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6 REPRESE	NTATION IN EXIST	ING SURVEY	'S	
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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The property is situated

Remains of the village lie on a series of dunes

The dunes are covered with a rank growth of grass and are bordered by a sprucecottonwood forest on the south. Depressions, marking collapsed semi-subterranean houses, dot the dunes

This property preserves the remains of the historic Eskimo village of Savonoski and the prehistoric settlement directly ancestral to it.

Little historic information has been unearthed regarding Savonoski. The village seems to have been permanently occupied during the period of Russian influence, from about 1820 on. There was an active Orthodox Chapel from at least 1880 and perhaps as early as 1840. Savonoski was abandoned precipitately in 1912 during the Katmai eruption. The survivors founded a settlement, "New Savonoski," on Bristol Bay.

The portion of the site inhabited in historic times is on the eastern end of the property. A row of 15 single room houses stood here. They were rectangular, averaging about 3 by 3.75 meters, with walls of split cottonwood logs set vertically around a log frame. They were partially dug into the ground. Behind the houses, there was an uneven row of storage caches built on stilts. The Orthodox church was located at the south edge of the village. It was rectangular, 9.7 by 6 meters, and built of hand hewn timber. Savonoski also boosted a "Kashim," a communal center for dances, games, and festivals, which was also located behind the house row. Aside from a few courses of logs and fallen timbers which mark the location of some of the buildings, nothing remains of the historic village. It has become, for all intents and purposes, an archeological site. Pumice and drifting sand have filled the depressions of the collapsed houses. Floodwaters, perhaps a result of the adjacent stream being temporarily choked by ash and pumice from the eruption, have obliterated surface indications of the Kashim and the Chapel graveyard.

The more ancient portion of the settlement stretches westward from the historic village. Here, the only evident remains are depressions which presumably represent collapsed, semi-subterranean houses. Some of these appear to have been multiroomed.

The University of Oregon excavated two test trenches in the historic portion of the village in 1953, determining that the cultural material was buried beneath some 10 to 27 centimeters of volcanic ash. The midden beneath this varied between 20 and 60 centimeters in thickness and consisted of charcoal, fire cracked rock, mammal bones, fish remains, and a few artifacts. The University returned in 1963 and tested three depressions near the western end of the site. The object was to determine when the site was first occupied by correlating the cultural deposit with volcanic debris from a series of dated eruptions on the Alaska Peninsula. The results indicated that this portion of the site was occupied about 1,600 A. D.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

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9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Archeological Survey in Katmai National Monument, Alaska, 1964" by D. E. Dumond. Manuscript at National Park Service, Pacific Northwest Region, Seattle.

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