

CERTIFICATION

I, George C. Tobuk, hereby certify the following to be true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

That I prepared the following report and investigation from data made available to me from the files of William T. Woolard.

The subsequent field examination that I have conducted on June 27, 28, 1979 to verify his claim all foregoing information thereafter I hold to be true.

Certified this 5th day of September 1979.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. C. Tobuk", with a stylized flourish at the end.

George C. Tobuk  
Tanana Chiefs Conference, Inc.  
Realty Specialist

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### AUTHORITY

The Alaska Land Claims Settlement Act of December 18, 1971, Public Law 92-203, Section 14(h)(5) 43 U.S.C. §1601 (Supp.IV, 1974 as Amended, 89 Stat. 1145 1976) provides for application for a Primary Place of Residence. The Bureau of Land Management Regulations effecting those Selections are:

43 C.F.R. 2653.0-5(d)  
43 C.F.R. 2653.3  
43 C.F.R. 2653.8  
43 C.F.R. 2653.8.2  
43 C.F.R. 2091.1

### CHRONOLOGY

Mr. William T. Woolard on December 14, 1973 applied for a Primary Place of Residence under Section 14(h)(5) of ANCSA.

On May 10, 1974, Acting Chief Adjudicator Julianne M. Gibbons at the Bureau of Land Management State Office rejected the application because of the Medra Village withdrawal under Section 11 of ANCSA.

On April 13, 1976, Chief Branch of Lands and Minerals Operations, Mr. Robert E. Sorenson of the Bureau of Land Management State Office rejected the application once again because of the Nikolai Village Selection under Section 11 of ANCSA.

On May 12, 1976, a request for a Appeal was filed and given number, ANCAB #PR76-1.

On November 3, 1977, a ten page decision was issued by Judith M. Brady, Chairman ANCAB.

On March 23, 1978, the Acting Area Director of Bureau of Indian Affairs forwarded a memo to the Area Field Representative at Fairbanks and made reference to page 9 of that decision.

On March 27, 1978, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Fairbanks forwarded the request for a Field Investigation to the Tanana Chiefs Conference, Inc. of Fairbanks.

## LOCATION

Legal description for the tract applied for:

Fractional S1/2 NW1/4 SE1/4, SW1/4 SE1/4 of Section 29,  
27S, R22E, K.R.M. Alaska and, W1/2 NE1/4 fractional N1/2 NW1/4  
SE1/4, fractional NW1/4 NE1/4 SE1/4 of Section 32 T.27S, 22E  
K.R.M. Alaska containing 160 acres more or less.

The "Dictionary of Alaska Place Names" by Donald J. Orth (1971, Page 632)  
described as:

"MEDFRA: Village, pop. 8, on right bank of Kuskokwim  
River Low,; 63°06' N, 154°43' W; BGN 1937; (map 89).  
Var. Berrys Landing.

Medfra may have been a small Indian camp, but more  
likely owes its existence to the establishment early  
in the 20th century of a trading post here and of a  
~~landing originally called "Berrys Landing."~~ In 1930  
~~the settlement had a population of 24. A post office~~  
~~was maintained here from 1922 to 1955 (Ricks, 1965, p.41)"~~

→ 1970's

The site is 31 air miles north east of McGrath and 13 river miles north west  
from Nikolai.

Medfra can be located near the center of U.S.G.S. Medfra (A-4) quadrangle  
Alaska 1:63360 series.

## TRANSPORTATION

Transportation to Medfra can be by small charter aircraft (under 12,500 lbs.)  
or boat in the summer months. In the winter, it is possible to travel via  
traditional dog sled. The modern mode, however, is by air or snowmachine.

McGrath is served by two major airlines and two air taxi's.

Medfra has one air taxi operated by Mr. Jack R. Smith.

where does Smith live

A river barge with shallow draft is operated by Mr. John Stone of Medra.

AREA LAND STATUS

PLO 5184 - D-1 Withdrawal (pending)  
ANS 102 - 1928 Airport withdrawal, amended 1955  
USS 4426 - Home site Survey 1966 - No application to purchase -  
Case closed 1967 (3.99 acres)  
(applicant - Mr. Ray P. Marx)  
USS 2625 - Homestead application 1963 - Statutory Life expired 1968-  
Case closed (86.13 acres)  
(applicant - Mr. Jack R. Smith)  
F-17953 - Clarence Holmberg's Native Allotment approved for 160 acres.  
F-17259 - Antone Pitka's Native Allotment approved for 80 acres.  
(deceased 1979)  
F-17324 - Ignatti Petruska's Native Allotment approved for 99 acres.  
(husband to Joyce Woolard Petruska)  
F-13949 - Kathryn Eluska's Native Allotment 40 acres application -  
Pence file (BLM) (pending)  
F-14906-A - Nikolai Village Selection, ANCSA Section 11, (pending)  
AA-12377 - Medfra Group Selection (pending)  
AA-8103-2 - Regional Selections (pending)  
HR 39 State Selection May 15, 1978  
Section 805(h) ANCSA Section 17(d) (2), (pending)  
Entire Townships 27S, 22E, KRM and 28S, 22E, KRM, Alaska  
(available land)  
AA-12639 - State Selections (pending)  
AA-12517 - Mining Lode Claims, 6 miles northwest of Medfra (1976)  
AA-12519 - Mining Placer Claims, 6 miles northwest of Medfra (1976)  
PLO-5657 - State Selections

## BACKGROUND

Alaska Native, Mr. William Thomas Woolard was born October 11, 1948 to Lionel T. Woolard (caucasian, who's last known address in 1974 was Pinedale, Wyoming) and Alice Holmberg Woolard Soderquist (native, deceased 1973) at Ophir, Alaska 51 miles west of McGrath.

He had four sisters, namely, Joyce F. Woolard Petruska now of Nikolai, Alice V Woolard Anselment now of Anchorage, Merna F. Woolard Winters of Golden, Colorado (1974) and Jeanette Woolard who drowned at McGrath in 1959, at the age of five

From the age of 7 in 1955, his parents moved from McGrath to Washington State, in 1956 on to Jackson, Wyoming, from there to Afton, Wyoming, where his parent divorced in 1958, when he and his mother and sisters returned to McGrath.

Mr. Woolard graduated from the McGrath High School in 1967 where he lived most of his life with his mother, as a young adult, he made Medfra his home with the help of his uncle Mr. Clarence Holmberg.

His wife since September 29, 1969, Connie L. Forsgren Woolard (caucasian) was born at Portland, Oregon on December 4, 1950 and moved to McGrath with her parents who are affiliated with the FAA Flight Service station at McGrath. The Woolards now have two children, Shawna born in Anchorage on April 15, 1976, and Adrian born in Fairbanks on January 21, 1971.

Mr. Woolard learned to fly in 1968 and earned private license #1852789 and owns a super-cub from 1969-77.

His mother married Mr. Eskil Soderquist an employee of the FAA in McGrath, since her return from Wyoming. After her death in 1973, Mr. Woolard had her grave on his primary place of residence, near his first home. Alice Verdene and Joyce kept close ties with Mr. Woolard and family until they themselves got married.

Mr. Woolard operated a store at Medfra from 1972-76, his second building was a frame two story home, for his family constructed in 1974-75. A product of his own saw mill, which he continues to operate to fill supply on demand, using his tractors in the endeavor to move his timber.

Subsistence life style is evident, necessitating harvest of game in a manner taught him by his strong family ties. However, seasonal employment elsewhere to maintain needs of a monetary sense also evident, statewide by all natives who find it near impossible to live off the land totally. (see E. Andrews occasional paper No. 5, and the McGrath Ingalik by E. Hosley to grasp the impact a change in lifestyle, adjusted for these modern times).

#### FIELD EXAMINATION

On June 27, 28, 1979, Mr. Woolard was at McGrath for seasonal work, employed by the Anderson Heavy Equipment, a construction firm, with plans to return to Medfra with his family as soon as possible, to get his saw mill back into operation, and prepare for the oncoming winter.

This examiner questioned Mr. Woolard about the value placed on his improvements, he summerized his assets in Medfra, consisting of; 2 houses (plus furnishings), 1 saw mill, 2 tractors, and 1 boat (plus motor) to be approximately \$60,000.00.

No determination was reached by this examiner, as to his appraisal of Real or Personal Property.

A sworn statement taken by Mr. Roland Shanks (Realty Officer for the Tanana Chiefs Conference, Inc. of Fairbanks under contract to the Bureau of Indian Affairs to handle Realty and other Native Services within the Doyon Region) from Mr. Woolard indicating he had constructed his first dwelling in (1969) at Medfra.

On June 27, 1979, I chartered a small aircraft to Medfra to examine on the ground Mr. Woolard's Primary Place of Residence.

Mr. Clarence (Sonny) Holmberg and a member of his household Ms. Mary E. Osland were tending a fish net and garden in Medfra, on the 27th and 28th, who assisted me on much of the data here presented.

There was a old homesite once inhabited by Fritz and Rose Larson of McGrath, who no longer live there, the records show no application ever filed for the land, (see aerial photo overlay). The site is situated within Woolard's 160 acre selection.

## UPPER KUSKOKWIM HISTORY

### Brief

Alaska Regional profiles, Southwest region (1971) page 1, Kuskokwim Bay Subregion totals 58,000 square miles.

McGrath serves as the central government, trade, and transportation center for the Upper Kuskokwim area, government activity and subsistence, salmon fishing and hunting are major elements in the economy of this subregion.

### Climate

McGrath record of 30 years.

Temperatures (F) Summer 40<sup>0</sup> to 68<sup>0</sup>  
Winter -18<sup>0</sup> to 20<sup>0</sup>

Extremes -67<sup>0</sup> to 90<sup>0</sup>

Precipitation 17 inches (includes .9 inches of snow)

Average Wind, North 3-4 Knots (8.0 Kph)

Extremes South 65 Knots (120 Kph)

### MINERALS

By Federal-State joint Land Use Planning - Commission for Alaska November 1, 1977

Kuskokwim placers produced about 650,000 troy ounces of gold between 1880 and 1960. Area also includes more than two dozen known lode deposits that have been worked periodically for mercury and antimony for almost 65 years, and gold, silver, base-metal lode deposits associated with granitic intensive rocks.

On the date of this report, Mr. John Stone, Box 76, McGrath also of Medfra, filed for 8 mining lode claim sites on December 15, 1976, which lies approximately 6 miles northwest of Medfra around Eagle Creek (#AA-12517) on the same date, Mr. Stone and Mr. Joseph E. Vogler of Fairbanks filed for 4 additional claims (Placer) (#AA-12519) in the same vicinity.

### SUBSISTENCE

Mr. Edward H. Hosley in his anthropological (U of A) papers of 1960 made a study of past and present culture, (see page 99-102) considerable reference was made to the mobility of these natives, both in the ERA of late, and in reference to anthropology, or christianity, either way, deals with thousands of years.

Data for native subsistence in the harvest of fish, or game, is unavailable since the State of Alaska do not make issue of native vs. other harvests, but a look at the population of Alaska in round figures 60,000 natives out of 450,000, would pose somewhat of a problem to make such a separation study.

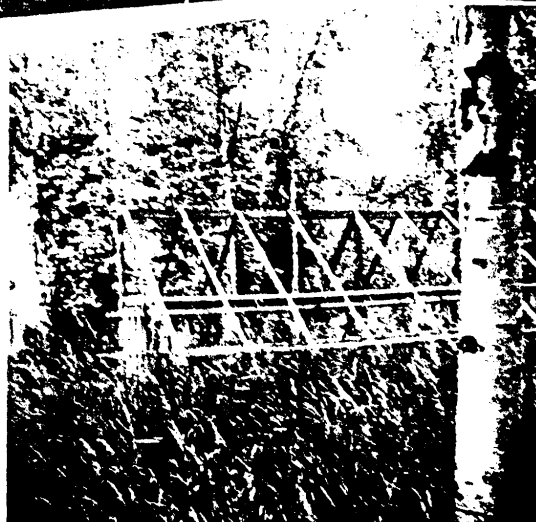


#### CONCLUSION

This examiner dealt with only the facts concerning Mr. Woolard's Primary Place of Residence, no recommendation is here presented as the decision is a matter of law, under ANCSA Section 14(h) (5).



SITE OF NPPR



Greenhouse

1st Home & Store



2nd Frame Home 1974-75



ATTACHMENTS

1. Request for any BIA Field Report, None on File
2. William T. Woolard, NPPR Application 12/14/73, 2 pages
3. Location of NPPR (Medfra A-4)
4. Plat (BLM)
5. Aerial Photo and Overlay
6. Aerial Photo
7. NPPR Checklist (BIA)
8. Appeal Decision and related correspondence, 18 pages
9. Statement from William T. Woolard (Tanana Chiefs Conference, Inc)
10. Statement from Jack R. Smith (Tanana Chiefs Conference, Inc.)
11. One FBI Statement from William T. Woolard, two from Jack R. Smith, plus U.S. Attorneys authorization for its use here, 9 pages
12. Jack R. Smith Letter of protest
13. Alaska Native Roll (Medfra)
14. 1970 Census Atlas (3 pages)
15. 1970 U.S. Census (Kuskokwin Region)
16. History of U. S. Survey 2625 (Jack R. Smith) 2 pages
17. History of U.S. Survey 4426 (Ray P. Marx)
18. Air Navigation Site 102 Withdrawal 5 pages
19. Area Mining Claims
20. Report on the Cultural Resources of the Doyon Region Volume 1 by Elizabeth F. Andrews, University of Alaska, Occasional Paper No. 5, October 1977, pages 152 to 167.
21. Letter of authorization from the University of Alaska, Anthropology Department in Fairbanks, to use Edward H. Hosley's Anthropology Papers Volume 9, Number 2.
22. The McGrath Ingalik by Edward H. Hosley (U of A, 1960) pages 93-113
23. F-14945-A McGrath, Tokotna, Nikolai, Telida Village Consolidation (MTNT Corp.)