

TYAMAAS  
BERING STRAITS NATIVE CORPORATION  
BLM #AA-11786

CERTIFICATE OF INELIGIBILITY  
TLAMAAS  
BERING STRAITS NATIVE CORPORATION  
BLM #AA-11786

I, Jacob Lestenkof, Area Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs, pursuant to the authority vested in me by 43 CFR 2653.5(h), hereby issue a Certificate of Ineligibility to Bering Straits Native Corporation for Tlamaas as a historic place under Section 14(h)(1) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of December 18, 1971 (85 Stat. 688: 43 U.S.C. 1601 (1976)), for the following reason:

The site fails to meet the definition contained in 43 CFR 2653.0-5(b) for a historical place.

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

  
Area Director

Dated: 3 February, 1984.

TABLE OF CONTENTS  
TZAMAAS  
BERING STRAITS NATIVE CORPORATION  
BLM #AA-11786

Cover Sheet . . . . . A  
Certificate of Ineligibility . . . . . B  
Table of Contents . . . . . C  
Claims Examiner's Certificate . . . . . D  
Claims Examiner's Report. . . . . 1

EXHIBIT #1

A. Certificate of Review . . . . . 3  
B. Report of Investigation . . . . . 5  
C. Legal Description . . . . . .10  
D. Survey Format . . . . . .11  
E. POB Sketch . . . . . .13  
F. Site Map . . . . . .14  
G. Quad (Area) Map . . . . . .15  
H. Photography Record Form . . . . . .16  
I. Photographs . . . . . .17

EXHIBIT #2

A. Regional Corporation Application . . . . . .21  
B. Related Papers with Application . . . . . .22

EXHIBIT #3

A. NPS Cover Letter . . . . . .25  
B. CPSU Abstract . . . . . .26  
C. CPSU Section 14(h)(1) Form . . . . . .29

CLAIMS EXAMINER'S CERTIFICATE  
TLAMAAS  
BERING STRAITS NATIVE CORPORATION  
BLM #AA-11786

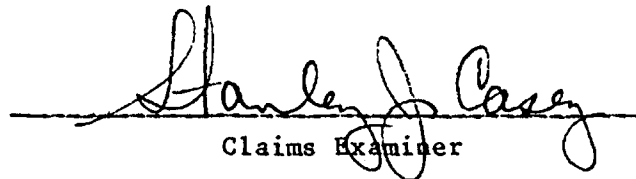
I, Stanley J. Casey, hereby certify the following to be true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief:

That I reviewed this report of the field investigation and data supplied by Field Investigators, Archeologists, their field notes, and research;

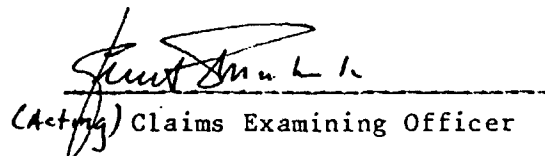
That the conclusions contained in the Claims Examiner's report are based on an accurate analysis of my findings;

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

Certified this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of January, 1984.

  
Claims Examiner

Reviewed and approved by:

  
(Acting) Claims Examining Officer

Date: January 3, 1984

CLAIMS EXAMINER'S REPORT  
T/LAMAAS  
BERING STRAITS NATIVE CORPORATION  
BLM #AA-11786

I. FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Bering Straits Native Corporation submitted its application for a historic place pursuant to Section 14(h)(1) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of December 18, 1971 (85 Stat. 688; 43 U.S.C. 1601 (1976)), and in accordance with 43 CFR 2650. Included with the application were a written description and map depicting the lands selected, and a statement describing the significance of the site. The site is reported as the westernmost mountain on the Kaltag Portage, and its significance is as a landmark to people who historically used and lived along the portage. (Exhibit 2)
  
2. The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) investigated the area selected in 1980. The historic use of the Kaltag Portage for trade, the existence of a trading village (Ulukuk) near the base of the hills, and the mountain's use as a landmark are well documented. Additionally, the mountain was found to be a source of materials for knives (ulus) and to be associated with a hunchback man from Ulukuk (Exhibits 1 and 3). Neither the Kaltag Portage nor Ulukuk village site were selected as historic places. (Exhibits 1 and 3 and case reports on file in the BIA-ANCSA Office)
  
3. The BIA located the site within the area selected. On-the-ground reconnaissance of the mountaintop disclosed no slate quarry or any other Native cultural evidence. (Exhibits 1 and 3)

## II. CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Physical features and history of the site indicate it derives its significance from its proximity to lands that are importantly associated with historic events, activities, or persons, rather than being the actual lands upon which any historic event or activity occurred or the actual lands directly associated with historical or cultural events or persons. The site derives its significance solely as a landmark and geographic feature and, thus, fails to meet the definition of a historical place contained in 43 CFR 2653.0-5(b).
2. In accordance with 43 CFR 2653.5(j), the BIA has marked the site on the ground and identified on a map the location and size (approximately 320 acres) of the site with sufficient clarity to enable the Bureau of Land Management to locate the mountaintop (Exhibit 1). It has consulted with the National Park Service and the Bureau of Land Management (Exhibits 3 and 4) and can certify the site exists. However, it can neither certify that the site meets the criteria contained in 43 CFR 2653.5 nor describe the events that took place and qualities of the site which give it particular value and significance as a historical place.

## III. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the BIA issue a Certificate of Ineligibility for Tlamaas as a historic place for the following reason:

1. The site fails to meet the definition contained in 43 CFR 2653.0-5(b) for a historical place.

APPENDIX A  
CERTIFICATE OF REVIEW  
TYAMAAS  
BERING STRAITS NATIVE CORPORATION  
BLM #AA-11786

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

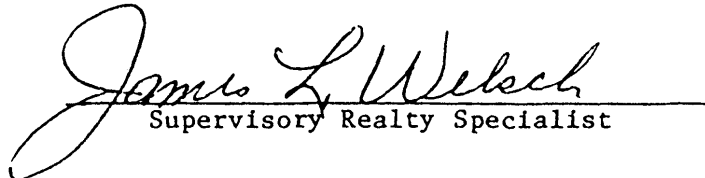
That the field investigator conducted the investigation hereinafter described;

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

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

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

Certified to this 8th day of February, 1983.

  
Supervisory Realty Specialist

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 11<sup>th</sup> day of August, 1980.

By: Lou Ann Gagne'  
Name

Field Investigator  
Title



APPENDIX B  
REPORT OF INVESTIGATION  
FOR  
T̄YAMAAS  
BERING STRAITS NATIVE CORPORATION  
BLM #AA-11786

I. PURPOSE & 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 T̄yamaas as a historical place.

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

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

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

II. BACKGROUND

Bering Straits Native Corporation (BSNC) filed an application with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) on June 27, 1976, for T̄yamaas as a historical site under Section 14(h)(1) of ANCSA. BLM preadjudicated the application and assigned it BLM serial number AA-11786.

A tract of land was claimed in the S½ Section 30, Section 31, T. 18 S., R. 6 W., Kateel River Meridian (KRM), Alaska.

During the on-site investigation held with Native informants, it was revealed that the site of Tlamaas is referred to as Whaleback or Ulukuk Mountain by the Natives.

Within the Eskimo culture "...place-names systemized territorial features within a tribe and provided the Eskimo with continuity from time immemorial" (Ray 1971:2). Having understood land references were critical in traveling, communication, and in giving direction to others, outstanding or unusual geographic features were all used to define relative position and direction when traveling. Such was the case of Whaleback (Ulukuk). Tkamaas (ph) is the Athabaskan name for said mountain and is translated to mean "semi-lunar knife", according to information gathered from the BSNC Statement of Significance.

Other information obtained from BSNC is that Whaleback Mountain is located approximately 60 miles from Kaltag which is the eastern terminus of the Kaltag Portage. Whaleback Mountain has been continuously used as a landmark, first by Indian/Eskimo traders, then in succession by explorers, goldminers, mail carriers, and most recently has been incorporated into the longest North American dog sled race, the Iditarod.

#### The Kaltag Portage,

runs for 90 miles along the Unalakleet River, across a short divide, down the Kaltag River to the Yukon. The western terminus is at the Eskimo village of Unalakleet ...and the eastern terminus is at the Indian village of Kaltag (Koutsky 1978).

As trade began to develop between the coast and interior, a group of "Portage Indians" settled at Ulukuk and were known as "Tkamaas (ph) Hot'anna" by Julius Jette, J.S., at Nulato. The name was apparently given to them in reference to the mountain Tkamaas (ph) (Whaleback), near which they lived. These people were considered Eskimo by the Indians and Indian by the Eskimos and were "most probably a mix of both lower Koyukuk Indians and coastal Eskimos" (Koutsky 1978). Their main function, according to Henry Michael in Lt. Zagoskin's Travels in Russian America, was trade, as noted that "these people never engaged in hunting but spent all their time in trading or travelling" (Michael, 1967: p. 137).

In later years, the Kaltag Portage was the main winter overland route to the gold fields on the Seward Peninsula, and a portion of the mail carriers' route from St. Michael to Klikatarik to Eaton Station (Unalakleet) and finally to Kaltag. Cabins were built along the Kaltag Portage for use by the mail carriers at strategic locations about 25 miles apart, one day's travel by dog team (Kitchener, 1954: p. 302).

According to local informants Roland Ivanoff and John Auliye, Whaleback Mountain was the site of a slate quarry where the people of Ulukuk and elsewhere would go to obtain the raw materials for the pre-metal ulus or woman's knife.

It was also discovered through interviews that the name of Whaleback was given to the mountain because of a hunchback who had lived there.

According to the BSNC Statement of Significance, Whaleback Mountain is important as a prehistoric and present-day landmark, and is significant historically for being the source of the name of the so-called Portage Indians.

### III. INVESTIGATIVE FINDINGS

On August 11, 1980, BIA Field Investigators Ken Pratt and Lou Ann Gagne, along with CPSU Archeologists Sandra Sobelman and Andrea Pro, went to the site. The site was located and identified by informants as Whaleback or Ulukuk Mountain.

Whaleback, the westernmost of a series of mountains crossed by the Kaltag Portage, rises to the elevation of 2854 feet. Pockets of loose shale rocks are alternated with patches of alpine tundra. Whaleback Mountain's climate and vegetation is that of an alpine tundra habitat.

As gusts of wind prevented the helicopter from landing at the summit, the investigative team hiked a mile and a half to the summit, and thence commenced a reconnaissance of that area.

A USC&GS benchmark was located and referenced to on the summit. Also found on the summit was a collapsed wooden tripod dated August 31, 1948, with names carved in it. Twenty or thirty C-ration cans were also scattered around the summit area. The slate quarry was not discovered during the investigation.

The site was found to be located within the W½ Section 31, T. 18 S., R. 6 W., KRM, Alaska and contains 320 acres, more or less. A buffer zone of 330 feet was provided to protect the integrity of the surveyed area (Exhibit 1, Appendix F).

No conflicts were noted pertaining to this site.

### IV. SUMMARY

According to BSNC, the Kaltag Portage has long been used by travelers and traders in and around the Seward Peninsula. It was a major route for the gold rush miners and a regular route for mail

carriers on the St. Michaels-Unalakleet-Kaltag route. It remains in use today, having been incorporated in the Iditarod sleddog races. Whaleback Mountain is an important landmark along the Portage.

According to information obtained from Native informants, Whaleback Mountain also has a place in the oral tradition of the people of Unalakleet. It was named for a hunchback who once lived there, and it is known for being the site of a slate quarry where raw materials for ulus were obtained.

On-site investigations did not reveal the slate quarry. On the summit was found a wooden tripod and C-ration cans, indicating the summit has been frequented. Informants are acquainted with Whaleback Mountain and were able to locate and identify it as well as supply verbal testimonies regarding its naming and the slate quarry.

Bering Straits Native Corporation applied for a historical site within the S½ Section 30, Section 31, T. 18 S., R. 6 W., KRM, Alaska. The site as surveyed is located within the W½ Section 31, T. 18 S., R. 6 W., KRM, Alaska, which is within the application area. The site contains 320 acres, more or less, including the buffer zone provided for in Title 43, Code of Federal Regulations.

APPENDIX C  
LEGAL DESCRIPTION  
BLM #AA-11786

A parcel of land located within the W $\frac{1}{2}$  Section 31, T. 18 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 63°53'26" N., longitude 160°55'24" W., marked with a 5/8 inch aluminum alloy rod extending 8 inches above the ground, referenced to the following:

Reference A: S. 47° E. to USGS benchmark on the summit of Whaleback Mountain, located in the SW $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$  Section 31, T. 18 S., R. 6 W., KRM, Alaska:

Reference B: S. 80° W. to mountain peak, elevation 1845 feet, located in the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$  Section 35, T. 18 S., R. 6 W., KRM, Alaska:

Reference C: N. 40° E. to mountain peak, elevation 1625 feet, located in the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$  Section 20, T. 18 S., R. 6 W., KRM, Alaska.

The boundaries of the site are those of the W $\frac{1}{2}$  Section 31, T. 18 S., R. 6 W., KRM, Alaska.

The site contains 320 acres, more or less.

APPENDIX D  
SURVEY FORMAT  
BLM #AA-11786

This survey was conducted on August 11, 1980, following a transected reconnaissance of the site. BIA and CPSU personnel determined the site boundaries.

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

The summit of Whaleback Mountain was marked with 5/8-inch aluminum alloy rod driven to the point of resistance with sufficient portion extending above the ground as monuments. This monument has been cited and described in the Legal Description (Appendix C).

BIBLIOGRAPHY

BLM #AA-11786

Kitchener, L.D. Flag Over the North. Seattle, Washington: Cardon Printers, 1954.

Koutsky, Kathryn. Cultural Resources of the Unalakleet Region. Fairbanks, Alaska: Cooperative Park Studies Unit, Archaeology and Historic Preservation, 1978.

Michael, Henry N. Lieutenant Zagoskin's Travels in Russian America 1842-1844. Canada: University of Toronto Press, 1967.

Ray, Dorothy Jean. Eskimo Place Names in Bering Straits and Vicinity, Vol. 19, No. 1:1-33, 1971.

Ray, Dorothy Jean. Eskimos of Bering Straits, 1650-1898. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1975.



### WHALEBACK MOUNTAIN (TAMMAS OR ULUKUK)

BLM SERIAL # AA-11786  
POB SKETCH MAP

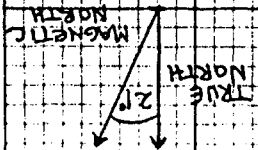
APPROXIMATE ACREAGE: 30 ACRES

AUGUST 11, 1980

GIS LATITUDE: 69°53'24"

GIS LONGITUDE: 160°55'24"

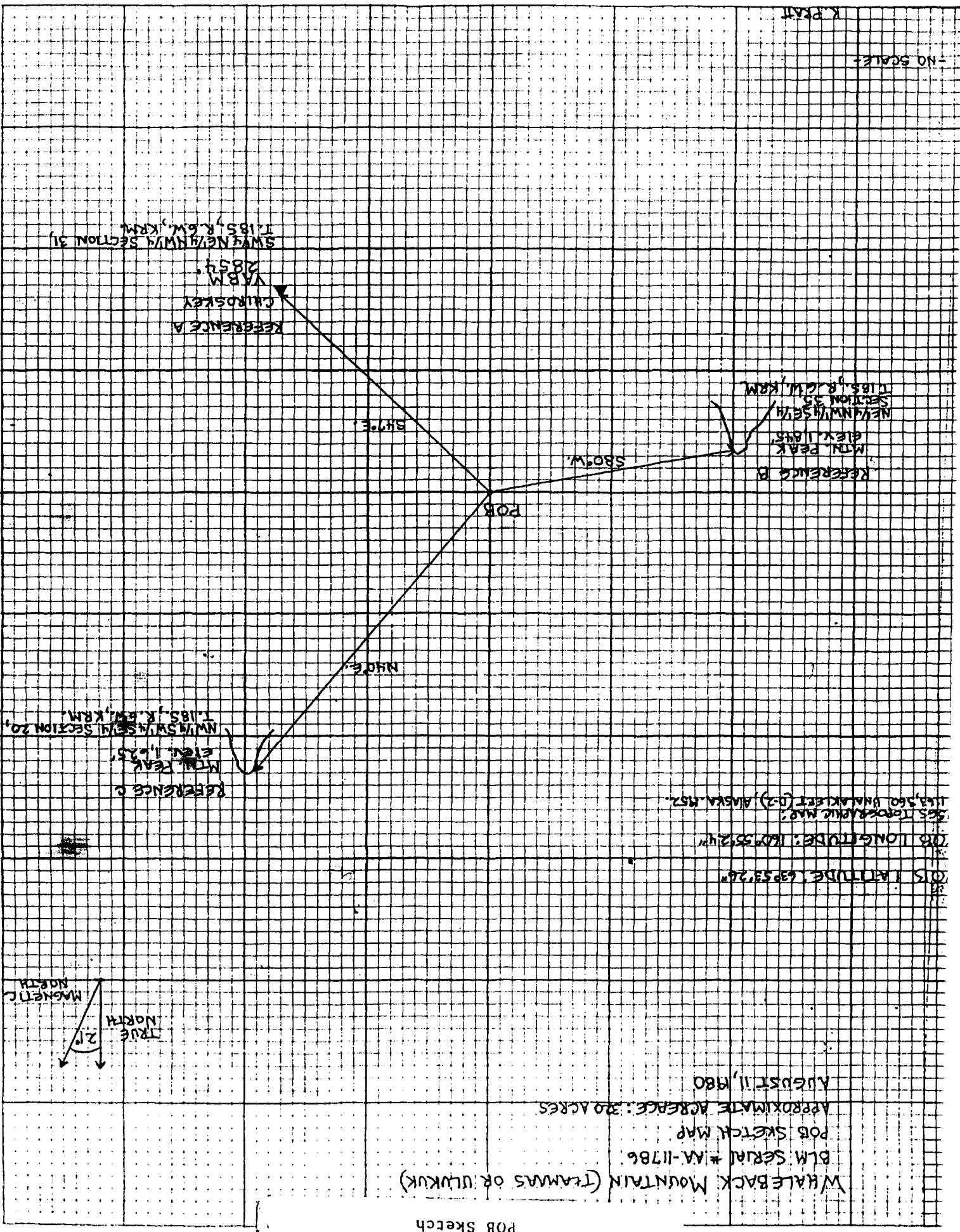
US TOPOGRAPHIC MAP  
1:62,500 UNAKLEET (0-2) ALASKA 1527



REFERENCE C  
MOUNTAIN PEAK  
ELEV. 1,225'  
NW 1/4 SW 1/4 SECTION 20,  
T.18S, R.6W, KRM.

REFERENCE B  
MOUNTAIN PEAK  
ELEV. 1,145'  
NE 1/4 NW 1/4 SECTION 33  
T.18S, R.6W, KRM.

REFERENCE A  
CHIROSKY  
V.B.M.  
2852'  
SW 1/4 NW 1/4 SECTION 31,  
T.18S, R.6W, KRM.

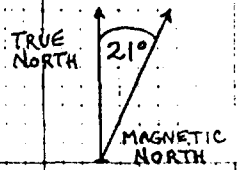


-NO SCALE-

K. PRATT

Site Map

WHALEBACK MOUNTAIN  
(TLAMAAS OR ULUKUK)  
BLM SERIAL # AA-11786  
SITE SKETCH MAP  
AUGUST 11, 1980.



SECTION  
25  
SECTION  
36

SECTION  
30

POB  
AVABM  
2854

SECTION  
31

x  
2158

↑  
330  
↓

Buffer Zone

SECTION 16

SECTION 1

2500

TOTAL ACREAGE OF SITE:  
320 ACRES: 1/2 SECTION

-NO. SCALE-

K. PRATT

APPENDIX H  
BLM #AA-11786  
PHOTOGRAPHY RECORD FORM

PHOTOGRAPHER(S): Lou Ann Gagne & Ken Pratt

ROLL(S) #: 1

DATE(S): August 11, 1980

FRAME #	VIEW	INFORMATION
1		Site Data
2		Site Tag (POB)
3	S.47°E.	REF A: USGS Benchmark
4	S.80°W.	REF B: Mountain Peak
5	N.40°E.	REF C: Mountain Peak
6		USGS Benchmark, main one on summit
7	N.48°W.	Main Benchmark to REF A & POB Stake
8	N.76°W.	Wooden marker on summit
9		Close-up of wooden marker
10	N	Aerial View
11	NW	Aerial View
12	W	Aerial View
13	SW	Aerial View
14	S	Aerial View
15	SE	Aerial View
16	E	Aerial View

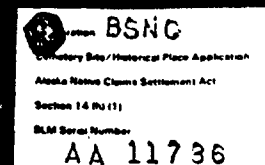
Site Data



REF A: USGS Benchmark



Site Tag (POB)



REF B: Mountain Peak

Photographs

17

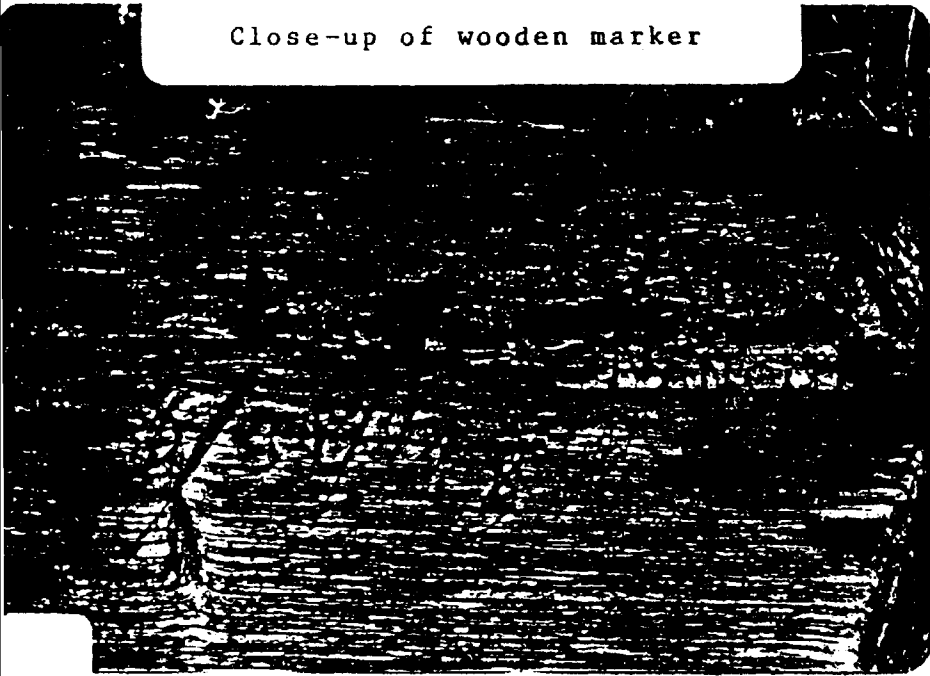
REF C: Mountain Peak

USGS Benchmark, main one  
on summit

Main Benchmark to REF A  
& POB Stake

Wooden marker on summit

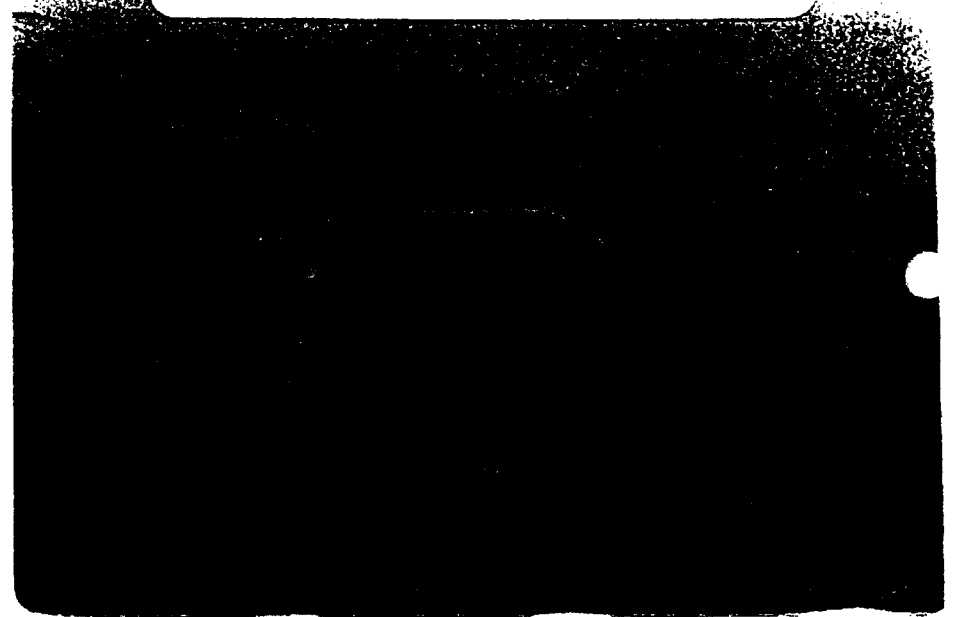
Close-up of wooden marker



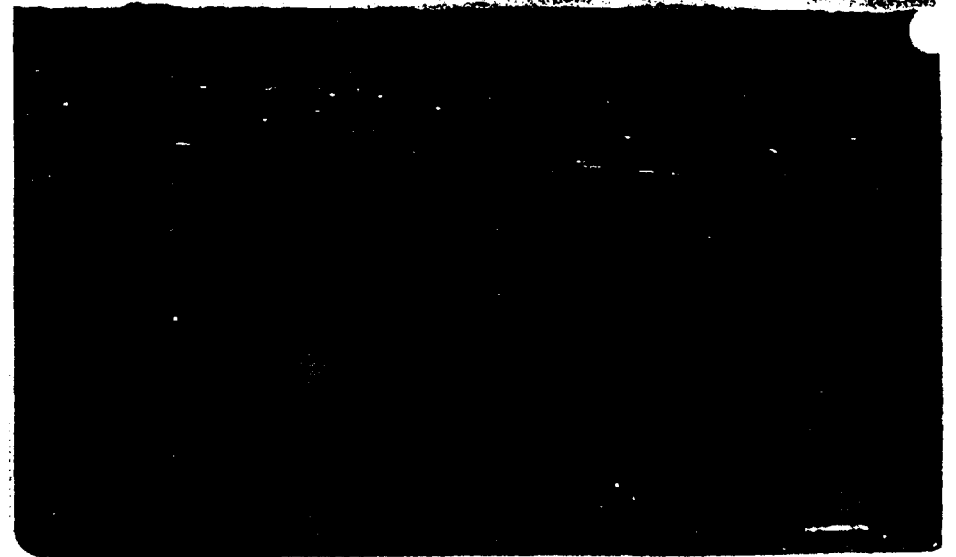
Aerial View



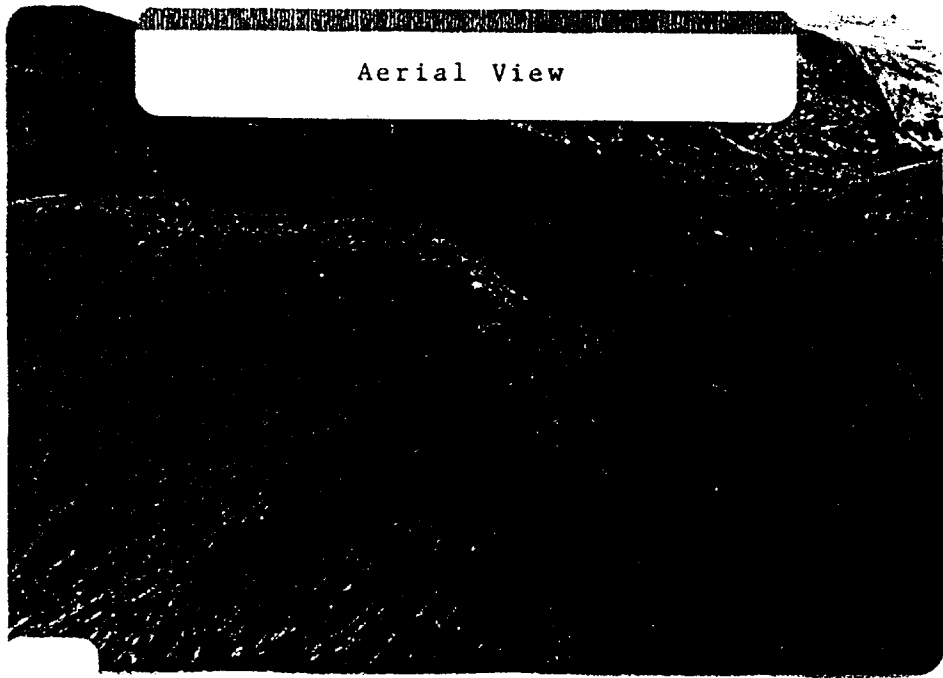
Aerial View



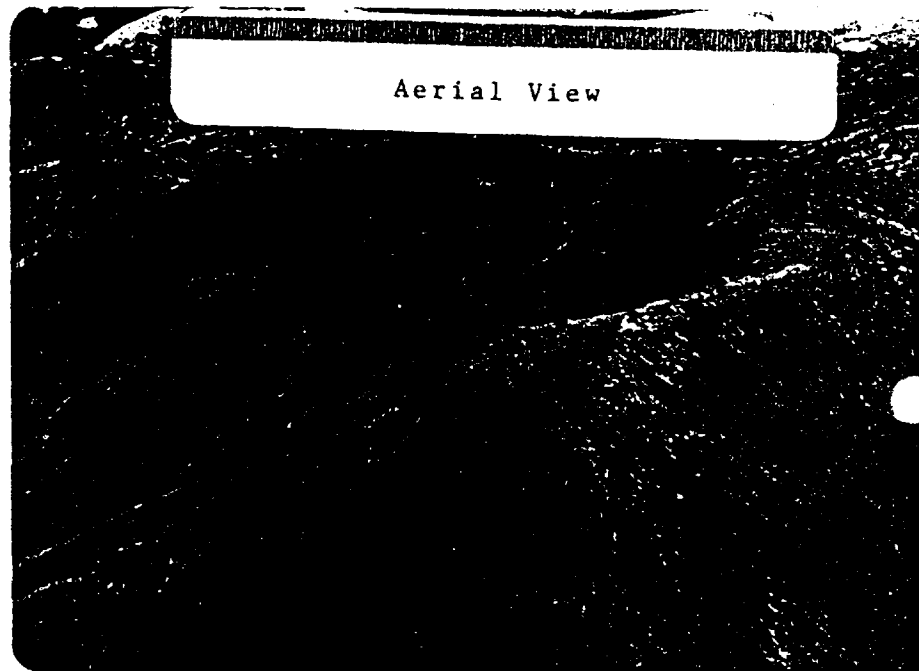
Aerial View



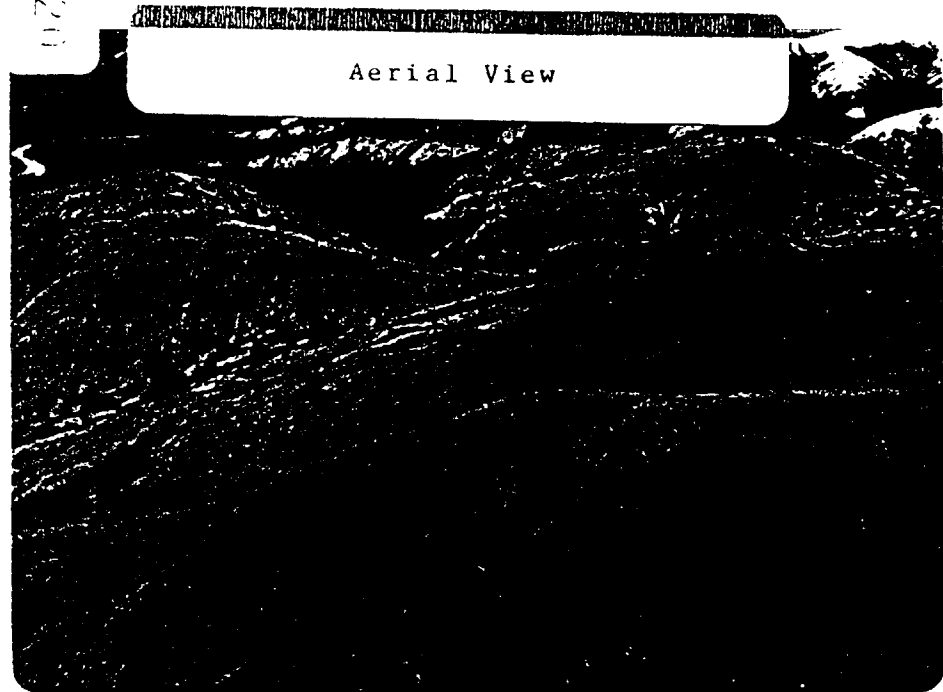
Aerial View



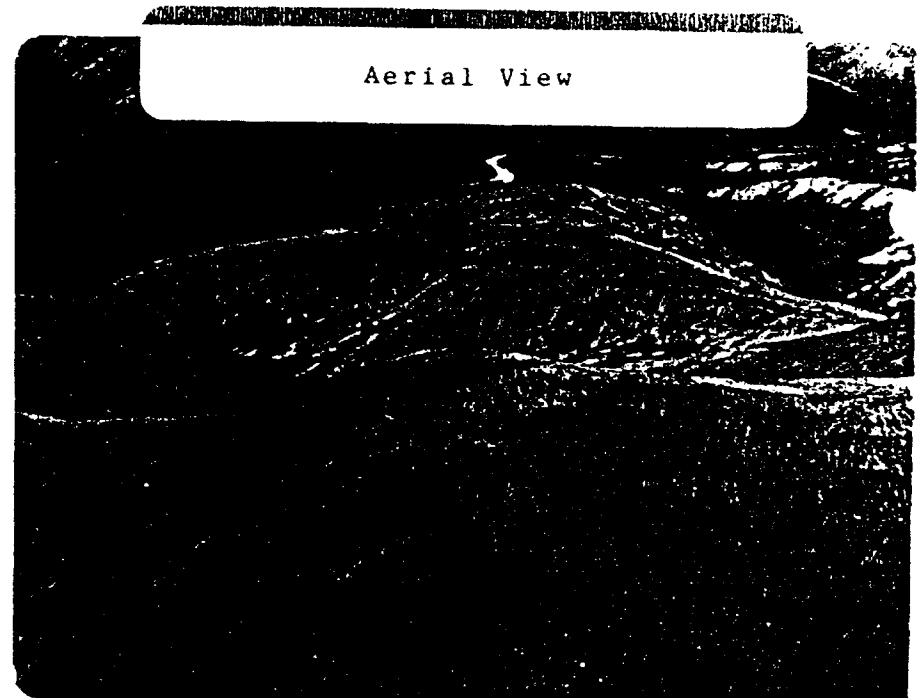
Aerial View



20  
Aerial View



Aerial View



APPENDIX A

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

FORM APPROVED  
OMB NO. 42-R1652

Serial Number

AA11786

INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE

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

<p>1. Name BERING STRAITS NATIVE CORPORATION P. O. BOX 1008 NOIAE, ALASKA 99702</p>	<p>Address (include zip code)</p>
---	-----------------------------------

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)

T18S, R6W, KR Mer

S 1/2 of Section 30

Section 31, all

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

Unslakht (D-2)

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) <u>Unknown</u>	Total Entitlement	Previously Filed	This Application
---	-------------------	------------------	------------------

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

John E. Jensen (Signature) Asst. Dir. Pres. LWS (Title) JUN 27 1976 (Date)

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



APPENDIX B

BSNC: Historic and Cemetery Sites  
 PRELIMINARY INVENTORY

AA11786

- i. Site number(s) a. BSNC application # 310  
 b. Field note # SM 51
2. Eskimo name of site (Lower Koyukon dialect) T'Yamaas or Maranidenihe  
 English name of site \_\_\_\_\_  
 Variations \_\_\_\_\_
3. Map reference Unalakleet T18S R6W
4. Land status D1 (?)

Comments:

Located approximately 60 miles from Kaltag along the Kaltag Portage, T'Yamaas is the western most mountain of a series that the trail crosses. The name T'Yamaas, "semi-lunar knife", was shared by the people who proto-historically lived along the Unalakleet River and the mountain which was an important landmark.

The Kaltag Portage runs for 90 miles along the Unalakleet River, across a short divide, down the Kaltag River to the Yukon. The western terminus is at the Eskimo village of Unalakleet on Norton Sound and the eastern terminus is at the Indian Village of Kaltag on the Yukon River. Proto-historically the trail was used for trade between the coast and the interior, historically it was part of the dog sled mail carriers trail and recently it has been incorporated into the longest North American sled dog race trail, the Iditarod.

The portage provided an avenue of contact and trade between the Eskimos of Norton Sound and the Lower Koyukon Indians. As a consequence of the increase in trade beginning in the early 1800's a number of villages were established along the Unalakleet River occupied by a group of specialized traders. These people were recognized as distinct from either the coastal Eskimos or the Lower Koyukon Indians.

According to D.J. Ray, "from the 1840's on, Indians lived on the upper Unalakleet River in what had been Eskimo Territory." (Ray 1975:105). They were recorded by Lt. Zagoskin in 1844 as Ulukagmyut, after their main village at Ulukuk (Chiroski), associated both by language and custom to the Athabascans. (Zagoskin 1844:136-137). Julis Jette J.S., a priest in Nulato at the turn of the century, mentions these people as T'Yamas rotana, "T'Yamaas Hot'anna", who were named after T'Yamas, a mountain on the portage approximately 60 miles from Kaltag and T'Yamas Hena, 25 miles of tundra west of T'Yamas mountain. The T'Yamas Hot'anna were "a group of people who used to live at this point are said to have

T̄amaas or Maranidenihe  
Unalakleet T18S R6W  
continuation from page one

AA11786

raided the Koyukuk settlements between 1840 and 1850." (Jette dictionary TL).

These "Portage Indians" were most probably a mix of both lower Koyukuk Indians and coastal Eskimos. Jette reported that the lower Koyukon Indians considered these people as Eskimo (Jette migrations:5) and the Eskimos apparently considered them Indians. (Ray 1975:105). Their main function as traders was noted by Zagoskin who recorded; "these people never engaged in hunting but spent all their time in trading or travelling." (1844:137). There has been almost no archeological work along the portage which could provide additional information as to the identity and cultural affiliations of these people.

T̄amaas is important both as a landmark used both in the past and in the present along the heavily traveled Kaltag Portage and as the location for which the "Portage Indians" were named.

#### Bibliography

Ray, Dorthey Jean

1975 The Eskimo of Bering Strait, 1650-1898, University of Washington Press, Seattle, Washington

Zagoskin, Lavrenti A.

1967 Lieutenant Zagoskin's Travels in Russian America, 1842-1844, edited by Henry N. Michael, University of Toronto Press, Canada

Jette, Julis

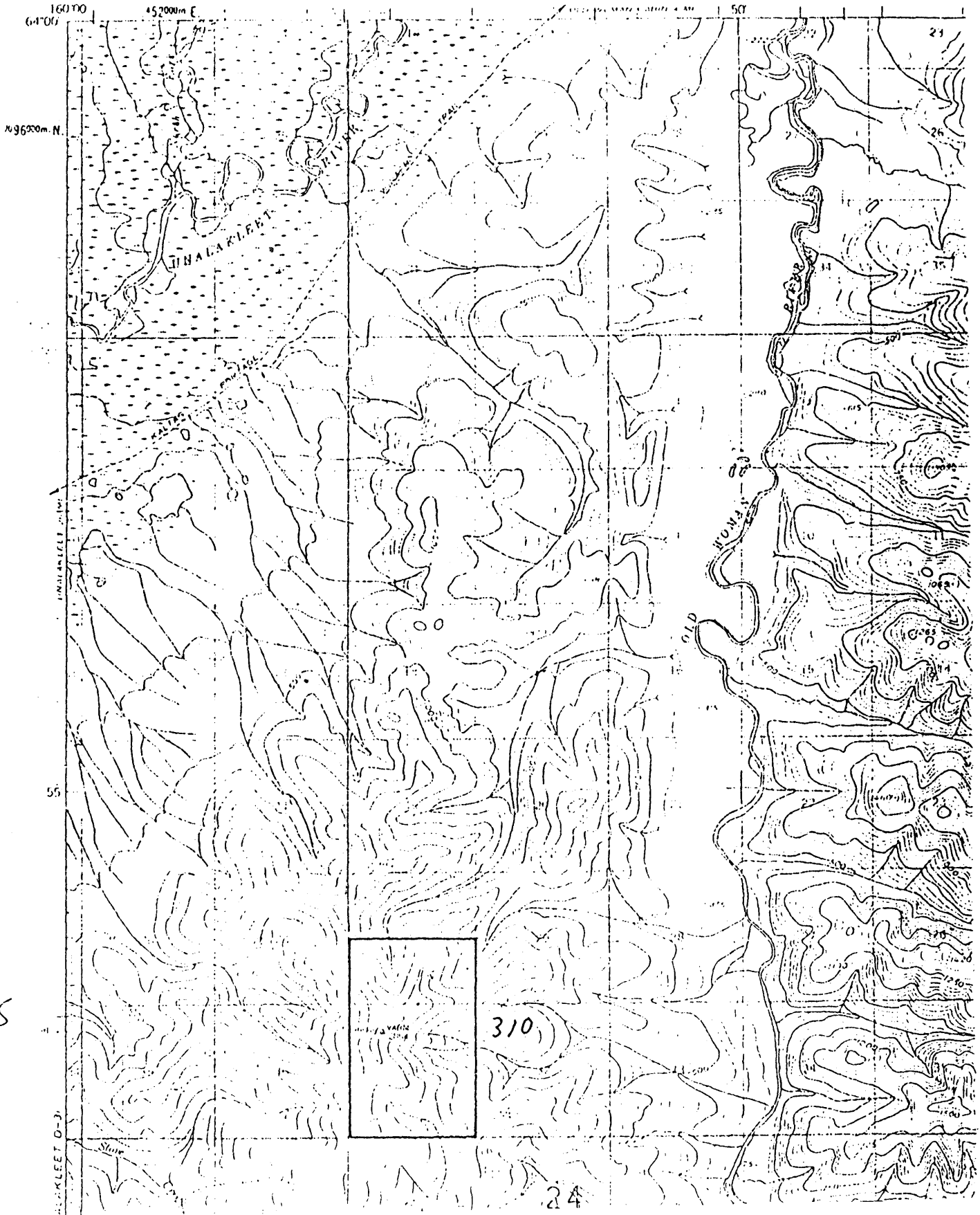
n.d. M.s. Ethnological dictionary of the Ten's language. Oregon Province Archives, Gonzaga University, Spokane, Washington

n.d. M.s. On the geographical names of the Ten's. Oregon Province Archives, Gonzaga University, Spokane, Washington

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO  
LIBRARY  
100 St. George Street  
Toronto, Ontario  
M5S 1A5  
JUL 15 1975

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

AA11786



S 415



310

24

APPENDIX A



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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.

TJamaas AA11786

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

ZAB/im  
enclosure



National Parks Centennial 1872-1972

APPENDIX B

Site Name: T/aamaas or Ulukuk AA11786/BSNC #310

Archeologist: Sandra Sobelman, Cooperative Park Studies Unit (CPSU),  
University of Alaska, Fairbanks

T/aamaas or Ulukuk qualifies under the ANCSA 14(h)(1) Rules and Regulations as a historic site eligible for selection by Bering Straits Native Corporation (BSNC). As defined in the BSNC application, the site lies between the Old Woman River and the Unalakleet River, approximately 40 km from Unalakleet. The CPSU survey crew, in cooperation with BIA-ANCSA field personnel examined the area on August 11, 1980. Since the significance of T/aamaas lies with its importance as a historical landmark and locational referent, there were no visible cultural features except a recent U.S. Coast and Geodetic survey marker.

T/aamaas or Maahaandiniy (Lower Koyukon Athabaskan synonyms for "ulu" or "woman's semi-lunar knife") or Ulukuk derived from an Eskimo word, fulfills the definition of "historical site" as set forth in the 14(h)(1) Rules and Regulations (43 CFR 2653.0-5(b)). It is a distinctive landmark significant to both Native groups because of (1) the part it played in travel and communication along the Kaltag Portage, (2) its importance as a material source for slate knives, and (3) stories associated with it.

Early explorers traveling between the Eskimo village of Unalakleet and the Indian village of Kaltag often mentioned the Ulukuk Hills in their journals. Rising to over 2,000 feet, the mountain range has been described as "...symmetrical hills [which stand] out with striking beauty against dark clouds"<sup>1</sup> The trail between the villages passed close to the mountain's base and Russian explorers established a camp at the termination of the range because it was a good trapping area. Beyond that point the trail crossed bare

---

<sup>1</sup>Dall, William H., 1870. Alaska and its Resources. Boston: Lee & Shepard.

tundra for the next 25 miles.

Not only was T/aamaas or Ulukuk a distinctive reference point, but it was also a raw material quarry. Both Eskimos and Indians would procure slate to make the "woman's knife" or ulu as it is known to Eskimos. Thus, the mountain's name means "woman's (semi lunar) knife" in both Eskimo and Indian dialects, reflecting its symmetrical shape and the products made from its slate.

Many stories are associated with the Ulukuk Hills. A trading village, documented in the 1860s, was located near the base of the hills. The village people, considered to possess both Indian and Eskimo traits, played an important role in the trade and communication network between Unalakleet and Kaltag. In more recent times, the hills have often been called "the Whale-backs" after a hunchback man from Ulukuk Village who later resided in Unalakleet.

As set forth in the Rules and Regulations, T/aamaas meets two of the criteria for determining site significance. (1) T/aamaas is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to Native history and pre-history in the region (43 CFR 2653.5(d)(1)). In addition to its historical importance as a locational referent for early explorers and traders, the hill also provided Native peoples with a material source for their multi-purpose slate knives. (2) T/aamaas possesses enduring symbolic value to Native peoples of the area (43 CFR 2653.5(d)(3)). The prominent landmark represents the time when goods and information were regularly exchanged between the Eskimo people on the coast and interior Indian groups. Items for trade and barter were hunted, trapped, and collected from the Ulukuk Hills by the traders who lived at the hill's base. It also represents a time when naturally occurring resources were used in tool making--a technology which is part of a fading tradition among Native groups in the area.

Because T/aamaas or Ulukuk 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.

Gordon S. Sobelman  
Signature

3/17/81  
Date

ANTHROPOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

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

## I. SITE NO.

- A. BLM Serial No. AA11786  
E. State AHRS No. \_\_\_\_\_  
C. Other, specify no. 310 (BSNC)

## II. SITE NAME

- A. Common Tjamaas or Ulukuk  
E. Native \_\_\_\_\_  
C. Non-native Whaleback  
D. Variations Maranidenihe,  
Tjamaas and Mahaandinig  
E. Translation "semi-lunar knife"

## III. SITE LOCATION

- A. Regional Corporation Bering Straits Native Corporation  
E. TWP 18S RANGE 6W SECTION 31 MERIDIAN Kateel River, Alaska ;  
- 1/4 of the - 1/4 of the - 1/4 of Section 31 (W 1/2)  
C. USGS Quad Unalakleet (D-2), Alaska, 1952  
D. Longitude/Latitude Longitude 160°55'24" Latitude 63°53'26"  
Map Scale: 1:63,360  
E. How the site was reached: By helicopter from Unalakleet approximately  
30 miles up the Unalakleet River

## IV. LAND STATUS

- A.  Within 11 (a) (1)  
E.  Regional Deficiency  
C.  L-1  
D.  Existing Wildlife Refuge  
E.  Existing National Forest  
F.  Additions to Wildlife Refuge  
G. B-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, land use and other geographic features.

Tjamaas or Ulukuk mountain, also known as the Chirosky bench mark, (elevation 2854 feet) lies between Old Woman River and the Unalakleet River, approximately 30 miles from Unalakleet. The mountain's volcanic bedrock is composed of dark colored compact and cemented angular rock fragments as well as mudstone and sandstone of Cenozoic age. The steep mountain slopes are very rocky; the soil is coarse, stony and dry.



B. Ecosystem

- 1.  Moist Tundra
- 2.  Wet Tundra
- 3.  Alpine Tundra
- 4.  High Brush
- 5.  Coastal Western Barren-Sitka Spruce Forest
- 6.  Bottomland Spruce-Poplar
- 7.  Low Brush, Muskog. Bay
- 8.  Upland Spruce Hardwood
- 9.  Lowland Spruce-Hardwood

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

The vegetation at Ulukuk is characterized by the typical alpine tundra and barren ground that occurs over mountainous areas and along well-drained rocky ridges in this region. Plants with low growth form are common on these exposed windswept habitats, especially lichen and mosses; grasses, sedges with a few herbs are also evident.

VI. SITE DESCRIPTION

A. Type

- 1.  Archeological-Precontact
- 2.  Archeological-Postcontact
- 3.  Other, specify \_\_\_\_\_

B. Definition

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

C. The name of the \_\_\_\_\_ and its location at the Site

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

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

3.  Middens
4.  Flake scatter
5.  Above-ground structures
6.  Cemetery
7.  Other

## 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 - U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey Marker
  2.  Hot-hunting or unsystematic artifact collecting
  3.  Vandalism
  4.  House of the site
  5.  \_\_\_\_\_
  6.  \_\_\_\_\_
- C. Disturbance by Natural Processes
1.  \_\_\_\_\_
  2.  \_\_\_\_\_
  3.  \_\_\_\_\_
  4.  \_\_\_\_\_
  5.  \_\_\_\_\_

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

Additional Comment

VIII. SUBSURFACE TESTING

- A. Test
  - 1.  Yes
  - 2.  No
- B. Accession No. \_\_\_\_\_
- C. Method
  - 1.  test pit
  - 2.  shovel probe
  - 3.  auger core
  - 4.  other \_\_\_\_\_
- D. Findings
  - 1.  features
  - 2.  artifact
  - 3.  sterile
  - 4.  other \_\_\_\_\_

IX. SURFACE COLLECTIONS

- A. Collection
  - 1.  Yes
  - 2.  No
- B. Accession No. \_\_\_\_\_

XI. EVALUATION

- A. Cultural-Temporal Placement
  - 1. Cultural Affiliation (if known)
    - a.  Eskimo, specify Bering Straits
    - b.  Indian, specify Lower Koyukon
    - c.  Aleut, specify \_\_\_\_\_
    - d.  Non-native, specify \_\_\_\_\_
  - 2. Time Placement (if known)
    - a.  1920-1950
    - b.  1900-1919
    - c.  1850-1899
    - d.  1800-1849
    - e.  1700-1799
    - f.  1600-1699
    - g.  Other, specify \_\_\_\_\_
  - 3. Evidence for Time Placement (state, physical evidence, botanical, glacial, cultural evidence, etc.)  
 Oral testimony from knowledgeable Native informants and historical documents.

## B. Major Economic Activity

1.  Hunting
2.  Fishing
3.  Trapping
4.  Reindeer herding
5.  Mining
6.  Other, specify \_\_\_\_\_
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.

This mountain, named Tjamaas to Indians and Ulukuk to Eskimos, is a distinctive landmark and significant to both Native groups because of: (1) the part it has played in travel and communication along the Kaltag Portage; (2) its importance as a material source for knives; and, (3) stories associated with it.

Early explorers traveling between the Eskimo village of Unalakleet and the Indian village of Kaltag often mentioned the Ulukuk Hills in their journals (see bibliography). Rising to over 2000 feet, the mountains have been described as "...symmetrical hills [which stand] out with striking beauty against dark clouds" (Dall 1870:29). The trail between the villages passed close to the base of the mountain and Russian explorers established a camp at the termination of the range because it was a good area for trapping (Ibid:39). Beyond that point the trail crossed bare tundra for the next 25 miles.

Not only was Ulukuk or Tjamaas a distinctive reference point, but it was also a raw material quarry. Both Eskimos and Indians would procure slate to make the "woman's knife" or ulu as it is known to Eskimos. Thus, the mountain's name, meaning "semi-lunar knife" in both Indian and Eskimo dialects, reflects its symmetrical shape and also the products made from its slate.

Many stories are associated with the Ulukuk Hills. A trading village near the base of the hills was called Ulukuk. The village people, considered to possess both Indian and Eskimo traits, played an important role in the trade and communication network between Unalakleet and Kaltag. Recently, the hills have often been called "Whale-back" after a hunchback man from Ulukuk who later resided in Unalakleet (knowledgeable Unalakleet resident).

XII. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

A. Date(s) visited August 11, 1980

B. Field Investigator Sandra Sobelman

C. Others present at site (affiliation and title) A. Pro (CPSU field assistant); K. Pratt, L.A. Gagne (BIA field assistants)

D. Form prepared by Sandra Sobelman

E. Previous Excavations

NONE

F. Previous Collections

NONE

G. Bibliographic References

Arctic Environmental Information and Data Center (AEIDC)  
1975 Alaska Regional Profiles, Northwest Region. University of Alaska,  
Fairbanks.

Dall, William Healy  
1870 Alaska and its Resources. Lee and Shepard, Boston.

Jette, Julius  
n.d.a On the Geographic Names of the Tan's. Manuscript. Oregon Province  
University, Spokane, Washington.  
n.d.b Ethnological Dictionary of the Tan's Language. Manuscript. Oregon  
Province Archives, Gonzaga University, Spokane, Washington.

Zagoskin, Lavrentij A.  
1967 Lieutenant Zagoskin's Travels in Russian America 1842-1844. University  
of Toronto Press, Toronto.

Ray, Dorothy Jean  
1975 The Eskimos of Bering Strait, 1650-1898. University of Washington  
Press, Seattle.

Raymond, Charles W.  
1870 Youkon River and Island of St. Paul. 41C:2s, HR Ex. Doc. 112  
(serial 1417).

Whymper, Frederick  
1869 Travel and Adventure in the Territory of Alaska. Harper and  
Brothers, New York.

G. Bibliographic References (cont'd.)

XII. MAPS AND BOUNDARIES

A. Boundary Justification

Boundaries were determined on the basis of natural landforms and oral testimony concerning Native use.

B. Site Map (attached)

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

X. PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD

A. Date August 11, 1980

B. Roll No. 1

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

<u>FRAME NO.</u>	<u>DIRECTION OF VIEW</u>	<u>PHOTO CONTENT</u>
1.		
	<u>Aerials</u>	
2.	"	
3.	"	
4.	"	
5.	"	
6.	"	
7.	"	
8.	"	
9.	"	
10.	"	
11.	"	
12.	"	
13.	"	
14.	"	
15.	"	
16.	<u>I.D. Sheet</u>	
17.		<u>U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey Marker from POB</u>
18.		<u>Facing south - From POB</u>
19.		<u>Facing southeast - View from Ulukuk</u>
20.		<u>Facing east - " " "</u>
21.		<u>Remarks (Time of Day, weather, or any things affecting photos)</u> <u>Overcast and windy; photos taken between 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.</u>

X. PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD

A. Date August 11, 1980

B. Roll No. 2

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

<u>FRAME NO.</u>	<u>DIRECTION OF VIEW</u>	<u>PHOTO CONTENT</u>
1.		I.D. Sheet
2.		Facing southwest - view from Ulukuk
3.		Facing southwest - " " "
4.		Facing south - " " "
5.		Facing southeast - " " "
6.		Facing east - " " " toward Old Woman River
7.		Facing northeast - " " "
8.		Facing north - " " "
9.		U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey Marker closeup
10.		Facing south - collapsed survey tripod
11.		Facing northeast - " " "
12.		Facing south - " " "
13.		Facing northeast - toward Old Woman River
14.		Facing northeast - " " " "
15.		Aerials
16.		"
17.		"
18.		"
19.		"
20.		"

Overcast; photos taken between 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

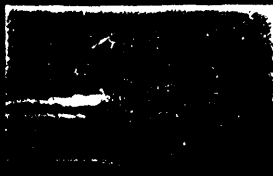


ETV FILM 5062

KODAK SAFETY FILM 5062

KODAK SAFETY FILM 5062

KODAK SAFETY FILM 5062



→1A

→2

→2A

→3

→3A

→4

1 8 8

→5

→5A

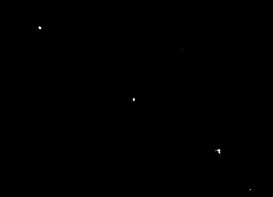
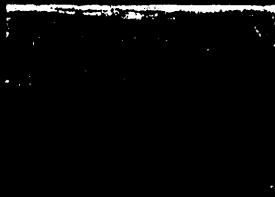
→6

KODAK SAFETY FILM 5062

KODAK SAFETY FILM 5062

KODAK SAFETY FILM 5062

KODAK SAFETY FILM 5062



→6A

→7

→7A

→8

→8A

→9

→9A

→10

→10A

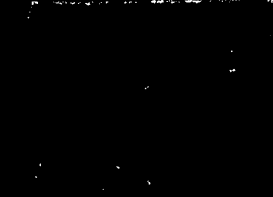
→11

KODAK SAFETY FILM 5062

KODAK SAFETY FILM 5062

KODAK SAFETY FILM 5062

KODAK SAFETY FILM 5062



→11A

→12

→12A

→13

→13A

→14

→14A

→15

→15A

→16

5062

KODAK SAFETY FILM 5062

KODAK SAFETY FILM 5062

KODAK SAFETY FILM 5062



→16A

→17

→17A

→18

→18A

→19

→19A

→20

5062



KODAK SAFETY FILM 5062

KODAK SAFETY FILM 5062

KODAK SAFETY FILM



→0

→0A

→1

→1A

→2

→2A

→3

→3A

→4

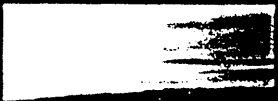
5062

KODAK SAFETY FILM 5062

KODAK SAFETY FILM 5062

KODAK SAFETY FILM 5062

KODAK SA



1 8 8

→5

→5A

→6

→6A

→7A

→8

→8A

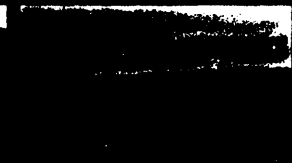
→9

KODAK SAFETY FILM 5062

KODAK SAFETY FILM 5062

KODAK SAFETY FILM 5062

KODAK SAFETY FILM 5062



→10

→11

→12

→13

→14

→15

→16

→17

→18

→19

KODAK SAFETY FILM 5062

KODAK SAFETY FILM 5062

KODAK SAFETY FILM 5062

KODAK SAFETY FILM 5062



→15

→15A

→16

→16A

→17

→17A

→18

→18A

→19

KODAK SAFETY FILM 5062



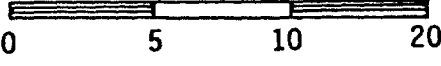
→19A

→20

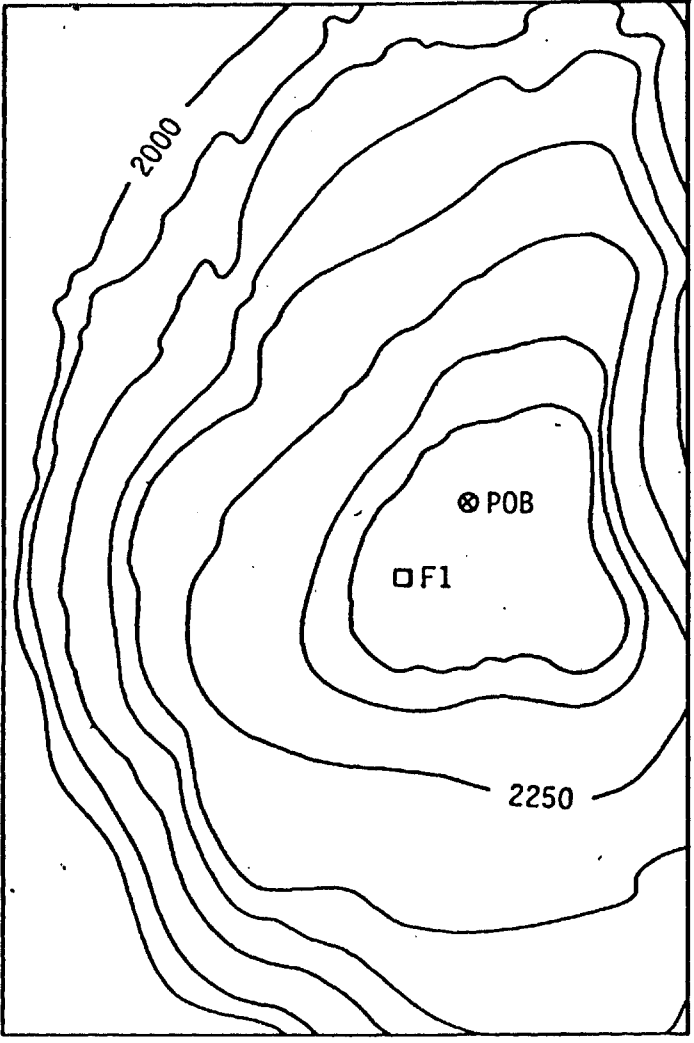
→20A

39

OZGUDALIQ  
AA10606  
A.Pro-S.Steinacher  
CPSU-AHP  
9 July 1980  
miles



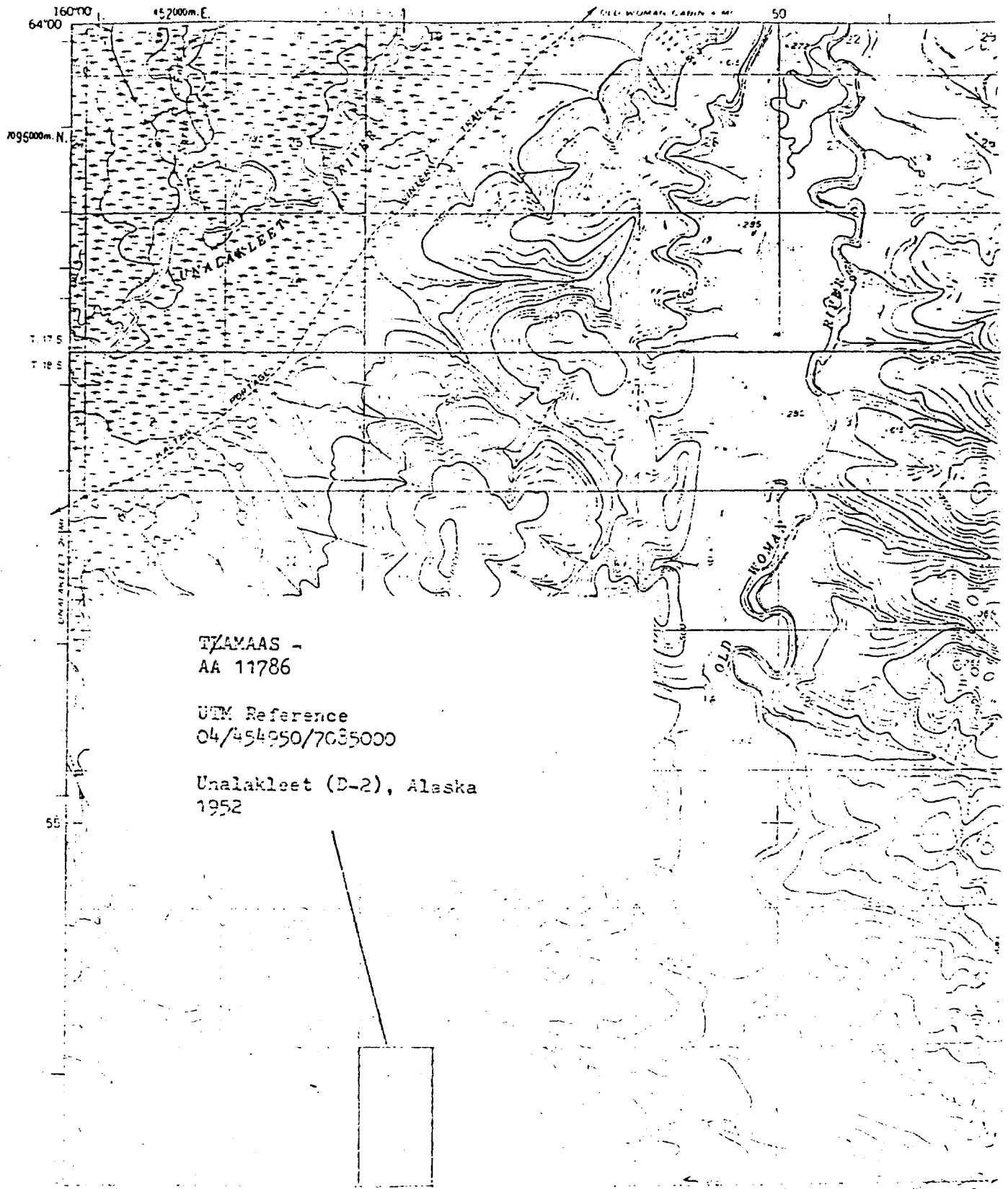
TN



Map drawn from:  
U.S. Department of Interior, Geologic Survey  
1952 Alaska Topographic Survey, Unalakleet (A-6)  
N6300-W16130/15X30  
Fairbanks, Alaska

INCHON BAY A-J

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



TYAMAAS -  
AA 11786

UTM Reference  
04/454950/7035000

Unalakleet (D-2), Alaska  
1952

ADDENDUM

TYAMAAS  
BERING STRAITS NATIVE CORPORATION  
BLM #AA-11786

Bering Straits Native Corporation was notified of the preliminary decision that Tyamaas was ineligible as a Native historical place on or about June 9, 1983, and was requested to provide additional comments and information that might have a bearing on this decision. BSNC has failed to respond within the sixty (60) day time period agreed upon in the Memorandum of Agreement between the National Park Service and the Bureau of Indian Affairs.