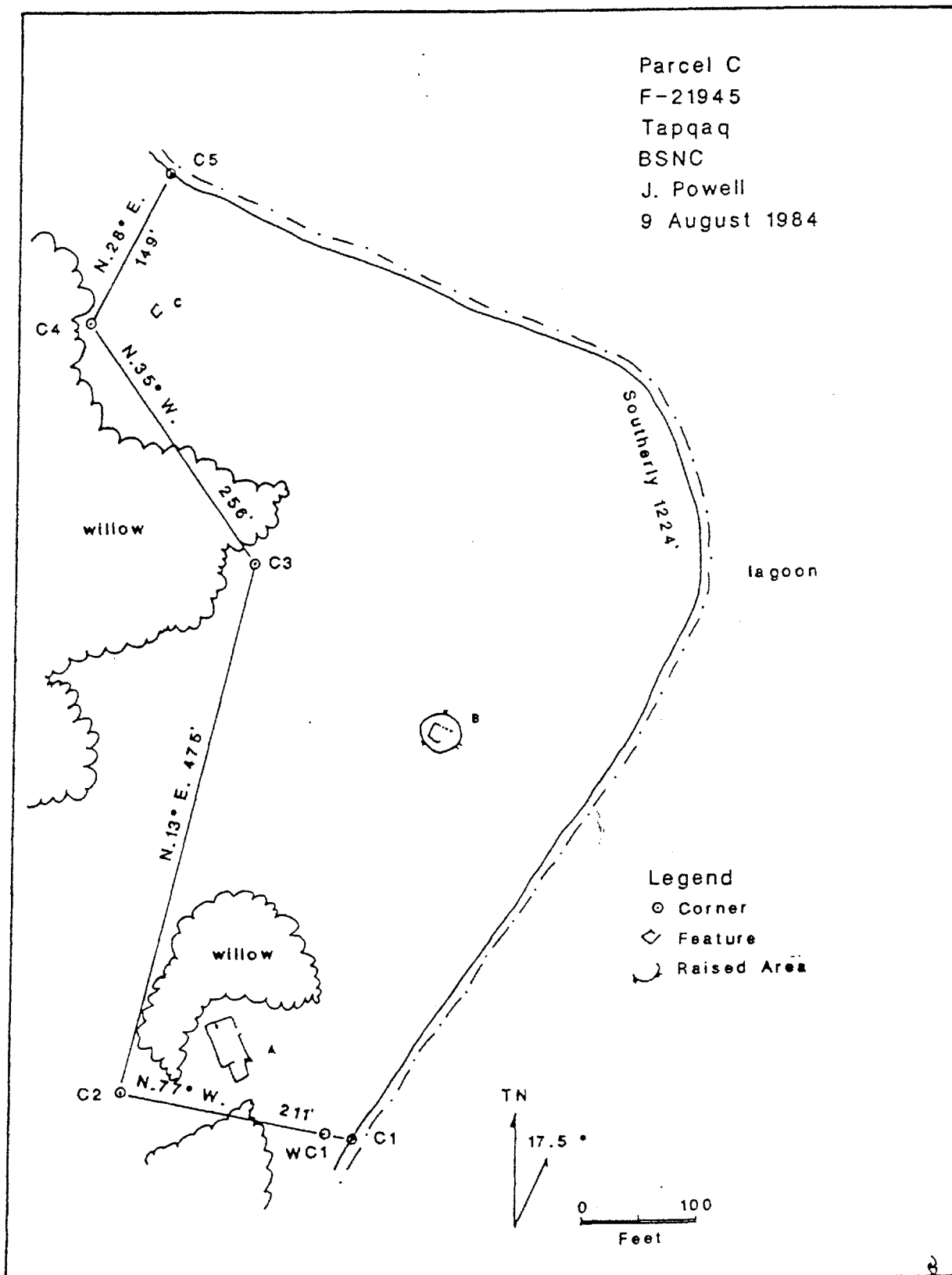


Figure 12. Parcel C Map

Feature C - is a square depression that is 3 m square x 50 cm deep. A berm around the depression is 1.4 m wide. There is a decomposing log on the south side of the depression and a partial rock lining on the east side. A driftwood pole crosses the center.

Subsurface Remains

Archeologists did not do any subsurface testing at Tapqaq, but exposures provide some subsurface information. Midden deposits containing well-preserved faunal remains were observed in two places in Parcel B, Area II. In addition, a stone scraper was found in an exposure at the western end of Area II in association with Features U, V and W. In Parcel A, wooden structural remains were observed in an exposure on the north side of Area I East.

Interpretation

Although the earliest documented occupation of Tapqaq is in 1880, the site was probably occupied before that date. With the exception of the historic structure over the cave mouth and the cast-iron stove part found in one of the depressions, there were no other historic remains found in Parcel B. Most of the features in that part of the site are probably early historic or prehistoric. In the remaining two parcels, all features appear to be recent historic, that is, late 1890s to present.

Parcel A appears to have had at least three types of occupations. The most recent remains are related to seasonal salmon fishing. The small log caches resemble those sometimes used at more permanent sealing sites, or those formerly used around settlements for storage of seal pokes and other oily items. Thus, the site may also have been used as a seasonal seal hunting camp. The remaining above-and-below ground structures represent the winter dwellings of a mixed community of Eskimos and whites.

There is no evidence of a qargi or community house anywhere on the site. The site was probably socially tied in with other larger sites such as Chiugaq or Uqpiktuliq. Parcel B, Area II is potentially very interesting in terms of social relations. That part of the site has almost the appearance of a defensive position. Access to it would be difficult at any time of year.

The main feature in Parcel C is probably what is left of Topkok Roadhouse. Given the isolated location of all three features in this area, it is believed all are in some way associated.

III. SITE BOUNDARY AND LEGAL DESCRIPTION

Boundary Justification

Following informant interviews and surface reconnaissance of the site, boundaries were established to include all surface cultural remains, vegetation areas indicative of subsurface archeological remains, activity areas and activity areas identified by informants.

Survey Format

The survey was conducted on August 10, 1984. All true bearings were obtained with a Silva Ranger (t-15) compass declinated 17.5° east of true north. All distances were measured with a 50-m (165-ft.) fiberglass tape.

The corners of the site were marked with 5/8-in. aluminum alloy rods driven to the point of resistance with sufficient portions extending above the ground to serve as markers. Each marker has been cited and described in the legal description.

Legal Description

Three parcels of land (Figure 13) located approximately within the SW4NW4 sec. 5, S2NE4E2SW4, N2SE4, SW4SE4 sec. 6, T. 11 S., R. 26 W., KRM, Alaska. The site is more specifically described as follows:

Parcel A

Beginning at the point of beginning (POB), lat. $64^{\circ}33'50''$ N., long. $163^{\circ}56'05''$ W., as extrapolated from USGS quadrangle map, UTM Zone 3, 7160300m N., 550400m E., designated as corner 1 (C-1) of Parcel A, marked with a 5/8-in. aluminum alloy rod extending 16 in. above ground, located at the mean high tide line (MHTL) of Norton Sound with ANCSA site tag attached, referenced to the following:

Reference A: S. 60° W. to Topkok Head, elevation 607 ft., located in sec. 12, T. 11 S., R. 27 W., KRM, Alaska;

Reference B: S. 58° E. to an offshore rock in Norton Sound, located in sec. 5, T. 11 S., R. 26 W., KRM, Alaska;

Reference C: S. 68° E., to the southernmost point of land, located in sec. 5, T. 11 S., R. 26 W., KRM, Alaska;

Thence from C-1 of Parcel A, (Figure 14) following the MHTL of Norton Sound in a southwesterly direction, approximately 2500 ft., to a point of land ending at a lagoon entrance, unmarked;

Thence, following the MHTL of an unnamed lagoon in a northeasterly direction, approximately 900 ft., to C-2, marked with a 5/8-in. aluminum alloy rod extending 24 in. above the ground;

Thence N. 76° E., approximately 1830 ft. to C-3, marked with a 5/8-in. aluminum alloy rod extending 16 in. above the ground;

Thence south, approximately 410 ft., returning to the POB.

This parcel contains 23.5 acres, more or less.

Parcel B

The parcel (Figure 15) is more specifically described as follows:

Beginning at the POB, designated as C-1 of Parcel A, marked with a 5/8-in. aluminum alloy rod extending 16 in. above the ground;

Thence S. 58° W., 3000 ft. to C-1, marked with a 5/8-in. aluminum alloy rod extending 24 in. above the ground;

Thence N. 40° E., 590 ft. to witness corner 2 (WC-2), marked with a 5/8-in. aluminum alloy rod extending 24 in. above the ground;

Thence N. 72° E., 160 ft. to C-2, unmarked, located at the MHTL of Norton Sound;

Thence following the MHTL of Norton Sound in a southerly direction, approximately 2600 ft., to C-3, unmarked;

Thence N. 22° W., 100 ft., returning to C-1.

This parcel contains 2.5 acres, more or less.

Parcel C

The parcel (Figure 16) is more specifically described as follows:

Beginning at the POB designated as C-1 of Parcel A, marked with a 5/8-in. aluminum alloy rod extending 16 in. above the ground;

Thence N. 76° E., 2300 ft. to C-1, unmarked;

Thence N. 77° W., 26 ft., to WC-1, marked with a 5/8-in. aluminum alloy rod extending 24 in. above the ground;

Thence N. 77° W., 185 ft. to C-2, marked with a 5/8-in. aluminum alloy rod extending 24 in. above the ground;

Thence N. 13° E., 475 ft. to C-3, marked with a 5/8-in. aluminum alloy rod extending 24 in. above the ground;

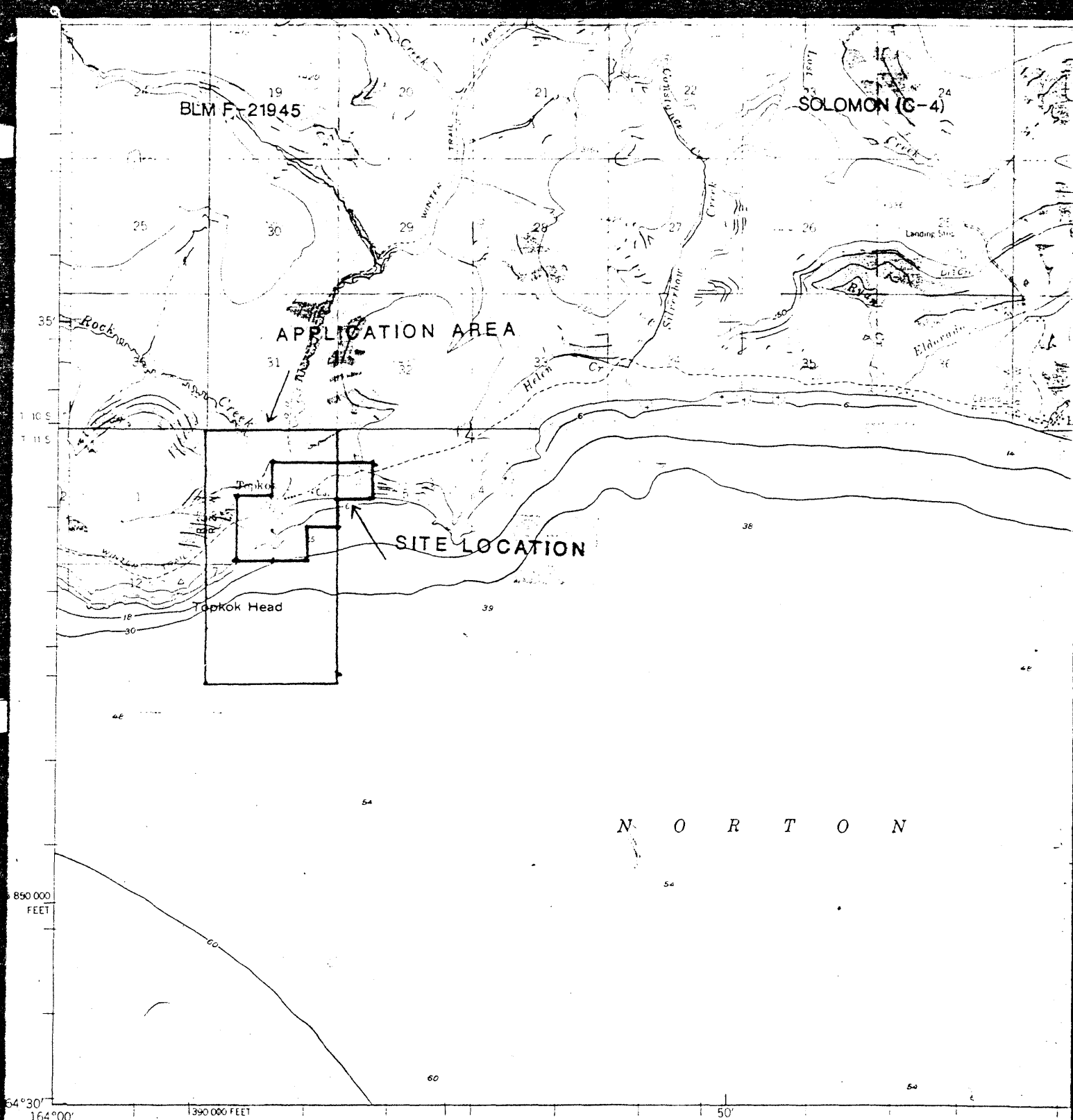
Thence N. 35° W., 256 ft. to C-4, marked with a 5/8-in. aluminum alloy rod extending 16 in. above the ground;

Thence N. 28° E., 149 ft. to C-5, unmarked;

Thence following the MHTL of an unnamed lagoon, in a southerly direction, approximately 1224 ft., returning to C-1;

This parcel contains 4.5 acres, more or less.

Total acreage for this site is 30.5 acres, more or less.



Mapped by the Army Map Service
Published for civil use by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS, USC&GS and USCE

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
taken 1950. Map not field checked

Selected hydrographic data compiled by USC & GS
This information is not intended for navigational purposes

Universal Transverse Mercator projection, 1927 North American datum
10,000 foot grid based on Alaska coordinate system,
1000 meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 3, shown in blue

Land lines represent unsurveyed and unmarked local
pre-determined by the Bureau of Land Management
Folio K-13, Kateel River Meridian

Figure 13. Site Location Map



SCALE 1

CONTOUR INTER
DOTTED LINES REPRESENT
DATUM IS MEAN
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET
SHORT LINE END REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE
THE AVERAGE RANGE OF TIDE
FOR SALE BY U. S. GE
AIRBANKS, ALASKA 99701, DENVER, COLORADO
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS

M. Connolly
9 August 1984

lagoon

Northeasterly 900'

C2

ΔIIE

ΔIO

ΔIW

ΔIIE

ΔIE

Southwesterly 2500'

beach

$\Delta III E$

ΔIVE

ΔVE

C3

South 410'

C1

Norton Sound

TN

17.5°

0 300 Feet

Legend

- POB
- Corner
- △ Datum
- Beach Ridge

Figure 14. Boundary Map, Parcel A Map

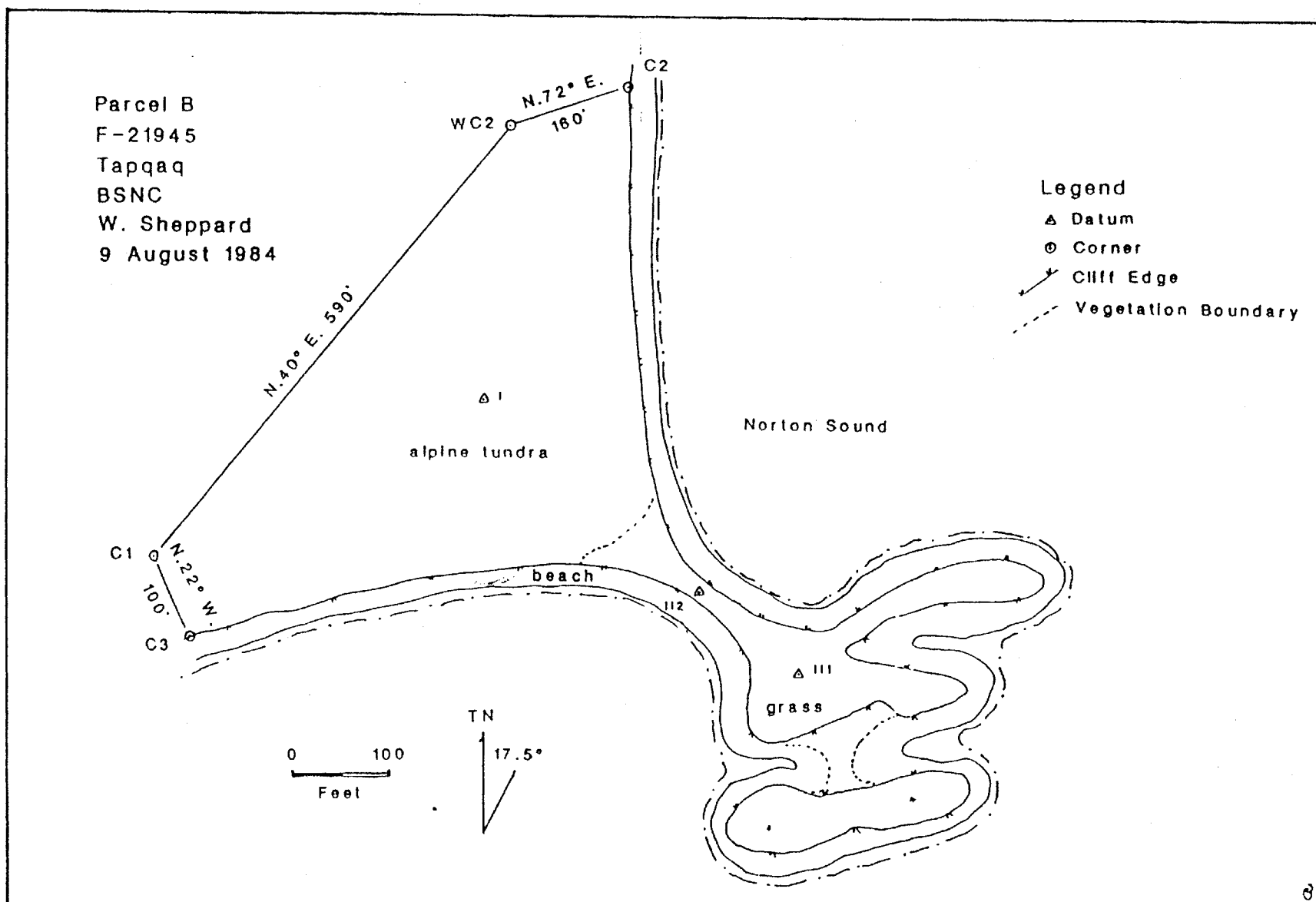


Figure 15. Boundary Map, Parcel B Map

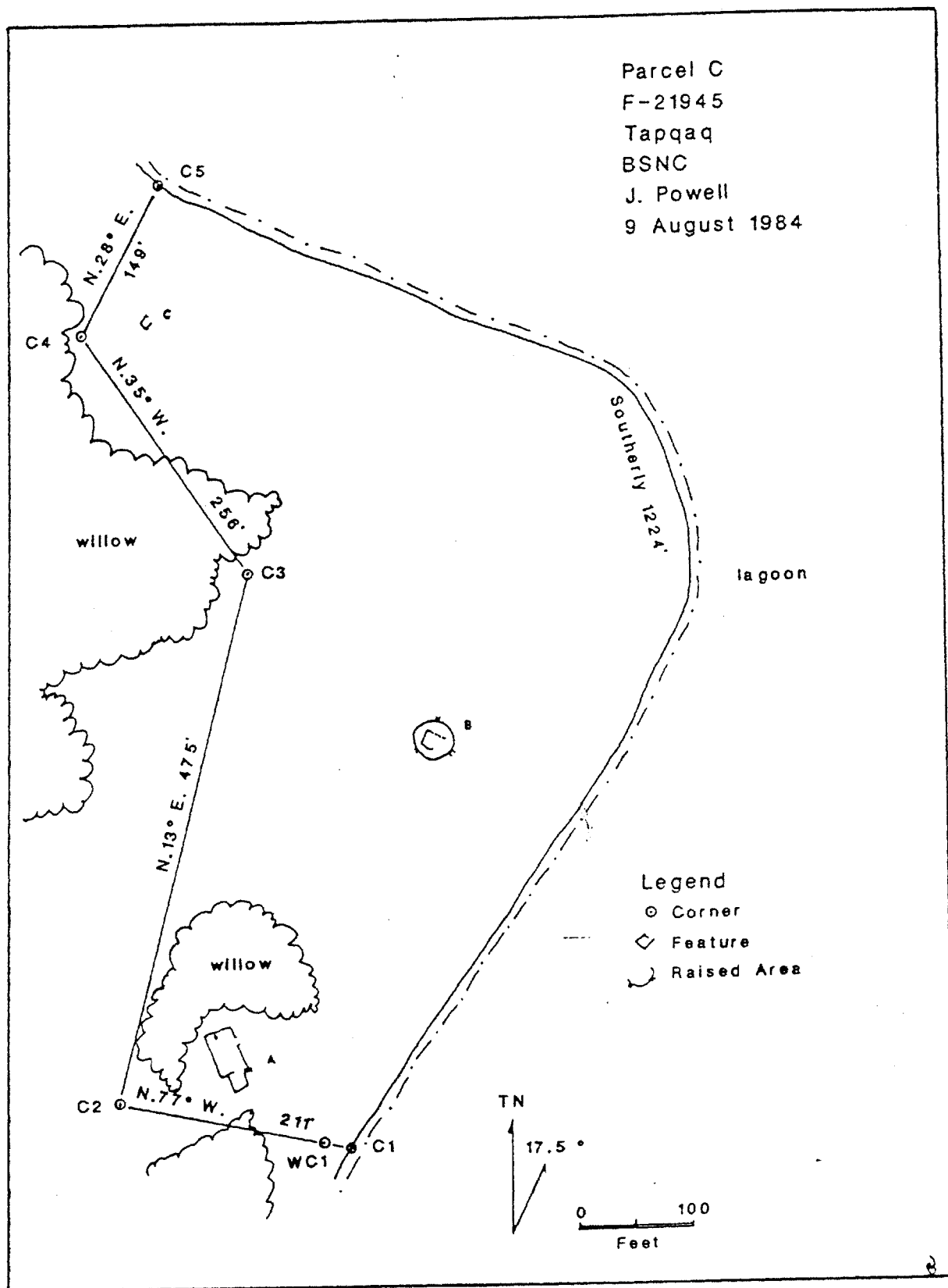


Figure 16. Boundary Map, Parcel C

IV. SUMMARY OF INVESTIGATION

The results of the field investigation of Tapqaq are as follows: (1) The site was located and archeological, as well as realty-oriented surveys were performed. (2) Presently, there appear to be no factors significantly affecting the site's integrity. (3) The site is associated with an important event in Bering Strait history. (4) Cultural remains at Tapqaq are representative of different periods in Bering Strait history. (5) The site is likely to yield information important to Bering Strait history. (6) The oral traditions preserved about Tapqaq are indicative of its enduring symbolic importance.

The most significant factor affecting the integrity of this site is slumping. This is occurring in a limited manner in Parcel B, Area II; however, the majority of features there are not in any danger of eroding. A possible future factor affecting the site's integrity is mining. The area below the mean high water mark of this site is claimed by mining interests, any exploitation of the underwater resources should be monitored to prevent impacts to the onshore cultural resources.

Tapqaq is associated with one of the most important recent events in Bering Strait history, the 1918 influenza epidemic. This epidemic apparently wiped out Tapqaq and other settlements along the Norton Sound coast between Golovin and Nome.

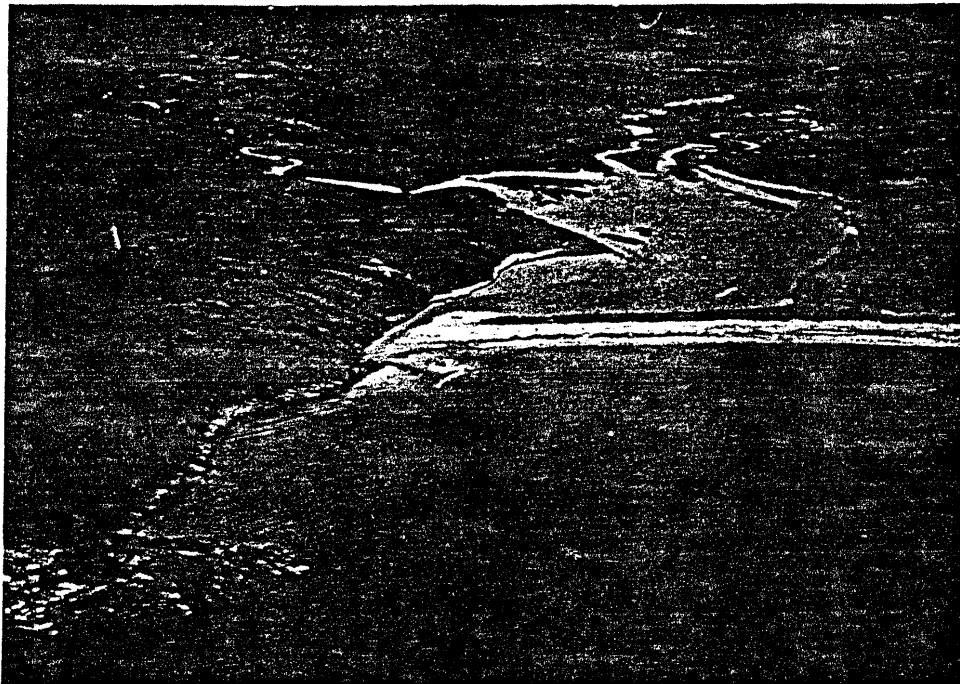
Archeologists identified 75 cultural features at Tapqaq. These features are representative of different periods in Bering Strait history. The majority of features and subsurface remains in Parcel B are probably associated with either the prehistoric or early contact period. Features elsewhere in the site represent late historic and recent occupation.

This site is likely to yield information important in understanding the history and culture of the Bering Strait region. In addition to the surface

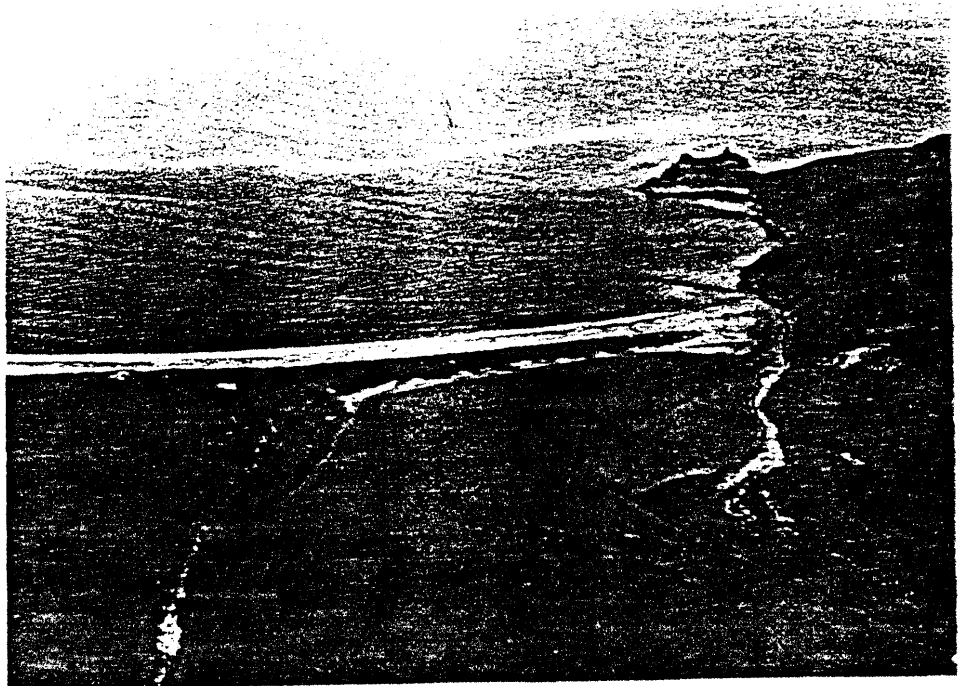
features, there are well-preserved subsurface remains in at least one section of the site. In combination with surface features, these remains offer the opportunity to study the changes that occurred in Norton Sound culture including those of the mining era. Since Tapqaq appears to have been a multi-ethnic community, the remains at this site may contribute to knowledge about the early interaction between Eskimos and Caucasians. The graves at Tapqaq present a body of data for the study of traditional mortuary practices. The graves at Tapqaq are particularly interesting because there are two distinct types represented.

The different stories about Tapqaq are preserved in the oral history of Norton Sound. The fact that stories about the site are preserved even after over seventy years of abandonment indicates the site has had sustained symbolic importance to people of this area.

PHOTOGRAPHS



Photograph 1. Aerial view of site from south



Photograph 2. Aerial view from north



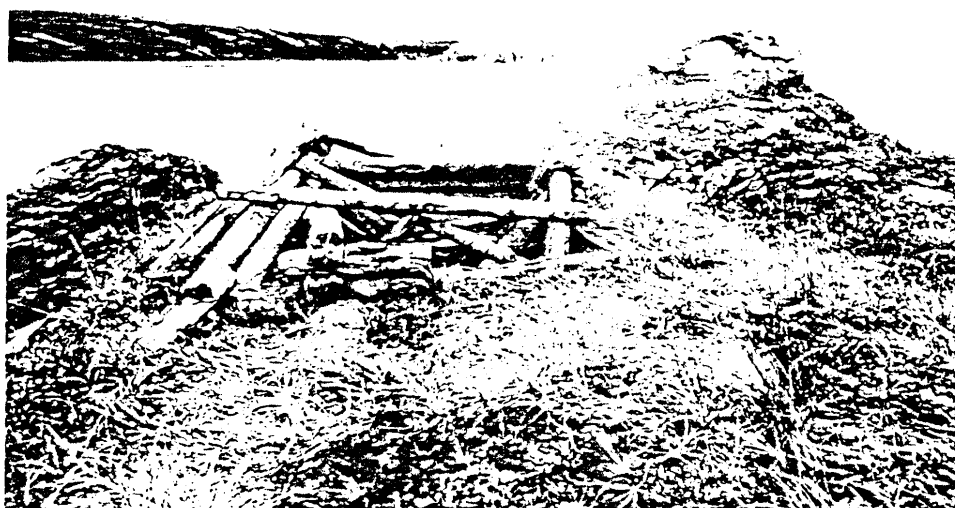
Photograph 3. Collapsed cabin or cache (Feature D) in Parcel A, Area I East



Photograph 4. Grave (Feature B) in Parcel A, Area IV East



Photograph 5. Grave (Feature C) in Parcel B, Area I



Photograph 6. Structure over cave (Feature L) in Parcel B, Area II



Photograph 6. James Powell examining Feature A in Parcel C

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ADDENDUM

Tapqaq

Bering Straits Native Corporation

BLM F-21945

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was notified of the preliminary decision that Tapqaq (BLM F-21945), was eligible as a Native historical place and cemetery site on August 6, 1987, and was requested to provide additional comments and information that might have a bearing on this decision. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has failed to respond to this request within a reasonable time period.