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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

=====

1. Name of Property

=====

historic name Savonoski River Archeological District (boundary increase)

other names/site number AHRS Site No. XMK-00053

=====

2. Location

=====

street & number Katmai National Park and Preserve

not for publication X

city or town Brooks Camp

vicinity X

state Alaska

code AK

county Lake and Peninsula

code 164

zip code 99701

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this \_\_\_\_\_ nomination \_\_\_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property \_\_\_\_\_ meets \_\_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant \_\_\_\_\_ nationally \_\_\_\_\_ statewide \_\_\_\_\_ locally. ( \_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Diana D. Duvelline \_\_\_\_\_ Date 1/16/03  
Signature of certifying official

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE - LAKE CLARK / KATMAI NATIONAL PARK + PRESERVE  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property X meets \_\_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria. ( \_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Judith E. Butner \_\_\_\_\_ Date Oct. 24, 2002  
Signature of commenting or other official

Alaska  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

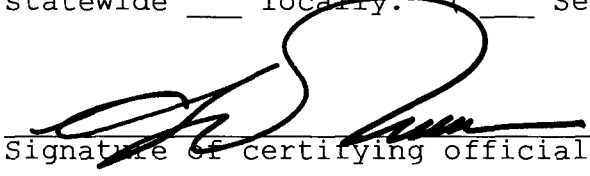
- entered in the National Register  
See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register  
See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

Elson H. Beal \_\_\_\_\_ Date 3/23/03

Signature of Keeper Date of Action

=====  
3. State/Federal Agency Certification  
=====

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. (  See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official

*Feb 7, 2003*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

National Park Service

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

=====

**5. Classification**

=====

**Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)**

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property (Check only one box)**

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**

Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<u>  3  </u>	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
<u>  3  </u>	<u>  0  </u> Total

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**   2  

**Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)**   n/a

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Section \_\_\_\_\_ Page 1

Amendment to the National Register of Historic Places Nomination for the Savonoski River Archeological District (49 XMK-053) for XMK-102 Katmai National Park and Preserve, Alaska

### Purpose of Continuation Sheet

The purpose of this document is to amend the National Register of Historic Places Nomination for the Savonoski River Archeological District (49 XMK-053). Charles F. Bohannon, Regional Archeologist (National Park Service, Pacific Northwest Region), prepared the original nomination form on September 10, 1975. It was certified by the Keeper of the National Register on June 23, 1978.

The nomination for 49 XMK-053 should be amended to include an additional newly identified archeological site [REDACTED]. The original Savonoski River Archeological District included two sites – XMK-002<sup>1</sup> (Alinnak, Alingnak) and XMK-003<sup>2</sup> (Kanigmiut). The new site has been designated 49 XMK-102. It is logical that this newly identified site be included in the District Nomination due to its geographical proximity and suspected cultural association with the two original sites in the Savonoski River Archeological District.

This amendment includes the portions of the National Register Registration Form (NPS Form 10-9000) that should be updated or expanded to include 49 XMK-102.

### Project Background

National Park Service (NPS) archeologists identified site 49 XMK-102 during the first year of fieldwork for the Interior Rivers Survey project. The Interior Rivers Survey is a cooperative venture organized by the Cultural Resource Managers of three national park clusters in Alaska: Lake Clark/Katmai National Park and Preserve, Wrangell-Saint Elias National Park, and Preserve and Yukon-Charley Rivers/Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve. During 2001, the first year of the project, archeologists focused their efforts [REDACTED] – drainages within administrative units managed by Katmai National Park and Preserve.

The primary objective of the Interior Rivers Survey is to collect baseline data needed to better govern future management policies as they relate to cultural resources located within the park units. Surveys designed with this objective in mind are reconnaissance-level surveys as opposed to detailed in-depth site investigations. The goal of the reconnaissance-level survey during the 2001 field season was not only to collect baseline data, but to better illuminate site densities, site types and settlement patterns. NPS Archeologist Mike Hilton and an alternating crew of 1 - 4 professional archeologists conducted the 2001 survey over a period of nine weeks as per the research design (Hilton 2001). [REDACTED] 49 XMK-102 is one of those sites.

<sup>1</sup> In the original nomination the site number for 49 XMK-002 was listed as 49 MK 3. It has also been known as SR2.

<sup>2</sup> In the original nomination the site number for 49 XMK-003 was listed as 49 MK 4. It has also been known as SR4.

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Amendment to the National Register of Historic Places Nomination for the  
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Katmai National Park and Preserve, Alaska

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**1. Name of Property**

historic name: none currently known

other name/site number: XMK-102

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**2. Location**

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication X

city or town Katmai National Park and Preserve, Alagnak Wild River Corridor vicinity X

state Alaska code \_\_\_\_\_ county \_\_\_\_\_ code \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

legal description: ESW, SEC. 34, T19S, R35W, Mt. Katmai C-4, Seward Meridian

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**7. Description**

**Introduction and Summary**

NPS archeologists Mike Hilton and Dave Tennesen spent one full day, July 3, 2001, describing, mapping and photographing 49 XMK-102. They prepared individual feature maps as well as a site map, conducted limited sub-surface testing using 3/4" Oakfield soil probes, and excavated one test unit. They recorded profiles of the subsurface stratigraphy in the test unit and collected datable C-14 samples. Their work, though not an in-depth archeological investigation, provides a detailed record of the surface features visible at the site.

**Location and Environment**



The following paragraphs provide abbreviated descriptions of Katmai National Park and the Savonoski River in order to place the site in its larger environmental context.

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***Katmai National Park and Preserve***

Katmai National Park and Preserve is located near the northern end of the Alaska Peninsula in Southwestern Alaska. The massive Aleutian Mountain Range emerges brusquely from the waters of Shelikof Strait and dissects the Katmai National Park diagonally, creating disparate ecological zones within the park. Fourteen historically active volcanoes exist within the park boundaries. Freshwater streams that partition the park support large annual runs of migratory salmon species. Katmai was first declared a national monument in 1918 following the catastrophic volcanic eruption of Novarupta six years earlier that permanently altered the Katmai landscape. The park and preserve encompass a combined total of more than 4,093,000 acres

***Savonoski River and Grosvenor Rivers***

The Savonoski River begins as a small stream in the upper elevations of the park and descends in a westerly direction a distance of approximately 35 miles where it empties into Iliuk Arm of Naknek Lake (Figure 2). The source of the river is the Hook Glacier, and its glacial origin is reflected in the river's fluvial properties. The Savonoski's high sediment budget is responsible for considerable braiding and relatively shallow water depths. The river's volume increases substantially at the confluence of the Rainbow River, another glacially derived river. The Savonoski River further increases in size with the addition of the short river that drains Grosvenor Lake. Unlike the Savonoski and Rainbow Rivers, the Grosvenor is clear-water stream. The Savonoski watershed is within 30 km of Novarupta and, as a result of its proximity, the river's sediment load has increased radically since the 1912 eruption.

The word "Savonoski" is an American derivative of the Russian "Severnovskie". Translated, the word means "northerners." Clemens and Norris, (1999:7) suggest the Russians may have attributed the name to the Native inhabitants of the Savonoski drainage because they were the northernmost speakers of the Alutiiq, or Sugpiat, language. Historically, the Savonoski Natives had established a well-developed trading network with the Alutiiq people on the Katmai coast. Their relationship with the Aglegmuit of the Lower Naknek River was considerably less cordial.

**Time Period of Occupation or Use**

Based on the results of the limited archeological testing, NPS archeologists conclude that 49 XMK-102 was occupied during both prehistoric and historic times. A discernible cultural horizon lying just below the layer of ash deposited during the 1912 eruption of Novarupta (also referred to as "Katmai Ash") suggests the site was occupied only a short time prior to the eruption. The site is suspected of containing prehistoric occupations as well.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> See additional information on periods of occupation in Section 8 (Statement of Significance).

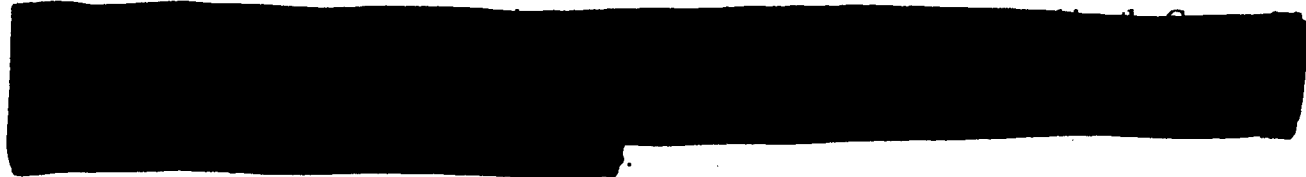
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### Physical Characteristics and Integrity



Site XMK-102 is a large village site that consists of 30 surface features, most of which are the remains of multi-room semisubterranean dwellings (Figure 3). Some single room dwellings are also present. The features are distributed spatially in a relatively loose arrangement over an area nearly 300 m in length.

The largest feature (Feature 23) is particularly noteworthy. It is a relatively uniform rectangular berm measuring 13 x 22 m. An estimated 80% of the perimeter of the feature is clearly visible and easily defined. The depression is deepest on the northeast end where the ground surface inside the feature is nearly 2 m lower than the top of the adjacent berm. Tests with a 3/4" Oakfield soil probes near the center of the feature produced small quantities of charcoal. No side chambers were visible. This unusually large depression may represent a community house or *kashim* (also termed *qasqiqs*) (Crowell 1988:194).

A test unit in the middle of the central room of one of the multi-room features (Feature 18) produced clear evidence for at least two occupations at the site. The first is represented by a 2 – 6 cm thick intermittent cultural lens located just 2 cm beneath a 35 cm thick accumulation of 1912 Katmai ash. This horizon suggests that this site was inhabited at the time of – or shortly before – the 1912 Novarupta eruption. Evidence for an older, more intensive occupation is found 9 cm beneath the first. The two cultural horizons are separated by (among other sediments) a thin black tephra layer thought to have been deposited ca. AD 1750. The test unit produced small quantities of fire-cracked rock and a 4.75 cm long quartz crystal. The proximal end of the crystal had been prepared in a manner suggesting it had been fitted to a receptacle and worn as a pendant.

In addition to the two components represented in the test unit, an intra-site analysis of house depression size, configuration, and location suggests a third, even older component may be indicated. This third component is represented by two large, single-room depressions situated in relative isolation at the southern end of the site (Features 27 and 28). Feature 28 is round and measures 9 m in diameter. Feature 27 is oval in shape and measures 8 x 11 m. The two features are uniquely situated on a somewhat steeper slope than the remainder of the depressions. A soil profile extracted with a 3/4" Oakfield soil probe in Feature 27 produced charcoal at 130 cm below the surface – a considerably greater depth than cultural material noted within any of the remaining depressions.

Normal weathering is the only current threat to XMK-102, however the origin of a rectangular trench within Feature 20 near the center of the site remains a mystery. It may represent a test unit



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excavated in 1963 by Nowak and Rice, University of Oregon archeologists [REDACTED] but this suggestion has not been confirmed. If it does not represent an earlier archeological test unit, vandalism is the only other plausible explanation. This suspect trench represents the only documented disturbance at the site. A thick (35 cm+) layer of ash from the 1912 eruption of Novarupta blankets the site, effectively shielding it from potential disturbances.

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

*None apply*

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

Archeology/Prehistoric  
Archeology/Historic-Aboriginal

**Cultural Affiliation**

**Period of Significance**

Prehistoric  
Historic

**Architect/Builder**

Not applicable

**Significant Dates:**

140 ±50 years BP (Beta #159791)<sup>4</sup>

<sup>4</sup> This date references AD 1950 and is based upon the Libby <sup>14</sup>C half life of 5568 years. The conventional date (one sigma standard deviation) has been normalized to the modern PDB-1 international standard based on measured <sup>13</sup>C/<sup>12</sup>C values.

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### **Narrative Statement of Significance**

49 XMK-102 qualifies for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places under criterion D: it has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history. Specifically, archeological testing and ethnographic research specific to this site could yield significant information on the lifeways and subsistence patterns of the aboriginal population of the Naknek drainage system. Research could also help clarify some confusion regarding the location of sites reportedly occupied on the Savonoski River around the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Sockeye salmon migrate through the Savonoski and Grosvenor drainage systems and salmon procurement during the summer months was likely to have been conducted at this site. The presence of substantial house depressions suggests winter occupation as well.

Subsurface testing at the site provides information suggesting this site was occupied during three distinct periods. The most recent appears to have been during historic times in the early 1900s. The 2–6 cm thick intermittent cultural lens located just 2 cm beneath a 35 cm thick accumulation of 1912 Katmai ash indicates the site was occupied at the time of – or immediately prior to – the 1912 Novarupta eruption. Interestingly, oral histories suggest there were three villages on the Savonoski River at the time of the 1912 eruption. Given the specifics provided in oral testimonies, (Davis 1961) researchers and Katmai National Park archeologists surmise the occupied sites were likely 49 XMK-001, and XMK 003 documented by Dumond, as well as a site XMK-101 identified during the 2001 field surveys. If this analysis is correct, the historic component at site XMK-102 may represent a fourth, undocumented village that was occupied in the region just prior to the eruption. Additional ethnographic as well as archeological research could yield information about this hypothesized period of historic occupation.

A more deeply buried cultural horizon lies just beneath ash from the AD 1750 eruption. A charcoal sample collected from this horizon (at 61 cm below the surface) in Test Unit 1 excavated within a multi-room semisubterranean dwelling (Feature 18) dates to 140 ±50 (Beta # 159791). The 2 sigma deviation for this date indicates this particular feature may have been occupied at anytime in the last 290 years.

In addition to this charcoal sample, the test unit produced two non-diagnostic lithic flakes and a 4.75 cm long, five-sided quartz crystal that appears to have been used as a pendent. Crystals like this have been documented at sites in the Brooks River drainage dating to the Brooks River Bluffs phase (Harritt 1988) offering supporting evidence for an occupation during this time as well.

It is likely XMK-102 was occupied considerably longer than indicated by the limited C-14 analysis and the quartz crystal. Soil probes in single room depressions at the south end of the site yielded deeply buried charcoal. Additional testing may eventually provide diagnostic material to reveal how this possible older component and the site in general fits into the cultural chronology developed by D.E. Dumond (1971, 1981) for sites in the Naknek region.

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**9. Major Bibliographic References**

Clemens, J. and F. B. Norris

1999 *Building in an Ashen Land: Historic Resource Study of Katmai National Park and Preserve*. National Park Service, Alaska Systems Support, Anchorage, Alaska.

Crowell, A.

1988 Dwellings, Settlements, and Domestic Life. In *Crossroads of Continents: Cultures of Siberia and Alaska*, edited by W. F. Fitzhugh and A. Crowell, pp. 194-208. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington.

Davis, W. A.

1961 Mount Katmai Alaska Eruption. Transcript of a tape recording made in July-August 1961 for the National Park Service (typescript).

Dumond, D. E.

1964 Archaeological Survey in Katmai National Monument, 1963: Final Report to the National Park Service, Contract 14-10-0434-947. Unpublished manuscript on file, National Park Service, Lake Clark Katmai Studies Center, Anchorage.

1971 *A Summary of Archaeology in the Katmai Region, Southwestern Alaska*. University of Oregon Anthropological Papers No. 2. University of Oregon, Eugene.

1981 Archaeology of the Alaska Peninsula: The Naknek Region, 1960-1975. In *University of Oregon Anthropological Papers No. 21*. University of Oregon, Eugene.

1985 Preliminary Report on Fieldwork Conducted in Katmai National Park and Preserve, August 1985. Unpublished manuscript on file, National Park Service, Lake Clark Katmai Studies Center, Anchorage, Alaska.

Harritt, R. K.

1988 The Late Prehistory of Brooks River, Alaska: A Model for Analysis of Occupations on the Alaska Peninsula. In *University of Oregon Anthropological Papers No. 13*. University of Oregon, Eugene.

**Previous related documentation on file (NPS)**

- Preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- Previously listed in the National Register
- Previously determined eligible by the National Register

**Primary Location of Additional Data**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University

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**10 Geographical Data**

**Acreege of Property**

49 XMK-102 [REDACTED]

49 XMK-053 [REDACTED]

**UTM References**

[REDACTED]

**Site 49 XMK-102**

Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

**District 49 XMK-053**

Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

**Verbal Boundary Description**

[REDACTED]

**Boundary Justification**

[REDACTED]

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Rachel Myron, Archeologist ---Lake Clark Katmai Studies Center

organization Lake Clark Katmai National Park and Preserve date December 27, 2001

street & number 4230 University Dr., Suite 311 telephone (907) 271-1383

city or town Anchorage state AK zip code 99508

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**Additional Documentation**

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**Property Owner**

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name Katmai National Park and Preserve  
street & number 4230 University Dr., Suite 311 telephone (907) 271-1383  
city or town Anchorage state AK zip code 99508

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