

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JEC 48 1978
DATE ENTERED JAN 29 1979

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Kijik Historic District, AHRS Site NO. XLC-001

AND/OR COMMON

Kijik Village.

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

[REDACTED], Lake Clark

VICINITY OF

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Southwest Alaska

STATE

Alaska

CODE

02

COUNTY

CODE

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	— AGRICULTURE	— MUSEUM
— BUILDING(S)	— PRIVATE	— UNOCCUPIED	— COMMERCIAL	— PARK
— STRUCTURE	— BOTH	— WORK IN PROGRESS	— EDUCATIONAL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
— SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	— ENTERTAINMENT	— RELIGIOUS
— OBJECT	— IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	— GOVERNMENT	— SCIENTIFIC
	— BEING CONSIDERED	— YES: UNRESTRICTED	— INDUSTRIAL	— TRANSPORTATION
		— NO	— MILITARY	— OTHER:

4 AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: *(If applicable)*

U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management

STREET & NUMBER

555 Cordova Street

CITY, TOWN

Anchorage

— VICINITY OF

STATE

Alaska

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Bureau of Land Management, Anchorage District Office

STREET & NUMBER

4700 E. 72nd Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Anchorage

STATE

Alaska

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Alaska Heritage Resource Survey

DATE

1970

— FEDERAL STATE — COUNTY — LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Alaska Division of Parks

CITY, TOWN

Anchorage

STATE

Alaska

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Original Appearance

Prior to its abandonment in the early 1900's, the Tanaina village of Kijik consisted of at least 12 house structures, five bathhouses, 29 caches, a Russian Orthodox Church, and cemetery. According to ethno-historians, James W. VanStone and Joan B. Townsend, who excavated the Kijik site during the summer of 1966, none of the house sites can be dated with certainty, although all were evidently constructed from forms introduced by Russians and Americans during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The Russian Orthodox Church may have been constructed in 1877 or 1881, for it was in these years that agents of the church made significant progress in baptizing the Kijik population and the need for a place of worship became great.

There is little doubt that all of the Kijik houses were rectangular in outline, and constructed of horizontal logs, each log shaped on at least two sides, and probably three sides, with the ends notched. Five of the 12 houses included a living room and another room, the purpose of which is not absolutely clear. This room may have been used as a general storage area for heating bath rocks; it might also have been used for the drying and smoking of fish. A sixth house was similarly constructed, except that a bathhouse was attached to the main structure. The seventh and eighth houses were more complex, including several rooms. Three houses were identified as having only a single room. The twelfth house could not be reconstructed sufficiently to determine its form, although it seemed to include three rooms. All of the houses probably had some form of gabled roof.

[REDACTED] Kijik site, the church building is almost square (about 5.5 meters by 5.5 meters) in outline, except for a three-sided wall where the altar was located. The log construction of the building indicates skilled craftsmanship, the logs shaped and fitted well. The structure lacked a prepared log floor, but included two small windows facing the lake, and perhaps a gabled plank roof, flat on top, supported by two long cross beams parallel with the side walls. Just southwest of the church building are nine wooden Orthodox grave markers.

The five bathhouses were also constructed of horizontal logs. The cache pits were small, deep depressions, rectangular in shape with rounded corners; they averaged about 1 1/2 meter length, 70 centimeters in width, and about 1 meter in depth.

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Present Appearance

When the Tanaina Kijik began to abandon their village in the early 1900's, they dismantled their homes, and carried the logs, piece by piece, to Old Nondalton. Only the church, graves, and two houses were left behind. Today, only a partially standing church building (in poor condition), cache pits, and cemetery remain to testify of Kijik's former importance in the Lake Clark region. It is to be noted, however, that the former church is currently used as a storage shed by a person claiming the Kijik site under the Homesite Act.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

During the summer of 1966, ethnohistorians Dr. James W. VanStone and Dr. Joan B. Townsend excavated the former Tanaina village of Kijik, discovering the largest number of American, and possibly Russian trade materials, ever recovered from an archaeological site in southwestern Alaska, if not in all Alaska. The discovery of these artifacts, none of which can be definitely described of Russian origin, permit a fascinating glimpse into the nature of trading activities between the Tanaina people, Russians, and Americans during the nineteenth century. Once the only permanent Tanaina settlement in the Lake Clark area, Kijik should be entered in the National Register of Historic Places as a significant site in Alaska local history.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] the Tanaina village of Kijik may have been established in the early 1800's, when Russian traders began to establish posts in the Cook Inlet area. While it is possible that Kijik was founded by Tanaina Indians sent by Russian traders to harvest the resources in the Lake Clark area, it is more likely that the village was established by the Tanaina as a result of violent contacts with the Russians. To avoid Russian reprisals, some Tanaina Indians may have retreated from Cook Inlet to the Lake Clark and Lake Iliamna area. Russian traders and missionaries followed in an effort to establish trade contacts, but were unsuccessful. In 1796, Yakov Federovich Juvenal, a Russian Orthodox priest, was killed in the Lake Iliamna region, possibly at Kijik. Four years later, Indians in the same region combined forces and destroyed the local Russian trading post, killing all but one of the inhabitants.

With the passage of time, the Russians were able to establish trade relations with the Tanaina, who finally permitted, in 1821, the Russians to establish a post in the Iliamna area. Relations continued to improve, so that, beginning in 1845, when the Nushagak mission was established, Russian Orthodox missionaries visited Kijik at least once a year.

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When in 1867 the United States purchased Alaska, Kijik's contacts with the West expanded considerably as the Alaska Commercial Company occupied former Russian trading posts and established others, as did the Western Trading Company. At the same time, Russian Orthodox missionaries continued their activities in the area, frequently recording the vital statistics of Kijik during the 1870's and 1880's. Mission records indicate a population of 101 at Kijik. If, however, allowance is made for seasonal variations, it is probable that Kijik supported a maximum population of 150 to 175 persons during the years 1875 to 1890.

Beginning in 1902, the Tanaina Kijik slowly began to move away, most going to Old Nondalton in order to be closer to trading posts on Iliamna Lake and salmon canneries in Bristol Bay. This exodus may also have been partly induced by a measles epidemic, which struck the Tanaina Kijik in 1900. By 1909, when a U.S. Geological Survey party visited the area, Kijik was reported an abandoned settlement. However, there is evidence that one or two persons periodically resided at the old village during the 1930's.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

VanStone, James W., and Joan B. Townsend, Kijik, A Historic Tanaina Indian Settlement, Fieldiana: Anthropology, LIX. Chicago: Field Museum of National History, 1970.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 12

UTM REFERENCES

A				B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

C. M. Brown, Historian

April 29, 1977

ORGANIZATION

Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Department of the Interior

STREET & NUMBER

555 Cordova Street

TELEPHONE

277-1561

CITY OR TOWN

Anchorage, Alaska

STATE

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES

NO

NONE

Deputy Douglas R. Reger
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is National State Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

Bernice E. Hanks

TITLE BLM Historic Preservation Liaison Officer

DATE 19 December 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Charles M. Brown
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST: *W. Ray Juice*
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 1.29.79
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 1.24.79